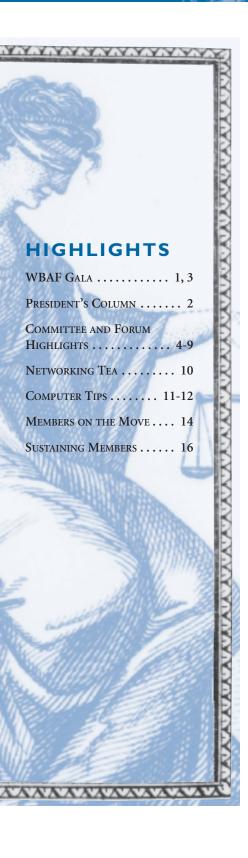


RAISING THE BAR

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

2006-07, ISSUE 4





Dean Claudio Grossman and WBAF President Ellen Jakovic.

FESTIVE GALA RECEPTION CELEBRATES WBAF'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY AND LAUNCHES INAUGURAL FOUNDERS FELLOWSHIP

Amidst twinkling lights and silvered décor, the Women's Bar Association Foundation (WBAF) celebrated its 25th Anniversary on November 29 at a Gala Reception at the Chamber of Commerce. At this spectacular evening, which was attended by over 100 individuals, the WBAF honored its Founders, Past Presidents, 2006 grant recipients, and marked 25 years of service to the legal community and the interests of women and children in the Washington DC area. The WBAF also announced the establish-

ment of the Women's Bar Association Foundation Founders Fellowship, which will support law students working with local legal services providers on projects to benefit women and children in our community.

With great anticipation, WBAF President **Ellen M. Jakovic** presented the inaugural WBAF Founders

Fellowship to Dean Claudio Grossman of

American University Washington College of Law

(WCL). WCL will select from among its students

the first recipient of the \$5,000 fellowship. WCL

was chosen as the inaugural recipient of the WBAF

Founders Fellowship because of the special relationship between the two organizations: **Ellen**



DC Bar President-Elect Melvin White (middle) and colleagues enjoy the Gala.

Spencer Mussey and **Emma Gillett**, the founders of WCL, also founded the WBAF's sister organization, the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia (WBA).

In his remarks, Dean Grossman highlighted the long-standing ties between WCL and the WBA and WBAF and expressed his gratitude and excitement at WCL being a part of the WBAF's new fellowship to promote the delivery of needed legal services to disadvantaged women and families.



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1717 K Street, NW, #503 Washington, DC 20036 (202) 639-8880 Fax: (202) 639-8889 E-mail: wba@wbadc.org www.wbadc.org

Nancy Long Executive Director

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HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY WBA!

2007 is a special year for the WBA. The WBA will celebrate its 90th anniversary in 2007, making it one of the oldest voluntary bar associations in the metropolitan Washington area, open to all who support our mission of maintaining the honor and integrity of the

profession; promoting the administration of justice; advancing and protecting the interests of women lawyers; promoting their mutual improvement; and encouraging a spirit of friendship among our members.

Since our founding in 1917, there have been many positive changes in our profession, especially for women. Yet, the mission of the WBA is as appropriate today, as it was then.

Tell us how the WBA has benefited you

In honor of this grand occasion, I am inviting each and every one of you to share with me, and our entire membership, your story of how membership in the WBA has impacted you personally, professionally or both. These inspiring stories will be featured in the program at our Annual Meeting and Awards dinner, which will be held on May 16 at the National Building Museum, as well as in future issues of the RTB. You can submit your personal story by emailing it to stories@wbadc.org or faxing it to the WBA office at (202) 639-8889.

My personal story with the WBA goes back over fifteen years. After being elected the first woman partner in my firm, my partners encouraged me to get involved in the WBA. I watched quietly from the side lines for the first few years, not quite sure if I fit in. I was thrilled when I was later contacted by another member who asked me to help her start an Intellectual Property Forum. I went to the first organizational meeting and was "hooked" on the WBA from then on. I eventually went on to co-chair that committee, served on the board of directors and am now President. The lessons from this experience are many: make the most of your membership by getting involved and keep the WBA vibrant by getting others involved with you. If you think the WBA can do better, let us know. And most importantly, what my experience has taught me is that there is no better platform than the WBA for women leaders to get the experience and support to achieve their full potential. That is my story. I invite you to send me your personal story.

2007 Membership Drive

I made growing our membership a personal goal for my tenure as President. To do this, we will be kicking off a membership drive in January, which will run through March 31. Every new member who joins during that time, and the person who referred them, will be entered into a drawing for some very special prizes. We will also hold a new member reception to welcome our new members. If you are not already a WBA member, I encourage you to join. I also urge our members to set a personal goal to recruit at least one new member in 2007. I hope you will join me and the more than 1,000 other women and men (and growing!) in making the WBA a strong and vibrant organization representing the best of our profession.

