



IWIRC

NEWSLETTER

International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation

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MAY 2000

**IWIRC ATTENDS
UNCITRAL-UN
COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
LAW**

Contributed by Selinda Melnick

In December, 1999, IWIRC attended as an Official Observer the meeting of the UNCITRAL Working Group on Insolvency held at the UN Center in Vienna Austria. The meeting was convened to consider whether UNCITRAL should pursue further work in the insolvency area now that it has completed and adopted the Model Cross-Border Insolvency Law.

The Model Law was adopted by UNCITRAL 1997 and is being promoted within the individual UN member nations for integration into their domestic insolvency laws. In the US, Congress has before it as part of the pending bankruptcy legislation a proposed Chapter 15 which would deal with cross-border insolvency cases and which, to a great extent, is based on the UNCITRAL Model Law. To date, no country has passed such legislation and it was expected that the US would be the first to do so -- quite some time ago!!

After more than a week of deliberation in December, the UNCITRAL Working Group decided to propose to UNCITRAL at its annual meeting in NY in June that the Working Group embark on a project on domestic insolvency law. The domestic insolvency law would be aimed at making recommendations for integration into the

laws of nations (particularly "emerging markets") that would enhance international trade and facilitate economic development and stronger market economies. In pursuing the project, the Working Group would consider the results of soon-to-be-completed investigative and policy development efforts of the following groups which had representatives at the December meeting. World Bank, the IMF, the Asian Development Bank, Committee of IBA, INSOL, the Group of 30 and the OECD -- Ultimately, the Working Group would produce a report of Guidelines for effective domestic insolvency and restructuring regimes including, where appropriate, draft provisions in key areas.

Should UNCITRAL approve the proposed project. IWIRC will continue to be involved in this effort as an Official Observer to the Working Group and an active participant in the development of the Guidelines, IWIRC was able to interject important knowledge and insights during the December meetings and were instrumental in moving the project forward.

IWIRC's attendance at this meeting was extremely important in both enhancing IWIRC's profile and acceptance in the internationally established insolvency-related governmental and private organizations, and in identifying several potential new members, who expressed an interest in participating. These potential new members included representatives of The Group of 30, the EU Central Bank, and the Departments of Justice of Canada, Italy, the UK, and New Zealand.

IWIRC MEETING IN BARCELONA

Contributed by Selinda Melnick

IWIRC held a full day meeting in Barcelona, Spain at the commencement of the International Bar Association's annual meeting last September. All who attended felt that the meeting was a great success, in great part because of its intimacy and the hospitality of our local hosts, the Spanish law firm Roca Junyent Advocats. The meeting was organized by IWIRC founding member Roser Rafols, a partner in Roca Junyent Advocats, which opened up their offices to us for this occasion and sponsored a cocktail reception later in the week all IWIRC members. Roser did a fantastic job of both finding an intriguing guest speaker and offering an absolutely superb, authentic Spanish TAPAS Lunch accompanied by very special Spanish wines.

The existence of an IWIRC meeting during the IBA meetings in and of itself was important for heightening awareness of IWIRC's presence on the international scene. In preparation for the meeting, we sent an announcement via electronic mail, to every woman registered to attend the IBA meeting for which we had an email address, and whose practice was remotely related to insolvency (eg, banking, commercial litigation, international sales, securities). We received many replies from people who wanted more information about IWIRC, but who could not attend the session. In response, we directed them to the IWIRC brochure on the IWIRC "website".

IWIRC'S GROUP OF 30

Contributed by Selinda Melnick

We are very pleased to welcome to IWIRC new member Nina Gross, an attorney with Deloitte Touche, who attended the UNCITRAL meeting in Vienna last December on behalf of the extremely influential Group of 30. With Nina's assistance, Deloitte is assisting the Group of 30 on their next effort in the insolvency area -- a followup to their recent, extremely useful report on "International

Insolvency in the Financial Sector." The Group of 30 is comprised of leaders in the international financial community and Chaired by former Fed chairman Paul Volcker. The current project, "Insolvency Risk Management," identifies the most effective policies and procedures for assessing insolvency risk in a country's insolvency regime and in cross-border transactions with parties from the country. Nina will chair a COMMITTEE J panel on this topic which will be attended by members of the Group of 30 Working Group on Insolvency and international financial services companies at the IBA's Biennial Meeting in Amsterdam September 18-22, 2000. IWIRC will be helping Nina and the Group of 30 in the development of this project. For further information on the Group of 30 (including ordering their insolvency report and other publications), visit website: www.Groupof30.org.

INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

Contributed by Selinda Melnick

IWIRC Members advance within the IBA,

Dianna Kempe QC, of Appleby Sperling & Kempe, Bermuda, a founding member of IWIRC and the current IBA Vice President, will be nominated this Spring as President of IBA in an election which will be held in the fall at the IBA's Biennial meeting in Amsterdam (see below). If elected, Dianna will be the first woman president of IBA. This ascension has been very difficult and we are very proud of Dianna (see report on "World Women Lawyers Conference" below).

