

**WOMEN AND & THE LAW SECTION**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 12:30pm**  
**DSBA Offices**

**Attendance:** Natalie Woloshin (Co-Chair), Kathy Miller (Co-Chair), Kathleen Murphy (Vice Chair), Kyle Evans Gay (Secretary), Shaku Bhaya, Erin Brignola, Mackenzie Wrobel, Natasha Songonuga, Lilianna Townsend, Lauren DeLuca, Jennifer Cree, Clarissa Chenoweth, Brenda Wik, Pam Meitner, Laina Herbert

**I. Approval of Minutes from May 2016 Meeting**

Kyle Gay moved to approve, and Kathleen Murphy seconded. The minutes were approved by a majority of those present.

**II. Good and Welfare**

Congratulations to Kristen Swift on her recent move to Liberty Mutual.

**III. Committee Reports**

**A. Retreat Committee**

The 2017 Retreat will be at Atlantic Sands in Rehoboth, and dinner will be at a separate location. The committee is focused on keeping the price of the dinner down to the \$80 range instead of the \$100 range. This will be the 25th year for the retreat and the 40th year for the Section, which was started by Aida Wasserstein and Mimi Boudart in 1977. The Section is planning to honor the two founders at this Retreat. Chris Demsey will help with the criteria for the awards in their honor. The committee is working on speakers, including Judges. Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey. The responses were helpful to the planning committee.

Pam Meitner noted that Equal Means Equal (a film about the ERA) was presented at Delaware Law School last night. Could there be some opportunity to work that into the Retreat schedule? It is available on iTunes. Shaku Bhaya suggested that because the film is an hour and a half, perhaps the Section will want to sponsor a viewing and a discussion where CLEs will be available.

**B. Legislative Committee**

Rebecca Byrd reported that the committee has not met in a while, but will be gearing up for the next legislative session. Late last year, the ERA came up as a potential topic for the legislative luncheon. The ERA should be a good issue to address this year. As far as timing, this is the first year of the new legislature, and the schedule won't be out until mid- to late-December. Look for future announcements regarding the date for the legislative luncheon.

Kathy Milled asked what is the status of the proposed amendment to the Delaware Constitution? Rebecca reported that something was introduced at the end of last session, but it will die at the end of the year, so it will need to be reintroduced. Likely to get the same sponsors as last time.

Kyle Gay asked whether the bill granting maternity leave to state employees would be re-introduced? Rebecca reported that the fiscal note was a challenge, and the question now is who would pay for the cost of the bill.

### **C. Programming and Wellness Committee**

Clarissa Chenoweth reported that no events are on the schedule from the committee, but a Section-wide event is scheduled for Merchant Bar on October 18th.

### **D. Awards Committee**

Loren sent an update to the committee and will send an update to the listserv.

### **E. Advocacy Committee**

Stephanie Habelow reported that the committee has substantially completed its work putting together a survey to law firms. The committee's intent is to compile information about issues facing women including advancement, leave, and compensation. A draft of the survey is ready to go to a third party to collect the survey information and compile it. We realize that Delaware law firms would not want to provide the type of information request to Delaware Lawyers. Unfortunately Delaware State cannot help, but the committee will contact University of Delaware to see if they are willing to assist with the project. The other issue is to consider is how the survey is presented to Delaware firms. The committee we will meet in the next six weeks or so, and will also provide suggestions for any programming and wellness panel presentations.

## **IV. Update on the Roxana Arsht Foundation**

Laina Herbert reported that the Wine Dinner raised \$1,421 with 38 people in attendance. Attendance was down this year, but it was due to issues that are out of the Section's control. The committee has some ground to make up between now and May 2017 when an \$8,500 award will be made. Laina is planning an October 24th call to plan this year's fundraising events. The plan is to spread out the events this year in order to get more attendance. If there is anyone who would like to assist, contact Laina. Natasha Songonuga and Kristen Swift indicated that they were interested in joining the committee.

The Fellowship will be the charity at the Retreat this year. Pam Meitner asked what the plan is to raise money at the Retreat? Laina shared that the committee will come up with baskets for a raffle similar to what has been done in the past at the Retreat. The hope is to begin the planning process early.

Kathy Miller asked whether the committee is committed to going back to Caffe Gelato for the Wine Dinner? Laina said that she talked to Ryan about doing an event during the Winter with a snow date. Kathy Miller noted that the distance to Newark can be an impediment for many

attendees, and that last year's event was very seafood-heavy. Kyle Gay suggested Domaine Hudson may be a good venue. Laina commented that it may be too expensive. Pam Meitner offered to reach out to the Eclipse Bistro owners to see if the event could be held there.

