



NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 2016

Many of us were hoping that we would be celebrating the shattering of the ultimate glass ceiling – the election of the first woman to be President of the United States. We were also deeply disturbed by the divisive, bigoted and sexist rhetoric that we witnessed.



Deborah G. Rosenthal

At this juncture, we must put those thoughts behind us and persevere. Now is the time to take the election results as a rallying call. A rallying call to for us to make sure that the most vulnerable persons in our community receive the legal services that they deserve and are treated fairly and with respect by the judicial system. A rallying call to help all of our members achieve the careers that they desire. A rallying call to seek equality and justice. And a rallying call to celebrate our successes. We all know that the more powerful that women in society become, the more we will be able to change the world for the better.

The New York Women's Bar Association proudly supports women's equality and reproductive rights. This year alone we have already had two very successful CLE's on reproductive rights: On September 29, 2016 the **Reproductive Rights Committee**, Co-Chaired by **Mai Ratakonda** and **Anita S. Rho**, hosted a CLE entitled "**The State of the Uterus: An Update on Roe v. Wade**." Those of us who attended learned that New York State has become a destination where people travel to have an abortion and that the National Network of Abortion Funds can help women all over the country by connecting them to organizations that can support women's financial and logistical needs.

On November 7, 2016, the **International Women's Rights Committee**, Co-Chaired by **Farah Y. Zaman** and **Nicole Trivlis** hosted "**Helms Hurts: An examination of the American policy blocking access to safe and legal abortion worldwide.**"

(Continued on Page 2)

Announcements & Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 12/6 – Criminal Law Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 12/6 – Reproductive Rights & Women's Health Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 12/8 – **CLE: Beyond Brooke B.** – pp. 1, 3
 - 12/12 – Int'l Women's Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 12/15 – Civil Courts Comm. Holiday Lunch – p. 3
 - 12/19 – Events Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 1/3 – Reproductive Rights & Women's Health Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 1/18 – Civil Courts Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 2/8 – **CLE: Mediation - What's in it for Me?** – pp. 3, 5
 - 2/28 – **Annual Judicial Reception** – p. 4

Check www.nywba.org for more Meetings, Programs & Events.

NYWBA LGBT, Children's Rights and Matrimonial and Family Law Committees

present a CLE Program:

Beyond Brooke B.: Litigating Same Sex Parenting Cases in the New Legal Landscape

*Hosted by JAMS Matrimonial and Family Law Neutrals, **Caroline Antonacci, Esq.** and **Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin***

Moderator:

Hon. Ellen Gesmer

Associate Justice, Appellate Div., First Dept.

Speakers:

Eric I. Wrubel, Esq., Margaret L. Canby, Esq., and Peter Favaro, Ph.D.

Date: *Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016*

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Place: *JAMS, 620 Eighth Ave., 34th Fl., NYC*

CLE: Credits: 1 Skills, 1 Professional Practice*

Cost: **Free** – NYWBA Members**
\$50 - Non-members***

At the time of this printing, the event was at capacity.

Email MFChairs@nywba.org for more information.

* **CLE:** NYWBA is an accredited CLE provider. Approval of CLE credit is pending in accordance with the requirements of the NYS CLE Board for the above-listed credit hours for established attorneys and as transitional credit hours for newly admitted attorneys.

** **Membership:** Members attend CLE programs for free. If you are not a member, go to www.nywba.org/Membership to join or renew using our secure online membership form.

*** **Hardship Scholarships:** Full and partial scholarships based on financial need are available. For info on the guidelines and to apply, contact CLE@nywba.org. All requests are confidential.

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

On December 8, 2016, the **NYWBA LGBT, Children's Rights and Matrimonial and Family Law Committees** will be hosting a CLE Program "**Beyond Brooke B.: Litigating Same Sex Parenting Cases in the New Legal Landscape.**" I invite every member to attend programming such as this, even if it falls outside your practice area. It is important that we understand the broader issues that affect women in society.

