

May/June 2012 Issue

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## WBA and WBA Foundation 2012 Annual Dinner Highlights



l-r: 1985 Woman Lawyer of the Year Marna Tucker, 2012 Woman Lawyer of the Year Katia Garrett, 2011-2012 WBA Foundation President Tracy-Gene G. Durkin, 2011-2012 WBA President Monica Parham, 2012 Janet Reno Torchbearer Award recipient Sheila Bair, 2012-2013 WBA President Laura Possessky

The **WBA and WBA Foundation Annual Dinner** was held Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at the National Building Museum. This showcase event brought together about 500 lawyers, judges, and supporters of the WBA and WBA Foundation for an evening of networking, recognition, and reflection.

The theme for the dinner, and for the WBA 2011-2012 bar year, was "Re-envisioning the Path: Being a Woman Lawyer in the 21st Century." This theme, further explored in Phase IV of the WBA's Initiative on Advancement and Retention of Women, recognizes that women take or navigate different pathways to success, and that the pathway navigated along the road to success isn't always a "straight line." ...

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## Committees and Forums

### Federal Government Work Details

On April 17, 2012, the **Government Attorneys Forum** hosted a panel discussion titled "Federal

## Events

Thursday, July 11, 2012  
**Solo and Small Practice Monthly Luncheon**

This event is open to lawyers from solo and small firms, as well as attorneys looking to join solo or small firm life.

Thursday, July 18, 2012  
**What Every Partner Wants You to Know**

To build a successful and fulfilling legal career, associates know they need to create a niche and develop an impeccable reputation and professional network - but how? This workshop encapsulates insights, suggestions and key "dos" and "don'ts" from successful partners at a cross-section of top law firms - all gathered through confidential in-depth interviews. Learn how to communicate effectively to understand assignments and gain partners' trust, showcase your strengths and develop your niche, and build a professional network to support you in managing your career and establishing a strong reputation over the long term.

## President's Column

**By Laura Possessky,**  
**WBA President**

The Women's Bar Association has a long history of leadership in the face of change. Founded in 1917, the WBA began as the sole professional forum to admit women lawyers. Since then, WBA women have blazed a trail right through the 20th century and well into the 21st, effecting change along the way.

If our past is any indication, I hold

## Member News

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[Benitez Joins Steptoe &  
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[Abshire Appointed to  
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[WBA Members Elected to DC  
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[Washington Business Journal  
Philanthropy Awards](#)

[Welcome New Members](#)

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## White House Judicial Vacancy Briefing

On Monday, May 7, 2012, representatives of the **National Conference of Women's Bar Associations** (the "NCWBA") were invited to meet with approximately 150 concerned citizens, legal experts and community leaders from 27 states and 29 national organizations to learn about the serious vacancy crisis in the federal court system. Current NCWBA President **Cezy Collins**, Past President **Mary Sharp** and President-Elect **Pam Berman** attended a White House Briefing held at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, DC. ...

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Government Work Details: Benefits for your Career; Pitfalls to Avoid." The program was hosted by **Adrienne E. Clair** (Co-Chair of the Energy Law Forum) and her law firm, **Stinson Morrison Hecker, LLP**. The program featured four attorneys from across government: **Laura Barhydt**, Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement, U.S. Department of Energy; **Heather Beard**, Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation Branch, National Labor Relations Board; **Melissa Patterson**, Civil Appellate Division of the U.S. Department of Justice; and **Monique Abrishami**, Public Integrity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division. The panelists' details included stints at the White House, the U.S. Department of Energy, the DC AUSA's office, and the NLRB's Regional Offices in Manhattan and New Orleans. ...

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## CLF Tours SiriusXM Satellite Radio Facilities

On Thursday, April 26, 2012, the **Communications Law Forum** presented a tour of the studio and satellite facilities of **SiriusXM Satellite Radio, Inc.** as part of its Focus on Industry brown bag lunch series. Held at SiriusXM's state-of-the-art studios in northeast DC, the program featured SiriusXM representatives providing a fascinating overview of the origins of the company and its business operations, as well as showcasing the latest cutting-edge developments in satellite radio technology. ...

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## Expand Your Wardrobe

The "Expand Your Wardrobe and Your Network" event sponsored by the **Young Lawyer's Committee, In-House Counsel Forum**, and **Career Development Committee** was a huge success. Approximately 45 WBA members and friends participated in the event at Bloomingdale's Chevy Chase, held in late April. The event was held during the Private Sale, and featured a fashion show, personal shopper, and great networking opportunities. Bloomingdale's contributed 10% of all sales that evening to the WBA. ...

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great hope for our future. ....

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## WBA Foundation

### [WBA Foundation President's Letter](#)

I am honored to serve as President of the Women's Bar Association Foundation and look forward to bringing you news about our activities. I want to thank **Tracy Durkin** for her leadership during the past two years as we have revised our mission statement, adopted a strategic plan, and reformed our grants process. I also want to thank outgoing board members **Barbara Burr, Lorna Kent, Karen Lockwood, Ama Romaine**, and **Diana Savit** for their service and dedication to the mission of the Foundation and its work. ...

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## WBA and WBA Foundation 2012 Annual Dinner



*l-r, From King & Spalding LLP: Cassie Mathias, Kathryn Kuhn, David Mattern, Brian Bohnenkamp & Joseph Yarbough*



*l-r: Hon. Avril Ussery Sisk, Marion Hecht, 2011-2012 WBAF Board Secretary Amy Bess*

establishing a strong reputation  
over the long term.

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*l-r: WBA Past President and current WBAF Board member  
Lorelie Masters, 2011-2012 WBA Foundation President  
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin, Hon. Catharine Easterly,  
Hon. Corinne Beckwith*



*The National Building Museum provides a beautiful  
backdrop for the networking reception and dinner.*

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The theme for the dinner, and for the WBA 2011-2012 bar year, was “Re-envisioning the Path: Being a Woman Lawyer in the 21st Century.” This theme, further explored in Phase IV of the WBA’s Initiative on Advancement and Retention of Women, recognizes that women take or navigate different pathways to success, and that the pathway navigated along the road to success isn’t always a “straight line.”

2011-2012 WBA President, **Monica Parham**, Diversity Counsel at Crowell & Moring LLP, emceed the evening. Her remarks included the annual president’s report, a **State of the Association**: that provided an overview of the WBA’s activities and accomplishments in the past year.