#### **V. Please Join Section LinkedIn Group**

- A. Join by sending a LinkedIn message to a member of the Executive Committee (Kathleen Miller, Natalie Woloshin, Kathleen Murphy, Kyle Gay).

#### **VI. New Business**

- A. Reminder: Welcome Back Social at Merchant Bar at 5:30pm on October 18th.
- B. Shaku Bhaya shared that on October 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a women for Bethany Hall-Long fundraiser at the Columbus Inn from 5:30-8pm. If anyone is interested in being a host for the fundraiser, let Shaku know.
- C. Judge Waserstein will retire from the bench in January.

**WOMEN AND & THE LAW SECTION**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 12:30pm**  
**DSBA Offices**

**Attendance:** Kathleen Murphy (Vice Chair), Kyle Evans Gay (Secretary), Clarissa Chenoweth, Patricia Winston, Jennifer Cree, Sarah Ennis, Kristen Swift, Laura Braunsberg, Loren Barron, Lisa Minutola, Dawn Williams

**I. Approval of Minutes from October 2016 Meeting**

A. Approval of the minutes was postponed until the December 7, 2016 meeting.

**II. Good and Welfare**

A. No good and welfare was reported.

**III. Committee Reports**

A. **Programming and Wellness Committee** – Clarissa Chenoweth reported that the committee had a call the day before this meeting. They are planning a winter event and a spring event. The winter event will likely be a panel because last year’s panel was such a success. If you have suggestions for panelists, please let the committee chairs know. The tentative topic is “how you got to where you are today” and/or “alternative paths to success.”

B. **Awards Committee** – Loren Barron reported that the committee is waiting to hear back regarding the Women’s Leadership Award and Distinguished Leadership Award, awarded at luncheon in December. There is a November 7<sup>th</sup> deadline for Delaware Commission for Women annual award. The committee will meet in a week to discuss their nomination.

**IV. Expungement Project Report (Lisa Minutola and Dawn Williams)**

Both Lisa and Dawn are attorneys with the Office of Defense Services (ODS). They represent adults and juveniles charged with crimes statewide.

All children are eligible for legal representation by ODS because they are considered indigent by their minority status. ODS represents clients from arrest to appeal, but not in collateral matters, i.e. employment or financial matters. This is a critical gap for children accused of crimes, because criminal records can detrimentally affect their chances at future success.

ODS received a United States Department of Justice Enhancing Youth Access to Justice Commission Planning Grant. The grant’s mission was to look at indigent defense services for children. The ODS drafted a strategic plan and was awarded the grant.

The program’s long-term goal is to have a comprehensive defense service from arrest through all post-adjudication procedures.

With the grant, Lisa and Dawn formed network of volunteer attorneys to assist with expungement cases. There are two types of cases: mandatory and discretionary. At local expungement clinics, volunteers can handle mandatory expungement. Discretionary expungement may require a hearing by the Court. The filing fee has been waived by the Family Court, but fingerprinting, which is a mandatory step, costs \$52.50.

So far the program has sponsored three major clinics at Troop 2 and Delaware Law School. These clinics are open to the public. Seventy-five (75) people attended or contacted the clinic organizers; sixty (60) qualified for expungement (some are adults); forty (40) expungements have been granted to date, and others are pending. The program is trying to work with the City of Wilmington to set up a clinic to reach kids in the city so they don't have to drive out of the City or take a bus.

Based on the planning grant, the program qualified for a second round of potential funding that would enable the organizers to implement strategic plan. Received an award of \$750,000 for continued in-house training and to train stakeholders and volunteers; requested 5 positions, including a coordinator to fulfill the role that Lisa and Dawn have been filled.

Goal is to do statewide clinics (Kent and Sussex) and to increase outreach to the bar and to firms. For volunteers, there is limited involvement, few hearings, and law is straightforward. Eventually, the hope is to model a statewide expungement program after the Office of the Child Advocate volunteer system. Thus far the program has been a productive exercise for the Widener students, and Lisa and Dawn are happy to come to firms to provide training. Those who want to support the program financially can donate to Delaware Center for Justice in the amount of \$52.50 to pay for the fingerprinting of one child. The fundraiser has raised over \$3K so far; half is from individuals and the rest from Delaware Community Foundation.

Future issues that may be addressed by the program are education law, housing litigation, immigration issues. If you have an interest in any of those areas, the committee is looking to expand.

