

IWIRC NEWSLETTER

Network News



Connecting Women Worldwide



Be Connected



Be Informed



Be Inspired

Network News

Cyprus Network

IWIRC Cyprus celebrated the launch of their network and 30 Years of IWIRC in November.



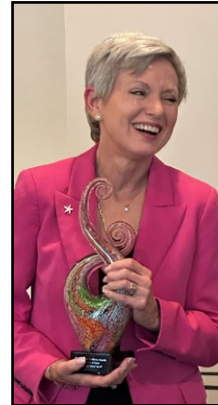
They extend a heartfelt thank you to all the incredible women in the Insolvency and Restructuring field who made the IWIRC Cyprus launch event and 30th anniversary celebration a resounding success! It was truly inspiring to witness so many talented individuals enjoying the relaxed vibes, reconnecting with old friends, and forging new connections. What a fantastic start to building the IWIRC Cyprus network!

A special shoutout to Alkionides Charity for joining them. Their dedication to providing relief to those in need, supporting medical treatment abroad, and assisting low-income students in completing their studies is truly commendable. A big thank you for the generous donations from the wonderful ladies that will contribute to this noble cause.



Florida Network

In November, the Florida Network had a fantastic time at the IWIRC Florida Annual Meeting! They gathered to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of IWIRC Florida and to announce their new officers, directors, and Excellence Award winners. Congratulations to the Excellence Award winners: Marilee Mark (2023 IWIRC Florida Trailblazer Award), Dana Robbins (2023 IWIRC Florida Emerging Leader Award) and The Honorable Laurel M. Isicoff (2023 IWIRC Florida Hall of Fame Award).



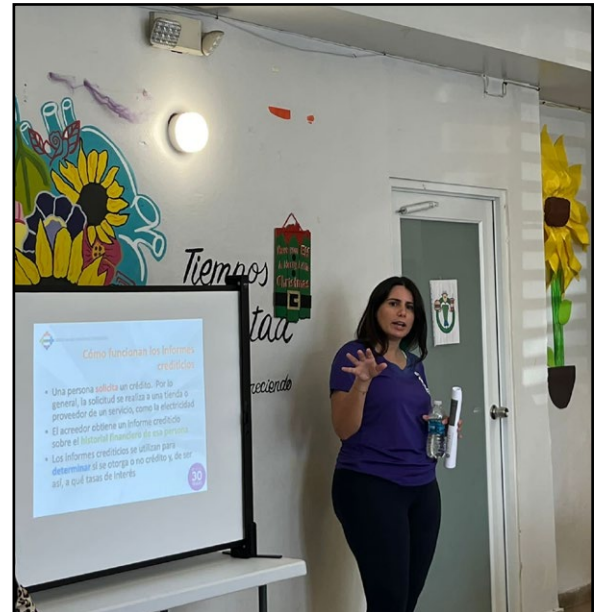
In February, members gathered for a Valentines Tea in Orlando, Florida!



Puerto Rico Network

On November 17, 2023, the Puerto Rico Network held its community service event as part of IWIRC's 30th anniversary.

The event was held at "Casa Protegida Julia de Burgos", which is a nonprofit organization that provides shelter, protection, and support to women survivors of domestic violence, among other services to support women. We provided lunch to the participants and with the collaboration of CARE ("Credit Abuse Resistance Education"), gave them a seminar on budgeting, savings, and credit responsibility. They also organized a clothing drive of business attire to support women seeking new employment opportunities.



Hong Kong Network

The Hong Kong Network hosted an Annual Mixer on November 22, 2023. Over 120 members and friends came to catch up and enjoyed a festive evening of drinks and canapes.



Southern California Network

The Southern California Network hosted their Annual Winter Tea. The evening began with the Hon. Sheri Bluebond, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District addressing the group and sharing with us the origin of IWIRC. A group of women insolvency attorneys had gathered together to network and better understand the community of the female insolvency attorneys. They met, shared stories, did some indulging...and became a group that they could refer to and count on. The attendees were entertained by a few of the Judges' stories, but most importantly she focused on encouraging everyone to engage with each other and for those with less experience in the field to NOT hesitate to reach out to others when in need. And to remind everyone to network whenever possible.



The tea was beautifully displayed, with decorative teapots, plenty of tea cakes and chocolates. We shared our own stories, had some tea and bubbles and enjoyed ourselves.

