



WWBA news

Westchester Women's Bar Association

NOVEMBER 2014

www.wwbany.org

The Litigation Committee Presents The Honorable Joan B. Lefkowitz in a Settlement Conference Part Primer

Kimberly C. Sheehan
Co-Chair, Litigation Committee

On September 30th, the Litigation Committee featured the Honorable Joan B. Lefkowitz, Westchester Supreme Court's Settlement Conference Part ("SCP") Judge, in a well attended Lunch and Learn program which focused on the nuts and bolts of what every litigator should know about the SCP. Other speakers included Judge Lefkowitz's Court Attorney-Referee Janice Altizio and Senior Court Attorney Diane Clerkin in the Compliance Conference Part ("CCP"). In addition, the Litigation Committee Chairs, Angela Morcone Giannini, Jacqueline Hattar and I served as panelists. The program was held in the ninth floor conference room of the courthouse where lunch was pro-

vided courtesy of Wilson Elser Moscovitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP and Clark Gagliardi & Miller, P.C. as sponsors of the program.

Judge Lefkowitz regaled us with stories of when she first started practicing law in 1980 and, characteristic of the Judge, she pushed the envelope by wearing a white pant suit to court at a time when women were not supposed to wear pants. The Judge continued to trail blaze by convincing the Hon. Alan Scheinkman, Administrative Judge for the Ninth Judicial District, to start the SCP for the Westchester Supreme Court. In the five years since its genesis, Judge Lefkowitz has managed to develop this labor of love into an effective branch of the Court which disposes of two to three cases a day

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▶ SAVE THE DATE

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WOMEN IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

November 5, 2014

Pace Law School
White Plains, New York

THE TRUSTEE'S SIDE OF BANKRUPTCY PRACTICE

November 17, 2014

120 Bloomingdale Road, 1st Floor
White Plains, New York

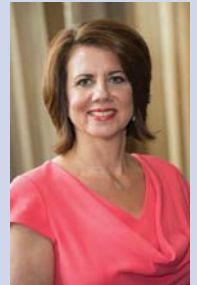
WWBA HOLIDAY PARTY

December 10, 2014

The Woman's Club of White Plains
White Plains, New York

▶ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently, the subject of happiness has arisen for me in several different contexts. What makes people happy? What are the traits and characteristics of happy people? Is a happy lawyer just a myth? As lawyers, we are trained to analyze and prepare for the worst case scenario to be effective advocates for our clients. Therefore, it is no surprise that most would not describe lawyers as happy people. During this month of thanks, we have an opportunity to increase our happiness by reflecting on how fortunate we are in all aspects of our lives.



Lucia Chiochio

Something that I am grateful for and makes me happy is the hard work of the strong Officers, Directors and the Committee Co-Chairs of the WWBA who are busy planning fabulous programs that enrich our members' personal and professional lives. I am also grateful for the tireless efforts and patience of our Executive Director, Silvia Galgano, who makes sure our very active organization is running smoothly.

I am thrilled with the breadth of programming by our members. In October alone, attendees learned to value their services from Past President, Deborah Scalise, who presented at the Women on the Move program we co-sponsored with the NYSBA Committee on Women, and members learned techniques and strategies to feel less over-

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▶ WWBA Member Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2014

Published Monthly by the
Westchester Women's
Bar Association, a Chapter of
the Women's Bar Association
of the State of New York

~ 2014/2015 Officers and Directors ~

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▶ 2014-2015 WWBA Committee Chairs