At my installation address, I mentioned that one of my goals this year was to hold an annual program on human trafficking, a pervasive problem, which is a blight on society. Our Corresponding Secretary and Domestic Violence Committee Co-Chair, **Amanda B. Norejko**, has organized such a program for January 12, 2017. The event will be hosted by Proskauer Rose LLP and will feature a CLE panel presentation that provides an overview of sex trafficking, including New York's law and court system approach to combatting it; the way in which racial, gender, and income inequality contribute to trafficking and are also perpetuated by it; and what attorneys can do to help eliminate this human rights violation. There will be a discussion of legislation to be introduced in the upcoming session and actions the audience can take to promote the legislation. I invite you to attend this meaningful program, even though it likely falls outside of your practice area. As a women's bar association we must do more to help eradicate the predators who prey on vulnerable women and girls.

In my last President's message, I mentioned the important film, "**Equal Means Equal**" which was screened by our membership on October 26, 2016. The ultimate message of that film is that we must not give up the fight for the equal rights amendment to the United States Constitution. We, as the New York Women's Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, must do all we can to support equal rights for women.

With all of the foregoing thoughts in mind, I invite you to let us know if you have risen in your law firm, if you have received a major accolade or award, if you have changed positions, if the press has acknowledged your success in a legal matter, or if you have achieved extraordinary success outside of your legal career. Let's help raise each other up. We will be celebrating your successes in future editions of this newsletter, so please let us know your achievements.

On that note, I congratulate each of the following individuals who were elected to judicial office on November 8, 2016: **Hon. Rolando Acosta**, Appellate Division, First Department; **Hon. Rosalyn Richter**, Appellate Division, First Department; **Hon. Troy K. Webber**, Appellate Division, First Department; **Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan**, Appellate Term, First Department; **Hon. James d'Auguste**, Supreme Court; **Hon. Erika M. Edwards**, Supreme Court; **Hon. Andrea Masley**, Supreme Court; **Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy**, Supreme Court; **Hon. Robert R. Reed**, Supreme Court; **Hon. Margaret A. Chan**, Acting Supreme Court; **Hon. Eileen Rakower**, Acting Supreme Court; **Hon. Lori S. Sattler**, Acting Supreme Court; **Hon. Josh Hanshaft**, Civil Court; **Hon. Judy Kim**, Civil Court; **Hon. Sabrina B. Kraus**, Civil Court; **Hon. Shari Ruth Michels**, Civil Court; **Hon. Emily Morales-Minerva**, Civil Court; **Hon. Aija Tingling**, Civil Court.

Deborah

NYWBA wishes to acknowledge the generous gift from

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Her financial bequest has helped to underwrite the cost of this Newsletter and many of our CLE programs.

2016-2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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- International Women's Rights Farah Y. Zaman & Nicole Trivlis
- LGBT Virginia A. LoPreto & Peggy Brady
- Litigation Francesca A. Sabbatino, Sara Crasson & Luisa Kaye
- Long Range Planning Elizabeth A. Bryson & Myra L. Freed
- Matrimonial & Family Law Judith E. White, Jennifer H. Sundt & Jeffrey Helewitz
- Mentoring & Mentoring Circles Randy Shapiro, Jessica A. Dahan, Elisheva Ackerman & Andrea Vacca
- Newsletter Jessica Cygler Wagner & Alexandra Campbell
- Reproductive Rights & Women's Health Mai Ratakonda & Anita S. Rho
- Solo & Small Firm Practice Jocelyn L. Jacobson, Susan Dennehy & Danielle George
- Students & New Lawyers Melissa Glassman & Gulsun Turkmenogullari
- Summer Program Cassandra M. Porter & Victoria A. Turchetti
- Technology / Internet / Website Elizabeth A. Bryson & Yacine Barry-Wun
- Trusts & Estates Leona Beane, Loretta A. Ippolito & Angelica Kontoroff
- Working Parents Gretchen Beall Schumann & Melanie A. Chieu

Contact info for Committee Chairs and NYWBA Delegates to WBASNY Committees can be found at <http://www.nywba.org/committees/committees-chairs/>. To join a committee, go to <http://www.nywba.org/committees/join-a-committee/>. If you would like to be considered to chair a committee, send a note with your qualifications and contact info to President@nywba.org.

