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FROM THE CHAIR

Judy Elkin, Haynes & Boone

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Happy New Year everyone. Now that life has gotten back to normal for most of us (whatever that means), I know everyone is thinking about how to get more business in the door as we are hopefully working our way out of the recession. Women face unique challenges in this regard as we juggle career with family and other obligations. The so-called work/life balance discussion is not new; all that is clear is that there are no right or easy answers.

For inspiration, guidance and assistance in this regard, I want you to know about the two unique and exciting programs IWIRC has planned for the Spring.

Over the last several years, we have met, each Spring, just prior to the ABI Annual Meeting, by having a luncheon with a keynote speaker. This year, with the invaluable assistance of Judge Diane Sigmund (U.S. Bankruptcy Court, E.D. Pa), Chair of the American College of Bankruptcy Archives Committee, we have decided to do something totally different. We are literally going to make history.

Over the years, several excellent oral histories have been taken from luminaries in the bankruptcy world such as Leon Forman, Larry King, Conrad Duberstein and many others. These interviews are housed at the National Bankruptcy Archives in the University of Pennsylvania Biddle Law Library which is supported by the American College of Bankruptcy. As was pointed out by Judge Randall Newsome at the ACB Luncheon in New Orleans, there are, at the current time, no interviews of women included in the oral history project. This is about to change.

IWIRC has arranged to conduct interviews with four to five women who were true movers and shakers in the field of bankruptcy, particularly from 1978 to the present, and tape it in front of our attendees as the program. The tape would then be submitted and included in the National Bankruptcy Archives. The interviews will be conducted by the Hon. Marjorie Rendell (US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and also the First Lady of Pennsylvania). Currently committed to be interviewed for posterity are four women who have clearly made their mark on the insolvency field: the Hon. Mary Walrath (US Bankruptcy Court, D. Del.), the Hon. Barbara Houser (US Bankruptcy Court, N.D. Tex.), Marcia Goldstein (senior partner at Weil Gotshal & Manges), and Bettina Whyte (Managing Director and Senior Adviser with Alvarez & Marsal). Attendance is subject to space restrictions, so please sign up as soon as possible to be part of this historic program. Register for the March 30-31, 2011 Spring Conference at www.iwirc.org.

(continued)

connecting women worldwide

International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation

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The International Women's
Insolvency and Restructuring
Confederation E-Newsletter

Volume 14, Number 1

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EVENTS

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Conference](#)

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

[Georgia Network Cocktails and
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[Greater Cincinnati/Northern
Kentucky Network Meeting](#)

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After you have been inspired by the incredible accomplishments and experiences of our interviewees, please join IWIRC on April 1, as co-sponsor with the ABI, at a cocktail reception and roundtable discussion on balancing work and family, the importance of obtaining leadership roles in organizations such as ABI and IWIRC, mentoring other women, and other topics of interest. The program will be interactive with the attendees and a panel of women who have talked the talk, walked the walk and survived. Register for the ABI Annual Meeting through www.abiworld.org.

As food for thought for these upcoming programs, I want to recommend to you a wonderful video by Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg expressing her thoughts on the lack of women in leadership roles and what each of us can do to fix the problem. The video is a bit long, but well worth the 15 minutes. <http://blogs.wsj.com/juggle/2011/01/04/facebooks-sheryl-sandberg-why-few-women-lead/>

All the best. I look forward to seeing everyone in Washington, D.C. in the Spring.

Judy

A VIRTUAL COFFEE WITH JENNIFER MERCER, VAN METER CONSULTANTS

By: Carianne Basler, AlixPartners, LLP

What do you like best about IWIRC?

IWIRC has provided me a safe place to harness, practice and improve my business development and networking skills. Because IWIRC was founded as a networking organization, the group is structured to support both personal and professional growth. Also, in the years that I have been involved I have made some wonderful friendships.

How did you get involved, and why?