All Committee J members who are members of the IBA are encouraged to communicate their support for Dianna's election to their national Bar Association's President and representative to the IBA, as well as to the IBA Nominating Committee (by FAX: +44 (171) 409-0456; by E-mail via IBA's Executive Director, Paul Hoddinott: paul.hoddinott@int-bar.org), Chair of the IBA's Section on Business Law (William Rowley, QC, by FAX: +1(416) 865-7048, by

E-mail: dsmith@mcbinch.com), Chair of the IBA's Section on Legal Practice (Fernando Pombo, by FAX: +34 (91) 350-8292, by E-Mail: f.pombo@gomezacebo-pombo.es) and Chair of the IBA's Section on Energy & Natural Resources Law (David Moroney, by E-Mail: dfm@dentonwildesapte.com).

We also are delighted to announce that IWIRC Founding Chair, Selinda A. Melnik, this fall will become Co-Chair of the IBA's Committee on Insolvency & Creditors' Rights (Committee J), along with Gabriel Nadal of Barcelona Spain. This, too, is a first for women within IBA Committee J, and is the culmination of years of efforts by IWIRC members to increase the membership of and advancement of women within the IBA and, in particular Committee. Selinda encourages all Committee J members to try to attend one of Committee J's upcoming meetings (see below) and to become actively involved in the Committee by joining one of its subcommittees or offering to speak at its meetings on panels addressing topics in which the member has unique experience and expertise. Committee J presents its members with a very special opportunity to enhance their knowledge about international insolvency issues and to network with leading insolvency practitioners from every part of the world.

Finally, we are very happy to report that at least one IWIRC member is speaking on each of the panels at Committee J's upcoming meeting in Milan, Italy this June (see below), and that two IWIRC members will be chairing Committee J panels during the IBA Biennial meeting in Amsterdam this September (see below). IWIRC members interested in and qualified to be panelist at the Amsterdam meeting should immediately contact Selinda Melnik (by Fax: +1-212-289-2681, by E-Mail: SAMelnik@aol.com).

Committee J Website -- Committee J's Website is now operational as part of the IBA website and is located at www.ibanet.org. Committee J Members have access to all aspects of the Website, including the IBA Member's Directory and the

Committee J ListServe. All visitors to the site can research articles, books, reports, journals, newsletters and other publications produced by the IBA and Committee J, including an extensive Data Base produced by Committee J containing reports on insolvency issues from every part of the world. While all visitors to the site can research these materials, a non-member fee is charged to obtain copies. Committee J Members are entitled to receive copies of Committee J-related publications at no charge in most cases and, in some cases, at a nominal charge. Registration information to join IBA and Committee J can be downloaded from the Website. Similarly available are details and registration information for upcoming IBA and Committee J conferences, such as those described below.

Committee J Spring Meeting -- IBA Committee J will host its annual Spring Meeting this year -- "INSOLVENCY 2000" -- in Milan, Italy from June 11-13, 2000 at the Hotel Principe de Savoie. A Host Committee comprised of Italian firms will welcome delegates with an opening Cocktail Reception on Sunday evening at the Hotel. The infamous Committee J Dinner will take place on Monday night at a top-rated Milanese restaurant, featuring a very special menu and excellent wines. Panel sessions on Monday and Tuesday will include: Global Developments in Insolvency Legislation; Director & Officer Liability & Insolvency; The Role and Impact of Multinational Organizations in Insolvency Reform (eg. representatives from the World Bank, IMF, Group of 30, Asian Development Bank will speak); and a Working Session to finalize the work of Committee J's Model Insolvency Law Project aimed at developing principles and relevant provisions for enactment in domestic insolvency law to better harmonize and to provide more certainty in financial markets and cross-border transactions. Registration information and details are available on the IBA website at www.ibanet.org.

IBA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Contributed by Selinda Melnick

IBA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE -- The IBA's Biennial Conference will be held in Amsterdam September 17th-22nd, 2000. Committee J will hold panels all day Monday, Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon on: Insolvency & Sport; Insolvency in Cyberspace; Insolvency Risk Management; Mass Torts and Bankruptcy; and Subcommittee Presentations and Committee Business Meeting. The infamous Committee J Dinner will be on the Tuesday night. Conference information and registration materials are available on the IBA website www.ibanet.org.

WORLD WOMEN LAWYERS CONFERENCE

Contributed by Selinda Melnick

IWIRC founding member Dianna Kempe QC of Appleby Sperling & Kempe, Bermuda, is organizing a worldwide conference of prominent women lawyers to be held in London, England February 28 through March 2 in 2001. We are especially delighted that Dianna has decided to include as part of this conference a session on "Cross-Border Insolvency & Restructuring," and, that she has invited IWIRC founding members Nancy Lazar and Selinda Melnik to chair this session. Accordingly, IWIRC will be prominently represented during this groundbreaking international meeting.

