



# WLA Newsletter

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2003-2004

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## President's Column, Peg McCartney

I recently found myself quoting my favorite child expert—my mother. In fact the older I get and the older my daughters get, I find myself speaking her motherly words in her special motherly way, with great frequency. The quotations are often along the lines of “If you do that long enough, your eyes will stick like that” or “There are children starving who would love that meatloaf.” And then there is the oldie but goodie “Treat others as you would like them to treat you”. (You wouldn’t want your sisters to poke you in the nose. My latest favorite is “Silence is golden.” It is not unusual for me to use the phrase several times a day, usually at the kitchen table at the end of dinner when we have exhausted profound conversation and we have moved on to topics

like a friend being able to eat an entire box of pop-tarts for lunch or another friend being able to burp the alphabet song. I can only handle so much braggadocio, before an exasperated “Silence is golden!” pops out of my mouth. After my last declaration of the virtues of silence, my youngest daughter asked me, “If I am quiet for ten minutes would you give me a dollar?” At first I thought she was set on splitting my last nerve, but then I realized that she thought silence was golden as in silence equals money. I must say I was tempted to take the easy way out and fork over the buck just so I could finish my dinner in peace, but that little mother guilt angel came and sat on my shoulder and said, “What does this saying mean, and what message does it send to my



daughters?” Is silence really golden? What if Martin Luther King’s famous words “I have a dream” were never spoken? What if the Browns never demanded an equal education? What if Rosa Parks would have decided it was easier after a long day to just shut up and move to the back of the bus? Who gets the gold when you don’t speak?

## WLA Accepting Nominations for the 2004-2005 Board

Are you a leader and a doer? Do you want to be more involved in making decisions and planning activities for WLA? Beginning May 1, the board will accept nominations for next year’s officers and members-at large. All full members in good standing are eligible. Members can nominate themselves or other members. Nomination forms are available on WLA’s web page at [https://mobar.net/local\\_bars/wlasite/htm](https://mobar.net/local_bars/wlasite/htm). Or contact Jan Putney at [janputney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janputney@sbcglobal.net) or 849-4811. **The deadline is May 30. Voting will take place in July.** Members must be in good standing to be eligible to vote, so don’t forget to pay your dues! To verify your standing, contact Jan Putney.

## Recipient Selected for Linda J. Murphy Scholarship

Danielle Pelot, a first-year student from St. Louis University School of Law, is the 2004 recipient of WLA's Linda J. Murphy Scholarship. Danielle was selected out of a large pool of applicants from all four Missouri law schools vying for the \$6000 available in the fund this year. Though the Selection Committee was impressed by many of the 25 applicants, Danielle's compelling personal statement and references stood apart from the rest.

Danielle has supported herself financially since age 17. She was one of few members of her family to complete high school and the first to attend college. Despite a dramatically tragic and difficult event affecting her entire family, Danielle made the Dean's List at Southwest Missouri State University and received a B.S. in Administrative Management in 2001. While in college, Danielle volunteered for the legal department of the Family Violence Center in Springfield. She graduated with honors from St. Louis Community College in 2003 with a Certificate of Paralegal Proficiency and is working full-time as a paralegal while attending law school. Danielle's financial need and her story of survival and success convinced the Selection Committee that, by selecting Danielle as this year's recipient, WLA has made an important investment in human capital – one that will surely yield in value to WLA's mission far more than the monetary value of the scholarship.

Danielle's mentor, Bradford Kessler, wrote to the committee on her behalf as follows (excerpts): "When I met Danielle I believe it is fair to say that the cards were stacked very much against her. Her desire to become an attorney was borne of the background of powerlessness and despair in which she was raised, and of her need to protect those who find themselves in the same environment. [She has] lived the type of life that we, as attorneys, can only hope to emulate in terms of helping those around us. Her heart is truly made of the right stuff. I knew Linda Murphy very well. Not a day goes by that I don't tell a story about her or use or teach something I learned from her. I have told "Linda stories" to Danielle for years. They would have seen in each other the fighter that makes a difference in this world. Linda and Danielle's passion for the underdog is the same, and ultimately they can be of benefit to each other: Danielle to Linda's memory, and Linda's scholarship aid to Danielle's future. I don't know what qualifications you are seeking, but if Danielle doesn't possess them I would believe them to be unobtainable."

Mr. Kessler will be present to introduce Danielle when WLA presents her with the scholarship award at the annual Scholarship and Judicial Reception on May 12 from 5:30 to 7pm at Washington University School of Law.

