

Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends:

I am privileged to serve on the 9th Judicial District Pro Bono Committee, chaired by Supreme Court Justice Sam Walker. The Committee will be sponsoring a program at the White Plains Courthouse on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 12:30 p.m., focusing on assisting victims of domestic violence. We will e-mail a notice containing specific details in the near future.

The New Rochelle Bar Association currently runs four separate pro bono projects:

- Law at the Library;
- Law Club at the New Rochelle Boys & Girls Club;
- Lawyer in the Classroom; and
- Small Claims Court Volunteer Arbitrators.

I am pleased to state that nearly a third of our membership volunteer their time to one or more of these worthy projects, and I invite all of you to join us.

Our new membership directory is finally going to print next week. Members can pick up their copy in person at our upcoming Judges' Night Dinner on October 28th or at our upcoming CLE on November 7th. Those who don't will receive it by mail in early November. The directory is a great referral resource, and lists each of our members with area of concentration and languages spoken.

Our fall membership drive, chaired by past president Greg Varian, will target attorneys whose OCA registration contains a New Rochelle address.

Our low annual membership fee of \$100 per year is one of the lowest in the entire State, and includes 20 free CLE credits, free food at each CLE seminar, and the opportunity to meet and mingle with local attorneys.

Finally, NRBA is expanding our geographical influence by participating in the Network of Bar Leaders, a consortium of sixty bar associations which meets and disseminates useful information throughout the year. Our past president Jeffrey Levin has been elected to their Board of Directors and will keep us updated on events and projects throughout the coming year.

I hope to see you all at our Annual Judges' Dinner on Monday evening, October 28th, honoring the members of our Westchester County judiciary. Thanks to a generous sponsorship grant from Bank OZK, PREPAID tickets are only \$40 for members, and \$50 for non-members. For those of you unable to make an advance commitment, tickets will be \$60 at the door, if space remains available.

Last but not least, I am pleased to announce that our very distinguished CLE speaker on November 7th will be Court of Appeals Judge Jenny Rivera, who will lecture on recent significant decisions of that Court. This CLE, which will take place at our usual venue, New Rochelle City Hall, will be a joint event with our colleagues from the Westchester Black Bar Association. I hope to see you there.

Yours,

Ronald V. Zezima



Message from the Editor



Dear fellow members, I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is eager to get back to the busy season of fall. Don't forget to mark your calendars for all the great networking and CLE events listed in our Calendar section below.

According to the New York Law Journal's series of articles published this past month and titled, *Survival of the Fittest*, Bar Associations are dying out and membership is declining across the board. "Experts predict that if associations don't evolve, they will not be around long term." (*Survival of the Fittest: As Baby Boomers Retire, NY Bar Associations Face Harsh Realities*, Susan DeSantis, NYLJ Sept. 9, 2019).

However, I like to believe that our organization is the exception to the above, as membership is once again on the rise (say hello to our newest members listed in Member News below); furthermore the NRBA continues to offer numerous networking events, free CLEs and various volunteer opportunities for all our members.

Last month the NRBA, through its partnership with the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation, continued to educate the community at large about legal topics; this past month's topic, "What to do when you have an Auto Accident." David Lacher, Vice President of the NRBA, was the moderator, of a panel including Wayne Matthews, from Farmer's Insurance, who provided an overview of auto insurance, from the types of insurance, to what is covered and what is not, deductibles, coverage limits and "no fault." Det. Sgt. Myron Joseph, a Traffic Unit Supervisor in the New Rochelle Police Department, discussed the police officer's role at the

scene of an auto accident and provided interesting insight of what goes into a Police report. Lastly, we heard from Richard Weiss, Esq. (Plaintiff's Personal Injury), and Andrew Harrison, Esq. (Defendant's Personal Injury). Other volunteer opportunities this year include:

- *Lawyer in the Classroom* – providing an opportunity to teach the fundamentals of the Bill of Rights to every fifth grade student in the New Rochelle public schools over the course of 4 sessions each spring;
- *"Law at the Library" – "Boys & Girls Club Law Club"* – monthly group sessions with high school members of the New Rochelle Boys & Girls Club to explore legal issues of particular interest to them ; and
- *Small Claims Court Arbitration* - members serve as Arbitrators, processing hundreds of cases each year.

