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**Karen Lockwood Publishes
"The Road to Independence"**

**Yvonne Williams & Jennifer
di Toro Confirmed to DC**

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The coming year promises to be an exciting one for the Women's Bar Association. President Monica Parham, in her plan for the 2011-2012 bar year, has outlined the continuation of the WBA's Initiative on Advancement and Retention of Women, launched in 2006. This year's focus will be on reimagining the pathways to success, and how we can not only survive but also *thrive* as women in the legal profession.

For the first event of the season, we hope current and new members will begin conversations about these issues that will last throughout the year and beyond. The WBA's annual Stars of the Bar networking reception will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, in Hogan Lovells' spacious atrium lobby, located in Columbia Square, at 555 13th Street NW. Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, with a short program at 7:00 pm. ...



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Dress for Success

This fall, the WBA is collecting professional clothing and accessories as well as monetary donations for Dress for Success. The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support, and the career development tools to help them thrive in work and in life. Donations will be collected at all WBA events this fall, starting with Stars of the Bar. Visit www.wbadc.org for details.

Events

Wednesday, September 14, 2011,
6:00 - 8:00 pm

[2011 Stars of the Bar Reception](#)
WBA's largest, no-cost networking event kicks off our program year. This year's Stars of the Bar are women who have retired from various DC Courts in the past 24 months. Attendees will also have an opportunity to meet the WBA's committee and forum co-chairs, who plan numerous substantive programs that address the professional and practical needs of our membership and of the greater DC legal community. Co-chairs and representatives from the WBA Foundation leadership, are present to answer questions, alert attendees to upcoming events, and help members get more involved.

Wednesday, September 21, 2011
6:00 - 8:00 pm

[Networking 101: How to Develop and Make the Most of Professional Relationships](#)
Presented by: Mentoring Committee
What do you do when you step into a room and you do not know anyone? When you meet a new contact, do you ask for their card or do you give yours? How do you make connections when you consider yourself shy or introverted? This program will help women attorneys answer these questions and navigate the sometimes intimidating world of professional networking.

Thursday, September 22, 2011
6:00 - 8:00 pm

**[International Law Forum
Networking Happy Hour](#)**
Presented by: International Law Forum

If your legal practice has an international component, if you are interested in learning more about

Superior Court

Laura Possessky Honored by WIFV

Welcome New WBA Members!

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Committees and Forums

New Environmental Law Forum

WBA is pleased to announce the formation of an Environmental Law Forum. The Environmental Law Forum will plan programs to advance the professional development of practitioners in the substantive areas of environmental law and to educate them on environmental litigation, regulatory counseling, and enforcement.

WBA Leaders Assemble for Planning and Training

By Carol Montoya, CAE, Executive Director, WBA

On Saturday, July 16, WBA held its annual leadership retreat at **Crowell & Moring LLP**. Each year, this half-day meeting brings together WBA Board members and committee and forum co-chairs for training, networking, and planning. ...

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President's Column

By Monica G. Parham, WBA President

Every day, we see continued evidence that we are indeed looking at a changed legal landscape. Several events within the past months have underscored the reality that our career paths as lawyers will continue to evolve in myriad ways.

In August the American Bar Association (ABA) held its annual meeting in Toronto, against the backdrop of the WBA's Initiative theme, which focuses on the likelihood that many of our career paths will wind outside the United States. In conjunction with the event, the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, of which the WBA is a member, held a meeting with women leaders from the Law Society of Upper Canada, which is currently chaired by a woman. It was a fascinating experience to learn about the experiences of women lawyers north of the border, to exchange cross-border best practices, and to develop ties that will benefit women in the legal profession in both countries. It was also a strong reminder that our advancement as women in the profession is

opportunities in international law, or if you want to become involved with the WBA's International Law Forum, join us for this free networking happy hour.

Tuesday, September 27, 2011
12:15 - 1:45 pm

Rising Technologies: A Consumer Electronics Show & Tell

Presented by: Communications Law Forum

Join us for this consumer electronics show and tell. Staff members from the Consumer Electronics Association® (CEA) will talk about consumer products developed by CEA members. You may see a demonstration of a new device or service or have your questions answered about consumer electronics you have seen, but not mastered yet. You may see new products to inspire you for all your gift-giving needs or just learn about important trends in the industry to help you advise your clients.

