

# WLA Newsletter

Winter 2005

Winter 2005

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2004-2005

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## Resolved Megan Phillips

Happy New Year! I've never been one to make resolutions, but this year it's so obvious. My big new year's resolution is this: delegate! If you attended the installation banquet or read my last column then you know that I have great plans for this term—probably too many to accomplish in one quick year.

I continue to believe that WLA has yet to realize its full potential and impact as an organization in this community. We do wonderful things, but there is so much more that we could do. Our financial resources might be modest, but our human resources are vast. It's just a matter of tapping into them.

In my years on the board, we have often scratched our heads about how to solve the problem of being a "head without a body." With so many talented general members, somehow board members and committee chairs still find themselves micromanaging activities and events. There are several noteworthy exceptions. For example, the legislative committee runs like a proverbial well-oiled machine. The chairs convene meetings, the committee members attend, and everyone assumes a task. The board liaison reports back to the board and obtains whatever board input is required. It seems effortless. Other committees also achieve great success with their particular mission, dividing responsibility in various ways.

But still, there are members out there who want to get involved and haven't been effectively recruited. Meanwhile there are board members and committee chairs who would love to delegate but don't know whom to call and decide it's faster to do it themselves. There are brilliant ideas that have been suggested over and over, but who will actually step up and do the work? These are common problems for any volunteer association.

An important factor here is the communication of information. Here's a quick primer on WLA's organizational structure. At the top of the chart is the board of directors. The board meets monthly and



serves as the management body of the organization. Under the board are multiple committees, open to all members, charged with carrying out particular functions, events, or projects. Each committee is led by one or more committee chairs. Ideally, the chairs provide leadership to the committee by convening meetings of the full committee, distributing tasks, and ensuring that those tasks get accomplished. Each committee also has a board member to serve as liaison between the committee and the board. The liaison reports back to the board on the committees activities and obtains whatever board input or assistance the committee requires.

So how does a new - or not so new - member get involved in a particular committee? First contact Angel Casey or Angie Smith, our administrative goddesses (935-8101 or 935-6451) to make sure that your name and current contact information is not only in our general membership database but also on the specific committee roster(s). Next, get the name and contact info of the chair of the committee. Angie, Angel, and any board member can provide that information. Contact the chair and tell her you want to get involved. Find out when the committee is meeting. Attend. Assume responsibility for a task. Get it done. Repeat as desired.

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We're working to make better use of technology to make it easier for members to get involved. Already, you can find the names, titles, and contact info of all board members and our executive directors on our website. Soon we will have committee lists on our website, too, so that members wishing to participate in a particular activity will know whom to call.

We will continue to use the newsletter to inform you of upcoming events and opportunities. We will continue to use e-mail to communicate announcements from time to time. We also hope to create committee listserves so that, between or in lieu of in-person meetings, committees can communicate and coordinate their progress via the listserv.

Though the golf tournament and holiday party are behind us, there are still many opportunities to get involved in WLA this term. Members are needed to speak on a panel for students at Wash U on January 26 and at SLU on April 5. Members will be asked to attend a mentorship reception in February. The legislative luncheon is March 4. We're planning a CLE in April. The scholarship and judicial reception will be held in May. We intend to hold another judicial appointments workshop in June. The membership committee, previously dormant, this year has big plans and seed money to actually implement all the great ideas suggested to increase membership. Members are needed to participate in outreach and recruitment efforts. Speaking of membership, over 100 members are delinquent in the payment of dues; if this applies to you, please renew immediately. Dues revenues fund our operations and our communications with you.

There are also a handful of special projects that we've started to undertake this year for which no standing committee exists. We want to conduct a survey of women lawyers to gain feedback on workplace issues (maternity leave, flextime, condi-

tions leading to female flight). We need your input to construct the survey.

We feel compelled to provide feedback to the Missouri Bar regarding gender and racial bias in the judicial evaluation surveys. We need member input on this issue.

I'd also like to see WLA play a role in addressing due process and right to counsel issues for women - particularly battered women - in juvenile protection proceedings. Individual practitioners tell me of egregious constitutional violations and abuses of power by juvenile officers, but we need more information and a collective, organized strategy to shed light on this problem and force systemic change. Family and juvenile lawyers are desperately needed to represent women whose children have been removed by the state, often without sufficient evidence of abuse or neglect, and sometimes just by virtue of being victims of domestic violence. Who can join our task force or take a case?

