

July/August 2012 Issue

In This Issue

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member Spotlight](#)

[Member News](#)

About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of Directors](#)

[Sustaining Members](#)

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Member Spotlight

Committees and Forums

WBA Golf Clinic



If you turned on the television at the end of June, you probably got a glimpse of a lush green fairways and the well-manicured golf course at the AT&T National Tournament. Recently, we were able to experience first-hand the trials and tribulations not of the courtroom, but of the golf course, at the same beautiful venue.

On June 8, 2012, TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm opened its doors to more than 45 members and guests of the WBA, thanks to the gracious hospitality of our host and workshop/seminar presenter **Rose Harper**, and the hard work of the WBA staff and the WBA Golf Committee including avid golfers **Kathy Barlow**, of Marsh, Inc.; WBA Past President **Monica Parham**, of Crowell & Moring; WBA Treasurer **Daria Neal**, of the U.S. Department of Justice; David Hurwitz, Ameriprise; and golf ringer **Carolyn Clarkin**, of the Environmental Law Institute, (who played on the Bucknell Golf team). ...

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Transitioning Into and Out of Small Firms

The WBA **Tax & Business Forum** and **Solo and Small Practice Forum** joined to present "Transitioning Into and Out of Small Firms," on Thursday, June 28, 2012.

The event started with a presentation by **Carlean Ponder**, Attorney Advisor with the Office of Appellate Operations, Social Security

Events

Wednesday, September 12, 2012
Stars of the Bar

The Stars of the Bar Fall Networking reception is the WBA's largest no-cost networking event and kicks off the WBA's program year. It is typically attended by more than 300 attorneys, including judges, law students, and leaders in the DC legal community. The event offers a professional and friendly environment to network with other attorneys, including WBA members and WBA leadership. Each year at this event, the WBA honors and publicly salutes star-quality local attorneys. Attendees 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. Representatives from the WBA Foundation leadership are present to answer your questions, alert attendees to upcoming events, and help members get more involved in the WBA and the WBA Foundation.

Wednesday, September 19, 2012
Presidential Appointments Panel

This panel discussion is presented by the WBA in each presidential election year. It features prominent presidential appointees who share their experiences about the appointment process. A bi-partisan event, it features women from both Democratic and Republican administrations spanning several decades.

President's Column

Vickey Wright-Smith is a solo-practitioner in the guardianship, intervention, and administration of state areas of law. She has been a member of the WBA chapter since 2009. ...

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Member News

[Blakely Publishes Second “Best Friends at the Bar” Book](#)

[Chapman receives TLA Honor: Named as Super Lawyer](#)

[Polydor Promoted at El Camino Career Service](#)

[McQuade Chairing VA State Bar Disciplinary Board](#)

[Eisemann Takes Position at USCCR](#)

[Lockwood Named Executive Director of National Institute for Trial Advocacy](#)

[Jackson Joins Littler Mendelson](#)

[Welcome New Members](#)

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Administration. Ms. Ponder began her legal career in 2005 as a summer associate in the Washington, DC office of Porter Wright Morris & Arthur and continued on as an associate with the firm after obtaining her J.D. from the University of Illinois in 2006. ...

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WBA Membership Roadshows

Interested in learning more about the WBA? Consider have a WBA Roadshow at your firm or law school. The WBA has developed a Roadshow as a member outreach program with the goal of introducing the many benefits of the WBA to our community. It is sometimes hard to find the time to participate in external networking opportunities. In a WBA Roadshow, we bring the WBA to you! ...

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By Laura Possessky, WBA President

If You Had the Chance to Change Your Fate, Would You?
- *Mérida, Brave*

Women made a splash this summer in film and television with a refreshingly robust line-up of strong female leads. ... These characters unapologetically take charge, solve complex problems of considerable political importance, and engage others to successfully accomplish strategic goals. We are emotionally drawn in to rally behind strong characters displaying exemplary leadership—and they are women.

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WBA Foundation

WBA Foundation President's Letter

The WBA Foundation’s mission is to leverage the generosity of lawyers and friends to support nonprofits that serve the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC Metropolitan community. We further our mission through our annual grants program, which supports local nonprofits, and our Founders Fellowship program, awarded to a law student from one of our seven local law schools. ...

