

ISSUE NUMBER 33 / JUNE 2023

IWIRC NEWSLETTER

Connecting Women Worldwide



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Network News

NETWORK NEWS



Midwest Network

On January 19, 2023, IWIRC Midwest Network's Iowa members and potential new member guests gathered at the home of Krystal Mikkilineni while the rest of the Network members joined the virtual IWIRC–Cheers to 30 Years Tasting Event hosted by the IWIRC US Regional Programming Committee. IWIRC Midwest Network members who attended the gathering in person are pictured here and include: Leslie Behaunek, Jeanne Goche, Krystal Mikkilineni, Tirzah Roussell and Kristina Stanger.



On February 23, 2023, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Iowa confirmed a Joint Debtor/Committee Plan involving QHC Facilities, LLC and its 10 related nursing home and assisted living facilities. At its peak, QHC served a highly vulnerable population of over 300 residents. Confirmation of the Plan was the final chapter in the case that was preceded by an almost year-long sale and restructuring process. The Plan was made possible through complex negotiations with multiple entities, including the state and federal governments, two secured lenders, the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, and the United States Trustee. The Debtors were represented by Krystal Mikkilineni and Tirzah Roussell (IWIRC Midwest Network Members) with the Dentons Davis Brown law firm and Jeffrey Goetz with the law firm of Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave, P.C. The Debtors' financial advisors were Ronald Winters, Brad Williams and Tyler Brasher with Gibbins Advisors. The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors was represented by Francis Lawall and Deb Kovsky with Troutman Pepper.

Minnesota Network

Women & Minority Owned Business Event – February 16, 2023

On February 16, 2023, the IWIRC MN Chapter held an event entitled "A Conversation with Women & Minority Business Owners Who Survived & Thrived During the Pandemic." IWIRC board member and Assistant U.S. Attorney, Adine Momoh, moderated a panel of 3 business owners including:

Krista O'Malley: founder of My PowerPak, an online platform designed to reduce the stress accompanied with communicating and coordinating with friends and loved ones when faced with a serious life event.

Ashley Paguyo El Shourbagy: co-founder of Lucy & Co., a dog gear brand that makes dogs and their humans happy with the next doggy fashion trend.

Alex Steinman: co-founder of The Coven, a coworking community headquartered in St. Paul, MN with multiple locations that is also expanding with franchising.

IWIRC MN members and their guests enjoyed drinks and food from ChowGirls Catering, a Minneapolis-based, award-winning catering company, courtesy of IWIRC sponsor, Barnes & Thornburg LLP. IWIRC member, Connie Lahn, is the managing partner of the Minneapolis office and co-chair of the firm's Asset Revitalization and Special Servicer teams. The event featured a raffle, with prizes that included Lucy & Co gear and books by local author and event attendee Becky Amble.



Minnesota Network Curling Event – March 29, 2023

The Minnesota IWIRC Network celebrated our network's tenth anniversary on March 29 with some curling! We had such a great time curling with everyone at leadership last summer that we wanted to give our whole network a try. We had 8 IWIRC Members (one soon-to-be honorary junior member) and 1 non-member in attendance. We also had three of our founders present, Adine Momoh, Kara Casteel, and Amanda Schlitz. We are all grateful to those three ladies and the other founders who formed IWIRC-MN and have kept it running strong for 10 years and counting.



Current Issues in Crypto – May 16, 2023

On May 16, IWIRC-MN took over the state bar association bankruptcy group's monthly meeting and CLE for an all-woman/all-IWIRC panel on Current Issues in Crypto: Where We Are & What's to Come. Panelists included Brittany Michael, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones; Erin Bryan, Dorsey & Whitney LLP; Amy Swedberg, Maslon LLP; and Kara Casteel, ASK LLP. The panel discussed current issues in crypto currency, including what is crypto and current trends in regulation, bankruptcy, preferences, and legislation. With over 40 attendees in-person and online, the event helped highlight IWIRC and the skills and knowledge of its members here in Minnesota.



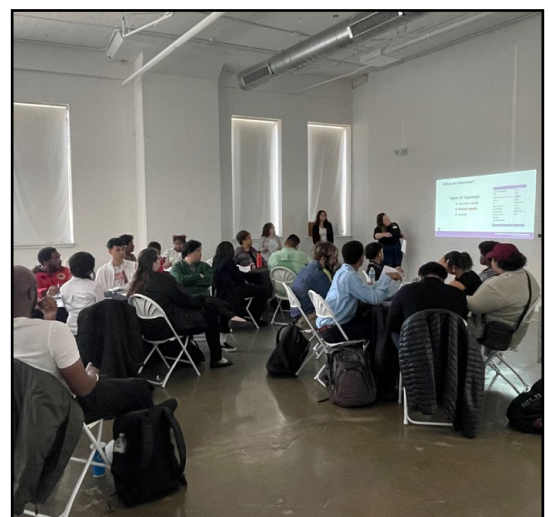
Greater Philadelphia Network

On March 14, 2023, the IWIRC Greater Philadelphia Network hosted its annual Afternoon Tea event at The Dandelion. Just steps away from Rittenhouse Square, this British-inspired pub provides an intimate space for members and friends to gather for high tea. Featuring a traditional service of tea, cocktails, and sweet and savory menu items, this afternoon event is a network favorite.