Kristen Swift asked will all expungement applicants have to be finger-printed? Yes, it's in the statute and there are only three locations (Troop 2, SBI headquarters, Thurman Adams State Service Center). They are investigating finger printing in Wilmington to reach city schools. Although there is a new law that enables young people to get an expungement the same day they are in court, all those convicted of crimes before the new law was enacted have to go through this multi-step process. SBI has been very helpful, but hasn't moved to waive the cost.

**V. Please Join Section LinkedIn Group**

- A. Join by sending a LinkedIn message to a member of the Executive Committee (Kathleen Miller, Natalie Woloshin, Kathleen Murphy, Kyle Gay).

**WOMEN AND & THE LAW SECTION**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 12:30pm**  
**DSBA Offices**

**Attendance:** Kathleen Murphy (Vice Chair), Clarissa Chenoweth, Rebecca Byrd, Laura Braunsberg, Loren Barron, Pam Meitner, Betsy McGeever

**I. Approval of Minutes from October 2016 and November 2016 Meetings**

- A. The minutes from the October 2016 and November 2016 meetings were approved.

**II. Good and Welfare**

- A. No good and welfare was reported.

**III. Committee Reports**

- A. **Programming and Wellness Committee** –Clarissa Chenoweth reported that the committee was planning a career development panel for January 2017 and an April 2017 screening of the film Equal Means Equal and are hoping to get the screening approved for CLE credit.
- B. **Legislative Committee** – Rebecca Byrd reported that the committee was planning to meet soon to begin planning the spring legislative luncheon. The committee was looking at dates for the legislative luncheon and usually tried to plan it for after the retreat, tentatively looking at the last week of March or first week of April 2017 for the luncheon.
- C. **Awards Committee** – Loren Barron reported on the 2016 DSBA Awards Luncheon and noted that 3 out of the 6 honorees (Judge Jurden, Kathy Jennings, and Patricia Enerio) were women. The section received a lot of appreciation for the awards.

**IV. Please Join Section LinkedIn Group**

- A. Join by sending a LinkedIn message to a member of the Executive Committee (Kathleen Miller, Natalie Woloshin, Kathleen Murphy, Kyle Gay).

# **MINUTES WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 12:30pm**

## **DSBA Offices**

**Present:** Natalie Woloshin (Co-Chair), Kathleen Miller (Co-Chair), Kathleen Murphy (Vice Chair), Kyle Evans Gay (Secretary), Sarah Ennis, Mindy Clifton, Pam Meitner, Lauren DeLuca, Shelley Kinsella, Loren Barron, Erin Brignola, Laina Herbert, Tara Lattomus, Jessica Reno, Jennifer Cree, Brenda James-Roberts, Lauren Cirrinicione

### **I. Approval of Minutes from December 2016 Meeting**

Kathleen Murphy moved for the minutes to be approved. Kyle Gay seconded. The minutes were approved by all those present and voting.

### **II. Good and Welfare**

Congratulations to Patricia Winston at Morris James, Tammy Mercer at Young Conaway, and Pam Millard at Potter Anderson for making partner!

### **III. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Programming Committee**

The Committee is planning a potential panel on career development in January and considering a screening of Equal Means Equal for April 2017. For those interested in viewing the film in January, the Forum of Executive Women is hosting a screening at the DuPont Country Club on January 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30.

#### **B. Legislative Committee**

The annual Legislative Lunch is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> in Dover. If anyone is interested being on the committee or helping with lunch, please contact Rebecca Byrd.

#### **C. Retreat Committee**

The Retreat is scheduled for March 3-4 at Atlantic Sands. This will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Retreat and the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the Section.

Dinner will be held at Salero. We have outgrown other spaces in Rehoboth, and at Salero, the price for dinner will be lower.

The Retreat Committee wants to honor Judge Wasserstein and Mimi Boudart. Both will be attending the Retreat and the dinner. The Section would like to institute an award in their honor and make them the inaugural recipients. The awards are intended to celebrate the fact that these two women have excelled in their professional careers while creating opportunities and forums

for other women to advance and do the same. The plan is to have two awards with the same criteria, but to award one to an attorney practicing fewer than 10 years and one to an attorney practicing more than 10 years. The Committee has asked Judge Del Pesco and Judge Jurden to make some comments and Justice Holland will do the actual presentation to the honorees.

Kathy Miller made a motion to establish the Wasserstein Boudart award. The motion was seconded and approved by all those present and voting.

