



WWBA news

Westchester Women's Bar Association

November 2009

www.wwbany.org

Criminal Law Committee Sponsors Program on Navigating New Integrated Youth Court

Hon. Sandra Forster

On October 14, 2009, the Criminal Law Committee of the Westchester Women's Bar Association presented a program on Navigating the New Integrated Youth Court ("IYC"), an innovative Court that serves as the first of its kind in the State of New York and as a model nationwide. This new court was the vision of former Chief Judge Judith Kaye and was established in Westchester County in October, 2008.

The distinguished panel of speakers included Hon. Janet DiFiore, the District Attorney of Westchester County, Hon. William Edwards, the judge presiding in the IYC, Rocco Pozzi, Commissioner of Probation, ADA Audrey



From left to right: Assistant District Attorney Audrey Stone; Deputy County Attorney Kitley Covill; Westchester County District Attorney Hon. Janet DiFiore; Judge of the Integrated Youth Court Hon. William Edwards; Westchester County Commissioner of Probation Rocco Pozzi; and WWBA President Deborah Scalise.

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► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November is my favorite month because we celebrate Thanksgiving, a holiday that unifies all Americans because it is not designated to celebrate any individual or group. Rather, it allows us



to take time to reflect on all that is good in our lives. As students, we were taught that Thanksgiving started with a gathering in the fall of 1621 where the Pilgrims and Native Americans celebrated the harvest. However, it was not until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln became the first president to proclaim Thanksgiving Day a national holiday. In an effort to unify our torn nation, President Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation stated in pertinent part:

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate...It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly,

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► SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Ethics Update 2009

WWBA FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER NOVEMBER 17, 2009

WWBA HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 9, 2009

WBASNY 30TH CELEBRATION/CONVENTION MAY 21-23, 2010 Honor's Haven, Ellenville, NY

▶ WWBA Member Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2009

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of the State of New York

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President's Message

from page 1

"...I am thankful for the foresight, vision and hard work of those who fought for equality, thereby allowing women to become attorneys, which is no longer an unusual phenomenon in the 21st century."

reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving...

Along with preparing the feast, watching the parade or football, our family has a tradition where we take the time to reflect on what we are thankful for. Just before dinner, everyone seated at our table joins hands and starting with the youngest, each of us takes a moment to reflect and express what we are thankful for.

I hope that you, my WWBA family and friends do not mind if I take a moment to reflect and express my thanks on a professional level in this newsletter, which in many ways serves as the table where the WWBA gathers.

First and foremost, I am grateful to have a legal education which allows me to use my advocacy skills on behalf of others. Due to the work of our forefathers like President Lincoln, as well as our foremothers in the legal profession, I had the opportunity to obtain an education that was not available to women

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▶ Editor's Note

As the air turns crisp and the leaves change colors, our thoughts turn to the holidays and to end of year business planning. Keeping it all in balance is always a challenge, but if we remember what is important and can minimize the superfluous distractions, we can accomplish our goals. Be thankful for good friends and family. I certainly am! ▶ ~ Lisa

▶ Making Dates and Getting Published

We welcome your submissions! The deadline for newsletter submissions is the twelfth of the month prior to publication (submissions received after the twelfth of the month are subject to the discretion of editor). Submissions should be sent as email attachments to Imbluestein@optonline.net (Microsoft Word only other than flyers or photographs).

Articles should be 1,000 words or fewer. Authors must spell-check, cite check and blue book all entries before submitting. Please remove all pagination, headers, footers or other formatting, other than bold, underline or italics. We encourage authors to submit their photographs for publication with their submissions. Authors must include a short biographical statement with their submissions. Materials submitted allow the WWBA a limited copyright and full permission to reprint the material in any WWBA publication or on its website without additional consent.

Photographs must be high-resolution (150 dpi or more) and all persons in each photograph fully identified. Photographs submitted without identifying their subjects will be rejected.

