

FOUNDATION HOSTS SUCCESSFUL BREAKFAST EVENT WITH LAWYER AND NEW AUTHOR HELEN WAN

by Martha E. Gifford

The NYWBA Foundation presented another successful event in its "Breakfast Series" when gathering on September 24, 2013 to discuss attorney Helen Wan's newly published book, *The Partner Track: A Novel*. Ms. Wan is Associate General Counsel at the Time Inc. division of Time Warner Inc. Before that, she practiced corporate law and media law at major New York law firms. Her essays and book reviews have been published in *The Washington Post* and other venues. *The Partner Track* is her first novel. Friends and supporters of the Foundation thoroughly enjoyed Ms. Wan's discussion about the focus of the book and how she came to write it. Ms. Wan captivated attendees when discussing how and why she made the brave leap from lawyer to author.

Practicing attorneys will have no trouble relating to the story told in *The Partner Track*. The book's protagonist, Ingrid Yung, is a Chinese-American woman immersed in the most prestigious transactional work and about to make partner at her elite Manhattan law firm. She has ultimately accomplished the "American Dream" in her immigrant parents' eyes. But an event at the firm's summer outing creates a public relations disaster, and damage control includes management's decision to put Ingrid in charge

of a diversity initiative that takes her away from the deal work that was going to cement her promotion. Ingrid then faces a series of obstacles in her personal and professional life that result in a truly mesmerizing read.

At the breakfast, Ms. Wan read two extended excerpts from the book, one of which – a beautifully written conversation between Ingrid and a younger, less successful Chinese-American female associate who is looking for help – truly make the reader think "that could have been me." She said the characters and events are not real, but she strived to create the effect of realism to illustrate her themes. She also answered questions at length. As at prior Breakfast Series events, a number of young women from Washington Irving High School attended as guests of the Foundation and proceeded to ask enthusiastic, scholarly questions.

The Foundation would like to thank St. Martin's Press for graciously donating copies of the book for sale at the event; The Foundation further thanks the Cornell Club for co-sponsoring the event; Condon & Forsyth and Berke-Weiss & Pechman for sponsoring tables; and Condon & Forsyth for covering transportation and decoration costs at this magnificent breakfast.

Martha E. (Meg) Gifford is a founder and Vice President of the NYWBA Foundation, Inc.; a past President and Committee Chair of WBASNY; and a past President, Director, and Committee Chair of NYWBA. She also serves on the NYWBA Advisory Council. An antitrust attorney who previously served in the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division and headed the antitrust practice of a major firm, she now has solo practice concentrating in antitrust counseling and litigation.



NYWBA Elder Law and Disabilities Committee

presents

"End of Life Care: Wishes Wants and Needs, Hospice and Palliative Care Experience"

NYWBA's Elder Law and Disabilities Committee has retained the distinguished *Victoria Assumma* to speak about the emotional hospice care experience. Ms. Assumma is the Director of Social Work Services in Westchester and Putnam Counties. This program will be sure to provide invaluable information regarding end of life care.

Date: Thursday, Mar. 27, 2014

Time: 6:15 p.m.

Place: Newman Ferrara, LLP
1250 Broadway, 27th Floor, NYC

Cost: Free for Members*

RSVP: Email Committee Co-Chairs at
ElderLawRSVP@nywba.org.

*If you are not a current member, join or renew using our secure online membership form at www.nywba.org/Membership.

NYWBA Matrimonial and Family Law Committee

presents

"Supervised Visitation: Does it Help?"

NYWBA's Matrimonial and Family Law Committee presents a panel discussion on supervised visitation, including therapeutic visitation, with an emphasis on the role of the Court, the supervisors, and the attorneys, particularly the attorney for the child(ren). The panel will be headed by *Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan*, a matrimonial judge sitting in New York County. Other panelists include *Bettina Thomsen*, LMSW, assistant director of Comprehensive Family Services, and *Virginia A. LoPreto, Esq.*

Date: Wednesday, Apr. 2, 2014

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Blank Rome, LLP, The Chrysler Building,
405 Lexington Ave., NYC (at 42nd St.)

Cost: Free for Members*

RSVP: Email MFrsvp@nywba.org. Space is limited so advance registration is required.

*If you are not a current member, join or renew using our secure online membership form at www.nywba.org/Membership.

NYWBA Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee

presents

"Women and Rainmaking"

Join Co-Chairs *Jocelyn L. Jacobson* and *Elisabeth Ames* as the Committee provides invaluable advice on helpful and practical tips for starting and growing a solo or small practice. Existing and prospective members* are welcome. Don't forget to bring your business cards!

Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Reitler Kailas & Rosenblatt, LLC
885 Third Ave., 20th Fl. (btw 53/54th St.) NYC

RSVP: Send an email to SSFChairs@nywba.org

*If you are not a current member, join or renew using our secure online membership form at www.nywba.org/Membership.