



# WWBA news

Westchester Women's Bar Association

DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021

www.wwbany.org

## WWBA HOLIDAY SPIRIT LIVES ON . . . *Virtually, Of Course*

Jennifer Netrosio-Johnson

**E**ach year approximately 200 WWBA members and guests gather in the beautiful ballroom of the Women's Club at the CV Rich Mansion in White Plains, NY to enjoy the spirit of the holiday season and end of the year. Many wear red and opt to take a group photo. We eat, drink, shop, laugh, network, and unwind.

WWBA's Annual Holiday Party has always been a way for the organization to say "thank you" to its dedicated sponsors, members, and volunteers. Law students and new lawyers attend to make new connections, start networking, or simply have the opportunity to interact with coworkers outside of the office. We work hard, and the Holiday Party is our time to take a breath, donate much needed food, clothing and/or gifts, and enjoy the moment.

It is no surprise that 200 people did not, in fact, gather at the Women's Club. We did, however, do the next best thing – *get together virtually!*

On Small Business Saturday (November 28th), we "gathered" for a live stream Holiday Shopping Extravaganza hosted by WWBA Past President Dolores Gebhardt. We supported 10 local businesses plus our very own WWBA Foundation during this day-long online event. Each vendor received 30 minutes to showcase their collection, personalizing the shopping experience in a way that traditional online sales cannot. What a treat!

Maybe you jumped on the live stream for a few minutes, or maybe you spent the whole day with us. The beauty of the virtual world is that you have the access and therefore you decide how much or how little you want to participate. So this year, the

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### ▶ SAVE THE DATE

#### WWBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 13, 2021  
Zoom

#### Navigating Employment Law Matters in the COVID-19 Era

January 22, 2021  
Zoom

#### LEADING LADY LAWYERS LUNCH SERIES

January 27, 2021  
Zoom

### ▶ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends, many years from now we will look back at 2020 and wonder how we survived this unusually challenging year. Somehow we have emerged, and we are now in 2021, looking toward a better year ahead



Hon. Lisa  
Margaret Smith

than the one we just lived through. For those of you who have survived illness, or who have lost loved ones, or who have lost jobs and suffered economic challenges, our hearts and prayers are with you all. The year ahead is brighter and more hopeful than we could have expected even just a few months ago, with the approval of multiple vaccines, and the prospect that we might see sufficient use of vaccines to allow something akin to normalcy in June, or July, or August of 2021. As WWBA President I did not anticipate that this year would be spent mostly at my computer, attending Zoom meetings and CLEs or other events virtually, but WWBA has done well thus far, and I have no doubt that we will continue to do well in the coming months. The next time we gather in person, whether for a Board meeting, a CLE, a social event, or an annual dinner (which might be delayed this year, but we expect that it will happen), we will truly celebrate our emergence from isolation, even if the celebrations include elbow bumps rather than hugs and handshakes! Thank you for continuing to support and engage with WWBA. I look forward to seeing each one of you in

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# ▶ WWBA Member Newsletter



DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021

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

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Editor-in-Chief: Jennifer Robinson • Designed and Printed by IPM Media Group, Inc. (516) 809-0501

# ▶ 2020-2021 WWBA Committee Chairs

## STANDING COMMITTEES

By-Laws .....	Kim Berg	Membership .....	Sherry Bishko, Marian Genio, Kristen Motel
Corporate & Commercial .....	Lisa M. Bluestein, Virginia Trunkes	Networking .....	TBD
Criminal Law .....	Elizabeth Gazay, Hon. Sandra A. Forster, Amy Puerto	New Lawyers .....	Katie Wendle, Kristen Motel
Families, Children & the Courts .....	Joy S. Joseph, Lauren Morrissey	Professional Development .....	Susan Edwards Colson, Stephanie Melowsky
	Amanda Rieben	Programs .....	Natanya L. Briendel, Amanda C. Fried
Grievance/Ethics .....	Deborah A. Scalise	Public Relations .....	Lisa M. Denig
Judicial Screening .....	Hon. Sandra A. Forster, Kimberly C. Sheehan	Real Property .....	Anne R. Aicher, Allyson Lanahan, Robbin E. Sweeney
Judiciary .....	Hon. Linda S. Jamieson	Sponsorship .....	Lucia Chiochio, Susan Edwards Colson,
Lawyering & Parenting .....	Joelle M. Burton, Jennifer Gray		Deborah Farber-Kaiser, Marian Genio
Legislation .....	Natanya L. Briendel, Angela Morcone Giannini	Taxation .....	Patricia Rusch Bellucci
Matrimonial .....	Robin D. Carton, Dolores Gebhardt	Trusts & Estates .....	Lonya A. Gilbert, Nancy J. Rudolph,
	Lonya A. Gilbert, Andrea Friedman		Karen J. Walsh