COMMITTEE NEWS

• **Alternative Dispute Resolution, Matrimonial & Family Law** and the **Domestic Violence Committees** present a CLE: **“Mediation: What’s In It For Me--The Matrimonial and Family Law Practitioner,”** on **Feb. 8**, from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the New York City Bar, 42 West 44th St., NYC. For more info email **ADR@nywba.org**. RSVP **nywba.org/cle-delinquency-part-1**. (See notice p. 5.)

• **Civil Courts Committee** will meet **Dec. 15** and **Jan. 18** at 1:15 p.m. at the Civil Courthouse, 111 Centre St., NYC. RSVP **CivilCourtsChairs@nywba.org**.

• **Criminal Law Committee** will meet **Dec. 6** at 6:15 p.m. at The Hoffinger Firm, 150 East 58th St., 16th Fl., NYC. RSVP to **CrimLawChairs@nywba.org**.

• **Events Committee** will meet on **Dec. 19** at 6:00 p.m. at Kirkland & Ellis, 601 Lexington Ave., Conf. Room 43C. RSVP **events@nywba.org**. RSVP and ID are required.

• **International Women’s Rights Committee** will meet **Dec. 12** at 6:30 p.m. at Le Pain Quotidien, 81 West Broadway, NYC. RSVP **IntlChairs@nywba.org**.

• **LGBT, Children’s Rights** and **Matrimonial and Family Law Committees** present a CLE program **“Beyond Brooke B: Litigating Same Sex Parenting Cases in the New Legal Landscape”** on **Dec. 8** from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. hosted by JAMS Matrimonial and Family Law Neutrals, **Caroline Antonacci, Esq.** and **Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin**, moderated by **Hon. Ellen Gesmer**, and featuring speakers **Eric Wrubel, Esq.**, **Margaret Canby, Esq.** and **Peter Favaro, Ph.D.** JAMS is located at 620 Eighth Ave., 34th Fl, (btwn 40th and 41st Sts.) NYC. Free for NYBWA Members, \$50 for non-members. RSVP at **http://bit.ly/2dqPy4c**.

• **Reproductive Rights & Women’s Health Committee** will meet **Dec. 6** and **Jan. 3** at 6:30 p.m. at Blank Rome LLP, 405 Lexington Ave., NYC. RSVP to **reproductiverights@nywba.org**.

SAVE THE DATE!

NYWBA, together with **Proskauer Rose LLP** and **The New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition** are proud to co-sponsor a CLE Program:

Human Trafficking

Hosted by Proskauer Rose LLP
11 Times Square
January 12, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Reception to follow.

NOTES ON MEMBERS

Heartfelt condolences to **Hon. Kelly O’Neill Levy**, whose mother-in-law, Marily Wohl Levy, passed away in October.

Has something noteworthy happened to you or another member? Send your news to Newsletter@nywba.org.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

With their generous contributions, our sustaining members make it possible for us to accomplish so much more. We honor and thank them for their support.

Karen Greve Milton

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kristen Bancroft
Jenna Dysart
Jennifer Hafkin
Juve S. Hippolyte
Devika Kapoor
Brittany K. Lazzaro

Susan J. Mangan
Danielle Mizhericher
Jennifer Reinbold
Felice D. Wechsler
Tavish Williams

as of 11/15/16

Wine for Paws

Animal lover, attorney, NYWBA Director **Julie Hyman**, along with her pets Rocky, Angel and Coco, hosted a **“Wine for Paws”** event at her home and home office located at the Solaria Riverdale on Sunday, November 6 at 1:00 pm.

The event was sponsored by Morgan Stanley & One Hope Wines. Giovanni’s Fordham catered the event, and Corner Cafe provided food for kosher guests. All proceeds benefited the Humane Society of New York.

Special guests included Jes Selvadurai, One Hope Wines, Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner, Riverdale Temple, Dr. Michael Rubinstein, Clinic Director, Humane Society of New York, Jeffrey Dinowitz, State Assemblyman, Andy Cohen, City Councilman, Sandra DeFeo, Executive Director, Humane Society of New York, and Jesse Weissberger, Morgan Stanley.



