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From the Chair

Jennifer McLain McLemore, Christian & Barton LLP

We are fresh off of a very productive Leadership Summit in sunny Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Thank you to all who planned and hosted us, and thanks to all who took time out of their summer plans to share best practices and stories of their own bravery with the IWIRC members in attendance. As we worked through our agenda and excursions in Philly, we were thrilled to be joined by a number of our past chairs: Janet Bostwick, Judy Elkin, Leslie Berkoff, Jennifer Meyerowitz, and Nancy Valentine. In addition, we had many new faces from around the world. This meeting recharges me like no other!

In my household, Summer brings a change of schedule for everyone. Camps start later than school, which opens doors for me to change up my routine. I try to see this bit of change as an opportunity for me to experience my every day a little differently. While "normal" returns with the start of school, a break from the usual helps me to appreciate both my regular schedule and the special summer timetable. While there is still a little Summer left, see if you can change some part of your routine to help you better appreciate these seasons that fly by.

Such a thought is particularly important to me right now, as this is my last time to write to you as Chair! I feel like if I just blink, Carrienne Basler will be at the podium leading you and bringing her new insights and vision to this organization. I am grateful for a year that has brought me so many opportunities to see so many of you shine, but it has passed so quickly that it has seemed like just a moment. Thank you for allowing me this time to serve you and thank you to all of you that have shared so much of yourselves with me!

If you haven't already, please consider joining us in San Antonio, Texas October 27-28th to welcome Carrienne as our new chair.



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

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IWIRC Round & Round Round-Up

By **Elizabeth L. Gunn** (Virginia Office of the Attorney General, Virginia Network)

The 2018 Spring Conference opened with a new session for IWIRC, the Round & Round. A fast-paced, one-hour session where attendees participated in small groups, facilitated by an IWIRC member, to discuss, share, and reflect on four hot topics. Facilitators furiously took notes of the hundreds of ideas, comments and insights provided by the participants. The amazing information shared and gathered during the Round and Round provides wonderful suggestions for events, career advice, reflections on lessons learned, and other invaluable feedback from IWIRC members. Summarized below, without comment, are the notes from the facilitators from the program. The hope is that each IWIRC member, whether they attended the conference or not, can reflect upon these lists and find a benefit for their network and in their practice and/or lives. Much like Frank Warren of PostSecret, I've also placed one of my answers in each category.

My Favorite Networking Event Ever – participants were asked to name or describe their favorite event ever attended, whether IWIRC or another organization. The diversity in answers is phenomenal.

- Small/intimate events such as spa afternoons tennis lessons.
- Outdoor/out of your suit events such as hiking the Blue Ridge, NY Golf outing, high ropes course, sporting events or concerts, sightseeing events (boat cruises, jeep tours), receptions around art or other exhibitions.
- Interactive events such as cooking classes, cooking competitions (Top Chef, cupcakes & cocktails), whiskey/wine/beer tastings, champagne high tea.
- Activities that give back such as philanthropic events, soup making at a women's shelter, food sorting at a food bank.
- Sponsorship appreciation dinners.
- Team building/oriented events.
- Formal events hosted by various networks including Singapore insolvency event, IWIRC leadership conferences and retreats, dinners at IWIRC events, cocktail parties.

Things I Wish I'd Known When... - participants were asked to reflect on the piece of advice they wish they'd known when they were "younger". No age limit or time frame set, instead focusing on the thing they realized at some point they wish they'd know. Here are the highlights.

- Don't fall on your sword. Admit mistakes and find solutions. Seek advice.
- Don't depend on anyone else for work – feed yourself.
- Relationship building is more important than doing a really good job. (Also stated as Working hard isn't good enough.)
- Be confident and act capable, avoid the deer in the headlights look.
- As a younger attorney you are providing more value than you might think you are.
- Some days you walk, some days you run, some days you crawl. It's best to just accept the crawl days for what they are and move on.
- When you don't know something, it's better to admit it than fake it.



- Participate, get involved, don't stay chained to your desk.
- Don't eat lunch at your desk every day.
- Ask for what you want. Self-promote yourself.
- Make sure you commit, that you go all in.
- Meet people in person, don't just rely on the telephone or email.
- It is not about the quantity of connections, more about the quality of connections.
- The people you start practice with will be your most important referral sources down the road.
- Understand the structure and business of law.
- Find ways to successfully navigate different roles.
- (And a slightly biased final thought) I wish I'd found/joined IWIRC sooner.

Business Plan/Strategic Planning Tips – in this session, participants were asked to share their one or two best business planning/strategic planning tips. How do they advance or promote themselves? Could be a tip provided by another person or something they learned from first-hand experience.



- Always keep a current resume – you never know when you might need to use it.
- Keep copies of your old web bios when they are updated.
- Over the course of your career, you will get infinite “do-overs”.
- Don't let your career happen, embrace it – it is long and you are the driver.
- Never ask to go to an event or conference you would not be willing to pay for yourself.
- Figure out your authentic brand/self and stick with it.
- Say yes – be open to new opportunities even if you think you are under qualified; but, know when to say no because it could have a negative impact on your plan or yourself.
- Don't sit back and wait. No one cares about your career as much as you do.
- Pick your own mentor, but don't ask them to mentor you. Develop the relationship naturally.
- Don't be a joiner in an organization, be a leader.
- Build time into your calendar for personal time or other important events and stick with it.
- When attending an event, no matter the type, know what your goal is at the event.
- Make reservations, block time for them.
- Become “the” expert in one topic.
- When you're in, always be “all in”

#MeToo – in light of the social media phenomenon that was #metoo in the spring of 2018, participants were asked to reflect not on their #metoo moment(s) (if they had them), but on the impact they had seen of the movement, or thoughts on what the future impact might be. Discussions on this topic were no less robust than the others, but many of the discussions were ones that could not quickly or easily be encompassed in a few notes. Here are just a few of the many thoughts that came out in the final session.



- Being prepared and having a plan for how to respond to an unwanted advance is an unfortunate, but good idea.

- There is and will continue to be backlash, even against those who were not at the forefront.
- Shows that there are not ramifications for certain people (or were not)
- We may not always get to choose who we surround ourselves with, but to the extent we can, make sure we choose those who uphold the ideals you deserve.



2018 Leadership Summit - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Greater Philadelphia Network hosted the Leadership Summit July 18-20, and once again, it was a productive and inspiring few days of meeting and connecting with IWIRC network leaders from around the world. It was especially exciting to welcome Mia Drennan, a representative from our new London Network. Thanks to Amy Vulpio and Linda McDonough and their committee for all their hard work in organizing a memorable conference. With the theme of "Town and County", delegates were able to enjoy a walking tour of the Italian Street Market, a dinner at the Victor Café, where we were entertained by opera singer/servers, a guided tour of Longwood Gardens (on the former DuPont estate), and a garden-themed dinner at Terrain. The substantive portion of the summit included a sharing of best practices, a leadership panel discussion from high-profile local female attorneys, and a keynote speech from Robyn Pollack on the topic of Risk Tolerance (which included some fun on-line tests).





Mark your calendars! Next year's leadership summit will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana July 24-26, 2019.

Its never to early to start thinking about 2020, so please give some thought as to whether your network would like to host in 2020, and reach out to the Executive Board who can provide some information to help you put together a proposal.

