

“COURTING JUSTICE”

“SOUTH AFRICA’S SEARCH FOR JUSTICE”

CLE - 2 CREDITS
Professional Practice

THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT INN OF COURT

December 5, 2013

Pupilage Group:

Hon. Michele M. Woodard
Hon. Tricia M. Ferrell
Sheryl-Ann Sastow, Esq.
Joi Aberle, Esq.
Marguerite Smith, Esq.
Archibong Archibong, Esq.
Matin Emouna, Esq.
John Brickman, Esq.
Marissa Hercules
Janet Jones
Denisha Stewart

Panelists:

Ruth B. Cowan, Ph.D.
Hon. Michele M. Woodard
Sheryl-Ann Sastow, Esq.
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PROGRAM

- 6:00 p.m. Sign-In
- 6:10 p.m. Skit - Justice J-Burg Style
- 6:15 p.m. Introduction to South African Courts History
- 6:30 p.m. Movie - “Courting Justice” - Ruth Cowan, Ph.D.
- 7:25 p.m. Panel Discussion - Introduce Panel
- 8:00 p.m. Recess

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TONIGHT'S PROGRAM IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

HON. MICHELE M. WOODARD

Michele M. Woodard is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Syracuse University and recipient of a law degree from Ohio State University College of Law. Prior to becoming a judge, she was a practicing attorney in New York for more than twenty years. Justice Woodard began her legal career as a Howard University Community Law Fellow in New York City. As a housing and consumer rights advocate, Justice Woodard represented the poor and established community legal education programs in Queens County. Thereafter, as an Assistant Attorney General, she prosecuted labor violators and represented numerous state agencies including the Departments of Taxation & Finance, Transportation, Social Services and Education. As a private attorney, she represented union members in the New York Metropolitan area.

On November 7, 2000, she was elected to and became the first Black woman to sit as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York in the 10th Judicial District, which encompasses Nassau and Suffolk Counties. As a judge, she presides over a variety of cases. Her community service includes mentoring students and young lawyers.

Her recognition and awards include: Syracuse Univ. Alumni Club of Long Island's Outstanding Alumnus Award, Long Beach Democratic Committee Award, National Council of Negro Women's "Woman of Excellence," Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Blacks in Action Award, and Black Achiever's Award for her contribution to Black History 2001 at Bethel Day Care Center, Inc. Justice Woodard is the President of the American Inns of Court. She is also member of the National Bar Assoc., the Nassau County Bar Assoc., the Nassau County Women's Bar Assoc., the Association of Black Women Attorneys, National Association of Women Judges, Central Long Island Branch of the NAACP, NYS Supreme Court Justice's Assoc., the Judicial Friends, NYS Association of Women Judges and the Amistad Long Island Black Bar Assoc. Judge Woodard is also a member of the Hofstra University Paralegal Studies Program Advisory Committee, the Utica College Alumni Association, the Nassau Lawyers Association and the Board of Jericho Gardens Civic Association. Justice Woodard spearheaded the first and now annual Nassau County Courts Black History Month Luncheon in 2004. Justice Woodard is the devoted wife of Willie E. Jones, Esq., a Juvenile Rights attorney, and the dedicated mother of two adult children.

RUTH B. COWAN, PH.D.

Ruth B. Cowan, Creator and Executive Producer Senior Research Fellow, The Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, The Graduate Center of The City University of New York - email: ruthcowan@aol.com. As a political scientist and human rights activist, she was drawn to South Africa by the New Democracy vision of a unified multi ethnic society, governed under a human rights-based constitutional democracy. In South Africa, she focused on the rule of law. Among her articles on the subject is *The Women's Legal Centre during its first five years* (Acta Juridica., 2005) which examines the use of the judiciary as the route for realizing constitutionally promised gender equality rights. Her examination of the record of South Africa's women judges, "Do Women on South Africa's Courts Make a Difference," is a chapter in *Gender and Judging* (edited by Shultz and Shaw, Oxford Hart 2012).

She has had an extensive career in higher education as a faculty member and administrator and at the same time has been an advocate for human rights. She chaired New York City's Commission on the Status of Women; is the Founding President of Pro Mujer, an organization using micro-loans, training, health education and health services to empower women in five Latin American

countries; and serves on the board of directors of the global Partnership for Afghanistan and the Council of Women World Leaders, whose members are current and former women heads of state. She completed studies at Cornell University, the University of Illinois, New York University and Harvard University.

Ruth obtained a B.S. degree from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, an M.A. in political science from the University of Illinois, a Ph.D. in political science from New York University, and a post-doctoral Certificate of Management from Harvard University.