Channel Islands Network

The Channel Islands Network celebrated IWIRC's 30th anniversary with a morning of volunteering at the Guernsey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ("GSPCA") followed by a members lunch locally. In addition, they donated £750 to the charity.



New England Network

IWIRC New England ended the year by mixing and mingling at their Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting on December 8, 2023. With nearly forty members and prospective members in attendance, including current and retired judges, they networked and shared some holiday cheer! The lunch menu from Ocean Prime Boston provided several delicious options and hosted them in a perfectly decorated room. Their existing board members were thanked for their service commitment and new board members were ushered in with gratitude for their willingness to help them move forward in the coming year. Cheers!



Midwest Network

The IWIRC Midwest Network gathered together via Zoom and in-person on December 20th to celebrate the year and the holidays. Members from six different locations across the Midwest met to network in-person and Zoom in to the larger group for a trivia game featuring female leaders from across the world.



London Network

Appointment of new IWIRC London co-chair

They are delighted to welcome Luci Mitchell-Fry (Counsel, Dentons) as co-chair and they would like to give their immense thanks and gratitude for the huge contribution Katharina Crinson (Counsel, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer) made during her time as co-chair of the London Network. They wish Katharina every success in her role as IWIRC's UNCITRAL Committee Co-director and are very pleased that Katharina will be staying involved in IWIRC London on the IWIRC/Reorg conference organisation committee.



IWIRC London Charity Quiz in aid of Solace

A huge thank you to everyone who joined the IWIRC London Network at the IWIRC Charity Quiz on 24 January 2024 in aid of Solace. They raised over £3,500 on the night which will support five women and their children to move from a refuge into their own home, providing them with security and the opportunity to start a new life. A wonderful sold-out event for a great cause.



Minnesota Network

In honor of IWIRC's 30th anniversary, the Minnesota Network hosted a wine tasting event on November 16, 2023. Attendees gathered to explore wines of Argentina with WSET® certified wine lovers from Sips Ensemble. Along with the wine, attendees enjoyed good conversation and delightful appetizers and desserts, including gazpacho, olive tapenade, and a cheese and charcuterie board. The event was a wonderful opportunity to toast to 30 years of IWIRC and 10 years of the Minnesota Network!



On December 6, 2023, the Minnesota Network held its annual holiday gift wrapping event. The Minnesota Network sponsored a family for the holidays and gathered to wrap the gifts purchased for the family. Attendees also enjoyed wine and snacks, chatting with friends, and getting a head start on their own holiday wrapping. It was a fun opportunity to share some holiday cheer for the last event of 2023. The Minnesota Network looks forward to more great events in 2024!



Minnesota Network

On March 6, 2024, the IWIRC Minnesota Network enjoyed a fun night of axe throwing at Bad Axe Throwing! Attendees enjoyed throwing axes, along with appetizers, beverages, and great conversation. With a little bit of a warm up, there were quite a few axes that stuck in the board! The IWIRC Minnesota Network thanks its annual sponsors who made this event possible: ASK LLP, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., and Stoel Rives LLP!



IWIRC on Ice

Almost 40 insolvency and restructuring professionals met on January 24th and 25th for the 5th annual IWIRC on ICE at the award-winning Sundara Inn & Spa, regularly rated in the Top 10 destination spas in the world. The attendees spanned multiple states and made real connections. On day one, the group enjoyed a hosted wine and appetizer social in connection with a professional presentation by Kathryn Wieland, the Director of Business Career Services for Iowa State University on the results of the attendees' Clifton Strengths Assessment. That event was followed by a dinner at the historic Del Bar, a traditional Wisconsin supper club, followed by a stop at a piano bar—extending late into the evening. The chatter was robust and the laughs vigorous. The following day offered a chance to partake in a guided fun run and/or a private yoga event. After the exercise, the group enjoyed two seminars, one on working with expert witnesses and another on 13 week cashflows. Once the group completed their learning, they retreated for hours of spa-time together. That evening, there was hosted dinner and drinks and a night of bowling in old town Wisconsin Dells. Connections were made. Many will return!



