

**Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting
held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 5:30 PM**

1. Welcome & State of the Association Address – Magnolia Levy, NYWBA President

Magnolia Levy, 2022-2023 President of the NYWBA, recognized that a quorum was present and called the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

The President thanked Nicole Hyland and her law firm Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz for once again generously organizing the ever popular annual Ethics CLE as well as Lauren Crane who, together with Nicole, prepared the presentation.

Nicole is joined this year by the Honorable Saliann Scarpulla and Fordham University Law Professor, Bruce A. Green, who will present us with this evening's Ethics CLE: Lawyers Behaving Badly: Sanctions, Suspensions and General Shenanigans.

2. Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

A copy of the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes was made available to membership by e-blast. The President asked for a vote to approve the minutes from 2022.

A motion to approve was made by Myra Freed, with a second by Amy Goldsmith. A vote was taken by proclamation, and there were no objections. The usual abstentions were made by those who were not in attendance last year. The motion was approved.

3. State of the Association Address- Magnolia D. Levy:

As of today, the NYWBA is 761 members strong, 187 of whom joined us as new members during the last year. Special thanks go to the Membership Committee Chair Vivian Rivera Drohan and to all of the Board Members, Advisory Council members, and Committee Chairs who worked extremely hard to engage with our members and recruit new members this year. There is still one month left to add new members, and anyone who joins as a *new* member will have their membership extended through May, 2024.

We kicked off this bar association year with our June 16, 2022 Awards and Installation Ceremony, which was held in person and included an online auction to benefit the NYWBA Foundation. We honored the Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy, Hon. Saliann Scarpulla. Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler, and the Hon. Judith S. Gische. The Hon. Betty Weinberg-Ellerin swore in our 2022-2023 Officers and new members of the Board of Directors.

Our Association continued to deliver virtual programming throughout the year, with both in-person and Zoom conferences in which many esteemed judges volunteered to meet with our members, financial planning seminars, wellness programs, and social events. Our Events Committee executed several group museum tours, both virtual and in-person, with profits from ticket sales going to the NYWBA Foundation.

On July 19, 2022, we offered our signature event, the Martha E. Gifford Summer Program “What It’s (REALLY) Like to Practice Law as a Woman” to an in person audience at the New York City Bar Association. Our diverse panel of engaging speakers included Meredith R. Miller, a professor at Touro

University Law Center, Kellisia Hazelwood, partner at Hazelwood Lawrence PLLC, Stacy D’Cunha-Rubin, an attorney with the New York City Law Department, and Danica L. Brown, a senior attorney at Sidley Austin LLP. Over 100 young people attended and following the panel discussion NYWBA members met with attendees and discussed with them their interests in the law. They were bright, thoughtful, engaged, idealistic and hopeful to make an impact with their law degrees.

In October 2022 we came together for our Annual Membership Reception where NYWBA members heard from member *Dawn J. McClary*, General Counsel of Planned Parenthood of Greater New York, who spoke at length about ways our members can become more involved in the fight for women’s reproductive rights. As we did in prior years, we also raised funds to combat Period Poverty, which will benefit the clients of two local organizations dedicated to survivors of trafficking, domestic violence, and homelessness.

In October 2022 we also celebrated the New York Women’s Bar Association Foundation’s receipt of the *Champion of Justice Award* from the Fordham Law Feerick Center for Social Justice. We held a reception and special screening of the long awaited NYWBA Legacy Project: Our Stories, Our Voices, the first set of legacy project films about NYWBA’s founders and history. The screening featured compelling interviews with Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Anthony Gair (who spoke of his mother Harriet Gair), Sheila Birnbaum, Hon. Jacqueline Silbermann, Myrna Felder, Stephen Hoffman (who spoke of his late wife Doris Hoffman), Hon. Karla Moskowitz, Harriet Newman Cohen, and Hon. Phyllis Gangel-Jacob. It was a tremendous opportunity to learn more about the women who started and carried on the mission of this Association as we continue building our library of the wisdom of the women lawyers and judges who paved the way for all of us.

Additionally, the NYWBA Judiciary Committee, led by Shani Adess and S. Yan Sin, continued it’s hard work conducting interviews with judicial candidates for the general election of New York County judges in 2022.

