



**Carrienne Basler**  
IWIRC Communications  
Chairman  
Managing Director,  
AlixPartners, LLP



**Georgiana Nertea**  
IWIRC Communications  
Vice Chairman  
Manager, Eisner, LLP



**Debra Kuptz, Chair**

## FROM THE CHAIR

*Debra E. Kuptz, AlixPartners, IWIRC Chair*

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you all well and enjoying what remains of your summer, or in the case of our colleagues in Australia, facing the prospect of an early spring!

The Leadership Summit in Houston was very successful. There were 32 people at the meeting representing 23 Networks. Thanks to our planning committee led by Jennifer McLemore, Sharon Beausoleil and Liz Vrato. And thanks to our generous sponsors, we had a lovely meeting space, great meals and a lot of fun involving a mechanical bull and line dancing! Our sponsors were: Fulbright & Jaworski, KCC, Cole, Schotz, Epiq Systems and Garden City Group.

The agenda this year covered some really big changes. The first item was to approve the new board structure. There was a good deal of discussion around the new and expanded roles, and the consensus was overwhelming that these changes will provide the additional people and resources we need to continue to grow IWIRC. Our organizational chart illustrating our new structure is on the following page. The nominating committee will be sending out the slate of directors in September; watch for that and be sure to vote !

In addition, the committee chairs reported on the work of their respective committees. We have a really terrific set of committee chairs and I want to take a moment now to thank them for the work they have put in over the last two years. In spite of having full time jobs and busy personal lives, these individuals have contributed a lot of time and energy to elevate IWIRC to the next level of professionalism. Please take a moment to give them a pat on the back at your next opportunity. (And, volunteer to help out as well! The rewards are immeasurable.)

The Network Chairs led a full discussion about the proposal to build a new website. Our website serves a number of purposes, but chief among them is to connect our networks and members to each other and to the board. Our new site will be more powerful and easier to navigate and use. We will be creating a template for every Network to have its own site within the site, as well as a variety of improved tools and a more attractive member directory. More to come as the development moves forward. Thanks to Debra Grassgreen (Pachulski Stang) who is leading this project.

Finally, the board presented its proposal for refreshing the IWIRC brand, including a new logo, a fresh set of messages about what IWIRC is and a launch campaign to reintroduce ourselves to the world. Again there was a robust discussion about what a brand identity is and how it can help an organization differentiate itself. Even one of our co-founders, Selinda Melnik, was on hand to give the new logo her blessing. This was really meaningful because Selinda was the creator of our existing logo, which has served us long and well. I am really grateful that Selinda was there to help us work through the discussion. In the end, the proposal was accepted and the new identity will be full launched during the Fall Conference in New Orleans (Oct 12 and 13).

We will be launching it simultaneously on the website, through an e-mail blast and through press releases as well, so all our members can see it at the same time. In the interim, we will be sending out pre-launch communications to provide context about

the new identity. Our launch campaign will provide the platform for increased visibility of IWIRC and is an opportunity for all our Networks to do outreach for new members in their own regions. Please watch for more information and take advantage of this opportunity to grow your Networks!

My thanks, again, to the leadership summit attendees, and to Shari Bedker and her staff who do a great job in making sure things happen.

Best to you,  
Deb Kuptz

## **IWIRC GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE 2011**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -- OFFICERS OF IWIRC**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>Past Chair</b>
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Meets monthly; at least once per quarter in person

5

### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Officers Plus

Pacific Rim Network Director	Europe Network Director	N. America Network Director	3
Communications Director	Member Svcs Director	Program Director	3

Meets bi-monthly; at least once per quarter in person

### **DIRECTORS OF IWIRC**

Management Committee Plus

Asia Regional Director	Australia Regional Director	Canada Regional Director	Europe Regional Director	4
At Large Directors				12

Meets quarterly

27

*2011-2013 Board Structure Org Chart*

**IWIRC'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE – THE PHOTOS!**



## IWIRC'S FALL CONFERENCE

The program committee has been hard at work setting up two incredible educational sessions as well as our ever popular reception (several judges have told us they consider the IWIRC reception THE opening event of NCBJ!) and some great intermezzo activities that showcase all New Orleans has to offer. If you haven't already registered, [click here today!](#) The agenda is listed below for your reference. As you can see, the panelists are top notch experts in their field and we really appreciate Program Committee Member Carren Shulman's efforts on coordinating and organizing these wonderful panels. We hope to see you in beautiful, historic New Orleans!

