



September 30, 2014

[www.nrbar.org](http://www.nrbar.org)

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**



*Paula Johnson Kelly*

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

I am pleased and honored that you have elected me to the position of President of this unique and diverse organization of dedicated attorneys and associates. It is my hope and goal to continue the tremendous strides made by the prior Officers and members of our Bar to help our community, our students, our residents and our organizations who play an important part in assisting the youth, the elderly and those less fortunate in our community.

Many in our community are unaware of our Bar's long-standing commitment to provide services, and of our many contributions, to New Rochelle over the 93 years the NRBA has been in existence. One of my goals as President is to change that lack of awareness and to promote our Bar's accomplishments; such as our members who volunteer for the Lawyers in the Classroom Program, or as arbitrators in the Small Claims Court. The community should know it is our Bar that sponsors and supports the New Rochelle Youth Court and provides scholarships each June to graduates from our local high school and colleges, including New Rochelle High School, Iona College, Monroe College, College of New Rochelle and Pace Law School. Lest we forget, NRBA also sponsors a

softball team where our members play in the City of New Rochelle American Division.

Our greatest assets, of course, are our members. As your President, I will be available to you to hear your issues and discuss your suggestions on ways we can improve this Bar for its members as well. We are always looking for more ways to provide benefits to our members. Currently we offer a reasonable annual membership fee, one of the lowest of any bar association in the Metropolitan area, which also entitles members to monthly free CLE programs at which free suppers are provided; truly a benefit and a savings to our members. I welcome suggestions on both topics and speakers for upcoming CLE programs that may be of interest to you. Our periodic Bar dinner meetings allow us to meet, mix, and network with colleagues, the judiciary, and community leaders in comfortable and convenient venues in our own city at reasonable prices. It is my goal to continue this beneficial practice and, hopefully, to broaden it to include one or more gatherings, such as a Bar Night mixer where new members can come and be welcomed while meeting and mixing with those of us who have already found this to be the Greatest Bar in the world!

Thank you for your support and your trust. You can rely upon me to do my best and give my all to accomplish these goals. I hope I can rely on you for the same.

Yours,

Paula Johnson Kelly  
President



## CLE NEWS

On September 23, 2014 the NRBA held our first members only CLE. Record and Return Title Agency, Inc. sponsored the CLE titled *Overtime, Class and Collective Actions*, taught by **Steven Bennett Blau, Esq.** at Monroe College. Delicious homemade desserts were supplied by Silverson's Realty.



*CLE Presenter Steven Bennett Blau, Esq.*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CLEs:

To continue the season, the NRBA will be offering the following CLE programs:

1. *Matrimonial Law* on October 23, 2014;
2. *Legal Writing* with the Hon. Gerald Lebovits on Thursday, November 13, 2014; and
3. *Estates* on December 16, 2014.

Expect to receive advance notices with particulars by e-mail of these and future CLEs. Information will also be posted at [www.nrbar.org](http://www.nrbar.org).

### UPCOMING CLES:

For information on and reservations for our CLEs please contact **Jeffrey L. Levin, Esq.** at [jeffrey.levin.law@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.levin.law@gmail.com)



*Paula Johnson Kelly, Michael Lisk (COO of Record and Return Title Agency, Inc.), Steven Bennett Blau, and Hon. Jeffrey Levin.*

## THE NRBA INSTALLATION DINNER

The New Rochelle Bar Association started this fall season with its annual Installation Dinner Meeting with special guest and new member, the **Honorable Daniel D. Angiolillo**, held on September 11, 2014 in the Copa Room of Juliano's Catering in New Rochelle.

As he has graciously done in the past, Justice Angiolillo swore in the new officers: **Paula Johnson Kelly**, President; **Hon. Jeffrey Levin** and **Thomas Kajubi**, Vice-Presidents; **Laurie Korngold** Secretary; and **Christine Persampieri**, Treasurer; Past-President **Richard A. Sosis**; and directors: Class of 2015 **Marc Rowin**, **Benjamin Schub** and **Ronald Zezima**; Class of 2016: **Patricia Bave**, **Frank DiMarco** and **Michele Tombini**; and the Class of 2017: **John Economou**, **John Giacobbe** and **Mark Griffin**.



