

NEW ROCHELLE BAR ASSOCIATION Newsletter

Summer, July 2020

www.nrbar.org

Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends:

As I approach the end of my term as President of the New Rochelle Bar Association, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of our accomplishments over the last two years.

The fact that current circumstances compel us to forego in person dinner meetings for the foreseeable future is a major disappointment. Our 14th Annual Court of Appeals Dinner, our 2nd Annual Dinner Cruise, our September Installation of new officers and directors, our October Judges' Night and our 99th Annual Holiday Party, have all been canceled based upon surveys showing a reluctance on the part of most people to engage with others in close proximity for the time being.

Rather than dwelling in negativity, I would like to point out some of the positive aspects of my term. While the last three months have been trying in many respects, we have managed to adapt to a virtual format to continue providing quality Continuing Legal Education programs to our members. Special thanks to Past President Judge Jeffrey Levin and board member Warren Agatston for reaching out to attract interesting speakers, coordinating scheduling, submitting programs to the NY State Continuing Legal Education Board, preparing sign in sheets and distributing CLE certificates on a monthly basis.

None of the work of the New Rochelle Bar Association could have been accomplished without the hard work of each member of our Board of Directors. I have had the privilege of working with a

dedicated group of lawyers over the past two years, each of whom had a specific task or multiple tasks which they performed admirably.

We secured a centrally located meeting venue, New Rochelle City Hall, for our monthly CLE presentations, thanks to the efforts of former board member Councilman Barry Fertel.

Frank D'Onofrio assembled, edited and proofed a new Membership Directory (the first new directory since 2015).

David Lacher ensured our continued commitment to community involvement through our collaborations with the Board of Education, the New Rochelle Public Library and the Boys and Girls Club. We continue to present scholarships to local students.

Thanks to our longtime Treasurer Frank DiMarco, our finances are in excellent shape and allow us to continue to make generous contributions to community based organizations and award scholarships to worthy recipients

Michele Tombini and Carmelina DiMarco spent months coordinating our very memorable 2018 Holiday Party, that was held in the John Jay Homestead in Rye, the childhood home of the first Chief Justice of the United States. The members of the other Sound Shore bars joined us and co-sponsored that event. Michele and Carmelina also insured that our April 2019 Court of Appeals Dinner, held at the Surf Club overlooking Long Island Sound, was the best attended ever. I thank them as well for record attendance at the Installation Dinner, our first Judges Night (attended by nearly 30 judges), and our ever-popular Surrogates' Dinner

The number of members has remained stable thanks to the membership drive conducted by Greg Varian. Past President Laurie Korngold recorded, published and archived the minutes of every Board meeting, in addition to serving as unofficial photographer at our functions. Dan Ronan served as our liaison to other bar associations. Our members serve as Arbitrators in the New Rochelle Small Claims Court; scheduling

is coordinated by Jennifer Pasquantonio. The Court is grateful for the time contributed by Jennifer and the cadre of volunteer arbitrators. Our quarterly Newsletter edited by Artem Djukic keeps our members informed of matters of interest, and our nearly daily communications to members are prepared and disseminated by Mark Griffin.

We interact with bar associations throughout the State through our membership in the Network of Bar Leaders, where we hold a seat on the Board, currently occupied by Judge Jeffrey Levin. Through Jeff's efforts, the New Rochelle Bar is known statewide for our free CLE programs and our annual Court of Appeals Dinner.

Past President Richard Sosis, with whom I share office space in the "K" Building, has acted as a special advisor and sounding board for the past two years. His 25 years of experience on the Board, coupled with his four years of service as President of NRBA have proved invaluable and I am grateful for his wise counsel.

Most importantly, I am grateful for the participation of our members and friends who join us at our CLE programs and special events. Your membership provides you not only with more than the required annual number of CLE credits each year, but also provides you with a local network of attorneys with whom you can consult and give and receive referrals. You also have access to a wide network of service providers who have committed themselves to giving highly personalized service to NRBA members. Lastly, once our lives return to "the new normal", you will have the opportunity for the in-person interactions that we have been missing since the pandemic started.

I look forward to my continued involvement as Past President, and to quote the title of the song which Dame Vera Lynn sang to the Allied troops during World War II, "We'll Meet Again".

Yours,

Ronald V. Zezima

Message from the Editor



Dear fellow members, I hope everyone is staying safe and well during these tumultuous times. We missed our last newsletter due to the pandemic, but I hope that everyone enjoys the contents of this newsletter even with the slight format change.

Please remember to support our Bar Associations' generous sponsors during these unprecedented times, a list of all sponsors can be found on the next page.

