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Raising the Bar Editorial Board

Sonali Khadilkar
Khadilkar Law PLLC
sonali@khadilkarlaw.com

Anna E. Kwidzinski
Financial Industry Regulatory
Authority (FINRA)
akwidzinski@yahoo.com

Celina Stewart
NAFCU
stewarc2010@gmail.com

Tiffany Wynn
Crowell & Moring LLP
twynn@crowell.com

Board Liaison:
Cynthia Hemphill
Trow & Rahal, P.C.
chemphill@trowlaw.com

Staff Liaison:
Carol Montoya, CAE
carol@wbadc.org

Features

WBA Honors the 2015 Stars of the Bar



l-r: Cathy Pagano, Monica Parham, Joanne Young, Jenny Brody, WBA President Susan Kovarovics, Karen Barker Marcou, The Honorable Patricia Millett, and Kristin Campbell



The WBA kicked off its program year with the Stars of the Bar networking reception on September 16, 2015. Seven women, all of whom exemplify the WBA's 2015–2016 theme of **“Advancing Together,”** were honored. We were honored to be joined by Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, who networked with attendees and opened the evening’s program with brief remarks.



DC Mayor Muriel Bowser addressed the crowd.



The Honorable Patricia Millett
*U.S. Court of Appeals,
District of Columbia Circuit*

After working at Miller & Chevalier for two years, Judge Millett clerked for Judge Thomas Tang of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Following her clerkship, she worked for four years on the Appellate Staff of the Civil Division in the U.S. Department of Justice and for eleven years as an Assistant in the Office of the Solicitor General. In September 2007, she became a partner leading the Supreme Court and appellate practices at Akin Gump.

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Jen Mullins, Janine Herring, and Shelly Mulkey



Denise Minor and Celina Stewart



Holli Quiroz and Laura Mow

She has argued 32 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Judge Millett was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals in December 2013. Judge Millett is a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.



Monica G. Parham
*Diversity Counsel, Crowell
& Moring LLP*

Ms. Parham has served in numerous leadership positions focused on the development and advancement of women and minorities in the legal profession. She is on the

Board of Directors of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations and serves on the Board of Advisors of the Project for Attorney Retention and on the Diversity and Membership Committees of the ABA Section of International Law.

She was named to the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession's Women of Color Research Initiative Advisory Board. She is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Ms. Parham was president of the WBA in the 2011–2012 bar year and is currently the Vice President of the WBA Foundation Board. Her WBA history includes serving as co-chair of the WBA's Litigation Forum and serving as Task Force and Summit Co-Chair for our initiative, "[Navigating the Corporate Matrix: Advancing Women in Corporate Law Departments.](#)"

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Check out more photos from Stars of the Bar on our [Facebook page.](#)



Joanne W. Young
*Managing Partner, Kirstein
& Young, PLLC*

Ms. Young's law practice focuses on the transportation industry. She has published the *Washington Aviation Summary* since 1984, a monthly publication

covering key developments in the industry.

Prior to entering private practice, Ms. Young completed a judicial clerkship and worked as a trial attorney for the Civil Aeronautics Board. She spent several decades as an equity partner, including with Lord Day & Lord, Barritt Smith, and BakerHostetler before founding her present firm.

Ms. Young has been President of the Washington Foreign Law Society, the International Aviation Club, and the International Aviation Women's Association, and Chair of the Regional Airline Association – Associate Member Group. She founded Executive Women in Aviation and served on the ABA Air & Space Law Forum and the D.C. Bar Law Practice Steering Committee.

She is currently Vice President – Finance for the Republican National Lawyers Association and serves on the Executive Committee of the D.C. Republican Party as well as on the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Industry Advisory Board. The Boys Scouts of America National Capital Area Counsel named Ms. Young the 2013 Attorney of the Year. Ms. Young was president of the WBA in the 2004–2005 bar year and served on the WBA Foundation Board for six years, from 2005 to 2011.



Kristin A. Campbell
*Executive Vice President
and General Counsel,
Hilton Worldwide*

Ms. Campbell joined Hilton Worldwide in June 2011, taking responsibility for the company's global legal, compliance, and government relations functions. She

works directly with the Board of Directors and supports CEO initiatives, leading a team of over 50 in-house lawyers located around the world. She is the executive sponsor of Hilton's Women's Team Member Resource Group, which seeks to foster the growth and empowerment of women in the professional world. She also leads Hilton's Legal Pro Bono Committee.

Previously, Ms. Campbell was senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary at Staples. While there, she was the charter executive for the launch of the employee women's resource group.

Ms. Campbell has served on the boards of various trade and non-profit organizations, and currently is a member of the Board of Directors of Vital Voices Global Partnership, and on the Advisory Board of New Perimeter. Previously she has served on the boards of the Association of Corporate Counsel, Bay Cove Human Services, and The Trustees of Reservations.



**Jenny Brody, Karen Barker
Marcou, and Marla Spindel**
*DC Volunteer
Lawyers Project*

In 2008, Ms. Brody, Ms. Marcou, and Ms. Spindel co-founded the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project to help address the unmet family law needs of low-income people in Washington, DC by recruiting, training, and supporting volunteer attorneys to handle family law cases. Today, Ms. Brody and Ms. Marcou are Co-Executive Directors, and Ms. Spindel is a Managing Attorney of the Child Advocacy Practice.



Ms. Brody is responsible for oversight of the organization's legal programs, training, and outreach.

Ms. Marcou focuses on program management, fundraising, finance and budget, and strategic planning.

Ms. Spindel supervises and mentors attorneys appointed as guardians ad litem for at-risk children and advocates for the safety of children in the District.

DC Volunteer Lawyers Project brings together over 1,000 volunteer lawyers—government attorneys, recent law school graduates, law firm attorneys, and others—who

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provide over 10,000 hours of pro bono legal services to low-income Washingtonians each year.

Mussey-Gillett Shining Star Award



The Mussey-Gillett Shining Star Award is given out to a WBA member who has given above and beyond through her volunteer activities within the WBA.

Since 1987, **Cathy Pagano** has served at the U.S. Postal Service, first as an attorney in the Law Department and

now as Senior Government Relations Representative. In her time with the WBA, Ms. Pagano has made exemplary contributions as a co-chair of the Government Attorneys Forum and Energy and Environmental Law Forum.

Ms. Pagano champions the WBA as an organization and takes every opportunity to remind members that involvement in the WBA fosters personal success. She has planned numerous well-received programs and put forth an extra effort to educate our membership through regular *Raising the Bar* articles.

Many thanks to the women who planned this year's event: co-chairs **Anne Collier** and **Debrah Farnell**, along with committee members **Lisa Horowitz**, **Susan Kovarovics**, **Sherlyn Wiggs**, and **Colleen Yushchak**.

