

OUR STORY

Well behaved women rarely make history.

~Laurel Thatcher Ulrich



Founders: Lillian Kooperstein, Hilda G. Schwartz and Florence Perlow Shientag

The founding of this organization came after several of our founders applied for membership to the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and other bar associations. When founder Hilda G. Schwartz (later Judge Schwartz) applied to the ABCNY, she was told, "We have no restroom facilities for women." Our Certificate of Incorporation, filed on Hilda Schwartz's blue backs, was based squarely on the Certificate of Incorporation of the ABCNY, including all the "purpose" provisions of a full service bar association - with the exception of a single additional provision, which reads: "To define and elevate the status of women."



NYWBA Annual Luncheon, 1955, Hotel Sheraton Astor



Sheila Birnbaum Receiving the Florence Allen Award from the NYWBA and NYU in 1979.

In 1936, as Catholic Bishops forbade persons under the church's supervision to join the Nazis or assist in spreading the movement, the NYWBA held a reception for fifty young female lawyers who had been admitted to the First and Second Departments so that they could ask questions of other leaders in the profession concerning the application of legal knowledge for securing fundamental rights for both men and women.



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun and Joan Ellenbogen

In September 1949, the NYWBA urged that a woman, specifically ex-President Florence Perlow Shientag, be considered for a new Federal District Court judgeship for the Southern District of New York. The Democratic party organizations, who recommended candidates to then-President Truman, failed to select either Judge Shientag or Thurgood Marshall.

On December 30, 1948, The New York Times reported that the NYWBA supported liberalization of New York State divorce laws. The NYWBA committee report recommended stringent residential requirements to prevent divorce from becoming too easy, and urged that, in addition to adultery, "cruel and inhuman treatment, willful conduct, abandonment, non-support, conviction of a felony and habitual intemperance should be added to the grounds for divorce in this state."

New York Tribune,
Dec. 4, 1955

Would Improve Women's Jail

Judge Mary H. Donlon of United States Customs Court appealed yesterday to the New York Women's Bar Association to support attempts by Corrections Commissioner Anna M. Kross to improve conditions at the Women's House of Detention, 10 Greenwich Ave.

Judge Donlon, first woman in New York State to be appointed to a Federal bench, spoke at a reception for City Court Justice-elect Birdie Amsterdam at the Sheraton-Astor Hotel.

"Little if anything" has been accomplished by the city so far to alleviate overcrowding, and the detaining of accused persons among convicted criminals at the detention house, Judge Donlon said.

"Originally established as a separate house of detention, and for sound reasons, it became in time also a prison and, indeed, preponderantly a prison," Judge Donlon said. "The result is that persons awaiting trial, and therefore presumed to be innocent until proved guilty, are kept for considerable periods of time with convicted criminals."

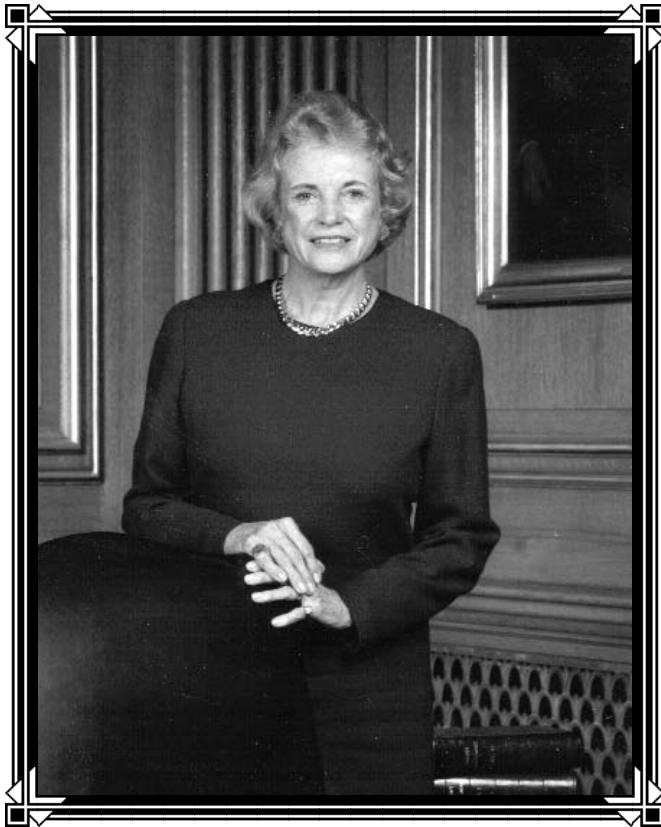
She charged that "very little correction work" is being done among inmates of the detention house.



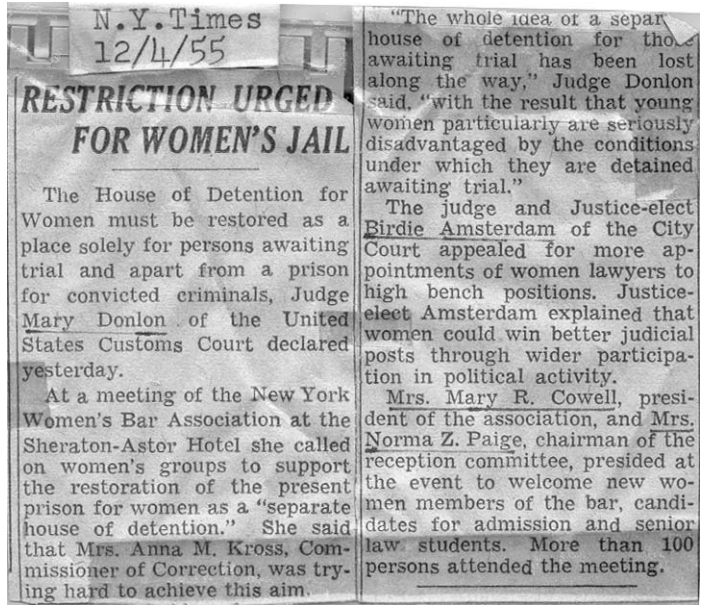
Judge Florence Perlow Shientag, Frieda Lorber, and NYWBA colleagues, circa 1942



NYWBA Reception in 1963 at the Roosevelt Hotel honoring Surrogates Cox and DiFalco - Hon. Freda Silbowitz (then President, center) and Norma Paige (later President, second from right)



Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor,
recipient of the NYWBA President's Special Award in 1984



One New York Times headline on May 12, 1957 was "Women Deplore Lawyer Barrier." Mrs. Mary R. Cowell, past president of the NYWBA, commented on the all-too-common situation where law firm doors are closed to women, and was quoted as saying that "the chances for a woman lawyer to attain partnership status are still slim...salary rates are usually lower than a man's and consequently, a woman lawyer is frequently forced to engage in private practice."



