



2010-2011, ISSUE III

In This Issue

[WBA Kicks Off the Year with Stars of the Bar](#)

[Successful Golf Clinic: How to Succeed at Business Golf](#)

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member News](#)

WBA Kicks Off the Year with Stars of the Bar

By Colleen Yushchak, Navigant Consulting; Co-Chair, Stars of the Bar Committee

The WBA kicked off its programming year on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, with their annual **Stars of the Bar** networking reception. This is the WBA's largest, no-cost, networking event and had one of the largest turnouts to date, with over 300 attorneys, judges, law students and other members of the legal community in attendance. The event was held in the lobby of the beautiful Hogan Lovells Atrium in the Columbia Square Building.

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President's Column

By Holly E. Loiseau, WBA President

Hello WBA community! The WBA is off and running with another year of great programming and fabulous events. It's only November but we've had a number of standout programs and events and the common thread running through all of them is NETWORKING! I think we can all agree that networking is critical for attorneys at every stage of their careers. The WBA has provided its members and the DC legal community with a variety of networking opportunities that are sure to expand their networks and advance their careers.

Events

Thursday, December 16, 2010
Holiday Tea

Thursday, January 6, 2011
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Advocacy and Gender: Women, Speech and Power

Wednesday, January 26, 2011
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Thursday, February 3, 2011
Breaking the Grape Ceiling: Celebrating Women in Wine

Thursday, February 10, 2011
Rising Technologies: The Future

Successful Golf Clinic: How to Succeed at Business Golf

By Kathy Barlow, Marsh USA, Inc.; Co-Chair, Golf Committee

The WBA held a very successful golf clinic and outing at the impressive TPC at Avenel golf course in Potomac, MD. It was well attended by WBA members and guests. A highlight of the program, which was a new format for the WBA, was luncheon remarks by **Rose Harper-elder**, Founder and CEO of the Grass Ceiling, an organization dedicated to helping women use golf as a professional tool to enhance business, professional, and personal relationships. Ms. Harper-elder works with women in all industries and has an impressive track record helping executive women elevate their careers by helping them learn the game of golf, including etiquette and the business art of golf.

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Committees and Forums

WBA Annual Holiday Tea

The WBA's Annual Holiday Tea will be held December 16, 2010, in the Crystal Room of the beautifully-decorated and historically-significant Willard Hotel. FCC Commissioner Meredith Baker will be our honored guest and give remarks at the event.

Transitioning from Private Practice to Government and What to Do When You Get There

By Tricia Jefferson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Co-Chair, Government Attorneys Forum

WBA Foundation

WBA Foundation President's Letter

of Broadband

Wednesday, March 16, 2011
Rising Technologies: The Future
of Communications Innovation

Wednesday, April 6, 2011
Rising Technologies: The Future
of the Cable Industry

About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of
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By Tracy-Gene G. Durkin

I recently had the pleasure of attending the annual luncheon sponsored by the Washington Area Women's Foundation (WAWF) where they unveiled their most recent Portrait Project Report on the status of women and girls in the Washington Metropolitan region. The WAWF released its prior report in 2003. That report painted a very sobering picture of the challenges women and girls face in our community. The 2010 report surprisingly did not show much improvement.

The **Government Attorneys Forum** presented a panel discussion, "Transitioning from Private Practice to Government and What to Do When You Get There," on October 21, 2010. Given the current economy and the recent spate of job opportunities in the government, this was a timely discussion.

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Member News

WBA Leaders Quoted in Washington Post Article

Maribeth Raffinan Confirmed to DC Superior Court

Robert Stern honored by WMACCA

Betty Southard Murphy

Welcome New WBA Members!

[read more...](#)



2010-2011, ISSUE III

In This Issue

[WBA Kicks Off the Year with Stars of the Bar](#)

[Successful Golf Clinic: How to Succeed at Business Golf](#)

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member News](#)

[back to front page](#)



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Events

Thursday, December 16, 2010
Holiday Tea

Thursday, January 6, 2011
Join Us! WBA Leadership Information Session

Tuesday, January 11, 2011
Join Us! WBA Leadership Information Session

Thursday, January 13, 2011
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Wednesday, January 26, 2011
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Breaking the Grape Ceiling: Celebrating Women in Wine



WBA's Stars of the Bar is always a great place to network; attendees reconnect with old acquaintances and make new contacts.