*Incoming WBA President Laura Possessky presented Monica Parham (left photo) and Tracy-Gene G. Durkin (right photo) with plaques commemorating their service to the WBA and WBA Foundation.*

2011-2012 WBA Foundation President, **Tracy-Gene G. Durkin**, Director at Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC, also provided **remarks** discussing the history of the Foundation on its 30th anniversary, and shared a **video** that highlighted the Foundation's 2011-2012 grantees.



*l-r: 1985 Woman Lawyer of the Year Marna Tucker, 2012 Woman Lawyer of the Year Katia Garrett, 2011-2012 WBA Foundation President Tracy-Gene G. Durkin, 2011-2012 WBA President Monica Parham, 2012 Janet Reno Torchbearer Award recipient Sheila Bair, 2012-2013 WBA President Laura Possessky*

The evening's honorees underscored the fact that there is no longer a single path towards career fulfillment and success, and the path taken may have many twists and turns. The **2012 Janet Reno Torchbearer Award** was presented to former FDIC Chairman **Sheila Bair**. The award is named in honor of Janet Reno, the first woman to serve as United States Attorney General, and in recognition of opportunities she created for women during her tenure and her exceptional professional achievements. The award is presented periodically at the Annual Dinner to an attorney who has blazed trails for women.



*l-r: Marna Tucker, Katia Garrett and Monica Parham*

The **2012 Woman Lawyer of the Year Award** was presented to **Katia Garrett**, Executive Director, DC Bar Foundation. Ms. Garrett was introduced by the 1985 Woman Lawyer of the Year, **Marna Tucker**, Senior Partner, Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP.

This year's Annual Dinner Honorary Committee consisted of women who serve as role models for those taking a re-envisioned path. These paths exemplify the new and different journeys women take and signify what it means to be a woman lawyer in the 21st century.

**Anastasia Kelly** has come full circle from law firm to in-house counsel, and back to the firm setting. She is currently a partner in DLA Piper's White Collar, Corporate Crime and Investigations practice. Ms. Kelly came to DLA Piper from American International Group, Inc. (AIG), where until the end of 2009 she was Vice Chairman in charge of global legal, compliance and regulatory functions, government relations, communications, corporate affairs and human resources. Ms. Kelly joined AIG as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Senior Regulatory and Compliance Officer in 2006. Prior to joining AIG, Ms. Kelly served as Vice President and General Counsel of MCI/WorldCom; Sears, Roebuck and Co.; and Fannie Mae. Earlier in her career, Ms. Kelly was a partner and associate with Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering (now Wilmer Hale).

**Layli Miller-Muro** is the Founder and Executive Director of the Tahirih Justice Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting women from human rights abuses through the provision of legal aid and public policy advocacy. Ms. Miller-Muro founded the organization in 1997, following her involvement in a high-profile case that revolutionized asylum law in the U.S. This case opened the door to gender-based persecution as grounds for asylum. Notably, she funded the organization with her portion of the proceeds from a book she co-authored about the case, entitled *Do They Hear You When You Cry?* Prior to joining Tahirih, Ms. Miller-Muro was an international litigation attorney at Arnold & Porter LLP, and an attorney-advisor at the U.S. Department of Justice, Board of Immigration Appeals.

**Martina Vandenberg** is a Fellow with Open Society Foundations, where her primary project will be the establishment of a public law center called Civil Justice: The Human Trafficking Legal Resource Center, designed to serve as a clearing house for bringing together highly-qualified pro bono attorneys with human trafficking survivors seeking legal assistance. Previously, Ms. Vandenberg was a partner in the Litigation Department of Jenner & Block LLP, and served as a senior member of the firm's Pro Bono Committee. Ms. Vandenberg has spent nearly two decades advocating against human trafficking, forced labor, and violence against women. As the Europe Researcher for Human Rights Watch's Women's Rights Division (1998-2002), Ms. Vandenberg participated in the negotiations for the United Nations Trafficking Protocol in Vienna, Austria. She also co-founded one of Russia's first rape crisis centers for women.

**Ellen Weintraub** is Vice-Chair of the Federal Election Commission. She received a recess appointment to the Commission and took office in December 2002. She was re-nominated and confirmed by unanimous consent of the U.S. Senate in early 2003. Shortly after her arrival, Ms. Weintraub, the third woman to serve on the Commission, was elected Commission Chair. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Weintraub was Of Counsel to Perkins Coie LLP and a member of its Political Law Group. Her tenure with Perkins Coie represented Ms. Weintraub's second stint in private practice, having previously practiced as a litigator with Cahill Gordon & Reindel. Before joining Perkins Coie, Ms. Weintraub was Counsel to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for the U.S. House of Representatives (the House Ethics Committee), and

served as editor in chief of the House Ethics Manual and as a principal contributor to the Senate Ethics Manual.

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## State of the WBA

*Remarks by 2011-2012 WBA President Monica G. Parham at the 2012 Annual Dinner*

Re-envisioning the path, through a focus on the myriad paths taken by, and available to, women lawyers in the 21st century was a recurring theme in the WBA's 2011-2012 programming. We examined where women now stand in the legal profession, and ways that women can navigate throughout their careers in light of the fundamental changes that have taken place over the past five years in the profession, and in the professional world more generally. We looked at these issues through four primary prisms:

First: The career path is no longer a straight line. Entering a law firm as an associate and advancing to partner, entering a law department as a junior in-house counsel and rising through the ranks, or entering a government position and progressing through grades and levels is no longer a given.

Second: The path may wind its way outside the U.S. It speaks for itself that the 2011 American Bar Association annual meeting – held only 10 weeks after last year's annual dinner – was held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. While many of us still think of our careers in local, state-level, and national terms, the world is indeed shrinking, and women need to be positioned to overcome some of the challenges, and take advantage of some of the opportunities, that this presents.

Third: The path may not involve the actual practice of law. A 2007 study of members of UVA's law school class of 1990 found that more than a quarter no longer practiced law.

Fourth: The path does not necessarily straighten out over time. Even mid-career and more senior lawyers are experiencing seismic shifts in the legal profession.

