



WLA Newsletter

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Inside this issue:

Legislative Luncheon	2
ROW, ERA, & MoBar	4
Scholarship, Wash U Conference, News	5
LAAW, Students Auctions, & Announce-	6
Directory Changes	7
Events and Reminders	8

President's Column, Peg McCartney



The legal community lost two great young attorneys in the last two months.

My good friend Jeff Hilliard died of ALS. He was in his early forties, married, and had three children. Richard Moran, also an admired colleague, died of a brain tumor just a few weeks ago. He, also barely 40, left a wife and children behind. Jeff my mentor in the Circuit Attorney's Office for six years. Richard Moran, although an adversary in the Court room, was a formidable and admired colleague in the Public Defender's Office. Not only were these two men great lawyers, an embodiment of the cannons of ethics, they were also devoted husbands and fathers. I recall many nights when Jeff and Rich

were both rushing out of the office to pick up children, make dinner, and supervise both baths and homework.

Jeff and Rich impacted hundreds of people in their personal and professional lives. They treated both victims and criminals with respect and dignity. Jeff was assigned to the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit in the Circuit Attorney's Office. He treated victims (usually women and children) with compassion and dignity; many kept in touch with him long after their cases were over. Much of the time that Rich and I were on the opposite sides in trial, we were also trying sex crimes and child abuse cases. I always admired how he could zealously represent his client, yet he never mistreated a witness or victim. Both Rich and Jeff valued human life. Above all else they believed in the Justice System and dedicated their careers to it.

I have no doubt that these men are in a place now where they can "see" the contributions they made to our profession and our lives. Their lives are reminders that the virtues of gentleness, kindness and respect do matter. These two men's lives show us that our impact on others is much greater than we imagine. I was inspired recently by the words of Visitation Academy Head of School Matthew Walsh, "Just as our impact is greater than we know, so too is our responsibility—just as small acts of gentleness and kindness touch people more than we know, small acts of pettiness, criticism, gossip and exclusion wound people more than we know." Bless you Jeff and Rich. Good-bye, you are missed, and will never be forgotten. We feel your impact and admire your responsible lives.

Membership Growing, Strength in Numbers

WLA's roster is expanding thanks to recruitment efforts of its current members and board. We have welcomed 45 new members since September 2003, representing an increase of about 12%. But the year is still young and there are still too many women lawyers out of the loop. Members are encouraged to continue to promote the organization among their colleagues, classmates, and peers. We want to break 400 before the end of the current term! A larger presence in the legal community will enhance WLA's ability to further its mission to promote women in the legal profession.

Membership applications are available on line at http://mobar.net/local_bars/wlasite.htm.

Legislative Luncheon Inspires and Unites

This year's Legislative Luncheon and CLE Program was another success. Over seventy members and guests attended the event, held at Forest Park Golf Course Clubhouse on March 5. This was *the* place to see and be seen. Among those in attendance were Missouri Bar President Bill Corrigan, Jr., Mound City Bar Association President Hope Whitehead, U.S. House of Representatives candidate Joan Barry, Missouri Lieutenant Governor candidate Bekki Cook, and Missouri House of Representatives candidate Rachel Storch, several former presidents of WLA, distinguished judges, new members, and faculty and students who made a special trip from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law.

WLA President Peg McCartney welcomed attendees, thanked the WLA Legislative Committee for planning the event, and introduced MoBar President Bill Corrigan, Jr. Corrigan praised WLA for promoting women in the legislature and collaborating with the Missouri Bar in efforts to increase the number of lawyers in the legislature. During his term as MoBar President, Corrigan has met with numerous specialty bars throughout the state – including WLA – urging us to identify, encourage, and support lawyers running for legislative seats. He pointed out that our very own WLA member Rachel Storch is running for a house seat to replace term-limited Bob Hilgeman in the 64th district (part of St. Louis City including the Central West End). Corrigan urged the audience to support Storch through volunteer work or financial contributions. In closing, Corrigan reiterated the importance of lawyers in the law-making

process and encouraged WLA members to attend the April 24 campaign workshop hosted by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life for further information and education about volunteering for or running a political campaign.

