



May 2015

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1,500 in 2015!

NOW IS THE TIME -Renew your membership and recruit a new member!
IWIRC's 1500th new member will receive a complimentary 2nd year membership, as well as IWIRC prizes. Let's make Delaware the the network with the 1500th member, and we'll receive a \$500 bonus!
Click here to renew or become or new member.



Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends of IWIRC Delaware,

I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather. It was great to see so many of you at our recent events. Most recently, we hosted a painting party where the completed paintings, as well as various items, were donated to PathWays Center for Families, which aims to help women, teens, children and families achieve economic independence and family well-being.

We hope that you will also participate in some of our upcoming events including an event featuring an open dialogue with Judge Walrath and Judge Silverstein on May 21st . In addition, we have an interactive educational luncheon scheduled for June 1st with the Northern California Network (see invite on page 3).

Of course, we will be holding the Summer Kickoff Happy Hour and various educational and philanthropic events in the coming months.

Finally, if you are interested in getting more involved in IWIRC, please reach out to me or any member of the Board and we would be happy to discuss joining one of the various subcommittees, including: the Community Service Subcommittee; the Social Events Subcommittee; the Social Media Subcommittee; and the Awards Committee.

If you have something newsworthy, be sure to let us know. Please send any news, updates, questions, suggestions or general comments to Amy Gavin at amy.gavin@gavinsolmonese.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our events in the coming quarter!

Leigh-Anne Raport
Chair, DE IWIRC



Where We've Been

Thanks to the planning committee of Evelyn Meltzer, Melissa Hager, Brya Keilson, Ali Kelly, Jennifer Knox, Michelle Morris, Leigh-Anne Raport, Tara Schellhorn, Lori Simpson, Kristen Siracusa and Amanda Steele, the Third Annual IWIRC at the Shore conference was held on March 5 and 6, 2015 at the Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa in Atlantic City. IWIRC members from across the country braved a blizzard in order to be present for two days of networking, educational events and fun.

The conference included a networking spa event, cocktail party, dinner at the famous Knife & Fork Inn, and two CLE/CPE presentations: "Alternatives to Bankruptcy" presented by panel members Marjorie Kaufman, Susan Klein, Evelyn Meltzer, Steve Mitnick, and Tara Schellhorn; and "Ethical Issues Concerning Networking, Marketing and Business Generation" presented by Harriet Greenberg, Brya Keilson, Cheryl McKissack, Jennifer Meyerowitz, Amanda Steele and Mally Steves. The conference concluded with a luncheon networking opportunity.



In early April, Ashley Stitzer and Amanda Steele put together a combination social, networking, and community service event, called a Night of Artistry! A group of members enjoyed food, drink, conversation and creativity as they painted canvases to be donated to the [PathWays PA Center For Families](#). These generous ladies also brought in donations for the moms entering the shelter, from toiletries to bedspreads.



The PathWays PA Center for Families (in the Delaware County suburbs) currently houses 50 low-income women and children in a residential and community-based setting. The children attend school, receive services, and participate in after school programs. The mothers work, attend school, receive life skills training, and many undergo intensive therapy for PTSD. Most of these mothers are suffering from extreme poverty as they have fled jobs and sources of income, in their attempt to stay alive. The families were thrilled to brighten the walls of their rooms with the paintings from IWIRC.

IWIRC's 12th Annual Spring Conference and Founders Awards on April 15-16th in Washington DC offered multiple networking and educational opportunities. It was a beautiful spring evening for the opening night reception, hosted by Arnold & Porter LLP, held on their rooftop patio. The night concluded with a multi course meal at Zaytina,

James Beard award winning Chef Jose Andres's Mediterranean tapas restaurant in the heart of D.C.

Thursday's panels, "Prepping for the Pitch" and "Who Says It's A Man's World? How Women Can Take Charge of the Conversation" were followed by the 2015 Founders Awards Presentation of the Fetner Award for Outstanding International IWIRC Contribution to Justine Lau, the Ryan Award for Outstanding IWIRC Network to the Western Canada Network, and the Melnik Award for Exceptional IWIRC Member to Jennifer Meyerowitz. The conference wrapped up with a networking lunch and a couple of fun networking events. Many members enjoyed a relaxing tour of the Newseum, while many others participated in a mad race around DC sightseeing for a scavenger hunt.