From the beginning of the bar year, we set off to explore these themes. At our kick-off Stars of the Bar networking event in September 2011, which attracted several hundred attendees, we honored women judges who had retired from various DC Courts in the prior 24 months, and who navigated their paths to the bench at a time when far fewer women were taking these steps. Attending honorees included Judges **Kaye K. Christian, Stephanie Duncan-Peters, Brook Hedge, Noël Anketell Kramer, Inez Smith Reid, Judith E. Retchin, and Vanessa Ruiz** – a number of whom are also here tonight. Each of these esteemed jurists is a trailblazer in the profession. We were also pleased to host a clothing collection for Dressed for Success at the event. This allowed us individually and collectively to help other women as they begin to pursue their own professional pathways.

Throughout the bar year, the WBA's committees and forums put on an amazing series of events focusing on different paths open to women lawyers. A number of the programs focused on providing women, regardless of the specific path taken, with a toolkit of skills needed to navigate the way. This toolkit is critical as we all face a new normal of uncertain economic times, and in an environment where nearly all of us will have multiple jobs, and a growing number of us will have multiple careers – careers marked by constant re-invention and change. These skills range from business development, explored in programs like "Developing Your Own Business," to "Networking 101." Programs such as "Persuading with Passion" and understanding "The Impact of Tone" focused on how women communicate and the importance of doing so with clarity and confidence. A recurring book club, new to the WBA this year, explored women in leadership through a focus on works such as "How Remarkable Women Lead" and "The Corner Office." Finally, navigating work/life balance – a critical aspect of many of our lives and something that impacts women regardless of practice setting – was explored through programs including "How Does She Do It: Succeeding in the Legal Profession While Raising a Family," and "Successfully Road Mapping a Detour in Your Legal Career."

Next, thinking globally, a number of the WBA's programs focused on international aspects of the law. These included programs like "Women in Power: International Arbitration," "Rising Technologies: A White House Perspective on Global Internet Policies," "Pursuing Rights & Remedies in China: Being Prepared," and "Human Trafficking: Is The Solution Beyond the Scope of Domestic Legal Mechanisms?"

Focusing on the fact that career shifts and transitions continue to occur throughout our careers, the WBA's Membership Committee hosted a series of Road Shows at law firms and law schools to give potential members at every career stage an opportunity to learn about the WBA generally, and the very special leadership and professional development opportunities the WBA offers to them as women attorneys. We were especially thrilled to reach out to law students, in recognition that the path to success and fulfillment as a woman lawyer – and the need to develop knowledge regarding the options open to women lawyers in the 21st century and the tools needed to pursue these options – begins well before law school graduation. Even here the WBA broke new ground: in addition to hosting Road Shows for day students at the University of the District of Columbia and the Howard University School of Law, the WBA hosted a special program for students enrolled in the night programs of local law schools, recognizing that even in pursuing a legal degree, the model of a student attending law school straight from college and on a full-time basis for three years is changing. At the other end of the spectrum from law students, the WBA also began new outreach to its sustaining members – to whom we give a special thanks – including extending our sustaining members a special invitation to a discussion with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the National Press Club, in connection with co-sponsorship of a National Women's Law Center event on the 40th Anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in Reed v. Reed. We plan to continue to emphasize the many offerings of the WBA that are of benefit to women lawyers at all stages in their careers.

Internally, the WBA took a number of governance-related steps designed to ensure that the WBA's next 95 years are as vibrant and successful as its first 95. As part of a focus on governance, the WBA Board focused on succession planning, identifying and nurturing future leaders of the WBA and the local and national bar at large. The WBA also continued to implement its three-year strategic plan, and build upon its relationship with other local and national affinity bars. Finally, we enhanced our own international presence, participating in the 2012 International Women's Day Summit, a joint undertaking by the National Association of Women Lawyers and the Law Society of England and Wales, in London.

The WBA covered a lot of ground in the 2011-2012 bar year, but there is more ground yet to cover. The fourth phase of the WBA's groundbreaking **Initiative on Advancement and Retention of Women**, focused on the unique challenges and opportunities and changing legal landscape offers for women lawyers today and going forward was rolled out in the spring of 2012. An Initiative Summit, featuring high level panels addressing our four main Initiative ideas, will take place in November 2012 at the George Washington University School of Law. We extend each of you an invitation in advance to what is sure to be a fantastic event, culminating in another groundbreaking WBA publication.

All in all, it's been a busy year for the WBA. The WBA Foundation has been busy as well and WBAF President Tracey Durkin will tell you more about what the Foundation has been up to – and will introduce a very special presentation featuring some of the wonderful organizations funded by the Foundation through its grants this year.

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## **State of the WBA Foundation**

*Remarks by 2011-2012 WBA Foundation President Tracy-Gene G. Durkin at the 2012 Annual Dinner*

The WBA Foundation was created 30 years ago by the WBA in order to fulfill its philanthropic goals. The year the Foundation was created, 1981, held both highs and lows for women in this country

- Congress failed to pass the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution - obviously the low.
- And the high - Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first woman to serve on the U.S Supreme Court.

In the past 30 years, many things have changed for the better for women, but one thing has remained constant—the serious needs of the less fortunate in our community. Recently, the

WBA Foundation sharpened its focus on the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC metropolitan community. This year, we are proud to announce that at our Grantee Awards Ceremony on May 2, we gave grants to five very special organizations that I want to introduce you to now. In awarding these grants, we increased our minimum grant amount to \$5,000. By leveraging the resources of our individual donors, the Foundation grants provide an even greater impact on our grantees. [Click here](#) to view the video of the Foundation's 2012 grant recipients.

Representatives from each of our grantees are here tonight and I would like to ask you each to stand. Please join me in congratulating these organizations and thanking them for the important work that they do. I would also like to thank **Leanne Long** and Foundation Board member **Kathy Gunning** for creating this very special video.

In addition to our grants, five years ago the WBA Foundation established a Founders Fellowship in the name of the founders of the Women's Bar Association, Ellen Spencer Mussey and Emma Gillett. Our Fellowship provides a stipend for a local law student to intern over the summer with a non-profit organization that is providing legal assistance to women and girls in the DC community. This year's recipient is **Rebekah Zimmerman**, a second year law student at the Catholic University of America. Rebekah, who is here with us tonight, will be working this summer with The Children's Law Center. Congratulations Rebekah!