Tracy-Gene G. Durkin



WBAF Gala Reception

SAVE THE DATE

Keeping up with a 58-year WBA tradition

2007 WBA JUDICIAL RECEPTION

Wednesday, February 21, 2007 6:30pm until 9:30pm

Howard T. Markey
National Courts Building
U.S. Court of Appeals for the
Federal Circuit, Courtroom 201
717 Madison Place, NW

This year's program, "Judicial Independence" will be moderated by Judge Delissa A. Ridgeway of the U.S. Court of International Trade.

Panelists will include Judge Leonie M. Brinkema, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia; Dean Frederick M. Lawrence, George Washington University Law School and a representative of the Council for Court Excellence. Special invited guests include Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee.

Reception begins at 7:30

The Dolly Madison House
721 Madison Place, NW
Tickets: \$75 WBA members, \$85
non-members, \$100 Patron
Sponsorships are available.
For more information, contact
Nancy Long at wba@wbadc.org.

Continued from page 1

After the fellowship presentation, WBAF Vice-President and Grants Committee Chair Diana M. Savit recognized the organizations that had received grants from the WBAF this year, many of which had representatives in attendance that evening. The

2006 grant recipients include the Center for WorkLife Law; the DC Bar Pro Bono Program; the District of Columbia Courts; EduSeed; the Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division, The National Bar Association; Lawyers for Children America, Inc.; the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law; and the Women's Bar Association.

The highlight of the evening belonged to WBAF founders and first and second WBAF Presidents, Marjorie A. O'Connell and Patricia D. Gurne. With humor and warmth, Ms. O'Connell and Ms. Gurne regaled the gathering with brief glimpses into the early days of the Foundation. Both of these accomplished women expressed deep pride that from its humble beginnings, the WBAF had grown into a philanthropic force in the legal community, having distributed close to \$60,000 in grant monies last year alone. The many founders and past presidents in attendance were presented with crystal memen-



WBAF President Ellen Jakovic welcomes the crowd.

tos to mark the evening's festivities. President Jakovic remarked, "It is the privilege of those of us who currently serve the WBAF to honor the remarkable women who had the foresight to establish this organization so many years ago. It also is a pleasure to bring together so many founders and past presidents to share this important common bond and to celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of the WBAF."

In addition to our founders and past presidents, the WBAF was honored to have many other leaders of the local bar in attendance, including The Honorable Rufus G.

King, III, Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court; John C. Cruden, Immediate Past President of the DC Bar; Melvin White, President-Elect of the DC Bar; and Tracy-Gene G. Durkin, President of the WBA.

All proceeds from the Gala will be used to fund the Women's Bar Association Foundation Founders Fellowship. Donations may be made to the Founders Fellowship or to the general WBAF grant funds through the WBA website at www.wbadc.org or by mailing a check to the Women's Bar Association Foundation, 1717 K Street, NW, Ste. 503, Washington, DC 20036. If you are interested in additional information about the



Marjorie O'Connell and Pat Gurne with WBAF President Ellen Jakovic.

WBAF or the Founders Fellowship, please visit our website or contact the WBAF President, **Ellen M. Jakovic**, at (202) 626-3684 or ejakovic@whitecase.com. Many thanks to our sponsors who are listed on page 15 of this issue of *Raising the Bar*.



Committee and Forum Highlights

WBA President Tracy Durkin (far L), Panelist Gaela Gehring Flores (far R), Diversity Forum Co-Chairs: Shaniek Mills Maynard (2nd from L), Ferdose al-Taie (3rd from R), Carla Cartwright (2nd from R) and members of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association and National Bar Association celebrate a successful program.



Panelists Grace Speights (L) and Kimberly Majure (R) discuss diversity issues with participants.



Diversity Forum Co-Chair Shaniek Mills Maynard (center) welcomes program participants to the reception.



A packed house enjoys the Diversity Forum's program.

THE DIVERSITY FORUM'S "BREAKING COMMON BARRIERS" PROGRAM

The Diversity Forum's inaugural program on November 8th at Weil, Gotschal & Manges LLP was a smashing success! Because of the overwhelming number of women who wanted to attend, the Forum had to change its original venue to accommodate the more than 120 individuals who participated in the program, which was co-sponsored by the WBA's Initiative on the Retention and Advancement of Women, and the local chapters of the Women Lawyers Divisions of the National Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association, and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association. The post-program reception was sponsored by McKee Nelson LLP, Shearman & Sterling LLP, and Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

The program focused on advancement, retention and the minority experience for women in today's law firms. The panel was moderated by our own past president, Karen Lockwood (Howrey LLP) and featured panelists, Gaela Gehring Flores (Winston & Strawn LLP), Kimberly Tan Majure (Miller & Chevalier), Pamela J. Roberts (Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough) - Chair of the ABA Commission on Women, and Grace Speights (Morgan Lewis LLP).