[read more ...](#)

In This Issue

[WBA and WBA Foundation 2012 Annual Dinner Highlights](#)

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member News](#)

[Feature: White House Judicial Vacancy Briefing](#)

[back to front page](#)

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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

and help members get more involved in the WBA and the WBA Foundation.

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About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of Directors](#)

[Sustaining Members](#)



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.

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.”

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.

[back to top](#)

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[back to !\[\]\(3d8c13c92b853674f749aac6fa869926_img.jpg\) top](#)

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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.

[back to top](#)

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.

[back to top](#)

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.

[back to top](#)

In This Issue

[WBA and WBA Foundation 2012 Annual Dinner Highlights](#)

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member News](#)

[Feature: White House Judicial Vacancy Briefing](#)

[back to front page](#)

Events

Wednesday, September 12, 2012
[Stars of the Bar](#)

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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.

and help members get more involved in the WBA and the WBA Foundation.

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Presidential Appointments Panel

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About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of Directors](#)

[Sustaining Members](#)

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.

This article originally appeared in the May 2012 **National Conference of Women's Bar Associations** newsletter and is reprinted with permission.

[back to top](#)

July/August 2012 Issue

In This Issue

[President's Column](#)

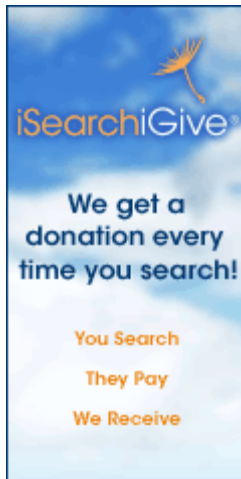
[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member Spotlight](#)

[Member News](#)

[back to front page](#)



Events

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Stars of the Bar

The Stars of the Bar Fall Networking reception is the WBA's largest no-cost networking event and kicks off the WBA's program year. It is typically attended by more than 300 attorneys, including judges, law students, and leaders in the DC legal community. The event offers a professional and friendly environment to network with other attorneys, including WBA members and WBA leadership.

WBA
FOUNDATION **Donate Now**

WBA Foundation President's Letter



By Kirra Jarratt

The WBA Foundation's mission is to leverage the generosity of lawyers and friends to support nonprofits that serve the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC Metropolitan community. We further our mission through our annual grants program, which supports local nonprofits, and our Founders Fellowship program, awarded to a law student from one of our seven local law schools.

Although some of the funds the Foundation raises each year are from corporations and other foundations, the vast majority of these funds are from individuals. When pooled together, these individual contributions make a huge impact on local nonprofit organizations.

One of our grantees this year is [Courtney's House](#), a Washington, DC organization that helps girls and boys between the ages of 12 and 18 who are survivors of sex trafficking. [According to the FBI](#), human sex trafficking is the most common form of modern-day slavery. It estimates that there are millions of domestic and international victims.

Courtney's House is dedicated to addressing the overlooked issues of domestic sex trafficking by providing essential services to survivors. They offer intensive case management services, educational assistance, survivor-led support groups, trauma recovery counseling, and group therapy (art, dance, yoga). In addition to direct services, Courtney's House operates a hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and the street outreach program they use to reach victims here in the District is modeled nationwide. In just two years, Courtney's House has helped more than 600 victims escape from trafficking.

Courtney's House has a small pool of trained attorneys from which to draw when attempting to match a child with an attorney. They need more. With the \$7,500 grant provided by the Foundation, Courtney's House will hold a free training conference for 150 to 200 attorneys on domestic sex trafficking from a survivor's perspective. Only by leveraging the individual donations made to the Foundation could we fund fully the cost of the training that Courtney's House will provide. We need the support of the WBA family to continue to make grants like this that will make a difference.

We have a 100 percent giving goal for the Boards of the Women's Bar Association and WBA Foundation. I invite you to join us by making an online donation today at www.wbadcfoundation.org. As we solicit funds outside of our WBA family, we want to be able to say that our membership is wholly behind our fundraising efforts and the work we are supporting in the DC Metro community.