Following Corrigan's remarks, Megan Phillips addressed the audience and, in recognition of Women's History Month, thanked WLA's former presidents and other board members who have helped to shape the history of WLA. She also recognized new members and students who will shape WLA's future, including MU law student Jayne Weiss, who drafted a bill being introduced this session to protect victims of domestic violence. Phillips also emphasized the importance of WLA's annual legislative luncheon in furthering WLA's mission to encourage and aid women in attaining positions of leadership and to improve the status of women generally. She urged members to continue recruiting efforts to increase the size of the organization and our visibility and influence to fulfill our mission to promote women in the legal profession. Phillips then moved on to discuss the one official item of WLA business on the meeting agenda, namely the approval of new amended and restated bylaws of the organization. She explained that the board decided to revise the bylaws in order to provide for certain governance issues not covered by the previous draft, to clarify and extend time frames for board elections, and to relax limitations on officer terms. The new draft was reviewed and approved by the board. Phillips thanked Lynn Ricci for her collaboration and input. On behalf of the

board, Phillips recommended to the members that the new bylaws be adopted. A motion was made and seconded, and the members voted unanimously to approve the new draft.

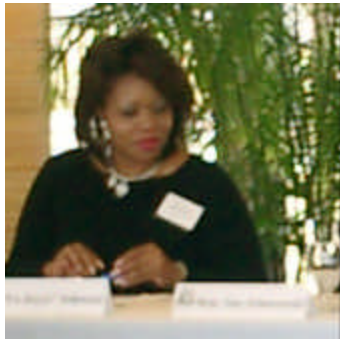
Finally, WLA Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Rebecca Brown and Kelli Madigan took the floor and introduced the CLE panelists and guests of honor: Senators Joan Bray, Maida Coleman, and Rita Heard Days, and Representatives Margaret Donnelly, Barbara Fraser, Connie "LaJoyce" Johnson, Sue Schoemehl, Betty Thompson, and Patricia Yaeger. Given the discussion topic, "Women Legislators Off & Running: The Legal Steps to Campaign Management," the panelists shared stories and advice about running a campaign. They also informed the audience about bills introduced this term that could be harmful to women, particularly regarding budgetary cuts that would limit social services of which the majority of beneficiaries are women and children. All legislators stressed the importance of increasing the number of women in the legislature to ensure that women's interests are considered, prioritized, protected, and advanced during the lawmaking process.

WLA invites member feedback about this and other WLA events. We thank and recognize co-chairs Rebecca Brown and Kelli Madigan and committee members JoAnne Morrow, Kathleen Dubois, Maureen McMullan, Patricia Frank, Suzette Carlisle, Alison Simeone, Heather Hays, and Megan Phillips for their time and efforts planning another successful event!

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. While registration does not begin until April, 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. Additional information will be in forthcoming newsletters, or go to stlouisracefortheCure.org. In the meanwhile, we are working on a theme. If you have any ideas or want to help, please contact Lynn Ricci at lr Ricci@mindspring.com.

Legislative Luncheon Picture Gallery



Good Tunes for a Good Cause

On March 27, the Pageant will feature St. Louisans Denise Thimes, a nationally acclaimed jazz diva and actress, and Kim Massie, a talented blues singer known across the region, in a benefit concert for Redevelopment Opportunities for Women (ROW). ROW has been providing critical services to homeless and/or abused women and families since 1979 and recently was one of four organizations nationwide recognized by Oprah Winfrey in her "Live Your Best Life Tour" for its hard work and effectiveness in the community. Family law practitioners may be interested to know that ROW is a key partner in the St. Louis County Greenbook Initiative, a federally funded pilot program to improve child welfare systems' responses to juvenile protection cases involving domestic violence. ROW's positive impact in the St. Louis community far exceeds its human and financial resources. Countless women and children have escaped abusive relationships and achieved economic self-reliance thanks to ROW's wonderful programs and quality staff.

