

NEW ROCHELLE BAR ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

September 30, 2013

www.nrbar.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Richard A. Sosis

Dear Colleagues:

After 5 years of sitting on the sidelines on our Board, I find myself once again as the President of our Bar. The membership has again honored me with this privilege, and we have much work to do.

The Board worked hard over the summer to set up a calendar for the coming year. We plan to have at least one CLE in each month, with most programs held at Monroe College's facilities at 145 Huguenot Street. After chairing our CLE committee for many years, Milton Kreppel has turned over the leadership to Vice-President Jeff Levin. Jeff will be getting lots of help from Milt, as well as from Julie Kattan and Vice-President Tom Kajubi. Our CLE year got off to a fast start with a program in September offered by past President Greg Varian, who did his usual masterful job in discussing current issues in land-use law.

Our Installation Dinner earlier this month at the new Alvin & Friends restaurant was well-attended. The food was great and the fellowship excellent. We owe thanks to Justice Daniel Angiolillo for once again joining us to swear in our officers and directors. The judges of our City Court were in attendance to thank our members who served as arbitrators in New Rochelle's Small Claims Court.

We will have our Holiday Party on December 5th at the Top of the Avalon; and start the New Year with a dinner in January featuring Surrogate Scarpino; a gala Court of Appeals dinner on April 10th featuring Judge Smith as our speaker and, finally, our picnic in June.

After much discussion, and for the first time in the history of our Bar, our Board voted to create a paid position for a person to act as our general administrative assistant. We have called this position Executive Director and, after much searching, we hired a young man named Stephen Rodriguez to assist the Board with maintaining our website, handling communications with the membership, maintaining our records and so forth. Stephen, who is a computer science major in his senior year at Iona, worked hard for us during July, August and the beginning of September. However, his fall schedule of classes will prevent him from attending our meetings and events, so he has resigned on the best of terms. We have asked Stephen to continue working with us as a computer consultant, and will seek to fill the Executive Director position with someone who can devote the time that we need. If you know of such a person, please contact a member of our Board.

One of the tasks of our Executive Director is to maintain our website. At this time our website is not being updated, for which we apologize. In the next month we hope to attend to our website. In the meantime, I shall be sending notices out of upcoming events, and maintaining our database. If you are not getting notices please let me know.

Thank you for your support and participation in the activities of our Bar.

Richard A. Sosis

AS OUR NEW CLE YEAR COMMENCES

Continuing our policy of offering quality CLEs free to our members in good standing, the NRBA held its first CLE of this fall season entitled *Varian on Variances: Current Topics in Land Use, Zoning & Municipal Regulations* with speaker **Gregory T. Varian, Esq.** and introductory remarks by **Richard Sosis, Esq.**, Chair of the New Rochelle Board of Appeals on Zoning. Held on September 17, 2013 at Monroe College, 145 Huguenot Street, New Rochelle, NY, the two credit CLE offered a lite dinner to the full house of member attendees.



Gregory T. Varian, Esq.

This informative evening CLE program was sponsored by Monroe College Criminal Justice Department and the Monroe College Culinary Institute.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CLEs

This season, the NRBA will offer the following CLE programs:

1. *Practicing in the Age of Social Media: Avoiding Legal Pitfalls When Advising Clients*, on Tuesday, October 15, 2013.
2. TBA, on Tuesday, November 19, 2013; and
3. *Ethics*-TBA, on Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

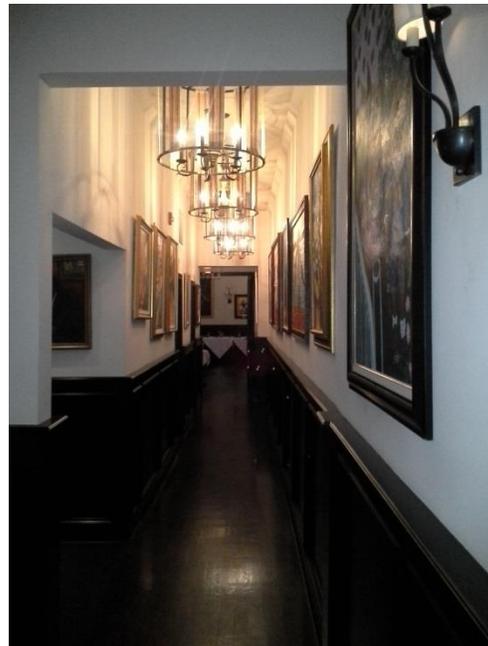
Expect to receive advance notices with particulars by e-mail of these and future CLEs.

