

AMICUS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014

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President's Message

By Susan Berson, Berson Law Group LLP, Leawood

*It is not enough to be busy.... The question is: What are we busy about?
- Henry David Thoreau*



Since we saw each other in Lindsborg last July, KWAA members have been “busy about” encouraging and inspiring each other to make a positive difference in our profession, state and communities. From winning well-deserved awards, honors and recognitions at the local, state and national levels, to accomplishing professional goals as varied as our practice areas, we have been ethically representing our respective clients, speaking and presenting at conferences, seeking judicial appointments, organizing and attending networking events, serving on boards, running and walking to raise money for cures, volunteering for charitable and political causes, campaigning for elected offices, and welcoming new attorneys to the Kansas bar. Our activities represent the culture of our organization, an organization to which I am proud to belong, so much so that I have been busy about spreading the word about the good work KWAA and its members are doing!

These activities of the past few months have made it easy for me to present a persuasive case to the students I've been visiting with at area law schools about why KWAA is an important organization worthy of their attentions. What may seem routine activities to many of you in your day-to-day lives, is in fact why KWAA shines as an organization of professionals who are making the path towards career fulfillment a smoother one for each other and our future lawyers. The photos in this newsletter make clear that though, individually, we may be of diverse interests and opinions, we try to help each other conquer challenges, and celebrate each other's successes. Perhaps the observation of a 3L about our KWAA Council members' visit says it best: “you've all been successful, and we really appreciate you wanting to help us do the same.” Indeed, you are all the best ambassadors for KWAA. So, if anyone would like to join me in on campus visits or other networking events with our future lawyers to talk about KWAA's benefits, please do let me know. Likewise, if you have a



KWAA set a table up at the Swearing-In Ceremony Reception to welcome the new admittees.

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Lindsborg: Where Everyone Becomes Friends and the Laughs Never End

By Jill Gillett, Gillett Law Office, Chanute

This was my first year attending the Kansas Women Attorneys Association Annual Conference in Lindsborg. I already have next July marked off on the calendar as I do not want to miss this conference in the future. As I think about it, I should mark every July into the future if I were sure of the dates.

The best thing about the women in KWAA is they are willing to give a hand up to the younger generation. I live and work in a network where it is the old guys club. There are a few women, but it often feels like we are constantly fighting for space, respect, and equal treatment. I had met several women before coming to Lindsborg, but the bonding experience is so much more. There is a different spirit of giving and learning. A common phrase is "Here's my number, make sure you call if I can help." I think I have more names and numbers than I may ever need, but it is wonderful to have.

We all put our pantyhose on the same way. Anyone is welcome to sit and visit or have drinks at the Ol' Stuga. Lindsborg is a great place to converse with women you normally wouldn't have time to talk with. Recently, I had the opportunity to spend time with one of our woman Appellate Judges. My spouse asked me what she was like and I said she is very down to earth and gracious. When he met her he said I was absolutely right. I know this because I met her at the annual conference. One of the district judges I have known for years long before she went on the bench when I was a paralegal was walking with me and I said, "I have to stop calling you by your first name and call you Judge." She told me if I call her Judge then she was going to call me Mrs. Gillett. If you are lost, someone will grab you and drag

you where you need to be. It was refreshing to be among women who are welcoming and never think you should not be with them.

As a first year attendee, I even volunteered to be on the auction committee chaired by Margann Bennett. Of course I knew Margann. I attended Washburn Law. It was great to be able to be on a committee with all of the women we were with. Everyone was so willing to help and I was very welcomed as a new attendee. The auction was a success because of the cohesive nature of the women on the committee.

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President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

project or idea for KWAA, I encourage you to please contact me to chat about how I can help, or drop me a note at sberson@banktaxlaw.com.

In the meantime, I continue to be grateful to you for the honor in allowing me to represent you as President. KWAA's special thanks to Washburn Law School for hosting our Fall Council meeting, and my thanks and KWAA's appreciation to Margann Bennett, for her help in facilitating and coordinating our meeting logistics. Finally, to our KWAA Executive Board and Council members who made time to share their insights about practicing law with the Washburn students after our Council meeting, thank you for showing the students KWAA at its best!



Spotlight: Team EvaNiceDay at the Kansas City Walk to Defeat ALS. The team raised \$49,450 dollars for this event.



LINDSBORG 2014 SPONSORS

A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors

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Mdivani Corporate Immigration Law Firm, LLC

Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Circle Sponsors

Foulston Siefkin LLP

Polsinelli PC

Plenary Session Sponsors

Martin Pringle Law Firm

Tripplet Woolf & Garretson, LLC

Women Attorneys Association of Topeka

Kuckelman, Torline, Kirkland and Lewis

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Topeka Bar Association

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Conference Supporters

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Urbom Law Offices Chartered

Lori Callahan

Rae Sedgwick, PHD, JD

Kari Schmidt

Thank you!



