

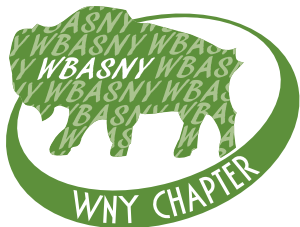
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**KAREN E. RICHARDSON**  
PRESIDENT

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Dear Members,

While perusing Bartlett's Quotations in a desperate search for a pithy introduction to this, my last president's address, I stumbled across, and then continued to ponder the following: "Time is the most valuable thing a woman can spend."<sup>1</sup>

I think this phrase is resonating with me right now because even as I eagerly anticipate the return of a significant amount of free time this month, I can honestly say that I do not regret a single moment I have spent on this Chapter. It has been my good fortune to have met so many wonderful women and to have been in a position to fully appreciate the breadth of talent within our membership.

Our Chapter was honored to host the New York State Court of Appeals as we presented Chief Judge Kaye with our most prestigious award, the M. Dolores Denman Lady Justice Award for Lifetime Achievement. This award pays tribute to one of our Chapter's founding members, a woman who put herself through law school as a single parent, graduating top of her law school class. A woman who took risks, like stepping down from her appointment as the first woman appellate justice in New York to run for New York State Attorney General, and who persevered not only to return to the bench, but to become the first woman presiding justice of an appellate division. Most importantly,

this award pays tribute to a woman who was dedicated to her family and friends above all, who supported her profession and mentored younger attorneys, and who never lost sight of the individuals whose lives were and continue to be impacted by the decisions reached by her Court.

I can think of no one more fitting to receive the M. Dolores Denman Lady Justice Award for Lifetime Achievement than its namesake's beloved friend, the Hon. Judith S. Kaye. One of ten women to graduate from her class of 300 at New York University School of Law, Judge Kaye persisted until she was offered a job on equal terms with her male colleagues. She negotiated a part-time schedule in the

litigation department of a commercial law firm while her children were small, ultimately becoming a partner at that firm. As the first woman appointed to the Court of Appeals and then the first woman appointed Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, Judge Kaye has continued to demonstrate creativity and determination as she strives to restructure our court system to increase access and efficiency and to encourage partnerships with community resources to more effectively address the complex societal issues underlying

PLEASE SEE "PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE"  
ON PAGE TWO

“Time is the most valuable thing a woman can spend.”



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT'D FROM FRONT PAGE)

much of our courts' case load. She has also confronted difficult issues within our profession, challenging the status quo in the process of fiduciary appointments and judicial elections. Judge Kaye's commitment to uphold the integrity of our profession and her quest for effective justice for all who come before our courts brings honor to us all.

To all of you who have spent your valuable time in support of this Chapter, please accept my heartfelt appreciation. I have no doubt that, under Lisa Mueller's strong leadership, with the assistance of a fantastic incoming board of directors and committee chairs, our Chapter will continue to thrive.

Best wishes,



Karen Richardson  
President

(Footnote)

<sup>1</sup> I have taken the liberty of changing the gender from the original quotation, which is from the Greek philosopher, Theophrastus, circa 278 B.C.

*Thank you, Karen, for a  
marvelous and memorable year!*

## KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Lynn A. Clark was honored with the 2005 YWCA's Leader Award (Professional Category).
- Melissa H. Nickson was named one of Buffalo's Up and Coming Attorneys by The Daily Record.
- Margaret Phillips was nominated to run for Deputy Treasurer of the Bar Association of Erie County.
- Judith Gerber and Candace Vogel were each nominated to run for Directors of Bar Association of Erie County.
- Elizabeth R. Wright, Esq., M.S.W. was named partner at Goldstein, Ackerhalt & Pletcher, L.L.P.

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**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:** Michelle Bullock, Julie Grogan, Georgette Hasiotis, Lisa Mueller, Bridget O'Connell, Karen Richardson and Tiffany Szymanek.

## ON THE MOVE

**Roseanne J. Moran, Esq.** is now at  
2577 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda, NY 14150  
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rmoran@clarencelaw.com

**Elizabeth R. Wright, Esq., M.S.W.** was named partner at Goldstein, Ackerhalt & Pletcher, L.L.P., located at 70 Niagara Street, Suite 200, Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 362-1533 (phone), (716) 362-1534 (fax)  
ewright@gapattorneys.com



(L-R): Rachel Kranitz, Karen Richardson, Dara Biltekoff, and Kelly Eisenried.

