

# WLIB NEWSLETTER

WOMEN LAWYERS IN BERGEN

Volume 12

Spring 2024

This is my last President's Message and I treasure the past two years of my presidency and the good work our organization has done. The theme for my presidency was "camaraderie." I felt that the years of COVID had caused a distancing of us, and we needed to regroup and get to know each other better in person to form a more solid organization. We had many successful social events including, but not limited to the Tribute to our Founders at Fresh and Fancy Farms, the visit to Garretson Forge and Farm, the whale watching trips and the yearly Meet and Mingle with our Elected Women Officials. We went to see a Broadway show, a Motown performance at Bergen PAC, and we have had yearly holiday parties at my house. I feel I know so many more women now and they are smart, friendly, and willing to support their colleagues in our organization. I see our listserv becoming a tool used daily by not just me and my board, but by everybody who is a member.

I have many people I wish to thank for their support of our group. Tamra Katcher, the Vice President, has been innovative in getting our listserv and our website on track and has helped me with every event we have had. I am proud to know Tamra and I know when she takes over as President, the organization will be run smoothly and will be stronger than ever. Sheila O'Shea-Criscione has done the tough job of Treasurer and has been a huge supporter of our organization with a big sunny smile on her face and an optimistic word. She and Helene ran the Law Clerks Luncheon and did a fabulous job and have set a new old tradition of resuming the event in the Courthouse as opposed to an expensive restaurant. Helene Herbert has the difficult job of being a very busy family law attorney, a Municipal Court Judge in two towns and being Secretary of our organization. Thank you for the work you have



done, and we look forward to you moving up the ladder.

Other people I would like to thank, include our Eileen Mulroy who has always given me ideas, advice, and support. Many times, we have been in my condo pool, at the beach, at a restaurant, or walking on a boardwalk and end up discussing WLIB and how to improve the organization. She has supported me, helped me, comes to almost all the meetings and almost all the events. I could not have gotten through this without your help Eileen, thank you. Thank you to Kohar Boyadjian who threw the fabulous Armenian night, a new tradition we want to continue. She opened her kitchen and her house to us and taught us all about Armenian foods. At some point we intend to have Curry night at Erica Fields's home, and encourage other WLIB members to also share the cuisines of their families with us.

Our events this Spring included Networking with Law Schools at Elias restaurant and our upcoming Meet and Mingle will be my last event. The Meet and Mingle is one of my favorites as our local women officials are enthusiastic about getting together with us, meeting at a restaurant, talking about what

they are doing and mingling with us. This year the Annual Dinner will be back to a June date, and I will be proud to attend and see Tamra Katcher installed as President, Sheila O'Shea-Criscione as Vice President, and Helene Herbert as Treasurer. The Board will be strong with that combination and our good work will continue. The nominating committee is working on nominating a Secretary. If you are interested in the position, please let the nominating committee know.

The one thing I regret not doing more of during my Presidency was outreach. I had hoped to do more with the local law schools as far as mentoring and with the Women's Rights Information Center (WRIC). It is my understanding that the WRIC is very well supported by Helene Herbert and former president Helayne Weiss and in fact they are getting an award this year at the WRIC annual dinner for their service to the organization.

The Diversity Committee which consists

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## 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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# Sandra Day O'Connor, a Woman of Valor

March 26, 1930 – December 1, 2023

By: Marcia K. Werner, Esq.

Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve as a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, began her life on the Day family's cattle ranch on the Arizona/New Mexico border. While the ranch was the largest in the region, there was no running water or electricity until Sandra was seven years old. Her parents, Ada Mae Wilkey and Harry Alfred Day eloped because Ada Mae's parents objected to their daughter marrying a rancher. Justice O'Connor always considered herself a "cowgirl" remarking upon her induction into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 2002, that she was the "first cowgirl to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court."

At age 6, Sandra was sent to live with her maternal grandmother in El Paso during the school year so that she could get an education. She excelled, skipping two grades and entering Stanford at age 16. Going to Stanford had been her father's dream, a dream he gave up when his father died and he had to take over running the ranch.

Sandra became Senior Class President at Stanford from which she graduated in 1950. At Stanford Law School, she served on the law review and earned her degree in two years, graduating third out of one hundred and two students – just behind William Rehnquist whom she dated and whose proposal of marriage she refused. Instead, she married another fellow student, John Jay O'Connor in 1952.

Following her graduation, Sandra learned the hard truth about job opportunities for women attorneys. There weren't any. Gibson, Dunn offered her a job as a legal secretary.

Not one to be held back, O'Connor worked as a deputy county attorney in San Mateo, California until John O'Connor was drafted and sent to Germany to serve in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Sandra went with him and became a civilian lawyer in the Quartermaster Corps.

Upon their return from Germany in 1957, the O'Connors had three sons in rapid succession: Scott, born in 1957, Brian, born in 1960 and Jay, born in 1962. For a short time, Sandra hung out her shingle and practiced law part time. Finding it impossible to get adequate daycare, she stopped practicing law and devoted herself to raising her sons. At the same time, she became involved in Republican politics.

In 1965 she took a full-time job as an Assistant State Attorney General. In 1969, she was appointed to an interim vacancy in the State Senate. She won two subsequent elections and in 1972 became the first woman to head a State Legislative Upper House. In 1974, O'Connor ran successfully for a seat on the Maricopa County Superior Court and in 1979 the Governor named her to Arizona's Court of Appeals.

O'Connor was a founder of both the Arizona Women Lawyers Association and the National Association of Women Judges. Then, in 1981, keeping a campaign promise to appoint a woman to the Supreme Court, President Ronald Reagan appointed Sandra Day O'Connor to replace Justice Potter Stewart. O'Connor was 51 years old. During her 24 years on the Supreme Court, she wrote 645 opinions which are annotated on the website of the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute for American Democracy which she founded after her retirement from the Court.

