

AMICUS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013

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President's Message

By Mira Mdivani, The Mdivani Law Firm, LLC, Overland Park



Dear KWAA Members,

25th Anniversary Approaching

Our 25th anniversary is approaching fast, and before we know it, July will be here, and we will be heading to Lindsborg for our big celebration. Meanwhile, let me report on three developments that have been happening since past July.

President's Council

I have reached out to KWAA's past Presidents with an idea to create The President's Council of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association comprised of all past Presidents and the current President. Several past KWAA Presidents lead by Cathy Reeder met in Wichita at Hite Fanning's office in September, and agreed to proceed with the idea. Members of the President's Council have the collected wisdom, experience, and professional and social capital that is an important resource the Council may use acting in an advisory role to the KWAA board, providing information, strategies, recommendations and a historical perspective to advance the mission and goals of KWAA. We are very thankful to our past Presidents for their continuous support of KWAA.

National Association of Women Judges Informed Voters

Linda Parks has lead the effort to raise support for the National Association of Women Judges Informed Voters project. Per Linda, "We have raised \$5,300 and still have a few pledges to come in - so everyone deserves a huge pat on the back. I also heard from one member who was seeking a contribution from her local bar's Foundation, so there may still be more to come." \$2,500 of that amount was contributed by KWAA, the rest came from KWAA's individual members. Kudos to Linda and to all the KWAA members who have contributed to this worthy cause.

KWAA Conference Committee Hard at Work

Members of the KWAA Conference Committee headed by Deena Bailey, with the Programs Committee headed by Amy Fellows Cline, are hard at work. They are planning an awesome conference for us, full of history and future, great speakers, CLEs, and opportunities to network and make friends. We look forward to the Conference Committee sharing previews of the conference with us in the upcoming months.

Sincerely,
Mira Mdivani
2013-14 KWAA President

Välkommen Advokater (Welcome Attorneys)

By Madelin Rogers, Woner, Glenn, Reeder & Girard, P.A., Topeka

As the Swedish would say, välkommen advokater (welcome attorneys). The Kansas Women Attorneys Association ("KWAA") held its annual conference last July in Lindsborg, Kansas, a town known for its Swedish heritage. As a young Kansas lawyer, I am grateful for the warm welcome that so many fellow attorneys offered as I attended this year's conference. From CLEs to socials there was not a dull moment.

The KWAA conference provided an opportunity to meet and learn from lawyers from various geographic locations and areas of practice. There were many excellent

presentations throughout the event. The CLEs ranged from a Plenary Session: Appellate All-Star Review

by Judge Steve Leben and Judge Karen Arnold-Burger to Irrevocable Trusts by Rachael K. Pirner to Family Law 101 by Kelli M. Broers, and much more.

The conference was well planned and provided a good balance of work, fun, and culture. The Washburn Law School reception at the Ol' Stuga proved to be a good time to catch up with fellow alums. After the keynote presentation, Powerful Non-Defensive Communication: Taking the War Out of Our Words by Sharon Ellison, many of us ventured over to the Birger Sandzen Gallery for a reception and to appreciate the paintings, drawings and other pieces of art throughout

the gallery. On Friday evening, there was even time to check out some of the local shopping before the silent auction and dinner. Kudos to the entertainment and trivia planners for the Friday evening dinner.

Whether during a CLE, at breakfast with judges and attorneys, or at a

reception, I enjoyed hearing about the many experiences of those at the conference. Each attorney had unique stories and advice to share. It is amazing how much the event and town of Lindsborg had to offer. I hope to attend the conference in the future and recommend it to others! Till nästa år (until next year).

"Whether during a CLE, at breakfast with judges and attorneys, or at a reception, I enjoyed hearing about the many experiences of those at the conference."



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2014 LINDSBORG CONFERENCE!

Look for More Information on the KWAA Website Soon!

2014 7

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Registration for the 2014 Conference should be available in April.



LINDSBORG 2013



LINDSBORG 2013 SPONSORS

A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors

Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Circle Sponsors

Case Moses & Zimmerman, P.A.

Mdivani Law Firm, LLC

Keynote Speaker Sponsor

Foulston Siefkin LLP

Plenary Session Sponsors

Martin Pringle Law Firm

Kutak Rock LLP

Zimmerman & Zimmerman, PA

Polsinelli PC

Stevens & Brand, LLP

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Break Sponsors

Hite Fanning & Honeyman, LLP

Tripplet Woolf & Garretson, LLC

Hinkle Law Firm LLC

The Banking & Tax Law Group LLP

Marietta Kellogg & Price

Johnson County Bar Association

Topeka Bar Association

Wichita Women Attorneys Association

Women Attorneys Association of Topeka

Conference Sponsors

Wichita Bar Association

McDonald Tinker Skaer Quinn & Herrington, PA

Manson Karbank Burke, PC



YOUR 2013-14 KWAA BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President - Mira Mdivani