## Volunteer Speakers Needed for Girls State Law Track

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 almost 200 will choose the law as their "major" for the week. The program relies on volunteers to present and facilitate substantive programming. Megan Phillips is coordinating this year's programs and needs volunteer lawyers to serve on a panel to discuss careers in the law, help facilitate mock trials and city council debates, and discuss substantive areas of the law relevant for young adults. The program will take place on the campus of Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg June 21-24. Law track programming will be held in the mornings. Monday through Wednesday will cover basics of the legal system and selected topics of interest. Thursday will feature a panel of women lawyers and judges discussing careers in the law. Mock trials will be conducted the afternoons of June 22-23. 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).

## Join WLA's Race for the Cure Team

On your mark, get set, GO! with WLA to the 6th annual St. Louis Komen Race for the Cure. Race day is set for the morning of June 12, 2004. WLA is forming its team now. Our goal is 50 team members. So gather your spouse, your family, your friends for the competitive 5k Run, or the non-competitive 5k Run / Walk, or the Fun Walk. Cost is \$18 per person. To register, go to [stlouisraceforthecure.org](http://stlouisraceforthecure.org). The team name is "Team WLA" and the ID is 1538. For additional information or to help with team organization, please contact Lynn Ricci at [lr Ricci@mindspring.com](mailto:lr Ricci@mindspring.com).

## Serve on a Non-Profit Board

Redevelopment Opportunities for Women, Inc. (ROW) seeks professional women to serve on its Board of Directors. ROW provides services to abused and homeless women. Its educational programs include parenting, budgeting, literacy, GED, and others. Its mission is to help women out of abuse and homelessness by providing the skills needed for self-sufficiency. For more info see [www.row-stl.org](http://www.row-stl.org). To become a board member,

## Legislative Updates

*In furtherance of its mission to promote justice within the legal system, end gender bias, and work with community leaders to improve the status of women, WLA encourages its members to be politically pro-active by contacting their elected representatives regarding important legislation affecting women.*

**Disarming Batters.** HB 1274 (Rep. Sherman Parker, R-St. Charles) and HB 1298 (Riback-Wilson, D-Columbia) would amend Missouri law to parallel current federal law prohibiting persons subject to protective orders and persons convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence from purchasing, owning or possessing firearms or ammunition. The bill would allow law enforcement officers responding to a domestic violence incident to remove firearms from the scene if they have probably cause that an act of domestic violence has occurred and they find firearms at the scene.

**No More Jerry Springer Petitions.** SB1138 (Rep. Matt Bartle, R-Lee's Summit) is an omnibus judiciary bill containing, *inter alia*, an amendment to Missouri law regarding stalking. This provision, intended to reduce the use of restraining orders for disputes between neighbors, landlords and tenants, and similar situations, would narrow the definition of stalking by requiring an element of fear.

**Clemency for Battered Women.** HB 1081 (Rep. Jenee Lowe, D-Kansas City) would allow the Board of Probation and Parole to review case histories and prison records of offenders whose sentences exclude the possibility of parole. The bill would allow the Board to review cases in which the offender was a victim of abuse and make recommendations to the Governor regarding clemency. *Editor's Note: Several battered women in Missouri are serving life sentences with no possibility of parole for 50 years the deaths of their abusers. Most had no criminal record and were convicted at a time when Missouri law barred evidence of domestic violence or battered women's syndrome, which is admissible under current law. Many of the offenders' cases were fraught with due process violations, attorney conflicts of interest, and incompetent representation. Compared to an overall recidivism rate of 40%, incarcerated battered women are an extremely low-risk population. HB 1081 would increase the opportunity for clemency for the victim-offenders and would save the state of Missouri approximately \$13,000 per year per inmate. Members wishing to convey their views on clemency can contact the Governor's office.*

## Supreme Court Solidifies Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence

On April 13, the Supreme Court of Missouri issued an important ruling solidifying the confidentiality of information maintained by domestic violence shelters in *State ex rel. Hope House, Inc. v. Commissioner Molly M. Merrigan*. The ruling clarifies RSMo §455.220 requiring shelters to maintain the confidentiality of records and information regarding residents of the shelter and services received by such residents. This case stems from a juvenile protective case in Jackson County (Kansas City) in which the juvenile officer sought to remove the children of a battered mother, alleging that she failed to maintain stable housing because she lived in three different shelters over the course of four months. During the litigation, relying on RSMo §210.140, which abrogates certain evidentiary privileges in cases of child abuse and neglect, the juvenile officer issued a subpoena *duces tecum* ordering the director of the Hope House shelter to appear and produce all records relating to the victim and her children. Hope House moved to quash the subpoena. The court denied the motion, and Hope House sought a writ of prohibition.

