



NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2017

On February 28, 2017, we hosted our **Annual Judicial Reception** honoring members of the judiciary at the Yale Club. I am pleased to report that we had record attendance at this event. We extend a special thanks to the two members of the Court of Appeals who joined us, **Hon. Rowan Wilson**, the newest member of the Court, and **Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam**, who is a longtime member of the NYWBA. Thank you as well to the other members of the Judiciary who attended and helped to make this event a success. It is more important than ever that we acknowledge the dedicated and hard work of our judges and support the independence of our judiciary.



Deborah G. Rosenthal

On March 28, 2017, the NYWBA Reproductive Rights and Women's Health Committee and the New York City Chapter of the National Organization presented a timely CLE program entitled **"State of the Uterus – Reproductive Rights Policy and Activism in the Trump Era."** The speakers included representatives from Planned Parenthood, the National Institute for Reproductive Health and the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health.

On March 30, 2017, the Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession together with the Litigation Committee and the Program and Events Committee presented **"Paving Your Path: Finding Success as a Female Commercial Litigator,"** at which **Jocelyn L. Jacobson**, co-chair of the Solo

(Continued on Page 2)

Announcements & Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 4/5 – Pro Bono Fair – pp. 3, 5
- 4/5 – Network & Shop – pp. 3, 5
- 4/10 – Int'l Women's Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 4/20 – Civil Courts Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 4/24 – Criminal Law Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 4/25 – Events Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
- 4/26 – **Annual Membership Mtg., Elections and Ethics CLE** – pp. 1, 3
 - 5/2 – Reproductive Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/8 – Int'l Women's Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/16 – Civil Courts Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/16 – Criminal Law Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 5/18-5/21 – **WBASNY Convention 2017** – p. 5
 - 5/20 – Historical Walking Tour – pp. 3, 7
 - 5/24 – Litigation Comm. Mtg. – p. 3
 - 6/7 – **NYWBA Annual Awards Dinner** – p. 7

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

NYWBA Annual Membership Meeting, Elections and Ethics CLE Program

Join us at the Annual Meeting. Mingle with members, get updates on the Association, and vote on the NYWBA and WBASNY Officers, Directors and Delegates for next year.

Following the Annual Meeting, **NYWBA Professional Ethics and Discipline Committee** presents an ethics CLE program:

"The Ethics of Political Engagement"

Featuring:

- Nicole I. Hyland**, Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz P.C.
- Hon. Joan B. Lobis**, New York County Supreme Court
- Prof. Nicole Gordon**, former Executive Director, NYC Campaign Finance Board

Ting Ting Cheng, Legal Director of the Women's March

Date: **Wednesday, April 26, 2017**

Time: 5:30 p.m. – Registration & Networking
 6:00 p.m. – Annual Meeting & Elections
 6:30-8:00 p.m. – Ethics CLE Program

Place: **Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, P.C.**
 488 Madison Avenue, 10th Floor, NYC
 (btwn. 51/52nd Streets)

Cost: Meeting and/or CLE: Complimentary for members
 Meeting (only): Complimentary for non-members
 CLE Program* – \$50 for non-members & Guests**

RSVP: Go to <http://bit.ly/2ljOKAE>

Light refreshments will be served.

NYWBA thanks Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, PC for hosting.

* CLE credit pending – 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 or 212-216-1135. All requests are confidential.

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

and Small Law Firm Committee presented. Thank you to **Sarah Gilbert** and Crowell & Moring for generously sponsoring this event.

Congratulations to **Jennifer P. Brown**, immediate Past President of the NYWBA, who has been nominated to serve as the Recording Secretary of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. I hope that you will join me at the swearing in ceremony of all of the incoming officers of WBASNY at the WBASNY Convention from May 18 through May 21 at the Water's Edge Resort in Westbrook, CT. The swearing in of officers will occur on May 20. Congratulations as well to **Hon. Fern A. Fisher** who will receive the *Hon. Judith S. Kaye Access to Justice Award* on May 19. The information to reserve your place at the convention can be found at WBASNY.org.