Please contact Lisa M. Bluestein, 2009-2010, Corresponding Secretary and Editor-in-Chief of the WWBA Newsletter, by email (Imbluestein@optonline.net) or telephone (914-276-3935) to schedule all WWBA sponsored or co-sponsored events, including, e.g., committee meetings, CLE programs, etc. To view existing event postings first visit our website: www.wwbany.org and click on the Calendar tab at the home page. Conflicts in scheduling will be assessed on a case by case basis, with priority for early submissions. Once you have reserved the date with Ms. Bluestein, you can submit an event form online at our website's calendar tab, which will publicize your event on both the website calendar and in the printed newsletter calendar. We will also consider event form submissions from outside organizations regarding upcoming events that may be of interest to our members. A new event recap form on the Calendar tab is available on the website as well, so that you can report on the success of your event and provide photographs of speakers and participants that can be included in an upcoming newsletter.

All flyers for WWBA programs will be displayed either within the body of the newsletter itself or as a link to an electronic flyer on WWBA's website, rather than as a loose page distributed with the newsletter. Before a flyer can appear in the newsletter or on the website, it must be approved by one of WWBA's program chairs, so please submit your flyers to Lisa M. Bluestein far enough in advance of the twelfth of the month to allow for review and approval.

Members who wish to receive the newsletter electronically only should email lindasurace@wwbany.org with that request. ▶

Advertising Rates

Full Page Display Ad

5-10 Issues - \$525.00 per issue

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Half Page Display Ad

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Classified (for office space, furniture and equipment and employment opportunities only)

Members - \$50.00 first issue, \$25.00 each succeeding issue

Non-Members - \$75.00 per issue

Deadline for all ads is the 12th of the month prior to publication.

Call Lisa M. Bluestein at (914) 276-3935 for any questions regarding advertising.

Criminal Law Committee Sponsors Program on Navigating New Integrated Youth Court

from page 1

Stone and Deputy County Attorney Kitley Covill. These individuals work together as a team to establish the IYC by employing innovative techniques to reach coordinated dispositions that meet the treatment and rehabilitative needs of eligible youth. The team is also involved in preventive measures, looking for indicators of possible criminal behavior before it emerges, such as truancy from school and drug use, to provide early intervention and community based services.

The concept of the IYC is to provide eligible youths who have been charged with a crime with treatment and rehabilitation as an alternative to jail. The 16-18 year old youths are targeted because they are traditionally treated as adults in the criminal justice system. This group can now be provided with the dispositional options available in Family Court.

The interesting and challenging aspect of the IYC is that both the Family Court and the Criminal Court are merged in this specialized Court. The IYC's goal is to help and assist the youth and his/her family to get back on the right path to become more constructive citizens. The objective is to disrupt the

pathway of criminality, i.e., gang involvement, and to offer the youth better options for positive non-criminal behavior. The legal challenge is to protect the youth/defendant's rights in a criminal setting, while at the same time providing services and support to maintain the best interests of the youth.

The lecture was a great success. It prompted a lively discussion and de-

bate among the various practitioners, including the judiciary, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and probation officers, and was inspiring for its innovative thinking for now and in the future.

Thanks are warranted for our speakers, our sponsor, Jasne & Florio, L.L.P. and Criminal Law Committee Co-Chairs, Hon. Sandra Forster, Cynthia Dunne, Audrey Stone and Lisa Florio. ▶



Hon. Janet DiFiore and Hon. William Edwards



Commissioner Rocco Pozzi



Hon. William Edwards

There's No Place Like Home for The Hon. Sonia Sotomayor

Gail M. Boggio

On September 24, 2009, a reception was held at the Manhattan Supreme Court for newly appointed U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. The event was sponsored by New York Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, the Court of Appeals and the Historical Society of the Courts of the State of New York. Various representatives from WBASNY including immediate Past President Gail M. Boggio, attended.

