



Women Lawyers of Franklin County

“We Are Our Own Best Resource!”

www.wlfc.ws

Monica L. Waller, President
Eleana A. Drakatos, President-Elect

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2013

President's Message

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Dear Members,

Congratulations on surviving another Ohio winter! Now that we are well into March hopefully the snow is behind us and we can enjoy the beginning of spring.

Spring brings some exciting new programming for WLFC. In April, WLFC will invite speakers from Women at The Table to discuss their work in identifying, educating and developing women in our community aspiring to board positions. Promoting women to corporate boards not only helps the professional and economic development of women but, according to an article published in Bloomberg News last July, also increases the profitability of the corporations on whose boards these women serve. (For the full text of the article, go to www.businessweek.com/news/2012-07-31/women-as-directors-beat-men-in-company-stock-return)

The WLFC is also proud to be working in conjunction with the Columbus Bar Association and The Chester Group to offer a CLE entitled Ensuring Judicial Excellence in May. The program will bring together Ohio Supreme Court justices, judges from the court of appeals, common pleas court and municipal court, representatives from the local political parties, and other insiders to discuss judicial campaigns and the responsibilities and expectations upon taking the bench. We are overwhelmed by the support from the judiciary and the legal and political community for this program. It is shaping up to offer a fascinating view behind the scenes for anyone interested in the process. In addition to the CLE component we will have a reception where attendees will have the opportunity to mingle with the panelists and hear from our Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor.

This spring we will also have more opportunities to give back to the community through WLFC. On April 24th we are pairing up with Choices for a Denim Day. Choices provides support for families experiencing domestic violence and we are honored to help support this worthy cause. On April 27th a group of WLFC volunteers will go to the YWCA Family Center to cook and serve a meal for the families staying there. And last but not least, please mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting on May 21st where we will have our annual silent auction to raise money for our scholarship fund.

I encourage you all to take join us for these fantastic opportunities over the next several months and wish you a Happy Spring!

Very truly,

Monica L. Waller
President



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WLFC February Luncheon Focused on the Importance of Work-Life Balance

Our February luncheon featured speakers Beatrice Sowald and Gayle Parkhill-Krein, who shared their experiences and perspective on issues related to work-life balance. Their insightful remarks were much appreciated by our membership. Thank you to our Preseident-Elect, Eleni Drakatos for organizing this enjoyable event!

Flapjack Flippers Wanted!

Please join us in preparing breakfast for the Columbus YWCA Family Center on SATURDAY, April 27, 2013 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 Allison Haedt at aehaedt@jonesday.com.

WLFC Showed Support for CHOICES at January Luncheon

The WLFC January luncheon focused on issues related to domestic violence and featured a speaker from CHOICES, Columbus' direct service provider to central Ohio families experiencing domestic violence. The presentation included information about CHOICES' efforts to interrupt the cycle of domestic violence by responding to those in need, educating our community, and advocating for social change.

In addition, WLFC member Lorie McCaughan, Esq., Supervisor of the Civil Protection Unit of the Family Advocacy Clinic at Capital University, spoke about the legal process and challenges for victims of domestic violence.

In support of CHOICES, many of our attendees donated gift cards and other personal items for women and children.

For more information about CHOICES, visit their website at <http://choicescolumbus.org/blog/>.



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WLFC Holiday Party

Over eighty women, several judges, and even a few men enjoyed an evening of drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and raffling at the WLFC annual holiday party. With generously donated items such as a holiday makeover, barre classes, holiday sweets, and a lady's ergonomically correct executive office chair, party-goers helped raise over \$1,115 to support WLFC's chosen charity, the Children's Hunger Alliance.

What a success!

We greatly appreciated the raffle gifts that were kindly donated by local women business owners and locally-based regional and national businesses supportive of WLFC's mission and charity, including: Tim Hortons, pure barre, The Law Offices of Saia & Piatt, patty cake bakery, Studio B Wellness, King Business Interiors, Inc., Nicole Revish Salon & Spa, Kennedy's Kakes, Rowe Boutique, The Flag Lady's Flag Store, and the purple turtle caramel company, ltd.



2012 Holiday Party

WLFC November Luncheon Recap

On November 26, 2012, Julie Clark, founder, director and CEO of Doma, spoke to WLFC members and guests about issues facing sex-trafficking survivors. Doma is a nonprofit that provides support to sex-trafficking survivors here in Columbus and assistance to at risk children and families in Ethiopia, Uganda, Ukraine and Russia.

Visit <http://www.domaconnection.org> to learn more about Julie Clark and Doma. Thank you to our President-Elect, Eleni Drakatos for organizing this informative event.