For those of you who supported the WBA Foundation this year, thank you. I hope you are proud of how we have invested your contributions in organizations that are taking a holistic approach to providing legal services to women and girls in our community. To those of you who have not supported the Foundation before, please take the first step tonight. With your support, the WBA Foundation will be around for the next 30 years.

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## 2012 Woman Lawyer of the Year

*Remarks by Katia Garrett, Executive Director, DC Bar Foundation*

Thank you Marna for that generous introduction. And thank you Monica and the Women's Bar Association of DC for this incredible honor. Thanks to my parents, who instilled in me a small town sense of civic responsibility and a Swiss sense that there is no problem that can't be organized into a solution; to my mother-in-law whose sense of justice is equaled only by her sense of humor; to my wonderful family, including my great girls, who every day make me a better person; to the people I have had the pleasure, great fortune, and honor to work with over the years; to my friends, who have come from busy lives both near and far, to celebrate; and above all, thank you to my husband, Don Salzman, who every day sets for me the standard of what it means to be smart, committed to justice, kind, and fun.

The theme of the award this year is 're-envisioning the path for women lawyers'— a path that is no longer a straight line. I understand that I am here, in part, because my career path is not seen as carving a straight line.

It is a path that has included 10 job changes, crisscrossing the courts, the private sector, the government, and the nonprofit sector. It has included litigation, policy work, mediation, and now the work I am fortunate to do at the DC Bar Foundation. It is a path that has included a three-month break to learn Spanish in Central America. It is a path that has included regular volunteer and pro bono legal work in our community. It is a path, like many here, that has expanded to include a family.

I want to suggest to you, however, that whether this path is seen as "straight" may depend more on one's point of view than on the shape of the path itself. Career paths are often defined in solely in terms of promotions, changes in title, and increases in salary. Don't get me wrong — those things are important. It is important that women are executive directors, and managing partners, and chief judges, and presidents. It is important that women's wages are equal to men's. It is important that women are able to advance as readily as men. I believe that. I have worked for that.

But who we are, and what we achieve, is not simply the sum of the promotions, and titles, and

salary we've received.

The women who came before us fought to anchor the right to make meaningful choices: choices in our personal lives, in our careers, and in how we define ourselves. The chance to make choices is a great gift. And, I believe, it is a gift that calls on each of us to do more than simply choose a profession. It has given us the freedom to define how we are in the world. We get to set the coordinates that chart our course. That is the real choice. Not "what" we do – but "why" we do.

In one of the first interviews I went on in law school, a partner at the firm asked me why I wanted to be a lawyer. "Because I believe in justice," I answered. He laughed. But I got the job. You see, though, I really do believe in justice. I really do believe that we can choose to make the world a better place. For me, and for many here tonight, working towards justice is the touchstone. It is the "why." It explains our choices. It provides the compass and sets the course. So with that as the lens, the path I have taken may look straighter. It is heading in one direction -- towards justice.

Having clarified that, I'll now muddy it up again: because folding a family into any career changes the shape of its path. That is true whether the family you are folding in includes children, parents, or partners. For my part, I have chosen to work part-time to give me more time to be there for and with my kids. This presents challenges as we work together to find balance. My girls have come with me to meetings, they have seen their dad in court, and together, we have learned the quickest route to most of the soccer fields in the area. So the path I have taken is not perfect, but it is mostly a straight line – because I believe a strong family is key to a strong community. And a strong community provides a foundation for justice.

There is one thing I must make clear about the choices I have made and the challenges I have faced: I have had bosses, mentors, colleagues, and friends who have confronted these same choices and challenges. I do not stand here alone. None of us does. So to truly re-envision lawyering – remember that. And don't just march to the beat of a different drummer. Bring your own drum. We will make wonderful music.

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This event is open to lawyers from solo and small firms, as well as attorneys looking to join solo or small firm life.

Thursday, July 18, 2012

### [What Every Partner Wants You to Know](#)

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## White House Judicial Vacancy Briefing

By Pamela Berman, President-Elect, *National Conference of Women's Bar Associations*

On Monday, May 7, 2012, representatives of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations (the "NCWBA") were invited to meet with approximately 150 concerned citizens, legal experts and community leaders from 27 states and 29 national organizations to learn about the serious vacancy crisis in the federal court system. Current NCWBA President **Cezy Collins**, Past President **Mary Sharp** and President-Elect **Pam Berman** attended a White House Briefing held at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, DC.

**Attorney General Eric Holder** began the Briefing explaining that the Senate Republicans' refusal to vote upon the President's judicial nominees has caused delays in filling judicial vacancies of historic proportion. As of May 1, 2012, 9% (79) of the federal judgeships remained vacant as opposed to only 5% (48) at the same time in George W. Bush's Presidency. As of May 6, 2012, not a single judicial nominee submitted by President Obama during 2012 had been confirmed by the Senate. **Kathy Ruemmler**, Assistant and Counsel to the President spoke next explaining President Obama's nominees have on average waited four times as long between committee approval and a vote from the full Senate as did President George W. Bush's nominees at this point in his term. Once the obstructionist tactics are exhausted, the vast majority of these nominees are confirmed overwhelmingly.

A panel of speakers including **Ed Pagano**, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, **Chris Kang**, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Counsel and **Heather Zichal**, Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change, explained many of the reasons for the delay in the approval of the nominees were largely hidden behind Senate procedures. Under procedures adopted by Chairman Leahy as a bipartisan courtesy to his fellow senators, the Judiciary Committee does not consider a judicial nominee until both of that nominee's home-state senators have submitted a "blue slip" allowing the nominee to move forward. The submission of a blue slip does not imply support of the nominee - merely that the nomination should be considered by the Judiciary Committee.

Despite the serious implications of withholding a blue slip, senators can do so without giving a reason and even without a public statement - making it impossible to know how often the practice occurs. However, several recent incidents that have been publicized show just how willing some Republican senators are to prevent unquestionably qualified and mainstream nominees from even reaching a Senate hearing.

In Arizona, a two year-old emergency vacancy remains unfilled despite the existence of a well-qualified nominee who has been waiting since June 2011 for a Senate hearing. **Rosemary Marquez**, President Obama's nominee, was rated unanimously qualified by the ABA and has the support of a large cross-section of Arizona's legal community. But Senators McCain and Kyl have held up the nomination for ten months by refusing to submit their blue slips to the Judiciary Committee.