Rest assured that the NRBA will continue to offer free monthly CLE's (virtually for the time being) and virtual social events during the social distancing mandates. Furthermore, the NRBA will continue to support the local community, by continuing to issue scholarship awards to local High Schoolers and making donations of food to our local first responders.

Please stay well and safe.

Sincerely,

Artem Djukic



A REMINDER ABOUT OUR SPONSORS

The following individuals and institutions have sponsored our CLEs and events in the past. We thank them for their support and ask our members to seriously consider engaging them for their services.

Appellate Printers

Helen Mezger of Appellate Innovations,
3 Barker Avenue, 2nd Floor, White Plains, NY
10601. Office: 914.948.2240 x 101.

Banks

Anthony J. Forgione of Sterling National Bank,
21 Scarsdale Road, Yonkers, NY 10707. Cell: (914)
922-9429.

Joseph A. Ruhl, Esq. of Orange Bank & Trust,
42 Waller Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601. Cell:
(914) 260-3475.

Lola Gazivoda, of M&T Bank Business Banking,
120 White Plains Road, Suite 300, Tarrytown, NY
10591. Phone: 914-366-8591 Cell: 914-268-7975
Fax: 914-366-8501 & Email: lgazivoda@mtb.com.

Michael Padilla, of M&T Bank, 300 Mamaroneck
Avenue, Mamaroneck, New York 10543.
Tel: 914-698-6400 & Email: mpadilla@mtb.com.

Bridgette Brown-Williams of OZK Bank, One
Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 475, New York, NY
10020. Tel: 212-218-8364
Email: bridget.brown-williams@ozk.com

Mortgage Brokers

**Ralph J. Berardi, Jr. of Pepe/Berard Capital,
LLC and Quantum Mortgage Corp.**,
211 South Ridge Street, Second Floor,
Rye Brook, New York 10573.
Cell: (914) 329-6375.

Real Estate Brokers

**Michele Silverman Bedell, of Silversons Realty
LLC**, 6 Palmer Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583.
Cell: (914) 906-4376.

**Miriam "Lori" Morrow of Keller Williams
Realty**, 120 Bloomingdale Road, White Plains, NY
10804. Cell: (914) 260-5349.
Email: lorimorrow@kw.com.

Willa Beth Stending of Compass Real Estate, 144
Larchmont Avenue, Larchmont, New York 10538.
Cell: (914) 391-2029. Will.Stending@compass.com

Title Insurance Companies

**Alison Orlando and Maria Murphy of Judicial
Title**. 800 Westchester Ave, Suite S-340
Rye Brook, NY 10573 Tel: (914) 381-6700.

**Michael Lisk and Roseanne Picone of Record
and Return Title Agency, Inc.**, 7 Dempsey Place,
Eastchester, NY 10709. Tel: (914) 395-2285.
Roseanne Cell: (914) 355-8612.

**Nancy A. Scovotti of The Great American Title
Agency Inc.**, 170 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 207
White Plains, NY 10601. Cell: (914) 841-6229.

**Holly Hasbrouck of Stewart Title Insurance
Company**, 707 Westchester Ave., Suite 302,
White Plains, NY 10604. Cell: (914) 552-0756.

**Megan Zangaglia of Benchmark Title Agency,
LLC**, 222 Bloomingdale Road, Suite 102
White Plains, NY 10605. Cell: (646) 529-7891.

Others

Kommer Bave & Ollman LLP,
145 Huguenot Street, Suite 402, New Rochelle, NY
10801. Tel: (914) 633-7400.

**Glenn Lane, President, Westchester Family
Care, Inc.**, 1 Depot Plaza, Mamaroneck, NY
10543. Tel (646) 418-8393.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND RENEWALS REMINDER

The NRBA membership is from January 1st through December 31st of the calendar year. The annual dues are \$100. Members who renew, and prospective members seeking to join the NRBA, should do so through the website. All renewing members must update their contact information, practice areas and other information online at <http://www.nrbar.org/> (by registering as a “new” member, once initially registered in the new system, annual renewals will be less cumbersome). When you load the website, enter the email address at which you currently receive NRBA notices as your login-in ID and click on the “Forgot Password” button to begin the registration process. If you have technical difficulties renewing online, please contact Hon. Jeffrey Levin at: jeffrey.levin.law@gmail.com and we will assist you.

If paying by physical check, please make it out to “New Rochelle Bar Association” and mail it to The New Rochelle Bar Association, P.O. Box 1863, New Rochelle, NY 10802. Even if you pay by check, you should log in and update your contact information to ensure that this information is current. If you need help with this, please contact the NRBA and we will assist you.



CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE: Office space available for rent at 271 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801. The office measures 10’ x 14’, is airy and has a large, south-facing window, has access to a conference room with copier, has lots of file storage space available, is located in a large business building with many other lawyers, in downtown New Rochelle near trains and parking, and is offered at a very reasonable monthly rental.