During the networking reception, attendees had an opportunity to meet and talk with WBA and WBA Foundation leaders; to learn about the WBA's programs, services, and benefits; to find out how they can become more involved; and to meet with WBA Foundation members to learn about their grantees and how individual contributions can be combined with that of others for a greater impact.

Does Trade Facilitation Matter in the Fight Against Corruption?

By Evelyn Suarez, President-Elect at the Association of Women in International Trade (WIIT); Principal at The Suarez Firm
This article was originally posted on [Richard Bistrong's blog](#).



Evelyn Suarez

In 2015, the WBA International Law Forum engaged the DC community with events relating to international anti-corruption and trade facilitation across borders. First, there was an April 15 panel "FCPA Year in Review," held at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP. This was

followed by the panel, "WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: Next Steps in Ratification and Implementation," held on October 7 at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP.

While anti-corruption and trade facilitation are interesting topics on their own, do they have anything to do with each other?

It turns out that the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) has everything to do with good governance and addressing the demand side of corruption at the border. But in order to understand the relationship, one must understand what trade facilitation is and how exactly it addresses public corruption at Customs.

The WTO defines trade facilitation as "the simplification and harmonisation of international trade procedures"

covering the "activities, practices, and formalities involved in collecting, presenting, communicating, and processing data required for the movement of goods in international trade." The main features of the TFA include: required publication of regulations and fees; appeal-and-comment rights when new regulations are introduced; mandatory internet availability of documents and payment options; simple and clear access to overseas documents and regulations; special procedures for expedited release of air cargo and perishable goods; transit guarantees for cargoes from land-locked countries through neighboring countries to seaports without special fees; support for the use of express delivery and air cargo; requirements for clear procedures to deal with cargo holdups and releases; and technical assistance and capacity building for low-income countries to put these reforms into place. In short, TFA provides a blueprint for customs modernization. Successful implementation will lie in the detailed work that lies ahead.

The TFA was finalized at the conclusion of the Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia, on December 7, 2013. It was the first WTO trade agreement concluded since 1998, and the first fully multilateral trade agreement negotiated under the auspices of the WTO. Unfortunately, India held up final approval of the TFA by linkage to an entirely separate issue addressing food stockholding programs. Thanks to the leadership of Director-General Roberto Azevedo and persistent efforts of the U.S. Trade

Representative Ambassador Michael Froman, on November 27, 2014, the WTO adopted decisions related to public stockholding for food security purposes, the TFA, and the post-Bali work, which put TFA back on track for ratification and implementation.

In spite of the touted benefits, the WTO member countries have been slow to ratify the TFA. As of September 16, 2015, only 16 countries have ratified. They include: United States, Singapore, Hong Kong, Mauritius, Malaysia, Japan, Australia and Botswana, Mainland China, Trinidad and Tobago, Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Niger, Belize, Switzerland, and Chinese Taipei. On September 9, 2015, the European Parliament voted favorably to ratify TFA. Each European Union (EU) member state will be counted individually. Nonetheless, two-thirds of the WTO membership, or 108 members, must ratify TFA before it is implemented. Meanwhile, the U.S. and the WTO are encouraging countries to take action before the Tenth WTO Ministerial, to be held on December 15–18, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Bruce Hirsh also called on U.S. businesses with operations in developing countries to weigh in. Companies should view these reforms as a welcome opportunity to also combat public corruption at the border. Moreover, various countries are donating funds to technical assistance programs for developing countries. For example, on July 2, 2015, Australia donated AUD 1 million for the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility, and on July 27, 2015, Ireland donated €350,000 for technical assistance. The EU reports that it has set a target of up to €400 million over five years to assist developing countries in bringing the agreement into effect. The EU states that it will help finance reforms and projects improving the customs systems of developing and least-developed countries, as part of its “Aid for Trade” engagement (see [“Aid for Trade”](#)).

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimates that the customs reforms affected by TFA implementation would lower the total trade cost of

shipping goods by 10 to 15 percent, depending upon the country. Some expect implementation of TFA’s measures to boost global trade by an estimated \$1 trillion and global GDP by nearly 5 percent. As stated by the Office of the United States Trade Representative, “it makes it easier for businesses big and small to participate in trade around the world—and to support jobs through that trade.”

Various aspects of the agreement, such as transparency, automated entry, and payment of duties, can serve as powerful measures to address corruption at Customs. Corruption at the border is undoubtedly a significant impediment to trade and investment in the developing world. Corruption at ports is such a serious problem that the maritime industry has organized a collective action effort called the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN), which seeks to “work toward its vision of a maritime industry free of corruption that enables fair trade to the benefit of society at large.” It goes without question that TFA implementation would aid in this effort.

TFA implementation will also be a test of good governance. Countries will have to make the decision of whether they actually want to avail themselves of the donor assistance for capacity building to modernize their border processes. This can be seen as a test of whether a country is really willing to address corruption at Customs. A country’s willingness or unwillingness to adopt measures facilitating trade and reducing the opportunities for corruption at the border may be a powerful indicator of a culture of corruption—more so than any index of perception of corruption.

For companies doing business abroad, especially in emerging countries, a country that undertakes these reforms may be a better bet for business. And hopefully, the countries that take advantage of the assistance will succeed in establishing their places in the global value chain. In sum, TFA implementation should be an important tool in addressing the demand side of corruption and making the implementing country a more attractive and less risky place to do business.

¹*Ms. Suarez is an experienced customs and international trade lawyer with a special focus on import regulation as well as on anti-corruption and trade policy issues. Her practice includes administrative, regulatory, legislative, and litigation matters for global companies that are involved in importing, exporting, transportation, logistics, and customs brokerage. Ms. Suarez has also handled high-profile investigations, such as the U.N. Volcker Committee and various Congressional investigations into the U.N. Oil-for-Food Programme. She can be reached via e-mail at esuarez@suarezfirm.com and at 202.552.0310.*

President Signs Bill to Fight Harmful Algal Blooms in Drinking Water; Other Efforts Continue

By Cathy Pagano, Co-Chair, Government Attorneys Forum & Co-chair, Energy & Environmental Law Forum



Cathy Pagano

Some powerful new tools were added to the arsenal used to fight harmful algal blooms when the President signed the “Drinking Water Protection Act” on August 7, 2015 ([Public Law 114-45, 129 Stat. 473](#)).

A potent mix composed of excessive nutrients from fertilizer, manure, and sewage flowing into lakes,

streams, or other bodies of water can help cause these “blooms” of algae. According to the EPA, harmful algal blooms, or HABs, are overgrowths of algae in water. Some may produce dangerous toxins in fresh or marine water, but even nontoxic blooms can harm the environment and the economies of nearby local [areas](#).

[Last summer’s bloom in Western Lake Erie](#) created a severe water crisis in August 2014, poisoning drinking water for nearly half a million residents in the Toledo area for several days.

