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*IWIRC Chair
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 ness Restructuring
 Haynes and Boone*

From the Chair

Judith Elkin, Partner, Haynes & Boone

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As we start the new year, I thought I would highlight some of the wonderful accomplishments of IWIRC and its Networks in 2011, and what we have to look forward to in 2012.

In 2011, IWIRC's growth was truly international. We launched four new networks in Greater Philadelphia, Louisiana, the Cayman Islands and Western Canada. Each of these new networks has had several well-attended events, and I for one, was sorry to miss the Holiday Party in Grand Cayman.

2011 was the inaugural year for IWIRC's new and expanded board of directors structure. Our spectacular growth necessitated the Board to expand and become more professional in operation and more task oriented. The results have been fantastic – more input from more members and better organization, all of which has resulted in brilliant ideas and the ability to rapidly execute on those ideas.

One of those was new ideas was our Rising Star Award. Six months after **Sejal Kelly** suggested at our Spring board meeting that IWIRC recognize the talents and contributions of its young members, the Rising Star Award was up and running with 15 well-qualified nominees. Our first winner, **Monique Hayes**, was announced at the luncheon held in conjunction with our Fall program, and a new IWIRC tradition was born and launched.

2011 also saw the expansion of the scope and format of our annual Spring meeting. Historically, IWIRC only held a luncheon in the Spring. This year, under the direction of our fabulous Program Committee, chaired by **Jen McLemore**, we took our programming to a new level. Our program, a *Conversation with Trailblazing Women in the Insolvency Field*, was a sell out and critical success. Our panel of insolvency pioneers shared their fascinating personal stories, proving that hard work, determination, a "never say never" attitude, as well as good organizational skills and a great sense of humor are essential to success.

IWIRC further expanded its relationship with other organizations. In addition to our long standing and mutually beneficial relationship with ABI and NCBJ, IWIRC forged new relationships with the International Insolvency Institute (III) and the ABA Business Law Section. Following on our successful cocktail reception at the III meetings in Rome in 2010, IWIRC out did itself in New York in 2011. Next stop: Paris.

As you can see, IWIRC is blowing and going – so be prepared for a bang up 2012. Plans are well underway for a very different and creative Spring meeting

(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 15, Number 1
 January/February 2012

QUICK LINKS

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EVENTS

Thursday, March 01, 2012
 Michigan Network
[MIWIRC Annual Spa Networking Night](#)

Friday, March 02, 2012
 Northeast Ohio Network
[Build a Career Without Boundaries: The Truth About How to Succeed](#)

Wednesday, March 07, 2012
 New York Network
[IWIRC New York 2012 Annual Networking Event](#)

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 Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Network
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[Power Networking with TMA](#)

Thursday, March 22, 2012
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[IWIRC Chicago -- 4th Annual Cooking Event at The Chopping Block](#)

Tuesday, March 27, 2012
 New Jersey Network
[Be Retained, Not Detained: The Ethics of Retention Issues in Bankruptcy](#)

Wednesday, April 11, 2012
 Michigan Network
[MIWIRC Spring Luncheon Before TMA Spring Conference](#)

SPONSORS

Thank you to all our 2012 sponsors for their support of IWIRC! For a complete list of sponsors, please [click here](#).

April 18-19 in Washington, D.C. Keep a look out for the registration materials. Fabulous events are also being planned in Asia for Chinese New Year, in Europe in conjunction with the IBA Section on Insolvency Restructuring and Creditors' Rights meeting in Helsinki and Ill's meetings in Paris, and in North America in connection with the NCBJ in San Diego.

Exciting things are happening at IWIRC all around the world – make sure you are there and involved.

All the best – Judy

IWIRC's 9th Annual Spring Program and Founders Awards

Wednesday, April 18 and Thursday, April 19, 2012

Community Service: We Don't Just Talk About It

It is hard enough balancing work and family, let alone finding time to give back to our communities. Our expert panelists will share their experiences on the rewards of community service and give their advice on successfully managing this tough balancing act. We hope the presentation will inspire each of you to follow your passions to where and how you can contribute to your community, either individually or through your IWIRC network.

