

RAISING THE BAR

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FALL 2005

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2005 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER A ROUSING SUCCESS

On May 17, 2005 close to 1000 members of the Washington DC legal community attended the WBA/WBAF 88th Annual Awards Dinner, "From Neighborhoods to Nations: Women Leading the Way". From the opening moments of the cocktail reception to the closing remarks from now WBA President Karen Lockwood, the evening was filled with energy, compassion, enlightenment and friendship!

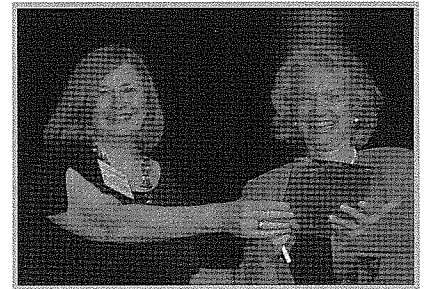
WBA President Joanne Young commenced the program by thanking the WBA Board and Committee and Forum Co-Chairs for a fabulous 2004-2005 year. Throughout the 2004-2005 year, the WBA was host to numerous programs focused on a woman's role both as a leader and seeking leadership-including the 2004 Stars of the Bar Networking Reception; the 2004 Presidential Appointment Process and the 2005 Women Partners' Dinner. WBAF President Diane Brenneman then spoke of the important work accomplished by the 2004-2005 WBAF Board, and announced the 2004-2005 WBAF grant recipients, including the WBA, the ABA Commission for Women, GWAC, DC Employment Justice Center, PLEN, Women Empowered Against Violence; and The Empower Program-Girls Leadership Institute Program.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson provided the keynote address, and focused her remarks on the role of women as leaders in the both the domestic and international arenas. Senator Hutchinson reiterated the need for women, and in particular, women in the legal profession, to step up and take on leadership responsibilities.

Deborah Israel of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice then introduced the Honorable Noel Kramer as the 2005 Woman Lawyer of the Year. Deborah's remarks were personal and compelling. Judge Kramer graciously accepted the 2005 Woman Lawyer of the Year Award from Joanne Young, WBA President. Judge Kramer provided remarks of encouragement to all women attorneys who attended the Dinner. She also provided personal examples of her own road to success, and charged those in the legal community to provide opportunities for women lawyers, both professionally and personally.

Finally, Marie Wilson, President of The White House Project, delivered a spectacular speech on leadership focusing on women rising to leadership positions utilizing the political process. Woman can and must be a part of this process. To this end, women can and must run for public office. Ms. Wilson noted the stumbling blocks faced by women trying to succeed in this goal, however, gave insightful and inspiring words of encouragement and motivation.

President Young then passed the gavel to Karen Lockwood who delivered her visionary remarks with great enthusiasm.



WBA President Joanne W. Young presents the Woman Lawyer of the Year Award to the Honorable Noel Anketell Kramer.

A Publication of

**THE WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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Executive Director

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Tracy Graveline Durkin	President-Elect
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Jennifer Maree	Secretary

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WBA President-Elect, Ex-Officio	



**WBA Welcomes
Members to Committees
and Forums for 2005-06**

The Board, in its July 11, 2005 meeting, approved a roster of Committees and Forums that will be active during 2005-06.

Those committees and forums are being formed, and will be featured at the Stars of the Bar kick-off reception on September 22. It enthusiastically welcomes all interested persons to join committees and forums of interest to them. A woman's participation in our committees is the most significant doorway to leadership of the committee or forum, and ultimately to elected office in the Association!

**Committees and Forums Are
The Essence of the WBA**

The Committees and Forums represent the backbone of the Association. Committee-planned events represent the overwhelming majority of WBA programs. Those events are open to everyone, not just WBA members. They have been widely recognized over the years as some of the finest and most consistently interesting events available to bar members. The Association is our committee and forum work, and the women who co-chair those committees have significant autonomy in which to exercise their creative insight and make new contacts while planning exciting WBA events.

The committees, which are Standing Committees under the Bylaws, will be divided between committees of the Board and committees of the membership, as appropriate to reflect the mis-

sion of the committee's work this year. (Displayed in Sidebar on page 14.) In addition, the year will begin with fifteen Forums, which cover a panoply of interests of special interest to women lawyers or focused on a substantive area of legal practice.

