A Toast to Domus: The Legacy of the Nassau County Bar Association
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Foreword

Domus is the home of the Nassau County Bar Association. The NCBA is a vibrant, professional association of nearly 5,000 members consisting of attorneys, judges, paralegals, and law school students who work or reside in Nassau County.

In 1899, only a few weeks after Nassau County was founded, nineteen attorneys met at Allen’s Hotel in Mineola and the Nassau County Bar Association was formed. In the beginning, meetings were held at the Nassau County Court House. Thirty years later, with its membership and prestige growing, the organization determined the Nassau County Bar Association needed its own home and in 1929 acquired the site where Domus currently sits.

It is my hope that this book will serve as a means of preserving our Association’s rich history, and to tell the story of the individuals who came together to create the place for generations of legal professionals to learn and grow together, all under one roof.

RICHARD D. COLLINS
NCBA President 2019-2020
Acknowledgements

“A special thanks to those on the NCBA staff and members of the NCBA Young Lawyers Committee who dedicated their time and efforts to bring this history book and my vision to fruition. It is with our hope that the story and legacy of the Nassau County Bar Association lives on for generations to come.” — Richard D. Collins

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Preface

In September 1993, urban historian Jeffrey A. Kroessler set out to draft a document entitled “History of the Bar Association of Nassau County.” He prefaced the document by stating:

The historian’s task is to tell a story in such a way that it has meaning in the present. Not surprisingly, the finished product is rarely complete, for the historical process invariably invites new questions, opens additional avenues for inquiry, and fosters further debate and, ultimately, judgment. Not all questions are answered. Indeed, if a history leaves the reader satisfied, and provides all of the answers, the historian’s effort should be labeled a failure.

This history of the Bar Association of Nassau County is therefore only the initial effort in what can be a much more far reaching project. It should be considered a preliminary outline of the story, and I hope this summary will yield additional questions and suggest future fields of research.

The Bar Association, like Nassau County, will celebrate its centennial in January 1999. The event offers an opportunity to acknowledge the organization’s achievements and reflect upon the many changes, to re-examine links with the English legal tradition embodied in the Inns of Court and ask about the relevance of those traditions for the 21st century.

Twenty-two years later, in late 2015, several young lawyers expressed concern about the future of the Nassau County Bar Association and its home at Domus. They were rightfully looking ahead, but they had very little knowledge about the rich past of the Association or its home at Domus. Clearly, so much of our history was lost to today’s members, especially the newer ones.

In response thereto, then-Secretary Richard D. Collins, with the approval of NCBA President Martha Krisel, assembled a task force of young lawyers and NCBA staff to study the chronology of the NCBA and present it to make it easily accessible to all members, as well as prospective members, of our Bar Association. Over the past five years, various members of this task force dedicated their time to learning and organizing the history of this Bar Association to bring that history to life.

After the compilation of decades of photographs, pieces of literature from past Bar leaders and members, and other special documents that have been preserved for generations, the hard work of the task force brought the vision of Richard D. Collins to life.

In this book, you will not only find the historical background of this great Association, but a story of how an organization of only nineteen attorneys laid the groundwork for what this Association is today, with decade-defining events in American history interwoven throughout. It is with great hope that this book will serve as a keepsake and guide for generations of members to come.
History of the Bar Association of Nassau County

Introduction

By Jeffrey A. Kroessler

The history of the Nassau County Bar Association is closely tied to the history of the county. It has grown in membership and changed its character to reflect the transformation of Nassau from the private preserve of the elite to the archetypical suburban county. In the first decades of the 20th century, members of the Association were involved in the establishment of the county court system and pushed for the construction of appropriate buildings to house government offices. The Bar also took an active part in the selection of judges, but refrained from endorsing candidates for other political offices.

For the first half century, the Bar Association resembled a gentleman’s club more than a professional organization. Membership was of course restricted to men, and it was many years before Catholics and Jews were accepted as members. While the annual dinner was held at the Garden City Hotel, the Board often met at one or another member’s county club. Domus, the Association’s home near the County Court House, was completed in 1930, and most events were held there until the 1970s, when the number of members grew too large for the building.

In the postwar decades, membership was opened up for the first time as the county’s population exploded. During this time also, the Bar demonstrated a greater awareness of the social problems in Nassau and sponsored the assigned counsel program, the Legal Aid Society, and various programs to address juvenile crime. Throughout its hundred years, the Bar has been primarily concerned with ensuring that the legal profession would remain self-governing. They addressed such issues as the illegal practice of law, malpractice, the question of attorneys advertising, and most recently, the regulations governing the conduct of divorce lawyers.

The Founding of Nassau County

The Nassau County Bar Association was founded in January 1899, only a few weeks after the birth of the county. Until 1898, the three townships which make up Nassau—Hempstead, North Hempstead, and Oyster Bay—had been part of Queens County. The creation of Greater New York brought Long Island City, Newtown, Jamaica, and Flushing into the city, but the three eastern towns, far more rural and less populated, were left in limbo: part of Queens County but not included in the great metropolis. This was not because the inhabitants rejected the idea; they were not even asked. No plans for the consolidated city included all of Queens, and thus only part of Queens voted in the non-binding referendum held in 1894. In 1892, the eastern towns had a population of only 47,184, compared to the nearly 100,000 living in the western towns and Long Island City. Furthermore, at the time of consolidation, the eastern towns had just over 20 percent of the county’s assessed valuation, and only six percent of the county debt.1 By any measure, the eastern and western towns were developing in different directions and at a different rate.

It was clear to all that having half of the county included in the new metropolis and half outside the city’s boundaries was unworkable and would only make local government unmanageable. During the 1898 legislative session, Assemblyman George Wallace of Hempstead introduced a bill to create a new county, and on January 1, 1899, Nassau was born.2
The Founding of the Nassau County Bar Association

Most lawyers who lived in old Queens County had offices in New York or Brooklyn. Local matters brought attorneys to the county courthouse in Long Island City. Most prominent attorneys belonged to either the Queens County Bar Association, founded in 1876, or the New York Bar Association, founded in 1870 during the judicial corruption scandals of the Tweed era. No such crisis caused the Nassau lawyers to form their association, but the move followed directly from the creation of the new county.

The first meeting to organize a bar association for Nassau County was held in Mineola on January 18, 1899, with J.B. Coles Tappen serving as the temporary chair, and George W. Eastman as the temporary secretary. The group included: Edgar Jackson, Wilmot T. Cox, Edward T. Payne, Albert W. Seaman, Henry M. W. Eastman, James P. Nieman, and Wm. Clarke Roe. The men named a committee to devise by-laws and a constitution for the proposed bar association. A month later, the lawyers met at the office of Mr. Tappen at 16 Exchange Place in Manhattan and discussed the committee’s work. They decided that the charter members would include those invited to the first two meetings and others who expressed an interest in participating. The seventeen charter members were:

Edward T. Payne  Fred Ingraham  Augustus Weller
Edgar Jackson  Townshend Scudder  Wm. J. Young
Paul K. Ames  Eugene W. Denton  Edward Cromwell
Wm. Clarke Roe  Wilmot T. Cox  Franklin T. Coles
Albert W. Seaman  Henry M. W. Eastman  James P. Nieman
J.B. Coles Tappen  George W. Eastman

Augustus Weller of Hempstead and Henry Eastman had the distinction of having been among the founders of the Queens County Bar Association.

On March 2, 1899, the men marked the formation of the Bar Association of Nassau County with a dinner held at Allen’s Hotel in Mineola, the place where the initial moves to form the new county had been made the previous year. They quickly adopted the constitution and by-laws, and voted that the dues would be $6, “payable in advance, at the Annual Meeting in each year.” Augustus N. Weller was voted the first president, George W. Eastman, vice-president, Edward T. Payne, treasurer, and William Clarke Roe secretary. They also added John Ordonaux and James S. Allen to the list of charter members.

The attorneys who formed the Bar Association were, not surprisingly, active in political affairs. J.B. Coles Tappen had been one of the early advocates of the new county, while Townshend Scudder, counsel to the Queens County Board of Supervisors, had opposed the plan. The county’s first elections in 1898 saw Republican Henry Eastman was elected county treasurer, and Democrat James P. Nieman became the first District Attorney, defeating his opponent by only seventeen votes (4,749-4,732). And William J. Youngs, Queens County District Attorney and a Republican state committeeman, was soon named Theodore Roosevelt’s confidential secretary.

The Bar was instrumental in organizing the courts and government of the new county. Among their first projects were supporting the construction of a county courthouse and assuring sufficient space for lawyers and their clients. They also formed the county law library and allocated funds for its growth.

For the first quarter century, the Association remained small and select. Dues were minimal, but not until 1916 did membership reach 100, and at the beginning of the Roaring Twenties, there were still fewer than 150 members. The 1920s brought rapid growth to the suburban county, and membership in the Bar Association kept pace with the county’s rise to reach almost 350 on the eve of the stock market crash. There were several reasons for this growth. First, the rising stock market and corporate expansion generated
opportunities for the legal profession. Second, Nassau’s population more than doubled during the decade, from 126,120 to 303,053, as banks joyfully issued mortgages for homes in the expanding middle class suburbs. By 1930, Nassau was the seventh richest in the state, and ninth in population. This wave of suburbanization followed the electrification of the Long Island Railroad and the completion of Pennsylvania Station, which made commuting into the city efficient and comfortable compared to the years before 1911, when commuters had to transfer from the train at Hunter’s Point to ferries crossing the East River to 34th Street or James Slip.

Most of the new members either practiced real estate law in the county, or kept their practice in Manhattan while moving to the new suburban communities. Among the latter was John W. Davis, Democratic candidate for president in 1924 who bought a home in Locust Valley but practiced in Manhattan at 15 Broad Street. Speaker at the cornerstone ceremony for the Association’s new building, Justice Edward Lazansky of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, remarked that the growth of Nassau was “bound to continue. The trend of the urban to the rural cannot be stayed. The attractions of your county in its waters and lands are a constant invitation to those who, weary of the swift moving life of the city, seek a haven of rest.”

During its first quarter century, the Association had an active social calendar, and the events were often held at one of the county’s country clubs, such as Hempstead, Cherry Valley, and Piping Rock. Since membership was small and select, there was no objection to holding the annual field day at restricted clubs. There were no women members, no blacks, no Jews or Catholics. Nor did Prohibition seem to have inhibited the festivities. Reporting on the Field Day held at the Piping Rock Club in 1928, the committee reported: “…last year’s complaints about the slow drinking in the locker room were not made this year, the condition having improved and their work having been speeded up considerably. Many participants mistook the amber beverage served in the Grill for real beer, and not a drop was left over to be accounted for.”

**Domus**

In the early years, the Association held its meeting in the law library of the Court House, but as more and more business was transacted there, the organization was forced to relocate. Throughout the 20s, the annual meetings were held in local county clubs, but the growing membership and higher profile of the organization necessitated acquiring a permanent home. The directors first considered the possibility in 1927, and appointed a committee to investigate the various options. In the spring of 1929, C. Walter Randall, later a president of the Association announced that he had arranged to purchase lots from the Garden City Company for $12,050. The contract stipulated “that within two years a substantial dwelling or club house, costing not less than $25,00 shall be erected, the exterior plans to be submitted to the Garden City Company prior to erection.”

Complying with such restrictions proved to be no problem for the Bar, for they selected an architectural firm well versed in the revival styles popular in the 20s. A.J. McKenna had designed several suburban homes on Long Island, and his partner Louis E. Jallade had designed the International House near Columbia University and the Flatbush Congregational Church. They modeled the home of the Nassau County Bar Association after Middle Temple, one of the Inns of Court in London. One explanation for that decision may be found in the career of John W. Davis, who joined the Association after his defeat in the presidential election on 1924. Davis had served as ambassador to Great Britain at the end of the Wilson administration and in 1919 he had been made an honorary bencher of Middle Temple.

The decision to build in the late 20s was more fortuitous than the directors realized at the time. Even though real estate investment had leveled off by 1927, the stock market continued its spectacular rise, and most expected the decade’s booming economy to go on forever. But in October, the stock market crashed, and within a year or two, lawyers who had prospered during the boom found themselves in financial difficulties. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on January 27th, 1930, “a bleak, cheerless, overcast day,” according
to Randall, only three months after the stock market crash. The Association had decided to build without a mortgage, depending on members to subscribe to the building fund. In the beginning, the process went well, but subscriptions lagged as the economy sank even lower; eventually they were compelled to borrow $15,000 from a local bank to finish construction. Fortunately, one of the Bar Association’s directors was a vice-president, and founder, of the Glen Cove Bank, and the loan was arranged without difficulty, secured only with the Association’s note. The Association also created a special category of guest memberships of $500, “to which twenty-five of the most prominent men of the County (other than attorneys) were invited.” Twenty accepted, including Robert Moses. Moses, however, never actually wrote a check and eventually had his subscription cancelled. Throughout the 1930s, however, the directors had to remind members to make good on their pledges, a rather difficult task for dozens of members had fallen years behind in the dues and were eventually dropped from the rolls.

Despite the financial hurdles, work progressed quickly. The cornerstone laying ceremony followed the groundbreaking by only two months. Inside the cornerstone, they placed copies of the speeches delivered for the occasion by Judge Frederick E. Crane, Justice Edward Lazansky, and Association President Frederick L. Gilbert, copies of the day’s New York Times, Brooklyn Daily Eagle, and the New York Law Journal, lists of the Association’s members and subscribers to the building fund, a copy of the subscription agreement, a description of the property and a print of the building.

In his address, Justice Lazansky stated, “It is in the name of this spirit of fraternal cooperation that this edifice will be erected. Under its cheerful room brethren of the Bar will meet in social and cultural intercourse. Out of a common purpose there will develop a bond of fellowship richer in its expressions of cooperation and helpfulness, for the benefit not only of the members of the Association, but for the Bar generally, and for the general welfare.” With the privilege of practice, he added, comes a serious obligation: “Admission to the Bar means not only person advantage, but calls for service to the general welfare. Your body should arouse a greater interest in the service to public affairs.” Lazansky emphasized the role of the Bar in maintaining the standards of the profession and “find ways and means to limit the privilege of practice to those who are really qualified. The doors must be kept wide open but the mere desire to practice should not be the card of admission.” Judge Crane sounded a similar note, noting the role of the Bar in assuring that lawyers possess “those fundamental requirements of high and noble purpose. The leaders of the Bar, men of standing and of reputation…by composite action form the standards of the Bar. These standards are not necessarily written; they are felt; they for part of the atmosphere which surrounds the lawyer in such an association. These standards are not the laws of the land; neither are they the laws of ethics, but they constitute well understood principles, courses of conduct and of action which all the profession must live up to.”

Domus was dedicated on March 21, 1931. The final cost was $300 less than the original estimate of $61,415 for the bare building, plus an additional $7,000 for fixtures, furnishings, and kitchen equipment. The dedication featured speeches by Judges Benjamin N. Cardozo and Frederick E. Crane of the Court of Appeals, Justice Edward Lazansky, Right Reverend Ernest M. Stires, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, and John W. Davis. On June 15th, two hundred members sat at the long tables arranged in the manner of the dinners held at the Middle Temple for the first annual dinner held in the Association’s new home. Governor Franklin Roosevelt was the guest of honor.

The relationship between the Nassau County Bar Association and the lawyers of London’s Middle Temple goes beyond mere architecture, but the strength and security of the structure certainly symbolizes the majesty of the law. It was at Middle Temple that William Blackstone wrote his commentaries, the volume that the lawyers and judges of the early republic carried with them. The decision to “dissolve the political bonds” did not necessitate the disruption of legal tradition. At the dedication, John W. Davis remarked, “No man who has visited the Inns of Court of course can fail to be sensible of their age, and find himself unimpressed by the maturity and the tradition by which he is surrounded. And if he comes from Anglo-Saxon stock and heritage, he cannot forget the great battles of human liberty that have been fought there, and of which those ancient buildings are the very font and origin.” Forgiving Davis his dated comment about “Anglo-Saxon
stock,” we must still admire the traditions of law and justice which flourished at Middle Temple, and it is that tradition which the Nassau County Bar honored by designing its home in the “scholastic gothic” style.

During the War, Middle Temple, like much of London, was badly damaged. Responding to this tragedy, the Nassau County Bar awarded its Distinguished Service Medal in 1948 to the Inns of Court and contributed $200 toward their reconstruction. At the annual dinner, C. Walter Randall noted that this was the most satisfying award of all because it was dedicated to an ideal, rather than an individual. Speaking at the dinner, Davis, a former ambassador to Great Britain and chairman of the American Bar Association’s committee for The Restoration of the Inns of Court, said:

I went to the Inns first in 1942 and on every succeeding visit to London I made it a point to visit that hallowed shrine of English justice and freedom before I did anything else. It is the center and focus of my affection and admiration for English law. It became my spiritual home. The news of the destruction of the Inns at the hands of the Germans was to me the most unpalatable news of the war.

In those Inns were hammered out the principles of law which we endeavor to apply. The English feel about the Inns just as we feel about Independence Hall. There is an enormous psychological teaching value in such physical shrines and monuments.18

On September 28, 1950, Davis’s committee sent a check for £15,454.16.4 ($43,292.81) to their English colleagues.19

The Great Depression and After

The stock market crash of October 1929 brought the country’s economy to a standstill. Lawyers who had prospered through the real estate boom of the previous decade saw their once flourishing practices shrivel. Those with practices on Wall Street found they could no longer bill corporate clients at the dizzying rate they had just months before. In the early years of the Depression two serious problems confronted the Bar Association. First, they had to complete their building by convincing those who subscribed to the building fund to make good on their pledges. A month before the formal dedication in March 1931, the treasurer reported that there remained $12,005 in unpaid subscriptions. Plans for Domus had been made in prosperity; now, a year into the Depression, the Association found that the use of their home was far below expectations. Only twenty-three persons dined in the restaurant, for example, far below the breakeven point of thirty-five a day.

