

IWIRC • NY

2015 Spring Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends of IWIRC NY,

Happy Spring!

Even the freezing temperatures and snowy evenings this winter couldn't keep this chapter down — our Poker Night in February and our Personal Branding Panel last week were huge successes, thanks to the attendance of over 50 members and friends, including many new faces. We also enjoyed seeing many of you at the IWIRC International Spring Meeting in Washington, DC on April 15-16th.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon — we have a very busy Spring planned for you! Here in New York, we are hosting a breakfast presentation with the Secretariat of the UN and UNCITRAL delegates on May 26th, and our 3rd Annual Golf Camp on June 9th. The board is hard at work to keep this momentum going throughout the year.

In this edition of our newsletter, we are excited to preview in more detail this Spring's upcoming events, recognize our IWIRC members who are "making news," introduce you to our newest members, and provide you with information on how to join our IWIRC NY subcommittees.

Read on, enjoy, and we look forward to seeing you at the many events planned for this spring!

Sincerely,

[Carren Shulman](#) and [Samantha Martin](#)

IWIRC NY Co-Chairs

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Remember, if it's underlined & blue, it's got something extra for you!

HAPPY CLICKING

IWIRC NY Events: Recap

Ladies' Night: Bringing Poker Skills to the Negotiating Table Part II

February 18, 2015

[Saima Meyer](#) & [Cristine Pirro](#)

We were proud to host our second Ladies' Poker Night on February 18th. Members learned the art of poker from a team of professional players and then practiced the skills they learned in an all-IWIRC tournament. The night involved networking, cocktails, dinner, and a lot of laughter. The event's excellent turnout resulted in a boisterous tournament, leaving [Melissa Hager](#) and [Erica Richards](#), both from [MoFo](#), with prizes from [Equinox Fitness](#)!



IWIRC NY Events: Recap

IWIRC at The Shore

March 5–6, 2015

[Borgata Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City, NJ](#)

Blanche Zelmanovich

The [New York Network](#) joined together with the [Delaware](#), [Greater Philadelphia](#), [Maryland](#) and [New Jersey](#) Networks to host this year's 3rd Annual IWIRC at the Shore Conference.

The conference kicked off with a spa networking event at the [Water Club](#). Attendees enjoyed a fabulous spa lunch as they relaxed by the pool and networked. Many enjoyed various spa treatments, from massages and facials to manicures and pedicures. Later that evening, the Networks hosted a welcome reception at the Society Club, followed by an intimate dinner offsite at the historic [Knife & Fork Inn](#).

The next day, a panel of IWIRC experts, including [Marjorie Kaufman](#) ([Getzler Henrich & Associates](#)), [Susan Klein](#) ([Gordon Feinblatt LLC](#)), [Evelyn Meltzer](#) ([Pepper Hamilton LLP](#)), [Steven Mitnick](#) ([SM Law, PC](#)), and [Tara Schellhorn](#) ([Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti LLP](#)) provided insight into alternatives to bankruptcy, while [Mally Steves Chakola](#) ([Maryland Paper Company Limited Partnership](#), founder of [M Steves Cosmetics](#)), [Harriet Greenberg](#) ([Friedman LLP](#)), [Brya Keilson](#) ([Gellert Scali Busenkell & Brown, LLC](#)), [Cheryl McKissack](#) ([McKissack Group](#)), [Jennifer Meyerowitz](#) ([Epiq Systems](#)), and [Amanda R. Steele](#) ([Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.](#)) gave personal insights, real life experiences, ethical considerations, and professional marketing strategies that included feedback and guidance to the participants who worked through various case studies in teams.

Look out for details about next year's event, and be sure to sign-up early as this event is sure to sell-out!



IWIRC NY Events: Recap

Personal Branding: How to Set Yourself Apart

April 30, 2015

[Janice Grubin](#) & [Tanya Meerovich](#)



IWIRC NY hosted its inaugural Personal Branding Event on April 30th. Our panel consisted of five financial and legal professionals:

- [Melanie Cyganowski](#), a former bankruptcy judge and now member of [Otterbourg P.C.](#),
- [Gina Gutzeit](#), a Senior Managing Director of [FTI Consulting Inc.](#),
- [Deirdre McGuinness](#), a Managing Director of [Kurtzman Carson Consultants](#),
- [Nina Ross](#), a Managing Director of [Societe Generale](#), and
- [Jamila Justine Willis](#), an associate at [DLA Piper LLP](#)

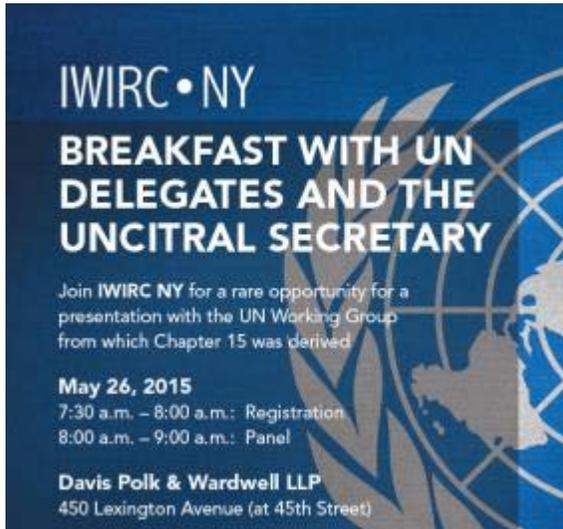
Our panelists engaged attendees in a free-wheeling discussion on a wide range of topics focusing on creating and sustaining your personal brand.

