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WBA/WBA Foundation Annual Dinner Recognizes Women Helping Women

The WBA and WBA Foundation will hold their Annual Dinner on Thursday, May 26, 2011. The 2011 Annual Dinner theme "Women Helping Women" will celebrate women in-house and outside counsel pairs who have created and maintained close professional relationships, demonstrated that networking and rainmaking can work well among women, and who have personally taken a leadership role in the advancement of women. This theme is in concert with Phase III of the [WBA's Initiative on Advancement and Retention of Women: Navigating the Corporate Matrix, Advancing Women in Corporate Law Departments](#), which focuses not only on the advancement of women in-house, but the role that other women, particularly women outside counsel, can play in that process.

The Annual Dinner helps support the ongoing efforts of the WBA to maintain the honor and integrity of the legal profession, to promote the administration of justice, and to advance and protect the interests of women lawyers. Proceeds from the Annual Dinner also help support the WBA Foundation, a grant making organization that seeks to improve the lives and futures of women and children through use of the law...

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WBAF Presents Grants to 15 Organizations at the Uniting for Justice Grant Awards Reception

Events

May 26, 2011

7:00 PM EST - 9:00 PM

[WBA and WBA Foundation 2011 Annual Dinner](#)

Presented by: Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia and WBA Foundation
Featuring: [2011 Janet Reno Torchbearer Award: Dovey Johnson Roundtree](#); [2011 Women Lawyers of the Year: Sherri N. Blount](#), Partner, Fitch Even Tabin and Flannery and [Debra Lee](#), Chairman & CEO, BET Networks.

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President's Column

By Holly E. Loiseau, WBA President

Hello WBA Community!

I often comment that one of the great strengths of the WBA is its wealth of programming. This strength has been on display over the months of March and April and will continue through

Member News

**Amy Berman Jackson
Confirmed to U.S. District
Court**

**Kathy Barlow Promoted &
Featured**

**Lorie Masters Releases
Liability Insurance**

Michele Dearing Promoted

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The WBAF presented DV LEAP with a \$10,000 "supergrant" to support their work on behalf of victims of domestic violence and their children.

The WBA Foundation (WBAF) held its Second Annual Uniting for Justice Grant Awards Reception on April 21 at the law firm of Morgan, Lewis and Bockius. The event takes its title from the "Uniting for Justice" fundraising campaign that the WBAF launched in 2009. The event brought together Women's Bar Association members, WBAF supporters, grant recipients, and leaders from local philanthropic and legal communities to recognize the amazing work of the WBAF's 2011 grant recipients...

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2011 WBAF Grant Recipients

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DC Employment Justice Center
DC Law Students in Court Program, Inc.
Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project
EduSeed
High Tea Society
GWAC Foundation, Inc.
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
Legal Counsel for the Elderly
Mothers' Outreach Network
New Community for Children
Our Place DC
Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment, Inc.
Women Empowered Against Violence
The Washington Middle School for Girls

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Committees and Forums

**Tax & Business Forum Presents a
Recipe for Financial Health.**

**A Conversation with The Honorable
Rosemarie Annunziata**

May. This issue of *Raising the Bar* looks at influential women (our **Torchbearer Award recipient and Women Lawyers of the Year**, Communications Law Forum's "**A Conversation with The Honorable Rosemarie Annunziata**"), how we as women are committed to striving for the best in our personal lives (Tax and Business Law Forum's "**Recipe for Financial Health**"), and the mentoring efforts that WBA has done and is doing for young women lawyers in various practices (Communications Law Forum's "**An Evening of Mentoring for Communications Lawyers**")...

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Communications Law Forum Hosts an Evening of Mentoring For Communications Lawyers

Working Parents Forums Presents Au Pair Fair

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Feature:



Professor Molly Bishop Shadel

Once you are

Women should be aware of vocal and ph

This is an excerpt from Tongue-Tied America: Revivi

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charitable organization that seeks to improve the lives and futures of women and children, and to address legal issues of particular concern to women.



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Women Lawyers of the Year are recognized for exceptional achievements in the legal profession and/or for extraordinary contributions to the advancement of women in the profession. The WBA has bestowed the award annually since 1964. The 2011 recipients are **Sherri N. Blount**, Partner, Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery, and **Debra Lee**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, BET Networks. The two women met in elementary school and have been longtime friends and business associates.



Ms. Blount is a partner in Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery's Washington, DC office, where her practice focuses on intellectual property, entertainment, and media issues. She was named Top Intellectual Property Lawyer in Washington, DC, by the *Washington Business Journal* in 2007, and named one of Washington's top intellectual property lawyers by *Washingtonian* magazine in 2006 and in 2008. She routinely handles advertising, entertainment and media matters including television and radio production deals, program acquisitions, rights clearances, syndication, FCC content review, and other entertainment and media issues. In this capacity she has served as trusted outside counsel and advisor to BET and Ms. Lee for 15 years.