STANDING COMMITTEES

By-Laws	Anna L. Georgiou	Membership	Kim Berg, Helene Cote
Corporate & Commercial	Lisa M. Bluestein, Marni Rae Robin	Networking	Jennifer L. Gray, Patricia McCluskey
Criminal Law	Kitley S. Covill, Lisa M. Denig, Hon. Sandra A. Forster	New Lawyers	Lisa M. Denig, Jennifer N. Netrosio
Families, Children & the Courts	Shari R. Gordon, Joy S. Joseph, Hon. Irene Ratner	Professional Development	Amy E. Gewirtz, Adam J. Krim, Stephanie Melowsky
Grievance/Ethics	Kitley S. Covill, Hon. Janet M. DiFiore, Erin N. Guven, Deborah A. Scalise	Programs	Susan D. Edwards, Lonya A. Gilbert
Judicial Screening	Loren I. Glassman, Hon. Sandra A. Forster	Public Relations	Joelle M. Burton, Jennifer L. Gray
Judiciary	Hon. Delores Brathwaite, Hon. Linda S. Jamieson	Real Property	Melanie Finkel, Hon. Sandra A. Forster
Lawyering & Parenting	Adrienne J. Arkontaky, Joelle M. Burton, Jana Kosberg-Kleidman	Sponsorship	Lisa M. Bluestein, Lucia Chiochio, Joelle M. Burton
Legislation	Joelle M. Burton, Lonya M. Denig	Taxation	Michael Riolo
Matrimonial	Dolores Gebhardt, Lonya A. Gilbert	Trusts & Estates	Gail M. Boggio, Anna Parker, Nancy J. Rudolph, Karen J. Walsh

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Annual Dinner	Robin D. Carton, Lisa M. Denig, Jennifer L. Gray, Stephanie Melowsky, Jennifer N. Netrosio	Holiday Party/Crafts	Dolores Gebhardt
Annual Dinner Souvenir Journal	Amanda C. Fried	Insurance	Joelle M. Burton, Dawn Warren
Appellate Practice	Hon. Mark C. Dillon, Daniel M. Kolko, Hon. Sondra M. Miller, Hon. Robert A. Spolzino	Intellectual Property ..	Elizabeth M. Barnhard, Theresa O'Rourke Nugent
Archive & Historian	Susan L. Pollet	Judgment Enforcement & Collections	Christopher T. Bonante, Daniel F. Florio, Jr.
Awards	Elizabeth M. Barnhard, Joelle M. Burton	Litigation	Angela Morcone Giannini, Jacqueline Hattar, Kimberly Sheehan
Bankruptcy	Susan Mills Richmond, Wendy Marie Weathers	Long Range Planning	Lisa M. Bluestein, Carla D. Glassman, Linda Markowitz, Ann M. McNulty
Breast Cancer Awareness	Patricia McCluskey, Adrienne J. Orbach	Mediation	Geris S. Krauss, Lauren S. Morrissey, Abby Rosmarin, Jane Silverman
Collaborative Law	Kathleen Donelli, John J. Grimes, Lynn J. Maier	Network of Bar Leaders	Donna Frosco
Community Outreach ...	Deborah A. Scalise, Hon. Lisa Margaret Smith	Pace Board of Visitors	Gail M. Boggio, Lonya A. Gilbert
Continuing Legal Education	Ann M. McNulty	Past Presidents	Jane Bilus Gould, Mary F. Kelly, Linda Markowitz
Diversity in Membership	Jacqueline Hattar, Stephanie Melowsky	Practice Management	Jamieson L. Keiser, Wendy Marie Weathers
Domestic Violence	Natanya L. Briendel, Audrey E. Stone	Pro Bono	Patricia L. Angley, Carol Neiditch
Education Law	Adrienne J. Arkontaky, Julie P. Passman, Susan Mills Richmond	Technology/Website	Donna Frosco, Theresa O'Rourke Nugent, Deborah A. Scalise
Elder & Health Law	Patricia L. Angley, Shari R. Gordon, Mary E. Morrissey	WBASNY Convention	TBD
Employment Law	Kim Berg, Hillary Raimondi	WCBA Director	Lisa M. Bluestein
Environmental & Land Use	Lucia Chiochio, Anna L. Georgiou, Katherine Zalantis	Members on WCA Board	Lucia Chiochio
Gender Dynamics	Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman	WWBA Foundation President	Kim Berg
Golf & Tennis Outing	Gail M. Boggio, Theresa O'Rourke Nugent, Susan Mills Richmond	WBASNY Judicial Screening Committee Delegate	Gail M. Boggio
Holiday Party	Dolores Gebhardt, Jennifer N. Netrosio	WBASNY Mentoring Program Delegate	Mary E. Morrissey

