

# IWIRC NEWSLETTER

Member News



*Connecting Women Worldwide*



**Be Connected**



**Be Informed**



**Be Inspired**

## Goodbye but not Farewell by Shari Bedker

Dear IWIRC Friends,

At the risk of really dating myself, I started working with IWIRC in 1996. I became the owner of Armstrong & Associates (“A&A”) in 2008 having worked with all the clients since 1996. IWIRC has always been special to me as I officially became the Administrative Director for IWIRC in late 2002 working with the then IWIRC Chair, and my dear friend, the now Hon. Janet Bostwick. At the time I started working with IWIRC there were 286 members and only 7 networks. We now have 2,400 members and 57 networks-no wonder I can’t remember all your names now like I did in 1996. All of my IWIRC past chairs have become wonderful friends (especially those named Jennifer! 😊)

Over the past 28 years, I have met so many amazing women and heard so many uplifting stories as well as recounts of struggles, but the underlying theme has always been strength, growth and support of each other personally and professionally.

One of the biggest and most positive changes in the last 28 years is the exponential growth of IWIRC internationally. That had always been the vision for IWIRC by the three founders, Selina Melnik, Laureen Ryan and Martha Fetner, but it did take several years for IWIRC’s message to spread beyond North America, but when it did, it spread like wildfire! The personal benefit for me is I have met so many amazing women from all corners of the globe, which is why I was so excited that my “final” IWIRC event was held in Singapore.

I was incredibly honored and surprised at the presentation of the Hall of Fame award and the surprise attendance of my family at the Spring luncheon in April with so many of my North American friends in attendance. But that was then followed up by another surprise in Singapore from the E-board and a beautiful presentation by my friends from the Asia networks who each said thank you to me in their native languages-lots of ugly crying at that!

In Singapore, I made the offer to the women from Asia if they came to the 2025 Leadership Summit in Baltimore, if they wanted to explore the East Coast, I would be happy to pick them up and give them my “patented” D.C. tour (which Aruni Weerasekera can provide a testimonial on!) and/or bring them down to my 21 acres in Central Virginia at the foot hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Charlottesville, Virginia. It was pointed out to me that I basically invited all IWIRC members to my home. I am NOT rescinding the offer but will specify that I only have 6 extra beds for people,



**2013: IWIRC’s 20th Anniversary, Jennifer Meyerowitz, Shari Bedker and Judy Elkin**



**2024: IWIRC Leadership Summit in Singapore**



the other 2,394 of you will have to sleep in tents in the field if you all come at one time. 😊 Seriously, though I intend to keep hosting the annual hike in the Blue Ridge for my IWIRC network friends in the D.C. and Virginia networks and more than happy to provide a place to stay and/or advice on travel in this part of the U.S. for any of you.

Many people have asked what I will be doing in retirement after July 31, 2024. For a couple of years, I will work as a contractor for my successor, Alexandra "CC" Schnapp, who became the Administrative Director on July 1, 2024. I am especially pleased that CC will be the third woman to own the overall association management company that has managed IWIRC since its inception, following Suzanne Bingham and myself. I am even more pleased CC is my successor as she is a long time IWIRC member and I got to know her professionalism, attention to detail, and a genuinely wonderful person through IWIRC and her committee work. I currently have 3 fantastic, energetic granddaughters and a newborn grandson (who arrived while I was in Singapore!) so will have 4 grandchildren ages 4-newborn to hang out with! I have played clarinet with a community band and recently started playing in a community orchestra as well so hope to have time to actually practice and build on my musical skills. Likewise with my hobbies of photography and golf, I plan on getting out from behind my computer to get outside a lot more. My husband, Larry and I will be traveling without the pressure having to keep 100-500 people happy and organized. I have also been asked by the American College of Bankruptcy leadership to do an oral history so have asked Hon. Janet Bostwick to do that with me this fall and I in turn will interview her! You can be sure there will be mentions of IWIRC and its importance to the practice during those interviews.

I thank IWIRC for their support of me personally and professionally over the last 28 years. I would like to leave you all with one thing to think about as I know there are many of you who have very local practices. While the "International" in IWIRC can certainly apply to practice, I think it more aptly applies to the shared personal, professional experiences worldwide by women and the connection of everyone whether you are a sole practitioner in Iowa, USA or a Partner at a large global firm in Hong Kong, there is always common ground and always something to learn from each other. Besides, I KNOW that I am not the only IWIRC member who would be willing to share a meal, their home and their local history with anyone who may be traveling to their city or country.

Love you all!  
Shari



**2017: Leadership Summit, Cayman**



**2018: E-Retreat Hike**



**2024: IWIRC Spring Conference**

# Member News

**Katey Anderson** has started her own firm, Katherine Anderson Law PLLC.

**Angela Barkhouse** has joined Kroll as Managing Director and head of Offshore Restructuring. Based in the Cayman Islands, Angela will be focused on growing the business investigations, forensics, and asset recovery services.

**Hon. Lisa G. Beckerman** was the recipient of the 16th Annual Conrad B. Duberstein Memorial Award, given for Excellence and Compassion in the Bankruptcy Judiciary.