Our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee’s Equity in Action Speaker Series grew even more in scope and popularity this year. The Equity in Action speaker series provides an opportunity for NYWBA members to learn and engage in topics around equity, inclusion and action with local judges and the topics and speakers are always varied and interesting.

Our Association has also branched out to serve the needs of its members in a different way- by creating a bereavement support group. The NYWBA bereavement group, led by Bonnie Cohen-Gallet was created to support members who have lost a loved one and meets monthly by zoom to discuss the grieving process and the challenges that survivors face in a confidential setting.

The NYWBA finally held its first major in-person event on March 9, 2023 with our Annual Judicial Reception at which we honored New York County’s newly-elected, newly-appointed, and re-elected judges, most of whom attended the event. The cocktail reception was held in the roof dining room and terrace of the Yale Club. Judiciary Committee Co-Chair Tuozhi Lorna Zhen was our Yale Club member

sponsor and the event was organized by Past President Virginia A. LoPreto, Louisa M. De Rose and Executive Director Karen Lu. It was a huge success with a record turnout of 165 attendees and numerous sponsors.

Between June 1, 2022 and today, the NYWBA has hosted 19 CLE events for our members and we have at least 4 more CLEs planned for the month of May. I would like to extend special thanks to Amy Goldsmith and Stacey Phillips for their incredible leadership of the CLE Committee this year.

Our Committee Chairs have been especially active this year, continuing to utilize the Zoom format while also transitioning back to in person events to expand the number and reach of our meetings and programs. I want to thank all the Committee Chairs for your great work this year.

I would particularly like to commend our outstanding Newsletter Committee: Jennifer Branca, Elizabeth Friedrich, and Olivia Sohmer for continuing to produce attractive and informative publications each month. It is not an easy job, but we all reap the benefits of their work.

I hope that you will join us for our upcoming Annual Awards and Installation Ceremony on June 12th, in person, at 360° in Tribeca. We will be giving out the President's Special Award to Eleanor's Legacy, the Doris S. Hoffman Award to Leona Beane in recognition of her years of service to our Association, and the first ever Amanda B. Norejko Award will be presented to our own, immediate Past President, Amanda B. Norejko. The evening will also include a silent auction to benefit the NYWBA Foundation.

2. Treasurer's Report – Lissett Costa Ferreira, NYWBA Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that the NYWBA is in good financial condition. As of March 31, 2021, NYWBA has a combined total of \$491,757.72 in its accounts.

The Treasurer also reported on our reduced dues this year in light of resulting economic conditions and several large expenses including the judicial reception and deposit for annual dinner. Communications have been held with the Ameriprise Account Manager regarding maintenance of the accounts. Also held was a long-term plan meeting.

3. Election of NYWBA Officers, Directors, Delegates & Nominations Committee; Election of WBASNY Officers, NYWBA Past President & Director

Before turning over the election proceedings to Past President, Elizabeth Bryson to oversee the discussion and voting, she was thanked her for her many years of service to our Association. She has served on our Advisory Council and has been so generous with her time, acting as a resource and reliable historian of all things NYWBA. Beth serves as Treasurer for the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, and she has brought us wonderful opportunities to participate in programs with our counterparts from all over the country.

A. NYWBA Elections

Elizabeth Bryson then announced that the NYWBA's Committee on Nominations has comprised a list had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Officer Nominations (2022 – 2023)

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|---------------------------|--|
| President: | Sabrina Morrissey |
| Vice Presidents: | Jocelyn L. Jacobson Melissa Ephron-Mandel Vivian Rivera Drohan |
| Treasurer: | Lissett Costa Ferreira |
| Recording Secretary: | Crystal R. Villaseñor |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Morgan Fraser Mouchette |
| Immediate Past President: | Magnolia D. Levy |

Board of Directors (Directors to be installed – Class of 2023 -2026 (seven) & class of 2022-2025/2021-2024 (three - filling vacancies for unexpired terms*))

Dawn M. Cardi
Catherine A. Christian
Tara Diamond
Melissa Glassman
Fran R. Hoffinger
Jessica A. Horani
Ernestine Mings
Amanda B. Norejko
Nicole K. Trivlis