The Great Lakes are not the only sites where blooms can appear. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) [ecological forecasting initiative](#) has a goal of providing forecasts to coastal resource managers in many areas. [NOAA is developing or provides harmful algal bloom and hypoxia forecasts](#) for the Pacific Northwest, the Gulf of Maine, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Chesapeake Bay.

As an example, [according to NOAA](#), 37 potentially harmful species of phytoplankton are found in the Chesapeake Bay, many of which produce seasonal algal blooms. The potential impact is great, since the Chesapeake Bay has a watershed that spans six states with a population of over 16 million people. An experimental forecasting system has been developed and will be used to test for the presence of certain phytoplankton in the Chesapeake, so NOAA’s work continues.

The summer of 2014’s drinking water crisis in Toledo seems to have provided a distinct wake-up call. And several weeks before the Drinking Water Protection Act became law, NOAA publicly predicted that the 2015 western Lake Erie HAB season would be among the [most severe in recent years](#), perhaps second only to the record-setting 2011 bloom.

Congress heeded the call for action, with the enactment of the 2015 “Drinking Water Protection Act,” which adds new

language (42 USC 1459) to the Safe Drinking Water Act, charging EPA with new responsibilities. Within 90 days of enactment, EPA must submit to Congress a strategic plan for assessing and managing risks associated with algal toxins found in drinking water provided by public water systems. In an attempt to understand the roots of the problem, the strategic plan must include steps and timelines for: evaluating risks to human health from such contaminated drinking water; publishing and updating a comprehensive list of algal toxins which may have an adverse effect on human health when in such water; summarizing known adverse human health effects of those toxins; and also summarizing the factors that cause toxin-producing cyanobacteria and algae to multiply and express toxins.

The strategic plan also must include steps and timelines for determining, with respect to listed toxins: whether to publish health advisories; whether to establish guidance on feasible analytical methods to quantify presence of algal toxins; and whether to provide guidance on frequency of monitoring. In addition, the plan must include steps and timelines pertaining to recommendations of feasible treatment options, and also about entering into cooperative agreements with affected states and public water systems. Updates of the strategic plan also must be provided to Congress.

Additionally, EPA must provide an information coordination role. It must identify gaps in its understanding of human health effects and identify methods to monitor and test. As it addresses the problem, EPA may consult with other involved federal agencies, states, public water system operators, multinational agencies, foreign governments, research and academic institutions, and drinking water treatment companies. Finally, EPA must publish information from each federal agency that has analyzed cyanobacteria or algal toxins or addressed related public health concerns.

No later than 90 days after enactment, the General Accountability Office also must submit to Congress a report that includes an inventory of funds the U.S. government has spent from fiscal year 2010 through fiscal year 2014 to analyze toxin-producing cyanobacteria or algae and to address public health concerns. The report must include the purpose, authorizing law, federal agency that received or spent the funds, and recommendations to reduce duplication and improve interagency coordination.

Additional pending legislation in the 114th Congress takes serious aim at this problem, including the following bills. One of the first bills introduced this year to address harmful

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algal blooms, [H.R. 349](#) would require NOAA to create an electronic database of research and information on the causes of and corrective actions that are being taken relating to algal blooms in the Great Lakes, their tributaries, and other surface fresh waters (introduced by Representative Latta (R-OH) on January 14, 2015).

Seeking an integrated response, Representative Ryan (D-OH) introduced legislation to require EPA to appoint a [coordinator for issues](#) relating to harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes to work with appropriate federal agencies and state, local, tribal, and foreign governments in order to address these issues ([H.R. 1923](#), introduced on April 21, 2015).

To provide additional funding, Representative Higgins (D-NY) introduced legislation amending the Clean Water Act to create an EPA program to make [grants to Great Lakes States](#) and municipalities to install, at eligible facilities, nutrient removal technologies designed to reduce total nutrients in discharged wastewater ([H.R. 1955](#), introduced on April 22, 2015).

Both Ohio Senators, Senator Brown (D-OH) and Senator Portman (R-OH), addressed harmful microcystins by introducing [S. 462](#) on February 11, 2015, [legislation](#) to direct EPA to publish a health advisory and to submit reports with respect to microcystins in drinking water. ([Microcystins](#) are a toxic byproduct of blooming algae in bodies of water). Earlier in the session on January 9, Congresswomen Kaptur (D-OH) introduced [H.R. 243](#), similar legislation.

[According to Dr. Peter C. Grevatt](#), Director of EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, EPA strongly agrees that the presence of cyanotoxins in drinking water is an important public health issue and currently is taking steps to work with states and public water systems to assess and manage cyanotoxins in drinking water.

State policymakers also are fighting dangerous algal blooms. In 2015, at least two bills specifically addressing harmful algal blooms were introduced in state legislatures: Ohio Representative Hall (R-OH), with other sponsors, introduced [Ohio's H.B. 101](#) on March 4, 2015, to establish training requirements for employees of publicly owned treatment works and public water systems regarding harmful algal blooms. The bill also would provide for development of an early warning system and require the Director of Natural Resources to study the impact of certain species on Lake Erie.

On May 14, 2015, the Governor of Washington State approved legislation introduced by Representative Tharinger (D-WA) and other sponsors ([H.B. 1620](#)), to increase the surcharge on recreational shellfish licenses to provide funding for biotoxin testing and monitoring by the Department of Health of beaches used for recreational shellfishing. This bill also would fund monitoring by the Olympic region harmful algal bloom program of the Olympic Natural Resources Center at the University of Washington.

With so much at stake, work on this critical issue will continue in the Congress, the states, and multiple agencies, as the 114th Congress proceeds.

Links for further reading:

[Public Law 114-45, "Drinking Water Protection Act"](#)

[EPA website, "Harmful Algal Blooms"](#)

[Jane J. Lee, "Driven by Climate Change, Algal Blooms Behind Ohio Water Scare Are New Normal," National Geographic, August 6, 2014](#)

["NOAA, partners predict severe harmful algal bloom for Lake Erie," July 9, 2015](#)

[Testimony of Peter C. Grevatt, Ph.D., Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, US EPA, before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, February 5, 2015](#)

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NWLC Analysis of 2014 Census Poverty Data

Reprinted with permission from the National Women's Law Center. [Click here](#) for the original article. For further information about the issues discussed here, and other legal issues affecting women, visit www.nwlc.org.

NWLC's detailed gender analysis of U.S. Census poverty, income, and health insurance data released on September 16, 2015, found that women's poverty rates were once again substantially above the poverty rates for men. The data also show that income supports such as Social Security benefits lifted the income of millions of Americans above the poverty line.

The wage gap remained statistically unchanged from 2013, with women working full-time, year-round paid only 79 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts.

