

# Miranda Installed as President at New York State Bar Association Summer Meeting in Cooperstown

By Scott M. Karson

The annual summer meeting of the New York State Bar Association was held from June 18 – June 20, 2015 at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown, New York.

The main event, the meeting of the Association's policy-making body, the House of Delegates, featured the formal installation of David P. Miranda of Albany as the Association's 118<sup>th</sup> President. Former New York State Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye administered the oath of office to President Miranda.

The meeting also marked the debut of NYSBA President Elect Claire P. Gutekunst as Chair of the House.

The meeting featured memorials to two giants of New York's legal community who passed away in recent months. First, former NYSBA President Maxwell Pfeifer delivered a memorial to the late Robert P. Patterson, who served on the federal bench in the Southern District of New York and as President of the Association. Second, former NYSBA President Stephen P. Younger delivered a memorial to the late Richard J. Bartlett, who served as the State's first Chief Administrative Judge, Dean of

Albany Law School and President of the New York Bar Foundation.

The prestigious Root-Stimson Award, which is named after distinguished lawyers Elihu Root and Henry Stimson, and is given annually by the Association to recognize exemplary community service that is unrelated to the practice of law, was awarded to Jeffrey A. Moerdler in recognition of his long-time service as a volunteer emergency medical technician.

The Association's Committee on Women in the Law has identified 10 women attorney "trailblazers" in New York State. They are: Kate Stoneman, the first woman admitted to practice law in the state (in 1885); Mary M. Lilly, the first woman attorney elected to the State Legislature (in 1918); Jane Matilda Bolin, the first black woman judge in the United States (appointed by New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia to the Domestic Relations Court in 1918); Florence Perlow Shientag, the first woman federal prosecutor in New York (in 1843); Charlotte Smallwood-Cook, the first woman District Attorney in New York (elected as District Attorney of Wyoming



Scott Karson

County in 1949); Shirley Adelson Siegel, appointed Chief of the New York State Attorney General's Civil Rights Bureau in 1959 and, in 1979, as New York State Solicitor General; Constance Baker Motley, who, in 1966, became the first black woman appointed to serve on the federal bench; Maryann Saccomando Freedman, the first woman President of the New York State Bar Association (1987-88); Geraldine Anne Ferraro, United States Congresswoman and first woman nominated by a major political party to run for the office of Vice President of the United States (in 1984); and Judith S. Kaye, the first woman appointed to serve on the New York Court of Appeals (1983) and as the State's Chief Judge (1993). Three of these distinguished trailblazers, Shirley Adelson Siegel, Maryann Saccomando Freedman and Judith S. Kaye, are still living, and two of them, Ms. Siegel and Judge Kaye, were present at the House meeting and were recognized by the Association.

Interim reports by the Special Committee on Re-Entry, the Commercial and Federal Litigation

Section on Social Media, the Committee on Women in the Law on the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act and the Chief Judge's Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline were presented to the House for informational purposes only.

The meeting ended on a somber note, with a moment of silence for the nine victims of the Charleston, South Carolina church murders.

The next meeting of the House will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2015, at the State Bar Center in Albany, New York.

*Note: Scott M. Karson is the Vice President of the NYSBA for the Tenth Judicial District and serves on the NYSBA Executive Committee and in the NYSBA House of Delegates. He is also Chair of the NYSBA Audit Committee and former Chair of the NYSBA Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction. He is a former President of the SCBA, a member of the ABA House of Delegates, a member of the ABA Judicial Division Council of Appellate Lawyers and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Nassau-Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc. He is a partner at Lamb & Barnosky, LLP in Melville.*