

# WBASNY WNY NEWSLETTER

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK – WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER



## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dear Members,*

It is my pleasure to bring to you an abridged version of the President's Annual Report for the Western New York (WNY) Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) for 2013-2014, the full version of which was delivered at our Annual Meeting on April 22, 2014 (and is available on our website: [wbasny-wny.org](http://wbasny-wny.org)). On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, many thanks to all members, sponsors, and other supporters for another terrific year!

## 2013-2014 PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

**IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I DELIVER THE PRESIDENT'S** Annual Report. Thanks to a very dedicated, talented, and effective Board of Directors, our chapter had another strong year in 2013-2014. This year's Board of Directors was exceptional in its energy, creativity, diligence, and can-do attitude. Congratulations and thank you to each board member for her terrific work individually and as a team member. And a special thank you to Immediate Past President Bridget O'Connell (IPP) and President Elect Laura Linneball for their hard work, sound counsel, and consistent collaboration throughout the year.

This year, we built off of IPP Bridget O'Connell's leadership in continuing to strengthen our organizational functioning. For example, we took a significant step as a chapter in engaging the administrative support services of Margaret Sanchez & Associates. Ms. Sanchez has worked for WBASNY's chapter in Rochester for ten years. Her team now also administers the WNY Chapter's membership database, manages our email communications and social media, and provides other support services. Many, many thanks to Long Range Planning Chair Karen Richardson for her assistance in guiding us through this important growth. Also, many thanks to the folks at Everywoman Opportunity Center for their handling of our membership database for several years prior to this transition.

In terms of internal organizational functioning, we also turned our attention to our use of time at our board meetings. We sought to maximize the talent in the room by moving many of the routine updates and decisions to a prior written consent agenda and written reports, thus freeing up time at the board meetings to discuss other matters. We also began each meeting with a "Mission Moment": each month, one board member shares a brief personal story regarding the importance of our mission. The mission moments have oriented the board meetings to the overarching purpose of our work before we dive into

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**ELIZABETH B. HARNED, ESQ.**  
CHAPTER PRESIDENT  
2013-2014



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# ARTICLES, EVENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

We welcome article submissions from our members and the legal community. Article submissions must be sent as an email attachment to [newsletter@wbasnywny.org](mailto:newsletter@wbasnywny.org), subject to the guidelines below. The decision to include an article shall be made at our discretion, and all articles selected for publication are subject to review and editing.

Length and format: articles should not exceed 650 words and should not include any headers, footers or other formatting, other than bold, underline or italics; the article must be in one of the following file formats: .DOC, .TXT, or .RTF, and any pictures or graphics must be in .JPG or .PNG format. Photographs must be at least 900 x 900 pixels, and all individuals appearing in a photograph must be identified by name. Author biography: please include a short biographical statement, including your full name, your firm or company's name, and your position. Copyright information: by submitting an article or other materials, you agree to grant WBASNY a limited copyright and full permission to reprint your submission, in whole or in part, in any WBASNY publication or on its website without additional consent.

## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome information about relevant events and professional announcements from our members. Please email us at [newsletter@wbasnywny.org](mailto:newsletter@wbasnywny.org) if you have something you would like us to consider including in our newsletter.

## 2013-14 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	STATE DIRECTORS	LOCAL DIRECTORS
Elizabeth Harned	Kara Addelman	Jessica Foscolo
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Anne Joynt	Elizabeth Fox-Solomon
Laura Linneball	Elizabeth Kraengel	Gretchen Gonzalez
TREASURER	Laura Linneball	Colleen Lamarre
Kara Addelman	Jennifer Scharf	Stephanie Mack
SECRETARY	IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Tasha E. Moore
Molly Miranda	Bridget O'Connell	Bethany Solek

[wbasnywny.org](http://wbasnywny.org)



WNY CHAPTER OF THE  
WOMEN'S BAR ASSOC. OF NY



WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,  
WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER



@WNY\_WBASNY

## 2013-14 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AWARDS	NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES
Anne Joynt	Bernadette Hoppe
BY-LAWS	Jennifer Phillips
Hilary Banker	NEWSLETTER
DENMAN SCHOLARSHIP	Elizabeth Fox-Solomon
Melinda Saran	Colleen Lamarre
DIVERSITY	NOMINATIONS
Lenora Foote-Beavers	Jennifer Scharf
FAMILY LAW	Elizabeth Kraengel
Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin	PROGRAMS
FINANCE	Gretchen Gonzalez
Kara Addelman	PUBLIC RELATIONS
INFORMAL NETWORKING DINNERS	Elizabeth Harned
Melissa Foti	Bridget O'Connell
JALBCA	SUNY BUFFALO LAW LIAISON
Tammy Riddle	Elizabeth Kraengel
JUDICIARY	Tasha Moore
Jennifer Scharf	WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA
LEGISLATIVE	Elizabeth Fox-Solomon
Laura Linneball	Colleen Lamarre
LIAISON TO THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF ERIE	WORKING PARENTS
Lisa McDougall	Jessica Foscolo
LONG-RANGE PLANNING	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Karen Richardson	Elizabeth Kraengel
MEMBERSHIP	CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION LIAISON
Kara Addelman	Gretchen Gonzalez
Erica Rocco	

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## EMAIL ALERT

**O**UR CHAPTER ROUTINELY ADVISES MEMBERS of upcoming events, job opportunities and other time-sensitive matters via email. If you are not receiving these messages, either we do not have your current email address or your server is blocking our messages. If you would like to be included, please check your spam folder to see if WBASNY messages are being blocked, or join our email list by sending an email to us at [contact@wbasnywny.org](mailto:contact@wbasnywny.org).

## MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to send in your membership application for our 2014-2015 year!

**M**ORE THAN 300 WOMEN AND MEN REPRESENT the WNY Chapter of WBASNY. Join us in the pursuit of equality and justice for all. Our membership year begins June 1st. For more information or to obtain an application, please visit our website at [wbasnywny.org](http://wbasnywny.org) or contact our Membership Committee Co-Chair, Kara Addelman, at 716-858-3822 or [kaddelman@damonmorey.com](mailto:kaddelman@damonmorey.com).



the nitty gritty: to move our mission of promoting women in society, particularly the law.

And finally, the Board of Directors turned its attention to a more deliberate budgeting process. We began exploring a set of processes to ensure that our revenue and expenses are in line with the best interests of our members and chapter as a whole.

In service to our membership, we focused this year on mission, mission, mission. We presented numerous events this year, all with an eye toward furthering our mission. As just a few examples, we initiated our chapter's first "book club" event by reading and discussing the New York Times Bestseller, "Lean In." Our Working Parents Committee also hosted its first Network and Play event, to allow members and potential members to engage in networking while also spending time with their children. Both events were successful in-and-of-themselves, and both were well received and generated enthusiasm among members. We also sought to enhance our mission with regard to state level legislative work, by placing member Ileah Welch as Co-Chair of the statewide WBASNY Health and Reproductive Rights Committee.

In furtherance of our work with law students, UB Law Liaisons Elizabeth Kraengel and Tasha Moore initiated and saw through the creation of a new position of Honorary Law Student Board Member. We now have two law student members of the board, each to serve staggered two year terms. Congratulations Tasha and Liz on a fabulous job with this project and the many other UB Law initiatives this year.

In further service to our mission, we sought to continue to raise our profile in the community. As just a few examples, first, we continued the new format for our Installation and Awards celebration. The new format has been well received as a classy affair that keeps our Chapter on the local map as a relevant and highly regarded organization. This year we honored Congressman Brian Higgins and member Cheryl Meyers Buth – two well-deserving selections that also served to raise our profile within the legal community and in the broader community as well. Attendance included NYS Senator Tim Kennedy and a flight of judges across disciplines. Thank you Hon. Amy C. Martoche for administering our swearing-in at a board meeting in advance of the event.

To raise our profile in the community, we reinstated our legislative advocacy agenda. This Spring, we are meeting with legislators in-district to advocate for WBASNY's legislative priorities, including, but not limited, to the Women's Equality Agenda.

Additionally, thanks to Bridget O'Connell's leadership, we solicited member participation in a local legal media guide that is designed to increase diversity in media. In collaboration with the Bar Association of Erie County (BAEC) and Minority Bar Association of Western New York (MBAWNY), our members can now add their names to a list of contacts for handling media inquiries on legal matters. Already, we are seeing a diversity in the faces of lawyers providing commentary to local media.

And as a final example of raising our profile in the community, we sought and obtained an increased number of recognitions for our members through awards opportunities both within the legal community and in the greater commu-

nity. Thanks to the work of Awards Committee Chair Anne Joynt and others, we placed two awards with the BAEC (Katie Baumgarten for the Civility award and Julie Loesch for the Award of Merit), and the prestigious statewide WBASNY Joan L. Ellenbogen Founders Award for Hon. Barbara Howe.

We also continued our emphasis on collaborative efforts throughout the 2013-2014 WBASNY year. For example, we continued our strong collaboration with the BAEC and the MBAWNY through co-sponsoring and co-hosting many events and initiatives. A special thank you to the recent Presidents of the MBAWNY, Stephanie Calhoun and Ericka Bennett, for their partnership. Also, a sincere thank you to BAEC President Mike Ryan for including WBASNY at the head table, at the podium, and in other prominent ways at many BAEC events. In furtherance of our collaborative efforts, we held two board meetings at community organizations, including Say Yes Buffalo, where we heard a presentation by Executive Director David Rust. We also welcomed League of Women Voters members to our viewing of *Miss Representation*.

We have also engaged in several special projects this year. As just two examples, first, we are serving on the Legal Taskforce for Say Yes Buffalo, which is beginning legal clinics for the families of Buffalo Public School students. Second, we have participated in the planning for Buffalo City Court Human Trafficking Court with Hon. Amy Martoche; thank you Gretchen Gonzalez for serving as the WBASNY WNY liaison.

In the meantime, we also have focused on fundamental services for our members. Thank you Elizabeth Fox-Solomon and Colleen Lamarre for getting our newsletter back on track for three high quality editions this year. We also have reinvigorated our Membership Committee; special thanks to the hard work of member Erica Rocco and we look forward to the fresh energy of members Jennifer Beckage and Elise Cassar. Thanks also to Diversity Committee Chair Lenora Foote Beavers, who arranged for us to be able to offer for our members pre-sale tickets to Hillary Clinton's speech at UB. We sold over 100 tickets through our offer – a fabulous member benefit.