GREETINGS FROM THAILAND

Contributed by Martha Fetner

Here in Thailand, we are beginning to see a stream of court cases, as the financial institutions restructure debt. The rapid recent increase of cases reflect a time schedule established by the Bank of Thailand (the central bank) for the out of court

resolution of major cases. All Thai financial institutions, and, almost all foreign institutions with a presence in Thailand, have agreed to the existing time schedule and within methodology. If agreement on a restructuring is not reached a certain time, creditors must file law suits (the type of suit is not clearly stated). If they do not file suit, they face breaching a private contract to which their regulators are a party. Voting follows the reorganization law. If a "plan" is accepted by the required numbers, then all parties to the Intercreditor Agreement must support the plan, including voting for it in court.

Since it is very difficult to get all creditors in large cases to agree, the equivalent of a pre-pack is sometimes needed. I expect over the next 6 months a number of involuntary filings will also take place that will test both the new bankruptcy law as well as the new bankruptcy courts.

On the economic front, the news is almost all good, starting with consumer spending and ending with solid exports. This of course helps companies pay their loans and people find employment. There still exists, however, over capacity. Therefore, continued improvement to business practices is required. It has been a very bad two and a half years, but the Thai people have taken a number of difficult steps to try to fundamentally improve their economic system. The true test of the recent changes, will be to look back in another two and a half to see of the changes remain.

JUST SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Contributed by Brenda Bowers

A friend of mine recently showed me an excerpt from the Ladies Home Journal, October 1932:

When money is plenty that is a man's world. When money is scarce it is a woman's world. When all else seems to have failed, the woman's instinct comes in. She gets the job. That is the reason why,

in spite of all that happens, we continue to have a world.

This was a very strong statement about a woman's contribution to the world considering the time and the circumstances that existed when this excerpt was written. During the depression years, many women were left at home to raise their families and to work to raise money or to raise gardens and livestock to feed their families while their husband or father traveled to look for work. The depression caused struggles for many, but the world still continued.

In today's society, we hear about the rights of women and families in the context of bankruptcy reform bills. Pro reform media relations' people claim that the bankruptcy reform act helps women and children. Organizations like ours and eighty-two professors of bankruptcy law from across the country (<http://www.abiworld.org/legis/bills/106anal/99nov2proflett2.html>) wrote letters to Congress opposing this legislation. Only time will tell whether the rights of women and children are protected or harmed by recent bankruptcy "reform."

IWIRC's goals and dedication to serving the needs of women and children involved in insolvency proceedings will not change, no matter what happens with legislation. As stated in 1932, all women have a job to do. Now it is critical that we focus on and do our best to foster and protect women and children caught within the insolvency process. Just something to think about.

I LEFT MY HEART (AND WALLET) IN SAN FRANCISCO

Contributed By Hannah L. Blumenstiel

On October 4-5, 1999, I, along with Susan Rhiel and Victoria Powers, attended IWIRC's annual meeting in San Francisco, CA. Held immediately prior to the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, IWIRC's meeting began on a

lavish note with a wine tasting, held at a local law firm. The beautiful view, wonderful wine, scrumptious food and festive mood provided just the right atmosphere to meet IWIRC members from all over this country, as well as from Canada. Everyone went home with at least one bottle of her own, including this law clerk, who was especially fond of the Sauvignon Blanc (think peaches).

The next morning's substantive program began with a panel discussion, during which the speakers presented their views on what it means to be a "leader," how one can build and polish her leadership skills in a number of work environments as well as the challenges the panelists have faced during the courses of their careers, and most importantly, how each dealt with those challenges and turned them into positive experiences. The panelists were a diverse and impressive group of women, and their well-reasoned and practical comments reflected their savvy.

After the panel discussion concluded, the attendees broke into small groups. My group was given the option of discussing a previously-prepared fact pattern or simply engaging in open discussion, following up on some of the topics raised during the panel's presentation. We initially chose the latter, but when we found we had time, turned our attention to the fact pattern as well. I must admit that, while I certainly liked and respected everyone in my small group, their experience was so different from my own that I found it difficult to add a great deal to the discussion.

I have had my license to practice law only two years – eight years less than the next least-experienced member of my small group. Further, most of these women (with two notable exceptions) were experiencing a certain amount of frustration with the state of their careers, having been "heroes" to their law firms during the bankruptcy boom of the '80's and now being forced to "justify their existence" to their partners whose practice areas had not entered a drought as the economy improved. The two exceptions of which I write

were a lawyer and an accountant, who were still motivated and excited by their work, and when challenged by the country's economic upswing, found ways to make themselves marketable in their chosen fields. These two women were particularly impressive, and demonstrated to me how crucial it is to "keep your eye on the ball," i.e., the client, no matter how long you've been around. I listened a lot and learned even more, so while it was not an especially heartening experience, it was well worth it. I am eagerly looking forward to next year's conference, which will be held in Boston, MA.