We need to use the media more effectively so that we have a louder voice and stronger impact on issues affecting women in the community, and so that the larger community is more aware of the great work we do. Who among you has PR experience to help us with this goal?

I urge you to contact me or any board member or committee chair to participate in any of these efforts. Or perhaps you have another initiative entirely. Great! Let us know! In any sentence beginning with "WLA should..." or "Somebody should ..." I encourage you to appoint yourself as that somebody. This head needs the body to get the job done. Each one of you has the passion and power to carry out WLA's mission as you want to see it accomplished. I hereby resolve to stop being a control freak and to delegate to the many bright and talented women of this organization any and all responsibilities they wish to assume. Any takers?

## Save the Dates for Redevelopment Opportunities for Women (ROW)

ROW is a non-profit organization that provides advocacy, counseling, education, and related services for battered and homeless women and their children. By virtue of its outstanding programs helping disadvantaged women develop the skills and abilities to take control of their lives through economic self-sufficiency and personal and family development, ROW was awarded a portion of the proceeds of WLA's 2004 charity auction. We continue to support their great work and encourage you to attend these events.

- **Jazz & Blues Concert featuring Kim Massey and Denise Thimes. March 26 at the Pageant.** The music is phenomenal and it's really a BLAST!! Individual tickets are \$40 in advance or \$50 at the door. Tables of 4 are \$300 and include champagne and a post-concert reception with the artists. Call ROW at 588-8300 or buy tickets directly through TicketMaster at 421-4400 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).
- **Auction Sponsored by HomeVestors. February 18 at Rose of the Hill (2300 Edwards Ave).** 6-10pm. Tickets \$50 for one or \$90 for two (includes open bar and hors d'oeuvres). Call ROW at 588-8300 or 780-8442.

For more information contact ROW at 588-8300 or go to [www.row-stl.org](http://www.row-stl.org).

## Farewell to a Pioneer by Kris Kerr

St. Louis has recently bid farewell to one of its most distinguished pioneers of our legal profession, and it is worth taking time to recognize the leadership of Ann Quill Neiderlander, St. Louis County's first appointed woman judge. Ann has just started a new chapter in her life. Three weeks ago, she moved to Amherst, MA, to be near her daughter Nan.

Ann Quill Niederlander was born in 1915, a younger sister to two older brothers. She did what came naturally in her family – had a profession, just like her brothers (one went to law school, the other to medical school). To achieve “is the just the natural flow of things – you do something, and it leads to something else.” Ann commented, when asked about why she was able to achieve so much throughout her career.

She entered the College of Mount St. Joseph on the Ohio, near Cincinnati. After two years, Ann went to the University of Cincinnati Law School. She was one of just three women in a class of seventy-five aspiring lawyers. Ann graduated law school in 1938, was admitted to the Ohio bar, passed the Kentucky bar exam, and became a member of the Kentucky bar in August of that year.

Getting a job as an attorney was difficult during the Depression, especially as a woman. She had a real desire to actually practice law, although she later recognized how naïve she was about the obstacles that confronted her. Ann began her career working for the Legal Division of the Kentucky Department of Revenue, later moving to the legal department of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. She then met her husband, Don Neiderlander, who worked for the Mississippi Valley Barge Company. They married and she became pregnant with their first child, son Nicholas. Just before he was born, she left the railroad to care for her child. Ann noted that she followed the path of that time, giving up two good jobs to follow her husband's transfers.

As Ann was considering returning to practice part-time, her husband was transferred to New Orleans. Undaunted, Ann enrolled in law school and studied the Napoleonic Code. As she was in her last semester, her husband was transferred to Missouri. She finished her course, packed up her son and newborn daughter Nancy, sold their home and took the Louisiana bar exam. Ann passed the exam, was sworn into the Louisiana bar, came to Missouri the next day and, in 1958, obtained her law license by reciprocity in the state which she was to call “home” for the next 50 years.

Ann worked part-time until her daughter was 10 and her son was 15. She was involved in numerous civic activities and in the St. Louis County Juvenile Court; she served as tax chairman for the League of Women Voters and later served that organization as state president from 1961 to 1963. During this time, Ann was active in the civil rights movement, working on committees in the League of Women Voters and other Catholic groups. She took part in marches to support black civil rights leaders, who were arrested to

protest discrimination at Jefferson Bank. Finally, during this time, Ann served as St. Louis County Democratic committee-woman from Hadley Township.