On April 26, 2017, we will be holding our **Annual Membership Meeting, Elections** and **CLE Program** on the **Ethics of Political Engagement**. Members in attendance will have the opportunity to elect our slate of officers for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, including our nominated incoming President and my dear friend, **Myra L. Freed**. Thank you to **Nicole I. Hyland** and Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, P.C. for the many years that they have hosted and graciously sponsored this lovely event.

Deborah

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS –
ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS**

The **NYWBA Annual Membership Meeting** will be held on **April 26, 2017**, when the President & Treasurer will present reports on the State of the Association and its finances, and the Association will hold elections for Officer, Director, and Delegate positions. (See p.2 for the *NYWBA Nominations Committee Report*, which includes a list of all open positions, terms of office and nominees, as well as a list of Directors continuing in office.)

Article XIV, Section 1 of the By-Laws provides that only members who are in good standing and whose membership dues were received by **January 31, 2017** may vote at the Annual Meeting.

The **Annual Meeting and Elections** will be held at **Frankfurt Kurnitz Klein & Selz, P.C.**, 488 Madison Ave., NYC. Immediately after the elections, NYWBA will present an Ethics CLE Program (see p. 1 for more information).

SUPPORT THE NYWBA 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 NY and beyond by giving to the Foundation. Please go to <http://nywbaf.org/donate> to make a contribution.

NYWBA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

At its **November 29, 2016** meeting, the *NYWBA Committee on Nominations* nominated the following candidates to serve for the positions and terms stated below. The elections will be held at the Association's Annual Membership Meeting on **Wednesday, April 26, 2017**.

OFFICERS (2017-2018)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| President: | Myra L. Freed |
| Vice Presidents: | Virginia A. LoPreto
Amy B. Goldsmith
Amanda B. Norejko |
| Treasurer: | Jean J. Han |
| Recording Secretary: | Magnolia D. Levy |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Dawn M. Cardi |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors to be Installed (by Class)

Class of 2017-2020 (New Terms)

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Michael W. Appelbaum | Jocelyn L. Jacobson |
| Elizabeth A. Bryson | Susan M. Moss |
| Hon. Laura E. Drager | Francesca A. Sabbatino |
| Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler | |

Class of 2016-2019 (to fill unexpired terms)

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Deborah G. Rosenthal | Andrea Vacca |
|----------------------|--------------|

Class of 2015-2018 (to fill unexpired terms)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Melissa Ephron-Mandel | Sabrina E. Morrissey |
|-----------------------|----------------------|

Directors Continuing in Office

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Yacine Barry-Wun | Julie Hyman |
| Leona Beane | Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy |
| Felice B. Ekelman | Kay Marmorek |
| Catherine M. Foti | Morgan Fraser Mouchette |
| Hon. Judith J. Gische | Victoria A. Turchetti |

**NYWBA DELEGATE NOMINEES TO WBASNY BOARD
(2017-2018)**

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Yacine Barry-Wun | Marjorie A. Martin |
| Elizabeth A. Bryson | Amanda B. Norejko |
| Dawn M. Cardi | Deborah G. Rosenthal |
| Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin | Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann |
| Julie Hyman | Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff |
| Virginia A. LoPreto | |

NYWBA wishes to acknowledge the generous gift from

**FOUNDER AND PAST PRESIDENT
HON. FLORENCE PERLOW SHIENTAG
(1908-2009)**

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

COMMITTEE NEWS

Civil Courts Committee will meet on **April 20** and **May 16** from 1:15 – 2:15 p.m. at the New York County Civil Courthouse, 111 Centre Street, 12th Fl. Boardroom, NYC (entrance at White Street only). RSVP CivilCourtsChairs@nywba.org.

Criminal Law Committee will meet **April 24** and **May 16** at 6:15 p.m. at The Hoffinger Firm, 150 East 58th Street, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10155. RSVP CrimLawChairs@nywba.org.

