



# NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 2017

Like most of you, I am inundated on a daily basis with dozens of unwanted emails, but the rare thoughtful piece of paper snail mail still gets my attention. In particular, I received the Fall Program from The US Holocaust Museum, entitled **"Never Stop Asking WHY."** Among the pointed questions posed were, "Why do societies fail?", "Why do people become collaborators", and "Why do some people take risks to help others?" For many of us, these questions have haunted us throughout our lives. They are particularly poignant today in light of the recent events in Charlottesville and acts of heroism exhibited by ordinary people in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.



Myra L. Freed

Part of the New York Women's Bar Association's mission is to never stop asking **WHY**. Why are things as they are? Why are they unjust, unequal, unfair, and how can we, as an Association, make things better, how can we help each other? If you look at our newsletters and follow our calendar, you'll see that many of our meetings and programs address these issues. On **October 17**, our International Women's Rights Committee will present a program on **Strategies to End Child Marriage at Home and Abroad**, and, on **October 19**, our Criminal Law Committee will present a screening of the Bill Moyers documentary **"Rikers and Beyond,"** followed by a panel discussion, to name just two such programs. Please support the great work of our committees by attending meetings and participating in these upcoming events.

It is incumbent upon us to question our American history more deeply and honestly. We need to ask who should be honored in our public squares and why. And of course, who does not get honored and why. In our own New York City backyard we have come to see that men – some with unsavory and less than noble backgrounds – overwhelmingly make up our glorified and decorative statues. According to *Gothamist*, NYC has 150 statues of historical men but only five of women. They are Joan of Arc, Gertrude Stein, Golda Meir, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Harriet Tubman. There are 23 statues of male figures in Central Park, and only one female – Alice in Wonderland. On Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street, across from the New York Academy of Medicine, is a monument to Dr. J. Marion Sims, considered the father of modern gynecology. It turns out his life's work was built on the pain and abuse of enslaved black women on whom he operated without anesthesia or informed consent. I could find records of only ten statues honoring African American individuals in our great and diverse city, including the aforementioned one of Harriet Tubman; Jackie Robinson accounted for two more.

(Continued on Page 2)

### Don't Miss NYWBA's Exciting CLE Programs:

*International Women's Rights Committee presents:*

#### **"Don't Marry Me Off: Strategies to End Child Marriage at Home and Abroad"**

**Tuesday, October 17, 2017**

*See page 3 for more information*

*Matrimonial & Family Law Committee presents:*

#### **How to Prepare and Present Your Financial Case Before a Special Referee**

**Wednesday, October 18, 2017**

*See page 8 for more information*

*Criminal Law Committee is proud to sponsor:*

#### **"Rikers and Beyond"**

**Thursday, October 19, 2017**

*See page 9 for more information*

### **Announcements & Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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- 10/5 – Civil Courts Comm. Mtg. – p. 2
- 10/10 – International Women's Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 2
- 10/17 – **CLE: Don't Marry Me Off** – pp. 2, 3
- 10/18 - Committee to Advance the Status of Women Mtg. - p. 2
- 10/18 – **CLE: Presenting Your Financial Case Before a Special Referee** – pp. 2, 8
- 10/19 – **CLE: Rikers and Beyond** – pp. 2, 9
- 10/19 – Solo and Small Law Firm Comm. Mtg. – p. 2
- 10/23 - Legislation Comm. Mtg. - p. 2
- 11/1 - Program & Events Comm. Mtg. - p. 2
- 11/13 – Criminal Law Comm. Mtg. – p. 2
- 11/14 – International Women's Rights Comm. Mtg. – p. 2
- 11/16 – Civil Courts Comm. Mtg. – p. 2
- 11/20 - Legislation Comm. Mtg. - p. 2

Check [www.nywba.org](http://www.nywba.org) for more Meetings, Programs & Events.

*President's Message (Continued from Page 1)*

Others included Frederick Douglass, Arthur Ashe and Duke Ellington. These monuments say much about our culture and values and who we are as a people. We in the NYWBA will never stop asking WHY.