During the Leadership Summit, Robin Pollack encouraged everyone to write six-word personal "memoirs". Please [click here](#) and add your six word "memoir" to the IWIRC website to inspire others. Some "memoirs" submitted to date include:

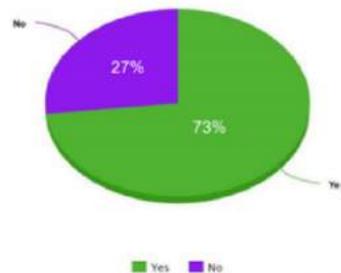
- LAUGH OFTEN, HELP OTHERS, BE BRAVE
- JUST KEEP GOING, NO MATTER WHAT

Leadership Summit Survey Results

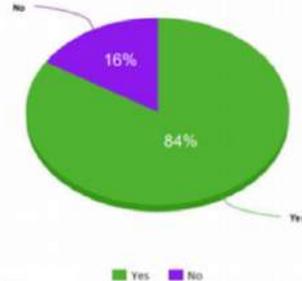
During the Leadership conference, attendees were asked to complete a short survey to measure some of the tangible benefits of IWIRC membership. The results were very encouraging, with many respondents reporting that they had either received or given a business referral, or had business opportunities as a result of being an IWIRC member. Please share and distribute these results to show and promote the benefits of IWIRC membership.

2018 IWIRC Leadership Summit Survey Results

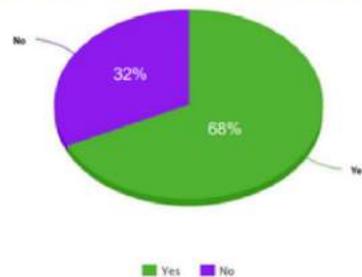
Have you had business referred to you from an IWIRC member?



Have you referred business to an IWIRC member?



Have you received any other business opportunities from being an IWIRC member?



London Network Launch Event

June 13, 2018 marked the formal launch event for IWIRC's newest network, based in London, UK. Special guests included former Court of Appeal judge **Dame Elizabeth Gloster** and President of the International Insolvency Institute, **Alan Bloom**. **Michelle Pickett**, IWIRC Secretary travelled from Toronto, Canada to welcome the new network and speak about IWIRC and the benefits and opportunities available to its members.

Over 120 network members and guests attended the sold-out event at EY's London office. Dame Gloster, who recently stepped down from the Bench to become an arbitrator, gave a candid and personal keynote speech, and spoke about her own journey as a lawyer and Judge. Mr. Bloom noted that women represented only about 15% of the III membership, and there is a need to increase diversity generally throughout the insolvency profession.

The London network's co-chairs – EY director **Joanne Hewitt** and Morrison & Foerster partner **Sonya Van de Graaff** have been thrilled by the support and enthusiasm they've seen so far.

The next London IWIRC event will be taking place on 17 September, which will include a breakfast followed by a panel of speakers giving their views on the retail and office space sectors.





November 8, 2018

IWIRC Asia Restructuring & Insolvency Conference 2018

Following the success of the inaugural Asia Restructuring and Insolvency Conference held in Singapore last year, please join the IWIRC Asia Networks for their second Restructuring and Insolvency Conference on Thursday, 8 November 2018. A final event schedule will be released shortly. Ticket prices are US\$50 for IWIRC members, US\$100 for non-members, and US\$25 for those with less than 8 years' experience in the restructuring/insolvency field.

There are no specific conference hotels or rates. Delegates are free to choose and book their own accommodation.

Many thanks to our event sponsors.

We look forward to seeing you in Hong Kong!

Registration link is available on the IWIRC homepage and at the following URL:
<http://www.cvent.com/d/bgqx84/10>.



IWIRC On The Vine September 28-30th, 2018 NAPA California

The Northern California, Southern California, Mountain Desert and Western Canada networks are busy at work planning an inaugural regional conference in Napa, California. The event will be held at the beautiful Westin Hotel and Resort in Napa, and includes a poolside reception on Friday night, followed by a Saturday morning Yoga session, substantive programming including sessions on Cryptocurrency and Agricultural/Wine Industry Restructurings, wine tastings, keynote speaker, closing dinner, and much more. We hope this will become an annual event for women to network and learn, and to build connections on the west coast of North America and beyond. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us -- registrations close on September 20 and spots are filling up fast! Registration information can be found on the IWIRC homepage and at the following URL: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/inaugural-iwirc-on-the-vine-conference-tickets-46827019877>.



Please Join Us for
IWIRC's 25th Annual Fall International Conference
October 27 & 28, 2018
at The Contessa Hotel

Don't forget to mark your calendar and attend IWIRC's 25th Annual Fall Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The Programming Committee has put together a great schedule of events, including an opening reception and dinner, substantive programming on the topics of *Navigating Indenture Trustee Issues in the Default World* and *The Ins and Outs of Board Membership*, a great keynote speaker, the presentation of the Rising Star Awards, and many fun intermezzo events.

Registration closes October 20, 2018 and details can be found on the IWIRC website or at the following URL: <http://www.cvent.com/d/2gq2pw/10>.

For hotel reservations, [click here](#) or call 1-866-435-0900 and ask for the "IWIRC" block of rooms. The conference rate of \$189/night is available until September 27, 2018 or the block is full, whichever occurs first.

We hope to see you in San Antonio!



Member Articles

My Supreme Court Debut!

By **Caireen E. Hanert**, Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP, Chair, Western Canada Network



In February of this year, I made my debut before the Supreme Court of Canada arguing in a case that captured headlines across Canada. It was a bucket list item for me, and one of the most significant highlights in my career to date!

I came to the practice of law in a roundabout way. When I was quite young (around age 6), I wanted to be a lawyer – people told me I should be a lawyer because I talked a lot and liked to argue! I quickly decided that I'd be a lawyer for a number of years, and then become a judge, and then be appointed as the first female Chief Supreme Court Justice. When I discovered science a few years later and pursued an undergraduate degree in Physics and Math, becoming a published scientist along the way, I left all thoughts of law behind.

But then – I came to the realization that although I enjoyed working as a scientist, it wasn't my passion. It was interesting, and academically rigorous, but not something I could see myself doing forever. I decided then to go back to school to study law – and have not looked back since.

As a commercial litigator, as well as an insolvency litigator, I have had the opportunity to try several cases and to argue multiple appeals. However, in Canada, very few cases make it to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Court does not hear most civil appeals as a matter of right. Rather, leave must first be obtained from the Court. The proposed appellant must demonstrate to the Court that the issue on appeal is of national importance, or that the case would permit the Court to settle an important issue of law. There are very few such cases that go the distance, and therefore, most litigators do not ever have the opportunity to argue before the Supreme Court.

My firm at the time, McMillan LLP, was originally retained by the Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals (CAIRP) to watch and advise on a case of interest that was moving through the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta. The Redwater case (*Re Redwater Energy Corporation*, 2016 ABQB 278) involved the receivership, and then the bankruptcy, of a small oil and gas producer with hundreds of wells, most of which were no longer producing. The issue before the Court was whether the Receiver and Trustee of Redwater was entitled to disclaim the non-producing wells and sell the producing ones. The Court of Queen's Bench, and the Court of Appeal of Alberta (where I acted as counsel for CAIRP as an intervenor in the proceedings), decided that the Receiver and Trustee was entitled to do so, and that the Receiver and Trustee was not obligated to carry out any abandonment, reclamation or remediation obligations in relation to the non-producing wells, or perform abandonment orders issued by the provincial regulator.

After these two decisions, the regulator sought and was granted leave to bring its appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. As the case has made its way through the various levels of courts, it has been carefully watched by industry, insolvency professionals and restructuring and insolvency counsel, as a decision either way will have a significant impact on how insolvencies within the oil and gas industry, as well as other regulated industries.

Once the regulator had been granted leave, we applied for and were granted intervenor status for CAIRP at the appeal. Now was the most daunting part – preparing for the appeal. The page limit for our factum for the Court was limited to 10 pages and we were granted five minutes – FIVE! – to make the argument.