### Tuesday, October 12, 2010

12:00-1:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting, Elmwood  
1:30-3:00 p.m. Board and Network Chair Meeting, Elmwood  
5:30-7:30 p.m. IWIRC Opening reception at the Court of Two Sisters, 613 Royal Street, New Orleans

### Wednesday, October 13, 2010

8:00-9:00 a.m. Networking Breakfast, Grand Salon 19-24  
9:00-10:00 a.m. Business Meeting, Grand Salon 19-24  
10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. "The Intersection of Media, Publishing and Bankruptcy: Is Media Investment and Management Changing?", Grand Salon 19-24

Carren Shulman, Sheppard Mullin LLP

Nicholas DeFabrizio, Chief Counsel- CIT Communications, Media Entertainment Group

Rachel Sagan, General Counsel of Freedom Communications

Agnes Tang, Director, Perella Weinberg

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. "Commercial Real Estate Foreclosures: It's Not Your 90s Commercial Real Estate Bankruptcies", Grand Salon 19-24  
J. Weili Cheng, Deputy General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C.  
Hon. Margaret Mann, Bankruptcy Judge, Southern District of California  
Laura Mollet, Managing Director, Counsel-Commercial Transactions, GMAC ResCap  
Lorie R. Beers, Managing Director, Investment Banking, Seabury Group LLC

12:30- 2:00 p.m. Networking Luncheon, Jefferson Ballroom

2:30-5:00 p.m. Choose from 5 intermezzo events:

**For the "Foodie"** - enjoy a food tasting at Restaurant August with Celebrity Chef, John Besh

**For the "Local History Enthusiast"** - a tour of the French Quarter

**For the "Party Gal"** - Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World Tour

**For the "Cultural Gal"** - an English Tea with New Orleans tradition at the Ritz Carlton  
Cap off your intermezzo with a tour of France in four glasses at the Wine Institute of New Orleans (W.I.N.O.!).

### Thursday, October 14, 2010

IWIRC is pleased to sponsor Keynote Speaker, Neal M. Barofsky, Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program. Mr. Barofsky will be speaking at the NCBJ Luncheon from 12:45-2:30 p.m. (please note, you must register through NCBJ for this event)

## **A VIRTUAL COFFEE WITH AMANDA BECKETT, OUR 1000<sup>TH</sup> MEMBER!**

### **Amanda is an Associate at Burr Forman in Birmingham, Alabama**

*By: Carrienne Basler, AlixPartners LLP*



Amanda Beckett

In honor of the year in which IWIRC achieved a record of over a thousand members, we wanted to chat with member #1000. Amanda Beckett is an associate at the Birmingham, Alabama office of the Burr Forman law firm.

**What prompted you to join IWIRC?** – Bess Parrish Creswell, originally of the Georgia network, moved to the Mobile office of my firm. Through Bess' urging, I and other women in the Creditor's Rights and Bankruptcy practice group at Burr Forman, including my colleague Andrea Weed, checked out IWIRC and were very interested in its mission of helping female restructuring professionals advance their careers, develop leadership skills, and participate in a global networking community. We are currently chartering an Alabama network, and my firm is hosting our first meeting on September 15. I have already noticed that work has been referred to some of the women that have recently joined, just because of their membership in IWIRC!

**How did you get involved in the insolvency field?** I have known that I wanted to do Chapter 11 and related work since attending law school at the University of Mississippi – Ole Miss. I have always found this area of law to be interesting. When I started at the firm I worked primarily in commercial lease enforcement. This translated well in a large Chapter 11 case for which my firm was Debtor's counsel – the Bill Heard Chevrolet case. When my firm was retained as Debtor's counsel in another large Chapter 11 case, Bruno's Supermarkets, I was able to work in a number of additional areas. While commercial lease enforcement is my specialty, I have found other aspects of complex Chapter 11 cases exciting and challenging.

**What do you enjoy when you aren't working?** My eight-month-old baby girl and husband of 9 years keep me pretty busy outside of the office! But I also enjoy traveling, cooking and attending Ole Miss sporting events when I can. I have recently developed an interest in photography and have taken several photography classes.

**What are you most looking forward as a member of IWIRC?** The benefit which I am most interested in gleaning from the IWIRC network is the opportunity to connect with so many other women who are at the same place in their lives and careers as I am, as well as other women who have "been there, done that," and can give younger professionals like me insight and suggestions on the ongoing challenge of being a working mother in a highly challenging field. I am also looking forward to meeting members from other networks! I am moderating a panel discussion at the the ABI winter leadership conference in Scottsdale. If you are planning on attending, please let me know, I would love to meet you. I am also excited about getting involved in some of the great committee opportunities that are available.

## **NETWORK HAPPENINGS**

### **IWIRC Canadian Network Recent Events**

It has a busy and exciting spring and summer for IWIRC's reinvigorated Canadian Network!

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Canadian Network held its Spring Social. Hosted by Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP, the event featured excellent food and even better conversation among both current and prospective Network members. It proved to be a terrific opportunity for Canadian restructuring and insolvency professionals to reconnect and forge new relationships in a relaxed setting. Special thanks to Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP, Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP, Garfinkle Biderman LLP, Goodmans LLP, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Stikeman Elliott LLP and ThorntonGroutFinnigan LLP for sponsoring the event.

The Spring Social was followed by a tasty luncheon hosted by Stikeman Elliott LLP. At

the July 15<sup>th</sup> event, Canadian Network members discussed new developments in the restructuring and insolvency field and issues faced by attendees in the insolvency practice. They also discussed future Network events and ideas on how to continue to build the Network. Thanks to Stikeman Elliott!

Finally, on August 12<sup>th</sup>, Davis LLP hosted the fabulous “All That Glitters Reception”. Network members and prospective members enjoyed sensational food and wine and were given beautiful handmade earrings from Davis LLP. Other lucky attendees won a spa package provided by Deloitte LLP, a gorgeous and unique necklace provided by Davis LLP and diamond earrings provided by Davis LLP. Thanks to Deloitte LLP for the generous donation and to Davis LLP for both providing the excellent gifts and for hosting such a great event!

### **Wine Tasting in San Francisco**

*By: Jennifer Betti, Van Meter Consultants*



*Jennifer Betti*

In July, over 200 restructuring professionals attended the IWIRC Northern California Wine Tasting Reception hosted by the network during the Federal Bankruptcy Judges’ Workshop. IWIRC members and Federal judges mingled above San Francisco in the Fairmont Hotel’s Crowne Room. The sun made an unusual appearance in an exceptionally foggy summer in the City by the Bay providing guests 360 degree views of the world-renowned city. Five prestigious Napa and Sonoma Valley wineries poured special vintages as guests reviewed detailed tasting notes while swishing, swirling, smelling, and tasting the delectable wines. In addition to an hor’s deuvres buffet, guests were also treated to a variety of chocolate truffles made specifically for the event by a local San Francisco chocolatier. Northern California Co-Chairs Debra Grassgreen and Maryam Ghazi lead the IWIRC event team and garnered sponsorships from over a dozen corporate sponsors. The reception received rave reviews from members, non-members and Judge’s alike.



## MEMBER NEWS



Karen Ostad

### **Karen Ostad Becomes First Female President of IABA**

Karen Ostad, a business restructuring lawyer from New York, has been elected president of the Iranian American Bar Association (IABA) for a one-year term. Ostad, a partner with Morrison & Foerster, is the IABA's first woman president. She succeeds past president, Nema Milaninia of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati.

"Karen brings years of experience as a partner for one of the top law firms in the country and with key relationships to the legal world and the Iranian American community. Her appointment as president of IABA is a reflection of her impressive qualifications and dedication to IABA's mission, but also the growing success of this organization," said Milaninia.

A native of Tehran, Ostad received her undergraduate degree from New York University, and her law degree from New York Law School. Prior to joining Morrison & Foerster, Ostad was a partner at another global law firm, Lovells LLP. Ostad is fluent in Farsi, French and German.

In anticipation of her new role, Ostad remarked, "I am very proud of the IABA's accomplishments in the past year, which include creating a scholarship fund for law students, working with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure that Iranian Americans are counted, and providing mentoring, community service and pro bono opportunities to our members. This year I hope to expand our membership, enhance our continuing legal education and mentoring programs for young lawyers and continue to be a voice to advance human rights and equality."

[Leyza Blanco](#), Florida Network Co-Chair and an attorney in the the Miami office of [GrayRobinson P.A.](#), has received the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's 40 Under 40 Outstanding Lawyers of Miami-Dade County award. Recipients of this award were chosen based on their demonstrated excellence in the legal field as well as their contributions to the local community.



Leyza Blanco

Blanco has devoted her practice to a wide range of litigation and insolvency matters. These include out-of-court workouts, debt restructuring and representation of creditors, trustees, and debtors in bankruptcy and general commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts. She has also been appointed receiver and special master in cases in both federal and state courts throughout the state of Florida. Blanco received both her juris doctorate and undergraduate degree from the University of Miami.

## UPCOMING NETWORK ACTIVITIES

**Thursday, September 9, 2010**

[NEON End Of Summer Cocktail Party](#)

**Thursday, September 9, 2010**

[Canadian Network Canwest Panel Discussion](#)

**Thursday, September 16, 2010**

[Mountain/Desert Evening of Wine, Friends, Food and Fun in Denver](#)

**Wednesday, September 22, 2010**

[New England Network Carol Anderson by Invitation Show](#)

**Tuesday, October 12, 2010**

[IWIRC Annual Fall Conference](#)

**Thursday, October 14, 2010**

[Southern California 2nd Annual Girl's Night Out](#)

**Thursday, December 2, 2010**

[So Cal Holiday Tea](#)



Shari Bedker

**DID YOU KNOW...**

Submitted by Shari Bedker, IWIRC Administrative Director

IWIRC has new sponsorship opportunities available?

**NEW Fall Conference Sponsorship Opportunities!**

Would Your Firm Like to “Own” an Event or Giveaway at IWIRC’s Upcoming Fall Conference in New Orleans? Click [here](#) for a list of available unique sponsorship opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact IWIRC Development Director, Patricia Redmond or Administrative Director, Shari Bedker.

**IWIRC is Now Accepting Sponsorships for 2011!**

As IWIRC continues to grow and provide outstanding networking, information and programming for our members around the world, we need your support. Please consider asking your firm to sponsor IWIRC for the January 1-December 31, 2011 sponsorship period.

Click [here](#) to see the benefits of sponsorship and to become an IWIRC 2011 sponsor, please click [here](#) to access the pledge form.

**IWIRC CONTACTS**

If you would like to:

- send an article for inclusion in one of our forthcoming issues;
- introduce a new member to IWIRC;
- join IWIRC; or
- volunteer to take on a leadership role within one of our committees

Please contact our administrative assistant, Marcy Gravatt, at [info@iwirc.com](mailto:info@iwirc.com).

**IWIRC NEW MEMBERS**

*IWIRC New Members Between June 1 and July 31, 2010*

**Carla O. Andres**  
Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.  
Green Bay, WI USA

**Brooke Balcom**  
Fifth Third Bank  
Cincinnati, OH USA

**Lorie A. Ball**  
Peitzman, Weg & Kempinsky  
LLP  
Los Angeles, CA USA

**Amanda M. Beckett**  
Burr Forman LLP  
Birmingham, AL USA

**Kara Borodkin**  
Grant Thornton, LLP  
New York, NY USA

**Amanda Brooks**  
Schreeder, Wheeler & Flint, LLP  
Atlanta, GA USA

**Renée Brosseau**  
Davis LLP  
Toronto, ONT USA

**Lisa Brost**  
McMillan LLP  
Toronto, ONT Canada

**Liz Cohen**  
Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc.  
New York, NY USA

**Lisa S. Corne**  
Aylesworth LLP  
Toronto, ONT Canada

**Iliana Cruz-Bongini**  
Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler  
et al, P.A.  
Miami, FL USA

**Donna L. Culver**  
Morris, Nichols, Arsht &  
Tunnell LLP  
Wilmington, DE USA

**Natasha De Cicco**  
Torys LLP  
Toronto, ONT Canada

**Kim Dewhurst**  
Piper Alderman  
Melbourne, VIC Australia

**Jenny Lynn Fountain**  
Murray & Murray, APC  
Cupertino, CA USA

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