

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
Board of Directors Meeting
November 16, 2019
Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, NY

A quorum being present, the Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at approximately 1:17 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Danielle Bernard, seconded by Janette Cortes-Gomez to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on September 21, 2019. The motion passed, with 3 abstentions.

Court Simplification

Vice President Rosenthal gave a presentation about Chief Judge Janet DiFiore's proposed restructuring of New York State's trial court system. The proposed restructuring or simplification would consolidate New York's 11 trial courts into a 3 level structure, including a Supreme Court with 6 parts (family, probate, criminal, commercial, state and general). Discussion ensued. WBASNY will draft comments regarding the proposal; members were asked to provide comments in writing by December 16. A motion was made by Amy Baldwin Littman, seconded by Alicia Lendon, to table a vote for further discussion. The motion passed.

Legislation Committee

Co-Chairs Marea Wachsmann and Christine Wienberg highlighted the great volume of work the Committee has undertaken already. They described a lively discussion of proposals for WBASNY's legislative priorities, including passage of the ERA; measures aimed at stopping domestic violence, human trafficking; CPS Act, forensics; decriminalization of prostitution; immigration; court merger and all legislation addressing (1) climate change, and (2) pesticides, personal care products, and chemicals that adversely affect the health of women or children. In order to maximize WBASNY's impact, the Committee decided to delay an official vote on priorities until the release of Governor Cuomo's budget. The Committee also announced working groups for the Child Parent Security Act and the forensic evaluation report bill.

Legislative consultant Sandra Rivera discussed the timeline of legislation and the role her firm plays in notifying WBASNY of bills of interest.

JCOPE Training

Legislative consultant Sandra Rivera and Joy Thompson presented regarding the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics ("JCOPE") law of reporting lobbying activities. Ms. Rivera reported that her firm is registered as WBASNY's lobbyist and WBASNY is registered as her client. Ms. Rivera and Ms. Thompson want the Board of Directors to be aware that organizations need not register as lobbyists with JCOPE unless they believe they will expend more than \$5,000 in lobbying expenses. To date, WBASNY has never reached that threshold.

Amicus Curiae Committee

Amicus Curiae Co-Chair Elizabeth Bryson and Health Law and Reproductive Rights Committee Co-Chair Patricia Hennessey made a presentation concerning a request from the National Women's Law Center for WBASNY to participate in an amicus brief in June Medical v. Gee before the U.S. Supreme Court. This case challenges a Louisiana law requiring "that every physician who performs or induces an abortion shall 'have active admitting privileges at a hospital that is located not further than thirty miles from the location at which the abortion is performed or induced.'" As WBASNY has previously voted in similar cases, such laws substantially and adversely affect the rights of women under Roe v. Wade. A motion was made by

Jennifer Brown, seconded by Amy Saltzman, that WBASNY participate as amicus in the Gee case. After discussion, the motion passed, with 7 abstentions, including the usual abstentions by judges and court personnel.

President's Report

President Hay thanked the Equal Opportunity in the Profession Committee and its Co-Chairs Elizabeth Kraengel and Ravi Cattray for a fabulous Women's Suffrage Celebration the previous night.

President Hay noted that Virginia is likely to ratify the ERA. She noted that Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has also come out in favor of the ERA, and that Justice Ginsburg will also greet WBASNY's admittees to SCOTUS.

President Hay thanked the Children's Right's Committee and its Co-Chairs for their diligent work on WBASNY's written testimony on the rights of children in court.

She announced that Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks will speak to members at WBASNY's January board meeting.

President Hay congratulated recent award winners, including Hon. Marilyn Hoffman O'Connor for a Lifetime Achievement Award, Kelly Pressler for a Rising Star Award, and Diane Dwyer for an Honorable Alumni award and all members who ran for or were elected to office, including Hon. Lourdes Ventura, J.S.C. elect.

President Hay offered a "state of the association" of all the incredible work WBASNY has done and continues to do. She encouraged member involvement on committees and encouraged members to answer the call for nominations.

Treasurers' Report

Treasurer Pressler reported WBASNY has total assets of \$295,566.06. Treasurer Pressler thanked chapter treasurers for their timely reporting.

President Deirdre Hay raised the issue of WBASNY reimbursement for upgrades. Treasurer Pressler explained that WBASNY does not cover the cost of upgrades or tips. She noted that some Board members submitted extraordinary car expenses of several hundred dollars and asked that people try to take yellow cabs or public transportation and if a rideshare is necessary, to please be cognizant of costs.

Nominations Committee

Committee member Jennifer Brown announced that the new deadline to apply for officer positions will be January 10, 2020. She encouraged attendees to apply and to encourage their chapter members to do the same.

Immediate Past President Kolcon reminded members of the new policies and procedures implemented as a result of the Nominations Task Force and advised all members to review them on the website. She also reported the Task Force is on-going.

Fundraising Committee/ #WBASNYGives

President Hay encouraged all members to participate in WBASNY Gives. She notes a goal of at least \$5 per member, which is the cost of a cup of coffee. President Hay also reminded that the Committee is looking for more chapter representatives and that the committee is designed to assist both WBASNY and chapters in their fundraising efforts.

Access to Justice Task Force

Co-Chair Irene Villacci announced that the committee is reinvigorated and will be working to create a CLE to train chapters on how to open their own pro bono clinics. Interested chapters should reach out to Co-Chairs Irene Villacci and Leigh Ann Chute or committee liaison Heather Neu. She also noted that Camille Siano Enders continues to be WBASNY's representative on the Chief Judge's Permanent Commission on Access to Justice.

Convention 2020 Committee

Co-chairs Carrie Anne Cavallo and Jawan Finley discussed Convention 2020 at the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel May 28-31, 2020. The Committee requested a chapter liaison to the Committee as soon as possible and clarified that they are seeking from every chapter the traditional basket raffle and journal advertisements as well as an in-kind gifts for the swag bag, raffle item, or sponsorship (by the chapter or a third party). The Co-Chairs reminded attendees that CLE proposals and sponsorships are due shortly. They also announced the planned events including a Sunday brunch on a boat, an excursion to the Corning Glass Museum, a wine tasting tour, and a healthy hike in Watkins Glen park.

International Women's Rights Committee

Co-Chair Fay Parris and Maria Cortese announced the Committee's continued work on events surrounding the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Conference and on co-sponsoring events at the Commission on the Status of Women.

Environmental Law Committee

Co-Chair Susan Brock discussed work her committee is doing surrounding climate change. The Committee is investigating the creation of an online recipe data base as a great way to make an impact on an individual level through food consumption. She noted that two of the biggest impacts on climate change are beef and lamb production. The Committee is looking for help with programming. They are also looking to create an online site where members can communicate with automakers and lawmakers regarding vehicle emission standards.

New Business

President Hay announced that WBASNY will be creating a Task Force regarding WBASNY's finances. She asked presidents to send recommendations for the Task Force, which will be tasked, inter alia, with reaching out to all chapters and liaising with the Long Range Planning Committee.

Elizabeth Bryson reminded attendees that WBASNY members belong to the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, through WBASNY's membership thereto. She noted that NCWBA has monthly programs on topical issues, including #MeToo, bar association charity events, the importance of diversity and inclusion, and "Tips from A Nice Girl."

A motion was made by Greta Kolcon, seconded by Madison Porzio, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Heather Neu
Recording Secretary