In February 1932 the salary of the couple managing the restaurant was reduced by $250, or about 20% (the same percentage other private clubs in the county had reduced the salaries of their staffs) because, the Board claimed, “the deficiency in running the restaurant” had resulted in a decline in the number of guests; they also reduced the price of the luncheon from $1 to 75¢.20

An equally pressing problem was the decline in membership as a startling number of lawyers found themselves in financial difficulties. From a high of 345 members on the eve of the crash, the rolls fell below 300 in 1932, and only reached the pre-depression level in 1937. In January 1931 unpaid dues amounted to $5,200, forcing the Association to borrow $3,000 from Glen Cove Trust to tide the mover until more checks arrived.

In 1932 the treasurer reported the 53 members were in arrears, and 47 of them were only one or two years behind; by comparison, in 1925 only eighteen members were one or two years behind.21 In the face of this crisis, the Directors voted to suspend the initiation fee until membership topped 400, and then voted to accept non-interest-bearing notes in lieu of payment from attorneys in “present difficulty.” In 1937 they took the further step of reducing dues to $20, and $10 for junior members.22
Not all lawyers suffered during the Depression, of course, and for some the high living of the ‘20s continued untrimmed. In May 1937 Howard Osterout hosted the Directors at the Long Island Country Club for a golf and fishing outing. The minutes recorded that “Incidentally and markedly, liquid refreshments were taken in the club house in varying intervals and added considerable to the festive occasion. Dinner was served a 6:30 with champagne followed by liqueurs at the end.” In 1939, the Committee on Social Activities announced a series of “maids’ night out dinners,” at a modest cost of 75c for dinner, cocktails included: “Because of the fact that most lawyers and their wives are the least busy on Thursday night, and because those that engage maids have to let them go on Thursday nights.”

The Fastest Growing County

In the decades after the war, Nassau was the nation’s fastest growing county. With the construction of Levittown and other new communities, Nassau epitomized the postwar suburbanization of the United States. The population grew by more than a quarter million during the 1940s to 672,765, but during the 1950s, it almost doubled to reach 1.3 million. In November 1975, the United States Department of Commerce designated Nassau and Suffolk a separate Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, the first SMSA in the country which was not centered in a major city. At the time, it ranked as the ninth largest in population in the nation and was the fastest growing SMSA in the state.

As the county changed during the post-war decades, so too did the Bar Association. Membership was opened up and the character of the organization was transformed. After the war there were fewer than 500 members, but by the end of the 1950s the total reached more than 1,200, and the membership rolls more than doubled again during the 1960s. No longer would the Association resemble a gentlemen’s club for Wall Street lawyers, for the county’s legal landscape was rapidly changing.

The most obvious change was the admission of women in the 1950s. In 1937 six female attorneys (Kathleen Kane, Lillian H. Knorr, Emily W. Mauly, Mary B. Moloney, Carolyn Barteau Missisway, and Alicia R. O’Connor), “duly admitted to practice law in the State of New York,” applied for membership, each proposed and seconded by a member of the Bar as required under the by-laws. Their applications were denied, however, as the Association had no formal policy permitting women to join; at the same time, of course, the by-laws did not specifically bar women from becoming members. In his final report that year, Edwin G. Wrigh, chairman of the membership committee, scarcely mentioned the women’s applications while noting, “There are many more fine, gentlemanly lawyers living in this county who should be members of the Association. However, they must be contacted and made to feel that they will be welcomed to membership…” Early the next year the directors debated the question of admitting women, and after much discussion, they voted unanimously to amend the constitution to “insert the word ‘male’ before ‘member’ in all instances where eligibility of applicants for membership to this Association is under discussion.” During the debate Theodore Ripsom praised the “group atmosphere” of the Bar, and former president C. Walter Randall stated that he had originally opposed the proposed amendment, but then endorsed the extension of “privileges” to women, but not membership.

Rebuffed by the Bar, the women founded the Nassau County Women’s Bar Association in 1938. After the Bar permitted the women to hold their first annual dinner at Domus in June 1939, the Board voted to extend to the Women’s Bar the “privileges of the building,” but, in the words of one member, “only for special affairs and not as a regular thing.”

In 1951 the Bar, by a vote of 138-28, finally changed its by-laws and constitution to permit the admission of women. That May, Ellen E. O’Neil became the first woman accepted for membership, and in the following months of several more applications were accepted, including those of Mary Moloney, Alicia O’Connor, and Kathleen Kane, three of those who had first applied fourteen years before. Despite the admission of female
attorneys into the Bar Association, the Nassau County Women’s Bar Association did not disband and they continue to hold their meetings at Domus.

When the Bar Association was founded in 1899, Nassau County was largely agricultural and the playground of the elite. The decade of the 1920s only enhanced the image of Long Island as the Gold Coast, an image immortalized in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*. After the Second World War, the great estates shrank and the fields gave way to tract housing. The county which had once seemed a private preserve slowly came to grips with the realities of suburban sprawl and an increasingly diverse population. The Bar Association, founded as a club for Wall Street lawyers, necessarily evolved into an organization which served the legal profession and provided services for the general public.

Until the Great Depression, there had been little demand for legal aid, but in the 1940s the Bar Association had to hire an attorney to handle the growing caseload, as it became unrealistic to rely on lawyers to volunteer their time. In 1949 the Legal Aid Committee had 517 appeals for assistance, and there were twenty cases in litigation. The committee chairman, Mr. McDonough, reported “that while theoretically it was advisable to refer cases to practicing lawyers, as a practical matter they were considered a nuisance,” adding that “most lawyers would prefer to make a contribution of $10 a year to maintain facilities for the handling of such matters by the Committee.” In 1951 an independent Legal Aid Society, partially funded by the county, was established.

The Bar Association made a modest donation each year, but the Legal Aid Society was always short of funds and regularly appealed to the Bar for financial support; in 1961 for example, the Lion’s Club raised $3,000 for the Society at a dinner. In 1979 the county slashed the Society’s budget by 40%, in part, according to Town of Hempstead Supervisor Alfonse D’Amato, because there was inadequate screening of applicants to assure that only the truly needy received legal aid.

After a quarter century of expansion, the Association had to face the increasingly obvious limitations of their home. Domus had been built to serve an organization which counted fewer than 350 members; by the late ’70s the number had grown tenfold. The staff worked in cramped conditions; record storage was becoming a nightmare; the kitchen desperately needed modernization; and the limited space made it almost impossible to hold more than two meetings simultaneously. Furthermore, the organization sponsored many more public service activities than it had in 1930, and consolidating such programs as Tel-Law, the Lawyer Referral Program, and the Assigned Counsel Defender Plan at Domus was not possible unless it was expanded. Finally, it would take $170,000 to upgrade the structure itself: plumbing, electricity, heating, and air conditioning. The final cost was estimated at $700,000.

As in the 1920s, the Directors hoped to finance this plan through the members, rather than a mortgage. In March 1979 they submitted a proposal for a one-time assessment of $250 from each member, but it fell just shy of the two-thirds needed for approval. In June, however, the members overwhelmingly approved a proposal to mortgage the Association’s property to obtain the necessary funds. At the same time the directors were authorized to raise dues by $30, and $15 for junior members, to pay the mortgage. The renovation and expansion program was completed in little more than a year, and Domus was rededicated on October 26, 1980.

**Conclusion**

As the Association approaches its centennial, it boasts more than 5,700 members, more than a third of the attorneys who live or work in Nassau. The decade of the 1990s will present a new set of challenges for the Bar, however. First, the population has declined for the past two decades, from a high of 1,428,838 in 1970 to 1,278,348 in the most recent census. The shrinking economy is a national as well as local crisis, but combined with the county’s population drop the situation is particularly severe in Nassau. As in the depression decade
of the 1930s, lawyers face increasing competition for business, and several firms have cut the number of staff attorneys.

The Bar Association, of course, is not immune from these pressures. During the prosperous 1980s, the Association lost only between 250 and 350 members each year, while adding about the same number. In the early 1990s as many as 800 decline to renew their membership each year, some because they have lost their jobs, others due to retirement, many because of the contracting business climate. Added to the usual financial pressures, attorneys must now register with the Office of Court Administration and pay a bi-annual fee, the sum collected put into a fund to compensate clients defrauded by their attorneys. Not surprisingly, the fee has risen from a modest $100 to $300.31

When the economy recovers, it is by no means certain that Nassau County will enjoy the unprecedented, widespread prosperity of the post-war decades. It is a mature suburban county, with a population that is smaller, and older, and more diverse. For the first time, for example, Nassau is attracting a significant number of immigrants. The Bar Association changed to face the challenges of the 1950s and the 1960s, and there is no question that it will adapt to the demands of the 21st century.
Endnotes

1. Queens County Review, Jan. 1, Dec. 3, 1897; Dec. 16, 1898; Flashing Journal, March 26, 1892.
8. Bar Association of Nassau County, N.Y., *Addresses delivered at the Laying of the Cornerstone of the Bar Association at Mineola on April Eleventh nineteen hundred and thirty*, p.5.
11. Current Biography, p. 148-150
14. minutes of the Board of Directors, May 12, 1931; Randall, “Domus-Our Home,” p. 5.
16. Bar Association of Nassau County, N.Y., *Addresses delivered at the Laying of the Cornerstone of the Bar Association at Mineola on April Eleventh nineteen hundred and thirty*.
20. Minutes of the Board of Directors, Feb. 10, 1931; Feb. 9, 1932.
21. Minutes of the Board of Directors, January 13, 1931; May 12, 1932. Members one or two years behind in their dues in 1932 amounted to about 16% of the membership; the percentage for 1925 was 11%. In terms of the total number in arrears, however, the percentage for 1932 was 18%, for 1925 22%.
22. Minutes of the Board of Directors, Nov. 21, 1937; June 12, 1939.
25. Minutes of the Board of Directors, October 5, 1937.
27. Minutes of the Board of Directors, June 13, 1939.
28. Minutes of the Board of Directors, April 10, 1951; May 1951.
29. Minutes of the Board of Directors, June 14, 1949; Nov. 15, 1949.
31. BANC Memorandum, Membership History and Drives, 1993.
Bar Association of Nassau County
Chronology
By Jeffrey A. Kroessler

1702
Samuel Clowes, the first lawyer to settle in Queens County, arrived in Jamaica to serve as county and court clerk.

1777
The first New York State Constitution provided that "all attorneys, solicitors and counsellors at law hereafter to be appointed, be appointed by the Court, and licensed by the first Judge of the Court in which they shall respectively plead or practice."

March 31, 1785
The state legislature settled on a site at the geographical center of Queens for a new county courthouse, just east of what is now Nassau Boulevard on the north side of Jericho Turnpike. The first capital trial was in 1790, when Attorney General Aaron Burr acted as the prosecutor.

1789
The first Queens County Court House was erected on Jericho Turnpike (just east of Nassau Boulevard in Garden City Park).

1799
In a letter to Attorney General John Jay, Assistant Attorney General Cadwallader Colden complained: "The Court of Queens County is at all times the least orderly of any court I ever was in. The entry of the Court is lined on court days with stalls of dram sellers, and filled with drunken people, so as to be almost impassable."

1825
A new law outlawed the sale of liquor in the Queens county courthouse. The sheriff, who held the license, proceeded to erect a shed against the front of the building and took orders through an open window.

1846
The new state constitution ended the appointed judiciary and provided for the election of judges. It also changed the qualifications for practicing law: "any male citizen of the age of 21 years, of good character and who possesses the requisite qualifications of learning and ability shall be entitled to practice in all courts of this State."

November 1869
Voters approved an amendment to the state constitution extending the terms of office for judges from eight to fourteen years.

February 1, 1870
Reacting against judicial corruption, Manhattan lawyers formed the Bar Association of New York and selected William M. Evarts the first president.

1871
Construction began on a new county courthouse in Long Island City. All Long Island railroad lines terminated in Long Island City, making it accessible to lawyers from all parts of the county, as well as Manhattan and Brooklyn. The building was completed in 1877 at a cost of more than $275,000. (It burned in 1904 and was rebuilt by 1908; it remains in use.)
1876
The New York State Bar Association was founded.

July 19, 1876
The Queens County Bar Association was founded at the Garden City Hotel. James w. Covert, G.J. Garretson, L. Bradford Prince, G. W. Van Siclen, and Henry W. Eastman issued the call to organize and noted that "as we have no certain list of all the lawyers in Queens Co., be kind enough to show this to those gentlemen in good standing, whom you may meet in the meantime," adding "the proprietor of the Hotel has agreed to furnish a good dinner for $3 each; wines and cigars extra." John J. Armstrong of Jamaica was elected the organization's first president. Civil War General Joseph Hooker, a guest at the hotel, was invited "to honor the company with his presence at the dinner."

1886
“The race or sex of such person shall constitute no cause for refusing such person admission to practice…”
(Laws of 1886, c. 425).

1894
The dilapidated old Queens County Court House on Jericho Turnpike was sold at auction.

January 1, 1898
The Queens County towns of Newtown, Jamaica, Flushing, and part of Hempstead, together with Long Island City, became the borough of Queens within Greater New York. The three eastern towns—Hempstead, North Hempstead, and Oyster Bay—remained part of Queens, but were not included in the city.

January 1, 1899
The towns of Hempstead, North Hempstead, and Oyster Bay joined to form Nassau County.

January 18, 1899
The first meeting to organize a bar association for Nassau County was held in Mineola. With John B. Coles Tappen serving as the temporary chair, and George W. Eastman as the temporary secretary, the group included: Edgar Jackson, Wilmot T. Cox, Edward T. Payne, Albert W. Seaman, Henry M. W. Eastman, James P. Nieman, and Wm. Clarke Roe. A committee was formed to devise by-laws and a constitution for the proposed bar association.

February 24, 1899
Meeting at the office of Mr. Tappen at 16 Exchange Place in Manhattan, the lawyers discussed the by-laws and constitution submitted by the committee, and decided that the charter members would include those invited to the first two meetings and others who expressed an interest in participating.

The charter members were:

Edward T. Payne  
Edgar Jackson  
Paul K. Ames  
Wm. Clarke Roe  
Albert W. Seaman  
John B. Coles Tappen  
Fred Ingraham  
Townsend Scudder  
Eugene W. Denton

Wilmot T. Cox  
Henry M. W. Eastman  
George W. Eastman  
Augustus Weller  
Wm. J. Young  
Edward Cromwell  
Franklin T. Coles  
James P. Nieman
Augustus Weller of Hempstead and Henry Eastman had been among the founders of the Queens County Bar Association.

**March 2, 1899**
A dinner held at Allan's Hotel in Mineola marked the formation of the Bar Association of Nassau County.

The men adopted the constitution and by-laws, and voted that the dues would be $6, "payable in advance, at the Annual Meeting in each year." Augustus N. Weller was voted the first president, George W. Eastman, vice-president, Edward T. Payne, treasurer, and William Clarke Roe secretary. They also added John Ordonaux and James S. Allen to the list of charter members.

**July 13, 1900**
President Theodore Roosevelt participated in the cornerstone laying ceremonies for the Nassau Court House at Old Country Road and Franklin Avenue. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**January 19, 1901**
The first annual dinner of the Association was held at the Arena in Manhattan. The next year the members met at Mouquin's Sixth Avenue, and for the six succeeding years the dinners were held at the Hotel St. Denis in Manhattan.

**1903**
The Nassau County Court Library was established by legislative statute.

**January 12, 1909—The Association's first Dinner Dance held in Nassau County.**
The Association held its annual dinner at the Garden City Hotel, the first time the event was held in Nassau County. The cost was $3.00.
THE LAYING
OF THE CORNERSTONE OF
THE OLD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

JESSE MERRITT
Nassau County Historian
and Clerk, Board of Supervisors, 1917-24

Governor Theodore Roosevelt at the Cornerstone Laying Ceremonies for the Nassau County Court House, July 13, 1900
1911
Situated in two large rooms of the Court House, the Nassau County Court Library began serving the research needs of county lawyers. It was organized by Sylvester Tuthill, who directed the library for twenty-one years until his retirement in 1932.

October 21, 1915
The Association endorsed the proposed new constitution for the State of New York.

April 28, 1917
Soon after the nation entered the First World War, the Association appointed a committee of three—George W. Eastman, Franklin A. Coles, and Francis A. Taylor—"to arrange for the care of cases and business of members of the bar of Nassau County absent in either the federal or state military service."

November 20, 1917
At the annual meeting held in their rooms in the Court House, the Association authorized the purchase of $1,500 in Liberty Bonds, and "Resolved, that the dues of all members of this Association now serving in the Military or Naval forces of the United States be credited to them by the Treasurer, so long as they be in such service." The Association also responded favorably to a request from Provost General Crowder asking for the cooperation of lawyers in implementing the draft, resolving that members "be urged to volunteer their services in connection with the draft, as requested by the President of the United States."

May 20, 1918
Treasurer Edward T. Payne reported that he had purchased $1,500 in Third Issue 4 ¼% Liberty Bonds and "arranged with the Glen Cove Bank, that it shall hold the bonds for safe keeping in its vault, without charge, for the Association." Payne was a founder and vice-president of the Glen Cove Bank.

November 19, 1918
The Association donated $150 to the United War Workers Drive.