According to the NYLJ, a major complaint by the millennials of other organizations is that: "Everyone in the room is twice my age" or if you "[l]ook around most any bar association function in New York ... the majority of the lawyers will be in their 50s or older." In order to help our organization continue to grow, we ask that members such as yourself invite and incentivize young associates, and any law students you may know, to attend more of our functions, volunteer at our local events and become an active member of the association.

As a millennial myself, I have grown to know the value of being an involved member of a great organization such as this one, and hope that we can all ensure the future of the organization by spreading the word and incentivizing the next generation to be more involved. To that end, I encourage you to review the news and various upcoming events outlined in this Fall Newsletter and submit articles of your own for the future issues.

Sincerely,

Artem Djukic



NRBA INSTALLATION DINNER

On September 4, 2019, the NRBA hosted its annual Installation Dinner, thanks to our generous sponsors from Record and Return Title agency Inc.



NRBA President Ronald V. Zezima being sworn in by the Hon. Daniel Angiolillo.



Swearing in of the Board of Directors, from left to right, Jennifer Pasquantonio, Daniel Ronan, Richard Sosis, Warren Agatston, Mark Griffin, Frank D'Onforio and Gregory Varian.



The remaining officer being sworn in from left to right: Vice President Michele Tombini, Secretary Laurie J. Korngold, Treasurer Frank DiMarco, Immediate Past President, Hon. Jeffrey J. Levin, and Vice-President David Lacher.



Carmelina DiMarco and Paul Korngold



*New Board of Directors Gregory Varian and Daniel Ronan
with Kate Ronan, and Michael Kushner.*



*Our generous sponsors, from Record and Return,
Christopher Raggo and Michael Lisk.*

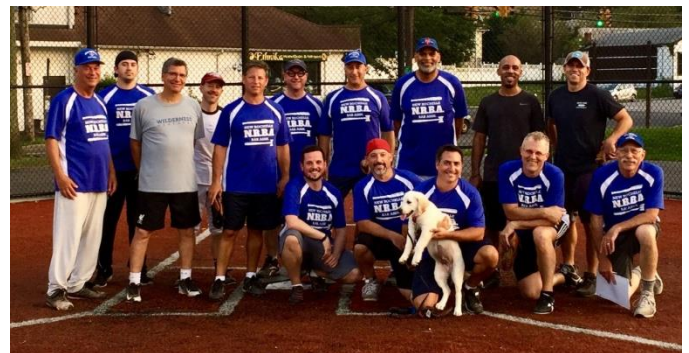
For more photos from the events please go to the
NRBAR.ORG website.

(<http://www.nrbar.org/EventPhotos>).



NRBA SOFTBALL TEAM

The NRBA softball team finished another eventful season on August 19th, 2019. The team was eliminated in the first round of the playoffs and is enjoying their respite. Next season is right around the corner and as always the team is seeking new talent. Anyone interested in playing next season should contact Jay Goldstein at taxmanskis@aol.com.



Temple Israel's Oral History Project

One of the oldest human (and Jewish) traditions is story-telling. The oral histories of the members of the Temple of Israel are being collected by our NRBA member, and a Director of the Board, Warren Agatston. Warren will be recording interviews with willing subjects, at the Temple (or another convenient location). The recordings will be archived at the Temple, where they can be viewed. The Temple will then develop the means for the interviews to be viewed remotely, so that stories can be shared with people who are not nearby.

Temple Israel is a congregation of hundreds of families, each with its own stories. They are looking for people who want to share their stories of Temple of Israel of New Rochelle, and for volunteers to help collect them. Each year the Passover Seder reminds Jews everywhere of the power of retelling their people's story. Let this year be the year that you record Temple Israel's story. By remembering and retelling how the Temple members got there, they can honor their past and find the inspiration for the future.

This project is well suited for attorneys, since attorneys are trained at extracting narratives from witnesses. The skill-set utilized here can be used for various oral history projects, such as a history of a veteran's group, preserving history of an ethnic or religious entity, or of a family or employees of a business. There are many sources on-line to examine the what and how, and Warren strongly suggest you consider an oral history project of a group you would like to preserve for the future. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact WARREN S. AGATSTON lawwsa@aol.com.



CLE UPDATE

THE NRBA Continues to provide monthly free CLE's to all its members. CLEs will continue to be presented at New Rochelle City Hall 515 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY.

On **September 26, 2019**, Jeffrey A. Margolis, Esq. gave a wonderful presentation on "Guerilla Leasing Tactics for the Space Challenged Tenant."



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. Cell: (203) 232-1764.

