

CAPITAL DISTRICT WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION



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February 2008

Editors:

Cynthia A. Platt

Kathryn Lamont Teal

CDWBA ANNOUNCES THE KIMBERLY A. TROISI-PATON LEADERSHIP AWARD

In August, the CDWBA lost a long-time, dedicated member of our organization, Kim Troisi-Paton. Kim was a remarkable woman. She was kind, thoughtful, hard-working, diligent, ethical, compassionate, resilient, determined, selfless, dedicated and very, very real. She was a tireless volunteer for the Women's Bar Association, a dedicated employee of the court system, a devoted student and teacher of the law and, most importantly of all, she was a loving wife, mother, daughter and friend. She showed remarkable perseverance in the face of adversity, selfless dedication to her family and friends and an unbeatable spirit which no form of cancer could ever touch. Those of us who knew her well learned more from her example than she ever intended to teach.

At its January meeting, the CDWBA Board of Directors unanimously approved the creation of the Kimberly A. Troisi-Paton Leadership Award in Kim's honor. This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated an enduring commitment to CDWBA and/or the community through consistent leadership, perseverance, and selfless dedication to the greater good. The recipient is typically an "unsung hero" among us, one who leads by example in a steadfast manner, and whose contributions provide sustainability to the organization, to the community and/or to women in general. The recipient's volunteer, civic or community activities are often undertaken in balance with an unflinching devotion to her family and friends, and she is typically someone whose impact is far greater or wide-ranging than she expected it to be.

(Continued on page 9)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Valentine's Day, The Law and
U.S. Judicial Selection



They say that writing a President's message is the loneliest of tasks; and almost as lonely as reading one! So I decided to divert your attention from the many other great items in our February newsletter with this beautiful valentine from the early 1900's. Linking the law to Valentine's day seemed to be quite a task, but my friend Mr. Google, and my pal Mr. Wikipedia revealed to me some significant parallels between our ancient profession and this ancient holiday that make good fodder for this message. So here are some interesting "facts" about Valentine's day I came across on the internet.

*Did you know that Valentine's day derives its origins from the ancient Roman feast of *Lupercalia*, originally celebrated on February 15 to honor the advent of Spring which arrived in February in the early Roman calendar. (Haven't you always wondered about that? A romantic holiday in February?) It was re-named Valentine's day in early Christian times for a priest named Valentine who defied the law prohibiting male soldiers to marry. For his romantic deeds of marrying couples in violation of the law, they say he was arrested, imprisoned and decapitated on February 14. Not exactly a romantic ending to the story ...

*It is believed that one of the first recorded associations of Valentine's Day with romantic love is in *Parlement of Foules* (1382) by Geoffrey Chaucer:

(continued on page 3)



The Legal Project

Pro Bono Corner February 2008

Lisa A. Frisch, Executive Director

We Made the Match!!!!

Due to the overwhelming generosity of so many in our community, we were successful in making our \$50,000 matching grant from **Martin, Harding & Mazzotti, LLP; the Sidney & Beatrice Albert Foundation; the Sherry and Barry Gold Donor Advised Fund of The Community Foundation; and Liza's Legacy Foundation.** Our Winter Appeal is still ongoing for 2008, as we still depend on community donations to help us provide assistance to victims of abuse in the Capital District. So, if you didn't get a chance to donate toward the match, please still consider contributing to our Appeal, as every dollar is put towards services in our community. You can even do so online on our website at www.legalproject.org.

A Special Thanks to the Law Firm of Hiscock & Barclay!

We were thrilled with the very generous donation of \$5000 from Hiscock and Barclay, LLP toward our matching grant for 2007. This donation put us over the top for our match and will go a long way to help victims of domestic violence in the Capital District. The firm has also made a commitment to providing increased pro bono services to the civil legal services programs in our area, including The Legal Project, so we are very grateful!

Thank you for volunteering in December!