I started at the Southern California local network level. Initially, I attended events so I could learn about the organization and meet other members. From there, I offered my time as a volunteer which led to an event So Cal network co-chair position, followed by becoming a member of the IWIRC communications committee, and most recently I now serve as an IWIRC director-at-large.

As the founder and principal of a strategic communications firm, it is crucial that I seize opportunities to highlight my own professional capabilities as well as those of my firm. Unlike attorneys, accountants, financial advisors, and other specialists within the turnaround and insolvency industry, the importance and necessity of a communications consultant is not always understood. As such, the greatest way I can educate the constituents from whom I hope to receive referrals is to get involved and volunteer.

I understand that you are a PR consultant – what does that mean?

I manage the human factor of transactions with communications. If you consider all of the factors within a financial transaction, crisis situation, or even basic day-to-day business, juggling a myriad of facets is par for the course. For example, attorneys manage the legal factors, CFOs and accountants the financial factors, CEOs, COOs and turnaround consultants the operational factors, so forth and so on. But the foundation of all companies is its people—the human factor. How the human factor is managed and dealt with does have a material impact on outcome and should be managed by an expert.

With this in mind, when a company is undergoing a financial transaction or is in the midst of a crisis, its constituents should be communicated to quickly, honestly, and regularly if necessary. What I offer is the expertise of what to say, whom to say it, and when. Because I have been doing this work for over 15 years, I am well versed in the processes and legalities of situations such as Chapter 11, M&A, litigation, and the like. Moreover, I recognize the value and understand the importance of working in lock-step with a company's specialized advisors such as counsel to ensure that internal and external communications parallel legal documents, SEC filings, etc., and are written in laymen's terms that provide context and address common questions at the outset. This process also includes working with and managing the media—a very important constituent in our 24-hour information world.



Jennifer Mercer

What do you enjoy the most about your job?

I feel very fortunate that the nature of my job provides ongoing education. Each new case, transaction, or basic public relations undertaking gives me exposure to new industries, companies, and professionals that increase my knowledge base, expand my skill set, and continually challenge me as a person and professional.

You were recently elected as an “at-large” director of the international board of IWIRC. What does that role involve, and how can a local member get involved?

The director-at-large positions were created as a way to more closely bridge the local networks to the International BOD as well as provide greater involvement and leadership opportunities to IWIRC members. IWIRC is rapidly growing and always in need of more volunteers and for those members looking to further enhance her membership, I would suggest she reach out to her local BOD and ask how she can help the network. For those members who are looking to get involved at the international level, I would give the same advice; there are plenty of committees that need additional support.

What would your one recommendation to a new professional in the industry be during this time?

Volunteer! I think everyone agrees that it’s not easy to walk into a networking event alone. Frankly, it’s one of the most difficult requirements of my job. But when you volunteer you automatically have a reason for being there and something to talk about. In addition, it helps build your personal brand as folks are likely to get to know you, your name and the name of your firm because of your involvement. And, while it’s not always easy for a woman to ask for what she wants, helping is something that tends to come more naturally—however, whether that is a nature or nurture issue is up for debate—and we should view this as a strength that can be immediately applied to professional and personal growth.

What is one thing about you that makes you unique?

I am a music lover and avid concert goer, attending 15 concerts in 2010. I’ve also run 3 LA marathons and have a voracious appetite for books.

IWIRC CORPORATE RATE STRUCTURE AVAILABLE JANUARY 1, 2011!

In an effort to address budgeting needs of firms with a large number of IWIRC members, the IWIRC Board has approved the following corporate rate structure change:

Firms with 10-19 IWIRC members, \$200 per member, which is \$25 off the regular rate.

Firms with 20-34 IWIRC members, \$175 per member, which is \$50 off of the regular rate.

Firms with 35+ or more IWIRC members, \$150 per member, which is \$75 off of the regular rate.

On January 1, the website will include an online form for corporate renewals. For administrative purposes, we would ask that to the extent possible, you renew all members from your firm at the same time. If you have members who join during the year, please use the corporate rate form instead of the regular “join” form to ensure that the proper rate is applied to the member.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact either Shari Bedker or Marcy Gravatt on 703-449-1316, info@iwirc.com.