Wednesday, September 28, 2011
5:30 - 7:30 pm

The International Law Forum Speakers Series: Global Women, Global Perspectives: A Conversation with Nicole Lee

Presented by: International Law Forum

Nicole Lee, President of TransAfrica Forum, has worked as a human rights attorney in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. She will be speaking on "Human Rights Issues Facing Women and Children Throughout the African Diaspora."

Tuesday, October 4, 2011
12:00 - 1:30 pm

Current Issues in International Adoption

Presented by: International Law Forum & Working Parents Forum

This panel will address current issues in intercountry adoption, including recent international adoption policy developments; the practical implications of adoptions in the new legal environment; and considerations for potential adoptive parents.

Thursday, November 17, 2011
1:00 - 2:30 pm

Reed v. Reed 40th Anniversary Panel Discussion

Presented by: The National

inextricably tied to the advancement of other women lawyers worldwide – a link that will only grow stronger and larger as the world “gets smaller.” ...

[read more ...](#)

*Women's Law Center
Co-Sponsored by: Women's Bar
Association of DC*

A panel discussion to mark the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Reed v. Reed*. As the first case in which the Supreme Court struck down a statute that discriminated on the basis of gender as a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution, *Reed v. Reed* is a landmark case worthy of note, discussion, and analysis.

Tuesday, December 13, 2011
2:30 - 4:30 pm

Holiday Tea

*Presented by: Communications Law
Forum*

Our highly-regarded annual Holiday Tea will be held in the Crystal Room of the beautifully-decorated and historically-significant Willard Hotel. Our Honored Guest is former Assistant Attorney General Christine Varney. This afternoon high tea promises to be a festive and fascinating event—the perfect way to kick off the holiday season!

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Judicial Trailblazers at 2011 Stars of the Bar

By Rachel Levinson, Senior Counsel, American Association of University Professors; Co-Chair, 2011 Stars of the Bar

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The 2010 Stars of the Bar event drew almost 300 attendees.

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at 7:00 pm.

One of the pathways on which women are increasingly leaving their mark is the judiciary. The WBA is proud to open the 2011-2012 program year by honoring an extraordinary group of women judges who have recently retired, taken senior status, or announced their intention to do so, after dedicating years of service to the bench. Our honorees include:

Judge Kaye K. Christian, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Judge Stephanie Duncan-Peters, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Judge Brook Hedge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Judge Noël Anketell Kramer, District of Columbia Court of Appeals (also
WBA's 2005 Woman Lawyer of the Year)

Judge Inez Smith Reid, District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Judge Judith E. Retchin, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Judge Vanessa Ruiz, District of Columbia Court of Appeals

These women have forged remarkable career paths. In addition to their judicial service, their accomplishments include serving in the U.S. Department of Justice and the District of Columbia's Office of Corporation Counsel, formulating codes of conduct for the D.C. courts, founding law firms, and teaching at prestigious area law schools, oftentimes while raising children and volunteering time as lawyers and as members of their communities.

Stars of the Bar attendees will include attorneys who practice in an array of fields, law students, judges, and others in the legal profession. The event offers a professional and friendly environment in which to meet colleagues in the DC legal community, including WBA members and leaders. In addition, co-chairs of the WBA's committees and forums, as well as representatives from the WBA Foundation, will be present to meet attendees, educate them about the range of activities available through the WBA, and encourage them to sign up and become involved. Current and new members are welcome and encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there!

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Feature

By **Katie McCabe**, co-author of *Justice Older than the Law*

*Katie McCabe, co-author with Dovey Johnson Roundtree of Justice Older than the Law, accepted the **2011 Janet B. Reno Torchbearer Award** on behalf of Ms. Roundtree. With her permission, WBA is reprinting her acceptance remarks, which include wonderful anecdotes about Ms. Roundtree and describe her impact on the law, an impact which continues to shape today's landscape.*



Katie McCabe

What a profound honor it is for me to stand here on behalf of Dovey Johnson Roundtree to accept the Janet B. Reno Torchbearer Award. What a night this is, for Dovey and for her family, who are present with us this evening and who will join me on the stage in a moment; for the members of the Women's Bar Association, especially you, Judge Green, whom we celebrate even as we celebrate Dovey, for refusing to accept the status quo 49 years ago, and throwing wide the door for women of color at the bar. Indeed, it's a proud night for all of Washington, the city Dovey so loved, despite all its flaws, the city she helped transform into a better and more just place for all its citizens, especially those who had no money, no voice, and no place in the power elite of the Nation's Capital. I can't help thinking, *if only Dovey were here*. It saddens me that she is unable, because of her advanced age – she

turned 97 years old last month -- and her frail health, to be with us. When I gave her the news of this award by phone, she cheered. She was elated, and so very, very, *very* proud, she said. She wishes you to know how deeply gratified she is by this honor that is being bestowed upon her by you, her sisters at the bar.