The co-chairs for many of the committees and forums already are planning specific programs for the year. The Leadership Retreat, held on July 22, 2005, focused particularly on the committees and forum process and ways in which the Officers and Board can advance and assist the success of committee events.

**Some Leadership Positions
Remain Available**

The final organization of committees and forums is still open. There remain available a few co-chair positions, and there are many roles for committee members to become involved in the networking and imagination that goes into planning WBA events. In addition, the Board encourages any member having special background in the areas of membership and public relations to contribute to the ongoing Board projects by contacting any Board member.

**Members Encouraged To
Register Interest in Any and
All Committees and Forums**

When you register your Association membership for 2005-06, please indicate on the form (or on-line) your interest in particular committees or projects. It should be a big and exciting WBA year, and we need both help and enthusiasm!

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Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

ANNUAL FALL NETWORKING RECEPTION

Featuring the Speaker

JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Networking Reception

6:00-8:30p.m.

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Atrium, The Homer Building

601 Thirteenth Street, N. W.

Washington, DC

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

On September 25, 1981, we watched as one of us became a United States Supreme Court Justice - Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first woman Justice on the Court. Justice O'Connor is truly one of us. She is a member of the National Association of Women Judges and the Arizona Women Lawyers' Association. She is a recipient of our very own Torchbearer Award from the WBADC in 1997. She has honored us with her presence on numerous occasions: to present an award (1994), participate on the Lawyers at Home panel (1996), speak at the Judicial Reception (2002), and more.

Justice O'Connor received her law degree from Stanford University in 1952, graduating third in her class. She was a member of the Order of the Coif and the Board of Editors of the Stanford Law Review; but no law firm in California would extend her an offer - as an associate attorney, that is. As the story goes, one law firm offered her a position as a legal secretary. Thoroughly undeterred, Justice O'Connor began her legal career as deputy county attorney in San Mateo, California, and went on to practice in many other venues, including her own law firm, and as assistant attorney general, state senator, county court judge and on the Arizona Court of Appeals. As an Arizona state Senator, she was the first woman elected as Senate Majority Leader, in 1972.

From her first year on the Supreme Court, when she received over sixty thousand letters from the public, Justice O'Connor has received national prominence. As a centrist on the Court and a pragmatist, she has been a deciding vote for many of the cases she has heard. Whether we agree with her decisions or respectfully disagree, Justice O'Connor's leadership, her persistence in the face of adversity and her continued support of the next generations of women lawyers make her a model and an inspiration for all of us. And so, as her record of accomplishment on the Supreme Court of the United States comes to a close, we expect to see Justice O'Connor continuing to break ground wherever she goes. To borrow a phrase from WBA President Karen M. Lockwood: "she will continue to be a force in the law, in justice, and for women in the law The Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia thanks and salutes Justice O'Connor, jurist, leader, and friend."

WBA Organizes For 2005-06

Clear Structure Open Opportunities



Lockwood



Durkin



Kerrigan



McNeill



Maree



Behan



Bess



Burr



Legg



Pinzel



Young

Karen M. Lockwood, President

Karen is a partner at Howrey, LLP, having joined the firm with 24 other lawyers from the former Collier Shannon Rill & Scott in April 2000. She has practiced law since 1978, recalls when women belonged to consciousness raising groups in the early 1970s, and when large numbers of women lawyers were still a "new thing" in the 1980s. She is a longtime member of the WBA, and is excited about the possibilities for increased activity by the WBA and its members.

A theme she brings to this 2005-06 membership year is the importance of working publicly toward the professional growth, advancement and retention of women in the law. Karen says, "I am dedicated to helping the women leaders in the WBA shine, in their opportunities to exercise leadership, their involvement with committee and forum work, and their creative programming. Step up — we are looking at a big year!"

Tracy Durkin, President-Elect

Tracy Durkin is a director with the Intellectual Property law firm Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C. and has over 20 years of experience obtaining and enforcing worldwide intellectual property rights, including utility and design patents, trademarks and copyrights. She has been member of the WBA since 1992 and has served as a Board Member, committee co-chair and chair of numerous WBA events and programs.