International Women's Rights Committee hosts CLE: "Helms Hurts" By Alexandra Douglas

On November 7th, 2016, the *International Women's Rights Committee* hosted a CLE event titled "*Helms Hurts: An Examination of the Helms Amendment and its Impact on Access to Abortion in the Developing World.*" The evening featured a dynamic panel discussion and question period, moderated by **Sukti Dhital**, Deputy Director of the Robert L. Bernstein Institute of Human Rights. Hosted by the New York University School of Law, other co-sponsors of the event included the Center for Reproductive Rights and the National Organization of Women – NYC (NOW-NYC).

The goal of the program was to educate the group as to the impact of the Helms Amendment, a piece of U.S. foreign policy that prohibits, by its specific language, the use of American foreign assistance funds "to pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning." In practice, and contrary to its plain language, the amendment has been interpreted as a prohibition on all abortion funding - including those performed in cases of rape, incest, or to protect the life of the mother - and the exclusion of discussions on safe abortion from training material, among other things.

Aram Schvey, Senior Policy Counsel for the Center for Reproductive Rights, spoke first, and did an excellent job laying out the legal structure of the Amendment; explaining the provisions of Helms and how they have been interpreted to date; and identifying related legislation and policies to compare with Helms. Schvey also highlighted provisions in international law pertinent to women's health, and the interplay between international law and organizations in the context of the Helms Amendment.

Patty Skuster, Senior Policy Advisor at Ipas, an NGO dedicated to ending preventable deaths and disabilities from unsafe abortion, continued the presentation with an overview of the five primary ways that Helms hurts women in developing countries. These included the continued stigmatization of abortion and the isolation of women in need; the barriers it places in the paths of women seeking health care; the blocking of abortion care in crisis settings; the limitations on free speech about abortion that compliance with Helms essentially requires; and the dangerous slowing down of abortion-related policy making.

Selome Argaw, also of the Center for Reproductive Rights (Legal Adviser for Africa), spoke specifically to the harms caused by lack of access to safe abortion, which is one of the primary results of the Helms Amendment. Her presentation focused on the impact Helms has had in Kenya, where abortion is legally permissible in some instances, but, in large part due to of the Helms Amendment, extremely difficult to access. Argaw also discussed an ongoing legal case, filed in Kenya by the Center for Reproductive Rights on behalf of community activists, a Kenyan NGO (FIDA-Kenya), and a young girl – known as JMM – who had been the victim of an unsafe abortion. The lawsuit alleges

Mark Your Calendars! NYWBA Annual Judicial Reception

NYWBA invites you to join us in honoring our special guests, the Newly Elected, Newly Appointed and Re-Elected Judges of New York County at a Cocktail Reception.

The Yale Club
Tuesday, February 28, 2017
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Additional details to follow.



NYWBA Foundation Breakfast

Panelists at the NYWBA Foundation Breakfast discussing the possible impact of the election results on federal policies affecting women and children on October 26, 2016.



violations of a woman's right to a safe abortion, as well as violations of the rights of health workers, and a hearing is scheduled in December 2016.

Schvey wrapped up the lecture with an overview of the ongoing advocacy surrounding the Helms Amendment, which has included, among many other things, meetings with key officials from the State Department, White House, USAID, and the Department of Health and Human Safety. While the ultimate goal would be for the rescission of the amendment, in the short term a statement clarifying the scope of Helms – even to allow for the provision of abortion under certain circumstances – would go a very long way towards ensuring the safety of women around the world. The evening concluded with an excellent panel discussion and a question and answer session, both skillfully led by moderator Dhital.

Alexandra Douglas is an associate at Schlam Stone & Dolan LLP, where she practices commercial litigation. She is an active member of the International Women's Rights Committee.



In the early hours of October 23, 2016, members and friends proudly represented the NYWBA at the New York City Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride. Nine of us completed the 30-mile course around the Island of Manhattan, an experience everyone should be lucky enough to have. With the highways closed to traffic, the participants pedaled on the open, sun-dappled roads. The morning ended with a celebratory breakfast funded by our chapter.

The NYWBA raised \$7,286 to support research and provide critical assistance to people living with Multiple Sclerosis. Congratulations to Team NYWBA, including the nine riders and the fourteen contributors for making this year's MS Bike Ride so successful!

Please join the NYWBA Team for the 2017 ride! Information will be posted on how to participate next spring. In the meantime, start pedaling!