Topics included reputation building through internal and external networking, the role of mentoring, achieving success under 40, and thought leadership. This event was thoughtful and inspiring.

If you missed it, [never fear!](#) Keep an eye out for the opportunity to meet in a small lunch or breakfast group with one of these remarkable women from May through November. And for more information, check out the [Personal Branding features](#) in our quarterly newsletters throughout the year.

IWIRC NY Events: Preview

UNCITRAL Breakfast & UNCITRAL Meetings May 26–29, 2015

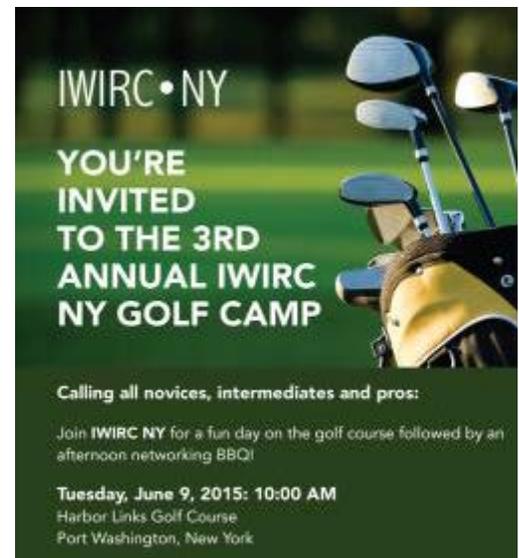


[UNCITRAL's Working Group V](#) specializes in Insolvency Law, and the next session will be held in New York from **May 26 to May 29**. IWIRC will send one or more members to attend the expert group session of approximately 10 practitioners and representatives to work on specific text and discuss practical and legal issues. For more information, visit UNCITRAL's [website](#). This session's UNCITRAL meetings will kick off in New York City with a breakfast on **May 26**, hosted by IWIRC NY! We will be joined by the UNCITRAL Secretariat and several distinguished delegates. The breakfast will be held at the offices of [Davis Polk](#) from **7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** To R.S.V.P., click [here](#).

Third Annual IWIRC NY Golf Camp June 9, 2015

[Saima Meyer](#) & [Cristine Pirro](#)

IWIRC NY looks forward to hosting another terrific group on June 9th at the beautiful [Harbor Links Golf Course](#) for morning refreshments, an afternoon [BBQ](#) and some fun times on the links. Our golf newbies will get an hour-long golf tutorial from a course professional followed by a round on the 9-hole executive course, our intermediate folks will enjoy an hour-long warm-up on the range followed by a round on the 9-hole executive course, and our pros will head right out to the main course for a full 18-hole round. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather!



IWIRC International Leadership Summit July 15–17, 2015



Look out for the invitation to dinner at [Ed's Chowder House](#) on July 16th during the Leadership Summit. You'll have the chance to meet IWIRC leaders from all over the world. Space will be limited so don't forget to watch your email for the invite!

IWIRC NY Shining Stars

The success of our chapter is due in no small part to the contributions and enthusiasm of our incredible members. In celebration of that fact, this year we introduced the "IWIRC NY Shining Star" recognition.

This monthly recognition allows us to introduce you to exemplary members of the IWIRC NY community. Meet [Blanche](#), [Laura Katherine](#), and [Kamila](#), our January, February, and March 2015 IWIRC NY Shining Stars. For more information, click each picture.



January 2015
Blanche Zelmanovich
GlassRatner Advisory &
Capital Group

February 2015
Laura Katherine Schembri
Credit Suisse



March 2015
Kamila Khairoulina
FTI Consulting



BDO CONSULTING IS PROUD TO SUPPORT
IWIRC

Our experienced restructuring professionals assist clients with complex bankruptcy, insolvency and turnaround matters, including business reorganization, debt restructuring or workouts by providing in-depth strategy, implementation and project management services. We offer a variety of services to a range of clients, including shareholders, debtors, secured lenders, bondholders, official and unofficial creditor and equity committees.