In a lively exchange, the panelists compared and contrasted the results of the 2006 ABA Study "Visible Invisibility: Women of Color in Law Firms" and the 2006 WBA Study "Creating Pathways to Success: Advancing and Retaining Women in Today's Law Firms," as well as shared their personal stories of achieving partnership in maledominated, non-diverse law firm environments.

Audience participation was vigorous and allowed the panel to address different approaches to overcoming challenges facing minority women. The discussion was frank and addressed specific barriers faced at firms by women and women of color alike, including the challenges of finding good mentors, getting strong assignments,

developing marketing skills, and balancing work and family. The focus of the program was to identify pathways to success and partnership for all of us, and to recognize that what we have in common outweighs any differences. It was clear from the energized

audience during the post-presentation reception that a continuing dialogue on these issues would be welcomed by all and the WBA plans to host these discussions.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Diversity Forum by helping to organize monthly round table discussions for women and women of color to address these issues, please contact the Diversity Forum Co-Chairs, Ferdose al-Taie at (202) 682-7206 or Ferdose.al-Taie@weil.com; Carla Cartwright at (202) 327-8619 or ccartwright@mckeenelson.com; and Shaniek Mills Maynard at

(202) 508-8143 or smaynard@shearman.com. Please also pass along your ideas for topic areas as each month we will focus on a different challenge facing women and minority women at law firms. These discussions will be sponsored by the WBA's Initiative on the Retention and Advancement on Women and the Diversity Forum.



FCC Comissioner Deborah Tate at the Tea.

Commissioner Tate addresses the crowd.



Communication Law Forum Co-Chair, Lynne Milne welcomes the guests.

COMMUNICATIONS LAW FORUM HOLIDAY TEA

The older we get, it seems the earlier the holidays begin. For those of us in the Women's Bar Association, we know the holidays are here by starting off the celebrations at the sold-out Communications Law Forum's Holiday Tea. This year, on December I, 64 women (and one brave man) regaled in the holiday splendor and festive spirits of the historic Willard Hotel. From the moment of setting foot in the lobby, it was possible to see that every inch was wonderfully decorated for the holiday season. Winding our way up the spiral staircase to the cozy Nest Lounge, we were greeted by beautiful flower arrangements and a lighted, decorated Christmas tree nestled in one corner. The tables were made all the more festive, gaily decorated with holiday gifts provided by the sponsors.

Prior to the sit-down portion of the event, attendees chatted informally in a reception-like setting—making new acquaintances and renewing established friendships. All this created a warm, relaxed and hospitable atmosphere, perfect for schmoozing with friends and the ideal setting for our most genteel Honored Guest, FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate. As she remarked, for a Southern lady from Tennessee, high tea is just the right way to welcome in the season and to welcome her to the women of the Communications Bar. And in true Southern fashion, she was generous with her time and gracious in her remarks.

Commissioner Tate discussed her work as a Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission, as well as her previous role as a Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. After relating some of her experiences in private practice in Nashville, she described how she followed in her mother's footsteps as a dedicated volunteer, by her own personal involvement and commitment to establish a home for individuals with abuse problems, where the entire family could receive appropriate services, thereby helping to keep some families intact. She also recounted the efforts by a group of women attorneys in Nashville, similar to the WBA, to increase the number of women judges, and how her participation in the Junior League led to the opportunity to meet her heroine, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Commissioner Tate encouraged us all to pursue relationships with mentors, undertake public service, and engage in volunteer work as worthwhile enhancements to anyone's legal career.

As one would expect for such an occasion, the selection of teas was superb. The three courses of food were tasteful and beautifully displayed. And we all left with our hearts warmed by holiday cheer, our minds brimming with an inspiring personal message, and our stomachs filled by elegant delicacies.

The Communications Law Forum gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided by the three law firms who sponsored this special event: Kilpatrick Stockton LLP, Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds LLP, and Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP. If you are interested in additional information about the Communications Law Forum, please contact the Communications Law Forum Co-Chairs **Terri L. McField** at (202) 533-1905 or Terri.Mcfield@staff.bet.com; **Lynne Milne** at (202) 418-7055 or lynne.milne@fcc.gov; and **Laura C. Mow** at (202) 508-5835 or lmow@kilpatrickstockton.com.