This was the first opportunity that Justice Sotomayor, a Bronx native, returned to New York after

her appointment to the United States Supreme Court.

WBASNY representatives had the opportunity to speak with Justice Sotomayor and Governor David A. Paterson. Justice Sotomayor was thankful to WBASNY for our letters in support of her nomination.

Governor Paterson encouraged WBASNY to continue its correspondence with his office addressing the various issues that affect our members, including legislation regarding no-fault divorce, domestic violence, reproductive rights, same sex marriage and diversity. Needless to say, a good time was had by all. ▶



Governor David A. Paterson and Gail M. Boggio



Governor David A. Paterson and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor



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▶ Westchester Women's Bar Committee Activities

Education

September Roundtable

The September 2009 Education Committee Roundtable Discussion on Student Discipline was well attended. Twenty WWBA members participated in an engaging and informative discussion. A few of our members with extensive experience in the area of student discipline provided background information on the topic so that all members, regardless of their familiarity with the topic, were able to participate in the discussion and ask meaningful questions. Adrienne Arkontaky, an active Education Committee member, generously allowed the committee to use a beautiful conference room at her offices.

WWBA and WBASNY Co-Sponsored October CLE

On Friday, October 16th, the WBASNY Education Committee presented a highly successful CLE program entitled "Recent Developments: General and Special Education." The program was co-sponsored by WWBA whose Education Committee co-chairs, Julie P. Passman and Susan Mills Richmond, have developed an active committee which regularly hosts well-attended roundtable discussions on issues in special education and general education law. WBASNY Education Committee co-chairs, Susan Mills Richmond and Shawn Martel Moore, along with WBASNY Education Committee members Julie P. Passman and Tracy L. Bullett, coordinated the Education Law CLE and presented on education law topics relevant to their areas of practice. Warren E. Berbit also presented on education law topics in his areas of expertise. The presenters brought to the table their backgrounds representing parents and school districts as well as the perspective of an Impartial Hearing Officer.

The Education Law CLE program was well-received, and attendees provided ample feedback praising the quality of the comprehensive written materials and the informative presentations. The topics covered a wide range of current issues in general and special education law including: Federal and Civil Rights of Students with Disabilities; Tuition Reimbursement; Pendency; Students with Disabilities Parentally Placed in Nonpublic Schools; Student Rights and Residency Requirements; Student Discipline; and Religious Exemption to Immunization. The program concluded with a question and answer session where attendees asked panelists engaging and probative questions. Panelists remained afterwards and addressed additional questions.

On the horizon: WBASNY will present this program in Ithaca on November 20th. WWBA members interested in

the area of education law are encouraged to attend upcoming WWBA Education Committee Roundtable discussions in Westchester. ▶



Susan Mills Richmond



Julie P. Passman

Litigation

The Litigation Committee announces that updates to Pattern Jury Instructions for civil matters are now available on the Unified Court System website (www.nycourts.gov). Click on "Judges," then "Judicial Resources" and then "Civil Pattern Jury Instructions."

The Litigation Committee also announces that the Office of Court Administration is seeking comments for the proposed changes to the Request for Judicial Intervention Form and proposed addenda to the form. Comments should be forwarded to one of the Litigation Committee co-chairs - Lisa M. Bluestein (lmbluestein@optonline.net), Angela Morcone Giannini (agiannini@cgmlaw.com), or Kimberly Sheehan (k.sheehan1@verizon.net) by November 23 so that they may be submitted by the WWBA by the November 30th deadline. The proposed forms can be found on the WWBA website home page (www.wwbany.org) in the News and Notes section under "Proposed New RJL Forms." ▶

