

FOUNDERS, PAST PRESIDENTS AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

The founders, past Presidents and members of the Advisory Council of the New York Women's Bar Association are a distinguished group. In this section, we identify them and, whenever possible, present highlights of their careers and work with the Association. Due to the passage of time, we do not have biographical information on some of these women, who are so important to our history and future. We invite the submission of information and photos to document our history and preserve our archival records. Please send relevant material to History@nywba.org.

FOUNDERS

The New York Women's Bar Association was founded in 1934 and incorporated as a not-for-profit bar association in 1935. Eleven women signed the Certificate of Incorporation:

Beatrice Fliegel was a graduate of NYU Law School in 1922.

Doris Silver Freeman

Lillian B. Garrell was admitted to the New York bar in 1933.

Estelle Ruth Grollman was admitted to the New York bar in 1933.

Margaret Fuller Karlin was a graduate of NYU Law School in 1925 and was admitted to the New York bar in 1926. She was married to Ralph Kerbs, also a graduate of NYU Law, Class of 1920. She was a lawyer for and officer of the Tenants Association of New York, which in 1960 (when she was a Vice President) had a membership of 4,000. She was President of the NYU Law Alumni Association during the 1950's and 1960's. After she passed away in 1982, a scholarship was established in her name at NYU Law School.

Minnie Kelter (Goldberg) was a graduate of Hunter College and NYU Law School. A founder of the NYWBA, she went on to become a Director of the Bronx Women's Bar Association, President of the Bronx Professional and Business Women's Group, and a member of the Ulster County Bar Association. Her husband Maurice Goldberg was an Assistant Attorney General for NYS. She moved from New York City to Woodstock in 1948, and she passed away in 1960.

Lauretta Rose was admitted to the New York bar in 1932. Starting in the mid-1930's, she served as a referee in the determination of real estate property rights and transfers.

Hilda G. Schwartz, Founder and Past President (*see below*)

Florence Perlow Shientag (Frankel), Founder and Past President (*see below*)

Freda Spinard (Bailesen) was a 1922 graduate of NYU Law School (LLB). After serving as a Founder of NYWBA, Ms. Spinard was elected President of the Queens Women's Bar Association in January 1936. She passed away in 1947.

Rose Lehman Stein, Founder and Past President (*see below*).

PAST PRESIDENTS

1934-38 - Rose Lehman Stein Stein was a Founder and served for three terms as NYWBA's first President. She graduated from NYU Law School in 1922 and was admitted to the New York bar in 1923. She received an LL.M. from NYU Law School in 1925. Ms. Stein became the first female president of the New York University Club in 1922 and the first female president of the NYU Law Alumni Association in 1955. She was also active with the New York



County Lawyers' Association, serving on the Legal Education and Admission to the Bar Committee and chairing the Revision of the NYS Constitution Committee in the early 1960's. She practiced law for more than 60 years, until she passed away in 1985.

1938-39 - Jenet Kaplan Brown earned her law degree from Brooklyn Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1929. During her Presidency, Ms. Brown and then-Secretary Jeannette Harris were featured in a *New York Times* article about the NYWBA's resolution urging the nomination of women Supreme Court Justices in the First Judicial District and the appointment of Judge Florence E. Allen of the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1942, during World War II, Ms. Brown was Chairman of American Women's Voluntary Services, which partnered with the NYWBA to open and staff a clinic to provide urgent legal services to military personnel and their families who could not afford counsel.

1939-40 - Hon. Hilda G. Schwartz was a Founder, President, Vice President and the first Secretary of the NYWBA. Valedictorian of her high school, she attended NYU for both undergraduate and law school. At a time when there was crushing discrimination against women, she was the first Director of Finance for New York City, served as Secretary of the Board of Estimate, and was a judge for 24 years. She was also active with the New York County Lawyers' Association, serving on the Professional Ethics Committee in the 1960's. She retired as a Justice of the Supreme Court in 1983, at 76. She was married to lawyer Herman Schwartz, and they had a practice together. They lived in Greenwich Village and helped found the Village Temple. She passed away in 1998.



1940-41 - Lillian M. Kooperstein, born on the Lower East Side to an Orthodox Jewish family, was admitted to practice in 1925. Upon her graduation from NYU Law School, she obtained a clerkship at a law office, which was then a prerequisite to sit for the bar. Upon passing the bar, she opened a law office with her brother, Moses, and practiced matrimonial law in the 1920's and 1930's. During World War II and for 30 years thereafter, she was a sole practitioner. Married in 1949 to a law school classmate, Joseph Goldberg, she shared office space with her husband on lower Broadway. She also sat as an Administrative Law Judge during the late 1980's and early 1990's – well into her own early 90's! She also served as a President of the Council of Jewish Women. She passed away in 1998.



1941-42 - Hon. Florence Perlow Shientag - Judge Shientag was a founding member and President of the Association. (See full profile above.)



1942-43 - Isabel Joffe graduated from Brooklyn Law School and was admitted to the New York bar in 1928. In addition to her work with the NYWBA, she was an active member of the New York County Lawyers' Association, serving on the Military Jurisprudence Committee. She passed away in 1961.

1943-44 - Marie C. Connolly graduated from Fordham Law School in 1933 and was admitted to the New York bar in 1934. She held many positions on the Board before she was elected President of the Association.

1944-45 - Adelaide Burkan Bodow was born in 1912, and she graduated from NYU and NYU Law School, where she was the only woman in her class. She was admitted in 1940 and practiced law at Schwartz & Froehlich with her uncle, Nat Burkan, a founder of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). They represented such notables as Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, and Al Jolson. Among other accomplishments, she persuaded the NY Chief Judge to speak at a NYWBA event, which brought recognition in law publications and increased the stature of the Association. She was active in the NYWBA for decades, chairing the Judiciary Committee in the early 1960's. She married Edward L. Bodow in 1939, had three children between 1950 and 1955, and then worked part-time at Schwartz & Froehlich for the remainder of her career.

