

# WLA Newsletter

Spring 2005

Spring 2005

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2004-2005

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## Inside this issue:

Financial Advice	2
Election Update	2
Scholarship	3
Join NAWL	3
Women's History	4
Opportunities Galore	5
Ready, Set, Activate!!!	6
Announcements	7
Calendar	8

## Taking Matters into Our Own Hands Megan Phillips

We all know the expression, "if you want something done [right], then you have to do it yourself." In 1976, a group of women lawyers in St. Louis wanted something done; they wanted women to have equal opportunities for advancement in the legal profession. So they set to it. They formed WLA and started putting collective pressure on the powers that be. They were bold and fearless, despite a real risk of backlash. Thanks to their efforts, we've come a long way. But not far enough. As expressed in an earlier column about bumper stickers (fall issue 2004), I remain outraged about certain gender inequities and unapologetically have used WLA as a platform to address them. Feedback from the members has been positive, and I sense that both the general membership and the board wish to continue to increase and escalate our activism on issues of common concern. Here are a few examples of how we, as an organization, are taking matters into our own hands.

### Workplace Survey

We continue to hear anecdotal complaints from members and non-members about policies and practices in their workplaces that hinder the ability of women to advance or even stay in their firms, even the so-called "leading firms" in the city. These women are afraid to approach their executive committees about improving the workplace. They need a powerful advocate from the outside. Enter WLA. Taking matters into our own hands, we recently launched a statewide survey of employer policies and practices affecting women's advancement. If you haven't yet completed the survey, there is still time to make your voice heard. Just go to our website and take few minutes to weigh in. The results will be published and provided to law firms along with specific recommendations, based on the data collected, for firms to implement to curb the attrition and increase productivity and satisfaction of their women lawyers.

### Missouri Bar

As further explained on page 6, we are lobbying the Missouri Bar Gender & Justice Committee to wake from its apparent dormancy and collaborate with WLA and its sister groups on issues of priority to us. This committee should be directed by women and for women as a statewide nucleus of collaboration, communication, resources, and ad-

vocacy. Please help us take matters into our own hands, to resurrect and assume control of this body, by attending a critical meeting in Jefferson City on May 13. Don't let them justify the status quo with, "Well, you weren't there." If you really can't go to the meeting, then at least please contact Missouri Bar President Joe Whisler (jwhisler@coolinglaw.com) by April 25 to convince the bar to disseminate our workplace survey to out-state women via ESQ, a service that they have thus far refused.



### Fahrenheit 211

Since the creation of our ad hoc juvenile court task force, family and juvenile law practitioners have been coming out of the woodwork to express their frustrations and outrage about due process violations affecting parents and children in juvenile dependency proceedings. The state continues to take legal and physical custody from fit parents without sufficient admissible evidence. If you're a poor and battered woman, you're doomed. The Greenbook Initiative, a multi-million dollar federal project funded with our tax dollars, has had four years to implement changes recommended by the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges, and has failed. WLA, through our growing task force, has taken matters into our own hands to train lawyers to represent parents in these cases by planning a half-day CLE in partnership with BAMSL. We've invited as our keynote speaker a national expert from New York who successfully litigated a federal class action law suit on behalf of battered women whose civil rights were violated when the state social services agency took custody of their children without sufficient cause. We asked the Greenbook Initiative to co-sponsor the CLE, since the federal court's opinion relied

(Continued on page 5)

## Time for Spring Cleaning Your Finances

With 2005 upon us, now is a great time to reflect upon your financial picture and implement those new year's financial resolutions! Here are some ideas for you.

The beginning of a year is a good time to implement a budget based on your current financial picture. Take some time to evaluate your spending habits and make a budget that truly reflects your lifestyle. A good tip is to spend one month recording your expenses and then do your budgeting. Do not change your spending habits during the recording period. You can then reflect where you are spending your money and make any appropriate changes. Be sure to allow for long term goals in your budget, such as the purchase of a car or a much needed vacation.

If you have not already done so, you have until April 15, 2005 to complete your 2004 IRA contribution. For 2004, you may contribute up to \$3000 into either a Roth or Traditional IRA. (If you are over 50, you have catch-up provisions available that allow for extra deferral.) If you own your own business, you may consider using a SEP IRA instead. You are able to contribute to an IRA even if you are participating in an employer sponsored plan, so consider using this as an additional means of saving for retirement. In 2005, the contribution limit is \$4000, more if you are over 50. Now is a good time to start planning for that contribution as well, despite having until April 15, 2006 to do so.