It was an onerous but useful exercise to distill the most essential points of our arguments down so that they fit within those limits. One of my former colleagues, a Supreme Court expert, pointed out that I would have time to make only one point in oral argument, and that my point should reinforce why CAIRP's status as an intervenor was helpful to the Court in deciding the appeal.

Then came the big day – February 15, 2018. I made my way into the court room, along with the other 30 lawyers who were in attendance for the appeal, all of us dressed in our robes and tabs. There were two appellants and 8 intervenors supporting the appellants' position facing two respondents and two intervenors (including CAIRP) supporting the respondents' position. The courtroom itself is imposing – made more so by the cameras and television screens hanging from the ceiling. Unlike other court proceedings in Canada, most appeals before the Supreme Court are webcast live and later televised. For the first few minutes of the proceedings, it was difficult to ignore the cameras, but as soon as the first justice asked a question of counsel, I was in the zone. Those of you who are litigators will be familiar with that feeling – being completely and entirely focused on the arguments and the Court's reaction and nothing else.

I was the 15th lawyer to be heard by the Court that day. As the arguments continued, I worked on revising my submissions – which had been further distilled down to less than a page – to align with where I thought CAIRP's submissions would be helpful to the Court, given the arguments already made. And then, seemingly within minutes of the start of argument – although it had been almost three hours – I was called up.



As I walked to the podium, the Registrar pressed a button to move it down slightly so that it would be an ideal height. I put my notes down, looked to the Chief Justice, took a deep breath, and started my argument.

I made it one minute into my argument before being asked a question by one of the justices – is the evidence underlying your point in the record? Thankfully, I was prepared for such a question and had the pinpoint cite at hand. With that initial question under my belt, I continued my submissions until a second justice asked a point of clarification. After answering that question, I finished my submissions and left one whole minute to spare – the only lawyer out of 16 during arguments who had any time left at the end of argument.

I remember thinking while getting into my robes before the appeal, and throughout the appeal, what a fantastic life experience I was having. To argue at the Supreme Court of Canada is an impossible dream for so many litigators, and I was experiencing it! I will remember every second of those five minutes as a very special time in my life – a professional career highlight that I was able to share with my husband, 8-year-old daughter and parents while it was happening. (They were watching by webcast, which was the first time any of them had seen me doing anything other than pushing paper as a litigator.)

One of my colleagues presented me with a lovely gift to commemorate the occasion – a picture of me mid-argument, in a frame inscribed with the case name and date. It is something I'll treasure for the rest of my life, along with the experience itself – and my own personal copy of the webcast.

We have yet to receive the decision, but whatever the result, it will always rank as one of the best and most memorable days of my life.



Invention and Reinvention: Making Your Business Your Own

By **Leanne Gould**, Gould Consulting Services, Atlanta

I recently started my own firm. While my firm is a new legal entity, my actual business has been my own for years. Whether in a support or leadership role under someone else's flag, I always thought of my work as a way to build my business – my customers, my personal brand, my future.

I look for opportunities to grow, change, invent and reinvent myself. Starting my own firm is a great opportunity to do just that. Each of us, whether beginning our career or taking the leap to start our own business, are presented with opportunities and choices that can elevate us and expand our horizons. The key to making your business your own is to keep your eyes and ears open for such opportunities and make choices that build on your experience, talents, and interests.

Sounds easy doesn't it? Sometimes it is and other times, not so much. Important to the success of your "business" are:

- Self-awareness
- Preparation
- A "can-do" attitude
- Support

Self-awareness

The first step is to know yourself, at this moment in your life and career, and know what you are capable of. This knowledge is not limited to what you have already learned and are comfortable doing. This knowledge includes the full complement of experience and talent you have acquired to this point, identification of what peaks your interest, and what makes you smile. This knowledge will allow you to think "outside-the-box" and will contribute to your future success.

A "can-do" attitude

Building your business is a process. A process of invention and reinvention that requires a "can-do" attitude. You need to believe in your ability to adapt, accept mistakes and to learn from them – not be stifled by them. A "can-do" attitude gives you the freedom to take risks to move your business forward.

Preparation

You can be self-aware and have a "can-do" attitude, but if you are not prepared you may create unnecessary challenges and be unable to take the opportunities presented to you. Here are some things to think about:

1. **Financial stability:** How much money do you need to give you the freedom to build your business? Tip: Save it before you need it.
2. **Personal responsibilities:** Who depends on you? Who do you depend on? Have you shared your vision for your business with your spouse, partner, significant other, family? Are they supportive of your vision? Are there time commitments that require you to take "baby steps" rather than "leaps" as you build your business. It's okay to take "baby steps." This is your business, your future. As long as you move forward you will get there.
3. **What services do you want to provide?** How can you differentiate your services from others? How do you differentiate yourself from others? Is there a gap in the marketplace you can fill? Who is your competition?
4. **Who is "buying" your services?** Internal customers? External customers? How do you identify customers? Once identified, how do you reach them? Are you prepared to put in the time to build relationships? Tip: This doesn't happen overnight!
5. **How do you price your services?** If you are building your business inside an organization, is competitive salary information available? If the position is "outside-the-box" are you willing to take a step back to move forward? If you are starting your own firm, what price are your competitors charging? How do those prices align with your target customer?
6. **What resources do you need?** Access to research databases? Administrative or technical support? Computer hardware and software? Will you need to obtain a designation or meet CLE/CPE requirements? Will you need to attend conferences or business development lunches? Sounds like I'm suggesting you create a budget. I am. A budget is the foundation of your business: anticipate expenses and project the revenue and profit needed to maintain #1 above, at

a minimum. Tip: Legal and consulting services have peaks and troughs so be realistic – no “hockey sticks” and don’t expect consistent monthly cash flow!

Support

Starting my own business is exhilarating, challenging and extremely satisfying. My business started off strong thanks to the support of my family, friends, and a network of people who believe in my abilities and respect my work. I look forward to the future and to continued reinvention. If I can help you invent and reinvent your business, please reach out, I would be glad to support you along the way!

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Avoid the Float: Setting Goals to Shape Your Path

By **Tosha Dunn**, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP, Atlanta

As someone fairly new to the world of fulltime employment, I find myself wondering how my love for goal setting translates into this big new world. The issue I face is nothing new: I have been in college (and graduate school and law school), where I set and accomplished many goals, but they were all goals defined by short timeframes. Now I am faced with goal setting over a long timeframe and where there are many, many shifting parts and pieces. I cannot rely on the comfort of having a mostly set card of courses that guides me through the next several years and lands me in a position with a better job title. No, instead I am left to figure out who I talk to (internally and externally), and it is up to me to figure out who might be a good role model. I am in the position of trying to find my own “style” of networking and dealing with coworkers. I have entered a world where there does not seem to be a defined path to the next thing. If this sounds familiar, then do read on.

My purpose in writing this is to set out a framework that ties goal setting in with these nebulous topics, like moving up in the firm, to give some shape to things because without shape, it is easy to kind of float along. You certainly conquer whatever comes your way while floating, but you are not really headed in a direction; you are just reacting to whatever comes along. So if we give shape to things through goal setting, then we can start to avoid the float and start to chart our path to the place we want to be. While this is my first year of full time employment, it is by no means my first job, so the framework I am suggesting is one that I have used throughout my various experiences with the people I have worked for and with, i.e. the framework I have developed for myself and try to employ in my own life.

First, consider where you want to be in three, five, seven, and even ten years (Yes! Ten years!). If you want to be working on specific cases or be awarded a higher title, then that is the first part of your goal. Now the next part is to simply look around. Who are the people currently doing what you want to do? These people are now part of your goal as well. You want to talk to them—I do not mean

“How was the weekend?” chit-chat; I mean that you should look to actively cultivate a working relationship with these people. Learning (read with great emphasis) about what they do and what they did, good or not so good, is also part of your goal.