Events Committee will host *Network & Shop* on **April 5** from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. at the *Carlisle Showroom*, 16 East 52nd Street, 16th Fl., NYC and a Historical Walking Tour on **May 20**. The committee will also meet on **April 25** at 6:00 p.m. at Kirkland & Ellis, 601 Lexington Avenue, NYC. RSVP and ID are required for admission to the building. See notices pp. 5, 7. RSVP for all events at events@nywba.org.

International Women's Rights Committee will host a *Pro Bono Fair of Charitable Organizations Supporting Women* on **April 5** from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, 1350 Broadway, 12th Fl. Boardroom, NYC. The committee will also meet on **April 10** and **May 8** at 6:30 p.m. at Liberty Mutual, One Battery Park Plaza, 29th Fl., NYC. RSVP IntlChairs@nywba.org.

Litigation Committee will meet on **May 24**. Location TBD. Email Litigation@nywba.org for more information.

Professional Ethics & Discipline Committee will present its Ethics CLE Program on **April 26** at 6:30 p.m. directly following the *NYWBA Annual Meeting* at Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, P.C., 488 Madison Ave., 10th Floor, NYC. See notice p. 1.

Reproductive Rights & Women's Health Committee will meet on **May 2** at 6:30 p.m. via conference call. RSVP reproductiverights@nywba.org.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

A vote of the NYWBA membership to ratify amendments to the NYWBA By-Laws and WBASNY By-Laws will take place at NYWBA's Annual Membership Meeting on April 26, 2017.

NYWBA is a founding Chapter of WBASNY. The NYWBA Board voted at its March 8, 2017 Meeting to adopt amendments proposed by WBASNY with respect to indemnification, insurance, and the need to give timely notice to WBASNY concerning any lawsuits or threats of suit against WBASNY, its Chapters, Women's Bar Foundations, or those acting on their behalf; to reflect WBASNY's "classes of membership;" and to reflect that elections are held in April. Board also voted to add a new category of membership in the NYWBA Advisory Council for members who have been in good standing for more than ten (10) years and are elected to the Advisory Council by the Board.

A redlined copy of the proposed amendments to the NYWBA By-Laws are posted on the website for your review at <http://nywba.org/by-laws/>. A copy of the proposed amendments to the WBASNY By-Laws are posted on its website at <https://www.wbasny.org/about/wbasny-laws/>. Members who have questions may contact NYWBA's By-Laws Co-Chairs at bylaws@nywba.org.

NOTES ON MEMBERS

Congratulations to NYWBA Director **Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy**, who was honored by the Brehon Law Society at their Annual Dinner on March 29, 2017.

On March 2, 2017, in honor of the birthday of Dr. Seuss, **Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy** and NYWBA Past President **Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff** participated in *Read Across America* by visiting two prekindergarten classes at P.S. 130, the Hernando DeSoto School in Manhattan. In the spirit of the event, the judges sported red and white striped hats from *Cat in the Hat*.

The judges led the students in singing the alphabet song, read to them from *The Cat in the Hat*, and asked the students questions derived from the story line.

Thanks to the generosity of the NYWBA, the judges gave every student a book authored by Dr. Seuss, a Seuss-inspired pencil, bookmark, pad and reading sticker and were provided with a snack.

As a parting gift, the judges gave the class an additional supply of books. Both judges enjoyed the event so much that they hope to return again next year with additional colleagues.

Congratulations to member **Hon. Saliann Scarpulla**, who will be honored at the *NYCLA Law Day Luncheon* on May 12, where she will be presented with the *Louis J. Capozzoli Gavel Award*, in recognition of her contributions to the justice system.

