**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**NYCLA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD; MAJORITY OF OFFICERS ARE WOMEN**

For the 53rd time, the stewardship of the New York County Lawyers' Association has passed into new hands. I am honored to take my turn as NYCLA's President. On the evening of May 27th, following my election, I outlined my aspirations for NYCLA. In the context of those remarks, I also tried to answer a question that I believe that every member should want to ask of a new president: why did you want to do it? Why did you think it was important to make such a commitment to assume the enormous responsibilities of a voluntary position?

As you will see, my answer derives wholly from my concept of what it means to be a lawyer, and how lawyers, working collaboratively through a great bar association, may improve our legal system and expand access to justice and freedom for all. That, above all else, is my mission and what encourages me as I take on this responsibility.

I take great pride in approaching bar activities with an open mind. Though my own practice area is criminal justice, I am anxious to learn of the issues and challenges that affect every aspect of our profession. I am counting upon NYCLA's more than 70 Committees and Sections to highlight issues of concern and to propose exciting reforms so that NYCLA can continue to fulfill its mission and live up to its well-earned reputation as one of the most dynamic county bar associations in the nation. I am no less anxious to hear from the ranks of our magnificent membership. I shall strive to be ever open to your thoughts, suggestions and proposals. Feel free to contact me at: nreimer@gfrlawfirm.com.

To all of our members, I express my gratitude for the opportunity to lead NYCLA and my commitment to do my utmost to bring honor to this great institution.

REMARKS DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT NORMAN L. REIMER AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 27, 2004

First, I am a lawyer - and I am proud of it.

For 27 years, I have been a member of this great New York County Lawyers' Association, and I am also proud of that.

Today you give me the opportunity to take my turn as NYCLA's leader, and I am especially proud of that.

Today you give me the opportunity to take my turn as NYCLA's leader, and I am especially proud of that.

Visit NYCLA's website at www.nycla.org.
SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOTLINE
Attorneys, judges, law students and members of their immediate families can get confidential help with alcohol or substance-abuse problems 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling the toll-free hot-

ETHICS HOTLINE
The Committee on Professional Ethics sponsors an ethics hotline for dispensing advice over the phone to attorneys requiring quick guidance on ethical issues. The schedule of attorneys changes.
July  Joseph A. Vogel (212) 997-7634

DIRECTIONS TO NYCLA
NYCLA is located at 14 Vesey Street between Broadway and Church, across the street from St. Paul’s Chapel and around the corner from City Hall.

By Subway:
2 and 3 to Park Place;
A, C and E to Chambers Street;
4, 5 and M to Fulton Street.

By Bus:
...

WOMEN IN THE JUDICIARY: THE PAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS: PART 2
by Justice Helen E. Freedman

In the March/April issue of New York County Lawyer, I reported on some of the advances made by women in the federal judiciary in the last century, but gave very little information concerning women in New York State Courts. I limited my discussion of women judges in our state court to a mere statistical rendition. The percentages of women in various state court positions cited in that article came from the comprehensive 2002 work entitled "Women in the Courts: A Work in Progress," prepared by the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, chaired by Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin. Justice Ellerin succeeded Hon. Kathryn McDonald, the first Chair of the Committee, who served in that capacity for a decade.

During the last quarter of a century or so, there have also been a number of notable milestones or firsts among women judges in New York State courts. Even before Judge Judith S. Kaye became the first woman Court of Appeals Judge in 1983, Judge Ellerin was appointed as the first Deputy Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York for the City of New York in 1982. Although Justices Ann Mikol and M. Dolores Denman had been appointed to the Third and Fourth Departments respectively of the Appellate Division in 1977 (Justice Denman then stepped down to run for Attorney General and was reappointed in 1982), Justice Ellerin was the first woman on the First Department bench, appointed in 1985. Justice Geraldine Eiber was appointed to the Second Department bench that same year.

Subsequently, there were other firsts, including, but not limited to, Judge Joan Carey, who was the first female administrative judge of the Criminal Division in New York County Supreme Court and then of the New York City Criminal Court in 1993 and 1995 respectively, and Justice Jacqueline W. Silbermann, who became the first female Administrative Judge of the New York City Civil Court in 1989 and of the Civil Division of New York County Supreme Court in 2001.

Women judges have also risen to the top. Judge Kaye became the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals in 1993, Justice Denman became the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division Fourth Department in 1991, Justice Ellerin became the Presiding Justice of the First Department in 1999, and Justice Gail Prudenti has been the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division Second Department since 2003.

The prophetic words of Mahatma Gandhi, "If the power of women were unleashed, it would dazzle the world," have begun to resonate in our state courts.

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NYCLA CALENDAR

All events are free and held at NYCLA’s Home of Law, 14 Vesey Street, unless otherwise noted. Events are subject to change; please check the Association’s website, www.nycla.org, for schedule changes and addi-

LUNCH WITH A JUDGE: THE CRIMINAL COURTS
Tuesday, July 13
1:00 - 2:00 PM
Featured: Judge Ruth Pickholz, Criminal Court of the City of New York
A unique opportunity to share your lunch hour with colleagues to engage in informal discussion with a member of the bench. Space is extremely limited.
RSVP: Email: swalsh@gfrglaw-firm.com

LUNCH WITH A JUDGE: THE CRIMINAL COURTS
Wednesday, July 21
1:00 - 2:00 PM
Featured: Justice Laura A. Ward, NYS Supreme Court
A unique opportunity to share your lunch hour with colleagues to engage in informal discussion with a member of the bench. Space is extremely limited.
RSVP: Email: swalsh@gfrglaw-firm.com

LUNCH WITH A JUDGE: THE CRIMINAL COURTS
Tuesday, August 3
1:00 - 2:00 PM
Featured: Justice Michael J. Gaus, NYS Supreme Court
A unique opportunity to share your lunch hour with colleagues to engage in informal discussion with a member of the bench. Space is extremely limited.
RSVP: Email: swalsh@gfrglaw-firm.com

LUNCH WITH A JUDGE: THE CRIMINAL COURTS
Wednesday, August 11
1:00 - 2:00 PM
Featured: Justice James A. Yates, NYS Supreme Court
A unique opportunity to share your lunch hour with colleagues to engage in informal discussion with a member of the bench. Space is extremely limited.
RSVP: Email: swalsh@gfrglaw-firm.com

LUNCH WITH A JUDGE: THE CRIMINAL COURTS
Wednesday, August 25
1:00 - 2:00 PM
Featured: Justices Daniel P. FitzGerald and Jeffrey M. Atlas, NYS Supreme Court
A unique opportunity to share your lunch hour with colleagues to engage in informal discussion with a member of the bench. Space is extremely limited.
RSVP: Email: swalsh@gfrglaw-firm.com

2004 MINORITY SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

NYCLA kicked off its 2004 Minority Judicial Internship Program at a reception on May 25 with guest speakers Hon. Joan B. Carey, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, NYC Courts, and Hon. Harold Baer, Jr., U.S. District Court Judge, founder of the internship program and former NYCLA President, and this year’s six minority law students. The Program began in 1989 as a way to “mainstream” minority law students into the legal profession. The awardees are pictured (from left to right): New York Law School’s Gustavo Fuentes, Benjamin Cardozo’s Florence Yee, CUNY School of Law’s Gabriela Leal, Columbia University School of Law’s Mychii Snape, New York Law School’s Latoya Stephens and Brooklyn Law School’s Malik Pearson.