And finally, there is the city – San Francisco. My college roommate, Heidi, lives there, as do a number of our mutual friends. I flew out several days before the conference began, and enjoyed myself thoroughly, if not a little too much. I came back renewed and ready to take the California bar – if only I wouldn't miss all of you so much.

HONORABLE KENNER REAPPOINTED TO THE FIRST CIRCUIT

The Honorable Carol J. Kenner, Bankruptcy Judge for the United States District of Massachusetts and an honorary chair of the Fall IWIRC Conference, has been reappointed by the First Circuit to serve an additional fourteen (14) year term. Judge Kenner is a graduate of Syracuse University and a *magna cum laude* graduate of the New England Law School. She was originally appointed to the bench in 1986 as the first woman bankruptcy judge in Massachusetts. In recent years, Judge Kenner has received national recognition for her role involving Sears and their reaffirmation agreements. The Sears matter began when Judge Kenner responded to a letter by a pro-se debtor regarding his reaffirmation agreement with Sears, which had never been submitted to the Court for approval. When Judge Kenner issued an order to show cause compelling Sears to provide an explanation, it turned out to be the tip of the iceberg. The case ultimately resulted in class

action settlements involving thousands of debtors, and payment of significant settlements and fines by Sears.

Throughout her career, Judge Kenner has been active with respect to issues involving women and the law. She has been active in the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts. In addition, she has continued to play an active role with the promotion of women within the bankruptcy practice. Together with her colleague, Judge Joan Feeney, Judge Kenner regularly attends IWIRC New England events, and brings various opportunities to the attention of the women in the bankruptcy field. IWIRC congratulates Judge Kenner on her reappointment and is delighted that Judge Kenner, together with her colleague, Judge Feeney, will be serving as honorary chairs for this fall's IWIRC conference in Boston Massachusetts.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE IWIRC FALL CONFERENCE

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Fall IWIRC conference to be held Tuesday, October 17, 2000 and Wednesday, October 18, 2000 in Boston, Massachusetts, immediately preceding the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Does Boston bring to mind Beacon Hill society, Harvard Yard, and the stuffed shirt? Keep in mind that Boston is also the home of the rebels who started the Revolutionary War (who had their own version of "a Tea Party"), well known restaurants (and lobsters) and beautiful fall foliage. Massachusetts also has a grand tradition of women in the law, from Leila Robinson, one of the first women lawyers in the 1800's, to the current Federal and State Courts with such prominent women such as Judge Sandra Lynch on the First Circuit and Chief Justice Margaret Marshall and Justice Ruth Abrams on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

In keeping with our rich tradition, the Honorable Carol J. Kenner, and the Honorable

Joan Feeney, Bankruptcy Judges in the District of Massachusetts, have agreed to be honorary chairs of IWIRC'S Fall Conference. Our opening reception will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2000, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m at the John Hancock Observatory, just steps away from the conference hotels. On Wednesday, October 18, 2000, our educational programs will be held at the conference hotels, the Westin and Marriott at Copley Place, followed by a luncheon. The Conference Planning Committee is currently working on putting together a terrific program. Chaired by Janet E. Bostwick of Sherin & Lodgen LLP, committee Members include: Patricia Antonelli of Partridge Hahn & Snow; M. Ellen Carpenter of Roach & Carpenter, P.C.; Deena Christelis of Hanify & King; Eleanor Dahar of the Law Offices of Victor Dahar, P.A.; Jeanne P. Darcey of Palmer & Dodge; Christine Devine of Mirick, O'Connell, DeMallie & Lougee, LLP; Martha E. Kopacz of Price WaterhouseCoopers, LLP; and, Lynne F. Riley of Riley & Esher LLP.

Please be sure to save the date, and watch for more details to follow.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Please note that IWIRC will gladly consider all offers of sponsorship for its Fall Program. If you are interested in the possibility of sponsoring or co-sponsoring any portion of the Fall Program, please contact Janet Bostwick at Sherin and Lodgen LLP, 100 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02110 USA, tel. 1-617-832-0284, fax 1-617-542-5186. email:bostwick@sherin.com

CALENDAR

October 17-18, 2000	IWIRC Fall Meeting (Tentative) Boston, MA USA
October 18-21, 2000	NCBJ Annual Meeting Boston, MA USA
July 17-20, 2001	INSOL 2001 London, England

From the Chair

*Susan Rhiel, Chair
Columbus, Ohio, USA*

MEMBERSHIP

Janet Bostwick is in the process of putting together a development campaign to solicit new members, primarily in the United States and Canada. If you have any information on individuals that you think Janet should be included, please forward their names and addresses to Janet within two weeks. (see final page for her address).

THE LOCAL NETWORKS

IWIRC's local Networks share their news and events. If you are interested in forming an IWIRC Network in your area, please contact Suzanne Bingham, IWIRC's Administrative Director, to obtain information.