For additional details and to register for the conference, please [click here!](#)

Aloft Hotel

156 Waterfront Street
National Harbor, MD 20745

For hotel reservations, please call 301-749-9000 and ask for the "International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation" block of rooms. We have a block rate of \$249 single/double available until March 19, 2012 or until the block is full, whichever occurs first. Please note the Aloft is across the street from the Gaylord Hotel where the ABI Spring Meeting is being held April 19-April 22, 2012.

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

3:00PM - 5:00PM Joint Board & Network Chair Meeting, Strategic Room
6:00PM - 7:00PM Cocktail Reception sponsored by Epiq Systems, Aloft Hotel Lobby
7:30PM - 10:00PM "About the Harbor" Dining. We have made reservations for tables of 8 at various restaurants in National Harbor. When you register, please select the restaurant at which you would like to eat. Please note if the restaurants fill up, we will make additional reservations to ensure that all who would like to participate can enjoy this unique networking opportunity. Please note this is a "pay as you go" event, so we would advise that you bring \$50-\$100 cash with you to make it easier to pay the bill at the end of the evening.

Thursday, April 19, 2012

8:00AM - 9:00AM Registration and Continental Breakfast, Strategic Room
9:00AM - 9:05AM Welcome and Introduction
9:05AM - 10:00AM Community Service: We Don't Just Talk About It! It is hard enough balancing work and family, let alone finding time to give back to our communities. Our expert panelists will share their experiences on the rewards of community service and give their advice on successfully managing this tough balancing act. We hope the presentation will inspire each of you to follow your passions to where and how you can contribute to your community, either individually or through your IWIRC network.

Moderator:

Michaelene Fleming, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Middletown, CT

Panelists:

Hon. Laurel Myerson Isicoff, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Miami, FL

Debra Grassgreen, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, San Francisco, CA

Patricia Redmond, Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, Miami, FL

10:00AM - 10:15AM Mentoring Program Update, Sejal Kelly, CRG Partners, Boston, MA

10:15AM - 10:30AM Break

10:30AM - 11:15AM "Speed" Mentoring-An IWIRC Exclusive!

11:15AM - 12:00PM Founders Awards Presentation

12:00PM - 1:00PM Box Lunches; Transport to Community Service Events

1:00PM - 4:00PM Community Service Events.

IWIRC is ready to give back to the community by serving the D.C. metro area on Thursday, April 19 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The community service "intermezzos" that we have arranged are three unique opportunities to give back with a special chance to network and get to know other IWIRC attendees in a totally different environment. The events we have arranged include working at the Prince George's County, MD animal shelter, working at the Capital Area Food Bank and a meet and greet with law students at Georgetown Law School. We do realize that not everyone who is coming to the Spring Conference will be able to participate in an intermezzo, so we would like to ask that everyone bring an item of clothing for the local Dress for Success program. They are in special need of professional clothing for sizes 16-20, but will accept any professional clothing (suits, slacks, blouses, shoes or accessories).

Network and Committee Happenings

Georgia

A quick recap of the exciting events and news that rounded out the 2011 year; the Georgia Network hosted this year's annual Holiday Party at the beautiful Capital City Club. The much anticipated event was not only a wonderful opportunity to come together at the end of the calendar year, but also a great way to ignite the flame of participation in both old and new members. Member involvement was evident by the activity around the the Dress for Success donation table. The Party was a catalyst for providing a generous amount of both new and gently used donated items for our continuing community service partner. Thank you to all Georgia Network members who attended the event and helped make the charitable donations to Dress for Success possible.

