

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Think expansively, International Law and Organizations Committee Chair urges

For more than two decades, Catherine van Kampen has been committed to pro bono service in underserved communities and championing social justice, particularly for immigrant and refugee women and their children, which has helped her personally and professionally in allowing her to do work outside of her traditional duties. As chair of the International Law and Organizations Committee, she aims to help attorneys broaden their horizons, especially those who don't have international experience. Events like the upcoming Annual International Law Conference on the Status of Women, held in New York City on March 8 and co-sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Association, are great opportunities for attorneys to think more broadly, van Kampen said. She gave an interview with the NJSBA recently on the upcoming program, New Jersey's role in international law and her plans as a committee chair.

What kind of law do you practice and where?

I work in securities fraud at Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP in New York City. I manage large settlements recovered by the firm. I ensure the proceeds of these settlements are returned to the people and institutions from whom the funds were stolen. I have extensive experience in complex litigation and litigation man-

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Catherine van Kampen

agement, having overseen attorney teams in many of the firm's most high-profile cases during the latest financial crisis.

Why did you join the International Law and Organizations Special Committee?

I have always been interested in international law. As I am fluent in Dutch, I have been involved in cross-border litigation and worked as a foreign-language attorney on cases involving corporations from Belgium

and the Netherlands. This committee aligns with my interests both commercially and from the human rights perspective, as I also do a significant amount of pro bono work for refugees, immigrants and victims of international terrorism.

As chair, what are your plans for the International Law and Organizations Special Committee in the coming year?

This year I have focused on the rights of refugee and immigrant women and children under international law, the cyber exploitation of women and children by global social media companies and the online explosion of hate and anti-Semitism against religious, ethnic and racial minorities. I firmly believe online hate in the digital and virtual realms translates to violence in the real world. Sadly, you will find proof of this in many corners of society. We need to pay more attention to these developments and ask our government representatives to do the same.

What do you envision for the future of the International Law and Organizations Special Committee?

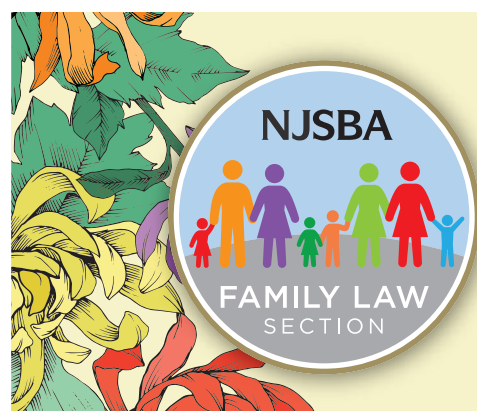
I would love to have more NJSBA members join the committee, especially young lawyers and law students so they can have the opportunity to become engaged in the larger world.

Why is New Jersey an exciting place to practice international law?

New Jersey is an important state in many respects for international business and international law. From maritime and aviation law to big Pharma and finance, New Jersey is an incredibly important state from an international law perspective. Plus, New Jersey is close to New York City and has a very diverse population with an international background. These are all positives for New Jersey.

Talk about the upcoming International Law Conference. What is the focus?

The conference will commemorate International Women's Day and the International Day of Women Judges and will be held in conjunction with the United Nations' 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The objective of the conference is to have critical conversations about the status of women and girls around the world, with a focus on how laws and policies have contributed, for better and for worse, to their current status. ■



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Musical performances, Supreme Court Justice highlight Black History Month celebration

The Minorities in the Profession Section of the NJSBA capped off Black History Month with a night celebrating the rich history and culture of Black Americans and their presence in the law. The event featured performances from the Newark Boys Chorus School, an art exhibit by Akil Roper and Curtis Grayson III and a keynote address by state Supreme Court Justice Fabiana Pierre-Louis. The justice spoke on the history of desegregation in law schools, and how those cases laid the groundwork for the 1954 landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Photos by Jim Beckner



Senate approves bill to expand issuance of protective orders

The state Senate voted unanimously to expand the availability of protective orders for victims who are unable to obtain them under the domestic violence statutes for allegations of stalking, cyber harassment, sexual assault, and criminal sexual contact. S1517 (Greenstein) was passed with amendments proposed by the New Jersey State Bar Association and other stakeholders.

"It's ridiculous that many people who are being stalked can't get a restraining order without filing criminal charges when they are being threatened or intimidated by a stranger," said Sen. Jon Bramnick, a co-prime sponsor who added his name to the bill after being contacted by a constituent whose daughter was stalked and cyber-harassed by someone she did not know.

"In too many instances, the police are unable to do anything when extremely dangerous behavior is reported," Bramnick said. "This legislation makes it easier for more victims to get protective restraining orders before frightening conduct escalates to actual harm."

The constituent, a mother of a young woman, testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in January about her daughter's experience that lasted over three years. Her daughter,



CAPITOL REPORT

who did not have a dating relationship with the alleged stalker, received disturbing text messages, phone calls and voicemails and sought police intervention. She was told to file a criminal complaint, which took nearly a year before she was able to obtain a "no contact order."

"He lived only two blocks away and she was provided no protection, protection a restraining order would have offered her," said the mother.

The NJSBA expressed concerns about the original version of the bill, and offered recommendations to incorporate provisions under the existing Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act

(SASPA). The sponsors agreed to incorporate language from SASPA into the bill, which resolved the NJSBA's concerns that the bill lacked an adjudication standard for final restraining

orders and was potentially constitutionally infirm due to the lack of due process.

The bill remains pending in the Assembly Judiciary Committee. The NJSBA continues to monitor the bill.

Bill codifying interracial marriages and civil unions clears assembly

The New Jersey Assembly voted unanimously to support A4939 (McKeon), which codifies interracial marriage into state law. The NJSBA supports this bill as a fundamental constitutional right to ensure the protection of interracial marriages and civil unions.

The bill was drafted in response to the United States Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, raising concerns that the decision puts into peril marriage equality, access to contraception and interracial marriage.

"The threat may seem theoretical but the concern is very real," said Assembly sponsor John McKeon. "Given the risk that other federally protected personal decisions could be returned to individual states for determination, including the right of persons of different racial or ethnic backgrounds to marry, it is necessary to protect interracial marriage in New Jersey statutory law."

The bill remains pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee and continues to be monitored by the NJSBA.

This is a status report provided by the New Jersey State Bar Association on recently passed and pending legislation, regulations, gubernatorial nominations and/or appointments of interest to lawyers, as well as the involvement of the NJSBA as amicus in appellate court matters. To learn more, visit njsba.com.