HAYWOOD BURNS LECTURE

In April, NYCLA hosted its Eighth Annual Haywood Burns Memorial Lecture & Reception. W. Haywood Burns, the second Dean at CUNY School of Law and first African-American to head a law school in New York State, died tragically in an automobile accident in 1996, and, in his memory, a Chair in Civil Rights was established at CUNY School of Law to honor his legacy of a lifetime committed to equality and justice. Pictured are Hon. Pam Jackman Brown, (at left) Co-Chair, NYCLA Committee on Minorities and the Law, which sponsors the event, and Jennifer Dobin, Haywood Burns’ widow. Susan R. Jones, a professor at George Washington University Law School and the first woman to hold the Burns Chair, gave the keynote address.
"To Win Equality By Law: Brown v. Board at 50" was the theme of NYCLA’s Law Day Luncheon, sponsored by the Committee on the Supreme Court, which took place on May 7 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Downtown. The Capozzili Gavel Award was presented to Hon. Ira Gammerman, State Supreme Court Justice. Two justices of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York who were involved in the historic 1954 litigation - Hon. Constance Baker Motley and Hon. Robert L. Carter - were awarded Certificates of Distinguished Judicial Service. (Justice Carter’s son, Hon. John W. Carter, accepted the award on his father’s behalf.) Pictured (from left to right) are Samuel E. Kramer, Co-Chair, Committee on the Supreme Court; Justice Motley, Richard P. Swanson, Co-Chair, Committee on the Supreme Court; and Michael Miller, former President of NYCLA. NYCLA would like to thank all of the generous sponsors of the event, including JLT Services Corporation, for their support.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGES COMMITTEE HOSTS ANNUAL DINNER AT NYSE

NYCLA’s Securities & Exchanges Committee held its Annual Dinner at the New York Stock Exchange’s Luncheon Club on June 9. Prior to the dinner, guests were treated to a tour of the Trading Floor. Pictured (from left to right) Ernest E. Badway and Suzanne E. Auletta, Committee Co-Chairs; guest speaker Robert G. Marvillo, of Marvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason & Silberberg, P.C.; Norman L. Reiner, President of NYCLA; guest speaker Edward A. Kwalwasser, Group Executive VP, Regulation, NYSE; and Edwin David Robertson, President-Elect of NYCLA. Not pictured are the event’s coordinators, Elizabeth A. Barnes and Victoria L. LaMura.
NYCLA’S ANNUAL MEETING AND RECEPTION

For more information about NYCLA’s new officers and members of the Board of Directors, please refer to pages 17 - 20.

At the Annual Meeting are (from left to right) M. Robert Goldstein, retiring Secretary of the Association and reelected Chair of the NYCLA Foundation, Hon. Judith S. Kaye, Chief Judge of the State of New York and keynote speaker, and Norman L. Reimer, NYCLA’s President.

NYCLA’s newly elected officers are (from left to right) Marjorie E. Gross, Treasurer; Ann. B. Leck, Secretary, Norman L. Reimer, President; Edwin David Robertson, President-Elect; and Catherine A. Christian, Vice President.

NYCLA honored, in Judge Kaye’s words, “The Magnificent Seven,” seven attorneys who have made significant contributions in public service. Pictured (from left to right) Hon. William J. Davis, Chair of the Public Service Awards Committee; Robert R. Molic, Assistant Attorney General, retired, Charities Bureau, Office of the Attorney General; Adele Bartlett, Supervising Attorney, MFY Legal Services; Robert W. Sadowski, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Health Care Fraud Coordinator, U.S. Attorney’s Office (Southern District of NY); Valerie Singleton, Deputy Assistant Attorney General-in-Charge, Nassau Regional Office, Office of the Attorney General; Kiyo Matsumoto, Senior Trial Counsel, U.S. Attorney’s Office (Eastern District of NY); Jonathan A. Weiss, Director, Legal Services for the Elderly Poor, Legal Services of NY; Matt Foreman, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and Catherine A. Christian, NYCLA’s Vice President.
SUMMER CLE PROGRAMS

The following CLE programs are confirmed for the summer. Please check our website for a complete list of summer offerings.

Friday & Saturday, July 16 & 17
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
BRIDGE-THE-GAP 2: A SECOND YEAR PROGRAM FOR NEWLY ADMITTED ATTORNEYS
16 MCLE Credits: 3 Ethics; 6 Skills; 2 Law Practice Management; 5 Professional Practice; Transitional
Registration Fee: Member: $245
Non-Member: $330

Monday, July 19
6:00 - 9:00 PM
WHAT EVERY NEW YORK MATRIMONIAL ATTORNEY NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT NEW JERSEY AND CONNECTICUT LAWS
3 MCLE Credits: .5 Ethics/Professionalism; 1.5 Skills; 1 Professional Practice; Transitional
Registration Fee: Member: $115
Non-Member: $145

Tuesday, July 20
6:00 - 9:00 PM
PLAIN ENGLISH FOR LAWYERS: HOW TO THINK, SPEAK, AND WRITE EFFECTIVE, POWERFUL AND PERSUASIVE PROSE
3 MCLE Credits: 3 Skills; Transitional
Registration Fee: Member: $115
Non-Member: $145

Wednesday, July 21
6:00 - 9:00 PM
ELECTRIC FOOTPRINTS: THE DISCOVERY AND ADMISSIBILITY OF ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE
3 MCLE Credits: .5 Ethics; 1 Skills; 1.5 Professional Practice; Transitional
Registration Fee: Member: $115
Non-Member: $145

Thursday, July 22
6:00 - 9:00 PM
EMERGING ISSUES IN LITIGATION ETHICS
3 MCLE Credits: 3 Ethics/Professionalism/Transitional
Registration Fee: Member: $115
Non-Member: $145

Friday, July 23
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
NAVIGATING THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT - Onsite at 60 Centre Street
3 MCLE Credits: 3 Law Practice Management; Transitional
Registration Fee: Member: $115
Non-Member: $145

Tuesday, July 27
6:00 - 9:00 PM
VIDEO REPLAY: CO-OPS AND CONDOS - A PRACTICE GUIDE FOR THE NEW YORK ATTORNEY
3 MCLE Credits: 1 Skills; 2 Professional Practice; Non-Transitional
Registration Fee: Member: $95
Non-Member: $120

Wednesday, July 28
6:00 - 9:00 PM
VIDEO REPLAY: ADVANCED ISSUES IN COOP & CONDO LAW PRACTICE
3 MCLE Credits: 3 Areas of Professional Practice; Non-Transitional
Registration Fee: Member: $95
Non-Member: $120

Friday & Saturday, August 6 & 7
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
BRIDGE-THE-GAP 1: A PROGRAM FOR NEWLY ADMITTED ATTORNEYS TWO-PART COURSE
16 MCLE Credits: 3 Ethics, 6 Skills, 2 Law Practice Management; 5 Professional Practice; Transitional
Registration Fee: Member: $245
Non-Member: $330

Tuesday, August 10
6:00 - 9:00 PM
VIDEO REPLAY: ETHICAL BOUNDS OF AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION
3 MCLE Credits: 3 Ethics/Professionalism; Non-Transitional
Registration Fee: Member: $95
Non-Member: $120

Wednesday, August 11
6:00 - 9:00 PM
VIDEO REPLAY: ETHICS FOR THE TRANSACTIONAL ATTORNEY
3 MCLE Credits: 3 Ethics/Professionalism; Non-Transitional
Registration Fee: Member: $95
Non-Member: $120

CLE tech

Wednesday, July 14
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
BANKRUPTCY COURT ELECTRONIC CASE FILING SYSTEM: HANDS-ON
2.5 MCLE Credits: 2.5 Skills; Transitional; Prerequisite: None
Registration Fee: Member: $55
Non-Member: $75

Thursday, July 15
5:30 - 7:00 PM
ACCESSING TAX RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET
1.5 MCLE Credits: 1.5 Skills; Transitional; Prerequisite: Familiarity with a personal computer.
Registration Fee: Member: $55
Non-Member: $75

Note: Transitional courses are open to both newly admitted and experienced lawyers.
LIBRARY NOTES

NEW ACQUISITIONS

PLI TITLES:
Asset Based Financing: 2004 - Provides an introduction to secured lending and commercial finance; a discussion of inventory financing; and chapters on equipment financing, equipment powerpoints, bankruptcy issues, enforcement issues, ethical issues and multiple lender/borrower transactions.