So how did that go as far as goals: (1) Where do you want to be?; (2) Identify people who are in those positions; (3) Create working relationship with those people identified; and (4) Learn what those people did do to reach their current position and what they are currently doing to reach the position they want to be in (yes, I snuck that last line in because the “and then what?” question should always be floating in your mind).

When looking at the above items, each one is really a goal in itself. Figuring out where you want to be is something that takes time to understand. Again, to give some form to this goal, look at the people you work with (go outside the firm too—even look at job postings or the personal pages of people at other firms, read their think pieces, etc.) and notice what their job involves. There are going to be black and white expectations and descriptions of the job, but then there is what actually goes into the job. Knowing what the job really is can tell you if that is the path for you or not—no, you may not want to work consumer cases, etc. Once you pin down what the various possibilities around you are, start to identify the people you want to talk to. Assuming that you have been paying some attention to these people, something you may notice is that they all have their own way of doing things—some will be nurturing or at least willing to help and some will not. This can aid you in targeting the people you want to create professional relationships with, but do not be completely put off by the people who are not immediately warm and helpful if they are the people who are really at the top of your list. This is not to say assault them with check-in emails or anything else—it is to say, spend some time thinking about how to introduce yourself to that person, for example, there may be a group retreat, or there may be an upcoming project or case you could be assigned to. Nonetheless, have your list of people.

Armed with your list, you are now going to endeavor to get to know these people in a way that will hopefully result in their aiding you with advice. If you are not a people person, or you lack the gift of gab, or if the person is just completely intimidating, do some research. Ideally, you have already looked at their resume, but have you poked around to actually see what they have written? Have you asked other people who work with them for advice? That sounds weird (Completely Agree!), but if you lay the foundation of “well, I really want to talk to this person about their career development, but I am not sure how to introduce myself” ...something like that, then the person is probably less likely to view you or your question as odd. But say that it happens that the person, no matter your own social aptitude, is one who is completely open, loves to teach, etc., well, come on, what are you waiting for? Do not pepper them with questions over a single lunch. Let them know that you would like to talk about, again, career development because you are interested in the work that they do and how they came to do it.

Have that initial conversation, even ask them if there are things you are doing now that could be improved or if there are things you are missing out on. If they identify areas of possible improvement, take it to heart and act on the advice, then circle back to the person to show them that you took initiative. Talk about how the change worked or did not, and then continue to talk (i.e., wash, rinse,



repeat). This open dialogue about work (not a time to air small level complaints) is how you build the relationship with the person, AND it is how you learn from them. The actions you take based on talks are how you demonstrate that you are serious, and that you value the person taking time to speak with you. All of this redounds back to you positively because even if this person does a job that you figure out you do not like, they are still a connection, and they can introduce you to other people—making the whole process so much easier.

All of what I have just laid out is applying goal setting to a nebulous, long term issue, and I fully admit that the four goals I listed are ones that would most likely have even more parts to them. However, each of these goals are really acting as anchors—you spend time developing the idea of what job you want to be doing, which gives shape to this bigger idea of “Where do I want to be in x number of years?” All the small questions that you answer along the way give form to something that can otherwise be completely shapeless, and in a completely unanchored, unshaped world. It is easy to float about from this to that and wonder “Where am I in all this?” If you use a technique like this though, you can shape where you are heading, even if there are road blocks, and the more you learn and the more advice you get, the more you capable you will be at navigating your way forward. And do not forget, you can look outside the firm—you are part of IWIRC, so take advantage of the events and programs offered. Check out the mentor program, or just talk to IWIRC members at events. IWIRC is, for me, a group that offers a breadth of knowledge and a chance to converse with other women about their experiences at various levels of work; take advantage of that as you go forward, as well.



Debated Venue Provision Regarding Bankruptcy Avoidance (Preference and Fraudulent Transfer) Lawsuits

By **Sara Keith**, Sanders McGarvey LLP, Houston

Most businesses are aware that when an entity or individual files for bankruptcy protection, any payments received by the debtor (entity that filed for bankruptcy) during the 90-days prior to the filing, can be recovered by the debtor in possession or trustee. This 90-day period is often referred to as the “Preference Period.” *See generally* 11 U.S.C. § 547. The Preference Period was designed by Congress on the presumption that the debtor is insolvent during the 90-days before the filing. Therefore, companies and individuals that receive a pre-filing (“pre-petition”) payment (usually it is a payment for an overdue debt but can also be transfers of property) made during the Preference Period, because of antecedent or past-due debt, can be sued to recover the “preference.” The Bankruptcy Code, which grants the allowance of the suit, also provides for defenses. The rationale for the defenses were to encourage vendors to sell to the debtor on credit while discouraging creditors from pursuing unusual collection maneuvers. Despite these aims, creditors that supported the debtor prior to filing do not enjoy receiving a letter demanding that money or payments be returned and then the lawsuit that follows to collect such alleged “preference” payments.

Additionally, transfers of an interest of the debtor in property or any obligation that was done on or within two years of the filing, can be recovered back into the state. *See generally* 11 U.S.C. § 548. Commonly, such actions are called “fraudulent

transfers.” These lawsuits permit creditors to unwind deals which are unfair due to “intent” of the debtor to hinder, delay or defraud creditors and/or those in which the unfairness is from an imbalance in the exchange combined with a shortage of other assets. The scope of claims includes real or personal property as well as obligations like guaranties. The terms “fraudulent” is a bit misleading as any transaction made by a debtor (financial impaired) for less than an even exchange is included.

Both preference and fraudulent transfer lawsuits are commonly referred to as “avoidance actions¹.”

What many companies are not aware of is that Congress also revised the venue provisions when it revamped the bankruptcy code in 2005 under the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (“BAPCPA”). Thus, for all cases after 2005, if the avoidance suit is to a **non-insider** for less than \$12,850.00 the complaint must be brought in **the defendant’s district**. See 28 U.S.C. § 1409(b); 11 U.S. C. § 104(b); Federal Register Revision of Certain Dollar Amounts in the Bankruptcy Code published on February 22, 2016, effective April 1, 2016. This means, if a company operating in Houston, Texas files for bankruptcy protection in Delaware or New York, any avoidance action under \$12,850.00 must be brought where the defendant resides not in Delaware or New York where the main bankruptcy case is pending². However, if the defendant is an insider, venue remains proper in the court in which the main case is proceeding no matter the amount in controversy. Rules regarding the “residence” of the defendant still apply. While some courts are split on the enforcement of this venue provision and whether it applies to avoidance actions, it still contains good news. If you are a creditor of a small claim you may not have to incur the unfair cost of defending yourself in the home-turf of the debtor.

¹Additional lawsuits also qualify as “avoidance actions” but are not discussed in this article.

²The drafting of Section 1409(b) is a little confusing. The statute that grants jurisdiction, 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b) includes proceedings “arising under title 11, or arising in or related to cases under title 11” but, Section 1409 only refers to “arising in or related to” cases. But, this defect was cured in subsections 1409(a) ad (e). Thus, even though it used to be apparent that the legislative intent was to allow the court in which the main case was pending to always be proper venue for “arising in or related to,” such is not straightforward due to Congress’s failure to amend this provision. The rub is that many courts believe that avoidance actions fall under the “arising under” category and thus don’t apply 1409(b) to avoidance actions. See e.g., *Moyer v. Bank of America, N.A. (In re Rosenberger)*, 400 B.R. 569 (Bankr. W.D. Mich. 2008). However, there are many cases that support interpretation of the statute to apply to avoidance actions and thus hold that venue is only proper where the defendant resides if under the threshold amount. See e.g., *Straffi v. Gilco World Wide Markets (In re Bamboo Abbott, Inc.)*, 458 B.R. 701 (Bankr. D.N.J. 2011).



