

legislative review, some of which differentiate the penalty for the unauthorized practice of law based upon certain conduct and professional standing. There are also changes to the Rules which have, in some cases, been adopted and others that are under consideration. The committee has been, and continues to be, involved in these issues.

Another focus of the committee is the Internet, and in particular Web sites that offer services that may constitute the unauthorized practice of law in Connecticut. A special task force has been created by President Barndollar, chaired by former CBA President Lou Pepe, to review these Internet Web sites and determine what action, if any, should be taken by the CBA. The task force and the UPL Committee will combine their efforts in this regard.

As I have previously indicated, the business of the UPL Committee continues to be active, and I again wish to thank all of the committee members for their time, effort, and hard work.

WOMEN IN THE LAW COMMITTEE

ALICE A. BRUNO; STACY SMITH WALSH, CO-CHAIRS

PURPOSE

The Women in the Law Committee (WILC) offers an opportunity and forum for CBA members to network, explore ideas, raise concerns, broaden their knowledge, and educate others, both about issues impacting our legal community generally, and the experiences of women in the profession particularly. The committee is unique in that, for the last two years, it has joined seamlessly with its Young Lawyers Section counterpart, the YLS WILC, in planning and programming. The two committees hold joint meetings and co-sponsor events, working in conjunction with each other to expand the reach and impact of each, and to build a continuum of leadership.

The WILC co-chairs welcome any and all CBA members to join its efforts and activities. The WILC is also hopeful that its membership roster will increase significantly over the next one to two years as we continue to develop meaningful programming for attorneys in the Association and across the state.

ANNUAL REPORT

The WILC has focused its programming in four areas: regular committee meetings, special events, Annual Meeting programs, and continuing the work of the CBA Task Force on the Future of Women in the Legal Profession by continuing to strive for implementation of the Best Practices for Gender Equity at legal employers across Connecticut.

Meetings

The committee holds its meetings at varying locations during the year to accommodate members and guests from different geographic areas. The meetings feature topics of interest for women attorneys. This year, our committee meetings were held in New Britain and Hartford. In November, we featured a discussion of the Best Practices program and how to implement it, as well as solicited ideas for future programming. In March, we hosted a discussion group in Hartford on the book *She Wins, You Win: The Most Important Strategies for Making Women More Powerful* and moderated a lively discussion of the way gender can influence power and professional relationships.

Special Events

The Committee hosted (or will be hosting) several special events this year:

- April 29, 2009: a networking event, in association with the Women's Law Student Association at the University of Connecticut School of Law, honoring the Connecticut Bar Foundation's "Women in Black" photographic portrait exhibit of women judges in Connecticut; the program was designed to bring law students into contact with both the organized bar and to build relationships among and between women lawyers and judges.
- May 21, 2009: "Pathways to Leadership for Women Lawyers," sponsored also by the Young Lawyers Section, presenting a panel discussion of prominent women lawyer leaders in Connecticut talking about leadership and their personal experiences in becoming and staying a leader, and concluding with an awards banquet honoring this year's recipient of the Ladder Award, Kathleen A. Brandt, of Silver Golub and Teitell, and featuring a keynote presentation by Appellate Court Judge Alexandra DiPentima.
- May 28, 2009: a domestic violence prevention roundtable discussion, in connection with the American Bar Association Young Lawyers' Division national service project: "Voices Against Violence" (a call to action for young lawyers around the country to join forces to end domestic violence); the program gathered a multi-disciplinary group of people involved with domestic violence issues (advocates, attorneys, judges, law enforcement, etc.) to discuss local problems and issues, determine what programs are up and running, assess what is needed, and figure out how young lawyers can help with this issue.

Annual Meeting Programming

WILC is sponsoring or cosponsoring two programs at the Annual Meeting this year: One continues the effort to move the profession toward the Best Practices for Gender Equity (see description below); the other focuses on an international human rights issue: the prosecution of rape and sexual assault as war crimes. The war crimes program was planned and presented in conjunction with the Young Lawyers, Human Rights and Responsibilities and International Law Sections, and is entitled: "Rape and Sexual Assault as War Crimes: A Call to Action." The war crimes program brought nationally-recognized speakers to Connecticut and expanded the subject matter and reach of the committee to issues beyond those simply affecting our profession.

Best Practices for Gender Equity

The WILC remains the delegate of the CBA Task Force on the Future of Women in the Profession with respect to advancing the Best Practices for Gender Equity and the accompanying Pledge for legal employers. The ongoing projects of the WILC include: monitoring employers' commitments to the Best Practices, providing resources for firms and for prospective employees about hiring practices, and other aspects relating to continuing the mission of the task force. Specific plans include a roundtable for law students regarding what being a "Best Practices" employer means, programming for legal employers regarding their own obligations under the Pledge, and implementing a survey as a follow up to the survey the Task Force conducted to assess the progress of the profession with respect to issues important to and faced by women in the profession. As described above, and in connection with its responsibilities as the monitor of the Best Practices, the WILC is sponsoring a program at the Annual Meeting designed to address ongoing questions by legal employers about the Pledge and the Best Practices.