

**WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 23, 2019**  
Albany Law School  
Albany, New York

A quorum being present, the Board of Directors' meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by John Coffey, seconded by Brittnay McMahon, to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed.

**President's Report**

President Kolcon welcomed everyone to Albany and extended our sincere gratitude to Ricja Rice-Ghyll and the Capital District Chapter for hosting last night's dinner. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with and establish relationships between the various chapters.

In honor of Women's History Month, WBASNY has updated our written and video history, both of which are on the website. Our membership committee is recording small vignettes today on "Why WBASNY?" to be placed on our website, so please sign up to participate.

Our Promotion Project is going strong and many of our members are receiving awards and accolades, and we are excited and pleased to announce that the NCWBA chose WBASNY's Promotion Project to receive an award on August 9, 2019 in San Francisco and they are hoping to roll out promotions projects nationwide.

WBASNY has been busy with various programs, including the International Women's Day celebration, the UN Commission on the Status of Women event which was co-sponsored by our International Women's Rights and Children's Rights committees, the JALBCA event on March 26, 2019, with many more to come. Please visit and use our online CLEs – we need more traffic and feedback so we can maximize our use and benefits from this valuable program.

The Nominations Task Force has collected and evaluated information and presented a draft set of recommendations to the Executive Committee with more to follow and we are grateful to the Task Force for all of their efforts and hard work.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Rosenthal shared that all chapters are current with financial report and requested that all chapters try to have all reports in by the end of June so we do not go over budget for accounting fees. Our fundraising efforts (WBASNY Gives and Board Appeal) have raised \$7,950 so far, but our membership is lower than expected, so please continue efforts to get new and renew members.

**Diversity Committee**

Diversity Committee Co-chair John Coffey announced two upcoming CLEs – Eliminating the Gender Gap in Commercial Litigation and Diversity in the Many Faces of Adoption, both of which are being recorded for the online platform.

## **Prudential**

James Licata and Anna Marie Lewis presented to the Board and advised that they are here to help with the financial health of you and your business. They want to provide more funding, more support and better programs, such as “Women Rock Their Finances”, “Inspired Woman’s Guide to Retirement”, etc. Please contact them to set up a program for your chapter.

## **Equal Opportunity in the Profession Committee & Access to Justice Issues Task Force**

Equal Opportunity in the Profession Committee Co-chairs, Ravi Cattray and Elizabeth Kraengel and Access to Justice Issues Task Force Co-chair, Michaela Azemi, together with Bronx President Lisa Licata, made a brief presentation about Chief Judge DiFiore’s State of the Judiciary address concerning proposed assigned counsel rate increases. Lawyers appointed under assigned counsel programs have not received an increase since 2004 and it is currently \$75/hour for felonies and \$60/hour for misdemeanors. Federal courts have addressed their rates eleven (11) times during that same interval and are at \$140/hour. The lack of an increase impairs our ability to appoint qualified attorneys and results in increased adjournments and a slower court process. Both committees support Chief Judge DiFiore’s efforts to increase assigned counsel rates.

A motion was made by Carrie Anne Cavallo, seconded by Heather Neu, to support Chief Judge DiFiore’s efforts to increase the assigned counsel rate from \$75 to \$150 with a COLA provision. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

## **Legislation Committee**

Co-Chair Marea Wachsman, together with Environmental Committee Co-chairs Susan Brock and Carol Malz, presented on the Consumer Products and Personal Care Products Bill. In summary, the Department of Environmental Conservation came up with requirements for ingredients to be listed on labels and manufacturers have to provide information to the Department of Health regarding studies, whether contents are listed as hazardous substances, carcinogens, etc.

A motion made by Michaela Azemi, seconded by Eileen Malunowicz, to support the Senate bill (which is currently in the Governor’s budget). The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

The Committee also presented an Amendment to the New York State constitution, declaring it a fundamental right to have clean air and water. This bill needs to be supported in two sessions and declares pollution to be detrimental, especially to the health of children, and requires every level of government to explore the environmental impact of each action taken with a focus on eliminating pollution.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Fox-Solomon, seconded by Amy Saltzman, to support the environmental bill of rights. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

Finally, the Committee presented a bill seeking to ban a pesticide which is known to have adverse effects on fetuses and small children’s developing brains. This pesticide has increased the occurrence of autism. Efforts have stalled at the national level so this is an effort to ban the pesticide at the state level.

A motion was made by Myra Freed, seconded by Tina Hartwell, to support the proposed ban. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

Legislation committee Co-chair, Marea Wachsman and Criminal Law Committee Co-chair, Elizabeth Newton, presented on the “loitering/prostitution bill,” which seeks to repeal the loitering for purpose of engaging in prostitution offense. The Criminal Law committee supports repeal, the Children’s Rights committee supports repeal as a necessary first step but not a solution, and the Domestic Violence Committee also supports repeal.

A motion was made by Brittnay McMahon, seconded by Myra Freed, to support repeal of section 240.37 (loitering for purposes of prostitution). A discussion followed. A motion was made by Deborah Rosenthal, seconded by Susan Bender, to call the question. The motion passed. Thereafter, a vote was taken on the motion, which passed with the usual abstentions.

### **Convention 2019**

Convention 2019 Co-Chairs Bethany Solek and Theresa Girolamo advised that the Convention brochure is coming out soon and includes walking and trolley excursions, golf and a food tour. Please let the Committee know if you are planning to submit a journal ad. The speaker will be Kamila Lopez, producer of “Equal Means Equal.” The New York chapter has two (2) copies of the movie if your chapter wishes to borrow it.

### **Nominations Committee**

Co-Chairs Elaine Avery and Myra Freed advised that with a terrific committee and a lot of work, a slate was approved from the eleven applicants, two of whom withdrew. The slate is as follows: Joy Thompson (President Elect), Dawn Reid Green (Vice President), Melissa Nickson (Vice President), Deborah Rosenthal (Vice President), Kelly Pressler (Treasurer), Heather Neu (Recording Secretary) and Dawn Lott (Corresponding Secretary).

### **Old Business**

Chapters were reminded to send results of state and chapter officer elections to Recording Secretary Nickson by April 30, 2019.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

A motion was made by Deborah Rosenthal, seconded by Carrie Anne Denefrio, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa H. Nickson  
Recording Secretary