



# MID-HUDSON WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



A Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York

Winter 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Jodie Hanrahan, President**

I am extremely excited to announce a couple of firsts for MHWBA!

This year we are restarting a clothing drive campaign, ATTIRE TO ASPIRE. It is our goal to bring gently used women's winter coats and business suits to Grace Smith House and Battered Women's Services of Dutchess County. Please bring up to two items, freshly laundered or dry cleaned. Please also consider helping in pulling this program together. If members can assist, we may be able to start collecting casual clothing and footwear for women in addition to children's clothing. In fact, we hope to be able to donate to more community centers and outreach programs throughout Dutchess and Ulster County.

Although MHWBA cannot give a receipt for tax purposes, your donations will be very much appreciated. If you would like to help us collect, sort and disseminate the clothing that we collect, please contact Andrea Long.

In addition to our inaugural edition of our newsletter, we now also have an email address: [mhwba@gmail.com](mailto:mhwba@gmail.com). Please feel free to email us at this new address or continue to contact our Board of Directors with any event ideas, questions or newsletter submissions. We are very excited about this as it is leading to our next very big first.....

We are creating a website for our chapter, which should be completed by the end of the year. We hope to be able to disseminate information about events, membership, and other great items on our website. We welcome submissions by members concerning community news, membership announcements and articles of interest.

As we enter the holiday season and approach the new year, I want to wish you a beautiful holiday season filled with happiness and a wonderful year ahead!

Best regards,  
Jodie

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## News About Our Members



**Patricia Rusch Bellucci, Esq., CPA** was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association of Attorneys-CPAs (“AAA-CPAs”) at its annual meeting in June 2008 at Amelia Island, FL. The AAA-CAP, founded in 1964, is the only association in the nation whose members are comprised of professional dually qualified as both attorneys and certified public accountants. It currently has over 1,400 members nationwide. **Bellucci** also serves as the AAA-CPA’s IRS Tax Liaison Committee representative from Westchester county to Albany county, including Putnam and Dutchess counties. **Bellucci** is the owner of Rusch Associates, LLC, a tax services firm offering assistance to individuals, businesses, estate and trusts in tax planning, tax return preparation, IRS and state controversy resolution and tax litigation. She serves on the Board of Directors of Pawling Public Radio and the Pawling Community Foundation.



Congratulations to **Joan Posner** on her election to Dutchess County Family Court Judge.

**Kimberly Hunt Lee**, a resident of Newburgh, will become a partner with McCabe & Mack LLP on January 1, 2009. Kimberly works primarily in the litigation department of McCabe & Mack where she represents individuals, businesses and municipalities in the prosecution and defense of personal injury claims. She has been with McCabe & Mack LLP since 1998. Kimberly received her JD from Albany Law School of Union University.

**Lara Kasper-Buckareff** is the new Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights Attorney at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, working out of the Newburgh office. Ms. Kasper-Buckareff represents individuals with disabilities in their civil matters.

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## Upcoming Member Events

### **January 13, 2009**

Luncheon with Judge Work  
Ulster County Surrogate’s Court Room  
Brown bag lunch to commence at 12:30 p.m.  
For additional information or questions,  
contact Lara Kasper-Buckareff at lbuckareff@lshv.org

### **February 6, 2009**

Luncheon with Judge Cahill  
Ulster County Courthouse, Judge Cahill’s chambers  
Brown bag lunch to commence at 12:00 p.m.  
For additional information or questions,  
contact Christine Guido at cguido@rwhm.com

### **February 25, 2009**

Luncheon with Judge Forman  
Dutchess County Family Court  
2nd Floor Conference Room  
Brown bag lunch to commence at 12:30 p.m.  
For additional information or questions, contact  
Jodie Hanrahan at jhanrahan@mccm.com

### **Future Events - Details to Follow**

Guardian Ad Litem CLE - April

Bench Meets Bar Dinner - April

2009/2010 Installation Dinner - June

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**SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!!** Newsletter seeks submissions to make the publication both interesting and relevant to our members. These submissions include, but are not limited to, substantive articles, news about our members, chapter news, and photos of chapter events. The deadline for the next newsletter is June 30, 2008. Submissions accepted for publication are at the sole discretion of the Newsletter Editor and are subject to editing. Submissions should be mailed to Newsletter Committee, Mid-Hudson Women’s Bar Association, PO Box 68, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602 or by email to ktraver@gklaw.us or mhwnba@gmail.com. Anyone wishing to join the Newsletter Committee, please contact Kelly Traver at 845-454-3250 or ktraver@gklaw.us.