In 1963, Ann returned full-time to the practice of law. She was 48 years old and a woman; traditional legal firms were not interested in her. By working as a Guardian ad Litem in the St. Louis County Family Court, she met her future law partner (and future fellow judge), Margaret Nolan. They shared office space for the next 15 years, practicing primarily family law. “You took the cases that came your way and were happy for the business,” Ann remembered, noting that there was a real search for clients when women practice on their own.

In addition to her own busy practice, Ann was very active in encouraging other women attorneys to be visible and leaders. “Ann was a great inspiration to those of us getting out of law school in the early 70's,” remembers retired Circuit Judge Anna Forder. “In those days, there were very few women involved in the practice of law. Big firms had no women partners, weren't used to hiring women, there were no women judges and no role models. Ann really encouraged women to be visible in their practice, to go to court, to be leaders.”

“Ann was a super mentor for myself and my female law partners,” notes Circuit Judge Lisa Van Amburg. “We were in our third year of law school when we decided to start our own firm. We were the second female law firm in town; Ann and Margaret [Nolan] were the first. We turned to Ann for advice – she encouraged us and mentored us, especially in that difficult early time when we were learning to be attorneys. Ann dedicated herself to mentoring young lawyers and we will miss her very much. She really gets a lot of credit for venturing into a traditionally male area and breaking the ice for all of us.”

For some time, many women's groups had been petitioning former Governors Hearnes and Teasdale to name female judges to serve. On December 22, 1978, Ann was appointed to the Associate Circuit bench by Governor Teasdale. She was St. Louis County's first women judge at 63 years old.

In the years Ann served on the bench, she observed a number of important changes; she noted that more women attorneys appeared in court and more domestic violence cases were taken seriously and brought to prosecution.

When she turned 70, on June 13, 1985, Ann hung up her robes but did not slow down. She promptly volunteered to be an attorney for Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. Soon thereafter, Ann envisioned a joint project between Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM) and the Archdiocese of St. Louis; her goal was to promote social justice for all citizens. With the cooperation and support of Archbishop May and LSEM, in 1986, Ann formed and headed the Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry. This organization, which still works on behalf of the poor in cases such as domestic abuse and evic-

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## Pioneer (cont'd)

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tion, is a now-familiar face in the St. Louis legal community.

In her many years of professional service, Ann has been honored for her work and her values. In 1997, Ann received the American Bar Association's prestigious Pro Bono Public Award for her work with the poor. She has also been honored by the Women Lawyer's Association, the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (in 1996) and, by the YWCA for her work in government (1986).

She has always been very interested in promoting women to achieve in the legal field and believes that women attorneys still have their brightest hours yet to come. "I want women to be recognized as the top lawyers in the City. We have taken on the toughest problems and hardest jobs in the community and have done them well; we have proven that we know the law and we should not hesitate to take on hard tasks," Ann said. Her advice - "Don't be afraid to say what you think."

She will be 90 years old next June, and promises to "give up the frivolity of joining bar associations." Instead, she finds her recent move to be a new adventure; "it is exciting to be in a college town" with all the opportunities that presents. Although she confesses to still "looking at unpacked boxes," she is exploring her new environment and recently attended a current events seminar at her nearby senior center.

When asked if she might return to St. Louis, Ann remarked that, if she came back for a visit, to tell the women lawyers of St. Louis that "I expect to find new things happening."

Members can send their regards to Ann at 130 University, #11, Amherst, MA 01002.

## Dept. of Justice Rape Guidelines Omit Emergency Contraception

(excerpted from *Rape Survivors' Health and Future Traded Away* by Pat Reuss, Senior Policy Analyst for [www.now.org](http://www.now.org). January 7, 2005)

The Department of Justice's recently released medical guidelines for treating rape survivors has one major gaping omission — no mention of emergency contraception (commonly known as Plan B or the "morning after pill"), the standard precaution against pregnancy after rape.

The protocol for how the medical community must treat sexual assault patients was mandated by the 2000 Violence Against Women Act and was developed over a three-year period by the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women. Experts in the field say that provision of emergency contraception was included in an early draft and must have been dropped for political reasons. NOW members and supporters have been early and ardent advocates for access to emergency contraception for rape survivors and for over-the-counter sales of the product, which is a large dose of birth control pills.

It is expected that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be issuing their decision on over-the-counter status for emergency contraception by Jan. 22. Members are urged to contact the FDA to express their opinion on this issue.

