

# WLIB NEWSLETTER

## WOMEN LAWYERS IN BERGEN

Volume 11

Spring 2022

We thank you all for your continued support, participation and contributions to our unique and thriving organization during the most challenging of times. As WLIB moves into Spring, we are excited to announce more educational and interactive programs.

WLIB continues to conduct its monthly board meetings virtually but hopes that we will be able to meet in-person soon. Please join us for our next board meeting on March 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via zoom. For a schedule of all upcoming meetings and events, please visit our website at [www.womenlawyersinbergen.org](http://www.womenlawyersinbergen.org). Members are encouraged to renew their membership online. Should you have any questions regarding membership, please contact our Treasurer, Tamra Katcher, Esq.

WLIB is also excited to announce its call for nomination of officer positions for the 2022 – 2023 calendar year. We look forward to finally having an in-person annual dinner reception and swearing in ceremony.

On March 21, 2022, WLIB proudly hosted its very first Wine, Pizza and Music night at Fresh and Fancy Farms in New Milford where members met and reconnected with their friends and colleagues at an outdoor setting. Music was provided by Daniel Arnato, courtesy of Carcich & O'Shea, Esqs. We look forward to many, many more in-person events as we enter warmer weather.

As is our annual tradition, the BCBA along with WLIB will be presenting our Diversity in the Profession award this



summer. The award this year will honor Senator Loretta Weinberg, a long-time friend, member and speaker at WLIB events. Senator Weinberg has been a great supporter and staunch advocate for women's rights, and an advocate for diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. We are honored to present this award to Senator Weinberg.

WLIB has scheduled our annual Meet and Mingle with Elected Female Officials event for May 2, 2022. Senator Weinberg and Senator Holly Schepisi, among many other female elected officials, will be speaking at the event. We hope to see all of our members at this much anticipated program. Please check Eventbrite and our website for details.

WLIB is proud to sponsor several interesting and informative SWAG events. On April 11, 2022, Felicia Garland, Esq. facilitated a discussion with guest Carol Marak who is a Senior Living Advisor and Advocate. On May 9, 2022, Carmela Novi, Esq., a matrimonial attorney, will be presenting on a topic to be determined. On June 13, 2022, a Financial Advisor

from Ameriprise Financial Services, Niraj Chhabra, MBA, CFP, CLTC, will present a CLE entitled "Knowledge is Power - Financial Strategies for Women" which has been approved for 1.0 NY/NJ CLE credits. There is no charge for the CLE. On July 11, 2022, Marcia Werner, Esq. and Cathe McAuliffe, Esq., will present on issues related to closing down a legal practice. We hope to see many of our members at these upcoming educational and informative events and invite you to bring guests to our SWAG meetings.

As always, WLIB members who have a personal or professional announcement for the Newsletter or who wish to submit an article, please contact our editor, Linda F. Spiegel, Esq. To the extent any of our members have an interest in presenting a CLE, please contact Kathy Hart, Esq.

We thank you for your continued participation and support of our organization. Stay safe and healthy!

With warm regards,  
Victoria R. Pekerman, Esq.  
President, Women Lawyers in Bergen

### INSIDE:

- Codifying Marriage Equality in NJ - 3
- Is Embracing DEI Essential to the Resurgence of Unionism? - 4
- Wine, Pizza & Music Night Photos - 6
- Book Review - 8
  - The Order
- Dining in the Outer Banks - 8
- Sprint 2022 Legislative Report - 10
- Covid Escapes - "Disney World" - 12
- WLIB Helps Girl Scouts Celebrate - 15
- Jean Robertson Update - 17
- Announcements - 17
- Young Lawyers Corner - 18
- WLIB Committees - 23-24
- Calendar of Events - 25

### WLIB Membership

To renew or begin your membership with WLIB please go to [www.womenlawyersinbergen.org](http://www.womenlawyersinbergen.org). If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact Cathe McAuliffe, Esq., Membership Chair at 201-488-2030 or [cathemcaul@aol.com](mailto:cathemcaul@aol.com).

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# Codifying Marriage Equality In New Jersey

By: Debra E. Guston, Esq.

On September 27, 2013, New Jersey Judge Mary Jacobson, sitting in Mercer County, ruled on summary judgment in Garden State Equality vs. Dow, 433 N.J. Super. 347 (Law Div. 2013), that New Jersey was depriving same-sex couples of equal protection under the New Jersey Constitution by prohibiting them from marrying. The Order entered directed the commencement of the issuance of marriage licenses on October 21, 2013.

The State of New Jersey sought a stay pending appeal, which was denied by Judge Jacobson. The State then filed a request with the New Jersey Supreme Court that an appeal be accelerated to the high court and that the Supreme Court stay the effective date of October 21, 2013. The New Jersey Supreme Court denied the State's stay application in a stunning rebuke to the Christie Administration, holding that the State could not demonstrate a reasonable likelihood of success on the merits to warrant the issuance of a stay [216 N.J. 314 (2013)].

Same-sex marriage licenses were issued in accordance with Judge Jacobson's summary judgment order.

For close to a decade, New Jersey marriage equality has relied on that summary judgment order and upon the 2015 United States Supreme Court case Obergefell vs. Hodges, 576 U.S. 644 (2015) to support same-sex couples' right to marry.

In recent years, even recent months, we have seen justices of the U.S. Supreme Court express a willingness to overturn longstanding precedent on a variety of civil rights and other issues. Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, for example, has addressed this issue head-on. Concurring in a double-jeopardy case<sup>1</sup>, Justice Thomas discussed his view of the proper role of *stare decisis*. Justice Thomas evidenced a belief that *stare decisis* should not be considered sacred where there were clearly erroneous decisions and he mentioned *Obergefell* as one such "erroneously" decided case. Justices Thomas, along with Justice Samuel Alito have made other comments echoing their dissents in *Obergefell* in other cases as well, notably in the dissent from the denial of cert. in Davis vs. Ermold, 592 U.S. \_\_\_, (2020), the case concerning the Kentucky county clerk who refused to do her job and issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. These rumblings and grumblings from the original dissenters in *Obergefell*, given the current make-up of the high court, are disturbing and not likely to make marriage equality advocates feel comfortable.

Faced with these comments by Justice Thomas, advocates for marriage equality again began the push for a statute to codify the Garden State v. Dow summary judgment order.

The first question was "where to begin?" Is a new stand-alone statute needed or can the existing marriage statutes be amended?

The second question was "are there other amendments that were needed to encompass the broadening practice of making statutory language gender-neutral?"

The drafting group<sup>2</sup> turned to N.J.S.A. 37:1-1 – Certain marriages or civil unions prohibited.

The text of this statute was (as amended in 2007 to add civil union):

a. A man shall not marry or enter into a civil union with any of his ancestors or descendants, or his sister or brother, or the daughter or son of his brother or sister, or the sister or brother of his father or mother, whether such collateral kindred be of the whole or half blood.

b. A woman shall not marry or enter into a civil union with any of her ancestors or descendants, or her sister or brother, or the daughter or son of her brother or sister, or the sister or brother of her father or mother, whether such collateral kindred be of the whole or half blood.

c. A marriage or civil union in violation of any of the foregoing provisions shall be absolutely void.