Ms. Blount began her legal career as an associate at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, where she was the first African American woman to work at the firm. She subsequently served in the Consumer Protection Bureau at the Federal Trade Commission, as an Attorney Advisor to an FTC Commissioner for antitrust and consumer protection matters, and as Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of PBS. While at PBS, Ms. Blount negotiated programming deals for some of PBS's best-known programs and series that are still in production today. Also while at PBS, Ms. Blount was an Adjunct Professor in the Howard University School of Communications. Immediately prior to Fitch Even, she was a partner at Morrison & Foerster, LLP.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Blount has been a forceful advocate of the advancement of

charitable organization that seeks to improve the lives and futures of women and children, and to address legal issues of particular concern to women.

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women in the profession, particularly in the traditionally male-dominated field of intellectual property law. In the community Ms. Blount serves as General Counsel of The Links, Inc., a national not-for-profit service organization established in 1946 consisting of 12,000 professional women of color located throughout the U.S. She also serves on the Board of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, where she mentors and assists high school students interested in the arts and entertainment and is on the Board of the Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts.

Ms. Blount received her Bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her J.D. from Howard University School of Law.



Under Ms. Lee's leadership BET Networks, a unit of Viacom Inc., has become the leading provider of media and entertainment for African Americans and consumers of Black culture globally. She served in various capacities with the company, including General Counsel, COO, and now Chairman and CEO. Ms. Lee has championed diversity and inclusion: while overseeing one of the most influential multiplatform media companies in the world, including several cable television networks, digital offerings, and a home entertainment business, she has personally mentored and sponsored numerous women and persons of color.

Prior to being named CEO, Ms. Lee was President and Chief Operating Officer of BET Networks for almost 10 years, during which she guided the company to consistent increases in viewership, revenue and earnings. She first joined BET as Vice President and General Counsel in 1986 after serving more than five years as an attorney with Washington, DC-based Steptoe & Johnson. Prior to that, she served as a law clerk to the late Honorable Barrington Parker of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Ms. Lee is affiliated with a number of professional, civic, and cultural organizations. She serves on the corporate board of directors of Revlon, Marriott, Eastman Kodak, and Washington Gas & Light. Ms. Lee is also a member of the boards of directors of the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Grammy Foundation, the Economic Club of Washington, Kennedy Center's Community & Friends, Paley Center for Media, and the Ad Council. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for Brown University, and served on the Federal Communications Commission's Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age. Ms. Lee was recently appointed by the White House to the President's Management Advisory Board.

Ms. Lee received her Bachelor's degree from Brown University. She earned her juris doctorate at Harvard Law School, while simultaneously earning a master's degree in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Together and individually, Ms. Blount and Ms. Lee have blazed new trails for women attorneys, reaching the pinnacle of their respective fields. At the same time they never lost sight of the need to reach back and across to help other women reach their own pinnacles of success.

The Women Lawyers of the Year will be introduced by **Richard W. Roberts**, a U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia. Judge Robert was appointed to the bench in 1998. Prior to his appointment, he served as the Chief of the Criminal Section in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. In prior posts, he served as the Principal Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia and for the Southern District of New York, an associate with the Washington, DC law firm of Covington & Burling, and a civil rights prosecutor in the Justice Department.



The **Janet Reno Torchbearer Award** recognizes exceptional women lawyers, their achievements, and the trails they have blazed for those women who have followed. The Torchbearer Award is reserved for those rare occasions when the accomplishments of an individual are so extraordinary that they should be recognized. It has been awarded only six times: Janet Reno (1996); Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (1997); Eleanor Holmes Norton (1998); Wilma Lewis (2001); Judith Areen (2007); and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (2008).

The WBA will recognize **Dovey Johnson Roundtree**, a pioneering civil rights lawyer, Army veteran, and ordained minister, as the 2011 recipient of the Janet Reno Torchbearer Award.

Ms. Roundtree is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a 1938 graduate of Spelman College. She attended Howard University Law School on the GI Bill from 1947-1950. Ms. Roundtree has been an eyewitness to history-in-the-making, and an active participant in breaking many barriers. She also has personally played a central role in shaping history. She became the first African American member of the WBA in 1962. A protégé of the great black educator Mary McLeod Bethune, Ms. Roundtree was in the first class of black women officers in the military during World War II, and through her recruiting for the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), she carved out a place for black servicewomen in a Jim Crow military several years before the military was legally desegregated by executive order. Her groundbreaking 1955 bus desegregation case in behalf of fellow WAAC Sarah Keys became a landmark victory before the Interstate Commerce Commission. *Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company* became the legal basis for Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy's successful battle with the ICC during the Freedom Riders' 1961 campaign.

At a time when black attorneys had to leave the courthouses to use the bathrooms, Ms. Roundtree took on Washington's white legal establishment on behalf of black clients, and she prevailed. Washington legal lore is filled with stories of her victories in unwinnable cases for clients no one cared about. In the summer of 1965, with racial tension at its height across the country, reporters, judges and law students packed the US District Court to watch Ms. Roundtree defend a black laborer accused of the murder of an alleged Kennedy mistress in the case of the *United States v. Ray Crump*. She earned legendary status as the woman lawyer who tried one of Washington's most sensational murder cases dressed in a pink-and-white suit, who stood alone against the U.S. Attorney's office, skewered the state's eyewitnesses, made a mockery of the circumstantial case erected against her client, and quoted Shakespeare on the sacredness of a man's good name. In so doing, she won for herself an honored place among the white majority, simply by outperforming them.