Brenda James-Roberts made a motion to keep the award under the Section and to submit information about awardees to Delaware legal publications. The motion was seconded and approved by all those present and voting.

After some discussion as to the age cut-off, Kyle Gay made a motion to award one recipient who has been practicing fewer than 15 years and one recipient who has been practicing more than 15 years. The motion was seconded and approved by all those present and voting.

Regarding the content of the Retreat, the panels and speakers have all been scheduled. Speakers will address a variety of topics, including human trafficking and marketing for female lawyers. There will be an outside speaker who is a former director of the Women's Bureau. She is knowledgeable about women attorneys and their pay and talking to law firms about why it's important to keep women employed and on the partner track. There are plans to show a TED talk about body language and follow it with a panel discussion. Dean Smolla is coming back to speak. Ginger Ward is working on sponsoring a lunch.

Chris Demsey suggested that the speakers' comments be summarized and submitted to the Bar Journal so they can reach a wider audience. Kathy Miller has a volunteer who will be able to help with that. In addition, the Retreat Committee is preparing a pamphlet about the history of women in the bar and the contributions of early pioneers. The pamphlet and the summary can go as a package to the Bar Journal. Loren Barron volunteered to write the article.

The Charity for the Retreat will be the Arsht Scholarship. Laina has already started collecting donations. Anyone interested in assisting with the fundraiser or donating should speak to her.

#### **D. Announcements**

Lauren Deluca reported that Bootless Stageworks on Broom Street is putting on a production called Body & Sold to benefit the Body & Sold Project, Zoe Ministries and the Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children. The production runs from January 11-14 at 7:30pm, and addresses the topic of human trafficking.

Erin Brignola reported that there is a Consumer Bankruptcy program being held at the Hotel DuPont for anyone interested.

Kyle Gay reported that registration is now open for the Women's Leadership Summit sponsored by the Junior League of Wilmington on March 11<sup>th</sup>.



**MINUTES  
WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 12:30pm**

**DSBA Offices**

**Present:** Natalie Woloshin (Co-Chair), Kathleen Miller (Co-Chair), Loren Barron, Laina Herbert, Kristen Swift (minutes), Kelly Huff, Sara Bussiere, Funke Fagbami, Jill Di Sciullo, Beth Fenton.

**I. Approval of Minutes from January 2017 Meeting**

Loren Barron moved for the minutes to be approved. Beth Fenton seconded. The minutes were approved by all those present and voting.

**II. Good and Welfare**

The floor was opened. There were no updates.

**III. 2017 Women and the Law Retreat – March 3-4 at Atlantic Sands.**

Natalie is working with Susan Simmons to finalize the retreat announcement and plans to send it out by the end of this week.

There is a change to the format: there will a breakfast on Friday & Saturday mornings, a lunch on Saturday sponsored by a financial group that will give a 15-20 Q&A style presentation 15 minutes prior to the lunch. There will be an informal networking opportunity during breakfast on Saturday.

The new Wasserstein-Boudart award will be presented. Both Judge Wasserstein and Mimi Boudart will be attending the Retreat and the dinner, and are the first recipients of the award. There will be speeches by some members of the judiciary honoring them and their many accomplishments.

The Saturday dinner is surf & turf. There are vegetarian options available.

There is an opportunity for someone to plan the “after dinner” party – Beth Fenton volunteered to work on this project.

The sponsored charity this year is the Roxanna Arsht Fellowship. Laina Herbert, Kristen Swift, Jen Smolko, Sarah Ennis and Natasha Songonuga are on the fundraising committee. Please contact them with donations or to be involved.

The committee will need volunteers at the tables during the Retreat to assist with set– Julie O’Dell and Beverly Wick may be able to help at the tables. We may need to set up a call with

Yvonne, Natalie and Kathy to try to arrange moving the tables inside the conference room and coordinate logistics so the tables are not left unmanned during the CLE program.

#### **IV. Sisters in Success – May 15**

Laina presented on this topic. SIS is a program WAL puts on at the women's prison. You can attend, similar to a conference, and answer questions. Lunch is provided and the emphasis is on helping the women feel like they are a part of the community. Sign up is in advance of the event. Closed toe shoes are required.

Natalie is on the Board along with Judge Jurden and Commissioner McDonough. The agenda is not set, but they are planning interesting interactive events for the day.

#### **V. Proposed Legislation**

Natalie recently sent out two proposed bills to the section. The floor was opened to take comments on this legislation. Natalie did get an email with concerns regarding the solar legislation. No strong positions were voiced, the section will not take an official position on either of the proposed bills.