For more information about BDO Consulting's Restructuring services, please contact:
Michele Michaelis, Managing Director
212-885-7281 / MMichaelis@bdo.com

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The IWIRC Difference

What makes IWIRC special? We're the **only** organization that's entirely focused on promoting women in the insolvency and restructuring profession. We provide vast opportunities at IWIRC:

- Present engaging and informative topics to members and non-members at conferences and other events
- Access to women around the globe who are willing provide advice, assistance and make introductions
- Attend reasonably-priced, worthwhile events, with some stipends available
- One of few organizations with a delegation to [UN Commission on International Trade Law](#) that wrote and continues to update chapter 15 and related text

Visit us at www.iwirc.com or email us at iwirc.nyc@gmail.com for more info.

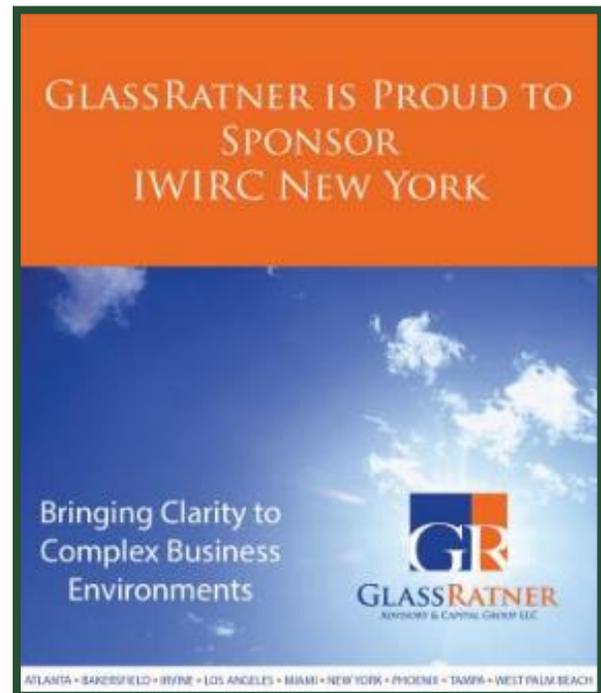
Member News

Congratulations to our IWIRC NY members on their recent accomplishments. Let us sing your praises! [Email us](#) your accomplishments for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Recognitions

[Michelle McGreal](#) was selected as one of [Law360's Rising Stars Under 40!](#) [Congratulate her!](#)

Law360 has selected senior counsel [Rachel Albanese](#) to serve on its [editorial advisory boards](#). As the publication notes, "The purpose of the editorial advisory board is to get feedback on Law360's coverage and to gain insight from experts in the field on how best to shape future coverage." [Congratulate her!](#)



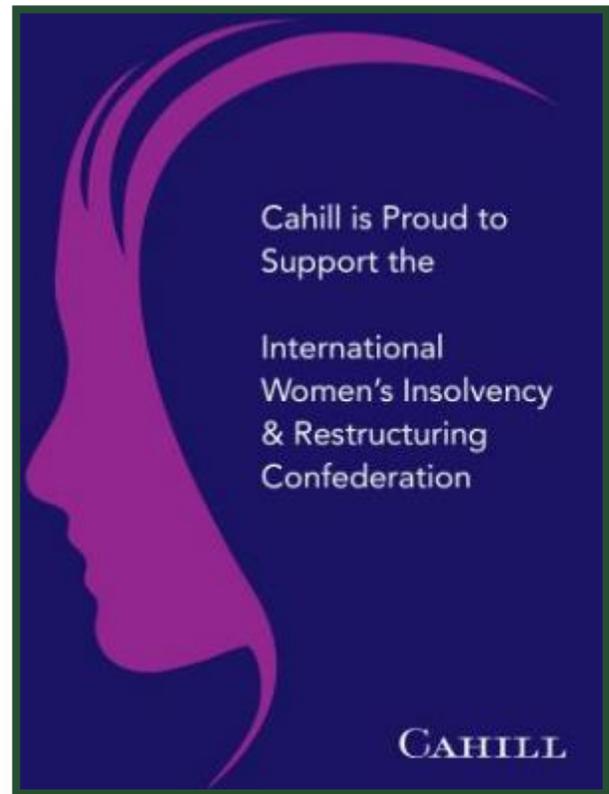
Three of [Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP's](#) recent restructuring transactions were selected as winners in four categories at the 9th Annual M&A Advisor Turnaround Awards on February 23, 2015: the Ashley Stewart Holdings restructuring (Restructuring of the Year & Retail Manufacturing/Distribution Deal of the Year); FriendFinder Networks (Restructuring of the Year); and Genco Shipping & Trading Ltd. (Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution Deal of the Year). Congrats!