Trusts & Estates

The Trusts & Estates and Taxation Committees announce that they will be co-sponsoring, with their counterparts at the WCBA, a CLE on Delaware Trusts for New York clients. This 1.5 credit CLE will occur on November 5, 2009, and focus on the unique aspects of Delaware's trust laws that allow for significant flexibility when a trust is the best planning vehicle by which to carry out a client's estate planning goals. In particular, the topics will include a discussion of dynasty trusts, Delaware directed trusts (both investment and distribution directed), and asset protection trusts. See the calendar at the end of this newsletter or the flyer on the WWBA website for further details. ▶

▶ November Practice Management Tip

Keeping it All in the Air: *Juggling a Solo Practice and Motherhood*

Jeena Belil

I recently spoke as part of a panel at the Suffolk County Bar Association on the topic of "giving birth to a law practice." At the seminar, I noticed that one of the attendees was accompanied by a "tweenager." I wasn't surprised at all, and when I spoke about my own daughter as being the reason I put great effort into maintaining a work/life balance, he nodded with complete understanding.

Carefully scheduling work-time around parent-time comes with the territory when you are a personal injury litigator in solo practice. Is it difficult? Yes. Can it be done? Yes, with a lot of planning and a little creativity. Here are some things to consider if you are thinking about how to juggle a career in litigation and parenting.

Incorporate work/family balance into your business plan

The preparation of a yearly business plan is crucial for everyone who has a solo practice. As you create yours, it is important to design it with an idea of how you will balance family and work life. Add a section to your plan focusing on researching childcare resources, with the goal of finding the best one that will fit your litigation schedule (including court appearances, client meetings and depositions). If you have school-aged kids, you may need to consider a before or after-school program. Have you considered how you will work in drafting motions around after-school and weekend activities? How will you handle holiday and summer school breaks? These issues should be well thought out before you begin handling a case load. Keep in mind, however, that children get sick, babysitters get flat tires and school snow days do not necessarily mean that court is closed. You will need to include back-up childcare arrangements in your business plan.

Explore part-time office shares to get the most out of working from home

When I started my practice in 2007, I knew that initially, working from home was going to save me a lot of overhead costs. I also knew that working in a space in the family room would provide me with an opportunity to spend some unhurried, quality time with my then four-year-old. I set up my home workspace with an easel and art supplies so that my daughter and I could share time together while I did legal research or checked emails.

As my practice started to grow, I needed to find some professional space in which to meet clients and conduct depositions. At first I looked for an office sublease, but I soon realized that, if I paid substantial monthly rent, I would feel the need to tie myself down to the office, negating the time I was enjoying with my daughter. Instead, I turned to a nationwide provider of virtual office space (think timeshare). For less than \$200 a month, I have 16 hours of office space, complete with desk, chairs, telephone and internet connection as well as receptionist and coffee station. What more could I ask for? I can get to court or schedule meetings after the morning school bus pick up and know that I will be home in time to pick up my child from after care. When I don't have meetings, I work from home and enjoy every minute of it.

Capitalize on delegation to make your business work (and vice versa)

One way to manage your time more effectively is to delegate work to other family members or to contract workers you hire for specific projects. When I managed a law firm, I heard such comments as, "It's easier if I just do this task on my own" and "If I delegate the work there is no guarantee that the work will be done properly." However, taking control of all tasks big and small can lead to early burnout and dissatisfaction. As litigator and parent, letting others take care of certain daily details must be included in your overall plan. Make a list of family, friends and even neighbors who you think would be willing to step in on occasion to give you a hand, and don't be afraid to ask for assistance.

On the flip side, arrange with one or two colleagues who practice in the local courts to cover appearances for you on a per diem basis if you have a sick child at home or cannot otherwise make it yourself. Consider meeting clients on weekends so that you can stay involved in your children's after-school activities. Since many of my clients work Monday through Friday, they appreciate the Saturday consult.