#### **VI. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Programming and Wellness Committee – Women's Heart Health Event**

Sara announced a wine and cheese event on 3/16 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Judge Kuhn who will be co-hosting with the American Heart Associate "Go Red for Women" campaign.

Two to three doctors will present on heart health. Judge Kuhn is open to having another section join the event, and suggests the LGBTQ section, and wants the WAL section's input on this. The meeting attendees are on board with this idea. Ryan Maerz chairs this section and Jen Noel is also involved. They may be able to help with coordinating a joint event.

Kathy suggested sending out an invitation to the event to the list serve.

##### **B. Legislative Committee**

Natalie announced the Legislative Lunch will be held on 4/27/17.

##### **C. Awards Committee**

Justice Carolyn Berger has been inducted into the DE Hall of Fame of Women.

On 3/22/17 at 5:30 pm at the Christiana Hilton there were be a dinner honoring the inductees. There will be an announcement on the list serve. The section encourages members of the section to attend and support Justice Berger, and Natalie will accept the award on her behalf. Tickets are \$50.00.

The section is grateful and acknowledges the incredible job Loren and her committee did regarding Justice Berger's award nomination and receipt.

Kathleen McDonough received an award for her public service work.

Yvonne Saville was nominated for an award with the ABA by Mindy Clifton, president of the DSBA, for women's leadership.

## **VII. New Business**

Judge Fallon may be nominated to take Judge Robinson's position due to her retirement. The section has been asked whether we will take a position regarding her nomination. This may need to be run by the executive committee/DSBA and Kathy Miller will look into this further.

President Judge Jurden emailed the section to inquire whether there is a committee on women in prison, and was made aware that we do not. We should add this as an agenda item for the April meeting.

There is no March meeting, the retreat takes place of the March meeting. The next meeting is in April.

# MINUTES WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 12:30pm

## DSBA Offices

**Present:** Kyle Evans Gay (Secretary), Claudine Malone, Hayley Lenahan, Loren Barron, Cara Fay, Meghan Dougherty, Chris Demsey, Pam Meitner, Sam Lukoff, [via phone] Natalie Woloshin (Co-Chair), Kathy Miller (Co-Chair), Kathleen Murphy (Vice Chair), Sarah Fruehauf, Allison Mielke, Shauna Hagan, Chandlee Kuhn, Brenda James Roberts, Abby Layton, Gena Schoenberg, Stephanie Habelow, Lauren DeLuca, Rebecca Byrd, Mary Cully, Betsy, Marla

### I. Consideration of Support for Judicial Applications

Natalie Woloshin shared that she was approached by Judge Rocanelli and Judge Johnston, each of whom are sitting judges, and each of whom are applying to the Supreme Court. They each asked whether the Section would be willing to support their applications. Natalie explained support to mean a letter to the Judicial Nominating Committee expressing the Section's support of an application. There may be other applicants who would like our support, but we don't know who is applying unless they approach us. If other applicants would like our support, we will consider their request at a later date, even if it means reconvening via phone. By taking up these two requests we are not excluding other applicants.

Natalie suggested that the first issue to be addressed was whether the Section is willing, regardless of who the applicant is, to make an affirmative recommendation of support of applicants to the JNC for judicial vacancies.

Chandlee Kuhn commented that many years ago the Section addressed the issue of supporting women in general. She had concerns with supporting particular women. She added that both applicants are amazing, but she raised the issue of what would preclude the Section from recommending a male applicant.

Natalie shared that the only time that the Section took an affirmative position on an applicant was when President Judge Jurden was nominated to be Superior Court President Judge. The Section wrote a letter in support to the Senate.

Brenda Roberts confirmed that the letter in support of President Judge Jurden was sent to the Senate and not to the JNC.

Loren Barron added that this is the Women and the Law section, and we are here to promote women.

Chris Demsey agreed with Chandlee. Her concern was that if the Section says "no" to a particular applicant, and they are selected for the position, then what result. She said that she didn't want to cause a split in the Section itself. She added that what the JNC and the DSBA

Judicial Appointments Committee would really like to hear are personal recommendations; specific experiences are preferred over blanket statements of support.

Natalie suggested that while that may be the case, the current request was for a letter in support, so the question isn't really what the JNC is looking for. The question is whether this section is willing to take a position on an applicant who has asked for our support.

Shauna Hagan commented that there is no need to pick one candidate over the other. We can support women who ask us to do so. The clear issue is that people have asked for the support.