WELCOME NEW WBA MEMBERS

Members Kathleen Abernathy Natalie Aiken Brooke Clagett Jill Cohen Sylvia Covarrubias **Cherita Gonzales** Meagan Guerton **Deborah Hawkins Katherine Henry** Katherine Hoekman **Ambre Howard lill Lache** Rasha Lutfi Adaku Madu Lisa McCurdy Gretchen McMullen Lori Mihalich **Mary Pivec** Priya Pooran **Anne Richardson Annamaria Steward Christy Tinnes** Martha Jo Wagner Lisa Willis **Ulrike Winkler** Sarah Wyss Sarah Yeomans **Tacie Yoon** Christine Zebrowski

FIRST ANNUAL PRO BONO AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FAIR

On November 2, the WBA Community Projects Committee held a very successful 1st Annual Pro Bono and Community Service Fair. The Fair was co-sponsored by the DC Bar Pro Bono Program and the space was generously donated by Latham & Watkins, LLP. The goal of the Fair was to provide an opportunity for attorneys and the legal community to obtain greater understanding and awareness about various legal services and charitable organizations in an informal and relaxed setting. Over 15 different organizations attended the Fair and many ran out of informational materials to give to the eager



The Pro Bono Community Fair is a success! (from L to R) co-chairs Community Projects Committee Christina Wojak and Helen Hong-George; WBA President Tracy Durkin; Honorable Phyllis Thompson; WBA President-Elect Lorelie Masters and WBA Board member Jennifer Duane.

attendees. The Honorable Phyllis Thompson gave a wonderful speech reminding the attendees of the power of giving back to the community.

The Fair was made possible by a grant provided by the WBAF and the generous donations of the DC Bar Pro Bono Program, **Kathleen Behan**, Dickenstein, Shapiro, and Morgan, Lewis & Brockius LLP. "Planning for the 2nd Annual Pro Bono and Community Service Fair is already on its way and the Community Projects Committee is looking to make it more successful then the first by including more organizations and reaching out to more individuals in the legal community," according to Christina Wojcik, co-chair of the WBA Community Projects Committee. If you have any questions, are interested in sponsoring or becoming involved in next year's fair, please contact Community Service Co-Chairs **Helen Hong-George** at (202) 435-5239 or helen_y_hong@hotmail.com and **Christina Wojcik** at (202) 466-8828 or wojcicl@kellylawregistry.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF INDEPENDENT PRO BONO WORK

Please join the Lawyers at Home Forum for a brown bag lunch on "The Nuts and Bolts of Independent Pro Bono Work." Representatives from DC, Maryland, and Virginia pro bono offices will outline volunteer opportunities as well as training, research, and malpractice resources available to those taking on pro bono work independently. The program will be held on Thursday January 11, 2007 from Noon until 1:30pm at Dickstein Shaprio LLP, 1825 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. Cost is \$8 for WBA members, \$18 for non-members, and \$5 for law students. Complimentary beverages and snacks provided by Dickstein Shapiro LLP. To pre-register online, please visit www.wbadc.org and click on "Calendar of Events."

XXXXXXXX



Committee and Forum Highlights

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A'A'A'A'A'A'A

Thursday, January 11, 2007 8:00am - 9:30am

Women Law Firm Leaders Monthly Breakfast Series Wilmer Hale 1875 Pennsylvania Ave, NW By invitation only.

Thursday, January 11, 2007 Noon - 1:30pm

The Nuts and Bolts of Independent Pro Bono Work Dickstein Shapiro LLP 1825 Eye Street, NW Register on-line at www.wbadc.org.

Thursday, January 25, 2007 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Kangaroos and Kiwis: Wines from Down Under White & Case LLP 701 13th Street, NW Tickets are \$85 and \$55. Register on-line at www.wbadc.org.

Wednesday, February 21, 2007 6:30pm - 9:30pm

WBA Judicial Reception
Court of Federal Claims
Howard T. Markie Building and
Tayloe House
717 Madison Avenue, N.W.
\$75. For more details, visit
www.wbadc.org.

Tuesday, March 6, 2007 Noon - 2pm

Career Development Committee Presents: Job Search Skills Hogan & Hartson 555 13th Street, NW \$20 for WBA members; \$30 for non-members; \$15 for students For more details, visit www.wbadc.org.

Wednesday, May 16, 2007 6pm - 9pm

Women's Bar Association 90th Annual Awards Dinner National Building Museum 401 F Street, NW For more details, visit www.wbadc.org.

FASHION SECRETS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL WOMAN

Belying Washington's reputation as a sartorially-challenged town, over 40 women turned out on October 26, to hear style and fashion consultant Lauren Rothman discuss how to manage trends and put together a wardrobe that's professional, yet versatile and fun. Lauren is the founder of Styleauteur (www.styleauteur.com), and works with celebrities, members of Congress and busy professionals, as well as media and corporate clients such as Mercedes Benz, PricewaterhouseCoopers, DC Modern Luxury Magazine and Morgan Stanley.

