

NEW ROCHELLE BAR ASSOCIATION Newsletter

December 2014

www.nrbar.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Dear Colleagues and Friends;

I am excited over the recent news that our Bar Association will receive the recognition it deserves for our **“Lawyer in the Classroom”** program. We have been notified that our program has been chosen to receive the **2014 Bar Leaders Innovation Award for small bar associations** at the New York State Bar Leaders Breakfast and Awards Ceremony on Friday, January 30, 2015, at the Hilton New York Hotel. The awards, presented to small, medium and large Bar Associations, are sponsored by the New York State Conference of Bar Leaders. The NYSCBL Award Committee reviews bar programs for their unique and inventive programming for legal professionals and the impact on the communities they serve. From these programs the Committee determines the bar associations who are to be awarded for their innovative and imaginative ideas and programs which tap the participation and sharing of members’ talents or which address the unmet needs within the community at large.

Our “Lawyer in the Classroom” program is a joint initiative of the New Rochelle Bar Association with the New Rochelle Board of Education. Now in its third year, this enrichment program is coordinated

by Ronald Zezima, NRBA Board Director, and Dr. Jeffrey Korostoff, Retired Deputy Superintendent New Rochelle Board of Education. Our program introduces fourth and fifth grade students to elementary concepts of law, with the objective of teaching students the art of persuasive written and oral argument. The program provides interesting and challenging opportunities for our attorney members to volunteer their time in our local community, while interacting with local students, teachers and school administrators. From the Board of Education’s perspective, it provides a unique learning program at no cost to the school system. Here at the NRBA, we agree that innovation in today’s every evolving world is critical to capturing our members’ and our community’s attention. Thanks to all our members who volunteered their time to make this program a success. And here’s to Ron for a job well done! Thanks for your hard work and for making the NRBA an award winning Bar Association!

As we come to the end of this year, I reflect back over the last four months of my presidency and on all the wonderful programs the Bar has held for you, our members. Since our last edition of the Newsletter we have held 3 informative CLEs and a marvelous and joyous Holiday Gala. More will be said about these events in the pages that follow.

Now, as we look forward to a New Year, we also anticipate more exciting, informative and interesting programs. We start 2015 with our Annual Surrogates’ Dinner, with Special Guest Hon. Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., Westchester County Surrogate, on January 15, 2015 at Juliano’s. This year we are fortunate also to have Hon. Nelida Malave-Gonzalez, the Bronx Surrogate, as our special guest. If you have not yet reserved your space there is still time to send in your reservation. Please note, this program is open to members of all local bar associations so space is limited. The Court

of Appeals Dinner is already scheduled for April 23, 2015 at the Radisson. Mark your calendars for this don't miss special event. Additional information will follow by email. Coming up over the next few months are our CLEs on topics on the Internationally Connected Client; Criminal Law-Article 10, Elder Abuse & Neglect and Art law. Presenters include HSBC, Hon. Colleen Duffy, John Dalli, Hon. Barbara Jaffe and Raymond Dowd. Remember, our Free CLEs are only open to members who have paid their dues for 2015. Your applications for renewal for 2015 were mailed to you last month. I predict that 2015 will be a good year for our Bar and our membership. Of course, we will need your help and participation to make that prediction become a reality.

Here's to you and yours! Happy New Year!

Collegially yours,

Paula Johnson Kelly
President



UPCOMING DINNERS

The NRBA's annual Surrogate's Dinner will be held on January 15, 2015 with guest speaker the Honorable Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., Westchester County Surrogate, and special guest the Honorable Nelida Malave-Gonzalez, Bronx County Surrogate. The topic is "A View from the Bench" and the dinner will begin at 6 p.m. at Juliano's Caterers, 700 Main Street, New Rochelle, NY. This event is open to attorneys from throughout the metropolitan NYC area. Tickets cost \$40 if paid by January 8th, \$45 if paid after January 8th (or at the door if seating is available). Please make checks payable to "The New Rochelle Bar Association" and mail them to

Ronald V. Zezima, Esq., Director, 271 North Avenue, Suite 908, New Rochelle, NY 10801.

The NRBA's annual Court of Appeals dinner will be held April 23, 2015 at the Radisson in New Rochelle. Additional information will be provided as the date approaches.



MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

As was mentioned in the November 26, 2014 letter accompanying the NRBA membership renewal application, the annual membership fee - used to cover the costs of providing free CLEs from September through June, section memberships and other activities - has increased to **\$100** a year commencing January 2015.



CHANGE IN NEW YORK STATE PRO BONO REPORTING REQUIREMENT

According to New York State Bar Association President Glenn Lau-Kee, the Administrative Board of the Courts adopted a resolution amending the May 2013 mandatory pro bono disclosure rule.