January 16, 1920
The State Bar Association, at its annual meeting, adopted a resolution stating that the State Bar Association and all local associations "should assume greater responsibility for the maintenance and conduct of legal aid work and to that end should actively seek support for established legal aid organizations and, in communities where no such organizations exist, should become directly responsible for the systematic conduct of such work."

September 30, 1920
At a special meeting in their rooms at the County Court House, the Association endorsed the re-election of Townsend Scudder, Walter Jaycox, and Joseph Aspinall to the state Supreme Court.

April 7, 1921
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Hon. Almet F. Jenks were the guest speakers at the annual dinner. The previous year FDR had been the Democratic candidate for vice-president (Governor John M. Cox of Ohio headed the ticket which lost to Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge). The Dinner, held at the Garden City Country Club, cost $5.50.

November 9, 1921
The Association urged the Governor of New York to appoint a Supreme Court Judge, a member of the bar with his office and residence in the County of Nassau. Their petition stated: "Attorneys are compelled to go to Brooklyn to obtain ex parte orders, to make and oppose motions and the like. The trial calendars in Nassau County are crowded, leaving a great many cases undisposed at each term of court. Much litigation has been heretofore disposed of by means of trials before the resident Supreme Court Justice without a jury, or
by submission to him upon an agreed state of facts. As a practical matter this cannot be done except in the case of a resident justice. The result is inconvenience and added delay, expense for attorneys and litigants. Nassau County has about one hundred practicing lawyers, it is a rapidly growing county, with as population of over 125,000, and its increasing population and proximity to New York City cause it to become the seat of increasing and important litigation in which prompt action is required."

February 27, 1922
A special meeting was held in the law library of the County Court House "for the purpose of considering the conduct of certain Justices of the Supreme Court in the administration of justice in Nassau County. "Several lawyers were disturbed by the behavior of Justice Selah B. Strong; it was alleged that, in addition to other misconduct, he fined a member of a grand jury for being late, issued subpoenas in a criminal action not properly pending before him, and on one occasion referred to a member of the Bar as a "damn little skunk."

March 15, 1922
A special meeting of the Association resolved to petition the state Assembly to appoint a committee to investigate the truth of the accusations against the said Hon. Selah B. Strong and all matters relating to or affecting his fitness to hold the high office of Justice of the Supreme Court."

March 2, 1923
At a special meeting of the Association, members voted unanimously to recommend William S. Pettit, a member of the Nassau County Bar Association, for appointment to the Federal District Court, Eastern District of New York, and to send letters to that effect to the President and the two senators representing New York, William L. Calder and James W. Wadsworth, Jr.

June 4, 1923
The Association endorsed the re-election of Judge Isaac M. Kapper to the state Supreme Court, where he had served for the previous 13 years. A bi-partisan committee of three Republicans and three Democrats was named to carry forward that recommendation.

October 27, 1925
At a special meeting, members endorsed the six candidates, three Democrats and three Republicans, for the state Supreme Court as "eminently fitted and qualified," but resolved that the Association "specially indorse" the Republicans. They supported Charles H. Kelby and James C. Van Siclin, because they had served the district "faithfully and well," and the Bar Association "believes in the re-election of Justices of the Supreme Court who have rendered such service," and former Lt. Gov. Jeremiah Wood because he lived in Nassau County.

January 11, 1926
The Association recommended that the county expand the law library in the County Court House, calling the existing conditions "insufficient to provide for the quietness essential to library work, and that there should be an adjoining room for conferences and other use by lawyers." Members approved "in principle" the "idea of a state wide Bar Association, nevertheless only on the condition that the entity of the County Bar Associations shall be preserved and that such county associations shall have due representation on the governing board of district councils of such state organization."

May 20, 1926
Charles Evans Hughes addressed delegates to the conference of Bar Associations in Washington, D. C., and expressed his support of forming state bar associations by legislative statute. In an earlier ballot, members of the Nassau County Bar had opposed that idea by a vote of 59-20-9.
April 1, 1927
The state tax law was amended to exempt the real property of bar associations, as well as other not for profit organizations, from property taxes (Ch: 565, Laws of 1927).

August 26, 1927
The directors appointed Charles N. Wysong, Francis G. Hooley, and A. Holley Patterson to investigate the construction of "a permanent office and meeting place" for the Association. At the same meeting, members decided "to purchase a suitable fire proof safe or fire proof box… [to be] kept in the Law Library of the County Court House…” to preserve of the Association's historic records.

September 26, 1928
At a special meeting held at the Cherry Valley Golf Club in Garden City, Carl Stedman Brown, who had been appointed to a committee of one "to investigate and report on the question of the necessity for a Legal Aid Society in this County," called upon every lawyer "to give services gratuitously and that possibly a more even distribution and efficient handling of the work would be accomplished by having a central office and the assignment of such cases to lawyers in their respective locality."

November 20, 1928
At a special meeting held at the Hempstead Country Club, the Nassau County Bar adopted the Code of Ethics of the American Bar Association. Responding to increasing crowding in the courthouse, the members voted to urge the county Board of Supervisors "to proceed at' the earliest moment for the acquisition of the frontage on the block on Franklin avenue between 14th and 15th street, Garden City, for additional county purposes, by private negotiations, or failing in that, by condemnation proceedings."

November 1928
At the annual meeting the Field Day Committee reported on the second annual field day held at the Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley: "The Committee points with pride to the fact that last year's complaints about the slow drinking in the locker room were not made this year, the condition having improved and this work having been speeded up considerably. Many participants mistook the amber beverage served in the Grill, for real beer, and not a drop was left over to be accounted for." The nation' was in the midst of Prohibition, of course.

March 11-12, 1929
The Brooklyn Daily Eagle and the New York Sun printed editorials criticizing the attitude of the Nassau County Bar Association toward the Moran "anti-ambulance-chasing" bills introduced into the state legislature. The Sun editorial asked: "What is the public to think when a bar association will rally under a false battle cry to defend the practices of shysters and pettifoggers..." A committee of Association members reported that the editor of the Sun should be urged to print a retraction, and failing that, that the Association should consider bringing libel suit.

March 21, 1929
A week after C. Walter Randall reported that he had arranged to purchase lots from the Garden City Company for $12,500, $3,000 in cash and the balance on a three-year mortgage, the members voted to raise $75,000 through certificates indebtedness, with no member permitted to subscribe to more than $1,000 worth.

June 3, 1929
The Bar Association acquired the site of its present home from the Garden City Company. The Association agreed "that within two years … a substantial dwelling or club house, costing not less that TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, shall be erected on said premises, the exterior plans for which shall be submitted to (the Garden City Company) prior to the erection of the same." The Directors selected A.J. McKenna and Louis E. Jallade, architects experienced in the popular revival styles of the 1920s, to design the building in
"pure Scholastic Gothic," or Tudor style.

October 30, 1929
Treasurer O. Edward Payne filed for tax exemptions from the Village of Garden City and the Town of Hempstead on the grounds that the planned building “will be used exclusively for the purposes for which the Nassau County Bar Association was incorporated, that no one rents profits nor income will be derived therefrom.”

November 19, 1929
At the annual meeting, the treasurer reported that $35,250 had been subscribed to the Special Building Fund, but that only $14,390 had been paid in. The members also adopted a resolution "that no member, officer or committee of the Association shall take any action on its behalf, in arranging for or organizing of committees to aid in the nomination, appointment or election of any candidate for public office, or use or permit the use of the stationery of this Association for any such purpose: provided however, that nothing herein contained shall effect the right of this Association to inquire into and report fully upon the fitness or unfitness of any candidate for public office."

December 18, 1929
The Association appointed a chairman of a legal aid committee and individuals were suggested to serve as district chairmen to coordinate volunteers.

January 10, 1930
The members authorized the officers to accept the bid by the Cornell Brothers Construction Company, Inc., to erect their building for $52,500 and enter into a contract.

January 27, 1930
The Garden City Company sold the plot to the Association for $12,050. Members of the Bar purchased Certificates of Indebtedness (not more than $1,000 for any one member, however), but only $50,000 of the $75,000 had been subscribed, and only $21,000 had been paid in at that point. A. J. McKenna and Louis E. Jallade designed the Tudor revival building, which they modeled after the Middle Temple, one of the Inns of Court in London.

April 11, 1930
The featured speakers were C. Walter Reed, president of the Nassau County Bar, Edward Lazansky, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court, and Frederick E. Crane, Associate Judge of the State Court of Appeals. Sealed in the cornerstone were copies of the addresses of Judge Crane, Justice Lazansky, and Association President Randall, copies of that day's edition of the New York Times, the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, and the New York Law Journal, a membership list of the Bar Association, a list of the more than 150 subscribers to the Certificates of Indebtedness, a copy of the form of subscription agreement, and a description of the property and a "cut" of the building.

June 25, 1930
At a special meeting, members authorized the officers to borrow $15,000 from Glen Cove Trust "on the Association's note or notes to be paid out of subscriptions and present subscriptions to be assigned or transferred to the trust company, if required…"

September 29, 1930
By a vote of 9-7, members decided to heat the new clubhouse by oil rather than gas, and authorized the architect "to select the most efficient and not the cheapest."

November 10, 1930
Six members of the Bar Association were dropped, “having been duly notified of their arrears.”
December 2, 1930
The annual meeting was held in Domus, the Bar Association’s new home, for the first time, and about 100 attended the supper which followed.

December 7, 1930
The House Committee reported that they had decided on a daily luncheon to cost $1, including a 10¢ tip.

December 10, 1930
The Bar Association urged the United States Senate to ratify the "protocol of adherence to the World Court."

January 13, 1931
The Board of Directors authorized the sale of the Association’s library to the county and purchased the law library of George Boochever, together with shelves and tables. The board also expressed concern about the growing problem of member in arrears and authorized the treasurer to borrow up to $3,000 from the Glen Cove Trust Company to tide them over until receipt of the next year’s dues. By April, unpaid dues amounted to $5,200, and letters requesting payment within 90 days were sent to all delinquent members.

February 10, 1931
The treasurer reported that there remained $12,005 in unpaid subscriptions to the building fund. Also, an average of only 23 persons a day dined at the Domus, below the breakeven point of 35 a day.

March 21, 1931
The Bar Association building was dedicated. Speakers included C. Walter Randall, President of the Bar Association, John W. Davis, Democratic nominee for president in 1924 and a member of the Nassau County Bar Association, Benjamin N. Cardozo, Chief Judge, New York State Court of Appeals, Frederick E. Crane, Associate Judge of the state Court of Appeals, Edward Lazansky, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the state Supreme Court, and the Right Reverend Ernest M. Stires, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island. The building’s final cost was $300 less than the original estimate.

March 24, 1931
The Bar Association tried to have the state legislature pass a special act admitting Sylvester Tuthill to the bar, in recognition of his many years of service at the Nassau County Law Library. The effort came to naught, however.

May 12, 1931
The treasurer reported that there remained $8,410 in outstanding subscriptions to the building fund, and recommended “that the subscription of Robert Moses for $500 be crossed off.” He also reported that 53 members were in arrears (27 owed their dues for 1931, 20 for two years, and six for more than four years). In 1925, only 18 were one or two years in arrears, 37 total. The Association accepted the offer of George Hubbell and Paul Lannin to donate one of the masts from Sir Thomas Lipton’s America’s Cup yacht “Shamrock” for use as a flagpole.

June 15, 1931
Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the featured speaker at the annual dinner.

October 1931
The Association went on record opposing the political nature of the selection of candidates for judgeships in the state.
January 29, 1932
After an address on the subject by Hon. Frederic R. Coudert, the Association went on record supporting American participation in the World Court.

February 9, 1932
The annual salary of the couple managing the restaurant was reduced by $250 (or about 20 percent, the percentage other clubs had reduced the salaries of their staffs), because the number of guests had declined due to “deficiency in running the restaurant.” They also voted to reduce the price of the luncheon from $1 to 75¢.

December 1932
The Association held its first annual Wassail Bowl ceremony.

April 11, 1933
For the first annual dinner held after the repeal of Prohibition, the dinner committee reported plans to charge $4 for the annual dinner, to include cigars, cigarettes, White Rock, the dinner, beer, and cocktails.

November 21, 1933
At the annual meeting the members approved an amendment to the by-laws creating the office of historian of the Association. They also voted to suspend the initiation fee until total membership reached 400.

January 9, 1934
Twenty-nine members were stricken from active membership for non-payment of dues; six others resigned for similar reasons. At the same meeting, Harold R. Median "gave a very interesting and humorous (sic) address on 'Bretheren at The Bar.'"

April 18, 1934
The Association went on record supporting the preservation of the rooms occupied in the Capital by the United States Supreme Court as a judicial shrine after the Court moved to its new home.

May 19, 1934
Robert Moses was the featured speaker at the annual meeting, which also included remarks by William D. Guthrie, for president of the New York City Bar, Judge Lazansky, and Judge Frederick Crane.

June 12, 1934
Because of the large number of members resigning because they could not afford to pay their dues, the Directors voted to accept non-interest-bearing notes in lieu of payment from attorneys in "present difficulty."

September 11, 1934
The annual Field Day was held at Jones Beach State Park.

December 20, 1934
The Hon. Thomas D. Thacher, former Solicitor General of the United States and then President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, addressed the Association and discussed recent amendments to the federal bankruptcy laws.

January 14, 1936
Five more members were dropped from the active rolls for being behind in their dues. The Finance Committee was charged with producing a plan which would address this growing problem. At the same meeting, Mr. MacLean stated that "home owners in distress should be referred to his committee for that and other relief."
January 28, 1937  
The board voted to reduce the dues to $20, and $10 for junior members.

February 19, 1937  
The Bar Association went on record opposing President Roosevelt's court packing scheme.

February 25, 1937  
Mrs. Ethel Stockton, a juror in the Bruno Hauptman case in New Jersey (the accused kidnapper of the Lindbergh baby), spoke to members of the bar about her experiences on the jury and her observations of other women jurors. At the time, two bills which would have permitted women to serve on juries were before the New York State Legislature.

April 13, 1937  
The Committee on Public Records reported that "... the W.P.A. was progressing—one hundred forty men, five nights a week, sixty percent of the work completed, deeds, mortgages, etc."

May 11, 1937  
The Board of Directors met at the Long Island Country Club at the invitation of Mr. Howard Osterout for a golf and fishing outing: "Incidentally and markedly, liquid refreshments were taken in the club house in varying intervals and added considerably to the festive occasion. Dinner was served at 6:30 with champagne followed by liqueurs at the end."
October 5, 1937
In a letter to Edwin G. Wright, chairman of the membership committee, six women, "duly admitted to practice law in the State of New York," applied for membership in the Bar Association. They were: Kathleen Kane, Lillian H. Knorr, Emily W. Mauly, Mary B. Moloney, Carolyn Barbeau Missosway, and Alicia R. O'Connor. Five of the women filed formal applications, each proposed and seconded by a member of the Bar. Their applications were rejected, however, as the Association had no formal policy to admit women. In his final report, Mr. Wright noted: "It is our opinion that there are many more fine, gentlemanly lawyers living in this county who should be members of the Association. However, they must be contacted and made to feel that they will be welcomed to membership …"

December 7, 1937
At a cost of $195, the 200-foot sidewalk in front of the Association building was completed “in compliance with Garden City requirements.”

January 14, 1938
After much discussion, the constitution was amended "unanimously" to "insert the word 'male' before 'member' in all instances where eligibility of applicants for membership to this Association is under discussion." Theodore Ripsom praised the "group atmosphere" of the Association, and former Association president C. Walter Randall added that he had first opposed the amendment, but then favored the extension of "privileges" to women attorneys, but not membership.

January 29, 1938
Chengting T. Wang, Ambassador and Envoy Plenipotentiary from the Republic of China to the United States, addressed members of the Nassau County Bar at the Domus. The ambassador declined a $25 check to cover his travel expenses, and the Association decided to send a gift to Mrs. Wang. As the war made shipping the gift nearly impossible, the Bar contributed the check to a fund “for the relief of Chinese women.”

March 8, 1938
The Nassau County Women’s Bar Association was founded, after the application of several women to join the Nassau County Bar was denied. The original officers were: Carolyn Barbeau, president, Ida Schechtman and Kathleen Kane, vice-presidents, Alicia O'Connor, secretary, and Elizabeth Golding, treasurer.

November 15, 1938
Past president and founding member Eugene W. Denton donated six elms to be planted on the Association's grounds. They were known as the "Denton Memorial Elms," even though he was then very much alive.

April 11, 1939
Following his narrow victory at the polls, Hempstead Mayor Estabrook raised accusations against George Serenbetz regarding his conduct as police justice in the village. Serenbetz had accused the mayor of corruption and backed his opponent. The Bar Association rallied to the defense of their distinguished colleague.

June 7, 1939
Senator Carter Glass of Virginia was the guest of honor at the annual dinner. Later, former president Randall stated that the affair had been an unusual success and suggested that "perhaps the Association could establish a regular custom of presenting a medal to some outstanding person at each annual meeting."

June 13, 1939
After the Nassau County Women's Bar held their annual dinner at the Association’s home, the board voted to extend the women “privileges of the building," but, in the words of one member, "only for special affairs and not as a regular thing."
June 15, 1939
The Committee on Social Activities began a short-lived series of “maids” night out dinners “Because of the fact that most lawyers and their wives are the least busy on Thursday night, and because those that engage maids have to let them go on Thursday nights.” The cost for dinner and cocktails was only 75¢.

August 2, 1939
The cornerstone of the new County Court House was laid on the site of the old Mineola Fair Grounds, home of the Queens-Nassau Agricultural Society.

October 24, 1939
Bar Association President James L. Dowsey hosted a dinner in honor of the Women’s Bar Association at the Domus.

