

2007 DirectWomen Institute Class Member

Barbara Paul Robinson



Barbara Paul Robinson has always been a pioneer – paving the way for women to lead both in law and in the community. She became President of The Association of the Bar of the City of New York in 1994, the first woman in its 125 years of history, and became the first woman partner at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, where she advised major private foundations, endowments, financial institutions and individual clients with regard to domestic and international tax and financial planning.

Besides heading Debevoise & Plimpton's Trust & Estates Department and serving as President of The City Bar, with its 21,000 members, landmark house and the largest private law library in the country, Ms. Robinson has held many other leadership positions. She is on Mayor Bloomberg's Commission on Women's Issues, she was the Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of Catalyst, Inc., and was just named Catalyst's first Honorary Director. Ms. Robinson also serves on the Trust Advisory Board of Fiduciary Trust International and on many other Boards, including the Foundation for Child Development (and is a former Chair of the Board), Bryn Mawr College, William Nelson Cromwell Foundation, The Ocean Conservancy, The American Friends of the British Museum, The John A. Hartford Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, The Teagle Foundation and Wave Hill. She is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. For her hard work in the community, she was

awarded the Laura Parsons Pratt Award by the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, which honors an individual who has been particularly effective in improving the status of women and children and has demonstrated leadership in the human services arena. In 2001, she was honored with the Annual Partnership Award by Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A.

In addition, Ms. Robinson was a member of the Yale University Council and President of the Yale Law School Association of New York. She is a member of the American Bar Association and served on its Commission on Women in the Profession. She is also a member of the City Bar, the New York State Bar Association and is a Fellow of the New York Bar Foundation, the American Bar Foundation and the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel.

Ms. Robinson joined Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP, in 1966 and became a partner in 1976. In 1967, Ms. Robinson broke new ground by establishing the Debevoise flex-time program for child-rearing attorneys, one of the first of its kind in New York City. She received her A.B. magna cum laude with honors from Bryn Mawr College and her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif and an Editor of the *Yale Law Journal*.

Ms. Robinson lives in New York City with her husband, Charles. She is the mother of two sons and grandmother of four.