1945-47 - Jeannette Harris served for 10 years on the staff of the NY Attorney General's Office, Labor Bureau, before she went into private practice in 1944. She held several positions in the NYWBA., and she spoke out publicly on the importance of ensuring that women were able to continue to retain employment after the end of World War II. After the war, she testified on child labor laws and in favor of equal rights for women in employment. In the late 1940's and early 1950's, she was an officer of the Women's Trade Union League. During the mid- to late-1950's she was President of the New York Workmen's Compensation Bar Association.

1947-49 - Esther Glantz served as Secretary for three years and Vice President prior to her Presidency. She graduated from the Washington Square College of NYU in 1934 and NYU Law School in 1936. She was a partner of Joseph F. McCloy in the law firm of McCloy and Glantz. She married Dr. Chester Kremer, a professor of chemistry at CUNY, in 1951, and they had two children. She was also active in New York County Lawyers and the City Bar, chairing committees for both associations.

1949-51 - Hon. Frieda Levin Lorber graduated *summa cum laude* from NYU and received her law degree from NYU Law School in 1938. She received an LL.M. from Columbia Law School in Comparative and International Law School in 1959. She worked for the Department of Investigations of the City of New York, served as a judge for Small Claims Court, worked with Jewish Philanthropies, and was a member of the International Federation of Women Lawyers and a representative to the United Nations Human Rights Community. She also chaired the Law Alumni Association at NYU Law School. She studied piano and voice at the Institute of Musical Art (now Julliard), sang as a mezzo-soprano with the chorus of the Metropolitan Opera in the 1920's and was a member of the New York Oratorio Society. She passed away in 1976.



1951-53 - Julia Perles graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1937. She is widely considered to have played the leading role as chair of the committee that brought about the passage of New York State's equitable distribution law, which went into effect in 1980.



This law brought a revolutionary change in the practice of matrimonial law and in the rights of marital partners. Until her death in 1998, Ms. Perles was affiliated with Phillips Nizer Benjamin Krim and Ballon, LLP, where she became a partner in 1970 and headed the firm's matrimonial practice. Before that, she was an associate at Schwartz & Froehlich from 1942 to 1952, and then a partner at Greenbaum Wolff & Ernst. Ms. Perles was also a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a member of the Dirty Thirty, an organization of American lawyers who were prominent in the field of matrimonial law.

1953-55 - Norah K. Donovan graduated from NYU Law School in 1945 and was admitted in 1946. She served for many years as the attorney in charge of copyright matters for the American Broadcasting Company. She was also an officer and Corporate Secretary of the Audio and Video Products Corporation during the 1950's. She held numerous positions in the NYWBA. After her Presidency, she was appointed to chair several NYCLA Committees, including the Municipal Court Committee, the Committee on Discipline, and the Committee on the Unlawful Practice of Law. She was also involved in charitable works.



1955-57 - Mary R. Cowell Ross graduated from Kansas City School of Law and received her LLB *cum laude* from Southern Law University. Now retired, she had a solo practice in New York for more than 30 years. Before that, she was with Royall, Koegel and Rogers from 1946 to 1961, specializing in wills, trusts and estates. From 1940 to 1946, Ms. Ross was in Washington D.C., where she worked for a number of federal agencies and was affiliated with the general practice firm of Cromelin, Townsend and Kirkland. She became active in the NYWBA in 1948 and served as a Vice President for two terms, Corresponding Secretary, Director, member of the Advisory Council, and member of the Judiciary, By-Laws, Legislation, and Equal Opportunities for Women Committees. Until recently, she was also active in other professional organizations, including the National Association of Women Lawyers and the New York City Bar.



1957-58 - Anna Oberwager received her bachelor's and master's degrees from NYU in 1909 and 1910. In later years, she studied at Fordham University. She was admitted to the bar in 1916. She and her husband, Hon. Charles A. Oberwager, a New York City magistrate, were law partners, and they had two children. Later, their son Edwin served as a Justice of the New York Supreme Court. Ms. Oberwager passed away in 1987.



1958-59 - Norma Z. Paige is Chairman Emeritus of Astronautics Corporation of America's Board of Directors. Since Astronautics was founded in 1959, she has held various offices, including Executive Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Directors until 2001. From 1988 to 2001, she also served Kearfott



Guidance & Navigation Corporation as its Executive Vice President and as a member of its Board of Directors. Ms. Paige received her BA and J.D. degrees from NYU and is admitted to the bars of the United States Supreme Court and New York State. She was a partner in the law firm of Paige & Paige. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Jabotinsky Award, presented by Menachem Begin, former Prime Minister of Israel. Ms. Paige has two daughters and sons-in-law, all of whom are attorneys.

1959-60 - Lucille M. Gannon was associated with Sherman & Sterling. In the year after her Presidency, she chaired the NYWBA Legal Education Committee. She was active in the NYWBA for decades, serving as Treasurer, in other Officer positions, on the Board, and as the Chair of many committees. She passed away in 1978.



1960-61 - Marie Mallot was born in 1921. She worked as a legal secretary at Kurzman, Karelsen & Frank in the early 1940's. Noticing that she was extremely bright, several attorneys at the firm encouraged her to attend law school at night, which she did. She was the only woman in her class when she graduated from Fordham Law School in 1946, and she was admitted to the bar in 1947. In addition to serving as a NYWBA Officer, Director and Committee Chair, she was active with New York County Lawyers' Association, chairing several committees over the years. Ms. Mallot spent her entire legal career practicing estates law at Kurzman, Karelsen & Frank. She retired in 1976, but she continued doing some work for the firm into her retirement.