Help Support WLFC's Scholarship Fund

Each year, WLFC awards one or more scholarships to outstanding female law students. WLFC could not do this without the generous support of its members and local law firms. Please consider making a donation to the Scholarship Fund this year. Checks should be made payable to the Columbus Bar Foundation (please note "WLFC Scholarship Fund" on your check) and sent to Megan Gonzalez, WLFC Treasurer, 8000 Ravine's Edge Court, Columbus, OH 43235.



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WLFC Participates in Annual Rock-N- Bowl

WLFC once again sponsored a four-member team for the February 2, 2013 Rock 'n Bowl. WLFC members Amy Vogel, Lisa Wafer, Allison Haedt, and Laura Nesbitt were paired with celebrity judge bowler Carrie Glaeden. Rock 'n Bowl is sponsored by the Columbus Bar Foundation and benefits the Center for Family Safety and Healing at Nationwide Children's Hospital. WLFC's team raised over \$500 to support this worthwhile cause! Special thanks to WLFC community service chairperson Allison Haedt for organizing WLFC's team.



*Front row: Amy Vogel, Lisa Wafer
Back row: Judge Carrie Glaeden, Allison Haedt, Laura Nesbitt*

Lucky WLFC Member Attended National Conference at WLFC's Expense

Congratulations to WLFC member Christy Prince, who WLFC sponsored to attend this year's [National Association of Women Lawyers Mid-Year Conference](#) on February 14-16, 2013 at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa in Orlando, Florida. The topic of the conference was "Stretched & Balanced: A Holistic Approach to Law Practice for the Woman Lawyer." The sponsorship covered the cost of conference registration fees.

WLFC Family Night to be Held in June

This year, WLFC's Family Night will be held in June at the Columbus Zoo, and will feature a Flag Day theme. Stay tuned for more information!



2012 Family Night →



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Make a Difference (and Earn 12 Hours of CLE) - Be a Mentor

A new term of the Supreme Court of Ohio Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring Program recently began, and additional mentors are needed to match to new lawyers in the Columbus area. Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring assists in the transition from law school to legal practice by pairing new lawyers with experienced attorneys. Participants meet six times for a total of nine hours at times and locations that are convenient for them. A mentoring plan and curriculum guides mentors and new lawyers in their discussions. Upon successful completion of the term, mentors receive twelve CLE credit hours. In a survey of the most recent mentoring group, 99% of mentors reported that they would recommend the program to their peers.

To learn more about the program or submit an application, go to <http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/AttySvcs/mentoring>. Also feel free to contact WLFC member Lori Keating at 614.387.9317 or lori.keating@sc.ohio.gov with any questions. Thank you!

Did you know. . .

- March is National Women's History Month.
- Currently, five Ohio appellate courts have female majorities including the Ohio Supreme Court.
- For the first time ever, an Ohio appellate court is comprised entirely of women: the Ninth District Court of Appeals.
- For more information, check out http://www.courtnewsOhio.gov/happening/2013/womensHistory_030713.asp.



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Save-the-Dates

– March Luncheon–

March 28, 2013 @ CBA from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun and quick-paced approach to business development with speed networking at our March luncheon. Participants will get a chance to meet and mingle in a format akin to speed dating. Come and join the fun!

– Women at the Table–

April 19, 2013 @ CBA from 12:30 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.

WLFC will host a panel discussion among supporters of Women at the Table, an organization devoted to helping promote women to for-profit and non-profit boards. Executive Director of Women at the Table, Chasity Kuttrus will moderate the discussion among panelists Yvette McGee Brown and Alycia Broz.

– Ensuring Judicial Excellence–

May 16, 2013 @ CBA from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., happy hour to follow

WLFC together with the Columbus Bar Association and The Chester Group will present informative panel discussions related to running for judicial office and ensuring judicial excellence.

Please RSVP to Eleana Drakatos at edrakatos@csalawfirm.com by November 30, 2012

– WLFC Annual Meeting and Silent Auction –

Tuesday, May 21, 2013 @ CBA from 11:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join WLFC on May 21 for our Annual Meeting and Silent Auction.
The Annual Meeting is *free* for members and lunch is provided.
More details coming soon!



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What are you wearing on Wednesday, April 24?

Why not wear jeans? Show that nobody deserves abuse or violence.

CHOICES and the Women Lawyers of Franklin County are asking employers and court administrators to allow staff to wear jeans on Wednesday, April 24 (or some day that week) to show support for survivors of domestic or sexual abuse/violence.

It is optional for employees to collect/donate a fee for wearing jeans to support [CHOICES](#).