President's Message

from page 1

"During this month of thanks, we have an opportunity to increase our happiness by reflecting on how fortunate we are in all aspects of our lives."

whelmed at the "Take Back Your Life" Law-
yering and Parenting Committee's pro-
gram. Several members contributed both
time and resources to Team Orbach at the
Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk
on October 19th, as well as the Pace
Women's Justice Center's Annual Dinner
honoring Congresswoman Nita Lowey and
WWBA member Robi Schlaff on October
22nd. Participants of the "Lawyering
Across Generations Making it Work (at
Work)" program by the Professional De-
velopment and New Lawyers Committee
learned how to make a multi-generational
attorney workplace a happy and produc-
tive workplace. Several members discov-
ered how to avoid being a "dope" at the
Matrimonial Committee Program: "Don't
Be a Dope: Everything You Need to Know
About Drug & Alcohol Testing" from Dr.
Raymond A. Griffin, LADC. And, for en-
lightenment in a totally different area of
law, attendees of the Environmental & Land
Use Committee's program on the State
Environmental Quality Review Act (known
as SEQRA) gained valuable insight about
when to litigate under SEQRA.

Upcoming programs in November
and December are no less impressive and
broad ranging. Our November 5th Gen-
eral Membership Meeting will address the
complicated and extremely vital topic of
Women in the Legal Profession. Panelists
include Patricia Salkin, Professor and Dean
at Touro Law School; one of the WWBA's
founding mothers and powerful member,
Hon. Sondra Miller; and WWBA board
member, Adrienne Arkontaky, Managing
Partner at The Cuddy Law Firm. Be sure to
join this important discussion to learn how
gender diversity across all categories of the

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▶ Editor's Note

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. – John F. Kennedy
~ Patricia

▶ 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 the editor). Submissions should be sent as email attachments to: jgray@kblaw.com.

Articles should be 1,000 words or fewer. 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 Jennifer L. Gray, 2014-2015 Corresponding Secretary and Editor-in-Chief of the WWBA Newsletter, by email (jgray@kblaw.com) or telephone (914-946-4777) to schedule all WWBA sponsored or co-sponsored events, including 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. Gray, 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. An 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.

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 Susan D. Edwards and Lonya A. Gilbert far enough in advance of the twelfth of the month to allow for review and approval. ▶

Advertising Rates

Full Page Display Ad	Quarter Page Display Ad
5-10 Issues - \$525.00 per issue	5-10 Issues - \$165.00 per issue
1-4 Issues - \$575.00 per issue	1-4 Issues - \$180.00 per issue
Half Page Display Ad	Business Card Ad
5-10 Issues - \$275.00 per issue	5-10 Issues - \$60.00 per issue
1-4 Issues - \$300.00 per issue	1-4 Issues - \$75.00 per issue

Classified – office space, furniture/equipment, employment & situation wanted (up to 5 lines)
Members - \$50.00 first issue; \$25.00 each succeeding issue; Non-Members - \$75.00 per issue

Back Cover (3/4 page)

5-10 Issues - \$650.00 per issue; 1-4 Issues - \$700.00 per issue

*Deadline for all ads is the 12th of the month prior to publication. Ads are subject to space limitations.
Call Jennifer L. Gray at (914) 946-4777 for any questions regarding advertising.*

MEET THE OFFICERS: A Night of Networking

Jennifer N. Netrosio

On September 23, 2014, the New Lawyers, Networking, and Membership Committees hosted "Meet the Officers: A Night of Networking," sponsored by Stark Office Suites (www.starkofficesuites.com), at the rooftop bar at Elements in White Plains, New York.

