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Friday
March 13, 2009

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President's Column by Tricia Susi



A New Perspective for the New Year

As usual, I am writing this article past the deadline set forth by the committee. As attorneys, we all can appreciate procrastination. If it were not for procrastination, nothing would ever get done. I wish I could remember who told me that, but I find it to be very true in both my career and in my private life.

That brings me to my New Year's Resolution and the reason why I am writing this particular article: I resolve not to procrastinate. I will return calls and e-mails promptly. I will make my "to do" list and stick to it. But, most of all I will listen and respond to those in my life that call on me and require my time, whether that be a client who is going through a time of crisis or a family member who desperately needs my immediate assistance.

You never know when the call to action will come, but when it does, you cannot put it off. Mine came the day after Christmas, when my father-in-law, Joe, was diagnosed with Stage IV Pancreatic Cancer. Joe is not only one of my biggest fans; he is a tremendous supporter of the Women Lawyers' Association. For the past five years, Joe has played in our Golf Tournament, but his participation really goes beyond just getting out there and shooting a round of golf. He would start asking me at the end of October each year where and when the next event would be. He always has some bit of advice, ranging from location of the course to the caliber of the items in the goodie bags. By the way - he is usually right on mark about all of it.

Leave it to Joe to give advice to anyone who has ears and is willing to sit and listen. He is not a lawyer, nor a professional, but if you are patient enough to listen to his advice and take it with a grain of salt, you will find that he is correct about 9 times out of 10. This is didactically different than the way I was raised, as my father would not always give me advice, but would let me "figure it out" on my own or simply ask, "What do you think you should do?" So it is not surprising that my normal knee jerk reaction to any family member with so much advice is, "don't tell me what to do." Now, with Joe, I have learned to listen and am a better person for it.

The list of advice this man has given and continues to give me is endless. He reminds me to take a common sense approach to my cases, which in family law is sometimes easier said than done. He tells me to assert myself in my career, which sometimes I fail to do because really who wants to make waves. By the way, I cannot believe I actually admitted that! He loves to talk "law" with me—it is a highlight for him to sit with me and watch any number of "reality" law shows, to hear me critique the Judge or to admonish the plaintiff or defendant.

The only regret I have is that he was never able witness me litigate a case because something always seemed to come up in his schedule or mine. For now, I will watch "court TV" until I cannot see straight, I will listen and hear Joe's advice until my head is ready to explode, but most importantly, I will be by his side whenever he needs me.

Obamas Bring Diversity on a National Level



WLA reflects on an important moment in history when on January 20, 2009, Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States by Chief Justice John Roberts. "Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and begin again the work of remaking America," Obama said.

President Obama will begin the makeover with a diverse team, reflecting America's diversity. According to a study by the New York University's Wagner School of Public Service and The Washington Post, of the top officials in Obama's White House, excluding cabinet secretaries, 24 are men and 21 are women. Just under 70 percent are white, and 20 percent are black. Three officials are Asian-American, and two are Hispanic.

In her first interview last week as the new First Lady, Michelle Obama said that she was excited about her new life "because I think there's a lot that can be done with this platform." She plans to take a lead on issues relating to military families and work-life balance for women. Her policy director, Jocelyn Frye, worked for a charity that championed equality at work.



It was also announced last week that she plans to promote volunteerism, a cause that her husband has already championed. The president has announced the creation of Organising for America, an attempt to keep grassroots supporters engaged in politics, develop new community leaders and maintain the infrastructure that helped to get him elected.

Mrs. Obama is the third First Lady with a postgraduate degree, after Hillary Clinton and Laura Bush. In July, 2008, she accepted an invitation to become an honorary member of the 100-year-old black sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha.

- by Nicole Colbert-Botchway and Jessica Kennedy

Governor Nixon Selects Women to Lead



On Monday, January 12, 2009, Jay Nixon, Missouri's 55th Governor, was sworn into office by Chief Justice Laura Denvir Stith. In his inauguration speech, he promised, "Today marks the beginning of a new day in the state." The new day began with the appointment of diverse senior staffers and agency directors, some of whom are WLA members, supporters and friends.