Current Developments in Federal Civil Practice: 2004 - Contents include: federal jurisdiction and pleading requirements; client privilege and the work product doctrine; using undercover investigators to contact and taperecord an adversary’s employees; cases involving communications with persons represented by counsel; commentary on the ethical aspects of electronic recording by attorneys; discovery practice; sanctions under Rule 11, jury trial issues and dispositive motions.

Insurance Law 2004: Understanding the ABC’s - includes chapters discussing: insurance law fundamentals; current insurance regulation issues; the basics of life, property, and health insurance and reinsurance; cyberspace liabilities and a survey of additional insured coverage.

New York CPLR: 2004 - covers recent CPLR decisions of interest.

Reinsurance Law & Practice 2003: New Legal & Business Developments in a Changing Global Environment - has chapters on current issues in drafting contracts and commutation agreements, insurance insolvencies, arbitration, dispute resolution and runoffs.

To make suggestions about book purchases, please contact the library staff via email at asmallen@nycla.org or call the Library at: (212) 267-6646, ext. 204.

PUBLIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

HOMELESSNESS RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 2004 - NEW YORK, NY - NYCLA’s Board of Directors passed a resolution opposing proposed federal and state budget cuts of $352 million for homelessness-avoidance programs and other programs that support the poor in New York City. The report and resolution were submitted by the NYCLA Justice Center, chaired by John D. Feerick, former Dean of Fordham University School of Law. The Report cites anticipated federal and state budget cuts for programs that help families move from welfare to work, remain housed and become financially independent. Additionally, proposed funding cuts in the areas of food assistance, child care and health care to New York's neediest families who are not homeless increase the likelihood that these families may subsequently become homeless. The resolution was circulated to elected officials in the City Council, New York State Legislature and Congress, as well as to bar associations in New York State.

Log on to www.nycla.org and click on Publications and then on NYCLA Reports and Resolutions to read more about public policy developments.

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAW ISSUES REPORT IN OPPOSITION TO TWO NEW YORK STATE BILLS

May 2004 - NEW YORK, NY - NYCLA’s Committee on Immigration & Nationality Law has issued a report in opposition to proposed laws that would require non-lawyer immigration consultants to post notices indicating they are not attorneys and not authorized to practice law. According to Eugene J. Glicksman, Committee Chair, the laws would legitimize these consultants and, as noted in the report, “It would expose aliens to the increased risks of inadequate and incompetent representation and higher fees for ‘regulated’ services.”

Log on to www.nycla.org and click on Publications and then on Committee Reports to read more about public policy developments.

NYCLA’S ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER, E-NEWS BULLETIN, IS NOW A SEMI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. TO ENSURE DELIVERY, PLEASE FORWARD YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO: LISA YARDE AT: LYARDE@NYCLA.ORG.
WOMEN IN NYCLA’S EARLY YEARS

by Steven Flanders

The New York County Lawyers’ Association (NYCLA) takes justifiable pride in its tradition of inclusiveness, which extends right back to its establishment in 1908. Forthcoming centennial celebrations will focus in significant part on NYCLA’s commitment, from the start, to serve all lawyers duly admitted to the bar.

NYCLA was a signal success from its first decade in offering opportunities for influence and prominence within the profession to lawyers whose racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds hindered their advancement in many spheres of New York’s legal and social life. As to women lawyers, however, the process was slower. The contrast with such organizations as the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, while marked, was somewhat less striking.

The good news is that NYCLA had women members virtually from day one, while the City Bar had found it "inexpedient" even to determine whether it could consider women for membership. Finally, passage of a formal resolution in 1937 declared women’s eligibility for City Bar membership. According to a 1940 speech by Henry W. Taft, NYCLA’s President from 1930-32 and earlier the President of City Bar from 1923-25, NYCLA had 17 women out of an initial membership in 1908 of 3401. By 1940, there were 170 women in NYCLA out of a total membership of 5658, while by that date there were 17 women in City Bar out of a membership of under 2000.

But it was a slower process for women to reach positions of prominence in NYCLA than was true of male lawyers from ethnic or religious minorities who had experienced discrimination in other elite institutions of the City and elsewhere. And some prominent women lawyers did not join until years after they might have. Rosalie Loew Whitney, who held successive senior posts in the Legal Aid Society, did not join until the early 1920’s though she had been admitted to the bar in 1895. (She had applied to the City Bar in 1903.) Once a NYCLA member, she seems never to have been particularly active.

In pursuing the inexact science of trying to identify women among the officers and committee members in early yearbooks, I cannot identify with certainty any women committee members during the Association’s first decade. Throughout this search, I have tried to be cautious both as to names that could belong either to a man or a woman, such as Jesse, Jean, Claude, Leslie or Sidney, and as to names that I cannot identify either way. Absent specific reference to the contrary, I have assumed that early members of the above names were men, and made the same assumption as to names like Jabish Holmes, Job E. Hedges, D-Cady Herrick, Phoenix Ingraham, or Morney Williams.

After World War I, the picture improved steadily. Anna M. Kross, who later became a significant figure in the LaGuardia administration, joined the Committee on Courts of Criminal Procedure in 1919 and served into the 1930s. Lilian Herbert Andrews joined the Library and Publications Committee at the same time, serving as Secretary by the mid-1920s. Emilie M. Bullowa, a notable lawyer of the day, began serving on the important Committee on American Citizenship about 1925 and was its Chairman by 1930. The Secretary at that time was Adelma H. Burd, who had joined the Committee a bit later. NYCLA’s 1930 Yearbook shows at least 12 women as members of various committees. Most notable is Ruth Lewinson, who succeeded her father as Treasurer and served for many years; she was the first woman officer. She also served for decades on the Committee on the Surrogate’s Court, and for shorter periods on the Bankruptcy and Legal Education Committees, among other committees. Other women on committees by 1930 include Grace Ludlow Kelly (House Committee), Dorothy Kenyon (Committee on Hospitality), Naomi Ranson (Committee on Arbitration and Conciliation), Bertha Rembaugh (Committee on Bankruptcy), Cecile Scheuer (Committee on Bankruptcy), and Dorothy Strauss (Committee on Hospitality).

By the post-World War II years, the position of women in NYCLA seems more established and "normal." Florence Perlow Shientag was apparently the first woman Director, in the "class" of 1949. She chaired the Committee on the Domestic Relations Court at that time, while its Secretary was Rose M. Trapani; Shientag served also on the Committee on Criminal Courts. Hon. Caroline K. Simon chaired the Committee on Legal Aid, a position that she held for many years. At least 26 of the 49 committees had a minimum of one woman member. And Martha A. Bergman served as Assistant Treasurer, a post she held for nearly 20 years; this position was roughly comparable to that of Executive Director today.

But it was not until Rosalind S. Fink assumed office in 1997 that a woman served as NYCLA's President. Today about 20% of the standing, special and governance committees are chaired by women. And at the May 2004 Annual Meeting, three of the five newly elected officers are women, marking the first time that women have been a majority. Also elected is Catherine A. Christian as the first female African-American Vice-President, so she will be on the ladder to the presidency.

Readers are invited to contact the author if they have further information on any of the early leaders mentioned, or can contribute in any other way to the history of women in NYCLA. Please call (914) 738-3776.