November 1939
The first issue of the Bulletin was published. In the second issue, the editor commented, “In our initial issue, we asked the affirmative co-operation of all of the members of our Bar Association in order that this new publication might keep pace with the other pulsating activities of this most thriving and livewire legal organization of ours.”
December 9, 1939
The Bar hosted a dinner in honor of Frederick E. Crane upon his retirement as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The judge had reached the mandatory retirement age of 70, but he soon returned to private practice.

December 31, 1939
C. Walter Randall retired as an officer of the Association, as required by the constitution and by-laws. He remained active, however, and continued to serve on several committees.

April 27, 1940
The Women’s Bar Association’s first dinner dance at the G.C. Hotel was attended by 125 attorneys and their spouses.

May 25, 1940
Former President Herbert Hoover was the honored guest at the annual dinner held at the Association's home. He received the Bar Association's Distinguished Service Medal, and in his prepared remarks stated: "There is a definite tendency to abuse powers, overstep established policies and attempt to tell individuals how to conduct their businesses. The phrase which best represents those who seek great agency powers, I believe, is 'totalitarian liberal.' They believe they can maintain individual liberty and conduct but control and regulate economic conduct. Once economic liberty is destroyed, so will be destroyed intellectual and spiritual liberty."

September 20, 1940
President Dominic B. Griffin sent a letter to all members asking for unpaid volunteers "to serve as GOVERNMENT APPEAL AGENTS under the Selective Service Act." These men would serve the interests of draftee's appealing their classification and "care for the interests of ignorant registrants and where the decision of the Local Board is against the interests of such persons and it appears that such persons, due to their own nonculpable ignorance will not take appeals, to inform them of their rights and method of entering appeals …"

December 16, 1940
The new Nassau County Court House was dedicated. Early the next year, the Supreme Court and the County Courts moved into their new home with brief ceremonies to mark the occasion.

1941
The Committee on Post-Admission Legal Education sponsored a lecture series in the winter and spring which featured Frederick Crane and Harold R. Medina, among others.

June 25, 1941
Former Governor Alfred E. Smith received the Association's Distinguished Service Medal at the annual dinner.

1948
The Tenth Judicial District, encompassing Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk, was created.

January 27, 1948
The president announced that he had received a communication from the American Bar Association urging the Nassau County Bar Association to cooperate in the restoration of the Inns of Court, which had been damaged during the war.

The Roosevelt Raceway Association donated $5,000 to the Bar Association Fund. C. Walter Randall had successfully negotiated with the U.S. Treasury Department to certify that the Fund was a non-profit eleemosynary corporation and that contributions to the Fund were fully tax deductible.
June 8, 1948
The Board of Directors met at Club House at Roosevelt Raceway as the guests of Association vice-president George Morton Levy. The meeting was conducted at the office of the Old Country Trotting Association.

June 1948
The 49th annual dinner of the Association was dedicated to the Inns of Court; John W. Davis presented a check for $200 to the fund created for their restoration. In presenting the Distinguished Service Medal to the Inns of Court, C. Walter Randall remarked that this was the most satisfying of all because it was made to an ideal.

December 14, 1948
The Association received a letter from the barristers of the Middle Temple in London expressing their appreciation of the gift made by the Nassau County Bar toward the repair and reconstruction of the Inns of Court. As a token of their gratitude, they presented to the Association a cigar box made from one of the original beams of Middle Temple.

February 8, 1949
The Board of Directors of the Bar Association of Nassau County Fund Inc. decided to establish a $500 scholarship “to assist a worthy law student to complete his education.” For the first year, candidates were limited to sons or close relatives of Association members.

June 11, 1949
The annual dinner marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Bar Association honored the two surviving charter members, Eugene W. Denton and J. Townshend Scudder.
June 14, 1949
C. Walter Randall announced to the board that the Fund had granted a total of $3,000 to the Association's Legal Aid Committee. The committee had hired William B. Hoffman on retainer of $150 a month, plus an additional $25 a month for stenographic services, to handle legal aid cases.

November 15, 1949
William Hoffman, the attorney hired by the Legal Aid Committee, reported that he had 517 applications for assistance, and that 20 leases were in litigation. Mr. McDonough, the committee chair, stated that Mr. Hoffman had not been adequately paid, adding "that there had been a very marked increase in the work … immediately after the listing of the telephone number in the book" and the workload was likely to increase.
McDonough pointed out "that while theoretically it was advisable to refer cases to practicing lawyers, as a practical matter they were generally considered a nuisance and he felt reasonably sure that most lawyers would prefer to make a contribution of $10 a year to maintain facilities for the handling of such matters by the Committee.”

June 10, 1950
The Association awarded the Distinguished Service Medal to Dwight D. Eisenhower at the annual dinner.

June 10, 1950
Joseph C. Zavatt, the first president of the newly incorporated Legal Aid Society, was authorized to send letters to Association members asking for their financial support.

September 28, 1950
A committee of the American Bar Association appointed to collect funds for the Restoration of the Inns of Court delivered a check for £15,454.16.4 ($43,292.81) to Lord Porter. Middle Temple, Gray's Inn, and the Temple Church had been badly damaged during the war. The letter noted: "We trust this sum will be accepted as a token, although inadequate, of the respect which the American Bar entertains for the Inns of Court as institutions, their sense of indebtedness for the contribution of the Inns to the growth of the common law, and their regard for their comrades of the British bench and bar." John W. Davis served as chairman of the committee.

February 10, 1951
Eugene Denton, charter member and past president of the Association, passed away at his Garden City home at the age of 76.

April 20, 1951
By a vote of 138-28, the Association amended the Association's constitution to eliminate the prohibition against female membership.

May 1951
After the Association's constitution and by-laws were amended, Ellen E. O'Neil became the first woman applicant accepted for membership. In the succeeding months several more women were admitted to membership, including Mary B. Moloney, Alicia R. O'Connor, and Kathleen Kane, three of the women who had first applied for membership in 1937.

May 18, 1951
In his first address to the members after his election as president of the Association, Marcus Christ called attention to the "lessening of public morality and the necessity of protecting civil rights and liberties.”

June 16, 1951
John W. Davis presented the Distinguished Service Medal to Arthur K. Vanderbilt, Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

September 11, 1951
Funds from the County enables the Legal Aid Society to begin serving the public. The Association donated $250.

September 20, 1951
Members of the Queens County Bar Association trekked to the Garden City Hotel to reenact the founding of their association on July 19, 1876. Thirty-eight members, dressed in period costumes, journeyed by horse-drawn carriages from the General Court House in Jamaica to the home of the Nassau County Bar Association, where they were joined by eighteen Nassau attorneys in costume. After refreshments, the entire
party continued to the Hotel. The highlight of the evening was a cake in the fashion of the original Queens County Court House which stood on Jericho Turnpike just east of Nassau Boulevard.

**November 13, 1951**
After a suggestion from Judge George Serenbetz, the directors authorized the secretary to destroy or dispose of the Association's old records due to a lack of space to store them. Louis G. Hart was appointed to oversee the project, with the proviso that none of the minutes would be destroyed.

**April 8, 1952**
The Association appointed a committee to study and report on the advisability of having a placement bureau to answer inquiries about obtaining a lawyer.

**June 7, 1952**
John W. Davis received the Association's Distinguished Service Medallion.

**1953**
The Association began publishing its monthly newsletter, the *Nassau Lawyer*.

**February 20, 1953**
The Association adopted a minimum fee schedule for lawyers in the county: "A minimum of $5.00 for consultation and advice," adding that the charge was discretionary for veterans discharged within two years. The schedule also listed $15 for wills and $50 for closing of title in the village of the attorney, or 1 percent for closings where the purchase price was over $5,000.

**June 13, 1953**
The annual dinner honored members of the Association who had been admitted to the Bar for fifty years or more.

**September 8, 1953**
Because attorneys with business before the State Tax Commission had to travel to Brooklyn, the Board of Directors voted to recommend that the Commission open an office in Nassau County.

**November 20, 1953**
By a unanimous vote of 81-0, members of the Association rejected a "proposed rule under consideration by the Appellate Division, declaring that, except in unusual circumstances, in any action or claim to recover damages for personal injury or death, it shall be deemed to be unethical and unprofessional for an attorney to receive a fee in excess of thirty-five per cent after deducting the reasonable expenses of prosecuting the action or claim; and requiring any attorney who collects or shares in a fee in excess of 35% to file a statement in the office of the clerk of the Appellate Division setting forth the unusual circumstances which justified the extra charge."

**1954**
The Association initiated its Lawyer Referral program.

**February 9, 1954**
It was announced at the directors’ meeting that Hunter Delatour, past president of the Nassau County Bar, had been elected president of the New York State Bar Association.

**February 19, 1954**
The Association joined the State Bar Association in opposing the compulsory auto insurance bill then pending in Albany.
June 4, 1955
Judge Learned Hand of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals received the Distinguished Service Medal.

November 29, 1955
The Association held its first joint meeting with the Medical Association of Nassau County.

June 1956
Edmund F. Lewis, retired Chief Justice of the U.S. Court of Appeals and past president of the New York State Bar Association, received the Distinguished Service Medal.

November 13, 1956
Thirty-six law firms and 140 individual attorneys donated $2,674 toward the $25,000 annual budget of the Legal Aid Society. The directors rejected a proposal to increase annual dues to support the Society, but added a line for a voluntary contribution, suggesting $25 for full members and $10 for junior members.

February 16, 1957
After the Association decided not to award a medal that year, they invited Senator Jacob Javits to be the guest speaker at the annual dinner. Javits addressed the question of "United States Foreign Policy in the Middle East."

March 12, 1957
The Unlawful Practice Committee reported on the so-called package deals being offered by title companies, each of which denied engaging in such practice. The companies agreed to add a clause to their legal forms stating that they were for the use of lawyers only. The title companies abandoned the package deals for a time, but quietly resumed the practice later.

April 27, 1957
The New York State Bar Association adopted "Standards of Practice for Doctors and Lawyers"; the state medical society adopted the same a few weeks later.

January 14, 1958
Mrs. Elizabeth Golding, chair of the Community Relations Committee (formerly the Social Activities Committee), announced an essay contest for high school students on the topic "Why I want to live within the law."

May 1, 1958
A proclamation by President Eisenhower declared this the first Law Day.

May 19, 1958
At the annual dinner held at the Garden City Hotel, the Association awarded the Distinguished Service Medal to Chief Judge Albert Conway of the New York State Court of Appeals.

May 9, 1959
The Association's Community Relations Committee co-sponsored the Nassau County Youth Conference on "Respect for Law through Practicing Responsible Citizenship." Lieutenant Governor Malcolm Wilson delivered the opening address at Westbury High School.

November 10, 1959
The Calendar Congestion Committee urged the legislature to create fourteen additional judgeships for the 10th Judicial District "in order to bring the number of Supreme Court Justices to one for each 100,000 of population..."
February 9, 1960
The Association decided to sponsor an Explorer Post of the Boy Scouts, and eight members of the Junior Bar Association volunteered to work with the program.

February 22, 1960
Judge Townsend Scudder, the last surviving charter member of the Nassau County Bar Association, died at the age of 96. He had retired from the Appellate Division in 1935, when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 70. He had also served two terms in Congress, been vice-president of the Long Island State Park Commission in the mid-1920s, and sat on the state Supreme Court.

May 26, 1960
J. Russel Sprague, former Chief Executive of Nassau County and one-time leader of the county’s Republican Party, received the Distinguished Service Medal.

June 8, 1960
The committee on files and records reported: "There is no system, not even an archaic one, for filing records of this Association. We are completely dependent upon the infallible memory of Miss Ziminski. It is recommended that this condition be immediately remedied. Your president notes that the deficiency may not be placed upon our efficient secretary. The fault lies in the absence of executive attention to this detail and the lack of adequate help in the office."

February 22, 1961
The Lion’s Club sponsored a dinner at the Sky Club for the benefit of the Legal Aid Society. The event raised about $3,000.
Bar Unit Sets Vote on Bylaws  
So It Can Help to Pick Judges

Mincola—The Nassau Bar Association will vote March 15 on a proposal to give its committee on the judiciary the power to draw up lists of candidates for judgeships. The amendment would enable the committee to comply with Gov. Rockefeller’s request that local bar associations recommend candidates for new judgeships that would be created under pending legislation.

The association’s board of directors announced over the weekend that it had approved an amendment to its bylaws that would give the committee the power to recommend candidates for judicial posts. At the present time, the committee is empowered only to rate candidates already nominated. The amendment would also raise the membership of the committee, which has been involved in several hassles over its ratings, from 9 to 17. The amendments will be voted on at the March 15 meeting at the association’s headquarters in Mineola.

M. Rudolph Preuss of Rockville Centre, first vice president of the 1,500-member association, said that the committee was being given the added power “to allow (it) to make suggestions as the governor requested.” Under a bill now before the Legislature, Rockefeller would appoint 19 of 38 new judges. He has asked local bar associations to “compile lists of outstanding candidates for the posts.”

In Nassau and Suffolk Counties, which are due to be joined in a new judicial district Sept. 1, 11 new Supreme Court posts would be created and four of these would be filled by interim appointments. The remaining seven would be filled in the November election. Also due to be filled by interim appointment would be a new Nassau County Court judgeship.

Preuss said last night that the increase in the membership of the committee was designed “to broaden (its) base.” He said the membership of the committee would be kept bipartisan. In 1959, the membership of the committee was changed from eight Republicans and one Democrat to five Republicans and four Democrats after the committee had given a controversial “not-qualified” rating to a Democratic candidate, Mrs. Beatrice S. Burstein of Lawrence. Last year, Mrs. Burstein was rated as “qualified” in her unsuccessful candidacy for presiding judge of the District Court.
Bar Association to Vote March 15 on Amendments

BY HERBERT GOLDSMITH

The Nassau Bar Association votes March 15 on amendments to its by-laws to permit its judiciary committee to recommend and rate judicial candidates before they are nominated or appointed. The move is aimed at giving the Bar Association power to meet Gov. Rockefeller's request that bar associations and other local groups recommend names for the new Supreme Court judgeships he has asked the legislature to create.

Unlike Queens and Suffolk Bar Associations, the Nassau group would wait until the judicial bills are passed and the governor makes a formal request for names.

The Queens and Suffolk associations have already begun compiling lists for Long Island's quota of 36 new Supreme Court judgeships, 18 by Rockefeller appointment next month. Queens is to get seven, four by appointment; Nassau-Suffolk 11, with four by appointment.

The amendments, to be voted upon at the March 15 meeting at the Nassau association building in Mineola, have been approved by the board of directors. They would also increase the judiciary committee from nine to 17 members.

The committee will continue to be appointed by the president, eight Republicans and eight Democrats in addition to the chairman.

UNDER PRESENT by-laws, the judiciary committee can only give "qualified" or "not qualified" ratings to candidates after they are nominated.

Under the proposed changes, the committee could pass on prospective nominees or appointees submitted by political leaders or make recommendations if requested.

Charles P. Buckley Jr., of Rockville Centre, Nassau Bar Association president, said he has discussed the amendments with county Republican Chairman Joseph F. Carlini, Assembly speaker and Democratic Chairman John F. English.

Both, he said, have agreed to submit the names of prospective judicial candidates.
Bar Association OK Needed
For Supreme Court Nominees

The Nassau Bar Association will have veto power over who
is nominated for or appointed
to judgeships, according to Rep-
publican Leader Joseph P.
Carlino and Democratic Lead-
er John F. English.

In letters to Bar Association
President Charles P. Buckley
Jr., both said that nominations
for judgeships will be refused
by any potential candidate
found unqualified by the as-
sociation’s judiciary comit-
tee.

That holds for the seven
State Supreme Court justices
to be elected from Nassau in
November, they said. It will
also apply, Carlino said, to the
Republican names he will sub-
mit to Gov. Rockefeller soon
for interim appointment to
Nassau’s third county court
judge and second Children’s
Court Judge.

The Nassau Republican
Committee, it was learned, has
submitted to the Bar Associa-
tion the names of C. Bruce
Pearsall, Massapequa G.O.I.
leader, as possible candidate
for the county court judge-
ship and Alexander Berman,
Hempstead Village police jud-
tice, for the children’s court
judgeship.

Legislation signed by the
governor gives 11 new Su-
preme Court judgeships to the
10th Judicial District with
Nassau to get seven and Sur-
folk four. Queens will be the
11th Judicial District as of
Sept. 1.

A bipartisan deal on judg-
ships in Nassau seems unlikely.
English, who likes the plan,
hasn’t found Carlino re-
directive. Both parties will sub-
mit their names to the Bar
Association’s 17-member judi-
cracy committee before an-
nouncing nominations.

Carlino’s letter to Buckley
said that elected Republican
delegates to the 10th Judicial
District Convention will select
the judge candidates and “no
one may usurp” this function.
But “no name found unquali-
fied” by the Bar Association
“will be recommended to our
Republican delegates for nom-
ination,” he said.

English’s letter said that if
the association’s opinion of a
potential candidate is nega-
tive, the candidate “will never
be nominated.” He said it has
always been his judgment
that “the political parties
should propose and the Bar
Association dispose” of judi-
cial recommendations.
Both Parties Back Plan To Rate Court Hopefuls

By Dick Zander

Mineola—The county's two political party leaders yesterday wholeheartedly endorsed a plan by the Nassau Bar Association to interview prospective judicial candidates on their qualifications before party designations are made.

Assembly Speaker Joseph F. Carlin, Nassau GOP chairman, and Nassau Democratic Chairman John F. English said they would not recommend the nomination of any candidate who was held "unqualified" by the association's committee on the judiciary.

