

FOUNDERS & PRESIDENTS

Finger Lakes Women's Bar Association

a chapter of



Tenth Anniversary Celebration

June 6, 2017

The Country Club of Ithaca

DEIRDRE HAY FOUNDER

DIRECTOR (MARCH 2007 - MAY 2013)

PRESIDENT (JUNE 2013 - MAY 2014)



Deirdre L. Hay (S.J.D.), Esq. co-founded Finger Lakes Women's Bar Association with Elizabeth Peck and Kim Rothman. She was Vice President of WBASNY in 2016-17, WBASNY Recording Secretary from 2015-16, WBASNY Corresponding Secretary from 2014-15, FLWBA President from 2013-14 and WBASNY Director Delegate for FLWBA from 2006- 2013 and has thus been on the WBASNY Board for over a decade. She represents WBASNY at the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women the UN's NGO/DPI conferences and at the League of Women's voters day.

Deirdre is Director of LL.M. and International Career Services at Cornell Law School where she counsels LL.M. students in career opportunities in the U.S. and overseas and advises students interested in international public law practice and/or international fellowships. She works with students to develop job search strategies, provides career guidance regarding effective resume and cover letter writing, and prepares students for interviews.

Deirdre creates and arranges LL.M. career panels and speakers and is a member of NALP.

Deirdre was admitted to the N.Y. Bar in 1998. Since graduating from the Univ. of Melbourne Law School in 1989, she worked at multinational law firms: DLA Piper (Sydney); Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton (Washington, D.C.) where she practiced antitrust and intellectual property law; and at K&L Gates (energy and antitrust). For nine years she worked at a boutique antitrust firm Baker & Miller located in Washington D.C. and headed by former Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Deirdre received her S.J.D. degree from the Univ. of Sydney for her scholarship on comparative merger law in 2005 which led to the amendment of the Australian Merger Guidelines. As part of the LL.M. coursework required for her S.J.D. degree, she studied at Cornell Law School's summer comparative law program in Paris. Deirdre's thesis was published as a book and she has written numerous journal articles, served as Managing Editor of the *Antitrust Law Journal* and was part of the American Bar Association's (ABA's) leadership.

Deirdre also serves on the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar and is on the Antitrust Committee Executive. She also serves on the Board of Ithaca's Women's Opportunity Center, and the City Federation of Women's Organizations in Ithaca. Deirdre is a member of the American Bar Association.

ELIZABETH K. PECK FOUNDER PRESIDENT (MARCH 2007–MAY 2008)



Elizabeth K. Peck is the Assistant Dean for Professional Development and Clerkships, and is an Adjunct Professor of Law. She leads the law school in establishing stand-alone professional development programming and in integrating professional-development training into the curriculum. She also supervises the clerkship-application process for student and alumni candidates applying to federal and state courts. Assistant Dean Peck is a co-educator within the Professional Development Orientation program and co-teaches a seminar, “Women in the Legal Profession.”

Prior to May 2015, she was the Director of Public Service and from July 2004 to June 2009, Assistant Dean Peck was the Director of Career Services. Before coming to Cornell, she worked at the Washington and Lee University School of Law from 1999-2004: for four years Assistant Dean Peck was the Director of Career Services, having served her first year there as the Assistant Director. She began her work in the field at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where she was a Career Counselor from 1997-1999. Assistant Dean Peck clerked for the Honorable Judge Richard D. Savell in Fairbanks, Alaska and litigated employment matters at Perkins Coie in Seattle, WA.

She was a founder and first president of the Finger Lakes Women's Bar Association. Assistant Dean Peck is also a member of the Washington State Bar Association and the Tompkins County (NY) Bar. She is active in NALP, the National Association for Law Placement, having served on NALP's Research Advisory Group, Ethics and Standards Advisory Group as well as its Alternative Careers and Career Pathways for Lawyers Committees. Assistant Dean Peck received her J.D. from the Duke University School of Law in 1994 and graduated from Tufts University, magna cum laude, with a B.A. in Economics and International Relations in 1991.