In 2005, the contribution limit to your 401(k) will be \$14,000 (more if you are over 50.) Contact your plan sponsor to increase your contributions if you have not al-

ready done so. If you are not currently contributing to your 401(k), now is the time to start. Even if you can only defer a small amount, get in the habit of doing so!

Now is also a good time to check your beneficiaries on your IRAs, insurance policies and employer sponsored plans, such as the 401(k). If you have recently had major life changes such as marriage, children or divorce, you will want to make sure that your beneficiaries are up to date and current.

If you have not reviewed your will or trust within the last three years, you will want to take some time to do so. Make sure that your will or trust complies with the latest changes to the law to ensure maximum benefit to your loved ones. If you do not have a will or trust, you should consider exploring whether this is appropriate for you at this time.

Finally, take some time to get organized! Set up files or binders for your budget, IRAs, employer sponsored retirement accounts, insurance documents and wills/trusts. You will have a better 2005 knowing that your files are in order and your resolutions have been met.

*Laura Klearman Silver, J.D. is the founder of The Silver Group. She works with individuals, trusts and charitable foundations providing access to financial planning, investment advisory and wealth management services. Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through Cambridge Investment Research, a registered Broker/Dealer, Member N.A.S.D., Inc./SIPC and a Federally Registered Investment Adviser. Cambridge Investment Research, Inc. and The Silver Group are not affiliated.*

*The editor apologizes for the delay in publishing this article.*

### Election Update from the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life

Among the many winners in last month's municipal elections are seven participants of the Sue Shear Institute's Pipeline to Local Office campaign training school, maintaining the program's impressive 50 percent success rate.

Winners who attended the two-day program in January include Donna Morrow, mayor of O'Fallon; Rashda "Sonny" Buttar, Clayton School Board; Ruth Springer, Olivette City Council; Dee Mogerman, Parkway School Board; Kristina Starr, Meramec Valley School Board; and Nancy Hartman, Normandy School Board. In addition, Pam Fogarty, who attended the class in 2003, was re-elected mayor of Dardenne Prairie.

Both Starr and Buttar were the top vote-getters in multi-seat, multi-candidate races. Starr garnered more votes than two incumbents and was one of three winners out of a field of seven. Buttar was one of six candidates including two incumbents vying for three seats.

"The class was wonderful," Buttar said. "It gave me a depth of understanding that I didn't have before."

Starr said the skills she learned made her opponents sit up and take notice. "I have been able to utilize some great strategies thanks to my participation in the Pipeline seminar," Starr said. "People have been amazed at how efficient and dedicated I have been to my campaign."

Institute Manager Dayna Stock saluted all 14 participants of the Pipeline program. "We can't have more women at the public policy table unless more women run," Stock said. "Any woman who puts herself forward to run for public office is providing a role model for others to follow. That's a real public service in itself."

In describing why her victory was so heartfelt, Buttar summed up the Institute's mission of including more women in all aspects of public policy: "Having a voice at the table - that is so huge."

The Institute is a non-partisan, educational entity located on the campus of the University of Missouri - St. Louis. 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/).

## HELP WLA FATTEN THE SCHOLARSHIP PURSE FOR A DESERVING LAW STUDENT

As the time approaches for WLA to award its annual Linda J. Murphy Scholarship, the Scholarship Committee is requesting donations from members to help increase the scholarship fund. This year the Committee hopes to award \$4,000 in scholarships. Right now, the scholarship fund has \$3,200. However, with your help we can reach our goal and award substantial scholarships to deserving law students!

The scholarship is given annually in honor of Linda J. Murphy, a former WLA president and advocate for the rights of women and minorities. Ms. Murphy practiced in the areas of criminal defense, civil rights and domestic relations, in addition to teaching trial practice and serving her community in pro bono cases for the ACLU. Each year, WLA awards scholarships to law students who have distinguished themselves in academics and community service--with particular attention paid to efforts furthering the advancement of women.

Please help the Scholarship Committee honor the memory of Linda J. Murphy by rewarding deserving law students for their hard work and accomplishments!

Please make checks payable to the WLA Scholarship Fund and send to: Deborah Benoit - 2016 S. Big Bend Blvd. - St. Louis, MO 63117. The Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) charitable entity, so donations are tax deductible!

Lastly, please attend the annual scholarship and judicial reception on May 17 at 5:30pm at Washington University law school.