For further information please contact Richard Sosis at drlaw41@verizon.net.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE: Scarsdale, 1-5 penthouse window offices in established law firm + conference rooms, reception stations, kitchenette Fully equipped, WiFi, free parking, near courts, Vernon Hills Center, Class A building, Term Flexible, Contact: Jennifer Aronson, 914-713-9311 or 203-500-5012, jaronson@joneslawllp.com.



AROUND TOWN

The recipients of the NRBA’s 2020 Walter Bobrow Memorial Boys and Girls Club Scholarships are Jesus Torres and Juan Ruiz-Diaz. Both scholarship recipients are members of the New Rochelle High School Class of 2020. Jesus and Juan participated in the NRBA Law Club at the Boys and Girls Club. In the fall, Jesus will be attending Iona College and Juan will be attending the State University of New York at Albany.



Left to right, David Lacher, Jesus Torres, Juan Ruiz-Diaz, Ron Zezima and Michele Tombini.

NRBA SOFTBALL TEAM

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 Softball season has been postponed and may resume towards the end of July. If you are interested in playing this coming season, please contact, Team Captain/Manager Jay Goldstein at taxmanskis@aol.com.



MEMBER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We extend our warmest welcomes to the newest members of the NRBA: **Anthony Enea**. Please make sure to say hello and make the new members feel welcome.

Congratulations to Hon. Jeffrey Levin, whose son Michael I. Levin, was promoted to the rank of Major during a ceremony held on June 23, 2020, at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, North Carolina,. Michael has served for the past two years as the Senior Trial Counsel for the 82nd Airborne Division. Major Michael Levin will be continuing his military career for the coming year in Charlottesville, Virginia while attending the graduate law course at the Army's Judge Advocate Law School on the campus of the University of Virginia.



Pictured in the photo are Jeffrey Levin, Isabella Levin, Hank Levin, Samantha Moskowitz Levin and Major Michael I. Levin.



CLE UPDATE

THE NRBA Continues to provide monthly free CLE's to all its members. Approximately 50 attorneys attended each of the NRBA's first two virtual CLEs.

On June 1, 2020, Artem Djukic, Esq., of the Law Offices of Kevin H. Cohen, gave the NRBA's first virtual CLE noon time presentation on "Remote Estate Planning, How to Witness and Notarize Estate Planning Documents During the Pandemic."



On June 18, 2020 Richard Grayson, Esq., and Joseph A. Ruhl, Esq., of Orange Bank & Trust Company presented a one ethics credit CLE on “Practical Ethical Considerations in the Day to Day Practice of Law: An Overview, Part 2.”



UPCOMING EVENTS & CLEs

(Mark Your Calendars!)

CLEs will continue to be presented virtually via Zoom until we can resume meeting in person

July 16, 2020

July CLE will be provided by one of our sponsors, Judicial Title. The CLE is a Diversity credit and will be held at 1 p.m.

August 2020:

Virtual CLE via Zoom, speaker TBD.

The NRBA would encourage each of you to send us your suggestions for programs and speakers. Information regarding upcoming CLEs may be found in the “Upcoming Events” section of this newsletter.

Expect to receive advance notices with particulars by e-mail of these and future CLEs. Information will also be posted at www.nrbar.org.

For information on and reservations for our CLEs, or suggestions for future CLE topics, please contact **Jeffrey L. Levin, Esq.** at jeffrey.levin.law@gmail.com

OUR WEBSITE: www.nrbar.org
 With our website members can obtain information concerning our Bar, its activities, and general legal and community news. We welcome feedback. This Newsletter can be downloaded from our website. Thanks for helping keep NRBA green.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
 For an up-to-date listing of scheduled events, including CLEs and dinner meetings, kindly view existing event postings on our website: www.nrbar.org.

For reservations for any of our upcoming dinners or events please contact Treasurer **Frank DiMarco, Esq.**, New Rochelle Bar Association, P.O. Box 1863, New Rochelle, NY 10802, Franknr@aol.com

Getting Published
 We welcome your submissions! All submissions should be sent to Artem Djukic, Editor, at adjukic@estatelawny.com. Please mark the subject as NRBA news. Articles between 500 to 1200 words should be sent in Word format. Photographs should be sent as jpeg attachments. Authors should include a short biographical statement with their articles, which must be spell checked, cite checked and in blue book form. Opinions expressed in any article printed in the NRBA newsletter are solely those of the author(s) and are not positions taken by the NRBA. Materials submitted allow NRBA limited copyright and full permission to reprint the article in the NRBA newsletter without additional consent.