As we said good bye to father time and welcomed in baby new year, the newly elected 2012 Georgia Network came together on January 23, to begin preparation and planning. The Georgia Network's 2012 Board Members are as follows: **Alison Elko Franklin** (Co-Chair); **Sage Sigler** (Co-Chair); **Heather Byrd Asher** (Vice Chair); **Anne Blitch** (Secretary); **Jamie Gingold** (Treasurer); **B. Sumner Chandler** (Director at Large); **Jennifer Meyerowitz** (Director at Large); **Karen Fagin White** (Director at Large); **Felicia T. Burda** (Director at Large); **Carolyn P. Richter** (Director at Large); **Melissa J. Davey** (Community Service Committee Co-Chair); **Suzanne N. Boyd** (Community Service Committee Co-Chair); **Kathryn Z. Merrell** (Membership Committee Co-Chair); **Stacia Stokes** (Membership Committee Co-Chair); **Sharon M. Lewonski** (Public Relations/Marketing Committee Co-Chair); **Taylor Schlairet Mansell** (Public Relations/Marketing Committee Co-Chair); **Alisa H. Aczel** (Programs Committee Co-Chair); and **Laura E. Reinhold** (Programs Committee Co-Chair). Stay tuned, this should be an exciting year with some wonderful fresh faces and experienced veterans.

Exciting new events kick off the calendar for 2012! On Monday, February 27, 2012 the Georgia Network intends to let their inner Picasso out by partaking in a canvas painting event at Canvas by U. We will have the opportunity to let our creative juices flow as we attempt to create out very own cherry blossom paintings. This should be an amazing event to reunite as well as foster new personal and professional relationships among members.

While we are excited for the 2012 year, we take this opportunity to recognize and highlight our fellow Georgia Network members. We are proud to announce, that Public Relations/Marketing Committee Co-Chair, **Sharon Lewonski** co-authored the article "Working with Financially Distressed Franchisees" which was published in the Fall 2011 issue of the Franchise Law Journal (Vol. 32, Number 2) [Do we have a link to this article?]. Proudly displayed and involved in various organizations, our very own **Alison Elko Franklin**, **Suzanne Boyd**, and **Alisa H. Aczel** were pictured in the January/February 2012 issue of the Turnaround Management Association's Journal of Corporate Renewal enjoying themselves at the TMA Atlanta NextGen Holiday Social. Last, but certainly not least, **Alison Elko Franklin** was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association. Alison also served as a panelist at the Emory University School of Law conference *Breaking Barriers: How Women Lawyers Define Success* hosted by the Legal Association for Women Students on February 11, 2012. Well done ladies!

We look forward to an eventful year!

Hong Kong

Annual Industry Mixer of International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation Hong Kong Network

On November 17, 2011, the Hong Kong network of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation ("IWIRC") hosted its Annual Industry Mixer at one of Hong Kong's newest hotspots. Rain did not deter the 150 guests from attending and enjoying the event which brought together key members of the insolvency profession in Hong Kong. In attendance were a mix of solicitors, bankers, accountants and other professionals to discuss over a drink the latest events of the year and their predictions as to whether 2012 would be a busy year for the sector.

Many guests were regular attendees of the event and congratulated the Hong Kong network for making the event bigger and better each year while guests new to the Hong Kong network were impressed by the relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The Annual Industry Mixer was well received by all and has proved to be a popular event in the industry's social calendar in Hong Kong .

A special thanks to our sponsors, Allen & Overy, Borelli Walsh, KPMG and Mayer Brown JSM for their support.



Member News

Chief Judge Frank H. Easterbrook of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals announced last month that three new judges have been appointed to serve on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Janet S. Baer of Baer, Higgins, Fruchtmann LLC, a member of the Chicago Network, will join the Court on March 5. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin and a law degree at DePaul University College of Law. Baer received the DePaul College of Law Scholarship for Academic Excellence. After earning her law degree, Baer served as a law clerk to U.S. Bankruptcy **Judge Robert L. Eisen**, who has since retired from the bench. Baer worked as a partner in a number of law firms before forming her own. She is a member of The Chicago Bar Association's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Committee.

Baer was selected to fill the vacancy created when U.S. Bankruptcy Judge John H. Squires retired.