One thing that gives us strength in difficult times is meeting and bonding with colleagues. Along with other NYWBA and WBASNY members, I had the great pleasure of participating in the **National Conference of Women's Bar Associations 2017 Leadership Summit: Succeeding With Strength and Savvy** on August 10-11 in New York. This Summit was organized and chaired by NYWBA Director **Elizabeth A. Bryson** (NYWBA President 2003-2005), who has served as a NCWBA Director since 2015. The Summit started with a reception on Thursday evening at Fordham Law School, and a presentation of the documentary film, "**Balancing the Scales**," followed by a panel discussion that included the attorney and filmmaker **Sharon Rowen**. Two of the women attorneys featured in the film were also present. It is bittersweet when we look at how far we've come, yet how far we have left to go; how hopeful so many women were for their own daughters' generations, and how much is left undone for them.

The Summit continued on Friday in the beautiful conference space at Thomson Reuters overlooking Times Square. We met with colleagues from all around the country, including the president of the nation's newest women's bar association in West Virginia. We heard of their challenges and were inspired by their successes. We listened to a behind-the-scenes discussion by the "**Women in the White House**," featuring the former chief counsel and deputy chief counsel for President Barack Obama. We attended a panel discussion on mentoring that included our members, **Morgan Fraser Mouchette** (NYWBA Director) and **Martha E. Gifford** (past NYWBA and WBASNY President). Our lunch break was accompanied by award presentations, including to our Women's Bar Association of the State of New York for their voter registration project. Two of our own NYWBA members registered the most voters for the WBASNY project. We were then treated to a rousing speech by **Roberta A. Kaplan**, counsel for Edie Windsor in *U.S. v. Windsor* (and 2014 recipient of the NYWBA Hon. Florence E. Allen Award). Ms. Kaplan spoke passionately of the reasons she chose to start her own national law firm at this stage of her career, and the meaning of having a diverse, inclusive work environment. After lunch, we listened to "**Good Guys 101**," a presentation by male colleagues engaged in diversity initiatives. They each shared their experiences and their own personal reasons for their commitment to diversity. What they know and preach – and what statistics support – is that the more diverse a company work force, especially at the higher echelons, the more profitable the business is. Each chapter then shared its own innovative practices, ideas, and initiatives for facing their toughest challenges. We were fortunate to have the conference in New York City, facilitating attendance and participation by many of our chapter members. The conference was well received by all. Congratulations to Beth for an extraordinary and important job well done. We wish Beth and all the new NCWBA Board members all the best for their terms in the year ahead.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events!

*Myra*

## COMMITTEE CALENDAR

**Civil Courts Committee** will host its monthly Express Lunch meetings on **Oct. 5** and **Nov. 16** from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. in the 8th floor boardroom of the Civil Courthouse, 111 Centre St., NYC. RSVP [CivilCourtsChairs@nywba.org](mailto:CivilCourtsChairs@nywba.org).

**Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession** will meet **Oct. 18** and **Nov. 13** at 6:00 p.m. at 71 Thomas Street, Room 103, NYC. For info and to RSVP, email [AdvanceStatus@nywba.org](mailto:AdvanceStatus@nywba.org).

**Criminal Law Committee** presents a **CLE: Rikers and Beyond** to include a screening of the documentary film "**Rikers: An American Jail**" followed by a panel discussion, on **Oct. 19** from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at NYU School of Law, 40 Washington Sq. So., Vanderbilt Hall, Room 210, NYC. 2 CLE credits; free for all attendees. The Committee will also meet **Nov. 13** at 6:15 p.m. at The Hoffinger Firm, 150 East 58th St., 16th Fl., NYC. For more info and to RSVP email [CrimLawChairs@nywba.org](mailto:CrimLawChairs@nywba.org). See notice p. 9.

**International Women's Rights Committee** will meet **Oct. 10** and **Nov. 14** at 6:30 p.m. at Liberty Mutual, One Battery Park Plaza, 29th Fl., NYC. RSVP [IntlChairs@nywba.org](mailto:IntlChairs@nywba.org). The committee will also host a **CLE: Don't Marry Me Off: Strategies to End Child Marriage at Home and Abroad** on **Oct. 17** from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at NYU School of Law, 40 Washington Sq. So., NYC. 2 CLE credits; free for NYWBA Members; \$35 for Non-Members. See notice p. 3.