Domestic Violence Legal Connection

Pat Rodriguez
Cheryl Hogan

Legally Speaking

Pamela Robich-Wright

Albany Public Library

Janet Axelrod
Melissa Latino
Ron Orlando
Marcia Roth, Coordinator

Mechanicville

Anne Copps
Kyle Smith, Coordinator

Unity House

Nancy Harding
Thomas Kenney
Jill Nagy
Abe Bolgatz, Coordinator

Saratoga

Linda Taverni
Herb & Shirley Gordon

Equinox

David Levy
Joann Sternheimer
Kyle Smith, Coordinator

Wills & Estates

Christine Galvin
The Law Firm of Lavelle & Finn

Save-The-Date

The fall gets booked up fast, so please mark your calendars for the **13th Annual Pro Bono Reception** and join CDWBA's The Legal Project in honoring the volunteers and community partners who do so much to serve the Capital District. The 2008 Reception will be on held on **Thursday, October 23th** at the beautiful New York State Museum Terrace Gallery!

President's Message (continued from page 1)

"For this was on sent Valentines day , Whan euery bryd comyth there to chese [choose] his make [mate]. "

This poem was written to honor the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia.

*According to Wikipedia, the earliest surviving valentine is a fifteenth-century *rondeau* written by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his "valentined" wife, which commences:

*Je suis desja d'amour tanné
Ma tres douce Valentinée...* (Charles d'Orléans,
Rondeau VI, lines 1-2)

At the time, the duke was being held in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt, 1415. How romantic is that?

*Lastly, and on a more legal note, I found out that courts for the rituals of courtly love, called a "High Court of Love" was established in Paris on Valentine's Day in 1400. The court dealt with love contracts, betrayals, and violence against women.

A rather forward thinking pre-cursor to our family court system, don't you think? Leave it to the French.... In fact, *Judges were selected by women on the basis of a poetry reading!*- well now, there at last is a welcome historical segue into another less frivolous topic of great relevance this month- Judicial selection. (wphew!, now that was a transition, wasn't it?). Even as I was researching the roots of Valentine's day, I read about the landmark decision in the Lopez Torres case, which upheld our current system for electing judges...a historical decision on an issue near and dear to the hearts of the members of the CDWBA. Thanks to the efforts of our Judicial Task force, chaired by Anne Copps and Diane Davis (and the infinite patience of our editor-in-chief Cindy Platt), we have included an article on the decision which the committee has been tracking carefully. Just another example of the great work being done by our committees. Have you joined one yet?

Happy Valentines Day to you! I hope to see all of you at the upcoming Judicial reception on March 13th. Ahhh... the ides of March...I had better get a head start on that topic!

Linda Clark

CONGRATULATIONS CDWBA!

The New York State Conference of Bar Leaders has selected the CDWBA and the Capital Region Bankruptcy Bar Association ("CRBBA") to receive the 2008 Award of Merit in the Smaller Associations category. This award honors local bar association's projects or on-going programs that make significant contributions to the profession and the community. The CDWBA and the CRBBA are being recognized for their joint effort in bringing the Credit Abuse Resistance Education Program ("CARE") to our community. This program initiated by Chief Bankruptcy Judge John C. Ninfo II, Western District of New York, educates high school students about the responsible use of credit, stressing the consequences of uninformed and/or irresponsible use of credit cards and credit debt. It goes without saying that the implementation of the CARE Program in the Capital District by the CDWBA and the CRBBA addresses a critical issue and provides an invaluable service to high school students in our area. Just last month, President Bush signed an executive order establishing the Advisory Council on Financial Literacy within the Department of the Treasury to promote and enhance financial literacy among the American people. The council will gather information about financial literacy, and advise the President and the Treasury secretary on goals, including improving financial education efforts for youth in school.

The award was presented at the New York State Conference of Bar Leaders Annual Breakfast on February 1, 2008 at the New York Marriott Marquis, in conjunction with the New York State Bar Association's Annual Meeting. Several CDWBA members were in attendance. Linda Clark, our President, accepted the award on behalf of CDWBA, and Joann Sternheimer, our Second Vice President and a member of the CRBBA, accepted the award on behalf of the CRBBA.

We encourage you to advise your school district's teachers, administrators, PTA, and school boards of the CARE Program. If you know of a school or school district that may be interested in offering the CARE Program to its students, please contact Joann Sternheimer at 436-0344, or jsternheimer@deilylawfirm.com.

NEW CDWBA MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following **NEW MEMBERS**:

Heather M. Abissi, Esq.