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Recognitions

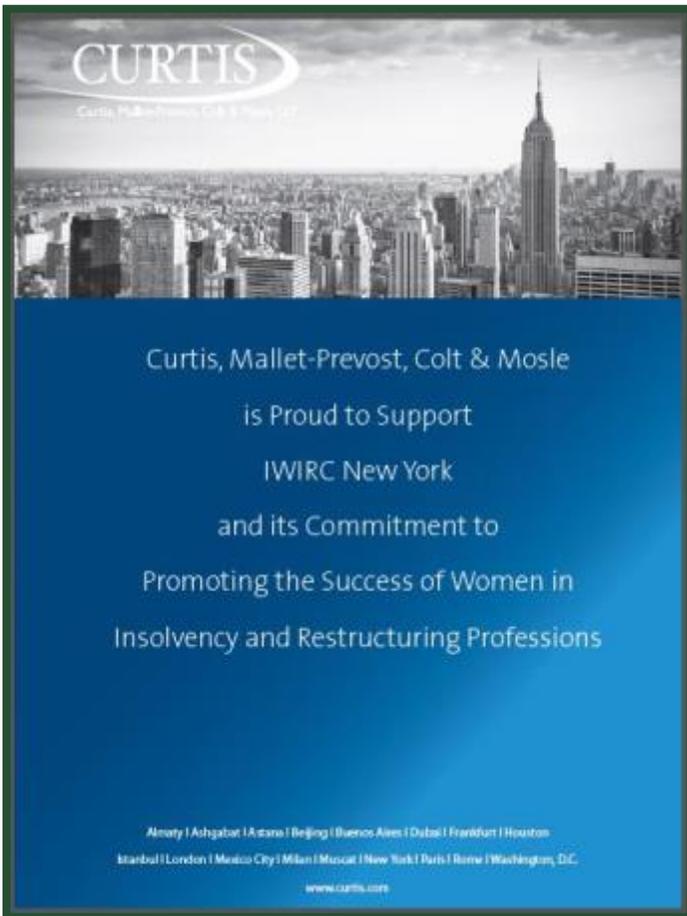
In January 2015, [FTI Consulting](#) Women's Initiative Network ("FTI WIN") hosted a networking event at the [Harvard Club](#) in New York City with a special presentation by distinguished speaker, [Carol Frohlinger](#). The presentation focused on ways women can negotiate with authenticity to achieve their maximum personal and professional potential.



Recognitions (cont'd)

FTI WIN New York recently partnered with [A Lawyers Life](#), a forum and online community that explores the fascinating places a law degree can take you. Most recently, FTI WIN New York sponsored an interview with [Louise Firestone](#), General Counsel, [LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton Inc.](#), "From Finance to Fashion: How a mid-career shake-up led her to a French luxury powerhouse." You can read the full interview [here](#).

Member News



CURTIS
Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP

Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle
is Proud to Support
IWIRC New York
and its Commitment to
Promoting the Success of Women in
Insolvency and Restructuring Professions

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Istanbul | London | Mexico City | Milan | Moscow | New York | Paris | Rome | Washington, D.C.
www.curtis.com

Congratulations to our IWIRC NY members on their recent accomplishments.
Let us sing your praises! [Email us](#) your accomplishments for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Speaking Engagements

On June 5, [Janice Grubin](#) will be on a panel at the upcoming 31st annual [ARIA Conference](#). She will speak on Marketing Strategies for Restructuring Professionals in a Volatile & Competitive Market: What to Do, What to Avoid, and What Works. [Congratulate her!](#)

On June 5, [Teresa Kohl](#) will be on a panel at the upcoming 31st annual [ARIA Conference](#). She will speak on Ethics: Conflicts, Crossing the Line, and Other Issues. [Congratulate her!](#)



Weil

We are proud to support the
**Women of IWIRC
New York**



bfr.weil.com Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Member News

Welcome to IWIRC NY's New Members Through May 6, 2015

[Heather Aaronson](#)
[Prime Clerk](#)

[Elizabeth Blakely](#)
[Polsinelli](#)

[Sarah Carnes](#)
[Kelley Drye & Warren, LLP](#)

[Katherine Catanese](#)
[Foley & Lardner, LLP](#)

[Lisa Donahue](#)
[Alix Partners](#)

[Anne M. Eberhardt](#)
[Gavin/Solmonese](#)

[Carrie E. Essenfeld](#)
[Halperin, Battaglia Raicht, LLP](#)

[Angela Libby](#)
[Davis Polk & Wardwell, LLP](#)

[Donna H. Lieberman](#)
[Halperin, Battaglia Raicht, LLP](#)

[Jessica Mikhailevich Pierce](#)
[Dorsey & Whitney, LLP](#)

[Melicia Payne](#)
[Debtwire](#)

[Natasha Tsiouris](#)
[Davis Polk & Wardwell, LLP](#)



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Not an IWIRC NY Member Yet?
We want to see your name
here for our Spring 2015
Newsletter!