A SPECIAL EVENT TO REMEMBER

The New Rochelle Bar Association started this fall season with its Installation Dinner Meeting with Special Guest, the Hon. Daniel D. Angiolillo, Associate Justice of the New York State Appellate Division, Second Department. This annual event was held on September 12, 2013 at the new Alvin & Friends, 14 Memorial Highway, New Rochelle, NY, where members, the judiciary and guests mingled over cocktails in the front room and bar while enjoying the ambiance of this new location



and the art work of the owner, Alvin, before moving to the back private dining room for a delicious buffet dinner and the ceremonies.



As he has graciously done in the past, Justice Angiolillo swore in the new officers: President: **Richard Sosis**, Vice-Presidents **Hon. Jeffrey L. Levin** and **Thomas Kajubi**, Secretary **Hon. Carole Pincer-Levy** and Treasurer **Frank DiMarco**. Also sworn in were newly elected Directors: **Patricia A. Bave** (2013-2016), **Hon. Barry Fertel** (2013-2016), **John Giacobbe** (2013-2014), and **Paula Johnson Kelly** (2013-2014) and continuing Directors: **Hon. Susan Kettner** (2011-2014); **Marc Rowin** (2012-2015), **Benjamin Schub** (2012-2015), **Ronald Zezima**, (2012-2015), and **Michele Tombini** (2013-2016).



Justice. Angiolillo prepares to swear in the Officers

We were honored to have present at this event the judiciary from the New Rochelle City Court, **Hon. Anthony A. Carbone**, Hon. Gail B. Rice and **Hon. Susan Kettner**,



who spoke to the gathering about the NRBA members who have volunteered their time to act as Small Claims Court Arbitrations 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. The following members generously volunteered their time during the 2012 - 2013 court season and will be receiving by mail Certificates of Appreciation from the New Rochelle City Court.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To Our NRBA Members who volunteered to act as Small Claims Arbitrators in Sept. 2012- Aug. 2013:

Arnold Baum, Esq.
 Clif Bennette, Esq.
 Carol Carozza, Esq.
 Frank Cattarrasa, Esq.
 Richard Clifford, Esq.
 Matthew J. Costa, Esq.
 Gary M. Cuba, Esq.
 Max DiFabio, Esq.
 Frank P. DiMarco, Esq.
 Frank T. D'Onofrio, Esq.
 Jerold W. Dorfman, Esq.
 Thomas F. Fanelli, Jr., Esq.
 Marilyn "Mike" Faust, Esq.
 Alexander M. Fear, Esq.
 Stevon L. Forrester, Esq.
 Brian Hoch, Esq.
 Yariv Katz, Esq.
 Paula Johnson Kelly, Esq.
 Jonathan S. Klein, Esq.
 David Lacher, Esq.
 Barbara Lerman, Esq.
 Cynthia W. Lobo, Esq.
 Edward D. Loughman, III, Esq.
 Anthony Mattesi, Esq.
 Charles McGoey, Esq.
 Eileen M. O'Rourke, Esq.
 Jeffrey Peske, Esq.
 Andrew M. Spatz, Esq.
 Angela M. Stenroos, Esq.
 Gregory T. Varian, Esq.
 Denise Ward, Esq.
 Eileen West, Esq.

There are never enough volunteers. So, please consider adding your name to this list for 2013-2014. The New Rochelle Small Claims Court meets on certain Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m.



President Richard Sosis after being sworn in by Justice Angiolillo



Hon. Tim Itoni, Director Marc Rowin and Gregory Varian



Hon. Anthony Carbone, Hon. Jeffrey Levin, Director Matthew Costa and Vice-President Thomas Kajubi

This warm and delightful event was hosted by our friends at KEPLER TITLE AGENCY.

SAVE THESE DATES

(1)
 NEW ROCHELLE BAR ASSOCIATION
 HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 5, 2013

AT

THE TOP OF THE ROC

AVALON II

NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK

(2)

NEW ROCHELLE BAR ASSOCIATION
 SURROGATE'S DINNER

WITH

HON. ANTHONY A. SCARPINO, JR.

JANUARY 16, 2014

AT

ALVIN'S & FRIENDS

14 MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

NEW ROCHELLE, NY

(3)

NEW ROCHELLE BAR ASSOCIATION
 COURT OF APPEALS DINNER

APRIL 10, 2014

AT

THE TOP OF THE ROC

NEW ROCHELLE, NY

**NEW ROCHELLE BAR ASSOCIATION
ANNOUNCES EXPANDED “LAWYER IN
THE CLASSROOM” INITIATIVE**

By Ronald Zezima, Esq.