Hon. Birdie Amsterdam, NYWBA President Mary R. Cowell (Ross), Hon. Mary Donlon, and event chair Norma Z. Paige (later President, 1958-59) at an NYWBA Reception & Tea in December 1955 (l. to r.)



NYWBA Silver Anniversary Luncheon, May 1959 - Hon. Beatrice Cass, Hon. Anna Kross, incoming President Lucille M. Gannon, Norah K. Donovan (past President, 1953-55), outgoing President, Norma Z. Paige, Hon. Margaret M.J. Mangan, and Hon. Justine Wise Polier (l-r).
(The woman on the far right and the women in the foreground are not identified)

On May 18, 1947, during the NYWBA annual luncheon, Magistrate Anna M. Kross charged that there was discrimination against women lawyers in the courts of this area. A *New York Times* article quoted Magistrate Kross: "There has never been a woman on the Federal district court bench," she said, "or the surrogate's court. Surely the latter, which was formerly known as the court for widows and orphans, is a place where women would be ideally suited to hold office." She added that in Queens County there never has been a woman lawyer on the court bench or in the district attorney's office. Additionally, it was reported that a nation-wide committee had been formed to fight for the principle of jury service for women in all states on an equal basis with men - in fourteen states, women cannot serve on juries and in fifteen others the right to serve is optional.

As the Italian Cabinet approved the institution of "Fascist Saturday" in June 1935, our sisters in the Women's Bronx Bar Association adopted a resolution urging the two major parties to nominate a woman for one of the four municipal court justiceships created for that borough at the last session of the Legislature. The organization wrote:

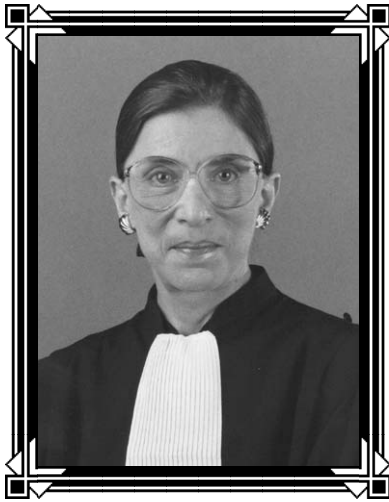
"... We seek the wholehearted cooperation of civic groups and other associations of women. About one-half the enrolled voters of Bronx County are women. This large group of citizens is represented by a mere handful of women in minor public offices. This discrimination is wholly unjustified. There are many women in Bronx County active and prominent in charitable, civic and community activities who are capable and intelligent and admirably qualified to hold public office. Among all the judges who sit in the various courts of Bronx County there is not one woman. Now is the time when this defect can be remedied."

The NYWBA co-sponsored the Second Annual Conference on the Legal Rights of Battered Women in 1982. Participants represented thirteen counties and included assistant district attorneys, legal services and legal aid attorneys, law students, probation officers, social workers, and volunteers in shelters and on hotlines for battered women. Throughout the 1980's, when clinics or other programs for battered women were practically nonexistent, the Association continued to train attorneys to provide these services, often pro bono.



Presentation of the Lillian Kooperstein gavel, passed from President to President since 1941, to incoming President Edith L. Fisch on May 23, 1970.

Rosie the Riveter's work was not the only war effort by women here in our country. As the Nazis pushed westward through Europe on August 1, 1942, the American Women's Volunteer Services along with the NYWBA began a clinic during daylight hours to provide legal advice without charge for men in the Armed Services and their wives and families. On September 23, 1942, The New York Times reported that the NYWBA's Legal Advice Bureau decided to keep their office open for two more hours on one evening each week because of increased demand. Just two days later, the clinic chose to open additionally on Saturdays after the calls for help became so numerous. The legal assistance ranged from securing deferment of financial commitments to putting a car in safe keeping for the duration of the war. The favorite case was a frantic appeal by a young man on weekend leave who needed assistance in planning a wedding. The Bureau checked into which metro area state had the quickest marriage procedure and had the City Clerk mail the required forms to the groom so that the ceremony did not have to be delayed when they arrived.



U.S. Supreme Court Justice
Ruth Bader Ginsberg
recipient of The President's Special Award
at NYWBA Annual Dinner, 1994

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SUNDAY NEWS, DECEMBER 4, 1955

Gals on Bench Seek Company

Not enough women attorneys are seeking judicial posts in this city, two women jurists declared yesterday. Both deplored the scarcity of women judges.

Speaking at the annual reception of the New York Women's Bar Association, at the Sheraton Astor Hotel, Judge Mary H. Donlon of the U. S. Customs Court said that until her appointment by President Eisenhower "no woman lawyer in New York State had ever received a lifetime appointment to the Federal Court."

Judge Birdie Amsterdam, justice-elect of the City Court, said the comparatively few women in public office "have clearly demonstrated their ability to serve in that capacity."

Sunday News, December 4, 1955, page 88.

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Past President Joan Ellenbogen and Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin,
Justice of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department.

In 1938, while France was making light of the Reich's aggression, the NYWBA announced the adoption of a resolution urging all political parties to nominate a woman for Supreme Court Justice in the First Judicial District. The resolution pointed out that in other states women were permitted to sit on the highest court of original jurisdiction and argued that "the standards of the administration of justice would be upheld and advanced by the inclusion of women in the judiciary." It added that there were women holding judicial office in the lower courts of this District who were qualified to serve as Supreme Court Justice. The resolution was forwarded in December to Governor Lehman urging him to appoint a woman to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court bench. The NYWBA also adopted a resolution urging the appointment of Judge Florence E. Allen of the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals to the United States Supreme Court.