Poverty among Women and Families

- More than one in seven women, more than 18 million, lived in poverty. The poverty rate among women was 14.7 percent in 2014.
- The poverty rate for adult men in 2014, 10.9 percent, was lower than for women.
- Poverty rates were particularly high for women who head families (39.8 percent), African American women (25.0 percent), Hispanic women (22.8 percent), and women 65 and older living alone (19.7 percent), and women ages 18–64 with a disability (31.9 percent).
- The poverty rate for women 65 and older was 12.1 percent in 2014, compared to 7.4 percent for their male counterparts. More than two-thirds (68.1 percent) of elderly poor are women.
- More than half (56.7 percent) of poor children lived in female-headed families in 2014.

Wage Gap

- Women working full-time, year-round were paid only 79 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts, statistically unchanged since 2007.
- African American women working full-time, year-round were typically paid only 60 cents for every dollar paid to their white, non-Hispanic male counterparts, statistically unchanged from 2013.
- Hispanic women working full-time, year-round were typically paid only 55 cents for every dollar paid to their white, non-Hispanic male counterparts, statistically unchanged from 2013.
- Asian American women working full-time, year-round were typically paid only 84 cents for every

dollar paid to their white, non-Hispanic male counterparts, statistically unchanged from 2013.

- White, non-Hispanic women working full-time, year-round were typically paid 75 cents for every dollar paid to their white, non-Hispanic male counterparts, statistically unchanged from 2013.

Health Insurance and Medicaid Coverage

- As of 2014, more than 90 percent of women and girls have health insurance.
- Uninsurance among working-age women fell by 4 percentage points between 2013 and 2014, from 17 percent to 13 percent for women ages 18–64.
- Women continue to rely more heavily on Medicaid coverage than men. Sixteen percent of adult women ages 18–64 are enrolled in Medicaid, compared to 13 percent of adult men. Overall, Medicaid coverage for women in this age group grew by nearly 3 percentage points.
- Direct purchase health insurance—which includes the health insurance Marketplaces—now covers 13.6 million adult women, a 43 percent increase from 2013; 13.6 million women purchased coverage for themselves in 2014.
- Adult women of all races gained health insurance in 2014, with Hispanic women experiencing the greatest gains in proportion to their numbers. However, Hispanic women still have the highest rates of uninsurance among women ages 18–64, with 24 percent going without coverage, compared to 13 percent of white women and almost 15 percent of African American women.

Editorial

2016 Presidential Hopefuls Walk the Tightrope on Immigration

By Celina W. Stewart, Co-Chair, Raising the Bar Editorial Board & Diversity Committee



Celina Stewart

Anyone avoiding the 2016 Presidential debates is missing a mélange of entertaining moments! Metaphorically, politicians are said to “walk a tightrope” when trying to balance two opposing views with little room for compromise. Specifically, the conversation on immigration presents

a textbook example of how the political landscape bestows a unique lobbying opportunity for practicing immigration attorneys.

Republicans and Democrats continue to be at odds on how to secure U.S. borders while also addressing the population of immigrants presently residing within. In response, the Obama administration put forth two executive actions of note: (1) the [Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors \(DREAM\) Act](#), and (2) the [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#). The DREAM Act addresses issues for youth growing up in the United States, graduating from a U.S. high school, but whose future is thwarted with existing immigration laws. DACA is an immigration policy that allows certain undocumented immigrants who entered the country before their 16th birthday and prior to June 2007, to receive a renewable two-year work permit and exemption from deportation. Currently, these two executive actions are on hold as 26 states have joined in a lawsuit challenging the initiatives.

This brings us to the recent debate. In sum, Republicans press for securing the border as a first priority to fixing the immigration system; to disallow individuals who illegally entered the U.S. an opportunity to become citizens; and reserve citizenship to those who have already applied through the current system. On the other hand, Democrats are split on the question of whether guest-worker permits for immigrants are harmful or helpful to American workers and are rigorously pursuing comprehensive immigration reform.

With that said, you may wonder how immigration attorneys can influence these policies between now and post-election? Simply put, they take advantage of the unique opportunity to influence legislation that is on the books but likely to change with the election of a new president. Firms and non-profit organizations accomplish this by aggressively lobbying for or against the provisions that impact their clients the most. Practically speaking, that means showing up on the Hill and speaking with legislators who can move your client’s agenda forward. Whether that means meeting with committee members or drafting letters on behalf of your clients, lobbying will require the attorney to have a thorough understanding of the client’s needs and a grasp on the implications of these initiatives.

Thus, immigration attorneys can feel encouraged about the opportunity to sharpen their advocacy skills this election cycle. Furthermore, regardless of which side of the immigration fence you stand, the disposition of these executive actions will be crucial. This makes the next step simple: either start lobbying before the succeeding president is elected, or grab a pair of those leather shoes, and join the walk across an already crowded tightrope.

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President's Column

By Susan Kovarovics, WBA President

Welcome to our new members! It was great to see so many of you at our new member reception in October. And it is always wonderful to see new and returning members at Stars of the Bar.

This is a great time of year to take a look at the WBA calendar. If you do, you will see a litany of events geared toward helping you with professional and personal advancement.

On **November 8**, you can join the WBA Run/Walk Team at the Veterans Day 10K and Walk event. The Litigation Forum is hosting a program **November 17** focused on increasing the number of women as first chair at trials; this program builds on the recent ABA report noting the deficit of females filling that first-chair position. If you are in the federal government, or considering a career there, you will not want to miss the Government Attorneys Forum and In-House Counsel Forum program on **November 18**: "Pathways to Success in the Federal Government."

The opportunities continue in December. The WBA Mentoring Committee's next Mentoring & Mimosas event will be **December 5**. The Solo & Small Practice Monthly Luncheon is being held **December 9**. The Annual Holiday Tea sponsored by the Communications Law Forum will be **December 10** (register early—the event WILL sell out). And what better way to become a member of the Supreme Court Bar than by being sworn-in with your friends and colleagues at the WBA's Group Swearing-In Ceremony on **December 14**?

Programming continues on into the new year. If you missed the recent Social Media Boot Camp, the Social Media Committee is working on another practical, hands-on program for the coming months. And many other programs are also in the works for the first quarter of 2016.

Be sure to check the WBA website (www.wbadc.org) regularly for the latest programs and registration information. Of course, as a WBA member, you can register for these programs at the reduced member rate. If you are a Sustaining Member, you have the added benefit of attending Leadership Task Force events at no charge. (It is never too late to upgrade your membership!)

So, what are you waiting for? Come out and join us at some of these great programs! I look forward to seeing you soon as we continue to **Advance Together**.



Susan Kovarovics

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WBA Foundation



WBA Foundation President's Letter

By Nancy A. Long, WBAF President

Greetings from the Women's Bar Association Foundation (WBAF)!

