

CAPE MAY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021



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PO Box 425
Cape May Court House, NJ, 08210
609-463-0313

cmcba.ed@gmail.com

Motion to Leave? Granted.

Who's ready to leave the past year in the rearview mirror? While vaccinations give hope that we are going to turn the corner of this pandemic in 2021, we at the Cape May County Bar Association will forever be grateful for the support of our members during the challenges of 2020. Despite the limitations on gathering for dinner events, we accomplished a lot of virtual successes. We had our first zoom event where we heard from the President of the New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program, William Kane, who gave a presentation on the free help offered to attorneys, judges, and law students suffering from mental health and substance abuse issues. We then brought together four diverse attorneys from across the State to share their stories and raise funds for a newly created Diversity Scholarship. In doing so we raised over \$2,000 that will go to help diverse law students fulfill their dreams of becoming lawyers. We also offered our first virtual CLE with the help of Amal Bass, Director of Policy and Advocacy for the Women Law Project, who spoke about gender equality issues from 1920 to present. And our Bar continues to move forward, recently installing our new Board and President Michelle Altenpohl!

The past year has been unexpected to say the least. But for all the unexpected negatives, we were able to create some unexpected positives. For that, I would like to thank you all, and hope to see you, in person, some day soon in 2021.

- Brett Yore, Past-President & Editor.

CAPE MAY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

It's that time again! Your opportunity to connect and reconnect with your colleagues! Membership comes with benefits such as CLE events, volunteer opportunities, up-to-date local practice information, and even a free lawyer referral (we had over 1200 referrals in 2020!). Join us and other active members of the Cape May County legal community. Payment may be made online through our website, or by mail.



Noteworthy News & Events!

THE STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

Last September, the Atlantic County and Cape May County Bar Associations came together virtually to celebrate the State of the Judiciary. Despite the format change, the event ran smoothly and our membership was introduced to the incoming law clerks, who no doubt will have one of the most difficult years juggling the digital landscape, legal issues, and the shifting changes brought on by the pandemic. The leaders in our Judiciary have learned to adapt to those changes and put on a memorable and rewarding event despite the difficulties, and as much as we wish it were in person, this event managed to capture what makes our small legal community special.

PROFESSIONALISM IN THE VIRTUAL ERA

In conjunction with the Judiciary, both vicinage bar associations were able to conduct a professionalism day seminar in November titled “Civility and Professionalism in Remote Court Proceedings”. The panel included the professionalism award winners for Atlantic County and Cape May County, Melissa Rosenblum and Carol Goloff, respectively, Atlantic County Bar President Dan Tracy, civil practitioner Michael Pender, Presiding Criminal Judge Bernard DeLury, Judge Susan Maven, and a welcome by CMCBA President Brett Yore. The participants shared their experiences with navigating the new waters of practicing law in a remote setting, and the inherent problems faced by the court and the lawyers appearing before them. Aside from the helpful tips and useful anecdotes, the numerous attendees received two free ethics credits.

SURROGATE SEEKS GUARDIANS

During the course of the year the Surrogate Court appoints attorneys as either Temporary Guardians or Attorneys for alleged incapacitated persons in guardianship matters. These appointments are made on a rotating basis from a list compiled by the Surrogate's office. Surrogate Dean Marcolongo informs us that the assignment list for 2021 is in the process of being updated. If interested, please contact Surrogate Marcolongo directly in writing at either 4 Moore Road, DN-207, Cape May Court House, NJ, 08210-1654, or via email at dean.marcolongo@co.cape-may.nj.us.

SUPREME COURT AMENDS CLE REQUIREMENTS

The New Jersey Supreme Court has amended the mandatory continuing legal education requirements to include credits on diversity, inclusion, and the elimination of bias. The NJSBA and many County Bar Associations, including the CMCBA, supported the effort to mandate these CLE's. Specifically, NJ attorneys must now obtain five credit hours in professionalism and ethics for every two year reporting period, and at least two credit hours of those five must be in qualifying coursework related to diversity, inclusion, and the elimination of bias. The change is effective January 1, 2021.