During the presidency of Judge Freda Silbowitz (1963-64), the British bar traveled to the US to learn more about our legal system. Two decades earlier, Judge Shientag and representatives of the NYWBA traveled to London to meet with British barristers, solicitors and judges in a similar exchange program.



Hon. Judith S. Kaye, Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals, Honorary President of JALBCA and NYWBA member, recipient of The President's Special Award in 1985.



Hon. Geraldine Ferraro with Hon. Phyllis Gangel-Jacob, recipient of The President's Special Award in 2001



Chief Justice Lawrence H. Cooke, Joan Ellenbogen and Marcia Goldstein



Susan Solomon



Doris S. Hoffman

The Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert is an important part of the Association's history. JALBCA was formed in 1992 by lawyers and judges who wanted to focus the legal community's response to the breast cancer epidemic among women and to provide information and resources to women in the community. This commitment continues to this day, with NYWBA members serving as JALBCA Co-Presidents, on the JALBCA Board, and as JALBCA project leaders.



NYWBA Past Presidents Beth Bryson, Mikki Golar and Barbara Ryan, Chief Justice Judith Kaye, WBASNY President Mindy Zlogatura at JALBCA's Annual Symposium on Breast Cancer Issues, October 2004



In 2000, the NYWBA hosted the annual WBASNY Convention in Washington, D.C.: Seated: Past Presidents Angela Tese-Milner, Barbara Ryan, Hon. Florence Perlow Shientag, Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Myrna Felder, Joan Ellenbogen, Meg Gifford (l-r). First standing row: Elizabeth Bryson (Convention Chair, past President), Myra Freed, Naomi Sheiner, Ann Pincess Berman, Hon. Patricia Nuñez (Convention Co-Chair), Tina Sernick (Convention Co-Chair), Lori Segal Oppenheimer, Sandra Modell Hirsch, Lisa Sokoloff, Toby Pilsner (past President), Marian Burnbaum (l-r). Back row: Hon. Barbara Jaffe, Kay Marmorek, Gerry Fifer, Marjorie Martin, Lisa Bauer, Heather Martínez Zona (past President), Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler, Marcia Goldstein (past President), Christine Harman, Karen Greve Milton (past President)



2004-05 NYWBA Officers Christina Kallas, Lisa Sokoloff, Teresa Schiller, Jo Ann Douglas, Lisa Bauer and Janet Cord installed by the Honorable Betty Weinberg Ellerin



NYWBA hosts WBASNY at the WNBA's New York Liberty, July 31, 2004

FOUNDERS AND PAST PRESIDENTS

The founders and past Presidents 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 their 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. We invite the submission of any additional information to document our history and preserve our archival records. Please send relevant material to info@nywba.org or call 212-360-7055.

Founders

Beatrice Fliegel, Founder

Ms. Fliegel was a graduate of NYU Law School, Class of 1922.

Doris Silver Freeman, Founder

Lillian B. Garrell, Founder

Ms. Garrell was admitted to the New York bar in 1933.

Estelle Ruth Grollman, Founder

Margaret Fuller Karlin, Founder

Ms. Karlin was a graduate of NYU Law, Class of 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 passed away in 1982.

Minnie Kelter, Founder

Lauretta Rose, Founder

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

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

Freda Spinard, Founder

Ms. Spinard was installed as president of the Queens Women Bar Association in January 1936.

Past Presidents

Rose Lehman Stein, 1934-38

Ms. Stein graduated from NYU Law in 1922 and was admitted to the New York bar the following year, in 1922. She was a founder and the first President of the Association. She was the first woman to be president of the New York University Club and the first president of the New York University Law Alumni Association in 1955. She passed away in 1985.

On May 25, 1936, the organization held an informal reception to welcome 50 new women lawyers. The meeting was held at the George Washington Hotel – the organization was not then welcome at any bar association facilities. The following year, however, for the 1937 NYWBA annual reception at the building of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, over 200 women gathered for a triumphant celebration of the fact that for the first time in sixty-eight years women were admitted to the building on equal terms with men. In May of that year, the ABCNY voted that women were eligible for membership. Mrs. Rose Lehman Stein, then president of the NYWBA, expressed the hope that "other bar associations which still stubbornly keep out a large group of lawyers because of their sex will do likewise."

Jenet Kaplan Brown, 1938-39

Ms. Brown was admitted to the bar of NY in 1929. The New York Times reported, on August 14, 1938, that Mrs. Jennet K. Brown and Jeannette Harris, then secretary of the NYWBA, announced the adoption of a resolution urging all political parties to nominate women for Supreme Court justice in the First Judicial District. They further urged the appointment of Judge Florence E. Allen of the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals to the United States Supreme Court.



Hon. Hilda G. Schwartz, 1939-40

Justice Schwartz was president of the NYWBA from 1939-1940. Prior to that, she was the vice-president, and the first secretary circa 1935-37. Barred from the City Bar Association, she helped found the Women's Bar Association. Valedictorian of her high school, she attended NYU for both undergraduate and law school. She was the first Director of Finance for New York City in a time there was crushing discrimination against women, secretary of the Board of Estimate, and a judge for 24 years. She retired from the State 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.



Lillian M. Kooperstein, 1940-41

Ms. Kooperstein, born at 276 Madison Street on the Lower East Side to an Orthodox Jewish family, was admitted to practice in the First Department in 1925, having graduated NYU Law School, evening division. Upon graduation, with the help of her father, Jacob, she was able to obtain a clerkship at a law office, which was a pre-requisite to even sit for the bar. Upon passing the bar, she opened a law office with her brother, Moses. Thereafter, she practiced matrimonial law in the 20's and 30's, under the name L. M. Kooperstein. 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 new husband on lower Broadway. She also sat as an ALJ during the late 80's and early 90's – well into her early 90's! Ms. Kooperstein, who was at one time President of the Council of Jewish Women, died in 1998.