Rebecca Byrd added that the DSBA has the Judicial Appointments Committee, a group that makes recommendations to the JNC. The DSBA tries to speak with one voice. She is concerned that if we take a position, then we could conflict with the Bar.

Chris commented that she sits on the Judicial Appointments Committee, and she didn't think that a Section taking a position would create a problem.

Chandlee informed the Section that Judge Ryan has applied. Judge Ryan didn't know that she could ask for the Section's support. Chandlee added that she doesn't think that members of the "old school" would agree with the Section lending its support to an applicant. At least one retired justice was also surprised.

Betsy said she was on the JNC for 8 years and Section never took a position.

Sam Lukoff said that the Section could set a precedent for candidates for all judicial positions to request support. She commented that the process is different once the governor has chosen a person and they are in front of the Senate. Mary Cully agreed. Gena Schoenberg agreed and asked how much weight the letters would carry. Would they lose value based on how many are sent?

Natalie stated that there has never been a judge who went to the Senate and was voted down. The nominations are uncontroversial at that time. Arguably our letter would hold less weight at that time.

Chandlee made a motion that the Section NOT support any individual candidates before the JNC. Chris Demsey and Mary Cully seconded. The voice vote produced an uncertain result. A tally vote was conducted, proxy votes were counted, and several members abstained. 17 members voted against the motion and 10 members voted in favor of the motion. The motion failed.

Natalie stated that because the motion failed, the Section should now consider whether the support Judge Rocanelli and Judge Johnston.

Shauna made a motion to support both candidates. Loren seconded.

Chandlee questioned whether other candidates can ask for support. Natalie stated that a Section vote on these applicants did not foreclose a Section vote on other applicants down the road. The section can convene on an ad hoc basis. The Section can also vote via email.

Chris asked to add Judge Ryan to this list.

Natalie stated that there is a motion on the floor that includes Judge Rocanelli and Judge Johnston. So Judge Ryan should be a separate motion. Natalie asked Shauna to give some background on the two applicants under consideration.

Shauna stated that the two judges under consideration have been supporters of young women in the bar. Their work product is high quality. Both represent the Section well and have been involved with the Section to a great extent. Both are great ambassadors for women in the bar.

Natalie repeated the motion and asked for any further discussion on the proposition that the Section would send letters to the JNC in support of Judge Rocanelli and Judge Johnston. Hearing none, the Section voted unanimously to support the two applicants.

Natalie asked Chandlee if she would like to make a motion.

Chandlee made a motion to support Judge Ryan. Chris seconded. Chandlee shared that Judge Ryan had a Superior Court practice before her appointment. She was the lead prosecutor in several high profile cases in Sussex County, and she served as head of Georgetown office of the Delaware Department of Justice. Chandlee said we need judges with true trial court experience and Judge Ryan would be the first family law judge to rise to the Supreme Court. This would be especially important because Justice Holland is stepping down. In addition, Judge Ryan has sat by designation on the Supreme Court.

Shauna echoed Chandlee's praise of Judge Ryan.

Lauren DeLuca asked whether Judge Ryan wants our support and whether she would accept it?

Chandlee stated that Judge Ryan would accept our support. She did not have any idea of this vote.

The Section voted unanimously to support the Judge Ryan.

Kyle Evans Gay asked for volunteers to draft the letters. Loren volunteered to draft a letter in support of Judge Rocanelli, Chandlee and Chris volunteered to draft a letter in support of Judge Ryan, and Pam Meitner volunteered to draft a letter in support of Judge Johnston.

Chris added that if any Section member would like to individually support an applicant, they should send an individual letter to the JNC. The Bar's committee will also consider letters. The bar committee meets before the JNC. Yvonne Saville is the bar committee liaison to the JNC and will take the comments of the bar to the JNC.

## **II. Approval of Minutes from February 2017 Meeting**

Pam made a motion to approve the February 2017 meeting minutes. Chris seconded. The minutes were approved by a vote of those present at the meeting.

## **III. Good and Welfare**

None.

## **IV. 2017 Women and the Law Retreat Recap**

If you have any comments or constructive criticism about the 2017 Retreat, please send to Natalie, Kathy Miller, and Yvonne Saville.

## **V. Sisters in Success Scheduled for May 15, 2017**

Sisters in Success is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please send your identification information to Natalie in order to sign up. Chris added that it is great to sit with the women and that the attorneys who volunteer get a lot out of the experience. Security will be increased considering recent events, so volunteers should not worry.