As part of IWIRC's 30th anniversary celebration, on April 4, 2023, the IWIRC Greater Philadelphia Network partnered with the Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project (CBAP) to present a CARE: Credit Abuse Resistance Education financial literacy program to the City Year Philadelphia (CYP) AmeriCorps Members. We also participated in roundtable discussions with AmeriCorps Members about their goals and career aspirations and the benefits of networking.

CBAP – which celebrated its own 30th anniversary in 2022 – provides pro bono consumer debt counseling and Chapter 7 bankruptcy representation to low-income Philadelphians. City Year was founded in 1988 as a national program to unite young adults from diverse backgrounds for a year of community service supporting student success. CYP is celebrating 25 years of service by its diverse teams of AmeriCorps Members to school communities citywide.

The IWIRC Greater Philadelphia Network enjoyed partnering with these other fantastic Philadelphia organizations and looks forward to exploring ways to further connect and help support the development of students and AmeriCorps members in our community.



New Jersey Network Cooking Class

To celebrate IWIRC's 30th Anniversary, the IWIRC-NJ chapter attended a cooking class at Healthy Italia in Madison, NJ and helped prepare more than 64 quarts of soup that Nourish.NJ will use to feed over 120 people. Nourish.NJ is a phenomenal organization that creates lasting solutions to the problems of hunger, homelessness, and poverty. Like IWIRC, Nourish.NJ has been in operation for over three decades and offers food, housing, work readiness, medical, social and educational services 365 days a year in a warm, safe and caring environment—free of charge—no questions asked. After food prep, IWIRC-NJ members sat down to a dinner prepared by Healthy Italia and enjoyed good wine, great discussion, and delicious food. It was a night of giving back and reflecting on how far IWIRC has come in its 30 years and where it can go in the future. All who attended left with bellies and hearts full.



New Jersey Network 2023 Honorable William H. Gindin Bankruptcy Bench Bar Conference

On Thursday and Friday, May 11 & 12, bankruptcy and restructuring professionals from across the region gathered at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City, NJ to participate in the 2023 Honorable William H. Gindin Bankruptcy Bench Bar Conference. The event, which was organized in part by IWIRC-NJ Board Chair, Sari Placona, garnered a phenomenal turnout and was an overwhelming success by all accounts. On Friday, several IWIRC-NJ members—including Melissa Dardani, Terri Jane Freedman, Sari B. Placona, Tara J. Schellhorn, and Judge Kathryn C. Ferguson—presented a multifaceted panel discussion titled “Chapter 11 Potpourri,” wherein they discussed a medley of issues arising in chapter 11 such as fraud, involuntary bankruptcies, and the 1111(b) selection. Once again, the women of IWIRC-NJ outdid themselves: keeping the interest of a crowded room while relaying a potpourri of useful information in a presentation that was truly scent-sational!



Western Pennsylvania Network

The Western Pennsylvania Network the 30th Anniversary of the IWIRC organization with a dinner, which included one of their founding members who came in from Montana.



Brazil Network

The Brazil Network had many successful events including:

- An IWIRC Happy Hour to welcome all IWIRC members who attended the INSOL Seminar in Rio de Janeiro.
- IWIRC Brazil sponsored the breakfast at the INSOL Seminar in Rio de Janeiro.
- We launched the IWIRConnect, a virtual meeting to discuss hot topics that our members had previously selected, like maternity, leadership, and self-care. They had three sessions in March, including:
 - A discussion on maternity, work and guilt.
 - A discussion on Soft Skills and Hard Skills with Flávia Feitosa, a well-known coach in Brazil.
 - A discussion on self-care with Djane Sant'Anna, a coach specialised in self-care in an executive career.
- IWIRC Brazil, jointly with CMR – Centro de Mulheres na Reestruturação hosted a dinner to celebrate International Women's Day. Before the dinner, our guests attended a talk with Angela Donnagio, a Professor specialised in leadership, about Networking.
- IWIRC Brazil, jointly with Black Sisters in Law (BSL) and Conselho Nacional do Ministério Público (CNMP) hosted an evening conference (in person and virtual) to discuss the Public Prosecutor's role in the insolvency proceeding.



Hong Kong Network

The Hong Kong network has hosted few events in 2023 including a Chinese New Year lunch, an International Women's Day seminar, and a giving back event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of IWIRC. We have received strong support and good feedback.



Mexico Network

IWIRC Mexico hosted a course aimed to improve dialogue and communication with the companies' financial area personnel so that financial issues will be clear and get a better understanding of the information to encompass the Financial Statement.