## Come on Everybody and Blog!

Want to let off some steam about all the hours you work? Or do you need to find out how other women are handling the tough task of raising a family and raising a career? Want to find out the quick answer to that pesky procedural question that's been bugging you? Well, come on everybody and blog. WLA's new website, [www.wlastl.org](http://www.wlastl.org) may have an answer for you on its Blog! What the heck is a blog you ask? A Blog is an electronic bulletin board. The Blog Master suggests a topic. People then enter their thoughts/suggestions/comments on the Board. The messages are entered onto the Board in the order in which they are received. You can see what you wrote and, beneath it, see what someone else had to say about it. It ends up being a conversation among a bunch of people. Cool. Well, WLA just had to have one. We're hoping the blog will be a place where people can chat, find out new things and "meet" new people (not in an internet dating way but in a groovy women lawyers collaborating way). Don't miss out on the fun and be sure to check out the latest on the blog at [www.wlastl.org](http://www.wlastl.org).

## Volunteer Opportunities

- The Family Court Project of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri needs family and juvenile lawyers to represent women in juvenile dependency proceedings and/or appeals.
- Lydia's House needs volunteers to work with children. After school program volunteers supervise, read, tutor, and facilitate games and activities (Mon-Thurs 4-6pm). Child care volunteers supervise and play with younger children (Mon & Wed 7-8pm). Contact Sarah Godden, Children's Programs Coordinator, at 771-4411 x 102 or [sgodden@lydiashouse.org](mailto:sgodden@lydiashouse.org).

## Events by and for Amazing Women of St. Louis

- January 13, 8am. Financial Planning Seminar.
- February 27, 8am. TBA
- April 21. Spring Leadership Conference: Closing the Gender Gap.
- For more info, see [www.awstl.com](http://www.awstl.com).

## DNA Exculpates Brother of KC AWL Member After 17 Years

*Forwarded by Michelle Coleman, Vice President of the Women Lawyers' Association of Mid-Missouri.*

Some of you might know Shelley Bishop, a solo practitioner in Kearney and a member of the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City and of the Missouri Bar Solo/Small Firm Committee. She is also the sister of Brandon Moon, who was freed on December 20 after spending more than 17 years in the Texas Penal System for a rape that DNA evidence conclusively shows he could not have committed. At the time of his arrest, Brandon was a 26 year old college student in ROTC. For your information, the entire news article is included below. Members of the Solo/Small Firm list serve initiated a donation drive to raise funds to help the family with travel expenses in order to be reunited in time for the holidays. The group quickly collected over \$1500. Shelley has suggested that any further donations go to the Innocence Project, which worked to free Brandon Moon. The committee has recommended that the money go to Brandon to help him start his life or to be spent by the family as they see fit. Either way, donations can be earmarked by the donor and directed to: Shelley L. Bishop - 310 Platte Clay Way, Suite E - Kearney, Missouri 64060.

## El Pasoan to be exonerated of crime after spending 17 years in prison

*Gary Scharrer, El Paso Times, December 21, 2004 (excerpts)*

A former UTEP student convicted of aggravated sexual assault nearly 17 years ago is expected to be exonerated and released today because modern DNA testing showed Brandon Moon was "conclusively excluded" as the rapist.

An El Paso jury gave Moon, now 43, a 75-year sentence after convicting him of the 1987 rape of a West Side homemaker. The conviction and conclusive evidence of Moon's innocence raises doubts about the reliability of eyewitness testimony and the credibility of Texas Department of Public Safety laboratory results, his lawyers said.

"Just thank God," said Moon's mother, Shirley Moon. "Now everybody knows what we have known all along. ... We are very, very thankful that this has finally come to an end."

El Paso's prosecutor agreed that Moon is innocent of the rape. "I would like to convey my apologies to Mr. Moon on behalf of the state of Texas and acknowledge that an apology at this time is inadequate but that my office and the state of Texas, in the interest of truth, recognize the injustice Mr. Moon has suffered," El Paso District Attorney Jaime Esparza said. Esparza had not yet been elected district attorney when Moon was convicted in 1988. The sexual assault that put Brandon Moon in prison occurred on April 27, 1987, when a man wearing a ski cap

approached a woman unloading groceries from her car and forced her at gunpoint into a bedroom. Prosecutors built their case largely around eyewitness testimony and evidence examined by the DPS crime laboratory in Lubbock.

"There are serious problems across this entire country in the way crime labs do business, and there's a legacy of injustice," said Barry Scheck, co-founder and co-director of the Innocence Project at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law in New York City. "That has to be corrected in a systematic way." The 12-year-old Innocence Project took Moon's case earlier this fall.