Each year at this event, the WBA honors and publicly salutes star-quality local attorneys. Attendees 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. Representatives from the WBA Foundation leadership are present to answer your questions, alert attendees to upcoming events, and help members get more involved in the WBA and the WBA Foundation.

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Presidential Appointments

Panel

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About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of Directors](#)

[Sustaining Members](#)

Kirra Jarratt
2012-2013 WBAF President

[back to top](#)

WBAF 2012-2013 Donors

Many thanks to our supporters! The following donors have made a gift the WBA Foundation between June 1, 2012 and July 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.

Believer (\$100 - \$499)

The Honorable Judith Bartnoff
Cynthia D. Hill
M. Elizabeth Medaglia
Jessie A. Roderick

[back to top](#)

July/August 2012 Issue

In This Issue

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member Spotlight](#)

[Member News](#)

[back to front page](#)

Events

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Stars of the Bar

The Stars of the Bar Fall Networking reception is the WBA's largest no-cost networking event and kicks off the WBA's program year. It is typically attended by more than 300 attorneys, including judges, law students, and leaders in the DC legal community. The event offers a professional and friendly environment to network with other attorneys, including WBA members and WBA leadership. Each year at this event, the WBA honors and publicly salutes star-quality local attorneys. Attendees 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. Representatives from the WBA Foundation leadership are present to answer your questions, alert attendees to upcoming events, and help members get more involved in the WBA and the WBA Foundation.

Committee & Forum Highlights:

[WBA Golf Clinic](#)

[Transitioning Into and Out of Small Firms](#)

[WBA Membership Roadshows](#)

WBA Golf Clinic

By Kathy Barlow, Senior Vice President, Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.; Co-Chair, Golf Clinic Committee



If you turned on the television at the end of June, you probably got a glimpse of a lush green fairways and the well-manicured golf course at the AT&T National Tournament. Recently, we were able to experience first-hand the trials and tribulations not of the courtroom, but of the golf course, at the same beautiful venue.

On June 8, 2012, [TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm](#) opened its doors to more than 45 members and guests of the WBA, thanks to the gracious hospitality of our host and workshop/seminar presenter **Rose Harper**, and the hard work of the WBA staff and the WBA Golf Committee including avid golfers **Kathy Barlow**, of Marsh, Inc.; WBA Past President **Monica Parham**, of Crowell & Moring; WBA Treasurer **Daria Neal**, of the U.S. Department of Justice; **David Hurwitz**, Ameriprise; and golf ringer **Carolyn Clarkin**, of the Environmental Law Institute, (who played on the Bucknell Golf team).

Ms. Harper is President and CEO of [The Grass Ceiling, Inc.](#), a business empowerment firm

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Presidential Appointments Panel

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About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of Directors](#)

[Sustaining Members](#)

that uses the game of golf as a platform to help level the playing field for peer level executive women with their male counterparts in the business world. Ms. Harper demystifies the game of golf and demonstrates for executives worldwide how the game is used to do business, promote effective, high-powered human relations, and achieve personal and professional goals.

During Ms. Harper's presentation, *Art of the Deal: Golf*, over lunch, attendees learned many things, including the importance of golf course etiquette and rules, how to get started, why not being on the golf course could cost you business, dressing for the course, and the importance of properly fitting one's clubs.

After lunch, the clinic participants were introduced to the TPC pros, who gave instructions on the mechanics of the game. The pros also tweaked the game of several seasoned and intermediate players. After the hands-on clinic, four teams headed out to the links for a fun nine holes.

One lesson learned from Ms. Harper is that "golf is one of the most effective tools for networking and deal making in today's business world. Business negotiations don't have to be boring—and golf isn't just fun and games. The game promotes and encourages communications and positive bonding between professionals and their peers. That can have positive impact in many ways".

Thanks to the Golf Clinic Committee and to Rose Harper of The Grass Ceiling, for bringing us another great event.

[back to top](#)

Transitioning Into and Out of Small Firms

By *Sonia Lakhany, Garza, Regan & Associates, P.C. and Roya Vasseghi*

The WBA **Tax & Business Forum** and **Solo and Small Practice Forum** joined to present "Transitioning Into and Out of Small Firms," on Thursday, June 28, 2012.