As newly amended, the statute now reads:

Marriages and civil unions.

a. Laws concerning marriage and civil union shall be read with gender neutral intent.

b. No person shall marry or enter into a civil union with any of the person's ancestors or descendants, or the person's sibling, or the child of the person's sibling, or the sibling of the person's parent, whether such collateral kindred be of the whole or half blood.

c. A marriage or civil union in violation of subsection b. of this section shall be absolutely void.

The bill was passed out of the Assembly (53 Yes -10 No -12 Not Voting -5 Abstain) and out of the Senate (35 Yes -4 No -1 Not Voting – 0 Abstain) and was signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy on January 10, 2022.

Same-sex marriage now enjoys statutory protection in New Jersey and the law's gender neutrality extends civil union access to different-sex couples to complete the circle of equal protection to all New Jersey couples. 🐾

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1. <https://www.scotusblog.com/2019/06/opinion-analysis-justices-uphold-separate-sovereigns-doctrine/>

2. Thomas H. Prol, Bill Singer and Debra E. Guston

# “Where I Come From, Women Don’t Sit at the Head of the Table”

## Is Embracing DEI Essential to the Resurgence of Unionism?

By: *Beverly A. Williams,, Esq.*

“In the 1950s about a third of all private workers were in unions.”<sup>1</sup> By comparison, in January 2022 the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that “[i]n 1983... the union membership rate was 20.1 percent and there were 17.7 million union workers. In 2021, the number of ...workers belonging to unions continued to decline to 14.0 million, and the union membership rate was 10.3 percent.”<sup>2</sup>

After years of decline in union membership, more than two years of COVID-19 and working remotely, and the impact of the Great Resignation, there is cautious optimism about a resurgence of unionism. My personal experience, however, warrants at least a recommendation to proceed mindfully.

I grew up in a union household. My father was a U.S. Steelworker and on staff of the AFL-CIO in Trenton, New Jersey. My mother was a member of the Communications Workers of America.

I respect the labor-management framework. It’s hardwired in my DNA.

Before I became an attorney in 1987, I led a team of labor relations specialists through grievance hearings, labor arbitrations and collective bargaining negotiations. Typically, men represented the unions on the other side of these proceedings. As was my practice when negotiations were held in “my house,” (otherwise known as a management location), I took my place at the head of the conference table.

To my surprise, I was unceremoniously nudged aside by one of the union’s male officers, and told “where I come from, women don’t sit at the head of the table.” Without detailing the particulars of our exchange, I commenced negotiations from my seat at the head of the table. However, the union officer insisted on sitting right next to me instead of at the other end of the table as he would have if I had been a man. In the interest of moving forward with negotiations, I did not object.

The union leader’s misogynistic declaration failed to acknowledge the prominent role that women of different races, ethnicities, ages, religions, and gender identities have played and continue to play in the labor movement. People like Sue Ko Lee of the Chinese Ladies Garment Workers’ Association, Rosina Corrothers Tucker of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Dolores Fernández Huerta of the National Farm Workers Association, Pauline Newman of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and others worked vigorously and tirelessly in furtherance of improving the terms and conditions of American workers.

Today, people like Michele A. Roberts of the National Basketball Players Association and Randi Weingarten of the American Federation of Teachers are prominent union officials. They are exceptionally effective labor advocates. Still, they, and others like them, are neither traditional nor typical leaders in the labor movement.

A review of potential sources of new union members is worthwhile. Significantly, in 2021 the number of female-identifying union members declined by 182,000 to 6.5 million workers. Following a historic trend, at 11.5 percent, Black workers had a higher union membership rate than

White workers at 10.03 percent, Hispanic workers at 9.0 percent, and Asian workers at 7.7 percent.

From 2020-2021 union membership rates declined by 0.4 percent for White workers, by 0.8 percent for Black workers, by 0.8 percent for Hispanic workers, and by 1.2 percent for Asian workers. The 2021 rates for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics are little or no different from 2019, while the rate for Asians is lower.<sup>3</sup>

Age is also an important demographic. Workers aged 45 to 54 had the highest union membership rate in 2021, at 13.1 percent. Younger workers between the ages of 16 and 24 had the lowest union membership rate, at 4.2 percent.<sup>4</sup>

Admittedly, organized labor is now more diverse and broadly based than in the 1950s or before I became an attorney. In 2018, of the 14.7 million wage and salary workers who belonged to a union, 25 percent were female-identifying, and 28 percent were Black.<sup>5</sup>

Whether unionism will resurge or simply sputter, there is union activity in interesting and surprising areas. Congressional staffers have begun an organization drive toward unionism.<sup>6</sup> Starbucks employees in Oxford, Mississippi, and reportedly in more than 100 stores nationally have made moves toward becoming unionized.<sup>7</sup> Apple Store employees are also “quietly” exploring whether to unionize.<sup>8</sup>

However, if there is to be a sustainable resurgence of unionism, more than lip service will be needed to embrace all those who seek to move forward to bargain collectively regardless of backgrounds, opinions, and interests. Intentionally and authentically embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion holistically is essential to revitalize the labor movement. Quite simply, there is strength in numbers.

The male labor leader who objected to a woman sitting at the head of the table has passed on. Unfortunately, he did not live long enough to learn that President Joseph R. Biden named Lauren McFerran chair of the National Labor Relations Board. 🙋

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1. Ileen DeVault, Professor of Labor History at Cornell University’s Industrial and Labor Relations School, quote confirmed on March 9, 2022.

2. Ileen DeVault, Professor of Labor History at Cornell University’s Industrial and Labor Relations School, quote confirmed on March 9, 2022.

3. Id.

4. Id.

5. History.com Editors, History, last updated September 1, 2020, originally published October 29, 2009. <https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/labor>

6. Rebecca Shabad, *Congressional staffers announce effort to unionize on Capitol Hill*, THE HILL, Feb. 4, 2022.

7. Sara DiNatale, *Mississippi Starbucks Workers Want a Union in Oxford*, MISSISSIPPI TODAY, Emmerich News, Mar. 7, 2022.

8. Reed Albergotti, *Some U.S. Apple Store employees are working to unionize, part of a growing worker backlash*, THE WASHINGTON POST, Feb. 18, 2022.





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# WLB Wine, Pizza & Music Night

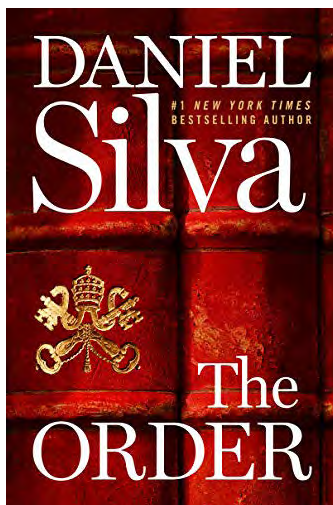
March 21, 2022











## Book Review

By: Tamra Katcher, Esq.