New York Prosecutors Training Institute
107 Columbia Street
Albany, NY 12210
518 432 1100 ext 203
*Academia/Legal Education, Appellate Practice,
Criminal, Government, Not-for-Profit Corporations*

Tricia Asaro, Esq.

Greenberg Traurig
54 State Street, 6th Albany, NY 12189
518 689-1416
Health, Legislation

Sharon M. Beilinson, Esq.

Delmar, NY 12054
Administrative

M. Cornelia Cahill, Esq.

Hiscock & Barclay, LLP
50 Beaver Street, Albany, NY 12207
518 429 4296
Public Finance

Erin Kate Calicchia, Esq.

Greenberg Traurig LLP
54 State Street, 6th Floor, Albany, NY 12207
518 689-1434
*Administrative Law/Regulatory, Corporate/Commercial,
Health, Insurance*

Susan W. Fuller, Esq. (Sustaining Member)

NYSUT
800 Troy Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110
518 213 6000
*Academia/Legal Education, Discrimination/Civil
Rights, Dispute Resolution, Education, Labor &
Employment, Workers' Compensation/Disability*

Frederick B. Galt, Esq.

Capital District Physicians Health Plan
500 Patroon Creek Blvd.
Albany, NY 12206
518 641 5570
*Corporate/Commercial, Health, Insurance, Not-for-
Profit Corporations*

Selica Grant, Esq.

Albany Community Development Agency
200 Henry Johnson Blvd.
Albany, NY 12210
518 434 5240
*Collections, Dispute Resolution: Arbitration,
Collaborative Law*

Jennifer K. Harvey

Valatia, NY
Law Student

Jill McCook, Esq.

Greenberg Traurig, LLP
54 State Street, 6th Floor
Albany, NY 12207
689-1431
Health

Page Moran

Albany, NY
Law Student

Angela Pelaez, Esq.

Deily, Mooney, Glastetter
8 Thurlow Terrace
Albany, NY 12203
518-436-0344
*Dispute Resolution, Insurance, Litigation
(Civil/Commercial), Real Estate*

Denise Resta-Tobin, Esq.

Ballston Lake, NY 12019
*Criminal, Domestic Violence, Family, Insurance,
Matrimonial*

Elizabeth Sacco, Esq.

Greenberg Traurig, LLP
54 State Street, 6th Floor
Albany, NY 12207
518 689-1433
Health Government, General Practice

Nancy D. Snyder, Esq. (returning member)

NYS Attorney General's Office
State Capitol, Criminal Prosecutions Bureau
Albany, NY 12224
518 474 5200
Criminal Prosecution

Melissa M. Zambri, Esq.

Hiscock & Barclay, LLP
50 Beaver Street
Albany, NY 12207
518 429 4229
Health

**THANK YOU TO OUR
SUSTAINING MEMBERS
RENEWING SINCE
December 2007**

*Kristen King, Esq.
Alice Leaman, Esq.
Cynthia A. Platt, Esq.
Gina M. Spadaro, Esq.*

CDWBA MEMBER NEWS

- **Hon. W. Dennis Duggan**, Albany County Family Court Judge was recently named Family Court Judge of the Year by the New York State Family Court Judges Association. This is the first time the Judicial Association has presented this award. Judge Duggan is a past president of the Association. He currently serves on the Board of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and is President of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, New York Chapter. Judge Duggan was also recently recognized by the New York State Chapter of the Supervised Visitation Network.
- **Heena Shaikh** is being nominated by the CDWBA for WBASNY's 2008 Doris S. Hoffman Outstanding New Lawyer Award. WBANSY will present its awards at its 2008 Convention.
- On November 30, 2007, **Susan Taylor** participated in the New York State Bar Association's *Environmental Law Boot Camp*, a CLE program for practitioners new to this area of law. Susan spoke on Article 78 Practice and Proceedings. Susan is with the Environmental Protection Bureau of the Attorney General's Office. She is currently CDWBA's First Vice President and Co-chair of the Membership Committee.
- **Margaret Tabak** was elected to the Board of Directors of the Albany County Bar Association.