Steven Flanders is researching the Association’s history for a book to be published by Fordham University Press.
COMMITTEES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTION’S ANNUAL RECEPTION

In June, the Criminal Justice Section hosted its Annual Reception and Awards Ceremony, honoring Barry Kamins, Esq. (first person on the left). The 2004 Public Service Award winners were presented. Awarded must be practicing in the public sector in the criminal justice field and have accrued substantial law school debt. Also pictured are Susan J. Walsh (second from left), outgoing Section Co-Chair, and last year’s awardees, who served as Co-Chairs of the event, Deidra Moore and Michael Higgins.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW COMMITTEE RECEIVES KLAUS EPPLER PRIZE

NYCLA awarded the Klaus Eppler Committee Prize to the Committee on Environmental Law for its 72-page legislative report on New York State Assembly Bill A04231 at its May 27th Annual Meeting. The Association annually awards the Klaus Eppler Committee Prize for a report that has had or may have the greatest impact in effecting improvements in the law or in our judicial system, or is the best committee or section report in the Association that year. Craig T. Donovan, Committee Co-Chair, accepted the award on behalf of the Committee. The award consisted of a certificate and a $500 prize to enhance the Committee’s work.

The New York State Assembly Bill A.04231 (on which the report is based) is related to conservation easements, and would establish a State Uniform Wetlands Compensation and Tax Abatement Board with the purpose of justly compensating landowners at fair market value when the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation designated wetlands on private property. The Committee opposed the legislation on the basis that the bill failed to clarify to which types of wetlands its provisions applied, contravened federal and state case law on regulatory takings, thwarted the purposes of the NYS Conservation Easement Law and the Environmental Conservation Law, and denied New York State’s right to invoke the public trust doctrine as a means of protecting wetlands and their biodiversity for the public health, safety and welfare. Craig T. Donovan, Ronald E. Steinurzel, Committee Co-Chair, and Erik B. Bluemel, Committee Vice-Chair, prepared the report. The report is available on NYCLA’s website, www.nycla.org, under Publications, Committee Reports. If you wish to join the Committee on Environmental Law or would like to find out more about the Committee’s activities, please contact: Craig Donovan via e-mail: ctdonovan@yahoo.com or Ronald E. Steinurzel via e-mail: resteinurzel@pbnlaw.com.

FOREIGN MILITARY OFFICERS ADDRESS NYCLA

by Kevin P. McMullen

Three foreign officers recently addressed the Committee on Foreign and International Law - Colonel Seongjong Song, the military attaché of the permanent mission of the Republic of Korea to the U.N., who explained his government’s policy favoring nuclear disarmament; Captain Hector Vergnaud of the Argentine navy, who addressed the committee on enforcing the legal regime in the South Atlantic; and Captain Javier Valladares, an Argentine naval attaché in Washington, DC. Capt. Vergnaud began by explaining the general principles embodied in the U.N. Law of the Sea Convention and then described Argentina’s bilateral treaties with Uruguay, the United Kingdom and Chile. These treaties regulate maritime boundaries, fishing, ship movements and arbitration, and they also provide for active cooperation in antic patrols, navigation, search and rescue, and tourism.

To join the Committee on Foreign and International Law, please contact Co-Chairs: Kevin McMullen at (631) 261-6679 or Ian Anderson at (212) 791-6380 or via email: iandersonadvocate@msn.com

MINORITIES AND THE LAW RECOGNIZES OUTGOING CO-CHAIR

In May, Janiece Brown Spitzmueller presented Michael C. Fahy with a plaque commemorating the conclusion of his three-year term as Co-Chair of the Committee on Minorities and the Law. Also in attendance were former Committee Co-Chair Catherine A. Christian and current Co-Chair, Hon. Pamela B. Jackman-Brown. Ms. Spitzmueller will take over as Co-Chair in September.
NYCLA members can visit www.nycla.org for more information. Click on Membership Directory and log in, then click on Benefits.

CAREER CENTER
NYCLA is the first New York-area association to provide online local and national job listings. Members can search job listings, as well as list job openings and review articles, strategies and helpful tips for job seekers. NYCLA also provides a members-only job postings section from the State of New York Unified Court System, other governmental agencies and law firms.

COMMITTEE/SECTION MEMBERSHIP
Your membership can provide even greater rewards when you join one of the more than 60 committees and sections of the Association. For more information, call (212) 267-6646, ext. 213.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION
Membership provides discounts on highly acclaimed CLE courses. The total cost of membership dues can be recouped through these discount opportunities alone. For information, call (212) 267-6646, ext. 214, 215 or 216.

COURTAalert.com
Downloading four times a day from the NYS Supreme Court Civil Branch's mainframe, CourtAlert.com provides concise, timely information on your cases, as well as court calendars, "markings," decisions and more that are automatically sent to you via email or fax.

CREDIT CARDS
Qualifying NYCLA members are entitled to a no-fee Gold MasterCard.

ETHICS HOTLINE
The Committee on Professional Ethics accepts both written and telephone inquiries on ethics matters and provides advisory opinions.

FINANCIAL SERVICES
NYCLA members are entitled to utilize a broad range of financial services provided at specially negotiated rates. Qualified members also have access to portfolio analysis and related financial planning services without cost or obligation.

INSURANCE
JLT Services offers an array of products to NYCLA members, including 10- and 20-year Term Life, Long- and Short-Term Disability, Business-Overhead Expense, Long-Term Care, Dental, and Major Medical and Health insurance. MLW offers members malpractice insurance at competitive rates.

NYCLA'S Committee on Lawyer Disputes will arbitrate conflicts between attorneys and between attorneys and law firms. For information, call (212) 267-6646, ext. 217.

LEGAL REFERRAL SERVICE
NYCLA members may take part in the Legal Referral Service sponsored jointly with ABCNY. For more information, call the LRS Director at (212) 626-7373.

LEXIS-NEXIS
LexisNexis has partnered with NYCLA to offer special packages and pricing exclusively for attorneys in solo or small law firms.

MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATIONS
NYCLA has affiliated membership programs with the following organizations: Asian American Bar Association, Indo American Lawyers' Association, Lesbian and Gay Law Association of Greater New York, Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the Puerto Rican Bar Association and the Korean-American Lawyers' Association of Greater New York. Members of these bar associations can join NYCLA at a special rate. For more information, call (212) 267-6646, ext. 208.

NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL
New attorneys and first-time subscribers enjoy a substantial discount on New York Law Journal subscriptions, as well as a 30% discount on Law Journal Press books and newsletters.

PRO BONO PROJECTS
The Association offers a variety of meaningful pro bono opportunities for its members. For more information, please call (212) 267-6646, ext. 217.

PUBLICATIONS
Members receive the New York County Lawyer, a print bimonthly newsletter, and the E-News Bulletin, a semi-monthly electronic newsletter, and can purchase the Attorneys' Guide to Civil Practice in the New York County Supreme Court at a discount price. For more information, call (212) 267-6646, ext. 213.

RETAIL DISCOUNTS
NYCLA offers members a range of special discounts at retail stores:
Ashburns - discounts on corporate gifts, plaques and awards.
Absolute Broadway - discount tickets to theater.
Fountain Pen Hospital - discounts on fine writing instruments and more.
J&R - discounts at their music and computer world stores.
Men's Wearhouse - discounts at all stores.
Staples - discounts at all stores and convenient online ordering.
Steuben Glass - discounts on all products.

(continued on next page)
MEMBER BENEFITS (continued from previous page)

Syms - members can apply for a Syms Corporate Credit Card and get a discount on their monthly statement.
William Barthman - discounts on jewelry, watches and much more.
Car Rental Discounts - NYCLA has arranged favorable rates for our members with Hertz and National.

RETIREMENT PLAN
Members can take advantage of retirement plans, such as 401(k), profit sharing and defined benefit plans. Plans include administration, investment flexibility and independent online investment advice. These services are bundled together in a value package designed specifically for law firms.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOTLINE
Attorneys, judges, law students and members of their immediate families can get confidential help with alcohol or substance abuse problems by calling toll-free 1(800)255-0569, a hotline funded by NYSBA, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

TECH CENTER & LIBRARY
The new, state-of-the-art Tech Center is a legal-technology learning and resource center available to members. It offers a variety of educational training courses dealing with the latest hardware and software products. For more information, call (212) 267-6646, ext. 204.