ROW relies heavily upon community support through individual contributions and special fundraising events. This concert fundraiser is critical to ROW's operations and its ability to assist abused and homeless women and children toward safety and stability. As an additional enticement to attend the concert, WLA President-Elect, Megan Phillips, will host a short, pre-concert cocktail party beginning at 6pm. For further information or to RSVP for the party, contact Megan Phillips at phbreton@swbell.net or 314-531-5316.

For concert tickets only, call Ticketmaster at 314-421-4400 or log on to www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets are \$40. Limited VIP seating, i.e. tables of four with champagne, is available for \$300 (per table, bubbly included). Corporate and individual sponsorships are also available. Call Margo Garvin at 314-652-2664 or 314-368-2594. For more information about ROW go to www.row-stl.org or call 314-588-8300.

Controversial Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

Alice Paul, a suffragist leader and the founder of the National Women's Party, wrote the foregoing text in 1923, but the Equal Rights Amendment is still not a part of the United States Constitution. The ERA was introduced in every session of Congress between 1923 and 1973, when it was finally passed and sent to the states for ratification. The deadline for ratification expired June 30, 1982, with only 35 of the required 38 states having ratified the ERA. Since that time it has been reintroduced in every Congress. In Missouri, ratification of the ERA was introduced again this year as SJR 35 sponsored by Mary Groves Bland and as HJR 30 sponsored by Vicky Riback Wilson. To support ratification, contact your elected representatives.

Missouri Bar Seeks Women Leaders

The Missouri Bar is now accepting nominations for its annual Leadership Academy. The Academy was developed to enhance diversity among the leadership of The Missouri Bar by recruiting and targeting young or recently admitted lawyers (under 40 or less than 10 years of practice) to the Bar for participation in the program and a commitment to contribute to Bar service. The Leadership Academy seeks diversity in gender, race, area of practice, and locality of practice. The program's premise is that, by recruiting attorneys from under-represented demographics, the bar will diversify its leadership bodies and will broaden and strengthen The Missouri Bar as an organization. Academy participants are nominated by attorneys, their firms or co-workers, and local or specialty bars. Each class is limited to twelve or fewer members to ensure the goals of the program. Participants complete a leadership training program that includes an in-depth introduction to The Missouri Bar Center in Jefferson City, meetings with various members of The Missouri Bar staff, committee chairs, officers, and governors, attending meetings of the Board of Governors, and participating in leadership workshops conducted by professional consultants. Participants in the Leadership Academy also work together to develop and execute a community service project. Following the training year, each participant commits to two years of active service in The Missouri Bar. Past Leadership Academy members are currently serving as YLS Council members, MoBarCLE volunteer speakers and authors, and active Bar committee members. Travel expenses are paid by The Missouri Bar. If you would like to nominate someone for the 2004-05 Leadership Academy class, please send the nominee's name, address, and phone number, along with a brief description of her leadership activities and leadership skills, to Carla Council at carlac@mobar.org or fax to 573-659-8931. **Nominations must be received by April 1, 2003.** You can call Carla with any questions at 573-638-2242.

WLA Scholarship Committee Accepting Applications

The WLA Scholarship Committee has contacted all Missouri law schools soliciting applications for the annual Linda J. Murphy Scholarship. Linda Murphy was a prominent local trial attorney and served as WLA President in 1987-1988. Last year, WLA awarded three scholarships of \$2000 each. Applicants must be part-time or full-time female law students who are enrolled in a Missouri law school at the time of application and who are also expected to be enrolled in the 2004 fall semester. Selection of recipients is based on financial need, academic achievement and activities, and community service. The deadline for applications is March 22. For more information contact Nancy Kistler at kistlern@stlouiscity.com.