**Legislation Committee** will meet **Oct 23** and **Nov. 20** at the offices of Cardi & Edgar LLP, 2 Park Ave., 19th Fl., NYC. Call-in number is available for those who cannot attend. For info and to RSVP, contact Joseph Caputo at 212 481-7770 or [jcaputo@cardiedgarlaw.com](mailto:jcaputo@cardiedgarlaw.com).

**Matrimonial and Family Law Committee** present a **CLE: How to Prepare and Present Your Financial Case Before a Special Referee** on **Oct. 18** at 6:00 p.m. at 451 Park Avenue South, 10th Floor, NYC. 2 Professional Practice CLE Credits. Free for NYWBA Members; \$35 for Non-Members. For more info email [MFChairs@nywba.org](mailto:MFChairs@nywba.org). See notice p. 8.

**Program & Events Committee** will meet **Oct. 3** and **Nov. 1** at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of Kirkland & Ellis, 601 Lexington Ave. (@53rd St.), NYC. For more info and to RSVP email [Events@nywba.org](mailto:Events@nywba.org).

**Solo and Small Law Firm Committee** will meet **Oct. 19** at 8:30 a.m. at the offices of Maxine Park, 300 East 42nd Street, 14th Fl., NYC to discuss "**Starting and Growing Your Own Practice**." RSVP [ssfchairs@nywba.org](mailto:ssfchairs@nywba.org).

### *Renew Your Membership*

If you have already renewed, THANK YOU! If you haven't, it's time to RENEW your membership for 2017-2018.

The NYWBA fiscal year is June 1 to May 31. Be sure to renew your membership 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 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 Executive Director Karen Lu ([ED@nywba.org](mailto:ED@nywba.org)) to confirm your member status or request a paper membership form by email.

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.

## NOTES ON MEMBERS

Congratulations to past NYWBA President and Foundation Board member **Laurie Berke-Weiss** who was recently named a recipient of the **2017 Frank H. T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award** at Cornell University and will be honored at a ceremony in Ithaca later this Fall.

Has something noteworthy happened to you or another member? Send your news to [Newsletter@nywba.org](mailto:Newsletter@nywba.org).

### *NYWBA's International Women's Rights and Domestic Violence Committees, National Organization for Women – NYC and NYU School of Law*

present:

### *“Don't Marry Me Off: Strategies to End Child Marriage at Home and Abroad”*

Featuring:

**Lyric Thompson**, International Center for Research on Women

**Sonia Ossorio**, National Organization for Women - NYC

**Bryan D. Hoben**, Too Young to Wed  
**Keerthana Nimmala**, Hunton & Williams

Pro Bono Immigration Fellow

**Safia Mahjebin**, Advocate

**Date:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Place:** NYU School of Law

40 Washington Square South, NYC

**CLE:** 2 Credits\*

**Cost:** Free for NYWBA Members\*\*

\$35 for Non-Members

**Info:** Email [IntlChairs@nywba.org](mailto:IntlChairs@nywba.org)

**RSVP:** <http://bit.ly/2haO5lo>

\* CLE Credits: (2.0 Professional Practice): The New York Women's Bar Association 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](mailto:cle@nywba.org) or 212-216- 1135. All requests are confidential.

## 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.

Kiersten Acevedo  
Susan E. Costigan  
Eileen S. King  
Gary Roy Klein  
Joseph Korff

Hon. Felice K. Shea  
Sylvia E. Toyos  
Victoria A. Turchetti  
Andrea Vacca

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kiersten Acevedo  
Carloyn J. Appel  
Lise Berichel  
Julia Cagin  
Phylcia Charles  
Neha Choudary  
Courtney Chua  
Eileen Cunningham  
Maria C. Curbelo  
Amy E. Donehower  
Abisola Fatade  
Laurie K. Furdyna  
Mariam Hashmi  
Andrea Kantor

Ahuva Kohanteb  
Chelsea Lawson  
Kathleen E. Maitland  
Stephanie Manes  
Hon. Edwina G. Mendelson  
Rebecca Moy  
Camille Ramos-Klee  
Nina Saas  
Deepti Shenoy  
Irina Y. Sivachenko  
Pamela B. Tishman  
Sophia Vazquez  
Zhuo Wang

as of 9/15/17



### **NYWBA SUPPORTS MS BIKE FUNDRAISER: JOIN TODAY!!!**

Dear Members:

On **October 22, 2017**, the NYWBA Cycle Team will participate in a 30 mile bike race around Manhattan to raise money for MS.