Western Canada Network

The IWIRC Western Canada Network is having a great start to 2024. They hosted their AGM which included setting out the Board for 2024 and introduced its committee members. The board members for 2024 are: Carole Hunter (Chair); Dana Gaspar (Vice Chair); Pavin Takhar (Secretary); Jackie Shellon (Treasurer); JJ Burnell (Regional Representative Manitoba); Kristin Gray (Regional Representative Edmonton); Pinky Law (Regional Representative Vancouver); Breanna Burkhard-Smith (Director at Large); Jessica Cameron (Director at Large); Jing Shi (Director at Large); Emily Paplawski (Director at Large); and Tiffany Bennett (Director at Large).

On January 25, 2024, IWIRC WCN hosted a Justice Panel with the Honourable Former Justice Kristine Eidsvik and the Honourable Justice Michelle Hollins. It was an amazing event where



attendees got an interesting perspective from the bench. Thank you to all of the members who attended and thank you to the Justices.

Northern California Network

In January, members of the Northern California chapter volunteered at the Marin Senior Center in Sausalito, California to help senior citizens with tech related problems.



Greater Philadelphia Network

On January 18, 2024, the IWIRC Greater Philadelphia Network partnered with the Risk Management Association (RMA) Philadelphia Chapter - Women in Banking Committee to present “The State of Distress in the Philadelphia Market.”



Panelists Lauren Gilchrist (Newmark Group, Inc.) and Jennifer DeMasi (EisnerAmper LLP) were joined by moderators Julie Murphy (Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP) and Lauren P. Berret (EisnerAmper LLP) for a lively discussion on the current state of Philadelphia’s commercial real estate market. Topics included the decrease in demand for space among office-using industries, the record number of commercial-debt maturities on the horizon, and the challenges and opportunities in the market.

The program was followed by a cocktail reception sponsored by Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP and EisnerAmper LLP. Attendees were also treated to soy wax candles from Queer Candle Co. to take home and enjoy. Born in 2018, Queer Candle Co. is a trans and queer owned business with spaces in Philadelphia and Brooklyn. Each one of QCC’s candles is poured by hand in small batches using authentic and non-toxic fragrances, and 10% of all proceeds are contributed to the Sylvia Rivera Law Project.

On January 22, 2024, our Network Board held its 2024 inaugural Board Meeting during which the Board discussed its specific goals for the year. In addition to promoting and connecting women in the insolvency and restructuring profession, our Network Board is focused on enhancing educational programming to foster skill development and knowledge sharing within the IWIRC community. Our Network Board is also committed to driving social impact through targeted initiatives and community outreach, including engaging in outreach activities with local law schools and universities, to empower women in our professional organization.

After brainstorming how to make the world a better place, Network Board Members closed the meeting and enjoyed dinner (and some well-deserved cocktails) together at The Continental Midtown in Center City Philadelphia.

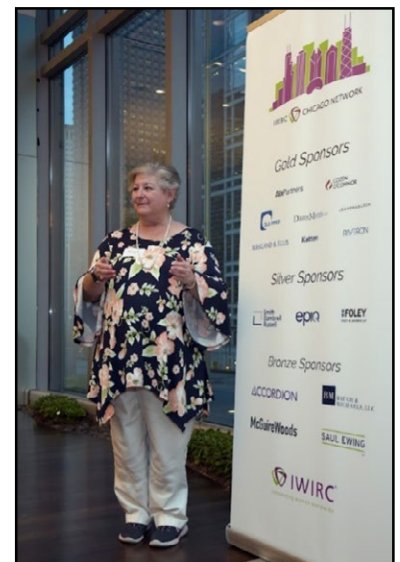
Chicago Network

On September 21, 2023, members of the Chicago Network gathered to celebrate IWIRC's 30th Anniversary and the Chicago Network's 20th Anniversary. Attendees networked while enjoying cocktails and appetizers. The event also honored one of the Chicago Network's founding members, Barb Yong, for her contributions.



The Chicago Network donated all ticket proceeds for the event to Deborah's Place, a Chicago non-profit organization that supports and shelters women experiencing homelessness.

On December 8, 2023, IWIRC Chicago hosted its signature Champagne High Tea event at the Four Seasons in Chicago. The event began with an open champagne bar and networking reception. Attendees were then treated to a festive performance by Uniting Voices Chicago (formerly known as the Chicago Children's Choir) while enjoying a decadent High Tea sitting. Following High Tea, dessert was served in the foyer while attendees participated in a charity wine ring toss to benefit Uniting Voices Chicago.