With perfect weather, wonderful food, delicious drinks, and a great turnout by both members and non-members alike, the night was not only a perfect chance to get to know our executive officers, but it was in and of itself a breath of fresh air.

WWBA President Lucia Chiochio, Vice Presidents Kim Berg, Ann M. McNulty, and Joelle M. Burton, Recording Secretary Lisa M. Denig, and Corresponding Secretary Jennifer L. Gray were in attendance.

I am grateful to our leaders whom collectively make it a point to keep themselves accessible to all WWBA members, including new lawyers like myself. The WWBA has opened my eyes to a legal community that supports and respects one another both personally and professionally, making me proud to be a member.

On behalf of the New Lawyers, Networking and Membership Committees, we thank Stark Office Suites for sponsoring this event. We look forward to the year ahead, and to another successful "Meet the Officers" next Fall! ▀



Lisa M. Denig, Eliana Weissman, Annie Bai



Megan Bronk, Jennifer Lewkowski, Lucia Chiochio, Colleen Haste, Sheryl Sanford, Jennifer N. Netrosio



Is giving through a community foundation right for your clients?



- Do you have clients who care deeply about the community?
- Do they give to more than one charitable cause?
- Are they interested in creating a family legacy?
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|

If you answered yes to any of these questions, your clients should meet us. Contact Susan Edwards, Esq. at (914) 948-5166 or sedwards@wcf-ny.org

The Litigation Committee Presents The Honorable Joan B. Lefkowitz in a Settlement Conference Part Primer

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through settlements, translating to 50-60 settlements a month. The effectiveness of the SCP is due in large part to Judge Lefkowitz' tireless efforts to find common ground in a case, knock heads together and continue working until she senses settlement is not a viable option. At that point, the parties will be required to select a trial date and the case will be sent to the Trial Readiness Part headed by the Hon. Nicolas Colabella. Accordingly, while Judge Lefkowitz will work with the attorneys in an effort to try to settle the case before trial, the Judge cautioned that the SCP should not be used as a "holding pen" if it is evident that settlement is not likely.

The Judge emphasized her two cardinal rules for the SCP: (1) all counsel must complete and return the case forms found on the Part's website at least two weeks prior to the first conference; and (2) the attorneys, and to the extent applicable the parties, MUST appear in the SCP at 9:15 a.m. sharp. The calendar is promptly called at 9:15 a.m. to permit attorneys to cover other parts in the courthouse after answering the SCP calendar first. The completed case forms assist the Judge and her clerk, Janice Altizio, in furthering settlement. These forms will be required with the revised SCP rules which went into effect on October 15th. Also, with the new emphasis placed on Medicare lien repayment, it is critical that the parties are knowl-



Kimberly Sheehan, Angela Morcone Giannini, Jacqueline Hattar, Diane Clerkin, Hon. Joan B. Lefkowitz, Janice Altizio, and President Lucia Chiochio

edgeable about the amount of all liens, Medicare or otherwise, and have begun the process of determining the status of liens prior to the settlement conference. Liens present a significant stumbling block for the SCP and require proper documentation to be presented to the Judge confirming any outstanding amounts.

Those who practice in the medical malpractice arena know that Judge Lefkowitz also heads the Medical Malpractice Settlement Part which is separate and distinct from the SCP. The Medical Malpractice Settlement Part conference calendar is called on Wednesday afternoons in the Judge's courtroom. Although a case does not appear on the SCP calendar until a note of issue is filed, recognizing the unique challenges endemic to medical malpractice cases, not the

"The effectiveness of the SCP is due in large part to Judge Lefkowitz' tireless efforts to find common ground in a case, knock heads together and continue working until she senses settlement is not a viable option."

least of which is the requirement for physician consent before a case can settle, Judge Lefkowitz will permit settlement conferences in these cases even before the note of issue is filed. Indeed, the Judge advised that she will entertain settlement conferences for non-medical malpractice cases still in the CCP where no note of issue

has yet been filed. If Senior Court Attorney Diane Clerkin in the CCP is advised by email that the parties wish to take a stab at settlement with Judge Lefkowitz, a settlement conference will be scheduled. There is no limit to the number of conferences the Judge will hold in the SCP if the parties are appearing in

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The Verdict is In: Your Safety NET WORKS

Amy Gewirtz-Mcgahan

On September 29, 2014, members of the Westchester Women's Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association Committee on Lawyers in Transition gathered in the Keane & Beane, P.C. conference room for an early-morning networking breakfast facilitated by Marcia Meislin, a career coach, management consultant, and author of her memoir, "The Goodbye Cookie."