1961-62 - Hon. Florence Raider Zimmerman graduated from Hunter College in 1937 and from New York Law School in 1941, and she was admitted to the bar in 1941. During college, she interned with NYC Deputy License Commissioner Dorothy Kenyon, and she later became an attorney for the New York City Rent and Housing Administration. An expert on rent control, she argued before the NY Court of Appeals on a precedent-setting case involving the application of rent control to properties that were claimed to be "hotels." She was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954. She was also a NYCLA Committee Chair. She was counsel for the Hunter College Alumnae Association. She was appointed a NYC Civil Court Judge in 1971. Now retired, Judge Zimmerman sends her affectionate regards on the Association's 75th Anniversary.



1962-63 - Ethel F. Beaver graduated from NYU Law School in 1951 and was admitted to the bar later the same year. She was a member of the firm Korkus & Korkus and was married to Dr. Kurt Berliner, a cardiologist. She served as a NYWBA Officer, Director and Committee Chair.

1963-64 - Hon. Freda Silbowitz was a *Phi Beta Kappa* graduate of Hunter College and received her law degree from Columbia Law School in 1937. She was admitted to the New York bar in 1938. Before serving as President, she was involved in her law practice and served on the bench. During her tenure with the NYWBA, she chaired several Committees and organized the United Nations Reception for members of the British Bar who traveled to the United States to exchange knowledge and insights about the two countries' respective legal systems.



1964-65 - Shirley P. Thau was admitted to the bar in 1947, having graduated in 1946 from NYU Law School, and Hunter College before that. Over the years, she practiced in many areas, including international law, trusts and estates, and litigation. She became a senior partner in the law firm of Wolf Popper. When she left that firm, she became a principal at Gruen, Muskin & Thau, which she left in 1986. She was also active with other bar associations, and she chaired several NYCLA Committees. She later retired to Florida.

1965-66 - Bessie D. Goldberg served as President of both the NYWBA and the Nassau/Suffolk County Women's Bar Association. She was an attorney for the Legal Aid Society and rose to the position of Attorney-in-Charge of its Rockaway Office. She and her husband, Hyman Goldberg, had four children, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She passed away in 2007.

1966-67 - Fannie J. Klein was admitted to the bar in 1928. In addition to lecturing and authoring several legal works, she received numerous awards. An expert on court reform, Mrs. Klein was most thrilled when she was named the first woman Professor of the NYU Law School in 1958. She was also the librarian, assistant director, and associate director of NYU School of Law's Institute of Judicial Administration, which was established in 1952 to promote greater efficiency in court administration throughout the nation. Ms. Klein was a member of the Judicial Selection Committee for the Supreme Court in New York City in 1968. After 1975, she practiced law in Surrogate's Court and Supreme Court, where she often served as a guardian, conservator and referee. She passed away in 1984.



1967-68 - Marie Whitesell Balboa was active in the Association for many years. In the 1960's, she was a Committee Chair, Director and Officer. Among other roles, she represented the NYWBA in its relationships with other bar associations.

1968-69 - Doris Sassower - During her tenure as President, Ms. Sassower was a proponent of programs that would increase the number of women entering law school. She cited statistics reflecting that women made up fifty percent of the law school enrollment in some European countries, while our own law schools at the time could boast only minimal percentages of women. She also remarked on the low appointment rate of women to judgeships, which was less than one percent at the time.

1969-70 - Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin was the first woman appointed to the First Department and the first female Presiding Justice of that Court. Elected to the bench in 1976, she was the first woman to serve as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge of New York State. She is the Chair of the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, Vice Chair of the NYS Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics, and Vice Chair of the First Department Committee on Character and Fitness. She was President of the National Association of Women Judges and is a Founder and Director of WBASNY and JALBCA. Among her innumerable awards are the NYWBA President's Special Award (twice); the WBASNY Betty Weinberg Ellerin Mentoring Award, which was established in her honor; the NYS Association of Women Judges Leadership Award, the ABA Margaret Brent Award, and the Florence E. Allen Award. Justice Ellerin and Milton H. Ellerin have three children and three adorable grandchildren.



1970-71 - Dr. Edith Lond Fisch was confined to a wheelchair due to childhood polio, but she did not let that limit her accomplishments. She earned a B.S. in chemistry from Brooklyn College, was the first person to earn all degrees awarded by Columbia Law School (LL.B., LL.M. and Jur.Sc.D.), and the first woman to earn a Jur.Sc.D. from Columbia. In private practice, she focused on trusts and estates. In 1959 she published *Fisch on New York Evidence*, which is widely used by the bench and bar and as a law school text. In addition to nearly forty law review articles, she authored *The Cy Pres Doctrine in the United States* (1951) and *Charities and Charitable Foundations* (1974). Appointed an Assistant Professor at New York Law School in 1963, she was the school's first female law professor. She later returned to private practice, and she passed away in 2006. In 2009, Columbia unveiled a plaque honoring Dr. Fisch, who bequeathed \$1.8 million to endow the Law Library Collection in perpetuity.



1971-72 - Mathilda Miller Cuneo graduated from NYU Law School in 1926 and was admitted in 1928. She was the first woman member of the Bronx County Bar Association in 1945 and a Trustee and benefactor of the Bronx-Riverdale YM-YWHA. Ms. Cuneo chaired the Matrimonial Law Committee, and in 1966 undertook a special but unfulfilled project to enact legislation allowing for divorce if the plaintiff had an illegitimate child after living apart from his/her spouse five or more years. *The New York Times* noted that "thousands of families ... would be assisted by [this] amendment" and that this "'very important ground for divorce' would remove the 'stigma of illegitimacy from thousands of children, many of whom are not aware that their parents are not married.'" In later years, she also practiced real estate law. In 1991, she was honored by NYU Law School when it celebrated the 100th anniversary of its admission of women. She passed away in 1997.