## MARTINI GRAS CELEBRATION WBASNY STYLE

*By Natalie Grigg, Local Director*

Good friends, good drinks and good food was this year's WBASNY Mardi Gras theme. Over 30 WBASNY WNY Chapter members and potential members attended on Thursday, February 17th at Lotis on Delaware Avenue in Buffalo, NY. Martinis served ranged from the popular Cosmopolitan and piquant Appletini through the scrumptious Chocolate Raspberry Martini. For those who missed the event, the menu originally planned for 10 martini tastings throughout the evening. The tempting selection, tasty mixtures and generous servings were highly reminiscent of the spirit of fun and indulgence that Mardi Gras is all about.

## WNY CHAPTER TEAMS WITH THE CANISIUS COLLEGE CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CLE

WBASNY WNY Chapter teamed with the Canisius College Center for Professional Development to present "Negotiation Skills: Empowering Women for Success." Melissa Bekelja Wanzer, Ed.D., an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Canisius College, led the course.

Focusing on Principled Negotiation, based upon concepts developed through the Harvard Negotiation Project (outlined in the book *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*, by Roger Fisher, William Ury and Bruce Patterson (2d Ed. 1991)), Dr. Wanzer explained that this form of negotiation is based upon mutually agreeable outcomes through flexibility in positions and firmness in pursuing parties' interests. Principled Negotiation is broken into four points: (1) Separate People from the Problem, (2) Prepare, (3) Evaluate Solutions and (4) Develop a BATNA (Best Alternative To Negotiated Agreement).

Dr. Wanzer reiterated the importance of asking open ended questions as the means to learn your opponent's interests, and noted the success of any negotiation requires focus upon concepts, principles and facts. Seminar participants debated the difference between being assertive versus aggressive while negotiating, and addressed the unique difficulties women encounter. Dr. Wanzer explained that Principled Negotiation,



(L-R): Karen Richardson, Dr. Melissa Wanzer and Lisa Mueller.

especially the development of BATNAs, applied not only to legal negotiation, but also to more personal realms such as asking for raises and alternative work schedules.

When posed tough questions of how best to handle "dirty tricks" within a negotiation, such as neutralizing an opponent who uses a personal attack, she advised participants to use the ERA approach: Empathize ("I understand that you feel frustrated."), give a Rationale ("However, using a personal attack does not help us work collaboratively.") and take Action ("Please refrain from personal and/or character attacks. We need to focus on our clients.").





(L-R): Chief Judge Kaye, Denise O'Donnell and Moira O'Donnell



(L-R): Deanna Trippi, Brenda Freedman and Sheila Murphy



Karen Richardson introducing Chief Judge Kaye

(L-R): Hon. Victoria A. Graffeo of the Court of Appeals and Melissa H. Nickson, WNY Chapter Immediate Past President



Chief Judge Kaye as she accepts the M. Dolores Denman Lady Justice Award for Lifetime Achievement.



(L-R): Karen Richardson, WNY Chapter President and Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt of the Court of Appeals.



(L-R) Hon. Sharon S. Townsend and Chief Judge Kaye

## WNY CHAPTER PRESENTS CHIEF JUDGE KAYE WITH 2005 M. DOLORES DENMAN LADY JUSTICE AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

*By Nora A. Jones, Correspondent to The Daily Record  
Reprinted with the permission of The Daily Record*

While many people were fretting over taxes being due on April 15th, a large group of attorneys and judges gathered at Shanghai Red's Restaurant in Buffalo to visit with the entire bench of the New York Court of Appeals and to congratulate Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye on her receipt of the M. Dolores Denman Lady Justice Award for Lifetime Achievement. Presented by the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, the award and Judge Kaye's remarks were the full focus of the event.

"How many of you attended a one-room school?" asked Judge Kaye as she shared a bit of her own biographical background, which included a one-room schoolhouse in Monticello, NY. Graduating from high school at 15, she went on to Barnard College where life was very different from her childhood small town.