Member News



Gani Bardhi

Gani Bardhi of Alvarez and Marsal, was selected as the Secretary of Alvarez and Marsal's Women's Leadership Connection.



Leyza Blanco

Leyza Blanco joined Sequor Law as a partner. Leyza currently serves as Secretary of the Florida Bar's Business Law Section and as the Finance Director of IWIRC. Her case experience includes acting as lead US Counsel to various Court-Appointed Fiduciaries named in multiple jurisdictions throughout the Caribbean for British American Insurance Co Ltd., in Chapter 15 proceedings, district Court proceedings and pending state court proceedings throughout the State of Florida. She is also a Florida Supreme Court Certified Civil Mediator. Leyza has been recognized by Florida Super Lawyers (2010-2018), Florida Trend Legal Elite (2008-2016, 2018), South Florida Legal Guide, Top Lawyer (2009-2018) and has received multiple recognitions of note. She has served as lead adjunct professor, and launched a bankruptcy clinical program at Florida International University College of Law, and is a frequent writer and presenter on insolvency topics.



Kim Brown

Kim Brown served as a moderator at the 14th Annual Mid-Atlantic Bankruptcy Workshop presented by the American Bankruptcy Institute. The conference took place August 2-5, 2018 at the Hotel Hershey in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Kim served as the moderator for a continuing legal education (CLE) program, Breaking Down the DIP Budget, which explored how a DIP budget is constructed, negotiated and presented based on the interests of the debtor, lenders and creditors and offered insight for professionals at every level of experience. Fellow program panelists included: the Honorable Stacey L. Meisel, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey; Rosa Evergreen, Arnold & Porter; John Madden, Emerald Capital Advisors; and Richard Newman, Alvarez & Marsal.



Erin Bryan

Erin Bryan re-joined the international law firm Dorsey & Whitney LLP in its Minneapolis office, where her practice focuses on commercial bankruptcy, restructuring, and insolvency, as well as consumer regulatory and compliance matters. Formerly, Erin served as a Senior Corporate Counsel for one of the United States' largest banks, and drawn on her experience advising its residential mortgage, auto loan & lease, student loan, personal loan, deposit account, branch banking, and credit card businesses regarding bankruptcy law. Erin also has experience representing clients in a wide variety of complex transactional matters and bankruptcy litigation in the financial services, healthcare, technology, and energy industries. Erin has been recognized as an Up & Coming Attorney by Minnesota Lawyer Magazine and as one of the 40 Best LGBT Attorneys Under 40 in 2017 by The National LGBT Bar Association.

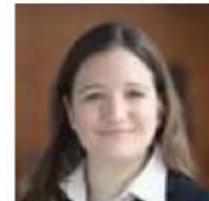


Bess Creswell

Bess Creswell was sworn in as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Alabama on August 9, 2018. Pictured below are IWIRC members attending the investiture ceremony.



Rosa Evergreen, a partner in Arnold & Porter's bankruptcy group, was selected by the DC Bar as the co-recipient of the Laura N. Rinaldi Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year award, which award was given to her by the DC bar on June 12, 2018 as part of the DC Bar's Celebration of Leadership. This award recognized Rosa for her dedication to pro bono service throughout her career, and specifically for her representation in 2017, pro bono, of a tenant association at an 11-building apartment complex in the District of Columbia, which building was subsidized through a low-income housing tax credit program. Rosa was co-counsel with Bread for the City in the bankruptcy of the tenant's landlord in the District of Columbia Bankruptcy Court. More information on the case can be found on the blog hosted by Bread for the City: <https://breadforthecity.org/blog/bread-for-the-city-and-arnold-porter-win-hard-fought-victory-along-with-terrace-manor-tenants/>. In discussing this case, Rosa commented that "while I have been active in pro bono my entire career at A&P, it was especially rewarding to be able to use my bankruptcy background to help co-counsel in a case where having a bankruptcy lawyer be part of the team was critical to helping the tenants. I feel privileged that Bread for the City asked me to co-counsel with them in this matter and that my bankruptcy experience helped the tenants, specifically to secure safe, habitable and affordable housing."



Rosa Evergreen



Sarah Fowler



Jeana Goosmann

Sarah Fowler has joined the team at Mattingly Burke Cohen & Biederman LLP in Indianapolis, Indiana as a Senior Associate.

Jeana Goosmann, CEO & Managing Partner of the Goosmann Law Firm is continuing to expand her law firm. Goosmann opened their Omaha Nebraska office in July 2017 and recently expanded their space in July 2018. Omaha is the firm's third office location in addition to their offices stemming up and down the I-29 corridor in Sioux City, Iowa and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Jeana Goosmann started the firm from the ground up in 2009 and since then has grown to a team of 45 and counting.



Caireen Hanert

Caireen E. Hanert, IWIRC Western Canada Chair, has joined Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP as a partner in the Restructuring & Insolvency and Commercial Litigation groups. Caireen has a broad range of restructuring and commercial litigation experience in a wide variety of industries. She has also worked on cross-border matters involving both Canadian and US courts. Caireen recently argued before the Supreme Court of Canada – a bucket list item for most Canadian litigators! – as part of a case that will shape how insolvencies are handled in the oil and gas industry for years to come. Caireen has been involved with IWIRC Western Canada network since 2011 and has been a member of the IWIRC Regional Programming Committee for several years.



Melissa Kibler

Melissa S. Kilber, Senior Managing Director and Chicago office leader of Mackinac Partners was elected as Treasurer of the American College of Bankruptcy (the "College") following voting at its annual meeting held in Washington, DC on March 17, 2018. The College is an honorary public service association of bankruptcy and insolvency professionals who are invited to join as Fellows based on a proven record of the highest standards of professionalism plus service to the profession and their communities. A Certified Public Accountant and highly credentialed insolvency advisor, Kibler brings to her role experience serving in leadership positions at numerous other industry organizations, including as President of the American Bankruptcy Institute, a Director of INSOL International, and Chair of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Bankruptcy Task Force.



Marilee Mark

Marilee A. Mark, a Miami director of the IWIRC Florida Network, recently formed her own law firm, Cimo Mazer Mark PLLC, and is a shareholder and founding partner. Marilee concentrates her practice on complex bankruptcy and insolvency litigation, with a particular emphasis on representing court-appointed fiduciaries and other plaintiffs in director and officer liability, professional liability, complex avoidance, and bank liability litigation. Cimo Mazer Mark is a boutique insolvency and commercial litigation firm that focuses on fiduciary litigation and insurance recovery. With the formation of Cimo Mazer Mark, Marilee and her partners have the ability to handle complex fiduciary and insurance litigation within one firm dedicated to maximizing value for their clients.



Kathleen Muthing

Kathleen Muthig has joined the firm of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. Kathleen brings a strong foundation in consumer bankruptcy law to HSB's full service Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights team, where she will work alongside Mary Caskey, Stan McGuffin and Lizzie Weston. A graduate of Furman University and the University of South Carolina School of Law, Kathleen represents clients with consumer and commercial bankruptcies in Chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 matters. She also has experience representing businesses in state court including the Administrative Law Court.



Lara Shiekh

Lara Sheikh and **Katina Broutzas** co-authored a practice note on Data Privacy in Bankruptcy, which was published in Thompson Reuters.



Katina Broutzas

Claire Wheldon was promoted to Vice President at PWC Canada and is based out of their Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, office.