## JOIN THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS

The National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) is a national voluntary legal professional organization devoted to the interests of women lawyers and their families. Founded in 1899, the Association has historically served as an educational forum and an active voice for the concerns of women in the legal profession and women worldwide. NAWL continues to support and advance the interests of women in and under the law and works towards the social, political, and professional empowerment of women. NAWL members work to end discrimination and violence against women and to prevent the erosion of hard-fought gains. NAWL's members include both men and women lawyers. NAWL's programs are held in conjunction with ABA meetings and although NAWL is an ABA affiliate, it remains an independent entity whose agenda is driven by members' concerns. NAWL members serve as delegates and liaisons to national and international organizations, including: ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, The United Nations (as an official non-governmental organization observer), and the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations. NAWL publishes the [Women Lawyers Journal](#), a quarterly magazine. The articles address general and specialized areas of legal practice as well as topics of specific concern to all women in the legal field. NAWL also tracks federal legislation that impacts women and publishes such information to its members.

NAWL is preparing to publish the 6th Edition of The National Directory of Women-Owned Law Firms and Women Lawyers. The Directory is published annually, and provides a well-organized guide for locating women lawyers and women-owned law firms throughout the United States. By indexing the lawyers by name and by geographic area, the Directory is both useful and accessible. Experience in past years demonstrates that the Directory has become the definitive compendium of practicing women attorneys and their law firms throughout the United States.

NAWL distributes complimentary copies of the Directory to thousands of in-house counsel throughout the U.S. NAWL also distributes the Directory at all NAWL meetings, the Annual and Midyear meetings of the American Bar Association, to state and regional bar associations, and to professional organizations. An invaluable legal resource for in-house counsel, the Directory allows clients to easily find the right woman lawyer for the job - and gives women lawyers the opportunity to present themselves to a wider array of potential clients. Please contact NAWL Directory Editor Helena Lefkow (773-368-3034) with questions or to receive a complimentary copy of the 5th Edition 2004-2005 Directory. You may also find more information on the Directory on our website at [www.nawl.org](http://www.nawl.org).

### ATTEND A NATIONAL WOMEN LAWYERS EVENT IN CHICAGO THIS SUMMER

In conjunction with the American Bar Association Annual Meeting, the National Association for Women Lawyers (NAWL), the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations (NCWBA), and the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession will host an Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on August 5, 2005, in Chicago.

Go to the ABA's website ([www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org)) for more information about the annual meeting and this luncheon.

## WLA Central to Celebration of Women's History Month in East St. Louis

WLA played a central role in this year's celebration of Women's History Month at the U.S. District Court for the 7th Circuit in East St. Louis, Illinois. In recognition of this year's national theme, "Women Change America," WLA President Megan Phillips gave a presentation on the history of women in the law titled "The Role of Women in Changing America's Legal Landscape." Phillips led the audience on a brief voyage through time, from the 17th century to the present, touching on events and individuals having an impact on women's rights and opportunities, then facilitated a discussion of audience members' own experiences and observations about the achievements and remaining challenges for women.

Audience members were particularly amused by an excerpt from a letter by Abigail Adams to her husband, the future President John Adams, in 1776. "[I]n the new Code of Laws which I suppose



it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember, all Men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies, we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice, or Representation." John responded, "[w]e know better than to repeal our Masculine systems." After the presentation, Phillips lingered to chat with attendees (photo).

### Famous Dates in Women's History

- 1869 Lemma Barkaloo becomes the first woman law student in the nation. A native of New York, she had been refused admission to Harvard and Columbia and had studied privately in New York. She matriculated to St. Louis Law School (now Washington University), attended classes but didn't graduate, deciding instead to apply for the Missouri Bar after one year of study. She was examined by court officials and in 1870 became the first woman lawyer in St. Louis and in Missouri licensed to practice law. Six months after being admitted to the bar, she died of typhoid at age 22.
- 1871: Phoebe Couzins became the first woman to graduate from St. Louis Law School (now Washington University).
- 1903: Daisy Barbee and Gratia Woodside formed the first all-woman law office in St. Louis.
- 1951: Harvard law school begins admitting women.
- 1985 – Corazon Aquino becomes 7<sup>th</sup> President of the Third Philippine Republic
- 1913 - Women's suffragists march in Washington D.C., disrupting President Wilson's inauguration; police attack the women marching while onlookers stand by watching
- MARCH 8 – INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

*Some excerpts from Legal Advocates for Abused Women's 2005 calendar titled: Celebrating Ourselves 2005: A Year to Honor Women's Achievements. To purchase a calendar contact Katie Wessling at 314-535-0813.*

## Volunteer and Community Involvement 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.
- Become a supporting member of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence (MCADV). \$35 individual membership entitles you to frequent updates and information about state and federal legislation, access to legal and social experts to help with your cases, free or discounted training conferences, eligibility to attend meetings and participate in committee work, and access to the lending library and listservs. For more information call 573-634-4161.