In writing this article I was fascinated to learn about some of Justice O'Connor's most well known opinions. Justice O'Connor was considered to be a "swing vote", consensus builder, and pragmatic jurist who decided each case on its own, very specific facts. For those reasons, it appeared to me that just looking at the holding in any given case is not enough. Her reasoning is integral to a full understanding of her decisions which were sometimes at variance with her personal moral compass. While she told President Reagan that she found abortion to be personally repugnant, in her concurring opinion in Webster v Reproductive Health Svcs. ( 1989 ) which upheld state restrictions on second trimester abortions, she stated that this was not the case in which to re-examine Roe v Wade. In 1992 in Planned Parenthood v Casey she, along with Justices Souter and Kennedy, wrote the plurality opinion reaffirming the "core" of Roe, finding that to overturn precedent in the face of current political pressure would cause damage to the Court's legitimacy and the nation's commitment to the rule of law. One wonders how Justice O'Connor would have reacted to the decision in Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization which overturned Roe in 2022. There is a clue in a comment she made in 2010 when part of one of her opinions was overturned – "Gosh, I step away for a couple of years and there's no telling what's going to happen."

In Veronia School District v Acton, Justice O'Connor dissented in a case which upheld subjecting student athletes to drug testing even absent any suspicion of wrongdoing. In 2000 in Bush v Gore she joined the conservative majority to halt the recount of Florida's paper ballots. She later told the Chicago Tribune that it might have been wiser not to have taken the case. In Davis v Monroe County Board of Education (1999) she found in favor of holding school districts liable for student on student sexual harassment. In Mississippi University for Women v Hogan, decided in 1982, one of her earliest majority decisions, she held that a state supported nursing school could not deny a man admission based solely on his sex. In a concurring opinion in McCreary County v ACLU (2005) O'Connor opined that allowing a framed display of the Ten Commandments on the walls of Courthouses in Kentucky was unconstitutional in that it amounted to a state endorsement of religion and as such "sends a message to non-adherents that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community." In 2003, in Hamdi v Rumsfeld, O'Connor wrote the plurality decision finding that a US citizen detained as an enemy combatant following 9/11 was entitled to "a meaningful opportunity to contest the factual basis for that detention before a neutral decisionmaker." To rule otherwise, she wrote, would open the door to oppression and abuse of others.

The Hamdi case was followed in 2005 by her separate concurrence in Lawrence v Texas which struck down anti-sodomy laws for same sex couples in Texas on Due Process grounds. O'Connor's concurrence also found the law to violate Equal Protection, writing "a law branding one class of persons as criminal solely based on the State's moral disapproval of that class and the conduct associated with that class runs contrary to the values of the Constitution and Equal Protection Clause."

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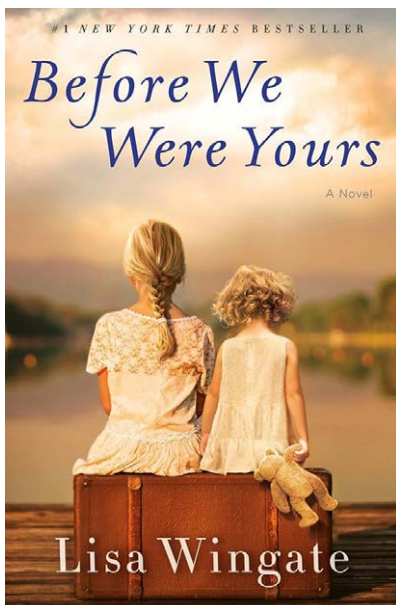
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The Law Offices of Barbara B. Comerford concentrates its practice in the area of disability law including ERISA Long Term Disability Insurance claims, disability income insurance claims, Social Security Disability claims, and government pension claims. We provide free initial consultations.

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.





## Book Review

By: Tamra Katcher, Esq.

### *Before We Were Yours* By Lisa Wingate

Queenie and Briny ruled the Kingdom of Arcadia, a shanty boat on the Mississippi River in the 1930s. They, along with their children, Rill, Fern, Lark, Gabion and Camellia, called the Arcadia home.

Briny built the Arcadia and the family lived a life of freedom and ease along the river. They would go south in the winter and north in the warmer months. But one day they were tied up on the river near Memphis when Queenie went into labor. The midwife feared that Queenie's and the baby's lives were in danger, so Briny took them across the river to the hospital in Memphis. The next morning, the police came and took Rill, Fern, Lark, Gabion, and Camellia out of Arcadia and placed them in the Tennessee Children's Home Society and from there their lives would never be the same.

This work of historic fiction focused on the lives of the Foss children and their unfortunate run-in with Georgia Tann, the proprietor of the Tennessee Children's Home Society – a network of unregulated and unsupervised homes for “orphaned” children. The unfortunate reality is that many children, much like Rill and her siblings, were in loving families and were stolen. The children were adopted under false names and fraudulent backgrounds for exorbitant adoption fees. Since the children were adopted under false names, the biological parents were unable to locate their children. In 1995, the adoption records were opened to the victims and their families. Some found each other after decades of living apart; some were not so fortunate.

This book was a quick read yet very powerful and moving. The tragedy and trauma faced by these families is unfathomable. The characters themselves may have been pure fiction but the underlying story of the Tennessee Children's Home Society is real; children were traded like commodities. If nothing else, this book will educate you and give you a glimpse into the reality of unregulated adoptions and those who were forever affected by one woman's greed and deception. 🕊️

## Restaurant Review

By: Kathleen A. Hart, Esq.



816 Ocean Ave., Sea Bright, New Jersey 07760  
(732) 842-2894



I must admit, we tend to eat out in Bergen County. Typically, it is pub fare where sandwiches are involved. However, on occasion, we do head to other places in New Jersey and get to try new restaurants. This is how we got to McCloone's Rum Runner in Sea Bright.

Rum Runner is located on Ocean Avenue, across from the beach and along the Navesink River. The restaurant is big and caters for events. There is a deck along the back where the sunsets over the river are beautiful. There is outdoor dining when the weather is nice and given its location, reservations are a must.

The dining room is located on the second floor. There is an elevator for those who have difficulty with stairs. Once upstairs, the hostess stand is in a small area. You can see the large rectangular bar with a wall of windows overlooking the river. There was a small dining room, separated by a glass wall. We were taken to our seats in the main, larger dining room. The walls are adorned with nautical themes and a large painted compass. The room had a yacht club vibe.