**Jill B. Bienstock** was promoted to the position of Senior Managing Director at PwC, effective July 1, 2024.

**Andrea Brennan**, a committee member of the IWIRC Europe Steering Committee, has been promoted to Partner at Simmons & Simmons. She will be part of the firm's Dispute Resolution, Restructuring and Special Situations team based in Dublin.

**Kara Casteel** of ASK LLP was named the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's 2024 Visionary of the Year for Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. During her campaign, Kara and her team—Team E-Race-Ing Cancer—raised nearly \$200,000 funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Dare to Dream project, which focuses on pediatric blood cancer treatments.

**Katie Clark** of Thompson Coburn LLP was recognized as one of D Magazine's 2024 Best Lawyers in Dallas.



**Kara Casteel**

**Jennifer Colegate** of Collas Crill was a speaker at the latest Cayman RISA seminar discussing the Cayman Restructuring Officer regime.

**Rosa Evergreen**, a partner in Arnold & Porter's bankruptcy and restructuring group, was the editor for a new book recently published by the ABI: "Driving the Recovery Bus; Augmenting Creditor Recoveries Through Claims Brought by a Litigation Trustee" (Gordon Z. Novod was the author). Rosa and Gordon were featured on a podcast in June by the ABI discussing the book. The podcast is available on the ABI website at [this link](#).

**Barbara Galvin** was recently promoted to Partner in William Fry LLP in Dublin.

**Marina Hadjisoteriou**, of Michael Kyprianou Law Firm, has been ranked as a Leading Individual for Dispute Resolution in Cyprus by Legal 500.

**Alecia Johns** (Conyers) and **Nienke Lillington** (Campbells) spent a wonderful week in Singapore at the International Insolvency Institute's Annual Conference and were both inducted into the III NextGen Class XIII.

**Diana Santos Johnson** of Waldrep Wall Babcock & Bailey PLLC received the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA) Citizen Lawyer Award.



**III NextGen Conference**

**Martha Kallenou** of Grant Thornton Specialist Services (Cayman) Ltd has been promoted to Manager.

**Fiona MacAdam** of Walkers moderated an online RISA Cayman panel on the UK Restructuring Plans: Lessons from Adler and Beyond.

**Rebecca Matthews** joined Frost Brown Todd (FBT)'s Bankruptcy & Restructuring Practice Group in the firm's Dallas office.

**Jennifer McLain McLemore** of Williams Mullen was elected to serve a two-year term as Vice President of Communications and Information Technology on the ABI Board of Directors.

**Adine S. Momoh**, At-Large Director of IWIRC's International Board, received the Marcy S. Wallace Award, one of Mitchell Hamline Law Review's two Wallace-Lerner Awards for Excellence in Leadership.

**Sue W. Moore** joined Dentons to lead their Restructuring and Insolvency Practice in the UK, Ireland and Middle East.

**Sue W. Moore** (Dentons) and **Jo Robinson** (EY) won the Insolvency Practitioners Association (IPA) Award for D&I Champions as a result of their work on the IWIRC London 'Realise Your Potential' Mentoring Programme.

**Sarah Primrose** of King & Spalding was named "On the Rise" (Rising Star) in Florida by Law.com/Daily Business Review.

**Elizabeth Rogers** joined Landis Rath & Cobb LLP as a bankruptcy associate.

**Hon. Elizabeth S. Stong** received the American Bar Association's Mayre Rasmussen Award for the Advancement of Women in International Law in May at the annual meeting of the ABA International Law Section in Washington, DC. She will also become the chair of the ABA Judicial Division National Conference of Federal Trial Judges in August. She also completed the London Marathon in April in 4:28.

**Jennifer Colegate** (Collas Crill), **Rebecca Findlay** (Ogier), **Hannah Gethin** (Kroll) and **Mehreen Siddiqui** (Maples) were all panelists at the FIRE Americas: Cayman conference, held from June 5th to 7th at the Ritz-Carlton in the Cayman Islands! IWIRC Cayman also sponsored the opening drinks session for the conference which was well attended by many Cayman-based IWIRC members.

**Gemma Bellfield** (Ogier), **Alecia Johns** (Conyers) and **Grainne King** (Harneys) undertook the long journey to Singapore to represent Cayman at the IWIRC Leadership Summit.



**Hon. Elizabeth S. Stong**



**FIRE Americas**



**Alecia Johns, Gemma Bellfield and Grainne King**

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# Beyond Work and IWIRC

The IWIRC Communications Committee is launching the “Beyond Work and IWIRC” initiative to learn more about IWIRC members.

Click below and in just a few sentences tell us about your interests outside of work and IWIRC and attach one photograph relevant to your interest. For example, if you love traveling, then you could attach a photo from your most recent trip.

We are looking forward to your responses. This will be a great conversation starter for IWIRC events!

[\*\*Click here to contribute!\*\*](#)

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## Congratulations on these fantastic achievements!

Have you recently changed jobs? Been published? Written an article? Received a promotion? We'd love to share and celebrate your professional news!

Send your submissions to [news@iwirc.com](mailto:news@iwirc.com) to be featured in future IWIRC member news communications.



**IWIRC**

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