Banks

Adam Kintish of TD Bank, 107 Chatsworth
Avenue, Larchmont, NY 10538. Cell: (914) 960-
4243.

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. Phone: 914-698-6400 & Email: mpadilla@mtb.com.

Financial Advisors

James Alperin, Financial Advisor at **Morgan Stanley Wealth Management**, One Fawcett Place, 3rd Floor, Greenwich, CT 06830. Cell: (917) 697-1581.

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](tel:391-2029). Will.Stending@compass.com

Title Insurance Companies

David Baron and **Daniel Bokol** of **TitleVest**, 44 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005. Tel: (212) 757-5800.

Christine Gagliardi of **TitleVest**, 235 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite 303, White Plains, NY 10605. Tel: (914) 304-8100 ext. 382.

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

Brett Forman of **First Nationwide Title** (an **AmTrust Financial Company**), 220 East 42nd Street, Suite 3105, New York, NY 10017. Cell: (917) 837-6358.

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

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.

Roseanne Picone of **Benchmark Title Agency, LLC**, 222 Bloomingdale Road, Suite 102 White Plains, NY 10605. Cell: (914) 422-1550.

Others

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

Sam Pierce, **New Rochelle City Marshall**, 475 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801.

Westchester Family Care, Inc., 1 Depot Plaza, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Tel:(914) 764-7500.



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. 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.

For current opportunities with the New York State Unified Court System, please visit <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/careers/index.shtml>

AROUND TOWN

On October 30th, the Westchester Women’s Bar Association and JALBCA invite you to a Breast Cancer Awareness luncheon featuring two leading breast cancer specialists discussing Breast Health, Early Signs of Disease, Risk Factors and Treatment Options, at 12:30 p.m., at the Westchester County Courthouse, 9th Floor Conference Room, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., White Plains, NY 10601. A light lunch will be served. RSVP online at: www.wwbany.org or email executivedirector@wwbany.org.

On September 16th, our immediate past President Hon. Jeffrey L. Levin and Mark Griffin (Director of the Board) represented the NRBA at the Federal Bar Association event honoring Rep. John Lewis.



Left to right, Hon. Jeffery L. Levin, Congressman John Lewis and Mark Griffin.

Wednesday October 16th is the Annual Red Mass held at the St. John the Evangelist Church.

October 24th, the Center for College & Careers is hosting its Back to School Bash from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Davenport Mansion. For further information about sponsorship or tickets, please contact (914) 613-0700 x7076 or by email: events@TheGuidanceCenter.org.

MEMBER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We extend our warmest welcomes to the newest members of the NRBA: **Janie Elkind Eney, Michael P. Kushner, Lisa Brice, Edward B. Geller and Mary Ellen O'Connor**. Please make sure to say hello and make the new members feel welcome.

Congratulations to:

- Greg Varian on becoming a proud grandfather for the 3rd time. On August 27th, his daughter Marisa gave birth to Asher Isaac Faigen in Charlotte, North Carolina. Gregory is already a proud grandfather to McKenna & Cameron Swant.
- Artem Djukic on becoming a proud new father, on August 31st, when his wife Jillian Djukic, gave birth to Aiden Jack Djukic.
- Jeffrey L. Levin, on becoming a proud grandfather for the fourth time, on June 19 his grandson, Ari Benjamin Fisher was born. The proud parents are Allison and Matthew Fisher.



UPCOMING EVENTS & CLEs

(Mark Your Calendars!)

CLEs will continue to be presented at
New Rochelle City Hall
515 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY

October 2019

Thursday, October 17th: Understanding the New Landlord-Tenant Law in New York. Presented by Carl Finger of Finger & Finger. Sponsored by Wila Beth Standing, of Compass Real Estate.

Monday, October 28th: Judge's Night at Juliano's Caterers. 700 Main Street, New Rochelle. Sponsored by Bank OZK. \$40 for members in advance, \$50 for non-Members, and \$60 at the door.

November 2019

Friday November 7th: CLE Program to be presented by the Hon. Jenny Rivera of the Court of Appeals, in association with the Black Bar Association of Westchester. Judge Rivera will present on recent significant decisions of the Court of Appeals.

December 2019

December 12, 2019: Annual Holiday Party, a joint party with the MHL and Rye/Port Chester Bar Associations to be held at the Surf Club.



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

After each CLE the NRBA has continued to donate the surplus dinners to the Open Arms Men's Shelter in White Plains.

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

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