**Sign Up Today And You Could be
Lucky Member 1,500 in 2015**

[IWIRC International](#) is offering a
complimentary second year of
membership AND a prize package filled
with valuable IWIRC-branded items for
the 1,500th member of IWIRC. As added
incentive, the network with lucky
member 1,500 receives a [\\$500](#) bonus for
future events.

Come on New Yorkers, we got
this! [Click here](#) to join IWIRC.

Upcoming Industry Events

May 14

[17th Annual ABI Bankruptcy Conference](#)
New York, NY

May 17

[21st Annual IBA Global Insolvency & Restructuring Conference](#)
New York, NY

May 18

[Tina's Wish – 2nd Annual Spring Event](#)
New York, NY

May 26

[UNCITRAL Breakfast](#)
New York, NY

June 3–6

[AIRA's 31st Annual Conference](#)
Philadelphia, PA

June 3–6

[ABI Cross-Border Insolvency Program](#)
New York, NY

July 15–17

[IWIRC Leadership Summit](#)
New York, NY

Want us to feature your event?
[Email us](#) details today!



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IWIRC NY Social Media: Tina's Wish Giveaway



THE HONORABLE TINA BROZMAN FOUNDATION
for OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH



At the age of 32, the Honorable Tina Brozman became the youngest judge appointed to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, eventually becoming the chief judge of the court. During her time on the bench, Tina had a significant and lasting impact on both domestic and international restructurings.

Tina's deep commitment to others, her unselfishness, and her uncanny knack for leaving every person and every issue she touched better than she found them, live on in the work of The Honorable Tina Brozman Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research, better known to its supporters and friends simply for the dream it embodies – "[Tina's Wish](#)."

On April 14th, Tina's Wish honored President Bill Clinton with the inaugural [Global Women's Health Award](#) on at the Waldorf Astoria.

[Ganimet Bardhi](#) and [Rahil Kamran-Rad](#) are the two lucky IWIRC NY LinkedIn members who won free tickets to the event and the opportunity to meet President Clinton. Congrats, ladies!

IWIRC NY Social Media

Social Media

[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [LinkedIn](#)

We're still going strong — over **70 people** have joined our IWIRC NY [LinkedIn](#) group in 2015!

Being a “Friend” of IWIRC NY on social media has become more rewarding than ever! Look out for more giveaways to upcoming events on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

Be sure to follow our @IWIRCNJ, @IWIRCHouston @IWIRCDE, @WPAIWIRC, and @IWIRCWestCan sisters!

[Like](#), [follow](#), or [join](#) us today!

Helpful IWIRC Web Resources

IWIRC NY

[Home Page](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Direct Email](#)

IWIRC International

[Homepage](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

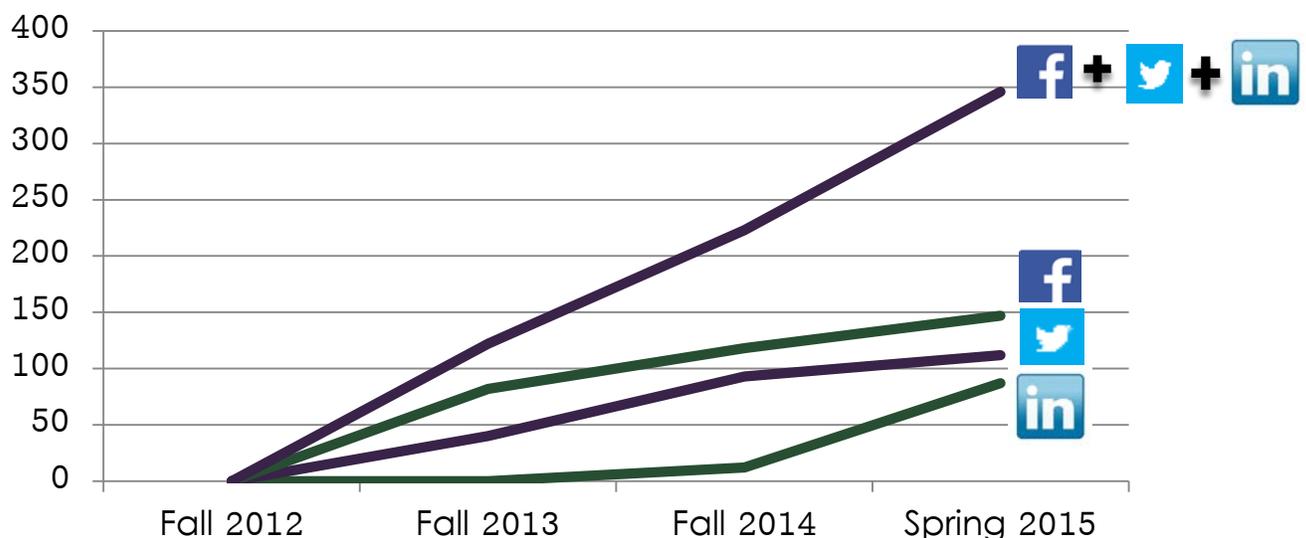
Other Networks

[IWIRC Houston Facebook](#)