1972-73 - Hon. Harriet Gair graduated from New York University School of Law, receiving her LLB in 1940. In 1945, she became a partner at Gair and Gair and was in full charge of the management of the firm. From 1976 to 1981, she served as an elected Town Justice in Putnam County. During Judge Gair's term on the bench, she was engaged in many areas of civil and criminal law, and was regarded as a firm but fair Justice. In addition, she served as President of the Putnam Valley Free Library Board of Trustees, the Mid-Hudson Library System, and as a member of the Town Board of Putnam Valley. With Judge Gair's continuing interest in Judaism, she devoted herself to worthy Jewish causes and Jewish jurisprudence, and was honored by the Institute of Jewish Humanities. Her son Anthony Gair is a NYWBA sponsor and a partner in the successor firm of Gair, Gair, Conason, Steigman, Mackauf, Bloom & Rubinowitz.



1973-74 - Joan Ellenbogen graduated from NYU Law School and was admitted to practice in 1965. With Marcia Goldstein, she formed Ellenbogen and Goldstein, P.C., with a practice limited to matrimonial and family law. She was a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a Diplomate in the American College of Family Trial Lawyers, a member of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration, a member of the Commission on Judicial Nominations to the Court of Appeals, and the first woman



to chair the New York City Bar's Executive Committee. She was a member of the First Department Disciplinary Committee, served on the Board of Trustees of the Legal Aid Society, and was listed in *Best Lawyers in America*. She was a Founder and the first President of WBASNY, and the WBASNY Founders Award has been renamed in her honor. After a valiant struggle with pancreatic cancer, she passed away in 2001.

1974-75 - Sheila L. Birnbaum is a partner at Skadden Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, where she heads the Complex Mass Tort and Insurance Group. She has successfully argued appeals throughout the country and before the U.S. Supreme Court. She has taught at NYU and Fordham Law Schools, is co-author of the *Practitioner's Guide to Litigating Insurance Coverage Actions*, and has regular columns in the *New York Law Journal* and *National Law Journal*. In 1997, then Chief Justice Rehnquist appointed her to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Rules and Civil Procedure. Former Chief Judge Judith Kaye appointed her Chair of the Commission on Fiduciary Appointments. She was also the first President of JALBCA. She has received numerous awards, including the ABA Margaret Brent Achievement Award, and has been named by the *National Law Journal*, *Fortune* and *Crain's New York Business* as one of the top members of the legal profession and most influential women in business.



1975-76 - Florence B. Donohue was born in New York City in 1919. After becoming a widow, she moved with her five children to Louisville, Kentucky, where she attended the University of Louisville Law School, graduating *magna cum laude*. She returned to New York, was admitted to the bar in 1960. She obtained a master's degree in taxation at NYU Law School and became the editor of Prentice Hall's *Federal Tax Guide* and a sought after tax expert on news programs. Florence spent her later years living in her beloved Montauk, Long Island home. She passed away June 23, 2009.



1976-77 - Myrna Felder is a graduate of NYU Law School and was admitted to the New York bar in 1971. She is a popular lecturer for all major bar associations. As chair of the NYS Bar Association's Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction, Ms. Felder organized the State Bar's CLE program on Appellate Practice in 1989, which is presented bi-annually in each of the four judicial departments. She regularly teaches at the Summer Judicial Seminars, and throughout the year in training sessions for the Matrimonial Judges and their staff, newly elected Judges, Court Attorneys and Special Referees. For the New York Women's Bar Association, she served on our Board of Directors, then as Secretary and Treasurer, before serving as President. The next few years were devoted to working to establish the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, where after serving on the Board of Directors, she was President in 1986-87. Ms. Felder also organized WBASNY's Matrimonial Committee in 1983 - its first substantive committee - and she remains a resource at both the state and local level to this day.



1977-78 - Beverly Gross is a labor lawyer whose practice is limited to labor arbitration and mediation, including ERISA. She has been labor and benefits counsel to NY Telephone Co.; General Counsel District Council 37 (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers); General Counsel, New York State Division of Human Rights; Associate General Counsel, New York City Commission on Human Rights; and an Assistant Corporation Counsel of New York City. She has extensive experience in arbitration and mediation, as well as with the NYS Public Employment Relations Board and Civilian Complaint Review Board. She graduated from NYU Law School in 1968 and joined the NYWBA the same year. She also represented the NYWBA on the Second Circuit Panel on Admissions and Grievances.



1978-79 - Marcia C. Goldstein is a graduate of NYU Law and was admitted in 1967. While President of the NYWBA, she was Associate General Counsel at Lehman Bros. Kuhn Loeb. With Joan Ellenbogen, she formed Ellenbogen and Goldstein, P.C., practicing matrimonial and family law. She was a founding member of WBASNY and served as a WBASNY Director (1980-85). Ms. Goldstein has chaired the New York City Bar Matrimonial Committee; chaired the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar, Family Law Section; co-chaired the Subcommittee on Equitable Distribution; and is a member of the American Bar Association, Family Law Section. Ms. Goldstein was appointed by former Chief Judge Judith Kaye to serve as a member of the Matrimonial Commission of the State of New York. Presently, she is practicing part-time.



1979-80 - Andrea Hyde is a partner at Putney, Twombly, Hall & Hirson LLP, practicing in the field of trusts and estates. She has served on the Executive Committee of the Trusts and Estates Law Section of the NYSBA and is currently an advisor to the NY EPTL-SCPA Legislative Advisory Committee. While serving as a member of this Committee, it formulated the legislation that later became the Principal and Income Act (2001). She has lectured widely in the areas of wills, trusts and estates, including for CLE programs presented by the NYWBA and other bar associations. A graduate of St. John's Law School, Ms. Hyde is a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and is listed in *Best Lawyers in America*.



1980-81 - Diane S. Wilner graduated *magna cum laude* from Brooklyn Law School, where she was a Law Review editor. After being an associate of Skadden Arps, she and three colleagues formed its first spin-off. Later, she founded Wilner & Associates, P.C., which represents Fortune 500 corporations and institutions in diverse areas, including employment, products liability, insurance and commercial litigation. Ms. Wilner is known for litigating complex cases at the cutting edge, including successfully trying the first case of a physician with AIDS, and in which there were cameras in the courtroom throughout the trial. She has published and lectured widely. As NYWBA President, she continued the smooth transition with the newly-founded WBASNY and furthered the NYWBA's tireless efforts to open doors for women attorneys.