In closing, I return to how I opened this report: with a sincere thank you and congratulations to this year's exceptional Board of Directors. From the beginning of the year, this year was marked with energy and creativity, such as with the successful summer Photo Scavenger Hunt designed for engaging summer and newer associates. Also, our state directors have shown a renewed energy at state level meetings and an increase in networking with other chapters. In the meantime, board members have paid special attention this year to the bottom line by confirming sponsors for events and diversifying sponsors, thereby setting us up for stability and future success. I cannot overemphasize the strength of the 2013-14 Board of Directors. Simply put, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as President of the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth B. Harned



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION 2014: CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA

## Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act



WBASNY WNY President-Elect Laura Linneball speaks at the Black History Month celebration



**O**N MARCH 5, 2014, THE Diversity Committee of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York along with the Eighth Judicial District Diversity Committee and the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, Inc. hosted an event in honor of Black History Month to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Hon. Rev. Darius Pridgen, President, Buffalo Common Council, delivered an inspirational speech reflecting on our progress and what is left to achieve. WNY Chapter of WBASNY President-Elect, Laura Linneball, also spoke at the event.

The following is adapted from Linneball's speech delivered on March 5, 2014, at the Black History Month Celebration 2014: Civil Rights in America: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

I'm honored and thrilled, as the President Elect of the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, to celebrate with you the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.



Diversity Committee Chair Lenora Foote-Beavers, Rev. Darius G. Pridgen, Christopher Gresham, Andrew Isenberg, Hon. Margaret O. Szczur, Veronica Rucker, Hon. Thomas P. Amodeo, WBASNY President-Elect Laura Linneball, Hon. Deanne M. Trippi, and Hon. Amy C. Martoche.



MBASNY President Ericka N. Bennett, Rev. Darius G. Pridgen, County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz, and Diversity Committee Chair Lenora Foote-Beavers.



WBASNY WNY Local Director Tasha E. Moore, MBASNY member Stephanie Saunders, Christopher Gresham, Esq., and Rev. Darius G. Pridgen.



The Colored Musicians Club provided music for the event.

As I was preparing to speak today, a phrase kept coming back to me: "Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it."

I thought I should give proper attribution, so I looked it up. It turns out that many people have uttered similar quotes. I'll share just three. Edmund Burke said, "Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it." Confucius said, "Study the past if you would define the future." My favorite is from Stephen Colbert, "There is an old saying about those who forget history. I don't remember it but it's good."

Seriously, students of history—and we all here are students of history—know that without vigilance in protecting our civil rights, these rights can ebb and flow. The Civil Rights Act protects us from discrimination in exercising our rights to vote, to use public accommodations, and to work. However, we all need to stay informed and active to ensure the Act's goals are fully realized.

There have been challenges to voters' rights. Groups even today seek to impose supposedly benign restrictions on voting. Students of history have fought back against these restrictions and upheld the spirit of the Civil Rights Act.

There are challenges to our rights to use public accommodations. As recently as last month, the Arizona Legislature passed a law that clearly violates the Civil Rights Act. Informed people stood up and spoke out against this law, and the Arizona governor vetoed the bill.

In employment, we have made great gains. We see these gains in our schools, offices, boardrooms, courtrooms, legislatures, and even the highest elected offices of the United States. But there is more to do. We need to achieve equal pay and equal advancement for all people. The Eighth Judicial District, the Minority Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association will continue to work side-by-side to celebrate, protect, and advance the rights guaranteed by the Civil Rights Act. Thank you.

## WBASNY WNY Welcomes New Local Directors

**A**T THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WNY CHAPTER OF WBASNY on April 22, 2014, the slates for the 2014-2015 local and state level officers and directors were unanimously adopted. Thanks to the many members who were able to attend the meeting, and congratulations to both the outgoing and incoming boards. WBASNY WNY extends a special welcome to our new board members, Regina A. Del Vecchio and Illeah Welch.

Del Vecchio is a graduate of Canisius College and SUNY Buffalo Law School, and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1989. In 1994, Del Vecchio joined the firm of Colucci & Gallaher, PC, where she is presently a shareholder. Del Vecchio concentrates her practice in civil litigation and the representation of major and mid-sized companies, municipalities and self-insured corporations. She also provides representation to a local hospital in a variety of health-care related matters, including Article 81 guardianships and related proceedings under the Mental Hygiene Law. She has served as past treasurer of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Erie County Bar Association. Del Vecchio was included in the 2013 List for Top 25 Women Attorneys in Upstate New York (Super Lawyers).

Welch holds a B.A. from the University of Rochester, a J.D. from SUNY Buffalo Law School, and an M.B.A. from Canisius College. Welch is a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc. in the Attorney for Children Unit where she represents minors in abuse and neglect matters. She previously worked for the Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. as a staff attorney providing legal services to individuals and families with HIV/AIDS, and as a mediator for several programs with Child and Family Services, Center for Resolution and Justice. Welch is an active member of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, Inc. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Bethel Head Start, Inc., is a co-chair of WBASNY's Health and Human Reproduction Committee, and is a member of the Financial Resource Committee of Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York. Welch also teaches Communications and Law at SUNY Buffalo Law School.



Regina Del Vecchio



Illeah Welch

## WNY WBASNY Co-Sponsors MLK Commemoration Event at UB



Dr. Mary Frances Berry     Diane Nash

**T**HE WNY CHAPTER OF WBASNY was proud to co-sponsor the University at Buffalo's 38th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Keynote Speakers, Dr. Mary Frances Berry and Diane Nash, on February 26, 2014 at the UB Center for the Arts.