In the court's 4-3 decision, written by the Honorable Richard Teitelmen, the majority found that shelter confidentiality is different from privilege; it applies not only to communications but also to the identity, physical description, whereabouts, and employment of a shelter resident, and it binds not only staff providing direct services to residents but also all other employees and volunteers of the shelter. The court then held that, because shelter confidentiality is not a privilege within the meaning of §210.140, it is not subject to abrogation in cases of child abuse and neglect. It reasoned that shelter confidentiality is not simply a power vested in the resident but serves the broader purpose of protecting other residents and the people who assist them. As such, the records of Hope House the testimony of its director were not discoverable, and the writ was granted.

On April 21, Hope House filed a motion requesting clarification of the court's opinion regarding whether a resident may nonetheless execute a waiver of confidentiality, limited in time and scope, in order to authorize a worker to communicate and advocate on the resident's behalf vis-à-vis social service agencies for the purpose of receiving services, qualifying for certain benefits, demonstrating progress with service plan objectives, attending family group conferences to support the resident, and similar systems advocacy activities.

## WLA Member Running for Congress

WLA member **Jo Ann Karll** is running for election to the U.S. House of Representatives. Jo Ann is one of ten democrats vying for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District seat being vacated by Rep. Richard Gephardt. The pack includes one other woman, Joan Barry, and three other lawyers, Russ Carnahan, Mark Smith, and Mariano Favazza. According to statistics kept by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, women hold only two of the nine Missouri seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Jo Ann served as a state representative in the early 1990s, headed the Division of Workers Compensation under Mel Carnahan, and was an administrative law judge. For more information about Jo Ann's campaign, contact Jo Ann Karll or Marjorie Carter.

## MU Student/WLA Member Lobbies for Domestic Violence Victims

MU law student and WLA member **Jayne Weiss** is lobbying the state legislature to adopt a measure to protect victims of domestic violence who must resort to identity change to escape their abusers. Under current Missouri law, a person who wishes to change her name is required to publish notice of the change in a local publication three times within 20 days of the order. This is problematic for victims of domestic violence or child abuse because an abuser need only consult the local paper in order to learn the victim's new identity and track her down. In connection with her coursework for the Family Violence Advocacy and Policy class taught by Professor Mary Beck, Director of the Family Violence Clinic at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, Jayne researched this issue and lobbied the state legislature to amend the statute. She persuaded Rep. Robert Mayer to sponsor the bill, HB1576, which modifies the law by creating an exception to the publication requirement for victims of family violence. The bill was assigned to the Crime Prevention and Public Safety Committee. Jayne reported to WLA on April 21 that the bill was to be attached to a judiciary omnibus bill by Rep. Byrd, and that Rep. Mayer was confident it would be passed this session.

Jayne grew up in Columbia and graduated *magna cum laude* from Truman State University with a B.S. in Justice Systems and a minor in Psychology. At MU, she is secretary of Women's Law Association, Note and Comment Editor of the Law Review, a Teaching Assistant for Legal Research and Writing, and a member of Law Students for a Better Community and the Christian Legal Society. She plans to pursue a career in victim advocacy.

## WLA Member Runs for State Representative

**Rachel Storch** is running for state representative in the 64th district. Rachel is a former legal aid attorney. She worked for Governor Mel Carnahan and subsequently served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Senator Jean Carnahan in Washington, D.C. Most recently, Rachel worked as Legal Counsel and Director of Policy for State Senator Ken Jacob in Jefferson City.

**Rachel invites WLA members to attend a reception hosted by Alan and Annette Mandel, May 4, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. 5565 Lindell. RSVP – (314) 645-3397.**

Host committee members are: James R. Dowd, Alan Mandel, Annette Mandel, Sally Heller, Reuben Shelton, Bob Ritter, Mavis Thompson, Joseph Frank, Genevieve Frank, Steve Roberts, Susan Carlson, Gerald Greiman, Jerome Dobson, Peter Dunne, Lenny Cervantes, Jim Holloran, Tom Schwartz, Stephen Skrainka, Diana Vuylsteke, Ken Vuylsteke, Phillip Cervantes, Phil Hess, Mark Moreland, Todd Nissenholtz, Michael McDonnell, Sheila Greenbaum, Doug Dowd, Howard Shalowitz, John H. Marshall, Bob Raleigh, Megan Phillips, Norman Pressman, Wendi Alper-Pressman, Dianne Taylor, and Jane Arnold.