*Directors of the Board being sworn in by Justice Daniel D. Angiolillo, include: Patricia Bave Marc Rowin, Frank DiMarco, John Giacobbe John Economou, and Mark Griffin.*



*The Directors being sworn in:- Patricia Bave Marc Rowin, Frank DiMarco, John Giacobbe John Economou, Mark Griffin, Michele Tombini, Ronald Zezima and Richard Sosis.*



*The newly installed NRBA Officers are: Secretary **Laurie Korngold** Director Ron Zezima, President **Paula Johnson Kelly**, re-elected Vice-President **Hon. Jeffrey Levin**, new Treasurer **Christine M. Persampieri**, and re-elected Vice-President **Thomas Kajubi**.*





*Newly sworn-in President Paula Johnson Kelly addressing the membership and honored guests.*



*Hon. Anthony A. Carbone and Hon. Susan Kettner discussing the NRBA Small Claims Court volunteer Arbitrators.*



*Justice Daniel D. Angiolillo addressing the membership and honored guests.*



*The evening's dessert.*

We were honored to have present at this event the judiciary from the New Rochelle City Court, **Hon. Anthony A. Carbone**, and **Hon. Susan Kettner**, who spoke to the gathering about the NRBA members who have volunteered their time to act as Small Claims Court Arbitrators and the positive impact and affect that these volunteers have had on the system's ability to move these cases in a more timely manner.



**ENERGY LEGISLATION UPDATE***By Assemblywoman Amy R. Paulin*

As Chair of the New York State Assembly Committee on Energy, I advanced two key energy initiatives this past session. The first legislation, which has passed both houses and is awaiting the governor's signature, establishes a municipal energy aggregation program for Westchester County that I am hopeful will be a model for the rest of the state (A7896-C/S.5500-D).

A municipal energy aggregation program allows a municipality or group of municipalities to pool together a large number of residents and solicit bids from energy services companies (ESCOs) to supply their electricity and gas. The municipality can then obtain the best price for residents, saving them money on utility bills. It also provides municipalities with the flexibility to purchase energy produced from alternative sources.

This legislation will create a pilot program for municipalities in Westchester County to set up municipal energy aggregation programs. Specifically, the bill provides that a municipality may establish a municipal energy aggregation program by resolution and may enter into an inter-

municipal agreement with other municipalities to create a jointly-administered program.

All residents of the municipality will be notified of the municipal energy aggregation program, and will be automatically enrolled in the program unless they opt out within sixty days. However, once enrolled, residents are still permitted to opt out at any point without penalty.

Price criteria are provided in the bill to ensure that residents are not subjected to higher prices than traditional utility customers.

This would be the first time such a program, which is already in use in various states throughout the country, would be employed in New York. This pilot program will help examine the effectiveness of aggregation programs in New York, where energy costs are among the highest in the nation. It will provide policymakers and communities with the information needed to decide what role aggregation programs can play in reducing the cost of energy.

I also introduced another important piece of legislation which would establish a program for shared renewables (A.9931/S.7727). The majority of electric customers cannot install renewable energy systems, such as solar panels, due to physical limitations on their property or because they are renters. This legislation would enable customers to share in a solar and wind energy facility and receive benefits on their utility bill, similar to the benefits net metering customers receive.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) will be charged with determining which areas of the electric grid would benefit from increased distributed generation, and will permit the interconnection of shared renewable energy facilities in those areas. The shared renewable energy facility must be located in the same service territory of the electric corporation and county or counties in which its subscribers are customers, and must be located in the same load zone as the subscribers.

The PSC is also directed to include subscriber protections, including clear and consistent charges, guaranteed refunds for any portion of a subscriber's share that does not produce electricity, and limiting the contract period to five years for residential customers and ten years for non-residential customers.