Many members took advantage of the free tickets offered by the Chapter to attend the event. Dr. Berry, an author, educator, and historian, and Ms. Nash, a civil rights and peace activist, reflected on the 50th anniversary of the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act and civil rights in America, then and now. Ms. Nash replaced civil rights activist Myrlie Evers-Williams, who was unable to speak at the event due to a scheduling conflict.

After individual presentations by the speakers, Berry and Nash participated in a roundtable conversation moderated by UB Law Professor Athena D. Mutua.

## Chamber Chat with Appellate Division Justice Fahey



**O**N FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014, APPELLATE Division Justice Eugene M. Fahey hosted a Chamber Chat for members of the WNY Chapter of WBASNY. Justice Fahey explained the dos and don'ts of Appellate Division appearances and provided a list of best practices for succeeding on appeal. Justice Fahey also identified several reasons the Appellate Division frequently

grants reversals, and provided guidance on the order to show cause process.

Watch our website and Facebook page for details of our next Chamber Chat, which will be announced shortly.

If you are a judge interested in hosting a Chamber Chat, please contact Jennifer Scharf at [jrscharf@gmail.com](mailto:jrscharf@gmail.com).



## SAVE THE DATE

### Tour of Frank Lloyd Wright Graycliff Estate July 19

**P**LEASE JOIN THE WNY Chapter of WBASNY for an in-depth tour of the Graycliff Estate, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, on July 19, 2014. Wright designed the Graycliff Estate for Isabelle R. Martin, wife of industrialist Darwin Martin. Known as "The Jewel on the Lake," Graycliff is situated on a bluff overlooking Lake Erie with sweeping views of downtown Buffalo and the Canadian shore.

Our tour will explore areas of the estate not seen on basic tours, including both floors of the Isabelle R. Martin House and the first floor of the Foster House. We will learn about the evolution of Wright's plans for Graycliff during its design in the mid-1920s and Wright's architectural style.

The tour will take place from 3-5:30 p.m. at 6472 Old Lakeshore Road in Derby. The cost is \$32 per person. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Colleen Lamarre at [clamarre@phillipslytle.com](mailto:clamarre@phillipslytle.com) or 716-504-5746.

# Honor Roll

## CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR MEMBERS



Katie Baumgarten, Dianne Bosse, Julie Loesch, and Marianne Mariano

**A**RE YOU BEING HONORED FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL OR community accomplishments? We'd love to hear about it! Email us at [contact@wbasnywny.org](mailto:contact@wbasnywny.org).

**MARY CATHERINE ("KATIE") BAUMGARTEN, WBASNY WNY MEMBER**

- Charles H. Dougherty Civility Award, Bar Association of Erie County

**DIANE BOSSE, WBASNY WNY MEMBER**

- Lawyer of the Year, Bar Association of Erie County

**ELIZABETH FOX-SOLOMON, WBASNY WNY STATE DIRECTOR**

- Elected President, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc.

**ELIZABETH B. HARNED, WBASNY WNY PRESIDENT**

- Women in Leadership Honoree, NAWBO WNY

**BERNADETTE HOPPE, WBASNY WNY MEMBER**

- Distinguished Service Award, Assigned Counsel Program, Family Court

**HON. BARBARA HOWE, WBASNY WNY MEMBER**

- Joan L. Ellenbogen Founders Award, WBASNY (Statewide)

**ANNE E. JOYNT, WBASNY WNY STATE DIRECTOR**

- Named Junior Partner, Lipsitz & Ponterio, LLC

**ELIZABETH A. KRAENGEL, WBASNY WNY STATE DIRECTOR**

- Named Partner, Duke, Holzman, Photiadis & Gresens, LLP

**JULIE LOESCH, WBASNY WNY MEMBER**

- Special Service Award, Bar Association of Erie County

**MARIANNE MARIANO, WBASNY WNY MEMBER**

- Award of Merit, Bar Association of Erie County

**SARAH K. RANNI, WBASNY WNY MEMBER**

- Appointed Special Counsel, Phillips Lytle LLP

**CHARLES C. RITTER, JR., WBASNY WNY MEMBER**

- Appointed Senior Partner, Duke, Holzman, Photiadis & Gresens, LLP

**JENNIFER SCHARF, WBASNY WNY PRESIDENT ELECT**

- Appointed Associate General Counsel, Roswell Park Cancer Institute

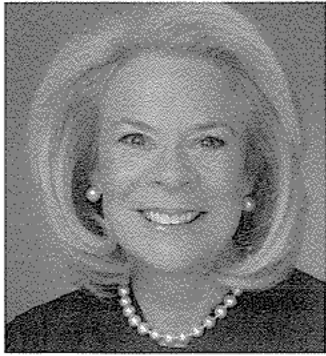
## Hotel Lafayette Tour to Celebrate Women's History Month

**T**HE WNY CHAPTER OF WBASNY CELEBRATED Women's History Month with a tour of the Hotel Lafayette on March 20, 2014. The hotel was designed by Louise Bethune, the first female architect in the United States. The tour guide highlighted some of the historical details of the hotel that have been preserved, including original lighting fixtures, the marble hallway, and wood murals in the lobby. As an added

bonus, the tour also included the brewery located in the basement of the hotel, which is generally off limits to the public.