## WLA Members Lisa Herder and Ann Bauer Complete the Spirit of St. Louis Half-Marathon !

Ann writes: *I was so excited to train for and complete my first half-marathon. I had not run for about 12 years. A member of the St. Louis Track Club goes to my gym and he suggested I try the half marathon. Without thinking much more about it, I just started running again about 8 weeks before the race. I was merely training to be able to complete the race without collapsing. I did better than I anticipated and now plan to keep running and perhaps run more half marathons. I did not collapse. I felt good through the entire race, making the last mile my fastest, which means I had saved some energy along the way. My time was 2 hours, 24 minutes, and 21 seconds - much faster than I anticipated and much slower than the simply amazing Lisa Herder, who finished in 1 hour and 51 minutes. She is planning on qualifying for Boston and has already run several marathons. It was quite fun to learn a few days before the race that Lisa was going to run it. We started emailing back and forth; she gave me lots of tips and encouragement. Then she called me after the race to check in on me - one more example of the beauty of the relationships we build when we get to know others through WLA. The race was Sunday April 4, the day after the Women's Olympic marathon trials, which I went to watch. I was so in awe of all of those women, most knowing they would not qualify for the Olympics, but so well trained. I was struck by the crowd who had come to watch - all ages of people and lots of men. A boy who looked about twelve said excitedly to his dad, "this is my first marathon to watch." I was thinking that it made no difference to him that this was a sports event with no men competing; he was very excited. Women have come very far and it was so great to watch the trials and know that the entire crowd was excited for these women who had worked so hard to be there. It was very moving. My own participation and watching others were very exciting and I'm still high from it. My husband was my biggest fan, going to several spots on the route to give me support, taking my picture, and telling everyone he can about what I did. It has been fun. Now back to the practice of law!!*

## Officers Attend ABA Bar Leadership Conference

President Peg McCartney and President-Elect Megan Phillips joined some 300 other emerging leaders of lawyer organizations from across the country at the American Bar Association's Bar Leadership Institute (BLI) March 11-13. The BLI is held annually in Chicago for incoming officials of local and state bars, special focus lawyer organizations, and bar foundations. The seminar provides the opportunity to confer with ABA officials, bar leader colleagues, executive staff, and other experts on the operation of such associations. Peg and Megan joined ABA President Dennis W. Archer of Detroit, Michigan, and ABA President-Elect Robert J. Grey, Jr. of Richmond, Virginia (see photo) in sessions on bar governance, finance, communications, and planning. Various ABA entities briefed the participants on resources available from the ABA for local, state, national, and specialty bar associations and foundations. The BLI is sponsored by the ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services and the ABA Division for Bar Services as part of the association's long-standing goal of fostering partnerships with state and local bars and related organizations. Cooperating ABA staff entities included the Division for Media Relations and Communication Services.

**Speaking of Leadership**, WLA congratulates the new officers of the SLU Women Law Students' Association!

President: Carla Allen  
 Vice President: Sarah Plake  
 Secretary: Adrienne Kindelan  
 Treasurer: Lauren Buckner

### MISSOURI BAR NEEDS WOMEN MENTORS

With some advice here, a bit of insight there, and without committing a lot of time, a mentor can help accelerate a young lawyer's career and add a new dimension to her own practice. I know, because I have been both a mentor and a mentee. The Missouri Bar Mentoring Program has a particular need for women lawyers in the St. Louis area and minority lawyers throughout the state to volunteer as mentors. The Bar Mentoring Program matches compatible mentors with protégés based upon preferences identified in the application process. Please call the Bar Mentoring Program at 573-638-2262 for an application or if you have questions. Lynn Ricci, BAMSL Representative to Missouri Bar Mentoring Oversight Committee, is also available to answer any questions (314-647-1200).

## Photo Gallery



Clockwise from above: Board members attend spring retreat, Peg and Megan join fellow bar leaders from ABA (right) and BAMSL (below) at national conference, Peg presents donations to recipient charities (left).