The two leaders strongly endorsed their plans in separate letters to Charles P. Buckley Jr., president of the association.

The association's committee faces the sizeable task in the near future of interviewing prospective candidates for seven new Supreme Court posts, a new Children's Court judgeship and a third position on the County Court. Although there is nothing legally binding in the committee's classification of candidates, the ratings are looked upon as holding weight with voters and politicians.

Under a recent amendment to the association's bylaws, the committee was expanded to 17 members. Eight are Republicans and eight Democrats while the 17th member is the association president, a post held in past years by Republicans and Democrats. In the past, the committee had led a lopsided GOP majority. A controversy erupted in 1959 when the committee, then composed of eight Republicans and one Democrat, gave a "not qualified" rating to Mrs. Beatrice Burstein, the Democratic candidate for Children's Court. Last year, Mrs. Burstein was rated "qualified" in her unsuccessful race for presiding judge of the District Court.

The new system also will affect judges who seek re-election. Last year, the question of rating arose when District Court Judge Frank A. Visone, a Republican, failed to show up for an interview. However, Visone later appeared before the group and was rated as "qualified" for re-election.

The expanded committee has been asked to take on the additional duty of interviewing prospective judicial appointees. It was learned that Gov. Rockefeller has asked the committee to rate C. Bruce Pearsall, Manhasset GOP leader, as a candidate for appointment to a new County Court judgeship, and Hempstead Village Police Justice Alexander Berman as a potential appointee to a new Children's Court post.

In his letter to Buckley, Carlin said GOP leaders "wholeheartedly agree with my policy that there should be every cooperation with the bar association in our mutual endeavor to select men and women of the highest possible character and competence to serve in judicial positions." He said that although "no one may murmur the function of elected delegates to the Republican 10th Judicial District convention," no name that is rated as not qualified would be recommended to the convention for nomination.

English, in his letter to Buckley, said, "No political leader wants to put an unqualified man on the bench." He said that under the new plan, if a candidate is rated as not qualified "the candidate will never be nominated and there will be no attendant publicity." He called the plan "a splendid accomplishment."
February 19, 1963
Mario Cuomo was accepted for associate membership in the Nassau County Bar Association.

April 9, 1963
Mrs. Marie G. Santagata, President of the Nassau County Women’s Bar Association, requested that the Association act as custodian of a plaque presented to her organization in recognition of the services of its members in providing legal assistance to indigent juvenile delinquents. The president accepted the plaque and stated that it would be displayed in the Great Hall.

May 23, 1963
Arthur Dean received the Distinguished Service Medallion.

May 22, 1969
Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg received the Distinguished Service Medallion.

February 10, 1970
By a vote of 215-82, members of the Association rejected a legislative proposal which would require a biennial registration of $15 for lawyers, the funds "to support the expense of disciplinary proceedings instituted by the various bar associations and would further be used to create a fund for the protection of clients where an attorney defalcated."

May 21, 1970
Retired Chief Justice Earl Warren received the Distinguished Service Medallion.

May 1970
C. Walter Randall, past president and long time director of the Bar Association, passed away. He had directed the Bar when it erected its home in 1930.

September 1970
Hofstra University Law School opened. There had been 500 applications for admission to the first class of 150. About 1,000 applied the next year.

December 10, 1970
A well attended dinner at the Garden City Hotel honored Judge Marcus Christ on his pending retirement from the Appellate Division.

January 5, 1971
The Board of Directors endorsed the Hughes-Crawford bill before the state legislature concerning no fault insurance.

February 9, 1971
Responding to a request by Gerald Albert, President of the Legal Aid Society, the Board adopted a resolution "that all members be encouraged to offer their financial assistance to the Legal Aid Society in order that it may continue the important work of protecting and safe-guarding the legal rights of indigent persons." The directors also urged that the county continue its support of Legal Aid. Some members suggested that there was inadequate supervision of applicants to determine who qualified for assistance.

March 9, 1971
The Association endorsed legislation to create the Fifth Judicial District, which would encompass Nassau and Suffolk.
April 30, 1971
The Law Services Program was terminated after the end of a federal grant and the absence of funding by the state or county.

1971
The Garden City Hotel was demolished. The Association had held its annual dinners at the famous hotel, which had been designed by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White. The site remained vacant for more than a decade.

December 1972
The Directors cancelled the Association’s minimum or suggested fee schedule, and notified all members of that decision.

1973
The state legislature passed no-fault automobile insurance.

1973
The State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department, enacted a new grievance procedure. The Appellate Division would appoint committees based on names suggested by the local bar associations. Each committee would have a paid counsel and staff, and would largely supplant the Bar's grievance Committee.

April 10, 1973
The Board adopted the following resolution: “It is unethical for an ‘attorney’ to ask, demand, receive, or expect what has come to be known in the profession as a ‘kickback’ or ‘commission’ from any title company or title abstract company without first making full disclosure to his client that he is receiving, or will receive, such renumeration.”

May 2, 1973
The directors endorsed a proposal calling for the appointment of Court of Appeals judges by the governor, subject to the advice and consent of the legislature.

December 11, 1973
After the Department of Justice had inquired about the Association’s minimum fee schedule, the Directors adopted the following: “the Bar Association… hereby confirms that this Association’s minimum or scheduled fee was withdrawn and cancelled…” at the last meeting of the Board in December 1972, and notice was sent to all members. A committee met with an investigator from the Justice Department on Dec. 31st, and in February, the directors resolved that the Association “unequivocally hereby rescinds and annuls any minimum or suggested or other fee schedules heretofore published…”

December 23, 1973
The United States Treasury Department confirmed the tax exempt status of the Bar Association of Nassau County Fund, Inc. under section 501 (c) (3).

January 8, 1974
The Association permitted the posting of resumes of Hofstra Law School graduates on a board at Domus. In addition, they voted to allow Hofstra law students to attend without cost programs and seminars presented by the Bar Association.

February 14, 1974
The Directors endorsed the application of Tax Clinic, Inc., which would provide a vehicle whereby Hofstra law students could furnish tax advice to individuals with poverty level incomes ($13,199 for a family of four).
The students would not prepare tax returns, but would provide services at no charge to those called before the I.R.S. for an audit.

May 23, 1974
Former Governor Nelson Rockefeller received the Distinguished Service Medallion. Some members had objected to the selection because, they said, it implied that the Association endorsed his position favoring abortion rights. The board disagreed and refused to issue a public statement about the matter.

June 19, 1974
The Association again rejected the idea of creating a unified bar association for the state as “not in the best interests of this Association, nor its members, nor the bar of the State of New York, nor the public generally."

December 7, 1974
A program by the Criminal Law and Procedure Committee on the new drug law and practice attracted a crowd which filled the Great Hall and the dining room.

December 31, 1974
Half of all those arrested in the county during 1974 were between 16 and 25 years of age; that group also accounted for 57 percent of all felony arrests.

April 8, 1975
The Board of Directors endorsed "the concept of group prepaid legal services plans," which, they said, "could provide a broad spectrum of legal care and protection to consumers." State Senator John Dunne, former president of the Association, had introduced the prepaid legal services bill in the legislature.

May 13, 1975
With the equal rights amendment bottled up in committee in the legislature, after passing the year before, the Association adopted the following resolution: "without approving or disapproving the concepts expressed in the Equal Rights Amendment passed by the 1973-74 New York State Legislature, that the Bar Association…does hereby urge the Nassau County legislative delegation support second passage of the amendment…so that the proposed amendment can be submitted to the voters on a state wide basis for their consideration."

September 9, 1975
The Association engaged Hank Boerner and Associates, a public relations firm, to publicize the activities and positions of the Bar.

November 20, 1975
The United States Department of Commerce designated Nassau and Suffolk a separate Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, the first SMSA in the country not part of a major city. At the time, it ranked as the 9th largest in population in the nation and was the fastest growing SMSA in the state.

April 13, 1976
The Directors adopted a resolution "that the concept of lawyers advertising is not in the best interests of the public. We believe that the continuation and expansion of present Nassau Bar Association programs will continue to serve the public and will ensure that legal representation is available to all the people of our county."

May 11, 1976
The Board of Directors addressed the question of the decriminalization of marijuana. Following a lengthy discussion, a vote that "the Association endorse the concept that possession of a small quantity of marijuana
for personal use be legalized" ended in a tie. The motion was then withdrawn.

**August 30, 1976**
The 22nd regional office of the American Arbitration Association opened at 585 Stewart Avenue in Garden City.

**June 1977**
The United States Supreme Court ruled that lawyers were permitted to advertise.

**January 19, 1978**
The Association amended the by-laws to create a new category of membership for law students.

**September 12, 1978**
Following the Supreme Court ruling legalizing advertising by attorneys, the Board approved a resolution "that it shall be the policy of the Bar Association of Nassau County that its Ethics Committee shall be authorized to consider questions submitted to it by attorneys concerning legal advertising and render advisory opinions thereon."

**December 18, 1978**
The county Probation Department announced it would end Operation Midway, a successful program intended to reform young lawbreakers before they enter the criminal justice system. The program began in 1971 and postponed trial for a year while the youth received counseling and supervision. The Association actively lobbied to have the program reinstated, and at a meeting with the Probation Department received assurances that it would be maintained in skeletal form.

**January 1, 1979**
The Association sponsored TEL-LAW, a set of tapes covering a range of legal topics available to the public over the telephone.

**January 2, 1979**
After the Nassau County Board of Supervisors slashed the budget of the Legal Aid Society by 40 percent, Matthew Muraskin, director, announced that he would have to lay off 14 of the 39 staff attorneys.
Nassau Judge Hopefuls Avoid Campaign Issues

By Bob Inbranio

Garden City—Two Republican candidates for Nassau County Court judgeships talked, shook hands, smiled and laughed their way through hundreds of persons recently at a dinner-cdance here for the faithful of the Nassau Republican Party. Their methods evoked a familiar style that has become traditional in American campaigning. But there was a difference—the two candidates were not making promises.

The two, incumbent Nassau County Court Judges Frank X. Altinari and Bernard Tomson, both were seeking reelection, but like all candidates for judgeships, their words and actions were subject to the judicial code of ethics, as are those of the two Democratic-Liberal candidates, Nassau District Court Judge Philip B. Heller and Henry W. Schober, a Mineola lawyer.

The New York State Bar Association's code of ethics allows candidates to campaign, when nominated by a political party, but prohibits them from running on political or legal issues. For example, section 30 of the code says that a judicial candidate "...should not announce in advance his conclusions of law on disputed issues to secure class support..." Even so, judicial candidates go through the motions of campaigning without issues, if only to make themselves visible to voters.

The two candidates who receive the greatest number of votes in the race will be declared the winners and will serve 10-year terms. Altinari and Tomson were appointed last June by Gov. Rockefeller to fill court vacancies.

The effect of the judicial code on the candidates is obvious. "The campaign is a very soft and gentle one," Altinari said. "When you go to dinner after dinner, you can do is extend your hand gently."

There are, however, other means of campaigning. Altinari and Tomson rely heavily on personal appearances supplemented by circulars and mailings.

Schober said that he was counting on "personal contact with the voting body, friends who know me and know of my abilities and my standing and the attitude of the members of the bar" to help him win a seat.

Heller said that he intended to use "countwide press" advertisements and radio spot advertising if there were sufficient funds. He also has asked acquaintances to write to their friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors on his behalf. "If there is any area where the voter will deviate from the party, it is most likely to be for judicial candidates," he said. "Judges are not expected to, and do not, carry party lines into court. If he (the voter) is looking for a judicial candidate, he is likely to take somebody's word for it," he said.

Tomson said that he was concerned with the invisible nature of his campaign. "Every time I shake somebody's hand and he says, 'I'm going to vote Row A all the way,' I wonder. I always think of the man who is going to vote Row B all the way, also without any knowledge of the candidates or their qualifications. I want people to vote for me because of my record and my qualifications."

Because the candidates are prohibited from running on issues, their campaign literature consists mainly of their backgrounds.

Schober, 64, of West Hempstead, was an assistant district attorney in Queens for about 15 years, nine of which he served as chief of that office's appeals bureau. He was also first deputy commissioner of investigations for New York State from 1955-57.

Heller, 62, of Roslyn, was law secretary to State Supreme Court Justice William H. Brenner Jr. and Bernard S. Meyer for about 30 years and sat on the Nassau District Court bench on an interim basis in 1973 as an associate of County Executive Nickerson.

Tomson, 51, of Great Neck, was twice elected a Nassau District Court judge and served 10 years in that capacity. He has authored two books on architectural and engineering law, and lectures on law regularly at several universities.

Altinari, 42, of Old Westbury, was a Nassau District Court judge from 1966 until his County Court appointment in June. The appellate division of the State Supreme Court named him acting County Court judge eight months before that appointment, however, to fill the seat of Judge James L. Dowsey, who was ill at the time and has since retired. Altinari has been a faculty member at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, for 16 years.

In the period between now and Nov. 3, the four men who want to sit on the Nassau County Court will continue smiling, shaking people's hands, talking and campaigning, without issues and without promises.

January 31, 1979
The Association's "lawyers in the Classroom program was the most successful in the state. Over 200 attorneys volunteered to participate, and in the previous five months Nassau lawyers made 91 classroom visits.

February 1, 1979
The Lawyer Referral Service moved into the home of the Association. In the previous year, 400 members of the Association had handled 1,428 cases under the program. For the preceding quarter century the service had been operated by the Legal Aid Society's Civil Division.
February 13, 1979
The Ethics committee reported that of the 63 advertisements for attorneys in the previous Sunday's *Newsday*, 45 were anonymous, and 20 of those had not been placed by lawyers, but by paralegals or others holding themselves out to be attorneys. The Board resolved "that the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, be advised of this Association’s recommendation that the Court's rules with respect to lawyer advertising be amended to require that any advertisement… contain the attorney’s name, business address and telephone number.

March 13 and 14, 1979
The membership held a special election to a plan to assess all members $250 to finance the expansion of Domus. The tally fell 24 votes short of the two-thirds majority required (201-136). The Directors then began a campaign to reconsider the question.

May 24, 1979
The 80th Annual Dinner honored Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

June 1, 1979
All lawyers practicing in New York State were required to register with the Office of Court Administration by this date, and every second year thereafter. The new regulation also required lawyers to reregister upon opening or closing an office or changing an address.

June 5, 1979
At a special meeting, the membership approved a proposition to borrow up to $700,000 from the Roslyn Savings Bank to finance the building program. The question was approved overwhelmingly (84 percent). The directors then voted to increase dues by $30 for regular members, $15 for junior members to pay for the mortgage.

1980
Lawrence Lally chairs a committee to investigate setting up a separate non-profit corporation to meet the expanding educational needs of attorneys as well as to provide programs of service to the public.

October 26, 1980
Ceremonies marked the dedication of the expanded home of the Bar Association.

June 18, 1981
The *New York Law Journal* included a special supplement highlighting the Bar Association of Nassau County.

1982
The Charter of the Nassau Academy of Law is approved by the NCBA and the Board of Regents. The first Dean is M. Kathryn Meng.

1982
The Association hosts its first NYS Mock Trial Competition among Nassau high school student teams. Hewlett High School wins the regional championship.

1988
The WE CARE Fund, the charitable arm of the Bar, is founded by NCBA President Stephen Gassman.
October 15, 1980

John Santamma, Esq.
114 Old Country Road
Mineola, New York 11501

Dear Mr. Santamma:

Lieutenant Governor Cuomo is pleased to be able to accept your invitation to attend the dedication ceremony of the expanded building for the Nassau County Bar Association on Sunday, October 26th.

Will you kindly forward to us as soon as possible all specifics regarding time, place and the Lieutenant Governor's role.

Enclosed for your use, please find photograph and biographical narrative of Lieutenant Governor Cuomo.

If you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Tonio Burgos
Scheduling Coordinator
1989
Past President Frank Yannelli institutes monthly free senior citizen clinics, providing one-on-one consultations.

July 19, 1993
After a break of two years, the Association held its annual field day at the Cedarbrook Country Club in Brookville. The Directors had adopted a policy in 1991 prohibiting the Bar from holding events at any club which discriminated against women regarding membership or tee times. *Newsday* praised the Association's principled stand.

August 16, 1993
Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye of the New York State Court of Appeals issued new rules for lawyers in divorce cases to take effect November 1. Clients are entitled to a written fee schedule and itemized bills, and lawyers are forbidden from taking a client's home in lieu of unpaid bills. Furthermore, the new rules forbid sexual relations between an attorney and his or her client while the case is pending.

1994
Grace D. Moran is the first woman installed as President of the Nassau County Bar Association; the Tech Center opens.

1997
Oral arguments before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals are conducted through the Tech Center’s state-of-the-art use of video conferencing.

1999
The NYS Office of Court Administration mandates continuing legal education, setting up rules and regulations that closely mirror those originally proposed in 1986 by the Academy and then-president Edward T. Robinson III.

**Nassau County Bar Association Chronology continued, by Jennifer L. Koo**

September 2000
The first “Domus on the Lawn” is held, a welcome back from summer outdoor barbeque, on the front lawn of Domus.

2007
Lance D. Clarke is the first African American elected President of the Bar Association.

2008
NCBA is the first bar in the state to address the looming mortgage foreclosure crisis, creating a task force that includes Nassau County government offices and the NYS Attorney General’s office.

2009
President Peter Levy launches the monthly Mortgage Foreclosure Legal Consultation Clinic program where attorneys volunteer to provide free legal guidance to homeowners caught in the mortgage foreclosure crisis.