Even as she opened doors for women at the bar, Mrs. Roundtree broke new ground in 1961 as one of the first women to be ordained to the ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she served for three decades as Special Consultant for Legal Affairs while also serving as General Counsel to the National Council of Negro Women. From the pulpit of Allen Chapel AME Church, located in one of Washington's most violent neighborhoods, she launched the battle to save black families, shifting her legal practice to family law and becoming in the final years of her career an impassioned advocate for the welfare of children.

While living in retirement in Charlotte, NC, Ms. Roundtree joined Maya Angelou and the late John Hope Franklin and Coretta Scott King, along with a host of other black leaders, to create a legacy for young African Americans through a compilation of oral histories. In 2000, she was honored by the American Bar Association with its Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. Her autobiography, *Justice Older than the Law*, was selected by the

Association of Black Women Historians as the best publication of 2009 on an African American woman. On the occasion of the book's publication, First Lady Michelle Obama saluted Ms. Roundtree in a letter, writing in part: "It is on the shoulders of people like Dovey Johnson Roundtree that we stand today, and it is with her commitment to her core ideals that we will continue moving toward a better tomorrow."

Judge Joyce Hens Green will make introductory remarks for the Janet Reno Torchbearer Award. Judge Green was WBA President in 1962, and nominated Ms. Roundtree for membership to the then all-white WBA. The nomination was extremely controversial, with several of WBA's board members vehemently opposing the nomination. Only when Judge Green demanded a vote by the full membership was Ms. Roundtree admitted to the WBA as its first black member.

Judge Green was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in 1979. Prior to her federal appointment, she served as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. She began her career practicing law in DC and Virginia.



Katie McCabe & Dovey Johnson Roundtree

Ms. Roundtree will be represented at the Annual Dinner by **Katie McCabe**, the co-author of Ms. Roundtree's autobiography, *Justice Older than the Law*. The book is the result of an extraordinary 10-year collaboration between the two women. Ms. McCabe is a nationally-recognized non-fiction writer whose work on unsung heroes, particularly in the African American community, has garnered wide attention. Her work has appeared in the Washingtonian Magazine, Baltimore Magazine, and Reader's Digest, among others. Her National Magazine Award-winning article on black medical legend Vivien Thomas was the basis for the 2004 HBO film "Something the Lord Made," winner of three Emmys and a Peabody Award.

Justice Older than the Law is available in hardcover and as an e-book via Amazon.com.

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As of May 19, 2011

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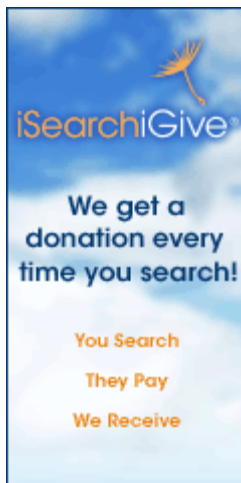
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WBA
FOUNDATION **Donate Now**

WBA Foundation President's Letter



By Tracy-Gene G. Durkin

The WBA Foundation recently completed its grants cycle for the current fiscal year. At our second annual Grants Award Ceremony, we recognized the **15 wonderful organizations** that the Foundation funded. Our grants are dedicated to providing legal representation for, and promoting the education and advancement of, underprivileged women and girls in the Washington DC area, and this year's pool of grantees reflect a wide range of service and program fulfilling this mission.

This year, the Grants Committee adopted a two-tier application process. The Request for Proposals was announced back in August, and was sent to past and potential grant recipients, non-profit organizations, and foundations within our community. A large number of Letters of Intent (LOIs) were received, far surpassing our expectations. From there, the committee and Board carefully narrowed down the selection by inviting several of the applicants to submit a full proposal, and then made the final decision to fund the organizations that best fit with our mission.

We are also happy to announce that **Margot Dankner**, Georgetown University Law Center (JD Candidate 2012) as this year's Founders Fellowship recipient. The WBA Foundation established the Founders Fellowship in 2006, at its 25th anniversary celebration. It honors the memory of Ellen Spencer Mussey and Emma Gillett, the founders of our sister organization, the WBA, and provides a stipend to allow a law student to work at a local non-profit organization dedicated to the interests of women and children. We designate a local law school as the recipient, and ask the school to select an individual student to benefit from the fellowship. This summer, Ms. Dankner will be working at the **Tahirih Justice Center** helping immigrant women and girls fleeing gender-based violence.

The WBA Foundation realizes that none of this could happen without our marvelous members and donors. We want to learn from our members and hear about the concerns and interests you have to ensure we are developing programs that reflect your needs and values. Our Development Committee will be sending you a short survey soon: please take a moment to

Debra Lee, Chairman & CEO,
BET Networks.

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respond and assist us with our efforts in the community.

We appreciate your input and value the connection we have with our members and the community. What better way to stay connected than following us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and our [blog](#) for updates on the organization, and news in the community.

I hope to see all of you at the Annual Dinner on May 26th. Remember that a portion of the proceeds will benefit the WBA Foundation.

