



# Women Lawyers of Franklin County

“We Are Our Own Best Resource!”

[www.wlfc.ws](http://www.wlfc.ws)

**Kerry R. Green, President**  
**Monica L. Waller, President-Elect**

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**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2012**

## *President's Message*

Dear Membership and Sisters in the Profession,

It is with great pride in our organization that I send my first message as WLFC's President. As I sit to write this note, I am in awe of all that our organization has accomplished this membership year and also mindful of recent news from the OSBA and the National Association of Women Lawyers directly calling us to action.

The findings of the OSBA's 2011 report on gender fairness in the profession and the 2011 NAWL report are both promising and alarming. The OSBA report concludes that “while overt or blatant [ ] examples of gender bias are very rarely found today in the legal workplace, they have been replaced with pervasive, seemingly accepted attitudes and practices that continue to have a disparate impact on women lawyers.” (Report, p. 20.) The OSBA report cites marked increases in the numbers of women judiciary, while also noting significant discrepancies in pay; associate percentages v. partner placement; and the perceptions and attitudes of women v. men lawyers. Women, by nearly a 3-1 margin, said that they believe it is easier for men to practice law. The OSBA report recommends further discussion on whether the problem of gender bias in the legal profession has been “solved.” The 2011 NAWL report showed that women's ranks in firms are thinning. For the first time since NAWL started reporting on private practice statistics in 2006, there was a decline in the percentage of women lawyers who are associates and non-equity partners in the nation's largest firms. We have posted the NAWL report on our LinkedIn webpage and I am happy to provide a copy of the OSBA gender fairness report to anyone who wants one. I am hoping that over the remainder of this membership year, you will join us at events and activities to frankly consider these findings.

The 2011-2012 membership year is off to a wonderful start. Several items are worth mentioning.

Our membership is strong and growing. As of the date I write this message, we currently have on record **200** members and we continue to add members every day. With Fall appearances at Ohio State's Moritz College of Law and Capital Law School, we have increased our student membership. And we continue this year to offer student memberships for free. With our commitment to the development of women in the profession, we are delighted to bring these new members into our fold and provide them with mentoring and learning opportunities. If you see a law student or a new member at a luncheon meeting, reach out a hand and introduce yourself.

Our dining circle initiative is alive and well with over 100 participants this year. The dining circle initiative, in its fourth year, is a wonderful way to get involved in our organization, to meet other members, and to mentor younger/newer professionals. If you haven't joined, please contact Kelli Stiles get signed up for this easy (and rather tasty) networking activity.

Please do peruse the rest of our newsletter for current events and upcoming activities including our C.O.S.I. Party, set for late April. Also, WLFC committed itself to collect donations on behalf of the YWCA and the Ronald McDonald house over the course of this year. Look for opportunities to donate items and your time on the listserv. Finally, if you have not done so, please join us on LinkedIn and Facebook. We post articles of interest, activities, CLE opportunities, and job postings.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events where we will continue to provide avenues for encouragement and support to women in the profession. **WE ARE OUR OWN BEST RESOURCE!**

Sincerely,  
Kerry R. Green

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### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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## *"LET'S DINE!"*

### **WLFC Dining Circle Update**

The 2011-2012 season of the Dining Circle Initiative has been in full swing since the Kick-Off Breakfast at the Columbus Bar Association in October.

There is record participation this season with over 100 WLFC members meeting approximately once per month to network with other women attorneys in our community and to informally mentor and support one another. Participants were divided into nine Dining Circle groups, with sizes ranging from ten to thirteen attorneys. Downtown Lunch and Downtown Happy Hour are the most popular locations and times, although there are also two Downtown Breakfast groups and a Northwest Lunch group.

With diverse participation from private practice attorneys, government attorneys, in-house counsel, members of the judiciary, and law students, there is something for everyone!

If you are interested in participating in the Dining Circle initiative, please contact WLFC Networking Chair, Kelli Stiles, at [kjstiles@jonesday.com](mailto:kjstiles@jonesday.com).

Anyone may join any Dining Circle, however, WLFC membership is required. WLFC Membership is only \$50.00 annually.

## ***Flapjack Flippers Wanted!***

Please join us in preparing breakfast for the Columbus YWCA Family Center on SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2012 at 6:30 a.m.

The YWCA Family Center provides emergency shelter and critical services to stabilize homeless families in central Ohio. If you would like to participate, or need additional information, please email Megan Goeser at [mgoeser@ffalaw.com](mailto:mgoeser@ffalaw.com).

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## **Women Helping Women Help the Community**

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, WLFC hosted its annual Holiday Party. Members mingled over cocktails and appetizers provided by Milo's Catering.

Through the generous donations of those in attendance, WLFC was able to present a donation of **\$575** for the Children's Hunger Alliance.

The donation money was raised in part through a raffle of items provided by the following local women-owned businesses:

Royal Factory  
VINO100  
The Flag Lady's Flag Store  
The Purple Turtle Caramel Company  
Buckeye Brittle  
Pattycake Bakery

Thank you to these generous donors!



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## **Save-the-Dates**

### **– Broaden Your Network and Give Back to Your Community –**

Thursday, February 23, 2012 @ CBA from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Janet Jackson, President and CEO of United Way of Central Ohio,  
Elfi Di Bella, President & CEO of YWCA Columbus, and  
Nichole Dunn, President & CEO of Women's Fund of Central Ohio,  
will discuss opportunities for expanding your network through community service.

