

# Nassau Lawyer

THE JOURNAL OF THE NASSAU COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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## OF NOTE

### NCBA Member Benefit I.D. Card Photo

Obtain your photo for court identification cards at NCBA Tech Center. Cost \$10. Feb., 2, 3 & 4 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

### A New Member Benefit

to ring in the New Year! Healthtrax Fitness & Wellness See page 6

## EVENTS

### Bridge-the-Gap Weekend

Jan. 23 & 24, 2010 at Domus See insert

### WE CARE Children's Holiday Party

Feb. 17, 2010 at Domus

### Moot Court Competition

March 23 & 24, 2010 at Domus

### WE CARE Dressed to a "T"

March 25, 2010, 5:30 p.m. at Domus

### Law Day

Featuring our own NCBA Players starring in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Courtroom..." Thursday Evening, April 29, 2010 5:30 p.m. at Domus

## WHAT'S INSIDE

### FOCUS ON PERSONAL INJURY

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### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Thurs., Jan. 14, 2010

Thurs., Feb. 11, 2010 • 12:45 at Domus

The Lawyer Assistance Program provides confidential help to lawyers and judges for alcoholism, drug abuse and mental health problems. Call 1-888-408-6222. Calls are completely confidential.



Hector Herrera

Participating in the recent mortgage foreclosure training session are Denise Marzano-Doty, a long-standing volunteer at the NCBA's Mortgage Foreclosure clinics; Mortgage Foreclosure Task Force and Clinic Chair Martha Krisel, and Kirsten Keefe of Empire Justice Center.

## New law mandates settlement conferences in all foreclosure cases

### Attorney volunteers needed

New laws now require all lenders seeking to foreclose mortgages to participate in a settlement conference in court. This legislation, which was signed into law on December 15, 2009, expanded the earlier requirement that lenders participate in conferences prior to moving forward on foreclosing subprime or nontraditional loans.

The goal is to attempt to work out a settlement, generally through a loan modification. In December, the Nassau County Bar Association Mortgage Foreclosure Task Force hosted a training session on this and other recent amendments to the NYS foreclosure laws, as well as on the requirements for eligibility into President Obama's Home Affordable Modification Program, known as "HAMP." More than 50 attorneys from Nassau and Queens attended, as well as top court personnel, judges, court attorney referees and court clerks. The session was taught by Kirsten Keefe, senior staff attorney with the Empire Justice Center, a statewide research, training and advocacy group funded by New York State to conduct foreclosure prevention training.

Recently, working in conjunction with Nassau Administrative Judge Anthony Marano and NCBA Board Member Jeff Goodstein, Nassau County's housing counselors and volunteer attorneys have participated in settlement conferences in Nassau

Supreme. Volunteer attorneys are needed to staff these conferences, which take place every Wednesday and Thursday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., as well as every Friday at 9:30 a.m. at Nassau Supreme. If you are interested in volunteering at any of these settlement conferences or at the monthly NCBA Mortgage Foreclosure clinics, please contact Caryle Katz at 747-4070 x211 or ckatz@nassaubar.org. Training material will be provided.

### — TASK FORCE UPDATE —

## Hundreds of homeowners helped through NCBA's foreclosure clinics

By Martha Krisel

On December 15, the Nassau County Bar Association held its 10th monthly Mortgage Foreclosure Clinic. Each time I attend these clinics, I am amazed and touched by the people whom we are able to help. Every clinic has its unique stories.

As one middle-aged man left the December clinic with his mom, he told me that he felt as though the weight of the world had been lifted from his shoulders. He

See MORTGAGE CLINICS, Page 17

## NCBA resolves parking issue

By Marc C. Gann

For years the Nassau County Bar Association has struggled with the parking issues at the Supreme Court building in Mineola. As many of you know, this resulted in litigation against Nassau County which was settled several years ago. That settlement essentially called for our participation in any parking plan created by the County for the south parking field at Supreme Court. Unfortunately, the County violated our agreement a couple of years ago by creating 200 reserved parking spaces specifically for COBANC members. Since the creation of those reserved spaces, NCBA has attempted to resolve the parking issue in light of the violation of our settlement agreement. It has not gone unnoticed that the majority of those reserved spaces have remained unoccupied leaving our members and the public with limited parking, forcing us to walk past rows and rows of empty parking spaces.

When we could not reach an amicable resolution to this issue, NCBA filed an

See PARKING, Page 16

Just graduated law school?  
Need some help transitioning  
to the "real" world of practicing law?

**BRIDGE-THE-GAP**  
Weekend

From Classroom  
Theory

...to the  
Practice  
of Law

Saturday & Sunday  
January 23 & 24, 2010

## THIS JUST IN ...

As we were going to press, we were notified that the Mortgage Foreclosure Pro Bono Project was selected to receive the NYS Bar Association 2009 Award of Merit, to be presented by the NYS Conference of Bar Leaders later this month. Huge congratulations to all who worked and continue to work on this project!

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GOES HERE