As she graduated from Barnard in 1958, the professors reassured the handful of classmates who had not yet found a husband that "life was still worth living." Enthused about her future career in journalism, Judge Kaye was disappointed when the best job she could land was writing for the social page of the Hudson Dispatch in Hudson City, NJ.

With a goal of getting a more serious writing assignment, she began law school, working during the day and attending school at night. She graduated from New York University School of Law in 1962, re-energized by the prospects of a legal career, only to find that most law firms voiced major concerns about hiring female attorneys.

Judge Kaye did get hired at one of the most prestigious wall street firms -- Sullivan and Cromwell, where she worked for two years before moving on to the counsel's office at IBM. She continued her career in private practice until she was appointed the Court of Appeals as an associate judge in September 1983. In March 1993, Judge Kaye was sworn in as the first female chief judge of the State of New York.



Karen E. Richardson presents Chief Judge Kaye with the M. Dolores Denman Lady Justice Award for Lifetime Achievement. The engraved plaque includes a photo of Kaye with her longtime friend, Justice Denman.

Both Judge Kaye and Judge Denman served on the New York Pattern Jury Instruction Committee. "When we'd finished our Saturday committee meetings, Dolores and I would hit Saks 5th Avenue and enjoyed so many great adventures," she recalled.

Judge Kaye also shared one of her favorite (among many) Denman stories. "More than 25 years ago, a panel was appointed by President Carter to select judges for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals," she began. "Judge Denman was one of the candidates. Her entrance

was breathtaking -- such poise and elegance with her deep voice and throaty laugh. She was completely in command of every question asked. When she left the interview a silence hung in the air. Then one of the selection panel said: 'I think I'm in love.'"

Judge Kaye fondly shared the fact that the whole federal committee was in love with the eloquent candidate. "And thankfully she was not selected for the federal bench, so she went on to become Presiding Justice of New York's Fourth Appellate Department.

The plaque that WNY Chapter president, Karen Richardson, presented to Judge Kaye included a photograph of Judge Kaye with Judge Denman.

*Chief Judge Kaye's full remarks are available on-line at [www.wnychapter-wbasny.org](http://www.wnychapter-wbasny.org).*



Congratulating the WBASNY Scholarship Recipient (L-R): Karen Richardson, WNY Chapter President, Tara A. Midlik, law student member and Chief Judge Judith Kaye.

## JUSTICE DENMAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Justice M. Dolores Denman Award commemorates the Hon. M. Dolores Denman, a 1965 graduate of UB Law School, and the first woman to be named presiding justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division. Justice Denman was a single parent while in law school, yet managed to graduate near the top of her class. This award is presented by the WNY Chapter of WBASNY to a graduating senior who is a custodial parent, with preference given to single parents, and is intended to offset the costs of daycare and other child rearing expenses during the bar study period.

This year's recipient, Tara Midlik attended the University at Buffalo Law School in fulfillment of a long held dream. After working several years in technical sales and marketing, she had saved enough to pursue her legal studies. A single mom, Tara's son Tristan is now three years old as Tara approaches her law school graduation with a dual concentration in Finance Transactions, and Technology and Intellectual Property. She also has a M.S.E. in Engineering Management and a B.S.E. in Industrial Engineering, both from Northeastern University.

The Justice M. Dolores Denman Award was presented to Tara on April 14, 2005 by Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, Hon. Judith S. Kaye. Kaye was a longtime friend of Justice Denman.

## WBASNY ZEN ACHIEVED

*By Rachel M. Kranitz, Contributing Writer*

On Saturday, March 12, 2005, WBASNY members stretched and posed their way to enlightenment at a yoga class held at the East Meets West Yoga studio located in the heart of Elmwood Avenue. According to East Meets West, the practice of yoga promotes physical, mental and spiritual well-being through the use of postures, breath work, awareness, relaxation and meditation techniques. At the class, fellow members were led by an experienced instructor through a series of movements designed to open the heart and align the body. Participants varied in their experience levels, but all enjoyed this calming respite from the outside world.