AUSTRALIA NETWORK

Western Australia

Based on information contributed by Lilly Mutavdzic

The Western Australia Network has been very active and as of the end of last year had over 100 members. Most recently this network was invited to, and joined, ASIC's Regional Liaison Sub-Committee (Insolvency). This committee, which focuses on current events, is comprised of representatives from the following International Groups: ITSA, ATO, ASCPA, ICAA, IPAA, AICM, Law Society and the Federal and Supreme Courts.

The Network was also active in the IPAA National Conference which was held in 1999 in

Fremantle Esplanade Perth and provided a range of topical papers for insolvency practitioners and lawyers. Regards to everyone from Australia.

For more information on the Australia Network contact: *Lilly Mutavdzic*, at lilly.mutavdzic@asic.gov.au Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the networks most recent newsletter can contact or Leslie Berkoff.

CANADIAN NETWORK

Contributed by Sheryl E. Seigel

The Canadian Network held a terrific fall program. Our featured speaker was John Plank of The Personal Performance Group. John has gained considerable recognition for the voice and performance skills programs he offers to the Canadian Bar Association and other professionals groups. He shared with our group some of his techniques for improving our voice and presentation skills. Did you know that the way you sit influences the sound of your voice? In an entertaining way John helped us focus on ways to discover and use our "true voice" - - not to be confused with one's inner voice (perhaps the topic for a future program).

Our spring program is quite exciting. We are fortunate enough to have two speakers who will speak to the Network on Credit and Debit Card Fraud Investigation and Recovery. Before the summer, we will host our annual wine and food tasting- - always a crowd pleaser.

For more information on the Canadian Network, or if you would like to share information on programs your local network has done or is planning, please contact: *Sheryl E. Seigel*, sseigel@tor.fasken.com, tel. 1-416-868-3475, or Catherine Hristow, crhistow@deloitte.ca, tel. (416) 601-4500.

NOTES FROM THE OHIO IWIRC CHAIRPERSONS

Beginning a new millennium provides us with an opportunity to set goals. Goals for ourselves, individually, for our families, our communities, and for IWIRC. By this time in the New Year, many of us may have already faltered with respect to a personal resolution or two. This is a great time for renewed resolve. When we look inside ourselves to find the courage to try again, or to seek a new way to proceed, it is often helpful to reflect on the things that have provided us inspiration in the past.

One source of inspiration is the commitment and dedication to the less fortunate that so many Ohio IWIRC members show each year at our Holiday Luncheon when we wrap gifts we have purchased for a needy family. In past years, the generosity of our group has been so overwhelming that this year we decided to "adopt" two families for which to provide holiday gifts. We contacted Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Amethyst, Inc. and agreed to sponsor a family from each organization. When we received the information about the families, we were a bit concerned about our decision. One of the families was very large. Would enough IWIRC members participate so that we could adequately provide for each of the family members in both families? Maybe next year we should go back to just one family, we worried.

On December 15, twenty Ohio IWIRC members showed up for our Holiday Luncheon with bags of gift wrapping paper and gifts. Other members who couldn't make it sent gifts and gift certificates. At the lunch, we also took up a collection for additional gift certificates from grocery stores. Everyone gave. By the time we were done eating and wrapping, it took five of us to carry the bags of gifts--for just one of the families--out to the car for delivery to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters. It really was an incredible outpouring of caring and generosity. My seven year old son had assisted me in shopping for one of the family

members. He was surprised to learn that we didn't know the families and that they would not have an opportunity to thank us directly. I tried to explain to him why the thank-yous didn't matter. (This ran against years of "can you say thank you to Mrs. Smith?"). We certainly receive as much as we give when we take advantage of the opportunity to do what we can for others.

As we look to setting our goals for IWIRC, I know we will continue to be guided not only by the important professional concerns that we share--what will be the impact of bankruptcy reform? --what about accountants and attorneys in business together?--but also by the concerns for each other as well as for the entire community. Hannah and I have used this space to muse about these issues all year, and all of our Ohio IWIRC projects this year have been focused, in one way or another, on furthering these objectives. We both look forward to IWIRC's continued growth and to finding ways that IWIRC can go further to meet the needs of insolvency professionals in Ohio and beyond, as well as the needs of our greater communities.

Co-chairs of the Ohio Network: Victoria Powers and Hanna L. Bluenstiel.

MICHIGAN NETWORK

Contributed by Debra Kuptz

The Michigan Network has new officers: Sheryl Toby, a partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn (Detroit) is now Chairman, replacing Debra Kuptz, principal of Jay Alix & Associates who has served as Chairman since the network's inception in October of 1996. Susan Gordon a senior manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers (Detroit), is Vice Chairman. Kay Kress, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP (Detroit) continues to serve as Program Committee Chair.

In February the Michigan Network conducted a financial seminar for non-financial professionals.