If all else fails, incorporate the kids into the schedule

In the courthouse, you can always tell when it's the week between camp letting out and school starting. During that time, you will notice quite a few children accompanying their litigator parents in the Suffolk County Supreme Court DCM part or on simple calendar calls. As a last resort, if you do not have a trial or deposition scheduled, you can take your child into the courtroom once in a while (as long as the child is old enough to understand that disrupt-

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Westchester Women's Bar Association Foundation to Host Fundraiser

Robin D. Carton

The Westchester Women's Bar Association Foundation, <http://foundation.wwbany.org>, will be hosting a fundraiser on November 17, 2009. The fundraiser is being held in connection with the Westchester County Family Court's celebration of Adoption Day on November 20, 2009.

On Tuesday, November 17th, best selling author, Immaculée Ilibagiza, will speak from 3:30 pm to 4:45 p.m. at the courthouse in room 200. She will share her story of hope, perseverance and forgiveness. Her New York Times best seller book, *Left to Tell*, details her survival of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, in which Immaculée lost her entire family and most of her friends. Her life story provides some insight into the challenges of children struggling to survive neglect, abuse, and/or abandonment by their biological or adoptive families. Immaculée has dedicated her life to telling her story to help the orphaned children of Rwanda and to prove that healing from such trauma is possible. Her story is truly inspirational and demonstrates that we can overcome the "divisions deliberately created by those with self-serving agendas and no thought for humanity."

The Westchester Women's Bar Association Foundation event will follow Immaculée's presentation. From 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., we will host a cocktail reception and book-signing with the author at Vintage Restaurant and Bar, 171 Main Street, White Plains, New York. Please join us for the book-signing and "meet and

greet" with the author, while we feast on delicious hors d'oeuvres and drink wine (cash bar) in an elegant setting with old and new friends.

The cost is \$75 per ticket, of which \$55 is a tax deductible contribution to the fullest extent allowed by law. You can attend the courthouse event, just the reception at Vintage, or both.

Tickets may be purchased and donations made by credit card on the Foundation's website at <http://foundation.wwbany.org> or by check payable to WWBA Foundation and mailed to Kathy N. Rosenthal, Esq., 45 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, New York 10523.

The Foundation acknowledges patron sponsors Rosenthal & Markowitz, LLP, Gould & Berg, LLP, as well as sponsor Lonya A. Gilbert, Esq. for their financial support of the event. The Foundation welcomes additional supporters who will be acknowledged in further e-blasts, at the event, in the WWBA Newsletter, and on the WWBA and WWBAF websites.

For further information about the event or sponsorships contact Robin D. Carton, Esq. at (914) 949-6700, or Linda Markowitz, Esq. at (914) 347-1292. ▀

"[Ilibagiza's] life story provides some insight into the challenges of children struggling to survive neglect, abuse, and/or abandonment by their biological or adoptive families."

The Westchester Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc., the charitable arm of the Westchester Women's Bar Association, was established to foster a better understanding of the law, the legal profession, and the role of women in society and the legal profession; to promote the fair and equal treatment of all people in society -- including in the workplace, schools and the courts; and to eliminate gender bias.

The Foundation also focuses on assisting women to overcome artificial barriers to advancement in the professions, business and government, and on supporting organizations that provide legal services to women and children who are disadvantaged -- not only by gender bias, but also by racial and ethnic discrimination and by their economic status.

The Foundation was created in 1999 as an IRC 501(c)(3) entity; all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. A copy of the latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the WWBA Foundation or from the N.Y.S. Attorney General's Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271.



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An Interview with Deb Volberg Pagnotta

Susan L. Pollet
Archive and Historian Chair
Counsel and Director of the
New York State Parent
Education and Awareness
Program

Q: You have a long history with the WWBA-starting with being a State Director in 1990 when Marianne Sussman was President.

How did you get involved with the WWBA, and what has made you stay involved for all of these years?