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

Annual Dinner .....	Robin D. Carton, Amanda Fried, Andrea B. Friedman,	Long Range Planning .....	Lisa M. Denig, Linda Markowitz
	Jennifer L. Gray, Jennifer Netrosio-Johnson, Hon. Lisa Margaret Smith	Mediation .....	Hon. Sondra M. Miller, Abby Rosmarin, Lisa M. Denig
Annual Dinner Souvenir Journal .....	Andrea B. Friedman, Allison Sloto	Mentor .....	Kim Berg, Sherry Bishko
Appellate Practice .....	Lisa M. Denig, Hon. Sondra M. Miller, Heather Gushue	Past Presidents .....	Angela Morcone Giannini
Archive & Historian .....	Susan L. Pollet	Practice Management .....	Wendy Marie Weathers
Awards .....	Elizabeth Barnhard, Deborah Farber-Kaiser	Pro Bono .....	Marian Genio, Natalie Sobchak
Bankruptcy .....	Wendy Marie Weathers, Susan Mills Richmond	Social Media .....	Kristen Motel
Breast Cancer Awareness .....	Adrienne J. Orbach, Hon. Sandra Forster	Technology/Website .....	Donna E. Frosco, Theresa Nugent
Collaborative Law .....	Kathleen Donelli, Hon. Sondra M. Miller, Lynn J. Maier	Wellness .....	Jennifer Netrosio-Johnson, Susan Mills Richmond
Community Outreach .....	Hon. Lisa Margaret Smith, Deborah A. Scalise	Women in Leadership .....	Adrienne Arkontaky
Construction Law .....	Aisling Brady		
Continuing Legal Education .....	Ann M. McNulty		
Cyber Law .....	TBD		
Diversity and Inclusion .....	Jacqueline Hattar, Stephanie Melowsky,		
	Janeen Thomas		
Domestic Violence .....	Marian Genio, Beth Levy, Stacey Neumann		
Education .....	Allison Morris, Julie P. Passman, Susan Mills Richmond		
Elder, Health Law & Reproductive Rights .....	Elizabeth A. Cumming,		
	Moirra Laidlaw		
Employment Law .....	Kim Berg, Sara Kula		
Environmental & Land Use .....	Lucia Chiochio, Jennifer L. Gray,		
	Katherine Zalanis		
Gender Dynamics .....	Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman		
Holiday Party and Boutique .....	Dolores Gebhardt, Jennifer Netrosio-Johnson		
Immigration .....	Karin Anderson Ponzer, Elizabeth Mastropolo		
Insurance .....	Michelle Kolodny, Julie A. Mickiewicz		
Intellectual Property .....	Elizabeth M. Barnhard, Theresa Nugent		
Judgment Enforcement & Collections .....	Daniel F. Florio, Jr., Michael Giannini		
Litigation .....	Angela Morcone Giannini, Jacqueline Hattar,		
	Rebecca McCloskey		

### WWBA Representatives

Network of Bar Leaders .....	Angela Morcone Giannini
Pace Board of Visitors .....	Lisa Denig
WWBA Foundation President .....	Susan S. Brown
WWBA Representative Director to the WCBA Board .....	Dolores Gebhardt
WBASNY Judicial Screening Committee ..	Lisa M. Bluestein, Gail M. Boggio (Alt.)
WBASNY Nominations Committee .....	Lisa M. Bluestein, Gail M. Boggio (Alt.)
WBASNY Awards Committee .....	Deborah Scalise
WBASNY Health Law/Reproductive Rights Committee .....	Shari Gordin
WBASNY Fundraising Committee .....	Andrea Friedman
WBASNY ERA/Women's Civil Rights Committee .....	Kim Berg, Susan Mills Richmond
WBASNY Labor and Employment Law .....	Kim Berg
WBASNY Legislation Committee .....	Natanya Briendel
WBASNY LGBTQ+ Committee .....	Adrienne Orbach
WBASNY Domestic Violence Committee .....	Susan Pollet, Alayne Katz
WBASNY Press and Public Relations .....	Angela Morcone Giannini
WBASNY Children's Rights .....	Joy Joseph
WBASNY Long-Range Planning .....	Linda Markowitz
WBASNY Professional Ethics, Discipline and Practice Committee .....	Deborah Scalise
WBASNY Diversity Committee .....	Janeen Thomas
9th Judicial District Representative .....	Angela Morcone Giannini

## President's Message

from page 1

person at some point in the coming year.