NOVEMBER INSTALLATION!



The Cape May County Bar Association came together in November to swear in our trustees and our new President Michelle Altenpohl!



CMCBA President Michelle Altenpohl

The event was not just our installation, but also an awards ceremony recognizing the Young Lawyer of the Year, Ed Simonson, and our Professionalism Award winner, Carol Goloff, J.M.C. We also recognized local attorney Frank Corrado, who had the unbelievably remarkable accomplishment of being named the Attorney of the Year by the New Jersey Law Journal!

We have a lot more to say about the event (and a lot more photos!) that we'll share in the Spring newsletter!



CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE: DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND ALLYSHIP.

Over the summer, the Cape May County Bar Association held a virtual event for diverse speakers to share their experiences while raising funds for the creation of a Diversity Scholarship to help diverse NJ law students continue their legal education. The event titled, “Continuing the Dialogue: Diversity, Inclusion, and Allyship in the Legal Community” featured speakers from all over the State, including the Past



Lloyd Freeman

President of the Garden State Bar Association, the Past Chair of the NJ State Bar Association’s LGBT Rights section, the Vice-President for the Southern Region of the Hispanic Bar Association, and the President of the NJ Muslim Lawyers Association. Each speaker drew from their own lives while answering questions concerning the topics.

“Allyship is a lifelong process of relationship building” said Lloyd Freeman, Past President of the Garden State Bar Association. “Building trust, being consistent, and making sure you are a champion of those causes, or fighting against those issues or those stigmas or those problems these marginalized groups or individuals are facing.” It was in Freeman’s own law firm that he found allies to help him rise within it. “Unfortunately, we are in a profession, certainly, where there are not going to be a ton of decision makers who are going to look like me in that room,” said Freeman, “and it took individuals recognizing that there was a problem. It took individuals saying that theres something wrong, lets denounce what has been done to individuals here, and then lets come up with a solution.” Freeman urged our members to recognize the problems in society, denounce them, and commit to a solution with action.

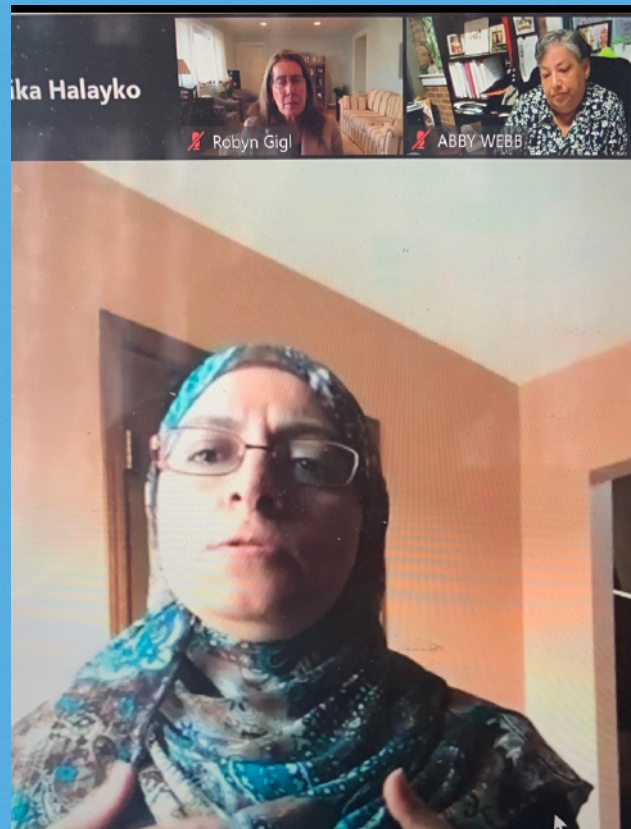
“The conversation about diversity has always been relevant and always been important” said Albertina Webb, the Vice-President for the Southern Region of the

Hispanic Bar Association. “I can only tell it to you from where I am, and I tell people as I meet them, you have a Puerto Rican woman from Brooklyn and I find that I have to kick the door a little harder than everybody else. I’m not just knocking on the door.” Webb would further discuss her work in the hispanic Bar association and how they continue to be active up and down the state.