The server took our drink order and told us about the specials for the evening. We decided to start off with the lobster guacamole (\$20.00). This was a good-sized portion of fresh guacamole with big chunks of lobster throughout the dish served with tortilla chips for dipping. The guacamole was delicious with just the right amount of lime. Other appetizers include New England clam chowder (\$14.00), coconut shrimp (\$17.00) and goat cheese fritter served with a pear puree (\$16.00).

For our entrees, my husband ordered flat iron steak (\$32.00). This was a nice sized portion of perfectly cooked steak over mashed potatoes. The dish was completed with a delightful brown sauce. My husband finished

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## 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.

## Presidents Message

*continued from page 1*

of members of the Bergen County Bar Association as well as members of Women Lawyers in Bergen will be having their annual dinner on June 18<sup>th</sup>. I am a member of that committee, and I am proud to report that the Award for Diversity in the Profession will be going to a dynamic young woman I know, who is a member of our organization: Kelly Castor. Kelly has been a member of our organization for several years. She has participated in a CLE for us on Diversity and has done a SWAG seminar on artificial intelligence. She has a very interesting article on AI in this Newsletter. Kelly is a dynamic, smart, vibrant young woman who has the unenviable job of being a sole practitioner, who also happens to be a Black woman and single mother of a young child. Yet when I see her, she has a smile on her face and warm words. I know she is always competent and innovative. I am proud that she will be getting this award. Her achievements were mainly unknown to me until I read her CV which is very impressive and qualifies her for this honor. We hope many of you will come out for this event on June 18<sup>th</sup> at Seasons.

Our upcoming events are the Meet and Mingle on May 8<sup>th</sup>, WLIB Annual Dinner on

June 4<sup>th</sup> at Seasons, and the Diversity Dinner on June 18<sup>th</sup> at Seasons. Another event we will be supporting, and we wish other members to support, is the WRIC's Annual Dinner at which they will be honoring Helayne Weiss and Helene Herbert which I mentioned earlier. I will be posting the flyer for the WRIC dinner on the listserv.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the many people who have helped me through these two years. Linda Spiegel for her good ideas, common sense, and always impeccable Newsletter. Donna Dorgan for running the Garretson Forge and Farm event and Lija Znakina from Rhubarb Crew who has been so helpful on our website development and social media presence. Last but not least, I would like to thank an unsung hero for me, Patty Polanco who has done our flyers in a beautiful, imaginative way and who right now is working on a rough draft of a President's Message and making it into final form for Linda for the Newsletter while I am on a river cruise in France. Thank you. 🙌

Diane Lucianna  
President

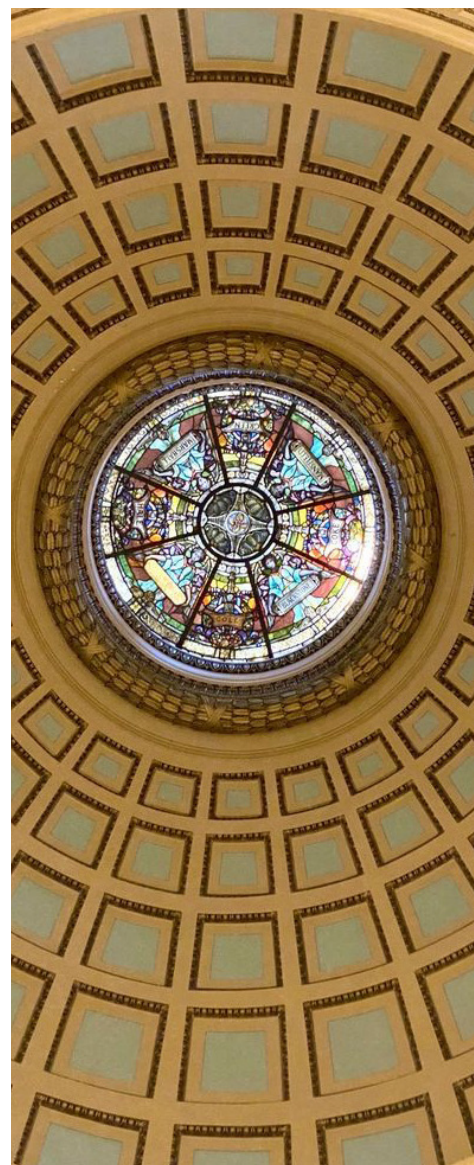
## Restaurant Review

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everything. I ordered the dark and stormy pork chop (\$32.00). This was a bone in chop, cooked perfectly served with a glaze and bacon jam. The bacon jam was a little too sweet, so I did not finish. However, the pork chop was large, and the leftovers were great the next day. Other entrees include pan seared salmon (\$30.00), short ribs (\$38.00) and a burrata ravioli (\$28.00).

After such a big dinner, we had no room for dessert.

The Rum Runner is a nice place to dine, and I am looking forward to the next time we are in the area for a meal. The acoustics in the large dining room did make it a bit noisy. I would suggest you wait for the nice weather and enjoy the outdoor dining. The Rum Runner would also be great for a special occasion. Our server was attentive, and the food was good. I give it three forks. 🙌



*Upclose image of the dome of The Bergen County Courthouse.*



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# Jean Robertson Update

By: *Kathleen A. Hart, Esq.*

Scholarship applications for the Jean Robertson Women Lawyers Scholarship are being forwarded to the New Jersey law schools. The winner will be presented with the award at the WLIB Annual Dinner, which will be held in June 2024.

The Jean Robertson Women Lawyers Scholarship Foundation provides an annual scholarship award of \$2500.00 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

Our condolences to our member John Weichsel, Esq. on the passing of his beloved wife, Susan, on January 1, 2024. Susan accompanied John to many WLIB events. We will miss seeing her at his side and her always informed and well thought out contributions to our discussions. Donations may be made to the American Stroke Association in Susan's memory.