KIM ROTHMAN FOUNDER

TREASURER (MARCH 2007 - MAY 2011)



Kim Rothman is a Partner in Miller Mayer's Trusts and Estates and Real Estate practice groups. Ms. Rothman advises clients in all aspects of estate planning with an emphasis on drafting wills and trusts tailored to individual clients' needs, including protecting and providing for family members, carrying out charitable intentions, and minimizing tax obligations. Ms. Rothman also represents buyers and sellers of residential and commercial real estate throughout Tompkins County and the surrounding areas, and represents executors and trustees in connection with estate administration matters including Surrogate's Court proceedings, tax filings, and post-mortem planning.

Ms. Rothman is a member of the Massachusetts and New York State bars. She received her J.D. from Harvard and her B.A. from Cornell University.

Women's Opportunity Center and is a member of the ABA and Tompkins County Bar Association.

MARI K. TOWNSEND

PRESIDENT (JUNE 2008 – MAY 2009)



Mari is an Assistant Public Defender in Tioga County, NY with the primary responsibility of handling Family Court cases. Previously Mari was a sole practitioner in Ithaca, NY, with a practice focusing on family law, including matrimonial law and law guardian work, and criminal defense. Mari's first legal job in Ithaca was as an intern with the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission. After attending Ithaca College for her undergraduate degree Mari attended law school at the University at Buffalo. During the 2008-2009 term Mari was President of the Finger Lakes Women's Bar Association. From 2009 to 2012 Mari served on the board of the Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes. Mari is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Tioga County Bar Association, the Tompkins County Quilters Guild, the Ithaca Modern Quilt Guild, and the Candor New Quilters on the Block Quilt Guild. When she's not lawyering or quilting Mari keeps busy helping her husband run the family business, Hollenbeck's Feed & Coal, Inc.

KELLY A. DAMM

PRESIDENT (JUNE 2009 – MAY 2010)



Kelly started practicing in Ithaca in January, 2000. She worked for a local law firm for 15 months and then opened up her own law office in April, 2001. Kelly focuses on criminal defense, matrimonial and family law, as well as adoptions. Kelly is also an Attorney for Children, representing the interests of children. Kelly is a Court Appointed Referee for foreclosure actions, to ensure the banks are handling the cases fairly and appropriately. Kelly was President of the Tompkins County Bar Association for the 2011-2012

term, Memorial Chair from 2011-2016, New Membership Chair for the Tompkins County Bar Association from 2006-2011, and member since 2000. Kelly is an active member of many community organizations, including her service as Chair of the Advisory Board for Indigent Representation from December 9, 2004 through 2013 and member from 2002-2016; member of the Ithaca Rotary Club since 2002 and has served as a Board member for several different President's; member of the Better Business Bureau since 2006 with a Triple A Rating; Board Member for Running 2 Places, a children's theatre group, from March, 2011-2016; and Surrogate Decision Making Committee member. Kelly ran for County Court Judge in 2013. Kelly was designated a SUPERLAWYER in 2014, which is a Peer Nominated designation.

Kelly was a member of the Finger Lakes Women's Bar Association since its creation in 2006; the first Secretary for the FLWBA, and Third President of the Finger Lakes Women's Bar Association from 2009-2010. Since being President, Kelly has served on the statewide WBASNY Board and Committees. WBASNY is the second largest state bar association in NY. She served on the Criminal Law Committee, Nominations Committee, and Legislation Committee as the FLWBA Delegate. The Legislation Committee is where Kelly found her home and Kelly is currently the Co-Chair for the Legislation Committee. She is in her third term as Co-Chair and enjoys reviewing all the bills and legislation presented as it relates to and affects women and children in New York and sometimes, the world.

Kelly is a member of the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, and the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Kelly was born in New Jersey, spent much of her youth in Chicago, IL, and she obtained her undergraduate degree from Beloit College in Wisconsin. Kelly graduated from Albany Law School in 1999 and is admitted to practice in New York State and Federal Court.