### Network with Other Women Professionals

eWomen Network invites WLA members to join the excitement and serious "revenue generating" networking that will take place at the eWomenNetwork Accelerated Networking Luncheon, Wednesday, May 12, 11:00-1:30 at Greenbriar Hills Country Club, 12665 Big Bend Blvd. Cost is \$30 for eWomenNetwork members, \$45 for non-members. Register by phone at 636-256-9687 or on line at [www.ewomennetwork.com](http://www.ewomennetwork.com).

## Five Ways to Plug in to WLA

1. **Membership and Recruitment.** WLA membership is growing steadily, now at 373 (of which 62 still need to pay dues (please!)). Meanwhile, the board continues to strategize on ways to recruit additional members within various sectors of the legal community. We need your help to tap into those sectors. Can you arrange an informal brown bag meeting for the women at your firm? Are you willing to attend a meeting of the women law students' organizations in the area, or to staff a table for an hour during a bar function or law school orientation week? Do you have other ideas and suggestions about how to recruit new members? As per the Nike ads, "just do it!" Take five minutes to send an e-mail to the other women lawyers in your firm and your address book to encourage them to join WLA. Tell them about our mission and our events. Direct them to our web page for additional information and a membership application. We need your active participation to grow the organization. Our strength in numbers will increase our ability to further our mission of promoting women in the legal profession, aiding women in attaining positions of leadership, increasing diversity, and improving the status of women in the community.
2. **Past Presidents Needed on New Advisory Committee.** President Peg McCartney created a new Advisory Committee and invites past presidents to volunteer. This committee will provide the board with historical perspective, institutional knowledge, and sage advice regarding WLA policies and practices. To join the committee, please contact Peg McCartney. 909-1297 or [mmccartney@yahoo.com](mailto:mmccartney@yahoo.com).
3. **Public Relations/Media Assistance.** WLA needs volunteers to assist with public relations and media tasks, e.g. draft and send press releases, communicate with media, develop strategy to enhance WLA's visibility and impact in the community, promote its charitable and professional efforts, recognize the achievements of its members, etc.
4. **Flower Child Goes High-Tech.** WLA continues to examine ways to use technology more effectively. Most members receive occasional announcements via e-mail and read the newsletter on our web page through the Missouri Bar. The editor is researching the feasibility of further web site development to enhance the appearance and utility of our web presence. The board is also considering an investment in software and training to improve the management of the organization's member database and the efficiency of newsletter publication and member communications. If you possess technological skills, know of resources (preferably donated), have suggestions, or otherwise wish to contribute to WLA's efforts to enhance its use of technology, please contact Megan Phillips at 531-5316 or [phbreton@swbell.net](mailto:phbreton@swbell.net).
5. **Experts Needed for Comment.** Are you an expert in your field? Do you talk back to your newspaper or television when you read or see law-related news reports? WLA is looking for members willing to be contacted by the media for comment on law-related current events. Send your name, contact info, and area of expertise to Megan Phillips at 531-5316 or [phbreton@swbell.net](mailto:phbreton@swbell.net). WLA will provide your information to local law-beat reporters, who may contact you for comment on high-profile cases or other events related to your practice area.
- 6.

## Did You Know That.....

- **Legal Services Board Asks WLA for Nomination.** The Board of Directors of Missouri's statewide Legal Services Corporation has asked WLA to nominate one of its members to be appointed to the board. WLA is accepting applications from candidates wishing to be considered for this position. Candidates may access the endorsement form on WLA's web page at [https://mobar.net/local\\_bars/wlasite/htm](https://mobar.net/local_bars/wlasite/htm) and may submit their applications to a member of the WLA board.
- **Mid-Missouri Women Lawyers to Incorporate.** Women lawyers in mid-Missouri, particularly Boone County (Columbia), Cole County (Jefferson City) and surrounding counties, are forming their own not-for-profit professional association. Kimberly Shields, a recent graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law now practicing as an associate with Armstrong Teasdale in Jefferson City, is taking the initiative to recruit women lawyers throughout mid-Missouri to become the founding members of the organization. WLA is supporting the efforts of our sisters to the west by providing advice and information about incorporation and programming as well as financial assistance with start-up expenses. Please spread the word among your friends, classmates, and peers in mid-Missouri. For more information or to get involved, contact Kimberly Shields at 573.636.8394 or [kshields@armstrongteasdale.com](mailto:kshields@armstrongteasdale.com).
- **Endorsement Application Available On Line.** In an effort to improve its endorsement process, WLA has created an application form for candidates seeking its endorsement for judicial openings and other leadership positions. The form, modeled from a similar form used by the Association of Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City, solicits information regarding a candidate's involvement in WLA and efforts in promoting WLA's mission. Candidates should submit the application to a member of the WLA board. It is also highly recommended, but not required, that the candidate be available to meet with the board prior to its vote. The board invites the comments and suggestions of the members