Additional IWIRC [Twitter Accounts](#)

@iwirc, @iwirchouston, @Michigan_IWIRC, @IWIRCDE, @WPAIWIRC, @IWIRCNJ

IWIRC NY Followers By the Numbers



Personal Branding Feature

Personal Branding: Thoughts from the Experts

The IWIRC NY Substantive Events team is committed to providing you with a year of incredible programming to help you with your own Personal Brand. In an effort to further enhance the value of these programs, we will provide two original articles on the subject in each newsletter – one from a fellow restructuring professional highlighting their own experiences and lessons learned, and the other, from an outside industry expert.

In this newsletter, we feature an “Associate’s Perspective” from [Jamila Justine Willis](#) of DLA Piper. Jamila was featured on our April panel and follows-up on those contributions with this great article. Our “outside expert” in this newsletter is [Gillian Brooks](#), a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. Gillian is an expert in social media and will be teaching a course on your online personal brand this Fall at Oxford. We are honored and thankful to Gillian for creating this original piece for the women of IWIRC.

Please email [Camille Bent](#) or [Sarah Frankel](#) with any questions, suggestions, or article submissions.



Personal Branding: The Associate Perspective

Personal Branding as an Associate

By [Jamila Justine Willis](#)

In the first years of your career as an attorney, there is a tendency to have a laser-like focus on “just getting the job done.” As a result, junior associates often overlook the importance of on-going development of their personal brand. Continuously developing your brand can affect the kind of assignments you get, the people you work with and, thus, impacts your career progression. Junior associates should keep three points in mind while building their personal brands:

1. **Always Build Your Skills.** Every seasoned and well-respected lawyer I’ve ever spoken to gives the same advice: “Above all else, you must be a great attorney. So, build your skillset.” While you are developing your personal brand, you must build the skills needed to bridge the gap between where you are and where you want to go – to become a great attorney. Building the right skills for your personal brand will also give you the confidence to fully inhabit it.

2. **The Power of Storytelling.** Stories are powerful – stories influence human behavior. Your career path, professional decisions and personal interests will always make perfect sense to you but, unexplained, they may not make as much sense to others. Developing a coherent narrative to explain your career progression and how your past fits into the present will not just help you develop your brand. It also serves as a more concise form of your personal brand – something you can present to people.

3. **Consistency is Key.** What good is a personal brand if no one believes it? Authenticity is often touted as the single most important quality in building a credible brand – if you are faking it, no one will believe you. But, consistency is just as important – because if you’re erratic, no one will trust you. A brand is effective only when multiple people receive the same message over time. A personal brand that people don’t trust will never be credible.

Developing your personal brand is simply the ongoing process of reputation management. As an associate, continuing to build your skill set, developing a coherent narrative and remaining consistent over time will help you build a strong personal brand and give you greater control in navigating your career.

Personal Branding: Opinions from the Experts

Strategies for a Successful Social Self:
How Your Online Personal Brand is About More Than Just You

By [Gillian Brooks](#)

They say that first impressions are never wrong. But does that trope hold true when in today's social media landscape we are managing more than just one impression of ourselves? From the professionally-based LinkedIn, to the aspirational nature of Instagram and the over-saturated platform provided by Facebook, our online personas are mirroring more than the symptoms associated with dissociative identity disorder, they are encouraging a fragmented understanding of who we are as personal brands. This can be mitigated; by employing a strategic approach to personal branding – based on transparency, identification, and consistency – creating and maintaining a successful online profile is possible.

Self-presentation online has evolved from anonymity to vanity and now to self-promotion: allowing users to present the best version of themselves on a platform that reaches a captive audience. Self-presentation is a mechanism that individuals rely on to convey information about themselves to others, managing their personal brand on their own terms.

Transparency

With one of the guiding principles of social media deriving from notions of transparency, individuals seeking to have a successful personal brand online must approach this strategy in terms of offering their followers enough insight to satisfy their curiosity but not compromise their personal integrity. The first step in creating a successful personal brand online is to know your audience. An audience may range in size from a couple of people to millions. Once you have determined your audience, consider the key elements of their demographic and determine their interests. Consider the motivation of your audience: why are they following *you*? More often than not, they want to know more about you and in order to satiate their appetite, transparency (within reason) is key.

Sociologist Erving Goffman's seminal book, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, argues that individuals occupy both a front stage and a back stage persona – referring to the presentation of our private and public selves – which changes based on the individual's social setting. This theory of "impression management" explains that individuals alter their behaviour and selectively provide details and insight to others in a manner that is highly managed. According to Goffman, we are always performing.