All you need to do to join our team is: (1) sign up, (2) fundraise a minimum of \$200, and (3) show up with your bike on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at Pier 92/94 located at 711 West 54th Street and the West Side Highway, Manhattan.

If you wish to participate, use the following link:  
<http://bit.ly/2fyTz8A>

Click on the left side option labeled “Cyclist – Yes, I want to ride in Bike MS: NYC!”

On the next page select “Join a team”- this will prompt you to create an account or sign in if you are a repeat rider.

As you register your account, select “NYWBA” as the team you wish to join.

You do not want to miss having the FDR and West Side Highway free of traffic as you ride the scenic route!

- NYWBA Cycle Team

# NYWBA 2017 Membership Reception, September 11, 2017



**Reflections by Ivette Sanchez, New York Women's Bar Association Fellow at Her Justice**

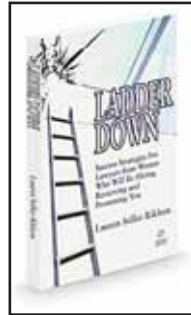
I was very fortunate to spend this past spring semester working as the NYWBA Foundation Fellow in the Manhattan office of Her Justice, a non-profit organization that assists low-income women with immigration, family law and divorce matters, including through the framework of VAWA and anti-trafficking laws. I have a deep background in women's rights and advocacy but not providing actual services to women in need, so my goal at Her Justice was to gain more substantive legal knowledge regarding immigration law and advocacy, professional experience providing direct services work and an opportunity to serve particularly vulnerable populations that are very close to my own personal experiences. The NYWBA Fellowship at Her Justice was, therefore, a perfect opportunity to develop my legal knowledge and skills by working with a dedicated team of attorneys and staff to help vulnerable female clients.

Many of the women who come to Her Justice are victims of domestic violence. As part of my fellowship experience, I learned that immigrant women are particularly vulnerable to being victims of domestic violence. Several of our clients came to the United States because they were under the control of their spouses, leaving behind their family and careers in their home countries, and experiencing severe alienation and forced dependence on their spouse in the United States. Clients often described how their abusers would use their vulnerability around their immigration status to manipulate, threaten and control them. Many clients also have children who have suffered emotional trauma and distress from witnessing domestic violence. Her Justice has a comprehensive approach towards assisting the women who seek its services, providing both legal and social services to address all of their clients' needs.

I worked with several immigration attorneys and learned about the wide variety of legal issues affecting thousands of immigrant women in New York City every day. Most significantly, I had the opportunity to work one-on-one with a senior immigration attorney on a federal petition for judicial review of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)'s improper denial of a client's naturalization application. This was exciting because it was Her Justice's first petition for judicial review of USCIS' administrative actions and demonstrated Her Justice's commitment to advocating for their clients. My work included procedural research on how to file, format and serve the petition, as well as substantive questions of immigration law raised by the denial. The latter included research into case law and administrative regulations. I received feedback, both in person and in the form of multiple rounds of line edits on my writing from the supervising attorney. The petition of review was successfully filed recently. It was a valuable experience in terms of developing writing and research skills, and also providing a critical service to our clients. I was given a significant level of responsibility and ownership over all aspects of the petition – although this was a little intimidating at times, it was also greatly empowering as a future lawyer.

The fellowship also offered for multiple opportunities for client interaction, from contacting them on Spanish-language calls, to follow-up on the status of their case and requesting additional records, to participating in meetings with clients to gather information for their applications. The women were very grateful to have someone guide and assist them throughout the complicated process.

**A Review of Lauren Stiller Rikleen's Book: Ladder Down: Success Strategies for Lawyers from Women Who Will Be Hiring, Reviewing and Promoting You**  
**By Janet I. Cord**



In conjunction with Lauren Stiller Rikleen's participation in the panel discussion "Career Tools: Integrating Mentoring, Sponsorship, Coaching, and Networking for Maximum Effect" at the **2017 National Conference of Women's Bar Associations Leadership Summit**, her recent book ***Ladder Down: Success Strategies for Lawyers from Women Who Will Be Hiring, Reviewing and Promoting You*** was given to each attendee.