IWIRC'S 8TH ANNUAL SPRING PROGRAM AND PRESENTATION OF FOUNDERS' AWARDS

Thursday, March 31, 2011
Covington & Burling, LLP
Washington, DC



Our Spring program will feature a very special presentation,
"A Conversation with Trailblazing Women in the Insolvency Field."

Register today through this link <http://guest.cvent.com/d/jdggwd>

We are pleased to announce that the Hon. Marjorie Rendell, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, will be the moderator for this historic program. The interviewees include:

Marcia Goldstein, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Hon. Barbara Houser, Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Northern District of Texas

Hon. Mary Walrath, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Delaware

Bettina Whyte, Alvarez and Marsal, New York

The program is being taped and will be included in the permanent, digital collection of the National Bankruptcy Archives housed at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. IWIRC appreciates the cooperation and support of the American College of Bankruptcy's Archives Committee and its Chair, the Hon. Diane Sigmund.

With many thanks to Michael St. Patrick Baxter, the event is being held at the law offices of Covington & Burling LLP in Washington, D.C. Due to limited capacity at the venue, please note there are ONLY 150 spaces available for this event, so please register at your earliest convenience. After the interviews, the 2011 Founders' Awards will be presented. Registration includes a networking lunch at Carmine's Italian Restaurant, which is walking distance from Covington & Burling LLP at 425 7th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004.

For those staying at the Gaylord National Hotel for the ABI Spring Conference, we will provide bus transportation at 9:00 a.m. to Covington & Burling LLP for the program. After lunch, we will provide bus transportation back to the Gaylord.

If you cannot attend this historic event, or if you would like a copy of the DVD for your personal or firm files, you may purchase one for \$20 through the registration process and it will be mailed to you.

If you are attending the ABI Spring Conference, we hope you will attend the women's reception on Friday, April 1 from 6-7 p.m. that IWIRC is co-sponsoring with ABI. The reception will include an informal roundtable discussion that focuses on progression in careers and within professional organizations (like ABI and IWIRC), balancing work and family, leadership roles, mentoring other women, and other topics of interest as well as time to network and relax. You may register for this through ABI.

NETWORK HAPPENINGS

Singapore Network's "Coming Out" Cocktail Reception

Overlooking the Singapore River, the soft launch of the Singapore network was held on 7 December 2010 at Harry's Bar in Boat Quay.

Kindly sponsored by Hogan Lovells Lee & Lee, this inaugural cocktail reception was attended by over 20 women from various law firms, accounting firms and financial institutions.

Guests were greeted by a tower of mojitos upon entering the venue and fuelled with several rounds of wine and champagne, new acquaintances were forged and old ones renewed. An extensive spread of canapés quickly dispelled any lingering awkwardness as everyone indulged in the favourite Singapore pastime of socialising through communal eating. From satays and dim sum to spicy hot wings, nachos and hamburgers, whether the guests were Singaporean or expatriate, there was something to everyone's taste. Everybody had a good time and between exchanging name cards, the conversation between different groups of women ranged from serious discussion on the status of the industry to more lighthearted but

equally important debate on the best places to shop for bags and shoes. One guest commented how this was her first professional networking event without men present and that the vibe was completely different but in a good way.

The cocktail reception carried on for almost three hours and guests were presented with IWIRC pens and lapel pin badges as well as souvenirs from Hogan Lovells Lee & Lee, the sponsors. Pamphlets on the IWIRC together with sign-up sheets were distributed for guests to take home to read at their leisure.



Georgia Network

"Keeping with tradition, Judge Mary Grace Diehl again hosted this year's annual Holiday Party for the Georgia Network. The Holiday Party is always eagerly anticipated, as it provides an opportunity for women to reunite with acquaintances and foster new personal and professional relationships. With over 50 members in attendance, this year was no exception. Also noteworthy, this year's Holiday Party incorporated a drive for Dress for Success seeking gently used shoes, handbags and toiletries. Dress for Success is an international not-for-profit organization that promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. Thank you to Georgia Network members for their generous donations, making this drive a true success. We also send our enthusiastic appreciation to Judge Diehl and her husband for once again hosting a fabulous event.



