



# National Conference of Women's Bar Associations

PO Box 82366  
Portland, OR 97282-0366

info@ncwba.org  
www.ncwba.org

Telephone: (503) 775-4396  
Fax: (503) 775-6525

## Nomination Form for 2017 Public Service Award and Outstanding Members Program Award

The National Conference of Women's Bar Association's (NCWBA) Public Service Award and Outstanding Member Program Award recognize significant accomplishments of women's bar associations across the country. The **Public Service Award** is given to recognize a wide variety of outstanding and unique public service projects. The **Outstanding Member Program Award** is given to recognize bar associations' innovation projects, programs and service to their members. The NCWBA hopes that these Awards will inspire other women's bar associations to initiate similar programs in their own regions. For information about past recipients of both Awards, go to [www.ncwba.org](http://www.ncwba.org).

### Nominations are due Friday, January 20, 2017.

Nominations are only accepted from member organizations of NCWBA (whose dues are current or submitted with the application). Projects co-sponsored with other non-bar association organizations may be considered, although more weight is given to those carried out solely by a women's bar association.

### Instructions

Complete the nomination form and return it to the NCWBA Awards Committee at [awards@ncwba.org](mailto:awards@ncwba.org). Supplemental information about your nominee is also accepted, however, the total number of pages for the nomination (including the nomination form) should be limited to 10 pages.

### Nominee:

(boxes will expand as you type)

Name of women's bar association being nominated:	Women's Bar Association of the State of New York
Name of project, program or service being nominated:	WBASNY Voter Registration Project
Name of contact person for purposes of award notification:	Greta K. Kolcon, Esq., Vice-President
Association's address:	Post Office Box 936, New York, NY 10024-0536
Telephone number of contact person:	585-987-2812
Email of contact person:	gkolcon@wbasny.org
Number of members in the bar association:	4,400+

\*\*Please make sure to notify the NCWBA of any change in contact information after submission of nomination to ensure timely notification of the awards decision.

Indicate which Award the bar association is being nominated for:



Public Service Award

☐ Outstanding Member Program, Award

## 1. About the Bar Association being Nominated:

In the space that follows, tell us about the women's bar association being nominated for an award. Include the year the association was established, a brief sketch of its growth and development, its major contributions to the legal community or community at-large, and its current membership. The space below is designed to expand to fit the length of your narrative.

Year Established: 1980

Number of Members: 4,400+

### About the Organization:

The Women's Bar Association of the State of New York ("WBASNY") is a dynamic organization of over 4,400 female and male attorneys and judges dedicated to the advancement of women in law and society. With 19 chapters across the state, WBASNY members are experts and leaders in private practice, government, academia and the courts. WBASNY members are involved at the state level, as well as in local chapters, which are diverse in size, economic regions, and demographics. This provides WBASNY with a unique position as both a local and a unifying state-wide voice.

WBASNY advocates for state legislation that promotes equal access to justice and gender equality and with ECOSOC status at the United Nations, WBASNY advocates for women and girls around the world. We are so proud of our global relationships with organizations of female attorneys in countries like South Africa and Croatia.

WBASNY offers quality continuing legal education, networking and unparalleled mentoring opportunities. Our substantive committees enable members to work with practitioners from across the state increasing their substantive knowledge while building networks and advocating for legislation and policy changes. WBASNY partners with with the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert ("JALBCA") and promotes diversity within the profession through various programs.

As the only New York statewide bar association dedicated to promoting the advancement of women in society and in the legal profession, WBASNY is known for addressing difficult legal issues, advocating change and promoting the fair and equal administration of justice.

## 2. About the Project, Program or Service being Nominated:

In the space that follows, tell us about the project, program or service being nominated for an award. First, describe the project, program or service in one sentence (i.e., a sound bite). Then go on and describe the project, program or service in detail, giving sufficient detail so that another women's bar association wishing to do a similar project could use your description as an outline of their action plan. Include information on how and why the project, program or service was initiated, historical information for the project, program or service, give the number of women attorneys involved, the number of people impacted and overall results achieved. Copies of photographs, news clippings or other supporting documentation may be attached to the narrative. The space below is designed to expand to fit the length of your narrative.