Congratulations to Tamra Katcher, Esq. on winning her appeal on behalf of two clients before the Appellate Division. The published opinion can be found at <https://www.njcourts.gov/system/files/court-opinions/2024/a2054-22a2412-22.pdf>

Congratulations to our members Helene Herbert and past President Helayne Weiss who are being honored on May 15, 2024 by the Women's Rights Information Center for their hard work and devotion to this wonderful organization. See back page of this Newsletter for additional information.

Congratulations to our members Laura A. Sutnick, Esq. who was sworn in as President of the BCBA, Faudia A. Hameed Clemenza, Esq. and Jhanice V. Domingo, Esq. who were sworn in as new Trustees of the BCBA, on 4/4/2024. 🙌

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# SPRING 2024 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 Bills Passed after December 11, 2023

### Education – Grief education

S3330/A5015 (P.L. 2023 c. 201) (December 21, 2023) Requires school districts to provide instruction on grief as part of New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

### EMT Certification/State Reciprocity

A831/S461 (P.L. 2023 c.229) (January 8, 2024) Provides for reciprocity of certain out-of-State EMT certification; establishes criminal history record background check process.

### Domestic Violence/Notice

A1704/S1000 (Amending P.L. 1991, c.261, 2C:25-23) (December 21, 2023) Requires certain domestic violence orders and notices to be issued in Spanish and 10 other "high demand" languages spoken in the State, in addition to English, in certain circumstances.

### Invasive Species

A3677/2807 (P.L. 2023 c. \_\_\_\_ ) (December 21, 2023) Prohibits sale, distribution, import, export or propagation of certain invasive species without permit from Department of Agriculture; establishes NJ Invasive Species Council.

### Sale of firewood

S3201/A132 (P.L. 2023 c.227) (December 21, 2023) Provides that farm, farmstand, or other agricultural operation selling firewood obtained from property other than sellers shall not be considered lumber yard; prohibits sale of untreated firewood from outside of State.

### License Plates – State animal

A203/S2884 (P.L. 2023 c. 292) (January 8, 2024) Authorizes creation of special license plates commemorating horse as State animal.

### Civil Forfeiture

A649/S587 (P.L. 2023, c. 228) (January 8, 2024) Expands purposes for which civil asset forfeiture funds may be used by law enforcement agency.

### Fire Sprinklers

A1755/S2505 (P.L. 2023, c. 299) (January 16, 2024) Requires installation of operational automatic rain sensor or smart sprinkler as condition of sale of certain real properties, and on certain commercial, retail, and industrial properties and common interest communities within specified timeframes.

### Human Trafficking

AI729/S3550 (P.L. 2023, c. 298) (January 16, 2024) Requires AG to address human trafficking in underserved communities.

## Sampling of Reported Decisions

### Family Law – Domestic Violence

H.F.V. v. E.S.W. NJ Appellate Division, November 28, 2023 (A-2128-21) (087340) Unpublished.

Facts: Defendant appealed trial court's entry of an amended final restraining order in favor of plaintiff under the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act. After some four years of dating, plaintiff obtained a temporary restraining order against defendant after he sexually and physically assaulted her and broke items in her home. Trial court conducted a virtual final hearing in which plaintiff testified regarding defendant's sexual assault. During the incident, plaintiff fought off defendant, after which he angrily broke items in her home, left, and a short time later attempted to break in. Defendant was arrested at the scene. Plaintiff also testified to prior instances of domestic violence against her by defendant. Defendant contradicted plaintiff's version of events at her home and accused plaintiff of trying to cheat on her boyfriend with him. Trial court credited plaintiff's version of events, found in her favor, and imposed a FRO; Defendant appealed.

Held: Trial court decision upheld. The trial court deemed a FRO was warranted in light of the seriousness of defendant's sexual misconduct and the historical elements of the parties'

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# Spring Legislative Report

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relationship. Trial court's findings of a predicate act by defendant were supported in the record and thus were entitled to deference. In addition, because the predicate act of sexual assault was violent in nature, the need for a FRO was self-evident.

## **Public Records – Approved for Publication**

**Fuster and Devine v. Township of Chatham et al.** New Jersey Appellate Division; December 27, 2023 (A-1673-22) (085547)

**Facts:** This matter involves the appeal of a Law Division decision in favor of Chatham and its records officer in their denial of a release of a body worn camera (BWC) video-recorded statement that Fuster had provided to a Chatham Police Department officer regarding allegations of sexual misconduct against plaintiffs' special needs son on the basis that the recording was exempt under OPRA and not subject to release. Trial court Judge denied plaintiffs' request for a release of the video. The statement was recorded pursuant to the Body Worn Camera Law (BWCL), N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118.3 to -118.5. Defendants denied release of the recording, claiming that the video was confidential. After hearing argument on the Order to Show Cause seeking disclosure, the motion Judge found the BWC recording was exempt under OPRA and not subject to release under the common law right of access. As a result, the Judge denied plaintiffs' OPRA fee application.

**Held:** The Appellate Division upheld the trial court's decision. Based on the specific facts presented in the record, the interest in disclosure is outweighed by the government's and individual's interest in confidentiality; therefore, plaintiffs are not entitled to disclosure of the BWC video pursuant to the common law right of access.

The Court found that plaintiffs' argument that the BWCL's exemption provision, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118.5(l), abrogates OPRA's exemptions, to be without merit. Reading the statutes together demonstrates that the legislature did not intend to preclude the application of the OPRA exceptions to BWC recordings. The Court further reasoned that the case law has long-established that information received by law enforcement regarding an individual who was not arrested or charged is confidential and not subject to disclosure.

The Court further rejected plaintiffs' argument they are entitled to the BWC recording under the common law right of access. The Court held that this right of access does not compel release of the BWC given the balancing of interests factors established by the NJ Supreme Court in Loigman v. Kimmelman, 102 N.J. 98, 113 (1986). The Court reasoned that law enforcement's and the individual's interests in confidentiality outweigh the public's and plaintiffs' interests in disclosure.