Hon. Florence Perlow Shientag, 1941-42

Judge Shientag was a founding member of the Association. In recent years, she has generously sponsored a scholarship presented by the Association to a law student writing on constitutional law. Judge Shientag was graduated from New York University (BS) and received her law degree (LLD) from the New York University School of Law in 1933. She is admitted to practice in New York, Florida, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Judge Shientag began her distinguished career as a Law Secretary to the Honorable Fiorello LaGuardia, Mayor of the City of New York. In 1941, she became a Judge of the Domestic Relations Court. In 1943, she became an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, where she was the first (and only) woman in the office and served in the Criminal Division. In 1954, Judge Shientag established a private practice specializing in domestic relations with offices in New York, London and Paris. She now lives in New York and Florida, and continues to be active in the Association.

Isabel Joffe, 1942-43

Ms. Joffe graduated from Brooklyn Law School and was admitted to the NY bar in 1928.

Response from a CEO upon being challenged by one of our presidents on the use of sexist, promotional toys—pilots for boys and stewardesses for girls:

"Burn the bras and loosen the straps, the girls are coming back!

We at General Mills do value the female role.

We certainly hope you will continue to enjoy Cheerios and enclosed you will find a coupon good on your next box of Cheerios."

So, a coupon is all it takes...

Marie C. Connolly, 1943-44

Ms. Connolly graduated Fordham Law School in 1933 and was admitted to the NY bar in 1934.

Adelaide Burkan Bodow, 1944-45

Ms. Bodow was born on April 16, 1912, graduated NYU and went on to attend NYU Law School, gaining admission to the NY bar in 1940. Following law school, she worked at Schwartz & Froehlich with her uncle, Nat Burkan, a founder of A.S.C.A.P, representing such notables as Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford & Douglas Fairbanks, and Al Jolson. As the only woman in her law school class, she was keenly aware of the difficulties faced in law school and the icy comments of judges in the early years. 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. Ms. Bodow convinced the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals to speak at a NYWBA event. This instantly brought recognition in the law journals and increased the credibility of the NYWBA as a full-fledged bar association.

Jeannette Harris, 1945-47

In the late 1800s, there was simply "no necessity," for admitting a woman to the bar since there seemed to be no call for women lawyers in New York State and it was doubtful there ever would be.

Esther Glantz, 1947-49

Ms. Glantz served as secretary for three years and vice president prior to her presidency. A native New Yorker, she graduated from the Washington Square College of NYU in 1934 and NYU Law in 1936. She was a partner of Joseph F. McCloy in the law firm of McCloy and Glantz.



Hon. Frieda Levin Lorber, 1949-51

Judge Lorber graduated *summa cum laude* from NYU, where she also received her law degree in 1938. She received her LLM from Columbia in Comparative and International Law in 1959. She worked for the Department of Investigation 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 representative to the UN Human Rights Community. She chaired the Law Alumni Association at NYU and the New York County Lawyers' Association. 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 1920s and was a member of the New York Oratorio Society. She passed away in 1976.

Julia Perles, 1951-53

Ms. Perles graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1937. She is widely considered to have played the leading role as chairwoman to the committee that brought about the passage of New York State's equitable distribution law, which went into effect in 1980. This law has 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 the law firm of 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 prominent in the field of matrimonial law.



Norah K. Donovan, 1953-55

Thirty years after Ms. Donovan's presidency, a 23-member panel, set up in May 1984 by the Hon. Lawrence H. Cooke, then the state's Chief Judge, concluded that female lawyers were "routinely" demeaned and treated patronizingly by male judges and attorneys.



Mary R. Cowell Ross, 1955-57

Ms. Ross graduated from Kansas City School of Law and received her LLB from Southern Law University where she graduated *cum laude*. Now retired, she was in private practice in New York for over 30 years. Before that, she was with Royall, Koegel and Rogers from 1946 to 1961, specializing in wills, trusts and estates. Between 1940-1946, Ms. Ross was in Washington D.C., where she worked for a number of federal agencies and was affiliated with the general practice law firm of Cromelin, Townsend and Kirkland. Ms. Ross has been active in the NYWBA since 1948, and has served as Corresponding Secretary, Vice President for 2 terms, Director, a member of the Advisory Council, and a member of the Judiciary, By-Laws, Legislation, and Equal Opportunities for Women Committees. She has also been active in various other professional organizations including the National

Association of Women Lawyers and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.



Anna Oberwager, 1957-58

Ms. Oberwager received her bachelor's and master's degrees from NYU in 1909 and 1910 and, in later years, 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. She passed away in 1987.



Norma Z. Paige, 1958-59

Ms. 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 when she retired. From 1988 to 2001, she also served Kearfott Guidance & Navigation Corporation as its Executive Vice President and member of its Board of Directors. Ms. Paige received her BA and JD degrees from NYU and is admitted to the bars of the United States Supreme Court and New York State. She is a partner in the law firm of Paige & Paige. She is 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



Lucille M. Gannon, 1959-60

*"Don't go to law school," advised the mother
of one of our past presidents.
"No one will want to marry you
if they think you're smarter than they are."*

Marie Mallot, 1960-61

Ms. Mallot graduated from Fordham Law School in 1946 and was admitted to the bar in 1947. She was born in 1921, and worked as a legal secretary at the law firm Kurzman, Karelsen & Frank in the early 1940's. Noticing that she was extremely bright, several of the attorneys at the firm encouraged her to attend law school at night, which she did. She graduated Fordham Law School in 1946, the only woman in her class. Marie spent her entire legal career doing estates law at Kurzman, Karelsen & Frank, until her retirement at age 65, in 1976. She continued doing some work for the firm into her retirement. Marie is now 86, and is unable to attend the dinner. She sends her regards, and we wish her well.



Florence Raider Zimmerman, 1961-62

Judge Zimmerman graduated from New York Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1941. She was elected as a NYC Civil Court Judge, and served from September 1971 until her retirement on December 31, 1973.

Ethel F. Beaver, 1962-63

Ms. Beaver graduated from NYU Law School in 1951 and was admitted to the bar the same year. She was a member of the firm Korkus & Korkus and was married to Dr. Kurt Berliner.