LINDSBORG 2014



LINDSBORG 2014



National Conference of Women's Bar Associations 2014 Boston Summit

The National Conference of Women's Bar Associations hosted its annual Women's Bar Leadership Summit in Boston on August 7-8th, 2014.

The NCWBA advocates for the equality of women in the legal profession and in society by mobilizing and uniting women's bar associations to effect change in the gender-based process and laws. The Kansas Women Attorneys Association is a member organization of the NCWBA. Those representing KWAA at this year's summit included President, Susan Berson and NCWBA's KWAA Board member, Angel Zimmerman.

The Boston Summit focused this year on *Breaking Barriers – Building Bridg-*

es. It featured such topics as: Breaking Barriers in Diversity in 2014, Building Bridges with Millennials and Baby Boomers, Empowering Bar Association Leaders to Become Effective Thought Leaders on Women's Issues and Best Practices from Women's Bar Associations.

At the annual meeting, KWAA Board member, Angel Zimmerman, was included on the slate for nomination to serve on the NCWBA board for KWAA. She was sworn in for another year of leadership.

Next year's summit will be held on Friday, July 31 in Chicago. For more information regarding the NCWBA visit ncwba.org.



From left to right: Susan Berson KWAA President, Lauren McKubbin, NCWBA President, Angel Zimmerman, NCWBA's KWAA Board member

Happy Hour Social!

Johnson and Wyandotte Counties are working together to bring you a Happy Hour Social you won't soon forget! It is our hope to not only bring KWAA members from both counties together for a fun time, but to also bring along as many non-members as possible. We have a stack of KWAA brochures and are ready to let everyone know the great opportunities and value of membership in our organization.

Come be social with us on Thursday, November 20th from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Rickhouse (Burg and Barrel Restaurant); 7042 W 76th St, Overland Park, KS 66204.

Enjoy a yummy appetizer buffet, private bartender, seeing old friends, making new ones and networking.

Please RSVP to: Malissa L. Walden (MLWalden@WPLawPractice.com) or Linda Krebs (lkrebs@sbcglobal.net) by Nov 14th



YOUR 2014-15 KWAA BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President - Susan Berson
President-Elect - Marilyn Harp
Past President - Mira Mdivani
Secretary - Kim Honeycutt
Treasurer - Miranda Carmona
Assistant Treasurer - Niki Piskuric

STANDING COMMITTEES, AD HOC COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Archives Co-Chairs - Gabrielle Thompson, Marie Landry
Career Development Chair - Martha Hodgesmith
Membership Chair - Amanda Kiefer
Newsletter Chair - Danielle Hall
Publicity Chair - Becky Sanders
Small and Solo Co-Chairs - Malissa Walden, Cassie Pfannenstiel Rodriguez
Women in the Law Chair - Patricia Hamilton
Annual Conference Co-Chairs - Carrie Bader, Kathryn Lewis
Awards Chair - Anne McDonald
Mentorship Committee Chair - Deena Bailey
KALAP Rep - Rae Sedgwick
KWAA Representative for KBA Board of Trustees - Patti Petersen-Klein
KWAA President's Council - Cathy Reeder
Webmaster - Marilyn Harp
Webmaster in Training - Ellen O'Leary
Directory Updates - Angel Zimmerman
Listserv - Dara Montclare
NCWBA - Angel Zimmerman, board member

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

District 1 – Johnson County	Linda Krebs, Malissa Walden
District 2 – NE Kansas	Brandy Sutton, Sally Pokorny
District 3 – SE Kansas	Lisa Montgomery
District 4 – E. Central KS/Emporia	Tamara Niles
District 5 – Shawnee County	Jennifer Hays, Laura Graham
District 6 – N. Central KS	Brenda Stoss, Ann Zimmerman
District 7 – Sedgwick County	Kellie Hogan
District 8 – W. Central KS	Tracey Beverlin
District 9 – SW Kansas	Lara Bors
District 10 – NW Kansas	Susan J. Whitfield Harding, Melisa Hunsicker-Walburn
District 11 – Wyandotte County	Rae Sedgwick

Several KWAA Members Receive Awards at KBA Annual Meeting

The Kansas Bar Association held its Annual Meeting September 19-20 in Topeka, Kansas at the Capitol Plaza hotel. A highlight of the event was the awards luncheon held that Friday.