### The Order By Daniel Silva

The Pope is found dead in his apartment at the Vatican while his personal secretary, Archbishop Luigi Donati, is out on his weekly Thursday night dinner with a friend. Donati believes that something is amiss and contacts his friend, Gabriel Allon, the head of Israel's

version of the CIA. Allon, who happens to be in Venice with his family on a much-needed vacation, is swept away by Donati to investigate the sudden death of the pontiff, Allon's close friend. Donati and Allon, with the assistance of Israeli intelligence, undergo an extensive and far-reaching investigation of what happened and who was involved. The pair unearth deep religious beliefs

which have been the bane of the Jewish people and how they have been seen and treated by the church for thousands of years. Their search for answers takes them on a walk through religious history in an effort not only to expose the culprits but also to prevent them from taking over the conclave and allowing the conspirators to hand-pick the new Pope.

If you enjoyed Dan Brown's Davinci Code, Angels & Demons, and that entire series (like me), then you will LOVE this book. I would RUN to the library to pick this up – it is worth every minute of your time! The story was a constant flow of information about religion, history, geography, and politics. Just sitting here writing this review I am still excited about it. Daniel Silva gives you a glimpse into the inner workings of the Vatican, the Swiss Guard, the Conclave, and the Catholic Church and Religion. He even delves into the history of Jesus and his roots as a Jew. It was truly entertaining as well as educational. Another bookworm friend referred Daniel Silva's books to me and I commend them to you now and suggest starting with The Order – you will not be disappointed. 🙌

## Dining in the Outer Banks

By: Kathleen A. Hart, Esq.



Ah, spring! It is here and if you are like me, you are planning your summer vacation. We have vacationed in the Outer Banks for many years. The Outer Banks (or OBX as set forth on bumper stickers galore), is a 200-mile series of barrier islands off the coast of North Carolina. The northern most town in the OBX is the four-wheel only town of Carova and the southern towns include Hatteras, Ocracoke and Emerald Island. The rental homes vary from small salt boxes to large homes which sleep 20. When we go down, we stay in the north, in Corolla or Duck and try to dine out a couple times during our stay. Here are a few places we have tried and loved. A few suggestions, since it is summer, if reservations are needed, make them as soon as you can. If no reservations required, either try lunch or dine early or late. Most places fill up quickly and wait times can be long.

**Fatcrabs Rib Company and Seafood Shack**  
1159 Austin Street  
Corolla, NC  
(252) 453-9931

No reservations are needed at this casual seafood and bbq restaurant in the Corolla Light section of Corolla. Fatcrabs does wonderful North Carolina barbecue and seafood pots. You can order seafood steamer pots to go of lobster, shrimp, clams and crabs (\$50-\$55, w/ market price for lobster). Brisket and NC pork platters are delicious (\$18-\$20). The restaurant is small with a beachy décor. There are outdoor picnic tables and the staff is super friendly and accommodating.

*continued on page 15*



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Barbara B. Comerford is a Lawline Faculty member who presents national seminars on ERISA LTD and Disability insurance claims. She has also conducted seminars throughout the country on Social Security Disability law.

# SPRING 2022 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*By: Carmela L. Novi, Esq.*

For your information, helpful websites:

[www.njleg.state.nj.us/](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/) the New Jersey Legislature's site; enables you to find bills by subject and track where any proposed bill is in the process.

[www.judiciary.state.nj.us/](http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/) the New Jersey judiciary site; includes a legislative news site that lists new laws by subject (e.g., family, criminal), bills on the Governor's desk and legislative updates. There is also a report opinions site where recent New Jersey Supreme Court and Appellate division opinions are posted.

[www.ca3.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca3.uscourts.gov). The United States Court of Appeals (Third Circuit) discontinued issuing printed Slip Opinions. They are now available free of charge through the Court's website as noted.

## **Sampling of New Jersey State Legislature 2022-2023 Session Bills Passed as of March 21, 2022**

### **Russia/Belarus**

S1889 (P.L. 2022 c. 3) (March 9, 2022) Prohibits government deadlines with businesses associated with Belarus or Russia.

### **Delaware River Port Toll Discount Program for Veterans**

SR15 (March 3, 2022) The Delaware River Port Authority is urged to create a toll discount program for military veterans in appreciation for, and to honor, their service.

### **Condemnation of Russian Invasion of Ukraine**

ACR115 (March 3, 2022) Condemns Russian Invasion of Ukraine.

### **Special Education/Covid-19**

S905 (P.L. 2021 c. 280) (March 3, 2022) Extends period of time for filing special education due process petitions related to Covid-19 school closures and periods of virtual, remote, hybrid, or in-person instruction.

### **Navy Week**

S905 (March 3, 2022) Recognizes May 2 to May 8, 2022 as Trenton Navy Week in New Jersey.

### **Gubernatorial Budget Message Deadline Extension**

A2063 (P.L. 2022, c.1) (February 15, 2022) Extends transmittal date deadline for fiscal year 2022-2023 gubernatorial budget message to Legislature from fourth Tuesday in February to March 8, 2022.

## **Sampling of Reported Decisions - New Jersey Courts**

### **Voting - Redistricting**

In the Matter of Establishment of Congressional Districts by the New Jersey Redistricting Commission New Jersey Supreme Court: February 2, 2022; R-3 (086587)

Facts: This matter involves a legal challenge to the congressional redistricting map selected by the New Jersey Congressional

Redistricting Commission (the Commission). Given the manner of selection of Commission members and the redistricting process, the Commission is initially comprised of six individuals affiliated with the Democratic Party and six who are affiliated with the Republican Party. The Constitution also provides for an independent thirteenth member; in the matter at bar, the Commission could not agree on a thirteenth member, and so the Court had to select the thirteenth member, the Hon. John E. Wallace, Jr. (ret), to whom neither party objected. Judge Wallace served as the Commission Chair. On December 22, 2021, a majority of the Commissions' members, inclusive of the Chair, voted in favor of the map of the Democratic delegation. The Republican Delegations, Plaintiff herein, filed their Complaint directly with the Supreme Court, pursuant to Article II, Section 2, paragraph 7 of the Constitution. The Amended Complaint did not allege that the map chosen was "unlawful". The Plaintiff's arguments rested to a large extent on the rationale offered by the Chair to explain his vote in support of the Democratic delegation's map. The Chair provided reasons for his vote at the Commission's final meeting and amplified his reasons in writing in response to a request from the Court.

Held: The Plaintiff's allegations are insufficient to support a claim upon which relief can be granted pursuant to R. 4:6-2 (e). The Court noted that it has no role in the outcome of a redistricting process unless the map is "unlawful" pursuant to Const. art.II §2, para 9. and that only if neither map receives seven votes from the members of the Commission, then the Court must select the map that conforms most closely to the requirements of the Constitution and the laws of the United States pursuant to N.J. Const. art II §2, para 3.

### **OPRA/Confidentiality of Internal Affairs Records.**

Rivera v. Union County Prosecutor's Office New Jersey Supreme Court: March 14, 2022; A-58-20; (084867)

Facts: An internal affairs investigation of the civilian director of the Elizabeth Police Department found that he had engaged in racist and sexist behavior while in office. Plaintiff sought the IA records under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA), N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 to 13 and the common law right of access. The Prosecutor's Office denied the request and the Appellate Division ruled against Plaintiff in a lawsuit he filed.

