

**WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 24, 2018**  
Albany Law School  
Albany, New York

A quorum being present, the Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Myra Freed, seconded by Andrea Composto to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2018 Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed.

President's Report

President Amy Baldwin Littman commended the Legislation Committee for its hard work on the Women's Agenda portion of the Governor's Budget, which was the subject of the March 21, 2018 Executive Committee conference call.

President Baldwin Littman asked for chapters to suggest participants for the Governor's Adoption Roundtable. John Coffey and Yifat Shaltiel volunteered.

President Baldwin Littman commended the Diversity Committee for the CLE program "Renee Richards v. USTA 40 Years Later," in Brooklyn on March 5, 2018. Dr. Richards participated on the panel, and the event was well attended. She also commended the Criminal Law Committee for its participation on the New York State Justice Task Force's Bail Reform project.

Planned Parenthood Lobby Day was held on March 13, 2018 and was coordinated by Sandra Rivera. It was a success with ten WBASNY members in attendance.

On Feb. 6, 2018, Vice President Leyla Kiosse attended "The State of the Judiciary," presented by the Honorable Janet DiFiore, Chief Judge of the State of New York.

President Baldwin Littman attended the New York State Trial Lawyers Association's Women's Caucus Reception on February 15, 2018, where the Lenore Kramer Award for Excellence was presented to renowned attorney Gloria Allred.

In observance of International Women's Day, on March 8, 2018 the Fordham Institute for Women and Girls hosted the symposium "Human Trafficking: A Global and Local Women's Issue." Fay Parris, co-chair of WBASNY's International Women's Rights Committee, and Donna Frosco, past WBASNY president and President of the Federal Bar Association, SDNY Chapter attended.

On March 23, 2018, President Baldwin Littman, President-Elect Greta Kolcon and Corresponding Secretary Joy Thompson attended a program sponsored by WBASNY's International Women's Rights Committee: "Isolated By Distance But Not Alone: Rural Women & Girls Empowered." The event, part of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York, which supports the work of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, featured a diverse panel of women from throughout the state, including a special address by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul.

President Baldwin Littman commended Executive Committee members who participated in the January 30, 2018 conference call on the topic "Alternative Revenue Streams for your Bar Association," sponsored by New York State Bar Association's Committee for Bar Leaders. She also expressed gratitude for the vote to increase WBASNY's dues at the January 27, 2018 Board meeting, and encouraged all chapters to appoint representatives to WBASNY's Fundraising Committee.

President Baldwin Littman commended GRAWA for winning the New York State Bar Association's "Bar Leaders Innovation Award" for the chapter's creation of the "Lawyers Committee on Racial Justice."

The WBASNY Abroad Committee sponsored its first trip to Iceland. There is interest in WBASNY coordinating the hosting of a delegation of attorneys from Iceland to attend the upcoming WBASNY Convention.

President Baldwin Littman commended Elizabeth Bryson and WBASNY's Amicus Curiae Committee for coordinating WBASNY's amicus participation in *Zarda v. Altitude Express*. On Feb. 26, 2018, consistent with WBASNY's amicus argument, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, reversed the decision of the lower court (U.S. District Court, EDNY) and an initial three-judge Second Circuit decision, which had denied a claim that the firing of gay man for disclosing his sexual orientation constituted sex discrimination under Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act.

The next "Habitat for Humanity Build Day" will take place on May 5, 2018 in Newburgh, New York. Insurance will be provided for WBASNY members; however, it will not include workers compensation coverage. Vice President Kelly Pressler is the contact person for information.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dawn Reid-Green reported that WBASNY has a total income of \$263,947.98 and total expenses of \$264,822.27, resulting in a deficit of \$874.29. The deficit is expected to increase once invoices for Convention expenses are processed.

### Nominations

President Baldwin Littman announced the slate of officers nominated for 2018-19. They are Deirdre Hay - President-Elect, Dawn Reid-Green - Vice President, Kelly Pressler - Vice President, Joy Thompson - Vice President, Deborah Rosenthal - Treasurer, Lourdes Ventura - Corresponding Secretary and Melissa Nickson - Recording Secretary. She reminded everyone that the chapters should vote on the slate at their annual meetings. Notice of the slate needs to go out ten (10) days prior to the meeting, and the vote needs to take place by April 30, 2018.

### Thousand Islands Chapter Ratification

The ratification of WBASNY's 20<sup>th</sup> chapter will take place at Convention. None of the Thousand Islands officers could make it to the board meeting due to illness.

### Environmental Law Committee

Co-Chairs Susan Brock and Carol Malz presented a memorandum in support of the "Climate and Community Protection Act" (A8270A/S6617A), which would address and mitigate the impacts of climate change and the burning of fossil fuels in New York. A motion was made by Carol Malz, seconded by Andrea Composto to support A8270A/S6617A. The motion passed with the usual abstentions. The Committee plans to distribute to all of the chapters a list of senators in their respective districts, so that members can reach out to the senators and express their support for the A8270A/S6617A.

### Family & Matrimonial Law Committee

President Baldwin Littman commended Co-Chairs Dolores Gebhardt and Michelle Haskin for coordinating, and the Executive Committee for participating in, a last-minute conference call on March 21, 2018, during which Executive Committee voted in support of sending a statement to the Governor urging him to "decouple" the State tax law from the new Federal tax law by amending Section 612 of the Tax Law to subtract from the payor taxpayer's adjusted gross income any alimony or maintenance payments, and to add any such payments received to a payee taxpayer's adjusted gross income.