The event started with a presentation by **Carlean Ponder**, Attorney Advisor with the Office of Appellate Operations, Social Security Administration. Ms. Ponder began her legal career in 2005 as a summer associate in the Washington, DC office of Porter Wright Morris & Arthur and continued on as an associate with the firm after obtaining her J.D. from the University of Illinois in 2006.

Knowing that she had a strong interest in civil rights litigation, Ms. Ponder supplemented her work experience at Porter Wright through pro bono work with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Through this work, Ms. Ponder gained valuable litigation experience, which she then leveraged to transition into a fellowship with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights during the 2008 election season. Ms. Ponder pointed out that pro bono work is not only an opportunity for young attorneys to give back, but that in her case, it gave her experience that she would not have otherwise received working as a first year at a law firm.

When her fellowship ended, Ms. Ponder set out to start her own practice. She emphasized the importance of networking, noting that her work with the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights helped build her network of non-profit organizations, which eventually became a part of her client base when she opened her solo practice.

Ms. Ponder offered valuable insight on the challenges of starting a solo practice, and cautioned that opening a solo practice comes with the challenge of sustaining business. She later transitioned from solo practice into her current position with the Social Security Administration. Her work with the agency involves examining administrative law as it pertains to the agency's disability program and providing advice and making recommendations to Administrative Appeals Judges.

The second speaker was **Laura Jordan**, Managing Principal of The Capital Law Firm, PLLC. Ms. Jordan focuses her practice on corporate matters and represents members of the

entertainment industry. Her first position after graduation was with a firm based in New York City, working on a variety of large-scale matters. Among her clients were a Japanese automobile manufacturer and a French luxury goods manufacturer. Ms. Jordan shared that her growing family was one of several factors that ultimately led to her decision to leave the firm and partner with another attorney she had met.

After sharing some of the pitfalls she experienced with her new partner, Ms. Jordan recommended mutual discussions regarding goals for the practice, financial decisions, and work style.

Ms. Jordan's next position was as a partner at Jackson & Campbell, P.C., where she enjoyed her work but found that she preferred the autonomy of being a solo practitioner. She had had some exposure to life as a solo attorney during intermittent intervals in her career and decided to make that a permanent shift. It was then that Ms. Jordan founded The Capital Law Firm, PLLC, and has enjoyed much success and the loyalty of clients that have followed her from prior positions to her current firm.

Some of Ms. Jordan's best advice was the kind that few people have the courage to say out loud: be willing to do the first assignment for free, go the extra mile, and do pro bono work. She emphasized that some of the best clients are found through these unconventional mediums. Ms. Jordan's words were an inspiration to the women in the audience who have been struggling to gain traction with the routine job application process. Ms. Jordan's advice for attorneys looking for an opportunity is to go out and find it – no one will do it for you.

As the traditional path becomes less accessible to recent law graduates, this program was a refreshing reminder that there are many paths available to take you where you want to go. The speakers also offered valuable insight regarding transitioning throughout your career, including making the most of your current situation, having a road map, and remaining aware of where you want to go. With the current status of the legal job market, the timing of this program could not have been more appropriate. The audience for the program consisted of women with diverse backgrounds who contributed to an excellent question and answer session, as well as provided input from their own experience.

Many thanks to the Law Office of Jessica E. Adler for hosting the program.

If you are interested in more programming about the various paths women attorneys take, Phase IV of the WBA's [Initiative on Advancement and Retention of Women](#), "Re-envisioning the Path: Being a Woman Lawyer in the 21st Century," is addressing the fundamental changes that have taken place in the legal profession over the past few years. The impact of these changes on how women envision and move forward with their careers can not be ignored, the Initiative will explore the different routes, some direct and some not so direct, taken by leaders in the profession. Phase IV will include a series of high-level programs focusing on some of the broadest changes to the profession and how women can and should align themselves within it. Those changes are: (1) the career path is no longer a straight line; (2) the path may wind its way outside the US; (3) the path may not involve the actual practice of law and (4) the path does not necessarily straighten with seniority.