The WBA kicked off its programming year on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, with their annual **Stars of the Bar** networking reception. This is the WBA's largest, no-cost, networking event and had one of the largest turnouts to date, with over 300 attorneys, judges, law students and other members of the legal community in attendance. The event was held in the lobby of the beautiful Hogan Lovells Atrium in the Columbia Square Building.

Each year at Stars of the Bar, the WBA honors and publicly salutes star-quality local attorneys. This year's brief program honored attorneys who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to advancing women in-house, including exploring challenges to advancement, the relationship between women in-house counsel and women outside counsel, strategies for success and lessons learned from various career paths. The honorees graciously accepted their star shaped awards, and expressed appreciation for the WBA's attention to their work.

Simone Wu, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, XO Communications, was honored for her outstanding leadership at XO Communications and her long-standing commitment to

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future of Broadband

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future of Communications Innovation

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future of the Cable Industry

About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of Directors](#)

[Sustaining Members](#)

diversity. Since 2005, Ms. Wu has led the legal department at XO Communications, where she oversees the company's legal affairs, including commercial, corporate, employment, and intellectual property matters, as well as any litigation in which the company is involved. Under her leadership, XO Communications was named a 2009 Employer of Choice – Mid-Atlantic Region by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, for demonstrating a commitment to diversity and creating and maintaining an inclusive workplace. In 2008, Ms. Wu was named Outstanding Chief Legal Officer by the Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association. She is also a member of the board of directors of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association.

Robert A. Stern was honored for his outstanding guidance and leadership at Sodexo, his commitment to diversity, and his support of flexible and alternative work schedules. Mr. Stern has been Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Sodexo, Inc. since 1998, and is responsible for the law department, government affairs, compliance, and corporate security. His commitment to diversity within the Law Department was recognized when the Minority Corporate Counsel Association named Sodexo a 2003 Employer of Choice – Mid-Atlantic Region. Attorneys in Sodexo's legal department are offered an array of flexible work options including flextime, telecommuting, alternative work schedules, and jobshare arrangements. Under Mr. Stern's leadership, the legal department has a record of promoting attorneys working alternative schedules, and Mr. Stern served as the executive sponsor of Sodexo's company-wide flexibility initiative.

Beverly J. Burke, Vice President and General Counsel, WGL Holdings, Inc. and Washington Gas, was honored for her extraordinary contributions to Washington Gas and her long history of supporting diversity and minority interests. Ms. Burke is responsible for leading the legal work of the company, which includes corporate, litigation, regulatory, labor, and employment matters. She also supervises the functions of the Corporate Secretary and Chief Governance Officer, as well as the Compliance Officer. Ms. Burke has been a member of several national and local bar associations, has participated in various committees of the DC Bar, including the Children's Initiative Committee, Legal Ethics Committee, Nominations Committee, and Screening Committee, and was a member of the District of Columbia Courts Gender Bias Task Force. She also has been an instructor on the local rules of professional responsibility for the DC Bar, as well as a mediator for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Ms. Burke is on the board of directors of the Washington Performing Arts Society and the Council for Court Excellence. She also has held leadership roles with local school associations and participated in various community service projects through her membership in a local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

As always, co-chairs from each of the WBA's committees and forums were present to showcase upcoming events and answer questions regarding the mission and history of the WBA. Co-chairs discussed planned programs in a variety of topic areas that address both substantive and lifestyle concerns of the legal community. Current members were encouraged to bring prospective members to the event so they could learn more about the WBA. More information about upcoming WBA events can be found at the WBA's website, www.wbadc.org.

This year's Stars of the Bar kicked off the WBA **Community Projects Forum's** activity with A Wider Circle's Well Mother, Well Baby Program. The program is organized to help teen mothers learn about caring for their newborn babies. The WBA collected items at events throughout the fall and hosted an evening event on November 4 to make baby shower baskets, which will be distributed to the teen mothers at the end of the Well Mother, Well Baby Program in December 2010.

Stars of the Bar could not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. We would like to thank our sponsors for helping the WBA bring together the legal community and recognize the significant contributions of this year's honorees.