Members enjoy full access to a library designed specifically for the practicing bar. Services include the assistance of a full-time reference staff, a variety of legal and non-legal databases, and photocopy and faxing services. For additional information, call (212) 267-6646, ext. 201.

All terms and conditions of NYCLA’s member benefits are subject to change. For more information, please email Harriet Astor at hastor@nycla.org, or call (212) 267-6646, ext. 212.

NYCLA EXTENDS ITS CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING LAW STUDENT MEMBERS ON THEIR RECENT GRADUATION

Mohamad Adel Akbik New York Law School
Patrick S. Almonrode Fordham University
Jennifer A. Bentley Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center
Lisa S. Bank Brooklyn Law School
Erik B. Bluemel New York University School of Law
Michael L. Brenner Fordham University School of Law
Alina M. Collisson Fordham University School of Law
Zara F. Fernandez Brooklyn Law School
Briette Gitt Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School
Limia S. Green New York Law School
Susan Jane Guercio Brooklyn Law School
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James Stuart Kasmarcik Pace Law School
Joseph Klein Brooklyn Law School
B. Russell Marcus Columbia Law School
Sylvester D. McQueen Rutgers School of Law
Daniel Benjamin Needle Rutgers School of Law
Wendell Shabazz University of Wolverhampton UK
Jonathan A. Spiegel Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School
Joanna Lea Swyers Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School

STAPLES

NYCLA is pleased to announce that Staples Business Advantage is now a provider of office supplies for members of the New York County Lawyers’ Association. That means an overall cost savings exceeding 15% and convenient online ordering for you. You’ll now enjoy faster access to more products, plus an array of value-added services from Staples that will help make supplying your office easier.

To register at Staples and to view NYCLA’s growing list of retail discounts, go to www.nycla.org and click on Membership Directory. Log in and click on Benefits, Retail discounts.
The Attorneys' Guide to Civil Practice in the New York County Supreme Court is a valuable tool for all lawyers practicing on the civil side in Manhattan. Produced by the Committee on the Supreme Court, it is a concise resource for details about judges, court personnel and procedures in the Supreme Court. Highlights include: Commencing a Lawsuit, Assignments and Case Processing under the CCJP, Motion Practice, Back Offices and major County Clerk Operations, Commercial Division, Judges and Staff, and much more!

NYCLA is pleased to offer the 9th edition to our members for $50; non-members pay $100. To order the Attorneys' Guide, complete this form and fax or mail it to NYCLA. Fax with your credit card information to: (212) 406-9252 or mail with your check or credit card information to: NYCLA, Guide, 14 Vesey Street, New York, NY 10007. Call Harriet Astor at (212) 267-6646, ext. 212 for more information.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In our daily work, we lawyers make it possible for people to realize their dreams and secure justice. Just think about some of the things we do.

We bring order and predictability to the free enterprise system, and guide the entrepreneur.

We protect the consumer, and allow the artist and inventor to reap the benefits of their creativity.

We give the hopelessly indebted a chance to begin anew and we bring the wrongdoer to justice.

We help the immigrant realize the dream of building a new life.

We resolve disputes with fairness and justice.

And (for those who are privileged to do what I have done throughout my career), we stand with the accused when the full might of government seeks to end their freedom - or their lives.

This and so much more is what we do as individuals.

But as bar leaders, and especially here at NYCLA, we represent the promise of the law itself. One of NYCLA’s founders, Louis Lande, understood that when lawyers work collectively through bar associations, they have a transcendent opportunity to elevate our society.

He wrote: "Lawyers are the spokespersons of righteous causes and the champions of unpopular causes. They are the conservatives of the past, the liberals of the present and the radicals of the future. Lawyers seek the equality of mankind, regardless of race, color, caste, sex or religion."

What an extraordinary testament to NYCLA’s founding mission! How incredible that in the world of 1908, a group of lawyers possessed the foresight to envision such a breathtaking expansion of liberty and the determination to create an organization to help realize it. And they did this at a time when race, color, caste, sex and religion were ALL barriers to equality.

When I look back over the span of my lifetime, I am amazed at how lawyers, and NYCLA, have advanced justice. Consider this: Just within the past 50 years -

Segregation was the law of the land. Indeed, many bar associations, including the ABA, did not admit minorities.

It was illegal to marry a person of different race.

The poor accused person had no constitutional right to counsel, nor did a parent whose child was seized by the state.

There was no obligation to advise accused persons of their rights. In many places, the right to vote hinged on the ability to pay a poll tax. One person was not necessarily entitled to one vote.

A woman had no right to reproductive choice.

There was no law barring discrimination against the disabled.

Environmental and consumer law did not exist.

It was a felony for adults of the same gender to engage in consensual sexual contact.

And, until just recently, it was lawful for the government to execute mentally retarded persons who committed a capital offense.

Lawyers were the driving force behind the reforms that ended these injustices, and NYCLA contributed richly to these reforms.

Brown v. the Board of Education, Baker v. Carr, Roe v. Wade, Gideon, Miranda, and yes, let us not forget NYCLA v. NY - and the list goes on - all the handiwork of a robust profession dedicated to reform.

So, the next time someone tells you a good lawyer joke, have a hearty laugh, but never, ever forget these achievements.

Now, as NYCLA’s president, my primary goal is to uphold this tradition by expanding existing initiatives and launching some new ones to address today’s challenges.

NYCLA’s Committees

First and foremost, I will continue to support and encourage our vibrant open Committee system. NYCLA’s 70+ Committees and Sections are the engines of our creativity and the incubators of innovation; they account for NYCLA’s extraordinary success in shaping public policy. I will encourage their work in every way possible during my term.

Judicial Independence

I will also renew our commitment to advocate for a strong and independent judiciary. In the mid ’90s, NYCLA led the way in addressing unwarranted attacks on our judiciary, attacks that demonized judges and demeaned the rule of law. We assembled an Ad Hoc Committee to Preserve the Independence of the Judiciary to respond as necessary. And respond we did on many occasions. Now we will take the next step. In the coming months, we will seek to develop a standing protocol and procedure to defend the judiciary against ad hominem attacks by providing a swift, effective response mechanism and by promoting public understanding of the role of the judicial branch.

Diversity

Another signature issue for NYCLA is the pursuit of diversity. We fought the ABA on its exclusionary policies. We opened the doors of our library and our membership rolls to Thurgood Marshall, whose legendary work on Brown we celebrate.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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New York County Lawyer

erect this year. The Report of our Task Force on Diversity in the Legal Profession provides a roadmap for progress. Its diversity pledge has been approved by 54 bar groups and 27 law firms and corporations. It not only calls for greater diversity but includes meaningful disclosure requirements. We will continue to poke and prod the profession to expand opportunities for all. And NYCLA will continue to lead by example.

We will do this through our awards that honor those who follow in the footsteps of Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Haywood Burns.

We will do it through collaborative programming with our Minority Bar Affiliates.

We will do it through the expansion of our Summer Minority Judicial Internship Program. As I told the interns at a reception two nights ago, this program will grow.

And we will do it through the example of our own leadership. For the first time, a majority of NYCLA’s officers are now women and we know that under our By-Laws, in the fullness of time, Catherine Christian will become NYCLA’s second woman and first African-American President.

With the vote you cast tonight, a last invisible barrier evaporates into the mists of time.

Pro Bono

Another existing program on which I will build is NYCLA’s pro bono commitment. From the earliest days, NYCLA’s mission has included a pledge to “arrange for the provision by its members of free legal services for indigent, low income and other persons in need.” The Court system’s recent report on pro bono legal services has engendered much discussion about pro bono - how should it be defined, assessed, reported and encouraged? NYCLA believes in voluntary pro bono as a matter of personal and spiritual commitment. And we support an inclusive definition so as not to exclude programs that benefit low- and middle-income individuals.