Margaret Donnelly — new Director of Health and Senior Services



Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed former State Representative and long-time WLA member **Margaret Donnelly**, of Richmond Heights, to the position of Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. The Department of Health and Senior Services is responsible for coordinating and communicating matters relating to health, public health, regulation and senior services for the state of Missouri. In this position, Rep. Donnelly will oversee a wide variety of programs and divisions, including public and community health, senior and disability services, vital records and emergency preparedness.

In a press release dated January 07, 2009, then-Governor-Elect Nixon announced, “Ensuring the health, safety and welfare of Missouri families and senior citizens is a top priority for my administration, and Margaret Donnelly is exactly the right person to take on this vital position. With her many years of experience as a social worker, an attorney and a state legislator, Margaret understands the key role the Department of Health and Senior Services plays in the lives of all Missourians. Margaret will do an excellent job ensuring that the Department is as efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of Missouri families as possible.”

In the same press release Rep. Donnelly said, “I’m proud of my career in the state legislature fighting for Missouri children, families and senior citizens, and I look forward to continuing that work as part of Governor-Elect Nixon’s administration. The work we will do in the Department of Health and Senior Services touches the lives of everyone in the state, from our youngest children to our senior citizens. We’ll work tirelessly every day to ensure that our state is a healthy, safe place for all Missourians.”

Rep. Donnelly, 54, was first elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2003 from District 73 in St. Louis, and she has focused much of her work on issues relating to families, seniors and health care. In the House, she was the ranking member on the Appropriations Subcommittee for Health and Senior Services, Mental Health and Social Services for two years and on the Budget Committee for four years. She also served on the following committees: Children and Families; Senior Security; Communications, Energy and Technology; the Joint Committee on MO HealthNet; and the Joint Committee on Government Accountability. Rep. Donnelly served on the Medicaid Reform Commission as well. Her accomplishments in the legislature have received recognition from numerous organizations and groups, including: the RCGA Statesman Award; the 2006 Child Advocate of the Year Award from the Missouri Alliance for Children, Youth and Families; the 2006 Women’s Justice Award; the 2005 Legislative Leadership Award from Paragard Disability Rights; and the 2004 Child Advocate of the Year Award from the St. Louis Council on Child Abuse and Neglect.

In addition to her service in the House of Representatives, Rep. Donnelly has been an attorney in private practice for 20 years. She has also worked as a social worker at schools in Missouri and Wisconsin and with the Missouri Department of Social Services. Throughout her career, Rep. Donnelly has been an active member of the St. Louis community. She was a member of the Ferguson-Florissant School Board from 1986 to 1992, serving as president for one term. From 1991 to 1992, she was chair of the Commission for Abused Women and Children, which established the first domestic violence shelter in St. Louis County. She was a member of the METRO Board of Commissioners from 1999 to 2002 and the Beyond Housing Board of Directors from 1981 to 1984. She joined the board of directors of the Family Support Network in 2003 and continues to serve in that position. A 1988 graduate of the St. Louis University School of Law, Rep. Donnelly earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work from the same university in 1975 and 1977, respectively. She has been a guest lecturer at Washington University, St. Louis University, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Fontbonne University and Maryville University. Rep. Donnelly and her husband, Dr. David Riedel, have two children, Julia and Adam Riedel.

We are very proud of our member, supporter and friend and salute her for all her hard work.

- by Nicole Colbert-Botchway

Linda Martinez — first female Director of Economic Development



On January 6, 2009, during a visit to a local small business, then-Governor-Elect Jay Nixon announced his intention to appoint **Linda M. Martínez**, of St. Louis, to the position of Director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development. She makes history as the first woman to lead the Department of Economic Development. Ms. Martínez will oversee a wide variety of state programs and services designed to create and retain jobs, attract businesses and help communities grow and prosper. The Department includes the Business and Community Services Division, the Division of Workforce Development and the Division of Tourism. In addition, the Missouri Housing Development Commission, the Missouri Arts

Council, the Missouri Women's Council, the Missouri Technology Corporation, the Missouri Community Service Commission, the Missouri Public Service Commission, the Office of the Public Council and the Missouri Development Finance Board are part of the Department.