[back to top](#)

WBA Membership Roadshows

By Colleen M. Yushchak, Associate Director, Technology Solutions, Navigant; Co-Chair, Membership Committee

Interested in learning more about the WBA? Consider have a WBA Roadshow at your firm or law school. The WBA has developed a Roadshow as a member outreach program with the goal of introducing the many benefits of the WBA to our community. It is sometimes hard to find the time to participate in external networking opportunities. In a WBA Roadshow, we bring the WBA to you!

The WBA Roadshow is an accessible, no-cost opportunity to learn more about the WBA and how to make the most of your membership. The format involves an informal meet and greet that includes an introduction by either the current WBA President or President-Elect, an

overview of the WBA's mission and upcoming programs, and a panel discussion that includes several WBA forum and committee leaders. Some firms and schools have chosen to have the Roadshow over lunch time and make it a brown bag lunch. Alternatively, some firms like to sponsor lunch through their diversity programs.

Most recently, we have held WBA Roadshows at Gray, Play and Moody, McGuire Woods, and University of the District of Columbia. If you are interested in scheduling a WBA Roadshow at your firm or law school, please contact Colleen Yushchak at CYushchak@Navigant.com.

[back to top](#)

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In This Issue

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member Spotlight](#)

[Member News](#)

[back to front page](#)

Events

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Stars of the Bar

The Stars of the Bar Fall Networking reception is the WBA's largest no-cost networking event and kicks off the WBA's program year. It is typically attended by more than 300 attorneys, including judges, law students, and leaders in the DC legal community. The event offers a professional and friendly environment to network with other attorneys, including WBA members and WBA leadership. Each year at this event, the WBA honors and publicly salutes star-quality local attorneys. Attendees 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. Representatives from the WBA Foundation leadership are present to answer your questions, alert attendees to upcoming events, and help members get more involved in the WBA and the WBA Foundation.

Member Spotlight: Vickey Wright-Smith

Compiled by Rexanah Wyse, J.D. Candidate 2013, University of Baltimore School of Law

Vickey Wright-Smith is a solo-practitioner who practices in the fields of guardianship, intervention, and estate administration. A member of the WBA since 2009, she was inspired to join after the 2008 Presidential election – she was concerned about the treatment of the female candidates. This inspired her to become involved in a women's organization, and found the WBA to be the organization that best aligned with her needs.



Vickey Wright-Smith

Mrs. Wright-Smith had always known she would become an attorney. She came to this realization from witnessing people being treated unfairly. Raised in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, she received her Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice, with a minor in Spanish, from Penn State. She then went on to Howard University School of Law. Initially, Mrs. Wright-Smith wanted to become a criminal defense attorney, as she had enjoyed her trial advocacy course. Early in her career, Mrs. Wright-Smith was as a prosecutor for the DC office of Corporation Counsel – Criminal Division. Her job responsibilities included prosecuting welfare fraud, traffic matters, and juvenile matters. She then joined the law firm of Robinson & Geraldo. She rose to the position of senior associate, and was responsible for probate, guardianship, conservatorship matters. Because of her practice in the field of probate and guardianship, she joined the Fiduciary Panel of Attorneys of the Probate Division of the DC Courts. She recently made the decision to form her own practice. Mrs. Wright-Smith views her work as an opportunity to help people; the very reason she originally pursued a career in the law.

What committees/forums have you been involved in?

She has been involved with the Solo and Small Practice Forum. The Forum's event on starting one's own practice inspired her to strike out on her own.

Do you have a mentor or hero? What was his or her impact on your professional and/or personal life?

Mrs. Wright-Smith's mother is her hero. Growing up in Fayetteville, North Carolina, she became pregnant at an early age, and was unable to finish school. She raised five children and has now been married for 48 years. Her mother's mission was that her children have a better life than she had. With strong faith and religious beliefs, she established a solid spiritual foundation for her children. Mrs. Wright-Smith considers her mother to be an inspiration – she was able to raise her family, maintain her marriage, and provide boundless opportunities for her children, in spite of her own limited education.

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

Be respectful, be professional, be prepared, work hard, and stay humble.