Claire Wheldon

Blanche Zelmanovich has joined Ernst & Young LLP New York office as a Managing Director in the firm's Restructuring Advisory Services practice. Blanche has over fifteen years of experience advising debtors and creditors in both in-court and out-of-court restructuring transactions including financial and operational turnarounds, insolvency, transaction due diligence, fraud and forensic investigations and damages. She has advised distressed clients on a variety of matters including liquidity management and forecasting, business plan development, strategic alternative analysis, lender and stakeholder negotiations, as well as, the administrative aspects of Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. Blanche was recognized as an American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) 40 Under 40 Honoree for the inaugural class.



Blanche Zelmanovich

Network News

ABI Central States IWIRC Cocktail Reception

ABI Central States took place June 7-9, 2018. This was a co-sponsored event from the Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin networks. It was well attended with roughly 30 attendees. Women from all three networks had a wonderful time getting to know each other. It was a great kickoff to the weekend.



Central Ohio

In late April, 2018, several members of the Central Ohio Net-WIRC volunteered their time to promote financial literacy. The network partnered with three local non-profit organizations that assist women and their families. Members spoke in a panel format at each organization, addressing topics ranging from bankruptcy to student loans to predatory lending. We received very positive feedback and look forward to doing more outreach programs on a regular basis. Special thanks to Melissa Linville and Sondra Bryson of the Legal Aid Society of Columbus for facilitating these events, and to panelists Laura Atack, Brenda Bowers, Danielle Demming, Faye English, Pam Maggied, Victoria Powers, Christy Prince, Susan Rhiel and Jill Whitworth.

A festive Happy Hour at Hofbrauhaus on June 7th kicked off the summer break. Members enjoyed time on the patio with German food and drink. Monthly meetings will resume in September.

Chicago

The Chicago Network actively supports the programming of the Chicago CARE (Credit Abuse Resistance Education) program continues to serve Chicagoland, making financial literacy presentations to local schools and community organizations. Chicago CARE is part of a national, nonprofit, community service program that uses bankruptcy and other financial professionals (we have expanded to partner with TransUnion, one of the major credit reporting agencies) to teach young adults the basics of financial literacy. We provide useful tips and highlight potential pitfalls related to the use of credit cards, the importance of credit scores, the dangers of and strategies to prevent identity theft issues regarding student loans and bankruptcy.



Chicago CARE has had a busy 2018 so far, presenting 69 times at 21 unique venues by 43 active volunteers. This explosive growth is due to our wonderful and committed volunteer base. Among those presentations included discussions at Lake Community High School where Susan Poll Klaessy (Foley & Lardner) and Mark Hebbeln (Foley & Lardner) met with high school students to discuss the fundamentals of credit scores. CARE Volunteers Scott Alsterda (Nixon Peabody), the Honorable Janet S. Baer (N.D. Ill.), Erica Wax (Law Clerk, N.D. Ill.) and Ryan Chapin (Law Clerk, N.D. Ill.) presented at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago as part of its "Legal Issues for Artists and Designers" program. The school year ended on a high note with presentations at the Heartland Human Care Services where our volunteers presented to a group of adults on students loans.

In other great news, CARE's pilot program for online calendaring to make volunteering easier has been a huge success. To register to volunteer, please visit the Chicago CARE web site (www.CAREChicago.org) and click the Volgistics link.

Chicago CARE would like to thank its dedicated volunteers for making the first half of 2018 a resounding success and we look forward to continuing our great work this fall. Chicago CARE also would like to thank Kevin Morse and the Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr bankruptcy group for hosting the Care Spring 2018 Networking

We look forward to a busy and productive fall semester in the short term and to even greater successes in the long term. Join us and show us that you CARE! As always, you can find us at www.CAREchicago.org.

China

IWIRC's China Network hosted a panel discussion on 'A comparative analysis of the winding up of companies in Cayman, BVI and China' at the offices of JunHe LLP, in Shanghai on June 14th, 2018. Vicky Lord (Harneys, Hong Kong & Shanghai) and Ming Dong (JunHe LLP, Shanghai) discussed aspects company insolvency, liquidation procedures, effect of liquidation, the duty of liquidator, and foreign recognition, etc., and made comparisons between Cayman, BVI and China. A panel discussion followed.

The event was attended by around 20 participants. The attendees enjoyed the thought provoking discussion over a lite lunch followed by the opportunity to networking with IWIRC members and friends of various professional background and look forward to the coming events this year.

Florida

IWIRC's Florida Network is proud to announce that nine of its members have been ranked in the Top 50 Women Lawyers in the State of Florida by Super Lawyers in its 2018 edition. Congratulations to:

Leyza Blanco, Sequor Law, Miami

Lara Roeske Fernandez, Trenam Law, Tampa

Elizabeth A. Green, Baker & Hostetler, Orlando

Barbara A. Hart, Stichter Riedel Blain & Postler, P.A., Tampa

Elena Paras Ketchum, Stichter Riedel Blain & Postler, P.A., Tampa

Mindy A. Mora, now Hon. Mindy Mora, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida

Patricia Ann Redmond, Stearns Weaver, Miami

Lynn Welter Sherman, Adams and Reese, Tampa

Lori V. Vaughan, Trenam Law, Tampa

In connection with the 2018 Eleventh Circuit Judicial Conference, the Florida Network hosted a dinner at JJ's Bistro in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL with bankruptcy judges from all over Florida and Georgia. In attendance were **Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff** and **Hon. Mindy A. Mora** from the Southern District of Florida; **Hon. Caryl E. Delano**, **Hon. Catherine Peek McEwen** and **Hon. Roberta A. Colton** from the Middle District of Florida; **Hon. Jeffery W. Cavender** and **Hon. Sage M. Sigler** from the Northern District of Georgia; and **Hon. Michele J. Kim** from the Southern District of Georgia. The Judges and Florida Network members enjoyed great Italian food, charming atmosphere, and getting away from the conference to enjoy a local restaurant. The event was a success and the Florida Network hopes to host a similar dinner for the judges each year.





On July 27, 2018, Members, Sponsors and Friends of the Georgia, Florida, Gulf Coast and Carolinas IWIRC Networks joined together for a luncheon at the Ritz Carlton's Salt Restaurant during the ABI Southeast Workshop in Amelia Island, Florida. Attendees enjoyed a delightful 3-course meal in a casually elegant coastal setting, while catching up with old and new friends after a day of conference panels.

On May 31, 2018 IWIRC Florida along with KapilaMukamal hosted a luncheon and panel presentation in Miami. The panel topic was Tax Issues in Receiverships and Insolvency Matters. Speakers **Leyza Blanco** (Sequor Law), **Jacqueline Calderin** (Agentis Law), **Lesley Johnson** (KapilaMukamal), and **Megan Murray** (Trenam Law) did an excellent job of presenting informative and relevant information on tax issues that may arise in receiverships and insolvency cases. The panel was so popular that the speakers plan to make the presentation again in Tampa, Florida later this year.



Gulf Coast

Below is a photo from IWIRC Gulf Coast's Party of 8 Luncheon at Mary Mahoney's in Biloxi on June 20th. From L to R: Judge Katherine Samson, Jodi Cooke, Alicia Bendana, Kristi Johnson, and Karin Garvin.



Hong Kong

Black Tie Dinner

The Hong Kong network hosted its fourth annual Black Tie Dinner at the Hong Kong Club on 14 June 2018 and proved to be the most successful yet! With all 18 tables selling out within 8 minutes of going on sale, it was a wonderful evening that provided a perfect opportunity for 180 members and friends of our industry to join together, catch up and make new acquaintances.