There is but one advantage to Dovey's being unable to join us, and that is that she would not consider saying about herself what I can say so forthrightly: that she made history, that she changed America in such far-reaching ways that we haven't yet felt the full impact of her legacy, and that she did so at a time when women, and in particular women of color, were *unwelcome*, in the extreme, in the military, in the pulpit, and at the bar. What is more remarkable still, she wrought most of those changes so quietly that in the moment, the enormity of her accomplishments escaped notice. Until now. Now, this night, *we take notice*.

We take strong and public notice, *first*, of Dovey Johnson Roundtree's critical role in altering

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the outcome of the Freedom Riders' campaign with a case known as *Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company*, a 1955 bus desegregation ruling before the Interstate Commerce Commission on behalf of a black Army private named Sarah Louise Keys, who'd been thrown off a bus in North Carolina and forced to yield her seat to a white Marine. The *Keys* ruling declared that in the field of interstate bus travel, the mere fact of segregation was unlawful because it implied the "inherent inferiority" of black passengers. *Keys* did in bus travel across state lines what *Brown* had done the previous year in public education. That fact would have won the *Keys* case a place in history right in the moment, except that its effect was blunted for six years by the Commission's segregationist chairman, who saw to it that the ruling of his brethren was not enforced. But 50 years ago this week, on May 29, 1961, as the whole world watched the violence perpetrated upon the Freedom Riders, the *Keys* case rose up from quietude, and it bellowed. It became, at a crucial juncture in civil rights history, one of the major pieces of ammunition that Attorney General Robert Kennedy used to end Jim Crow in bus travel. He invoked it in a petition to the ICC in which he strongly suggested that they do what they had promised to do back in 1955. They had ignored the Supreme Court on at least two occasions. They had ignored the NAACP. They had ignored CORE. They had ignored the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. But they couldn't ignore their own words. The Commission was cornered, by their own ruling and the Attorney General of the United States. They mandated an end to 'separate but equal' in travel across the 48 states, and they enforced that mandate.

Tonight, let us take notice of a *second*, and even quieter accomplishment of Dovey Johnson Roundtree's, an obscure 1956 victory on behalf of a young woman named Barbara Vanison in a suit against St. Elizabeth's Psychiatric Hospital, on whose watch Mrs. Vanison's psychotic husband had escaped and inflicted upon her horrific injuries. Dovey and her law partner Julius Robertson refused to refer the case "uptown," which is to say, to a white lawyer, as so many of Washington's African American attorneys were inclined to do in that era with negligence and personal injury matters, in the belief that only with a white lawyer did a black plaintiff stand a chance. They took the case, and they won the maximum allowable under the Federal Tort Claims Act at that time: \$ 25,000. In winning it, they proved to their colleagues at the bar, and to the community at large, that black clients, represented by black lawyers, had at least a prayer of justice. They cracked the door. They gave people hope.

There are hundreds, perhaps thousands of clients like Sarah Louise Keys and Barbara Vanison, clients whose names few people have ever heard, but whose cases became *causes* for Dovey Johnson Roundtree over her half century at the bar, during which time she became a one-woman legal aid clinic to the city's poor. Even when she raised her profile, as she did often and with great fierceness during her years as a criminal defense attorney, her clients were the forgotten of Washington. It's emblematic of the nature of Dovey's practice that her most widely covered murder case, *U.S. v. Ray Crump*, is generally referred to not by the name of the black day laborer for whom she won acquittal in 1965, but by the name of the victim, Georgetown socialite and alleged Kennedy mistress Mary Pinchot Meyer. Yet to Dovey herself, the life of Ray Crump, Jr. held infinite worth. That was what she told the jury, when she quoted Shakespeare to them on the sacredness of a man's good name. Years later, attorney Robert Bennett, who was the judge's law clerk in the case, wrote that Dovey argued for Ray Crump as though she were arguing for her own son.