Our Chapter also collected two large boxes of personal hygiene products to benefit the YWCA of Western New York. A special thank you to Amy Polowy of GPO for sponsoring our post-tour Happy Hour as well as to Nichole Gazzo of Abalie Lingerie for donating a gift card.

## Judge Howe Receives Joan L. Ellenbogen Founder's Award



**OUR OWN SURROGATE'S COURT**  
Judge Barbara Howe was honored at this year's statewide WBASNY Convention on June 6, 2014. The Convention was held at the Seaview Stockton Hotel and Golf Club in Galloway, New Jersey from June 5-8, 2014.

Judge Howe was the recipient of WBASNY's prestigious Joan L. Ellenbogen Founder's Award.

The award is given to a distinguished member of the bar whose acts exemplify the essence of justice, thereby demonstrating a harmony

with the founding principles of WBASNY, for a singular outstanding achievement, longstanding significant involvement, or a lifetime of constancy of purpose in advancing the status of women in society and the law. Judge Howe is the first recipient of the Founder's Award from the Western New York Chapter of WBASNY.

The award is named after Joan L. Ellenbogen, the main founder and first president of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, who died of pancreatic cancer in 2001.

## ON THE CALENDAR

### JULY 19: TOUR OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S GRAYCLIFF ESTATE

**3:00-5:30 p.m. at 6472 Old Lake Shore Road in Derby**

- \$32 per person
- Please RSVP to Colleen Lamarre at [clamarre@phillipslytle.com](mailto:clamarre@phillipslytle.com) or 504-5746
- No high heeled shoes or boots are permitted on the Graycliff tour

### AUGUST 19: WNY CHAPTER OF WBASNY INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**5:30-7:30 p.m. Marcy Casino at Delaware Park**

- Stay tuned for more details

### AUGUST 28: WBASNY WNY BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

***The Confidence Code: The Science and Art of Self Assurance by Katty Kay***

- 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Larkin Filling Station
- Stay tuned for more details
- For more information on upcoming events, please see our website ([wbasnywny.org](http://wbasnywny.org)) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/WNY.WBASNY](https://facebook.com/WNY.WBASNY))

## Members meet with New York State Senator Tim Kennedy

**ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014, WBASNY WNY MEMBERS ELIZABETH Fox-Solomon (Local Director), Laura Linneball (President Elect) and Betsy Harned (President) participated in an in-district meeting with Senator Tim Kennedy.** Senator Kennedy represents New York's 63rd Senate District. Members discussed WBASNY's current legislative priorities: the Women's Equality Act, Funding for Civil Legal Services, Juvenile Justice reform, and Maintenance Guidelines. On behalf of the WNY Chapter of WBASNY, members thanked Senator Kennedy for his votes in support of marriage equality and the Women's Equality Act.

Are you interested in participating in meetings with our local elected officials to advocate for WBASNY legislative priorities? Join us! Contact Betsy Harned at [betsy.harned@ppcwny.org](mailto:betsy.harned@ppcwny.org) for information on upcoming in-district meetings.



Betsy Harned, Senator Tim Kennedy, Laura Linneball, and Elizabeth Fox-Solomon



## ECBA Volunteer Lawyers Project Partners with Say Yes Buffalo

**S**AY YES TO EDUCATION, Inc. is a national non-profit foundation committed to dramatically increasing high school and college graduation rates for urban youth. Say Yes was founded 25 years ago when George Weiss, a University of Pennsylvania student, befriended 12 inner city children in Philadelphia. Today, George Weiss' vision of creating new futures for urban youth has had a powerful impact on 69,000 lives. Say Yes provides students with the academic, health, social, and legal sup-

port necessary to graduate from high school and succeed in postsecondary educational pursuits.

Say Yes Buffalo, a chapter of Say Yes to Education, Inc., began in the 2012-2013 school year. Say Yes Buffalo partners include the Buffalo Public School District, the Buffalo Teachers Federation, the Buffalo Association of Administrators and Supervisors, the City of Buffalo, Erie County, and a diverse group of Buffalo-area corporate, non-profit, and philanthropic organizations. Say Yes Buffalo and

its partners believe every student can graduate high school and college when given the proper support, resources, and opportunities.

The ECBA Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) is excited to partner with Say Yes Buffalo to provide free legal assistance to families with children in the Buffalo Public School District facing critical legal issues interfering with their child's ability to succeed in school. Local attorneys will provide free legal advice, legal services, and, if necessary, referrals. Volunteer attorneys will assist with child custody and child support proceedings, landlord/tenant disputes, applications and appeals for public benefits, immigration, and credit counseling. VLP will recruit law firms and attorneys to staff the legal clinics, provide training for the volunteer attorneys, and administer the legal clinics. The Say Yes Buffalo free legal clinics are expected to open in Fall 2014.

We hope you will consider attending a Say Yes Buffalo legal clinic training to learn more about the free legal clinics. You will also learn how easy and rewarding it is to volunteer your time and talents to support such an important program.

To learn more about Say Yes Buffalo, visit their website at [www.sayyesbuffalo.org/](http://www.sayyesbuffalo.org/). To learn more about VLP, go to [www.ecbavlp.com](http://www.ecbavlp.com). You can also call Gayle Murphy, VLP pro bono coordinator, at 847-0662 ext. 321 for more information.