## **Contracts –Approved for Publication**

**Allure Pet Prod., LLC v. Donnelly Mktg. & Dev. LLC**, New Jersey Appellate Division; January 17, 2024 (A-0429-23)

**Facts:** Defendants filed interlocutory appeal of the denial of their motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction. The question presented was whether NJ has personal jurisdiction over a defendant Utah company and its owner who entered into a contract to reserve exhibition space for plaintiff, a New Jersey pet product supplier, at a biannual trade show in Germany planned for 2020. The trade show was eventually postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the company and its owner declined to refund plaintiff's payment or apply it to the next show in 2022. Defendant argued that they had insufficient contacts with NJ to be sued in NJ.

**Held:** The Appellate Court affirmed the trial court's finding of personal jurisdiction under these circumstances. As a matter of law, it is not dispositive that the New Jersey plaintiff originally initiated contact with the Utah company and its owner years before the present transaction. The record shows the Utah defendants sought and procured renewal contracts with plaintiff for the next four biannual trade shows, including 2020. In addition, the Utah defendants repeatedly solicited new or renewal business from at least ten other New Jersey pet companies during that time frame. Given that conduct, the Utah defendants "purposely availed" themselves of doing business with New Jersey customers to a level sufficient to satisfy the criteria for in personam jurisdiction under the Due Process Clause. The Court held that norms of fair play and substantial justice were not offended.

## **Divorce/Death during divorce pendency**

**Roik v. Roik**, New Jersey Appellate Division; January 18, 2024 (A-2522-21) (Not approved for publication)

**Facts:** Plaintiff Paul Roik and Anita Roik were married for 46 years when Plaintiff filed a complaint for divorce in August of 2020. The parties signed a settlement agreement in November of 2021. The Court scheduled an uncontested hearing date in January 2022. In December of 2021, Plaintiff signed a Certification in Support of Entry of a Divorce Judgment on the Papers. Plaintiff died on December 29, 2021. Thereafter, the parties' son, as executor of this father's estate, moved to enforce the terms of the MSA; Defendant cross moved to dismiss the divorce action. Plaintiff had executed a Will in 2013 naming the parties' three children as the beneficiaries of the estate. The MSA contained language indicating that the agreement would be effective as of its execution. The Judge granted Defendant's motion by concluding that he could not enforce the MSA because

*continued on page 16*





@ t 5:12am on April 5th, a SpaceX Falcon launched, carrying a batch of Starlink satellites to space. We were able to see the rocket during our visit to the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) the day prior to launch. After visiting the KSC, I have a new interest and appreciation for our space program. The KSC is located on Merritt Island and is about an hour and a half drive from Orlando and the Most Magical Place on Earth. It is definitely worth a visit during your next trip to the Sunshine State.

Tickets price begin at about \$80 per person and run to about \$170 if you are looking for additional experiences. Parking was \$10. Overall, our trip to the KSC was the least expensive during our Orlando vacation this year. KSC is open from 9am-5pm every day and you can tour the entire center in one day if you get there early!

By way of background, the KSC was established in 1962 and has been NASA's primary launch center since 1968. Launch operations for the Apollo, Skylab and Shuttle programs were carried out from KSC. Since 2010, the center has become

a multi-user spaceport through industry partnerships with Blue Origin, SpaceX, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, etc. There are about 700 facilities and buildings in the center's 144,000 acres. Although most of the center grounds are off-limits to visitors, there is plenty to see and experience.

Since the buildings are spread out, regular admission includes a bus tour that takes visitors around the center. I highly recommend the bus tour – the tour guides are very knowledgeable and are very engaging. Our tour guide pointed out an eagle nest along the main road of the center – we learned that the hatching and development of the eaglets has been a source of great interest to all of the center staff. We first passed the most well-known building at the center – the VAB or Vehicle Assembly Building. It is the largest single-story building in the world and is the eighth largest building in the world by volume. The VAB was built for vertical assembly of spacecraft. There are four entries to the bays inside the building, which are the four largest doors in the world. According to our tour guide, it takes 45 minutes for each door to open completely. The bus tour includes a stop at the Apollo/

*continued on page 12*



## Weekend Getaways

*continued from page 11*

Saturn V Center which includes a tour of the actual command center used for the Apollo missions in addition to displays of the real Apollo spacecrafts. This was a great place to begin our visit since the center explains the early days of space exploration, which included many setbacks.

After the bus tour, we headed to the centerpiece of the KSC, the Atlantis. Several short videos explain the history of the shuttle program. Our kids were able to take part in a simulation of a shuttle launch that is open to all. They all gave it a thumbs up! There are more than 60 interactive displays and exhibits to allow kids (and adults) to simulate shuttle launch, docketing with the ISS (International Space Station) and overall shuttle operations. The highlight, of course, is the actual Atlantis Shuttle. Atlantis joined the fleet in 1985 and made 33 trips, completing over 125 million miles and 307 days in space. It is truly awe inspiring! Visitors can view the shuttle from both the top and bottom since it is suspended in the center of the building. There is also a replica of the Hubble Space Telescope on display. The “Forever Remembered” hall is a reminder of those who died in the pursuit of space exploration in both the Challenger and Columbia shuttle disasters. Personal mementos from each of the lost astronauts are displayed – it is both moving and sad. There is another



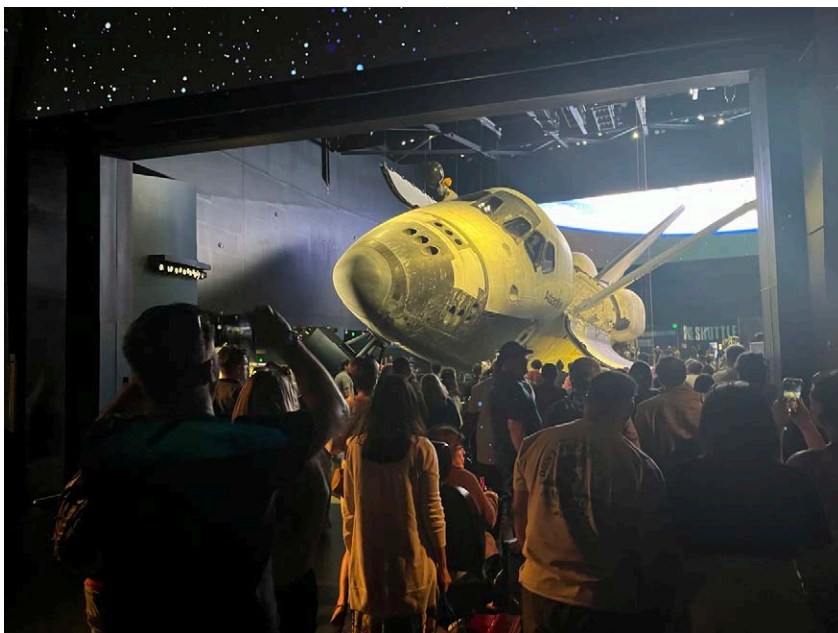
memorial to all fallen astronauts outside at the Space Mirror Memorial.