That was the way Dovey viewed all her clients, she told me – as her children. And it was with a mother's ferocity that she fought for those clients. In the course of her family law practice she argued passionately for the welfare of hundreds of children who were pawns in bitter domestic relations battles. I wouldn't know how to count the number of children whose lives she saved by pleading with judges, and with warring parents—irrespective of which one she happened to be representing—for what she called "a little healing."

I was asked, recently, which one of Dovey's accomplishments she was most proud of. It was a question I myself had never asked Dovey in the entire 16 years of our acquaintance, because the answer was so obvious to me. Dovey's pride and joy, the light of her life, her ultimate achievement, by her own standard, is her family: her beloved goddaughter, Charlene Pritchett-Stevenson, and Charlene's son, James Andrew Pritchett, who turned Dovey's life upside down with his entrance into the world in 1995 and transformed the fearsome trial lawyer my husband likes to call "The Dovenator" into "Nana." James and his mother were with Dovey the very first time I met her, and I saw that they were her whole world. Over the past 16 years, as I watched that relationship flower, I saw the myriad of ways that her love for them enriched and personalized her battle for justice, how it raised the stakes for the future. It was with Charlene and James in mind that she crystallized the notion of justice that is articulated in the final chapter of our book, in these lines:

The kind of justice I seek today is older by far than the law, and it resides in people's hearts. It is nursed into being not primarily in the pulpit or the classroom or the courtroom, but in the home, at the fireside and the dining room table, in the thousands of intimate moments when mother and father and children weave their bond. It is in this sanctuary that the passing on takes place, that the 'miracle in the hearts of men' of which Dr. King spoke unfolds itself. I know this to be true. I know it in my mind, and also in my heart, and I know it in the most intensely personal way, because I was granted, in my last years, the miracle of motherhood and grandmotherhood, and with that, a way of understanding the world that had eluded me.

In celebration of Dovey Johnson Roundtree's vision of justice, and of her legacy as a woman, I would ask Charlene Pritchett-Stevenson and James Andrew Pritchett to come forward to join me in accepting, on Dovey's behalf, the Janet B. Reno Torchbearer Award.

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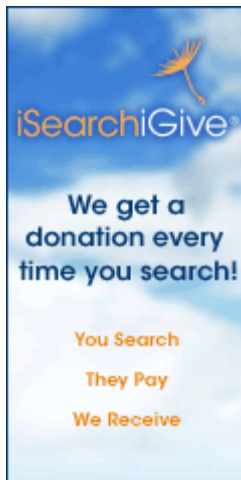
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WBA Foundation President's Letter



By Tracy-Gene G. Durkin

Thirty years ago, the Women's Bar Association Foundation (WBAF) was founded by several prescient women who saw a need in our community to provide an outlet for philanthropy directed to the needs of women. The original mission statement of the WBAF speaks to what those needs were:

1. To foster the education and training of women in law by funding an internship program under which women students can spend time working at law firms in Washington, DC;
2. To provide legal assistance and counseling for juveniles and elderly;
3. To promote education in the delivery of legal services; and
4. To promote greater understanding and awareness among both the legal and nonlegal communities of the special legal problems women face, for example, under the criminal justice system, in employment situations and arising out of marital and custodial disputes.

Three decades later, these needs—unfortunately—still exist in our community, and the world. While much progress has been made, women still face many of the same challenges they faced in 1981. Disadvantaged young women and girls, along with their families, still need access to legal assistance in the areas of housing, domestic violence, employment, and criminal justice. These same young women and girls can greatly benefit from mentoring and other support programs that give them the skills and resources they need to succeed.

Since the inception of the WBAF's grant program in 1997, the Foundation has truly made a difference, giving more than \$350,000 in grants to over 40 organizations, including the WBA, to support programs aligned with the WBAF's mission.