Other techniques used to prevent voting upon the nominees are filibusters, not showing up at Judiciary Committee hearings to prevent the presence of a quorum, and using walk-outs or hold-overs to prevent the Judiciary Committee from voting on all but 5 of more than 150 nominees. The result of the Republicans using nearly every procedural tactic at their disposal to stall President Obama's judicial nominees has led to a record vacancy crisis in the federal courts and inexcusable delay for Americans seeking justice.

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After the panel discussion, we broke into smaller groups to strategize how we might work with our Senators in specific states to urge them to facilitate voting upon the judicial nominees and ending the gridlock.

Pam Berman, representing the NCWBA and Massachusetts, with a group of 11 others from different groups and areas of the country, met with President Obama to discuss concerns the group had about how the failure to fill the judicial vacancies was adversely impacting members of their groups and their parts of the country. The group first met with **Valerie Jarrett**, Senior Adviser to the President. Three members of the group had prepared remarks which they shared and then others added their concerns. President Obama came into the room, shook hands with each person, sat down at the table, and began an interactive discussion about his frustration with the Senate's blockage of his judicial nominees and his wanting to hear how it affected people, and ideas on overcoming the obstacles.

Some of the prepared remarks were shared with the President. Berman explained that the NCWBA was pleased with the Obama administration's efforts to nominate more women and minorities to the bench, but was frustrated with the failure to obtain their confirmations. She said that she thought an organization like the NCWBA could be of assistance if provided with the kind of detailed information we learned during the Briefing about the specific actions taken by Senators from each state who were engaging in obstructionist behavior. We, as a national organization of state and local organizations, could provide that information to our state and local organizations who in turn, could provide the information to their members and the press. This kind of information, rather than the general "there is gridlock in DC," would give meaning to who is responsible for keeping women and minority nominees from being appointed to the bench, and the informed voters could act accordingly. President Obama was very energized and positive about these comments. He said that the obstructionist Senators did not feel any pressure from the Washington press but would likely feel a lot of pressure from voters in their home states and the local press. He thought that this was a promising avenue to pursue in the future.

The discussion with the President lasted for approximately 30 minutes. He was engaging, putting everyone at ease, and truly interested in the give and take.

At the conclusion of our meeting with the President, we each met with staff members of the Senators of our respective states to discuss the information we had learned, probed where our Senators stood on the issues and what, if anything, they were doing to move judicial nominees forward to obtain a vote upon them. At the conclusion of those meetings, we met for a "debriefing" session to share what we had learned from our meetings with the Senate staff members.

It was an incredibly interesting day. For this author, it was a once in a lifetime opportunity for which I am forever grateful to the NCWBA. It is a day that will not soon be forgotten. We have much to do and are working on following up with our members.

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This article originally appeared in the May 2012 [National Conference of Women's Bar Associations](#) newsletter and is reprinted with permission.

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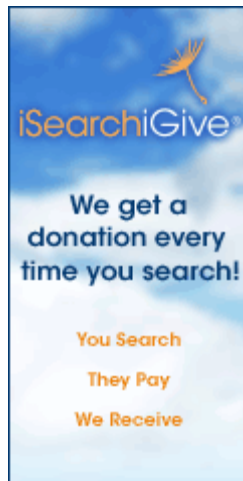
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## WBA Foundation President's Letter



By Kirra Jarratt

I am honored to serve as President of the Women's Bar Association Foundation and look forward to bringing you news about our activities. I want to thank **Tracy Durkin** for her leadership during the past two years as we have revised our mission statement, adopted a strategic plan, and reformed our grants process. I also want to thank outgoing board members **Barbara Burr, Lorna Kent, Karen Lockwood, Ama Romaine, and Diana Savit** for their service and dedication to the mission of the Foundation and its work.

The Foundation's immediate focus is fulfillment of our Year 1 Strategic Plan priorities: branding and infrastructure. We want those looking to support the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC area to be aware of us, and we want nonprofits providing these services to look to us as a funding source. An improved infrastructure will support these efforts and broaden our reach.

I invite you to view the video of our current grant recipients, now available on our website at [www.wbadcfoundation.org](http://www.wbadcfoundation.org), to learn more about our grantees and understand the passion behind the Foundation's work. Five worthy organizations are furthering the WBAF mission of supporting the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC Metropolitan community. **Break the Cycle** will expand their legal services program for victims of teen dating violence. **Courtney's House** will provide attorneys with a free training conference on domestic sex trafficking from a survivor's perspective. The **Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment Appeals Project**, our \$10,000 super grantee from last year, will continue to spearhead domestic violence litigation in the Supreme Court. **Our Place DC** will provide legal services to women who are or have been in the criminal justice system. And the **Polaris Project** will launch a network to recruit and train attorneys to provide pro bono legal services to victims of human trafficking.

I also invite you to **make a donation** to the Foundation to support our continued efforts to identify and fund nonprofits that are focused on the legal and related needs of women and girls in our community. The need is great and by leveraging our giving, our impact can be that much more powerful.

Kirra Jarratt  
2012-2013 WBAF President

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## WBAF 2011-2012 Donors

Many thanks to our supporters! The following donors have made a gift to the WBA Foundation between May 1, 2012 and May 31, 2012. These gifts will be used to support nonprofits that serve the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC Metropolitan community. For a list of all fiscal year donors and recognition of giving levels, visit [www.wbadcfoundation.org](http://www.wbadcfoundation.org).

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## Federal Government Work Details

*By Brianne Kurdock, U.S. Department of Transportation*

On April 17, 2012, the **Government Attorneys Forum** hosted a panel discussion titled "Federal Government Work Details: Benefits for your Career; Pitfalls to Avoid." The program was hosted by **Adrienne E. Clair** (Co-Chair of the Energy Law Forum) and her law firm, **Stinson Morrison Hecker, LLP**. The program featured four attorneys from across government: **Laura Barhydt**, Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement, U.S. Department of Energy; **Heather Beard**, Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation Branch, National Labor Relations Board; **Melissa Patterson**, Civil Appellate Division of the U.S. Department of Justice; and **Monique Abrishami**, Public Integrity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division. The panelists' details included stints at the White House, the U.S. Department of Energy, the DC AUSA's office, and the NLRB's Regional Offices in Manhattan and New Orleans.