HON. TRICIA M. FERRELL

Judge Tricia M. Ferrell was appointed as a District Court Judge in March of 2008 by County Executive Suozzi. In November 2008 she was elected to serve a six-year term in that same position. She currently presides over the Misdemeanor Driving While Intoxicated Specialty Court after recently presiding over the Domestic Violence Court Specialty Court, in addition to handling a variety of other cases from arraignment through trial.

Prior to her judgeship, she worked for Nassau County as its Director of Compliance, managing the countywide internal control program. Additionally, she served on the County's Peace Officer Indemnification Board, MWBE Task Force and the Affirmative Action Committee.

Judge Ferrell is also a former Deputy Village Attorney where she prosecuted cases for the Incorporated Village of Hempstead. More notably, she spent most of her career working as an Assistant District Attorney for the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, prosecuting misdemeanor and felony cases.

Judge Ferrell graduated from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and graduated *cum laude* from the City College of New York.

She is also a member of the Theodore Roosevelt Inn of Court, the Nassau County Bar Association, the Nassau County Women's Bar Association, the New York State District Court Judges Association and the Nassau County District Court Judges Association.

SHERYL-ANN SASTOW, ESQ.

Born and raised in South Africa. Emigrated to New York in 1978.
B.A. in Psychology, Summa Cum Laude, from SUNY at Albany

1. J.D. Touro Law School, Cum Laude

Litigated for ten years in Products liability and Matrimonial and Family Law. In 2007, I changed focus of my practice to ADR and opened Sastow Law & Mediation. I handle divorce mediations and elder law mediations; I represent clients in collaborative practice divorces and serve as Court Evaluator on guardianship petitions.

I serve on the following panels of neutrals:

The Neutral Court Evaluator for Nassau County Supreme Court (since 2006)

Arbitrator for Nassau County District Court (since 2006)

Arbitrator for FINRA since (2007)

Divorce Mediator for Supreme Court Nassau County (since 2008)

Mediator for the Nassau County Commercial Mediation Panel. (since 2011)

Mediator and Arbitrator for Nassau County Bar Association's ADR panel (since 2013)

JOI ABERLE, ESQ.

Joi Aberle is an associate with the firm of Genoa & Associates, P.C.. She concentrates in commercial litigation and the purchase and sale of commercial and residential properties, including escrow agreements, possession agreements, resolving title, survey and ownership issues; the purchase and sale of closely-held corporations; and the formation of corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies. Ms. Aberle is admitted to practice law in the Courts of the State of New York and the United States District Courts for the Eastern District of New York. Ms Aberle is a 1996 graduate of Hofstra University School of Law. She is a member of the Nassau County Bar Association, Real Property Committee and Yashar Hadassah, the Judges' and Attorneys Chapter of Hadassah. Her email address is jaberle@genoaandassociates.com

MATIN EMOUNA, ESQ.

Matin Emouna has studied extensively overseas in France and Spain. He received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Spanish from SUNY at Albany. He then obtained his Juris Doctor from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where he was a member of Moot Court Board and a Ford Foundation Fellow. He worked at United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva, Switzerland. He prepared individual cases for South West Asia, North Africa, Middle East ("SWANAME") region, and Drafted the 1992 Annual Protection Report. He studied and provided internal report for Islamic view of Human Rights versus the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He was also the Representative to the United Nations General Assembly 46th and 48th session for an NGO based out of Geneva, International Service for Human Rights. He is fluent in Spanish, French, and Farsi.

ARCHIBONG ARCHIBONG, ESQ.

Archibong Archibong maintains his law offices in Long Island, New York. He is a past recipient of the New York State Bar Association President's Pro Bono Service Attorney Award. Mr. Archibong is admitted to practice in New York, United States District Court Eastern District of New York, United States District Court Southern District of New York and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

John M. Brickman, head of the litigation group at Ackerman, Levine, Cullen, Brickman & Limmer, LLP, of Great Neck, New York, practices primarily in the area of commercial litigation. He has tried more than 100 cases before federal and state courts and arbitration tribunals, and has argued more than 100 appeals. He devotes particular attention to contract, corporate, partnership, trusts and estates, employment, intellectual property, unfair competition, civil racketeering, real estate, and construction cases, and frequently represents parties in disputes between principals of professional practices and substantial closely-held businesses.

Mr. Brickman's public activities include his service from 2007 to 2011 as a Commissioner of the New York State Commission on Public Integrity, the agency that enforced state lobbying and public employee ethics laws and regulations. From 2005 to 2009, was a Director of the Nassau Health Care Corporation. From 2005 to 2008, he served as Chairman of the Correctional Association of New York, where he remains a Director. He is President and a Director of The Levitt Foundation and a Director of the Long Island Medical Foundation. From 1992 to 1994, he served as a Trustee of The Johns Hopkins University and President of The Johns Hopkins Alumni Association.