Hon. Freda Silbowitz, 1963-64

Ms. Silbowitz was admitted to the NY Bar in December 1938, shortly after receiving her law degree from Columbia Law School. Before being chosen as NYWBA President, she was involved in her law practice and served on the bench. During her tenure with the NYWBA, she chaired the United Nations Reception for members of the British Bar who traveled to the United States to exchange knowledge and insights about our respective legal systems.

Shirley P. Thau, 1964-65

Ms. Thau was admitted to the bar in 1947, having graduated in 1946 from New York University Law School, and Hunter College before that. Over the years, she practiced in many areas including international law, trusts & 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 is currently enjoying her retirement in Florida and sends her regards to her former NYWBA colleagues.

Bessie D. Goldberg, 1965-66

*Spoken by a male partner at a law firm about women associates:
"The reasons for losing them have been strange," he said.
"One, rather than becoming a partner in the firm, became a nun."*



Fannie J. Klein, 1966-67

Ms. Klein was admitted to the bar in 1928. In addition to lecturing and authoring several legal works, she has been presented with prestigious awards. An expert on court reform, Mrs. Klein was most thrilled when she was named the first woman professor at 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. Mrs. 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 or referee. She passed away in 1984.

Having graduated near the top of her law school class, some 15 years later in 1942,

Ms. Klein's prospective [male] employer remarked:

"The boys are away at war, and we're scraping the bottom of the barrel."

Marie Whitesell Balboa, 1967-68

Anonymous advice to [male] employers:

A girl has more confidence and is more efficient if she can keep her hair tidied, apply fresh lipstick and wash her hands several times a day.

Doris Sassower, 1968-69

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 in some European countries, women made up fifty percent of the law school enrollment, while our own law schools at the time could boast only minimal percentages of women. Additionally, she remarked on the less than one percent appointment rate of women to judgeships.



Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, 1969-70

Justice Ellerin was the first woman appointed to the First Department bench in 1985, and the first woman to serve as 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. Justice Ellerin is Chair of the N.Y.S. Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts and is a member of the N.Y.S. Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics. She was President of the National Association of Women Judges and a founder and Director of WBASNY and JALBCA. Justice Ellerin is Chair of the Civil Curriculum Committee of the Judicial Institute and was on the faculty of the Hofstra/Nice Law School program in France. Among her innumerable awards are the WBASNY Betty Weinberg Ellerin Mentoring Award, created in her honor, the N.Y.S. Association of Women Judges Leadership Award, the A.B.A. Margaret Brent Award, and the Florence E. Allen Award. Justice Ellerin and Milton H. Ellerin have three children and three adorable grandchildren, Ashley, Alexandra, and Will Vincent.



Mathilda Miller Cuneo, 1971-72

Ms. Cuneo was a graduate of NYU Law School, class of 1926 and was admitted to the bar in 1928. She was the first woman member of the Bronx County Bar Association in 1945. She was a distinguished Trustee and benefactor of the Bronx Riverdale YM-YWHA. In 1991, NYU Law celebrated 100th anniversary of the admission of women, where Ms. Cuneo was honored. Ms. Cuneo was the chair of the Special Committee on Matrimonial Law, and undertook a special but unfulfilled project to enact legislation in 1966 that a husband or wife be granted a divorce if the plaintiff had an illegitimate child after living apart from his spouse five or more years. *The New York Times* noted that "thousands of families too poor to afford a lawyer would be assisted by [this] amendment" and that this "'very important ground for divorce' would remove the 'permanent stigma of illegitimacy from thousands of children, many of whom are not aware that their parents are not married.'" She passed away in 1997.



Hon. Harriet Gair, 1972-73

Judge 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 a Town Justice for Putnam County, a position to which she was elected. 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. Judge Gair has had a continuing interest in Judaism, has devoted herself to worthy Jewish causes and Jewish jurisprudence, and has been honored by the Institute of Jewish Humanities. She is also a proud mother and grandmother.



Joan Ellenbogen, 1973-74

Ms. Ellenbogen was admitted to practice in 1965, having graduated from NYU School of Law earlier that year. Together with Marcia Goldstein, she formed the law firm of Ellenbogen and Goldstein, P.C., with a practice limited to matrimonial and family law. She was the Founding President of WBASNY in 1980 to 1982. Ms. Ellenbogen was a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Vice President of the ABCNY and was the first woman chair of the Executive Committee. She was also a Diplomate in the American College of Family Trial Lawyers, and a member of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration established by Governor Mario Cuomo and former Chief Judge Sol Wachtler. She served as a Commissioner on the Commission on Judicial Nominations to the Court of Appeals. Ms. Ellenbogen was a member of the First Department Disciplinary Committee and served on the Board of Trustees of the Legal Aid Society. During her professional career, Ms. Ellenbogen was listed in Best Lawyers in America. After a valiant struggle with pancreatic cancer, Ms. Ellenbogen died on October 18, 2001.



Sheila L. Birnbaum, 1974-75,

Ms. Birnbaum is a partner at Skadden Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, heading their Complex Mass Tort and Insurance Group. Ms. Birnbaum has argued appeals throughout the country and has successfully argued cases in the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Birnbaum has taught at NYU School of Law and Fordham School of Law. She is co-author of the *Practitioner's Guide to Litigating Insurance Coverage Actions*. She has a regular column in the *New York Law Journal* and *The National Law Journal*. Ms. Birnbaum has received numerous awards, including the A.B.A. Margaret Brent Achievement Award. The *National Law Journal* named her one of the 100 outstanding members of the legal profession. She was named by *Fortune* as one of the 50 most powerful women

in business and by *Crain's New York Business* as one of the 75 most influential women in business. In 1997, Chief Justice Rehnquist appointed Ms. Birnbaum to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Rules and Civil Procedure. Chief Justice Kaye appointed her Chair of The Commission on Fiduciary Appointments. In addition to other organizations, she was the first President of JALBCA.



Florence B. Donohue, 1975-76

Ms. Donohue was admitted to the bar in 1960.

Spoken by the CEO/witness to the attorneys at a recent, very well-attended deposition: "Well gentlemen, I can't say it was a pleasure but ladies it was a pleasure, having you to look at since we don't have a window in this room." How our firms, companies and colleagues react to such outrages speaks volumes about their values.