Personal Branding: Opinions from the Experts

Strategies for a Successful Social Self (con't)

While Goffman's theory of impression management was first presented in 1956, his claims about the presentation of one's self are not dissimilar to the practices that individuals today are using when managing their personal brand online. Depending on the platform used, each social media site contains mechanisms that allow the user to engage with others in a manner that – if done correctly – highlights the individual's best assets. For example, Instagram is intended to capture the “backstage” of one's brand, allowing followers to see “behind the curtain” and develop a sense of intimacy with the individual. While one's Instagram account is highly manipulated by the user, it does offer followers a unique pictorial perspective of the user's lifestyle. Twitter on the other hand, is used more as an online megaphone – posting announcements written in 140 characters – providing followers with carefully constructed insights into the user's inner thoughts.

Identification

The rise of social media has empowered online users to develop an affinity for individuals rather than institutions. Given the prioritizing of the personal over the professional, your online presence requires proper identification. Such identification does not merely refer to your Twitter handle or Facebook profile name, but it ensures that your personal brand is identifiable by a constituency that validates your online relevance.

For example, if you are known amongst your friends as being the epicurean of the group use Twitter and Instagram to post about new restaurants in your neighborhood, referencing the location in each post in order to increase the likelihood of gaining further followers.

Consistency

In order to maintain engagement with one's online audience – or “followers” – consistency is key. Know your personal brand and stick to it. It is appropriate to deviate occasionally from your online ethos, but only to the extent that your posts still relate thematically to your personal brand. Returning to the restaurant example, instead of posting only about eating-out, upload photos of you at the farmer's market or making food at-home with your family. Be consistent and manage the expectations of your audience: they are your strongest advocate.

With the ideological and technological structure of social media, it has become an efficient tool for personal branding, providing an inexpensive and immediate method for self-promotion. Use it to your advantage, but keep it consistent.

Personal Branding: Opinions from the Experts

Strategies for a Successful Social Self (con't)

Social media is interactive, collaborative and participatory; use these characteristics to harness a voice for yourself online. Direct your online efforts to social media platforms that work with your personal brand – this may mean managing accounts on Twitter and LinkedIn only. As opposed to joining every possible social platform online, be discerning and engage with the right platform that works for you and your audience, otherwise you risk encouraging a fragmented understanding of your personal brand.

As Socrates said 2400 years ago, "The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavour to be what you desire to appear," and online, we can appear to be whatever we post.

Rules for Personal Branding Success

- Know your personal brand and stick to it
- Do not post more than 2 posts per day/per platform
 - Be authentic
- Consider the online activities of your audience → where do their social media efforts happen? → prioritize these online activities
- Engage with the social media platform that is the most appropriate to your audience
 - Transparency is key
 - Consistency is crucial

IWIRC NY TIPS

Each month we feature 5 TIPS on how to do something just a little bit better!

This month, *Tips for a Re-Set*

By [Carren Shulman](#), IWIRC NY Co-Chair

1 - [Shake it off](#) – whatever has held you back in the last few months, let it go and start fresh. Remind yourself that you're great and you can achieve most things you put your mind to.

2 - [Make a plan](#) – buy a nice little notebook; something you will carry with you and look at more than once a year and start making that To-Do list. “Call ...”, “Outline an article topic”, “update your web bio.”

3 - Reconnect with old friends – Wondering what your old classmates, former colleagues, distant relatives are doing? Look `em up. Spend a couple of hours exploring [LinkedIn](#) and [Google](#) to catch up with people and reconnect.

4 - Do something for yourself – something fun. Learn a skill (take up knitting! [Studies](#) show it's relaxing). Buy new towels. Join a [gym](#) (most health programs offer discounts for gym memberships).

5 - Give yourself a [break](#) – Life is too short. It's not all about work. We live in a society where saying you were the last to leave work is a badge of honor. Unless you re-set once in a while you can't become or stay successful!



Sponsor Spotlight: Member Profile



[Alison Miller](#)
[Garden City Group](#)

Alison Miller is a Senior Consultant for Garden City Group, LLC (“GCG”). Alison is responsible for maintaining key relationships, including new client outreach initiatives, and serves as a trusted resource for clients involved in the restructuring process. She focuses on growing GCG’s bankruptcy and administration practices from both the Chicago and New York offices.

After graduating from Fordham Law School in 2007, Alison joined the restructuring group at Kirkland & Ellis in NYC, where her practice focused primarily on representing middle market companies in all aspects of the restructuring process, including Reader’s Digest, Norwood Promotional Products, Pierre Foods, Tropicana Casinos and Movie Gallery. During law school, Alison was a legal intern for the Honorable Chief Judge Stuart M. Bernstein, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, S.D.N.Y., and for the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney’s Office, E.D.N.Y., in 2006 and 2005, respectively. Prior to law school, Alison was a legal assistant at Debevoise & Plimpton. After Kirkland, Alison was a director at another national claims and noticing agent.