Thank you to Our 2010 Stars of the Bar Sponsors

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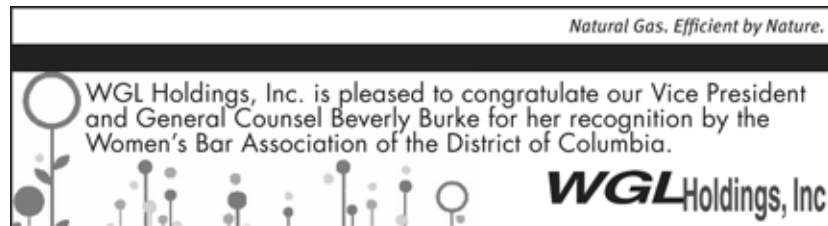
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Successful Golf Clinic: How to Succeed at Business Golf

By Kathy Barlow, Marsh USA, Inc.; Co-Chair, Golf Committee



TPC at Avenel golf pros worked with the attendees on the course.



The networking lunch was a time to connect and featured a presentation about business golf.

The WBA held a very successful golf clinic and outing at the impressive TPC at Avenel golf course in Potomac, MD. It was well attended by WBA members and guests. A highlight of the program, which was a new format for the WBA, was luncheon remarks by **Rose Harper-elder**, Founder and CEO of The Grass Ceiling, an organization dedicated to helping women use golf as a professional tool to enhance business, professional, and personal relationships. Ms. Harper-elder works with women in all industries and has an impressive track record helping executive women elevate their careers by helping them learn the game of golf, including etiquette and the business art of golf.

After a rainy Thursday, the sun came out on Friday, October 15, and 34 participants enjoyed "hands on" golf instruction by the friendly and competent pros at TPC at Avenel and a terrific networking lunch led by Ms. Harper-elder. This wonderful day was made possible by our

sponsors and we thank them for their support.

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[back to top](#)



2010-2011, ISSUE III

In This Issue

[WBA Kicks Off the Year with Stars of the Bar](#)

[Successful Golf Clinic: How to Succeed at Business Golf](#)

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member News](#)

[back to front page](#)

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President's Column: Off to a Great Start



By Holly E. Loiseau, WBA President

Hello WBA community! The WBA is off and running with another year of great programming and fabulous events. It's only November but we've had a number of standout programs and events and the common thread running through all of them is NETWORKING! I think we can all agree that networking is critical for attorneys at every stage of their careers. The WBA has provided its members and the DC legal community with a variety of networking opportunities that are sure to expand their networks and advance their careers.

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Holiday Tea

Thursday, January 6, 2011
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Tuesday, January 11, 2011
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Thursday, January 13, 2011
Advocacy and Gender: Women, Speech and Power

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We began the bar year with [Stars of the Bar](#) on September 15, 2010, which was attended by over 300 members of the DC legal community. It was a tremendous evening where we were able to showcase the committees and forums of the WBA and honor three "Stars" of the legal community – Beverly Burke, Robert Stern and Simone Wu. It was a great kickoff for the bar year.

On October 15, 2010, over 30 participants attended our second showcase event of the year, the [Golf Outing](#). Attendees were treated to a networking breakfast, a clinic with the pros, and an informative luncheon presentation from Rose Harper-elder, CEO of The Grass Ceiling. Some participants were so inspired that they formed foursomes to play nine holes in the afternoon and stayed for cocktails and conversation afterward. Thank you to all of our attendees, speakers, and sponsors. We look forward to seeing you and some new faces next year.

In addition to highlighting our past and future programs, I also wanted to share a recent experience. On October 1, 2010, I had the honor and privilege to attend the induction ceremony for Elena Kagan as she became the 100th Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and only the fourth woman to serve on the high court. President Obama also attended this momentous occasion, as Justice Kagan joined Justices Ginsburg and Sotomayor as the third woman on the Court for the first time in history. This was a great day for women lawyers and a landmark date in women's history.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles in this edition of Raising the Bar. If you have an idea for a program or article or would just like to get more involved, please contact me, holly.loiseau@weil.com, any [Board member](#) or [WBA co-chair](#).