In December 2020, WWBA held five separate events in addition to our Board meeting. As I write this message, we already have four events scheduled for January, as well as the Board meeting. All of the events I have attended this year have been interesting and worthwhile-especially the ones in areas of the law with which I have no familiarity! Our Committee Chairs have continued to find interesting and qualified panelists to keep our members engaged and learning. Our monthly Leading Ladies in the Law lunch series took a break in December, but will continue in January, and I encourage you to attend at least one of these presentations, which celebrate the 45th year of WWBA (WWBA was founded 5 years before WBASNY, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year). For the time being we will continue to conduct our meetings and events remotely. Committee Chairs are invited to be creative about preparing and presenting programs in the coming months. I also hope to come up with some fun events, perhaps a trivia contest or some other get-together.

As of this writing, WWBA's membership includes only enough voting members to warrant 6 State Directors rather than the 8 we have had this year and last year. For those of you who are not familiar with what that means, let me explain. WWBA is one of 20 chapters which are members of WBASNY. Our parent organization, WBASNY, is governed by an Executive Committee, made up of the WBASNY Officers and the Chapter Presidents. In addition, certain issues are presented to and decided by the WBASNY Board, made up of the Executive Committee plus Directors elected by each individual Chapter to represent the interests of that Chapter. Each Chapter is entitled to one Director for each 50 full voting members of the Chapter; thus, increased membership translates into increased voting power at the WBASNY Board meetings. This year we have 8 State Directors; only two Chapters have more, those are the Brooklyn and New York Chapters. We would like to maintain our 8 State Directors, and therefore we encourage you to talk to friends and colleagues to encourage them to join (or re-join) WWBA, so

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## ▶ Editor's Note

"When there is nothing left to lose, we find the true self-the self that is whole, the self that is enough, the self that no longer looks to others for definition, or completion, or anything but companionship on the journey."

~ Elizabeth Lesser

## ▶ Making Dates and Getting Published

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

- ❑ Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 12th of the month prior to publication (submissions received after the deadline are subject to the discretion of the editor).
- ❑ Send submissions as email attachments to Jennifer Robinson at [secretary@wwbany.org](mailto:secretary@wwbany.org).
- ❑ Articles should be 1,000 words or fewer. Remove all pagination, headers, footers or other formatting, other than bold, underline or italics. Authors are encouraged to submit photographs for publication with their submissions and 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 the subject and all persons in each photograph must be fully identified.

### PROGRAM SCHEDULING

- ❑ First visit the WWBA website: [www.wwbany.org](http://www.wwbany.org) and click on the calendar at the home page to view scheduled programs. Conflicts in scheduling will be assessed on a case by case basis, with priority for early submissions.
- ❑ Contact Jennifer Robinson at [secretary@wwbany.org](mailto:secretary@wwbany.org) to schedule a WWBA sponsored or co-sponsored program, including committee meetings, CLE programs, etc.
- ❑ Once you have reserved the date with Jennifer Robinson, proceed with planning your program and creating your flyer.
- ❑ Flyers must be approved by the Programs Committee. In advance of the 12th of the month, please send your flyer to the Program Committee Co-chairs for review and copy the Executive Director. Once approved, please send your final flyer to the Executive Director, Elisabeth Campos and the President for publication on the website calendar and the newsletter calendar. The final flyer will also be emailed to the membership.
- ❑ We will also consider publicizing programs from outside organizations that may be of interest to our members.
- ❑ Post-event: You may report on the success of your program and provide photographs of the speakers and participants that can be included in an upcoming newsletter. Send your submission to Jennifer Robinson, following the guidelines above.

