

Share Your Knowledge, Encourage Participation, Get Involved

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Martha Krisel



Congratulations to Lauren Schnitzer, the first NCBA member to step up to the challenge that I offered in my January President's Letter, which is to serve as a mentor to a third year law student or to a recent graduate. Lauren is a 2007 graduate of St. John's Law School; I was introduced to Lauren in 2005 by Judge Goodstein while she was a law student and we have been collaborating ever since. Lauren is an associate at Lamb & Barnosky, where she works in its Education, Labor, Municipal and Litigation Departments.

NCBA members interested in participating in this flexible arrangement that allows our members to design their own program to offer advice, mock interviewing, resume review and moral support should call Demi Tsiopelas at the NCBA. Once I have an idea of the number of members interested, I will follow up with the area law schools to offer this initiative as a resource to their students and graduates.

Speaking of Judge Goodstein, he designed a series of lunch meetings at our first 2016 meeting of the Steven J. Eisman New Lawyer/Judiciary Relations Task Force. The first lunch will be held on Wednesday, February 17th at the Nassau County Bar Association. Lunch will begin at 12:45; please call Donna Gerdik if you plan to attend.

We continue our hard work on the repairs to the infrastructure of our beautiful Domus. As with any construction project, there are twists and turns and unanticipated expenses. The age of the structure as well as earlier renovations impact the progress and we are balancing the costs, the scheduling and the weather on a daily basis. Continued gratitude is extended to Vice President Steve Leventhal and NCBA Board Member Kevin McDonough on their particular attentiveness, and of course to Hector Herrera. You can watch the progress of the renovations on our website.

Past President Steve Eisman was passionate about Domus and we have established the Steven J. Eisman Memorial Building Fund, to which family, friends, colleagues and NCBA members can contribute. The funds raised are exclusively for the present and future renovations to Domus. Please make checks payable to the Nassau Bar

Foundation.

When I began my service as Village Attorney for the Incorporated Village of Rockville Centre in 1996, Mayor Eugene Murray was at the helm. In my 35 years of practice, I consider him to be my most influential mentor. The two most important lessons that I learned from Mayor Murray are that family comes first, and that coalition building is crucial. My daughter Brittany was six months old when I signed on as Village Attorney and my son Jeremy and daughter Nina were five and eight. To Mayor Murray, that 11:00 a.m. school play was more important than any Village meeting and he would generally join me when I ran over to the nursery or elementary school to see one of my kids recite his or her lines. In Mayor Murray's view, the multitude of Village evening meetings more than made up for any time out of the Village Hall during the day.

When I told Mayor Murray that the NCBA had a Municipal Law Committee, he encouraged me to actively participate. He understood the value of establishing relationships with sister villages and towns to create trust that would be essential when unity mattered. I re-established relationships with municipal attorneys whom I had taught years earlier at Hofstra Law School (now-Assemblyman Tom McKeivitt, who had represented the Town of Hempstead; now-Freeport Village Attorney Howard Colton; now-City of Long Beach Judge Corey Klein, who served as Corporation Counsel in Long Beach) and met experienced municipal attorneys who I still count as friends, including Mike McKenna (Valley Stream) and John Ryan (Floral Park). When issues of concern to local governments arose, we knew each other well, which allowed us to work effectively together.

I encourage all members to identify the com-

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mittee that matters professionally and personally to you. Don't be shy about participating and be sure to take your turn authoring an article for the Nassau Lawyer and presenting at one of our wonderful CLE programs. The NCBA needs each and every one of you to continue our progress as a unique and vital bar association.

As always, I am available to discuss any issues of concern to our members. Please email me at mkrisel@optonline.net or leave a message for me with Patti Anderson at (516)747-4070.



Lauren Schnitzer



Nassau Lawyer

The Official Publication
of the Nassau County Bar Association
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Published by Long Island Business News
(631) 737-1700; Fax: (631) 737-1890

Publisher Scott Schoner
Graphic Artist Ryan O'Shea

Nassau Lawyer (USPS No. 007-505) is published monthly, except combined issue of July and August, by Long Island Commercial Review, 2150 Smithtown Ave., Suite 7, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-7348, under the auspices of the Nassau County Bar Association. Periodicals postage paid at Mineola, NY 11501 and at additional entries. Contents copyright ©2015. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Nassau County Bar Association, 15th and West Streets, Mineola, NY 11501.