President-Elect - Susan Berson

Past President - Angel Zimmman

Secretary - Eunice Peters

Treasurer - Miranda Carmona

STANDING COMMITTEES AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

Archives Co-Chairs - Gabrielle Thompson, Marie Landry

Career Development Chair - Martha Hodgesmith

Membership Chair - Amanda Keifer

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Publicity Chair- Sherri Watterbberger

Small and Solo Co-Chairs - Malissa Walden, Cassie Pfannenstiel Rodriguez

Women in the Law Chair - Patricia Hamilton

Annual Conference Chair - Deana Bailey

Annual Conference Social Co-Chairs - Kim Bieker, Marie Landry

Annual Conference Silent Auction Chair - Margann Bennett

Annual Conference Program Chair - Amy Fellows Cline

Annual Conference Logistics Chair - Susana Valdovinos

Awards Chair - Anne McDonald

Website Chair - Marylin Harp

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

District 1 – Johnson County

District 2 – NE Kansas

District 3 – SE Kansas

District 4 – E. Central KS/Emporia

District 5 – Shawnee County

District 6 – N. Central KS

District 7 – Sedgwick County

District 8 – W. Central KS

District 9 – SW Kansas

District 10 – NW Kansas

District 11 – Wyandotte County

Linda Krebs, Malissa Walden

Brandy Sutton, Sally Pokorny

Lisa Montgomery

Tamara Niles

Jennifer Hays, Angel Zimmerman

Brenda Stoss, Ann Zimmerman

Amy Fellows Cline, Kellie Hogan

Tracey Beverlin

Lara Bors

Susan J. Whitfield Harding, Melisa Hunsicker-Walburn

Rae Sedgwick

KU Women's Hall of Fame – Nominate a Woman Today!

The Emily Taylor Center at KU is accepting nominations for the KU Women's Hall of Fame and they need your help. They are reaching out to area organizations such as the Kansas Women Attorneys Association in hopes of broadening their nomination base and recognizing even more worthy Kansas women.

The KU Women's Hall of Fame is currently composed of 211 exemplary individuals and is sponsored by the Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity and the Commission on the Status of Women. The Hall of Fame has been annually inducting women since 1970. You can view the cur-

rent list of inductees at <http://emilytaylorcenter.ku.edu/womens-hall-of-fame/members> or visit an interactive display located on the 5th floor of the Kansas Union at the Lawrence campus.

This year, the Emily Taylor Center is proud to announce their NEW KU Women's Hall of Fame nomination system. Changes include the option to submit your nomination online, less paperwork, and fewer letters of recommendation. Nominations will be accepted until **January 31st at 5pm**. To nominate a woman online visit: emilytaylorcenter.ku.edu/nominate-woman.

A Note of Thanks



First, I would like to thank you for the wonderful news regarding the Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Scholarship!! I am extremely appreciative of this wonderful honor! You indicated in the award letter that you would like to know a little more about me and my plans upon graduation, so I would like to take the opportunity to let you know a little about myself.

During this past summer break, I took the position of Legal Intern II with Sprint, and am currently still working there part-time during the school year. I enjoy what I do for Sprint since I have a great familiarity with the Telecom industry as a former Retail Store Manager for AT&T, but I am still open as to what area of law in which I would definitively like to practice upon graduation. Since I am still unsure about where I will eventually find my niche, I took a position with the firm McAnany Van Cleave & Phillips (located in Kansas City, KS) for next summer to gain additional exposure to other areas of practice within a firm environment.

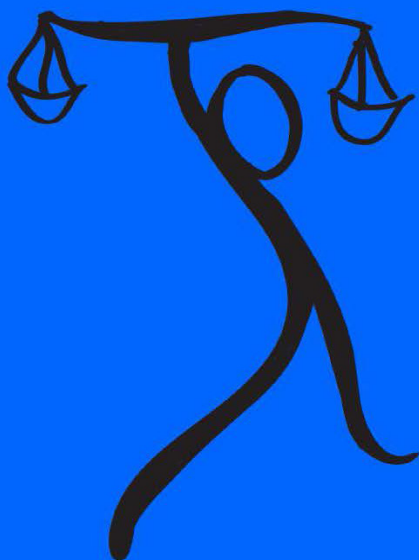
Even though I am still unsure about the eventual area in which I would like to practice, I am interested in technology and its relation to privacy rights in the digital age. As a result of this interest, I am pursuing a Media Law Certificate during my studies at KU Law.

On a personal note, I am non-traditional student, and have two wonderful children, Addison (almost 7), and Harper (age 4). During the little free time I have, I am playing the role of soccer mom, taking both kids to games and practices throughout the week.

Once again, thank you so much for this scholarship, it certainly helps to ease the financial burdens of attending law school with children!!

Joni Bodnar

KWAA VIDEO



Help save a part of Kansas state history by donating to the KWAA Video Project today!

Join KWAA and filmmaker Alisa Morse in chronicling the stories of Kansas women attorneys and judges. Your donation will help us capture the experiences of legal pioneers in a format we can share with other attorneys, students and members of the public through the internet and public showings.

Your support for this project and your contribution are greatly appreciated.