Where We're Going

Don't miss an exclusive opportunity for an open discussion with two of our local bankruptcy judges. On Thursday, May 21st, The Honorable Mary F. Walrath and The Honorable Laurie Selber Silverstein will be our distinguished guests for an evening of discussion, desserts, and drinks. RSVP to Ashley at astitzer@bayardlaw.com to join us at World Café Live in Wilmington, from 5-8:00 pm. (See invitation for more details.) Space is limited to just a few seats left. If you'd like to attend or be put on a waiting list, please contact either Amanda at Steele@rlf.com or Ashley at AStitzer@bayardlaw.com.

In June we're offering a regional virtual lunch event with a sister network about the article "Networking Doesn't Help Women" recently published by the American Lawyer. The IWIRC Delaware and Northern CA networks will come together on June 1st for this discussion. Thanks [Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones](#) for hosting in their San Francisco and Delaware. (See invitation for more details.)

Look for email invitations or follow us on Facebook for announcements for future events, including our annual Summer Kick-off event!

Please join the IWIRC Delaware Network for an evening of
Discussion, Desserts, and Drinks
 with
The Honorable Mary F. Walrath
 and
The Honorable Laurie Selber Silverstein

Thursday, May 21, 2015
 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

World Cafe Live
 Olympia Room
 Wilmington, Delaware

Please RSVP to Ashley at astitzer@bayardlaw.com
 By Friday, May 15, 2015

IWIRC

Join the Northern California and Delaware Networks for a discussion of American Lawyer's article, "Networking Doesn't Help Women."

June 1, 2015
 11:45-1:00 p.m. ET / 8:45-10:00 a.m. PT

Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones

919 North Market Street 17 th Floor Wilmington, DE 19801	150 California Street 15 th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111-4500
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Breakfast or lunch will be served.
 The article can be accessed [here](#).

Please RSVP by Thursday, May 28th to
 Dot Willauer at Willaued@pepperlaw.com (for Delaware attendees) and
 Cara Porter at carakimporter@gmail.com (for Northern California attendees)

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Mentoring Minute

with [Kate Sickles of Cole Schotz, P.C.](#)

Q: What risks did you take that helped shape your career path?

A: Looking back, I can identify three risks which shaped my career path. First, as a second year associate in a firm without a bankruptcy associate, I seized the opportunity to work on bankruptcy matters with two talented attorneys who introduced me to the Bankruptcy Code, challenged me intellectually and were great mentors.

Second, ten years into my career (at which time I had been an insurance defense litigator for five years), I re-evaluated my career options and goals, decided to re-invent myself and departed the only firm I had ever worked (after I had been elected partner), to join another firm and re-enter the bankruptcy practice. That risk resulted in great rewards. For the next nine years, I was involved in numerous high-profile cases, exposed to sophisticated and challenging legal issues, and collaborated with some of the best bankruptcy attorneys in the country. That risk helped to develop my skills and shape my practice.

Third, I joined Cole Schotz seven years ago, when it opened its Wilmington Office, and have continued to grow professionally, develop new interests, and practice with an experienced, bright and energetic restructuring group.

Q: How were you empowered to grow professionally, and who encouraged you?

A: I am motivated and challenged by the variety of different legal and business issues bankruptcy presents. I am inspired by the talented, intellectually curious and creative professionals with whom I work, including adversaries. Throughout my career my mentors and family have encouraged me to pursue my interests and have been supportive of my professional endeavors.

Q: Name a specific challenge you and other women in our industry face. How have you dealt with this particular challenge?

A: Different women face different challenges over the course of their career. For me, business development is a challenge. It's a work in progress and requires a consistent and focused effort -- self-promotion and the "ask" are difficult for many women.

My recommendation to more junior attorneys is to focus on business development early in your career - prepare a business development plan, set aside time to market, and have mentors and a network of colleagues who can help you develop your career and business. IWIRC provides a great opportunity to network and develop relationships and business. The professional and personal relationships I have developed through IWIRC are invaluable.

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[Leigh-Anne M. Raport](#)
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