What is the best advice you have received?

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

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About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of Directors](#)

[Sustaining Members](#)

At a DC Public Defender Service Office conference, speaker Angela J. Davis, professor of law at AU's Washington College of Law, told the group that it is okay to be a little nervous and afraid when one steps into the courtroom. Explaining that it is a huge responsibility to represent a client before a judge, she said that nervousness is normal, since it demonstrates that the attorney understands that a client's life is in the attorney's hands. An attorney who is not nervous before trial is probably not well-prepared, or has underestimated what he or she is up against. Mrs. Wright-Smith has applied this advice to her area of expertise – civil cases involving disabled members in the community. Attorneys must appear confident, but it is normal for them to feel nervous.

What other organizations are you involved in?

Mrs. Wright-Smith is a member of the Probate Bar Section of the DC Bar. She conducts presentations regarding wills and powers of attorney. For the Probate Resource Center, she provides information on preparing petitions for guardianship and conservatorship for individuals in the community who have been alleged to be incapacitated.

She is a member of the Greater Tried Stone Baptist Church and President of the Urban Village Corporation, an organization that helps provide housing for low-income individuals. Ms. Wright-Smith serves as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, an elected position that involves making recommendations to different District agencies regarding community issues such as zoning, parking, and opening bars and restaurants. She is also a back up coach for her daughter's recreational soccer team.

[back to !\[\]\(ab4e2b3fc7e7887b7a72f548aa6f5e60_img.jpg\) top](#)

In This Issue

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member Spotlight](#)

[Member News](#)

[back to front page](#)

Events

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Stars of the Bar

The Stars of the Bar Fall Networking reception is the WBA's largest no-cost networking event and kicks off the WBA's program year. It is typically attended by more than 300 attorneys, including judges, law students, and leaders in the DC legal community. The event offers a professional and friendly environment to network with other attorneys, including WBA members and WBA leadership. Each year at this event, the WBA honors and publicly salutes star-quality local attorneys. Attendees 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. Representatives from the WBA Foundation leadership are present to answer your questions, alert attendees to upcoming events, and help members get more involved in the WBA and the WBA Foundation.

Member News

- [Members in the News:](#)
 - [Blakely Publishes Second "Best Friends at the Bar" Book](#)
 - [Chapman receives TLA Honor: Named as Super Lawyer](#)
 - [Polydor Promoted at El Camino Career Service](#)
 - [McQuade Chairing VA State Bar Disciplinary Board](#)
 - [Eisemann Takes Position at USCCR](#)
 - [Lockwood Named Executive Director of National Institute for Trial Advocacy](#)
 - [Jackson Joins Littler Mendelson](#)
- [Welcome New Members](#)

Blakely Publishes Second "Best Friends at the Bar" Book

Susan Smith Blakely, Founder, LegalPerspectives LLC, recently published her second book, *Best Friends at the Bar: The New Balance for Today's Woman Lawyer*. This book continues the themes of Ms. Blakely's first book, *Best Friends at the Bar: What Women Need to Know about a Career in the Law*, which was released in November 2009, by Wolters Kluwer/Aspen Publishers and is now in its third printing.

The New Balance for Today's Woman Lawyer focuses on the new balance of work/self/home and family. The book includes advice and practical tips on how to achieve a balance that will work for each individual lawyer. The book also includes profiles of 12 remarkable women who have transitioned from large law firm practice to other practice settings. These women provide very strong role models for women to stay in the profession and not abandon their careers.

What Women Need to Know about a Career in the Law addresses the alarmingly low retention rates for women in the law as the result of the work-life struggle and a male-dominated profession. Together with over 60 contributors, most of them women lawyers and judges, Ms. Blakely explores the reasons for the low retention rates and offers advice on how to overcome the obstacles and keep more women in the profession.

Information on both books can be found at bestfriendsatthebar.com.



Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Presidential Appointments

Panel

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About Us

[WBA Board of Directors](#)

[WBA Foundation Board of Directors](#)

[Sustaining Members](#)

[back to top](#)

Chapman receives TLA Honor; Named as Super Lawyer

Paulette Chapman, a WBA past president and past member of the WBA Foundation Board, received the Women's Caucus Award from the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, DC. Ms. Chapman is a plaintiffs personal injury attorney and partner at Koonz, McKenney, Johnson, DePaolis & Lightfoot.