The **2015 WBAF Wine Tasting** was held on Thursday, October 29, 2015 at the law firm of Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox., a beautiful venue for this very fun event! This year's Wine Tasting focused on wines from Chile and Argentina and what makes vineyards in these regions so unique. Attendees voted on which region they prefer. The Wine Tasting also included a silent auction with a variety of items in every price range, such as sports tickets, a weekend stay at the beach, tickets to local theaters, gift certificates to DC restaurants, gift baskets, and much more! The proceeds from the 2015 WBAF Wine Tasting will support the WBAF Founder's Fellowship. The next newsletter will include an event wrap-up and photos.

This year's Founders Fellow was Heba Dafashy from The George Washington University Law School. This past summer Heba worked at the Tahirih Justice Center. Her work focused on supporting the legal needs of women who have been impacted by human trafficking, forced marriages, and domestic violence. You can read about her experiences in this newsletter and on our [website](#). Thanks, Heba, for the great work!

Many thanks to our WBA and WBAF leaders who have found unique ways to raise funds for the Foundation. On September 26, WBA Past President **Paulette Chapman** hosted her annual Chefs Dine In event, opening her home to the WBA and WBAF leadership. In exchange for an evening of delicious food and camaraderie, guests were asked to make a contribution to the Foundation. The event was always a great opportunity to connect with fellow leaders and guarantees special memories for all who attended.

Sonia Murphy, WBA President-Elect and liaison to the Foundation Board, coordinated the Foundation as a recipient of her firm's Denim Day fundraiser. You can read more about her effort in this newsletter.

I ask you to consider [making a donation to the WBAF](#), creating a unique fundraising opportunity for the organization, or including the WBAF in your estate planning. Your generous donation will help the WBAF further its mission to support organizations that serve the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC Metropolitan community. You can visit wbadcfoundation.org to make a donation, or contact Carol Montoya at carol@wbadc.org for more information about fundraising or estate planning.



Nancy A. Long

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WBA Foundation 2015–2016 Donors

Many thanks to our supporters! The following donors made a gift to the WBA Foundation between August 1 and September 30, 2015. 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 wbadcfoundation.org.

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Make a donation to support the Foundation's work.

The WBA Foundation does not receive membership dues; it instead relies on the support of donors, like you, who wish to support organizations that promote greater understanding, awareness, legal service representation, and advocacy for women and girls in our community.



Register Today for the 2015 Holiday Tea

Join the Communications Law Forum for our highly-regarded annual Holiday Tea, to be held in the Willard Room of the beautifully-decorated and historically-significant Willard InterContinental Hotel. With its abundant and delicious food, this afternoon high tea promises to be a festive event. It is the perfect way to celebrate the holiday season with your friends!

Our Honored Guest is Commissioner Terrell McSweeney of the Federal Trade Commission. Prior to joining the Commission, Commissioner McSweeney served as Chief Counsel for Competition Policy and Intergovernmental Relations for the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division. She joined the Antitrust Division after serving as Deputy Assistant to the President and Domestic Policy Advisor to the Vice President from January 2009 until February 2012, advising President Obama and Vice President Biden on policy in a variety of areas, including health care, innovation, intellectual property, energy, education, women's rights, criminal justice, and domestic violence. She previously worked on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and at O'Melveny & Myers LLP.

This event WILL sell out. The Communications Law Forum urges you to register right away so that you do not miss this year's Holiday Tea. Visit www.wbadc.org for more information and to register.

White & Case Hosts Denim Day



On October 2, **White & Case** hosted a Denim Day to benefit the WBA Foundation. The firm's participation was coordinated by WBA President-Elect **Sonia Murphy**, who also serves on the WBA Foundation Board in an ex officio capacity as the WBA Board liaison.

White & Case allows its staff to wear denim for a contribution of \$5 towards the selected charity. Ms. Murphy sweetened the Denim Day deal by offering a Georgetown Cupcake to everyone who participated.

Founder's Fellow: My Work at the Tahirih Justice Center

By Heba Dafashy

The Women's Bar Association Foundation Founders Fellowship, established in 2006 and awarded annually, supports area law students to work with local legal services providers on projects to benefit women and girls in our community. The 2015 fellowship was given to The George Washington University School of Law, which selected Heba Dafashy as the recipient. Below is Ms. Dafashy's essay about her experience as a Founders Fellow in summer 2015.



Heba Dafashy

Imagine feeling like your whole world has been turned upside down, you have no security anymore, the people you trusted have betrayed you, and you are now threatened because of your status as a woman. When there seems to be nowhere to turn to for help, the [Tahirih Justice Center](#) exists to offer a glimpse of

hope to a woman in such a situation.

This summer, I had the opportunity to work with an organization that has a strong mission to advocate and protect immigrant women and girls fleeing gender-based violence. Tahirih Justice Center transforms women's lives by providing direct legal services, social services, and policy advocacy. Through the WBA Foundation Founders Fellowship Award, I was privileged to get a glimpse of how this exceptional organization is impacting women and girls through my position as their immigration and family law intern.

The Tahirih Justice Center is named after a woman named Tahirih who was a prominent figure in Middle East history and inspired other women to reject their oppressed status. In fact, her last words before she was executed for her beliefs were, "You can kill me as soon as you like, but you will never stop the emancipation of women." That same passion to empower women is embodied in each Tahirih attorney and is evident through conversations with clients, fierce advocacy efforts, pleadings, and even through simple smiles of encouragement. What makes the Tahirih Justice Center

so special is that each staff member is motivated by the same convictions as the historic 19th century Tahirih. It is through the staff, the clients, and the work that I learned what it means to truly empower a woman.

The work that I did ranged from immigration pleadings to family law litigation and to issues that intersected both fields. Through my work with clients, I learned how to empower women without creating dependence or stealing her autonomy to make her own decisions, which can be a hard balance to find. For example, I worked closely with a trafficking survivor to help obtain her green card status. When I first met this woman, I had an almost motherly instinct to try to do everything I could to help make her life easier—even if it didn't have to do with the legal issue of her green card. If she had trouble picking up her prescription due to a health insurance issue, my desire was to go with her to the pharmacy and work out a solution. Or if she had a problem with her landlord, my instinct was to speak to the landlord myself on her behalf. I learned that these desires, although coming from a good place, might actually rob my client of her independence, countering everything I knew about empowering women. Instead, I learned to give my client the tools and resources she needed to take care of all of these things. By the end of the summer, I witnessed my client grow into a more independent woman as she managed to navigate issues that at first seemed so overwhelming to her. I was proud of the way my client learned to become her own advocate in a sense. That is true empowerment.

This summer, I also helped work on a litigious divorce case for a survivor of domestic violence. The family law attorney and I spent countless hours on this case. The motivation that fueled our time investment into the case was the idea that we would help this woman restart her life and be freed from

continued on next page

the chains of her abusive husband that had enslaved her joy and passion.

However, one day, our client called and said she wanted to go back to her husband. She did not want to go through with the divorce anymore.

Instantly, our hearts shattered.