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

WBAF Presents Grants to 15 Organizations at the Uniting for Justice Grant Awards Reception



Michelle Thomas (above, right) presented the grant to Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment.

The WBA Foundation (WBAF) held its Second Annual Uniting for Justice Grant Awards Reception on April 21 at the law firm of Morgan, Lewis and Bockius. The event takes its title from the "Uniting for Justice" fundraising campaign that the WBAF launched in 2009. The event brought together Women's Bar Association members, WBAF supporters, grant recipients, and leaders from local philanthropic and legal communities to recognize the amazing work of the WBAF's 2011 grant recipients.

For nearly 30 years, the WBF has made grants to non-profit organizations in the Washington, DC area seeking to empower, enliven, and elevate women and girls in our community. This year, the WBAF selected 15 organizations—the most ever—to receive a total of \$63,720 in grants. These organizations are investing in the promise of women and girls by providing programs which promote mentorship, legal assistance, and educational and cultural opportunities.

The event was preceded by a reception and grant recipient "fair," during which time attendees were encouraged to visit with each organization and learn more about their programs and services. The formal program began with remarks by WBAF President **Tracy-Gene G. Durkin**, who recognized that the economic downturn has hit many of the most vulnerable members of our community—women and children—particularly hard and that while Washington continues to be home to some of the most powerful and educated women in our country, we also play host to families living in deplorable and unacceptable conditions. Mr. Durkin noted that the WBAF is working hard to address these disparities and to fulfill its mission of improving the lives of disadvantaged women and girls in our community.



Kirra Jarratt (above, far right) with representatives from the High Tea Society.

Following Ms. Durkin, Grants Committee Chair and Foundation Vice President **Kirra L. Jarratt** noted that 2011 marks the year in which the WBAF has given more money to more organizations than ever before in a single year. The amount of money given in a single year was exceeded by more than \$10,000, and the WBAF's annual giving increased by almost \$40,000. Most notably, the amount of the WBAF's largest grant to a single community organization doubled.



Joanne Young (above, right) with a representative from EduSeed.

Members of the WBAF Grants Committee—Ms. Jarratt, **Paulette Chapman**, **Joanne Young**, and **Michelle Thomas**—introduced each grant recipient and presented them with their grant awards, after which each organization expressed great thanks and spoke about the importance of the WBAF's contribution to their community work.



Paulette Chapman (above, right) presented the grant to the Legal Counsel for the Elderly.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation to the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP) of a \$10,000 "supergrant," to support their work in the community on behalf of victims of domestic violence and their children. After remarks by DV LEAP Executive Director **Joan Meier**, the audience was moved by the words of a former DV LEAP client who shared her personal experience as her case wound its way through the legal justice system all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.



The WBAF presented DV LEAP with a \$10,000 "supergrant" to support their work on behalf of victims of domestic violence and their children.

The event was capped off with remarks by **Kathy Korman Frey**, founder of the Hot Mommas Project, the evening's keynote speaker. The Hot Mommas project is the world's largest women's case study library. Ms. Frey talked about the importance of self-efficacy and the importance of positive role models for women and girls. She explained how women can use a case study wizard to tell their story on the [Hot Mommas website](http://www.hotmommas.com), thereby becoming a role model for women and girls around the world.

Focusing on grantee organizations whose missions intersect with the law or focus on augmenting the law's power, the WBAF provides grants to concrete, mission-driven programs for disadvantaged women and girls in the Washington region – supporting better laws, greater self-determination, effective education, and the efficient and compassionate administration of justice. To learn more about the Foundation and its grantees, or to make a contribution to the Uniting for Justice Campaign, please visit www.wbadcfoundation.org.

2011 WBAF Grant Recipients

Calvary Women's Services

Calvary carries out its mission to achieve excellence in what they offer— a safe, caring place for tonight; support, hope and change for tomorrow. The WBAF grant will support the operation of the Calvary Women's Legal Empowerment Program, which is vital to the achievement of independence by homeless women, by providing key access, information, skills and advocacy.

DC Employment Justice Center

The DCEJC's mission is to secure, protect and promote workplace justice in the DC metro area and work with low-wage workers in the DC metro area. The WBAF grant will support POWER (Program on Women's Employment Rights), which helps women and their families achieve and maintain economic self sufficiency through free direct legal assistance, representation, education, and outreach about women's employment rights through the Know Your Rights education programming.

DC Law Students in Court Program, Inc.

The LSIC's mission is to ensure justice for the Washington's low-income community through free, high-quality legal assistance while training third-year law students in lawyering and courtroom advocacy skills. The WBAF grant will support the Women's Tenant Outreach Initiative, which will identify opportunities to reach out to low income women to provide information about their rights as tenants and gather data to learn the needs of women heads of households under threat of eviction and whether addressing those needs requires additional or unique resources.

Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project

The DV LEAP mission is to provide a stronger voice for justice by fighting to overturn unjust trial court outcomes, advancing legal protections for victims of domestic violence and their children through expert appellate advocacy, training lawyers, psychologists and judges on best practices, and spearheading domestic violence litigation in the Supreme Court. The WBAF grant supports its DC project, DC LEAP, to strengthen and expand its role in filling a vacuum in legal advocacy for victims of domestic violence and their children in Washington, DC.

EduSeed

EduSeed's mission is to promote education, particularly among traditionally disadvantaged and under-served communities, such as women and people of color. The WBAF grant assists the SisterMentors program to mentor and support girls of color from low income families in elementary, middle, and high school. In addition to the mentoring sessions, the girls will participate in a four-day college visit, where they will learn about admissions and financial aid, attend classes, and meet with professors and leaders.

High Tea Society

HTS was founded by Associate Judge Mary Terrell and provides opportunities, services, and support through an educational mentoring program for girls ages 9-18 who reside in Wards 6, 7 and 8. The WBAF grant supports the Teaching Through Tea Saturday Leadership Program. Each Saturday, from September through June, participants meet for 2 hours and receive tailored programming designed to boost self esteem, inspire academic achievement, and create leaders who are "ambassadors of change" (poised, confident, college-bound young ladies willing to share their HTS experiences and attendant values with their family and friends).

GWAC Foundation, Inc.

The objective of the GWAC Foundation—to empower the African American community—is accomplished by fostering the education and training of African American law students, enriching the lives of African American children, improving the quality of life of the elderly, with a particular emphasis on African Americans, and empowering the African American community, especially the disadvantaged. The WBAF grant will provide support and expand the Foundation's Legal Intern Placement Program and to provide increased financial support for an academic tutoring and enrichment program for girls at Jefferson Middle School in southwest, Washington, DC.

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

The Legal Aid Society provides legal aid and counsel to indigent persons in civil law matters and encourages measures by which the law may better protect and serve their needs. The

WBAF grant helps Legal Aid provide assistance to victims of domestic violence living in poverty. Over the next year, they plan to provide full legal representation to victims and survivors of domestic violence in 120 to 160 cases and brief assistance, counseling, and advice in an additional 120 to 160 other such cases.

Legal Counsel for the Elderly

Legal Counsel for the Elderly's primary goals are to serve and empower thousands of low-income seniors in the areas of law involving basic human needs: income, housing, long-term care, personal autonomy, and consumer protection. The WBAF grant supports the Alternatives to Landlord/Tenant Court Project, which will prevent 300 of Washington DC's poor, vulnerable elderly and disabled tenants, a majority of which are female, from being evicted from their homes and help ensure both access to and the availability of quality, affordable rental housing in DC.

Mothers' Outreach Network

MON supports mothers seeking economic self sufficiency, including individuals returning from prison, by mobilizing mothers and others to provide them with legal services, policy advocacy, and peer-led civic education training, and to mobilize and support women facing employment barriers based on low literacy or criminal records to achieve economic self sufficiency. The WBAF grant will support the launch of MON's Legal Services program, a legal services and civic education project mobilizing a network of lawyers and mentors to deliver high quality legal representation and mentoring services to hard-to-employ women and ex-offenders in DC, with a special focus on mitigating the impact of criminal records on access to employment.

New Community for Children

New Community for Children aims to minimize the incidence of and connection between poor academic performance, low graduation rates, unemployment, and poverty for children and youth from low-income homes by bolstering learning in core academic subjects such as reading, math, science, and social studies, and teaching strong leadership and decision-making skills. The WBAF grant supports 41 African American adolescent girls between the ages of 10 and 14 to participate in two program components, Love Supreme and Media Project. Love Supreme creates a safe space for girls to discuss and explore questions related to physical, emotional, and cultural development, and the Media Project promotes self-awareness and self determination.

Our Place DC

Our Place DC supports women who are or have been in the criminal justice system by providing the resources they need to maintain connections with the community, resettle after incarceration, and reconcile with their families. The WBAF grant will support Our Place DC's Legal Services program.

Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment, Inc.

SAFE's mission is to empower survivors of intimate partner violence by supporting them as they navigate the civil and criminal justice systems, and to advocate for systematic reforms that ensure survivor safety and self determination. The WBAF Grant supports the Court Advocacy Program and the On-Call Advocacy Program to help survivors achieve the safety and stability they need to initiate the difficult process of separating themselves from an abusive partner.

Women Empowered Against Violence

WEAVE's mission is to work closely with adult and teen survivors of relationship violence and abuse, providing a range of legal, counseling, economic empowerment, and educational services that lead survivors to utilize their inner and community resources to achieve safety for themselves and their children and live empowered lives. The WBAF grant helps fund its Legal Services program that provides victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking with short- and longer-term comprehensive legal services.

The Washington Middle School for Girls

WMSG is dedicated to providing a good education and other forms of support for girls in an under-served area of Washington, DC, with a goal to help these children acquire the educational, social, and emotional strengths and capabilities that will enable them to create productive and rewarding lives for themselves and their families. The WBAF grant will assist WMSG's Graduate Support Program, which provides comprehensive assistance to help WMSG students continue

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Tax & Business Forum Presents a Recipe for Financial Health

By Kerri Castellini, Feeney & Kuwamura, P.A., Tax & Business Forum Co-Chair



Shak Hill

The Tax and Business Forum was honored to have speaker and author **Shak Hill, CFP, ChFC, CLU**, give a presentation titled *Recipe for Financial Health: 7 Essential Ingredients for a Financial Plan* on March 31, 2011. Mr. Hill, author of the books *A Women's Guide to Financial Planning* and *When the Doctor Says It's Cancer: A Caring Financial Plan for Life*, drew from his own life experiences to assist members in creating their unique financial plan. Mr. Hill provided the following recipe for financial health:

- A** - A desire to leave a legacy
- R** - Recognizing the need for a plan
- E** - Evaluate your wants, needs, goals, and dreams
- C** - Courage or risk tolerance to do more than just save money in a low interest savings account; link the time horizon you have available for the amount of investment risk you take
- I** - Investments, ensuring that your investments are properly diversified and one advisor is overseeing your entire financial picture
- P** - Professional management team which includes an estate planning attorney, accountant, financial planner, and possibly an insurance agent
- E** - Estate planning documents that include a Last Will and Testament, Medical Power of Attorney, Durable Power of Attorney, and possibly a revocable trust if applicable to your circumstances.

Mr. Hill is a Wealth Management Advisor at BB&T. For more information about his books visit www.YourFinancialGuidingLight.com.

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charitable organization that seeks to improve the lives and futures of women and children, and to address legal issues of particular concern to women.

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A Conversation with The Honorable Rosemarie Annunziata

By Lynne Milne, Co-Chair of the Communications Law Forum, and Stephanie Wood and Holly Snow, Co-Chairs of the Career Development Committee



Moderator and program sponsor Christina Ayiotis (above, left) with the Honorable Rosemarie Annunziata.

In celebration of Women's History Month, on March 23, 2011, individuals of various professional backgrounds came together to learn about the distinguished career of the Honorable Rosemarie Annunziata. In the format of an interview, conducted by program sponsor Christina Ayiotis, Judge Annunziata discussed her path from journalist to trial attorney to local government official to judge on the Virginia Court of Appeals, all while raising three daughters.

Judge Annunziata was a pioneer in the legal profession at a time when it was rare for a woman to argue a case in court or preside over a courtroom. In her responses, Judge Annunziata focused on sharing lessons that she had learned that might help others succeed, including those summarized below.

1. Advancing in the legal profession often requires negotiating for yourself. When you do, aim high. It reflects what you think you're worth.
2. Know your value and make your value visible. For Judge Annunziata, her writing was a strength that she was able to parlay to open doors.
3. Say "yes" as often as you can, as long as you are interested in the activity being offered.
4. Be prepared to meet challenges: when you receive a "no," accept it with dignity, courage, and resolve not to give up on your goal, but realize that "no" can be a catalyst to a better, alternative goal.
5. Earn the trust of the individuals who you seek to influence.
6. Remember the phrase "Let's make a trade," and evaluate whether you can give up something that is less important to you and more important to someone else.
7. Focus on effective communication skills, working hard, and doing a good job at all stages of your career.
8. Always carry a parachute or two. For Judge Annunziata, her writing was a core skill with wide potential use, and she embraced new roles, excelling at each, building a broad and deep foundation for not one, but multiple potential paths.

The Communications Law Forum and Career Development Committee were pleased to host this special program to commemorate Women's History Month. Special thanks to Judge Annunziata, Christina Ayiotis, and Lynne Milne.

Communications Law Forum Hosts an Evening of Mentoring For Communications Lawyers

By Jennifer Duane, Department of Commerce-NTIA, Communications Law Forum Co-Chair



Attendees made valuable connections.

On Wednesday, February 16, 2011, the Communications Law Forum, in partnership with the Federal Communications Bar Association's (FCBA) Young Lawyers Committee, hosted an inspiring evening of progressive mentoring for communications lawyers. Held at the law offices of **Hogan Lovells US LLP**, the program featured several prominent practitioners in the field of communications law serving as mentors to a diverse group of young lawyers.

The program was structured as a progressive supper with attendees seated at tables for six, with each table including one mentor and one program facilitator joining a group of mentees to discuss professional development while enjoying a delicious dinner provided by the host firm. The mentors led the discussion, relating the career paths that brought them to their current positions and responsibilities and describing the jobs they held along the way. Attendees were encouraged to ask any questions of the mentors, including those about career development and opportunities for professional growth. Program facilitators were on hand at each table to keep the conversations flowing. The progressive supper consisted of two parts: over dinner one group of mentors presided over the table discussion and over dessert each mentor proceeded to another table to continue the dialogue with another group of mentees. This structure allowed the mentees to meet and learn from two different mentors and hear different perspectives about the varied career path progressions available to communications lawyers.



Julie Kearney networked with attendee and shared her career experiences.

Mentors included **Diane Cornell** of Inmarsat, Inc.; **Michelle Farquhar** of Hogan Lovells US LLP; **Stacy Fuller** of DIRECTV, Inc.; **Anna Gomez** of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA); **Kathleen O'Brien Ham** of T-Mobile USA, Inc.; **Julie Kearney** of the Consumer Electronics Association; **Kathleen Kirby** of Wiley Rein LLP;

Luisa Lancetti of T-Mobile USA, Inc.; **Jane Mago** of the National Association of Broadcasters; **Mary Beth Richards** of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); **Bryan Tramont** of Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP; **Andrea Williams** of CTIA–The Wireless Association; and **Alexandra Wilson** of Cox Enterprises, Inc.



L-R: Diane Cornell, Bryan Tramont, Jennie Chandra

The program kicked off with a panel discussion that featured three mentors/mentees and set the stage for the mentoring sessions to follow. The panelists – Diane Cornell, Bryan Tramont, and **Jennie Chandra** of Windstream Communications – described how they came to serve as mentors and mentees of the other and how these relationships furthered their careers. This panel provided an informative and valuable look at mentoring in action and the real benefits that mentoring can provide to mentor and mentee alike.

The Communications Law Forum thanks the law firm of **Hogan Lovells US LLP** for graciously hosting the event, the multiple sponsors of this event, as well as the mentors and facilitators who volunteered their time to provide welcome career advice to the mentees participating in this program. The Communications Law Forum hopes to make this program a part of its annual program offerings for the WBA.

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Working Parents Forums Presents Au Pair Fair

By Chris Burbach, Regional Manager, CHI Au Pair U.S.

On February 15, 2011 the WBA Working Parents Forum hosted an Au Pair Fair at which members were invited to hear representatives from several au pair agencies speak about their au pair programs. The following information is provided to help members in their decision regarding an au pair for their families:

Busy parents today face the challenge of balancing their professional life with personal and family needs. Hosting an au pair to care for your children can give you that extra set of hands and support to help manage your family's lifestyle. You'll have peace of mind knowing that your children are being cared for by an educated, responsible, young adult who is living in your home as a member of your family. Because au pair agencies are designated visa program sponsors by the U.S. Department of State, you can feel confident in the knowledge that au pairs adhere to mandated government regulations and are legally able to stay in the U.S. for up to two years.

Au pair programs provide a unique cultural experience and an exceptional value for a family's childcare needs. Most au pairs have previous childcare experience and go through a careful screening process that includes personal interviews and background checks. One of the most important components to the success of au pair programs is the extensive orientation process with which both the host family and the au pair are provided. Knowing what to expect is key to a smooth and stress-free transition. Both the host family and au pair receive valuable information. Every au pair is provided with an informative debriefing in Washington, DC,

upon arrival in the U.S. Topics such as first aid, child development, cross-cultural information and communication issues are discussed. Compared to other childcare options, hosting an au pair is a cost effective approach (approximately \$345/family per week), especially if you have more than one child. Au pairs are able to provide up to 45 hours of childcare per week and can work up to 10 hours per day. Hectic weekday mornings will soon become calmer and more streamlined with an extra set of hands to attend to your children's needs or to perhaps devote one on one attention to babies and toddlers as you are rushing out the door for an early morning meeting or getting your older children off to school. Your children will soon feel the security of having a big sister or brother who feels like one of the family—someone who knows their schedules and personalities and enjoys sharing and teaching them the customs of another culture. Hosting an au pair is an enriching family experience that can open the world for your family without leaving home.

Au pairs are a good choice for your family if you are in the need for excellent childcare, embrace other cultures, and are looking for active childcare in the comfort of your own home. As one host mother recently said, "I adore our au pair. She is hard working, respectful, and wonderful with the kids. Our au pair is an absolute pleasure to have as part of our family. The only negative thing I have to say is that she will have to leave us one day! I have had several babysitters in the past and this is the first time I have had an au pair. It is by far the best experience I have had with childcare."

Having an au pair in your home will broaden your family's horizons, enrich your children's knowledge of the world and give you peace of mind regarding your childcare needs.

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Amy Berman Jackson Confirmed to U.S. District Court

Amy Berman Jackson was confirmed by a unanimous Senate vote to a judgeship on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Ms. Jackson had been a partner at Trout Cacheris since 2000. She's also a former assistant U.S. attorney in the District, and was a partner at Venable from 1988 to 1995.

Kathy Barlow Promoted & Featured



Kathy Barlow has been named Senior Vice President at Marsh & McLennan Companies, a professional services firm that provides advice and solutions in risk, strategy, and human capital. Ms Barlow was also featured in [Washington Women's Weekly's Women on Top column](#). In the interview, she discusses her professional track, her involvement in groups like the WBA, the power of networking, and lessons learned during a varied career.

Lorie Masters Releases Liability Insurance Publication

Lorie Masters, a partner in Jenner & Block's Washington, DC office, recently visited London to promote the publication of the second edition of "[Liability Insurance in International Arbitration: The Bermuda Form](#)." The UK high court said the book is "the standard work on the subject." Ms. Masters is a member of Jenner's Litigation Department and Climate and Clean Technology Law and Insurance Litigation and Counseling Practices. She currently serves on the WBA Foundation Board of Directors and a past President of the WBA.

Michele Dearing Promoted

Jackson & Campbell has announced the promotion of **Michele L. Dearing** to Senior Counsel. Ms. Dearing is a member of the Employment Law Practice Group and the Insurance Coverage Practice Group. She is experienced in civil litigation, including insurance coverage disputes, insurance bad faith matters, employment law, and insurance defense.