This timely book describes changes in the profession since 2008, including what is new and old for developing leadership skills; developing a niche practice; finding mentors and champions; networking; advocating for yourself and generating business.

Unlike other books on these topics, Ms. Rikleen's book offers practical advice and addresses the fear and anxiety, and growth and knowledge that occur during the course of one's career. After reading this book, you will know that you are not alone and that there are many ways to have your own successful career.

The book's highly organized format with anecdotes from lawyers of various levels of experience is interesting and insightful. Attorneys at all stages of their careers will benefit from reading and learning from this book.

*Janet I. Cord is a partner at Ladas & Parry LLP, where she practices patent law in the biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, biochemistry, chemistry and medical fields and represents a wide range of companies and universities. A long-time NYWBA member and past NYWBA Officer, Ms. Cord is currently the Chair of the Fundraising Committee of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.*

I also directly assisted clients to secure immigration status by preparing components of their U-Visa and T-Visa applications, and researching legal issues that arise in the course of providing thorough advocacy for clients' applications. For example, I conducted research on the statutes of limitations on human trafficking crimes in New York, the definition of a signature in New York and the status of mental health and LGBT protection in Latin America to assist various clients.

Because of my experience at Her Justice, I would like to continue doing immigration services as part of pro bono work at the law firm where I will be working in the fall. I was deeply impressed by the commitment of the people who work at Her Justice, as well as that of the volunteer attorneys from law firms around the city who devote their limited time and resources to taking on cases pro bono.

I truly appreciate of the opportunity to work at Her Justice that I enjoyed as a result of the NYWBA Foundation Fellowship. It has been a rewarding experience for me both on a professional and personal level, and has greatly contributed to my legal education.

*Ivette Sanchez is a 2017 graduate of New York University School of Law.*

## NYWBA and WBASNY Participate in National Conference of Women's Bar Associations' "2017 Leadership Summit"

In August, the *National Conference of Women's Bar Associations* held its *Annual Leadership Summit* in Manhattan. NCWBA is an international organization that supports women's bar associations and promotes equality in the legal profession. NCWBA associations represent more than 38,000 lawyers. **Elizabeth A. Bryson**, Past President of NYWBA and current member of the NCWBA Board, served as Chair of this year's Summit.

Events kicked off on Thursday, **August 10** with a Welcome Reception and film screening co-hosted by **Fordham Law School**, and it continued with the all-day Summit on Friday, **August 11** in the 30th-floor offices of **Thomson Reuters** at 3 Times Square, with spectacular views from the Hudson River to Times Square's New Year's Eve Crystal Ball. These events were attended by attorneys from all over the United States and Canada, as well as by attorneys from the Judge Advocate General Corps of the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy.

The Thursday Welcome Reception included a screening of the documentary "*Balancing the Scales*," featuring candid interviews with women attorneys on their careers – from young lawyers facing new challenges, to mid-level associates striving for success, to senior attorneys and judges who are leaders in the profession, such as **Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg** and **Gloria Allred**. **Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann**, NYWBA Past President and member of the Fordham Alumni Association Board of Trustees, was among the evening's speakers. After the film, Atlanta attorney and filmmaker **Sharon Rowen** joined moderator **Charlotte Rushton**, Managing Director, Large and Midsize Law Firms, for Thomson Reuters; **Arcely Muñoz**, former Vice President for Strategic Development for the Minority Corporate Counsel Association and current Special Counsel for the Center for Reproductive Rights, and Ms. Bryson on a post-film panel to explore how to address challenges that continue in the profession.

Friday's programs were extraordinary. The first panel, "*Women in the White House – A Conversation with Kathy and Kim*," featured **Kathryn Ruemmler** and **Kimberley Harris**, who served as Chief Counsel and Deputy Counsel to President Barack Obama. They not only reminisced about their time in the White House, but also discussed techniques they and their colleagues used to ensure that women's voices were included when policies were set and decisions made.

