

President offers 'Women on the Move' career advice

President Bernice K. Leber was the keynote speaker at the annual "Women on the Move" seminar in April and gave the attendees the benefit of her own experience to illustrate the path forward to career leadership.

"Women on the Move: In the Driver's Seat," held at the State Bar Center, gave the more than 50 attendees 4.5 MCLE credits and valuable information on several aspects of successfully practicing law in the current economic climate.

The program was sponsored by the Committee on Women in the Law.

Make a plan

Leber's speech, "Leading in the 21st Century: Practical Advice for Everyday Use," used personal anecdotes from her

career to address her top tips for women lawyers who practice in government, private law firms and corporations—tips that ultimately led to her successful path to the State Bar's top office.

"True leaders realize that a career is not something that just happens to you—you have to plan ahead, remain visible, know your firm's culture, ask for important assignments, develop needed skills to advance, promote yourself, embrace challenges and manage your career to get where you want to go," said Leber, a partner at Arent Fox LLP.

Membership in the State Bar is a key ingredient to every female attorney's career plan, said Leber. "Being active in local bar associations and the State Bar can provide key opportunities for leadership, speaking opportunities,

and most of all, making important professional friendships with colleagues who share your expertise. Some of my best friends are those who not only shared bar association experiences but who also provided guidance and direction to me over my legal career."

Faculty

The program also featured sessions on leadership, ethics and labor and employment law. Overall planning co-chairs for the program were I. Javette Hines of Hartsdale (Citi Supplier Diversity and Sustainability Program, Citigroup Inc.) and Deborah L. Kelly of Albany (Hodgson Russ LLP).

Other panelists included Prof. Charles F. Siefert (Siena College); Michelle L. Haskin of Albany

(McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams, P.C), president of the Capital District Women's Bar Association; Glinnesa Gailliard of Albany (The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York); Anne Reynolds Copps of Albany (Law Office of Anne Reynolds Copps); and David A. Lewis of New York (Proskauer Rose LLP).

Speakers also included Linda J. Clark of Albany (Hiscock & Barclay LLP), immediate past president of the Capital District Women's Bar Association and chair of the New York State Conference of Bar Leaders; and Cathi L. Radner of Glens Falls (Miller, Mannix, Schachner & Hafner, LLC), president of the Adirondack Women's Bar Association.

The program will be offered as an audio CLE at www.nysba.org/CLE. ♦