### Contacts

Jennifer Robinson, Corresponding Secretary and Newsletter Editor-in-Chief: [secretary@wwbany.org](mailto:secretary@wwbany.org)  
Natanya L. Briendel, Programs Committee Co-Chair: [tanyabriendel@gmail.com](mailto:tanyabriendel@gmail.com)  
Amanda C. Fried, Programs Committee Co-Chair: [afried@cartonrosoff.com](mailto:afried@cartonrosoff.com)  
Hon. Lisa Margaret Smith, President: [president@wwbany.org](mailto:president@wwbany.org)  
Ann M. McNulty, CLE Chair: [ann.m.mculty@morganstanley.com](mailto:ann.m.mculty@morganstanley.com)  
Elisabeth Campos, Executive Director: [executivedirector@wwbany.org](mailto:executivedirector@wwbany.org)

### Advertising Rates

<b>Full Page Display Ad</b>	<b>Quarter Page Display Ad</b>
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
<b>Half Page Display Ad</b>	<b>Business Card Ad</b>
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. Contact Jennifer Robinson at [secretary@wwbany.org](mailto:secretary@wwbany.org) for any questions regarding advertising.

# A Message from the Fundraising Committee: SUPPORT WBASNY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY "FORTY AND FAITHFUL TO THE MISSION"

Andrea B Friedman

The WBASNY Fundraising Committee is dedicated to helping its members across New York State and honoring WBASNY's 40th Anniversary.

The fundraising committee is proud to share the "Forty and Faithful to the Mission" "aimed to promote the advancement of the status of women in society and of women in the legal profession; to promote the fair and equal administration of justice; and to act as a unified voice for its members with respect to issues of statewide, national and international significance to women generally and to women attorneys in particular."

In honor of this 40th Anniversary, the WBASNY Fundraising Committee invites each chapter to help celebrate WBASNY's continued commitment to its mission by highlighting our 2020 WBASNY Awards on a monthly basis. We are currently looking for sponsors to support our efforts and to ensure WBASNY's continued impact on communities throughout the state, especially as WBASNY and its members adapt to serving our local communities during the worldwide pandemic.

WBASNY welcomes advertisements for products and services that have an existing or potential market in the legal community throughout the State of New York. We have several sponsorship opportunities available including the following:

### I. Web Site Advertising –

For a minimal cost, your product or service may be placed in a banner advertisement on the WBASNY Website. The WBASNY website is an effective way of maximizing your exposure to WBASNY members and the general public that utilize our website.

### II. Newsletter Advertising –

Published three times a year and transmitted to over 4,300 current WBASNY members, the *Women's Bar News of the State of New York* provides statewide chapter news, up-to-date legal articles, practice advice, and member benefit information. Additional copies are also distributed throughout the New

York State legal community.

### III. E-Bulletin/E-Newsletter Advertising –

Numerous times throughout the year, WBASNY distributes E-Bulletins and E-newsletters to its members on topics of significant importance. Sponsorship via E-Bulletin and E-newsletter places your name, logo and product or service in front of over 4,300 members and subscribers.

### IV. Board Meeting Sponsorship –

Four times a year, WBASNY holds Statewide Board of Directors Meetings. Those in attendance at the Board meetings include WBASNY's Board of Directors (consisting of over 150 members) and numerous legal community dignitaries. Your board

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## WWBA Holiday Spirit Lives On

from page 1

WWBA brought the party to you.

This year as an organization, society, and global culture we have learned to roll with the punches. The Holiday Party was no exception. But the point is, we did it! And we did it together.

The WWBA Holiday Party Committee, along with President Lisa Margaret Smith and the entire organization, wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every vendor who showed up to serve our community, to each and every sponsor who made the event possible, and to our many members and volunteers who supported the effort.

Did you miss the event but still want to shop? Or do you still want to see Dolores' many different "looks"? The link is still live at [www.wwbany.org](http://www.wwbany.org).

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Wealth Director

701 Westchester Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10604  
T 914 299 3050 F 955 498 2839  
[jamie.o'connell@bnymellon.com](mailto:jamie.o'connell@bnymellon.com)  
[www.bnymellonwealth.com](http://www.bnymellonwealth.com)



# An Interview with Andrea B. Friedman

Susan L. Pollet  
Chair of the Archive and  
Historian Committee

*Q: When and why did you become involved in the WWBA?*

A: I became involved in the WWBA in 2016 when I moved to Westchester from Manhattan with my husband. New to the area (despite having had some cases in the county previously), I felt it would be great opportunity to meet the members of the Westchester bar and community. I was warmly welcomed with open arms.