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

Newsletter Co-Chairs **Jessica Cygler Wagner** and **Alexandra Campbell**, with the **Hon. Judith J. Gische** (center), recipient of the *Benjamin N. Cardozo Award* at the Jewish Lawyers Guild Annual Dinner on March 6.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer V. Abelaj	Amanda M. Fugazy	Phaedra Perry
Nancy E. Ahern	Jessica L. Goldstein	Ashley S. Rajakaruna
Maryory Baez	Jennifer M. Henriquez	Maria N. Sakalis
Maria I. Beltrani	Cindy Huang	Allison L. Saperstein
Jennifer H. Bernstein	Seoyoun Huh	Stephanie Schwartz
Ryan Candee	Nicole M. Joyce	Zohar Shlush-Reyna
Katheleen Sullivan	Ella Kagan	Kathryn M. Spota
Coen	Juliet Knapp-Vega	Neva Strom
Lori L. Cohen	Mallory McGee	Alexandra Vandoros
Stacy D'Cunha	Emily Musson	Karla A. Vergara Perez
Renee C. Fahey	Sherry M. Narodick	Tasha Williams
Lindsay S. Feuer	Paul M. O'Brien	Heidi R. Young
Anna Franzen	Kathryn M. Pando	

2017 NYWBA ANNUAL JUDICIARY RECEPTION

The *NYWBA Annual Cocktail Reception* honoring newly elected, newly re-elected and newly appointed judges in New York County took place on February 28, 2017. A strong turnout of guests and honorees enjoyed a mild winter evening with beautiful views atop the Rooftop Dining Room at the Yale Club. The attendees were welcomed by NYWBA President **Deborah G. Rosenthal** and Reception Chair **Magnolia D. Levy**, who thanked our generous sponsors and recognized and congratulated each of

the honorees, inviting those in attendance to be acknowledged at the podium. Throughout the evening, guests mingled and networked over passed hors d'oeuvres and took the opportunity to commend the judicial honorees. In addition to thanking our sponsors, NYWBA thanks Reception Chair Magnolia D. Levy, Executive Director **Karen Lu**, President Deborah G. Rosenthal, Past President **Jennifer P. Brown**, the Yale Club staff and all of the members who worked to make this event a resounding success.

NYWBA President Deborah G. Rosenthal and Judicial Honorees



NYSBA President Claire P. Gutekunst, NYWBA President Deborah G. Rosenthal, WBASNY President Jacqueline P. Flug, nominated incoming NYWBA President Myra L. Freed and WBASNY President-elect Amy Baldwin Littman (l. to r.)



NYWBA Past President Yacine Barry-Wun, nominated incoming NYWBA President Myra L. Freed, NYWBA Past President Jennifer P. Brown, and WBASNY Vice President Leyla A. Kiosse (l. to r.)



NYWBA Newsletter Co-Chairs Jessica Cygler Wagner and Alexandra Campbell (l. to r.)

WBASNY NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Under WBASNY's By-Laws, President-Elect **Amy Baldwin Littman** (*Rockland Chapter*) will be automatically become WBASNY President for 2017-2018. At its meeting on **March 4, 2017**, **WBASNY's Nominations Committee** nominat-ed the following for the other 2017-2018 WBASNY Officer positions (*Chapter name in parentheses*):

- President-Elect:** Greta K. Kolcon (*Rochester*)
- Vice Presidents:** Leyla A. Kiosse (*Capital District*)
Kelly A. Pressler (*Orange-Sullivan*)
Lourdes M. Ventura (*Queens*)
- Treasurer:** Dawn Reid-Green (*Staten Island*)
- Recording Secretary:** Jennifer P. Brown (*New York*)
- Corresponding Secretary:** Joy A. Thompson (*Brooklyn*)

A vote on the WBASNY Officer positions will be held at the **NYWBA Annual Membership Meeting** on **April 26, 2017** (see notice on page 1 with the loca-tion and other details for the Annual Meeting). WBASNY By-Laws, Articles XIII and XV, posted at www.wbasny.org, contain additional information about WBASNY nominations and elections. All elected WBASNY Officers will be offi-cially installed at the **WBASNY Convention** on **Saturday, May 20, 2017**.