The panelists discussed how to secure work details (otherwise known as temporary work assignments) both inside and outside their home agency and offered suggestions to attendees interested in seeking out details. They spoke about the benefits of details for their own careers such as developing new skills, learning the inner workings of their agencies, and obtaining promotions and job offers. Speakers also highlighted the importance of maintaining effective communication between the host agency and home agency and discussed the nuts and bolts required to set up a work detail, which vary greatly between agencies.

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## Communications Law Forum Tours SiriusXM Satellite Radio Facilities

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

On Thursday, April 26, 2012, the **Communications Law Forum** presented a tour of the studio and satellite facilities of SiriusXM Satellite Radio, Inc. as part of its Focus on Industry brown bag lunch series. Held at SiriusXM's state-of-the-art studios in northeast DC, the program featured SiriusXM representatives providing a fascinating overview of the origins of the company and its business operations, as well as showcasing the latest cutting-edge developments in satellite radio technology.

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The program opened with SiriusXM Vice President and Regulatory Counsel, **Jim Blitz**, who gave an overview of the structure of the organization and described the developments leading to the merger of XM Radio Inc., which began offering service in September 2001 as a small start-up company based in Washington, DC, with Sirius Satellite Radio, Inc., which was headquartered in New York City and started service in early 2002. Together, Sirius and XM offer hundreds of channels of music, entertainment, news, and sports programming, as well as weather and data information services to subscribers. Their satellite radio receivers are used in cars, trucks, boats, and homes, and are available for portable use. Mr. Blitz also mentioned that the combined company's legal department consists of about 14 attorneys, some based in New York City and others located in DC, who handle a wide range of legal issues affecting the company including securities transactions, employment law, copyright protection, and regulatory compliance.

SiriusXM Vice President of Broadcast Operations, **John Archer**, talked about some of the legal, financial, and technical challenges involved in getting a satellite radio business up and running, including securing the radio licenses from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and managing the complexities involved in launching and operating the satellite systems. Mr. Archer explained how satellite radio technology works and the considerable financial investment that is needed to operate the business effectively. He discussed the difficulties the merged company faced in integrating the Sirius and XM satellite operating systems because of the significant engineering differences in the design of each company's facilities, satellite infrastructure and receivers. Mr. Archer also touched on the SiriusXM business model, which relies heavily on subscriptions and agreements with car dealers to install satellite radio receivers in the vehicles they offer for sale, and the stiff competition that the company faces from a number of sources: traditional, such as terrestrial radio and CDs, and those that weren't contemplated when the business first started, such as Internet-based radio and music applications.

Mr. Archer then led the group on a tour of the studio facilities where the participants could view the satellite equipment and the network operations control center, as well as the satellite earth station located at the DC headquarters and the library storing over 10,000 music recordings required for copyright protection. Attendees also had the chance to see some of the on-the-air programming in progress, including the taping of The Bob Edwards Show, and to visit the studios where many notable musicians, such as Paul McCartney and the classic rock band, Yes, have performed live and made recordings. It was interesting to learn that video, in addition to audio recordings were made from these live performances.

The Communications Law Forum wishes to thank **SiriusXM** and its representatives, Jim Blitz and John Archer, for hosting this event. Their in-depth knowledge of satellite radio technology and the company's business operations made this tour a truly informative and entertaining program.

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## Expand Your Wardrobe

*By Debbie Tang, Managing Director, Major, Lindsey & Africa; Co-Chair, Young Lawyers Committee*

The "Expand Your Wardrobe and Your Network" event sponsored by the **Young Lawyer's Committee, In-House Counsel Forum, and Career Development Committee** was a huge success. Approximately 45 WBA members and friends participated in the event at Bloomingdale's Chevy Chase, held in late April. The event was held during the Private Sale, and featured a fashion show, personal shopper, and great networking opportunities. Bloomingdale's contributed 10% of all sales that evening to the WBA.

This was the second year we held this event and given the positive feedback, it will be back next year!

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## Member Spotlight: Celeste M. Murphy

Compiled by Jenny Knopinski, Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, General & Administrative Law, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Celeste M. Murphy is Legal Branch Chief in the Office of Telecommunications, Division of Corporation Finance, at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. She supervises a staff of attorneys and other professionals who examine documents filed under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by companies in the telecommunications, online advertising services, and media industries.

Prior to joining the SEC in 2001, Ms. Murphy worked as an associate in the Business Finance and Restructuring Department of Weil, Gotshal and Manges in New York City. She graduated from the State University of New York Buffalo Law School and New York University, and lives in Bethesda, MD with her husband and three children.

### **What committees/forums have you been involved in?**

This past year, I served as a Government Attorneys Forum Co-Chair.

### **Why did you join the Women's Bar Association?**

Twelve years ago, I moved to DC from New York, where I grew up and went to school, and enjoyed a wide support network. That community showed me the importance of relationships in my professional life: an accessible network of people involved in the local legal community. It is important to learn what others are doing, how they are doing it, and the challenges they may be facing professionally and personally. We all learn from each other—up, down, and sideways. Having a "tribe" energizes



Celeste M. Murphy  
Legal Branch Chief, U.S. Securities and  
Exchange Commission, Division of  
Corporation Finance

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you, pushes you ahead, and gives you strength to make difficult decisions and overcome adversity. These colleagues may have experienced some problem you are having and can offer advice as to how to best address the matter. I encourage people to use each other as professional sounding boards when something doesn't feel right and they would like another opinion. The WBA network is filled with talented, educated, and experienced professional women. Sometimes you just need that friend to meet over lunch or dinner to tell you "you can do this!"

### **How did you get involved? How do you stay involved?**

I joined WBA and went to events to meet the members and leadership. I regularly encourage other women to join and what is amazing is that without fail, almost all the professional women I encourage to join the WBA who haven't yet joined respond: "Yes! You know, I have been meaning to do that. I know it's really important." And then I just keep sending them event notices: "Let's go to this together!" Women recognize the importance of the WBA and the network it provides. Many times life seems to get in the way and there aren't enough minutes in the day, but I think it helps to think about the WBA as not only good for your career, it is fun!