Jennifer McLain McLemore

Jennifer McLain McLemore has been elected a partner of Christian & Barton, L.L.P., in Richmond, Virginia.

McLemore is a bankruptcy attorney who represents primarily business creditors and debtors in bankruptcy and workout matters and commercial litigation. She serves as the North American program director for the International Women’s Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC), and was a founder of the IWIRC — Virginia Network. She is active in the American Bankruptcy Institute, various state and local bar organizations, and the Junior League of Richmond.

Prior to joining Christian & Barton, McLemore served as a judicial clerk to the **Honorable Douglas O. Tice Jr.**, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

McLemore received her law degree from the University of Richmond School of Law, and earned her undergraduate degree, cum laude, from Miami University.

Melissa Hinds of Jenner & Block, and **Kimberly Bacher** of Shaw Gussis Fishman Glantz Wolfson & Towbin LLC, both members of the Chicago Network, were named Illinois Rising Stars by Super Lawyers Magazine. Congratulations Ladies!

Jennifer E. Mercer, Principal of Van Meter Consultants and IWIRC Director At Large was recently published in the February edition of the ABI Journal, "[Hawaiian Telcom and Netflix: Good Communications, Soft Landings and Fewer Claims.](#)" The article discusses the importance of implementing a proactive communications program during a restructuring and the positive effect such a program has on reducing the administrative cost of claims reconciliation, thereby benefiting the debtor and creditor recovery.

Portable Insolvency Legislation from Cassels Brock

The Restructuring and Insolvency Group at Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP has compiled a compact reference volume containing Canadian and international insolvency legislation and resource materials, including the Canadian *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, and *Companies’ Creditors Arrangement Act*, the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, and the American Law Institute Guidelines on Court-to Court Communications in Cross-Border Cases. This portable text is a useful resource for busy practitioners, judges and credit professionals. Request your complimentary copy today by contacting Deborah Grieve at dgrieve@cassels-brock.com or Eleonore Morris at emorris@casselsbrock.com.

INSOL MIAMI - 20-22 May 2012

Turnberry Isle Hotel & Resort, Miami, Florida

If you are not already a member of INSOL International now may be the time to consider joining. INSOL is holding its annual conference in 2012 in the Americas in Miami. Members of INSOL can save over \$500 on the registration fees and as membership of INSOL through the IWIRC only costs \$99 you can still save over \$400. Full details of the conference can be found at <http://www.insol.org/page/235/insol-miami> Full membership details are also included in the registration brochure. We hope to see you in Miami!

Upcoming Network Activities

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Connecticut Network

[Meet the Chapter 7 Trustees](#)

Thursday, March 01, 2012

Michigan Network

[MIWIRC Annual Spa Networking Night](#)

Friday, March 02, 2012

Northeast Ohio Network

[Build a Career Without Boundaries: The Truth About How to Succeed](#)

Wednesday, March 07, 2012

New York Network

[IWIRC New York 2012 Annual Networking Event](#)

Thursday, March 08, 2012

Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Network
[Viewing and Discussion of "A Conversation with Trailblazing Women In the Insolvency Profession"](#)

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Michigan Network
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Chicago Network
[IWIRC Chicago -- 4th Annual Cooking Event at The Chopping Block](#)

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

New Jersey Network
[Be Retained, Not Detained: The Ethics of Retention Issues in Bankruptcy](#)

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

Michigan Network
[MIWIRC Spring Luncheon Before TMA Spring Conference](#)

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Washington DC Network
[IWIRC Annual Spring Conference & Founders Awards](#)

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

European Network
[IWIRC Sponsored Opening Reception for III's 12th Annual Conference](#)

Wednesday, August 01, 2012

Georgia Network
[IWIRC's 6th Annual Leadership Summit for Board of Directors and Network Chairs](#)

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

Southern California Network
[IWIRC's 19th Annual Fall Conference](#)



Shari Bedker
 IWIRC Administrative Director

Did You Know...

