

The Bar Around The Corner: Brandeis Association



Address / Phone: C/O Janet Keller, 157 Birch Drive, Manhasset Hills, NY 11040

Website: www.brandeisassociation.org

Founded: 1969

Number of Members: 200

Brief Association Vision: The purpose of the association is to encourage friendship and culture among our members, to foster respect for law and legal institutions, and to vigorously assert its interest in justice and fair play in Queens County, New York City and New York state.

Brief History: The Brandeis Association was established in 1969 as a not-for-profit corporation. The first meeting was held at the Pastrami King on Queens Boulevard and was attended by judges, attorneys and politicians in Queens County, including Hon. Leonard L. Finz, then a Civil Court judge; Hon. Seymour Boyers, then serving in the state Assembly; Wallace L. Leinhardt, an active member of the Queens County Bar Association

(QCBA), later its president; Jerome M. Ginsberg, a trial attorney and an active member of the QCBA, later its president; Michael Dikman, a matrimonial law expert; Burton Apat, a real estate expert; Joseph Axler, a trial attorney; Morton Povman, who was a city councilman for 30 years; Gary Darche, later president of QCBA; Ronald Lebovici, trial attorney; and Oscar Katz, an admired statesman in the Jewish legal community.

The organization has grown to include many distinguished judges, politicians, attorneys and court staff. From the Pastrami King days to the present day, the Association has educated our members and the legal community at large and shared in social, cultural and religious camaraderie and promoting the welfare of our members.

What is your association's favorite meeting location? Meetings usually are held in a courtroom in the Civil Court or at a kosher restaurant on Union Turnpike.

What is your association's most popular outing / social event? Our largest event is our yearly installation, with featured guest speakers, including former Court of Appeals Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye, Court of Appeals Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, Hon. A. Gail Prudenti, Hon. Nicholas G. Garaufis, Hon. Roslynn Mauskopf, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, Hon. Richard A. Brown and Benjamin Brafman. Last year more than 350 of our colleagues and friends attended our annual installation.

Although our annual installation is our largest event, our association is defined by a variety of programs, including a yearly Holocaust Remembrance program; continuing legal education (CLE) programs focusing on the perversion of justice during the Holocaust, which are essential to understand dehumanization and society's current condition; a yearly Scholarship Breakfast to raise funds for Jewish law students; and an annual Law Sabbath. Our programs are open to all members of the legal community. We incorporate the philosophy of Tikkun Olam (Making the world a better place). Our members volunteer monthly at Masbia soup kitchen in Rego Park, Queens.

What is your association's goal for next month? Next year? On August 6, Brandeis enjoyed an evening at sea on the Skyline Princess, co-sponsored by The Columbian Lawyers Association, The Catholic Lawyers Guild, The Queens County Women's Bar Association and The Latino Lawyer's Association. In September, we are planning a young attorneys happy hour and networking social at Austin's Ale House in Kew Gardens. In November, our installation will be held at Temple Torah in Little Neck and a CLE on "Justice and the War on Terror" is planned for December.

We also are planning our yearly Holocaust Remembrance program, Scholarship Breakfast, Law Sabbath, joint dinner with the Catholic Lawyers, and participation in the Israeli Day Parade. We anticipate providing continuing education programs free for our members on matters that embrace our mission and the needs of the legal community. ♦

The Bar Around The Corner is a project of the New York State Conference of Bar Leaders, www.nyscbl.org.