The WBA has offered her a variety of opportunities over the years, particularly the chance to meet professional women outside of her legal practice area. It has also allowed her to give and receive mentoring and strengthen her leadership skills. As President-elect, she hopes to bring these and other opportunities to other WBA members. The role of President-elect will allow her to do just that. She is committed to expanding programming by offering more training sessions relevant to current legal issues. She is also interested in growing membership by reaching out to corporate and government lawyers, as well as law students.

Maureen Kerrigan, Treasurer

Maureen is at the National Tax Office of Grant Thornton, LLP. An active member of the WBA for many years, Maureen has chaired forums and committees. Maureen wants the future of the WBA to be as distinguished as its past. She is especially excited about one of the primary goals of this year's WBA, the retention and advancement of women. Women are graduating from law schools in record numbers but these talented women lawyers are typically not making it into the ranks of senior leadership, which means tremendous lawyer talent is being lost somewhere between graduation and senior leadership.

As this year's Treasurer, Maureen is committed to making sure that all WBA goals and programs operate in a manner consistent with WBA policies. Finally, Maureen looks forward to working closely with many of our terrific WBA members in the coming year.

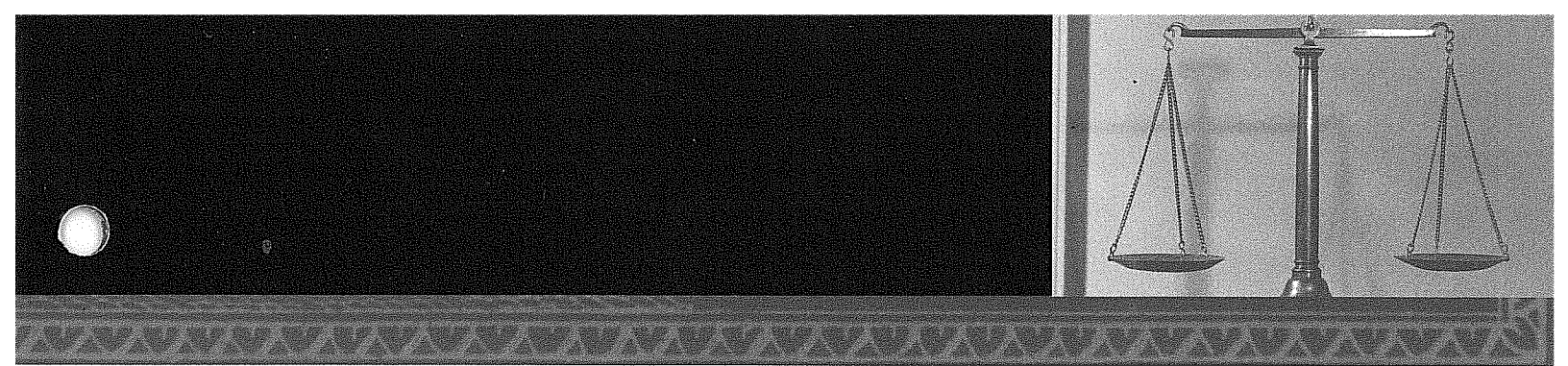
Rebecca McNeill, Treasurer-Elect

Rebecca McNeill is Treasurer-Elect for the 2005-2006 year, and had served as co-chair of the active and successful Intellectual Property Forum of the WBA, hosting many programs for the DC legal community. Rebecca looks forward to serving on the Board and Executive Committee this year.

Rebecca practices patent law at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP, focusing on client counseling and patent prosecution for biotechnology and pharmaceutical clients. This year she has also expanded her practice area with a criminal pro bono case.

Jennifer Maree, Secretary

Ms. Maree is an associate at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP who joined the firm after working as an Honors Attorney at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. She has been active with the Women's Bar Association since she was in law school and has assisted in planning the Annual Dinner and the Fall Networking Reception before being elected as Secretary. She is excited to work with Karen highlighting the challenges and solutions to the advancement and retention of women in the legal profession. "Involvement in the Women's Bar Association is one of the best ways an attorney can create a network of colleagues and friends to assist in her professional development. If you haven't already joined, become a member! We welcome your insight and ideas into expanding and improving this organization as well as assisting you in reaching your professional goals."