The program was called "The Verdict is In: Your Safety Net Works", and was sponsored by the WWBA Networking Committee and the NYSBA Lawyers in Transition Committee. It was the first time this series of NYSBA Lawyers in Transition Committee networking breakfasts was held in Westchester and both committees are grateful to Keane & Beane, P.C. for hosting, and



Marcia Meislin, Lucia Chiocchio, Laura Puhala

the NYSBA Lawyers in Transition Committee for providing the food. The program was both informative and interactive and Marcia engaged the participants in several exercises designed to encourage participants to network with each other. Marcia advised that networking is really about "activating relationships" and provided an excellent handout of 10 "out of the box" networking tips. By the end of the program, we all met someone new and had an opportunity to extend our network! ▶



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Left to right: Jessica Diaz, Trust Administrator; Drew Bender, First VP; Hilda Cabrera, Trust Administrator; Kathryn Hurley, Senior VP; Sinead Fitzsimons, VP; Vivian DeLillo, VP; Olga Haigh, Trust Administrator; Ana Maria Gomez, Trust Administrator and George Elferink, Senior VP

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► November Litigation Tip

◆ TOPIC: ELECTRONICALLY FILED MOTIONS TO RENEW AND REARGUE REQUIRE ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF ALL DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON IN STATE MOTION COURTS

In our present day of electronic filing, beware that motions to reargue and renew require supporting documents be e-filed even if these documents have been previously e-filed in the case. Reference in the moving papers to previously filed documents by docket entry number (as is permitted in some federal district courts) is not sufficient. *Plaza Equities LLC v. Lamberti*, 118 A.D.3d 687 (2d Dep't 2014) citing *Biscone v. Jet Blue Airways Corp.*, 103 A.D.3d 158 (2d Dep't 2012).

In *Plaza Equities LLC v. Lamberti*, supra, defendant cross-moved to dismiss the complaint for lack of standing. The lower court denied the motion and defendant moved to renew and reargue. The lower court denied the motion to renew and reargue finding defendant's papers were insufficient as they did not include a complete set of papers originally submitted on the cross-motion. The defendant appealed and the Appellate Division affirmed the holding citing *Biscone v. Jet Blue Airways Corp.*, 103 A.D.3d 158 (2d Dep't 2012).

In *Biscone*, supra, the plaintiff, in making a motion to reargue and renew, did not refile all the motion papers and exhibits from which the motion being reargued was issued. Rather, plaintiff simply referred to previously e-filed documents in the reargument motion. The Second Department affirmed the lower court's denial of the renewal motion for insufficient papers and dismissed the branch of plaintiff's motion for reargument, as no appeal lies from an order denying reargument.

The Second Department held that in electronically filed cases, the official record shall be the electronic recording of the documents stored by the clerk (22 NYCRR 202.5-b(d)(4)) and there is no authority for compelling a court to consider papers which were not submitted in connection with the motion on which it is ruling. The Court explained if a party simply refers to a docket number, the motion court would still be forced to expend time locating the documents in the system, a task that could easily be complicated by a voluminous record or incorrect citations to docket entry numbers.

The Second Department further held just as the court "should not be compelled (in a paper filed case) to locate documents in a clerk's file in considering subsequent motions" (*Sheedy v. Pataki*, 236 A.D.2d 92, 97) a court should likewise not be compelled, absent a rule providing otherwise, to locate previously submitted documents in the electronic record in considering subsequent motions.