Through the tremendous support of the vendors who donated prizes and attendees who bought tickets, the evening raised HKD34,400 for the local charity, Pathfinders, which is an organization helping Hong Kong's most vulnerable babies, children and migrant women.



Check out more photos of the glitz and glamour on the IWIRC website.

IWIRC-Out

On Wednesday 25 July the Hong Kong network hosted a yoga class as part of our IWIRC-Out series (following from a successful XYZ spin class last summer). This event was an exclusive benefit for members only.

Thank you to Stephenson Harwood for hosting the vinyasa flow class led by Karen Chan from FTI Consulting. Following the class, our yogis had an opportunity to network with fellow members over a healthy breakfast before heading to the office. What a great way to start a Wednesday! Please email iwirchk@gmail.com if you have ideas for anything else you would like to see in the IWIRC-Out series.



HONG KONG UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2018 – IWIRC Charity Quiz

Back by popular demand, the IWIRC Charity Quiz will take place in September where teams will battle it out for bragging rights and the chance to donate the money raised through the event to a charity of their choosing. For more information, please email iwirchk@gmail.com.

October 2018 – Speed Networking

Another firm favourite in the Hong Kong calendar, the Speed Networking Lunch will take place in October – where IWIRC members and friends will be able to have a lovely lunch and network with lots of different people as they move around tables in between courses! If you are interested, please contact iwirchk@gmail.com for more information.

Houston

The IWIRC Houston network just hosted a Whiskey Tasting With The Judges event on July 17th, with the support of the IWIRC DFW Network. This was the first event since we've relaunched the Houston network, and we had a great turnout. The sommelier introduced our attendees to seven different whiskeys, and two of the Houston bankruptcy judges were in attendance.



Maryland

Crypto World: How Well Do You Understand Blockchain, Business and Law?

On June 27, 2018, the Greater Maryland Network of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) and the Consumer Bankruptcy Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) hosted this informative event to explore emerging cryptocurrencies and blockchain technologies. IWIRC board member Joyce A. Kuhns, (Offit Kurman, P.A.) moderated the panel discussion that featured Cate Hopkin (Yumkas, Vidmar, Sweeney & Mulrenin); Brian Dykstra (Atlantic Data Forensics); Bud Stephen Tayman (Bud Stephen Tayman, P.A.); and Rasneek Gujral (Richard D. London & Associates, P.C.).

The event took place at Venable LLP's offices where guests enjoyed dinner and networking beginning at 5:30p.m., kicking the program off at 6:00p.m.

The panel addressed a variety of informative topics, including:



- A technical and pragmatic explanation of the underlying technologies;
- The creation of security interests, and other uniform commercial code considerations;
- Regulatory frameworks;
- The interplay of "smart" contracts;
- Issues involving cryptocurrency valuation and assignment in the insolvency context;
- How new cryptocurrencies are handled in the context of preferences, fraudulent transfers, and disputes regarding property of bankruptcy estates.

For additional information and photographs taken at the event: <https://www.msba.org/blog/crypto-world-blockchain-business-and-the-law/>.

Annual Spa Event

Once again, members of the Greater Maryland Chapter joined to get pampered at the annual spa event that took place at About Faces, in Canton on Wednesday, July 25, 2018. The ladies arrived at 5 p.m. for a mini-spa treatment and networking. Sandwiches, dessert and wine were served as the group relaxed and chatted with fellow IWIRC-Greater Maryland members.

The women who attended this event had their choice of exceptional spa services, including a mini-facial, 30 minute massage, classic manicure, express pedicure, and even a shampoo & blow out!

Once again this year, the coordinators of the event collected donations of diapers, clothing, toys and equipment for children ages 0-5 years to be given to Sharebaby. Sharebaby is a Baltimore based charitable organization that collects and distributes diapers, clothing and other basic goods to families in need through community-based organizations.



Minnesota

On July 17, 2018 the Minnesota Network hosted a fundraising event for the Spoonbill Foundation, on behalf of member Sarah Doerr, whose 5 year old son Max was diagnosed with a rare degenerative disease called PKAN . The disease currently has no cure or treatment, but scientist and doctors at Oregon Health and Science University are raising funds to start a clinical trial. It was a very successful event, with \$2,250 raised for a great cause. If you'd like to donate, or obtain more information about Max, the Spoonbill Foundation or PKAN, please go to the following links:

The Spoonbill Foundation is a registered non-profit with the IRS, EIN 81-5080532. (For more information, see <http://nbiacure.org/spoonbill-foundation/>). You may also read about the Doerr-Olsen's fundraising efforts here: <https://www.youcaring.com/spoonbillfoundation-1144075>.



**IWIRC-MINNESOTA PRESENTS:
A FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT THE
SPOONBILL FOUNDATION
IN HONOR OF PKAN WARRIOR MAX DOERR-OLSEN**

New England

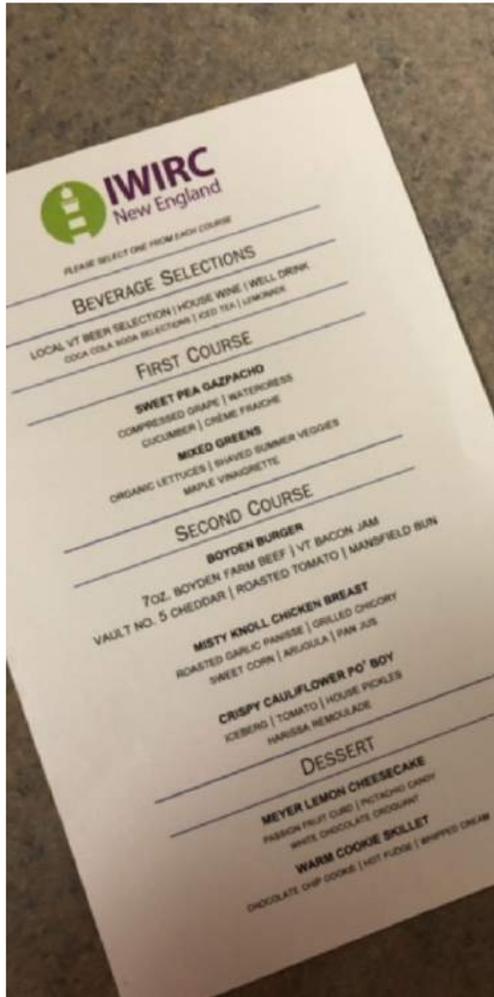
The New England Network kicked off the summer with networking in Maine! On May 17, IWIRC New England hosted a networking happy hour at Hardshore Distilling in Portland, Maine. About a dozen attendees networked and enjoyed the spring weather.



On June 28, despite an early summer heatwave that is uncharacteristic for New England, the ladies of IWIRC New England gathered for a program called "It's All About Relationships: Business Development for Women," presented by Monica Blacker of BAX Advisors. Monica discussed some of the resources and strategies that may be used by women in the insolvency and restructuring profession for successful networking and career advancement.



The New England Network continued their fair-weather festivities with a lively lunch at the ABI Annual Northeast Bankruptcy Conference in Stowe, Vermont. On July 13, thirty conference attendees gathered at the lovely Solstice restaurant at the Stowe Mountain Lodge to network to catch up with old friends and make new connections.



New Jersey



On May 17, 2018, IWIRC-NJ held a cocktail party at Erini in Ewing, NJ, for the Trenton & Camden Offices of the United State Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey and honoring Judi LeCompte on her retirement from the Clerk's office. Judi has worked in the Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office for 26 years. With a focus on operations, she played an instrumental role in the court's transition to electronic filing, and later to NextGen. She was also tasked with implementing new policies and procedures developed by the Board of Judges and the Clerk. In addition, Judi was the Court's forms specialist for almost 20 years, and has played a large part in the development and drafting of nearly all the court's local forms. Judi authored the court's periodic Notices to Efilers, chaired the court's Internal Advisory Committee, and oversaw the court's quality assurance practices. Prior to her career at the court, Judi was a paralegal at the law firm of Wollman and Gazdzinski in Cherry Hill, NJ. The event at Erini was well attended by both Clerk's Offices, New Jersey Bankruptcy judges, and members of the Bar. IWIRC-NJ wishes Judi well on her retirement.