KHANDIKILE MVUNGA SOKONI

PRESIDENT (JUNE 2010 – MAY 2011)



Khandi is a member of the firm True, Walsh & Sokoni, LLP where she is engaged in the general practice of law including general corporate, immigration and municipal law. She previously worked in the Ithaca City Attorney's Office for 14 years the latter six of which she served as Assistant City Attorney. As Assistant City Attorney, Khandi served as legal counsel to the Mayor, the City Council, and department heads of the City of Ithaca on a variety of municipal law matters including government contracts, tax exempt bond issues, civil litigation, administrative hearings, drafting legislation, freedom of information law requests and tax proceedings. Originally from Zambia, she came to Ithaca, New York to attend Cornell Law School. During her undergraduate studies, she was the first female student to be elected president of the University of Zambia Law Association. In addition to the New York

Courts, Khandi is also admitted to practice before the federal courts in the Northern District of New York.

She is the immediate past president of the Tompkins County Bar Association, and past president of the Finger Lakes Women's Bar Association. She has served on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of Tompkins and Tioga Counties, Kids Count Inc., and the Drop-In Children's Center. In her spare-time she has presented seminar papers at Cornell University on Women, AIDS and the Law in Africa, participated in a forum exploring careers in public interest and career day activities in the Ithaca schools and the Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC); and coached a high school debate team as part of the community read of Kafka's "The Trial". She and her husband Mutale Sokoni have three children who are the center of their universe.

SUSAN BROCK

PRESIDENT (JUNE 2011 – MAY 2012)



Susan Brock was named a WBASNY Rising Star in 2016 by the Finger Lakes chapter. She has been Co-Chair of WBASNY's Environmental Law Committee since its creation five years ago, and she served terms as President and Vice-President at the Finger Lakes chapter level. During her term as President, the chapter expanded its support of local institutions that assist women, and some of its members supervised students at a then-new Family Law Clinic at Cornell Law School. One of Susan's other priorities as President was to raise WBASNY's visibility to the chapter members. To that end, she wrote the chapter's first-ever award nominations, and one member won a WBASNY award and another was chosen as WBASNY's nominee for a non-WBASNY award.

Susan received an A.B. in Political Science with Honors and Distinction from Stanford University and a J.D., *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School. She practices environmental, municipal and public transportation law in Ithaca. She has been an adjunct professor at Cornell Law School, where she taught Land Use and Zoning, and she was an instructor for several summers at Shoals Marine Laboratory in the Gulf of Maine, where she taught a law and policy course while avoiding Great Black-backed gulls and poison ivy thickets. Susan has served as the Chair of the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council, has been a Board member of the Finger Lakes Land Trust, and has served as a Director of the Tompkins County Bar Association. Prior to her move to Ithaca, she was an Assistant Regional Counsel in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Boston office and assisted in the prosecution of environmental crimes as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. She and her husband have a daughter who is a student at the University of Pennsylvania.

ROSANNE MAYER

PRESIDENT (JUNE 2012 – MAY 2013)



Rosanne Mayer is a Partner in Miller Mayer's Immigration practice group.

Ms. Mayer's practice focuses primarily on EB-5 investors and business-based immigration matters. Her EB-5 clients include those investing in both Regional Center projects and in qualifying individual EB-5 investments. Ms. Mayer's business immigration clients include both large and small companies and individuals in the high-tech, academic, and medical fields. She represents clients pursuing both employer-sponsored immigrant and non-immigrant visas, as well as self-petitioning clients, especially individuals filing National Interest Waiver petitions. She also represents a number of health care providers and physicians pursuing J-1 waivers and work authorization. Ms. Mayer also represents individuals in family-based immigration matters and naturalization applications. Prior to joining Miller Mayer, Ms. Mayer practiced in the area of litigation at law firms in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Ithaca, NY, and with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Mayer is a member of the New York State bar. She received her J.D. from New York University and her undergraduate degree from Cornell University.

MARIETTE GELDENHUYS

PRESIDENT (JUNE 2014 – MAY 2015)



Mariette Geldenhuys has practiced law in Ithaca, New York for the past twenty-seven years, in areas including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) family law; estate planning, and adoption. Fifteen years ago, she shifted the focus of her practice to collaborative law and mediation, to help clients resolve legal issues in a respectful, client-centered way and without litigation. She was one of the four attorneys who represented the “Ithaca Fifty” pro bono in the action seeking marriage equality for same-sex couples in New York.