MentorJet: Speed Mentoring & Networking Fun

On March 2, 2017, the New York Women's Bar Association Diversity Committee and District 2 of the National Association of Women Judges co-sponsored an exciting networking program at Fordham University School of Law, "**MentorJet: Speed Mentoring & Networking Fun for Law Students, Judges, Lawyers, and Other Professionals.**" The "speed mentoring" networking event was co-hosted by Black Law Students Association, Latin American Law Students Association and Fordham Law Women and was modeled on the "speed dating" format designed to pro-vide law students and recent law school graduates with the opportunity to interact one-on-one with mentors. The mentors were a representation var-ious distinguished members of the judiciary, as well as private practice.

The intimate and relaxing environment allowed for an easy flow of conver-sation between the mentors and mentees. Many of the mentees comment-ed that that event was very helpful to them and they greatly valued the information and insight received from the mentors. The NYWBA Diversity Committee enjoyed working with the NAWJ and looks forward to many more exciting partnership events.



NYWBA's International Women's Rights Committee
presents
Pro Bono Fair of Charitable Organizations Supporting Women

Featuring:
MADRE
Sanctuary for Families
The Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center
Her Justice
The Legal Aid Society
PowHer New York

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Place: Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, 1350 Broadway, NYC
RSVP: Email IntlChairs@nywba.org

Network and Shop - April 5, 2017

Please join the **NYWBA Events Committee** for a festive evening of sipping wine, networking and shopping at the **Carlisle Showroom**, hosted by Viva Bhogaita, Showroom Manager/Wardrobe Stylist at Carlisle.

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Where: **Carlisle Showroom**, 16 East 52nd Street (btwn. 5th/Madison), 16th Floor, NYC
Cost: Free for NYWBA members and non-members.
RSVP: Email Events@nywba.org. *Space is limited.*

WBASNY CONVENTION 2017
MAY 18-21, 2017
Water's Edge Resort & Spa
Westbrook, Connecticut

The WBASNY Convention is a great opportunity to meet and mingle with Women's Bar members from across the state, attend first class CLEs, and celebrate as WBASNY presents its presti-gious awards and installs its officers for the coming year.

NYWBA Member **Hon. Fern Fisher**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts, will be present-ed with the **Hon. Judith S. Kay Access to Justice Award**.

NYWBA Past President **Jennifer P. Brown** has been nominated as an Officer for 2017-2018.

Join us in celebrating these honorees. *For more information, go to <https://www.wbasny.org/convention-2017/>*

The Current Opioid Epidemic and the Role of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor

By Olivia Sohmer

At the February 6, 2017 meeting of the Criminal Law Committee, **Bridget Brennan** of the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, explained that the current opioid epidemic is different from anything she has seen in thirty years as a prosecutor.

Background

The Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (SNP) was created by the New York State Legislature in 1971 in response to an overwhelming heroin epidemic. At that time, the major issue statewide was narcotics in urban centers. Heroin was trafficked to New York from Asia, and the drug trade was overseen by traditional organized crime. To address this problem, the SNP was empowered to handle all narcotics felonies in New York City. At the outset, New York County, where SNP is headquartered, referred almost all its narcotics felonies to SNP, handling only a very few in specialized bureaus. In other counties, although assistant district attorneys were designated from their offices to serve in SNP, they initially sent only their “untrieable” cases. Over time, most counties, including Manhattan, send the majority of their narcotics felonies to SNP.ⁱ

Nowadays, SNP has a few areas of primary focus: Mexican cartels that assemble opioid chemicals from China and move them into the U.S.; prescription drugs; and violent street gangs that are involved primarily in the distribution of crack cocaine. To investigate these offenses, the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor seeks and obtains wiretaps – the most of any prosecutor’s office in New York City. SNP actually has broader jurisdiction than the federal prosecutors’ offices, with which SNP works closely. SNP also collaborates with small upstate communities to assist the efforts those small police forces are making to cut off the supply chain in their areas.