SAVE THE DATE!
WBASNY 2008 CONVENTION
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay
Golf Resort, Spa, and Marina
May 29 - June 1, 2008

DIRECTORY UPDATES...

The following corrections should be made to your 2007-2008 Directory: We apologize for our oversight and hope this has not caused any confusion.

- **Linda Clark's** contact information is (W) 518-429-4252 (F) 518-427-3498
- **Jill Nagy's** address is **Bartle McGrane Duffy & Jones**, 251 River Street, PO Box 448, Troy, NY 12181.

**ALBANY LAW SCHOOL
ANNOUNCES
ANNUAL
KATE STONEMAN DAY**

Albany Law School's 14th Annual Kate Stoneman Day will be held on Thursday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m. at Albany Law School. Arlinda Locklear, member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and the first Native American woman to appear in the Supreme Court, will be honored with the Kate Stoneman Award. She will also deliver the event's keynote address. Mae D'Agostino, a partner at D'Agostino, Krackeler, Baynes & Maguire, P.C., and Melissa Mourges ('80), Assistant District Attorney, New York County, will also receive Kate Stoneman Awards.

Kate Stoneman Day is held in honor of the Law School's first female graduate who was also the first woman admitted to practice law in New York State. Kate Stoneman awards are given to individuals in the legal profession who have demonstrated a commitment to actively seeking change and expanding opportunities for women.

The event is free and open to the public. To RSVP, contact Tammy Weinman at (518) 445-3210 or twein@albanylaw.edu.

For more information on Arlinda Locklear, visit <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/rblocklear.html>.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

One of the benefits of CDWBA membership includes the opportunity to share information concerning the occurrence of significant professional and personal events with other members. Any member may submit relevant information and photographs concerning such events, including but not limited to professional and academic achievements, changes in employment status, candidacy for elective office, marriages and births. Please submit such information to ava.charne@byfi.org

CDWBA CALENDAR

Feb 5 **Legal Clinic**, Albany Library
Feb 6 **Legal Clinic**, YWCA, Schenectady
Feb 12 **CDWBA Board Meeting**
5:45 p.m. Legal Project, 6 Executive Park Drive
Feb 13 **Legal Clinic**, Mechanicville
Feb 13 **Legal Clinic**, Unity House
Feb 14 **Legal Clinic**, South End
Feb 21 **Dinner Me Quickly**, 5:30 p.m, note new time
Feb 28 **Legal Clinic**, Saratoga
Feb 28 **Legal Clinic**, Equinox
Mar 13 **Annual Judicial Reception**, The State Room
Please make sure to submit notices of events to ava.charne@byfi.org for publication in the newsletter, by the 15th of the month for publication the following month

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Associate Attorney Wanted - Associate position in an Albany law firm concentrating in matrimonial and family law. The position would encompass court appearances, preparation of pleadings and motions; analysis of financial and forensic information and reports; as well as significant client contact. Experience or demonstrated interest in matrimonial and family law. In addition, must be self-motivated with excellent communication skills. Experience preferred. Send cover letter and resume to Margaret Tabak, Esq., 122 Great Oaks Boulevard, Albany, New York 12203, fax (518)464-4096, or e-mail albanymatfirm@gmail.com. All resumes will be kept confidential.

Associate Attorney Wanted - Associate position in a busy private practice firm with about ten lawyers. The focus of the practice is civil litigation in state and federal courts. Deposition, appellate and trial experience is available as applicant qualifications allow. Substantive areas of the law include commercial and personal injury litigation as well as municipal and education law. Very active pace with as much opportunity as applicant desires. Excellent research and writing is mandatory. Desire to advance within the firm and the profession is encouraged. Applicants should reply by mail, fax or e-mail to: William J. Keniry, Esq., Tabner, Ryan and Keniry, LLP, 18 Corporate Woods Boulevard, Ste. 8, Albany, New York 12211. Fax: (518) 465-5112, E-Mail: wjk@trklaw.com