During the 2005-06 WBA year, current plans predict strong and active committees, well-organized showcase events, and a major new initiative drawing from the broader legal community. It is a good year for new members to join the WBA and for current members to step up their involvement!

The Board has approved an Executive Committee comprising the Officers of the Association, who will meet regularly to identify issues, formulate proposals, and guide the organizational requirements for a full and active year.

Opportunities are wide open to become involved, and they are yours for the asking! Write to us on-line at www.wbadc.org, or call the President, any Director, or the Executive Director. We are proud of all of our leaders.

In this issue, we feature the Officers and Directors.

Kathleen Behan

Kathleen Behan is a partner at Arnold & Porter LLP in Washington, D.C. where she practices in the areas of Health Law, Litigation, White-Collar Defense and Constitutional law. Kathleen's sixteen-year career also has involved federal and state litigation on a wide range of other business matters. Kathleen is an active pro bono advocate in the areas of disability rights, rare disease advocacy, civil and women's rights, and criminal justice. She has an active Supreme Court Practice on behalf of Groups such as the National Disability Rights Network, the American Psychological Association and the ABA, and is a Board member for many organizations, including the American Association of People with Disabilities. She has been ranked one of the nation's top fifty women litigators and top 40 litigators under 40 by the National Law Journal, as well as one of Washington's Best Lawyers by Washingtonian Magazine. As a Board Member of WBA, Ms. Behan looks forward to building relationships in the women's legal community and fostering mentorship relationships across Washington's corporate, private and government legal offices.

Amy L. Bess

Amy L. Bess is a partner with the Law Firm of Sonnenschein Nath and Rosenthal LLP. She currently serves as the managing partner of Sonnenschein's Washington, DC office, and is a member of the Firm's Labor and Employment practice group. She also serves on the firm-wide management committee, the Policy and Planning Committee. She was selected to serve as Co-Chair of the Firm's Strategic Planning Committee, and for four years served as the D.C. Office representative on the firm-wide Legal Development Committee, which evaluates and recommends firm associates for promotion. She was recently elected to a two-year term on the Board of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, and previously served as Co-Chair of the Litigation Forum of the WBA.

Barbara A. Burr

As a former WBA Treasurer, Barbara Burr successfully navigated the challenges of an ever-evolving legal community, while at the same time increasing the WBA's financial strength and expanding its membership. Barbara is happy to serve as a member of the WBA Board to provide continuity to the incoming Treasurer and Treasurer-Elect and to contribute in new ways to ongoing and new WBA programs.

In her private practice, Barbara is a family law attorney and founder of The Burr Law Firm, PLLC. Prior to starting her family law practice, Barbara worked as a civil rights litigator, first with the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and then with the National Women's Law Center. Early in her legal career, Barbara served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Judith W. Rogers, then-Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. She graduated with honors from Harvard Law School in 1989 and the University of Washington in 1984.

Mary W. Legg

Mary W. Legg has been an active member of the WBA since 1996. After law school, she clerked for the Chief Administrative Law Judge in the U.S. Department of Labor, and thereafter was an associate in the D.C. office of Seyfarth Shaw. She served as General Counsel for an association management company and opened the D.C. office of a contract attorney placement company in 1995. In 2000, Mary started Firm Advice, Inc., placing attorneys in both law firms and corporations.

Mary dedicates much of her time to boards and committees: Membership Chair for the Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association (WMACCA); Chair of the DC Bar Corporate Counsel Committee of the Corporate, Finance and Securities Law Section; Secretary of the WBA (1999-2000); co-chair for the WBA's Career Opportunity Committee; and the Working Parents Forum (2001-2002); and Fairfax Court Appointed Child Supervisor (1997-1998). Mary has authored dozens of articles and book chapters.