These programs make a difference: **Calvary Women's Services' Women's Legal Empowerment Program**, which helps homeless women achieve independence, by providing key access, information, skills, and advocacy. **EduSeed's SisterMentors** program, which provides mentoring and support for girls of color from low income families in elementary, middle, and high school. In addition to mentoring sessions, the girls participate in a four-day college visit, where they learn about admissions and financial aid, attend classes, and meet with professors and leaders. We also make an impact through organizations such as the **Mothers' Outreach Network's Legal Services** program, which is a legal services and civic

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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 Washington, DC. Many other such programs exist. I invite you to visit www.wbadcfoundation.org to learn more about the programs our grants support.

We also established the WBAF Founders Fellowship in 2006, to address the financial need of local law students willing to take voluntary internships in public service with community organizations that further our mission. To date, we have awarded stipends to law students at the American University Washington College of Law, Howard University Law School, George Washington University Law School, University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, and Georgetown University Law Center. The Founders Fellowship grant recipients have worked at the Sexual Assault Legal Institute, Tahirih Justice Center, HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic, and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. You can read about some of their experiences at www.wbadcfoundation.org.

Not content to rest on our laurels, we are looking to the future and considering how we can have an even greater impact. Our Board recently completed a two-day strategic planning session during which we considered how we stay relevant and compelling in an environment that is constantly changing. We do not have all of the answers yet, but we are confident that with the last 30 years experience to build on, we will create an even stronger philanthropic force in the DC metropolitan community.

Thank you for 30 wonderful years, and here is to the next 30 together!

Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
2010-2012 WBA Foundation President

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WBAF Announces 2011-2012 Grant Cycle

The Women's Bar Association Foundation (WBAF) has announced the application guidelines and schedule for its 2011-2012 grant making cycle.

The mission of the WBAF is to promote and advance women in the legal profession; promote a greater understanding and awareness of legal issues of importance to women; and to provide access to legal representation for, and promote the education and advancement of, disadvantaged women and girls in our community. The WBAF welcomes grant proposals that will further its mission in the Metro DC region and is interested in funding a diverse group of projects. The WBAF evaluates each proposal on its own merits and in comparison to the other projects being funded by the WBAF in any given year.

WBAF grants will be made only to 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations or to organizations that are seeking tax-exempt status and are affiliated with, maintain a fiscal sponsor relationship with or are participating in an incubator program with a qualified 501(c)(3) organization. Grants cannot be used to fund general operating costs, but proposals to fund indirect costs associated with administering a specific project that will be supported by the Foundation will be considered. The Foundation prefers to provide seed funding to younger organizations or new programs where the impact of the Foundation's support is direct and measurable.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant are asked to first submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by 5:00 pm on October 5, 2011. Applicants will be notified by December 14, 2011 whether they are invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be due by 5:00 pm on February 1, 2012 and grant announcements will be made by March 30, 2012. After a grant has been awarded, grantees will be required to submit a final report at the end of the grant period. In addition, grantees will be asked to participate in the WBAF's annual grant awards event in April 2012.

For a full list of criteria, eligibility requirements, restrictions, and types of support, visit www.wbadcfoundation.org. Information regarding LOI and grant proposal formats is also available on the website.

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Many thanks to our Uniting for Justice campaign supporters! The following donors have made a gift to the WBA Foundation between June 1 and August 31, 2011. These gifts will be used to support women and girls in our community.

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New Environmental Law Forum

WBA is pleased to announce the formation of an Environmental Law Forum. The Environmental Law Forum will plan programs to advance the professional development of practitioners in the substantive areas of environmental law and to educate them on environmental litigation, regulatory counseling, and enforcement. The forum will provide WBA members working in these areas with opportunities to share topical information, participate in substantive presentations, and create social and professional networks.

If you are interested in more information or in joining the Environmental Law Forum, please contact the co-chairs: Angie Colamaria (angfar@msn.com), Holli Feichko (HFeichko@nahb.org), and Nessa Horewitch (nhorewitch@bdlaw.com).

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WBA Leaders Assemble for Planning and Training

By Carol Montoya, CAE, Executive Director, WBA

On Saturday, July 16, WBA held its annual leadership retreat at **Crowell & Moring LLP**. Each year, this half-day meeting brings together WBA Board members and committee and forum co-chairs for training, networking, and planning.

WBA President **Monica Parham** began the day by welcoming the WBA leaders who attended the retreat. She recognized the personal commitment of the co-chairs to the WBA, demonstrated through their volunteerism and service to others in the industry.