During the 2012-2013 academic year, many of our members volunteered to participate in our “Lawyer in the Classroom” program, a joint initiative of the Bar Association and the New Rochelle Board of Education to introduce students to elementary concepts of law. Utilizing a syllabus promulgated by the American Bar Association, students in the fifth through ninth grades throughout the school system met with lawyers and judges and were introduced to topics as varied as Constitutional Law, the Bill of Rights, trial procedure, voting rights and Small Claims Court. After the classroom sessions were completed, the New Rochelle City Court hosted groups of students from many of the schools, and they were able to not only observe court proceedings, but to interact with court personnel, including court officers, defense attorneys, prosecutors and judges. Many of these students had never met a lawyer, and if they had, it was in a negative context. The classroom and courtroom sessions gave the students an opportunity to interact with legal professionals on a positive level.

The program was an overwhelming success. The students were engaged, enthusiastic and eager to learn. This “enrichment program”, as it is termed by school officials, provided students with a unique opportunity to learn about the legal system and to interact with judges and lawyers, and our volunteers gained not only personal satisfaction but also pro bono credit for their efforts. From the Board of Education perspective, it provided a unique learning program at no cost to the school system.

Dr. Jeffrey Korostoff, the Deputy Superintendent of New Rochelle schools, has invited us back into the schools again this year. On September 24th, Judge Susan Kettner and Board of Directors member Ronald Zezima met with principals and teachers from across the City to discuss the future direction

of the program. The program for the 2013-2014 year will be a uniform curriculum designed specifically for the fifth grade, utilizing a real case study with the objective of teaching students the art of persuasive written and oral argument. While the timetable will vary slightly from school to school, our preliminary expectation is that the sessions will take place once or twice a week, in the afternoon, beginning in late October and running through early December. A second session will probably be scheduled in May.

We hope that all of our members who volunteered last year will join us again, and we encourage ALL of our members to participate. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to your community in a very positive and meaningful way. The time commitment is approximately two hours a week, and, as the Master Card commercial says, the experience is “priceless”. If you have a child in the public school system, we can even assign you to your child’s school.

To volunteer, please contact Board member Ron Zezima at rvzesq@aol.com. Once the scheduling details of the program are finalized, you will be contacted with further details.

Getting Published

We welcome your submissions! All submissions should be sent to Paula Johnson Kelly, Editor, at PJKelly_esq@hotmail.com. Please mark the subject as NRBA news. Photographs and articles, up to 500 words, 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.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING IN THE MID-TERM ELECTION YEAR

On Tuesday, November 5, 2013, we will again be given an opportunity and the responsibility to vote for our local candidates to fill the positions from County Executive, District Attorney, County Clerk, County Board of Legislators, numerous State Supreme Court Justices, a Surrogate Court Judge, and Westchester County Family Court Judge.

Since this is a mid-presidential term election, history shows and the polls predict that the voter turn-out will not be as large as during a presidential year. Clearly, given the important positions at stake, and the affect the local replacements may directly have on our rights and taxes, getting out the vote this November is just as, if not more, important as during a presidential election year. REMEMBER: Casting your vote is one important way to have a Voice in our country's future.

Also, some of our own New Rochelle residents who are NRBA members are up for election this year. What follows is a list of our members, without reference to their political connection, whose names will appear on the ballots next month.

Our Mayor, **Hon. Noam Bramson**, is running for County Executive.

Hon. Tim Idoni is up for re-election as County Clerk.

Jim Maisano is running for County Board of Legislators, District 11.

Hon. Daniel D. Angiolillo, is running for re-election to Supreme Court Justice.

Hon. John P. Colangelo is running for Supreme Court Justice.

Hon. Janet Malone is running for Supreme Court Justice.

Hon. Kathie E. Davidson is running for re-election to Family Court Judge.

NOTE: The NRBA does not endorse or oppose the election of any candidate.

THE POLLS ARE OPEN ON NOVEMBER 5, 2013 FROM 5:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Happy Birthday to our Treasurer, **Frank DiMarco**, who celebrates his birthday on October 7th.

Congratulations to **Greg Varian** on the marriage of his daughter Lauren to Thad Swant over the Labor Day weekend in Butte, Montana.

CONDOLENCES:

Our deepest condolences to **Michele Tombini** and family on the passing of her mother, Isabella J. Mastandrea, on August 1, 2013 at age 88.

Our sincere condolences to **Carmelina and Frank DiMarco** and family for the loss of Carmelina's mother, Mariangela Ventura, 89, who passed away on July 8, 2013.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Joseph Broking, Esq.
New Rochelle, NY

John G. Haughey
Chase Bank, New Rochelle, NY

Amy Ramnanan Roberts
HSBC Bank USA, Bronx, NY

Hon. Peter Rosato
Yonkers, NY

Scott Stone, Esq.
New Rochelle, NY

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.