The speakers were IWIRC members Carrienne Basler, Jay Alix & Associates, Janice Murray, McTevia & Associates, and Susan Gordon, PricewaterhouseCoopers. The seminar drew an audience of more than 35 professionals, mostly attorneys, eager to improve their understanding of the financial concepts that play a critical role in restructuring. A networking reception followed the seminar and afterwards was attended by additional participants, including, the Honorable Stephen Rhodes.

For more information on the Michigan Network, contact *Susan Gordon*, *PricewaterhouseCoopers*, 400 Renaissance Center, Suite 2900, Detroit, Michigan 48243, (313) 394-6521, (313) 394-6056 (fax), Susan.gordon@us.pwcglobal.com *Debra Kuptz*, *Jay Alix & Associates*, (248) 358-4420, (248) 358-1969 (fax), Debkuptz@jayalix.com.

NEW ENGLAND NETWORK

Contributed by Janet E. Bostwick

On February 3, 2000, almost 40 IWIRC-New England members gathered for a festive evening of cocktails and networking. IWIRC-New England also celebrated the reappointment of the Honorable Carol J. Kenner as Bankruptcy Judge as Bankruptcy Judge in the District of Massachusetts. In honor of Judge Kenner's reappointment, IWIRC New England has made a donation to Rosie's Place, a shelter for homeless women located in Boston, recognizing as well the Judge's longstanding support for women.

The next IWIRC-New England program will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2000. Our speaker will be Susan Thurston, Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court of Rhode Island. Members of the New England Network are also working on the Fall Conference, which will be held in Boston this year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone then. For more information on the IWIRC New England Network, please contact Janet E. Bostwick, Esquire at Sherin

and Lodgen LLP, 100 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02110, telephone number: (617) 646-2284, e-mail address jebostwick@sherin.com.

For more information on the New England Network, please contact *Janet E. Bostwick, Sherin and Lodgen LLP*, 100 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, Tel. 1-617-426-5720, Fax 1-617-542-5186.

NEW YORK NETWORK

Contributed by Nancy L. Lazar

The IWIRC Metro New York Network welcomes its new Network Board Members Wendy Shapss of FTI/Kahn and Kate Kutasi of Alliance Capital. The IWIRC Metro New York Network congratulates Judge Carla E. Craig who was sworn in as the newest Bankruptcy Judge Brooklyn, New York on February 28, 2000. In the fall, the Metro New York members had a wine sampling reception at the house of Janice Grubin of Golenbock, Eiseman, Asser & Bell and is planning a cocktail reception for the spring. For further information about the Metro New York Network contact Nancy L. Lazar of Davis Polk & Wardell, Tel: (212) 450-4940; e-mail: lazar@dpw.com or Laureen Ryan of FTI/KAHN at (212) 841-9314; e-mail LRYAN@FTIConsulting.com.

OHIO NETWORK

Contributed by Hannah L. Blumensteil

Y2K will surely bring good things for IWIRC's Ohio Network, which is planning a busy year. Recruitment of new members and an expansion of the network into Northern Ohio are our first priorities. Jean Robertson (Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, Cleveland Ohio) will host a reception for those interested in forming a Northern Ohio contingent in May. The long-standing central Ohio group will assist Jean in organizing her May event.

Also in May, the Ohio Network will sponsor a lunchtime breakout seminar during the annual Bankruptcy Law Institute, a two-day regional seminar hosted by the Columbus Bar Association, which graciously provides space to IWIRC. A topic and speaker for the breakout have yet to be determined.

The Ohio Network also will host several other events during the coming year, including : a new member reception, a law student reception, an informal golf outing and/or a trip to a professional soccer game, and of course, our annual Holiday Luncheon. The Ohio Network's monthly meetings and bi-monthly newsletters will continue.

For more information on the Ohio Network please contact **Hannah Blumenstiel, United States Bankruptcy Court**, 170 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, tel. 1-614-469-6638, ext. 261, fax 1-614-469-5506, e-mail: hblumentstiel@ck6.uscourts.gov

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The current Board of Directors -- having served IWIRC since 1997 -- has scheduled an Election of a new Board of Directors to commence serving as of November 1, 2000.

Director Nominations (Form attached) must reach IWIRC no later than July 15, 2000 to be considered. Only IWIRC "Members in Good Standing" may serve as Directors. NOTE: Prior to submitting a nomination, please confirm that your nominee is committed to fulfill the Duties (see below) of the Board Position for which s/he is nominated. **Please don't hesitate to nominate yourself!!**

The 2000 Election: The Slate of Nominees and Proxies will be sent in September *ONLY* to IWIRC "Members in Good Standing" as of August 31, 2000. Under IWIRC's By-Laws, only IWIRC "Members in Good Standing" may elect Directors. If your Membership has expired, make sure that IWIRC receives your Renewal Form and Dues no later than August 31, 2000 or you will not be entitled to vote in the 2000 Election. The 2000 Election will take place during the International IWIRC Meeting to be held in Boston, Massachusetts USA October 17-18, 2000, in conjunction with the U.S. National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

Board Positions: The Full Board consists of 7 Directors, including a 3 Director Executive Committee (the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Secretary/Treasurer). The Full Board meets officially twice a year, the Executive Committee four times a year -- typically by conference call.