- 1) Attorneys still are required to report their pro bono hours and charitable donations, but they will report the information anonymously.
- 2) The information will be made public only on an aggregate basis.
- 3) The courts will broaden pro bono and public service categories on the reporting form.

4) All reported pro bono information submitted prior to the requirement change will be designated confidential.

You may find this announcement on the New York State Bar Association's website at:
<http://www.nysba.org/probonorequirement/>.



CLE NEWS

The New Rochelle Bar Association has presented four successful Continuing Legal Education programs since the end of the summer. The NRBA members have not had to pay any fees to attend these programs. A dinner consisting of sandwiches and baked goods has been served at each of the CLEs. In total 103 NRBA attorney members have attended at least one of these four CLEs. The total attendance of NRBA attorneys at the four CLEs, the equivalent of ticket sales, has been 185.

Steven Bennett Blau, of Blau Leonard Law Group, LLC, presented a CLE titled "Overtime Class and Collective Actions" on September 23, 2014. The October 21, 2014 CLE was a return appearance by Benjamin E. Schub of Berman, Frusco, Gouz, Mitchel & Schub. It was the second part of his Matrimonial Law CLE on drafting matrimonial documents. Part Two was titled "Drafting Tips for Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements." Judge Gerald Lebovits explained the "Secrets of Successful Legal Writing" on November 13, 2014. Richard Grayson presented a 2 credit ethics CLE titled "Are Ethics and Real Estate Attorneys Like Oil and Water?" on December 16, 2014. The next CLE will be held on January 20, 2015. The topic and location are to be determined.

The CLEs have been generously supported by our sponsors: Michael Lisk of Record and Return Title Agency, Michele Silverman Bedell of Silversons

Realty, Richard H. Haber, Hudson Valley Bank, Monroe College and the New Rochelle Bar Association. Please support those who support our Bar.



CLE Presenter Steven Bennett Blau, Esq.



CLE Presenter and NRBA Board Member Benjamin E. Schub, Esq.



CLE Presenter Judge Gerald Lebovits.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CLEs:

The NRBA will be offering the following CLE programs:

1. *The Internationally Connected Client*, January 20, 2015, by HSBC, location to be announced;
2. *Criminal Law: Article 10*, February 17, 2015 by Hon. Colleen Duffy, at HVB;
3. *Elder Law* presented by John Dalli on March 17, 2015, at Monroe College; and
4. *Art Law* by Hon. Barbara Jaffe and Raymond Dowd, Esq. on May 12, 2015, location to follow.

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



Ethics CLE Presenter Richard Grayson, Esq.

UPCOMING CLES:

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



THE NRBA HOLIDAY GALA

The New Rochelle Bar Association started this holiday season with our annual Holiday Gala on December 11, 2014 at the Fountainhead in New Rochelle. The location was wonderful, the food and spirits delicious and plentiful, the music delightful and the company incredible. Special thanks go out to Directors Michele Tombini and Frank DiMarco and Carmelina DeMarco for organizing and arranging this truly enjoyable evening, and sponsor Ralph J. Berardi, Jr. of Residential Home Funding Corp. for co-sponsoring the event.

Our special guests included: George Latimer, NYS Senate, Amy Paulin, NYS Assembly; Steven Otis, NYS Assembly; James Maisano of the Westchester County Board of Legislators; Ivar Hyden, NR City



Board member Ron Zezima, President Paula Johnson Kelly and Judge Gerald Lebovits at the Hudson Valley Bank location for the Legal Writing CLE.

Council – District 4; Barry R. Fertel, NR City Council – District 5; Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Hon. O. Peter Sherwood and Hon. Albert Lorenz, NYS Court of Claims – Acting Supreme Court Justices; Hon. Richard A. Molea, NYS Supreme Court, Supervising Judge – Criminal Part; Supreme Court Justices Hon. John P. Colangelo, Hon. Lawrence H. Ecker, Hon. Linda S. Jamieson, Hon. Joan B. Lefkowitz, Hon. Mary H. Smith, and Hon. Charles D. Wood; from, Westchester County Court – Acting Supreme Court Justices Hon. James W. Hubert and Hon. Barbara Gunther Zambelli; Westchester County Court Hon. David F. Everett, and Hon. Barry E. Warhit; from, Westchester Family Court– Acting Supreme Court Justice Hon. David Klein; Westchester County Family Court Hon. Mary Anne Scattaretico-Naber; New Rochelle City Court; Hon. Anthony A. Carbone, Hon. Susan I. Kettner, and Hon. Gail B. Rice– Acting Family Court Judge; Timothy C. Idoni, Westchester County Clerk; Carole Princer Levy, Support Magistrate (retired); David Lacher, City of New Rochelle School Board; Bob Marrone, Executive Director – New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce; and Linda Fear, New Rochelle City Attorney.