1981 - Hon. Karla Moskowitz is an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department and has served on the bench since 1982. She co-chaired numerous NYWBA committees and was the founder and Chairperson of the Referral Service (1975-77). A breast cancer survivor, Justice Moskowitz was a founder and past Co-President of JALBCA. She also served as President of both the New York State Association of Women Judges and the National Association of Women Judges. She received her BA *cum laude* from Alfred University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School. Among her many awards are the Edith I. Spivak Award from NYCLA's Women's Rights Committee and WBASNY's Founder's Award. She is a frequent lecturer and author. She and her husband, attorney and NYWBA member Marvin Moskowitz, have two children and four grandchildren.



1981-82 - Irene S. Sullivan is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, NYU and Fordham University School of Law. She began her legal career in 1976 at Skadden, Arps, where she handled a wide variety of commercial matters, with an emphasis on antitrust and securities litigation in federal courts and insurance coverage disputes. She was a partner from 1982 to 2003 and served for several years as Head of the New York office. Ms. Sullivan was President of both NYWBA and WBASNY. She also served on numerous bar committees, including the City Bar Committee to Enhance Diversity in the Profession, Task Force on Women and the Profession, City Bar Public Service Network, and the Advisory Committee on Civil Practice. She was a member of the National Advisory Board, the NALP Foundation for Research and Education, and the ABA Task Force on Insurance Coverage Litigation. She currently serves on the Committee on Character and Fitness for the First Judicial Department.



1982-83 - Hon. Leslie Crocker Snyder is a partner at Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP. She was the first woman to try both felony and homicide cases in the NY DA's Office, and she founded and led the Sex Crimes Prosecution Bureau, the first in the nation and a model for the country. She is a co-author of legislation, including NY's Rape Shield Law. She was appointed to the NYC Criminal Court in 1983 and thereafter to the NY Supreme Court and Court of Claims, presiding over many high-profile cases. A committed community advocate, she has served on many boards, adopted a public school, and volunteered in the New Orleans criminal justice system for six months after Hurricane Katrina. She is the author of *25 to Life*. She was awarded the NYWBA's Florence Allen Award in 2003. Married for 42 years, she is mother of two grown sons.



1983-84 - Madeline C. Stoller received her J.D. in 1976 from Fordham University School of Law. She was admitted to the New York Bar in 1977 and thereafter to the US Supreme Court. She has been a member of the New York City Bar since 1980 and has served as Chair, Product Liability Committee; Chair, Lawyers in Transition Committee; Chair, Public Service Resource Center; Member, Executive Committee and Nominating Committee; Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates; and Director on the City Bar Fund. She is Senior Corporate Counsel-Litigation, at Wyeth, a multinational pharmaceutical company, where she is responsible for personal



injury, mass tort and commercial litigation for various divisions. Ms. Stoller enjoys spending her leisure time playing golf, kayaking and cooking.

1984-85 - Nancy M. Loudon is Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel of The Estee Lauder Companies, where she is responsible for global government relations and employment law. She serves on the boards of The MAC AIDS Fund; Burke Rehabilitation Hospital; and Forever Families Through Adoption, a not-for-profit adoption agency. For the last three years, she was a member of the Steering Committee for the Sandra Day O'Connor Project on the State of the Judiciary. In addition to serving on NYWBA and WBASNY Boards and Committees, she also served on the City Bar's Executive Committee and other committees and as a Vice President of the City Bar Fund. She lives with her partner, Donna Dennis, and their three-year-old son, Jack.



1985-86 - Harriet Newman Cohen graduated from Barnard College (BA Latin, 1952) and Bryn Mawr (MA Latin, 1953). After teaching and raising four daughters, she graduated in 1974 from Brooklyn Law School, where she was an editor of the Law Review. A matrimonial lawyer, she has been a champion of divorce reform and the rights of women and children. She helped negotiate and draft the NYS Equitable Distribution Law, and she co-wrote an analysis of the first 80 cases under that law that was quoted widely during its infancy. She is the author of *The Divorce Book for Men and Women, A Step-by-Step Guide to Gaining Your Freedom Without Losing Everything Else*. She has been voted a *New York Super Lawyer* in matrimonial law and has been designated one of the Top 100 attorneys and Top 50 women attorneys in New York State. She remains in active practice in her firm, Cohen Hennessey Bienstock & Rabin P.C.



1986-87 - Anne T. Schwab graduated from St. John's University School of Law in 1978. From 1980 to 1988, she was an associate in the litigation department at, Emmet, Marvin & Martin. From 1989 to 1997, she was a Senior Counsel in the Legal Department of The Bank of New York, practicing in the litigation group and then in the commercial lending/private banking group. In 1997, she joined the legal department of Deutsche Bank, where she is presently a member of the Private Banking practice group. In 2004, she was made a Managing Director of the Bank.



1987-88 - Dianne Abeloff is a 1977 graduate of Smith College and a 1980 graduate of Cardozo Law School. She is an Associate Counsel with the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct, where she investigates and prosecutes physicians for professional misconduct. She and her husband are the parents of two terrific boys.



1988-89 - Doris S. Hoffman graduated from Hunter College in 1964 and from NYU Law School in 1967. She concentrated in copyright and trademark law, and she spent nearly her entire career in partnership with her father and brother in Stoll, Stoll & Hoffman and successor firms in New York City. She was a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness of the First Department, Chair



of the Intellectual Property Committee of the New York County Lawyers' Association, and for several years she was a dedicated volunteer for City Meals on Wheels and the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert. Ms. Hoffman was the mother of two children, Aaron and Judith, and the devoted wife of attorney and NYWBA member Stephen Hoffman for almost 29 years, until her untimely death in 1997. She served as President of WBASNY in 1994-95, and both the NYWBA and WBASNY have named awards in her memory.