A Presidential Scholar and member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, Alison completed her undergraduate work at Humboldt State University in Northern California, where she graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Natural Resources Planning. She received her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law, where she was on the Urban Law Journal, a member of the Brennan Moore Trial Advocacy Competition Team and received the Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Constitutional Law.

Alison is a member of the board of IWIRC Dallas–Fort Worth Chapter, and has attended numerous IWIRC events and conferences during her membership across the country. She supports the mission and objectives of IWIRC and devotes professional resources and energy actively recruiting and advocating for IWIRC. Alison is a proud part of the Chicago, New York and Dallas IWIRC communities and looks forward to contributing to the growth and development of those IWIRC chapters again this year.

Alison is also on the associate board of, and mentors a high school student as part of, Chicago HFS Scholars, and is an active member of several not-for-profit organizations including the ASPCA, Wounded Warrior Project and Freedom to Marry. When she is not working, Alison enjoys hiking with her German Shepherd Sampson, snowboarding, paddle boarding, horseback riding, scuba diving and traveling.

Sponsor Spotlight: Member Profile



[Judith Elkin](#)
[Haynes & Boone](#)

For more than 30 years, Judith Elkin has provided Haynes and Boone clients with creative advice on restructurings and insolvencies in the U.S. and around the world, making her as comfortable in a Paris conference room as she is in a U.S. boardroom and courtroom. Judy has served as a trusted advisor and counsel to major global financial institutions, assisting in the collection of billions of dollars in obligations due to them as well as defending major litigation asserted against them. Judy has also counseled debtors in various industries, enabling them to restructure their operations and capital structure.

Appearing in trial and appellate courts around the country, Judy has worked on some of the largest, most contentious and most complex insolvency cases to date. She is one of 18 individuals approved by the bankruptcy court to mediate significant mortgage indemnification claims of Lehman Brothers, has been retained by Credit Agricole to protect its claims in cases such as Enron, Calpine, MF Global and SemGroup, and defended major avoidance litigation brought against Goldman Sachs arising from the Extended Stay bankruptcy. Judy has also represented the foreign representatives of foreign debtors seeking the protections of Chapter 15 in the U.S.

Judy's global view and experience in the trenches on cross-border insolvency matters has enabled her to be both a prolific writer and a sought after speaker internationally. She has spoken on lender liability issues in Tokyo, the insolvency of hedge funds in Dublin and distressed M&A in Sao Paulo. Judy has served as chair of the International Bar Association's Insolvency Section, chair of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC), chair of the ABA Litigation Section Bankruptcy & Insolvency Committee and vice-chair of the ABA International Section Secured Transaction & Insolvency Committee. She also serves as a delegate for several non-governmental organizations to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Judy is most proud of her work with IWIRC. As a founding member in 1993, she contributed to the growth of the organization from 30 women meeting in a basement conference room in a Toronto hotel to nearly 1500 members with more than 45 networks worldwide. In 2013, Judy was the recipient of IWIRC's Melnik Award for Outstanding IWIRC Member.

When not working on behalf of her human clients, Judy is an advocate for the rights of animals. She worked with the NYS Bar Association Animal Law Committee preparing analyses of proposed legislation for submission to the NYS legislature, is on the board of directors of her local humane society and is a Patron of the Wildlife Conservation Society as well as a former board member and officer of the Dallas Zoological Society. Judith's work and love of travel has taken her to over 100 countries and all seven continents. Judy believes that through travel we develop a better appreciation and understanding of our shared values which is vital to successful cross-border insolvency dispute resolution.

Sponsor Spotlight: Member Profile



[Carren Shulman](#)
[Sheppard Mullin](#)

For more than two decades, Ms. Shulman has focused her practice on recovering value and achieving an efficient and effective outcome for her clients, whether in the form of a financial recovery or a successful business transaction in and out of court, domestically and internationally. Her clients include financial institutions, private equity funds, OEMs, Fortune 300 and middle market businesses. With many years of experience in deal making through the bankruptcy and receivership process, Ms. Shulman also strategizes with her clients on contract drafting to protect their legal interests in the event of a potential bankruptcy or liquidation, particularly where maintaining or protecting supply chains are key to the business.

Her expertise and experience spans such industries as aerospace and transportation, hospitality, mortgage banking and finance, life sciences, healthcare and retail, and Ms. Shulman has a particular expertise in protecting clients' intellectual property interests. Throughout her long career she has also tried many cases in federal and state court.

For the last six years, Ms. Shulman has been a delegate for a Non-Governmental Organization (IWIRC) to UNCITRAL, Working Group V, which recommends modifications to the International Model Bankruptcy Code that has been adopted by more than 20 countries and exists in the US as Chapter 15 and is a frequent speaker on domestic and international bankruptcy law, restructuring, foreclosures and receiverships. She is also a member of the Alumni Board at NYU School of Law and resides with her husband and two children in Manhattan, New York.

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