DONATE

KWAA welcomes donations of any size. For each donation of \$500 you may select one video for your name to appear in the credits. For each additional \$500 you may select another film for your name to appear. You may make a general donation or designate which film you would like your donation to support. KWAA would like to thank you for your generous and continued support.

To send in your donation, complete the donation submission form, detach it and send it along with your contribution made out to KWAA. All contributions can be sent to KWAA at:

KWAA Attn: Video Project
PO Box 598
Topeka, KS 66601

*KWAA is a 501(c)(6) organization and your contribution may be tax deductible as a trade or business expense, including as an advertising expense.

DONATION SUBMISSION

Please indicate which video(s) you would like to support with your contribution by placing an "X" in the box.

- ☐ "First 250" - an exploration of early women attorneys
- ☐ "Justice" - a chronicle of the first female justices and judges in Kansas
- ☐ "Lindsborg, 25" - a commemorative look at the beloved conference
- ☐ General Donation

Name(s) of Contributors:

Contributor's name as you would like for it to appear in the film credits:

Separate Here

DISTRICT EVENTS

District 1 and 11 Book Club September Meeting



There are no upcoming district events to report at this time. Check back in the Spring Newsletter!

Start Your 2014 Off Right! New Year's Resolutions for Your Practice.

1 Make a resolution to write, implement or update the following items in 2014...Disaster Prevention and Recovery Plan, Marketing Plan and a Strategic Plan. Also, if you employ staff, make sure you go through your policy and procedure manuals to make any changes that are necessary.

2 Make a resolution to improve or implement technology to assist you in your daily practice by helping streamline the office. Examples could include implementing time and billing software, docketing and calendar management or even embracing cloud technology.

3 Make a Resolution to get organized! Learn how to create files and use rules in your outlook to organize your email. Get a head start on those taxes by sorting receipts and invoices. Go through your files, and schedule a date and time to clean your desk!

The KWAA Board Wishes You a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



WOMEN IN THE NEWS

Anne Burke has been reelected Chair of the Kansas Supreme Court Nominating Commission

Natalie Haag was named in Ingram's Magazine (Kansas City Business Magazine) in the Woman Executive of Kansas City Class.

Martha Hodgesmith was appointed to the KU Law Board of Governors.

Teresa James was announced as the new magistrate judge for the United District Court for the District of Kansas.

Amanda Kiefer has been chosen to participate in the 2014 Leadership Greater Topeka program.

Megan Monsour has been elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys.

Hon. Nancy Moritz was nominated for the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Tamara Niles was appointed to the KU Law Board of Governors.

Cassie Pfannenstiel Rodriguez of Walden & Pfannenstiel, LLC had a healthy baby girl, Eva Christy, on September 17, 2013.

Cassie Pfannenstiel Rodriguez of Walden & Pfannenstiel, LLC was named as a 'Rising Star' in the area of Consumer Bankruptcy in the 2013 Super Lawyers Kansas and Missouri list.

Malissa L. Walden of Walden & Pfannenstiel, LLC was named as a 'Rising Star' in the area of Consumer Bankruptcy in the 2013 Super Lawyers Kansas and Missouri list.

Sherri L. Wattenbarger has been chosen to receive the 2013 Michael R. Roser Excellence in Bankruptcy Award by the Commercial Law Committee of the Missouri Bar. The award was presented to Wattenbarger during the American Bankruptcy Institute's (ABI) Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute on Oct. 4. Wattenbarger is a trial attorney with the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Kansas City, MO, which is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice. She lives in Overland Park, KS.

Hon. Evelyn Wilson was appointed to a two year term as Chief Judge of the Third Judicial District.

If you have news you wish to share in the Women in the News section, please send submissions to Newsletter Chair, Danielle Hall at dhall@ksbar.org.

The KWAA Publicity Committee is looking for additional committee members to assist the committee with its mission to publicize the programs, events, and other newsworthy efforts of the KWAA. The committee is particularly seeking those with connections to local media, skills in social media or marketing, and/or members who will draft press releases. If you are interested, please contact chair Sherri Wattenbarger at kcsherri@gmail.com.





DUES NOTICE AND MEMBERSHIP FORM
DUES OF \$50.00
FOR AUGUST 1, 2013 TO JULY 31, 2014

If you have not joined KWAA for the coming year, complete this form and mail it with your check for \$50.00 made payable to the Kansas Women Attorneys Association to:

KWAA
PO BOX 598
Topeka, Kansas 66601

NAME: _____

FIRM/AGENCY: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ (will be included in the directory)

AREAS OF PRACTICE, check all that apply:

Administrative	Family	Real Estate
Appellate	General Practice	Social Security
Arbitration/Mediation	Government Counsel	Tax
Bankruptcy	Insurance	Utility
Business/Corporate	Judiciary	Workers Compensation
Collections	Juvenile	Other: _____
Corporate Counsel	Labor	_____
Criminal	Legal Education/Professor	_____
Disability	Legislation	_____
Education	Litigation	_____
Elder	Medical Malpractice	
Employment	Non-Traditional/Non-Legal	
Estate Planning	Personal Injury	