1989-90 - Sandra W. Jacobson earned her LLB from Yale and was admitted in 1955. She served as Treasurer, Vice President, President, Director and WBASNY Delegate. She chaired the Matrimonial and Family Law, Ethics and Judiciary Committees. She was also active in the Westchester Chapter. At WBASNY, she chaired the Amicus, Judiciary, CLE and By-Laws Committees, and co-chaired the Matrimonial Law Committee. She wrote WBASNY's *amicus* application and appellate brief in the *Hartog* equitable distribution case (85 N.Y.2d 36 (1995)), raising unique and critical issues that only WBASNY addressed. She also led the effort to establish WBASNY as an accredited CLE provider. Sandra organized and spoke at numerous NYWBA programs and WBASNY conventions. Now retired, she lives in North Carolina.



1990-91 - Katharine S. J. Law grew up in the segregated South, and after she landed in NYC she joined a "women's lib" group. Urged on by her sisters, she applied to law school. After being admitted to the bar at age 40, she did a stint drafting motions for a friend, then went to the Manhattan DA's Office, where she met her mentor, Justice Betty Weinberg Ellerin, and tried homicide cases. Her specialty was "senior citizen robberies." After becoming a single mother, she turned to private practice until her children left for college, then returned to litigator's hours, initially at the NYS Attorney General's Investor Protection Bureau, then as a Law Clerk, and ultimately as a Law Guardian at the Appellate Division. Ms. Law now lives in San Diego, where she is happy and active. She sails, volunteers as a Coast Guard-certified vessel safety examiner, and volunteers as a director of the National Association of Childbearing Centers Foundation.



1991-92 - Martha L. Golar received her B.A. Degree in Economics at Cornell University and her J.D. Degree from New York University Law School. She served as Senior Corporate Counsel at Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc. from 1982 to 1992. She is presently a senior attorney at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Law Department. She also serves as an Adjunct Professor with the Finance, Law and Tax Division of NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies. She served three terms as President of JALBCA, and she remains Co-Chair of JALBCA's Annual Symposium and Editor of its Newsletter. She has chaired the NY City Bar's Health Law Committee and currently chairs its Committee on Legal issues Pertaining to Animals. She has also chaired WBASNY's Gender Bias and Finance Committees.



1992-93 - Bobbi C. Sternheim litigates a broad range of complex criminal and civil matters in federal and state courts. She is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the



College's Committee on Teaching Trial and Appellate Advocacy. She teaches trial advocacy and pretrial civil litigation simulation at Pace Law School and serves on the advisory committee of Pace's Criminal Justice Center. Bobbi is the Associate Director of Cardozo's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program and a supervisor in Cardozo's Criminal Appeals Clinic. She is the Criminal Justice Act Representative for the Southern District of New York and as a member of SDNY's CJA Peer Review Committee and Mentor Program.



1993-94 - Toby J. Pilsner received her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. She began a 17-year career in the Bronx DA's Office, rising to Chief of Litigation Training, and following the example of her mentor, Hon. Sheri Roman, who also introduced her to the NYWBA. She has served in many capacities at both NYWBA and WBASNY. During her Presidency, she spearheaded an overhaul of the Judiciary Committee and its guidelines. Honoring Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg remains one of the highlights of her term. In 1997, she began serving as an Administrative Law Judge within the NYC Environmental Control Bureau, a bureau of the Department of Environmental Protection. In 2004, she became the Managing Attorney of the Bronx branch office of OATH/ECB. Ms. Pilsner finds her greatest source of happiness in her family and her friendships. She is married to Dr. Joseph Saul, a dentist/lawyer, and they have two daughters.



1994-95 - Martha E. Gifford is past President, Director, Committee Chair, Secretary and Vice President of WBASNY. She is past President, Director and Judiciary Committee Chair of NYWBA, and a founder, Director and Vice President of the NYWBA Foundation, Inc. Since April 2007, she has had a solo practice concentrating in antitrust counseling, following nearly 20 years at Proskauer Rose LLP, where she co-chaired the Antitrust Practice Group. She began her career at Donovan Leisure Newton & Irvine after graduation from the University of Chicago Law School, and then served as trial attorney with the Department of Justice, Antitrust Division. She is past Chair of the Antitrust Law Section of the NYS Bar Association, served on the Antitrust and Trade Regulation Committee of the New York City Bar, and is on the Board of Governors of the NYS Attorney-Client Fee Dispute Resolution Program, appointed by then-Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye.



1995-96 - Andrea J. Berger graduated from Fordham Law School and NYU's Graduate School of Public Administration. She joined the NYWBA in law school and has served as an Officer, Committee Chair, WBASNY Delegate, and Annual Dinner Co-Chair. Since 1987, she has been an attorney with the NYC Law Department, where she is Senior Counsel, specializing in legislative drafting and counseling in ethics, criminal justice, and labor and employment law. She is a former Vice Chair of the Lawyers Alliance for New York and former board member of the Citizens Union. A long-time and active member of the City Bar, she most recently chaired the Lawyers' Orchestra Committee for nine years, which she managed and played in its flute section. She is the Administrative Director of, and flutist in, the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony and a board member of the Chamber Music Conference and Composers' Forum of the East.

1996-97 - Bonnie S. Edwards graduated from the University of Miami Law School and joined the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Chief Counsel in 1981. She is currently Senior Counsel, advising management on a wide variety of non-tax related areas, including complicated and sensitive EEO and labor matters. Ms. Edwards has received several awards for her work on various cases. She was also a recipient of the Office of Chief Counsel's National Litigation Award. She judges moot court and has been active on NYWBA Committees and on its Advisory Council. Ms. Edwards has also served on the Executive Council for the Network of Bar Leaders; as an officer of JALBCA; as a director of the boards of Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Elders; and on the National Council on Woman's Health.