### Description of project, program or service in one sentence:

- *Example: "The Pipeline to Leadership Project provides leadership training to women attorneys who are interested in securing positions on public boards and commissions."*

DESCRIPTION: WBASNY initiated a statewide initiative involving all 19 of its chapters focusing on a grassroots voter registration drive targeted to the community at large, resulting in new voter registrations, law related education of the public and increasing college student involvement in government.

### Details about the project, program or service:

#### DETAILS: WBASNY VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE PROJECT

The mission of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) is to promote the advancement of the status of women in society and of women in the legal profession; to promote the fair and equal administration of justice; and to act for a unified voice for its members with respect to issues of statewide, national and international significance to women generally and to women attorneys in particular. In 2016, the Center for American Women in Politics documents 20 women (14 democrats and 6 republicans) who have served in the United States Senate in the 114th Congress. Only 46 women have ever served in the Senate. Also according to the Center for American Women in Politics, only 84 women serve in the United States House of Representatives, comprising 19.3% of the representation and the United States of America has never had a woman serve in the highest office of President. In a presidential election year heavily covered by news media there have been concerns expressed regarding voter disgust with media coverage and dissatisfaction with the political process from citizens of all political parties.

1. Project Rollout: WBASNY Convention 2016: Immediately upon installation as WBASNY's current President on June 1, 2016, WBASNY President Jacqueline P. Flug announced WBASNY's statewide initiative to conduct a voter registration drive through the grassroots efforts of its 19 chapters statewide, together with continued efforts to educate the public about the importance of active participation in a democratic form of government in the United States. At the WBASNY annual convention held at the beginning of June 2016, WBASNY's keynote speaker was Deborah N. Archer, Esq., Professor of Law, Co-Director of the Impact Center for Public Interest Law and Dean of Diversity and Inclusion at New York Law School. Her important work served to inspire our statewide leadership. WBASNY's co-chairs of the voter registration drive project included Dawn Reid-Green and Susan Taylor.
2. Integration of Chapter Leadership/Leadership Training Retreat: Presidents of each of WBASNY's 19 chapters were provided with materials, including postage, to support local grassroots efforts to enroll voters throughout New York State. The project was developed further at WBASNY's Leadership Training in July 2016.
3. Grassroots Local Action by WBASNY Members Across the State: Individual chapter events have taken place throughout 2016. From the Bronx Women's Bar Association's September voter registration events at the New York Public Library to the New York Women's Bar Association's efforts to have members ensure that their sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren were registered to vote and to educate the public on New York State's absentee ballot process, to the Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan Counties' voter registration events at the Callicoon Farmer's Market in October, to heritage festivals, nursing homes, college campuses, and more, WBASNY's members came out in full force. Not only were individual opportunities provided to interface with the public and raise the awareness of the importance of voting and participation in government, individual chapters propagated voter registration information through social media, individual chapter websites, as well as news media outlets.

### 3. Tell Us What Makes Your Project, Program or Service Special

In the space that follows, tell us what is unique about your project, program or service and why it is special. The space below is designed to expand to fit the length of your narrative.

What makes this project, program or service special:

- *Example: "The Visiting Mom Project" is special and unique because it filled an unmet need of young children visiting their incarcerated mothers. The Project created a new visiting room for the children which was warm and inviting, looking more like a public library than a jail, and sent a message to incarcerated mothers that reaffirmed their humanity and their roles as mothers."*

#### Outstanding Results and Public Education

WBASNY's strength has traditionally come from the grassroots nature of the representation of the organization in local communities through its many chapters, and this statewide concerted effort was unique because it was all conducted on a volunteer basis with no budget. The League of Women Voters assisted several chapters with their efforts and offered invaluable guidance. With its Statewide reach, but strong local presence, WBASNY succeeded in registering over 1,299 new voters as well as reaching hundreds of other members of the public in communities across the state.

For many members of the community at large, the right to vote may be their most personal interaction with the operation of law in this country. For these reasons, the WBASNY Voter Registration Project is special and unique. This initiative brought awareness to WBASNY's mission of improving the status of women in society, drawing attention to the continuing under representation of women and minorities in public office.

**Submission Deadline: Nominations are due Friday, January 20, 2017.**

Send your completed Nomination Form to the NCWBA Awards Committee at [awards@ncwba.org](mailto:awards@ncwba.org)

The Nomination Form and any supplemental information should be limited to 10 pages.