While there may be some disagreement on nuances, NYCLA’s commitment to pro bono is resolute. Judge Kaye, I commend you for your leadership on this issue and I want you to know that NYCLA will answer your call. This I pledge: during my term, NYCLA will triple the number of unrepresented clients for whom we provide pro bono services and triple the number of lawyers participating in these programs.

While we reaffirm and expand these traditional commitments, we will break new ground as well.

A Code of Conduct

Safeguarding the integrity of the legal profession is the highest responsibility of the bench and bar. We applaud the court system’s many efforts to enhance transparency, fairness and quality in all aspects of the judicial system.

We must also recognize, however, that bar associations, as with all human institutions, are not necessarily immune from appearances of impropriety. The genius of a bar association, and the reason it can stimulate reform is that it brings the bench and bar together. But its effectiveness depends upon leaders and directors who wholly subordinate their own interests to the mission of the Association and the public good.

For this reason, I will submit to the Board a series of proposals to minimize the risk that any appearance of impropriety may emerge from the conduct of the bar’s business. Under the leadership of President-Elect Dave Robertson, we will develop a Code of Conduct for officers, directors and staff that will be a model for bar associations throughout the country. It will ensure transparency and objectivity in the conduct of the bar’s work.

Business Law Center

No person can enter NYCLA without the jarring reminder that this great building stands at the foot of America’s greatest tragedy. The painful memory of 9/11 will always be with us, but we now look forward eagerly to the reconstruction and reemergence of New York’s downtown epicenter. Poised at the heart of the world’s great center of finance and commerce, NYCLA should be a center for study and information exchange that will support our profession’s unique role in the commerce of the nation. Accordingly, I will present to our Board a proposal to establish the NYCLA Business Law Center. This new Center will bring together chairs of an array of committees, leaders of the bench and bar, and law professors. They will partner with non-lawyer community leaders to study, evaluate, debate and shape the laws of commerce. Modeled after NYCLA’s successful Justice Center, the Business Law Center will be a resource to maintain high standards of expertise and ethics in the practice of business law.

I want to recognize the leadership of Past President Arthur Field on this project.

Housing Conference

Speaking of our Justice Center, I am excited to announce a new Justice Center initiative to expand access to justice. This fall, the Justice Center will convene a Conference on the New York City Housing Court and the crisis of homelessness. The blight of homelessness is now at an all time record in New York City. There are currently 8,000 families in the shelter system, including 16,000 children. Twenty percent of these cases are the direct consequence of eviction. Incredibly, more than 90% of tenants are unrepresented by a lawyer in the City’s Housing Court.

The Conference, which will coincide with the 30th Anniversary of the Housing Court, will assess the Court’s role as a forum to assist landlords and tenants in resolving conflicts without eviction. The conference will include practitioners from both the landlord

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and tenant bar, judges, court administrators, scholars and community representatives. The conferences will evaluate the obstacles that diminish access to the court and they will assess the availability of social services, particularly for the elderly, mentally ill, victims of domestic violence and other special cases.

I expect that this Conference will generate comprehensive recommendations for reform that NYCLA will present to the Court and government officials, and will include ideas for specific pro bono programs that NYCLA can implement to alleviate this terrible tragedy of homelessness.

Penal Policy Task Force

One other substantive initiative relates to a subject that is near and dear to me, but should be of concern to every single American lawyer and non-lawyer alike: America’s penal policy - a policy that is a bi-partisan national disgrace.

Too many of us, for too long, have been too complacent. Mandatory minimums, determinative sentencing, restrictions on plea bargaining, and the shift of authority from the judiciary to the prosecution have created an unprecedented engine of incarceration. We presently imprison more than 2.1 million people in the U.S. That is greater than the population of 17 states! A total of 5.6 million are in now in prison or have served time there; that is an incarceration rate of one in 37 American adults, eight times as high as in other democracies. Nationally more than 40% of the prisoners are African American.

In New York, we have more than 65,000 people behind bars where almost 20% of inmates are serving life sentences. And a substantial number of these people are imprisoned for non-violent crimes, including eight out of ten women. The cascading social and economic impact of this on the inmates, families and communities is staggering.

This is not a prosecution issue or a defense issue, it is a human rights issue. It is also a judicial independence issue. Last August at the ABA’s Annual Meeting, one of the most prominent conservative judges in the nation, United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy, a Reagan appointee who has upheld harsh sentencing laws, said enough is enough. He called for an end to mandatory minimum sentencing and the statutory restrictions on judicial discretion. Justice Kennedy is not alone. Here, in New York, Judge John Martin, a former U.S. Attorney, left the Southern District frustrated by the inequities of the sentencing scheme. Many others have spoken out in many different ways.

Those of us who practice in the criminal justice system are all too familiar with a common refrain when a judge laments to us, "Counselor, I wish I had an alternative; I wish I could impose a lesser sentence. But my hands are tied."

Two days ago, in Nassau County, I represented a 38-year-old father of three who has worked at the same job for 16 years. Guilty of a first drug offense and despite the impassioned pleas of his employer, he will get a sentence of three years to life. Again, with genuine regret, the judge said, "My hands are tied."

Isn’t it time to loosen those bonds? A shackled justice is an instrument of injustice. We must be open to the possibility that America’s penal policy is a failed experiment. We must also examine the availability of rehabilitative, vocational and educational programs, the collateral consequences of conviction, and the conditions of confinement.

It is right that we are outraged at the horrible Iraqi prison abuses. But it is wrong that so many remain oblivious to the magnitude and conditions in our own prison monolith - what the New York Times ten days ago called, “The Dark Side of America.”

Accordingly, in response to Justice Kennedy’s challenge, and following the ABA’s national lead, I will appoint a Task Force on Penal Policy to conduct a comprehensive review of the causes, conditions and consequences of federal and state penal policies as they are applied in New York and to recommend reforms.

I am pleased that Professor Frank Bress of New York Law School, a lifelong student of the criminal justice system, who is about to assume the position of Co-Chair of our Criminal Justice Section with Justice Jim Yates, will be leading this project.

The Future: An Anniversary Committee

A final initiative is truly the most important – all that we do hinges on its success. I refer to the job of completing the work of NYCLA’s Task Force on the Future and presenting to our Board a sound strategic plan that will propel NYCLA into its second century. This fall, the Task Force will present a final report that will include a reaffirmation of NYCLA’s mission and a plan to enable the Association to fulfill its obligations to its members and its role as an advocate for the legal profession and the cause of justice.

Tonight, NYCLA stands on the precipice of a momentous occasion in the history of this Association. Exactly one year from now, when next we gather for our Annual Meeting, on May 26, 2005, NYCLA will celebrate the 75th anniversary of this great Association. I urge you to join me in this important work for our Association and for the cause of justice.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Anniversary of this magnificent Cass Gilbert structure, this temple of justice that we call our Home of Law. Less than three years later, we will celebrate NYCLA’s Centennial.

Now is the time for us to begin planning for these milestones. So, tonight I announce the creation of the NYCLA Anniversary Committee to plan the celebration of these watershed events and to craft an ambitious capital campaign.

I am pleased that this Committee will be co-chaired by three of NYCLA’s greatest leaders: Bob Goldstein and Past Presidents Klaus Eppler and John Kenney. Bob, who has served as Secretary for more than a generation, will continue to serve NYCLA as the Chair of the NYCLA Foundation. Klaus Eppler is the President’s president - an exemplary role model for every NYCLA member. And John Kenney is a brilliant lawyer with unbounded dedication to NYCLA.

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The first responsibility for those now in leadership positions is to ensure the endurance of a strong NYCLA to meet the unimaginable challenges of the future. We should take pride in all that we have achieved to improve our system of justice. But we will be judged by how nimbly and creatively we meet the legal challenges of our time.