We Gratefully Acknowledge

the Supporters of the 2005 Annual Awards Dinner

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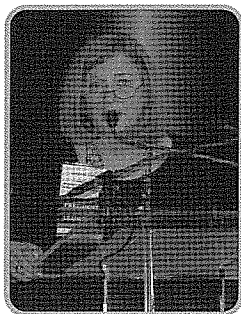
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The 2005 Annual Awards Dinner



*WBAF President
The Hon. Diane M.
Brenneman provides
remarks!*



*WBA President
Joanne W. Young
welcomes the audience!*



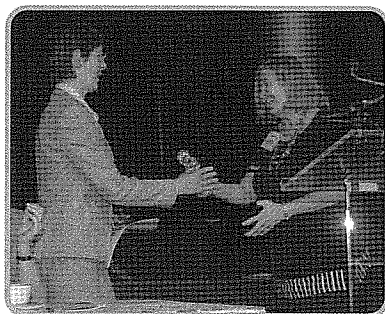
*Senator Kay Bailey
Hutchinson delivers a
poignant address*



Everyone is all smiles!



*Deborah Israel delivers
remarks about the
Honorable Noel
Anketelle Kramer.*



*Incoming WBA President Karen Lockwood
presents the WBA Gavel to now Immediate
Past President Joanne W. Young*



*WBAF President introduces
Marie Wilson, President of
The White House Project, Inc.*



*Marie Wilson delivers a
dynamic address!*



A view of the Dias



*WBA President Karen Lockwood
closes out the spectacular
evening*



MARTY ROGERS, CHAIR OF OBER|KALER'S WHITE COLLAR GROUP RECEIVES SHUKER AWARD

Ober|Kaler principal Martha (Marty) P. Rogers became the twelfth recipient of the Robert A. Shuker Award on June 9, 2005 at the annual banquet of the Assistant U.S. Attorneys Association of the District of Columbia. Ms. Rogers, managing principal of Ober|Kaler's Washington D.C. office and Chair of its White Collar Criminal Defense practice, received the award as a former Assistant U.S. Attorney "who has made a distinguished contribution to the administration of justice by emulating Robert A. Shuker's integrity, scholarship, hard work, wit and exceptional demeanor." Praised as one of Washington's best white collar defense attorneys, Ms. Rogers has appeared as a legal analyst on CNN, Fox News, Court TV, MSNBC and NBC Nightly News.

ABA FULLY ACCREDITITS UDC CLARKE LAW!

In August, the American Bar Association's House of Delegates unanimously approved full accreditation for the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. The achievement of full accreditation comes as a tribute to visionary leadership on the part of the UDC's administration and the District's elected officials, and the hard and effective work of staff, faculty and students in support of a law school uniquely dedicated to expanding legal educational opportunity to members of groups under-represented in the legal profession while providing high quality legal service to low-income Washingtonians.

NAWL'S ANNUAL AWARD LUNCHEON



Lorelie (Lorie) Masters (on right) received the Service Award for 2004-2005 from

the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) during NAWL's annual award luncheon held during the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago. Lorie, who is a member of the Board of the WBA Foundation, won this award for her work as Chair of NAWL's Amicus Committee. During the past year, NAWL's Amicus Committee filed amicus briefs for NAWL in the United States Supreme court and various state and federal courts. NAWL supported the petitioner in Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education in which the Supreme Court affirmed that Title IX precludes retaliatory firing. NAWL also submitted briefs on domestic violence issues (in Town of Castle Rock v. Jessica Gonzales again in the Supreme Court) and on issues involving gender equality.

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox is pleased to announce that the article "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless IP Portfolio: Creating and Implementing an Effective Corporate Intellectual Property Program" has been recognized for two prestigious writing awards. The piece was penned jointly by **Tracy-Gene Durkin** of Sterne Kessler and Melissa Sellers of Phillips Foods and Seafood Restaurants. Tracy is President-Elect of the WBA, and is a director at Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox and counsels clients in all aspects of Intellectual Property protection and enforcement.



Kawchuk

A NEW APPROACH TO WOMEN'S COMMUNICATION

By Bonnie Kawchuk

"I did my research. I was ready for the meeting. Yet when I opened my mouth, the talking points and ideas that were so clear in my head fell flat on the table. I'm smart. I've taken a public speaking class. Why does this happen to me?"

If you walk into meetings and negotiations feeling capable and well-prepared, yet walk away feeling unheard, you are not alone. You are also in good company if you've ever been bypassed after proposing a brilliant idea, only to hear that idea met with enthusiastic response when later presented by a colleague.