Lauren had a sample wardrobe on hand to demonstrate both trendy and classic looks and offered tips on how to combine pieces and accessories stylishly. For example, rather than piling on several special items that will compete for attention, choose an outfit with neutral or matching tones and textures, and top it off with an impact piece, like a brightly colored shawl, a unique or trendy item, or eye-catching accessories. Participants enjoyed wine, cheese, and complimentary gourmet chocolates as they peppered Lauren with questions about how to pull off a business casual wardrobe, how to cull an overstuffed closet, and what style trends she recommended for the professional set. Given the enthusiastic turnout and lively discussion, hopefully this event will become a classic in years to come. The program, held at Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal LLP, was cosponsored by the Working Parents Forum, the Young Lawyers Forum and the Community Projects Forum.

HELP WRITE THE WBA HISTORY

The WBA is turning 90! When the WBA began in 1917, women did not have the right to vote, and many law schools and bar associations would not admit women. The WBA has been instrumental in righting these wrongs and continues that work today. In honor of our anniversary, we are looking for several volunteer historians interested in documenting our proud past. This project would include reviewing our WBA archives, researching other archives, and writing and publishing our history. If you are interested in this important and interesting project, please contact the WBA office at admin@wbadc.org or (202) 639-8880.

International Law Forum Presents Panel Discussion on Export Enforcement

On December 13, 2006, the International Law Forum, in conjunction with the DC Bar, American Bar Association, and the Customs and International Trade Bar Association, hosted an Off-The-Record luncheon program on export enforcement. The event was sold out and over 100 particpants were present to hear from a panel which included: Barbara Hammerle, Deputy Director of Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), Patricia Slygh, Acting Director of Directorate Defense Trade Controls (DDTC), and Wendy Wysong, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement at Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS). The panelists provided an overview of procedures and best practices before BIS, OFAC, and DDTC, and discussed the differences and similarities between the regulations and practices of each agency regarding voluntary disclosures, settlements, and enforcement matters. If you are interested in additional information about the International Law Forum, please contact the International Law Forum Co-Chairs **Antonia Tzinova** at (202) 419-2661 or antonia.tzinova@hklaw.com and **Janelle Gordon** at jgordan@mcquirewoods.com.



WOMEN LAW FIRM LEADERS MONTHLY BREAKFAST SERIES

Women law firm leaders from firms across DC have been meeting on a monthly basis to network and share best practices in what may be the first ever local forum for Women Law Firm Leaders. The idea was the brainchild of WBA Board member, Amy Bess (Managing Partner at Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal LLP), Kathleen Barlow, and WBA President Tracy Durkin. All three women recognized that this group of underrepresented women could greatly benefit from getting together on a regular basis to network with one another, share best practices, and become more informed and better educated on topics relevant to their leadership roles.

Perhaps just as importantly, through these meetings, these women can find support and mentorship with their peers at other law firms. The meetings, which are by invitation only, are typically held on the first Thursday of the month. The meetings are open to all women who currently serve or have served in a formal leadership role in a law firm, such as managing partner, practice leader or management committee member. Please email WBA President Tracy Durkin at tdurkin@skgf.com if you are interested in being added to the invitation list.

INTERNET SAFETY FOR PARENTS

Even the most computer-savvy among us are vulnerable to an ever-widening range of schemes perpetrated by criminals trolling the internet. On November 15, vigilant parents attended an important presentation about internet predators, seeking to educate themselves about the newest scams and risks, law enforcement efforts and statutory support, and the best strategies for protecting children from online danger.

Held at Gilbert Heintz & Randolph LLP, the program was sponsored by the Working Parents Forum, and led by two seasoned warriors in the fight against online predators. Benjamin Vernia is an attorney from Covington & Burling LLP, and a former prosecutor from the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Division (CEOS). Special Agent C.J. McClure is an 18-year veteran of the Virginia State Police and serves as the supervisory special agent for the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.



Tina Hsu (Working Parents Forum Co-chair), Ben Vernia and C.J. McClure.

Drawing on their respective experiences with CEOS and ICAC, the speakers discussed the potential risks to children from internet predators, including schemes spawned by the introduction of new technology and trends (such as internet-connected phones, networked video games, and social networking sites like MySpace). Participants also learned about current and proposed legislation to address these risks, as well as law enforcement efforts to dismantle child pornography rings. Distressingly, increasingly-sophisticated criminals are constantly engineering ways to get around current legislation, such as the use of "virtual children" (i.e., computer-generated images of children) in child pornography. While real children are not directly exploited to create these images, the recent ability to create photo-realistic children for use in pornographic images inevitably adds to the problem of child predation generally.

While much of the information presented was sobering, participants were reminded that the most important defense against these risks were the children themselves. To help parents discuss these critical issues with their children, and to teach them about safe internet usage, participants were provided with many useful handouts, articles and other resources. For copies of materials, please contact **Tina Hsu**, Working Parents Forum Co-Chair, at hsuc@GHRDC.com.

SAVE THE DATE

WBA 90TH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

May 16, 2007 6pm until 9pm National Building Museum 401 F Street, NW For more information visit www.wabdc.org.