On December 14, the newly elected 2011 Board kicked off the year with an exciting and productive meeting. The Georgia Network's 2011 Board Members are as follows: B. Summer Chandler (Co-Chair); Alison M. Elko (Co-Chair); Sage Sigler (Vice Chair); Cameron M. McCord (Secretary); Jamie Gingold (Treasurer); Leslie M. Pineyro (Community Service Committee Co-Chair); Anne Blich (Community Service Committee Co-Chair); Kathryn Z. Merrell (Membership Committee

Co-Chair); Deby Glidden (Membership Committee Co-Chair); Sharon M. Lewonski (P.R./Marketing Committee Co-Chair); Alisa H. Aczel (P.R./Marketing Committee Co-Chair); Alicia Den Beste (Programs Committee Co-Chair); Heather Byrd Asher (Programs Committee Co-Chair); Windy Hillman (Director at Large); Jennifer Meyerowitz (Director at Large); Candace Smith (Director at Large); and Karen Fagin White (Director at Large). We're looking forward to a great year!

We are kicking off the New Year by partnering with Dress for Success for the CreditSmart Program. From February 1 through March 15, members volunteer to teach weekly educational financial seminars to Dress For Success' Professional Woman's Group. The Professional Women's Group offers women ongoing support as they successfully transition into the workforce, build thriving careers and prosper in the mainstream workplace.



Summer Chandler



Melissa M. Hinds



Katherine Piper



Monica Blacker

MEMBER NEWS – PROMOTIONS!

IWIRC would like to congratulate all of these women on their recent promotions. Nice work ladies!

Summer Chandler has been promoted to partner at McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP. She is a member of the firm's Bankruptcy, Creditors' Rights and Insolvency-Related Litigation team in the Atlanta office.

Melissa M. Hinds was elected to Partner in the Bankruptcy, Workout and Corporate Reorganization and Bankruptcy Litigation Practices of Jenner & Block. Ms. Hinds served as the Chair of the Chicago Network of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation in 2010.

Katherine Piper has been promoted to Of Counsel in the Century City office of Steptoe & Johnson LLP.

Monica Blacker has been promoted to Partner in the Dallas office of Andrews & Kurth.

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.

UPCOMING NETWORK ACTIVITIES

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Saturday, October 30, 2011

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Shari Bedker
IWIRC Administrative Director

DID YOU KNOW...

Submitted by *Shari Bedker, IWIRC Administrative Director*

Did you know that IWIRC is a great place for young practitioners to get experience and exposure through committee and leadership opportunities? If you would like to volunteer for one of our committees, please [fill out this 2 minute survey](#) to indicate your interest and we will get you plugged in right away!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Have you checked out our Facebook page lately? Are you following us on Twitter? Are you a member of our LinkedIn 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. See the links at the end of this issue.

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

December 1 through December 31, 2010

Monique Atkins

Capstone Advisory Group
Los Angeles, CA USA

Jordan Baumer

Cambridge, MA USA

Kristy Bertrand

Illumina Partners Inc.
Toronto, ONT Canada

Lisa Bonsall

McCarter & English, LLP
Newark, NJ USA

Ericka F. Johnson

Womble Carlyle Sandridge
& Rice, PLLC
Wilmington, DE USA

Lesley J. Johnson

Kapila & Company
Ft. Lauderdale, FL USA

Christine W. Kim

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher
& Flom LLP
Wilmington, DE USA

Jennifer D. Knappek

Winstead PC
Dallas, TX USA

Claire Loebell

Ernst & Young Ltd.
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Pete Morrison

Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.
Cleveland, OH USA

Kristin Decker Ogburn

Horack Talley Pharr & Lowndes P.A.
Charlotte, NC USA

Amanda R. Steele

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Wilmington, DE USA

Mary Ida Townson

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