Oxy, Heroin, and Fentanyl

One of the most common illegally sold drugs is “Oxy,” a synthetic prescription opioid that trades on the street for \$20 for a single 30mg pill. Oxycodone, first marketed by Purdue Pharma in 1996 under the name “OxyContin” was a time-released medication that promised 12-hour pain relief, saving people from the discomfort of a drug that wore off during the night or during the work day. Because the drug was intended to be taken only twice a day, it was said that it would not lead to dependence.

Pharmaceutical companies trained general practitioners to prescribe the drug for common conditions such as back aches and knee pain, and funded “support groups” for patients in pain management. It became common for doctors to be rated on customer satisfaction based on how much pain relief

they provided – a practice familiar to anyone who has been asked to rate their pain on a spectrum of smiley faces or a scale of one to ten.

But OxyContin is an opioid, a chemical cousin of heroin, and patients can develop a tolerance, requiring higher or more frequent doses of the drug, as well as excruciating symptoms of withdrawal. Indeed, OxyContin has become one of the most abused pharmaceuticals in U.S. history. In fact, The U.S. Justice Department launched a criminal investigation, and, in 2007 the manufacturer and three top executives pled guilty to fraud for downplaying the risk of developing an addiction to OxyContin.ⁱⁱ

The way in which it is prescribed is part of what makes the drug readily open to abuse. The default prescription of Oxy is for 30 days, which is much longer than necessary for most patients’ needs. The largest prescription that can be written is for 150 pills, which costs \$300 cash at a pharmacy – less if insurance coverage is available – and sells on the street for ten times that.

Other prescription drugs are also popular on the street. Xanax is particularly problematic because it can be dangerous to wean a user off the drug, making it nonresponsive to traditional methods of rehab. And Xanax combined with heroin can be deadly.

The heroin market itself has changed since the early days of SNP. Although the heroin trade itself is not violent, it has become a large-scale business. The Bronx, with its position as a transportation hub to the other boroughs, and to Westchester and upstate New York, is now home to “big box” heroin mills, each with a dozen workers wearing medical-style face masks and gloves as they package kilos of narcotics.

The deadly newcomer to the opioid scene is the synthetic opioid Fentanyl. Originally given to cancer patients at end of life, it is now being “cut in” or included in the manufacture of heroin, cocaine and even “pressed” into counterfeit Xanax. Because Fentanyl is composed only from chemicals, and requires no crop cultivation, it is very inexpensive to produce. Fentanyl looks like heroin, but costs only \$5,000-\$10,000 per kilo to produce, as opposed to heroin, which costs \$50,000 per kilo.

Fentanyl is highly toxic. It is deadly even in ambient form to those who are not used to it. Furthermore, Naloxone, the antidote drug, is not particularly effective against Fentanyl, because Fentanyl is so fast-acting that it can have a deadly effect before a dose of Naloxone can be administered. Because Fentanyl is so potent, even a timely administered dose of Naloxone may not be effective.

To protect drug investigators from the risks presented by this pervasive heroin look-alike, the NYPD has ordered a cessation of field testing, even of substances suspected to be heroin.

In mid-February, China will ban the manufacture and sale of four variations of the synthetic drug Fentanyl starting March 1, 2017. Drug Enforcement Administration officials hailed these tighter controls as a potential “game-changer” for the United States’ battle with manufactured opioids.ⁱⁱⁱ

Overdoses

For now, the highest overdose rate in New York City is in the south Bronx, but the rate in Manhattan is rising rapidly, as it is in Staten Island, where both the sellers and the users are young and middle class. Deaths from overdoses are highest among those in the 40 to 50-year-old age range. These are the chronic users who tend also to have other health issues. Drug overdose deaths impact every neighborhood and demographic in New York City.^{iv}

The problem is not limited to New York City: Brennan informed the Criminal Law Committee that the city of Buffalo is currently reporting an overall population decrease because the death rate from overdose exceeds the birth rate in the city.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Brennan stressed to the Criminal Law Committee how important it is that New Yorkers be made aware that the black market drug supply here is contaminated with Fentanyl. As for prescription drugs, just because a drug is legal doesn’t mean it won’t kill you. In the home, one should treat all medications like something dangerous, and should be secured so that children and visitors cannot access them.