IWIRC at the Shore

IWIRC at the Shore was held on February 22 and 23, 2024, at the Hard Rock Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. IWIRC at the Shore is the first regional conference developed by IWIRC and this year was the twelfth year that it was held. Attendance was strong with 106 registrants. The backbone of the conference is the networking opportunities that start with the spa and continue the next day with 3 hours of continuing education, coffee breaks, and lunch. New this year was a Barbie™ themed After Party - the iconic doll that has been inspiring girls and women around the world that they CAN BE ANYTHING for decades.

Participants were encouraged to dress in theme, which most people did.

The conference was planned by a committee chaired by Ericka Johnson (Delaware) with Kimberly Brown (Delaware) serving as vice chair. The other committee members included: Adeola Akinrinade (New York), Alicia Den Beste (Georgia), Jessica Duvall (Maryland), Nishat Jabin (New York), Patricia Jefferson (Maryland), Angela Mastrangelo (Greater Philadelphia), Roberta Harkavy Probber (New Jersey), Colleen Restel (New Jersey), Jill Shapiro (New York), and immediate past chair Blanch Zelmanovich (New York).



IWIRC at the Shore

The panels were (i) It's Time for a Capital Raise, What Now? with Alicia Den Beste, Kathy Dimock, L. Katherine Good, and Neha Shaw; (ii) 2024 Bankruptcy Megatrends with Judge Gravelle, Lauren Berret, Joyce Kuhns, and Sari Placona; and (iii) Litigation Best Practices/Pitfalls with an Ethical Component with Judge Silverstein, Jessica Bonteque, Sidney Darling, and Catherine Hopkin.

Thank you to the committee for the countless volunteer hours spent planning the conference and thank you to the speakers for sharing your expertise.

Finally, thank you to our sponsors:

- Diamond Corporate Sponsors: Cooley, Duane Morris, EisnerAmper, and Gavin/Solmonese
- Platinum Corporate Sponsors: Bayard, Kirkland & Ellis, Stradley Ronon, Womble Bond Dickinson, and YVS Law
- Gold Corporate Sponsors: 50 Words, A&G Real Estate Partners, Baker Hostetler, Epiq, Flagstar Bank, FTI Consulting, Getzler Henrich, KCC, K&L Gates, Lowenstein Sandler, Miles & Stockbridge, Saul Ewing, SM Financial Services Corporation, Togut, Teneo, and Troutman Pepper
- Marketing Sponsor: Riker Danzig
- IWIRC Network Sponsors: Delaware, Greater Maryland, Greater Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York

Sponsorship is what helps defray the costs of the conference and allows us to keep registration costs lower than the actual costs of the conference.

If you missed out on the networking and festivities this year, we hope that you will consider attending in 2025.



IWIRC in the Blue Ridge

IWIRC in the Blue Ridge entertained registrants from five states (North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana). It started Sunday, February 25 at 4:30 with a Welcome Reception sponsored by Dean Dorton. Attendees then broke out into informal small group dinners. On Monday, February 26, registrants spent time networking and getting to know each other at the spa and on a group hike (some folks did one or the other and some did both) and that night there was a group dinner arranged through the hotel and sponsored by Baker Donelson and Great Neck Realty. Tuesday morning featured a group breakfast again arranged through the hotel and sponsored by Dentons, Waldrep Wall, Best Law, and Hendren Redwine & Malone, followed by a CLE program put on by the KIT Network's Laura Day DelCotto. Organizers look forward to hosting a Third Annual IWIRC in the Blue Ridge Mountains next year.



Japan Network

The IWIRC Japan Network organised its Annual Meeting with lunch near Tokyo Station on 12 March 2024, just after International Women's Day. The 17 attendees, including non-member guests, had amazing time connecting with female professionals in the insolvency and restructuring area in Japan.



CONNECT WITH OUR NETWORKS



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

IWIRC Brazil 

IWIRC London  

IWIRC Carolinas 

IWIRC Malaysia 

IWIRC Cayman Islands  

IWIRC Mexico  

IWIRC Chicago  

IWIRC Michigan  

IWIRC Dallas/Fort Worth 

IWIRC Midlands & North of England 

IWIRC DC  

IWIRC New England  

IWIRC Delaware 

IWIRC New Jersey 

IWIRC Europe 

IWIRC New York  

IWIRC Greater Maryland 

IWIRC Northern California 

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 Latin America  

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 Network News communications.



IWIRC

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