My mind ran wild with questions like, “How can you go back to him? Why would you do that? Don’t you remember what he did!?” Despite every urge that the family law attorney had to ask such questions or find a way to prevent our client from going back to her abuser, the attorney just had to accept the news and reinforced to the client that she was here for her if she ever needed anything. To allow a woman to make her own choices, despite how wise you think they may be, is true empowerment. Through this experience, I learned that the client knows what is best for her situation, and as an attorney (or future attorney), we must respect her decision.

Despite difficult moments like that, I also witnessed such uplifting experiences of women whose lives have been transformed and impacted by the work of the Tahirih Justice Center. I worked with a woman who sought asylum in the United States after fleeing female genital mutilation from her home country. Once she arrived in the United States, she met a stranger who led her to believe that they would protect her and help her seek asylum. Instead, this seemingly

benevolent stranger ended up selling her in a trafficking ring. I worked with the client to apply for a Refugee Travel Document. When I first read her story, I wasn’t exactly sure how this client would be after all she had gone through. I was preparing myself for what I thought would be a very emotional meeting. To my surprise, it was impactful in another way. When I saw my client enter the Tahirih doors she had the biggest, brightest smile on her face. She was shining. She brought the office a beautiful cake as a symbol of her appreciation to the Tahirih Justice Center for all that they have done for her. She kept telling me that every time she used to come to Tahirih she would be crying and so stressed, but sometimes the staff at Tahirih would give her a piece of chocolate cake and that would make her feel so much better. She wanted to return the favor. This client was so happy to be back in the office and told me that Tahirih literally changed her life from a dark situation to one full of hope and opportunities. To have witnessed and worked for an organization that is changing so many women’s lives made this summer one of the most fulfilling experiences in my professional career.

I am grateful for the WBA Foundation Founders Fellowship award for giving me the opportunity to learn these meaningful lessons, work with such amazing mentor attorneys, and meet inspiring clients. I will take these lessons with me into my legal career as I continue my work advocating for vulnerable populations.

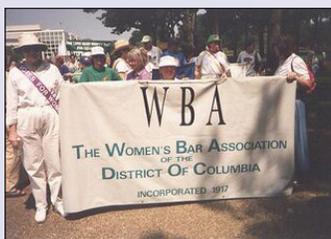
WBA Centennial Celebration

The WBA turns 100 on May 17, 2017! We are planning the WBA’s Centennial and invite your help. We want to create a year’s worth of celebrations to celebrate our Founders, **Ellen Spencer Mussey** and **Emma Gillett**, and the charter members of the WBA who forced doors of opportunities open and made change, not just for women lawyers, but for all women.

They:

- marched for woman suffrage;
- demanded the right to own property;
- drafted legislation allowing women to keep their own wages; and
- broke through the barriers confronting women, and women in the law.

We are initiating a series in *Raising the Bar* of vignettes from the history of the WBA written for its 50th anniversary in 1967. The first is below.



Learn more at wbadc.org/centennial. Please contact Carol Montoya at carol@wbadc.org if you would like to help.

“Fifty years ago, the first meeting was held to consider the organization of a women’s bar association in the District of Columbia. At the call of Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, formerly Dean of the Washington College of Law, 31 women members of the bar of the District of Columbia met on May 17, 1917 at the Washington College of Law. They became the charter members of the Women’s Bar Association.”

—From *“The First Fifty Years: A Brief History of the WBA of the District of Columbia,”*
written for the WBA’s 50th Anniversary Celebration

Committee & Forum Highlights

Energy Law Experts Share Valuable Career Advice

By Cathy Pagano, Co-Chair, Government Attorneys Forum & Co-chair, Energy & Environmental Law Forum



l-r: Amy Blauman, Sheila Slocum Hollis, Susan Lafferty, and Angie Colamaria

Energy Law Experts share valuable advice on pursuing energy careers at successful Energy and Environmental Law Forum's "Get on the Grid: Careers in Energy Law" Program!

On September 17, over 25 participants took advantage of a unique chance to hear renowned practitioners share advice on how to pursue a career in energy law. The program, "Get on the Grid: Careers In Energy Law," was co-sponsored by the DC Bar's Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Section, and featured **Amy Blauman**, Associate General counsel at Pepco Holdings, Inc.; **Angie Colamaria**, Senior Program Manager at the U.S. Department of Energy; **Sheila Slocum Hollis**, Founding Partner and Chair of the Washington, D.C. office of Duane Morris LLP; and **Susan**

Lafferty, Partner at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP and Member of Sutherland's Energy Practice. The event was covered by **Roksana Slavinsky** of Bisnow DC in her article, "[Nine Career-Building Moves for \(Young\) Lawyers.](#)"

The panelists emphasized the importance of staying in touch with work colleagues and continuing to network. Also key to a successful energy law career is the ability to remain flexible and open to opportunities, as well as continuing to evolve, as this rapidly changing area of the law develops. At this lunchtime program, the esteemed panel of energy law experts discussed their career paths, what's on the horizon in energy law, and how to make the most of your skills and opportunities.

Please watch for other upcoming Energy & Environmental Law Forum programs. We look forward to seeing you there!

Social Media Bootcamp: A Lawyer's Guide to Social Media Event Recap

By Lauren Brown, Co-Chair, Social Media Committee

On the evening of Thursday, October 1, the Social Media Committee hosted its first committee event, "Social Media Bootcamp: A Lawyer's Guide to Social Media." **Anne Collier**, branding expert and founder of Arudia, presented on thought leadership, shared tips for creating one's brand, and focused on how to prioritize platforms to best attract opportunities. Ms. Collier also discussed ways to leverage LinkedIn. Additionally, she graciously offered a one-on-one branding session as part of a drawing for all participants.

The Social Media Committee co-chairs (**Lauren Brown**, **Rebecca Prybell**, and **Jessica Retka**) focused the presentation on three major social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We spoke about why it is important to use social media and discussed the best ways to strategically use social media, starting with the creation

of a social media plan. We provided an overview and live demonstration of each of the three major social media platforms, including sharing the buzzwords associated with each platform. We had so many wonderful questions from participants that we ran out of time to break into small groups following the presentations, but we hope to organize a Social Media Bootcamp 2.0 event to offer more hands-on assistance with social media in the near future.

Nina Maffey, from TwoSolo Photography, was also on hand during the event to take professional headshots for participants for use on their social media accounts. Be sure to look for all of those great new profile pictures from event participants soon!

A big thank you to the firm of **Allen & Overy LLP**, which provided us with a wonderful space for the event and also

continued on next page

supplied an array of delicious catered food and beverages.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Social Media Committee's first event. We look forward to seeing even

more of you at our next event! In the meantime, if you have any questions concerning social media, feel free to reach out to us at our committee e-mail address: WBADCSocialMedia@gmail.com.