"This case is a real wake-up call for the criminal justice system. If a wrongful conviction can happen to somebody like Brandon Moon, it can happen to any of us," Nina Morrison, an Innocence Project lawyer, said.

### *Problems elsewhere*

"My great hope is that the Brandon Moon case is going to be the straw that breaks the camel's back," Scheck said. "There's just too much of it." A hearing starting Jan. 4 will focus on the Houston crime lab problems. "I expect the Brandon Moon case will figure very prominently in these hearings," said Scheck. Scheck will call for an audit of all cases handled by DPS serologist Glen David Adams while he worked in the department's Lubbock office. When testing semen samples from the crime scene, the DPS serologist came up with results that could have been interpreted in different ways, said Morrison, of the Innocence Project. "His test yielded no results, and when he got nothing, he should have just told the jury, 'I got nothing and there may be possibilities for why,' " she said.

She and Scheck said the DPS lab made serious errors in concluding that Moon's blood type was among just 15 percent of the population who could have possibly been the source of the semen at the crime scene.

### *Moon's trial*

The DPS testing was the only scientific evidence presented to the El Paso jury. Analysis of other trace evidence, including hairs, excluded Moon. He also produced an alibi partially corroborated by two witnesses. The rape occurred at about 9 a.m. Moon's girlfriend testified that she gave him a customary wake-up call at 8:07 a.m., and met him at his dorm room after her class ended at 9:15 a.m. Moon did not have a car, and the rape took place 6.7 miles from the University of Texas at El Paso campus.

Efforts by the El Paso Times to contact the rape victim were unsuccessful. She identified Moon from a police photo. However, she told police that she did not know if the perpetrator had a mustache and could not tell his eye color, and acknowledged getting a look at his face that only lasted 5 to 15 seconds.

"Apparently, there is no animosity there," Moon's mother said of Brandon Moon's feelings toward the rape victim. "He understands that she was saying what she honestly felt was true. He understands why that could happen with what we know about eyewitness testimony."

### *'Very disappointed'*

Moon's conviction means that "it could happen to anybody," Scheck said. "Brandon Moon was in ROTC (Air Force Re-

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## WLA Connects With SLU Women

Nearly 50 women students and faculty at SLU Law School attended a WLA panel discussion on November 4. Sarah Plake, Vice President of SLU's Women Law Students' Association, organized the event and invited WLA members to discuss their careers and field questions from the students. Panelists were (from right to left) WLA President Megan Phillips, Mentorship Committee Chair Michelle Gravel, Hon. Audrey Fleissig, Board Member at Large Tricia Susi, and Nicole Willis (not pictured). Feedback from the event was positive and the WLA Mentorship Committee is planning similar events at SLU and Wash U. for the spring semester.

**Panelists are needed!** The Wash U panel discussion is scheduled for January 26 at 11am, and the next SLU discussion is scheduled for April 5 at 5pm. Contact Mentorship Committee Chairs Michelle Gravel (935-9729) or Sara O'Keefe (259-2000).



### Women Make Gains in Missouri State Government by Dayna Stock

The state of Missouri now has a record number of three women holding statewide offices. Democrat Secretary of State Robin Carnahan joins Republican Treasurer Sarah Steelman and Democrat Auditor Claire McCaskill as the three women in top state jobs. The women in these races and even the unsuccessful statewide women candidates demonstrated that they no longer suffer from inability to raise funds or garner support in any geographical area of Missouri.

"Women's ability to win or lose seems to be based on the same issues as their male counterparts," said Vivian Eveloff, Director of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life.

Women also gained one seat in the Missouri House, but will have to wait for a special election to see who replaces Sen. Sarah Steelman (R) as she leaves her state senate office for her new position. Currently, a record high of seven women including Steelman serve as state senators, which is almost 21 percent of the 34-member body. That number will decline if Steelman is not succeeded by a woman. As a result of these elections, the number of women who will serve in the Missouri House of Representatives this session will be 36, an increase of one over the last session, or 22 percent of the 163-member body.

Among the eight freshmen women State Representatives are five women graduates of the campaign school sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. Two of these graduates succeeded in defeating incumbents: Republican Sally Faith beat a St. Charles incumbent while Democrat Sara Lampe defeated a Springfield-area incumbent. "Few challengers succeed in beating incumbents," Eveloff said. "The fact that these two women, in different parts of the state, from different parties is truly a remarkable accomplishment."