After a quick stop for lunch (there are several places to eat at the KSC), we headed to the Astronauts Hall of Fame building. We were able to see two very well-made videos about some of the astronauts and their experiences on various missions. Well-known astronauts like Jim Lovell, Alan Shephard and Buzz Aldrin are prominently featured. Just outside of the Hall of Fame is the Rocket Garden, a display of full-scale original and replica rockets used by NASA over the years.

The KSC is very kid-friendly, including an indoor play area with all things space-related called Planet Play. There are also several exhibits with interactive displays about NASA's new Artemis program – the next generation of space exploration to both the Moon and Mars. Excellent interactive displays include the Mars Rover vehicles and NASA's plans to send humans to Mars in the future.

You can purchase additional experiences that are not included in the regular admission fee. The most popular is the chat with an astronaut experience. Although we did not choose this option, several other visitors recommended it!

The KSC allows visitors get an up close and personal look at America's space program from the Apollo program, to the Shuttles, to NASA's current Artemis spacecraft. Our visit was fun and educational! I highly recommend a visit to the Kennedy Space Center! Up next, we're off to Universal and Sea World! 🐼





# Beware of the Robot Revoluton: The Pessimistic Attorney's Guide to Avoiding AI and Embracing Human Error and Inefficiency

*By; By: Kelly Castor, Esq.*

In the ever-changing landscape of the legal profession, it is important to recognize the enduring value of established practices. This article serves as insight on how to maintain traditionalism amidst the rise of Artificial Intelligence in our field.

## Embrace the Timeless Craft of Personalized letters and emails:

In a world increasingly dominated by digital processes that prepare documents in light speed there is a certain allure in preserving the art of professionally rewriting an email four times to ensure that your frustration is properly expressed to your adversary. The meticulous process of personally crafting each sentence, carefully selecting words to express your thoughts and intentions may be compromised by using AI products and services. Further, the efficiency of the AI service will cost your client a .2 of an hour instead of a .4 leaving you with an unnecessary amount of time to work on another file.

## Reconnect with the Wisdom of Legal Research:

While technology offers convenience, there is merit in embracing the physicality of research. The hands-on process of book research, or using legal research platforms, allows attorneys to read on average 3-5 cases and shepardize to confirm they have successfully selected the appropriate rule to which their facts will be applied. This allows the attorney to deeply engage with the law, apply critical thinking skills, and gain a thorough understanding of the legal landscape, way beyond their intended search. While AI promotes the ability to summarize, organize, locate and categorize, these extra steps performed by the attorney develop fortitude and DISPLAY a commitment to excellence.

## Cultivate a Mindful Approach to Efficiency:

While AI champions efficiency, let us cultivate a mindful approach that prioritizes quality over speed. If we do not exercise our minds by reviewing extraordinary amounts of pages of every file personally, taking the time to analyze and reflect on each line of a medical record or contract, ensuring thoroughness and attention to detail, have we truly lawyered?? Resist the pressure to streamline every process, and embrace the human capacity for critical thinking, intuition, and the inclination towards exertion.

Remember that in the pursuit of justice, it is often the journey that matters as much as the destination.

## Embrace the Learning Opportunities in Human Error:

Though AI boasts accuracy, let us recognize that human error is an inherent part of our profession. Embrace the lessons learned from mistakes, using them as opportunities for growth and improvement. Recognize that the complexities of law require the discernment and adaptability that only human minds can provide.

While we approach AI in the legal industry with a hint of skepticism and a dash of satire, it's important to remember that technology, when used responsibly, can enhance our profession. Let's embrace the robot revolution with a sense of humor, while also staying vigilant about the potential risks and ethical considerations. Some may even argue that our professional identity and commitment to delivering exceptional legal services is based on our ability to remain flexible. Even in the world of AI, human judgment, empathy, true wisdom, legal knowledge, and our knack for the dramatic will always be essential to the practice of law. So, let's keep calm, adjust to the new trend, and show the robots who's really the boss in the courtroom!

\*The concept, introduction and conclusion are all the author's 100% original work. The title and headings and about 50-60% of the body was created by generative AI and edited/ fleshed out by the author and the final product was edited by a human/the Editor in Chief of the WLIB Newsletter. 🙌



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# Congratulations to Laura Sutnick, Esq. on becoming the BCBA President

*By: Laura Van Tassel, Esq.*

One of the pleasures of interviewing individuals for WLIB articles is that I, the interviewer, get to speak with a wide variety of people. Some I know, some are new, and all are a pleasure but most notably, all are excited about the law and being a part of the legal community. Laura Sutnick exemplifies this feeling. Her enthusiasm and respect for being a lawyer and the legal community is evident from the instant we began to speak.

Laura is the new president of the Bergen County Bar Association. This is a lengthy commitment taking many years from serving as a trustee, then ascending through all the officer positions, to finally becoming the President of the Association. Laura expressed that it is important to be a part of the 'trade groups' for our profession. Both BCBA and WLIB are important parts of the legal community. Laura expressed that an essential part of the membership and belonging/attending these groups is the social side of our profession as well as meeting lawyers who practice in different areas of the law.