On June 27, 2017, IWIRC-NJ held a recruiting event at TopGolf in Edison, New Jersey. The event was well attended by current members and a few potential members. The women of IWIRC-NJ enjoyed networking while playing some fun competitive games.



Ontario

IWIRC Ontario Network hosted an afternoon of croquet and lawn bowling as this year's summer marquee event. On June 26, 2018, the attendees gathered at the local Lawn Bowling and Croquet Club on a beautiful summer day to enjoy lessons, matches, and a barbeque dinner with homemade lemon meringue pie! It was a wonderful event!





Singapore

IWIRC Singapore Breakfast Bites Event: Panel Discussion Event on “Disruption in the Legal Services Industry: Are you Ready for it?”

IWIRC Singapore hosted a thought-provoking, interactive discussion on assessing the challenges of the legal services industry with an all-women panel line-up cutting across the industry- from the Future Law Innovation Programme run by the Singapore Academy of Law, the Singapore Corporate Counsel Law Association to NewLaw providers such as Law In Order, KorumLegal and GLS Law.

Some of the interesting questions that were raised were:

- While disruption is a cool “buzzword”, what does it really mean?
- What are some practical examples of disruption beyond the use of AI and technology?
- How does globalization affect disruption?
- Should we fear disruption or embrace it?
- How will disruption affect the training of junior lawyers if their traditional tasks are taken over by technology?
- How does disruption impact a lawyer’s role as a trusted adviser?
- Why would a lawyer choose to join NewLaw over OldLaw?
- How will the Singapore legal industry be impacted by the recent trend of accounting firms starting law practices?

The panellists were:

- Noemie Alintissar, Manager, Future Law Innovation Programme, Singapore Academy of Law
- Mel Nirmala, Executive Director, Singapore Corporate Counsel Association
- Pooja Sinha, Partner, GLS Law Firm Pte. Ltd.
- Tanya Rolfe, GM and Managing Consultant, SEA, KorumLegal
- Shae Teo, Director Singapore and Legal Counsel, Law in Order

The panel was moderated by Elaine Beh, Partner, Stephenson Harwood (Singapore) Alliance and introduced by Lauren Tang, Partner, Stephenson Harwood (Singapore) Alliance.

Stephenson Harwood (Singapore) Alliance was the venue sponsor and Stephenson Harwood (Singapore) Alliance and GLS Law Firm Pte. Ltd were event co-sponsors.

The event was co-organised by Lauren Tang and Pooja Sinha, both directors of IWIRC Singapore.

Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Chapter was proud to organize a successful IWIRC event in June, in conjunction with the American Bankruptcy Institute Central States conference held in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Women from multiple IWIRC chapters enjoyed an evening at the Lake Geneva School of Cooking, where they prepared a 4-course meal. The ladies prepared crab cakes, a wonderful salad, an entree and topped it all off with a flourless chocolate cake. Oh, and there was wine. Lots of wine. And, much to everyone's surprise, the food tasted great! The women relaxed, connected and laughed (a lot). To be sure, fun was had by all. The Wisconsin Chapter looks forward to future events where they can join forces with other local chapters for more engaged networking events.



Update Your Member Profile!

IWIRC's administrative office uses the information on your online IWIRC membership profile to keep in touch. If you don't update your profile, IWIRC can't contact you! Please take a moment to log on and make sure your personal profile information is up to date. If you have any questions or need assistance, contact Lori Musselman, IWIRC Administrative Assistant, at 434-939-6002 and lmusselman@iwirc.com.





Upcoming Network Activities

Planning an event? Click [here](#) to check out a comprehensive list of insolvency and bankruptcy related events around the world from 2018 through 2022. You can also view and download the calendar on the IWIRC website. We hope that you find this information a valuable resource when planning your travel and conference schedules and also for use when planning local and regional events!

Wednesday, September 05, 2018

Southern California Network

[Join SoCal IWIRC and IEBF for a Social Hour at the Riverside Art Museum!](#)

Sunday, September 09, 2018

New England Network

[IWIRC Tailgate and New England Patriots Game \(Members Only\)](#)

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

New York Network

[IWIRC NY - Mixology Event & Elections Info Session](#)

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Virginia Network

[IWIRC Happy Hour in Charlottesville, Virginia](#)

Monday, September 17, 2018

London Network

[IWIRC London Network - Be Informed "Real Estate Market & CVAs" \(Non Members\)](#)

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Michigan Network

[When, Why, and How: A Crash Course to Improve Your Mediation Skills](#)

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Washington DC Network

[Can You Escape?](#)

Friday, September 28, 2018

Northern California Network

[Inaugural IWIRC on the Vine Conference](#)

Thursday, October 11, 2018

New England Network

[Cooking at The KITCHEN with IWIRC New England](#)

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

European Network

[2018 International Insolvency & Restructuring Symposium](#)

Thursday, November 08, 2018

Virginia Network

[IWIRC-Virginia Annual Wine Tasting Scheduled for November 8, 2018](#)

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Hong Kong Network

[IWIRC Asia Second Annual Restructuring and Insolvency Conference](#)

Newsletter Submissions

The Newsletter relies on contributions from IWIRC's networks and members. We are always looking for the following content:

- Summaries - and photographs! - of network events;
- Member news, such as job transitions, promotions, awards, speeches, and publications; and
- Short (1-4 page) articles regarding both bankruptcy and insolvency topics and professional development topics. We are especially looking for fresh, new pieces that have not been previously published.

The Newsletter is published quarterly. Please note the following submission deadlines:

- Fall Newsletter November 2, 2018
- Winter Newsletter February 1, 2019
- Spring Newsletter May 3, 2019
- Summer Newsletter August 2, 2019

To submit news and articles, please contact IWIRC's Acting Newsletter Director **Karen Fellowes (DLA PIPER CANADA LLP)** at (403) 698-8787 and news@iwirc.com. ***Please note that we have a new email address to make submitting information easier!*** We look forward to hearing from you!



IWIRC Contacts

If you would like to:

- Introduce a new member to IWIRC;
- Join IWIRC; or
- Volunteer to take on a leadership role on one of our committees.

Please contact IWIRC Administrative Director Shari Bedker at (434) 939-6002 and info@iwirc.com.



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May 1, 2018 - August 1, 2018

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IWIRC kicks off its sponsorship drive at the Leadership Summit each year, and the 2019 sponsorship year is now in full swing. We hope you will consider sponsoring and supporting IWIRC in the coming year. The levels and opportunities have been revamped for 2019, so please visit <https://www.iwirc.com/about-us/sponsors/benefits> to find out more.

All pledges that are completed by 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 28, 2018 will be entered into a drawing to win your choice of an Echo Dot, Echo Show or Apple Airbuds!

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Treasurer **Leyza Blanco** (leyza.blanco@gray-robinson.com), and Vice-Treasurer **Jennifer Kimble** (jkimble@primeclerk.com).

Thank you for your support!

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Did you know that you can access the IWIRC International Facebook page directly from the iwirc.com site? Simply click on the Facebook logo in the top right hand corner and you'll be transported to the IWIRC International Facebook page, where you can stay on top of recent events, trends, news about fellow IWIRC members in the news, and connect with other IWIRC members around the Globe.



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