Institute campaign school graduates also include Judy Baker of Columbia and Maria Chappelle-Nadal and Rachel Storch of St. Louis, all of whom won open seats. Chappelle-Nadal succeeds Rep. Betty Thompson and Baker follows in the footsteps of Vicky Riback Wilson. Storch replaces Rep. Robert Hilgemann. Participants of the Pipeline to Politics campaign training series came from as far away as Springfield and Kirksville to attend the intensive training sessions in October, May and August and included Democrats, Republicans and a Libertarian candidate. In addition to the participants of the Pipeline program who graduated from Institute training programs, statewide candidates including Carnahan, Bekki Cook, Nancy Farmer, Catherine Hanaway and Claire McCaskill, have served as faculty for Institute programs.

A list of winners is posted on the Institute web site at [www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/](http://www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/).

The Institute's next campaign training workshop will be Pipeline to Local Office for those interested in running for municipal or school boards or other local positions, as well as those who wish to volunteer or just learn more about the campaign process. The workshop will be held on Mon., Jan. 24 and Weds., Jan 26, 2005 at the University of Missouri – St. Louis. Watch for more information on our web site at [www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/](http://www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/). *The Institute is a non-partisan, educational entity located on the campus of the University of Missouri – St. Louis with an office at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. For more information, contact the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at 314-516-4727 or visit the Institute's web site at [www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/](http://www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/)*

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serve Officer Training Corps). He was a college student. He had a pretty good alibi and the timeline never made any sense," Scheck said. "There but for the grace of God go any of us."

El Paso prosecutor Esparza said he was "very disappointed." "Every day we work to do what's right," he said. "I'm sure in 1988 that jury thought they had come to the right conclusion. To find out so many years afterward that it was not the right decision is extremely disappointing. That's probably an understatement.

"It's very discouraging, especially for the kind of work that a prosecutor like myself does every day," he said.

Not all prosecutors act as swiftly or cooperate as smoothly as Esparza did when he learned that new DNA testing had exonerated someone, Scheck said. "He has been very concerned and gracious about this," Scheck said. "While I think there's no question that there have been mistakes made by his office in the past, once this came to his personal attention, he dealt with it in an exemplary way."

*'Numb and in shock'*

Moon may qualify for nominal compensation from the state, but "you can never make this up," Scheck said. "There's no way that he can get back those 16 and a half years. Everybody else has moved on with their lives."

Moon's mother, who has visited her son twice since he was transferred to the El Paso County Jail on Thursday night, said her son remains "somewhat numb and in shock." "It's something that he anticipated for so long, and now it just came together so quickly," she said.

The Innocence Project filed an open records request with the DPS to get Moon's file after accepting his case. Morrison said her "jaws just dropped open" getting the file and discovering the apparently sloppy work. She said early DNA testing convinced her of Moon's innocence, which was further reinforced by some two dozen motions, writs and petitions that he had filed over the years in an effort to get a DNA test. "That's often a very good indication that someone is innocent -- if they are that persistent and consistent over time," she said. "But almost without exception, the courts and public officials turned a blind eye to his pleas. He was bounced around the courts of Texas like a pinball," she said.

## New Year's Resolutions

*(Excerpted from the ABA YLD newsletter, December 2004)*

### For your professional life:

- Commit to work that stimulates and fulfills you
- Find more mentors; be a mentor
- Update your resume
- Write an article for publication
- Join a professional organization and activate
- Review your career plan
- Express your appreciation to your support staff
- Organize your work processes
- Learn a new skill to help your practice
- Reactivate your marketing plan

### For your personal life:

- Draft or review your will
- Start exercising or change your workout routine
- Add another healthy item to your diet
- Plan a vacation
- Donate clothes you no longer wear to a shelter
- Change something when you're in a rut
- Renew old friendships
- Learn a foreign language
- Volunteer with a program or cause that inspires you
- Keep your appointment for a complete physical
- Review your insurance policies
- Revise your budget and save more
- Seek help for excessive or unhealthy habits.

## Trivia Night Benefiting the Center for Women in Transition

February 4, 2005, 7 p.m. (doors open @ 6:30 pm). \$15.00 per person (reservations preferred). Tables of Eight \$120 (includes soft drinks and snacks). Location: 6400 Minnesota Ave. RSVP 314-771-5207. Cash Prizes, Attendance Prizes, 50-50 Drawing.

## HOLIDAY PARTY A SUCCESS

WLA hosted its annual Holiday Party and Auction on December 2 at the Forest Park Golf Clubhouse.

A number of judges, attorneys, and community leaders were on hand, including numerous current and former WLA officers.