## WNY Chapter Hosts Screening of *Miss Representation*

**O**N MARCH 13, 2014, WBASNY HELD A SCREENING of *Miss Representation*, a documentary which first premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2011. The documentary caught the attention of the Oprah Winfrey Network, OWN, and made its television debut as part of the OWN Documentary Film Club in October 2011.

*Miss Representation*, written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, explores how mainstream media contributes to the under-representation of women in positions of power in America. Through interviews with world-renowned female leaders, stories from teenage girls, images from television and movies, and startling statistics,

the film demonstrates how the media teaches American youth that women and girls' value lies in their youth, body, beauty and sexuality rather than their ideas, talents, and capacities as leaders. The film discusses ways that we can be agents of change in our culture, and encourages girls and women to challenge the stereotypes perpetuated by the mainstream media.

More information about the film, and the social action campaign founded by Ms. Siebel Newsom, can be found on [MissRepresentation.org](http://MissRepresentation.org).

A special thank you to Phillips Lytle LLP, who sponsored and hosted the event.



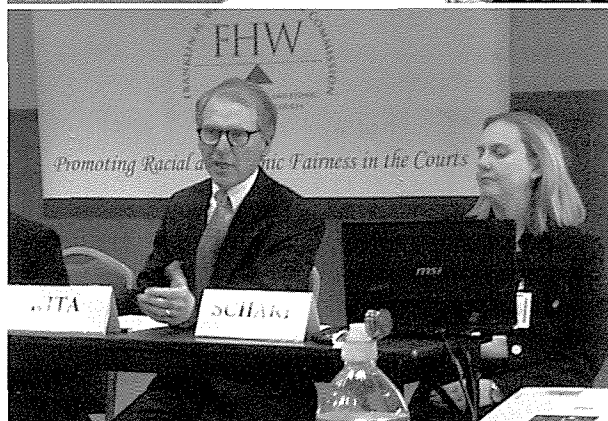
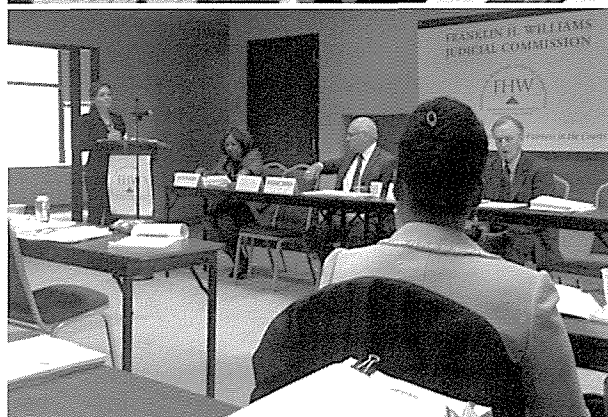
## WBASNY WNY Co-Sponsors CLE on Becoming a Judge

**T**HE WNY CHAPTER OF WBASNY, THE MINORITY BAR Association of Western New York (MBAWNY), and the Bar Association of Erie County (BAEC) partnered with the Franklin H. Williams (FHW) Judicial Commission to present “Everything You Need to Know About Becoming a Judge” on May 1, 2014 at the BAEC headquarters. Hon. Rose H. Sconiers, an Appellate Division Justice and Chair of the FHW Judicial Commission, which works to promote racial and ethnic fairness in the courts, chaired the event.

Ralph M. Mohr, Commissioner of the Erie County Board of Elections, and John Postel of the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct provided an overview of election law and related ethical requirements. Conservative Party Chair Ralph C. Lorigo, Democratic Party Chair Jeremy J. Zellner, Republican Party Chair Nicholas A. Langworthy, and Hon. Mark A. Montour spoke about the process for securing the nomination in Supreme Court. The panelists all spoke about the importance of getting involved in civic organizations and local political parties well in advance of planning a run for judicial office.

Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres (Buffalo City Court), Hon. Frank Caruso (Supreme Court), Hon. Sheila A. DiTullio (Erie County Court), and Hon. Craig D. Hannah (Buffalo City Court) discussed making the ballot in City, County, and Family Courts. MBAWNY President Ericka N. Bennett moderated a lively and frank discussion about the time and cost involved in running a judicial campaign--eight to nine months of campaigning and costs ranging from \$40,000 for a local uncontested race to \$250,000 for a contested Supreme Court race--as well as the panelists' personal paths to the bench.

The event ended with a discussion of the appointment process for non-elected judgeships, which was moderated by WBASNY WNY President Elizabeth Harned. Chief Judge William M. Skretny of the U.S. District Court, Western District of New York, Magistrate Judge Leslie G. Foschio, and NYS Court of Claims Judge Michael E. Hudson provided insight into the application and appointment process for their respective positions.



## Working Parents Committee Organizes “Network & Play” Event

**T**HE WNY CHAPTER OF WBASNY WORKING PARENTS COMMITTEE HELD its first Network & Play event at Rollie Pollies in East Amherst on Saturday February 22. Parents had the opportunity to network while their little ones enjoyed time on the bounce house, in the foam pit, and climbing the rock wall. We plan to offer other Network & Play events where our members can make valuable professional connections with their colleagues while spending time with their families. We welcome suggestions and feedback from our membership about this event and for other working parent committee events.

We sincerely thank The Copy Store for generously sponsoring this event.