Access to Equal Justice Conference at Washington University

Washington University's fourth annual Access to Equal Justice Conference will focus on Mental Health & the Law. This year's event on March 19 is co-sponsored by the School of Law Clinical Program, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, and Journal of Law & Policy, and the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, School of Medicine, and Department of Psychology. The keynote speaker is Jim Ellis, who successfully argued *Atkins v. Virginia*, in which the Supreme Court held that executing people with mental retardation violates the Eighth Amendment prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment.

Like earlier conferences, the objective is to create a dialogue between the university and the community to improve the delivery of justice to under-represented individuals in our region. This conference also has a goal to explore the practical, pedagogical, ethical, and social justice challenges and rewards of interdisciplinary teaching and practice, drawing from the law and other disciplines for ideas and model programs. The conference is designed for those who are involved in and those who are considering the development of interdisciplinary collaborations.

There is no conference fee, but individuals MUST register to attend and receive conference materials and lunch. MCLE 8.0, including 1.0 Ethics credit. The conference will be limited to the first 150 registrants. For registration and information go to:

<http://law.wustl.edu/Clinics/Conferences/Spring2004/registration.html>

Attorney settles with DOJ regarding ADA obligation.

The Justice Department and an attorney who represented a deaf client recently reached a settlement that addresses the legal obligation under the ADA to ensure effective communication. The victim of the discrimination was a woman who had been referred to the attorney by her local domestic violence shelter. She was seeking a divorce, a restraining order, child support, and child custody. She is deaf and uses sign language as her primary means of communication. Her attorney refused to pay for a sign language interpreter. The settlement agreement sets forth the law, finds that the attorney violated her civil rights, makes a specific finding that using a relative to interpret in domestic violence cases is inappropriate, and orders the attorney to pay compensation and advertise that he welcomes people with disabilities and will provide a qualified sign language interpreter upon request. The settlement agreement appears online at <http://www.ada.gov/tirone.htm>.

Bush Appoints Judges During Congressional Recess

Excerpts from www.now.org.

President George W. Bush installed Charles Pickering on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in early February while Congress was in recess, circumventing the Senate Judiciary Committee which had previously rejected his nomination. According to the National Organization for Women, Pickering, a district court judge from Mississippi, has a long record of opposing civil rights and civil liberties. He was an opponent of the Equal Rights Amendment and has expressed his support for a constitutional amendment banning abortion. As a state senator, Pickering repeatedly voted against measures that would expand electoral opportunities for African Americans after passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

In late February, President Bush appointed William Pryor to U. S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, again during a Congressional recess. According to NOW, Pryor, the Attorney General for Alabama, maintains extremist positions on abortion, civil rights, and religion and has used the office of attorney general to promote his conservative social agenda, specifically his belief that the Christian religion and government should work hand in hand. As Alabama Attorney General, he filed an amicus brief in *United States v. Morrison* challenging the Violence Against Women Act.

LAAW is No Trivial Pursuit. Join the Fun April 3!

Legal Advocates for Abused Women (LAAW) is a local domestic violence organization in the greater St. Louis area that provides crisis intervention and support, legal information and advocacy, safety planning, and legal and social service referrals for victims of abuse (primarily low income women and their children) who have been battered, stalked or harassed. LAAW specializes in providing free legal representation at Order of Protection hearings for low income victims of abuse. LAAW serves St. Louis City and the Counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, Warren, and Washington.

LAAW will hold its annual Trivia Night on Saturday, April 3, 2004, at Congregation Temple Israel, 1 Alvan D. Rubin Drive in Creve Coeur (1/2 mile west of Lindbergh, corner of Ladue & Spoede). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the game begins at 7:00 p.m. Beer, wine, and soda will be provided free of charge. Prizes will be awarded for First, Second & Third Place! There will also be Raffle Prizes, a Silent Auction, and Door Prizes. For information call 314-535-0684 or laaw1@mindspring.com.