SITUATION/MENTOR WANTED

A CDWBA member, who worked for the last ten years as an Administrative Law Judge for the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board, is currently taking a hiatus from the practice of law and teaching skiing in the women's Winter Escape program at Jiminy Peak. She would, however, like to eventually re-enter the legal profession and is interested in exploring other practice areas, particularly: Environmental Law; Discrimination/Civil Rights; Education Law; Appellate Practice; and/or Dispute Resolution. If there are any members practicing in these areas interested in taking on a mature intern, willing to provide hourly work in these areas, or simply willing to share a cup of coffee to discuss their experiences, please contact Sharon Beilinson at 518 439 2436 or beilinson@verizon.net

Attention law firms: If you have a position you would like advertised, you can have it published in the CDWBA Newsletter for **FREE!** Send your information by the 15th of the month for publication the following month to **CDWBA Newsletter**, P.O. Box 3747, Albany, New York 12203 or e-mail it to ava.charne@byfi.org.

WORKING MOTHERS' LUNCH

Building on the success of January's Working Mothers Lunch and Learn program, the CDWBA Working Mothers Committee is holding its next brown bag lunch on **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.** for working mothers to share ideas on what supports are crucial for juggling your legal career with motherhood and the rest of your life. This will be an informal discussion format where we can discuss what works, what doesn't, and, most importantly, how to negotiate in your own life to get the supports you need to be successful in all areas. We may not have all the answers, but we hope that by discussing the issues we can advance the practice of women in the law.

The brown bag lunch will be held at the Albany offices of Greenberg Traurig, 54 State Street, Albany, New York. To RSVP, please call Alex Streznewski (518-641-5566 or astrezne@cdphp.com) or Valerie Lape Handy (518-641-5572 or vlape@cdphp.com). We look forward to a lively discussion!

LUNCH DATE!

March 14, 2008

Please join the Diversity and Gender Fairness Committee for another lively lunchtime discussion on Friday, March 14th, from 12:30 to 2 pm. Location TBA. March is Women's History Month, and the Committee is planning a roundtable discussion on gender issues surrounding the 2008 Presidential race. We'll take a critical look at whether the US is ready to elect a female as President; is the gender barrier more difficult to break than the race barrier in our country to obtain the Office of President; and why have we lagged behind other countries who have had female leaders.

WANTED: A FEW GOOD WOMEN

This year's Nominations Committee is composed of Susan Dautel, Patty Salkin, Linda Clark, Chris Galvin and Samantha Whitney. The Committee is looking for members interested in becoming an officer of CDWBA, a member of CDWBA's Board of Directors, or a delegate to our state-wide organization, WBASNY, for 2008-2009. Anyone interested in being considered for the positions of President-Elect, First Vice- President, Second Vice-President, Treasurer, or Secretary of CDWBA, a member of the Board of Directors of CDWBA, or a delegate to WBASNY for 2008-2009, should submit a letter of intent to Linda Clark, 5917 Veeder Road, Slingerlands, New York 12159, or lclark@hiscockbarlcay.com on or before March 1, 2008.

CDWBA Accepting Nominations for this year's Carol S. Knox Family Friendly Employer Award

The CDWBA is accepting nominations for this year's Carol S. Knox Family Friendly Employer award. Each year, the award recognizes a legal employer in the Capital District that has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to family friendliness by maintaining policies and practices that assist its employees in achieving balance between their professional and family commitments. We encourage anyone who knows a worthy employer to submit a nomination. In the past, we have received many nominations that, although impressive, did not receive the award. We, therefore, encourage anyone who may have

previously nominated an employer that did not receive the award to consider submitting a nomination again this year. All nominations must be submitted by **March 1, 2008**. The employer that is chosen to receive the award will be recognized at CDWBA's installation dinner in June. A nomination form may be obtained on our website at www.cdwba.org under January Newsletter. Please direct any questions or requests for a nomination form to: Amy Schallop at 439-3235 or AmySchallop@yahoo.com.