Best,
Holly E. Loiseau
2010-2011 President



2010-2011, ISSUE III

In This Issue

[WBA Kicks Off the Year with Stars of the Bar](#)

[Successful Golf Clinic: How to Succeed at Business Golf](#)

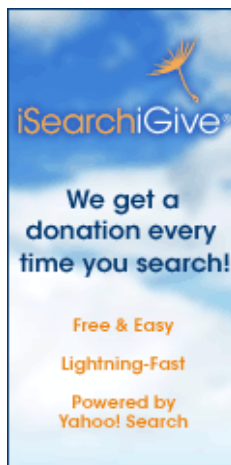
[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member News](#)

[back to front page](#)



Events

[Thursday, December 16, 2010](#)
Holiday Tea

[Thursday, January 6, 2011](#)
Join Us! WBA Leadership



WBA Foundation President's Letter



By Tracy-Gene G. Durkin

I recently had the pleasure of attending the annual luncheon sponsored by the Washington Area Women's Foundation (WAWF) where they unveiled their most recent Portrait Project Report on the status of women and girls in the Washington Metropolitan region. The WAWF released its prior report in 2003. That report painted a very sobering picture of the challenges women and girls face in our community. The 2010 report surprisingly did not show much improvement.

I was shocked to learn that in this rich community in which we live and work, more than 177,000 women and children live below the federal poverty line; in 2009 domestic violence service programs in DC, Maryland, and Virginia were forced to turn away 600 victims a day due to lack of staff; the teen pregnancy rate in DC is more than twice the national average; and nearly two-thirds of female-headed households with children in the Washington region have unaffordable housing costs, which, coupled with child care, leave little room for essentials like food and clothing. These are just a few of the startling statistics in the WAWF report.

The release of this report underscored for me the importance of the work of the Women's Bar Association Foundation (WBAF) and the need for the WBAF to increase the amount of its own giving and expand the number of worthy organizations in our community that receive WBAF grants. To that end, I am thrilled to report that the Foundation has received three times the number of initial grant requests this year than last, and that the requests were received not only from past grant recipients and applicants, but also from many new potential grantees. The majority of potential applicants have been asked to submit a full grant proposal by December 15, 2010. We look forward to reviewing these applications and to visiting as many of the organizations on-site as possible.

But we cannot do our work alone. We need the support of our sisters in the WBA to help us build our grants pool and expand our reach. As the philanthropic arm of the WBA, we are your voice in the community. Please make a generous donation to the WBAF this year. Your gift will help us make a deep and lasting change for women and girls in our region. To make a donation and learn more about our mission and programs, visit wbdcfoundation.org.

On behalf of the WBAF Board of Directors, I thank you for your support.

Regards,
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
2010-2011 WBA Foundation President

Information Session

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Join Us! WBA Leadership
Information Session

Thursday, January 13, 2011

Advocacy and Gender: Women,
Speech and Power

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Women in the Boardroom:
Pedigree, Politics and Proactive
Steps Towards Balanced
Representation on Corporate
Boards

Thursday, February 3, 2011

Breaking the Grape Ceiling:
Celebrating Women in Wine

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future
of Broadband

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future
of Communications Innovation

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future
of the Cable Industry

Register Now: WBA Foundation Wine Tasting

Mark your calendar for the WBA Foundation's 8th Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction, which benefits the WBA Foundation Founders Fellowship. Join us on Thursday, February 3, 2011, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at WilmerHale. In keeping with this year's theme, "Breaking the Grape Ceiling: Celebrating Women in Wine," a unique assortment of fabulous wines from domestic and international women vineyard owners and winemakers will be featured. The silent auction will include items such as jewelry, vacation getaways, sports and theatre tickets, unique services, and more. Early registration is \$65 for individuals, through 12:00 pm December 30. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

[back to top](#)

About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of
Directors](#)

[Sustaining Members](#)



2010-2011, ISSUE III

In This Issue

[WBA Kicks Off the Year with Stars of the Bar](#)

[Successful Golf Clinic: How to Succeed at Business Golf](#)

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member News](#)

[back to front page](#)

Events

Thursday, December 16, 2010
Holiday Tea

Thursday, January 6, 2011
Join Us! WBA Leadership Information Session

Tuesday, January 11, 2011
Join Us! WBA Leadership Information Session

Thursday, January 13, 2011
Advocacy and Gender: Women, Speech and Power

Wednesday, January 26, 2011
Women in the Boardroom: Pedigree, Politics and Proactive Steps Towards Balanced Representation on Corporate Boards

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Breaking the Grape Ceiling: Celebrating Women in Wine

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As of this publication, the event has sold out. Email admin@wbadc.org to be added to the waitlist.

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Transitioning from Private Practice to Government and What to Do When You Get There

By Tricia Jefferson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Co-Chair, Government Attorneys Forum



L-R: Forum Co-Chair Tricia Jefferson, Alyssa Gsell, Thomas Reed, Jennifer McDannell, Forum Co-Chair Daria Neal

The **Government Attorneys Forum** presented a panel discussion, "Transitioning from Private Practice to Government and What to Do When You Get There," on October 21, 2010. Given the current economy and the recent spate of job opportunities in the government, this was a timely discussion.