Mariette is a member of the National Family Law Advisory Council of the National Center for Lesbian Rights; the New York State Bar Association Committee on LGBT People and the Law; the Finger Lakes Women’s Bar Association; and the National LGBT Bar Association. She is the Founder and Founding President of the Ithaca Area Collaborative Law Professionals. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the LGBT Committee of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York.

Mariette was selected as a member of the Training Faculty of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP). She is a frequent lecturer and trainer on issues related to collaborative law, mediation, and LGBT family law, including at the Annual Forum of the IACP, the ADR section of the American Bar Association, Cornell Law School, and the New York State Bar Association.”

SUJATA S. GIBSON

PRESIDENT (JUNE 2015 – MAY 2016)



Sujata is a Senior Associate at Schlather, Stumbar, Parks & Salk, LLP. Her practice revolves around matrimonial and family law, civil litigation, employment and commercial law and criminal defense. Sujata has been practicing in state and federal courts for almost a decade. She began her career as an Associate at the D.C. office of the international law firm Crowell & Moring, LLP, where she specialized in fraud investigation, government contracts, litigation and libel law for a major political publication. Moving back to Ithaca in 2011, she began a small solo practice, associating "of counsel" with a number of area firms. In 2015, she expanded her practice into The Gibson Law Firm, and won "Best Law Firm in Ithaca" in her firm's first year in business. Sujata is passionate about public service. Most recently, serving as the lead attorney on the mass defense of the "We Are Seneca Lake" protest defendants, she successfully fought for and helped win over 600 acquittals and dismissals against protest defendants over the last two and a half years through trials, motion practice and most recently an agreement to adjourn all remaining cases in contemplation of dismissal. Sujata is immediate past president of the Finger Lakes Women's Bar Association, former member of the executive board of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, and has served as teaching faculty on the New York State Bar Association Annual Trial Academy. She periodically lectures on areas of expertise such as parental alienation and domestic violence, fraud investigation and civil rights and will be teaching a clinical course at Cornell Law this fall on civil disobedience defense. When not practicing law, Sujata enjoys hanging out with her two young daughters and her husband and occasionally moonlighting in winter roles with the Ithaca Shakespeare Company.

ALYSSA M. BARREIRO

PRESIDENT (JUNE 2016 – MAY 2017)



Alyssa M. Barreiro is Vice President and Senior Fiduciary Advisor at Wilmington Trust Company, an M&T Bank subsidiary, based in Binghamton. She joined M&T after two years as Senior Trust Counsel with Tompkins Trust Company in Ithaca. For twenty years prior she engaged in the private practice of law. She spent her first year after admission to the New York Bar Of Counsel to the Office of Corporation Counsel for the City of Binghamton. In private practice she concentrated in the areas of guardianship, trust, and healthcare law and litigation, first at law firm of Hinman Howard & Kattell, LLP as an associate and partner, and later as a partner with Levene Gouldin & Thompson, LLP.

Alyssa is in her fourth term serving as Vice President for the 6th Judicial District as a member of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) Executive Committee. On June 1, 2017 she assumed the Chair of the NYSBA Disability Rights Committee. She is also a member of the NYSBA Trust & Estates and Elder Law Sections and Executive Committee Liaison to its Food, Drug & Cosmetic Law Section. She is a member and past director of the Broome County Bar Association and past chair of its Judicial Candidate Review Committee and a member and past president of the Finger Lakes Women's Bar Association. She is a member of the Estate Planning Councils of Tompkins County and Central New York. She serves on the Surrogate Decision-Making Panel for the State of New York Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. She has been a member of the New York State Office of Court Administration Guardianship Advisory Committee since its formation.

Alyssa is a graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton (B.A. Cinema), Syracuse University College of Law (J.D.), and Binghamton University School of Management (M.B.A). She is a contributor to Benders Forms of Civil Practice (Estate & Probate and Mental Hygiene Law Forms), has published articles in the NYSBA Health Law Journal, and is a contributor to Abrams Guardianship Practice in New York State (NYSBA 2d ed., pending.) Alyssa has been an adjunct lecturer at Binghamton University School of Management and a regular presenter at Continuing Legal Education programs in New York State.