

Amicus Newsletter

Winter 2015

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President's Message

By Marilyn Harp, Kansas Legal Services, Topeka



I am honored to be serving as your President this year. KWAA has a wonderful mission of support for women attorneys in Kansas. I have been a Kansas lawyer for 36 years. My early years of practice were before KWAA existed. I can attest to the difference this community has made in my career.

At the Fall Council meeting, KWAA pledged a gift of up to \$10,000 to the Informed Voters Project (IVP). This national effort has made Kansas one of its target states. We all know that judicial elections are waged in Kansas by people who have political agendas. The Informed Voters Project is designed to educate voters about the role of Judges and Courts in a three branch system of government. Ideally, this education will lessen the impact of politically motivated campaigns.

A portion of the pledge from KWAA is designed to be a challenge to our members. KWAA funds will match donations from KWAA members made to IVP before 12/31/15. Please consider sending a donation to NAWJ IVP/Kansas, C/O Sharon De Castro, 1001 Connecticut Ave NW Ste 1138, Washington DC 20036. You can designate your donation for use in Kansas, in the same way that KWAA has done. We are working with IVP leadership to identify donations made by KWAA members, so that the match is paid.

Some KWAA members have shown an interest in extending the work of our solo and small firm committee. A group of solos are working on how to form a supportive network across the state. This group can provide support via phone, email and in person meetings. If you are interested in working with this group, Cassie Pfannenstiel Rodriguez and Malissa Walden are the chairs of the KWAA Solo and Small Firm committee.

Amanda Kiefer and Laura Graham are working on the 2016 Lindsborg conference. Dates are July 14 - 16. I know you want to protect those dates, so you can participate.

One of my projects this year is to encourage use of our website for all of its various features. The membership directory is a great way to learn about the practice areas of our members. A look there might find that referral source you are seeking. The distri-

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KWAA Attends the Great Collaboration Conversation with Gloria Steinem to Spread the Word about the Informed Voters Project

KWAA was happy to distribute information about the Informed Voters Project at the Great Collaboration held in conjunction with Gloria Steinem's book talk on November 15 in Kansas City.

Stienem spoke with Vivien Jennings about her new memoir *My life on the Road*. The Event was presented by Rainy Day Books, the Kansas City Star & A Great Collaboration. A reception with women's organizations was held during a booksigning.

We received an enthusiastic response to the IVP goal of educating the public about the negative impact of partisan politics on judicial elections. Many people were interested in the willingness of the Informed Voters Project to provide speakers on this issue to civic groups.

Thanks to Kathryn Lewis and Marilyn Harp for staffing the table at the event. Thanks also to the many KWAA members who stopped by to greet them.



Gloria Steinem, is best known for her outspoken advocacy on behalf of women. She is the Author of four bestselling books, including *Revolution from Within* and *Moving Beyond Words*. She was a Founding Editor of, and Political Commentator for, *The New York Magazine*, and a Founding Editor of *Ms.*, which she continues to write for today.

President's Message Cont.

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Above: KWAA President, Marilyn Harp, attending the NCWBA meeting.

buton of this newsletter via a link to the KWAA website is another opportunity to archive our history on the website. Ellen O'Leary (ellenoleary@gmail.com) can help with log on issues. If you don't remember your password, you should use the website to get a new password. You can update your information - address or email change - by logging on to the site and making changes to your profile.

An article in the Spring, 2015 newsletter (page 6-7) gave other ideas for getting the most out of this aspect of your KWAA membership. You can find that under the Documents tab on the website.

I got a number of new ideas from the National Conference of Women's Bar Organization meeting in July. My biggest takeaway was the rich tradition of our Lindsborg conference. Other states brag about their four hour CLE sessions. I was proud to share the agenda from our 2015 conference as an inspiration for what is possible.

KWAA Sponsors Reception in Garden City

KWAA had the honor of sponsoring a reception that was held October 12, 2015 at the Finnup House in Garden City. The Kansas Supreme Court heard oral arguments at Garden City High School on Oct 13, 2015 and several of the justices came down the night before and attended the reception. The next day the justices had lunch with local bar members. They were then split up between the local high school, two middle schools and the community college to hear oral arguments. That night they heard arguments on 3 different cases. A special thank you goes to out to Sally Shattuck for coming up with the idea for the reception and also to Lara Blake Bors for coordinating the reception.



1935-2015

In Memory...

*This edition of the Amicus
Newsletter is in honor of
Retired Supreme Court
Justice Kay McFarland.*



A Special Thank You to Our 2015 Lindsborg Sponsors

Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Circle Sponsor

Mdivani Corporate Immigration Firm, LLC

Keynote Speaker Sponsors

Foulston Siefkin LLP

Susan Saidian & Case Mosses Zimmerman & Wilson

Keynote Speaker Reception Sponsors

Kuckleman Torline Kirkland & Lewis

Lathrop & Gage

Stinson Leonard Street

Plenary Session Sponsors

Martin Pringle Law Firm

Polsinelli PC

Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP

Triplet Woolf & Garretson, LLC

The Banking & Tax Group LLP

The Bar Plan

Break Sponsors

Hite Fanning & Honeyman, LLP

Johnson County Bar Association

Topeka Bar Association

Wichita Women Attorneys Association

Morris Laing Law Firm

Women Attorneys Association
of Topeka

Stevens & Brand, LLP

Hutchison Women Attorneys
Association

Anne Burke of Manson Karbank Burke

Goodell Stratton Edmonds & Palmer

Conference Sponsors

Wichita Bar Association

McDonald Tinker Skaer Quinn &
Herrigton, PA

Right: Conference attendees listen as the annual meeting of the membership takes place during the luncheon.