Dalya Youssef, President of the NJ Muslim Lawyers Association, shared her difficulty with being a muslim while beginning her legal career. “You can clearly see that I’m wearing the hijab” said Youssef, “and unfortunately, I graduated in 2001, so I was interviewing right after 9/11 and that had a big impact on me going into law firms.” The hijab is a head covering worn by some Muslim women. “I have to say 99 percent of the law firms that interviewed me brought up my religion in the interview process. There was constant questions about my religion and whether or not it would interfere with my ability to be a lawyer. I was stunned. I graduated top of my class, I did all these different things during law school, I was completely prepared to talk about that. To talk about my experiences in law school, to talk about my clerkship, I was not ready to talk about my religion.” Youssef never had any call backs, and it forced her to take a different legal route.



Albertina Webb



Dalya Youssef

“It’s only by sharing our lived experiences that we get a better understanding of what someone else has been through and what their life is like,” said Robyn Gigl, Past Chair of the NJ State Bar Association’s LGBT Rights section. Gigl shared how allies within the legal community made her feel accepted. “Right after I had transitioned, I was in front of a judge in a conference in a case, and one of the parties, one of the attorneys, kept referring to me with my old pronouns. And I just bit my tongue. I didn’t say anything. And at some point - after like the third ‘he’ that came out of this attorney’s mouth - the judge turned to him and said, ‘you do mean she, don’t you?’” The attorney said, “yes of course” and Gigl recalls, “that was something the judge didn’t necessarily have to do, but he did and it showed that he understood, supported me, and no matter what he felt on a personal level, it just really meant a lot to me. So those little individual signs of support can mean a lot to people.”

The event not only served as a way to continue to discuss the societal issues happening around the country, but it also raised funds for a diversity scholarship that will help diverse NJ law students achieve their dreams and become attorneys. Generous donations were made from across the State, including the New Jersey State Bar

President, Kim Yonta, and the Hispanic Bar Association. In addition to numerous other individual contributors, the event raised over \$2,000. Our Bar hopes to have another similar event sometime in 2021 and continue the dialogue regarding diversity, inclusion, and allyship in the legal community.



Robyn Gigl

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - TEDDY STRICKLAND

Our Bar is full of interesting and talented individuals in and out of the court. To highlight some of our members, not just for their legal successes, but for their personal accomplishments and interests as well, we'd like to point the spotlight on Teddy Strickland. Be sure to strike up a conversation with him sometime. Together, we can make this small bar feel smaller!

I am a life-long South Jersey resident. I graduated from Lower Cape May Regional High School, Stockton University and then the Rutgers School of Law. My first legal work came through two years of internships with the Cape May County Public Defender's Office, where I worked with some phenomenal attorneys, investigators and staff. It was there I got my first experience appearing in Court. I continued my legal career working under Don Targan and Mike Pender, who I later had the honor of working with as partners.

During High School I played Ice Hockey and Football. During my undergraduate and graduate studies, I played Ice Hockey, and also attended audio engineering classes in New York City. I am a fan of all Philadelphia sports teams,

but particularly the Philadelphia Flyers. I have coached the Lower Cape May Regional Varsity Ice Hockey team for seven seasons.

My favorite hockey player is my seven-year-old son. My favorite horseback rider is my nine-year-old daughter. My wife stays busy keeping us all together and teaching first grade. We live together in Cape May Court House.