**From Honorable Christine Sproat:**

I was recently appointed Chairperson of the newly formed Dutchess County Pro Bono Local Action Committee by the Hon. Francis A. Nicolai, Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District. I am also joined on the Committee by the Honorable Katherine A. Moloney, Poughkeepsie City Court Judge. Pro Bono NY is an access to justice partnership for the poor sponsored by the New York State Unified Court System and is a partnership of judges, practicing attorneys, legal educators and public interest legal service providers. This Committee which has held its first meeting will focus on identifying and meeting the needs of the poor in our community in conjunction with volunteer attorney services through the auspices of the Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. A subcommittee of service providers has already been formed and held its first meeting. These committees are already formed and operating in Westchester and Orange Counties. Judge Kaye's initiative is being overseen by the Honorable Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives.

The Dutchess County Pro Bono Committee is planning a special event in the near future in order to introduce attorneys to this Pro Bono Program. Invitations will be mailed out shortly. Attorneys who participate may earn CLE credit for time spent on pro bono cases. If you have any questions, please contact Jude Martini, Esq. at 845 486-2220 [jmartini@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:jmartini@courts.state.ny.us) or Erin Guven, Esq., Director of Pro Bono Affairs, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley at 914 94901305 ext. 116 [eguwen@lshv.org](mailto:eguwen@lshv.org).

I am very excited about this initiative and your opportunity to assist in your community in such a significant and meaningful way especially during these tough economic times. Thank you.

\*\*Please see next page for the Pro Bono Registration Form

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**From the WBASNY Professional Ethics Committee:**

The WBASNY Professional Ethics Committee has a hotline. If you are a WBASNY member and have a question regarding ethical issues, you can call (914) 472-9517 after 6:00 p.m. (weekdays). Although legal advice cannot be offered, you can be guided in the right direction as to the applicable disciplinary rules, case law and ethics resources.

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**WANT TO ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER?** Please contact the Mid-Hudson Women's Bar Association to advertise in our upcoming newsletters. The following rates are for four (4) consecutive newsletters. Our newsletter is published September, January, March and June.

Full Page Ad - \$75.00 / Half Page Ad - \$50.00 / Quarter Page Ad - \$25.00

Deadline for all ads is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Call Kelly Traver at 454-3250 or email us a [mhwba@gmail.com](mailto:mhwba@gmail.com) with any questions regarding advertising.



**DUTCHESS COUNTY PRO BONO LOCAL ACTION COMMITTEE  
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROGRAM  
(Administered by Legal Services of the Hudson Valley)**

**\*\*CLE CREDIT FOR TIME SPENT WORKING ON CASE\*\***

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please fill out the form below to register for the Volunteer Attorney Program:

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**I am willing to accept pro bono referrals in the following areas of law:**

**CONSUMER**

- Bankruptcy
- Collection
- Contract/Warranties
- Unfair Sale Practices

**DISABILITY**

- Special Education
- Guardianship
- Discrimination

**HEALTH AND PUBLIC BENEFITS**

- Medicaid
- Health/Life Insurance
- SSI/SSD

**MATRIMONIAL**

- Divorce
- QDRO's
- Post Judgment Relief/Enforcement

**HOUSING**

- Landlord/Tenant
- Public/Subsidized Housing
- Real Property
- Foreclosure Defense

**FAMILY**

- Family Offense/Orders of Protection
- Child Custody
- Support (Child/Spousal)
- Adoption

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Wills/Probate
- Employment Law
- Tax Matters
- Other (Please specify)
- Elder Law

Foreign Language Skills \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had your license to practice law suspended or been found guilty of malpractice? \_\_\_\_\_

\*(if yes, please explain on back of page)

Please circle if applicable:                      gov't atty                      court atty                      non-profit atty

**ATTORNEY SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN TO:**

**ERIN NOELLE GUVEN at LEGAL SERVICES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY,**

**29 N. Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**

**TEL: 914-949-1305, ext. 116; FAX: 914-949-6213**

**E-MAIL: [EGUVEN@LSHV.ORG](mailto:EGUVEN@LSHV.ORG)**

Please consider supporting the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY). As a member of MHWBA, you are also a member of WBASNY, a statewide organization whose mission is to advance the status of women in our society through legislative efforts, judicial policies, and in the cooperation and support of other organizations and causes with the same goals. Attached a letter from Gail Boggio, President of WBASNY, explaining the need for membership support in order for WBASNY to continue in its commitment to the advancement of women and women attorneys.

**Women's Bar**  
OF THE STATE



**Association**  
OF NEW YORK

December 11, 2008

Dear Member:

As the only New York statewide bar association dedicated to promoting the advancement of women in society and in the legal profession, the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York addresses difficult legal issues, advocates change and promotes the fair and equal administration of justice. This month we joined Governor Paterson in objecting to the lack of diversity and failure to nominate qualified available women candidates for the position of Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. Our recent symposium, *How the Legal System Addresses Mental Health Issues Affecting Children*, was among the first broad-based program focused on this issue in the state.