The program included an orientation of the processes for planning and executing WBA programs and events. WBA staff and Board leaders provided an overview of expectations and operational how-tos. Representatives from the WBA Foundation were present to talk about the Foundation's history, mission, and grant process.

The day wrapped up at lunchtime, where co-chairs informally met with their Board liaisons to brainstorm program topics and possible partnership opportunities with other committees, forums, and bar associations.

A highlight of the day was a presentation by **Ellen Ostrow**, Founding Principal of Lawyers Life Coach, called "Chairing a WBA Committee: A Professional Development Opportunity." Ms. Ostrow's firm provides professional coaching services to attorneys who want to achieve professional success without sacrificing those things that make their lives meaningful and fulfilling.

Ms. Ostrow started her presentation with the observation that even though co-chairs are volunteers, participation as a WBA leader is a professional development opportunity. Technical proficiency in the profession isn't enough to succeed; personal connections are a must.

November 17, 2011

1:00 - 2:30 pm

**Reed v. Reed 40th Anniversary
Panel Discussion**

December 13, 2011

2:30 - 4:30 pm

Holiday Tea

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She stressed that leadership is a transition from working as an individual to working with others to achieve aspirations. Successfully managing a career and maintaining a leadership role means building networks that propel the advancement of your job and position you for the future. She asked the attendees to think about what they want to accomplish over the next year in their WBA leadership roles. Her suggestions related to opportunities to advance in the organization, become more visible in the market, and get preparation for a career transition.

Ms. Ostrow discussed the concept of “social capital”: all the resources someone has through a network of resources. Some components of social capital include knowledge, information, trust, advice, mentoring, influence, cooperation, and business opportunities. Building relationships that produce social capital starts with learning about the other people you meet and finding out what they need and what they want to accomplish. The opportunity to help them is an investment in the future, since at some point in time the person helped will be able to return the favor.

Ms. Ostrow led the attendees in an exercise to map their social capital network. She explained that networks can vary in size, diversity, structure, focus, density, and redundancy. Silo networks can be both comfortable and limiting. A tight knit group can be very reliable and highly supportive, but restrictive in expanding the network.

Citing the “Six Degrees of Separation” model, Ms. Ostrow talked about the role of “Connectors” in making contacts and building bridges. Everyone should have Connectors in their network and should also strive to be a Connector herself.

Building a network can be challenging, but it can be done: one person at a time. Volunteering as a WBA committee member is a great way to start this process. Committee service leads to a broader network, as well as opportunities for greater leadership roles—as a co-chair, as a Board member, as an officer. Many WBA leaders can share stories about the personal and business connections they have made through service to the WBA, and other professional and civic organizations. In addition to building a network, volunteerism is a great way to develop a variety of skills, such as leadership, delegation, diplomacy, creativity, and public speaking.

To learn how to maximize your WBA membership experience, broaden your network, and develop new skills, contact the [WBA office](#), a [Board member](#), or a [Committee of Forum co-chair](#) today.

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Wednesday, September 14, 2011,
6:00 - 8:00 pm
[2011 Stars of the Bar Reception](#)

September 21, 2011
6:00 - 8:00 pm
[Networking 101: How to Develop and Make the Most of Professional Relationships](#)

September 22, 2011
6:00 - 8:00 pm
[International Law Forum Networking Happy Hour](#)

September 27, 2011
12:15 - 1:45 pm
[Rising Technologies: A Consumer Electronics Show & Tell](#)

September 28, 2011
5:30 - 7:30 pm
[The International Law Forum Speakers Series: Global Women, Global Perspectives: A Conversation with Nicole Lee](#)

October 4, 2011
12:00 - 1:30 pm
[Current Issues in International Adoption](#)

Karen Lockwood Publishes "The Road to Independence"



Karen Lockwood

Karen Lockwood, a WBA Past President and current WBA Foundation Board member, recently released an ABA publication called ***The Road to Independence: 101 Women's Journeys to Starting Their Own Law Firms***, a guide for lawyers considering launching their own practices. Ms. Lockwood edited the book, which is a collection of 101 letters from women who have taken the courageous and difficult step of creating a law firm of their own, either as a solo or with others. Focusing on the experiences, challenges, and opportunities of women-owned law firms, these women, in their personal voices, reiterate key themes: of becoming businesswomen, and of choosing a practice area consistent with their passion and character. These women of courage spend their resolve, time, and dedication to achieve ambitions and change destinies.