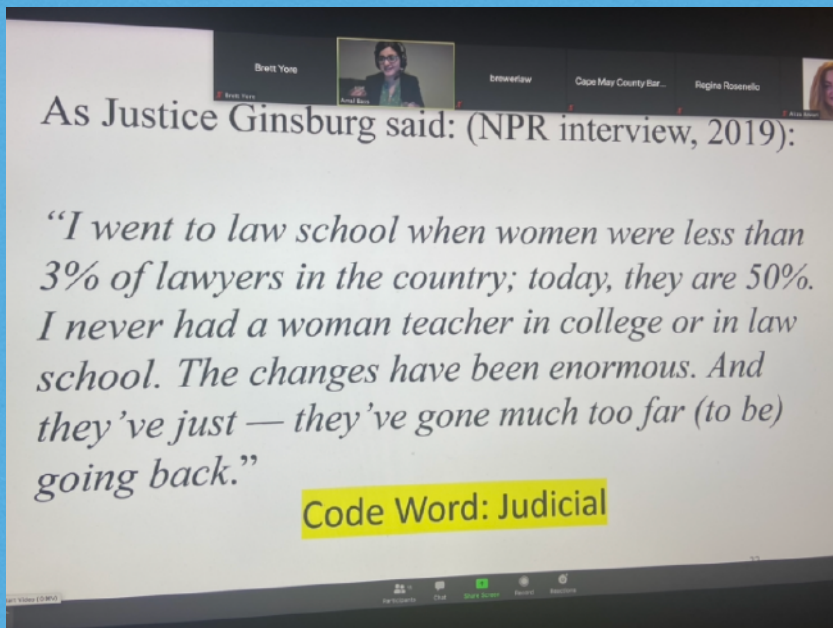
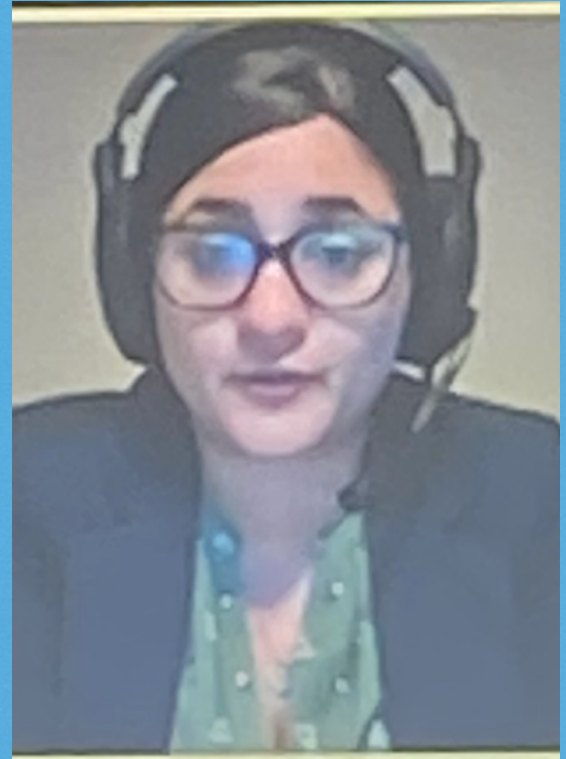
My current hobbies include spending time with my family, exercising, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and music. I have been training BJJ for about 12 years. I obtained my brown belt about 18 months ago.

Currently, Mike Pender and I have offices in Cape May and Atlantic City. We are civil litigators, with a focus on personal injury law and workers' compensation.



THE FIGHT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

The Cape May County Bar Association offered a virtual CLE for the first time ever! Amal Bass, the Director of Public Policy and Advocacy of the Women's Law Project, gave a presentation to our membership entitled, "The Fight for Gender Equality: From 1920 to Present." The 1-credit CLE focused on current issues in women's rights and gender equality using a historical framework. The topics included proposed federal Equal Rights Amendment, State Constitutional protections, and what the future may hold in the area of law. Bass works for the Women's Law Project, which is a public interest legal organization that seeks to



advance the rights of women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people, and she has been published in Legal Intelligencer, Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Harvard Journal of Law and Gender.