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Members' Firms Recognized for Philanthropy

A number of firms and companies employing WBA members were recognized by the *Washington Business Journal's* 2011 Philanthropy Awards. The awards will be held on May 12 in Washington, DC. Congratulations to the honorees!

Jefferson Award finalist candidates

Deloitte LLP

Law Firms with the Most Pro Bono Hours

Bingham McCutchen LLP

Bryan Cave, LLP

Crowell & Moring LLP

Dickstein Shapiro LLP

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP

Foley & Lardner LLP

Hogan Lovells US LLP

Hunton & Williams LLP

Jenner & Block LLP

King & Spalding LLP

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

Morrison & Foerster LLP

Patton Boggs, LLP

Sidley Austin LLP

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP

Venable LLP

Wiley Rein LLP

Winston & Strawn, LLP

Most Monetary Giving

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Deloitte LLP

Dickstein Shapiro LLP

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

KPMG LLP

Lockheed Martin Corporation

Venable LLP

Verizon

Wells Fargo

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Most Volunteer Hours

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Deloitte LLP

KPMG LLP

Lockheed Martin Corporation

Verizon

Wells Fargo

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Welcome New Members

Loura Laressa Alaverdi

Annora A. Bell

Charmayne Jeannette Browne

Megan Capasso

Cheryl Chado

Shannon L. Chaudhry

Donna J. Meyer

Danielle Tarabokia Norris

Angelique Okeke

Angela Parsons

Maria Patente Patente

Susan Pecaro

Morton J. Posner

Theresa Clardy
Jennifer Cody
Tressi Cordaro
Christina E. Cullom
Jennifer Edwards Devor
Andrea C. Ferster
Janine Fletcher
Julia Follick
Tricia D. Francis
Christine Habeeb
Kirsten E. Keating
Stephanie Mary Kelly
Kseniya A. Kuksova
Lorna J. MacLeod
Fatema Merchant

Kami E. Quinn
Kimberly Reed
Julia Richardson
Tonya Ann Sapp
Sherri L. Schornstein
Sharon White Senghor
Susan Lynn Siegal
Jennifer Toussaint
Karen R. Turner
Jennifer Warren
Rhonda Whitley
Corinna Zarek
Rachel Zoghlin

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President's Column



By Holly E. Loiseau, WBA President

Hello WBA Community!

I often comment that one of the great strengths of the WBA is its wealth of programming. This strength has been on display over the months of March and April and will continue through May. This issue of *Raising the Bar* looks at influential women (our [Torchbearer Award recipient and Women Lawyers of the Year](#), Communications Law Forum's "[A Conversation with The Honorable Rosemarie Annunziata](#)"), how we as women are committed to striving for the best in our personal lives (Tax and Business Law Forum's "[Recipe for Financial Health](#)"), and the mentoring efforts that WBA has done and is doing for young women lawyers in various practices (Communications Law Forum's "[An Evening of Mentoring for Communications Lawyers](#)").

Other program highlights from the past two months:

- Health Law Forum: The Controversy Continues: An Update on Stem Cell Research
- Communications Law Forum: Rising Technologies: The Future of Communications Innovation
- International Law Forum: International Law Forum's Speaker Series Global Women, Global Perspectives: Gay McDougall, United Nations Independent Expert on Minorities
- Litigation Forum, Non-Profit Forum, and In-House Counsel Forum: Women in the Boardroom: Pedigree, Politics and Proactive Steps Towards Balanced Representation on Corporate Boards
- Communications Law Forum: Rising Technologies: The Future of the Cable Industry
- Non-Profit Organizations Practice Forum: Women Leading Nonprofits: Insights and Current Challenges
- Litigation Forum and Solo & Small Practice Committee: Preparing Qualified Domestic Relations Orders For Pro Bono Clients
- Government Attorneys Forum: Working with Government: Lobbying and Advocacy before Government Entities
- Career Development Committee's "Achieve Greater Satisfaction and Peak Performance by Rethinking Work/Life Balance"

In addition, in May, the WBA has two showcase programs. First, on May 4, 2011, the WBA continued its groundbreaking work with the [Initiative on Advancement and Retention of Women in the Profession](#). The breakfast program featured general counsels, in-house counsel, and diversity professionals discussing the challenges facing women in-house counsel

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and best practices for surmounting those challenges. Second, on May 26, 2011, the WBA will host its **[Annual Dinner](#)**. This year, the WBA will honor Debra Lee, Chairman & CEO of BET Networks, and Sherri Blount, Partner, Fitch Even Tabin and Flannery, as the Women Lawyers of the Year, and Dovey Johnson Roundtree as the Janet Reno Torchbearer awardee.

As you can see, there is something for everyone and a place for you at the WBA. If you don't find the program you're looking for, feel free to suggest a program idea to **[me, the WBA Board or one of our co-chairs](#)**. We are eager to hear from our members and the DC legal community about how we can serve you better.

Best,
Holly E. Loiseau
2010-2011 President

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