**Martha E. Gifford**, Past President of NYWBA and WBASNY, then moderated a program she organized entitled "*Career Tools: Integrating Mentoring, Sponsorship, Coaching, and Networking for Maximum Effect*," which featured panelists **Morgan Fraser Mouchette**, Senior Litigation Associate at Blank Rome, NYWBA Director, and Co-Chair of the NYWBA Diversity Committee; **Lauren Stiller Rikleen**, attorney, author, expert on diversity and inclusion, and recipient of the 2017 ABA Margaret Brent Women of Distinction Award; and **Joseph K. West**, Partner and Chief Diversity Officer of Duane Morris.

During the Awards Luncheon, three NCWBA member organizations received awards, including WBASNY, which was honored for its statewide voter registration initiative. President **Amy Baldwin Littman** and Vice President **Leyla Kiosse** accepted on WBASNY's behalf.

**Roberta A. Kaplan**, a nationally renowned litigator and recipient of the NYWBA's 2014 Hon. Florence E. Allen Award, then gave the keynote address. Ms. Kaplan is best known for successfully representing Edith Windsor before the U.S. Supreme Court in her historic challenge to the "Defense of Marriage

Act." Among other topics, Ms. Kaplan discussed the challenges that continue to be faced by attorneys who are women, persons of color, members of the LGBT community, and other historically marginalized groups. She also explained why she recently established a new national law firm, Kaplan & Company LLP, where all lawyers can be held to high standards of expertise and professionalism while also being treated with fairness and dignity. Ms. Kaplan's keynote was both challenging and encouraging to those in attendance.

At the afternoon sessions, member organizations shared their "Best Practices," and NCWBA presented "*GOOD Guys 101: Engaging Men in Our Success*." ("GOOD" stands for "Guys Overcoming Obstacles to Diversity," and "GOOD Guys" was created by NCWBA to inspire and support men who advocate for increased diversity and inclusion in the profession.) The moderator was **Sheryl Axelrod**, President of The Axelrod Firm and Diversity Team Ambassador of the Pennsylvania Bar Assn. She gave an overview of the status of women in the profession and presented research showing that firms and companies which are more diverse – especially at the higher levels – are also substantially more profitable than their non-diverse counterparts. The "GOOD Guys" then discussed the importance of consistently promoting diversity and inclusion: **Michael J. Cammarota**, Managing Director and Senior Director of Legal Services, Global Transactions, for Accenture LLP; **Richard E. Meade**: Prudential Vice President, Prudential International Chief Legal Officer, and Diversity Steering Committee Chair for Law, Compliance, Business Ethics & External Affairs; and **Nate Saint-Victor**: Executive Director at Morgan Stanley and Chair of the company's Legal and Compliance Division Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

The day concluded with a "hackathon" to develop ideas and initiatives arising from this year's Summit, followed by a celebratory cocktail reception. The Summit was a huge success. NYWBA and WBASNY are proud to be founding member of NCWBA and to have served as Summit sponsors.

The Summit had a special resonance for one attendee: **Phyllis Solomon**, long-time NYWBA member and past NCWBA President (1997-98). "Twenty years ago when I was NCWBA President, the profession lacked diversity in many ways, especially at leadership levels. It was so exciting to see that NCWBA's 2016-17 President, **Amanda Green Alexander**, is an accomplished African American woman from Mississippi, and that there are other minority women from diverse backgrounds on the NCWBA Board." She also observed that the attendees included attorneys from the JAG Corps, with one visibly pregnant officer in a maternity uniform – an unimaginable sight not so many years ago. "It is essential for the legal profession to no longer have arbitrary limits. Leaders come from every demographic – women of color, lawyers from different backgrounds and geographic areas, and attorneys not only from private practice but corporate, government and non-profit groups. I am proud that NCWBA, NYWBA, and other women's bar organizations are leaders in diversity and inclusion."

NCWBA's next major events will be during its midyear meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia in February 2018. The next full Leadership Summit will be held in Chicago in August 2018. For more information about the August Summit, future programs, or the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, contact Ms. Bryson ([ebryson@nywba.org](mailto:ebryson@nywba.org)) or go to [www.ncwba.org](http://www.ncwba.org).