This year I served as a Co-Chair of the Government Attorneys Forum, which has been very rewarding. I adore my Co-Chair, Nina Schichor, and have really enjoyed working with the wide array of government attorneys and their interest areas. This position has also helped me to meet many Co-Chairs and current and former leaders of the WBA. In many ways, this experience has helped me to see that being a part of the WBA is being part of something much bigger than yourself. And members and leaders truly help each other and their communities in so many ways.

### **What benefits do you get from being a part of the WBA?**

I enjoy meeting people who are doing different things and the WBA network is diverse. Learning about various practice areas, issues, problems, and solutions fuels creativity in my own work. Comparative analysis can help all of us practice innovation in areas that may initially stump us. Having this information can also be helpful in advocating for a change that could help, but meets resistance organizationally. By having the details of other examples, you create a basis for your proposals. I enjoy applying different solutions to my own work, substantively and organizationally. Just because it hasn't been done doesn't mean it shouldn't.

### **Do you have a mentor/hero? Describe her/his impact on your professional and/or personal life.**

Sheryl Sandberg gave great advice in her 2001 Barnard commencement speech that resonates with me: "Lean way into your career. You're going to find something you love doing, and you're going to do it with gusto. You're going to pick your field and you're going to ride it all the way to the top." I reiterate her encouragement to "think big" and "close the ambition gap" between men and women. I agree with her that "[l]eadership belongs to those who take it. Leadership starts with you." I also appreciate her honesty in identifying issues with which we still grapple; including studies that show that "success and likeability are positively correlated for men and negatively correlated for women." We need to work hard to crack this problem that as women get more powerful and successful, everyone, including women, likes them less. We need to support each other and build each other up. She is candid in telling women that choosing your life partner who supports you makes a difference: it's everything. In many ways, her speech was a welcome confirmation of issues I have faced and my response to various obstacles.

### **What words of advice do you have for women new to the profession?**

Engage yourself. Do not allow others to define you and your limitations; those decisions are for you to make and you owe it to yourself to proactively consider your potential and assess what success looks like for you. Just because it hasn't been done before doesn't mean it shouldn't be done. And do not be afraid to ask. What support are you not getting and you need? For example, would some flexibility in your work schedule improve your work/life balance? Ask for it. Would a longer maternity leave mean the world to you? Ask for it. Are you undercompensated? Make your case for more. In my experience, I am stunned to hear accomplished hard-working professional women undercut themselves and make statements that indicate they feel they may not be considered to deserve some accommodation. Do not underestimate your worth to your professional organizations. Set high expectations for your leaders and your partners in your personal relationships. Delegate tasks regularly and coach people into what you need and how you need it.

### **What is the best advice you have received?**

Cultivate and foster your culture. Consider the environment you want to work in and your brand of leadership. Be intentional in how you are running your work, your group and your world: (1) Know you have something to contribute and demonstrate your commitment to considering alternate viewpoints taking new approaches. Your contributions model engagement to your team and demonstrate engagement to your leadership. (2) Cultivate focus and application, commit to excellence and teach your team the same. (3) Foster your creativity and provide solutions to challenging problems, considering the possibilities and providing growth and development opportunities for your team with the tools and flexibility to distinguish themselves. (4) Listen carefully, seek first to understand and learn by listening.

#### **In what other organizations are you involved?**

Civic organizations are important to me. I am currently an active supporter of a couple in my community, including Montgomery County Community Gardens and Maryland Families for Safe Birth. I will also be a lifelong supporter of Le Leche League. In Montgomery County, MD, I have been very active in our Community Garden. My children and I love organic gardening in the garden at the park behind our house. Getting out to the garden alone in the early morning has become a real passion for me. Last year my daughter and I maintained an entire plot of flowers. Half of the plot was cutting flowers and the other half edible flowers with which we garnished every plate. Teaching botany, biology, math, pollination, and where food comes from, among other things, to my children this way has been a thrill.

I am also active in Maryland Families for Safe Birth, to legalize Certified Professional Midwives in Maryland. There have been four homebirths with midwives on my neighborhood block in five years – two of them mine! Women need midwives. Significantly, professional women should understand the impact of birth choice, a reproductive right, on the entirety of your life, including your professional career. Better births are less technical births that include evidence-based care. The cesarean epidemic and cascade of unnecessary harmful medical interventions have hurt a lot of women and babies, leaving these women to pick up the pieces which can be extra challenging in getting back to work and maximizing professional engagement.

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## **Members in the News**

### **Benitez Joins Steptoe & Johnson LLP**

**Brigida Benitez**, previously chief of the office of institutional integrity within the Inter-American Development Bank, joined the Washington office of Steptoe & Johnson LLP. Her practice revolves around dispute resolution, international litigation, arbitration, internal investigations, and anti-corruption issues. Ms. Benitez's work focuses on Latin America.



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### **Abshire Appointed to Columbus School of Law Board of Visitors**

**Amanda West Abshire**, of McGuireWoods LLP, was recently selected to serve on the board of visitors for The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. Members of the

board serve as counselors to the dean of the law school, with particular focus on strengthening the academic program and educational goals of the law school and improving its visibility and image, nationally and internationally. Members of the board are appointed by the dean of the law school for a renewable term of three years. Ms. Abshire will also be teaching a judicial opinion writing class at Catholic University in the fall.

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## Romaine Promoted at Hilton

**Ama Romaine** has been promoted to the position of Vice President & Senior Counsel, Brands at Hilton Worldwide.

In this new role, Ms. Romaine will be responsible for leading the legal team's support of Hilton's brand management functions worldwide, including advertising, marketing, and intellectual property.

Ms. Romaine joined the Hilton Worldwide in 2009.



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## Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC Receives Two Workplace Honors

**Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC** was recognized by the Washington Business Journal as one of the top 50 best companies to work for in the Greater Washington area. Sterne Kessler was ranked #3 in the category of "Large Companies with Local Headquarters." This is the firm's third listing (previous honors were in 2005 and 2009).

Sterne, Kessler was also honored with the **Bar Association of the District of Columbia's 15th Annual Constance L. Belfiore Quality of Life Award**. The BADC Quality of Life Committee annually selects a law firm who has demonstrated outstanding efforts to promote both professional and personal quality of life within the firm. Sterne, Kessler was recognized for the professional satisfaction voiced by firm employees, the firm's balanced hours and student associate programs, affinity and charitable programs, the firm's overall effective response to recent economic declines, and overall the quality of life within the firm.