Laura is an experienced criminal defense attorney. She graduated from Boston University and attended and graduated from the

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She started her legal career in New York in the Office of the Kings County District Attorney. After spending time in Kings County Laura moved to New

Jersey. She noted that she did not know anyone in New Jersey in the legal community and found that the various professional organizations offered her the opportunity to meet her colleagues. These organizations provided her with the opportunity of not only meeting other criminal defense attorneys but also attorneys who practice in other areas of the law.

Laura believes meeting attorneys practicing in different areas of the law make us more complete professionals. Not only does the membership and participation help each of us individually but also helps build a stronger legal community.

As a member of the BCBA Laura participated in a variety of volunteer activities including, but not limited to, moderating various seminars as well as mock trial coaching. Laura is a strong advocate in getting the younger members of the bar to participate in the organized bar and that is one of her goals for her presidency.

When not involved in work and related activities she likes to spend time with her young adult children. She enjoys travel, skiing and running.

WLIB congratulates Laura as she joins other Laura as she joins other WLIB members as President of the BCBA and wishes her a very successful year as the President. 🐾





# Spring Legislative Report

*continued from page 10*

there was no way of discerning, by voir dire, the parties' mutual intent, and whether they knowingly and voluntarily entered their agreement; and it had not yet been made part of a final judgment at the time of plaintiff's death and was therefore not enforceable.

**Held:** The Court may enforce the terms of an executed MSA if a party dies before a Judgment of Divorce is entered. An executed MSA expresses the parties' intent and belief that the settlement terms are fair and equitable, and they wished to be bound by it. The overwhelming evidence showed a final judgment would have been entered, but for the scheduling delay of the divorce hearing. The equities, therefore, did not support discarding the MSA and dismissing the matter.

## **Family Law – Appendment of Pleadings - Approved for Publication**

**Sadeeshkumar v. Venugopal**, New Jersey; February 9, 2024 (A-0434-23)

**Facts:** Defendant appealed from an interlocutory order denying his motion to amend the complaint, as well as the order denying his motion for reconsideration.

Plaintiff filed a complaint for divorce after a 30-year marriage, alleging grounds of irreconcilable differences and seeking equitable distribution, alimony and counsel fees. Defendant filed an answer with affirmative defenses but no counterclaim. Defendant then moved to amend his initial pleading to file a counterclaim based upon irreconcilable differences and extreme cruelty. The trial court denied the amendment based upon R. 5:4-2(e) which permits amendment to a pleading based upon

facts discovered after the litigation has commenced.

Defendant appealed the denial of his motion to amend his answer to plaintiff's divorce complaint. Plaintiff alleged irreconcilable differences and sought an award of equitable distribution, open durational alimony, and counsel fees. Defendant filed an answer with affirmative defenses, denying "the existence of a cause of action in favor of plaintiff." Defendant also noted that there was separate litigation concerning a business founded during the marriage. Defendant moved to amend his answer to assert a counterclaim for divorce on the grounds of extreme cruelty and irreconcilable differences. Defendant claimed that the parties met an individual who claimed to possess mythical powers from a Hindu goddess; defendant alleged that plaintiff declared the individual as the family's guru or spiritual teacher and unilaterally devoted herself to him. Defendant alleged that the individual's manipulation of plaintiff adversely affected defendant's personal and financial well-being. Plaintiff opposed amendment, noting that the rules only permitted an amended pleading to assert a cause of action that arose after the filing of the initial pleading, whereas defendant knew of the facts supporting his proposed counterclaim before he filed his original answer. The trial court exercised its discretion to deny defendant's motion, noting that both parties had pled irreconcilable differences. The trial court subsequently denied defendant's motion for reconsideration.

**Held:** The trial court erred, relying upon the incorrect rule and standard; and also, that the Judge noted that both parties had initially plead for divorce based upon irreconcilable differences in their initial pleadings, which was incorrect. The Court found that defendant's proposed counterclaim pled sufficient grounds for extreme cruelty and irreconcilable differences. The court ruled that trial courts should permit parties to assert plausible claims as to why the marriage should be dissolved; otherwise, trial courts would frustrate parties' statutory right to divorce. 🙌

## **Sandra Day O'Connor**

*continued from page 3*

In his moving eulogy of his mother, Jay O'Connor described her as a "force of nature." "She willed things into action. People had a very hard time saying no to her, except her three sons and some of her colleagues on the Supreme Court. She had an unearthly energy." Jay O'Connor shared that his mother's way of relaxing after a long workday was to play three sets of tennis or 18 holes of golf. She and his father were known as the best dancers in Washington and even took disco dancing lessons. She ran the family's home, cooked, grocery shopped, got the kids where they needed to be and took care of her mother-in-law.

Justice O'Connor served on the Court until 2006 when she resigned to care for her husband whose dementia had progressed to a point at which she could no longer bring him to sit in her office while she worked. He had come to D.C. for her, and she was leaving for him. She was succeeded in office by Justice Samuel Alito of New Jersey. Despite her efforts to care for her husband at home after she left the Court, O'Connor was ultimately forced to place him in an assisted living facility. He died in 2009.

After she left the Bench, O'Connor wrote several children's books about her time on the ranch in Arizona, advocated for Alzheimer's research and founded the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute for Democracy to advance civil discourse, civic engagement and civics education. She created a tech based non-profit curriculum to teach young people about government and democracy using role based games which, per Jay O'Connor, is now used by half of all middle and high school students in the country. O'Connor's book, The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice was published in 2002 and explores the law, her life as a Supreme Court Justice and how the Court evolved and continues to evolve, function, grow and change as an American institution.

In 2018 Justice O'Connor announced that she had been diagnosed with dementia and was retiring from public life. She passed away on December 1, 2023, in Arizona. Her son, Jay, said that his mother left a letter for her sons to be read at the time of her death. In it she said that "our purpose in life is to help others along the way."