“As a former President of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia and as a trial lawyer, this honor is near and dear to me. It underscores the energy and talent women lawyers bring to bear for their clients in our courtrooms,” said Ms. Chapman.



[back to top](#)

Polydor Promoted at El Camino Career Service

Cheryl Polydor was recently promoted to Policy Director for El Camino Career Services in Wheaton, MD. She is currently assisting El Camino's president in launching a new non-profit organization which, like El Camino, will promote professional development for Latinos in the U.S.



[back to top](#)

McQuade Chairing VA State Bar Disciplinary Board

Martha JP McQuade became Chair of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board on July 1, 2012. Only the second woman ever to hold this post, Ms. McQuade is a Past President of both the WBA and the Virginia Commission on Women and Minorities in the Legal System. She is also immediate Past Chair of the DC Bar Committee on Rules, Regulations and Board Procedures.

Ms. McQuade practices family law in Alexandria, VA.



[back to top](#) 

Eisemann Takes Position at USCCR

Vanessa Eisemann has taken a position as Attorney-Advisor with the US Commission on Civil Rights, Office of the General Counsel. Said Ms. Eisemann, "After three and a half years as a full time mother, I have transitioned back into the workforce and am excited to begin this new chapter of my career." Previously Ms. Eisemann was a civil rights litigator in California with the National Center for Lesbian Rights and with the law firm of Traber & Voorhees.

[back to top](#) 

Lockwood Named Executive Director of National Institute for Trial Advocacy

Karen M. Lockwood, a WBA Past President, has been named the Executive Director of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), based in Boulder, CO. Ms. Lockwood will assume the post on December 1, 2012.

Ms. Lockwood is currently CEO and founder of The Lockwood Group, a consulting firm focused on advancing sustainable diversity in the legal profession by innovating business systems and practices.

NITA provides advocacy skills training and publications. Its mission is to train and mentor lawyers to be competent and ethical advocates in the pursuit of justice. Ms. Lockwood has served as a NITA faculty member since 1997. Since 2004, she has led one of NITA's most popular public programs, Building Trial Skills: DC. She has also led custom deposition and trial programs for government agencies, and directs the Equal Justice Works program aimed at public service attorneys.



Jackson Joins Littler Mendelson

Linda Jackson has joined the DC office of Littler Mendelson, P.C. as a shareholder. Ms. Jackson's litigation practice focuses on Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX) whistleblower investigations, non-competition agreements and litigation, trade secret disputes and related business competition. In addition to her current position as Treasurer of the WBA Foundation, Ms. Jackson has served as president of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association (VWAA), chair of the Fairfax Bar Association Elections Committee, and was a member of the VWAA and Fairfax Bar Association's Judicial Screening Committees. She was named to the advisory board for the William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law and has also served on the board of directors of The Arlington County Temporary Shelter and Volunteer Fairfax.



Welcome New Members

Roy Austin
Erin E. Boatman
Emily Christiansen
Anne Cunningham
Maisa Jean Frank
Christina M. Gattuso
Tori Gordon
Kathryn L. Graham
Rachel Hardwick
Elizabeth Hecker
Genus Heidary
Jennifer Holgado
Nagwa Mikhail Hultquist
Chen Jia

Nancy Walsh Mathewson
Tonya Esposito Oliver
Melissa Rogers
Audrey Roh
Sandra Safro
Sudarshini Satchi
Katherine Schuerman
Sheri Strickler Shilling
Christina Sirois
Greer D. Smith
Stephanie Spear
Wanda Regina Stansbury
Jean Marie Thomas
Kate Wallman

In This Issue

[President's Column](#)

[WBA Foundation](#)

[Committee & Forum Highlights](#)

[Member Spotlight](#)

[Member News](#)

[back to front page](#)

Events

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Stars of the Bar

The Stars of the Bar Fall Networking reception is the WBA's largest no-cost networking event and kicks off the WBA's program year. It is typically attended by more than 300 attorneys, including judges, law students, and leaders in the DC legal community. The event offers a professional and friendly environment to network with other attorneys, including WBA members and WBA leadership. Each year at this event, the WBA honors and publicly salutes star-quality local attorneys. Attendees 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. Representatives from the WBA Foundation leadership are present to answer your questions, alert attendees to upcoming events, and help members get more involved in the WBA and the WBA Foundation.