Lawyers Giving Back—Become a Fellow in the Kansas Bar Foundation

By Laura Ice, KBF President



As current President of the Kansas Bar Foundation, I hope to increase the number of participating lawyers as Fellows in the Foundation. The KBA Annual Meeting will be held in Wichita next summer, and as a new Fellow, you will be introduced and recognized at our KBF dinner to be held the night of June 16, 2016, before the performance of the Wichita Bar Show. To become a new Fellow, you simply pledge to make annual installments of \$100 per year for the next 10 years. Fellows can also reach additional giving levels by continuing to donate annually to the Foundation. I would love to recognize many of my KWAA colleagues at the dinner.

The Kansas Bar Foundation is able to continue its mission because of your support and generosity. We hope to grow our community outreach in the state in the coming years. We have formed a long-range planning committee, and for the first time, we will be sending a KBF representative to the National Conference of Bar Foundations next meeting in February 2016; that representative will be KWAA's own Amy Cline.

At its September meeting, the KBF voted to create and fund a special Diversity Scholarship to a law student from each Kansas law school, a scholarship that was first proposed by the KBA Professional Diversity Committee. The recipients of our Diversity Scholarships will become student

members of the KBA Professional Diversity Committee and participate in the committee's activities. This is a wonderful opportunity to draw diverse students into the Kansas Bar Association, give the students networking opportunities, and encourage them to stay in Kansas and remain active in their profession. After hearing of the new scholarship, Capitol Federal Foundation has agreed to fund these scholarships for the next 5 years, and we are grateful for that support.

Other programs supported by the KBF include access to the legal system for low-income Kansans, advocacy for children in need of care and victims of domestic violence. Funding also provides additional scholarships, educational materials and teacher training for public and private schools about the role of law and lawyers in society. We try to make a difference.

I hope you will each consider becoming a new Fellow, or increasing your level of giving so that we can do some more good. Levels of giving are established as follows:

- Fellow: \$1,000 – \$2,499
- Fellow Silver: \$2,500 - \$4,999
- Fellow Gold: \$5,000 - \$7,4999
- Fellow Platinum: \$7,500 - \$9,999
- Fellow Diamond: \$10,000 - \$14,999
- Pillar of Foundation: \$15,000 - \$49,999
- Pillar of Profession: \$50,000 or more



Women in the News

Justice Carol A. Beier received the Betty M. Dress, MD, FACP Distinguished Alumnae Award presented by the University of Kansas' Women in Medicine and Science (WIMS) organization.

Susan Berson was included in the Kansas City Business Journal's Best of the Bar publication.

Susan Berson was a speaker for the American Bankruptcy Institute's Dealing with the IRS webinar in September. She spoke on the issue of tax.

Susan Berson was a speaker at the Kauffman Foundation's forum on Global Entrepreneurship in November.

Jessica Domme was spotlighted in TK magazine.

Jane Deterding was appointed to the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission.

Margaret Farley was selected by the Consumer Voice to receive the Toby S. Edelman Legal Justice Award. The Toby S. Edelman Legal Justice Award was created in 2009 to recognize individuals who, working through or with the legal system, go to extraordinary lengths to achieve justice for long-term care consumers.

Danielle Hall along with her husband coached Washburn's Fall Trial Advocacy Competition Team. The team competed at the ABA Employment Law Competition in Miami and advanced to the semi-finals.

Martha J. Hodgesmith was honored as one of the 2015-2016 KU Women of Distinction.

Judge Janis Miller Karlin was appointed to chief judge of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for 10th Circuit.

Justice Marla Luckert was honored for her years of mentorship to women at the GO Topeka and Entrepreneurial & Minority Business Development Women of Influence Recognition Reception.

Jennifer Magana received the Ed Randels Award, for significant legal achievement and professionalism.

Mira Mdivani was included in the Kansas City Business Journal's Best of the Bar publication.

Deborah Mitchell was appointed to the Kansas' 18th Judicial District.

Linda Parks was appointed as the Kansas Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates. She will serve a three year term.

Hon. Sally D. Pokorny was the recipient of the Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Award at the 2015 Annual Lindsborg Conference.

Malissa L. Walden of Walden & Pfannenstiel, named Consumer Bankruptcy 'Rising Star' for third consecutive year in Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers Magazine.

Marilyn M. Wilder was appointed as District Judge for the Kansas 9th District Court.



Sherri Wattenbarger, Chair of the Women's Foundation Board at the Women's Foundation Annual Luncheon.



Do you have a news item you would like to share? Email Newsletter Chair, Danielle Hall, at ksbar.org to have your information included in the next edition of the Amicus Newsletter.

KWAA Participates in Clothing Drive

KWAA and the J Reuben Law Society - WIL (women in law) section joined forces this summer to provide a professional clothing for women in need of clothing for job interviews. Since the Lindsborg conference calls continue to come in. Zimmerman & Zimmerman, PA continue to be a drop off spot for those wanting to donate. This fall both Washburn and UMKC JRCLS WIL sections had clothing drives.



*Wishing you a Happy Holidays and
a New Year filled with prosperity and
success!*

-Your KWAA Board





DUES NOTICE AND MEMBERSHIP FORM
DUES OF \$50.00
FOR AUGUST 1, 2015 TO JULY 31, 2016

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	