Jay O'Connor ended his eulogy with these words: "We thank you, we love you, we will never ever forget you." 🙌





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# WLIB *Networking Happy Hour*

April 11, 2024



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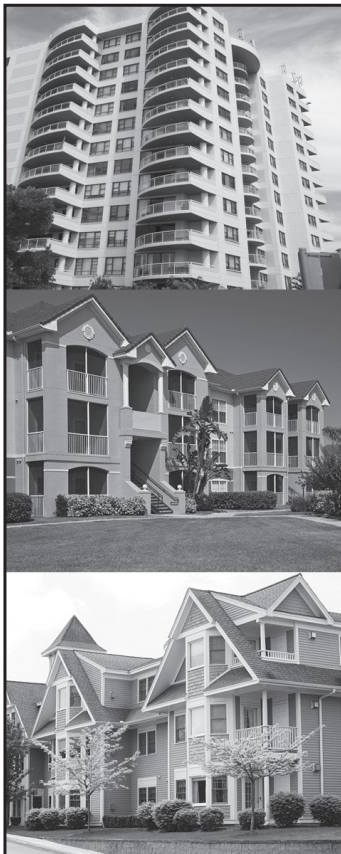


# Networking Happy Hour

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# 2023-2024 WLIB Committees

The following committees were formed for the 2023-2024 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 Diane Lucianna, Esq. at

[dianeluci@aol.com](mailto:dianeluci@aol.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*

*Eileen Mulroy, Esq.*, Tel: 201-410-5106  
Email: [Mulroyei@gmail.com](mailto:Mulroyei@gmail.com)

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

*Erica Fields, Esq.*, Tel: (201) 527-5319  
Email: [Efields@geico.com](mailto:Efields@geico.com)

*Donna Dorgan, Esq.*, Tel: (201) 388-9849  
Email: [donna@dorganlegal.com](mailto:donna@dorganlegal.com)

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

### **A. Breast Cancer Event:**

*Erica Fields, Esq.*, Tel: (201) 527-5319  
Email: [Efields@geico.com](mailto:Efields@geico.com)

### **B. The Fountain:**

*Kimberly Capers, Esq.* Email: [Kcapers@bcpo.net](mailto:Kcapers@bcpo.net)

### **C. Golf:**

*Laura Van Tassel, Esq.*, Tel: (201) 664-8566  
Email: [laura@vantassellaw.com](mailto:laura@vantassellaw.com)

### **D. Holiday Party:**

*Natalie Candela, Esq.*, Tel: (201) 953-1995  
Email: [Ncandela@bcpo.net](mailto:Ncandela@bcpo.net)

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*

*Eileen Mulroy, Esq.*, Tel: 201-410-5106  
Email: [Mulroyei@gmail.com](mailto:Mulroyei@gmail.com)

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

*Sveltana Ros, Esq.*, Tel: 201-373-2060  
Email: [Lros@pashmanstein.com](mailto:Lros@pashmanstein.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](mailto: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*

*Jennifer Blum, Esq.*, Tel: 201-336-9868  
Email: [Jennifer.Blum@opd.nj.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Blum@opd.nj.gov)

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](mailto:khart@weiner.law)

*Eileen Mulroy, Esq.*, Tel: 201-410-5106  
Email: [Mulroyei@gmail.com](mailto:Mulroyei@gmail.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*

*Kelly Castor, Esq.*, Tel: 908-377-4889  
Email: [Kellycastor@gmail.com](mailto:Kellycastor@gmail.com)

*Eileen Mulroy, Esq.*, Tel: 201-410-5106  
Email: [Mulroyei@gmail.com](mailto:Mulroyei@gmail.com)

*Jennifer Blum, Esq.*, Tel: 201-336-9868  
Email: [Jennifer.Blum@opd.nj.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Blum@opd.nj.gov)

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*

*Carmela Novi, Esq.*, Tel: 201-642-2000  
Email: [Carmela@wlg.com](mailto:Carmela@wlg.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: lfs@spiegellawfirm.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 on Zoom for a program the second Monday of each month.

## *Newsletter*

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

The Newsletter is published quarterly, Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. Anyone interested in advertising in the Newsletter should contact Nancy Lucianna, Esq. (advertising manager) at nlucianna@msn.com or Linda F. Spiegel, Esq. Members interested in writing for the Newsletter should contact Linda F. Spiegel, Esq. WLIB 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*

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

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*

*Nancy Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-947-6468  
Email: nlucianna@msn.com

The Committee shall disseminate flyers and other information concerning events and news relevant to WLIB 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 WLIB 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*

*Nancy Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-947-6468  
Email: nlucianna@msn.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 WLIB 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 WLIB Newsletter, or sponsor a WLIB event, please contact the committee chairs.

## *WLJB Website*

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

*Diane Lucianna, Esq.*, Tel: 201-342-9090  
Email: dianeluci@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

*Helayne Weiss, Esq.*, Tel: 201-440-6300  
Email: 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

*Suzanne Tullo, Esq.*, Tel: 201-450-2652  
Email: ttullosuzanned@gmail.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 | [www.womenlawyersinbergen.org](http://www.womenlawyersinbergen.org)

### Calendar of Events

#### May 2024

Wednesday, May 8	5:00 pm	Meet and Mingle with Bergen County Female Elected Officials. Forte Restaurant, 160 Prospect Ave., Hackensack, Valet Parking
Monday, May 13	12:30 pm	SWAG will be hosting a General Membership Meeting via Zoom for members to discuss what activities they would like to see in the coming year and to network with WLIB Board members.
Tuesday, May 14	5:30 pm	WLIB Board Meeting via Zoom.
Wednesday, May 15	6:30 pm	Women's Rights Information Center will be honoring Helene Herbert, Esq. and Helayne Weiss, Esq. with the Phoebe Scham Award for their hard work and devotion to WRIC at their fundraiser at the Montammy Golf Club

#### June 2024

Tuesday, June 4	5:30 pm	WLIB Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers - Seasons, Washington Twp.
Monday, June 10	12:30 pm	SWAG meeting via Zoom. Sheila O'Shea Criscione, Esq. will lead a discussion on the new domestic employee legislation.
Thursday, June 13	5:30 pm	WLIB/BCBA Annual Diversity Dinner. Our own Kelly Castor, Esq. will be receiving the award for Diversity in the Profession.

Board Meetings are currently being held via Zoom and are open to all members. If you wish to attend the board meeting go to <https://www.womenlawyersinbergen.org/> login as a member and you will find the Zoom link for the board meeting.

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

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