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Yvonne Williams & Jennifer di Toro Confirmed to DC Superior Court



Yvonne Williams

In February, WBA members **Yvonne Williams** and **Jennifer di Toro** were nominated by President Obama to serve as Associate Justices of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. In July, they were confirmed by Congress by unanimous consent. They were then sworn in as Associate Judges on September 1.

Ms. Williams, a WBA Board member, was previously Counsel at Miller & Chevalier Chartered, where she practiced in the litigation of employment, employee benefits, and health care issues. **Ms. di Toro** was the Legal Director at the Children's Law Center in the District of Columbia.

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Laura Possessky Honored by WIFV



Laura Possessky

Laura Possessky, a partner at Gura & Possessky, P.L.L.C., is being honored by Women in Film & Video (WIFV) with a Women of Vision Award. These awards celebrate women's creative and technical achievements in media. Recipients are nominated by WIFV Executive Members and will be recognized at an October 6 awards dinner. Ms. Possessky has served as WIFV's general counsel for more than seven years. She is also WBA President-Elect and the WBA liaison to the WBA Foundation Board of Directors.

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Welcome New Members

Kenesa Ahmad
Lisa R. Barton
Jesse Bawa
Sherri N. Blount
Katie Burgess
Blossom Valerie Butcher-Sumner
Arianne N. Callender
Emily High Daniels
Catherine Therese Dixon
Holly M. Ford
Adrian Barbara Gottshall
Aimee Desiree Griffin
Sharita Gruberg
Leslie A. Harrelson
Jessica Harris
Christine Hauswirth
Lisa A. Hayes
Janine M. Herring
Kim Kendrick
Hon. Noel Anketell Kramer
Jessica Lee
Nina C. Liao

Natalie Maddox
Joyce Marie Martin
Monica B. Mason
Camilla C. McKinney
Roxanne Melvin
Amy Miller
Nancy Ortmeyer Kuhn
Hon. Heidi M. Pasichow
Julie Peng
Kaye Pestaina
Caroline Platt
Rachel Shanahan Rodman
Sarah Rice Sanger
Ryan D. Shadrick Wilson
Robin M. Solomon
La Toya C. Sutton
Michelle Danielle Thomas
Kristin Vidovich
Hilary Weckstein
Cynthia Weiss
Thomas S. Williamson

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President's Column



By **Monica G. Parham, WBA President**

Every day, we see continued evidence that we are indeed looking at a changed legal landscape. Several events within the past months have underscored the reality that our career paths as lawyers will continue to evolve in myriad ways.

In August the American Bar Association (ABA) held its annual meeting in Toronto, against the backdrop of the WBA's Initiative theme, which focuses on the likelihood that many of our career paths will wind outside the United States. In conjunction with the event, the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, of which the WBA is a member, held a meeting with women leaders from the Law Society of Upper Canada, which is currently chaired by a woman. It was a fascinating experience to

learn about the experiences of women lawyers north of the border, to exchange cross-border best practices, and to develop ties that will benefit women in the legal profession in both countries. It was also a strong reminder that our advancement as women in the profession is inextricably tied to the advancement of other women lawyers worldwide – a link that will only grow stronger and larger as the world “gets smaller.”

One of the highlights of the ABA annual meeting is always the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Awards luncheon, where the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession honors and celebrates the accomplishments of women lawyers who have excelled in the field and have paved the way to success for other women lawyers. This year was no exception. In addition to the 2011 honorees, a 2011 Special Award was given to the Right Honourable Madam Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, who has broken many barriers on her career path to becoming the first woman Chief Justice of Canada.

At the WBA's annual [Stars of the Bar Reception](#), we will likewise honor women who took the road then much less traveled and who served with honor and distinction in the judiciary in the District of Columbia. Specifically, we will be honoring women judges who have retired, taken senior status, or announced their intention to retire or take senior status within the past 24 months. These women trailblazers, through their many accomplishments, have created yet another path for us all to follow.

The Stars of the Bar reception is also the kick-off of the WBA program year – and a chance for you personally to re-envision your path with the WBA. We encourage you to join us at Stars, as well as at other programs and events throughout the year.

Monica G. Parham

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