Held: OPRA does not permit access to internal affairs reports, but those records can and should be disclosed under the common law right of access – subject to appropriate redactions – when interests that favor disclosure outweigh concerns for confidentiality. The Court noted that case law on the common law already offered guidance on how to evaluate the need for confidentiality [citing Loigman v. Kimmelman, 102 N.J. 98, 108 (1986)] and outlined the other side of the balancing test – the

*continued on page 18*





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While it may seem unbelievable, I have not been to Disney World in over 30 years. Although I have 3 kids between the ages of 9-14, we always seem to pick other destinations when deciding on our next vacation. We finally made it there during winter break last month. There are many books and guides about Disney World that I cannot possibly compete with but hopefully you'll be inspired to take a trip to the Happiest Place on Earth during its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (more on this later).

Disney lifted its mask mandate the week before our vacation so very few people were wearing masks in the parks, however, masks were required for transportation – on the shuttle buses, monorail and skyliner. There were hand sanitizer stations located at almost every turn throughout the parks and most employees still wore masks. There were large crowds on every day of our trip so although I don't have the applicable statistics, it appears the pandemic is not slowing down Disney vacationers.

We stayed in two different resorts within Disney World – Art of Animation and The Contemporary. Art of Animation is one of the resorts that is connected to the Disney Skyliner which debuted in 2019. The Skyliner is an aerial gondola that transports you to the different parks while offering a great view of the entire area. If you are afraid of heights, this might not be your first choice in transportation within the park. (The Skyliner is only connected to certain resorts in

the park.) Disney's monorail system remains available to several other resorts as well the shuttle service. As with all aspects of the parks, the transportation systems in Disney are clean and handicap accessible.

If you've visited Disney in the past few years, you probably took advantage of Fast-Pass – this system allowed visitors to make ride reservations in advance and skip long stand-by lines. As a result of the pandemic, Disney replaced all its line skipping programs with Disney Genie. Disney Genie is a digital park planning platform – basically another app for your phone. Through the app, you can check into your room, order food, check wait times for your favorite rides and make ride reservations. It took us a few days to really feel comfortable using the app – an orientation to the system would have been great! (If you are tech-phobic or want to spend your vacation away from your phone, Disney is not the trip for you. There is simply no way to navigate the rides and food concessions without a cell phone.) The cost is \$15 per day per person (this is in addition to your park admission). You can no longer make ride reservations ahead of time – you make your first reservation of the day at 7 AM. This means that my husband and I were up at 7AM on each day of our trip to get the daily reservations for our favorite rides! When you arrive at your reserved ride time, you enter through designated Lightning Lanes to skip the stand-by lines. In addition to the Genie, there is an option to purchase special Lightning Lane reservations at up to 2 high-demand attractions per day – these are an additional \$15 per person. Our family of 5 paid \$75 per ride (in

*continued on page 13*





addition to the park admission and \$15 per person per day Genie cost) to make a Lightning Lane reservation for Epcot's Remy's Ratatouille Adventure and Hollywood Studios' Rise of the Resistance. These rides are currently the most popular, with stand-by lines of 3-4 hours all day long. Unless you are comfortable with standing in line under the blazing sun for 3 hours for a 5-15 minute ride, I recommend the special Lightning Lane reservation even though it certainly adds significant cost to an already expensive trip.

We spent at least one day in each of the 4 parks: Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom and Hollywood Studios. There's not enough space to review all the rides and areas in these parks, so I'll focus on the newer experiences. Hollywood Studios is home to the 14-acre Galaxy's Edge – a theme area that opened in 2019 based on characters and settings from the Star Wars franchise. The buildings

and landscape really make you feel as if you are on Batuu or Tatooine (planets in the Star Wars universe). You can design and build your own droid or lightsaber (these are at additional cost and reservations must be made in advance). There is a life-sized replica of Han Solo's Millennium Falcon (see photo). The two main attractions are Rise of the Resistance and Millennium Falcon – Smuggler's Run. My husband and boys are big Star Wars fans and we all loved these rides. Each ride had different parts and really made you feel as if you were part of Star Wars. The ride operators never broke character! In Smuggler's Run, my boys were able to act as the pilots of the Millennium Falcon in a battle with the First Order. (These rides may be too scary for young children.) Galaxy's Edge is a must see even if you are not the biggest Star Wars fan!

This summer, Epcot is opening a new Guardians of the Galaxy ride which is sure to be a big hit. We all really liked Epcot's Remy's Ratatouille

Adventure which opened in October 2021. It is a 4D experience based on the Disney-Pixar movie Ratatouille that takes you through the bustling kitchen, fancy dining room and into the walls of Gusteau's Restaurant. It is fun and immersive for both young kids and adults. My daughter's favorite ride was Soarin' at Epcot. Soarin' is a flight simulator motion attraction that lifts you into the air to simulate a hang-gliding adventure around the globe. Soarin' lets you experience the greatest natural wonders of our planet in a thrilling way – it is a must see!

Disney World began an 18-month celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October 2021. There are endless anniversary collectibles and merchandise available throughout the parks and resorts. There are also new night-time fireworks spectacles both in Magic Kingdom (Enchantment) and Epcot (Harmonious) to honor the occasion. You still have time to visit during this special celebration – just remember to bring your credit cards, cell phone, sunscreen and lots of patience! And your Mickey/Minnie ears! 🐭





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## Outer Banks

*continued from page 8*

### Upsides

**Timbuktu II Shopping Center**  
**797 Sunset Boulevard**  
**Corolla, NC 27927**  
**(252)599-2222**

If you can make a reservation, do it and ask for the outside deck. You will not be disappointed, especially during sunset. Upsides is an upscale casual restaurant specializing in coastal cuisine. Try the spiced shrimp appetizer (\$13 for ½ pound), crab cakes for dinner (\$31) and key lime pie for dessert (\$9). There is a full bar and the service is good.

**Mike Dianna's Grill Room**  
**Timbuktu II Shopping Center**  
**777 Sunset Blvd**  
**Corolla, NC 27921**  
**(252) 453-4336**

Mike Dianna's Grille Room is where you go for a nice dinner out. It is a styled after a classic steakhouse with lots of wood décor and a clubby feel. Reservations are a must. For dinner go with the classics – mahi mahi (\$32.99), NY strip steak (\$49.99) or North Atlantic Salmon (\$27.99). Desserts include key lime pie and apple crisp.

**Sunset Grille & Raw Bar**  
**1264 Duck Road**  
**Duck, NC 27949**  
**(252) 261-3901**

Sunset Grille & Raw Bar is set on the Currituck Sound and the views are spectacular. It does not take reservations and the wait times are crazy. If you want to try it, go at lunch or for an early dinner. For dinner, try the fried shrimp (\$24.00), roasted cauliflower steak (\$24.00) or steamed shrimp (\$13.00 for ½ pound). There is a kid's menu which would satisfy the pickiest eater and desserts include s'mores brownie (\$8.00) and lemon berry mascarpone cake, which is delicious. (\$9.00)

*continued on page 17*

## WLIB Helps Girl Scouts Celebrate Women's History Month

*by Amy S. MacIsaac, Esq.*

Upper Saddle River Girl Scout Junior Troops #97307 and #97310 celebrated Women's History Month and earned their Inside Government badge with the help of WLIB. The Hon. Ellen L. Koblitz, P.J.A.D. (Ret.) spoke to the girls about being a judge and answered lots of questions about the position. They even got to hold her gavel! The girls also heard from attorneys Senator Holly Schepisi and Assemblywoman DeAnne DeFuccio about serving in the legislature. The girls shared ideas about new laws and asked questions about current laws on gas prices and animal abuse. One of the girls suggested a law to limit homework to one day per week! The meeting concluded with a short discussion about the suffragist movement and the girls decorated their own "suffragist sash" in celebration of women's history month. A big thank you to Judge Koblitz, Senator Schepisi and Assemblywoman DeFuccio for taking the time to be examples of women in government and to inspire the next generation of women leaders!