## **VI. Election of Officers for the 2017-2019 Term**

If any member is interested in serving on the executive board of the Section for the 2017-2019 term, please email Co-Chairs Natalie Woloshin and Kathy Miller. They will create a slate of officers to be voted on at the May meeting.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

### **A. Awards Committee**

Loren reported that she has not heard back from Executive Committee for First State Distinguished Service Award. The next award to get out on the listserv is a request for nominees for the Women's Leadership Award. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Loren.

### **B. Legislative Committee**

The Legislative Lunch is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>. The Section will receive an invitation by the end of the week. Will be from 11:30 am-1pm, and the topic is the ERA. We will have a panel including a national expert. Legislators will get the invite as well.

## **VIII. Proposed Legislation**

If you have comments on the proposed legislation that has been circulated, please send them to Natalie or Kathy.

## **IX. Proposed Mentoring Program**

Sarah Fruehauf reported that a mentoring program is in the early stages of planning. The program will be guided by the people participating, and right now we are gathering interest from the Section. There would be a minimal time commitment, i.e. once a month commitment. This type of program could facilitate a lot of networking opportunities for those who are newer in the bar. A new idea could be to have groups of threes, with one senior, one mid-level, and one newer attorney.

Pam liked the last idea, although it can be more complicated to get three people together. Rebecca liked the idea as well because she feels like there are times when she needs a mentor and times when she could provide mentoring for someone else.

Chris said that some people may be reluctant to put their name forward for an individual program, but would be willing to come to a group setting.

Sarah said that if you are interested in helping, please contact her.

**X. Proposed Committee on Women in Prison**

Will be discussed at a future meeting.

**XI. New Business**

None

The meeting was adjourned



**MINUTES  
WOMEN AND & THE LAW SECTION**

**Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 12:30pm**

**DSBA Offices**

**Present:** Kathy Miller (Co-Chair), Kyle Evans Gay (Secretary), Kelley Huff, Kate Harmon, Lauren Cirrinicione, [via phone] Kathleen Murphy (Co-Chair), Loren Barron, Lauren DeLuca, Shaku Bhaya, Rebecca Byrd, Laura Braunsberg, Funke Fagbami, Andrea Brooks.

**I. Approval of Minutes from April 2017 Meeting**

The approval of the minutes was postponed to the next regular meeting of the Section.

**II. Consideration of Support for Proposed Legislation**

Kathy Miller opened the discussion by explaining what was intended versus what was not intended in presenting these pieces of legislation to the Section, because there have been many comments regarding the decision to do so. The way the process works is that we determine as a Section whether we would like to ask for permission to support legislation or whether we would like to ask the DSBA Executive Committee to support the legislation. If the latter, then we will have access to the DSBA's lobbyists. Considering the comments from the presentation of these two pieces of legislation, the Section may need an internal policy. At least for this iteration, the Co-Chairs wanted to present the options to the Section at large rather than making a decision on behalf of the Section.

Shaku added that she emailed Natalie Woloshin to make her and the Section aware of these two pending bills.

**A. SB5 – An Act to Amend Title 24 of the Delaware Code Codifying U.S. Supreme Court Precedent Relating to the Termination of Pregnancy**

Senate Bill 5 codifies *Roe v. Wade* in Delaware's statute. The bill is likely to pass because it does little more than codify United States Supreme Court precedent.

Laura Braunsberg, who is on the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood, added that this bill was brought to the legislature with much help from Hon. Susan Del Pesco. There is still a lot of work to be done because there is still a statute in Delaware criminalizing abortion. The only protection against enforcement is an Attorney General letter.

Kelley Huff asked whether the bill covers the criminal classification of abortion and whether Planned Parenthood supports SB5. It does not cover the criminal classification, but Planned Parenthood is in support.

Shaku asked for a motion to ask the Executive Committee for permission to express the Section's support.

Kathleen states that she wants to put the question to the whole Section to see what kind of response we get. This is a controversial topic that would benefit from background information. Laura Braunsberg offered to send information that could be forwarded to the Section. The question was asked when the legislation comes up for a vote. Shaku stated that it was released from committee today and would go on to a vote tomorrow or next week. The next Executive Committee meeting, where the Section could seek permission to support SB5, is not until May 18<sup>th</sup>. Shaku said that after the Senate, the bill would go to the House, so there would still be time for the DSBA to allow us to show our support.