Many of KWAA's members received awards at the luncheon. Those members included:

Laura Ice – Professionalism Award

Danielle Hall – Outstanding Young Lawyer

Hon. Karen Arnold-Burger – Outstanding Service

Angel Zimmerman – Outstanding Service

Nancy Ogle – Pro Bono Award

Additionally, KWAA President-Elect, **Marilyn Harp**, accepted the Pro Bono Certificate on behalf Kansas Legal Services.

The Professionalism Award received by Laura Ice, recognizes an individual who has practiced law for 10 or more years who, by his or her conduct, honesty, integrity, and courtesy, best exemplifies, represents, and encourages other lawyers to follow the highest standards of the legal profession.

The Outstanding Young Lawyer Award received by Danielle Hall, recognizes the efforts of a KBA Young Lawyers Section member who has rendered meritorious service to the legal profession, the community, or the KBA.

The Outstanding Service Award received by Hon. Karen Arnold-Burger and Angel Zimmerman are given for the purpose of recognizing lawyers and judges for their service to the legal profession.

The Pro Bono Award received by Nancy Ogle, recognizes a lawyer or law firm for the delivery of direct legal services, free of charge, to the poor or, in appropriate instances, to charitable organizations whose primary purpose is to provide other services to the poor. In addition to the Pro Bono Award, the KBA awards a number of Pro Bono Certificates of Appreciation, such as the one received by Kansas Legal Services.

These KBA awards are given out each year at the Annual Meeting and recipients are selected by the KBA Awards Committee from a pool of nominations.



Photos courtesy of the Kansas Bar Association.

WOMEN IN THE NEWS

Deena Hyson Bailey was a speaker on a panel discussing Cross Border Global Mobility (immigration) issues at the Faegre Baker Daniels Food Law Conference in Minneapolis in May 2014. Deena also received the "Spirit of Strategy" award in December 2013 from the Global Cargill Law Department for "Nurturing Talent" for her work on a team which planned the department's Global Lawyer Meeting.

Susan Berson was again included in the "Best of the Bar" by the Kansas City Business Journal. She also was awarded the Bronze medal from the ASPBE organization for her legal writing. Susan will be speaking in December at the ABI's Winter Leadership conference in Palm Springs on the topic of tax litigation and settlements, more information and registration can be found here <http://www.abiworld.org/WLC14>.

Amanda Kiefer, FHLBank Topeka, Assistant Vice President, Assistant General Counsel & Director of Minority and Women Inclusion, was named as a 2014 "20 Under 40" honoree by The Jayhawk Area Council of Boy Scouts. Amanda will be recognized alongside 19 other honorees for her accomplishments and leadership in the Topeka community during a banquet at the Ramada Inn in Topeka on November 13.

Judge Steve Leben of the Kansas Court of Appeals has been named recipient of the 2014 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). One of the nation's highest judicial honors, the Rehnquist Award is presented annually to a state court judge who exemplifies judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics. Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts Jr. will present the award to Judge Leben during a ceremony

at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. on November 20.

Mira Mdivani has again been voted Best of the Bar in the category of Corporate Immigration by the jury of the peers program ran by the Kansas City Business Journal.

Michelle Wade of the aviation law firm Jackson & Wade, L.L.C. presented on the topic of "Nuances in Contracting for Planes going into and out of China" on a panel about business aviation in China.

Teresa L. Watson has been appointed to District Court Judge in the 3rd Judicial District.

Angel Zimmerman has been elected to serve as the vice chair for the International Women in the Law committee for the J Rueben Clark Law Society. She will serve a two year term.

Entrepreneurial & Minority Business Development had their inaugural Women's Initiative Recognition Reception. **Amanda Kiefer** received the Woman of Achievement award. The Woman of Achievement Award is given to a woman who has attained a high rank and utilized her position, stature and expertise to break down gender bias and effect positive change for women.



Amanda Kiefer and her son, Kiefer Von Lintel, the night of the reception.

Polsinelli hosted a reception for the NCWBA. KWAA members Mary Beth Blake and Kim Honeycutt are pictured here with NCWBA president, Lauren McKubbin.



The evenings keynote speaker was **Kathleen Urbom**

and several KWAA members were recognized as nominees for one of the six awards that evening: **Jennifer Bazin, Kathleen Urbom, Margann Bennett, Sarah Loquist, Glenda Cafer, Natalie Haag, Angel Zimmerman, and Christel Marquardt.**

Congratulations to **Dixie Madden, Marcia Lynch** and **Trish Voth Blankenship** for being selected by the Wichita Business Journal as Lawyers of the Year for the Wichita metro area





DUES NOTICE AND MEMBERSHIP FORM
DUES OF \$50.00
FOR AUGUST 1, 2014 TO JULY 31, 2015

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	
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