### BAMSL ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Monday, June 20, 2005, 11:00 A.M. Shotgun Start  
The Players Club: 745 Lewis Road, Crescent, Missouri 63025 (near Eureka)  
636-938-6200

\$100 fee includes green fees & cart, valet service, lunch before the round, beer & soda on the course, and prizes, drinks and appetizers at the Social Hour.

**ONLY ONE SESSION THIS YEAR - SCRAMBLE FORMAT! SPACE IS LIMITED - RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED FIRST COME/FIRST SERVED**

For more information or to reserve, contact Delores at BAMSL: 314-421-4134.

### WLA Forming Team for Race for a Cure.

Please join us for the 7th annual Komen St. Louis Race for the Cure® Saturday June 18th, 2005. To run or walk with the WLA team in person or in spirit, contact Lindsay Cohen at lcohen@senniger.com / 231-5400 or Lynn Ricci at lricci@mindspring.com / 647-1200.

## Volunteers Needed to Teach Future Women Lawyers at Girls State

The Missouri Girls State program is a mock government summer camp for high school seniors organized by the American Legion Auxiliary since 1941. Over 700 students attend the program, of which more than 225 will choose the law as their "major" for the week. The program relies on volunteers to present and facilitate substantive programming. Megan Phillips coordinates the law curriculum and needs volunteer lawyers to help facilitate mock trials, oral arguments, and other activities. The program will take place on the campus of Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg June 20-23. Law "classes" are in the morning, and mock trials are in the afternoon. Please contact Megan Phillips for more information or to volunteer. This is really fun! You'll be glad you participated! 314-531-5316 or [phbreton@swbell.net](mailto:phbreton@swbell.net).

*(Continued from page 1)*

heavily on Greenbook principles and since education is one of the core mandates of the Greenbook grant. They refused for political reasons. (We still don't know what they're doing with all that money.) In addition to the CLE, we also continue to lobby anyone who will listen to our demands for systemic change and due process for our clients.

### Judicial Commissions

Most of you probably know that judges in the city, county, and appellate districts are appointed by the governor from a panel of three applicants chosen from among dozens by the judicial selection commissions. Each commission is comprised of lay members appointed by the Governor and attorney members elected by the bar. In St. Louis County, only one of five commissioners is a woman. In the city, there are two out of five. On the appellate commission, there are two out of seven. In her acceptance speech at the Women's Justice Awards dinner, Citizen of the Year, Millie Cohn, emphasized the need for more women on the judicial commissions in order to get more women appointed to the bench. We are taking matters into our own hands by organizing efforts to recruit and support women running for election to the commissions. Debbie Champion is already off and running in the county. Mary Anne Sedey and Nancy Mogab are studying feasibility and garnering support to run in the city and appellate district, respectively. Call them today to pledge your support and campaign dollars, and call your friends to secure the same. Fully one-half or more of lawyers eligible to vote in these elections don't bother. Help your sisters get those votes and place these highly qualified women on the commissions that will select our state's future judges.

### Strength in Numbers

Recognizing the sad fact that, out of approximately 1700 women lawyers in the St. Louis area, only about 300 are WLA members, we are taking matters into our own hands to go out and recruit those who have never heard of WLA or have misperceptions about us. We are conducting outreach lunch meetings in several large firms in order to inform more women about our mission and projects, bring them into our network, and increase our strength in numbers. You can help by getting your friends and colleagues to join.

There are other matters. More bold and fearless hands are needed.

## Join the WLA Board

Help lead WLA into its fourth decade by joining the board of directors. Nominations for the 2005-2006 term will be accepted from May 1 until June 1. Nomination forms are available on our website: [www.wlastl.org](http://www.wlastl.org).