Olivia Sohmer, NYWBA Criminal Law Committee member, is a court attorney in Brooklyn Criminal Court, where she sees many motions seeking to controvert narcotics search warrants. Her past experience includes 20 years as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan where – thanks to the office of the SNP – she handled very few felony drug cases at the trial level.

i. Website of the Office of Special Narcotics Prosecutor, <http://www.snpnyc.org/about-us/history/>.
 ii. “You Want A Description of Hell” OxyContin’s 12-Hour Problem, by Harriet Ryan, Lisa Giron and Scott Glover (Los Angeles Times, May 5, 2016), <http://www.latimes.com/projects/oxycontin-part1/>.
 iii. China’s fentanyl ban a ‘game-changer’ for opioid epidemic, DEA officials say, by Sara Ganim (CNN, February 14, 2017), <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/16/health/fentanyl-china-ban-opioids/>.
 iv. Website of the Office of Special Narcotics Prosecutor, <http://www.snpnyc.org/reports/drug-trends/>.

*Please join us to celebrate the
New York Women's Bar Association's*

**2017 Annual Awards
and Installation Dinner**

*The President's Special Award
will be presented to*

Honorable Janet DiFiore
*Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals
and of the State of New York*

*NYWBA's Award of Special Recognition
will be presented to*

Honorable Joan B. Lobis
Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County

**Wednesday, June 7, 2017
Three Sixty°
Tribeca, New York**

*Cocktails and Silent Auction at 6:00 p.m.
Silent Auction to benefit the NYWBA Foundation and its
Grant Programs (including the Betty Weinberg Ellerin Fund)*

Dinner and Program at 7:30 p.m.

*For more information, go to
<http://www.nywba.org/2017-annual-dinner/>*

**NYWBA Thanks the Sponsors of the
2017 Annual Judicial Reception**

Platinum

Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP
Bender & Rosenthal LLP
Julie Hyman
Mayerson Abramowitz & Kahn LLP

Silver

Jennifer P. Brown
Elizabeth A. Bryson
Myra L. Freed
Klein Liebman & Gresen, LLC

Friend

Ephron-Mandel & Howard, L.L.P.
Martha E. Gifford

**The Committee on the Supreme Court
of the New York City Lawyers Association**

invite you to celebrate

Law Day 2017
at its annual

Law Day Luncheon

The Justice Louis J. Capozzoli Gavel Award
will be presented to

Hon. Saliann Scarpulla
Supreme Court, New York County

Date: *Friday, May 12, 2017*

Time: *11:30 a.m. – Reception
12:30 p.m. – Lunch*

Place: *Battery Gardens Restaurant
One Battery Park*

Inside Battery Park, On the Water, NYC

Info: *Email Christina Andujar candujar@nycla.org*

RSVP: *Go to <http://bit.ly/2nvRFY7> to RSVP and for
more information.*

**Historical Walking Tour
of Washington Square**

Please join the *NYWBA Events Committee* for a historical walking tour of The Immigrant, Radical, Notorious Women of Washington Square, led by the renowned historian and tour leader, *Joyce Gold*. After the tour, those who are interested will meet for lunch at a place to be determined. Invite a friend (or two) and spend a beautiful spring morning learning about and being inspired by the NYC women who helped make this city what it is!

Date: *Saturday, May 20, 2017*

Time: *10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

Place: *Meet at Washington Square Arch
5th Avenue, 1 block south of 8th Street*

Cost: *\$30/person - Members and non-members
(Lunch not included)*

Info: *E-mail events@nywba.org*

RSVP: *Go to <http://bit.ly/2nKkQYn>*

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