WBA members at Sterne, Kessler include **Bonnie Nannenga-Combs**, **Tracy Muller** (WBA Board member), and **Elizabeth Haanes**, as well as Sustaining Members **Gaby Longworth**, **Tracy-Gene Durkin** (WBA past president and WBA Foundation immediate past president), and **Robert Sterne**.

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## WBA Members Elected to DC Bar

Congratulations to the WBA members who were recently elected to the DC Bar Board of Directors! **Andrea C. Ferster**, the Law Offices of Andrea C. Ferster, was elected President-Elect. Ms. Ferster currently serves on the D.C. Bar Board of Governors and is a former



treasurer.

**Marianela Peralta**, Walmart Stores Inc., was elected to the Board of Governors.

**Lucy Thomson**, Computer Sciences Corporation, and **John C. Cruden**, Environmental Law Institute, were elected to two-year terms on the American Bar Association House of Delegates.

The newly elected officers, board members, and delegates will be inducted at the DC Bar Awards Dinner and Annual Meeting on June 19.

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## Washington Business Journal Philanthropy Awards

A number of firms with WBA members were recognized by the Washington Business Journal's 2012 Corporate Philanthropy Awards. Firms with the most pro bono hours performed in 2011 included **Arnold & Porter LLP** (46,000 hours), **DLA Piper LLP** (32,258 hours); **Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP** (26,782 hours); **Hogan Lovells U.S. LLP** (21,000 hours); **Crowell & Moring LLP** (16,000 hours), **Venable LLP** (15,457 hours); **Kirkland & Ellis LLP** (15,048 hours); **Dickstein Shapiro LLP** (14,953 hours), **Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP** (14,828 hours); **McDermott Will & Emery LLP** (12,028 hours); **Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP** (10,558 hours); **Hunton & Williams LLP** (10,000 hours); **Morrison & Foerster LLP** (9,900 hours); **Bryan Cave LLP** (9,746 hours); **Wiley Rein LLP** (9,524 hours); **Sidley Austin LLP** (8,440 hours); **Winston & Strawn LLP** (8,162 hours); **Fulbright & Jaworski LLP** (6,159 hours); and **Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP** (6,008 hours).

The Corporate Philanthropy Awards also recognized companies with the most local giving in 2011. Companies with WBA members were well-represented on this list as well: **Booz Allen Hamilton Inc.** (\$3.49 million); **Deloitte LLP** (\$1.26 million); **Venable LLP** (\$1.14 million); **Kirkland & Ellis LLP** (\$422,760); **DLA Piper LLP** (\$376,067); **Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP** (\$256,120); **Latham & Watkins LLP** (\$223,000); **Gilbert LLP** (\$100,427); and **Troutman Sanders LLP** (\$62,991).

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## Welcome New Members

R. Elizabeth Brenner-Leifer  
Cheryl Chado  
Jennifer Drugay Cook  
Liz B. Craig  
Vanessa Eisemann  
Georgia Garthwaite  
Daniele Eubanks Herndon  
Heather Hutchinson  
Jan Amber Larson  
Hannah Lieberman

Sheryl Lincoln  
Sandra Dee Lord  
Jesse K. Martin  
Amy K. Matsui  
Amy McQuade  
Sharon W. Nokes  
Gail A. Pierce  
Natasha Regan  
Valerie Turner Walls  
Christal Mims Williams

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## Events

Thursday, July 11, 2012  
**[Solo and Small Practice Monthly Luncheon](#)**

This event is open to lawyers from solo and small firms, as well as attorneys looking to join solo or small firm life.

Thursday, July 18, 2012  
**[What Every Partner Wants You to Know](#)**

To build a successful and fulfilling legal career, associates know they need to create a niche and develop an impeccable reputation and professional network - but how? This workshop encapsulates insights, suggestions and key "dos" and "don'ts" from successful partners at a cross-section of top law firms - all gathered through confidential in-depth interviews. Learn how to communicate effectively to understand assignments and gain partners' trust, showcase your strengths and develop your niche, and build a professional network to support you in managing your career and

## President's Column



By Laura Possessky, WBA President

The Women's Bar Association has a long history of leadership in the face of change. Founded in 1917, the WBA began as the sole professional forum to admit women lawyers. Since then, WBA women have blazed a trail right through the 20th century and well into the 21st, effecting change along the way.

If our past is any indication, I hold great hope for our future. With the dramatic changes in recent years, we all have encountered many challenges and obstacles. Fortunately for us, the WBA has considerable expertise in dealing with change. From the 1920 passage of the right to vote, to the Family Medical Leave Act, the WBA has supported women through all manner of career and life transitions. The WBA exemplifies change leadership.

The WBA builds resiliency to change. Today, change is happening swiftly and in unprecedented ways. The WBA offers programs designed to aid navigating the dramatic changes to law practice and to gain the skills necessary for our members to be change leaders in the workplace.

The WBA promotes positive change. Starkly contrasted from the myriad of environmental changes, opportunities for women's advancement in the profession have remained constant despite significant increases in the number of experienced women practicing law today. The number of women elevated to key leadership positions in our profession - namely equity partner, general counsel, judgeship and political office - has not kept pace. The WBA will continue its multi-phase **[Initiative on Advancement and Retention of Women](#)**, until we make inroads.

The WBA must also contemplate internal change. With the degree of external changes happening around us, the WBA, like everyone else, must take an introspective look at what we do, why we do it and how we get it done. To ensure the WBA continues to be a vibrant and relevant part of this legal community and a resource to women, it must also be an agent of change from within to increase engagement with members.

As we look ahead, we realize our nearly 100 years of experience offers us the substance and guidance to accomplish a great deal. For nearly a century, WBA women have stood as beacons of leadership, instruments of change in the profession and the embodiment of the ideals of our profession. The WBA calls on all of us to rise to the standards of excellence created by the generations of women before us.

I invite you to join me and the WBA as we chart a course for change, for we must all work together to ensure greater opportunities for the future of women in the legal profession.

Laura Possessky  
2012-2013 President

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establishing a strong reputation  
over the long term.



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