Directors Continuing in Office – Classes of 2021-2024 & 2022-2025

Jennifer Brown-DiBlasi
Meaghan E. Carey
Dawn M. Cardi
Kay Marmorek
Hon. Laura E. Drager
Hon. Judith J. Gische
Alexandra Campbell King
Antonia J. Martinez
Amy B. Goldsmith
Olivia Sohmer
Julie Hyman
Judith E. White

New Members of NYWBA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Leona Beane

NYWBA MEMBERS ON WBASNY BOARD (2023-2024)

Elizabeth A. Bryson
Dawn M. Cardi
Melissa Ephron-Mandel
Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin
Lissett Costa Ferreira
Julie Hyman
Jocelyn L. Jacobson
Magnolia D. Levy
Marjorie A. Martin
Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann
Amanda B. Norejko
Crystal R. Villaseñor

A motion to approve the slate of NYWBA Members to the WBASNY Board the was made by Meg Gifford, with a second by Myra Freed. A vote was taken by proclamation, and there were no objections. The motion was approved.

B. NYWBA Elections

WBASNY Officer Nominations

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| President | Dawn A. Lott (Suffolk) |
| President Elect | Marea Wachsman (Brooklyn) |
| Vice Presidents | Simone M. Freeman (Nassau) Rebekah Nellis Kennedy (Capital) Lisa Noroian (Orange, Sullivan) |
| Treasurer | Madison Porzio (Queens) |
| Corresponding Secretary | Elise Cassar (Western) |
| Recording Secretary | Nomination Pending |
| Immediate Past President | Deborah G. Rosenthal (NYWBA) |

Under the WABASNY By-Laws, the President and Immediate Past President will automatically take office.

A motion to approve the slate of officers the was made by Jennifer Brown-DiBlasi, with a second by Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann. The motion was approved.

Congratulations was given to all of the Officers, Board Members, and Delegates. Special congratulations were given to Past President Deborah Rosenthal who will ending her term as WBASNY President for the 2022-23 term and stepping into the role of Immediate Past President and Leona Beane for her 20+ years on the board. As of June 1st, Leona will be part of the Advisory Council. It was a great year on the statewide level thanks to her capable leadership.

4. NYWBA Foundation – Laurie Berke Weiss, President of NYWBA Foundation and Past President of NYWBA.

Laurie Berke Weiss thanked the NYWBA for its continued support of the NYWBA Foundation.

During the past year, the NYWBA Foundation has funded summer fellowships for law students from NYU, Fordham and Cardozo Schools of Law, including funding a student for the Matrimonial Project. The Foundation was a founding supporter of the Legacy Project.

The Foundation was honored by October 24, 2022 by the Fordham Law Feerick Center for Social Justice with the Champion of Justice Award.

The NYWBA Foundation has been active in fundraising programs, including a talk with Helen Wan, author of “The Partner Track”, as well as hosting the silent auction at the upcoming awards installation dinner. The Foundation will be hosting a board retreat on how best to achieve its mission.

5. Adjournment – Magnolia D. Levy

Magnolia D. Levy expressed her gratitude to the NYWBA Officers, Advisory Council, and Board of Directors for their support throughout yet another challenging year.

Congratulations were given to all of the Officers, Directors, and Delegates who were elected at the annual meeting. I am thrilled to pass the torch to our incoming NYWBA Officers, especially to your next President, Sabrina Morrissey.

Magnolia said, “To our amazing members, as I near the end of my time as NYWBA President, I want you to know that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve you. I want to thank you all for your support and faith in me. I hope that I have done justice to the trust you have placed in me these past two years. The best part of this experience was getting to know so many of you and to see the brilliant ways your minds work. Your energy, creativity and commitment have kept this organization strong and vibrant through some very difficult times. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful Association.”

Finally, Magnolia recognized and thanked multi-talented and hard-working Executive Director, Karen Lu, noting without whom we could not hold these events, disseminate important news to our members and the public, publish a beautiful newsletter, keep our website current, and a million other tasks that she performs behind the scenes without complaint and often at a moment’s notice.

No further business being held, a motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Brown-DiBlasi and seconded by Elizabeth Bryson. A vote was taken by proclamation, and there were no objections. The motion was approved.

The program was then turned over to our Ethics Chair, Nicole Hyland, and attendees reminded to log into the webinar link to participate in the Ethics CLE.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Rivera Drohan
NYWBA Recording Secretary