



Adirondack Women's Bar Association



Spring 2024 | AWBA, A Recognized Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Katrin E. Falco

What a monumental Spring we have had so far. A couple of last blasts of snow, an earthquake and, of course, the Solar Eclipse which brought our schools and roads to a halt! Here at the AWBA, we have also had a history-making start to Spring with the Inaugural Women in the Law Program on March 20, 2024. Mentorship is critical to the advancement of women in the legal profession. I was thrilled and impressed with the level of interest and inquisitiveness displayed by the students. I stood in admiration of the professional, dynamic and powerful panelists. We look forward hosting next year's program.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETNG

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held on **April 25, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** and will be immediately followed by our Spring Mixer located at **Common Roots Brewing Co.**, in Glens Falls, New York.

Check out our Event Flyer for details and links to RSVP.

WOMEN IN THE LAW

“We always want to bring along and mentor other women to be invested and be part of this”

Hon. Dianne N. Freestone, JSC

According to the American Bar Association, notwithstanding that more than half of students in law school are women, the number of women in senior leadership roles at US Law Firms remain less than half. Source: ABA Profile of the Legal Profession 2020.

The AWBA is committed to closing the gender gap! On March 20, 2024, the AWBA hosted its Inaugural Women in Law Program - a mentorship program that brings high school students and legal professionals together to inspire young women to enter the legal profession. The Program was held at the Saratoga County Municipal Complex on March 20, 2024. Approximately 80 students from 13 different schools came to hear from our esteemed panel of Justices, Court Officers, Stenographers, Chief Clerks, Law Clerks, and Attorneys and learn about all of the different opportunities that await them in the field of law.



Thank you: Hon. Dianne N. Freestone, Hon. Amy J. Knussman, Hon. Ricja Rice, Lisa Hastings (Chief Clerk Surrogate’s Court), Jennifer Jeram (Principal Law Clerk), Kimberly Craig, (Law Clerk), Lt. Tracey Costello (Court Officer), Theresa Ardia (Senior Court Reporter), Susan Gavin-Lant (Commissioner of Jurors), Patricia L.R. Rodriguez, Esq., Elena Jaffe Tastensen, Esq., Joanne M. Mann (Deputy District Executive, 4th Jud. Dist.) and Sandra Foster (Village Pizzeria).

Women's Suffrage Historical Walk

A very special thank you to Saratoga County Historian, Lauren Roberts. She volunteered her time to give us a walking tour of the Suffragist Markers that were erected in Saratoga Springs, New York. They were unveiled in 2022 and commemorate the role women in Saratoga Springs had in achieving the right to vote for women. We learned about the contributions of Kathryn Starbuck (Albany Law School Graduate, 1914) and Matilda Joslyn Gage to the Suffrage Movement.

Immediately following the Historical Tour, we converged at Harvey's in Saratoga Springs to gather and celebrate Women's History Month and enjoy the comradery and merriment with members of the Saratoga County Bar Association.



Member Spotlight – Jessica Vinson, Esq.

Congratulations to AWBA Member, Jessica Vinson and the Tri-County Literacy Center on the success of the Scrabble Team Challenge. Jessica Vinson is an active member of the AWBA and also serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Tri-County Literacy Center. The Scrabble Event was hosted to support the services of the Tri-County Literacy Center. The mission of the Center is to foster literacy skills throughout the community by providing adults in Warren, Washington and Saratoga counties with the necessary resources and skills to advance the achievement of literacy goals and to provide opportunities for independence and economic mobility. To learn about the many ways you can contribute to the Tri-County Literacy Center's mission, contact: trilitcenter@gmail.com



2024 CONVENTION

Convention is quickly approaching! The Annual Convention attracts over 200 legal professionals from its highly diverse, state-wide membership.

This year, the Annual WBASNY Convention is being held at the Gideon Putnam, in Saratoga Springs, New York. Meet legal professionals from across the state, attend CLE's, enjoy excursions and peruse the exhibitor tables all in your own backyard!

For more information: [Convention 2024 \(wbasny.org\)](http://Convention2024.wbasny.org)

May 30 – June 2

 THE GIDEON PUTNAM

SAVE THE DATE

Why:
Mental Health Awareness Hike

When:
May 16, 2024

Where:
Saratoga County