Our voice is considered vital on many pieces of significant legislation. We have recently supported legislation improving the rights to effective notice of termination of health insurance in connection with divorce actions; the Fair Pay Restoration Act, the Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act, and the creation of an Independent Public Defense Commission.

Our Committees focus significant time and energy on issues such as domestic violence, achieving equity in marital dissolution, achieving fairness in custody decisions and in the initiative against sexual discrimination in employment. This year the Legislative and Criminal Law Committees have met with Madeline deLone, Executive Director of the Innocence Project, to explore DNA collection and the development of mandatory statewide standards for collection and preservation of such evidence.

Yet, like so many other organizations which rely on dues and contributions to support their mission, we have been impacted by this economy. Our members are the backbone and substance on which our organization stands. Your continued involvement and belief in our mission is what sustains WBASNY and what has encouraged another generation of women lawyers to recognize the importance of continuing our focus and mission.

**PRESIDENT**

Gail M. Boggio

Post Office Box 936  
Planetarium Station  
New York, NY 10024-0546

(212) 362-4445  
(212) 721-1620 (FAX)  
1-877-4-WBASNY (Toll Free)  
info@wbasny.org (e-mail)  
www.wbasny.org

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

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**Bronx**

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**Brooklyn**

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**Capital District**

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**Westchester**

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Marybeth Price

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Linda A. Chiaverini

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We thank you for your continued membership and for recognizing that there is still much more to do. In order to assist WBASNY with necessary financial support, we are making a request to each of our members to become annual Patrons of WBASNY and to make a commitment to a financial contribution before the year end.


All WBASNY Officers have already pledged at least \$100 each and have become Patrons. Please join them. We have established four levels of giving in recognition of your personal status as a Patron of WBASNY -

Supporter ... Up to \$100  
Friend ... \$101-250  
Partner ... \$251-500  
Benefactor ... more than \$500

Your contribution makes it possible for us to continue to provide a voice for women and women attorneys in the State of New York, nationally and internationally, and to further the administration of justice to benefit the citizens of our communities.

A pledge form is attached and we urge you to complete and return it before year end.

My sincerest thanks,



Gail M. Boggio  
President, WBASNY



## WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

### 2008 MEMBER ANNUAL PATRON PLEDGE FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firm (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fax

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

**YES, I want to be a Patron of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York!**

- \_\_\_\_\_  
 Supporter (Up to \$100)  
 Friend (\$101-\$250)  
 Partner (\$251-\$500)  
 Benefactor (\$500 or more)

Enclosed is my gift as a Patron of WBASNY in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Please make checks payable to: WBASNY)

Please charge my credit card:

VISA       MC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Card Holder Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Account Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Billing Address and zip code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Donations to WBASNY are not tax deductible. Please return pledge form and contributions to:

**WBASNY**  
Post Office Box 936, Planetarium Station  
New York, NY 10024-0546

*Thank you for your generosity and financial support of WBASNY and commitment to its goals*

# EXPERIENCE

As a proud member and supporter of  
the Women's Bar Association since 1993,

**Jody Fay**, Manager and Counsel  
of Liberty Title Agency's Westchester office,

is uniquely qualified to address the title  
insurance needs of the Mid-Hudson  
Women's Bar Association and its members.



Liberty Title Agency, LLC • 199 Main Street • White Plains NY 10601  
(p) 914-428-4787 • (f) 914-428-4627 • (e) [jfay@libertytitle.biz](mailto:jfay@libertytitle.biz)

# RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

By Penny Hahn

The Mid Hudson Women's Bar Association (MHWBA) is a Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY). WBASNY is the only statewide bar association dedicated to promoting the advancement of women in society and in the legal profession. It now has 18 chapters and more than 3800 members, which include individuals from all levels of both the state and federal bench as well as prominent attorneys in all areas of the law, educators and government leaders. WBASNY and MHWBA take great pride in the diversity of our membership, which allows our members to form invaluable professional contacts and friendships across the state and within each chapter.

MHWBA was formed in 1982 and is an organization of approximately 90 members that has grown steadily over the past 26 years. Past president, the Honorable Christine A. Sproat states "I have been a member of the Mid Hudson Women's Bar Association since it was formed in 1982. At the time I was a second year law student. Its importance, as a chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, is as relevant today as when it was formed - helping influence critical legislation and issues affecting women and children throughout the state. I was President of MHWBA from 1986-1987 and from 1999-2000. My membership and involvement with MHWBA has and will span my entire legal career. I am so proud to see it remains a vibrant, relevant and well supported bar association."