We hope to offer more online CLE's in 2021!

Nehmad Davis & Goldstein



NDG

We are pleased to announce that the Hon. Mark Sandson, J.S.C., (Ret.) has joined our firm “of counsel” and Christopher D’Esposito has joined our firm as an associate.

Our team of attorneys will deliver the same legal services to you with professionalism, competence and efficiency, just as we have since 1974.

Nehmad Davis & Goldstein, PC Counselors at Law

Atlantic County Office
4030 Ocean Heights Avenue
Egg Harbor Township, NJ, 08234

Cape May County Office
2028 Dune Drive, Suite 1
Avalon, NJ 08202

t 609.927.1177 f 609.926.9721
www.ndglegal.com



Pender & Strickland Welcomes New Associate Brittany M. Chan

We are proud to Announce our Associate, Brittany Chan, and congratulate her on passing the New Jersey Bar Exam. Brittany is a graduate of Rutgers Law School, Class of 2020. She has worked with the office for the past 2 years while in school, participating in trials, depositions and all aspects of litigation.

Claim to fame: She performed with the band U2 on the top of Rockefeller Center as a member of the Rutgers Drumline for the inaugural Jimmy Fallon Tonight show! She also played at the Super Bowl at Giants/Met Life stadium with the Rutgers University Marching Band.



For more information about **Brittany M. Chan**, please visit our website at:

www.penderstrickland.com

ATLANTIC CITY OFFICE

1601 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 700
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

(P) 609.710.1601

(F) 609.300.2497

CAPE MAY OFFICE

510 Bank Street, Suite 140
Cape May, NJ 08204

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SUBMISSIONS/IDEAS

Do you have an article you'd like to share with our membership? Or an idea that you think would work for the newsletter? Why not share it? Don't hesitate to reach out to our Editor, Brett Yore, via email at BrettYore@yahoo.com, and we may run it in a future newsletter. We'd like this newsletter to be a platform for our membership to generate discussion, opinions, and maybe some entertainment, so don't be afraid to share something!

MOCK TRIAL 2020-2021

Congratulations to Lower Cape May Regional High School on winning the Mock Trial Competition in Cape May County! LCMR also won the South Jersey Regional and will advance to the State Semi-Finals!

Thank you to our County Coordinators, Ed Simonson and Steve Morris! Without their dedicated hard work and time spent organizing the State's first virtual mock trial competition, these students would never have had the opportunity to participate.

And thank you also to the many volunteer mock court judges who took the time out of their busy schedules to give these students an unforgettable experience:

Michael J. Donohue, Esq
Prosecutor Jeffrey Sutherland
Judge Dorothy Garrabrant
Surrogate Dean Marcolongo
First Assistant Michelle DeWeese
Judge Louis Belasco
Judge James Birchmeier
Daniel Kurkowski, Esquire
Judge Carol Goloff
Michael Pender, Esquire
Judge Thomas Keywood
John Amenhauser, Esquire
Erika Lezama, Esquire
Magdelenda Fisher, Esquire
Michale J. Lario, Esquire
Jennifer Torisello Cassett, Esquire
Erika Appenzeller, Esquire
Rachel Goloff, Esquire
Justin Turner, Esquire
Adam Barker, Esquire
Emily Buonadonna, Esquire
Caitlyn Wallace, Esquire
Ellen Byrne, Esquire

ADVERTISEMENTS?

Have something to share with our membership of nearly 150 attorneys? Business advertisement? Job posting? Want to introduce a new associate to our membership? Get your message out there! Don't hesitate to reach out to our Executive Director, Pam Kaithern, via email at cmcba.ed@gmail.com, for more information about how to be included in our next newsletter.



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT OF THE
CAPE MAY COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION.