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## From the Chair

*Judy Elkin, Haynes & Boone*

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

A few months ago, I was having dinner with a group of women to celebrate a friend's recent career move, and it was suggested that I write a column about mothers and daughters. So with thanks to **Sharon Levine** and **Deborah Williamson**, I thought I would honor Mother's Day with a few words about mothers, daughters and mentoring.

Our mothers were probably our first mentors, and no doubt each of us does our utmost to mentor our daughters. Our mothers may have been homemakers, "pink collar" workers, or professionals, but, in their own way, they imbued in each of us a sense of self, self-confidence, the rewards of hard work and the conviction of never letting anyone tell you you couldn't do something. Mentoring is the grease that smoothes the way for each woman to reach her own potential.

Mentoring, like motherhood, can be both stressful and rewarding. And sometimes the payoff is a long time coming. My mother/daughter mentoring experiences took several years to bear fruit. I acquired children in their early teenage years, and my stepdaughter had grown up in an environment without strong female role models. I, on the other hand, had grown up with a mother who was an unemployment fraud investigator for the NYS Department of Labor. A true clash of cultures. Notwithstanding my best efforts, my stepdaughter did not seem to see the causal relationship between homework and exam grades – an issue my mother never faced with me. After getting out of high school without applying to college, and seeing the not so long term prospects of checking packages in a retail store, my stepdaughter decided to go back to school as, of all things, a biology major. One day, after doing well on some exams, she announced to me that you really did much better on exams when you read the book! An "ah ha" moment, several years in the making. My stepdaughter now holds a BS in Biology, is preparing to go to Africa as a research assistant and is looking at grad school programs in marine biology.

Even when you think your message isn't getting through, it does. One lawyer told me that when her daughter was in her teens, she thought that it would be exciting to take her daughter to court so her daughter could understand what she did on a day to day basis. She picked a hearing that was contested and, she thought, of great interest and excitement. Apparently this was all lost on her daughter, who after sitting through the hearing, asked how she could do something so boring all day. But the message of achieving a professional career was not lost. Her daughter is now a doctor!

*(continued)*

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**The International Women's  
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Volume 14, Number 5  
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Chicago

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**Thursday, June 09, 2011**  
Canadian

[IWIRC's Canadian Network Luncheon Featuring a Panel on the Fraser Papers Inc. Restructuring](#)

**Saturday, June 11, 2011**  
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**Thursday, June 16, 2011**  
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Just as we mentor our daughters, so must we also mentor our women colleagues. One of the biggest criticism of women professionals is that many are perceived to have "pulled up the ladder" after they became successful. It is IWIRC's mission to eliminate such occurrences and perceptions. When we support the professional growth and empowerment of women, everyone benefits – our firms, companies and clients, and the practice of insolvency as a whole. To each of you who is an established player in the insolvency field and who takes time out of her busy life to speak to a young woman, talk her through an issue, or just listen to her concerns -- thank you. And to those of you who are just starting out, or who are just at a point in your career where you need someone to bounce ideas off of, please know that we at IWIRC are here for you.

Happy Mothers' Day. And see you all in Tampa in October. All the best.

Judy

### 5th Annual Leadership Summit – All IWIRC Board of Directors and all IWIRC Network Chairs are invited to join us in Boston!

If Network Chairs cannot attend, please send a representative from your local board to attend the meeting. All U.S. network chairs who attend can request a maximum stipend of \$250 per network to help cover travel costs. International network chairs stipends will vary depending on your location. This event gets rave reviews every year from the participants! For more information on the event and agenda, please check out the IWIRC website. <http://www.iwirc.com/networks/new-england/events/1415077535>

### 11th Annual International Insolvency Institute (III) Conference

IWIRC is pleased to sponsor the Opening Reception for the 11th Annual International Insolvency Institute (III) Conference. The reception will be held in the Estrela Room of the Le Parker Meridien Hotel with an incredible view of Central Park and Manhattan. All IWIRC members and Delegates to the Conference are invited as our guests. The III Conference Delegates include experts around the world in the insolvency field from the judicial, academic and practice fields. Please join us in welcoming the attendees to New York City.

To register for the opening reception and/or to register for the III Conference, please visit [click here](#).

If you have any questions about the III Conference, please contact Deborah Grieve, IWIRC Canadian Director, [dgrieve@casselsbrock.com](mailto:dgrieve@casselsbrock.com), 416 860 5219.

We would like to thank our very generous sponsors who have helped make this event possible:

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## Network Happenings

### All

Think about helping your network plan a fun-relaxed "IWIRC 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" get together for your network this summer (baseball game, picnic, concert or movie under the stars?!) and when you do – please send pictures in for the newsletter!