## Celebrating the Women in Bergen on Our ADR Team!



The Honorable Ellen L. Koblitz, P.J.A.D. (Ret.)  
Special Counsel  
[EKoblitz@pashmanstein.com](mailto:EKoblitz@pashmanstein.com)

Mediator and Arbitrator in family, civil, chancery and probate matters, as well as appellate consultant



The Honorable Ronny Jo Siegal, J.S.C. (Ret.)  
Partner  
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Mediator and Arbitrator in family law matters

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# Jean Robertson Update

By: Kathleen A. Hart, Esq.

Scholarship applications for the Jean Robertson Women Lawyers Scholarship have been forwarded to the New Jersey law schools. The deadline for the application is May 15, 2022. The winner will be presented with the award at the WLIB Annual Dinner, which will be held in June 2022.

The Jean Robertson Women Lawyers Scholarship Foundation provides an annual scholarship award of \$2,500.00 to a woman attending law school in New Jersey who best exemplifies the goals and ideas of the late Jean Robertson.

In Jean's memory, the Jean Robertson Women Lawyers Scholarship was formed to raise money to assist female students attending New Jersey law schools. The scholarship is awarded to students who embody the ideals and values that Jean held and taught by example. The funds for the scholarship are made up entirely of voluntary contributions by members of the bar and others committed to honoring the work of Jean Robertson. 🙏

## Announcements

Kudos to **Kim D. Ringler, Esq.**, in denying a motion to disqualify, the Superior Court Judge said, the "expert report by Ringler is persuasive to me." Fair Issac Corporation v. Micro Bilt Corporation, Mercer County, decision dated 12/16/21.

**Linda H. Schwager, Esq.** has relocated her office as of March 1, 2022 to 350 Ramapo Valley Road, Suite 29, Oakland, N.J. 07346. Her telephone, fax and email address remain the same.

Congratulations to **Sheila O'Shea Criscione, Esq.** who was elected as a trustee of the BCBA.

Congratulations to **Felicia Farber, Esq.** on her article

entitled "Key Considerations in Mediating Sexual Harassment Cases" being published by the ABA Section of Litigation, Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Congratulations to **Tamra Katcher, Esq.**, WLIB's Treasurer, on the reorganization and expansion of the Rem Katcher Law Group and its new name RWKD Law – a full service law firm – and their new address 241 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Hackensack, tel. 201-488-1234, fax 201-488-3100. They also proudly welcome another WLIB member, **Missy Duarte, Esq.**, who will handle the personal injury/civil practice, and **Craig Weis, Esq.**, as managing partner. 🙏

## Outer Banks

*continued from page 15*

**Roadside Bar & Grille**  
**1193 Duck Road**  
**Duck, NC 27949**  
**(252) 261-5729**

The Roadside Bar & Grill, located in downtown Duck, is a great spot for lunch or dinner. The owner is usually present and is extremely friendly. There is an outside patio in the front as well as tables inside. The décor has a beachy, tavern feel. The biggest find here is the backside bar. This is the back area which is only open after 5 pm and usually has live music. The backside bar menu is limited to a burger and a specialty sandwich. It is a bargain and there are lawn games to keep children occupied. The dinner inside is a little more formal but just as delicious. Try the clam chowder (\$8.00 for a cup), vegan pad Thai, which has a nice spice (\$20.00), jambalaya (\$30)

and a delicious pork chop (\$29.00). Roadside Bar & Grill does not take reservations, so I would go early to avoid the wait.

**Spanky's Grille**  
**4105 N. Croatan Highway**  
**Kitty Hawk, NC 27949**  
**(252) 261-1917**

Spanky's Grille is a no-frills restaurant and is a great option if you are headed to Jockey Hollow, the Wright Brothers National Memorial or just finished a round of golf at Seascape Golf Links or Nags Head Golf Links. The dining options include hot dogs (\$1.29), cheeseburgers (\$4.49) and clam strips (\$9.99). The restaurant has a few tables inside and some picnic tables outside. The staff is friendly, and you don't have to wait long for your food. It is perfect for a family lunch.

**Poor Richard's Sandwich Shop**  
**305 Queen Elizabeth Street**

**Manteo, NC**  
**(252) 473-3333**

If you head to Roanoke or the Aquarium, try to have lunch at Poor Richard's Sandwich Shop in Manteo. It is right on the water and a beautiful setting. If you get the chance, take the dolphin cruise. It is about an hour long and I am sure you will see some dolphins. For lunch try the Cuban Rueben (\$11.95), burger topped with pimento cheese (\$11.95) or chicken salad (\$10.95). Poor Richard's is perfect for children and you might wind up on the local pirate ship.

The Outer Banks is a great place to vacation and a great place to dine. These are some of my favorites and I hope you enjoy dining there on your vacation. Let me know if you are in the OBX this summer. I would love to say hi! 🙏

## Legislative Update

*continued from page 10*

need for public disclosure. Those factors include the nature and seriousness of the misconduct, whether it was substantiated, the discipline imposed, the nature of the official's position, and the person's record of misconduct. As the record was incomplete (the internal affairs report had not been disclosed and so the factors could not be reviewed), the Judgment of the Appellate Division was reversed and remanded for further proceedings.

### OPRA/Confidentiality of Personnel Records.

Libertarians for Transparent Government v. Cumberland County New Jersey Supreme Court; March 7, 2022; A-34-20 (084956)

Facts: In October 2017, a woman incarcerated at the Cumberland County Jail filed a lawsuit against the County and several corrections officers, including Tyrone Ellis, alleging she had been forced to engage in non-consensual sex acts on a regular basis. To learn more about the allegations, Libertarians obtained minutes of the public meeting of the Board of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System at which the Board considered Ellis's application for special retirement. When

he submitted his resignation, the County warned that it intended to continue to prosecute the disciplinary matter. Ellis, in turn, "agreed to cooperate" with the County's investigation of four other officers suspected of similar misconduct. As a result of his cooperation, Cumberland County agreed to dismiss the disciplinary charges and permit Mr. Ellis to retire in good standing with a reduced pension. Libertarians sent the County an OPRA request seeking a copy of the settlement agreement and Ellis's name, title, position, salary, length of service, date of and reason for his separation from his employment,

*continued on page 20*

### Young Lawyers Corner

The Young Lawyers Committee of Women Lawyers in Bergen meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month. Each meeting is hosted by one of the members. If anyone would like additional information including the location of the next meeting or are interested in joining the Committee, please contact Sarah Gloates Horta, Esq. at [sarah@snglaw.com](mailto:sarah@snglaw.com).

### Notice to Readers

When you are considering changing a vendor or are seeking a specialist, please consider those who advertise in our newsletter.