What is Denim Day?

The event is premised on a 1998 decision in Rome in which a court overturned the rape conviction of a 46-year-old man because his 17-year-old victim was wearing tight jeans at the time of the assault.

CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence

CHOICES takes pride in being the primary direct service provider to central Ohio families experiencing domestic violence. Since 1977, they have provided counseling, shelter, crisis intervention, education, and community and legal support and advocacy to central Ohio residents facing domestic violence.

Make a fashion AND social statement on April 24!



Member Spotlight: WLFC's 225TH Member Betsy Stang Bullock



How long have you been a member of WLFC? Since approximately 2009.

Describe your involvement. I have attended many luncheons and some evening events.

Favorite thing about WLFC? Being able to meet and network with other women attorneys.

How long have you been a lawyer? I was admitted in 1980 but lived in Kentucky and worked at PNC Bank as a Trust & Tax Officer; I returned to Ohio & began using my license again in 1998.

Area of practice? After I moved back to Ohio, I gained experience with ERISA and 529 plans. I joined Clark & Lowe LLC in 2011 where I do estate planning, taxes, & formation of small businesses.

Favorite thing about practicing law? The people. I've met the nicest people over the years; and, if I can help them with whatever they need ~ whether it's a client or a co-worker ~ it's been a good day.



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OUR MEMBERS ROCK THE BAR!

**The following WLFC members were recognized in
Ohio Super Lawyers 2013 Magazine:**

Belinda S. Barnes - Super Lawyer; Top 50 Women Attorneys in Ohio, Top 25 Women Attorneys in Columbus
Sally W. Bloomfield - Super Lawyer
Eleni A. ("Eleana") Drakatos - Rising Star
Catherine T. Dunlay - Super Lawyer; Top 50 Women Attorneys in Ohio, Top 25 Women Attorneys in Columbus
Jenifer French - Rising Star
Loriann E. Fuhrer - Super Lawyer
Brigid E. Heid - Super Lawyer
Jan E. Hensel - Super Lawyer; Top 25 Columbus Women Lawyers
LeeAnn Massucci - Rising Star
Sandra R. McIntosh - Rising Star
Nikki Mesnard - Rising Star
Rebecca Price - Rising Star
Christy Prince - Rising Star
René Rimelspach - Rising Star
Elizabeth T. Smith - Super Lawyer
Beatrice K Sowald - Super Lawyer
Kelli Jones Stiles - Rising Star
Stephanie P. Union - Rising Star
Audrey E. Varwig - Rising Star
Lisa A. Wafer - Rising Star
Monica Waller - Rising Star
Amy Weis - Super Lawyer; Top 25 Columbus Women Lawyers



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Here are Some Other Recent Accomplishments by WLFC Members!

Belinda S. Barnes - is running for President-Elect of the OSBA. OSBA members can vote at OSBA's Annual Convention May 8-11, 2013.

Jenifer French: received the Martindale-Hubbell AV-rating and currently serves on Westerville City Council and the Westerville Parks Foundation.

Christina Hultsch: was named a co-chair, together with Mark Storts, associate general counsel at Nationwide Insurance, of KnowledgeNet, the local chapter of the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP), for a two-year term beginning January 2013.

LeeAnn Massucci: serves as President of the Capital University Law School Alumni Board and on the Board of Governors for the CBA.

Rosemary Ebner Pomeroy, WLFC past President: is now working as a staff attorney at Capital University Law School's National Center for Adoption Law and Policy. She is responsible for planning the National Adoption Day celebration, assisting with the National Child Welfare Moot Court, and assisting law students in the Foster Youth Advocacy Center. Rosemary is still maintaining her private adoption practice.

Rachel Sabo: recently opened The Friedmann Firm in Mechanicsburg, OH with partner Peter Friedmann. The firm focuses on the areas of employment law, real estate law, small business, estate planning, criminal defense and personal injury.

Emily Simmons: was recently promoted to Assistant Section Chief in the Court of Claims Defense Section of the Attorney General's Office.

Audrey E. Varwig: is a recent graduate of the Ohio State Bar Association's Leadership Academy.



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HAVE YOU ROCKED THE BAR TOO?

Received any Recognition Lately? WLFC wants to know!

Super Lawyers/Rising Stars?

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 Diane.Goderre@ThompsonHine.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 Diane.Goderre@ThompsonHine.com. Please put "WLFC Voices" in the subject line.



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WLFC is on Facebook
and LinkedIn!



Check out WLFC on Facebook and LinkedIn to learn about upcoming events and issues of importance to our members. Be sure to "Like" WLFC when you visit!