There is so much more to be done, in our own backyard and throughout the nation. Two issues of special concern to NYCLA are government’s continued failure to fund access to civil justice for millions of poor people, and the continued under-funding of mandated legal services for the poor. Our victory in NYCLA v. New York will be hollow if we continue to allow government to play one component of the indigent defense system against another, and to starve all of them for funding. The determination by the City to limit the use of assigned counsel and the budgetary crisis at Legal Aid are profoundly disturbing developments. You cannot buy justice on the cheap.

New York was once the leader in this area. Half a century before Gideon, New York lawyers, led by NYCLA and City Bar, were providing free counsel to the indigent accused. There is no reason why New York cannot have the best indigent defense system, with high-quality standards and the full participation of both private and institutional lawyers. Judge Kaye, I hope that the Indigent Defense Commission that you have just appointed will lead us there. NYCLA is ready to help.

And let’s be frank about broader, national challenges to the legal system.

We cannot take the progress of the past 50 years for granted. There are some who would reverse many of the advances I mentioned at the outset of these remarks. Indeed, two weeks ago, I was astonished to read that one Supreme Court Justice publicly said that the Gideon case was wrongly decided - that there should be no constitutional right to have counsel appointed for the indigent accused.

At this moment our democracy faces ominous challenges. As we fight a new kind of enemy, one who has demonstrated - right on this block - an ability to strike within America’s borders, our commitment to the rule of law and our determination to preserve the nation’s core values hang in the balance.

The Guantanamo Bay and enemy combatant cases now pending before the United States Supreme Court raise profound issues concerning the limits of an emergent executive power that is unprecedented in American history.

We anxiously await the Supreme Court’s decisions. They may well shape the contours of America’s experiment with democracy for generations. If the Court’s decisions uphold our traditions of liberty, America’s lawyers must celebrate the triumph of the rule of law. But, if the decisions imperil liberty, lawyers must mobilize to restore the necessary balance.

Expanded liberties can be contracted. Hard won freedoms can be lost. The legal profession must be vigilant. For if lawyers do not speak out, who will?

I want to close by referring to a personal experience: Earlier this year, I traveled to Memphis for a conference for those of us who handle capital cases. During a break, I visited the Lorraine Motel - the infamous place where another kind of advocate for justice, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was murdered. The motel is now a Civil Rights Museum, tracing the history of the African-American experience from slavery to the civil rights movement. As you traverse the museum, you see depicted the words and events of that movement. Near the end, as you approach the room and balcony abutting it on which Dr. King died, there is an excerpt from one of his last and best-known sermons. He said:

"If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice...If I can help somebody as I pass along, then living will not be in vain."

We are drum majors for justice.

If we can help someone along the way, if we can right a wrong, or if we can prevent an injustice, then our work is not in vain.

No one can confidently predict in what direction the arc of justice will point in the days that lie ahead. But in whatever direction, I can state with certainty that the New York County Lawyers’ Association, the other great bar groups in our community, and lawyers throughout the profession, will lead the way.

In the service of this cause, for as long as the stewardship of this magnificent organization is entrusted in my hands, I will summon all of the resources of my mind, my heart and my spirit.

That is my pledge to you tonight. ♦
OFFICER PROFILES

VICE PRESIDENT
CATHERINE ANN CHRISTIAN
New York County District Attorney's Office, Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Director of Legal Staff Training

Ms. Christian is responsible for all aspects of training for prosecutors in areas such as ethical obligations, trial advocacy, grand jury practice, complaint drafting, electronic surveillance, search warrant practice and investigative techniques. Her extensive committee work at NYCLA includes serving as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Justice Center and the Judiciary, Public Service Awards, Nominating and Executive Committees. She is a past Chair of the NYCLA Committee on Minorities and the Law and the Committee on Committees.

TREASURER
MARJORIE E. GROSS
The Bond Market Association, Senior VP and Regulatory Counsel

Ms. Gross's law practice focuses on the regulation of broker-dealers and the capital markets. She is an expert in the fields of legal and judicial ethics and has published numerous articles in these areas. Ms. Gross has served on the Global Documentation Steering Committee, the Financial Markets Lawyers' Committee and the NASD's Bank Broker-Dealer Committee. She has also been a member of several bar association committees in the field of ethics and was an Adviser to the ALI Restatement of the Law Governing Lawyers. Prior to her position at the Bond Market Association, she held senior positions at several financial institutions, including JP Morgan Chase and Irving Trust Company, and was an associate at Debevoise & Plimpton.

SECRETARY
ANN BERGER LESK
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, Partner

Ms. Lesk is the chair of the Trusts and Estates Department at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP. Prior to her election as NYCLA's Secretary, she was a member of the Board of Directors and the Task Force on the Future. Ms. Lesk also served as Co-Chair of the NYCLA Estates, Trusts and Surrogate's Court Practice Section and as Co-Chair of that Section's Legislation Committee. She has lectured on estate planning in CLE programs.

PRESIDENT-ELECT
EDWIN DAVID ROBERTSON
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, Partner

Mr. Robertson's litigation practice at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft concentrates on cases involving complex financial transactions, accountants' liability and trusts. He has been associated with the firm since 1971 and became a partner in 1980. He is currently the Chair of NYCLA's Task Force on Corporate Responsibility and past Chair of the NYCLA Investment and Finance Committees. He has also been a member of NYCLA's Board of Directors and Executive Committee, in addition to serving as Treasurer from 2001-2002 and Vice President from 2002-2004.

PRESIDENT
NORMAN L. REIMER
Gould Fishbein Reimer & Gottfried, LLP, Partner

Mr. Reimer's seven-member law firm specializes in criminal defense, immigration and civil rights litigation. He is a career criminal defense lawyer and has been a principal in his own firm for more than 25 years, specializing in both trials and appellate work in state and federal jurisdictions, and has served as lead counsel on numerous appellate cases resulting in published opinions in state and federal appellate courts. Mr. Reimer has served on NYCLA's Board of Directors since 1997 and chairs the Task Force on the Future. He co-chaired NYCLA's Criminal Justice Section from 1994-1997, the Task Force on Indigent Defense from 1994-1997, and the Committee on Training and Special Projects from 1992-1994. He is the former chair of the NYS Supreme Court Appellate Division, First Department Central Screening Committee for Assigned Counsel. He is a recipient of the prestigious Champion of Indigent Defense Award presented by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in 2003 and the Gideon Award presented by the NYS Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in 2002. Mr. Reimer has taught trial advocacy at New York Law School since 1990.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROFILES

KATHY HIRATA CHIN
Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft, Partner

Ms. Chin has been at Cadwalader since 1980 and a partner since 1990. Her practice is concentrated in matters involving health care and real estate litigation, including disputes over Medicaid reimbursement and other third-party payor issues, compliance issues and leasehold valuation. She has been a member of the New York City Planning Commission, the Judicial Screening Committee for the First Judicial Department and the Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel for the Eastern District of New York. Ms. Chin is currently a member of the New York City Commission to Combat Police Corruption and of Judge Judith S. Kaye's Commission to Promote Confidence in Judicial Elections.

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SYLVIA FUNG CHIN  
White & Case LLP, Partner

A partner at White & Case since 1986, Ms. Chin’s practice involves corporate and commercial financing with an emphasis on asset-based financing transactions. In the areas of leveraged leases and project financing, she has represented lenders, lessees, lessors and equity investors in leases involving aircraft, oil drilling equipment, satellites and other equipment, and in projects involving cogeneration, waste to energy, alternative energy and manufacturing facilities. She also has extensive experience in leasing and other corporate finance topics. She is a member of the Tribar Opinions Committee and the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers. Ms. Chin is a past President of the Asian American Bar Association of New York and the American College of Investment Counsel.