Nominations Sought for the 2007 Women's Bar Association Woman Lawyer of the Year (WLY) and WBA Janet Reno Torchbearer Awards

The WLY Award recognizes a woman for her exceptional achievements in the legal profession and/or for her extraordinary contributions to the advancement of women in the profession. The 2007 WLY Award will be presented at the 2007 Women's Bar Association Annual Awards Dinner on May 16, 2007 at the National Building Museum.

The committee also considers each year the possibility of recommending a Torchbearer Award, named in honor of Janet Reno, the first woman to serve as US Attorney General and the first recipient of the Award. It is presented at the Annual Awards Dinner periodically, rather than annually, to an attorney who has blazed trails to open the path of opportunity to, and forever changed the world for, women.

Please send nominations for both awards to the attention of the Awards Committee Chair: WBA Past President **Joanne W. Young** via email at jyoung@yklaw.com, fax (202 742-6649), or first class mail (c/o Kirstein & Young, PLLC, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004) by January 31, 2007.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FORUM HOSTS PROGRAM ON USPTO EXAMINATION RELATED INITIATIVES

On November 30 the IP Law Forum of the Women's Bar Association and the IP Law Section of the DC Bar presented a luncheon program entitled "USPTO Examination Related Initiatives," which featured Robert J. Spar, Director of the Office of Patent Legal Administration. In this program, Mr. Spar provided a comprehensive overview of the sweeping reforms proposed for the US patent rules and procedures. Topics of discussion included proposed changes to: the examination of claims in patent applications, the practice for continuing applications, requests for continued examination, and applications containing patentably indistinct claims. Mr. Spar also opened up discussion on the PTO's revised accelerated examination program and petition to make special procedures, and recent changes to the information disclosure statement requirements. Attorneys in attendance were able to ask Mr. Spar questions and express concerns with regard to these highly debated issues. If you are interested in additional information about the Intellectual Property Law Forum, please contact the Co-Chairs Ashley Parker at (202) 408-8214 or ashley.parker@finnegan.com and Tracy L. Muller at (202) 772-8697 or tmuller@skgf.com.

Raising The Bar has an Editorial Board to assist in the timely dissemination of important WBA and WBAF news. Please contact any of the following Editors if you would like to contribute an article, program advertisement or photograph to an upcoming issue. We encourage submissions regarding matters of interest to our members, upcoming events, past events, flyers, squibs, blurbs and everything and anything that you would like publicized. However, please note that some copy editing might be necessary, and that space limitations may prevent every item that you submit from being published in the issue or format that you request.

Please contact an Editor if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for contributing to Raising The Bar.

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All copy and photographs must be submitted by our publication deadlines:

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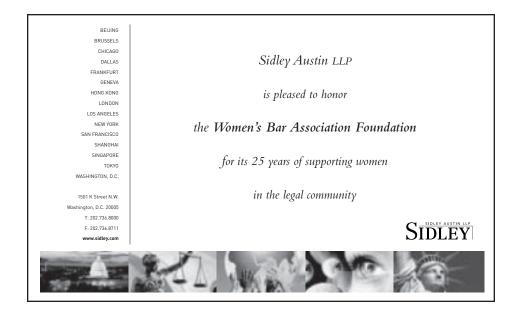
WBA Co-Sponsors First Annual Women in the Law Networking Tea

The First Annual Women in the Law Networking Tea, held on October 20, at the Catholic University of America Columbus College of Law (CUA), was a resounding success. Two hundred students and alumni from all of the DC area law schools along with other members of the DC legal community were in attendance.

Paula Monopoli, University of Maryland Law School Professor and founder of the Law School's Women, Leadership & Equality Program, delivered the keynote address. Professor Monopoli noted that women lawyers still lag behind men in the legal field. Indeed, we are in the same position we were in 25 years ago with only one woman on the Supreme Court. Professor Monopoli's speech reiterated many the findings of the WBA Initiative on the Advancement and Retention of Women, including the fact that there is no "pipeline problem." There is no lack of qualified women lawyers or law students. Rather, our poor representation in leadership positions is due to a number of barriers such as gender bias.

The Tea, which was the vision of the CUA's Women's Law Caucus and its president, Amanda West, was intended to address one of the barriers to the advancement of women lawyers – a lack of meaningful mentoring relationships. The Tea provided women lawyers and law students with an opportunity to meet and strike up career-sustaining relationships that will, in the long run, help them overcome the barriers to advancement. As Veryl Miles, Dean of CUA, so eloquently stated, "It is my hope that years from now, you will look back and remember this networking tea as the day you came to appreciate that the practice of law can also be about sisterhood."

The WBA was proud to sponsor the first event of this kind with the National Association of Women Judges and Westlaw. The Tea will rotate among the area law schools in succeeding years. Stay tuned for the news about future networking teas.