A: I joined WBASNY, Western New York Chapter, soon after I first started practicing law in Buffalo, back in 1982. It served many purposes, most clearly back then in gaining gravitas as a lawyer. My first employer in Buffalo used to call me a "lady lawyer." A bit demeaning. Being a part of WBASNY gave me a much richer and broader view of what it meant to serve the community as a lawyer. When I moved to White Plains in 1988 to head up the New York State Attorney General's Westchester Regional Office, joining the local chapter was one of the first things I did to become a part of the community. Over the years, I've had the privilege of serving on diverse committees, both for WBASNY and WWBA, as well as serving as a state director. In each position, I've learned from mentors and colleagues, both professionally and personally. There are some broad shoulders to stand on in this county!

"I find great joy in mentoring: it is a privilege of age which allows me to glory in others' achievements. My advice is to follow your own path."

Q: Your career has been rich and varied. Could you please outline your various legal employment experiences for our members who don't know you?

A: I started in private practice, but quickly moved to the NYS AG's office, under then AG Robert Abrams, in 1983 to serve as an Assistant Attorney General. Bob Abrams generously gave me numerous opportunities, from serving in the Environmental Protection Bureau (a dream job), to directing the Westchester local office, to litigating a vast array of both defense and public interest matters. In 1993, I accepted the position of Deputy General Counsel and Director of Legal Affairs for the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Overseeing about 25 lawyers gave me immediate "sink-or-swim" experience in management. In 1995, shortly after Gov. Pataki was inaugurated, I was abruptly fired after I strongly advised the agency against structuring a layoff which would eliminate most of DEC's attorneys of color. I then entered private practice with a focus on employment issues (various ethics laws prohibited me from handling matters I'd previously "touched"

or from appearing before my ex-employer, DEC). In 1997, I joined a local firm, Kirkpatrick & Silverberg LLP, as employment partner. Despite very much enjoying the partnership, I began to find that litigation wasn't nearly as fun as it had been, and that I vastly preferred more rational forms of conflict resolution. In 1999, anticipating the adoption of my daughter, and wanting to gain control over my schedule by restructuring my work focus, I formed Interfacet, Inc., through which I've provided training, fact-finding and mediation on employment issues for the last 10 years. I've had some detours along the way, but my present work suits me perfectly. I've been able to weave together my deepest interests relating to cultural diversity, language and conflict resolution, into enormously engaging work.

Q: In your personal life, you became a mother later in life. Tell us how you have balanced your work and family.

A: I think becoming a mother later in life has allowed me to find a balance sooner than later. I'm a bit smarter - or wiser - than I was 5, 10, or 20 years ago. I try not to let perfection become the



Deb Volberg Pagnotta

enemy of good. I've peeled away unnecessary tasks, obligations and even relationships which were toxic in any way. I only fold laundry once a week. I sleep less. I talk faster. I try to laugh more. I take Siberian ginseng.

Q: You are a mentor to so many women in the law. What advice do you have for newer attorneys, and for attorneys who left the practice for various reasons, and now want to 'get back in.'

A: I find great joy in mentoring: it is a privilege of age which allows me to glory in others' achievements. My advice is to follow your own path. Nobody else walks in your shoes - not your mom, not your spouse or partner, not even your best friend. You make choices in a complex, often chaotic environment, and those choices are right for that time of your life. You cannot change the past or predict the future, but you can surely enjoy the present. Whatever you are doing, do it with all your heart - whether being with your child, a friend, work, or simply cutting carrots. ▀

▶ Chapter News and Announcements

Announcements & Notes on Members

□ WWBA Vice President, **Julie S. Kattan**, was sworn in as president of The New Rochelle Bar Association. The induction dinner was held on September 15, 2009, at the Top of the Rock (40th floor of Avalon II). The 75 members and guests were treated to spectacular views and a warm induction ceremony performed by the Hon. Daniel Angiolillo. ▶



Julie S. Kattan and Hon.
Daniel Angiolillo

Classifieds

□ Attention Attorneys Looking for Employment - Job postings by WWBA members and non-members may be posted here for a nominal fee (see page 3 for rates). Additional employment opportunities may be reviewed on WBASNY's website at <http://www.wbasny.org>. The "job postings" section can be found on the lower right side of the home page. ▶

President's Message

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in the beginning of the 20th century. Thus, I am thankful for the foresight, vision and hard work of those who fought for equality, thereby allowing women to become attorneys, which is no longer an unusual phenomenon in the 21st century.