Myrna Felder, 1976-77

Our President's Special Award Winner this year, Ms. Felder has been a constant and avid supporter of and participant in the NYWBA and WBASNY. Please read the details on her very own page.



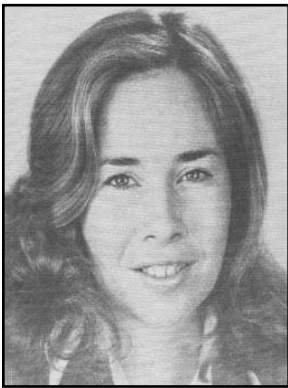
Beverly Gross, 1977-78

Ms. Gross is a labor lawyer whose practice is currently limited to labor arbitration and mediation, including ERISA. Ms. Gross has been labor and benefits counsel, 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; Assistant Corporation Counsel of New York City. She also 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 Women's Bar Association that same year. She represented the NYWBA on the Second Circuit Panel on Admissions and Grievances, chaired by NYU Law School Dean Norman Redlich.



Marcia C. Goldstein, 1978-79

Ms. Goldstein is a graduate of NYU Law School in 1966, and was admitted to practice in 1967. While President of the NYWBA, she was Associate General Counsel at Lehman Bros. Kuhn Loeb. With Joan Ellenbogen, she formed the law firm of Ellenbogen and Goldstein, P.C., practicing matrimonial and family law. A founding member of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and a Director from 1980 to 1985, she was also elected to the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers in 1984 and served as Chair of the Matrimonial Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York from 1987 to 1990, Chair of the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar, Family Law Section in 1998, and Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Equitable Distribution. Listed in *Best Lawyers in America*, she is also a member of the American Bar Association, Family Law Section. Ms. Goldstein was recently appointed by Chief Judge Judith Kaye to serve as a member of the Matrimonial Commission of the State of New York. Presently, she is Of Counsel to Dobrish and Wrubel.



Andrea Hyde, 1979-80

Ms. Hyde is prominent in the field of trusts and estates. Recently, after ten years as a partner at Cullen and Dykman LLP, she joined the law firm of Putney, Twombly, Hall & Hiron LLP, as a partner. She is active on the Executive Committee of the Trusts and Estates Law Section of the NYSBA and currently serves as the Liaison from the NY EPTL-SCPA Legislative Advisory Committee. While on this committee, it formulated what became the new Principal and Income Act, enacted in 2001. In addition, Ms. Hyde has testified at legislative hearings to amend the NY Elective Share Statute, and served on the commission that formulated the proposal for the Attorney-Fiduciary Commission Statute. She has lectured in the area of wills, trusts and estates at several bar association-sponsored programs, including the NYWBA. Ms. Hyde was elected to the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and in 1999, she was first listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*.



Diane S. Wilner, 1980-81

Ms. Wilner graduated *magna cum laude* from Brooklyn Law School, where she was an editor of the Law Review. Upon leaving the firm 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, among others. Ms. Wilner is known for litigating complex cases at the cutting edge of the law, including successfully trying the first AIDS case of a physician, and in which there were cameras in the court room throughout the trial. She was also published and lectured widely. As President of the NYWBA, she continued the smooth transition with the newly-founded WBASNY and continued the NYWBA's tireless efforts to open doors for women attorneys in all areas of the law. She understood that as a trailblazer, one had to excel in order to open the doors to other women, which she did as president of the NYWBA and throughout her career.



Hon. Karla Moskowitz, 1981

Justice Moskowitz presently sits in the Commercial Division of the New York State Supreme Court, County of New York, where she was elected in 1991. She was the founder and Chairperson of the Referral Service from 1975-1977, and she co-chaired numerous NYWBA committees over the years. After becoming NYWBA President, she was elected to the Civil Court and resigned to allow Vice President Irene Sullivan to assume the presidency. Justice Moskowitz was a Founder and past Co-President of the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA), served as Co-Chair of the Conference of the International Federation of Women Lawyers, and served on the New York City Commission on Status of Women. She was President of both the New York State Association of Women Judges and the National Association of Women Judges.



Irene S. Sullivan, 1981-82

Ms. Sullivan is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, NYU and Fordham University School of Law. Now retired, she began her legal career in 1976 at Skadden, Arps, where her experience involved a wide variety of commercial matters with an emphasis on federal court litigation in the antitrust and securities area and insurance coverage disputes. She was a partner in the firm from 1982 to 2003, and while at Skadden was named one of the first managing partners of a major firm. She was President of both the NYWBA and WBASNY. Ms. Sullivan also served on numerous committees including the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the 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 of the ABA Task Force on Insurance Coverage Litigation.



Hon. Leslie Crocker Snyder, 1982-83 Justice Snyder was the first woman in the New York County District Attorney's Office to try both felony and homicide cases. During her nine years in the office, she founded and led the Sex Crimes Prosecution Bureau, the first in the nation and a model throughout the country. Additionally, she is the co-author of legislation including New York's Rape Shield Law and other reforms of the Penal Law. In 1983, she was appointed as a Judge of the Criminal Court of New York City. Subsequently, Judge Snyder was appointed to the New York State Supreme Court and the Court of Claims, presiding over many high-profile cases. Judge Snyder is a committed community advocate, serving on many boards. She adopted a public school to introduce children to the legal process. Married for 36 years, she is mother of two grown

sons. Judge Snyder is the author of *25 to Life*, and is currently a partner at Kassowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP.



Madeline C. Stoller, 1983-84

Ms. Stoller received her JD 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 is a member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York 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 17 billion dollar 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.



Nancy M. Loudon, 1984-85

Ms. Loudon became a "lipstick lawyer" 12 years ago when she joined the Lauder Companies. As Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, she is responsible for a number of areas, including government relations and employment law. She also serves on the boards of The MAC AIDS Fund and the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital. She lives in Manhattan with her partner, Donna Dennis, a professor at Rutgers School of Law in Newark.