Westchester County Board of Legislators James Maisano and NRBA President Paula Johnson Kelly.



Judge Susan I. Kettner, NRBA Vice President Thomas Kajubi, and New Rochelle City Councilmember Barry Fertel.



New York State Assemblymembers Steven Otis and Amy Paulin.



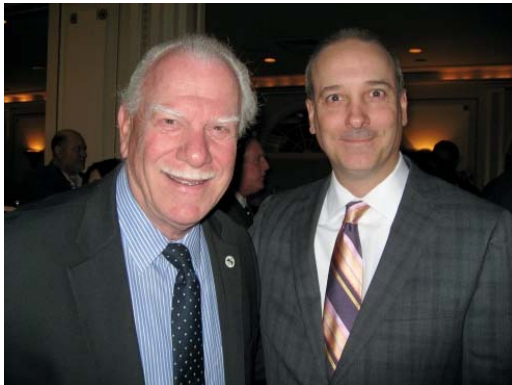
New Rochelle City Councilmember Ivar Hyden, Executive Director Bob Marrone of the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, and Paula Johnson Kelly.



Elliot Pilson, Manager of Hudson Valley Bank, David Lacher of the City of New Rochelle School Board and New York State Assemblymember Steven Otis.



NRBA Treasurer Christine M. Persampieri and NRBA Board member Patricia Bave.



NRBA Immediate Past President Richard Sosis and Judge Charles Wood.



Judge David Klein and Judge Mary Smith.



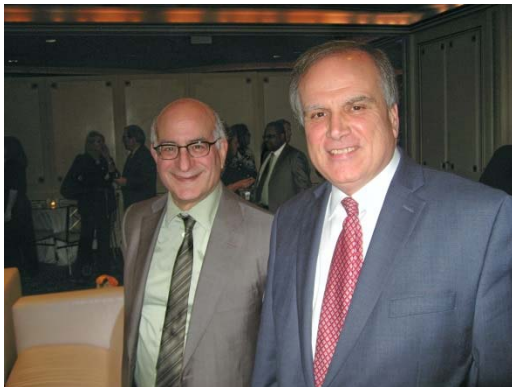
Linda Fear, Esq, NR City attorney, Judge Anthony Carbone and Mr. and Mrs. Damon Maher.



Carmelia DiMarco, NRBA Board member Mark Griffin, Paula Johnson Kelly and NRBA Board member Frank DiMarco.



Revelers getting down to the beat.



Gary Trachten and Westchester County Clerk Tim Idoni.



Event Chairperson and NRBA Board member Michelle Tombini with Paula Johnson Kelly.

NRBA LAWYER IN THE CLASSROOM UPDATE

By Ronald V. Zezima, Esq.



We have finalized program plans for the spring semester and we urgently need volunteer lawyers to make this season's program a success. As a result of several meetings with both the new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Brian Osborne, and the Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Korostoff, regarding our volunteer program, and after conducting an outreach to the principals of the schools in the district, it was decided that the program would be conducted during the month of May. The educators are reluctant to give up any class time before then since they are teaching to the "Common Core" curriculum. The testing on that curriculum takes place in April.

While it is disappointing that we will not be able to conduct the program earlier in the school year, we now have the advantage of advance preparation time. The school district strongly supports and appreciates our volunteer efforts, and wants us to follow a specific curriculum with the goal of teaching fifth graders the art of written and oral persuasion. Toward that end, we will be holding a seminar in early spring to familiarize volunteer lawyers with the curriculum designed by Corey Andrews, a fifth grade teacher at Ward Elementary



School, so that you will have a defined structure and lesson plan.

The proposed program will be four days, two hours per day, most likely a Tuesday and Friday afternoon in two consecutive weeks in May. The time commitment is minimal – the equivalent of four long lunch hours – and the feeling of gratification boundless.

To volunteer or for additional information, please contact Board member Ron Zezima at rvzesq@aol.com.



MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We wish **Olga Berde Mahl** a speedy recovery from her December 16th surgery.

We wish Board member **Christine M. Persampieri** a speedy recovery.

CONDOLENCES:

Our deepest condolences to Board member **Jeffrey Levin** and his wife, Diane, on the death of her mother, Edith Simon, on December 4, 2014.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

Elizabeth King, Esq.



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 **Christine M. Persampieri, Esq.**, 145 Huguenot St., Suite 402, New Rochelle, NY 10801, (914) 633-7400.

Getting Published

We welcome your submissions! All submissions should be sent to Mark Griffin, Editor, at mark.griffin@gmail.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.