### **B. SB65 – An Act to Amend Titles 24 and 29 of the Delaware Code Relating to Conversion Therapy**

Shaku shared that this legislation addresses those medical providers and counselors in Delaware who refer children to conversion therapy. Studies show negative impact and harm to children through adulthood as a result of conversion therapy. This was brought to the LGBT Section. Shaku acknowledged the controversial nature of the legislation and suggested an email to the whole Section to see if we should support the bill. There were no negative comments from the members of the LGBT Section regarding the bill. Shaku believes the LGBT Section will seek permission from the DSBA Executive Committee to write a letter supporting this legislation.

Rebecca Byrd stated that the Medical Society of Delaware supports the bill. There is significant data that this type of therapy doesn't work and it actually harmful to the children undergoing it.

Shaku added that there is a section in the code that would exempt a religious group from the law. The authority for the law is coming from the State's ability to regulate the licensing of medical professionals.

Kelley shared that seven states have already adopted similar laws, and that fifteen other states have proposed similar versions.

### **III. Vote on Slate of Officers for the 2017-2019 Term**

The following slate of officers was presented to the Section for the 2017-19 term:

Co-Chairs:	Kathleen Murphy Kyle Evans Gay
Vice Chair:	Kelley Huff
Secretary:	Kate Harmon
Treasurer:	Rebecca Byrd

The floor was opened for discussion. Kathy Miller explained that the Treasurer position is not currently in the bylaws, but we are working on amendments to the bylaws that will reflect the additional board position.

Loren Barron voiced her support for the slate except Kyle Gay as Co-Chair. Kathy Miller, Kathleen Murphy, Kelley Huff, Kate Harmon, Lauren DeLuca, and Laura Braunsberg voiced their support for the entire slate, including Kyle Gay as Co-Chair.

Kathleen Miller held a vote on the proposed slate: Kathleen Murphy, Kelley Huff, Kate Harmon, and Rebecca Byrd were elected unanimously. Kyle Gay was elected by a majority.

#### **IV. Sisters in Success Postponed**

This year's program has been postponed in order to avoid putting the extra stress on the correctional system at a time when they have been low staffed.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Awards**

Loren Barron requested nominations for the women's leadership award by today. Kathy Miller will send a reminder email.

##### **B. Retreat**

The Retreat is scheduled for March 2-3, 2018. The Committee is meeting tonight to review comments from this year's Retreat. They will also start discussing panels for next year.

##### **C. Legislative**

Rebecca Byrd shared that the Legislative Luncheon went very well, and that the group enjoyed a lively and interesting discussion on the Equal Rights Amendment.

#### **VI. Bylaws Amendments – Call for Volunteers**

Kathleen Murphy shared that the bylaws are out of date and will be updated in the near future. The goal is to have the bylaws accurately reflect the way the Section operates today. She called for volunteers to review the old bylaws and proposed new ones. Lauren Cirrinicione and Andrea Brooks volunteered. Kyle Gay will reach out to the volunteers to speak more about the bylaws.

#### **VII. Request for Preceptor from Delaware Law School**

Commissioner McDonough volunteered and Kathy Miller will provide Her Honor with information to contact Delaware Law School.

#### **VIII. Hon. Susan Del Pesco to Receive Lewis B. Flinn President's Award**

Please let Kathy Miller know if you are interested in joining a table for this event.

## **IX. New Business**

### **A. Update on applicants for Supreme Court Justice position.**

At the DSBA Executive Committee meeting after our vote, the Family Law Section brought this up. Kathy Miller shared that the Section debated whether to endorse any candidates, and that the Section had ultimately determined to do it. The Executive Committee determined that the Section does not need permission to support a candidate, but that there is an informal policy for the Sections not to support one member of the bar over the other. There was some discussion at the Executive Committee meeting of amending the bylaws to codify this informal rule.

Natalie Woloshin talked to Judge Rocanelli and Kathy Miller talked to Judge Johnston. The judges thought it was best not to write the letters. One thing that was suggested is that we ask our Section members who sit on the JNC and the Judicial Appointments Committee to represent the Section's views.

Ultimately, three names went to the governor, and Judge Johnston was one of them. If anyone would like to write an individual letter in support of Judge Johnston, send it to Danielle Gibbs at the Office of the Governor ([Danielle.gibbs@state.de.us](mailto:Danielle.gibbs@state.de.us)).

Lauren Cirrinicione added that perhaps we can have one letter that each member could sign and individually submit. It was proposed to modify the letter that was already written and to circulate it to the Section.

### **B. End of year Events**

The Section's end of year will be on Thursday, June 22nd, likely at Merchant Bar. Shaku shared that all are welcome on July 13th at 5:30pm for the LGBT Summer Reception, which is a free event.

Kathy Miller adjourned the meeting.