I am also awed and grateful that I have been entrusted to lead a dynamic group of more than 600 legal professionals in the WWBA, whose actions over the past 35 years have ensured and continue to ensure that this organization provides for the needs of its members, as well as the community at large. I am grateful to the WWBA Committee Chairs, Officers and Past Presidents, all of whom tirelessly step forward to advance our goals as an organization to ensure that the needs of women, children and families are advanced. I am also grateful to Webmaster Lisa Grand and our Printer Elliot Small, two individuals who consistently provide quality services to ensure that information is timely forwarded to you. I am grateful to WWBA Executive Director Linda Surace (and I know that all of you will join me in this), who somehow manages to ensure that the WWBA runs smoothly.

I am grateful to our parent organization, WBASNY which, by virtue of the unity of 18 chapters with more than 3500 members, ensures that our voices are heard on a statewide level when it comes to issues impacting women, children and families.

Last, but definitely not least, I am grateful for a wonderful family; my husband, Jim and my children, Marcella and Nick. I am thankful that they support my involvement with the WWBA, which ensures that I have the peace of mind as I work with all of you!

I hope that you will take a moment as you sit around your respective tables, be they filled with your professional colleagues, and/or your family and friends, to reflect on and celebrate all that is good in your lives. Doing so will ensure that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Eight months and counting to our 35th! ▶

▶ Become a New Member Today

The advantages of joining the Westchester Women's Bar Association are countless. We were founded in 1974, and are dedicated to promoting justice in the study, practice and application of law. Our diverse membership includes women and men who are attorneys, judges, law professors, public officials and public employees.

When you join the Westchester Women's Bar Association, you automatically become a member of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY), at no additional cost. WBASNY is comprised of sixteen chapters across the state with approximately 3,000 members. More professional and personal benefits include:

Invaluable networking opportunities

Unlimited information resources

CLE programs

Seminars and lectures on timely legal issues

Attorney support systems

Legal advocacy on significant issues

Participation in various and diverse committees

Involvement in the Westchester County judicial process

Programs for new members and newly admitted attorneys

Membership directory cross-referenced by practice area

Information on professional opportunities

Friendship and fun

To join immediately, or for more information, call (914) 347-3662 or see our website at www.wwbany.org. ▶

▶ Westchester Women's Bar Association New Members

The Westchester Women's Bar Association proudly welcomes our newest members:

TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF OUR MEMBERS,
THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE WWBA ONLY.

Keeping it All in the Air *Juggling a Solo Practice and Motherhood*

from page 7

tions are not allowed). On occasion, I have found it necessary to bring my little girl with me to simple court appearances. She usually brings her portable video game put on silent mode. She sometimes takes a line from a famous dancing show and asks me when she will be able to go see "The Judges" again.

Once in a while, a client may be unable to meet with you due to the client's inability to find childcare. Rather than cancel the appointment, see if you

can rearrange the meeting so that it can be held at the client's home. Offer to bring your child and you can turn the meeting into a professional play date. As outlandish as this may sound, I have been able to successfully turn what could have been a lost opportunity into a display of my personal approach to clients.

As you give your business plan one final review, you will probably notice that your section devoted to work/family balance will be more comprehensive than any other. That's not a mistake. The

more attention you give to achieving that balance, the more successful you will be in combining your practice with the rest of your life. ▶

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This month's Practice Management Tips were provided by Jeena Belil, the owner of The Law Office of Jeena R. Belil, P.C. in Mount Sinai and Hauppauge, New York. Her areas of practice include plaintiff's personal injury, no fault and uninsured motorist law, subrogation and insurance coverage disputes. This article originally appeared in the June 2009 issue of The Suffolk Lawyer.