Despite consistent academic and professional success, women often experience a disconnect between their knowledge and their ability to communicate their ideas in the workplace - adversely affecting performance and advancement opportunities. Key findings from Catalyst Inc.'s landmark study *Women in Law: Making the Case for Change* place "demonstrating strong communication skills" as the top advancement strategy for lawyers.

But is there more to effective communication than good eye contact, knowing your audience, and a thorough detox of the um's and uh's? Do the classic public speaking 101 tips really address a woman's experience of voice at work? Why is workplace communication more complicated and challenging for women?

A woman's experience of voice is influenced by a complex web of factors that include social, developmental, educational and cultural influences specific to women. These factors manifest themselves in physical, emotional, and intellectual obstacles that can hinder a woman's success in connecting clear ideas with confident communication. During any given workplace conversation - whether with clients or colleagues - these factors are at play and affect how, or even if, a woman presents her ideas, how she makes meaning of the conversation and how she values her knowledge and its relevance to the conversation.

While women remain hopeful of one day achieving a critical mass as partners, they continue to function in a communication landscape that has been designed and established by men. If the number one advancement strategy for partnership focuses on strong communication skills, how can law firms recognize and support the advancement of women in the field without first acknowledging women's broader experience of voice at work?

Bonnie Kawchuk is a women's communication expert and founder of The Leading Voice, the leadership coaching firm that helps high-potential women to develop a vocal presence in the workplace.



**Women's Bar Association
of the District of Columbia**
Raising the Bar Since 1917

5th Annual WBA Golf Classic

Wednesday – October 5, 2005

South Riding Golfers' Club

South Riding, VA

Schedule:

7:30 to 8:45 AM – Registration, Continental Breakfast, Driving Range Warm-Up

9:00 AM – Shotgun Start

2:00 PM – Awards Presentation, Lunch, Raffle Prizes Awarded

Fees:

\$125 per person or \$475 per foursome includes green fees, cart, practice balls, continental breakfast, lunch, tournament prizes, raffle, novelty items and more! After September 9, 2005, the cost of a foursome is \$500.00!

Tournament Format:

Captain's Choice (AKA: Scramble) - Prizes awarded for top foursome, most likely to improve foursome, longest drive, closest to the pin and straightest drive (women & men's individual awards) - Win a car for a Hole-in-one!

Information: The WBA Golf Classic is a scramble, which means every player hits from the tee. The team chooses which ball to play for the next shot. All players then will hit from that position.

Women will hit from the red tees and men will hit from the white tees.

The par value for each hole is on the score card. You are allowed a maximum of 2 strokes over the par value. For example if you are playing a hole which has a par 4, the maximum number of strokes for that hole will be (4+2=) 6.

Team Awards: Best Foursome, Most Likely to Improve Foursome

Mulligans: Mulligans may be purchased during registration at \$5 each (limit 5 per team).

Check or credit card information must accompany registration! Register immediately to reserve your space! Checks should be made payable to "WBA".

Team Captain:

Firm:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Check #:

or Credit Card: Visa/ MC/ Am Ex #:

Exp. Date:

Signature:

Amt. Pd:

Players in Foursome:

1.

Firm:

2.

Firm:

3.

Firm:

4.

Firm:

(If you have fewer than 4 players you will be matched with additional players to complete your foursome).

Send completed application and payment to WBA, 1717 K St., NW, Ste. 503, Washington, DC 20036 or fax to 202-639-8889. Direct any questions to Kathy Barlow: email kathleen.t.barlow@marsh.com ; ph: 202/263-6736 or you may also contact Nancy Long: email wba@wbadc.org; phone: 202/639-8880. Please note: After September 20, 2005 no refunds will be provided for cancellations.



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Information: The WBA Golf Classic is a scramble, which means every player hits from the tee. The team chooses which ball to play for the next shot. All players then will hit from that position.

Women will hit from the red tees and men will hit from the white tees.

The par value for each hole is on the score card. You are allowed a maximum of 2 strokes over the par value. For example if you are playing a hole which has a par 4, the maximum number of strokes for that hole will be (4+2=) 6.