MEMBERS TAKE TIME OUT FOR A LITTLE PAMPERING

On January 16, the CDWBA, in conjunction with the Fusion Spa, presented an evening to relax, mingle, drink some wine and learn about the wide array of medical and aesthetic treatments available at the Fusion Spa, a new physician owned and operated medical day spa located at 1240 New Scotland Road in Slingerlands. In addition to having Dr. Hania Stowowy and a licensed aesthetician on hand to answer questions and do makeup demonstrations, Sharon Fenno, the owner of Circles in Styvesant Plaza, and her assistant, Deborah Lane, did a presentation with great tips on how to use accessories to extend your wardrobe. Congratulations to Pat Bruelin who won a spa package and a 3 month gym membership and to Joann Sternheimer who won 2 tickets to Capital Rep. The money collected from the raffles will be donated to The Legal Project. It was a great night, and we are hoping to do more events like this in the future. For information about Fusion Spa you may visit their website at www.fusionspaofalbany.com

Women in Government Committee

In May of 2007, the CDWBA Board unanimously conferred committee status on the Women in Government Task Force, based on the number of women attorneys who work in government in the Capital District and the wonderful things this active group has contributed to our community.

A few recent highlights of the Committee's work include:

A three-part luncheon series in the Fall of 2006 to assist attorneys with transitions in government service, including expert legal advice regarding ethics and civil service

provisions, personal experiences from long-term high-level government attorneys, and time to share common questions and concerns with attorneys across State agencies;

A Women's History Month event in Winter of 2007 featuring a screening of the documentary "Raising the Bar: Pioneering Women in the Attorney General's Office", and brief talk by Shirley Adelson Siegel, a former Solicitor General featured in the film.

This spring, the Committee hopes to continue to bring timely and spectacular events to the Capital District legal community, including an event to honor and celebrate women attorneys in high level positions in state agencies. We welcome your support of and attendance at this event, and will provide more details as they solidify. If you would be willing to help make this event a success, please contact the Women in Government Committee Chairs, Camille Jobin-Davis (474-2518) or Patty Salkin (445-2351). In addition, if you work for a state, federal or local government office, and would be willing to write a short substantive article to share your expertise with other members, please let us know.

New York's Judicial Selection System Found Constitutional

By: **Anne Copps** and **Diane Davis**
Co-chairs, CDWBA Judicial Task Force

On January 16, 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld the way New York selects those who run for 14-year terms on the state-level trial bench in numerous judicial districts. *New York State Board of Elections v. Lopez Torres*, No. 06-766, 2008 WL 140755 (U.S. Jan 16, 2008). The decision stems from an appeal taken after two lower federal courts decided in favor of Brooklyn Surrogate Court Judge Margarita Lopez Torres, who challenged the system after she was denied a state Supreme Court candidacy. The state Board of Elections defended the convention system enacted by the state Legislature in 1921.

In the court's 9-0 opinion, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote: "A political party has a First Amendment right...to choose a candidate-selection process that will in its view produce the nominee who best represents its political platform." Justice Scalia said the existing process does not violate the Constitution, and the opponents "complain not of

the state law, but of the voters' (and their elected delegates') preference for the choices of the party leadership," and further, that if the Legislature so chooses, it can go to a primary system.

CDWBA's Judicial Task Force has followed the case since United States District Judge Gleeson struck down New York's convention system as unconstitutional in 2006. In the interim, Governor Spitzer proposed that Supreme Court Judges not be elected, but rather, that a regional nominating commission would review and select candidates and forward its list to the governor, who would make the final selection. The governor's proposal mirrors the system used to pick the judges for the four Appellate Division courts. This change would most likely require a constitutional amendment. If the legislature approves it in 2008, it would go to the voters for approval in 2009.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

*FDA APPROVES NEW GENETIC TEST FOR BREAST
CANCER PATIENTS*

Brought to you by your Breast Cancer Awareness Committee.

On January 14, 2008, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration approved a new genetic test for breast cancer patients. The test (called the TOP2A FISH pharmDx) is a first-of-its-kind product and is manufactured by Dako Denmark A/S (Glostrup, Denmark). It gives prognostic information, helps in assessing the risk of tumor recurrence and long-term survival for patients with relatively high-risk breast cancer, and may help health care providers in deciding best follow-up options. The test may be used on breast cancer patients who are premenopausal or for whom tumor characteristics, such as tumor size or lymph node involvement, suggest a higher likelihood of tumor recurrence or decreased survival.

According to the FDA's Press Release,

"When used with other clinical information and laboratory tests, this test can provide health care professionals with additional insight on the likely clinical course for breast cancer patients," said Daniel Schultz, M.D., director of FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. "It can also provide

valuable information to assist health care providers and patients in better understanding the biology of breast cancer disease."