President Jodie Hanrahan, an associate at McCabe & Mack, and the MHWBA Board are busy planning a full slate of events for the upcoming year. As the year progresses, we will be offering Continuing Legal Education courses on an array of topics, including an ethics CLE that will be held in November. We also offer an opportunity to meet fellow bar members and the judiciary through networking breakfasts in Dutchess and Ulster County and brown bag lunches with judges in Dutchess and Ulster County. Additionally, MHWBA promotes community involvement by supporting charitable organization through events such as the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk and Breast Health Awareness Day in Ulster County. The spring Annual Bench Meets Bar Dinner is a special members only event that allows members and judges from the state, federal and town benches to enjoy meaningful interaction.

As you can see, there are many opportunities to get involved, attend MHWBA events, and participate to advance MHWBA's goals and better the community through its programs. Membership is open to all attorneys, and we have special membership rates for law students as well as government and not-for-profit attorneys. If you are not already a member, please consider joining today. For information, contact President Jodie Hanrahan at [jhanrahan@mccm.com](mailto:jhanrahan@mccm.com) or (845) 486-6800 or Treasurer Christine Guido at [cguido@rwhm.com](mailto:cguido@rwhm.com) or (845) 331-4100.

## **Mid-Hudson Women's Bar Association**

***Current Membership through November 17, 2008***

### **Welcome New Members!**

Adrienne J. Arkontaky, Esq.  
Christine E. Fiorile, Esq.  
Honorable Peter M. Forman  
Pamela D. Rusk, Esq.  
Julie Shaw, Esq.  
Marla Siegel, Esq.  
Colleen Smith, Esq.  
Linda Johnson Turner, Esq.

### **Thank You To Our Sustaining Members**

Janis M. Gomez Anderson, Esq.  
Carol A. Bogle, Esq.  
Barbara Gordon Espejo, Esq.  
Cynthia K. Fichera, Esq.  
Maureen A. Keegan, Esq.  
Joan H. McCarthy, Esq.  
Veronica A. McMillan, Esq.  
Honorable Katherine A. Moloney  
Diane M. O'Leary, Esq.  
Shawn Borelli Pratt, Esq.  
Patricia Rusch Bellucci, Esq.  
Honorable Christine A. Sproat  
Honorable David L. Steinberg  
Kelly L. Traver, Esq.

### **Renewing Members**

Michelle Almeida, Esq.  
Celeste M. Bailey, Esq.  
Ellen L. Baker, Esq.  
Maura A. Barrett, Esq.  
Marilyn Berson, Esq.  
Rebecca M. Blahut, Esq.  
Christina M. Bookless, Esq.  
Carolyn Campbell, Esq.  
Erica DeTraglia, Esq.  
M. Kathleen Fagen, Esq.  
Sharon M. Faulkner, Esq.  
Audrey Friedrichsen Scott, Esq.  
Ann Gifford, Esq.  
Adina C. Gilbert, Esq.  
Christine H. Guido, Esq.  
Karen E. Hagstrom, Esq.  
Penny Hahn, Esq.  
Jodie M. Hanrahan, Esq.  
Beatrice Havranek, Esq.  
Kathleen Healey, Esq.  
Brett Jones, Esq.  
Lara Kasper-Buckareff, Esq.  
Gale Lauren Foster, Esq.  
Kimberly Hunt Lee, Esq.  
Karen Folster Lesperance, Esq.  
Honorable George D. Marlow  
Juliana Maugeri, Esq.  
Honorable Rebecca A. Supple Mensch  
Donna M. Nebel, Esq.  
Rena M. O'Connor, Esq.  
Karen C. Palumbo, Esq.  
Noelle M. Pecora, Esq.  
Honorable Karen K Peters  
Pamela B. Richardson, Esq.  
Cynthia S. Rosenzweig, Esq.  
Honorable Elizabeth K. Shequine  
Beth Sims, Esq.  
Ephie Trataros-Kehayias, Esq.  
Rebecca A. Valk, Esq.  
Christine F. Van Benschoten, Esq.  
Jennifer L. Van Tuyl, Esq.  
Amee C. VanTassell, Esq.  
Jessica L. Vinall, Esq.  
Margaret M Walker, Esq.

Mid-Hudson Women's Bar  
Association  
PO Box 68  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

**2008-2009 Officers:**

Jodie Hanrahan, President

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Christine Guido, Treasurer & WBASNY Delegate

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Audrey Friedrichsen Scott, Recording Secretary

Andrea Long, Director

Lara Kasper-Buckareff, Director

Veronica A. McMillan, Immediate Past President

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**WBASNY is on the web!**

**<http://www.wbasny.bluestep.net/>**

**WBASNY's Mission Statement** is to "Promote the advancement of the status of women in society and of women in the legal profession; to promote the fair and equal administration of justice; and to act as a unified voice for its members with respect to issues of statewide, national and international significance to women generally and to attorneys in particular."

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On Tuesday October 7, 2008, the Mid-Hudson Women's Bar Association hosted a Breakfast Break at Hudson Coffee Traders in Kingston. Look for more of the Breakfast Breaks in the future!