*Written by Angela Morcone Giannini, Co-Chair, Litigation Committee
Other Co-Chairs: Jacqueline Hattar & Kimberly Sheehan*



WESTCHESTER WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

cordially invites its
Membership and Guests
to our

HOLIDAY PARTY

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF WHITE PLAINS
GRAND BALLROOM

305 Ridgeway
White Plains, New York
December 10, 2014
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

*** VISIT OUR CRAFTS FAIR AND BOUTIQUE
TO BE HELD DURING THE PARTY! ***

*(Weather cancellation information will be announced by 4:00 PM on the day
of the event, via recorded message on WWBA phone line at 347-3662.)*

\$20 per person* (payable at the door)

***no charge for sitting Judges**

**Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the
Westchester Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc.**

GIVING BACK:

**Please bring a new, inexpensive and unwrapped gift
to be donated to an underserved teenager, and/or
non-perishable boxed and canned foods to feed the hungry.**

Thank you!

**Gift boxes will be located near the sign-in table to
collect your contributions.**

An Interview with Abby Rosmarin

Susan L. Pollet
Chair of the Archive and
Historian Committee

Q: You have an exciting concentration in the law. Tell us how you developed the interest in it?

A: I believe that while we each have a personal identity, the essence of who we are should be appreciated through our instinct for interpersonal connection--relationships. I have sought to understand the implications of our social nature from a variety of perspectives. I began my undergraduate studies as a folklore major exploring how oral traditions shape communities, and then moved to a focus on political economy studying the relationship between public policy, economic markets, and society.

As an attorney, I am most interested in how to understand and support people's expectations of rights and responsibilities and how to mesh them with personal, financial, medical, and business realities. My training as a therapist helps me understand that relationship skills are taught from the very first sound a newborn expresses. Along with temperament, i.e., the luck of the draw, we employ those skills to understand our own intentions and the meaning of others.

Working as a mediator and a conflict coach stems from my belief that people would like, if they could, to bring their best version of themselves as they work with others to solve a problem. There are reasons why

“Working as a mediator and a conflict coach stems from my belief that people would like, if they could, to bring their best version of themselves as they work with others to solve a problem.”

people may act one way when things are going well and another when they are not. I am interested in understanding what could be the stressors and why they are expressed in a particular manner. Supportive relationships are integral to our well-being. Resolving problems with an approach that strives to support connection, even through disagreement, gives me hope.

Recently I was reminded of a passage from King Lear: “Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say.” I think a lot about how to do that so that such expression does not infringe on another's sanctity. I do believe that providing a structured, attentive forum for others to be heard and understood often fosters that opportunity.

Q: What does your practice now consist of?

A: My work is focused on conflict resolution and I pursue it from a variety of roles, which are informed by my training and experience in law and mental health. I work as a Mediation Counsel at the law firm of McCarthy Finger, LLP,

as a divorce and conflict coach, and as the Executive Director of the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals.

I mediate a wide range of disputes mostly focused on family and couple matters, such as divorce, separation, parenting, custody, family owned businesses, estate, siblings, and elder care. Recently, I have become interested in the medical bioethics decisions that must be addressed for the care and treatment of the elderly, incapacitated, and sick. Often, family members disagree and need help to make decisions. I am sensitive to how complicated it can be to care for a child with special needs and the range of concerns that impact the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer communities.

I work in the Collaborative process as the mental health professional member of the team.

Q: Do you wear stiletto heels at McCarthy Finger too?

A: Ha! I have actually raised the heel height as I purchased new shoes!



Abby Rosmarin

Q: What is your involvement with the WWBA?

A: I serve as co-chair of the Mediation Committee. I remember learning about the WWBA at my first introduction to Dolores Gebhardt. Her enthusiasm propelled me to join that very day!

Q: What are some of your professional and personal goals for the future?

A: I cannot think of doing anything different than I am doing today. I only hope that I can do it vibrantly for many years to come.

Q: Why do you value your membership in the Westchester Women's Bar Association?