Mr. Brickman is *pro bono* legal counsel to the Manhasset-Great Neck Community Service Center, and is active in bar association, educational, and community activities. He is a member of the National Panel of Arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association. Annually, he chairs a Continuing Legal Education program on lawyers' ethics and civility, presented by the New York State Bar Association. From 1991 to 2006, he was Adjunct Professor of Law at Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, where he taught the course in Pre-Trial Litigation to senior law students. He writes and speaks regularly on legal ethics and public issues, including the administration of correctional and criminal justice agencies.

Mr. Brickman received his undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins and his J.D. degree *cum laude* in 1969 from Columbia University School of Law, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and Dean's List Scholar and served as Revision Editor of the *Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems*. From 1971 to 1975, he served as Executive Director of the New York City Board of Correction, the agency of New York City government that oversees the operation of the New York City prison system and issues reports and recommendations for change.

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MARGUERITE SMITH, ESQ.

Marguerite Smith for many years has been practicing law in a variety of settings and involved in dispute resolution system design and implementation. She has been a Shinnecock Nation designated-attendee for several years to New York's Federal-State-Tribal Courts and Nations Justice Forum, which seeks to improve education and communications among the systems that resolve disputes and promote justice for Native and non-Native people. (See - www.nyfedstatetribalcourtsforum.org)

She is an enrolled Shinnecock Indian. She was born in Southampton New York and attended public schools in Brooklyn, New York. She received her J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she studied after receiving her undergraduate degree from Smith College and then worked in corporate and not-for-profit organizations in the fields of human resources and economic development research. In 1975 was admitted to practice law in the State of New York and various federal courts, and has worked in many settings including the National Labor Relations Board as field attorney, Fortune 500 corporations as "in-house" counsel, Assistant Attorney General for New York State Department of Law and Principal Law Clerk to Justice of New York State Supreme Court.

She maintains a private practice of law and offers services as a mediator based on Eastern Long Island; she frequently lectures on legal topics and does training, with recent focus on the Indian Child Welfare Act. Much of her current work is with the Shinnecock Indian Nation, and includes code-writing and advisement regarding application of existing tribal law and interpretation and implementation of the recently-enacted written Shinnecock Nation Constitution. Such work is viewed in "Indian Country" as an essential part of Native Nation-Building through which Native Nations endeavor to preserve ancient culture and exercise rights and responsibilities in the complex and diverse contemporary society in which we exist.

She will be pleased to answer questions about her work if contacted by e-mail via msmasesq@gmail.com

MARISSA HERCULES

Marissa Hercules is a Long Island native in her third year of law school at Maurice A. Deane School of Law. She is expected to receive her J.D. with a concentration in Alternative Dispute Resolution this spring. She received her B.A in political science minoring in Philosophy and African American Studies at SUNY University at Buffalo. During her years at law school she participated in her school's intermural mock trial and negotiation competitions. She was chosen to the junior staff of the Hofstra's Dispute Resolution Society. Once there she was member of the Hofstra team competing at the recent FINRA/St. John's Securities Dispute Resolution Triathlon where they were named Arbitration Champions. She was also chosen to participate in Hofstra's historic Mediation Clinic, where she has mediated numerous PINS and family court matters. Through out college and law school, she has interned for both the Nassau and Queens Courts. She has also clerked and interned for several small firms in the Nassau County area ranging in legal practice areas. After law school, Marissa aspires to become a corporate mediator and practice securities or corporate law.

DENISHA D. STEWART

Denisha Stewart, is a Long Island native in her 3rd year of law school at Hofstra University School of Law. She Graduated from Howard University, majoring in Legal Communications with the class of 2007. she has held a position with Department of Justice Office of Immigration Litigation for the past six years. While attending law school she has been a member of the Mock Trial and Moot Court boards, as she enjoys litigation. She has also interned with a number of non-profit organizations and small firms. Upon graduation in December 2014, Denisha aspires to continue work and practice in Immigration Law.

JANET V. JONES

Janet received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Education from York College. She also worked in the technology field as a Data Base Administrator in the Management Information Systems Department of Credit Suisse First Boston for 18 years. Afterwards, she worked as a Mortgage Loan Processor with The Manhattan Financial Company. She is a pianist/organist/director at her church in Flushing, NY, and teaches the hand bell choir. Janet is currently a Confidential Legal Secretary to the Judge in the Nassau Supreme Court in Mineola, NY to Justice Michele M. Woodard.