**Kolcon, Greta K.**

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**From:** WBASNY <info@wbasny.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 04, 2016 10:03 AM  
**To:** Kolcon, Greta K.  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE..WBASNY Registers Over 1,000 New Voters

## WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Media Relations Contact: ROBIN D. CARTON, ESQ. / JOY A. THOMPSON, ESQ.  
Phone: 212-362-4445  
Fax: 212-721-1620  
E-mail: [info@wbasny.org](mailto:info@wbasny.org)  
website: [www.wbasny.org](http://www.wbasny.org)



November 4, 2016, New York, NY

### WBASNY Registers Over 1,000 New Voters

New York's statewide voter rolls increased by 1,356, thanks to the efforts of the 19 chapters of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY). WBASNY kicked off its Voter Registration Drive this past summer with the goal of registering 1,000 new voters before October 14, 2016. Chapters held events at farmers markets, malls, libraries, nursing homes, detention centers, courthouses, colleges, heritage celebrations, and public and private workplaces. The events ran the gamut from a September 7 panel presentation on the history of women and voting organized by Westchester Women's Bar Association to an October 1 "Voter Registration Empower Yourself Barbecue" in Buffalo. The League of Women Voters assisted several chapters with their efforts, and offered guidance and advice throughout. WBASNY President Jacqueline Flug announced at the beginning of her term in June that increasing voter registration would be one of WBASNY's goals. A few weeks later, the drive was organized by WBASNY co-chairs Susan Taylor (Capital District) and Dawn Reid-Green (Staten Island), and co-sponsored by New York Chapter members Janet Cord, Martha E. Gifford and Sue Moss. WBASNY is proud of its members' efforts to make the Voter Registration Drive a success.

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*The Women's Bar Association of the State of New York is the professional membership organization of choice for attorneys, both men and women, throughout the state. Its more than 4400 members in all legal fields are committed to the association's mission of the promotion of justice for women in the legal profession and for women, children and families in society, support of the fair administration of justice and to act as a unified voice for its members on issues of statewide, national and international significance to women generally and to women attorneys in particular. WBASNY also holds United Nations NGO status in association with the UN Department of Public Information and Special Consultative status in association with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). For more information about the Association and its services and benefits, please visit [www.wbasny.org](http://www.wbasny.org).*

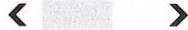
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# WESTCHESTER WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION Helps Register New Voters Before October 14 Deadline

Women's Bar Association of New York asks its members help make a difference in voter registration statewide

By Elisabeth Campos (Open Post) - (<http://patch.com/users/elisabeth-campos>) October 4, 2016 10:38 am ET **P** (<http://my.patch.com/article/26711345/edit>)

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Earlier this year, the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York ("WBASNY") launched a statewide 2016 Voter Registration Drive asking each of its nineteen chapters to register voters. Its local chapter, Westchester Women's Bar Association ("WWBA") responded to the call and formed a committee, chaired by members Joelle Burton, Esq. and Alayne Katz, Esq., to spearhead local voter registration efforts.

Citing the fact that voting was one of the original women's issues, WWBA President, Susan Edwards Colson of White Plains, noted that "Voting is such an important issue, and it starts with local citizens promoting registration. I am so proud that WWBA has tackled this project with such focus and energy." Westchester is a particularly apt location for this project because the women's effort to gain the right to the vote started locally in New Rochelle with Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the Woman's Suffrage Party, which became known as the New York State League of Women Voters. The first president of the New York State League of Women Voters resided in Scarborough.

The recent WWBA initiative began with a September 7 panel presentation for WWBA membership. Panel participants included Louise Kuklis, League of Women Voters of New Rochelle

(<http://www.watpa.org/lwv/newrochelle/index.html>); Adam Gitlan, Counsel, Democracy Program, Brennan Center for Justice

(<https://www.brennancenter.org/expert/adam-gitlin>); and Hon. Lewis Lubell

(<http://judges.newyorklawjournal.com/profile/Supreme Court, Westchester Co>

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Founded in 1975, the Westchester Women's Bar Association (WWBA) includes more than 500 women and men who are engaged in all facets of the legal profession. These members support the WWBA's mission to promote justice for all, regardless of gender; to advance the social, economic and legal status for women through the law; to expand opportunities for women, and to raise the level of competence and integrity in the legal profession. We also believe that the individual and collective achievements of women lawyers should be noted, recognized, and celebrated.