COMPUTER TIPS FOR THE LAWYER ON THE ROAD

By Kurt E. DeSoto

This article is published in conjunction with Mr. DeSoto's recent presentation to the Communications Law Forum.

A key role of a lawyer out in the field is to report information back to the client and office, and the availability of adequate communications capabilities is essential to carrying out that duty. My bag of electronic gear consists of a set of equipment I take on every trip and optional equipment depending on the circumstances. For your reference, I have posted the checklist I use at www.wbadc.org, which also includes links to additional resources and articles. Of course, what you should take will depend on your particular habits and requirements. Laptop-only users should pack equipment (e.g., cables and media) different from PDA or Blackberry users. Conference speakers or moderators will need equipment (e.g., projectors and laser pointers) distinct from attendees. Nevertheless, we all should be realistic about what we can accomplish while on the road or vacation to avoid adding unnecessary weight to what we already haul through the airport terminal or fit into an overhead compartment.

More importantly, we need to be prepared to deploy "Plan B" in case of a snafu. Indeed, problems often occur, especially when traveling abroad where the technical specifications for connecting to electrical outlets or communications networks vary. No road warrior is an "army of one" alone. We must all rely on our IT departments or experts for support. Thus, the most critical item to include with your gear is your IT expert's contact information for both during and after hours. I usually keep this information along with other numbers identified later on a dog-tag size card in my wallet or attached to my keychain.

Laptop/PDA Users

Don't take your own laptop if you already use one in your office. For security reasons, it is safer to ask for a loaner outfitted specifically for your trip. I recommend asking for the smallest or lightest laptop available, to reduce the weight. Your IT expert should also limit the data loaded onto the laptop to only those programs, research databases, documents, and emails you will need for your trip. Doing so should speed operation and minimize risks if the laptop is stolen or lost. In that regard, the IT expert should confirm that the device contains the latest virus and spyware safeguards (particularly for laptops with wireless connectivity).

Telephone Users

Not all cellular phones work in every area of the country (or world). Again, check with your IT expert to ensure that your phone is capable of roaming onto the different networks at your destination. Terms describing a phone as "dual-, tri- or quadmode or band" refer to its ability to access multiple networks using different technical standards. If your own phone is limited to certain networks, ask for a loaner.

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CHECKLIST FOR THE TRAVELING LAWYER

ATTORNEY-SPECIFIC

Assess your particular needs Prepare for Plan B

LAPTOP/PDAs

Small size or weight Software

Word processing (e.g., Word, WordPerfect)

Presentation (e.g., PowerPoint)

PDF (e.g., Adobe)

Legal research databases

(e.g., Lexis/Nexis)

Minimal content

(to enhance confidentiality)

Limited period of email

Needed working files/documents only

Wireless capability

Internal DVD/CD player/burner

Accessories

Mouse (wired or wireless)

Charger/power adapter/converter/

surge protector

Extra battery

(note safety/heat when recharging)

Cables/USB hub/3-prong adapter

Blank DVDs/CDs and bootable CDs

Documentation

Instructions for wireline and wireless connectivity

IT department/expert contacts (both during/after hours)

INTERNET ACCESS

Connectivity

Hotel/vacation site contacted in advance for business center/rates

Internet cafe locations

Dial-up numbers available

Software

Security/Protection

Browser(s)

Plug-Ins (Flash, Active X)

For wireless adapter

Remote Access

FOB/password/procedures

Understand "log off" procedures

Understand treatment

of temporary/cache files

(from down loading/opening/printing)

Continued from page 11

Also, obtain the contact information of the company providing the underlying cellular service. The service provider's representatives often can suggest changes to your phone's configuration to improve reception once you get to your destination. Of course, don't forget your chargers.

Internet Users

Internet users must not only pack the items described above for laptops, but also confirm their devices include functioning browser software and security protections. Attorneys that plan to connect to the Internet through telephone lines should request from their IT expert either a list of dial-up numbers to use or a recommended URL that provides the dial-up numbers (e.g., www.ipass.com). Attorneys that plan to connect wirelessly can use their hotel's network, if available, or locate a nearby wireless hotspot (e.g., by searching cites such as www.cybercaptive.com, www.wi-fihotspotlist.com, wi-fi.jiwire.com, or www.wifinder.com).

Protecting Confidential Information

No matter what communications equipment or methodology is used, the road warrior should consider the professional responsibility and ethical considerations associated with protecting client confidential and privileged information, both oral and electronic. Once again, the IT expert is a key ally. You should learn the correct procedures for logging on and off your system or the Internet and how to delete hidden or temporary files saved on your computer. Some IT departments and experts have even implemented measures that, when deployed, will remotely destroy or erase the data on your hard drive or in your memory (see www.ensconcedata.com). Should your laptop or PDA be stolen or lost, a quick call back to IT headquarters can sometimes bring in air defenses needed to save your career.