Harriet Newman Cohen, 1985-86

Ms. Cohen graduated from Barnard (BA 1952) and Bryn Mawr (MA 1953). At age 38, she left teaching mathematics in the New York City school system for law school and obtained her law degree from Brooklyn Law School in 1974, where she was an Editor of The Law Review. Ms. Cohen is one of the founders of the matrimonial/family law and custody firm, Cohen Hennessey & Bienstock P.C., and has been an authority in the field of family law since the mid-1970's. She helped negotiate and draft the New York State Equitable Distribution Law and the Child Support Standards Act. She has written extensively on equitable distribution, child custody, child support, spousal maintenance and related subjects, and is the co-author (with Ralph Gardner, Jr.) of *The Divorce Book for Men and Women, a Step-by-Step Guide to Gaining Your Freedom Without Losing Everything Else*, Avon Books, 1994, called the "first book you should read when contemplating a divorce.



Anne T. Schwab, 1986-87

Ms. Schwab graduated from St. John's University School of Law in 1978. From 1980 - 1988, she was an associate in the litigation department at, Emmet, Marvin & Martin. From 1989-1997, 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 was hired by Deutsche Bank AG's legal department in New York as a Director and Senior Counsel to head their private banking legal practice and subsequently joined the litigation group. In 2004, Ms. Schwab was made a Managing Director of Deutsche Bank.



Dianne Abeloff, 1987-88

Ms. Abeloff is a 1977 graduate of Smith College and a 1980 graduate of Cardozo Law School. Dianne is an associate counsel with the N.Y.S. Department of Health, Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct. She is also a wife and mother of two terrific boys.



Doris S. Hoffman, 1988-89

Ms. Hoffman graduated from Hunter College in 1964 and from New York University Law School in 1967. She concentrated in Copyright and Trademark Law, and she spent almost her entire career in partnership with her father and brother in Stoll, Stoll & Hoffman and successor firms in New York City. She served as President of WBASNY from 1988 to 1989. 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 Stephen for almost 29 years, until her untimely death in 1997. Both the NYWBA and WBASNY have named awards in her memory.



Sandra W. Jacobson, 1989-90

Ms. Jacobson was admitted in the Second Department in 1955, having earned her LLB from Yale. She has been an active member of NYWBA for more than forty years and an active member of the Westchester chapter as well. Significantly, Sandra wrote the *amicus* application in support of leave to appeal in *Hartogs*, as well as the appellate brief, raising unique and critical issues that only WBASNY addressed, thanks to Sandra. She led the important movement to have WBASNY accredited for providing CLE. Sandra has put together numerous programs and has spoken on numerous panels for WBASNY conventions. She served as Treasurer, Vice-President, President and Director of the Association and as its delegate to the board of directors of WBASNY. She has chaired and been a member of the Matrimonial and Family Law Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Judiciary Committee and other committees. For WBASNY she has chaired, *inter alia*, the Amicus, Judiciary, CLE Committees and the By-Laws committees, and co-chaired the Matrimonial Law Committee.



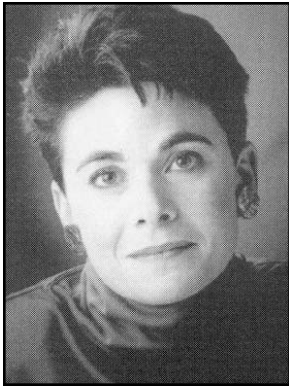
Katherine S. J. Law, 1990-91

Having grown up in the segregated South, Ms. Law landed in NYC, and 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 mentor, Justice Betty Weinberg Ellerin, and tried homicide cases. Her "specialty" was "senior citizen robberies." Becoming a single mother, she returned to private practice until her children left for college, then returned to "litigator's hours" at the NYS AG's Investor Protection Bureau, became a law clerk, and ultimately a Law Guardian at the Appellate Division. Recognizing that there was more to life, Ms. Law moved to San Diego where she volunteers as a Coast Guard-certified vessel safety examiner, in the San Diego D.A.'s Economic Crimes and Insurance Fraud bureaus, and as a director of the National Association of Childbearing Centers Foundation. At age 70, she is happy and active. Missing her NY "buddies," she sends her best wishes for this Gala event.



Martha L. Golar, 1991-92

Ms. Golar is a past President of JALBCA, having served three terms as Co-President. She remains Co-Chair of JALBCA's Annual Symposium. Ms. Golar is Chair of the Health Law Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. She is past President of the New York Women's Bar Association and chaired the Gender Bias and Finance Committees of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. Ms. 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 attorney 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.



Bobbi C. Sternheim, 1992-93

Ms. Sternheim has been both a prosecutor and a litigator of a broad range of complex criminal and civil matters in federal and state courts. She has been active in bar-related activities, most notably in the NYWBA; as chair of the Committee on Criminal Justice Operations and Budget of the ABCNY; and numerous other committees. Ms. Sternheim has been appointed to court-created committees, including the SDNY's Criminal Justice Act Peer Review Committee; the Appellate Division, First Department's Indigent Defense Organization Oversight Committee; and the New York State Chief Judge's Task Force on the Profession, Ethics Institute Subcommittee. She currently serves as Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorney Representative for the SDNY. In addition, she has been an adjunct faculty supervisor at the Cardozo School of Law; a faculty member of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy; and a lecturer on topics of continuing legal education. Ms. Sternheim is working toward a Masters in Forensic Psychology at the John Jay School of Criminal Justice.



Toby J. Pilsner, 1993-94

Ms. Pilsner received her JD from Brooklyn Law School in 1978. She began a 17-year career in the Office of the Bronx District Attorney, rising to the position of Chief of Litigation Training and following in the footsteps of her mentor, the Hon. Sheri Roman, who also introduced her to the NYWBA. Ms. Pilsner has served in many capacities at both WBASNY and NYWBA. She served on the Board and as an officer for NYWBA. During her presidency, she spearheaded a major overhaul of the Judiciary Committee and its guidelines. Honoring the Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg her annual dinner remains one of the highlights of her term. Married to Dr. Joseph Saul, a dentist/lawyer, and with two small daughters, Ariel and Halley, she left the District Attorney's Office in 1996, and 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 ECB. She is active in her children's PTA, and just celebrated Ariel's Bat Mitzvah. Toby finds her greatest source of happiness in her family and her friendships, and sends her warmest regards, since she cannot be here tonight due to her attendance at a school performance.