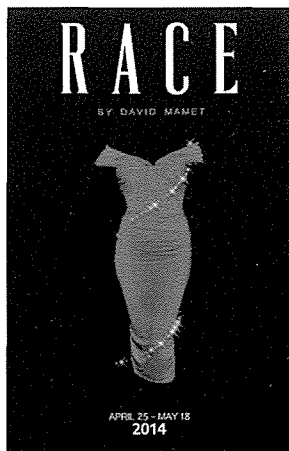
Working Parents Committee Chair Jessica Foscolo and her son

## Chapter President Elizabeth Harned Receives Leadership Award

**T**HE BUFFALO NIAGARA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) recognized WBASNY WNY President Elizabeth B. Harned as a 2013-2014 Women in Leadership Honoree at a luncheon at the Twentieth Century Club on June 3, 2014. Harned, the Vice President of External Affairs at Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York, was honored for her commitment to women's health and to the legal community through her work with WBASNY.

## WBASNY and MBAWNY Members Attend Performance of *Race*

**O**N MAY 3, 2014 WBASNY WNY MEMBERS were able to take advantage of discounted tickets to see Road Less Traveled Theatre's production of *Race*, a play by celebrated playwright David Mamet. The event was a joint effort with the Minority Bar Association of Western New York and enabled members to enjoy Mamet's exploration of the role of race in a criminal courtroom drama. The sold-out performance received a four-star review from *The Buffalo News*.



Scholarship winner Carrie Anne Zimbardi, left, and State Director Jennifer Scharf, right, at graduation.

## M. DELORES DENMAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO UB LAW STUDENT

**U**B LAW GRADUATE CARRIE Annie Zimbardi, mother of five-year-old twins Ben and Brady, was awarded WBASNY WNY's M. Delores Denman Scholarship on May 17, 2014. The Denman Scholarship is awarded to a graduating law student who is a custodial parent, and it is designed to help defray the cost of childcare while the graduate is studying for the Bar Exam. Zimbardi worked as a paralegal and raised Ben and Brady throughout her time in law school.

WBASNY WNY funds the Denman Scholarship through proceeds from the basket raffle at our Installation Event. This year's Installation Event will be held on August 19, 2014 at Delaware Park's Marcy Casino. If you would like to donate a basket or otherwise participate in or sponsor our Installation Event, please contact Jennifer Scharf at [jrscharf@gmail.com](mailto:jrscharf@gmail.com) or 716-845-3507.

## WNY Chapter Members Attend UB Students of Color Dinner

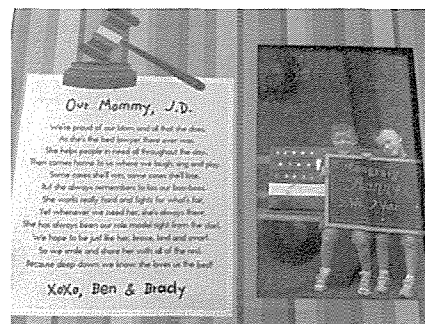
**W**NY CHAPTER OF WBASNY LOCAL DIRECTOR TASHA MOORE, Law Student Honorary Board Member Caitlin O'Neil, and law student Samih Tayeh attended UB Law School's 25th Anniversary Students of Color Dinner on April 3, 2014. The dinner celebrates the achievements of graduating 3Ls who are members of the Black, Latin American and Asian-Pacific American law student associations.

Alphonso O'Neil-White, the recently retired President and Chief Executive Officer of HealthNow New York, delivered the keynote address. O'Neil-White shared his experience as the only African-American student at his undergraduate college in the late 1960s, and the absence of diversity as he began his legal and business career.

Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to Kenya Mann Faulkner '89, vice president for legal affairs and general counsel for the University of Cincinnati, and Randall F. Inniss '97, director of security for the National Basketball Association. The Trailblazer Award was presented to Jessica Ortiz '05, an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York.

Professor Luis E. Chiesa, who serves as the Latin American Law Students Association's faculty adviser, received the Jacob B. Hyman Professor of the Year Award. The "Lift as We Climb" scholarship was awarded to UB senior James Lopez, a psychology major who plans to attend law school, and the Monique E. Emdin Scholarship Award was given to Lizeth Castillo '14.

As always, the students planned and executed an enjoyable program, and the evening culminated in the traditional "passing of the torch" ceremony in keeping with the event's theme, "Lift as We Climb."



Ben and Brady's gift to their mother.



Laura A. Linneball, WBASNY WNY President-Elect, Hon. Elizabeth A. Wolford, Tiffany Lee, GRAWA President-Elect.

## Historic Investiture Ceremony for Judge Wolford

**O**N MAY 5, 2014, THE WNY CHAPTER OF WBASNY JOINED MANY federal, state and local dignitaries in celebrating the investiture of Elizabeth A. Wolford as the first female United States District Court Judge for the Western District of New York. Judge Wolford is an accomplished litigator and a past President of WBASNY's Rochester Chapter, the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys. WBASNY joins Chief United States District Court Judge William M. Skretny, Senator Charles E. Schumer, New York State Bar Association President David M. Schrauer, Hon. Richard C. Wesley, Hon. Marion W. Payson and Judge Wolford's father and former law partner, Michael R. Wolford, in congratulating Judge Wolford on her historic accomplishment.



## Lawyers for Learning Bowling Tournament

**W**BASNY WNY JOINED Roswell Park Cancer Institute and many other generous organizations in sponsoring teams at the 15th Annual Lawyers for Learning Bowling Tournament on May 8, 2014. Shown from left to right are Andrea Kuettel (RPCI), Amy Dunn (RPCI), Elise Cassar (WBASNY WNY), Jennifer Scharf (RPCI and WBASNY WNY), Marianne Hanley (RPCI), Mindy VanLeuvan (WBASNY WNY), and Laura Linneball (President-Elect, WBASNY WNY).