Thank you.

### **MERYL CONTE CLAYTON**

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## Legislative Update

*continued from page 18*

relying upon N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10. The County declined, on the basis that it was a personnel record exempt from disclosure. Libertarians filed a complaint in Superior Court, and the trial court ordered the County to provide a redacted version of the settlement agreement.

Held: Most personnel records are confidential under OPRA. But under the law's plain language, certain items qualify as a government record including a person's name, title, "date of separation and the reason therefor." N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10. To the extent that information appears in a settlement agreement, the record should be available to the public after appropriate redactions are made. Judgment of Appellate Division reversed.

### **Invocation of Miranda Rights During Interrogation.**

State v. Laura Gonzalez, New Jersey Supreme Court; February 8, 2022; A47-20 (085132)

Facts: Defendant was the nanny to a child who was brought to the hospital with injuries by his parents. During police questioning, Defendant agreed to provide a videotaped statement after waiving her Miranda rights. During the interview, before defendant made any incriminating statements, the interrogating Detective told defendant that if she lied, "[t]he situation is going to get worse." Defendant then asked, "But now what do I do about an attorney and everything?" The detective responded, "That is your decision. I can't give you an opinion about anything," and added that defendant would "have a better option by telling the truth." Eventually, defendant acknowledged that she was "full of anger" and admitted to shaking, swinging, hitting, suffocating, and throwing the child. Near the end of the interview, the detective asked defendant if she wanted to write the child's family a note. Defendant agreed and wrote a note in which she described herself as a monster and expressed "hope God forgive[s] me and all that I did." Defendant was charged with endangering and aggravated assault.

Before trial, defendant moved to suppress portions of her statement to the detective and the note to the child's parents, arguing that both were made after she invoked her right

Held: Defendant's question about the attorney was an ambiguous invocation of her right to counsel. Under settled New Jersey law, see, e.g., State v. Reed, 133 N.J. 237, 253 (1993), the detective was required to cease questioning and clarify whether defendant was requesting counsel during the interview. Because the State played defendant's recorded statement at trial and read the apology note -- written at the detective's suggestion and made after the defendant asked about her right to counsel-- to the jury, the error in failing to suppress that evidence was harmful. Reversed and remanded to the trial court. (The Court also addressed the admissibility of hearsay statements not related to the right to counsel/Miranda waiver in its decision).

### **No-Fault Insurance - Responsibility for Payment of Medical Expenses of Victim of Auto Accident by Insurer after Claimant Goes on Medicare.**

Cooper Hospital University Medical Center v. Selective Insurance Company of America New Jersey Supreme Court; December 20, 2021; A-46-20 (085211)

Facts: Dale Mecouch was involved in an automobile accident in 1979 that left him paralyzed from the waist down. Sometime after 1979 but before 2016, Mecouch was enrolled in Medicare. Selective continued to pay Mecouch's medical expenses related to the 1977 accident until December 11, 2015, when it notified Mecouch that going forward Medicare is the appropriate primary payer for treatment related to the car accident. In 2016, Dale Mecouch was hospitalized for approximately two months at Cooper Hospital University Medical Center (Cooper) due to complications arising from his automobile accident injuries. At the time of his accident, Mecouch had a no-fault automobile insurance policy with Selective Insurance Company of America (Selective), which

provided Mecouch with unlimited personal injury-protection (PIP) benefits. Cooper filed a complaint against Selective, seeking the total cost of Mecouch's care. The trial court granted summary judgment in favor of Cooper, awarding Cooper the cost of Mecouch's care minus the amount covered by Medicare. The Appellate Division reversed, concluding Medicare is the "primary payer" of medical bills for healthcare costs incurred by Mecouch at Cooper.

Held: This case is about legislative policies that set the order for the utilization of resources. Today, in accordance with the Secondary Payer Act, if Mecouch suffered serious injuries in an automobile accident and were treated in a Medicare participating hospital, such as Cooper, then his automobile insurance carrier would be responsible for payment of the hospital's bill. The hospital would receive a much higher billing return for its medical services because payment is coming from the carrier. But Congress's Medicare policy today is different from the policy in effect in 1977. Federal law in 1977 did not preempt the No Fault Act's designation of Medicare as a collateral source, and the Court must give effect to the federal and state statutory schemes that apply to Mecouch's 2016 hospital treatment and care arising from injuries that he suffered in a 1977 automobile accident. Applying those schemes, Cooper -- upon notice from Selective -- was required to bill Medicare for the hospital care rendered to Mecouch, a Medicare enrollee, and Selective is responsible for the co-payments and deductibles owed by Mecouch to Cooper.

### **Family Law**

Moynihan v. Lynch New Jersey Supreme Court; March 8, 2022; A64-20 (084867) Facts: Moynihan and Lynch were engaged in a long-term (1997 through 2015) marital type relationship, which included living together (with Moynihan's children from a prior relationship), purchase of a home, and other elements. Between 2012 and 2014 the parties entered into a handwritten agreement with financial obligations that Lynch would have towards

*continued on page 22*





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# Legislative Update

*continued from page 20*

Moynihan in the event of an end to the relationship. When the parties parted ways in 2015, Lynch refused to abide by the written agreement. Moynihan filed a complaint seeking enforcement of the written agreement and an alleged oral palimony agreement she claimed the parties had entered into before the Legislation or 2010 amended N.J.S.A. 25:1-5 to include (h) which mandated that such agreements be reduced to writing and with independent advice of counsel. The trial court found that N.J.S.A. 25:1-5(h)'s attorney review requirement did not contravene Moynihan's constitutional rights and that the parties did not enter into an enforceable oral palimony agreement. The Appellate Division reversed, but it upheld the finding that the parties did not reach an oral palimony agreement.

Held: The palimony agreement, as written and signed, without the attorney review requirement, is enforceable. That portion of N.J.S.A. 25:1-5(h) which imposes an attorney-review requirement to enforce a palimony agreement, contravenes Article I, Paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution. the parties did not enter into an oral palimony agreement.

## **Criminal Law – Traffic Stop – Articulate Suspicion**

State v. Peter Nyema. New Jersey Supreme Court; January 25, 2022; A-39-20 (085146)

State v. Jamar J. Myers. New Jersey Supreme Court; January 25, 2022; A-40-20 (071747)

Facts: Around midnight on May 7, 2011, a 7-Eleven was robbed. At approximately 12:15 a.m., Sergeant Mark Horan of the Hamilton Township Police Department received a transmission about the armed robbery, which "had just occurred." Horan testified that the dispatch described the suspects "as two Black males, one with a handgun." Horan activated the lights and sirens on his marked patrol car and drove towards the 7-Eleven. Approximately three-quarters of a mile from the 7-Eleven, Horan saw a car approaching in the oncoming traffic lane. Using the spotlight mounted to his police vehicle to illuminate the inside of the car, he observed that the occupants were a man and a woman and let them pass. Sergeant Horan testified that as he continued on, a second set of headlights approached. He illuminated the

inside of the vehicle and observed three Black males (Miller, Meyers, Nyema) "[t]he description of the suspects was two Black males so at that point I decided to issue a motor vehicle stop on the second vehicle." Horan later explained that he was also struck by the lack of reaction to the spotlight by the occupants of the car, and that he "took into consideration the short distance from the scene, as well as the short amount of time from the call" as he made the stop. During a search of the vehicle, clothing matching the description of what the perpetrators of the 7-Eleven robbery were retrieved, and a black semi-automatic handgun under the hood. Searches of the men themselves yielded just under \$600 cash. Approximately \$600 was reported stolen from the 7-Eleven. The vehicle was then impounded, and police transported the three men to the police station.