Martha E. Gifford, 1994-95

Meg Gifford joined Proskauer Rose LLP in 1987. She co-chairs the Firm's Antitrust Practice Group and is a member of the White-Collar Criminal Defense Practice Group. Before joining Proskauer, Meg was in private practice and was a trial attorney with the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Meg is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School. Meg is active in numerous bar association committees, she is a member of the Committee on Antitrust and Trade Regulation of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York; a past Chair of the Antitrust Law Section of the New York State Bar Association; Director, past President, a former Committee Chair, Secretary and Vice President of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York; Advisory Council member and a past Director and President of the New York Women's Bar Association; former Chair of the NYWBA's Judiciary Committee, and a founding member, Director and Vice President of the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc.



Andrea J. Berger, 1995-96

Ms. Berger graduated from Fordham Law School. She has been an active NYWBA member since law school, and 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 serves as Senior Counsel. She specializes in legislative drafting and counseling in ethics, criminal justice, and labor and employment law. Andrea is a former Vice Chair of the Lawyers Alliance for New York, and has served since 1999 as a board member of the Citizens Union, a venerable NYC civic organization. As a long-time and active member of the ABCNY, she has been a member of numerous committees and, most recently, has chaired the Lawyers' Orchestra Committee, which she manages and plays in its flute section. She is also

the manager and a member of the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony and is a board member of the Chamber Music Conference and Composers' Forum of the East.



Bonnie S. Edwards, 1996-97

Ms. 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 in a wide variety of non-tax related areas, including complicated and sensitive EEO and labor matters. She works in the Area Counsel's Office, Manhattan. 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 and as an officer of JALBCA.

She currently serves as a director of the boards of Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Elders and the National Council on Woman's Health.



Laurie Berke-Weiss, 1997-98

Ms. Berke-Weiss is a partner in Berke-Weiss & Pechman LLP, where she handles employment issues and commercial disputes in federal and state courts and government agencies. She counsels clients on workplace issues, including employment contracts, severance agreements, restrictive covenants, sexual harassment and internal investigations. She also represents lawyers and physicians concerning partnership matters, and frequently lectures and writes on employment discrimination, law practice management and legal ethics. Ms. Berke-Weiss is a graduate of the Fordham University School of Law. She also holds a bachelor's degree from the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and a master's degree in Industrial Relations from Rutgers University.

She is a mediator for the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court, NY County, and has been certified as a Law Guardian in the First Department. Currently, Laurie is a Board member of the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc. and a member of the Audit Committee of the ABCNY.



Karen Greve Milton, 1998-99

Ms. Milton is the Circuit Executive for the Second Judicial Circuit, where she serves as the chief administrative officer for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the other federal courts in the states of 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 Association of the Bar of the City of New York, a department she created in 1995. After graduating from law school, Ms. Milton served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of Robert M. Morgenthau in both a trial bureau and the Rackets Bureau. She also served as the NYWBA's Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Co-Chair of its Programs and Event Committee prior to her election as President. 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.



Barbara A. Ryan, 1999-2000

Barbara A. Ryan is a partner at the law firm of 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 as a Co-Chair of the JALBCA Annual Symposium. She is a member of the Board of Directors 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 and at New York Medical College, Valhalla, New York.



Angela Tese-Milner, 2000-01

Ms. Tese-Milner is a partner of Tese & Milner, practices law with her husband, Michael Milner, a former federal prosecutor, and concentrates 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. Angela has also served as receiver and is now a special monitor for the United States Federal Trade Commission in cases involving telemarketing fraud. She serves as Special Master for the New York State Appellate Division, First Department. Angela was sworn in as President of the National Organization of Italian American Women in July 2003 and continues to serve as President of this international organization with ties to four continents. As president of of NOIAW, Angela has organized and participated in international

women's conferences in the United States and in Italy. Angela is also vice-president of the Brooklyn Law School Alumna Association.



Phyllis S. Koffman, 2001-02

Ms. Koffman graduated from Brooklyn Law School. She has been a sole practitioner for fifteen years, concentrating in trust and estate law. Prior to that, she was an associate at a firm specializing in litigation and real estate. Ms. Koffman attributes her involvement in the NYWBA to Doris Hoffman, who chaired the Legislation Committee when Ms. Koffman joined in 1986. She became Co-Chair of the Committee and has been an active member of the NYWBA ever since, serving as a Director, Vice-President for two terms, Co-Chair of the Awards Committee, and Chair of the reception committees for the Judges' Reception and the Annual Dinner. She has also represented the NYWBA on the Legislation Committee of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and as a delegate to the WBASNY Board of Directors. Ms. Koffman has served

twice on judicial screening panels for the Civil Court. She hopes to have time for her favorite pastimes - ballroom dancing and reading mysteries.



Heather Martínez Zona, 2002-03

Ms. Zona manages a small 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 has served the New York Women's Bar Association in a variety capacities, including President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and Director. In addition, she has organized and created a number of programs for the Association, including, "Tips for New Lawyers," "Take Our Daughters to Work Day," co-sponsored by the Second Circuit, and "What It's (Really) Like to Practice Law in NYC as a Woman," co-sponsored by the ABCNY. 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.



Elizabeth A. Bryson, 2003-05

Elizabeth Bryson has served on the NYWBA Board since 1996, co-chaired numerous committees, and founded the Committee on Technology and the Internet for Lawyers. During her tenure, membership doubled, and she enhanced many programs and activities, including the website. Ms. Bryson is a Corporate Vice President of the New York Life Insurance Company. She was previously a litigator at New York Life and in private practice; and an Assistant Corporation Counsel, representing City agencies and officials. She was also an Intelligence Analyst with the Justice Department in Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York. She was a member of the NYS Commission on Public Access to Court Records and is a member of the ABA, NYSBA, NYCLA, National Association of Women Judges, and City Bar, where she was treasurer of

the Committee on Technology and the Practice of Law and chaired the Internet Subcommittee. She is also a Vice President of WBASNY and has chaired WBASNY Committees and Task Forces. She is a graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle and Fordham University School of Law.