## MAABA / MCBA Unity Dinner

The Unity Dinner, co-sponsored by the Missouri Asian-American Bar Association and the Mound City Bar Association, is this Thursday, April 21 at Wei Hong Seafood Restaurant at 7740 Olive at North and South Road at 6:00 pm. Come for a 10-course meal including lobster, or just stop by for cocktails (free beer from Anheuser Busch or cash bar for the rest). Dinner cost is \$35.00 for everything, including wine with dinner.

## You are cordially invited to the 15th Annual Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Awards Luncheon.

Sunday, August 7, 2005  
11:30am-1:30pm  
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Grand Ballroom  
151 E. Wacker Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Contact Julia Gillespie at 312-988-5668 or [mbrent@abanet.org](mailto:mbrent@abanet.org).

## Free CLE from Legal Services

Legal Service of Eastern Missouri is hosting a state-wide legal services training conference on **4/21** and **4/22**. All WLA members are invited to attend free of charge. The program will include some excellent presentations on working with domestic violence victims, which many WLA members do on a pro bono basis through LSEM and LAAW. Substantive tracks include housing, family law, consumer law, professional development, and appellate and administrative trial advocacy.

Conference will take place at the downtown Marriott. For more info, contact LSEM at 534-4200.

## WLA LAUNCHES STATEWIDE WORKPLACE SURVEY FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

WLA has launched a statewide survey in order to identify and promote policies and practices that encourage the advancement of women lawyers. WLA developed its survey based on a model created by the National Association of Women Lawyers. The results of the survey will be used to assess the current circumstances of women lawyers in Missouri, share information about best practices, and ultimately improve the workplace for women. All women lawyers in Missouri who work for a firm or other employer are invited and encouraged to make their voices heard by completing the survey. Just visit WLA's website at [www.wlastl.org](http://www.wlastl.org). To request a paper copy, contact Megan Phillips at 314-531-5316 or [phbreton@swbell.net](mailto:phbreton@swbell.net)

### Board Holds Fruitful Spring Retreat

Your faithful officers and directors (most of them, anyway) sacrificed a beautiful Saturday morning to focus on WLA's mission and long-term planning objectives on the occasion of the semi-annual board retreat, hosted at the home of WLA President Megan Phillips on April 16. For their dedication, attendees were rewarded with mimosas, snacks, and, for the fidgety, Play Doh.

All board members expressed their desire to see WLA continue to engage in more activism, increase its membership, and enhance its influence in the community by taking a stand on important issues and by undertaking visible, organized efforts around critical events.

Noteworthy agenda items included promoting women for the judicial commission elections, planning for the 2006 Midwest Regional Conference for Women in the Law, expanding the scholarship entity to serve as a bar foundation, revising the mission statement for clarity of purpose, and reviewing the function and activities of certain standing committees to increase effectiveness.

The board invites the input of the membership regarding the direction and governance of the organization. We want to hear from you. Just call us!

### ABA Publishes Results of Study on Minorities in the Profession

The 2004 study showed that progress has been especially slow for women of color.

Although women make up a growing percentage of minority lawyers (44% in 2000), they are almost completely excluded from top private sector jobs: less than 1% of partners in Chicago firms and 1.1% of Fortune 500 general counsels.

Law firm attrition rates for women of color are higher than any other group. 12% of minority women leave their firms within the first year, and 75% leave within five years.

## Strategic Alliances and Friendly Takeovers

### Please Attend a Meeting of the Missouri Bar Gender & Justice Committee May 13, 10am-12pm in Jefferson City

The Missouri Gender & Justice Task Force was established in 1990 to conduct research about gender bias in the state court system. In 1993, it issued a 354-page report containing its findings and recommendations. The task force subsequently became a standing committee of the Missouri Bar to oversee implementation of the recommendations.

Does anyone know anything about the committee's activities since 1993? Neither do we.

More recently, WLA has contacted the committee for collaboration on various projects such as the workplace survey and the 2006 regional conference, and has also expressed concerns about the propriety of a sole male chairperson controlling this particular committee, which was formed to address discrimination against women, at a time when the bar claims to be committed to increasing diversity in its leadership positions. These issues will be on the agenda when the committee meets on May 13.

Let's bring this committee back from the dead and make it work for us as it was intended by getting involved. But talk is cheap. If we want the committee to work for us, then we have to show up, be heard, influence the agenda, and offer our collaboration and leadership.

The committee can be a strategic partner to WLA and other regional women's bars as a statewide vehicle for our collective work and as a channel to access to Missouri Bar resources. We must make an appearance "en masse" at the committee meeting in order to effect a "friendly takeover" and get the committee going on issues of importance to us.