IWIRC's fully searchable membership directory is an excellent opportunity to put your best foot forward! In addition to providing your demographics, title and type of practice, you can include short descriptions of clients successes, specific credentials that set you apart, or other information that your target market will be searching for. You are free to update your profile as often as you like. The IWIRC directory can be a powerful tool in your practice development strategy.

To update your profile, follow these steps (remember to "save" at the bottom of each page!)

1. In the upper right hand corner, if you are already logged in, you will see an option for "member profile", click on that
2. Your information will be shown.
3. On the lefthand side, if you click on "payments", you can view your membership history
4. On the lefthand side, if you click on " update", you can change your personal information
5. You can also upload your photo by clicking on the "photo" tab
6. Your work address, job title, practice area and industries can all be updated from the "occupation" tab
7. You can upload a fully searchable bio in the "biography" section. Please note, to be fully searchable by other IWIRC members or the general public, you need to input your information in a word format. If you prefer, you can provide a link to your firm website for your bio, but it will not be searchable and your bio will not show up when someone selects your name, only the link will show up.

Fun IWIRC Facts

In the U.S., we have members in all but 11 states? If you have colleagues in Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon or New Mexico, pass on the word that this is a great opportunity for them to join and get referrals for those locations!

Useful Links

There are so many great articles out there for women professionals, that we often don't see them all. We are now going to provide links to articles that you may find of interest both in the IWIRC Connection but also on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages, so if you come across articles of interest, please share for all to enjoy. Here are a few articles members can relate to and benefit from:

Are you as busy as you think? There was a time, not so long ago, when I was busy, busy, busy. At least I thought I was.

I told people I worked 60 hours a week. I claimed to sleep six hours a night. As I lamented to anyone stuck next to me at parties, I was basically too busy to breathe. Me time? Ha! [Click here to read more.](#)

Best Networking Tips. You know the type. The people with obnoxious laughs, pushy pitches, and the ability to corner you at industry conferences and talk about themselves continuously for what seems like hours? The ones who clearly mean well, but their lack of etiquette can make you wish you hadn't even gone?

Here's a friendly suggestion: Don't be that person. [Click her to read more.](#)

As a resource for all IWIRC Members, you will find the 2012-2014 Bankruptcy & Insolvency Events Calendar compiled by Armstrong & Associates International, Inc. on our website (need to insert link once it is ready) The calendar is a compilation of bankruptcy and insolvency events from around the world and includes major international events and holidays. We hope the calendar will be a useful reference to you and your firm.

Social Media

Have you checked out or posted on our Facebook or LinkedIn pages lately? Are you following us on Twitter? 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.



2012 Sponsorships Now Being Accepted!

2012 sponsorships are still being accepted. For details on the levels, benefits and the sponsorship form, please visit www.iwirc.com/about-us/sponsors/benefits.

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.

Welcome IWIRC New Members!

December 1 through December 31, 2011

Jenny Abshier
Law Office of Jenny Abshier
Metairie, LA

Edith Altice
Saul Ewing LLP
Baltimore, MD

Dawn Arnold
Rattet Pasternak, LLP
Harrison, New York

Courtney Barr
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Chicago, IL

Jenette Barrow-Bosshart
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New York, New York

Annie Claude Beauchemin
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Teresa Currier
Saul Ewing LLP
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Yvanna Custodio
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
New York, NY

Melanie Cyganowski
Otterbourg, Steindler, Houston & Rosen,
P.C.
New York, NY

Sydney Darling
Connell Foley LLP
Roseland, NJ

Laura Donaldson
Bull, Housser & Tupper LLP
Vancouver, British Columbia

Marie Drake
The Drake Law Firm, P.C.
Denver, CO

Amy Drobish
Capstone Advisory Group, LLC
New York, New York

Van Durrer
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Los Angeles, CA

Julie Engwirda
Walkers
Road Town, Tortola

Jennifer Fox
Forbes Hare
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Calgary, Alberta

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