A: I think one of the strengths of the WWBA is that it fosters not only professional relationships but personal ones as well. At its best, members know that if they ask for help they can receive it. The WWBA creates opportunities for meaningful connections and support. ▀

▶ Chapter News and Announcements

Announcements & Notes on Members

▣ **Judge Sondra Miller** received the Justice Brandeis Law Society's Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award. Judge Miller received her award at the 5th Annual Justice Brandeis Law Society Gala on October 27th.

▣ **Deborah A. Scalise** was rated by Super Lawyers magazine in the 2014 Top 50 Women Lawyers in New York.

▣ **Jennifer L. Gray** was named by Super Lawyers magazine as a 2014 Rising Star in the category of Land Use. ▮

Classifieds

▣ AV rated law firm located on Main Street in White Plains has two attractive windowed offices (13'6" x 9'6") available (one office cornered) in Class "A" office building within walking distance to courthouses and train. Use of conference rooms and kitchen. (914) 681-6006. ▮

President's Message

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profession increases success and competitiveness. The importance of diversity is also the theme of the Diversity Committee's program on December 9th with the Westchester County Human Rights Commission and the NYSBA Committee on Women in the Law. Later in November, the Bankruptcy Committee invites you to an informal evening with Trustees at The Trustee's Side of Bankruptcy Practice program.

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Holiday Party on December 10th. Like last year, the Holiday Party will be held in the ballroom at the Woman's Club of White Plains. And, like years past, the Holiday Party will include fun, food, drinks and opportunities for some holiday shopping. Please consider sponsoring this event as well as donating gifts for underserved teens (gifts will be distributed to Cardinal McCluskey Services and The Jewish Child Care Association) and non-perishable food items for the Food Bank of Westchester. For more details, please see the flyer in this newsletter.

At this point, you may be wondering why I am mentioning December programming in the November newsletter. Like any well-run organization, the WWBA is constantly evaluating ways to increase efficiencies and streamline operations. Our conclusion was that combining the December and January newsletter was one way to improve operations. So, look for a slightly longer version of our newsletter in January to include both December and January news and information.

Speaking of newsletter changes, one of the temporary changes this year involves our Corresponding Secretary, Jennifer L. Gray, who has a lifetime of happiness to look forward to with the arrival of her twins. While Jennifer is tending to her family, board member, Patricia McCluskey and Recording Secretary, Lisa Denig have graciously agreed to assist with the newsletter and calendar. Therefore, please note, for the next few months, please send your newsletter articles, photos, member notes, etc. to Patricia McCluskey at pmclcluskey214@gmail.com and don't forget to calendar any programs through Lisa Denig at LDenig@westchesterda.net. I'm so thankful for members like Patricia and Lisa as well as Jennifer Gray (Corresponding Secretary), Ann McNulty (Vice President), and our Executive Director Silvia Galgano, all of whom work together to produce our wonderful newsletter, which makes me very happy.

As we close out this year, I wish to thank all WWBA members for giving me many things to be happy and grateful for. Being a WWBA member is a source of knowledge, strength, happiness and pride. I look forward to the New Year and even more happiness and gratitude. To all WWBA members, my sincere best wishes for a peaceful and joyful holiday season. ▮

▶ 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 eighteen chapters across the state with more than 4,000 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, e-mail executivedirector@wwbany.org, or visit 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.

Settlement Conference Part Primer

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her part in good faith and demonstrating a desire to settle.

Similarly, if you have been sent to the Trial Readiness Part with a trial date, due to inability to settle your case, but you sense a change in circumstances that might make settlement more viable, Judge Lefkowitz will still entertain settlement. Simply contact SCP Court Attorney, Janice Altizio, and request a further conference.

If a motion for summary judgment ("MSJ") is pending in your case, the case should not be calendared in the SCP until a decision on the motion has

been rendered. However, staying true to her principle of working all angles to resolve cases, Judge Lefkowitz will confer the case while the MSJ is pending upon consent of all parties. Simply call/email the SCP to request a conference. Often, the best time to settle a case is when an MSJ is pending and all parties are potentially vulnerable.