Mentor Center: News and Views from the Mentoring Committee

By Shannon Beebe, Co-Chair, Mentoring Committee

Recent Events

Mentoring & Mimosas

In August and October, we met some terrific Mentoring Committee members and new friends at our ongoing brunch series at The Hamilton. Many great connections were made, and we look forward to meeting more friends, as well as some of our mentor/mentee pairs, at our next Mentoring & Mimosas brunch on Saturday, **December 5**. We have filled up our reservations both times—reserve your spot for December by signing up now!



Pairing Program



Our program has just kicked off, and our elves will soon be working their magic to pair up mentees with mentors.

*** **Call for Mentors:** We need your help! If you know any attorneys with at least three years of practice experience whom you think would make a terrific Mentor, please invite them—or feel free to forward us their contact info at wbamentoring@gmail.com, and we will be pleased to reach out. **Please note that mentees who are willing to also serve as mentors receive first priority.**

Winter events planned for the new year!

January: New Year, New Career!

This annual favorite brings together a group of high-level practitioners from different areas of the law to discuss significant transitions in their careers. If you're thinking of making a switch, be sure to join us.

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March: One-Stop Career Shop!

We're planning to set up a rotation of small groups to move through resume and cover letter workshops with hiring managers, and then to have head shots taken. If you know some hiring managers at firms around town who might participate, let us know at wbamentoring@gmail.com!

April: Mentor or Sponsor? Why you need both.

A panel will discuss the differences between [Mentorship versus Sponsorship](#), and how to foster both in your workplace.

In Mentoring News:

Are you letting small power drains sabotage your professional influence and image?

Check out this [recent article](#) in *FORBES* by [Bonnie Marcus](#), an entrepreneur, career coach, and author of the book, *The Politics of Promotion*. Marcus writes that many powerful women sabotage their own success by giving up power to others, through small acts. Here are five of her top tips for keeping the power you've worked hard to build:

	Power Drain	Quick Fix
1.	Taking the blame unnecessarily.	Only apologize if the screw-up is yours.
2.	Letting others take credit for your ideas.	"Thank you Frank, for bringing up the idea I proposed earlier."
3.	Using meaningless words , such as "Just," "I think..." "I feel..." "I believe..."	No just. "I'm confident," "I'm convinced," "I expect."
4.	Avoiding self-promotion, relying on others to notice hard work, talent, and achievement.	Advocate for yourself by keeping track of awards, positive feedback from colleagues and other measures of achievement, and use them advance of performance reviews or as leverage for a promotion.
5.	Not leveraging relationships.	Doing favors for others is important, but not asking for anything in return is a lost opportunity. "There is power in asking for what we want and need."

Click the link to Marcus's article for more great ideas on ways to build your reputation and work smarter, not harder.

What strategies do you use to raise your profile at work? Let us know! Friend "Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia," and join the discussion on [Facebook](#), or hit us up on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), or at wbamentoring@gmail.com.

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Member News

Member Spotlight: Shannon Beebe

Compiled by Nina Ren, Attorney



Shannon Beebe

Shannon Beebe joined the Women's Bar Association in 2012 and has been incredibly involved ever since. She has worked to bring top-notch speakers and workshops to the WBA membership; introduced her office, Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett LLP, to the wonders of WBA; and helped to set up a Road Show visit to introduce the outside community to WBA programming. She has taken on increasingly greater responsibilities within the WBA by becoming involved in the Mentoring Committee and the Energy and Environmental Law Forum.

How did Shannon become so successful? She credits her accomplishments to the strong women role models that have assisted her along the way—her mom, women from the WBA, and (of course!) the inimitable Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Shannon grew up on a small farm in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia, about an hour's drive east of Vancouver. Like many farm kids in the U.S., she went through 4-H to learn how to care for animal crops such as beef and sheep. Her family still lives in and around Vancouver, and she visits as often as she can (but not often enough, according to Shannon).

The autumn after graduating from the University of British Columbia, Shannon and her husband packed all of their most important possessions into two big suitcases and two cardboard boxes and flew to Chicago, where he began grad school at Northwestern. Shannon enrolled at nearby Chicago-Kent College of Law. "Chicago is a great city," said Shannon, "Hard to beat the summers for evenings on a patio, or the winters for high-velocity horizontal precipitation, or the people for authenticity."

Soon after graduating, they moved to DC, where her husband achieved a post-doctoral position at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Janelia Farm. "I was lucky enough to land a couple of fellowships on the Hill and get a taste of how the lawmaking side of the city functions," said Shannon. "Then, as the student loans pressed, I moved on to contracting work at a few of the big firms downtown."

Shannon took a staff attorney role at Simpson Thacher last summer. Most of her caseload is in antitrust investigation or litigation, with a few Federal Corruption Practices Act (FCPA) matters. "The flexibility the position offered was key to my athletic goals this past year, which included a solid triathlon racing schedule culminating in Ironman Canada at Whistler, B.C., this past July," Shannon explained. "The course was about as mountainous as you might expect, but the scenery was amazing!"

What's next for Shannon? She will be moving toward a more client-facing role in a civil litigation context. She plans to build the skills needed to work in environmental litigation, a practice area for which she studied for at school and hopes to reach in the next ten years.

Welcome New Members

The following persons joined the WBA in August & September 2015.

Christina Autin	Rhonda Lees
Ava Benach	Amy Lewis
Naana Boampong	Erica Litovitz
Jennifer Brandi	Marianne Lynch
Christina Cobb	Emily Maus
Elizabeth Cuttner	Kelly McCrea
Revetta Dixon	Kristi McIntyre
Erica Dominitz	Selina Fan Milligan
Tianqi Fang	Phoebe Neseth
Andrea Farr	Emily Orler
Nahal Hamidi	Shadie Parivar
Shana Heller	Kursten Phelps
Tiffany Howard	Natalie Pye
Kate Hudson	Jhmur Razzaque
Sarah Hughes	Jaclyn Roeing
Anne Kathryn Hunter	Johnnay Schrieber
Mehreen Imtiaz	Zhen Song
Ruth Ivory-Moore	Erica Tokar
Hellia Kanzi	Katrina Tomecek
Lubna Khan	Emily Unnasch
Maliha Khan	Kimberly Vargo
Virginia Knapp Dorell	Merissa Velez
Brittany Knutson	Martha Villanigro-Santiago
	Natalie Wengroff

For information regarding WBA Member Benefits and becoming involved with a Committee or Forum, see [Membership & Benefits and Committees & Forums](#).

“In the meantime, you can find me at WBA programs, working with the great AmeriCorps folks at DC Reading Partners, and reaching for new fitness goals—here’s hoping for a personal best at Boston in April,” said Shannon. “I have been blessed to meet many amazing people in all these local venues, and I look forward to what the next bar year will bring!”

Why did you join the Women’s Bar Association?