Please come to the meeting at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jeff City on May 13! To carpool, contact Megan Phillips at 314-531-5316 or [phbreton@swbell.net](mailto:phbreton@swbell.net).

### The Missouri Women's Coalition Wants You!

The Missouri Women's Coalition is a grass-roots organization whose mission is to unite women throughout Missouri to influence the women's vote for progressive candidates and to improve women's political participation and leadership both locally and nationally by informing, motivating, engaging, and empowering women throughout the state.

The Coalition invites WLA members to join its growing membership (just \$10!) and/or volunteer on the Advisory Board.

For more information contact Stacey Newman at 314-494-4399 / [snewman@missouriwomenscoalition.com](mailto:snewman@missouriwomenscoalition.com).

## Announcements

**Braggin' Rights** *Our mothers were wrong. WLA encourages members to inform us of accomplishments of yourselves or your WLA colleagues so that we may recognize them here.*

**Kudos to Genevieve Frank**, who has been awarded the Coro Community Leadership Award for her committed and innovative leadership in helping the less fortunate. Genevieve, Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Program of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, will receive the award during the 17th annual Coro Leadership Awards Celebration Thursday, May 19 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Coronado Ballroom in St. Louis, MO. Coro is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that is one of five national centers dedicated to the mission of training leaders to strengthen communities. In addition to its nine-month Fellows Program for post-graduate men and women interested in community and public affairs, Coro also conducts Women in Leadership, Community Leaders, Youth Leadership and Corporate Community programs.

**Bravo to Suzette Carlisle** for running the St. Louis half-marathon and to **Lisa Herder** for running the Boston marathon!

**Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Inc.** is seeking an attorney for its Special Projects Unit to work with persons with HIV/AIDS. This attorney will work on health-related cases, including Social Security Disability appeals, Medicaid appeals, and Durable Powers of Attorney for Health Care. Social Security law experience preferred. The attorney will also perform community education for AIDS service organizations. Position is funded by a three-year grant and subject to grant renewal. 0-5 years experience preferred. Salary: \$32,500-\$37,000, depending on experience. Deadline for resumes: May 2, 2005. Send resumes to Beth Roper, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Inc., 4232 Forest Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108. EOE

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.

### Assistant General Counsel Position

Peabody Energy is accepting applications for an in-house position of Assistant General Counsel to handle regulatory and legal research, legal and administrative filings, corporate filings, legislative analysis and research. Requires strong commercial law background and experience in contracts and complex legal research. Applicants with 6-12 years experience desired. Send resume via e-mail to Susan Stith at [sstith@peabodyenergy.com](mailto:ssstith@peabodyenergy.com).

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### LAAW TRIVIA NIGHT APRIL 30

It's that time! Legal Advocates for Abused Women is hosting its annual Trivia Night on April 30, 2005, at Congregation Temple Israel. Tables sell for \$160. Up to eight people may sit at the table. This always sells out so if you want to be there, make your reservation today! Call 314-535-0684 to reserve your table. See you there!

### Lost and Found - Last Call Before Donation to Charity

**Prescription sunglasses left at Installation Banquet** on September 21, 2004 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 [pbbreton@swbell.net](mailto:pbbreton@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  
ST. LOUIS**

P.O. Box 1428  
St. Louis, MO 63188  
Phone: 314-963-5290  
Email: wlastl@yahoo.com

[www.wlastl.org](http://www.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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS...**

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

**Today:** Volunteer to help plan the 2006 Midwest Regional Conference for Women in the Law. We need help with logistics, sponsorship, programming, marketing, social events, community collaboration, etc...

**May 1-31:** WLA Board nominations accepted.

**May 17:** Scholarship and Judicial Reception at Washington University School of Law. 5:30pm.

**July 15:** WLA Board elections. You must have paid dues this year in order to vote.

**July/August:** Missouri Bar Board of Governors and YLS Council elections. Let's put more women on those boards!

**August 31:** President's Picnic at the home of Megan Phillips (4548 Arco Avenue). 5:30pm

**September 8:** President's Award and Installation Banquet.

**September 29:** Golf Tournament.

**November 5:** City, County, and Appellate Judicial Commission Elections. Vote for women!

**June 2006:** Midwest Regional Conference for Women in the Law hosted by WLA in St. Louis.

Got a question about these events or others on our website? Call Megan Phillips at 314-531-5316.