### Alabama

On April 21, 2011, the Alabama Network gathered for a round table panel lunch on managing it all and striking a balance between work, life and family at the offices of Burr & Forman, LLP in Birmingham, Alabama with live video participation from Burr & Forman's offices in Mobile, Alabama. The panel was moderated by Robin Beardley Mark of Sirote & Permutte, PC and consisted of the Honorable Nicole Still of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, Jefferson County, Alabama, Heather A. Lee of Burr & Forman and Dorothy D. Pak of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP. In addition to sharing their perspective on work/life balance issues facing women in the legal profession, the panel offered many tips on how to manage things from meal planning to child care, as well as how to fit in personal time into a hectic schedule. The Alabama Network thanks Judge Still, Heather and Dorothy for their time and insight, Robin for moderating the discussion and Baker Donelson, PC, Burr & Forman for allowing us use of their offices and providing lunch, and Haskell Slaughter for their sponsorship and support.



### Georgia

Despite some lamenting over the Atlanta Hawks' loss to the Chicago Bulls in the second round of NBA playoffs, most of us in the Georgia Network are still feeling grateful to have escaped the wrath of the tornadoes that ripped through our neighboring states this month. We take a moment now to send our thoughts to those who weren't so fortunate, particularly our sisters in Alabama. Please let us know how we can support you.

Due to the tornadoes, the Alabama Network was unable to join us on April 27 via video conference, as intended, for our networking and panel on Distressed Commercial Real Estate. While we missed sharing the evening with the Alabama Network, the evening was a great success here in Atlanta. Our attendees spanned the industry and included males and females, and attorneys and non-attorneys. Thank you to **Debbie Jackson** from GlassRatner for her finesse in moderating the panel; thank you to our panelists, for their predictions and savvy analysis: **Erin Stark Brown** of McCalla Raymer; **Paige Collier** of Bank of North Georgia; **Deby**

**Glidden** of CorePoint Partners, who filled in last minute for **Dixon Fleming** who, due to the weather, was unable to travel from North Carolina; and **Shelli Willis** of Troutman Sanders. A special thanks to **Leanne Gould** for managing the technological aspects of the video conferencing and to **Heather Asher** and **Alicia Den Beste** for their work in planning the evening.

We have many exciting programs and ideas in the works for the summer and look forward to sharing them with you in future newsletters and on our Facebook page. Stay tuned for details regarding an upcoming cocktail event to help us ease into summer. In the meantime, please check out our members' updated profiles on the IWIRC-Georgia Network site.

Finally, some personal messages. We take this opportunity to congratulate our Network co-chair, **Alison Elko**, on her upcoming June wedding. A phenomenal woman on the worst of days, we know Alison will be gorgeous on this very special day! On a sadder note, we say farewell to **Alicia Den Beste**, our former co-chair of the Programming Committee, who announced she is departing Epiq and, with it, the insolvency profession. We wish you both the best in your new lives!

Stay in touch, ya'll, and enjoy the last days of spring as they (literally) melt into summer!

## Member News

The Garden City Group, Inc. (GCG), one of the largest claims administration firms in the country, announced that **Angela Ferrante** has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Bankruptcy Operations. Based in GCG's Lake Success, N.Y. east coast headquarters, Ms. Ferrante will manage GCG's bankruptcy operations, which includes providing ongoing client counsel, supervising the administration of bankruptcy matters, and assisting with new business efforts.



Angela Ferrante

## Upcoming Network Activities

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Chicago

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Canadian

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**Thursday, June 23, 2011**

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Greater Philadelphia

[IWIRC Greater Philadelphia Kick Off Cocktail Party](#)

**Wednesday, July 13, 2011**

New England

[IWIRC's Fifth Annual Leadership Summit for Board of Directors and Network Chairs](#)

**Wednesday, November 16, 2011**

Chicago

[IWIRC Chicago -- Champagne and Chocolates](#)

## Did You Know....

*Submitted by Shari Bedker, IWIRC Administrative Director*

Did you know that with the new website, IWIRC networks can use a website called Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.com) to automatically upload events to the website, collect payments by credit card and send out and monitor invitations? It will even let you print out attendance lists and nametags!

AND Did you know that the website homepage lists the next 5 upcoming events, but the complete list of events that have been posted can be found under the "events" tab as well as under the individual networks?



**Shari Bedker**  
IWIRC Administrative Director

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## Fun IWIRC Facts

*Submitted by Shari Bedker, IWIRC Administrative Director*

- The first official IWIRC event was held in June 1994 –
- IWIRC INAUGURAL MEETINGS – were held in ENGLAND, CANADA, AUSTRALIA that year.
- 5 June, 1994 Spring International Meeting – London, England — immediately prior to IBA Mid-Year Insolvency Conference
- 5-6 October, 1994 Fall International Meeting – Toronto, Canada — immediately prior to NCBJ Annual Conference
- 14 October, 1994 Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting – Melbourne, Australia — immediately prior to IBA Annual Conference

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## 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.



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## 2011 Sponsorships

There is still time to become a 2011 sponsor. For more information please contact Nancy Valentine at [navalentine@hahnlaw.com](mailto:navalentine@hahnlaw.com).

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*\*In Kind Support*

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*April 1 through April 30, 2011*

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