Director Duties: Each Director undertakes the general responsibility to manage, develop and

promote IWIRC on behalf of its members. In addition, Executive Committee Directors have primary responsibility for: (1) IWIRC Administration, Policy Development & Public/Media Relations & Liaison, (2) Financial Oversight and Reporting, and (3) Overseeing the Duties Delegated to the other Board Members. Regional Directors and the Director at-Large have primary responsibility to be divided amongst themselves for: (a) IWIRC Membership Development, (b) Network Development, Liaison & Oversight, (c) Multi-National and Multi-Regional Conferences and other Program Development, (d) the Newsletter, and (e) the Directory.

Please send your nominations to:

IWIRC
**International Women's Insolvency &
 Restructuring Confederation**
10310 Main Street, Suite 130
Fairfax, VA 22030 USA
TEL: (703) 449-1316
FAX: (703) 802-0207

All nominations are due prior to July 15, 2000.
All candidates must submit a statement of commitment which details their qualifications for the position and the goals they would pursue on behalf of IWIRC during their tenure. Only individuals who are IWIRC members and have demonstrated their commitment to IWIRC should be nominated. Term of each position is two years.

Ballots and proxies will be sent to IWIRC members on or about August 15, 2000, and must be returned to Suzanne Bingham on or before October 1, 2000. The new Board will be announced at the Fall International Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts on October 17-18, 2000.

Susan L. Rhiel, Chair

MEMBER NEWS

IWIRC shares in the success of its members and congratulations each of the members named below on their accomplishments.

- *Marsha D. Galinsky of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP*, Los Angeles has been elected the Vice Chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section.
- *Bonnie Pollack of Westerman Shapiro Pollack, Draghi and Miller, LLP* in Garden City, NY was recently appointed Chair of the Nassau County Bar Association's Bankruptcy Committee for Fall of 2000.
- *Leslie Berkoff of Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP* in Garden City, NY was recently appointed Vice Chair of the Nassau County Bar Association's Bankruptcy Committee for Fall of 2000. In addition, *Leslie* is presently chairing a subcommittee for the Long Island Women's Agenda's Business and Economic Development Committee on Working Mothers.
- *Chief Judge Louis De Carl Adler*,—was the moderator of a panel entitled "Financial Epidemics in a Global Economy—Myth or Market Opportunity" which was presented at the San Francisco conference.
- *Janet E. Bostwick of Sherin and Lodgen LLP and M. Ellen Carpenter of Roach & Carpenter, P.C.* have been selected by the First Circuit to serve on the Bankruptcy Merit Selection Panel for a Bankruptcy Judge opening in the District of Massachusetts chaired by Judge Boudin of the First Circuit. Janet and Ellen are the only two Boston bankruptcy attorneys on the Panel, with the remaining four attorney members representing Springfield and Worcester, respectively.

- **Fasken Campbell Godfrey has merged with Martineau Walker and Russell and DuMoulin to become Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP (“FMD”).** FMD is a multi-service firm, with approximately 500 lawyers and offices in Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, Vancouver, London and New York. FMD has one of the largest bankruptcy and insolvency practices in Canada. Sheryl Seigel, a member of the IWIRC Board of Directors, is a partner of FMD.
- **Klett Rooney Lieber & Schorling Adds Six Lawyers To Its Wilmington Office**
Wilmington, February ---Klett Rooney Lieber & Schorling (yes, the name has changed) has added six lawyers to its Wilmington office. The newly named Klett Rooney lawyers are William E. Manning, Teresa K.D. Currier, Richard A. Forsten, Bonnie L. Metz, Adam G. Landis and Daniel B. Rath.

Klett Rooney, formed in 1989, and currently consisting of 125 lawyers in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Cherry Hill, opened its Wilmington office in April 1997. The senior member of the new group and a former Chief of Staff to Governor Pierre S. duPont, IV, Bill Manning noted that Klett Rooney established its Wilmington presence with strong capabilities in the areas of labor, employment, bankruptcy and corporate practice. Manning and the others were most recently with the Wilmington office of Duane, Morris & Heckscher.

Manning Said, “We are very excited to join a young firm that has already established a strong presence in the Mid-Atlantic region. The six of us, with other soon to come, will add depth in the areas of commercial real estate and land use (Manning and Forsten), bankruptcy (Currier and Landis), health care (Metz and Manning), commercial litigation (Rath), government regulation (Manning, Forsten and Metz) and immigration (Metz).”

For further information, contact Bill Manning, Terri Currier or Fred D’Angelo at 302-651-9707.

- **Selinda Melnik has relocated and is now practicing in Delaware at Smith Katzenstein & Furlow, 800 Delaware Avenue, P.O. Box 410, Wilmington, DE 19899. (302) 652-8400.**
Selinda Melnik has joined Smith Katzenstein & Furlow LLP in Delaware as partner in charge of the bankruptcy group.

Selinda is one of the three founding Directors of IWIRC, and is incoming chair of the International Associations’ Committee J. Selinda said she will be building on SK&F’s already successful bankruptcy practice, representing the full range of creditors involved in large and complex Chapter 11 reorganizations. “As you know, the bankruptcy practice in Wilmington is growing rapidly, so I know that I will have plenty to keep me busy. I also believe that a good deal of the cross-border bankruptcy practice ultimately will find itself in Delaware, allowing me to use my skills and serve my clients in this specialized area as well.”

Congratulations Selinda!

If you have news about yourself or another IWIRC member to share, please take a moment send the news to Leslie Ann Berkoff either by email at lberkoff@mhhlaw.com, or by fax at (516) 873-2010, or Kay Kress either by email at kressk@pepperlaw.com or by fax at (313) 259-7926.

EDITOR'S CORNER

One of the many advantages of IWIRC is the opportunity to work together or refer matters to other IWIRC members. For the next newsletter, I would like to highlight some of the experiences of members in referring matters or working together. And so I hope you will each take a moment and jot down your story and send it to us. To make it easier, you may, use the form on the last page of the Newsletter.

*Thanks to **Amy Tonti** and **Janet Bostwick**, without whose guidance this newsletter would not have gone out.*

***Please be reminded that** contributions from members are always welcome. If you would like to do an article on a case or a topic, please give either of us a call, or send an email or fax.*

*Our thanks as well to those members who responded to our email request for news. And, as always, thanks to **Susan Rhiel**, our Chair, **Suzanne Bingham**, our Administrative Director, and each of the Network chairs, who keep us informed of the many activities of IWIRC at all levels.*

Please feel free to send us information as events occur. That way you won't forget to share some news with us and we will have it on hand at press time. Our next newsletter will be coming out late summer.

One more request. Please try to respond to our requests for information in a timely fashion (i.e., the minute you get them) so that your busy lives don't force it to the bottom of the pile (as unintentional as that might be). Just send either of us a note on your experience with referrals (handwritten is fine), or news about yourself and your Network. It will be feel great to share something about yourself, and one less piece of paper for tomorrow. We look forward to hearing from all of you.

***Leslie Ann Berkoff**
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Prentice Parbery Barilla
(See details under Board above)

IWIRC CANADA NETWORK

Sheryl E. Seigel
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(See details under Board above)

IWIRC MICHIGAN NETWORK

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IWIRC NEW YORK NETWORK

Nancy L. Lazar
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NEWSLETTER

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Leslie Ann Berkloff
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Garden City New York
iberkoff@mhlaw.com., or by fax
at (516) 873-2010

OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND INSOLVENCY ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

Section on Business Law
Committee on Insolvency & Creditors'
Rights (Committee J)
271 Regent St.
London W1R 7PA, England
tel. 44-171-629-1206/fax 44-171-409-
0456

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGES

Christine Molick
Executive Director
235 Secret Cove Dr. NCBJ
Lexington, SC 29072 USA
tel. 1-803-957-6225/fax 1-803-957-8890

FOR THE IWIRC NEWSLETTER

Please use this form to send news for the newsletter **TODAY!**
Please feel free to include additional sheets, or send an email instead.

Special Article: IWIRC REFERRALS

In the next newsletter, we plan to highlight the experience of IWIRC members in referring matters to other members. Please take a moment and tell us about your experiences or any comments you may have on IWIRC referrals:

Member News

Tell us any other News about IWIRC members to share in the next newsletter:

NAME: _____
FIRM: _____
ADDRESS: _____

PHONE/FAX: _____
E-MAIL: _____
DATE: _____

★**Non IWIRC Members: Check Here To Learn How You Can Join**★

I am not an IWIRC member yet, but would like to receive more information.

Please return form to:

Amy M. Tonti, Esq.
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fax 1-412-392-2182
email:amtonti@klettlieber.com

2000 BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

TO: IWIRC @ FAX: 1-703-802-0207

I, _____, a Member in Good Standing of IWIRC, as of August 31, 2000, hereby submit the following nominee(s) for the following Board Positions(s) for the 2000 Elections.

Signed: _____
Date: _____

* * * * *

CHAIR

Name Telephone Fax

VICE CHAIR

Name Telephone Fax

SECY/TREAS

Name Telephone Fax

DIRECTOR

Name Telephone Fax

Name Telephone Fax

Name Telephone Fax

If this is a self-nomination, please attach a Statement of Commitment which details your qualifications for the position and the goals they would pursue on behalf of IWIRC during their tenure.

International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation
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