Support Women Law Students' Charity Auctions

WLA received generous support for our holiday charity auction from our "little sisters" in women law students' organizations from St. Louis to Columbia. Now is the time to reciprocate. The women of the University of Missouri School of Law Women's Law Association will hold their annual charity auction the evening of March 10 at Déjà Vu comedy club in Columbia. The women of Washington University School of Law Women's Law Caucus will hold their annual auction on March 26 from 4pm to 6pm in the law school commons. WLA members are invited to donate auction items, e.g. gift certificates, sports tickets, whatever! To donate to MU WLA, contact Jayne Weiss at jwnpc@mizzou.edu. To donate to WU WLC, contact Lauren Dickie at ldickie@wulaw.wustl.edu.

Opportunities & Announcements

Job Opening—8th Circuit Staff Attorney

The Office of Staff Attorneys for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit seeks applicants for the position of Staff Attorney III, located in St. Louis, Missouri. Applicant should be available to begin employment no later than August 2004. This career position involves advising three-judge panels by reviewing the case record and parties' submissions in appeals, conducting in-depth legal research, and preparing written memoranda explaining the facts and legal basis for recommended dispositions. The incumbent also will be expected to assist in reviewing and editing the work of other staff attorneys. Applicants must (1) be graduates of an accredited law school, (2) be currently admitted to practice before the highest court of a state or territory of the United States, (3) have a progressively responsible legal work background in the practice of law, in legal research and writing, in legal teaching or administration, or in equivalent experience after law school graduation, and (4) be U.S. citizens or eligible to work in the United States. Applicants must also have (1) superior skills in legal research, analysis, and writing, (2) good communication and interpersonal skills, and (3) the ability to manage a high-volume caseload and work independently. Starting salary range: \$68,673 - \$81,152 (CL 29 - CL 30), depending on qualifications. A CL 29 hiree has promotion potential up to the CL 30 level. The Court is an equal opportunity employer, and is seeking applicants on a nationwide basis. Court employees are required to agree to Electronic Fund Transfer of their payroll deposits. Applications must include a cover letter ([referencing announcement number SA2004-01](#)), resume, copy of law school transcript, indication of class rank, unedited writing sample, and list of three references. Applications should be submitted to Senior Staff Attorney, United States Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit, Office of Staff Attorneys, 111 South 10th Street, Room 23.336, St. Louis, Missouri 63102, 314-244-2889. Only applications received by April 19, 2004, are assured consideration.

Nalini Mahadevan and Susan Lewis are pleased to announce the opening of:

MAHADEVAN & LEWIS, LLC

13 Clayton Terrace - St. Louis, MO 63131

Ph: 314-997-8180 - Fax: 314-997-9165

e-mail : nalinismahadevan@yahoo.com

Tell Your Story to the Wall Street Journal

Wall Street Journal reporter Anne Marie Chaker is working on a feature article about women and career re-entry. She is looking to speak with women who stepped down from their careers for eight to 10 years for family reasons and are currently looking to re-enter the workforce. The story would detail the challenges associated with trying to do that. Women interested in sharing their experiences should contact the reporter at anne-marie.chaker@wsj.com.

Donate That Old Computer

Donna Arteaga, a teacher at a charter school in St. Louis, is looking for old computers /printers for her students. Most of us have one in the basement that we don't even dust anymore. Donations are tax deductible. For further information or to reach Ms. Arteaga, contact WLA member Roza Gosage at 618 277-6800.

Directory Updates

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

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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 or Beth Roper at egroper@lsem.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 jimputney@aol.com.

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: Pay membership dues and recruit friends and colleagues to join WLA. For a membership renewal or application form, go to our web page (http://mobar.net/local_bars/wlasite.htm) or contact Jan Putney at jjmputney@aol.com.

Today: Submit content for next newsletter issue, e.g. articles, announcements, editorials, photos.

March 27: Benefit Concert for Redevelopment Opportunities for Women at the Pageant.

April 3: Trivia Night Benefiting Legal Advocates for Abused Women.

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

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See our web page at

http://mobar.net/local_bars/wlasite.htm