Vivian Eveloff, Director of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life and the auction's Honorary Chairwoman, chatted with the Honorable Mary Rhodes Russell, newly appointed to the Supreme Court. Mound City Bar Association's President-Elect Marvin Teer, Leslie Oliver, and others gathered around the fireplace for fun and photographs while the Honorable Nanette Baker received congratulatory remarks on her recent appointment to the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District, filling the seat vacated by Judge Russell.

Shoppers had an array of items to choose from this year. Doll houses and accessories, bicycles, hand made scarves, a mink stole, and a hand made purse from Taiwan constructed with palm leaves were some of the many items donated. Getaway packages and fine jewelry were also for sale.

The proceeds came to \$6,255 and were divided among three charities: Redevelopment Opportunities for Women, Inc. (ROW), providing a range of services to homeless and battered women, Marian Middle School for economically disadvantaged adolescent girls, and Almost Home, a transitional housing and education facility for teen mothers.

Throughout the evening guests made new acquaintances and renewed old ones while being served appetizers by roving waiters. Over the lively chatter of the audience, WLA President Megan Phillips acknowledged this year's recipients and thanked everyone for support-

ing WLA in this worthwhile project. Maureen Herrmann, Executive Director of Marion Middle School, and Sheroo Mukhtiar and Cassandra Cooke, Executive Director and Development Director of Almost Home, were present to express their gratitude.

Auctioneer Jim Russell captivated the audience with his verbal and persuasive skills. The bidding was lively. In addition to the oral auction items, eight people donated \$25.00 in exchange for nothing more than a pat on the back from Jim.

WLA owes many thanks to many people for their contributions to this event. We thank Jim Russell for serving as auctioneer, Vivian Eveloff for serving as honorary chair, Lynn Ricci for her diligence as board liaison, Lisa Herder for her work as Committee Chair, and committee members Cindy Ormsby, Mardi Montello, Debbie Benoist, Stacey Sifton, Tricia Susi, Marjorie Carter, Peg Mooney, Kelly Plummer, Nicole Colbert for their participation. WLA also thanks the many attendees, donors, and bidders who contributed to the success of the auction.

Lastly but certainly not least, we owe infinite gratitude to the following sponsors for their generous contributions: Crotzer, Ford, Ormsby, & Schraeder, Senniger Powers, Thompson Coburn LLP, Mardi J. Montello, Doug Beach / Debbie Henry, Garnholz & Ricci, LC, Lashly & Baer, P.C., Liggett, Black & Co., Rabbitt, Pitzer & Snodgrass, P.C., Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, and The Stolar Partnership Foundation.

Many guests in attendance seized the opportunity to join WLA. If you know women lawyers who aren't yet members, please encourage them to join. They can visit our new web site at [www.wlastl.org](http://www.wlastl.org) to learn more about the organization. Upcoming events, judicial endorsement instructions, committees, the Board of Directors and the history of the organization are some of the resources available on the website.

*Suzette Carlisle, WLA Member at Large*

Right: WLA President Megan Phillips (center) presents a check for \$2085, one third of the proceeds of the charity auction, to Redevelopment Opportunities for Women Executive Director, Meg Schnabel (left) and Development Director, Charity Laleman.

### Nominate a WLA Member for the Women's Justice Awards.

Nominations for the 2005 Women's Justice Awards will close **January 28**. Please help us to publicly acknowledge our members who strive to improve our state with their leadership skills. The awards dinner is April 14 at the Starlight Roof at the Chase. Send nomination suggestions to WLA ([wlastl@yahoo.com](mailto:wlastl@yahoo.com)) or obtain a form at [www.thedailyrecord.com](http://www.thedailyrecord.com) or call 421-1880 x 226.



## Announcements

### Kudos

*WLA encourages members to inform us of accomplishments of yourselves or your WLA colleagues so that we may recognize them here.*

State Representative Connie "LaJoyce" Johnson was elected House Minority Whip for the 2005 legislative session.

Megan Phillips was selected to receive the 2004 Citation of Merit for Outstanding Achievement and Meritorious Service, awarded by the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Education. The award recognizes alumni of the college who have made significant contributions to fields other than education.