*WBASNY WNY Chapter extends sincere thanks to Trinity Title & Abstract Corp. for its sponsorship of the 2004-2005 newsletter.*

### Requirements for Article Submission

Submissions for the next WBASNY – WNY newsletter must be received by Friday, July 1, 2005 at 5:00pm. Submissions must include the author's name and telephone number. Electronic submissions are preferred, either e-mail or disk. MSWord and WordPerfect formats are acceptable. All items will be edited and published, space permitting, at the editor's discretion. Submissions may include: articles of importance to the WBASNY membership; congratulatory notes for accomplishments by WBASNY members; opinion letters to the editor. Ideas for other items, articles and/or columns are always welcome, and strongly encouraged. If you have any questions or comments, need additional information, or wish to submit items for publication, please contact:

Tiffany M. Szymanek

E-mail: [newsletter@wnychapter-wbasny.org](mailto:newsletter@wnychapter-wbasny.org)

Phone: 716.854.1300

*Note: Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the author and do not reflect the opinions of WBASNY, the Western New York Chapter, the Officers and Directors, or the editor.*



## ACCOMPLISHED UPSTATE ATTORNEY FORGES MANY "FIRSTS"

By Georgette M. Hasiotis, Website Chair

When she came to work for me in 1982, after graduating first in her class and *summa cum laude*, I knew I had a very special person – not just an outstanding lawyer, but an outstanding person.

—Justice M. Dolores Denman

WBASNY WNY Chapter founding member Denise E. O'Donnell was the first woman appointee to serve as United States Attorney for the Western District and is the recipient of numerous awards, including most recently the State Bar Association's prestigious Ruth G. Schapiro Award. As she accepted this honor, O'Donnell stated, "We Upstaters are especially proud of our role in the early struggle for women's rights, for it was women who lived in upstate New York, such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Sojourner Truth, who were the foremothers of the women lawyers of today." O'Donnell has worked to advance causes similarly embraced by well known leaders with local roots throughout her career. Indeed, O'Donnell continued to forge new "firsts" as a formal announcement of her candidacy for New York State Attorney General in 2006 took place at the historic Guaranty Building in downtown Buffalo on Monday, May 9, 2005.

Now a partner at Hodgson Russ, LLP, headquartered in Buffalo, O'Donnell's commitment to championing the rights of all Americans runs deep. Her first professional experience in fighting for civil rights was in 1981 when, as a student, she worked as a legal assistant to the plaintiffs in the Buffalo schools desegregation case and drafted the settlement agreement that ended the teachers affirmative action claim against the

school district. Years later, under O'Donnell's aegis, the Western District participated in a nationwide fair housing test program and became involved in

what would become a continuing fight by that office against housing discrimination.

A career prosecutor, O'Donnell served for seventeen years at the U. S. Attorney's Office, where she rose through the ranks until her appointment to the top post in 1997. During her tenure as the chief federal law enforcement officer in the District, O'Donnell played a significant role in former Attorney General Janet Reno's investigation of the Oklahoma City bombing as well as in the capture of James Kopp, then on the FBI

Ten Most Wanted list for the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian, a local physician who provided reproductive services to women. Throughout that challenging time, O'Donnell ensured that local women's health care leaders received federal protection.

Known for her inviting smile and razor sharp intellect, O'Donnell earned a B.S. from Canisius College; an M.S.W. from SUNY at Buffalo School of Social Work; and a J.D. *summa cum laude* from the SUNY at Buffalo School of Law. Following graduation from law school, O'Donnell was a Confidential Law Clerk to the late Hon. M. Dolores Denman, New York State Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department,

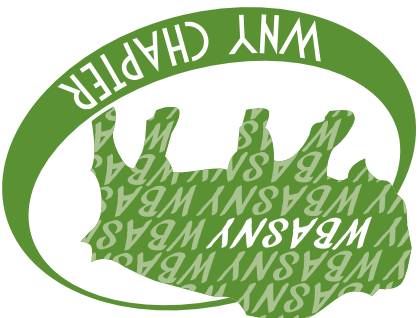
whom she credits as an exemplary professional mentor.



Denise O'Donnell in front of her Role Model of the Profession plaque to be displayed at the New York State Bar Association Headquarters in Albany, NY.



O'Donnell receives collegial congratulations from past NYSBA Schapiro award winners (L-R): Chief Judge Judith Kaye, Rachel Kretser, Denise O'Donnell and M. Catherine Richardson.



**WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION  
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