**Kudos to Mary Coffey of Coffey & Associates** for being featured in the January 9 issue of the St. Louis Business Journal. The article, "Flying Solo," highlighted the pros and cons of running a small law practice. Mary was featured because she is an example of a small personal injury firm that has successfully maintained a small business for over 10 years. Mary's business plan limits the cases she accepts to those that meet certain criteria so she can devote more time and energy to each case and each client. WLA also says "atta girl" to Coffey associate and WLA Member-at-Large Genevieve Nichols for her contribution to the

# Membership Updates

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**Lisa Langeneckert** recently started with The Stolar Partnership, and represents non-profit hospital and large industrial companies in utility matters before state and federal regulatory agencies, and also in the state legislature. Prior to Stolar, she was with the Law Office of Robert Johnson. Lisa graduated from Wash U law school in 2000 and from Maryville University with a B.S. in Management in 1987. She is a member of the ABA, the Missouri Bar, BAMSL (Young Lawyers' Division and Animal Law Section), the Federal Energy Bar, and the Midwest Energy Bar. Her community service work includes work in the areas of women's issues, domestic animals, and AIDS.

**Gail Esparza** is a student at St. Louis University School of Law anticipating graduating in December 2004. She obtained a R.N. Diploma from Barnes School of Nursing and a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Louis University School of Nursing and has been practicing as a nurse for over two decades. Her practice as a nurse has included a variety of different medical specialties, including open-heart surgery, trauma surgery, kidney transplants, ICU, hematology oncology, infectious disease, orthopedics and dermatology. In addition to Gail's experience as a nurse, she also obtained legal experience by serving as an extern for the Honorable Gerald B. Cohn, United States Magistrate, and by working as a nurse consultant and a legal assistant for a law firm.

**Stacey Sifton** received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Truman State University in 2000 and her J.D. from the University of Kansas in May 2003. While in law school Stacey won second place in the University of Kansas Moot Court Tournament and competed in a regional moot court tournament. Stacey was admitted to the Missouri Bar in September 2003 and now practices at the law firm of Hockensmith Tatlow Zoole McKinnis, P.C.

**Kelly Kress** holds a B.A. in English from Lindenwood College (now University) in St. Charles and a J.D. from Cleveland Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University. Her past experience includes two years in AmeriCorps and two years as a judicial clerk for the Hon. Raymond L. Pianka, of the Cleveland Municipal Housing Court. Most recently she was the legal editor for a statewide legal newspaper. After the birth of her daughter in October, Kelly joined her husband, John, as a partner at the Kress Law Firm.

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

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## TRANSITIONS

**Venus V. Harry** has joined the Law Offices of Susan L. Ward LLC as an associate. She will continue to practice in the areas of domestic relations law and related matters.

**Office Space - Richmond Heights.** Office space available just outside of Clayton at 1200 S. Big Bend Blvd. (between Hwy. 40 and Clayton Rd.). Amenities available such as client parking, conference rooms, reception, DSL and networking, Westlaw. Contact Lynn Ricci 314-647-1200.

## 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) or Beth Roper at [egroper@lse.org](mailto:egroper@lse.org). 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 Director, Jan Putney, at [janputney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janputney@sbcglobal.net).

**WOMEN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION OF GREATER ST. LOUIS**

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Web page: [http://mobar.net/local\\_bars/wlasite.htm](http://mobar.net/local_bars/wlasite.htm)



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See our web page at  
[http://mobar.org/local\\_bars/wlasite.htm](http://mobar.org/local_bars/wlasite.htm)

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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...**

**May 12, 5:30pm:** Scholarship and Judicial Reception at Washington University School of Law.

**May 1 – June 1 :** Board nominations accepted

**June 12:** Race for the Cure

**June 18:** Judicial appointments workshop at Washington University School of Law. More info to come.

**July:** Board elections

**August 26:** Annual picnic

**September 13:** Installation Banquet

**September 29 (tentative):** Golf Tournament

**October 1:** Women Lawyers' Breakfast during Missouri Bar Annual Meeting. Open to all women lawyers.

**December 2:** Holiday Party and Charity Auction