Throughout her 26-year career as an adviser to businesses and organizations, Ms. Martínez worked extensively on transactions involving project finance and issues relating to tax credits, tax-exempt financing, bonds and other economic-development tools. Ms. Martínez has represented businesses in their expansion activities, housing developments, health-care and non-profit institutions, arenas, hotels, airports and retail establishments, among other organizations.

In a press release dated January 06, 2009, then-Governor-Elect Nixon stated, "During these difficult economic times, we must do everything we can to support small businesses and help them create new jobs. After years of working closely with businesses of all sizes, Linda Martínez understands the challenges entrepreneurs face, and she is ready to lead the fight to keep and create jobs here in Missouri. With her extensive experience in tax credits, bonds and financial strategy, Linda knows the economic-development system inside and out. She will make an excellent Director of Economic Development, and I'm proud to have her on my team."

In the same press release, Linda Martinez said, "As the national economic crisis continues, we must take bold steps to create and retain good-paying jobs here in Missouri and make sure our workers are ready to take on the jobs of tomorrow. Governor-elect Nixon's innovative Show Me JOBS plan will provide small-business owners the tools they need to expand their operations, train their workers and develop new jobs. By focusing our efforts on small-business growth and job-creation, Missouri won't just survive the national economic crisis; we'll also make our state stronger in the long run. Creating new jobs will be the Department's top priority, and we will work quickly to get the Show Me JOBS plan up and running."

Ms. Martínez, 54, has been a member of the Bryan Cave law firm in St. Louis since 1982, focusing her practice on financial and development transactions. Her clients and projects have included BJC HealthCare, Kiel Center Partners, the Garden District Commission, Grand Center Inc., Washington University Medical Center, Marriott International, the St. Louis Blues Hockey Club, McDonald Douglas Corporation, the St. Louis Science Center and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. In addition, Ms. Martínez has worked on the renovation of numerous low-income and historic apartment complexes in St. Louis. A 1982 graduate of the Washington University School of Law, Ms. Martínez earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1976. She received the Civic Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2007, the Woman of the Year Award from the St. Louis Daily Record in 2004, and the Distinguished Young Alumni Award from the Washington University School of Law in 2005. She was named to the St. Louis Business Journal's list of Most Influential Minority Leaders in 2005 and to the Journal's list of Community leaders every year from 2001 to 2007. In 2000, she was named a Special Leader by the YWCA. In addition to her work with Bryan Cave, Ms. Martínez is a commissioner for the St. Louis Science Center, the St. Louis Art Museum, a director with the United Way of Greater St. Louis, director and president of Circus Flora and a member of the Friends Board of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.

We salute her and appreciate the support she has given WLA over the years as a member, support and friend.

- by Nicole Colbert-Botchway

P.O. Box 1428

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MEMBERSHIP INVOICE
September 2008-2009

Please provide the following information for our records and return to: WLA, PO Box 1428, St. Louis, MO 63188.

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Mary Nelson — new Director of Boards and Commissions



On Monday January 4, 2009, then-Governor-Elect Jay Nixon appointed key personnel in the Governor's office, including his senior staff team. This diverse group includes Mary E. Nelson, a long-time supporter and friend of The Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Saint Louis, who was appointed Director of Boards & Commissions for the Governor.

Mary E. Nelson, of St. Louis, will serve as Director of Boards and Commissions, overseeing the screening of applicants and nominations for Governor Nixon. Ms. Nelson has practiced law in a variety of capacities in St. Louis for nearly three decades. Most recently, she has been an officer in the firm of Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C., working in the construction and corporate practice groups. From 2006 until March 2008, she was General Counsel for The Kwame Building Group Inc., one of the top-35 construction- and program-management firms in the world. In addition to positions with other private firms, Ms. Nelson served as General Counsel and Legislative Director for the Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives from 1996 to 1997; was General Counsel for the St. Louis Development Corporation (SLDC) from 1993 to 1996; and was Director of Small and Minority Business Development for the SLDC's predecessor organization from 1982 to 1986. Ms. Nelson earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton University in 1977 and her juris doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1980.