Miller pled guilty to two weapons offenses and agreed to testify against Nyema and Myers, who jointly moved to suppress the physical evidence seized from the stop. The trial court granted the motion in part as to the items seized from the trunk and the hood. But the court found that the initial stop was supported by reasonable and articulable suspicion, that the retrieval of clothing from the interior of the vehicle was permitted under the plain view exception to the warrant requirement, and that the money was lawfully seized incident to defendants' arrest. As to the robbery of the 7-Eleven, both Myers and Nyema pled guilty to first-degree robbery. Both defendants appealed from the partial denial of their motion to suppress. In Myers's case, the Appellate Division affirmed. In Nyema's case, the Appellate Division held that the stop was not based on reasonable and articulable suspicion, 465 N.J.Super. 181, 185 (App. Div. 2020). Accordingly, Nyema's conviction was reversed, his sentence vacated, and the matter remanded for further proceedings. Ibid. The Court granted certification in Nyema, 245 N.J. 256 (2021). On reconsideration, it granted certification in Myers "limited to the issue of whether the police officer had reasonable articulable suspicion to stop the car." 245 N.J. 250, 251 (2021).

Held: The only information the officer possessed at the time of the stop was the race and sex of the suspects, with no further descriptors. That information, which effectively placed every single Black male in the area under the veil of suspicion, was insufficient to justify the stop of the vehicle and therefore does not withstand constitutional scrutiny. 🐦





# 2021-2022 WLIB Committees

The following committees have been formed for the 2021-2022 term. Committees may be added or eliminated by the President as needed. Please select as many choices as you wish for committee assignment and rank them in order of preference and email your preferences to Victoria R. Pekerman, Esq. at

vpekerman@shapiro-croland.com. Multiple choices are recommended inasmuch as you may not be assigned to your first choice depending on the number of volunteers for each committee. Thank you in advance for your commitment and dedication to this great association!

## *Annual Dinner & Election*

*Diane Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-342-9090  
Email: danieluci@aol.com

This Chair will coordinate with the incoming President to plan the dinner and confer with the Nominating Committee Chair to coordinate the election and installation of officers.

## *Annual Programs*

*Diane Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-342-9090  
Email: danieluci@aol.com

These Chairs shall oversee the organization of the programs and events and do so in coordination with other committee chairs when appropriate. The President shall designate Subcommittee Chairs, in consultation with the Annual Programs Chairs, as may be needed for organizing and promoting the following programs (if applicable) and others as the Board may determine to have: Bring Your Children to Court Day, Holiday Party, Judicial Reception, Meet & Mingle With Elected Women Officials.

## *\*Bar Association Liaison*

*Victoria R. Pekerman, Esq.*, Tel: 201-488-3900  
Email: vpekerman@shapiro-croland.com

The Bar Association Liaison will inform the Board and/or WLIB membership of relevant information concerning happenings at the New Jersey State Bar Association, Bergen County Bar Association, American Bar Association and at other women's bar associations and diversity bars as such information may become known and to convey the interests of WLIB to these respective associations as WLIB may deem appropriate.

## *Bylaws*

*Helayne Weiss, Esq.*, Tel: 201-440-6300  
Email: hweiss@herbertandweiss.com

*Helene Herbert, Esq.*, Tel: 201-440-6300  
Email: hherbert@herbertandweiss.com

This Committee shall review, propose and

draft bylaws amendments as needed and shall coordinate any Special Meetings called for discussion and vote and/or publication of any bylaw amendments to the membership.

## *Continuing Legal Education (CLE)*

*Kathleen A. Hart, Esq.*, Tel: 1-732-399-9703  
Email: khart@weiner.law

The Committee shall be responsible for keeping Continuing Legal Education certification updated and organizing and assisting other members in presenting Continuing Legal Education programs. If you wish to present a program, or have an idea for a program, please contact one of the Chairs. The CLE Committee will assist to ensure that programs comply with applicable regulations so attendees receive NJ CLE credits. The Committee's goal is to provide members with an opportunity to obtain MCLE credits at a reasonable cost.

## *\*Diversity Committee*

*Nancy Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-947-6784  
Email: nlucianna@msn.com

The Diversity Committee, in coordination with the YLD Committee and with other diversity bars, shall actively recruit diverse members to WLIB and shall consider and propose ways to increase the diversity of our membership and be more inclusive of diversity members. The Committee shall organize events and programs to encourage diversity, including co-chairing the Diversity Dinner with the BCBA.

## *Jean Robertson Women Lawyers Scholarship Award*

*Kathleen A. Hart, Esq.*, Tel: 1-732-399-9703  
Email: khart@weiner.law

*Diane Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-342-9090  
Email: danieluci@aol.com

*Helayne Weiss, Esq.*, Tel: 201-440-6300  
Email: hweiss@herbertandweiss.com

This committee is responsible for the annual Jean Robertson Women Lawyers Scholarship award. It will notify the law schools in New Jersey of the availability of the scholarship, read and evaluate all submissions for the scholarship and decide to whom to award the scholarship. The committee shall further be responsible for inviting the scholarship recipient and guest to the WLIB Annual Dinner for the presentation of the scholarship. The committee is also responsible for providing a written update in each issue of the WLIB Newsletter.

## *Judicial Appointments*

*Helene Herbert, Esq.*, Tel: 201-440-6300  
Email: hherbert@herbertandweiss.com

*Janet B. Lurie, Esq.*, Tel: 201-802-9202  
Email: JBLurie@mfmclaw.com

*Rose Marie Manger, Esq.*, Tel: 201-488-0080  
Email: rmangerlaw@gmail.com

The Committee shall provide information and mentoring on procedures for becoming appointed to the Judiciary and coordinate with the CLE Committee to organize an educational program concerning Judicial Appointments.

## *Legislation & Litigation*

*Tamra Katcher, Esq.*, Tel: 201-488-1234  
Email: tkatcher@remlawgroup.com

The Committee shall seek out information concerning pending legislation and/or litigation relevant to our mission statement and the goals of this bar association and shall inform the Board and/or the general membership. The Committee shall be responsible for coordinating any public positions taken by WLIB concerning any legislation and/or litigation, including but not limited to testimony before public bodies and/or drafting of amicus briefs. The Committee shall also provide a column entitled "Legislative Update" for each issue of the WLIB Newsletter.

## *Membership*

*Cathe McAuliffe, Esq.*, Tel: 201-488-2030  
Email: Cathemcaul@aol.com

All women attorneys who live or work in New Jersey are eligible for membership. The Membership Chairs shall coordinate with Treasurer to maintain accurate and updated information concerning membership rolls and shall coordinate with Treasurer to provide membership renewal invoices to current members and add new member information to the membership rolls and supply that information to the Newsletter Chair and Publicity Committee Chair.