I had heard great things about the networking, and they were all true! Also, from the very first event I attended, I was impressed by the consistent high quality of the speakers and programming. When I factored in all the contacts I met through networking after each program, the membership and event fees were worth every penny.

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

At first, I came out to events that interested me, including the Government Attorneys Forum’s terrific annual program, “Acing Federal Applications.” When a friend of mine became a co-chair on the Diversity Committee, and then another friend became co-chair on the Solo & Small Practice Firm, they inspired me to get more involved in leadership.

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

First, I have made great friends and met some amazing people. My co-chairs and I collaborate a great deal, especially during the Mentoring Committee’s Pairing Program ([apply here!](#)), and I love seeing the great mentoring relationships that come out of our teamwork. It feels good to give back to the legal community, even in a minor way, especially by providing resources to young and transitioning lawyers.

Do you have a mentor/hero? Please describe her/his impact on your professional and/or personal life.

My professional heroes are people like **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** (Notorious RBG!): female trailblazers who have been carving out a place for women in the law, often at great personal cost. Taking a leadership role in the WBA has brought me into contact with similar pioneers, such as **Sheila Slocum Hollis**, who forged a path in energy law in the ‘70s and even founded her own firm, while that was still very much a male-dominated practice area.

My personal heroes include my Mum, Dawn Beebe. Though she stayed home with my little brothers and me until we were all in first grade, she showed me how to take professional risks. When my youngest brother entered full-day school, she not only went back to work, finding a job in Corrections Canada, but rapidly rose from clerk and secretary roles to becoming a trained guard, then to becoming a guard manager. She learned to shoot and everything!

When she found that a degree in psychology would lead to more opportunities, she went ahead and took a four-year degree while working full time, all during the same years that I was at college. Step by step, goal by goal, she worked up to her current role as a parole officer specializing in First Nations offenders, where she helps bring healing to individuals and communities every day. She has been my shining example of how hard work and vision can bring you to amazing places.

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

Say “yes.” Get out there and meet people, and take advantage of any leadership opportunities that come along. Balance is important, too, but get a glimpse of what is available and then pick a few roles that will expose you to people who have the skills you hope to develop.

What is the best advice you have received?

Almost that exact advice. And I am being a little unfair because for a long time I did not prioritize networking. But four years after graduating has taught me that the old adage, “it’s not what you know, it’s who you know,” is pretty spot-on. I feel fortunate that the WBA is as active as it is, and that I have been given the opportunity to grow professionally through my involvement here.

What other organizations are you involved in (professional, civic, etc.)?

I am also a member of the D.C. Reading Program, which supports literacy in local elementary schools; and the D.C. Triathlon and Capital Area Runners clubs.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

[ABA Women Rainmakers Fall 2015 Workshop: How to Ask for Business and Seal the Deal](#)

*Presented by ABA Women Rainmakers
Co-sponsored by WBA*

Do you wonder what the secrets are to turn prospects into clients? Do you know what to say, and what *not* to say when you pitch for new work? Do you want to know more about how to successfully “close the deal” and get retained? This interactive, moderated program is based on the new ABA book, *Marketing Success: How Did She Do That?* The program will address lessons mined from the book about how to ask for new business and get the work, turn prospects into clients, and what to say and do when you pitch for new work and successfully close the deal. The program is complimentary for everyone.

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

[WBA Walk/Run Team Happy Hour](#)

Presented by WBA Run/Walk Team

Mix and mingle with other participants running or walking in the USA Veterans Day 10K. Learn more about upcoming events, and share ideas on improving the Team.

Sunday, November 8, 2015

[Veterans Day 10K and Walk](#)

Presented by WBA Run/Walk Team

Join the WBA Run/Walk team to honor our nation's veterans at the Veterans Day 10K and Tidal Basin Fun Walk in Washington, DC. A flat and fast course, located in the shadow of several of our nation's war memorials, makes this a 10K to not be missed.

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

[Getting a Seat at the Table: Women as First Chairs at Trial](#)

Presented by Litigation Law Forum

The ABA's recent study, *First Chairs at Trial: More Women Need a Seat at the Table*, highlights the need to have more women as lead counsel. Join us for a discussion with the report's co-author, Roberta Liebenberg, on why more women litigators need a seat at the trial table and how women can get there.

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

[Pathways to Success in the Federal Government](#)

Presented by Government Attorneys Forum

Ever wonder how women rise to the top in government agencies? How can we break through the glass ceiling? Pathways to Success will feature female agency general counsels and commissioners who have made giant strides in the legal profession. They will share stories detailing their career path, professional experiences, and offer advice on how women of all career levels can achieve success within the legal profession and federal employment.

Saturday, December 5, 2015

[Mentoring & Mimosas](#)

Presented by Mentoring Committee

Meet up with your mentor or mentee for brunch, and get to know other members as well. Seating is limited, and all attendees are responsible for the full price of their meal and gratuity.

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Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Solo & Small Practice Monthly Luncheon

Presented by Solo & Small Practice Law Forum

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

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Holiday Tea

Presented by Communications Law Forum

This event WILL sell out. Register early! The

Communications Law Forum's afternoon high tea promises to be a festive, delicious and congenial experience—the perfect way to celebrate the holiday season with your friends! Our honored guest is Commissioner Terrell McSweeney, Federal Trade Commission.

Monday, December 14, 2015

U.S. Supreme Court Group

Swearing-In Ceremony

The Women's Bar Association of D.C. is pleased to provide its members with the opportunity to apply for admission to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. Each person being admitted to the Supreme Court may have one guest accompany her/him inside the courtroom.

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Solo & Small Practice Monthly Luncheon

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Thursday, January 21, 2016

A Woman's Place: The Underrepresentation of Women as First-Chair Trial

Lawyers in IP Litigation

Presented by Intellectual Property Law Forum

A panel discussion that will look at the issue of underrepresentation of women in trial litigation as it impacts IP litigation in particular, and through the eyes of women judges.

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Mentoring & Mimosas

Presented by Mentoring Committee

Meet up with your mentor or mentee for brunch, and get to know other members as well. Seating is limited, and all attendees are responsible for the full price of their meal and gratuity.

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Solo & Small Practice Monthly Luncheon

Presented by Solo & Small Practice Law Forum

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

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Sixth Annual Mentoring Supper

Presented by Communications Law Forum

Young lawyers and law students will interact with distinguished members of the communications bar in small groups throughout the evening. Don't miss this opportunity for substantive discussions about career development with some of the best mentors in the District!

Thursday, April 14, 2016

WBA Foundation's Seventh Annual Grant Awards Reception

Presented by Women's Bar Association Foundation

The WBAF will recognize the 2016 grant recipients at this networking event. The evening will bring together supporters and friends in the Foundation's mission 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.

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

WBA/WBAF 2016 Annual Dinner

The WBA will be honoring the Woman Lawyer of the Year, who epitomizes the 2015–2016 bar year theme of **Advancing Together**.