## Legislation Committee

Co-Chairs Kelly Damm and Marea Wachsman and lobbyist Sandra Rivera announced that the next Lobby Day will be May 8, 2018. They presented the following bills:

### Human/Sex Trafficking

A3169: A motion was made by Greta Kolcon, seconded by Heather Neu to support A3169, which amends the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, in relation to promoting the education of the human trafficking information and referral hotlines to assist individuals from becoming or freeing themselves from any act of severe forms of sex trafficking. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

A6834/ S5955: A motion was made by Elizabeth Bryson, seconded by Anna Smith to support A6834/ S5955, which amends the General Business Law to promote human trafficking awareness and training. The bill requires employees of lodging facilities to have training in the recognition of a human trafficking victim; the division of criminal justice services, the office of temporary and disability assistance and the New York state interagency task force to approve a human trafficking recognition training program; and the posting of information on the national human trafficking hotline telephone number. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

A6823B/S5988B: A motion was made by Betsey Jean-Jacques, seconded by Myra Freed to support amending the Penal Law, in relation to establishing the crime of sex trafficking of a child and in relation to promoting prostitution. The bill amends the Penal Law as follows:

A person is guilty of sex trafficking of a child when he or she intentionally advances or profits from prostitution of another person and such other person is a child less than eighteen years old. Knowledge by the defendant of the age of such child is not an element of this offense and it is not a defense to a prosecution therefor that the defendant did not know the age of the child or believed such age to be the same as or greater than that specified in this section.

In any prosecution under this section in which the defendant is less than nineteen years old, it is an affirmative defense that the defendant's participation in the offense was a result of having been a victim of sex trafficking under section 230.34 of this article or a victim of trafficking in persons under the trafficking victims explanation.

Following discussion, a motion to call the question was made by Myra Freed, seconded by Deborah Rosenthal. A vote was held on calling the question and the motion passed with the usual abstentions. A vote was held on the motion and it passed with with 13 abstentions.

A3223: A motion was made by Deborah Rosenthal, seconded by the Hon. Jacqueline Silberman to support A3223, which amends the Penal Law and Social Services Law, in relation to prostitution offenses and services to human trafficking victims. The bill provides that it is an affirmative defense that the defendant's participation in the offense was a result of having been a victim of compelling prostitution under section 230.33, a victim of sex trafficking under section 230.34 of this article or a victim of trafficking in persons under the trafficking Victims Protection Act. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

A6380C/S5486B: A motion was made by Deborah Rosenthal, seconded by Eileen Malunowicz to oppose the bill as written, while supporting the concept in theory. This bill requires state contractors to submit a statement on preventing human trafficking in bids to the state; maintain a written policy for preventing human trafficking within its operations, business dealings and supply chain; and provide to the state a copy of such policy when submitting such statement. Following discussion, the motion passed with seven opposed and the usual abstentions, plus two.

A7034/S6893: A motion was made by Carrie Anne Cavallo, seconded by Dawn Reid-Green to amend the General Business Law to mandate the establishment of a standard uniform human-trafficking-recognition training program and requires employees of hotel and gaming facilities to undergo such training. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

A motion was made by Greta Kolcon, seconded by Elizabeth Bryson for WBASNY to send a letter to sovereign nations respectfully encouraging them to adopt the anti-human trafficking measures being considered by the New York State Legislature that WBASNY endorses. Following discussion about the effectiveness of such an outreach to sovereign nations, a motion was made by Deborah Rosenthal, seconded by Marjorie Martin to call the question. A vote was held on calling the question, and the motion passed with the usual abstentions. A vote was held on the motion to send the letter to sovereign nations and the motion passed with the usual abstentions.

S471C/A9605A: A motion was made by Eileen Malunowicz (Bronx) and seconded by Myra Freed (New York) to approve the version of the Dream Act as proposed by the Legislature in S471C/A9605A, and not the Governor's revised version. S471C/A9605A would amend the Education Law to require undocumented students to attend high school for two (2) years and graduate therefrom, or attend a GED program and obtain a GED, within five (5) years of applying to college in order to qualify for State financial aid. It also creates a privately funded scholarship fund for undocumented students, and allows undocumented students to qualify for in-county tuition rates at community colleges and save for college by opening college savings accounts. A vote was held, and the motion passed, with the usual abstentions.

S6217A/A7899A: A motion was made by Adele Fine, seconded by Irene Villaci to support amending the Surrogate's Court Procedure Act to permit courts to appoint a standby guardian in the event of "administrative separation," in addition to the already-existing ability of a court to appoint a standby guardian when the parent or legal guardian is incapacitated, deceased, or gives consent. The motion passed with six and the usual abstentions.

Executive Budget Proposal Market Based Interest Public Protection and General Government Article VII Budget Bill (Part BB). A motion was made by Kelly Pressler, seconded by Madison Porzio to oppose the Governor's budget proposal that provides a market-based interest rate on court judgments and accrued claims, and replaces the provision of the CPLR that provides for nine percent per annum interest on judgments for damages (except where otherwise provided by statute.) After discussion about the particulars and possible effects of the Governor's proposal, a motion was made by Elizabeth Bryson, seconded by Myra Freed to call the question. A vote was held and the motion to call the question passed with the usual abstentions. A vote was held and the motion to oppose the Governor's proposal to revise judgment-interest rate calculation passed, with the usual abstentions.

#### Convention 2018 Committee

Co-chairs Katherine Courtney, Linda Johnson and EJ Thorsen announced that registration for the Convention is open. A \$50 discount is available for those who register by April 16, 2018 and there is an option for four people to share a room.

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy Thompson  
Corresponding Secretary