*Q: Which WWBA activities have you participated in?*

A: After joining the WWBA, I was invited to assist on the Annual Dinner Committee and join the board of the WWBA. I have been an Annual Dinner Committee member since 2018 and more specifically co-chair of the annual dinner journal. I have also recently joined the Matrimonial Committee. I am part of the WWBA mentor program acting as a mentor to a Pace law student, which is a great program. I have also attended a number of the social and networking events of the WWBA.

*Q: Tell us about your legal background.*

A: I received my J.D. from Hofstra University, School of Law and was admitted to the New York State bar in 2009. I am also admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court. Since graduating law school, my law practice has been dedicated to matrimonial and family law. I have been honored to re-

***“Making mistakes and learning from them is how you develop in the practice of law. Each attorney you admire who is an accomplished expert in his or her field started out exactly where you did!”***

ceive numerous awards based on my experience and professionalism as an attorney, including being recognized by my Alma Mata as an Emerging Leader in 2018, a Rising Star by Super Lawyers in 2018 and I was recently inducted to Marquis Who’s Who. I have also been a guest lecturer, with my law partner, at the Marino Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

*Q: Tell us about your legal practice, including what you like most about it and what you find most challenging.*

A: I am a partner at Friedman & Friedman, PLLC, specializing in matrimonial and family law. The firm has two offices located in Westchester County and Nassau County. I work with my mother, as I manage the Westchester office and she manages the Nassau office, and together we have been partners since 2014. After graduating law school, I joined the firm and immediately I learned that I enjoy helping the firm’s clients. To this day, helping my clients by making a positive impact and difference in their lives is the most rewarding part of what I do and why I have continued to do it all these years.

*Q: How do you think the legal profession will change in this*

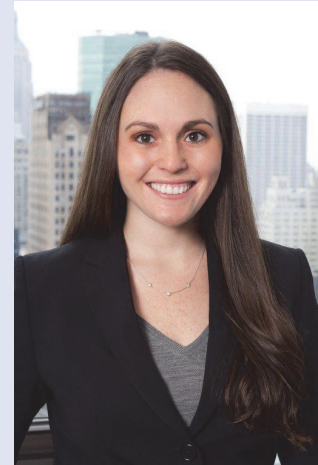
*time of the coronavirus pandemic, and how do you believe it will impact women in the profession and in the community?*

A: I am hopeful that the virtual technology that has been put in place will allow the legal profession to expand its capacity by continuing to use the technology available where appropriate. I think this technology will allow attorneys to connect with the Court, counsel and their clients in more ways, some of which is more efficient.

I think more specifically, the lines will continue to blur between peoples professional and personal lives. With all this technology, it makes it harder not only to disconnect, but for it to be acceptable to disconnect. Work life balance is very important and as technology helps to make our work more efficient, it is important that we maintain boundaries for ourselves.

*Q: When you are not practicing law, how do you enjoy spending your time, pre and post coronavirus pandemic?*

A: My absolute favorite thing to do when I am not working is to spend time with my family. Whether it is going out for a family walk, to a restaurant for lunch, or relaxing casually at home, I really enjoy this time together.



Andrea B. Friedman

*Q: How have you been balancing your career and family life?*

A: This is hard and it only becomes harder as I take on more responsibilities in my professional life. I think balance is very important which is why I try to maintain boundaries not only for myself but also as a culture in my office. An attorney’s work is never complete. Therefore, it has been important for me to accept that certain matters can wait until tomorrow.

*Q: What advice would you give new lawyers entering the profession?*

A: I argued my first motion in court the day after I was admitted to the bar. Of course, I was scared but sometimes the best way in is to jump with both feet. Making mistakes and learning from them is how you develop in the practice of law. Each attorney you admire who is an accomplished expert in his or her field started out exactly where you did! So, with passion, commitment and determination, one day that too can be you! ▀

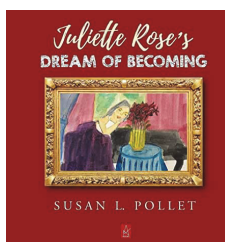
## ▶ Chapter News and Announcements

### Announcements & Notes on Members

□ **Kathy Marks** has become General Counsel to the New York State Department of Health. WWBA congratulates Kathy on this terrific appointment, and we wish her well.