Team Awards: Best Foursome, Most Likely to Improve Foursome

Mulligans: Mulligans may be purchased during registration at \$5 each (limit 5 per team).

Check or credit card information must accompany registration! Register immediately to reserve your space!
Checks should be made payable to "WBA".

Team Captain:

Firm:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Check #:

or Credit Card: Visa/ MC/ Am Ex #:

Exp. Date:

Signature:

Amt. Pd:

Players in Foursome:

1.

Firm:

2.

Firm:

3.

Firm:

4.

Firm:

(If you have fewer than 4 players you will be matched with additional players to complete your foursome).

Send completed application and payment to WBA, 1717 K St., NW, Ste. 503, Washington, DC 20036 or fax to 202-639-8889. Direct any questions to Kathy Barlow: email kathleen.t.barlow@marsh.com ; ph: 202/263-6736 or you may also contact Nancy Long: email wba@wbadc.org; phone: 202/639-8880. Please note: After September 20, 2005 no refunds will be provided for cancellations.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ayiotis Christina
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Bosworth Rita
Bruno Kimberly
Hirao Risa
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Lamond Emily Marie
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Ortiz-Wilson Ykajaira
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Rogers Melissa
Ruk Lori

COURAGE TO PROMOTE JUSTICE

As members of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, we appreciate women advocates who lend their voice to promote equality and justice in the world. Mukhtar Mai is an advocate who rightfully deserves the international spotlight that has been cast upon her. Taking a brave stance against the men who gang raped her three years ago on the orders of a village tribal council, Mai has advanced her case to the highest level of Pakistan's judicial system.

After a three-year legal battle with her alleged rapists, Pakistan's Supreme Court recently agreed on June 28th to rehear Mai's case. While this decision was not on the merits, it breathes new life into Mai's case and gives her a chance at justice against those who mistreated her. In 2002, Mai suffered the consequences of a tribal council's response to allegations that her 12-year-old brother had been seen in the company of a woman from an influential local tribe. Mai was called to the council to apologize for her brother's conduct. She appeared and apologized, but was dragged to a nearby hut and gang raped allegedly by four men. Shortly thereafter, 14 men were arrested and charged under various provisions of three laws that extend the crime of rape to all those who were present on the occasion and had abetted the crime. Of the 14 men charged, six men were charged by the trial court to death, and eight were acquitted. Mai filed an appeal against the acquittal of the eight men who were set free. On March 3, 2005, the appellate court reversed the trial court's decision, claiming that there was insufficient evidence and a faulty investigation. The appellate court subsequently acquitted five of the six men who were sentenced to death, and commuted the sixth man's sentence to life imprisonment. With the help of her attorney, Aitzaz Ahsan, Mai appealed to

President Musharraf and Pakistan's Supreme Court in fear for her life at the release of the men who were previously detained. Her victory, at this point, is evident in that all fourteen men are still being detained pending retrial.

Mai's courage in standing up to the tribal judicial system and her attackers is impressive for many reasons. Many women in Pakistan and other parts of the world suffer silently as they are humiliated and abused needlessly at the direction of local officials. Mai gained strength from the support of many members of her community who wanted to change the status quo. This gave her the confidence to fight and bring attention to her situation, despite being poor and illiterate.

Mai has made great strides to improve the status quo in her village. With the compensation awarded to her from the trial court, she established two schools in her village. Through these schools, she seeks to improve the minds of boys and girls so that they are aware of their rights and duties. Mai is also seeking to improve women's rights through international campaigning.

Mai is a role model for women advocates all over the world. Her fight and victories to date will likely inspire many women to speak out for women's rights. There is no way to measure the effect of one Mai, but hopefully many will follow her lead and seek justice so that there is no more suffering in silence.

By Mukhtar Mai



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The Women's Bar Association Foundation provides financial support to deserving organizations in the D.C. area that promote its goals:

- To enhance the status, power, and success of women lawyers, women judges, and women in the law and government; and
- To pursue justice for women and to educate others about legal issues of importance to women.

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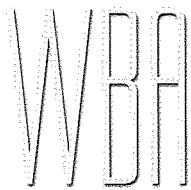
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