President's Column



By Laura Possessky, WBA President

If You Had the Chance to Change Your Fate, Would You? - Mérida, *Brave*

Spoiler alert! I discuss TV shows and movies you may want to see!

Women made a splash this summer in film and television with a refreshingly robust line-up of strong female leads. Among the most striking, Elaine Hammond (Sigourney Weaver) in *Political Animals* (aired on USA Network) and Mérida in *Brave* (released by Disney Pixar) broke the female character mold. These characters unapologetically take charge, solve complex problems of considerable political importance, and engage others to successfully accomplish strategic goals. We are emotionally drawn in to rally behind strong characters displaying exemplary

leadership—and they are women.

While both characters are faced with extraordinary circumstances, each struggles with common challenges faced by women. In *Political Animals*, Secretary of State Elaine Hammond juggles work and family in her unapologetic pursuit to fulfill her political ambition. In *Brave*, with quite possibly the first Disney princess whose story line does not involve falling in love with a prince, Mérida successfully braves witches and bears to assert her authentic self and resolve conflict with her mother. (Unfortunately, story creator and co-director Brenda Chapman did not fare as well in her battle with Disney Pixar¹.)

The topic of women in leadership was not reserved to the summer entertainment circuit. The Women's Bar Association and other communities buzzed across the country about Anne-Marie Slaughter's article, "Why Women Still Can't Have it All" in The Atlantic Monthly. Ms. Slaughter's frank account about her struggles navigating a high-profile leadership position while raising a family generated considerable debate over the question, "Can women have it all?"

Even if women CAN have it all, we are a long way from it. Empirical research released this summer in Catalyst's publication, Women in Law in the U.S.² presents a sobering look at the numbers. While women represent one-third of the profession and nearly half of the entrants into the legal profession each year for the past 20 years, the percentage of women in leadership across all legal work settings has barely increased in the same time frame. In private practice, where a majority of women lawyers work, the outlook is particularly disappointing. Vivia Chen honed in on women's leadership at large firms, in her article, "At Big Law Firms, The Gender Gap Continues³." Probing the NLJ 250 Survey, Ms. Chen's qualitative and quantitative findings offer few beacons of hope for women who want it all. The lack of progress in women's advancement presents the WBA with an opportunity to effect change. For its part, the WBA has worked steadfastly for generations to improve women's experiences and opportunities in the profession. The WBA discusses these issues regularly and stays abreast of the latest research to advance a shared vision to have more women in leadership. In addition to our bi-monthly newsletter, *Raising the Bar*, we offer members programming and discussion forums ([Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#)) to hear about developments and contribute to our

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Presidential Appointments

Panel

This panel discussion is presented by the WBA in each presidential election year. It features prominent presidential appointees who share their experiences about the appointment process. A bi-partisan event, it features women from both Democratic and Republican administrations spanning several decades.

About Us

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efforts.

This year, our activities and programs are focused on effecting change. We are inviting women leaders to speak candidly about their experiences at programs like our [Presidential Appointments Panel](#) on September 19, and we are creating a forum for thoughtful discussion on increasing leadership opportunities for women, including our [Initiative on Advancement and Retention of Women](#) program on [November 9](#). We have many opportunities for members and we invite you to contact us to find out how to get involved, or simply come to our [Stars of the Bar](#) reception on September 12 and talk to us in person.

It is about time that life imitates art. We must work together to promote women and ensure we have equal opportunities for development and leadership. If we want to change our fate, we must be brave.

Laura Possessky
2012-2013 President

¹*When the glass ceiling crashed on Brenda Chapman*, Sperling, Nichole, L.A. Times, May 25, 2011

²Catalyst.org, July 6, 2012

³*The National Law Journal*, July 23, 2012

[back to top](#)