2010
BOLD (Bridge Over Language Divides) is launched to make the Bar more responsive to the changing ethnic diversity in Nassau by reaching out to non-English speaking communities.
2011
NCBA leads the creation of the Nassau County Crime Lab Task Force, composed of leading criminal defense attorneys and representatives of legal organizations, to help determine the future of the Nassau County Crime Lab, which was closed resulting from questions involving the credibility of lab tests used in criminal cases. First annual Pro Bono FAIR (Free Advice Information and Referral) held.

2012
Executive Director Deena Ehrlich retires after 25 years; Keith Soressi is hired as the new Executive Director. Members immediately respond after Superstorm Sandy to provide legal guidance in 21 clinics held at Domus and at disaster sites, helping nearly 1,000 residents.
Middle Temple Model of Domus
By Jennifer L. Koo

Domus is modeled after England’s Middle Temple, which is one of four Inns of Court. The Inns of Court are the professional associations for barristers in England and Wales. The buildings belonging to these associations were often built in a gothic style. This same gothic style was used when constructing the home of the Nassau County Bar Association.

One of Middle Temple’s main functions is to provide education and support to new barristers, similar to that of the Nassau County Bar Association. In addition, the Middle Temple also provides supervisory and disciplinary functions over their members.

Construction of the Middle Temple Hall, which Domus’s Great Hall is modeled after, began in 1562, completed in 1572, and was officially opened in 1576 by Queen Elizabeth I. The hall has a hammerbeam roof. At the end of the hall sits a table made from planks of the ship Golden Hinde, which Sir Francis Drake used to circumnavigate the world.

Around the hall sits portraits of King Charles I, Charles II, James II, William III, Elizabeth I, Queen Anne and George I. There are also panels bearing the coats of arms of the senior members dating back to 1597.

The hall is the heart of the Middle Temple and is filled with history, art, and wonder. It is the inspiration for Domus.

Toast to Domus

The following toast was given at the Bar Association’s 17th Annual Dinner Dance:

  Regarded by American lawyers as the cradle of the Common Law of England and of their own homeland, this great member of the Inns of Court has helped to shape the destiny of this country for almost two centuries.

  A College of Law long before Columbus set sail for this continent, it produced Sir William Blackstone, whose commentaries were studied more in the American Colonies of the 18th century than in England during the same period.

  Among its illustrious sons who played leading roles in the founding of this nation were Edmund Burke, —Payton Randolph, who presided over the Continental Congress of 1774,—John Dickinson, Edward Rutledge, Thomas Hayward, Thomas McKean, Thomas Lynch, and Arthur Middleton, all signers of the Declaration of Independence,—John Rutledge, Chairman of the committee which drafted the Constitution,—and Jared Ingersoll and Will Livingston, who were among its signers. And it was Middle Temple’s child, Virginia, that headed the Revolution.

  When, in 1929, this Association determined to erect a home of its own, it was unanimously determined to pattern it after this great Temple.
The late Arthur J. McKenna, a prominent engineer and architect of the County, after long and careful study, produced the plans for the modest replica (as nearly so as hopes of financing ability would permit) which is today the Home of the Association.

Ground was broken for its erection on January 27th, 1930—the cornerstone was laid on April 14th and the finished Home was dedicated—by our distinguished fellow member, Honorable John W. Davis, on March 21st of the following year.

Tonight, for the seventeenth time, we hold our Annual Dinner in the Great Hall of our own “Temple” which is to us,—as is Middle Temple to its members—“Domus.”
AN ESSAY ON THE INNS OF COURT IN OLD ENGLAND

"Architecture is the art which so disposes and adorns the edifices raised by man for whatsoever uses, that the sight of them contribute to his mental health, Power and pleasure."

John Ruskin

Dedicated to the Bar Association of Nassau County
By HENRY MITTLER*

INTRODUCTION

This historical treatise is dedicated to the BAR ASSOCIATION OF NASSAU COUNTY, N.Y., Inc. and THE CHAPEL BUILDING which stands at the foot of 15th and West Street, Mineola, New York. A monument of antiquity to the noble profession of the Law.

INNS OF COURT OF OLD ENGLAND

In the saga of English history, the structural and educational development of the legal profession, advanced in stages, for the most part, commencing with the Middle Ages under feudalism through the Renaissance, the Age of Social and political enlightenment, from the 13th through the 17th century. Its progression and refinements, if somewhat slow, halting and tortuous, variously coincided with the gradual growth and embellishment of English constitutional system of common and statutory law.

The Magna Carta granted by King John in the year 1620, to the English Barons, and the Petition of Right, by King Charles Stuart, the First, to Parliament in 1628, of which both were conceded with grudging caution and considerable reluctance, actually formed the very foundation upon which were buttressed the constitutional and statutory laws of England for many generations. These, and other supplemental statutes, not only served to define the civil liberties and property rights of the English subjects in a court of Law, but also tended to prescribe and limit, in a measure, the 'devine' prerogatives of Monarchy, while at the same time granting to Parliament, those prerogatives, theretofore either withheld, denied or abused. It was more in a manner of speaking, Lex over Rex, rather than Rex over Lex (whether the law or the King was omnipotent).

It is propitious and fortuitous, that we, in this Country, inherited, and to a large extent, the founding fathers did have the common sense and wisdom to adopt precepts of a similar system of the common and statutory law; to guarantee that these "unalienable rights" and fundamental concepts of good government, would be perpetuated and preserved for the people; that these ancient English precepts were painstakingly written into the Declaration

* Valley Stream, New York.

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of Independence; the Articles of Confederation; the Federalist Papers, and most importantly of all, the Constitution of the United States, of which the Bill of Rights, are our most precious documentary proof against the improvident use or abuse of power.

The legal profession of England had in the 16th and 17th century, attained a quality and degree of grandeur and importance in the constitutional history of law, during the reigns of the Tudors, the Stuarts and the Cromwellian Protectorate, equal to, if not considerably greater by example, than any other nation on the continent of Europe. Eminent lawyers and jurists, Sir Francis Bacon, Sir William Blackstone and Sir Edward Coke, are the names of, but a few great and illustrious proponents of an enlightened legal profession; lawyers, who nurtured and added to the luster of the English Judicature; and to whose memory posterity have revered, and paid highest tribute, in recognition of their profound erudition and legal expertise in the canons of constitutional and the common law.

To particularize, but a partial list of English lawyers, who had earned their law degrees at the INNS OF COURT, the following are some examples:

JOHN SELDON, son of a yeoman, attended the College of Hart Hall Oxford, and took his law degree at the INNER TEMPLE in the year 1620. He became one of the most distinguished lawyers and Parliamentarian in the 17th century, during the reigns of King James, the First and King Charles, the First. He served 20 years in the House of Parliament, and for two years, had the misfortune of being imprisoned in the Tower of London, by order of the King, for having the temerity to argue in the Commons against tannage, poundage and ship money; a royal tax imposed upon the Kings subjects, without an Act or the consent of Parliament. Selden was a man of considerable learning, both as a law and rabbinical scholar. In his lifetime, he wrote many treatise—all in Latin, of which the most prominent and still existant, was his 'Table Talk'. In a quote from this book, translated into English, we find a philosophical commentary—"Rhetoric without logic is like a tree without leaves and blossoms, but no root, yet I confess, more are taken, with rhetoric than logic, because they are caught with a free expression, when they understand not reason."

EDWARD HYDE, LORD CLARENDAWN, of an aristocratic background and family, attended Oxford University, and took his law degree at the MIDDLE TEMPLE INN. As one of the trusted advisors to King Charles, he became Chancellor of the Exchequer; later a minister to France; but because of his political involvement between the contending factions of Parliament and the King during the period of Restoration, he was exiled to France, where he lived for most of his later life. His 'History of the Rebellion' is still one of the very few living chronicles, existant, and considered by historians as the most authoritative account of the political turmoil in a constitutional crisis of the 17th century. Clarendon was a brilliant lawyer, Parliamentarian, a scholar and an historian.

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SIR FRANCIS BACON, son of the Queen Elizabeth's Lord Keeper, Sir Nicholas Bacon, attended Cambridge University, and at early age of 16 years, was admitted to TEMPLE INN, and later went on to complete his formal education 'in residency' under the tutelage of Sir Paulet, an Ambassador to France. He first served as the Queens Counsel in the impeachment trial of the Earl of Essex, who himself had been the Queen's confidant, but having lost favor, was prosecuted, condemned and beheaded on the scaffold. Although Essex had been for some time, Bacon's patron and benefactor, it was Bacon who was charged by the Royal command, to prosecute Essex for the crime of conspiracy and treason against the Crown. Ironically, Bacon likewise fell from grace in later years, when he had advanced from Solicitor General of the King's Bench to Lord Chancellor. On a charge of malfeasance in Judicial office, he was impeached and for a brief time committed to the Tower. However, the Crown and the Parliament relented and paid homage to his greatness; for his unparalleled literary productions in the field of philosophy, economics and science, such as 'The Advancement of Learning'; 'The Novum Organum' and the 'New Atlantis'. These treatise left a legacy of wisdom unequaled in the annals of time. His claim to perpetual fame, is that he was instrumental through his profound and erudite discourses to propound a revolutionary concept of empirical pragmatism, that rivaled the theoretical sophistry of Aristotle and Plato. He laid the groundwork for man's emancipation from pure theory to scientific practice, and from practice to technological invention, which in turn led to the era of the industrial revolution.

The INNS OF COURT were so conducted, that the 'junior' apprentices acquired their legal instruction from experienced 'Inner' Barristers, who were variously described as 'benchers' and 'Lent readers'. The great halls of the Inns and Temples, with their high vaulted ceilings, latticed with wooden cross beams, were furnished with elongated low benches for the apprentice students, while the 'readers' benches were elevated in the foreground, so that the readers might be more readily seen as well as heard by their charges. In a similar manner, 'moot' Courts were regularly held, as a part of the legal instruction, to prepare and acquaint the law students with simulated conditions of practical Court procedures.

A more recent description in English Constitutional History, provides this commentary—"The Inns of Court were not then (1620) as now specialized series of institutions destined to equip a body of young men for the law, and nothing but the law. They were, on the contrary regarded as an honorable supplement to a young gentlemen's upbringing; to repair to London to study the law was, whatever the views of Cromwell's mother, a conventional development in the life of a young man of this station, as all the other steps so far taken. Of the members of Parliament between 1640 and 1642, over 300 had been in one of the Inns of Court including names to become famous in the turbulent years to follow. The Inns of Court were then situated in a positively sylvan area between the City of London and the rising City of Westminster,

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surrounded by green fields as yet untouched by building specula-
tors."

Young men, who matriculated from the Colleges and Univer-
sities, and went on, to take instruction in the Inns of Court, were
required to be well versed in the ancient liturgy of Latin and the
modern French idiom. This was, for a very practical reason, since
all official state and court documentation had been by custom and
precedent even since the Norman invasion of the early 11th cen-
tury, recorded in either Latin or French. Macaulay writes thus—
"There was in England scarcely one eminent statesman who could
read with enjoyment a page of Sophocles or Plato—but good Latin
scholars were numerous. To speak it well was therefore a much
more common accomplishment that in our time (1835). Latin was
in the 16th century all and more than all that the French was in
the 18th century. It was the language of courts as well as of the
schools. It was the language of diplomacy; it was the language of
theological and political controversy. Being a fixed language while
the living languages were in a state of fluctuation and being uni-
versally known to the learned and polite, it was employed by
almost every writer who aspired to a wide and durable reputation.
A person who was ignorant of it, was shut out from all acquaint-
ance."

These INNS OF COURT, not only passed upon the qualifica-
tions of their 'apprentice' law students, for admission to practice
in the four branches of the English Judiciary system, namely;
The Court of Common Pleas; the Court of the King’s Bench; the Court of the Exchequer, and the Court of Chancery (Equity), as well as the circuit assizes, they were impressed with full authority to eject any student or lawyer whose conduct was reprehensible.

There were four INNS OF COURT; The Lincoln Inn, originally rented from Thomas de Lincoln; Gray’s Inn, from Lord Gray of Wilton; and the Middle and Inner Temple Inns, each, whose origin traced back in antiquity to the Middle Ages, when these chapels were used by the Templars, a crusading Order of Knights. Under the reign of King Edward II, an edict was made, dissolving the Crusader’s Order, and these latter chapels were taken over by the lawyers.

Later the INNS OF COURT, while they still retained their distinctive and separate historical identities, their functions for the education and training of ‘apprentices’ were preempted by the establishment of Colleges and Universities. The buildings and chapels still stand, symbolic of an era in antiquity, that is well remembered for their historic role in jurisprudence; that serve to nurture and produce some of the greatest legal minds in all of recorded English history. These Inns and Halls of legal learning are used exclusively by the lawyers, who regularly meet and dine within their memorable halls, in a spirit of legal fraternalism. While centuries have, since come and gone, and the remembrance thereof has dimmed, the spirit, if not the substance lingers on, as a fitting tribute to those professional progenitors, who, with rare good conscience and by their brave deeds, endured controversy and faced great danger, upon which depended, often their fortunes and their lives. At times, they forfeited both, for a legal or constitutional conviction, which although unpopular at the time, they adhered to, with great courage and fortitude. It might even be argued, that except for such demonstration of principled men, constitutional government might have been eclipsed and passed into the limbo of an ancient civilization.

List of Works cited:

English Prose—Clark, N. 1904.
Macaulay, T., Biographical Essays 1834.
Fraser, A., Lord Protector.
Bacon, F., Advancement of Learning - ed. 1899.
Great Hall Banners
Two heraldic banners hanging above the fireplace in the Great Hall in Domus were created by the world’s foremost banner maker, Norman Laliberté, and symbolically portray the historical development of Long Island (the left banner) and the historical development of our law (the right banner).

**LEFT BANNER**

The top panel of the left banner portrays the hand of God reaching for the hand of man, symbolizing the Covenant between God and Man traced back to pre-Judaic origins. The crescent symbol of Moon/God between the two hands is taken from a 13th century B.C. Canaanite stele (coin). The second panel represents Long Island and the Sound, with some waterborne pre-historic settlers. The Third panel represents the Long Island Native Americans (the Massapequas, the Matinecocks, the Merricks and the Rockaways), who in 1643 deeded to the settlers from Connecticut the lands which make up the present Towns of Hempstead and North Hempstead in Nassau County. The fourth panel portrays the Native Americans turning over the lands to the settlers, and includes the Nassau County Rampant Lion, the Shield and Lamb symbols of the Middle Temple of the Inns of Court in London, and the logo of the Nassau County Bar Association. The quote, “People are free when protected by laws,” is from Aristotle.

The five tabs hanging from the bottom of the left banner portray the founding year and symbol of Nassau County’s five principal municipalities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1644</td>
<td>Town of Hempstead</td>
<td>Eagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>Town of North Hempstead</td>
<td>Native American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1653</td>
<td>Town of Oyster Bay</td>
<td>Sea Gull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1668</td>
<td>City of Glen Cove</td>
<td>Eagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>City of Long Beach</td>
<td>Clock Tower</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RIGHT BANNER**

The right banner’s first panel depicts the sun, the most ancient of all symbols, reflective of God and Justice, along with a rainbow depicting peace, pardon, and reconciliation. The second panel depicts three judges with the phrase, JUS DICERE, loosely interpreted to mean “Proclaim the rights of the litigants.” Also portrayed on this panel are two tablets representing the Ten Commandments along with the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, symbolizing the beginning and the ending of all life. The third panel portrays the Goddess of Justice, the symbol of NCBA. The fourth and fifth panels portray the members of the jury, six jurors of varying colors and creeds in each panel. Across the top panel of jurors is the maxim “Seek only the truth,” and across the lower panel is the excerpt “of the people, by the people, and for the people” from Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

The five tabs hanging from the bottom of the right banner portray the year and a symbol of five significant events in our legal history:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1215</td>
<td>Magna Carta</td>
<td>The Great Oak Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1665</td>
<td>Duke’s Law of Convention</td>
<td>Long Island Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1777</td>
<td>The First New York State Constitution</td>
<td>Quill and Ink Well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1787</td>
<td>The Federal Constitutional Convention</td>
<td>Scroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Creating of the Nassau County Bar Association and Nassau County</td>
<td>Domus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Centennial Celebration:

The First 100 Years

By George M. Kaplan, Esq.
The centennial celebration of the Nassau County Bar Association carries special significance, because over the last century, the Bar Association has tremendously grown in size, prominence, and prestige.

Originally numbering only 19 attorneys, the membership of the Association has expanded today to include nearly 5,000 practicing attorneys, making the Nassau County Bar Association the largest suburban bar association in the United States. Myriad of committees, academic programs, and charitable endeavors undertaken by the Bar Association offer the membership ample opportunity to address topical legal issues and perform valuable legal service to the surrounding community in a positive environment of camaraderie. Throughout the century, the Bar Association has consistently demonstrated an instinctive ability to listen to and take part in the legal matters of the surrounding communities, recognizing the changing needs as the county has grown and adapting to them.

To this day, the Bar Association has remained resolutely dedicated to the excellence in practice of law, with continued reliance upon traditional legal values and principles. The Bar Association was founded upon the principle that a lawyer’s most noble calling is to serve the community, a doctrine which has, if anything, been strengthened over the past 100 years.

The Nassau County Bar Association possesses a rich and varied history. This was perhaps stated best by John P. McCarthy when he wrote that “[T]his organization is perhaps Nassau County’s outstanding one, certainly the most colorful and unique, few, if any, will deny.”

Creating of the Bar Association shortly followed the legal creation of Nassau County on January 1, 1899, “Nassau” having been the colonial name for Long Island adopted in 1693. Other names that had been considered for Nassau County included “Norfolk,” because “Norfolk” was adjacent to “Suffolk” England, and “Bryant County” in honor of the Poet William Cullen Bryant.