1997-98 - Laurie Berke-Weiss is a partner at Berke-Weiss & Pechman LLP, where she represents individuals and management in workplace matters, including negotiation of employment and severance agreements, litigation of discrimination claims, restrictive covenant disputes, and wage and hour cases. Ms. Berke-Weiss is a graduate of Fordham Law School and Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and she holds a graduate degree in Industrial Relations from Rutgers University. She is a Director of the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc., a Vice President of the Fordham Law Alumni Association, and a past Chair of New York City Bar Executive Committee. Ms. Berke-Weiss is a member of the New York State Bar Association House of Delegates, the Cornell University Council and the President's Council of Cornell Women. She is AV-rated and has been recognized as a *New York Super Lawyer* and a *Best Lawyer*.



1998-99 - Karen Greve Milton is the Circuit Executive for the federal Second Judicial Circuit and serves as the chief administrative officer for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the other federal courts in New York, Connecticut and Vermont. Prior to assuming her current position, Ms. Milton was the first Director of the CitiBar Center for CLE at the New York City Bar Association, a department she created in 1995. After graduating from law school, she served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of Robert M. Morgenthau, in both a trial bureau and the Rackets Bureau. Prior to her Presidency, she served as a NYWBA Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Co-Chair of its Programs and Event Committee. Ms. Milton is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Case Western Reserve School of Law, where she was an Editor of its Law Review.



1999-2000 - Barbara A. Ryan is a partner at Aaronson, Rappaport, Feinstein & Deutsch, LLP, where her practice focuses on health care law. She has served as a Co-President of JALBCA and for many years has served as Co-Chair of the JALBCA Annual Symposium. She has also been a member of the Board of the New York Women's Bar Foundation. Before practicing law, Ms. Ryan was a Head Nurse at the New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical Center (now New York Presbyterian Hospital), where she practiced in the area of oncology. She is a 1989 graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law. Ms. Ryan frequently lectures on regulatory and medical malpractice issues. She has also taught courses



in Healthcare Risk Management and Elder Law, as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the New York University School of Continuing and Professional Studies. She is also the proud mother of two boys.

2000-01 – Angela Tese-Milner is a partner of Tese & Milner and practices law with her husband, Michael Milner, a former federal prosecutor. The firm's focus is on bankruptcy, insurance and commercial litigation. She is a member of the Panel of Chapter 7 Trustees for the Southern District of New York, which is under the supervision of the United States Department of Justice. She has also served as receiver and is now a special monitor for the Federal Trade Commission in cases involving telemarketing fraud. She serves on the Advisory Board of JALBCA, is a past President of the National Organization of Italian American Women, is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, and has practiced bankruptcy law for the past 27 years.



2001-02 – Phyllis S. Koffman is a sole practitioner, concentrating in trust and estate law. Before she attended law school, she worked in city planning and crime control planning. Prior to her Presidency, Ms. Koffman served as Co-Chair of the Legislation and Awards Committees, Chair of the Judges' Reception and Annual Dinner Committees, and as a Director and Vice President. She also represented the NYWBA on the WBASNY Legislation Committee and Board of Directors and twice served as the NYWBA representative on judicial screening panels for the Civil Court. She is currently a member of the NYWBA Nominations Committee. Ms. Koffman is a graduate of Smith College and Brooklyn Law School and holds a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Pittsburgh.



2002-03 – Heather Martínez Zona manages a real estate investment company, handling properties in New York, New Hampshire and California. Previously Ms. Zona was a litigation associate at New York law firms representing policyholders in disputes with their insurance companies. Ms. Zona served the NYWBA in a variety of capacities, including President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Director and Committee Chair. She organized a number of programs for the Association, including "Tips for New Lawyers," "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" at the Second Circuit, and "What It's (Really) Like to Practice Law in NYC as a Woman" (co-sponsored by the City Bar). Ms. Zona received her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, where she was awarded the Jane L. Mixer Award for Social Justice.



2003-05 – Elizabeth A. Bryson is a litigator and appellate attorney. As Associate General Counsel and then Corporate Vice President of New York Life, she supervised complex litigation and managed the privacy, business continuity and crisis management programs. Earlier, she was in private practice; an attorney for New York City, and an Intelligence Analyst with the Justice Department in Washington, D.C. and at the SDNY U.S. Attorney's Office. She was appointed by former Chief Judge Judith Kaye to the Special Commission on the Future of the NYS Courts and the Commission on Public Access to Court Records. She has been an Officer, Director and Committee Chair of NYWBA and WBASNY, and membership doubled during her terms as President. This year, she oversaw the



development of our new website, online event registration system, and automated member notification system. She is a graduate of the University of Washington and Fordham University Law School. She and her husband have a grown son.

2005-2006 – Christina Kallas has served as a NYWBA Board Member, Executive Director, Committee Co-Chair (ADR, Technology, International Women's Rights) and on the Board of the NYWBA Foundation. An A/V rated attorney, her law practice now emphasizes "preventive law" - assisting individuals and businesses with planning for legal matters affecting the family and its businesses (such as marriage and remarriage, estate planning, real estate and other types of asset transfers). She is a trained mediator, focusing on disputes involving children, and an arbitrator, frequently of securities disputes, drawing on her experience on Wall Street. A frequent lecturer on practice management strategies, she is the author of the NYSBA Deskbook Chapter on "Commercial Real Estate." She counts as her most important accomplishments her marriage of more than twenty years to her husband, Xen, and having helped to raise her stepdaughter, Sara.



2006-2007 – Teresa Schiller has served as an Officer, Director and Committee Chair of the NYWBA. She has been a WBASNY Officer since 2007, and in May 2010 she was installed as WBASNY President-Elect for 2010-11. Under WBASNY's By-Laws, she will become WBASNY President on June 1, 2011. She was most recently the manager of *pro bono* and community programs for the U.S. Region at Clifford Chance US LLP, and she was previously a senior litigation associate at the firm. Ms. Schiller clerked for a federal district judge in Chicago, Illinois, and for a federal appellate judge in Wilmington, Delaware. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School.