▶ WWBA Schedule of Upcoming Events

COMMITTEE	DATE/TIME	PLACE	TOPIC	RSVP
WWBA Board and General Membership Meeting CLE	11/4//09 5:30 – 8:00 pm Light Supper \$40.00	BNY Mellon 701 Westchester Avenue White Plains, NY	General Membership Meeting – Ethics Update 2009	Linda Loscalzo (914) 385-1051 or lloscalzo@mccarthyfinigar.com
Trust and Estates and Taxation Committees CLE	11/5/09 5:30 – 7:30 pm Light Supper \$20.00	Berkeley College 99 Church Street, Theater Room, 3 rd Flr. White Plains, NY	“Delaware Trusts for New York Clients: Asset Protection, Controlling Investments and Distributions, Tax Benefits, and Dynasty Trusts”	Eileen Baxter (914) 761-3707 x13 or cle@wcbany.org
Employment Law Committee	11/10/09 12:30-2:00 pm Brown bag lunch	Gould & Berg, LLP 222 Bloomingdale Road White Plains, NY	Brown Bag Luncheon	Kim Berg 914-397-1050 or kberg@gouldbergllp.com
Practice Management Committee CLE	11/10/09 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm \$35 member; \$45 non-member – light supper included	Stark Business Solutions 445 Hamilton Avenue White Plains, NY	“Starting a Solo Practice on a Shoestring”	Colleen Kirchoff by 11/5/2009 (914) 358-4904 or ckwestchester@yahoo.com
Elder and Health Law Committee Co-Sponsored Event	11/13/09 10:30 am - 6:00 pm	Westchester County Center 198 Central Avenue White Plains, NY	“Team of Partners for Palliative Care: Challenges and Choices in Ethics of Care at End of Life”	Mary Beth Morrissey, mamorrissey@fordham.edu or (914) 841-1471. Space is limited so please register in advance.
WWBA Foundation Fundraiser	11/17/09 5:30 – 7:30 pm \$75	Vintage Restaurant 171 Main Street White Plains, NY	Author Immaculée Ilibagiza for book-signing and “meet and greet”	http://foundation.wwbany.org or mail to Kathy Rosenthal 45 Knollwood Rd., 3 rd Floor, Elmsford, NY 10523
Pace Law School 15 th Annual Leadership Awards Dinner	11/18/2009 6:00 - 9:00 pm	Rye Town Hilton 699 Westchester Avenue Rye Brook, New York	Dinner Event	Katie Taormina (914) 422-4079 or ctaormina@law.pace.edu
Pace New Directions Program	11/19/09 5:30-7:30 pm	Pace Law School 78 N. Broadway White Plains, NY Gerber Glass Building, Library Lounge (1st Floor)	Pace New Directions 2010 Program Open House	Amy Gewirtz agewirtz@law.pace.edu or (914) 422-4606
WWBA Board Meeting	12/2/09 5:30 – 8:00 pm Light Supper	BNY Mellon 701 Westchester Avenue White Plains, NY	Board Meeting	Deborah Scalise (914) 725-2801 if you cannot attend
WWBA Holiday Party	12/9/09 5:30 – 7:30 pm Free to members and their guests. Please bring unwrapped gift for a child age 12-18.	The Women’s Club of White Plains 305 Ridgeway White Plains, NY	Holiday Party	No RSVP needed

Unless otherwise indicated, events are for WWBA members and invited guests only.

WWBA is a chapter of WBASNY which is an approved provider of CLE credit. Full and partial scholarships for CLE programs based on financial need are available. For information on the guidelines and procedures for applying, please contact the person running the program. All requests are strictly confidential. All programs are for transitional credit unless the program states otherwise.