The cost, which covers the expense for lunch, is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members.  
Please RSVP to Monica Waller at [mwall@lanealton.com](mailto:mwall@lanealton.com)

### **– Business Approaches for Personal Success –**

Thursday, March 22, 2012 @ CBA from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Borrow some tips from the board room to learn how to maximize your potential to grow your business, find a new position, or excel in your current position.

### **– April's Luncheon –**

Thursday, April 26, 2012 @ CBA from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for more information about our programming for April.

### **– Annual Meeting and Silent Auction –**

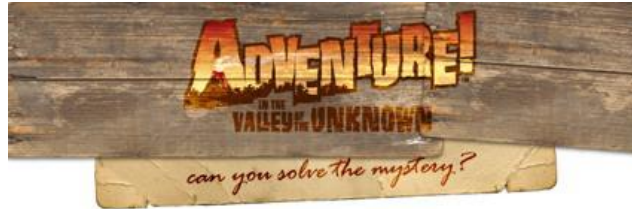
Thursday, May 24, 2012 @ CBA from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Join WLFC this year for our annual meeting. Come early to check out the goodies available in our silent auction and stay to enjoy lunch and our presentation. More details to come.



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# FAMILY NIGHT AT C.O.S.I.

That's right! It's Family Night at C.O.S.I. again  
with the Women Lawyers of Franklin County.

WLFC's Family Night will be held at C.O.S.I. on  
**Friday, April 27, 2012.**

The festivities will start at 5 pm and will end at 9 p.m.  
Jimmy John's and Soda will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The main attraction this year is:  
an Adventure exhibit which is FREE for C.O.S.I. members!

Also Featuring:



Are we really so different?

C.O.S.I. Member: admission is FREE for exhibits (\$3.50 for the movies).  
C.O.S.I. Non-member: \$9 per person (includes exhibits and movies).  
Ages 2 and under FREE!

Please RSVP by April 23, 2012 at Noon to:  
Michelle Spannhake at:  
manelli@ahlawltd.com



# Meet the 200th Member of WLFC: Gina M. Piacentino



Gina M. Piacentino

[gmp@oal-law.com](mailto:gmp@oal-law.com)

[www.oal-law.com](http://www.oal-law.com)

Gina is an attorney at O'Connor, Acciani & Levy Co., LPA. She joined the firm in 2011 as the sole attorney in their newly established Columbus office, and practices Personal Injury, Social Security Disability and Worker's Compensation law. As the "sole gal" staffing the Columbus office she is excited about the opportunities available in Women Lawyers of Franklin County to meet and connect with other female attorneys in the area.

Gina is actually a first time member of Women Lawyers of Franklin County. With a year under her belt in a new office she thought it was time to branch out and establish roots in the community. She was surprised that the timing worked out to establish her as the 200th member of our organization.

Gina is originally from Marion, Ohio. She attended Miami University, graduating *cum Laude* with a Bachelor's degree in 2005. Gina then attended the University of Akron College of Law where she graduated in 2009. She draws inspiration from her father, who is also an attorney, and when Gina is not practicing law, she can be found outdoors or training for a race.

As our 200th member, Gina is entitled to attend the remaining monthly luncheons for free. Make sure you say hello to her at our next event and welcome her to our great (and growing!) organization.



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# Congratulations to our 2011 WLFC Scholarship Recipient, Zoe Lamberson!

At the November 2011 Women Lawyers of Franklin County Luncheon, Zoe Lamberson was introduced as the 2011 WLFC Scholarship Recipient.

Ms. Lamberson attends The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law where she will receive her J.D. in May 2012. At Moritz, Ms. Lamberson was the 2010-11 Co-Chair for the Women's Legal Society. In that position she worked to form a mentoring relationship with the Women Lawyers of Franklin County and the Ohio Women's Bar Association. Her favorite project was partnering with the Ohio Golf Association to develop a program where Women's Legal Society members could learn to comfortably play the game.

Ms. Lamberson graduated *cum laude* from Wittenberg University with a Bachelor of Arts in communications, history, and Africana Studies in May 2008.

WLFC wishes Ms. Lamberson well in her future pursuits.



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## ***"ROCK THE BAR"***

**Received any Recognition Lately? WLFC wants to know!**

Super Lawyers/Rising Stars of 2010?  
Personal Honors/Achievements?  
New Practices/Partnerships?  
Bar Admissions/Certifications?  
Appointments/Elections/Leadership Positions?  
Acts of Service (or Opportunities)?

Don't be too modest. WLFC women deserve recognition and inspiration. Send notice of WLFC members' accomplishments at bar or in the community to [cchamberlin@porterwright.com](mailto:cchamberlin@porterwright.com). Don't forget to put "WLFC Rock the Bar" in the subject line.

## **Seeking Authors, Writers, Editorialists!**

Are you an WLFC member who wants to voice your opinion on an issue relevant to women and the law? Email your article to [cchamberlin@porterwright.com](mailto:cchamberlin@porterwright.com). Please put "WLFC Voices" in the subject line.



**Find WLFC on Facebook  
and LinkedIn.**