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From the Buffalo Business First:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/blog/buffalo-law-journal/2016/10/wbasny-voter-registration-education.html>

# Women's Bar takes up voter registration and education

Oct 10, 2016, 9:00am EDT

Vanessa Glushefski is building a law practice around trying to uplift low-income families and individuals in Buffalo by offering affordable legal assistance to those who need it.

She sees voter registration in a similar light. Voting is not only a civic duty but a tool of empowerment and opportunity, she said.

Representing the local chapter of the Women's Bar Association of New York State, she spearheaded a voter registration drive last week in the West Side neighborhood where she started her law office more than a year ago.

The "Voter Registration Empower Yourself Barbecue" was held Oct. 1 at Martin Luther King Jr. Park in Buffalo. She said the event tied back into the efforts of her Lafayette Avenue firm, a general practice geared toward providing low-income communities with access to the legal system that they wouldn't normally have.

With the event, she looked to increase voter registration among residents in the Fillmore Avenue area and inspire a sense of community.

"I'm trying to empower communities and trying to help them to empower themselves," she said.

Voter participation and education are critical to the missions of legal organizations such as the Women's Bar, or WBASNY, which has 19 chapters statewide.

The Western New York chapter recognizes the importance of voting to express how people feel, to voice their concerns about government and make clear the kind of elected officials they want to see in office, according to Glushefski.



"I think (what's happening in modern society) is a clear example of why it is important to vote and have a say in who is representing you," she said.

Chapter President Elizabeth Kraengel said this effort started with a directive from statewide President Jacqueline Flug, who announced at the beginning of her term June 1 that the Bar would be focusing on helping to increase voter registration.

"Jackie really put that challenge out to all of the chapters to get us to come up with different, creative ways to try to get the word out to get people registered to vote and to get them access to the information they need to get registered," said Kraengel, a partner at Duke Holzman Photiadis & Gresens LLP.

Glushefski said more than 20 people came to the Oct. 1 event and registered to vote. Volunteers from the League of Women Voters staffed the registration table.

"For something that we pulled together at the end of August, I felt like it was a success," she said. "I felt like it was a good indication that it is something we should try to pursue again in subsequent years."

According to Kraengel, this was a first-time effort by the chapter and there was a lot to learn. Marketing was limited because of the time spent to get the necessary city permits, she added.

She plans to continue it on an annual basis, not just during presidential election years. It's just as important to vote annually when there are local elections, she said.

"People's focus is really turned to the presidential election because the media attention on it is so saturated," Kraengel said. "But as far as our day-to-day lives, it's really our local elections that have much more bearing on our day-to-day activities."

Glushefski said while the 2016 presidential race likely prompted WBASNY to emphasize the importance of voting, the group is looking far beyond this election cycle.

For example, the race for Erie County District Attorney has major implications for the citizens of Buffalo. There was low voter turnout for the Democratic primary for DA, which was won by the party's endorsed candidate, John Flynn, over Acting DA Michael Flaherty and former assistant DA Mark Sacha.

Krangle said WBASNY views voter registration and voter education as important issues and she's looking to help the local chapter keep people engaged in the election process.

Another recent event, co-sponsored by WBASNY, took a step in that direction.

A town hall-style program Oct. 6 at the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County focused on congressional and presidential election campaigns.

The event examined the following:

- Is the media fairly reporting about all parties in any particular race?
- Has the issue of money in politics changed in 2016? And if it's not possible to keep big money out of politics, is there a way to structure it so that there's a level playing field?

Moderator was Lee Coppola, retired dean of the School of Journalism at St. Bonaventure University. Panelists included James Gardner, interim dean of the UB School of Law and Bridget & Thomas Black SUNY Distinguished Professor; James Heaney, editor and executive director of the Investigative Post; and Carole McNall, professor of the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure.

"We're trying to offer more than just one facet of the process," Kraengel said.

Glushefski said she sees more of an interest in voter registration issues, as well. She co-chairs the American Constitution Society, which plans to host an event next month about voter law cases.

The Voter Registration Act was dismantled after the decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which held that it was unconstitutional to make states that were once identified with a history of discrimination obtain pre-clearance from the federal government before they can make changes to election law. These states are now free to make changes to election law or district maps without approval from the U.S. Justice Department.

There are other district-related voting cases of importance in front of the Supreme Court that may have implications on voter rights for years to come, Glushefski said.

**Michael Petro**

Editor/Reporter Buffalo Law  
Journal  
*Buffalo Business First*