## 2017 Leadership Summit



*NYWBA President Myra L. Freed and Immediate Past President Deborah G. Rosenthal*



*Associate Judge of the NYS Court of Appeals Hon. Jenny Rivera*



*NYWBA Past President Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann*



*Summit Chair Elizabeth Bryson (rt) congratulates Career Tools Panelists Joseph West, Morgan Fraser Mouchette, Martha E. Gifford, and Lauren Rikleen (l-r)*



*NCWBA Awards Chairs Leigh-Ann Durant & Shiloh Theberge (far left & right) present Public Service Award (Honorable Mention) to WBASNY President Amy Baldwin Littman (second from right) and WBASNY Vice President Leyla Kiosse (second from left)*



*Summit Keynote Speaker Roberta A. Kaplan with Past Presidents Elizabeth A. Bryson and Martha E. Gifford*

*President Myra Freed with President Obama's former Chief Counsel and Deputy Chief Counsel: Kathryn Ruemmler and Kimberley Harris*



*NYWBA Board member Kay Marmorek*



*Janet I. Cord, WBASNY Finance Chair and past NYWBA Officer*



*Present, Past & Future NCWBA Presidents (l-r): Robin Bresky (2017-2018), Amanda Green Alexander (2016-2017), Phyllis Solomon (1997-1998 NCWBA President, and long-time NYWBA member), and Angel Zimmerman (President-Elect, will be NCWBA President 2018-2019)*

**Reflections by Katarina Schweitz,  
New York Women's Bar Association Foundation  
Fellow at Sanctuary for Families**

On the first day of my Foundation Fellowship, Sanctuary for Families introduced me to all it has to offer to women experiencing domestic abuse. As I sat in the legal library with the attorney who would be supervising me, I was anxious to meet with my first client for an intake screening. The client arrived with her baby, and gave us a forthright smile to thank us for meeting with her before we had the chance to say our names.

Considering her quiet tone, many would be quick to dismiss the true depth of the abuse she endured. The client answered every question about her life and what brought her to Sanctuary with vigorous candor: she fled her home country in fear of the emotional abuse and physical attacks she suffered because she had given birth to her baby daughter out of wedlock. She accepted her village's expulsion of her and now hoped for a new life in New York for herself and her baby. Although each of her parents, five siblings, and the father of her child ostracized her, she was not a victim and recognized that she needed help obtaining legal remedies and collecting basic survival resources.

I began my training by getting up to date on recent literature regarding best practices for advocating on behalf of individuals who have experienced domestic violence. I was intrigued by the opportunity to participate in and contribute to an organization that helps begin to reestablish a sense of self-worth and self-reliance. I observed the supervising attorneys and their team as they interviewed clients and gathered information in order to establish a case for a family offense. After shadowing a few client intakes, I began to call clients who used Sanctuary's help hotline, in order to collect information about their relationships and the history of their abuse, as well as to ascertain their objectives for legal protection and establish a safety plan.

If a client had not previously obtained an order of protection based on a prior incident of domestic abuse, the client generally requested a temporary order that compelled her abusive partner to refrain from going near her house, school or place of work and from committing a crime against her. I also helped to prepare clients seeking a final order of protection after trial in Family Court by forming a list of onerous questions she might have to answer on direct and cross-examination. This question-and-answer practice session established a conversational rapport between the client and her legal advocate, which enabled her to tell her story more fully and demand her rights more clearly when the time came for her to face the judge, opposing counsel, and even her abuser.

Although most of my fellowship at Sanctuary concentrated on gathering information during intake, petitioning for Family Court, orders of protection and preparing clients for trial, I also had the opportunity to develop my research skills in order to facilitate the resolution of marital debt disputes, custody issues and maintenance payments, and admissibility standards for photographic evidence from a cellphone. I ordered transcripts from our clients' previous hearings in New York City Family Courts and filed trial exhibit and witness lists with courts clerks. I volunteered with Sanctuary's Courtroom Advocacy Project, which assists women

**NYWBA's Matrimonial & Family Law Committee**

*present a CLE Program:*

***How to Prepare and Present Your  
Financial Case Before a Special Referee***

*Speaker:*

***Marilyn T. Sugarman***, Special Referee of the  
Supreme Court New York County

**Date:** *Wednesday, October 18, 2017*

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Place:** *451 Park Avenue South*, 10th Floor, NYC