Mary E. Nelson is very active in the community and was Mound City Bar Association, President (1994-1995), Vice President (1987-1988), and Corresponding Secretary (1986-1987). She has received numerous awards including but not limited to the Missouri House of Representatives Recognition for Community Service (2004), 17th Ward Democrats Community Service Award (2004), Coro Leadership Center's "Emerging Leader" Award (2004), St. Louis Business Journal's "Top 25 Most Influential Women in Business" (2002), Strathmore's Who's Who (1995), Women Lawyers Association and University of Missouri Law School Leadership Award (1995), and St. Louis Sentinel "Yes I Can" Award (1994). Her community involvement includes but is not limited to her service as Board of Trustees, Bar Foundation of the University of Missouri School of Law (2006-present), Board of Directors, Central West End-Southeast Development Corp. (2002-2004), President (2004), President, St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners (2002-2004), Board of Trustees, Police Retirement System of City of St. Louis (2002-2004), Backstoppers (2002-Present), Mayor's Community Business Resource Council (2001-2003), Missouri House of Representatives Reapportionment Commission (2001), Board of Directors, Doorways (2000-2003), Board of Directors, Jazz at the Bistro (2002-2003), Board of Trustees, St. Louis Employees Retirement System (1994-1998).

We salute her and appreciate her continued support of WLA.

- by Nicole Colbert-Botchway

Cultural Competency in the Legal Profession Symposium

Saturday, February 28, 2009, at the Washington University School of Law (Missouri CLE credit pending)

Keynote Address: "Diversity Without Division" by Keith Boykin, editor of The Daily Voice online news site, CNBC contributor, BET TV host and New York Times best-selling author.

Topics will include: "How Women Have Fared in the Legal Profession," "Serving Vulnerable Populations: The Importance of Legal Services from a Social Justice Perspective," "Hate Crimes: An FBI Update," "Sustaining Your Religious Beliefs and Respecting the Beliefs of Others as a Practicing Lawyer," "Where's Waldo?: Spotting White Privilege in Daily Life," and "Understanding LGBT Equality in Missouri." The Symposium is free of charge.

For more information, please contact: Deanna J. Atchley at djatchley@wulaw.wustl.edu

Please join

MOUND CITY BAR ASSOCIATION
&
WOMEN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION OF
GREATER ST. LOUIS

For A Happy Hour and Trivia Night!

*Friday, February 13, 2009
Saint Louis University at Allied Health Facility
3437 Caroline Street
St. Louis, Missouri*

*Happy Hour 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Hors d' oeuvres & Cash Bar
Entertainment by Pianist Ptah Williams
Trivia to Follow Promptly at 7:00 p.m.*

Prizes Awarded for the Best Theme Table!
Please feel free to bring your own cocktails/refreshments for Trivia

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Women Lawyers' Association of Greater St. Louis

P.O. Box 1428
St. Louis, MO 63188
Email: wlastl@wlastl.org



WLA Mission Statement. Our mission is to:

- Promote and assist women to obtain positions of influence and leadership within their workplace, the legal profession, the judiciary, and the community.
- Raise awareness of and combat biases against women within the community at large, the legal profession, and under the law.
- Advocate for diversity, equality, and justice under the law and within the legal system.
- Support women lawyers in their personal and professional lives.
- Provide opportunities for volunteerism and advocacy on issues affecting women.
- Collaborate with other individuals and organizations to improve the status of women.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

“An Evening with
Justice Sandra Day O’Connor”

The Inaugural Judicial Learning Center
Danforth/Eagleton Lecture
Wednesday, February 25, 2009

6:30 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Dinner
Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark

Sponsored by the Judicial Learning Center &
the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis



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