JUSTICE STEPHEN G. CRANE  
Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department

Prior to his designation as Associate Justice in 2001, Justice Crane’s career spanned both the private and public sectors. He first assumed the bench in 1981 as a Judge of the Criminal Court, after working first as an associate and later on as a partner trying bankruptcy, labor and taxation cases in state and federal courts. Among the various committees on which Justice Crane serves are the CLE Institute Advisory Board, as Co-Chair, and the NYCLA History Committee, as Chair. He is also Chair of the William Nelson Cromwell Awards Committee and a member of the Judicial Section and Public Service Awards Committees.

CLYDE JAY EISMAN  
Law Office of Clyde Jay Eisman

Mr. Eisman has been a solo practitioner since graduating from law school in 1995. At NYCLA, he is a member of the Association’s Nominating Committee and the Task Force on the Future and a former chair of the Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee. In 2000, he received State Bar’s Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. Among his other activities, he has written a monthly column on small firm practice for the New York Law Journal and served in Bosnia as a senior adjudicator for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

LUCAS A. FERRARA  
Finkelstein Newman LLP, Partner

Mr. Ferrara has been a partner at Finkelstein Newman since 2000, with a practice in all phases of real-estate litigation in city, state and federal forums. He is an Adjunct Professor at New York Law School and a widely published author of seminal texts, articles and essays on topics relating to his practice. Mr. Ferrara is an arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau, National Association of Securities Dealers and Civil Court of the City of New York, Small Claims Part, and also serves as a Special Master in the New York County Supreme Court. Currently, Mr. Ferrara is Chair of NYCLA’s Communications Committee and Co-Chair of the CLE Institute Advisory Board.

HON. MARGARET J. FINERTY  
Getnick & Getnick, Partner

Ms. Finerty has been a partner at Getnick & Getnick since 1998, with a practice in commercial counseling, litigation, civil prosecution of commercial fraud (RICO and False Claims Act/Qui Tam), corporate internal investigation and monitoring, and government-appointed monitorships. Prior to joining the firm, she served as a judge of the City of New York in both the Criminal and Civil Courts. Ms. Finerty is a member of several NYCLA committees, including the Committee on Minorities and the Law, Task Force on Judicial Selection and Task Force to Increase Diversity in the Legal Profession, and she serves as Chair of the Judiciary Committee.

BRUCE A. GREEN  
Louis Stein Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law

Professor Green has taught courses in legal ethics and criminal law at Fordham Law School since 1987. In his role as Director of the law school’s Louis Stein Center for Law and
BRUCE A. GREEN
Louis Stein Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law

Professor Green has taught courses in legal ethics and criminal law at Fordham Law School since 1987. In his role as director of the law school’s Louis Stein Center for Law and Ethics, he has organized many significant programs on legal ethics and public interest law and shares responsibility for overseeing the law school’s Stein Scholars Program. Prior to his academic career, Professor Green worked in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District and, before that, served as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall from 1982-1983 and Circuit Judge James L. Oakes from 1981-1982. He has been a member of the Drafting Committee of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination since 2001 and the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board since 1995.

JOEL B. HARRIS
Thacher Proftt & Wood, Partner

Mr. Harris, who joined Thacher Proffit & Wood in 1986, practices in the area of complex commercial and international litigation and arbitration. He has handled numerous antitrust, securities and officer and director liability matters in federal and state courts in the U.S. at both the trial and appellate levels. In addition, he regularly represents foreign and domestic clients in large international cases, in U.S. and foreign courts, as well as in international arbitrations - before ICC, AAA, ICSID and ad hoc panels. He has lectured extensively about his practice area and written many law review articles and chapters in litigation trial handbooks. As a member of the Panel of Arbitrators of the AAA, he has arbitrated numerous matters, with an emphasis on securities law issues.

ROBERT A. JACOBS
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP (Retired Partner)

Mr. Jacobs was affiliated with Milbank, Tweed Hadley & McCloy as a tax partner from 1987 to 2003. He has taught at law schools and published treatises on numerous issues, among them are corporate taxation, income tax aspects of real estate ownership, deferred stock distributions and corporate reorganizations. Mr. Jacobs has also served as Chair of NYCLA's Tax Committee, as an arbitrator in the Civil Court of the City of New York since 1972, and a member of the Board of Advisors at NYU's Graduate Tax Program since 2002.

JAMES B. KOBAK JR.
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP, Partner

Mr. Kobak has been a partner with Hughes Hubbard & Reed for more than 25 years with a practice in IP litigation and counseling, antitrust and intellectual property. He serves as Chair of the firm’s Antitrust Practice Group and Adjunct Professor at Fordham University School of Law and has written and edited articles and texts on topics relating to his practice. He was the founder of NYCLA’s American Inn of Court and has served as its Secretary since 1993.

SUSAN B. LINDENAUER
The Legal Aid Society, Counsel to the President and to the Attorney-in-Chief

As a public interest lawyer, Ms. Lindenauer has been affiliated with The Legal Aid Society since 1966 and has been Counsel to the President and to the Attorney-in-Chief since 1998. In 2003, she was appointed by Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye to serve on the NYS Commission on the Jury. Ms. Lindenauer is Co-Chair of NYCLA’s Task Force on Judicial Selection and serves on the Association’s Membership Committee, Committee on Committees and Task Force on Corporate Responsibility. In recognition of her contributions to public service, she has received several NYCLA awards - the 1992 Award for Outstanding Public Service, the 1997 William Nelson Cromwell Award and the 2002 Edith I. Spivack Award.
MORTON MOSKIN  
White & Case LLP, (Retired Partner)

Mr. Moskin was a partner at White & Case for 33 years until his retirement in 1994. His practice encompassed a broad range of corporation law specialties -- corporate finance, securities law, banking, and mergers and acquisitions. He has advised public and private companies and counseled their boards and board committees, and has written extensively in these areas. In 1993, he served on a task force with members of several relevant professions that counseled the Russian Federation’s Ministry of Privatization on aspects of corporate governance, shareholders’ rights and regulatory concerns. Mr. Moskin is a past Chair of NYCLA’s Corporate Law Committee. He sits on three other not-for-profit corporation boards and serves on their legal or governance committees.

SUSAN JEWELL WALSH  
Gould Fishbein Reimer & Gottfried, LLP, Partner

Ms. Walsh has been a partner at Gould Fishbein Reimer & Gottfried since 1999, where she specializes in criminal trials and appeals on both the state and federal level. She has been the lead or participating counsel in dozens of trials, ranging from murder to money laundering and co-counsel on three published appellate decisions. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the NYCLA Membership Committee and is a past Co-Chair of the Criminal Justice Section where she presided over the institutionalization of the Association’s annual Public Service Fellowship Awards. She recently became a Sustaining Member of NYCLA.

RITA WASSERSTEIN WARNER  
Coblence & Warner, Partner

Ms. Warner is head of the matrimonial department at Coblence & Warner. She is a frequent lecturer and moderator at bar association forums and CLE programs. A former Co-Chair of NYCLA’s Matrimonial Law Section, she is currently a delegate to the New York State Bar Association, a member of NYCLA’s Supreme Court Committee and a Special Master in the New York County Supreme Court. Ms. Warner is on the board of the Women’s Rights Division of Human Rights Watch.

The September newsletter will feature more profiles of the members of NYCLA’s Board of Directors.

NYCLA COMMITTEE AND SECTION MEMBERSHIP

Participating on NYCLA committees and sections offers members an opportunity to play an active role in shaping events that influence their practice and profession. It also provides a social setting in which to network, share ideas and hear speakers with expertise in their field. NYCLA invites its members to join. Committee and section meetings are posted on the calendar page of NYCLA’s website.

The following pages contain descriptions of NYCLA’s committees and sections, and a Committee/Section Membership application.

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