A shared renewables program will open a new renewable energy market in New York and attract more investment to the state in addition to helping current consumers. More clean energy will be produced in the state and fed onto the electric grid thus reducing the need for emissions-producing power plants.

The municipal aggregation pilot program and the shared renewables program give consumers and municipalities more control over their energy usage and how they purchase energy, providing opportunities for cost savings and greener energy practices. I am hopeful that this legislation will become law, and I will continue to work to advance these goals in the upcoming legislative session.

*Assemblywoman Amy R. Paulin has served the 88<sup>th</sup> New York State Assembly District (Scarsdale, Eastchester, Tuckahoe, Bronxville, Pelham, Pelham Manor, and parts of New Rochelle and White Plains) since 2001. She chairs the Assembly Committee on Energy, and serves on the Committees on Education, Higher Education, and Health.*



**NRBA LAWYER IN THE CLASSROOM  
UPDATE****By Ronald Zezima**

As schools reopen after their summer vacation, the New Rochelle Bar Association continues to work hand in hand with school officials to introduce children to the basics of law. During the last school year, more than 20 volunteer lawyers who spent multiple days in our city schools, interacting with appreciative and enthusiastic audiences of both students and teachers.

In early September, Richard Sosis and Ron Zezima met with the new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Brian Osborne, and his predecessor, Dr. Jeffrey Korostoff. Over the last few years, with Dr. Korostoff's unwavering support, we were able to institute a formalized curriculum. Dr. Osborne assured us that the School District would continue to support the program. Many of our members have indicated a willingness to participate in the classroom sessions, which take place during the school day. However, the major impediment to participation has been the short notice which the schools have given us when requesting volunteers. Dr. Osborne will be meeting with the principals and advising them that they should provide an advance schedule of when they want attorneys to deliver the program in their particular school. Once we have this information, we will distribute it to you and look forward to even greater participation from our membership during the new school year.

To volunteer or for additional information, please contact Board member Ronald Zezima at [rvzesq@aol.com](mailto:rvzesq@aol.com).

**NRBA SOFTBALL TEAM UPDATE****By Coach Richard Grayson**

The 2014 NRBA softball team ended the season with a disappointing record of 2-10 but was 1-1 in the consolation round of the playoffs. We are looking to make some off-season additions of free agents. Those players who have already been released by the Mets and Yankees need not apply. Our 2015 notice will be sent out in the spring so keep those gloves oiled and look for bats that still contain hits.

For information about the team, call **Richard Grayson** at 914-682-0037.





## MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to **Christine Persampieri** who wed **Daniel Brew** on June 21, 2014 in Westport, Connecticut.

Rachel B. Harrison, daughter of **Andrew M. Harrison** and wife, Dr. Adrienne Weiss-Harrison was married, on July 5<sup>th</sup> to Aldo Pinotti at the Loeb Central Park Boathouse in Manhattan, where the couple live and work. The bride's brother, Mark Harrison, officiated at the ceremony which incorporated Jewish and Christian traditions.

Happy Birthday to **Frank DiMarco** who celebrates his birthday on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

## CONDOLENCES:

Our deepest condolences to **Valorie Joy Promisel** on the death of her husband and our dear member **Martin S. Promisel**, who passed away on July 1, 2014. Services were held in Virginia.

Our deepest condolences go out to **Thomas Kajubi** and family for the passing this Summer of Tom's father.

Our sincere condolences to **Gary Trachten** and his family for the loss of his mother "Shirley" Trachten, who departed this life on August 11, 2014.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Yolanda Gorman  
Westchester Homes Realty, New Rochelle, NY.



## OUR WEBSITE: [www.nrbar.org](http://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](http://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 Editors Mark Griffin at [mark.griffin@gmail.com](mailto:mark.griffin@gmail.com) or Paula Johnson Kelly at [PJKelly\\_esq@hotmail.com](mailto:PJKelly_esq@hotmail.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.