The distinguished panelists included **Alyssa Gsell**, Attorney Advisor, U.S. Environmental

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future of Broadband

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future of Communications Innovation

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future of the Cable Industry

Protection Agency; **Jennifer McDannell**, Supervising Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice; and **Thomas Reed**, Director, FCC Office of Communications Business Opportunities. Prior to their tenure, panelists practiced at large international law firms for between three and 12 years. This gave them keen insight into how to make a successful private to public transition.

The discussion touched on a variety of topics, such as practical tips for finding opportunities in the government that match your interests and expertise, and honing and marketing the skills most relevant to the position being sought. One recurring theme was the importance of building and maintaining relationships with individuals who can sponsor your application and help your resume stand out. The audience was very engaged and many of the attendees continued the discussion after the formal close of the program.

The Forum would like to thank **Monica Parham**, WBA President-Elect, and **Crowell & Moring LLP** for providing the beautiful space and catering for the event.

About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of Directors](#)

[Sustaining Members](#)

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[back to top](#)



2010-2011, ISSUE III

In This Issue

[WBA Kicks Off the Year with Stars of the Bar](#)

[Successful Golf Clinic: How to Succeed at Business Golf](#)

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member News](#)

[back to front page](#)

Events

Thursday, December 16, 2010
Holiday Tea

Thursday, January 6, 2011
Join Us! WBA Leadership Information Session

Tuesday, January 11, 2011
Join Us! WBA Leadership Information Session

Thursday, January 13, 2011
Advocacy and Gender: Women, Speech and Power

Wednesday, January 26, 2011
Women in the Boardroom: Pedigree, Politics and Proactive Steps Towards Balanced Representation on Corporate Boards

Thursday, February 3, 2011
Breaking the Grape Ceiling: Celebrating Women in Wine

Jenner & Block salutes the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia for its dedication to the profession, women lawyers and justice.

JENNER & BLOCK

Member News

WBA Leaders Quoted in Washington Post Article

WBA President **Holly Loiseau**, a litigation partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, and WBA Past President and current WBA Foundation Board member, **Lorie Masters**, a partner at Jenner & Block LLP, were quoted in an October 7 Washington Post article. The piece, "[More U.S. Women Pull Down Big Bucks](#)" addressed the fast-growing number of women with six-figure incomes. Ms. Loiseau and Ms. Masters talked about the opportunities for women in Washington, DC.

Maribeth Raffinan Confirmed to DC Superior Court

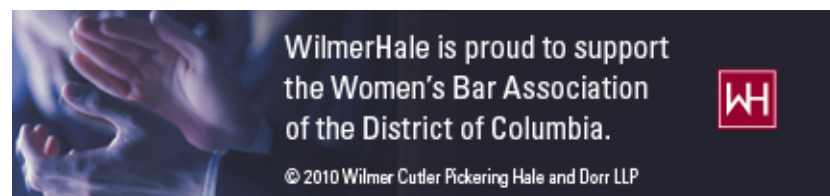
The U.S. Senate confirmed **Maria Elizabeth "Maribeth" Raffinan** to be a judge on the District of Columbia Superior Court. Ms. Raffinan's name was put forth by the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission and she was nominated by President Obama in July. She received an endorsement from the WBA after an evaluation by the Executive and Judicial Endorsements Committee.

Robert Stern honored by WMACCA

Robert Stern, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Sodexo, Inc., and a 2010 WBA Stars of the Bar Honoree, was honored by the Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association (WMACCA) at its 6th Annual Corporate Counsel Awards with the Corporate Counsel Career Achievement Award. He was recognized for **over 25 years** of in-house service.

Betty Southard Murphy

Betty Southard Murphy, former Chair of the National Labor Relations Board and Administrator, Wage & Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, passed away at George Washington University Hospital on October 16. Ms. Murphy was the 1987 WBA Woman Lawyer of the Year. The WBA sends its condolences to her family.



Welcome New WBA Members!

Erika Rae Adams

Amanda Mertens Campbell

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future
of Broadband

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future
of Communications Innovation

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Rising Technologies: The Future
of the Cable Industry

About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of
Directors](#)

[Sustaining Members](#)

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[back to top](#)