**CLE:** *2.0 Professional Practice Credits\**

**Cost:** *Free* – NYWBA Members\*\*

*\$50* – Non-members

**Info:** Email *MFChairs@nywba.org*

**RSVP:** *http://bit.ly/2xjt2m2*

*Space is limited to the first 40 people to sign up.*

*Beverages and Light Snacks Will Be Served*

*\*CLE Credits:* (2.0 Professional Practice): The New York Women's Bar Association 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 for NYWBA members, \$50, non-members:* 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.



in the process of petitioning for and obtaining Family Court orders of protection on the same day their application is filed.

Offering various services and programs – from legal services in immigration and human trafficking, crisis shelters, childcare support and clinical counseling to community outreach and social media events – Sanctuary for Families provides the legal, physical and emotional resources that help women in their most vulnerable moments to combat their situations head-on. I've had the wonderful privilege of working at Sanctuary for Families, learning from and being inspired by the attorneys, their staff and our clients. I am honored to have been a Fellow of the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation. I will take the knowledge, skills and hopes I gained from this experience and continue to fight for gender equality and every human's right to be safe, healthy and free from domestic violence.

*Katarina Schweitz is a 2L at Fordham University School of Law.*



**NYWBA Criminal Law Committee**

is proud to sponsor a CLE Program:

**"Rikers and Beyond"**

featuring

A screening of the documentary film  
**"Rikers: An American Jail"**\*

Followed by a panel discussion including:

Moderator: **Kirk A. James**

Clinical Assistant Professor, NYU Silver School of  
 Social Work

**Mika Dashman, Esq.**

Founding Director, Restorative Justice Initiative

**Martin F. Horn**

Distinguished Lecturer, John Jay College of  
 Criminal Justice

**Jordyn Lexton**

Drive Change, Founder & CEO

**Michael Rempel**

Research Director, Center for Court Innovation

Join us for this screening of the powerful documentary film, produced by Bill Moyers, featuring first-hand descriptions of incarceration at Rikers. Afterward, speakers will discuss the challenges and issues to be addressed in implementing the recommendation to close the jail at Rikers Island.

**Date:** *Thursday, October 19, 2017*

**Time:** 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Place:** *NYU School of Law, 40 Washington Sq. South Vanderbilt Hall, Room 210*

**CLE:** *2 CLE Credits\** (Provided by App. Div., First Dept., an accredited CLE provider)

**Cost:** *Free*

**Info:** Email [CrimLawChairs@nywba.org](mailto:CrimLawChairs@nywba.org)

**RSVP:** *This event is at capacity.*

**Co-sponsors:** NYU School of Law Center for Research in Crime & Justice; The Appellate Division, First Department, in conjunction with the Assigned Counsel Plan for the First Department.

\*Learn more at [RIKERSfilm.org](http://RIKERSfilm.org) and follow @Rikersfilm

**Tribute to Edith Windsor**

The NYWBA mourns the loss of **Edith "Edie" Windsor**, the gay rights activist whose case, *United States v. Windsor*, led the Supreme Court to grant same-sex married couples federal recognition for the first time, as well as defining several federal benefits that, prior to the ruling, only married heterosexuals had enjoyed. Ms. Windsor was 88.

The scope of the 2013 Windsor decision was limited to 13 states and the District of Columbia. But it paved the way for *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015 and three related cases, in which the Supreme Court held that same-sex couples had a constitutional right to marry anywhere in the nation, with all the protections and privileges of heterosexual couples.

Ms. Windsor had originally gone to court simply for the purpose of obtaining a tax refund in connection with the inheritance of her same-sex spouse's estate, based on having been denied the unlimited spousal exemption for federal estate taxes that existed for married heterosexuals.

She was able to win her tax refund, plus so much more for so many others. Ms. Windsor will be remembered as a human rights icon and heroine.

**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. To make a contribution, please go to <http://nywbaf.org/donate>.

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# NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

A Founding Chapter of THE WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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

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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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletternywba@gmail.com) if you have questions or are interested in joining the Newsletter Committee.

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