□ **Lisa Margaret Smith** was awarded the Woman of the Year honor by the Mite Society of the South Salem Presbyterian Church, which is believed to be the oldest continually operating women's church society in the United States. The Mite Society was founded as the "Female Charitable Society of South Salem New York" on November 14, 1815. The Society's name is based on the story of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), reflecting the fact that its early members set aside pennies from their household allowances to pay their dues. Even now, in 2020, dues are a minimum of one penny per week, and all are invited to be members, regardless of gender.

□ In anticipation of the holiday season, **Susan L. Pollet**, former WWBA President, published her first illustrated children's book, entitled "Juliette Rose's Dream of Becoming," which is available on Amazon. The book is for children of all ages and the adults who love them. It provides a wish list of human traits-embodied by famous women in different fields – which make for exemplary human beings. Juliette strives to grow up to have these qualities, but, ultimately, she wants to accept herself as she becomes, with self-love, and love for her family and the world community. The illustrations show each of these women with visual representations of the corresponding traits. ▀



### WWBA Members Give Back In So Many Ways

Although the holidays are in the rearview mirror, celebrations must continue. We must cheer one another on in every effort to Give Back to our community. I am proud to highlight a few of the people who have given back in the last few months, and I am confident that many more examples of Giving Back could be and will be highlighted.

I am thankful for Lisa Denig, who consistently leads the WWBA Book Club with exciting book choices, intriguing and thought-provoking discussion questions, and a consistently positive attitude. Thank you, Lisa, for this example of Giving Back.

I am thankful for Beth Levy, who has worked since the summer to register voters and get out the vote, nationally and locally. Our vote is one of our most important assets as citizens of the United States, and particularly important this year, when we celebrate the 100th birthday of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, at last.

I am thankful for our members Ariadne Green, Joana Kaso, Michelle Kolody, this author, and perhaps others, who volunteered to serve as judges for the Pace Undergraduate Mock Trial program in November.

I am thankful for our members Angela Morcone Giannini, Patricia Bisesto, Amy Puerto, Ariadne Green, Paul Marrow, Annette Hasipidis, Jean Lucasey, Meghan Clemente, Natalie Sobchak, and Donna Drumm, for volunteering to serve as brief graders for the Elisabeth Haub School of Law's National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition. This premier event shines a bright light on our local law school, and the participation of so many local attorneys from our membership shines a bright light on WWBA!

I am extremely thankful for the efforts of Dolores Gebhardt, and Jennifer Netroso Johnson, for spearheading our Holiday Shopping Extravaganza! Remember, you can still shop, the link is on our website. The work of Dolores and Jen means that the "Holiday Party" 2020 actually made a profit for WWBA, for the first time in years. We also fostered a good relationship with our vendors. Thank you, Dolores and Jen, for giving back to WWBA and the greater shopping community in this way.

If you have Given Back to the community, please feel free to send a note, or an article, to Jen Robinson and Jill Oziembleski for inclusion in the next newsletter. Let's all find opportunities to give back, in small ways and in big ways. ▀

## ▶ Become a New Member Today

**RENEW YOUR  
WWBA MEMBERSHIP TODAY  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JUNE 1, 2020 TO MAY 31, 2021.  
RENEW NOW! DON'T WAIT!**

WWBA Membership includes membership to the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY).

January 31, 2021 is the closing date in order to count the WWBA members towards our certification to WBASNY and assure our number of delegates.

Renewing before this date will allow our Westchester Chapter (WWBA) to continue to be a strong presence in our statewide organization (WBASNY) while you will enjoy its many benefits, events, newsletter and CLE programming.



Hélène Côté, Sherry A. Bishko,  
Elisabeth Campos

*It is easy to renew by going to the  
WWBA Website at [www.WWBANY.org](http://www.WWBANY.org).*

*You can use a credit card or  
PayPal to make payment.*

## ▶ 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.

### President's Message

from page 3

that we can continue our status with WBASNY, and of course they get the benefits of membership, including fantastic CLEs and non-CLE presentations, social events (virtual this year), considerations for awards through nominations made to WBASNY, and networking. Additionally, our membership chairs, Marian Genio, Sherry Bishko, and Kristen Motel, have been doing a great job-when they reach out to you for help, please follow their directions to encourage non-renewing mem-

bers to re-up.