## WBASNY WNY Members Attend "What She's Made Of" Celebration at Albright-Knox

**W**BASNY WNY PROUDLY SUPPORTED THE WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION "What She's Made Of" Celebration at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery on June 2, 2014. NASA Astronaut Wendy B. Lawrence (Captain, USN) spoke about her modest beginnings, the challenges of the NASA program, the wonder of space travel, and how none of us can achieve greatness without help along the way. Captain Lawrence's humility, kindness, and outstanding accomplishments were truly awe-inspiring.

President-Elect Laura Linneball and NASA Astronaut Wendy B. Lawrence.



# WBASNY WNY JUDICIAL CANDIDATE RATINGS

**T**HE WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE Women's Bar Association of the State of New York announces its ratings for candidates for New York State Supreme Court, Erie County Family Court and Buffalo City Court.

The Women's Bar Association uses a four-level overall rating system of Outstanding, Highly Qualified, Qualified and Not Recommended. The rating is based upon a personal

interview with the candidate, evaluation of writing samples submitted by the candidate, and a survey of our membership as to their professional experience with the candidate.

As part of the overall rating, judicial candidates were rated Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair and Poor in the areas of judicial temperament, reasoning ability and communication skills, legal experience and background for the position sought, and sensitivity to community and women's issues.

## New York State Supreme Court Candidates

### **Hon. Kevin M. Carter:** *Highly Qualified*

Very Good Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Very Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Very Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Hon. Michael Cooper:** *Highly Qualified*

Very Good Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Very Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **James Cosgrove, Esq.:** *Not Recommended*

Good Judicial Temperament  
Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Fair Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Fair Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **John DelMonte, Esq.:** *Highly Qualified*

Very Good Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Very Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Hon. Susan Eagan:** *Outstanding*

Excellent Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Very Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Excellent Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Michael Flaherty, Jr., Esq.:** *Qualified*

Good Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Hon. Debra Givens:** *Highly Qualified*

Very Good Judicial Temperament  
Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Very Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Very Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Dennis Glascott, Esq.:** *Highly Qualified*

Very Good Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Very Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Jon Gorman, Esq.:** *Highly Qualified*

Very Good Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Very Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Alisa Lukasiewicz, Esq.:** *Highly Qualified*

Very Good Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Very Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Very Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Hon. Frederick Marshall:** *Outstanding*

Excellent Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Excellent Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Very Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden:** *Outstanding*

Excellent Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Excellent Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Excellent Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Hon. Donna Siwek:** *Outstanding*

Very Good Judicial Temperament  
Excellent Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Excellent Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Excellent Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Mary Slisz, Esq.:** *Qualified*

Good Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Very Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

## New York State Supreme Court Candidates (cont'd)

### **Paul Wojtaszek, Esq.:**

### **Highly Qualified**

### **Daniel Furlong, Esq.:**

### **Declined to Be Rated**

Very Good Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Very Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

## Erie County Family Court Candidates

### **Hon. Margaret Szczur:**

### **Outstanding**

Excellent Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Excellent Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Excellent Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

## Buffalo City Court Candidates

### **Hon. Thomas Amodeo:**

### **Outstanding**

Excellent Judicial Temperament  
Excellent Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Excellent Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Excellent Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Joseph Jarzembek, Esq.:**

### **Not Recommended**

Fair Judicial Temperament  
Fair Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Poor Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Hon. Patrick Carney:**

### **Outstanding**

Excellent Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Excellent Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Very Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Mara McCabe, Esq.:**

### **Highly Qualified**

Very Good Judicial Temperament  
Very Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Very Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Very Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

### **Phillip Dabney, Esq.:**

### **Qualified**

Good Judicial Temperament  
Good Reasoning Ability & Communication Skills  
Good Legal Experience & Background for Position Sought  
Very Good Sensitivity to Community & Women's Issues

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## WBASNY WNY Annual Installation of Officers and Directors Set for August 19

**T**HE WNY CHAPTER OF WBASNY will be celebrating the Annual Installation of its Officers and Directors on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Delaware Park's Marcy Casino. We will be honoring Laura Linneball, Esq. in her installation as the Chapter's 30th President. We are also proud to announce that we will be awarding the M. Dolores Denman Lady Justice Award to Hilary Banker, Esq., a prominent local attorney who has devoted her efforts

to helping our Chapter succeed, while successfully trying scores of cases to verdict, and the President's Award to Buffalo native Hon. Elizabeth A. Wolford, the first female judge appointed to United States District Court for the Western District of New York.

This year's event promises to be a fun and casual celebration in one of Buffalo's most beautiful summer locations. Our Installation reception will feature an assortment of delicious food, an open bar, dessert sta-

tions, and our traditional basket raffle to benefit the Denman Scholarship Fund. We will also have a guest DJ, a musical performance by Erie County Court Judge Thomas P. Franczyk, a photobooth, and other surprises!

Formal invitations will be mailed soon. If you are interested in sponsoring the event, donating a basket for our raffle, or placing an ad in the commemorative souvenir journal, please contact Colleen Lamarre at [clamarre@phillipslytle.com](mailto:clamarre@phillipslytle.com).





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ASSOCIATION OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
WESTERN NEW YORK  
CHAPTER**

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