The first meeting of the newly organized Nassau County Bar Association took place on January 18, 1899 with John B. Boles Tappan serving as temporary chair and George W. Eastman as temporary secretary. The constitution and by-laws were adopted by the first 19 charter members on February 24, 1899 who included:

- James S. Allen
- Paul K. Ames
- Franklin T. Coles
- Willmont T. Cox
- Edward Cromwell
- Eugene W. Denton
- George W. Eastman
- Henry M. W. Eastman
- Fred Ingrahm
- John B. Coles Tappan
- August Weller
- William J. Young

The first dinner marking formation of the Bar Association was held at Allan’s Hotel in Mineola on March 2, 1899 were the first officers of the Association were formally elected:

- President—August N. Weller
- Vice President—George W. Eastman
- Treasurer—Edward T. Payne
- Secretary—William Clark Roe
The first annual dues amounted to a whopping $6.00 a year, with the dinner cost being $3.00 per member! Shortly thereafter, on July 13, 1900, Governor (and soon to be Vice President) Theodore Roosevelt participates in the cornerstone-laying ceremonies for the Nassau County Court House at the corner of Old County Road and Franklin Avenue in Mineola. The Court House, which is still in use today, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Eugene Denton and Judge Townsend Scudder, the last surviving charter members, passed away respectively on February 10, 1951 and February 22, 1960.

Certain traditions which were created early are still carried out by the Bar Association to this day. The first annual dinner took place in New York City on January 19, 1901, at which nine members attended. The annual dinner dance was first held in Nassau County in 1909 where 36 members paid a price of $3.00 each for a night of good food and company at the Garden City Hotel. On June 15, 1931, the dinner was first held within the walls of Domus, the Bar Association’s new home, with the attorneys seated at long tables lining the walls of the Great Hall, as was the custom of the stately dinners given in the traditional courts in England.

Several other formal opportunities for socializing have been created over the years, including the Domus Open, an all-day gold tournament followed by dinner that rouses both friendly competition and a spirit of camaraderie among members. The contest and dinner originated in the late 1930s, when the Bar Association established weekly “maids night out” gatherings “because of the fact that most lawyers and their wives are the least busy on Thursday night, and because those who engage maids have to let them go on Thursday.” For a mere seventy-five cents, the lawyers were treated to a cocktail hour and full dinner at Domus, these two activities being combined into the Annual Field Day which eventually evolved into the Domus Open of today.

Other popular events which have been created and continue include Breakfast at the Bar, the Law Student Reception, and the Volunteer Recognition Party, to name just a few.

As the twentieth century unfolded, local bar associations gradually became more publicly active in legal affairs. For example, the New York State Bar Association adopted a resolution at its January 16, 1920 meeting calling for all local bar associations to assume greater responsibility for maintenance and conduct of legal aid work. The growing population and concomitant increase in legal affairs in Nassau County soon began taking their toll on law practice in the area. In this regard, the Bar Association, on November 9, 1921, urged Governor Nathan L. Miller, to appoint a Nassau County resident as a State Supreme Court Justice. Throughout the 1920s, the Bar Association conferred various bipartisan endorsements for federal and state judges. The Bar Association also took the lead in continuously advocating expansion of the local courts and facilities.

On April 1, 1927, the state tax law was amended to exempt real property of bar associations and other not-for-profit enterprises, from property taxes. This set the stage for creation of Domus, a permanent home for the Bar Association. The first mention of finding a permanent home for the Nassau County Bar Association can be found in a speech by Frederick L. Gilbert at a meeting in the County Law Library at the close of World War I. Action by the Bar Association quickly followed the change in the tax law on August 26, 1927, with creating of a three member committee consisting of Charles N. Wysong, Francis G. Hooly, and A. Holly Patterson for the purpose of investigating construction of a “permanent office and meeting place” for the Bar Association.

On November 15, 1927, a “Bar Association Building Committee” was created and chaired by C. Walter Randall, with the Board of Directors authorizing Randall (a subsequent President of the Association) to purchase the present site from the Garden City Company for $12,050.00, a sum virtually consuming the entire treasury of the Bar Association. Slightly less than one acre in size, this plot of land marked the location of the former gardening grounds of the Nassau County Jail House. This location at the corner of 15th and
West streets in Garden City would shortly become the official and permanent location of Domus, to this day. Original capitalization of this construction project was adversely affected by the stock market crash in 1929, with the Bar Association forced to find new ways to finance construction. Additional loans were necessitated, with additional fund-raising activities being undertaken. For example, the Bar Association created a “guest membership list” composed of 20 prominent men in the county who were not attorneys, each being required to pay $500 for the privilege. When these measures still proved insufficient to raise capital, a separate corporation was created to purchase property and use income obtained therefrom to benefit Association programs, both educational and charitable.

On June 3, 1929, the Bar Association formally acquired the site of Domus from the Garden City Company. A.J. McKenna and Louis E. Jallade were selected as architects who were experienced in the popular revival styles of the 1920s to design the building in “pure Scholastic Gothic” or Tudor style. On January 10, 1930, the Bar Association explicitly authorized the officers to accept the bid of Cornell Brothers Construction Company, Inc. to erect Domus for $52,500. The final cost of construction was actually $300 less than this estimate. Finally, on January 27, 1930, a brief ceremony took place marking the ground breaking for the new home of the Bar Association. Domus was explicitly modeled after Middle Temple, one of the Inns of Court in London, England.

The formal laying of the cornerstone took place on April 11, 1930 with the featured speakers including C. Walter Randall, president of the Bar Association, Edward Lazansky, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court, and Frederick E. Crane, Associate Justice of the State Court of Appeals. Sealed in the cornerstone were copies of the addresses of Judge Crane, Justice Lazansky, and Bar Association president Randall with copies of the April 11, 1930 editions of the New York Times, the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, and the New York Law Journal, along with a membership list of the Bar Association and other documents relating to the creation and construction of Domus. In his address Justice Lazansky established a firm link between tradition and dignity between the Nassau County Bar Association and the London Inns of Court.

On December 2, 1930, the first annual meeting of the Bar Association was held in Domus, the Bar Association’s new home, with about 100 people attending the dinner which followed. On March 21, 1931, Domus was officially dedicated, with the speakers including C. Walter Randall, John W. Davis, Democratic nominee for President in 1924 and member of the Nassau County Bar Association, Benjamin N. Cardozo, Chief Justice of the New York State Court of Appeals (and soon to be appointed to the United States Supreme Court by President Herbert C. Hoover), Frederick E. Crane, Edward Lazansky, and the Reverend Earnest M. Stires, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island.

In his address at the dedication, Chief Justice Benjamin N. Cardozo accurately pin-pointed the occasion by asking “why preach solidarity to you when every stone in this building cries the same lesson louder and clearer than my voice can hope to carry?” In a subsequent program celebrating the 50th year of the Bar Association in 1949, it was written that “age has cloaked the outer walls of [Domus] with ivy, while affectionate care, thought and use have draped the inner ones with a feeling of warm and comfortable fellowship.”

At the first annual dinner within Domus on June 15, 1931, a toast dating from England before 1776 to “Domus!” was introduced to members of the Bar Association by C. Walter Randall, creating a tradition. At the building’s dedication ceremonies, President Randall explained that the connection between the Nassau County Bar Association and the London Inns of Court extends far beyond the common architectural design, with “vivat, crescat, voriat” clearly communicating the desire that the attorneys in Nassau County would use Domus as the beginning for commonality and a spirit of camaraderie as in the English courts. In honor, pride and as a pledge of loyalty to both Domus and the legal profession, the lawyers of the Nassau County Bar Association have continued to toast “Domus, the Association’s Home!” to this day.
A critical point in the history of the Bar Association occurred on October 5, 1937 when, in a letter to Edwin G. Wright, chairman of the membership committee, six women “duly admitted to practice law in the state of New York,” applied for membership in the Bar Association. They were Kathleen Kane, Lillian H. Knorr, Emily W. Mauly, Mary B. Moloney, Carolyn Barteau Missosaway, and Alicia R. O’Connor. Five of the women filed formal applications, each being proposed and seconded by a member of the Bar. However, their applications were rejected, on the grounds that the Bar Association had no formal policy for admitting women. In his final report, Mr. Wright noted that “It is our opinion that there are many more fine, gentlemanly lawyers living in this county who should be members of the Association. However, they must be contacted and made to feel that they will be welcomed to membership…”

A few months later, on January 14, 1938, the Bar Association constitution was amended after much discussion to “unanimously…insert the word ‘male’ before ‘member’ in all instances where eligibility of applicants of membership to this Association is under discussion.” Theodore Ripsom praised the “group atmosphere” of the Association, and former Association President C. Walter Randall added the he had first opposed this amendment, but then favored the extension of “privileges” to women attorneys, but not membership. Shortly thereafter, the Nassau County Women’s Bar Association was founded on March 8, 1938, with the original officers thereof being:

- President: Carolyn Barteau
- Vice-Presidents: Ida Schechtman and Kathleen Kane
- Secretary: Alicia R. O’Connor
- Treasurer: Elizabeth Golding

After the Nassau County Women’s Bar Association held their annual dinner at Domus on June 13, 1939, the Board voted to extend the women “privileges of the building,” but, in the words of one board member, “only for special affairs and not as a regular thing.”

It was not until April 20, 1951, by vote of 138-28, that the Bar Association amended the constitution to eliminate the prohibition against female membership. In May of that year, after the Bar Association’s constitution and by-laws were amended, Ellen E. O’Neill became the first woman applicant accepted for membership. In the succeeding months, several more women were admitted to membership, including Mary B. Moloney, Alicia R. O’Connor, and Kathleen Kane, three of the women who had first applied for membership in 1937. Women became gradually more active in the operation and functioning of the Nassau County Bar Association, taking part in various committees and programs. Finally, the first woman president of the Nassau County Bar Association, Grace D. Moran, Esq., was elected in 1994 some 57 years after women were explicitly banned from membership. The second woman to serve as president, Arlene Zalayet, Esq., was elected in 1997.

The Bar Association has always been blessed with notable speakers and honorees throughout the years regardless of political persuasion. For example, one of the two guest speakers at the annual dinner on April 7, 1921 was the Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt who had just been defeated as Vice-Presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket, losing to Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge. In 1939, the Distinguished Service Medallion was awarded for the first time at the annual dinner, with the first recipient being Senator Carter G. Glass of Virginia, author of federal legislation creating the modern Federal Reserve banking system. The dinner had been such an unusual success, that former Bar Association president Randall suggested that the Bar Association establish presentation of such a Distinguished Service Medallion to an outstanding individual at each annual dinner. Thus, throughout the years, several distinguished, notable Americans have been appropriately honored as recipients of the Bar Association’s Distinguished Service Medallion. Honorees have included former President Herbert Hoover (1940), former New York Governor Alfred E. Smith (1941), General (and future President) Dwight D. Eisenhower (1950), Justice Learned Hand (1955), and retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren (1970). At times, the Distinguished Service Medallion was presented to
entities” other than notable individuals. For example, in 1947, the Bar Association awarded 54 Bar Association members with the Distinguished Service Medallion in recognition of these individual’s military service during the Second World War. Furthermore, in 1948 the Distinguished Service Medallion was awarded to the Inns of Court of London, England, which had been seriously damaged during the Second World War.

The population of Nassau County burgeoned in the years following the Second World War as the county became suburbanized, resulting in concomitant growth in legal activity and also in growth and size of the Nassau County Bar Association. Thus, there quickly rose a need to increase the size of Domus which was originally constructed to meet the needs of less than 350 attorneys. On May 11, 1954, the Board of Directors decided to extend the parking areas, sidewalks and curbs, in addition to the refurbishing of the library facilities within Domus. However, by the late 1970s further expansion was necessary since Bar Association membership had increased over tenfold since founding, to nearly 4,000 members. Expanded Domus was dedicated officially on October 26, 1980 at ceremonies led by the Honorable Marcus G. Christ who had been a member of the Board of Directors when Domus was first erected; Judge Christ presented an address in which he proclaimed that “this expanded building will make available space and facilities for meetings, for committee work, for hearings, lectures, designed to improve the quality of our service, to make better lawyers.”

Furthermore, as the Nassau County Bar Association grew in size, it was clear that the staff of volunteers would have to be augmented as well. On July 27, 1967, the Board of Directors authorized appointment of the first Executive Secretary, attorney William E. Jackson, whose post would later evolve into the position of Executive Director. Since that time, sixteen additional staff members have been added, all of whom cooperate together for coordinating the functioning of the Bar Association’s programs, fundraisers, and countless day-to-day activities. The administrative staff has become crucial to the smooth operation of the Bar Association and is presently headed by Deena Ehrlich, Ph.D. A monthly newsletter begun by Association President Remsen B. Ostrander in 1952 has evolved into *The Nassau Lawyer*, a publication written by the members of the Bar Association and which is published on a monthly basis to the present, providing interesting and topical commentary on matters of interest to the legal community.

Further activities for which the Bar Association has become known is the Speakers Bureau, begun in 1954 and which furnishes Bar Association members as speakers to various public groups. During the past decade, for example, the number of classroom lectures given by attorneys of the Bar Association has increased from 209 in 1988 to 415 in 1997, while the total number of Speakers Bureau lectures has jumped from 66 to 223 in the same period. Many community members, both students and adults, benefit from the discussions explaining the law and the role of lawyers in today’s society. Additionally, the Bar Association hosts the annual Marcus G. Christ Moot Court competition, sponsors essay contests, and holds youth conferences for Nassau County high school students interested in the law.

The Lawyer Referral Program was also begun in 1954 by the Bar Association and today contains a panel of 600 attorneys to whom public requests regarding legal representation can be referred. Since 1967, the Assigned Counsel Defender Plan has maintained its unshakable commitment towards ensuring that indigent criminal defendants have opportunity to exercise their right to counsel.

The Bar Association has also been an early participant in continuing legal education. In 1980, a committee was established to investigate “the feasibility of setting up a non-profit corporation to meet the expanding education of attorneys.” Thus, on April 23, 1982, the Academy of Law was approved by the Bar Association with the by-laws thereof being adopted on May 8, 1984, making the Nassau County Bar Association one of the first local bar associations certified as an accredited provider by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board. Since then, the Academy of Law has provided weekly seminars and informational programs designed to keep members abreast of the latest legal issues and developments. In June 1987, the Nassau
Academy of Law Board of Trustees approved the “Nassau Plan,” an early blueprint arguing for the establishment of mandatory continuing education requirements in New York State, later implemented for all attorneys admitted to the New York State Bar. In the years following the establishment of the hugely successful Academy of Law, the status of the Nassau County Bar Association has significantly increased with membership itself, growing from approximately 3,000 members in 1988 to close to 6,000 members today.

Thus, the first 100 years of the Nassau County Bar Association has resulted in tremendous progress in the growth, activities and involvement of the Bar Association in the various facets of law practice in the local community, well beyond any initial expectations. While the future over the next century naturally cannot be predicted, it is certainly believed, and if anything hoped, that the growth and progress of the Bar Association, will proceed along the path of success of the past 100 years.
Wassail

The Association held its first annual Wassail Bowl ceremony in December 1932.

Seventy-Fourth Annual Wassail Celebration

By Dede Unger

The term Wassail comes from the Middle English *waes hail* meaning “with health” or “be healthy.” This became a toast or salutation of “to your good health” to which was responded “drink hail,” meaning “drink to good health.” And with that the Wassail Bowl would be passed to the next person at the gathering.

Traditionally, the Wassail Bowl contained spiced ale, or mulled wine or cider, this to celebrate a healthy apple crop. After drinking of the Wassail Bowl, the townspeople would gather in the orchard, laying cider-soaked bread on the tree limbs and shooting shotguns through the branches in order to appease or scare away anyone (or thing) that might be lurking within. After all, it was important to have another good crop next year, so as to keep refilling the Wassail Bowl from year to year. Afterwards, the townspeople would march through the streets, singing carols and offering the Wassail Bowl to their friends and neighbors. Over time, Wassail came to describe the liquor used on festive occasions, notably around Christmas and New Year’s.

When the Wassail Bowl is filled at Domus each December, we are, in essence, toasting to our collective good health. Led by our esteemed Past Presidents, we share a drink together and a wish for a healthy, productive year.

There is one part of the Wassail program that has truly become tradition. Each year a particular group is honored during the ceremony by participating in the “carrying of the Yule logs.” The log carriers proceed down the main aisle of the Great Hall, each carrying a log. In a procession, the logs are thrown onto the fire roaring in the fireplace. Figuratively, at least, the log carriers are burning all the bad that has come to pass during the prior year, opening the door to what we are hopeful will be a happy and prosperous new year. In the recent past, pro bono attorneys, past presidents’ spouses, Bar staff, and 9/11 volunteers have had the honor of carrying the logs.

Though there are a multitude of various events each year at Domus, this Bar Association celebration has evolved into a true family occasion. Members are encouraged to bring their families to Domus, and children seem to particularly enjoy the evening. People of all ages delight in the beautiful decorations, wonderful food, spirited storytelling, and traditional entertainment. It is, indeed, the perfect time to “come home to Domus.”

*The 74th Annual Wassail Celebration was held on December 11, 2006. Dede Unger was the Nassau County Bar Association’s Manager of Member Services and served the Association as a Special Events Coordinator.*
NCBA Past Presidents at the 87th Annual Wassail Celebration held on Thursday, December 12, 2019.
Distinguished Service Medallion

By Jennifer L. Koo

The first Annual Dinner of the Nassau County Bar Association was held on April 11, 1933. On June 7, 1939, Senator Carter Glass of Virginia was the guest of honor at the annual dinner. Later, former president Randall stated that the affair had been an unusual success and suggested that "perhaps the Association could establish a regular custom of presenting a medal to some outstanding person at each annual meeting."

