Women in Law Section

NYSBA

Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2026

The New York State Bar Association is pleased to announce that nominations are being accepted for the 2025 Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award. Established in 1992 in memory of the first Chair of the Committee on Women in the Law (now the Women in Law Section), the award honors a female or male member of the Association who has made a noteworthy contribution to addressing the concerns of women. Current members of the Executive Committee of the Women in Law Section are not eligible to receive the award.

The Honorable Judith S. Kaye, former Chief Judge of the State of New York, was the first recipient in 1992. Recent recipients include: Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix in 2024, Hon. Edwina G. Richardson in 2023, Hon. Elizabeth A. Wolford in 2022, Hon. Leslie E. Stein in 2021, Betty Lugo in 2020, Hon. Rosalyn Richter in 2019, Deborah A. Scalise in 2018, Bernice K. Leber in 2017, Chief Judge Janet Di Fiore in 2016, Dean Patricia E. Salkin in 2015, Hon. Joan S. Kohout in 2014, Kathryn Grant Madigan in 2012, Kim K. Azzarelli in 2011, Susan B. Lindenauer in 2010, Hon. Evelyn Frazee in 2009, and Karen DeCrow in 2008.

The award was developed and is administered by the Women in Law Section. The Section's initial report, prepared in 1987 under Ruth Schapiro's guidance, has served as a springboard for subsequent Association reports and actions on issues affecting not only women in the profession, but the public at large. These issues include domestic violence, child abuse, bias, health, and gender equity.

The Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award will be presented by the NYSBA President during the Association's House of Delegates meeting on January 22, 2027. **It is mandatory that the award recipient be available for the presentation on January 22, 2027 to accept the award.**

To allow for adequate time for review, the ***nominations must be received by 2:00 p.m. on November 20, 2026.***. Please direct this information to the Women in Law Section, New York State Bar Association, One Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207. Applications may also be emailed to mpeno@nysba.org. Additional forms may be obtained by email or by calling 518.487.5681.

If you would like your nominee to also be considered for the Section's Kay Crawford Murray Memorial Award, you must submit a separate nomination form for that award. Nomination forms for that award are available on the Section's website.

The following criteria for the Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award are meant to serve as a guide in selecting a nominee. The nomination letter itself should reflect the extent to which the nominee fulfills more than one of these criteria:

- The nominee has sought to create an environment that encourages leadership development, innovation, and knowledge sharing to enhance the status of women in a professional or community setting;
- The nominee has given priority to women's issues including, but not limited to: women's role as caregivers to their children, elderly parents, and spouses; breast cancer and other cancers and diseases that disproportionately impact women;
- The nominee has promoted inclusive workplaces that are welcoming to women and is dedicated to and advocates for equal opportunity for women in the profession, business and community;
- The nominee has provided the tools necessary to strongly support and encourage women to reach their career and personal goals and has been a leader in opening doors and ensuring opportunities for the advancement of women by, among other things, promoting alternative work arrangements, parental leave, and mentoring programs;
- The nominee has recognized the distinctive and vital contributions women have made to organizations and society in general and has been an advocate for the rights of women, children, and family;
- The nominee has participated in extensive civic activities and has sought to harness the power and resources available at the nominee's disposal toward advancing the position of women in her/his community or organization;
- The nominee is committed to public service with a focus on issues that disproportionately impact women, such as domestic violence, rape, and sexual harassment.

NYSBA.ORG

Deadline
November 20, 2026.

Women in Law Section

NYSBA

2026 Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award

Deadline
November 20, 2026.

Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Title/Position: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Nominator: _____

Title/Affiliation: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Please provide as much detail as possible regarding the nominee's qualifications for this award, such as writings, service to bar associations or community organizations, legal representation, development of legislation, teachings, pro bono service, or other initiatives. Please include a resumé or other biographical data. Supplemental information, including news articles, brief writings by the nominee, and letters of support would be helpful in the review of the candidate. *Please limit all nomination materials to 25 pages.*

This nomination must be submitted by November 20, 2026 by 2:00 p.m.

Mercedes Peno
New York State Bar Association
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email to: mpeno@nysba.org
518.487.5681