Dallas Fort Worth Network

IWIRC DFW members joined with fellow Texas-based women restructuring professionals for the second-ever Texas Women of Bankruptcy conference in San Antonio the weekend of January 18-19, 2023. Participants on Friday enjoyed a nighttime historic architecture and ghost tour of San Antonio followed by a reverse happy hour hosted by IWIRC DFW. On Saturday, a full morning of educational content courtesy of several Texas bankruptcy judges was followed by an afternoon of spa services and networking.



Louisiana Network

In honor of IWIRC's 30th Anniversary, the Louisiana Network hosted a volunteer event at Second Harvest Food Bank in New Orleans and had an After-Party at Boulevard American Bistro.



Western Canada Network

On March 8, 2023, our members in Vancouver and Calgary celebrated International Women's Day with our charity event "Spin for Your Sisters". Participants got to break a sweat at a local spin cycle studio while raising funds for charity. IWIRC WCN surpassed its fundraising goal and raised over \$9200 in support of the Canadian Women's Foundation. The event was a huge success!

On March 17, 2023, members (and friends) from Edmonton and Calgary hit the slopes at the Lake Louise Resort for Ski Day. Lake Louise is a premier ski destination in Canada's rocky mountains. Our members had a great time, and got to enjoy St. Patrick's Day together.



Gulf Coast Network

The Gulf Coast Network celebrated IWIRC's 30th Anniversary on April 14-16, 2023, with food, fun and relaxation at the Alluvian Hotel and Spa in Greenwood, MS! Members attended a three-hour cooking class on April 15th at the nearby Viking Cooking School, learning to prepare delicious dishes for a "Champagne Brunch" with the help of some patient instruction from our awesome teacher! Members also indulged in spa treatments and shopping excursions and gathered for two wonderful dinners and some late-night socializing. The weekend brought together members from across our three-state (Alabama, Mississippi and Northwest Florida) network for some overdue in-person interaction, reminding us all what makes IWIRC such a special organization! In the fall, we will conclude our 30th Anniversary celebration with a special service project focused on hunger and food insecurity issues in our region.



London Network

IWIRC London celebrated International Women's Day and IWIRC's 30th Anniversary. The event featured guest speaker, Karen Carney MBE OLY, who spoke about the importance of equity for women both in football and more widely.



Florida Network

On March 31, 2023, the Florida Network celebrated IWIRC International's 30th Anniversary, IWIRC Florida 20th Anniversary, and the Allison R. Day Founders Award and Scholarship Celebration in Miami. Over 50 people celebrated the achievements and accomplishments of Allison Day, honoring her crucial work in forming and shaping IWIRC Florida into the organization that it is today. It was an amazing night full of conversations and celebrations of women trailblazers who have guided insolvency and restructuring

professionals throughout the state of Florida. Participants enjoyed the inspiring introductions and stories presented by Patricia

Redmond and Marilee Mark along with a three course dinner, live jazz trio, and a photo booth.



Georgia Network

On April 27, 2023, members and sponsors of the Georgia Network gathered together at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens for a beautiful night filled with connection, inspiration, and service. Everyone enjoyed beautiful scenery and great food followed by a wonderful session on Lawyer Wellness on Compassion/Trauma Fatigue with special guest, Clinical Psychologist Timothy J. Schlairet, Psy. D. In conjunction with our 30 Years Celebration,, members organized a community service opportunity supporting Friends of Refugees. The Network collected supplies at the event as well as donations. We were also joined by Megan Brown, a representative of Friends of Refugees who shared with us more about their organization and ways to help!



CONNECT WITH OUR NETWORKS



Follow our networks on social media! Click the icons below to be directed to their pages.

IWIRC Brazil 

IWIRC Latin America  

IWIRC Carolinas 

IWIRC London  

IWIRC Cayman Islands  

IWIRC Malaysia 

IWIRC Chicago  

IWIRC Mexico  

IWIRC Dallas/Fort Worth 

IWIRC Michigan  

IWIRC DC  

IWIRC Midlands 

IWIRC Delaware 

IWIRC New England  

IWIRC Europe 

IWIRC New Jersey 

IWIRC Greater Maryland 

IWIRC New York  

IWIRC Greater Philadelphia 

IWIRC Ontario 

IWIRC Georgia 

IWIRC Puerto Rico 

IWIRC Florida   

IWIRC Scotland 

IWIRC Houston  

IWIRC Singapore  

IWIRC Hong Kong    

IWIRC So Cal   

IWIRC India 

IWIRC South Africa 

IWIRC Ireland  

IWIRC Western Canada  

IWIRC Western Pennsylvania 

Thanks for sharing your Network News!

Has your network hosted a great event? Have some exciting events coming up? We want to hear!

Send your submissions to news@iwirc.com to be featured in future IWIRC member news communications.



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