

New officers launch Conference of Bar Leaders 2014 – 2015 term



Herrmann

The New York State Conference of Bar Leaders began its 2014 – 2015 term with a new chair and vice-chair of the Conference's Executive Council. Six new members also

were appointed to the council, effective July 1.

Diane Herrmann of Schenectady, who for several years served as executive director of the Schenectady County Bar Association, became chair of the Conference for two years. Herrmann is an administrative law judge for New York state and succeeds Karla Wilsey of Rochester (Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara & Wolf, LLP). Wilsey will serve on the Council as immediate past chair.

"I was pleased with the opportunity to work with Karla during the last two years," said Herrmann. "She provided

valuable insight through the programming and outreach we did, which reinforced why bar associations need strong and committed leaders during these challenging times."

"I thoroughly enjoyed connecting with bar leaders from across the state," said Wilsey. "They are a group of dedicated people who believe in their mission to serve association members and the community at large."

Herrmann begins her tenure with a new program—an in-depth retreat for bar executive directors during the State Bar's Annual Meeting in January 2015.

"For the Conference to be effective," said Herrmann, "we want to develop strong ties with associations that have executive directors, who are facing a lot of pressure in terms of member recruitment and retention. This afternoon-long program will help directors address some of their organizational concerns."

Council member Deborah L. Martin of New York City (Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP) was elected vice-chair for a one-year, renewable



Martin

term. She is the Region II deputy director of the National Bar Association, the oldest black bar association in the country, and has held that position since July 2012.

She is a former board member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and served as its chief of staff from 2010-2012. Martin is a member of the State Bar, Association of Black Women Attorneys and the Asian American Bar Association of New York.

"I'm honored to be a part of this excellent organization for bar associations across the state," said Martin.

Executive Council changes

Six people joined the 15-member Executive Council as of July 1.

They are Clotelle Drakeford of Hudson, representing the Third

Judicial Department; Paula Edgar of New York (New York Law School), representing the First Department; Fatimat O. Reid of Rochester (Rochester City School District), representing the Fourth Department; Mary Loewenguth of Rochester (Monroe County Bar Association), member-at-large; Hon. Bernice Siegal, Jamaica (Supreme Court of New York, Queens County), president and representative of the Network of Bar Leaders; and Keith Soressi, Mineola (Nassau County Bar Association), the Council's executive director representative.

State Bar President-Elect David P. Miranda of Albany (Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C.) also serves on the Council for a one-year term. A complete list of Executive Council members is available at www.nyscbl.org. ♦