## *Members in Transition*

*Linda F. Spiegel, Esq.*, Tel: 201- 489-1001  
Email: LFSESQ@aol.com

The Committee shall provide information, mentoring and programming concerning starting or dissolving a practice (to enter the judiciary, join another firm, leaving government or other reasons), dealing with illness or disability of the lawyer (or lawyers' family members), retirement from law practice and other topics of interest to members nearing retirement, changing firms or practice areas, suffering an injury, caring for a family member or becoming a parent. Subcommittee, Seasoned Women Attorneys Group (SWAG) meets regularly for lunch and a program the second Monday of each month at Cheers in Hackensack, from 12:30 pm to 2 pm.

## *Newsletter*

*Linda F. Spiegel, Esq.*, Tel: 201- 489-1001  
Email: LFSESQ@aol.com

*Diane Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-342-9090  
Email: danieluci@aol.com

The Newsletter is published quarterly, Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. Anyone interested in advertising in the Newsletter should contact Victoria Pekerman, Esq. or Diane Lucianna, Esq. (co-advertising managers) at [vpekerman@shapiro-croland.com](mailto:vpekerman@shapiro-croland.com) or [danieluci@aol.com](mailto:danieluci@aol.com). Members interested in writing for the Newsletter should contact Linda F. Spiegel, Esq. WLJB welcomes articles written by members, as well as book and restaurant reviews. The Newsletter also welcomes announcements from our members and encourages all members to share their news whether personal or professional in our Announcements column.

## *Nominating Committee*

The Chair shall be the current Immediate Past President. The Nominating Committee shall make nominations of officers and trustees in accordance with the bylaws.

## *Publicity*

*Diane Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-342-9090  
Email: danieluci@aol.com

*Kathleen A. Hart, Esq.*, Tel: 1-732-399-9703  
Email: [khart@weiner.law](mailto:khart@weiner.law)

The Committee shall disseminate flyers and other information concerning events and news relevant to WLJB and its members and shall coordinate with the Website Committee to make sure the most current event and news information is provided to the Website Committee for posting. Notices of all WLJB events are sent out to the press/media. Please be sure to give Kathy and her committee as much lead time as possible for providing publicity for upcoming events.

## *Sponsorship & Advertising*

*Diane Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-342-9090  
Email: danieluci@aol.com

The Committee shall solicit advertisements for the Newsletter and any Journals as appropriate. The Committee shall solicit sponsorships for membership recruitment events and other WLJB events. The Committee shall coordinate with other committees as needed to determine sponsorship and advertising needs. The Committee shall coordinate speaking engagements by members to provide community outreach and information to the public and attract advertising, sponsorship and potential clients for members. If you would like speak at an event, place an advertisement in the WLJB Newsletter, or sponsor a WLJB event, please contact the committee chairs.

## *WLJB Website*

*Victoria R. Pekerman, Esq.*, Tel: 201-488-3900  
Email: [vpekerman@shapiro-croland.com](mailto:vpekerman@shapiro-croland.com)

*Diane Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-342-9090  
Email: danieluci@aol.com

*Nancy Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-947-6468  
Email: [nlucianna@msn.com](mailto:nlucianna@msn.com)

*Linda F. Spiegel, Esq.*, Tel: 201- 489-1001  
Email: LFSESQ@aol.com

The Committee shall keep website updated and make adjustments as may be necessary from time to time and act as a liaison to the webmaster and any other outside vendors

providing web services. The Committee shall coordinate with the Membership Committee to provide website access to members and others as appropriate and make efforts to build and maintain an online directory. The Committee shall post event information and newsworthy information on the website. Any announcements for the website should be submitted to the Chairs via email. Any suggestions for additional features on the website are always welcome.

## *Women Rights Information Center*

(WRIC)

*Helene Herbert, Esq.*, Tel: 201-440-6300  
Email: [hherbert@herbertandweiss.com](mailto:hherbert@herbertandweiss.com)

*Helayne Weiss, Esq.*, Tel: 201-440-6300  
Email: [hweiss@herbertandweiss.com](mailto:hweiss@herbertandweiss.com)

The Committee shall solicit and manage members to volunteer for the pro bono legal consultation sessions in the areas of family and immigration law hosted at the Women's Rights Information Center (WRIC) and schedule attorneys in advance to provide the consultations. The consultations are limited to 30 minutes. There is a great need for bilingual English/Spanish volunteer attorneys. Any interested members should contact the Chairs for more information.

## *Young Lawyers Division*

*Sarah Gloates Horta, Esq.*, Tel: 201-540-9017  
Email: [sarah@snglaw.com](mailto:sarah@snglaw.com)

*Toni Ann Marabello, Esq.*, Tel: 201-802-9202  
Email: [tmarabello@mfmclaw.com](mailto:tmarabello@mfmclaw.com)

The Committee shall organize the Law Clerks Welcome and conduct membership outreach with the incoming law clerks and maintain follow-up contact information and outreach with outgoing law clerks. The Committee shall also conduct outreach with law students and recruit new women members of law firms in Bergen County, the Bergen County Bar Association and any other women attorneys either living or working in New Jersey to join WLJB.

Members of the Young Lawyers Division: Jacqueline Shulman, Esq., Jennifer Berardo, Esq., Adelina Herrarte, Esq., and Nicole Parelli, Esq.

\* Denotes a special (non-standing) committee. Some special committees may become standing committees by way of bylaw amendment. Others have been formed for a specific event.



# WLIB

## WOMEN LAWYERS IN BERGEN

Women Lawyers in Bergen | 79 Main Street | Suite #1 | Hackensack, NJ 07601 |

### Calendar of Events

#### April 2022

Monday, April 18 5:30 pm WLIB Board Meeting via Zoom.

#### May 2022

Monday, May 2 5-7:30 pm Meet and Mingle with Elected Women Officials Tavern 61 (old Solari's)

Monday, May 9 12:30 pm SWAG Meeting via Zoom. Carmela Novi, Esq. will be our host, Topic TBD.

Monday, May 16 5:30 pm WLIB Board Meeting via Zoom.

#### June 2022

Monday, June 13 12:30 pm SWAG Meeting. Speaker, Niraj Chhabra, Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC will be giving a 1.0 NJ/NY CLE for free entitled "Knowledge is Power - Financial Strategies for Women."

Monday, June 13 5:30 pm WLIB Annual Dinner at Season's in Washington Twp.

Monday, June 20 5:30 pm WLIB Board Meeting via Zoom.

#### July 2022

Monday, July 11 12:30 pm SWAG Meeting. Marcia Werner and Cathe McAuliffe will be presenting on "Closing Your Law Practice."

Monday, July 18 5:30 pm WLIB Board Meeting via Zoom.

Board Meetings are currently being held via Zoom and are open to all members. Contact Linda F. Spiegel, Esq. for Zoom invitation if you wish to attend the board meeting, LFSESQ@aol.com.

Board Meetings are usually held the third Monday of every month.

#### President

**Victoria R. Pekerman, Esq.**  
(201) 488-3900 vpekerman@shapiro-croland.com

#### Vice President

**Diane Lucianna, Esq.**  
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#### Immediate Past President

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[www.womenlawyersinbergen.org](http://www.womenlawyersinbergen.org)

To advertise in this  
newsletter please contact  
Diane at (201)342-9090

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