2007-2008 – Lisa A. Sokoloff is an insurance defense litigator in the New York office of Sills Cummis & Gross, P.C. Her practice focuses on labor law, contractual indemnity, premises liability and suspected fraud cases, and she frequently lectures on construction accidents. Ms. Sokoloff is celebrating eleven years as a Special Master in the New York Supreme Court, where she currently assists Hon. Richard Lowe III in a Commercial Part. She received her J.D. from Boston University School of Law and her A.B. from Vassar College. In addition to serving as President, Ms. Sokoloff has been a Committee Chair, Director, Vice President and WBASNY Delegate. She developed many popular NYWBA programs, including the Tours of the Courthouse, the annual Appellate Practice CLE, and the Lunch with a Judge events. She is a past President of the Jewish Lawyers Guild, a current member of the JALBCA Board, and an active member of the Kings County Inns of Court.



2008-2009 – Jo Ann Douglas is a matrimonial and family law practitioner representing children and adults from all cultures and communities in various proceedings. Additionally, she often appears in guardianship matters in all roles, and conducts mediation in family law matters as well. Currently a member of the NYWBA Board of Directors, she has been active in the organization since early on in her legal career. Preparing and presenting CLE pro-



grams for NYWBA, for WBASNY, and for the First and Second Departments, as well as writing articles for the *New York Law Journal* and *Family Law Monthly*. Ms. Douglas has focused on parenting issues and the representation of children. In fact, her own accomplished daughter, Sara, deserves much of the credit for focusing her mother's career on parenting issues and the representation of children, for whom they are now both indefatigable advocates. With the tireless commitment of a wonderful group of volunteers, Ms. Douglas runs K9Kastle Corp., a not-for-profit organization dedicated to animal rescue, rehab and rehoming.

2009-2010 – Donna M. Praiss graduated from Boston University School of Law after receiving a bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Delaware. She specializes in intellectual property law, with an emphasis on procuring, licensing, enforcing and defending patent rights for major players in the chemical, pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device industries. She joined Kenyon & Kenyon upon receiving her law degree and in 1997 became the first female associate elevated to the partnership. She was a founder of the intellectual property group in the NY office of Hunton & Williams. She is currently Of Counsel at Michelman & Robinson and serves on the Advisory Board of Breast Cancer Alliance. As Co-Chair of the Committee to Advance the Status of Women in the Profession, she was a leader on our survey on the status of women attorneys at Manhattan law firms. She and her husband have four children.



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Under the NYWBA By-Laws, the Advisory Council includes all members in good standing who served as Presidents of the Association or who served on the Board of Directors for 15 or more years. We are pleased to honor the following distinguished members, who may not have held the title of President, but who have made extraordinary contributions to the Association.

Hon. Sheri Roman is an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, and was a Queens County Supreme Court Justice for 14 years. At the Bronx DA's Office, she was Chief of the Major Offense Bureau, Acting Chief of the Homicide Bureau, Chief of the Litigation Training Bureau, and in the Appeals Bureau. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of SUNY Buffalo, she received her LL.M. in Criminal Justice from NYU and J.D. from Georgetown. She served on the NYWBA Board as a Director and Vice President and chaired the Judiciary and Criminal Law Committees. She has been active in other bar and civic organizations, including the National Association of Women Judges (VP, Secretary); NYS Association of Women Judges (VP; Chair, Law School Outreach); the Samuel Field YM-YWHA (Board); Queens County Women's Bar Association; NYC Supreme Court Justices Association (Director, Corresponding Secretary); Criminal Court Judges Association (VP); NYC Criminal Court Bias Committee; and Queens County Gender Fairness Committee (Chair). Justice Roman is married and has two children.



Hon. Felice K. Shea is a retired Justice of the Supreme Court of New York State. She served as a NYWBA Vice President, a member of its Board of Directors for 17 years, and as an active member and Chair of Association Committees. Before election to the bench, she spent 11 years as a Staff Attorney and Assistant Attorney-in-Charge of the Harlem Branch of the Legal Aid Society. After retirement, she returned to Legal Aid as a volunteer in the Juvenile Rights Division representing children in the Family Court. She is a former member of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct. She is currently a member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary, a trustee of Montefiore Hospital, a member of the board of The Correctional Association of New York, and a member of the Board of Visitors of Columbia Law School.



Hon. Laura E. Drager is an Acting Supreme Court Justice, presiding over matrimonial actions in NY County. She was appointed to the Criminal Court in 1987. Previously, she was Chief of the Rackets Bureau for the Kings County DA's Office, an Assistant DA in the trial division and sex crimes unit of the NY County DA's Office, and an associate at Proskauer Rose. She is an adjunct professor at New York Law School and frequently lectures on divorce law, domestic violence and criminal law. She was principal author of "The Paper Shield: Orders of Protection in the New York City Criminal Court." She chaired the NY Criminal Court Committee on Domestic Violence for ten years. She is a member of the Advisory Group to the NYS and Federal Judicial Council and the Mental Health Professional Screening Committee for the First and Second Departments. She is the proud recipient of the NYWBA Doris S. Hoffman Award. She is married and has one son.



Marjorie Martin is an Administrative Law Judge for the NYS Traffic Violations Bureau. Prior to taking her current position, she worked at a major international bank, had a solo practice, was of counsel to a small international firm, and was on the full time faculty of Fordham Law School. An active member of the NYWBA for many years, she has served as Recording Secretary, Director, Delegate to the WBASNY Board, NYWBA representative on the WBASNY Awards and Nominations Committees, and as a member of the NYWBA International Law and Technology Committees. She joined the Advisory Council in 2009. She appreciates the doors that have been opened to her through the NYWBA, including service on the First Department's Character and Fitness Committee. She has donated time to the organization Women in Need and has volunteered at the NY Lighthouse for the Blind and at Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts.