**MEMBERSHIP ALERT! PAY DUES TODAY!** WLA membership is now over 400! But many members have yet to pay dues for the current term. Delinquent members will be removed from the database and will not receive future mailings. The membership renewal form is sitting in your inbox. Fill it out and send your check today! While you're at it, rescue your colleagues and friends from the isolation of non-membership and sign them up! The form is available on our web page. [www.wlastl.org](http://www.wlastl.org)

### LAAW Fundraisers

**Trivia Night:** Crestwood Municipal Court and The Municipal Court Advocacy Project of Legal Advocates for Abused Women (LAAW) are teaming up to bring you TRIVIA NIGHT Saturday, January 15, 2005. Game Begins at 7:00 p.m. Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. Crestwood Community Center 9245 Whitecliff Park Lane Crestwood (In Whitecliff Park off Pardee Road). Tables of 8 are \$160. No more than 8 people per table. Beer and soda provided, and pack a picnic or snacks for your group. First, Second and Third Place Prizes! Raffle Prizes! Door Prizes! Call 314-535-0684 or write to [laawl@mindspring.com](mailto:laawl@mindspring.com) for reservations. MCAP provides court advocacy and other extensive services free-of-charge to domestic violence victims in Crestwood and other communities. Due to a decrease in federal funding this project is in jeopardy. All proceeds from this evening's event will help sustain this vital program. Visit website for more information about LAAW, its programs, volunteer and giving opportunities. [www.laawstl.org](http://www.laawstl.org).

**Brunch at Schlafly Bottleworks in Maplewood January 23, 11am-2pm.** Portion of the proceeds will benefit LAAW. No reservations needed.

### New Jewish Theatre presents play about domestic violence.

*Unexpected Tenderness*, by Israel Horovitz, directed by Brad Schwartz. "Horovitz waited 30 years to write this semi-autobiographical play that powerfully and poignantly explores his father's tendency toward verbal, mental, and physical abuse. It is a drama that explodes the myth that Jewish families are immune to domestic violence, a brightly etched drama with the deep and deceptively fragile beauty of a Chopin polonaise." Runs February 17 – March 6. For more information or for reservations, call 442-3257 or go to [www.newjewishtheatre.org](http://www.newjewishtheatre.org).

### Lost and Found

**Prescription sunglasses left at Installation Banquet** on September 21 at Forest Park Golf Clubhouse. Brand name St. John. Glasses have black ear stems and gold frames. Case is black with snake skin pattern and black and gold decorative button. Contact Megan Phillips at 531-5316.

### So, Whaddya Think?

The WLA Newsletter editors want your feedback about newsletter content, format, and distribution. We invite your submissions, announcements, or other contributions. Contact Megan Phillips at [phbreton@swbell.net](mailto:phbreton@swbell.net). Electronic distribution of the newsletter results in a substantial savings to the organization. However, paper copies are still available upon request. Members without e-mail or otherwise desiring to receive the newsletter by regular mail may opt out of electronic distribution by contacting WLA's Executive Directors at [wlastl@yahoo.com](mailto:wlastl@yahoo.com).

**WOMEN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION OF GREATER  
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## **WLA Mission Statement**

To encourage women lawyers to prosper and endeavor in the profession and in their individual practices,

To encourage and aid women in attaining and excelling in leadership positions,

To encourage women to be civic-minded by volunteering their time and talent to the organization and to the Greater St. Louis area,

To promote diversity and justice within the legal system and to end gender bias, and

To work with community leaders to improve the status of women.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS...**

**Today:** Send in your membership renewal form. Get five friends/colleagues to join WLA this year!

**January 26:** Panel Discussion for students at Washington University School of Law. 11am. Panelists needed! Contact Michelle Gravel at 935-9729 or Sara O'Keefe at 259-2000.

**January 28:** Deadline to nominate candidates for the Women's Justice Awards. Please send us your suggestions ASAP or call 421-1880 x 226 for a nomination form.

**February:** Mentorship Reception at Bryan Cave. More info on the way.

**March 4:** Legislative Luncheon CLE featuring area women legislators. 11:30 at Forest Park Golf Club-house. Registration info coming soon.

**April 5:** Panel discussion for students at SLU. 5pm Panelists needed. Call Michelle Gravel or Sara O'Keefe.

**May:** Scholarship and Judicial Reception. More info to follow.

**June:** Judicial Appointments Workshop. More info to follow.

**July/August:** Missouri Bar Board of Governors Elections. Let's put more women on that board! WLA Board Elections and Annual Picnic for Members will also be held in July and August, respectively.

**September:** President's Award and Installation Banquet.

**September 29:** Golf Tournament.

**Fall 2005:** City, County, and Appellate Judicial Commission Elections. Know any potential women candidates? Let us know and help us elect women!