Another critical point to remember is that unless a Stipulation of Discontinuance is FILED with the Westchester County Clerk following settlement, the case cannot be removed from the SCP calendar. The SCP will continue to require the attorneys to appear, despite be-

ing advised of a settlement, if the Stipulation has not been filed. Naturally, this is a waste of everyone's time. If there is some issue that is making the filing of the Stipulation difficult, the parties are advised to email the SCP to explain in an effort to avoid unnecessary continued appearances in that part.

In fielding questions from the audience, inquiries were made as to whether there were any plans to implement a similar program in the matrimonial part. While cloning Judge Lefkowitz is not possible, Judge Scheinkman, are you reading this . . . ? ▶

▶ WWBA Schedule of Upcoming Events

COMMITTEE	DATE/TIME	PLACE	TOPIC	RSVP
General Membership Meeting	11/5/14 6:30-8:30pm	Pace Law School 78 North Broadway White Plains, NY	Women in the Legal Profession: Where are We Now and Where Are We Going?	Executivedirector@wwbany.org by October 29, 2014
Board of Directors Meeting	11/5/14 5:30-6:30pm Light Supper	Pace Law School 78 North Broadway White Plains, NY		Lucia Chioocchio president@wwbany.org if you are unable to attend
WWBA and National Association of Women Lawyers	11/6/14 & 11/7/14 All Day	Intercontinental Hotel New York City	10 th Annual General Counsel Institute	Register at www.nawl.org/gci10
Domestic Violence	11/10/14 5:30-8:30pm	Pace University School of Law Moot Court Room 78 North Broadway White Plains, NY	Welcome to Family Court	Register at www.law.pace.edu/ccle
Professional Development	11/13/14 6:00-8:00pm	Pace Law School Gerber Glass Third Floor Lounge 78 North Broadway White Plains, NY	Information Session for New Directions Program	Amy Gewirtz agewirtz@law.pace.edu
WBASNY Board of Directors Meeting	11/15/14 10:00-3:00pm	University at Albany 1400 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12222		
Bankruptcy	11/17/14 5:30-7:30pm	120 Bloomingdale Road 1 st Floor White Plains, NY 10605	An Informal Evening with Trustees- The Trustee's side of the Bankruptcy Practice	Wendy M. Weathers wwathers@cabanillaslaw.com
Criminal Law	11/19/14 5:30-7:30pm	Hudson Valley Bank 21 Scarsdale Road Tuckahoe, NY	Actual Innocence Claims in the Wake of <i>People v. Hamilton</i>	Lisa Denig lisadenig@yahoo.com
Trusts & Estates and New Lawyers	11/20/14 12:00-1:30pm	McCarthy Fingar, LLP 11 Martine Avenue, 12 th Floor White Plains, NY	The Most Important Estate Planning Tool- The Power of Attorney	Linda Loscalzo lloscalzo@mccarthyfingar.com
Diversity	12/9/14 5:30-8:00pm	Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP 1133 Westchester Avenue White Plains, NY	LGBT Issues	TBD
WWBA Holiday Party	12/10/14 5:30-7:30pm	The Woman's Club of White Plains Grand Ballroom 305 Ridgeway White Plains, NY		

Unless otherwise indicated, events are for WWBA members and invited guests only. The opinions expressed by any program presenter are the presenter's own, and do not reflect the official position of the WWBA.

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.

WWBA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND NEWSLETTER

WWBA membership year is June 1 through May 31.
Renew your membership for 2014-15 today on-line at www.wwbany.org or contact Silvia Galgano at executivedirector@wwbany.org to request a renewal form.

Please note: All members will receive the WWBA monthly newsletter electronically unless otherwise indicated on your renewal form for 2014-15.

REMEMBER, YOU CAN FIND THE WBASNY WEB PAGE AT WWW.WBASNY.ORG.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE

