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 AlixPartners, LLP*



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FROM THE CHAIR

Judy Elkin, Haynes & Boone

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

When I started practicing law in 1981, I was one of four women attorneys in a 50 plus lawyer firm, and the first woman litigator the firm had ever hired. My experiences ranged from the stereotypically mundane (yes – I know how to make coffee) to the insulting, when an extremely tall opposing counsel thought it was appropriate to take the deposition of my client while towering over me. I learned to handle these slights with humor (on the record – “you sure are going to get tired standing up like that all day”) and sometimes, an element of “shock and awe.” I learned to curse like a sailor – something I don’t recommend. On my first court appearance, two weeks into my career, the judge asked the two women in a courtroom otherwise filled with men: “Are both you little girls lawyers? I only want lawyers in here.”

There were no mentors (unless you were lucky), no diversity committees and no women’s organizations devoted to enhancing the growth and development of women as professionals. Thirty years later, a lot has changed. Last year I worked on a case where Debtor’s counsel was a woman, Agent’s counsel was a woman, the CRO was a woman and several of the bankers holding significant debt were women. Each of us was no longer the only woman in the room.

IWIRC has been a significant leader in this regard. Our founders were visionaries. As one of the first international organizations to recognize the need for women professionals to meet each other, network with each other, and take advantage of the lessons we have each learned from our varied experiences, IWIRC was a pioneer in the advancement of women professionals.

It was with this historical perspective in mind that IWIRC created the Woman of the Year Award. The Woman of the Year Award recognizes both a significant contribution by a woman restructuring professional during the prior year, as well as that woman’s long term commitment to and achievements in her profession. Our past winners each met this exacting criteria, and our current winner is no exception.

Melissa Kibler Knoll is the 2010 IWIRC Woman of the Year. Melissa is a Senior Managing Director of Mesirow Financial Consulting, LLC. She has over 20 years’ experience providing her clients with corporate recovery, litigation, forensic and related services in a multitude of industries. Melissa is the current president of the American Bankruptcy Institute, having worked her way up through the ranks of the ABI. She has been a member of IWIRC since 2002.

But Melissa is not only great at what she does as a business woman, she is also an exemplary person. Melissa takes her role as a leader and a mentor of young woman very seriously. She has credited her own success to those

(continued)

connecting women worldwide

International Women’s Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation

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The International Women’s
 Insolvency and Restructuring
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EVENTS

Wednesday, December 1, 2010
[NEON Holiday Party](#)

Thursday, December 2, 2010
[Delaware Network Holiday Party](#)

Friday, December 3, 2010
[New England Holiday Luncheon](#)

Thursday, December 9, 2010
[Michigan Network 4th Annual
 Shop for Charity Holiday Event](#)

Friday, December 10, 2010
[Presentation of IWIRC Woman of
 the Year in Restructuring Award](#)

Tuesday, December 14, 2010
[Dallas/Ft. Worth Network Board
 Meeting](#)

**Wednesday, December 15,
 2010**
[No. California: Tastings, Treasures
 & Treats - Holiday Celebration](#)

**Wednesday, December 15,
 2010**
[So Cal Holiday Tea](#)

Friday, December 17, 2010
[Chicago Network High Tea](#)

Monday, December 20, 2010
[Georgia Network Annual Holiday
 Party](#)

Saturday, May 22, 2011
[IBA Insolvency: Only the Strong
 Will Survive](#)

Saturday, October 30, 2011
[IBA Annual Conference](#)

who mentored her, and in return, she mentors others. Melissa has shown herself to be the personification of the IWIRC mission. Congratulations Melissa.

As we enter into the holiday season, please remember to thank your mentors and all the other people who have positively impacted your lives.

All the best –

Judy

GREAT OPPORTUNITY! PRIZE IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG PRACTITIONERS

Every year, the International Insolvency Institute offers a Prize in International Studies. The *III Prize* is awarded for original legal research, commentary or analysis on topics of international insolvency and restructuring significance and on comparative international analysis of domestic insolvency and restructuring issues and developments. The *Prize Competition* is open to full and part-time undergraduate and graduate students and to practitioners in practice for less than seven years. Entries must not have been published prior to October 2010 and must be available to be posted on the International Insolvency Institute website at www.iiiglobal.org.

The Gold Medal winner will be honoured at the III's Eleventh Annual International Insolvency Conference in New York on June 13-14, 2011 and will have expenses paid and all conference registration fees waived. All Medal Winners and Finalists will be invited to attend the Conference with fees waived. Medal-winning entries will be considered for publication in the *Norton Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice* (West), the *Norton Annual Review of International Insolvency* (West) and for inclusion in the *Westlaw* electronic database. Additional details are attached. To view past winning submissions and for further details on the , [click here](#).

NETWORK HAPPENINGS

Georgia Network

On October 19, 2010, the Georgia Network hosted a welcome reception at the offices of King & Spalding for the Honorable Wendy L. Hagenau, who was recently appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia. More than 50 members attended this special event sponsored by Alston & Bird, LLP, Bryan Cave, LLP, Clark & Washington, LLP, King & Spalding LLP, Parker Hudson Ranier Dobbs LLP, Schreeder Wheeler & Flint, LLP, Scroggins & Williamson, LLP, Troutman Sanders, LLP and Wargo & French, LLP.



The Georgia Network's annual business meeting and elections was held on November 4, 2010 at the offices of sponsor Bowne. The following officers were elected to the board: Alison Elko, Co-Chair; Sage Sigler, Vice-Chair; Cameron McCord, Secretary; and Jamie Gingold, Treasurer. B. Summer Chandler will be serving as Co-Chair for the second year of her tenure.

On December 20, 2010, the Georgia Network will host its Annual Holiday Party at the home of the Honorable Mary Grace Diehl. At this event, the Network will be collecting donated shoes, handbags and toiletries for Dress for Success

MEMBER NEWS



Carolyn Hochstadter
Dicker



Sheryl Seigel

Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, of E. Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, LLC, was recently featured in a video sponsored by the AARP, defending homeowners *pro bono*, as part of the City of Philadelphia's Foreclosure Mediation Program. The video can be viewed via the following link: http://www.aarp.org/money/credit-loans-debt/info-10.2010/foreclosure_mediation_philadelphia.htm/.

Sheryl Seigel, Partner and Chair of the Lang Michener's Business Restructuring & Insolvency Group, has been named one of the World's Leading Women in Business Law. Ms. Seigel is included in the 2010 *Guide to the World's Leading Women in Business Law* compiled by Legal Media Group as an expert in the area of Insolvency and Restructuring.

Legal Media Group compiles extensive research for their series of *Expert Guides*. Their research process involves sending out questionnaires to senior practitioners or in-house counsel in over 65 jurisdictions asking them to nominate leading practitioners based on their work and reputation

UPCOMING NETWORK ACTIVITIES

December 2 Thursday

[\[06:00 PM\] Delaware Network Holiday Party](#)

December 3 Friday

[\[12:30 PM\] New England Holiday Luncheon](#)

December 9 Thursday

[\[06:00 PM-08:30 PM\] Michigan Network 4th Annual Shop for Charity Holiday Event](#)

December 10 Friday

[Presentation of IWIRC Woman of the Year in Restructuring Award](#)

December 14 Tuesday

[Dallas/Ft. Worth Network Board Meeting](#)

December 15 Wednesday

[So Cal Holiday Tea](#)

December 17 Friday

[\[02:00 PM-04:00 PM\] Chicago Network High Tea](#)

December 20 Monday

[Georgia Network Annual Holiday Party](#)

DID YOU KNOW....

Submitted by Shari Bedker, IWIRC Administrative Director

Did you know that IWIRC has student rates of \$20 per year? A great way to introduce the next generation to IWIRC! If you teach any law or business courses, please refer your students to the IWIRC site for more information. If you are looking to hire energetic, engaged, new professionals, search the IWIRC membership list by profession for "student".

RECENTLY PROMOTED?

It's the time of year that many firms announce their promotions. Were you promoted? If so, please send us a note and your picture so we can include it in the next newsletter.



Shari Bedker

SOCIAL MEDIA

Have you checked out our Facebook page lately? Are you following us on Twitter? Are you a member of our Linked In group? If not, you are missing out! Did you recently read an interesting article? Post it! Our membership is sharing a lot of great content and updates and we'd love to hear from you.

2011 SPONSORSHIPS

There is still time to become a 2011 sponsor. For more information please contact Nancy Valentine at navalentine@hahnlaw.com.

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.

IWIRC NEW MEMBERS

IWIRC New Members Between October 1 and October 31, 2010

M. Sandra Appel

Davis LLP
Toronto, ONT Canada

Amy Azza

Orlans Moran PLLC
Boston, MA USA

Kimberly Bacher

Shaw Gussis Fishman Glantz Wolfson
& Towbin
Chicago, IL USA

Jessica G. Berman

Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C.
Garden City, NY USA

Karen R. Bock

Davis LLP
Toronto, ONT Canada

Deirdre Carey Brown

McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore, LLP
Houston, TX USA

Annie Carroll

King & Spalding
Atlanta, GA USA

Anna Coatsworth

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chicago, IL USA

Lisa L. Coggins

Ferry, Joseph & Pearce, P.A.
Wilmington, DE USA

Kristina Desimini

Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
Toronto, ONT Canada

Monica D'Imperio

SSG Capital Advisors, LLC
West Conshohocken, PA USA

Guinevere Dobos

U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern Dist.
Of Ohio
Cincinnati, OH USA

Julie A. Finocchiaro

Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.
Wilmington, DE USA

Jessica Fischweicher

Bryan Cave LLP
New York, NY USA

Mira Gaddy

United States Bankruptcy Court
Newark, NJ USA

Amanda Hansen

MorrisAnderson
Chicago, IL USA

Michelle Hart

McCalla Raymer, LLC
Roswell, GA USA

Catherine Hristow

Deloitte & Touche Inc.
Toronto, ONT Canada

Katie Katzman

Eclipse Capital Group
Sylvan Lake, MI USA

Brandi L. Kirkland

Office of Mary Ida Townson
Atlanta, GA USA

Nathaly Labbé

PricewaterhouseCoopers, Inc.
Toronto, ONT Canada

Jennifer Kwok Yin Lam

Hogan Lovells
Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Joyce Lau Ka Yee

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Toni Marie Lesh

LexisNexis
Far Hills, NJ USA

Andrea Lockhart

Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Toronto, ONT Canada

Claudia Lotti

AlixPartners
Milan, Italy

Kate Mailloux

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New York, NY USA

Carol McGran

Ernst & Young Inc.
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Deborah Hicks Midanek

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Jodi Porepa

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Rosemarie Schmidt

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Angela Shortall

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Baltimore, MD USA

Lindsey L. Smith

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Los Angeles, CA USA

Teri Stratton

Piper Jaffray & Co.
El Segundo, CA USA

Emily C. Taube

Adams and Reese LLP
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Nancy Turner

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San Francisco, CA USA

Judy Weiker

Manewitz Weiker Associates, LLC
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Dana Weintraub

PricewaterhouseCoopers
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Keri L. Wintle

Murtha Cullina LLP
Boston, MA USA

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