The Nassau County Bar Association Distinguished Service Medallion is awarded annually to a person outstanding in his or her field of endeavor, of high moral character and integrity, with a record of distinguished service to the public. The individual is one who has consistently demonstrated “service which has enhanced the reputation and dignity of the legal profession.”

The award is presented to the Distinguished Service Medallion recipient in person at the NCBA Annual Dinner Dance, usually scheduled in late spring.

Nominees for the award are proposed by the NCBA Awards Committee, chaired by the Immediate Past President of the Association, and approved by the NCBA Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLION

Carter Glass
Herbert C. Hoover
Alfred E. Smith
Westbrook Pegler
Robert Moses
Thomas E. Dewey
C. T. Wang
Hjalmar Procope
Dwight D. Eisenhower
Arthur T. Vanderbilt
John W. Davis
Learned Hand
C. W. Wickersham
Edmund H. Lewis
Albert Conway
J. Russell Sprague
Cortland A. Johnson
Marcus G. Christ
Arthur H. Dean
C. Walter Randall
Charles S. Desmond
A. Holly Patterson
Kenneth B. Keating
Arthur J. Goldberg
John D. Bennett
Samuel Greason
Earl Warren
Stanley H. Fuld
Howard T. Hogan
Leonard W. Hall
Nelson A. Rockefeller
Frank A. Gulotta
George Morton Levy
Charles D. Breitel
Charles R. Carroll
Daniel P. Moynihan
Sol Wachtler
Jacob K. Javits
Bernard S. Meyer
Michael P. Aspland
Mario M. Cuomo
Eugene H. Nickerson
Francis T. Purcell
Alfonse M. D’amato
Samuel R. Pierce
Beatrice S. Burstein
Milton Mollen
Richard Thornburgh
Frank X. Altimari
Thurgood Marshall
Peter T. Affatato
Jack B. Weinstein
Richard E. Rowan
Edward I. Koch
Marie G. Santagata
Joseph W. Bellacosa
Irving A. Cohn
Arthur D. Spatt
Antonin Scalia
Robert W. Corcoran
Eliot Spitzer
Pauline C. Balkin
George C. Pratt
Frank E. Yannelli
Michael A. Balboni
Anthony F. Marano
Jonathan Lippman
William F. Levine
Barry C. Scheck
Stephen W. Schlissel
Preet Bharara
A. Gail Prudenti
John R. Dunne
Grace D. Moran
Kenneth R. Feinberg
Stephen Gassman
Christopher T. McGrath
Nassau Lawyer
By Jennifer L. Koo

In November 1939, the first issue of the Bulletin was published. The goal of the publication was to keep members informed of the many activities being held at the Nassau County Bar Association at the time.

Today, the Nassau County Bar Association publishes a monthly newspaper known as the Nassau Lawyer. Members contribute articles which are reviewed and edited by the Publications Committee. Articles range from topics on current law to discussions on emerging practices. The Nassau Lawyer also announces upcoming events and seminars such as CLE programs.
MEETING NOTICE

The JANUARY meeting of the Association will be held on THURSDAY, January 17th, 1957 at 8:15 p.m.

SUBJECT
Joint Meeting with Nassau-Suffolk CPA Association

(See Details on Page 1.)

HOME OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finest Lunchrooms Served
Meeting Rooms
Library

15th & West Streets, Mineola, N. Y.
The Nassau Academy of Law is the educational arm of the Nassau County Bar Association and has been certified as an accredited provider of continuing legal education by the New York State CLE Board. On April 23, 1982, the Academy of Law was approved by the Bar Association with the by-laws thereof being adopted on May 8, 1984, making the Nassau County Bar Association one of the first local bar associations certified as an accredited provider by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board. Since then, the Academy of Law has provided weekly seminars and informational programs designed to keep members abreast of the latest legal issues and developments. Today, all programs sponsored by the NAL have been approved for CLE credit.
Academy of Law Committee Opens Fall Seminar Season

Kicking off the autumn series of continuing legal education programs is the half-day seminar on "Support Proceedings," October 3. Other sessions are noted throughout this Newsletter, and in the flyers enclosed.

Academy of Law Committee Chairman M. Kathryn Meng, working with our substantive law chairman, is developing many worthwhile, and high calibre programs of importance and value to members.

A three-night series of lectures, being structured by Tax Chairman Gary H. Friedenberg, on "The Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981" will be offered November 18, December 1 and 9.

For those who have missed attending previous seminars, the videotaped presentations began last month. The next showings will be "1981 Seminar on Bankruptcy Law" on October 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28. (See flyer enclosed)
A BASIC REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION

"A nuts and bolts review from precontract to closing of title presented by the General Practice Section of the Nassau County Bar Association."

a continuing legal education program
sponsored by the
Academy of Law Committee
M. KATHRYN MENG, Chairman
Seminar Chairman
JOHN P. MAHON, Chairman
General Practice Section
When the Nassau County Bar Association was expanded in 1931, a law library was installed in the lower level of the building. Members were free to come to the Bar Association to do their legal research.

Grace Moran, the first woman president of the Bar Association, correctly believed that legal research was moving away from books and more towards the internet. In 1994, she transformed the law library to the tech center. Members could come and learn to be tech savvy.

Two decades later, the Tech Center was not being used. As the years went by, computers became common place. In 2018, the Tech Center was once again transformed, this time to The Past President’s Room. It now holds the pictures of all past presidents and is an additional meeting room.
WE CARE Fund

By Jennifer L. Koo

The WE CARE Fund is the nationally recognized charitable arm of the Nassau County Bar Association. Founded in 1988 by NCBA Past President Stephen Gassman, WE CARE funds are raised by the legal profession and the community at large. The money is distributed through charitable grants to improve the quality of life for children, the elderly and others in need throughout Nassau County.

Nurtured by the tireless efforts of lawyers and judges, the WE CARE program has matured into a nationally recognized model for similar programs instituted by other bar groups. With the financial support and personal effort of so many, WE CARE has been able to serve the community in myriad ways.

Since its inception, the WE CARE Fund has raised more than $3 million that has gone directly to assist more than 100 charitable causes. Some who have benefitted from WE CARE include the Nassau County Girl Scouts; Education and Assistance Corporation; Nassau County Family Court Emergency Fund; Long Island Council of Churches; Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Mercy Haven; and Interfaith Nutrition Network to name but a few.

Children’s Festival
Approximately 250 underserved children are invited to Domus for an afternoon of food and fun, DJ music and dancing, games, gifts and more!

Dressed to a Tea
Attorneys, judges and others model the newest spring fashions for the audience at this annual event, which features tea sandwiches, and the chance to win some unique tea pots and other raffle gifts. Members donate gently used clothing which is then distributed to organizations to benefit those re-entering the workforce.

WE CARE Golf and Tennis Classic
The annual golf and tennis tournament brings the legal community together for a day of fun and fundraising. The money is distributed through grant requests to those in need in Nassau County.

Thanksgiving Luncheon
Local seniors who find themselves without close family on Thanksgiving are treated to a luncheon with all the trimmings at Domus, served by members of the Bar Association and their families. Food is provided courtesy of NCBA’s in-house caterer.
BBQ at the Bar
By Jennifer L. Koo

The Nassau County Bar Association operates on a fiscal year—from June 1 to May 31. Similar to academia, the Bar Association takes a hiatus during the summer months. While Domus is still open in June, July, and August, there is very little activity. The committees often follow suit, holding no meetings in the summer. The Academy of Law often holds no formal CLE programs.

In 2000, the Bar Association decided that festivities were needed to kick off the New Year, welcome members back, and introduce Domus to new and potential members. Domus on the Lawn was created. Weather permitting; a huge barbeque is hosted on the front lawn of Domus, free to all current and potential members. Law school students from surrounding law schools are invited and attend. This gives members a chance to network, catch up with people they have not seen all summer, and to just have fun.

Domus on the Lawn became a yearly tradition. In 2017, Domus on the Lawn was renamed BBQ at the Bar. The Board of Directors felt that the new name more aptly described the event. It is an event that members look forward to all year.
Lawyer Assistance Project, Mortgage Foreclosure Clinic, and Lawyer Referral Service

By Jennifer L. Koo

Lawyer Assistance Program

Lawyers experience substance abuse and mental health problems at significantly higher rates the general population and other professionals. The Nassau County Bar Association Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP) provides a range of services to Lawyers, Judges, Law Students and their immediate family members who are struggling with alcohol or drug abuse, depression, anxiety, stress, as well as other addictions and mental health issues.

LAP services are free and strictly confidential via Section 499 of the Judiciary Law and the Rule of professional Conduct. LAP is completely independent of the grievance committees of the Appellate Division and NCBA.

LAP Services include: Consultation; evaluation/assessment; supportive counseling; peer support; group support; stress management/wellness workshops at the NCBA, law schools and law firms; intervention and motivation support; evaluation/assessment; treatment referrals; law practice closings; and monitoring program (court ordered or voluntary)

Mortgage Foreclosure Clinic

The Nassau County Bar Association Mortgage Foreclosure Program was established in 2009 in response to a need for community assistance. Unfortunately, there are times that a person finds themselves overwhelmed by a change of circumstances. This could lead to many hardships including a bank foreclosing on a home.

The Nassau County Bar Association has a mortgage foreclosure clinic that provides free assistance to community members facing foreclosure. A person in need meets one-on-one with a volunteer attorney. The attorney provides guidance, advice, and direction as needed.

The volunteer attorney will review individual foreclosure issues with Nassau homeowners, help them sort things out, and give advice or refer them to agencies and programs, right in the same room, that may be able to help. This is not legal representation. The attorneys will help the homeowner find out if indeed, they need a credit counselor or a lawyer, and get them in touch with available resources. There is no reason for you to pay any organization to help you negotiate a loan modification or repayment plan.

After meeting one-on-one with a volunteer attorney, homeowners can speak to housing counselors, bankruptcy attorneys and representatives from Nassau/Suffolk Law Services and New York Legal Assistance (NYLAG) — which provides free legal services for those who meet certain income guidelines — are on hand to provide assistance.

Lawyer Referral Information Service

The Lawyer Referral Information Service was established in 1954 by the Bar Association. On February 1, 1979 the Lawyer Referral Information Service moved into the home of the Association.

The Nassau County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Information Service (LRIS) introduces people with legal problems to attorneys experienced in the area of law in which they need assistance. In addition, potential new
clients are introduced to members of the Service Panel. Membership on the Panel is open exclusively as a benefit to active members of the Nassau County Bar Association.

The LRIS is promoted widely in the courts, agencies and libraries, as well as the Yellow Pages website. Clients who take advantage of the service come from all walks of life and run the gamut of the economic spectrum.

Once an attorney signs up for the LRIS, they become part of a computerized program designed to provide attorneys’ names on a rotation basis according to areas of concentration and geographic location. Callers are asked a series of questions by staff to ascertain the nature of the problem and the caller’s residence or place of business. The caller is then given the appropriate referral.
Conclusion

By Richard D. Collins, NCBA President 2019-2020

It is with great pride that we have told the story of our Association. At its inception, membership in the Nassau County Bar Association consisted of nineteen white male lawyers. Today, membership is made up of thousands of lawyers, judges, law students, and law office staff, representing different genders, races, cultures, and beliefs.

Throughout the years, the NCBA has become more than just a professional membership association; it has become the home for thousands of legal professionals and their staff. It is a place where both colleagues and opposing counsel can sit together as friends. It is a place dedicated to the highest ideals of justice and professionalism, where skills are honed, and the public is served.

The Hon. Benjamin Cardozo once said, “Why preach solidarity to you, when every stone in this building cries out the same lesson louder and clearer than my voice can hope to carry. The home of the Nassau County Bar Association is truly much more than a structure of brick and mortar, it is a symbol of all the Association and its members proudly stand for.”
### Dedication to NCBA Past Presidents

This book is dedicated to the leadership, perseverance, and foresight of the Past Presidents of the Nassau County Bar Association.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Augustus N. Weller</td>
<td>1899-1901</td>
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<td>George W. Eastman</td>
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<td>Paul K. Ames</td>
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<td>J.B. Coles Tappan</td>
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<td>Robert Seabury</td>
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<td>Edgar Jackson</td>
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<td>James P. Nieman</td>
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<td>Franklin A. Coles</td>
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<td>Halstead Scudder</td>
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<td>Alfred T. Davison</td>
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<td>John J. Graham</td>
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<td>Charles N. Wysong</td>
<td>1911-12</td>
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<td>Theodore N. Ripson</td>
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<td>Edwin G. Wright</td>
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<td>Lewis J. Smith</td>
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<td>Harry W. Moore</td>
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<td>Charles R. Weeks</td>
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<td>Henry L. Maxson</td>
<td>1917-18</td>
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<td>William S. Pettit</td>
<td>1918-19</td>
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<td>Charles J. Wood</td>
<td>1919-20</td>
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<td>Earl Bennett</td>
<td>1920-21</td>
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<td>Elvin N. Edwards</td>
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<td>Francis G. Hooley</td>
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<td>Leone D. Howell</td>
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<td>Henry A. Uterhart</td>
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<td>Sidney H. Swezy</td>
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<td>Sanford A. Davison</td>
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<td>Frederick L. Gilbert</td>
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<td>C. Walter Randal</td>
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<td>Thomas F. Fay</td>
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<td>James N. Gehrig</td>
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<td>John J. Kuhn</td>
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<td>Eugene W. Denton</td>
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<td>James L. Dowsey</td>
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<td>Dominic B. Griffin</td>
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<td>LeRoy Edwards</td>
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<td>Hunter L. Delatour</td>
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<td>Raymond P. McNulty</td>
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<td>Frederick Van Zandt</td>
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<td>Roland A. Crowe</td>
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<td>Samuel Greason, Jr.</td>
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<td>O. Edward Payne</td>
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<td>Douglas C. Lawrence</td>
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<td>Joseph C. Zavatt</td>
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<td>George Morton Levy</td>
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<td>Marcus G. Christ</td>
<td>1951-52</td>
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<td>Remsen B. Ostrander</td>
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<td>Allan B. Wright</td>
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<td>Louis G. Hart, Jr.</td>
<td>1954-55</td>
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<td>Hugh G. Bergen</td>
<td>1955-56</td>
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<td>James F. Conway</td>
<td>1956-57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Taylor</td>
<td>1957-58</td>
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<td>James J. McDonough</td>
<td>1958-59</td>
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<td>Ward R. Burns</td>
<td>1960-61</td>
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<td>Dermod Ives</td>
<td>1961-62</td>
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<td>Charles P. Buckley, Jr.</td>
<td>1962-63</td>
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<td>M. Rudolph Preuss</td>
<td>1963-64</td>
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<td>David R. Siegel</td>
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<td>Charles R. Carroll</td>
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<td>Arthur A. Kaye</td>
<td>1966-67</td>
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<td>Francis B. Froehlich</td>
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<td>David Holman</td>
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<td>William J. Deely, Jr.</td>
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<td>M. Hallsted Christ</td>
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<td>Harold E. Collins</td>
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<td>James M. Pedowitz</td>
<td>1973-74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel P. Sullivan</td>
<td>1974-75</td>
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<td>C. Ellis Schiffrmacher</td>
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<td>Steven J. Eisman</td>
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<td>Martha Krisel</td>
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<td>Susan G. Leventhal</td>
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<td>Elena Karabatos</td>
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<td>Richard D. Collins</td>
<td>2020-21</td>
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Quotes from Past Presidents

“Building was built on a prison yard, during the Great Depression, modeled after the Inns of Court. The building is made of bricks that were ballasted from ships that were coming over from England. Our building is only bricks and mortar but as we say every time there is a toast, it’s much more than that, it’s the spirit that holds us all together.” — Jon N. Santemma, NCBA President 1979-1980

“The local bar is where the action is, where you will meet senior attorneys, be mentored, meet judges, be confronted with the legal issues.” — Andrew J. Simons, NCBA President 1992-1993

“The building is important because it holds memories…impressed me the most is the friendships that have developed at the Bar. [I] want the Bar Association to strive to be a place people know each other, the public come for help, and we celebrate the happy occasions.” — Martha Krisel, NCBA President 2015-2017

“Essential that whatever court or political system we have, the Bar Association meets the challenges.” — Jon N. Santemma, NCBA President 1979-1980

“The best part of the Bar Association is that it can be a voice for the legal profession. I hope the Bar Association continues the mission to help the profession and general public.” — Joseph W. Ryan, Jr., NCBA President 1993-1994

“I hope that the Bar Association will continue to recognize that it provides the only voice that attorneys have.” — Grace D. Moran, NCBA President 1994-1995

“I hope the Bar Association focuses on issues that pertain to the practice of law.” — Stephen Gassman, NCBA President 1988-1989

“When lawyers speak, they can and do make a difference.” — Lance D. Clarke, NCBA President 2007-2008

“I am a far better lawyer today than I would have been had it not been for my active participation in the Association.” — Steve G. Leventhal, NCBA President 2017-2018

“They say the ties that bind because sometimes you have to know the past in order to have a better present and future and I believe that all of us collectively, while we may not always agree, we know one thing that we do agree on, the NCBA has been the most effective institution in our lives as attorneys and hopefully it always will be.” — Lance D. Clarke, NCBA President 2007-2008

“The Nassau County Bar Association is bigger than any of its leaders. As presidents, it is our privilege to serve and our duty to preserve this amazing institution for the many lawyers who will come after us.” — Richard D. Collins, NCBA President 2019-2020

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