Mr. DeSoto is an attorney at the law firm of Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP. Mr. DeSoto previously served as a General Attorney at the Federal Communications Commission.

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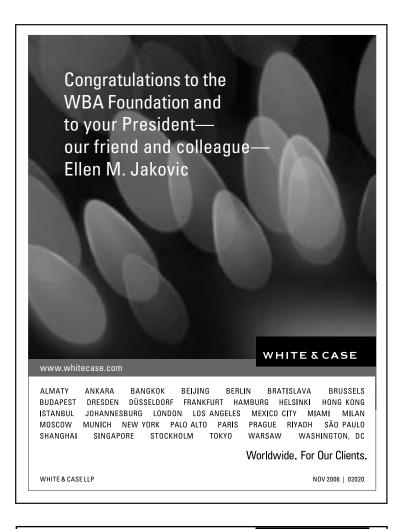
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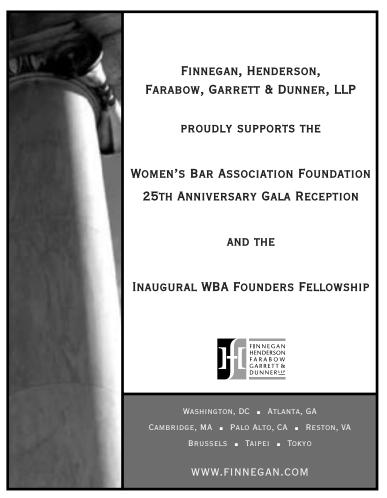
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Come and join the Women's Bar Association Foundation for its 4th Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction!

KANGAROOS AND KIWIS: WINES FROM DOWN UNDER

Thursday, January 25, 2007 6:30 to 8:30 pm

WHITE & CASE LLP 701 13th Street, NW Metro: Metro Center (Red/Blue/Orange lines) Regular Admission: \$55

Includes one ticket for admission and door prizes.

PATRON ADMISSION: \$85. Includes one ticket for admission, two tickets for door prizes, and recognition in the program.

The WBAF is also excited to announce that we will be changing the wine tasting format. Proprietor Suzanne McGrath of The Curious Grape Wine Shop will lead a festive tasting of wines from Australia and New Zealand.

This event will again include a silent auction, with items like weekend get-aways, gift certificates to restaurants, theatre tickets, unique wines, hotel stays, spa certificates, golf outing and many more exciting items!

The event will also include door prizes! If you are interested in donating an item for the auction, please contact the WBAF office at (202) 639-8880, or Executive Director Nancy Long directly at (202) 639-8881. All proceeds from the event will be used to fund WBAF Grant Awards.

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE





Loiseau

Weil Gotshal Elects Two WBA Members to Partner

For the first time in Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP's history, a majority of new partners (11 out of 20) are women. As Chairman Steven Dannhauser said, "This alone would be news for any major firm, and attests to the success of our long-standing and proactive commitment to diversity and inclusion. However, the Firm has further underscored its commitment to inclusion with the creation of an innovative partnership category, 'Flex-Time Partner,' created for new partners who have made a long-term career choice to work on a flexible schedule. Make no mistake—it is no mean feat to be elected a partner at Weil Gotshal." Please join us in giving a hearty congratulations to new full-time partners Carrie M. Anderson (Antitrust/Competition), WBA Sustaining Member, and Holly E. Loiseau (Complex Commercial Litigation), WBA Litigation Forum Co-chair.



McNeill

McNeill Elected Of Counsel at Finnegan, Henderson

Rebecca M. McNeill, Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of the WBA, was recently promoted to Of Counsel at the intellectual property law firm of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP.



Miorini

WBA Member Named Fairfax Bar "Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year"

Yahne Y. Miorini from the Law Firm of Evan H. Farr, P.C. and Co-chair of the WBA's Tax and Business Forum, is being honored by the Fairfax Bar Association as the "Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year." This wonderful honor will be bestowed on Yahne at the State of the Judiciary Membership Luncheon on January 18th at the Fairfax Country Club. If you would like to attend the ceremony, please contact the Fairfax Bar Association for further details at (703) 246-2740 or FBA@fairfaxbar.org.



WBAF President, Ellen Jakovic, Immediate Past President and Current Board Member Hon. Diane Brenneman, Chief Judge Rufus King, WBAF Treasurer Paulette Chapman, Dean and Mrs. Claudio Grossman enjoy the WBAF 25th Anniversary Gala.



WBAF Past Presidents Caroline Petro Gately, Sandra Robinson and Ann Bushmiller share a moment with WBAF President Ellen Jakovic.



WBAF Founder and WBA Past President Mellie Nelson and WBAF Founder, WBA Past President and 1977 WBA Woman Lawyer of the Year Suzanne Richards enjoy the Gala.

THE WBAF GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SPONSORS OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA RECEPTION:

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