(l. to r.): Michelle A. Katz, Audrey Sager, Hon. Laura E. Drager and Susan L. Bender.

SUPPORT THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION, INC.

The New York Women's Bar Association Foundation's goals are: (1) to eliminate gender bias and other forms of discrimination from the legal system and legal profession, (2) to promote the social and economic equality, safety and well being of women and children, and (3) to address the unmet legal needs of women and children. It is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization which supports and funds charitable and philanthropic programs to aid women and children throughout Manhattan and beyond.

NYWBAF initiatives are made possible through the financial contributions of members of the New York Women's Bar Association, colleagues and friends. Donations are tax-deductible as charitable contributions.

Help us advance our mission to aid women and children in New York and beyond by giving to the Foundation. Please go to <http://nywbaf.org/donate> to make a contribution.

SAVE THE DATE!

NYWBA's Alternative Dispute Resolution, Matrimonial & Family Law, Domestic Violence Committees, and the New York City Bar Matrimonial Law Committee

present a CLE Program:

Mediation: What's In It For Me -- the Matrimonial and Family Law Practitioner?

Speakers:

Jenifer J. Foley, Alter, Wolff & Foley, LLP
Antoinette Delruelle, Senior Staff Attorney and Founder of The Mediation Project at NYLAG
Elizabeth ("Libby") Fee, The Law Offices of Kraus, Diamond & Fee, PLLC

Hon. Deborah Kaplan, Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Violence Cases

Dan Weitz, Statewide ADR Coordinator, NYS Office of Court Administration

Moderator:

Lisa M. Courtney, Special Projects Counsel, NYS Office of Court Administration

Date: *Wednesday, February 8, 2017*

Time: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Place: *New York City Bar*, 42 West 44th Street, NYC (between 5th/6th Avenues)

CLE: *Credits: 1.0 Skills, 1.5 Professional Practice**

Cost: *Free – NYWBA Members**
 \$50 – Non-members*

Info: Email ADR@nywba.org

RSVP: www.nywba.org/cle-delinquency-part-1

* **CLE Credits:** (1.0 Skills, 1.5 Professional Practice): NYWBA is an accredited CLE provider. Approval of CLE credit is pending in accordance with the requirements of the NYS CLE Board for the above-listed credit hours for established attorneys and as transitional credit hours for newly admitted attorneys.

** Free NYWBA members, \$50, non-member: Full and partial scholarships based on financial need are available. For info on the guidelines and to apply, contact CLE Co-Chairs Amy B. Goldsmith or Ariel Chesler at cle@nywba.org. All requests are confidential.

Renew Your Membership for 2016-2017!

If you have already renewed, THANK YOU!

Renew your membership today and enjoy all NYWBA benefits, including FREE NYWBA CLE PROGRAMS, our award-winning Mentoring Circles, networking events and Committee meetings, access to the "Members Only" sections of our website, access to our Newsletter online, and other benefits.

Save paper & mailing costs, and expedite your renewal by using our secure online membership form at <http://membership.nywba.org>. You can also email NYWBA Executive Director (ED@nywba.org) to confirm your member status or request a paper membership form by email.

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NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

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NYWBA Membership Information

We thank our current members for their continued support and involvement, and we look forward to welcoming new and renewing members. Take advantage of our many membership benefits - join committees, network, participate in mentoring circles, attend our signature events, and get CLE credits at our innovative and compelling programs at a significantly reduced cost. It's easy to join or renew - go to www.nywba.org/Membership to access our secure online membership form.

Current members should send updated address and contact information to ED@nywba.org. This will help us keep you informed about our programs, events, and other benefits of membership.

Newsletter and Advertising Information

Submissions must be sent to the Newsletter Committee (Chairs **Alexandra Campbell** and **Jessica Cygler Wagner**) by the 10th of the month for publication in the following month's Newsletter. Please submit articles, announcements, upcoming event programming, photos, committee news, member news, and ads to newsletternywba@gmail.com. Submissions should be proofed and cite-checked, and NYWBA retains the usual editorial discretion to omit or edit all contributions. Send an email to newsletternywba@gmail.com if you have questions or are interested in joining the Newsletter Committee.

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