The TOP2A FISH pharmDx tests for the topoisomerase 2 alpha gene in cancer patients, which plays a role in DNA replication. Using fluorescently labeled DNA probes, the test detects or confirms gene or chromosome abnormalities. Since cancer recurrence depends partly on certain genes whose activity may be altered by changes in the number of gene copies in the tumor, changes in the gene in breast cancer cells mean there is an increased likelihood of tumor recurrence or a decrease in long-term survival.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

**Executive Women's Golf Association
Albany/Capital Region, NY Chapter**

**Breast Cancer Golf Classic
July 14, 2008
Mohawk Country Club**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

CDWBA

31st ANNUAL

JUDICIAL RECEPTION

MARCH 13, 2008

6:00-8:00 p.m.

**The State Room
Albany, NY**



**CDWBA'S INSTALLATION DINNER
IS AROUND THE CORNER**

**DIDN'T LIKE THE APPETIZERS LAST YEAR?
HAD A GREAT IDEA FOR A PRESENTER?
THOUGHT WE RAN A LITTLE LONG?**

HAVE A SAY:

**JOIN THE INSTALLATION DINNER COMMITTEE-
HELPERS NEEDED.**

**Contact Ava Charne at 438-5511 or
ava.charne@byfi.org**

AWARDS (continued from page 1)

Eligibility: The award may be given annually or as appropriate, as determined by the Awards Committee. The nominee may be either a lawyer or a non-lawyer. Preference will be given to nominees who are women. Preference will also be given to a nominee who is a member of the CDWBA; however, consideration may be given to a nominee who is not a member of the CDWBA, provided that she or he meets the award criteria and her or his volunteer activities and contributions to the community are particularly exemplary and/or have benefited women in general or the CDWBA and its membership.

Nominations Sought

CDWBA seeks nominations for the **Kimberly A. Troisi-Paton Leadership Award**, as well as its other awards, described below.

CDWBA Outstanding New Lawyer Award

This award is to be given to a CDWBA member who, as of December 31, 2007, has been a member of the bar for not more than five (5) years, and who has made noteworthy contributions to CDWBA, and outstanding achievements within the profession and/or outstanding contributions to the community. Last year's recipient was **Heena Shaikh**.

CDWBA Distinguished Member Award

This award honors an outstanding attorney member for a singular outstanding achievement, long-standing significant involvement, or a lifetime of constancy of purpose in advancing the status of women in the law and in society. The stated criteria for the award are: member of CDWBA; achievement of professional excellence, or a provider of significant service to CDWBA and/or the community; some degree of leadership in the community or CDWBA; a mentor to young people and newly admitted attorneys; and an advocate of women in society and in the legal profession. This is the highest award bestowed by CDWBA on a member. Last year's recipient was **Patricia Salkin**.

CDWBA Distinguished Non-Attorney Member Award

This award honors an outstanding non-attorney member who has achieved professional excellence and distinguished herself by service to CDWBA and the community. The stated criteria for the award are: member of CDWBA; a provider of significant service to CDWBA; a provider of significant service to the community; some degree of leadership in the community or CDWBA; a mentor to young people and new non-attorneys in the legal profession; and an advocate of women in society and in the legal profession. The last recipient of this award was **Lisa Frisch**.

CDWBA Pro Bono Award

This award honors and recognizes a member for her pro bono legal services to the community, beyond the recipient's employment responsibilities. The stated criteria are: member of CDWBA; number of pro bono clients served; number of hours devoted to pro bono; significance of service to those served or the community as a whole; involvement in the establishment or expansion of pro bono programs or participation in programs or community programs. Last year's recipients was **Joann Sternheimer**.

CDWBA's awards will be presented at our Installation Dinner in June. Nominations must be submitted in duplicate to the CDWBA Awards Committee Co-Chair, Cynthia Platt, 10 North Helderberg Parkway, Slingerlands, NY 12159, postmarked no later than **Saturday, March 1, 2008**.

Nomination forms may be obtained on our website, www.cdwba.org under February Newsletter. They will also be included with our weekly emails, or you may contact Cynthia Platt at #257-1620.