As I write this message, I am listening to Christmas carols and looking at my Christmas tree, adorned with ornaments from many stages of my life, including ornaments that my now-adult children made when they were in preschool. My son is now 24, my daughter is 21, and they will both be home to help us celebrate Christmas. Earlier this week, at the encouragement of a Jewish friend, I got the menorah my son made in preschool out of the attic and lit candles for the last three nights



of Hanukkah, because we should all celebrate the Festival of Lights, we should all find reasons to bring light into our lives. Despite our 2020 challenges, despite the pandemic, the election, the snowstorm and other natural calamities, despite distance from loved ones, cancelled vacations, virtual celebrations, including our own

2020 induction ceremony, we endure, as an organization, as a people, and as a country. I am filled with hope for the year ahead, and I know that WWBA will continue with joy and creativity to serve our members in ways large and small. Happy New Year to one and all, may 2021 bring you peace, happiness, safety, and good health. ▀

### CLE Reviews Defenses to Contract Non-Performance in the COVID Era

Lisa M. Bluestein

On November 18, 2020, the Corporate and Commercial Committee presented "I. Just. Can't. Contractual Non-Performance Theories of Impossibility and Impracticability in the COVID Era," a CLE on the timely topic of defenses to breach of contract claims. Virginia K. Trunkes, Esq. and Lisa M. Bluestein, Esq. examined the courts' treatment of defenses to breach of contract by reviewing *force majeure* clauses, the common law defenses such as impossibility, impracticability, and frustration of purpose, as well as defenses provided by the UCC. The speakers also discussed recent cases in which courts reviewed defenses to breaches claimed to be caused by the pandemic. This CLE was part of the Leading Lady Lawyers' Monthly Luncheon Series, celebrating WWBA's 45 years of existence. ▀

### Forty and Faithful to the Mission

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meeting sponsorship will defray the cost of breakfast, lunch, committee and board meetings and other site expenses.

**V. Convention Sponsorship** – Held annually, the WBASNY Convention offers a wide range of sponsorship/advertising opportunities. They include general Convention underwriting, sponsorship of Convention events, journal advertisements, as well as exhibitor/vendor participation.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss sponsorship participation, please do not hesitate to contact the current Women's Bar Association of the State of New York Fundraising Committee Co-Chairs Carrie Anne Cavallo (cac@cavallolawpllc.com) and Danielle Strauch (dstrauch@vandewaterlaw.com) or WBASNY Executive Director at 212-362-4445. ▀

## ▶ WWBA Schedule of Upcoming Events

COMMITTEE	DATE/TIME	PLACE	TOPIC	RSVP (also online at <a href="http://www.wwbany.org">www.wwbany.org</a> )
WWBA Virtual Book Club	1/11/21 6:00 pm	Zoom	Book Selection: "Tomboy" by Lisa Selin Davis	Email Lisa Denig for the Zoom link at <a href="mailto:lisadenig@yahoo.com">lisadenig@yahoo.com</a>
WWBA Board of Directors Meeting	1/13/21 5:30 pm	Zoom		
WWBA General Membership Meeting	1/13/21 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Zoom	"Implicit Bias: What Is It? Do I Have It? Can I Get Rid of It" 1.0 CLE Credit in Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias	\$20 WWBA Members \$25 Non-Members Registrations and payment by 4:00 pm on 1/12/21 online at <a href="http://www.wwbany.org">www.wwbany.org</a> or e-mail <a href="mailto:executivedirector@wwbany.org">executivedirector@wwbany.org</a>
Employment Law	1/22/21 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	Zoom	"Navigating Employment Law Matters in the COVID-19 Era" – A Collaborative Discussion	Email Kim Berg for the Zoom link at <a href="mailto:kberg@gouldberglaw.com">kberg@gouldberglaw.com</a>
Leading Lady Lawyers CLE Program Series	1/27/21 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	Zoom	"College Expenses in the COVID Age: What Divorcing Parents Need to Know" 1.0 CLE Credit in Skills	\$20 WWBA Members Registration and payment by 4:00 pm on 1/26/21 online at <a href="http://www.wwbany.org">www.wwbany.org</a> or e-mail <a href="mailto:executivedirector@wwbany.org">executivedirector@wwbany.org</a>

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.

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REMEMBER, YOU CAN FIND THE WBASNY WEB PAGE AT [WWW.WBASNY.ORG](http://WWW.WBASNY.ORG).

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE



THE WWBA MEMBERSHIP PERIOD FOR  
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