

# Women Lawyers of Utah

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## **WLU 2001 Fall Retreat A Celebration of 20 years**

**W**omen Lawyers of Utah celebrated its first 20 years during the 2001 Fall Retreat at Deer Valley resort. There was an outstanding showing of the membership of WLU, with almost twice as many women attending as last year. The membership enjoyed a fabulous Cajun feast and an inspiring speech by Sonia Pressman Fuentes on the first evening of the event.

Ms. Fuentes was a founding member of the National Organization for Women and the first women lawyer hired by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. For a time, she was the sole EEOC staff person enforcing the sex discrimination prohibitions of Title VII. Ms. Fuentes told fascinating tales of her participation in the women's rights movement and offered insight into the issues facing women today.

During the Saturday morning session, Pat Christensen shared a history of WLU, including the controversy surrounding the organization of WLU, the boycott of the Alta Club in 1984, and WLU's more recent involvement in both legal and political issues. Some of WLU's earliest members shared their personal experiences in WLU, as well as interesting events that occurred during their law practices.

The session closed with a discussion among the membership about the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Survey of Utah Women Lawyers and the future and direction of the WLU. Many women shared their ideas about ways to improve WLU in the future, along with ideas for possible activities, events and projects for WLU.

Among the numerous suggestions were the development of a computer

network or ListServe by which Utah women lawyers could contact each other for advice, both legal and otherwise. Such a network might also provide a valuable tool for obtaining and giving out referrals to other women lawyers. Another suggestion was for WLU to hold a dinner or similar event for local women in-house counsel. The dinner would provide an opportunity for networking as well as possible business development. Yet another idea was to regularly report on or highlight the many successes of local women lawyers, such as significant court victories, closings of real estate or business transactions, and the like. Such reports could appear on a regular basis in the WLU Newsletter and/or on the WLU web site. Someone also suggested the development of a resource guide to appear in the WLU Newsletter or the preparation of a state-wide directory of women lawyers. The resource guide or directory would include listings of solo practitioners as well as categorizing women lawyers according to their practice areas. Finally, there was much discussion about ways to increase the participation of women lawyers from outside the Salt Lake City area in WLU events and projects.

This summary does not capture all of the ideas raised at the afternoon session. Many other exciting suggestions were presented, and a feeling of motivation was in the air. If any of our readers are willing to help out with a particular project, please feel free to contact any one of the WLU Board Members, who are eager to get started and in need of help in doing so.

In all, it was an entertaining, relaxing and informative weekend and WLU is looking forward to the retreat in 2002.

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### **WLU 2001-2002 Board**

**President:** .. Lauren R. Barros

**Vice President:**

Wendy J. Lems

**Treasurer:** ..... Polly Samuels

**Secretary:**

Cameron S. Denning

**Newsletter Editor:**

Christine T. Greenwood

**Past President:**

Mary C. Gordon

**Board Members:**

Jenniffer N. Hyde (New)

Dianna Cannon (New)

# News You Can Use

## Christine M. Durham Named Chief Justice of the Utah Supreme Court

On February 5, 2002, Christine M. Durham was selected by her peers as the next Chief Justice of the Utah Supreme Court. Justice Durham, who will begin her four-year term on April 1, 2002, will serve as the first woman chief justice of the Court. When she was appointed to the Utah Supreme Court in 1982, she was also the first woman justice to serve on the court. WLU commends Justice Durham for her outstanding performance and advancement of women in the legal profession.

## The Results of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Survey are Out!

Check the WLU website, [www.utahwomenlawyers.org](http://www.utahwomenlawyers.org), for the details on how you and your colleagues responded to questions on the opportunities for women lawyers in Utah, experience in practice, professional satisfaction, and trends in the Utah legal profession.

## New Board Members

After a recent vote by the WLU Board of Directors to remove the upper limit on the number of Board Members, two new board members were added by unanimous votes.

**Jennifer N. Hyde** practices commercial and employment litigation with Holme Roberts & Owen. **Dianna Cannon** is a partner at Cannon, Cleary & Match, where she specializes in social security disability law.

## National ListServe

WLU is a member of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations (NCWBA), which has a free ListServe available to members. To join, send a brief message describing yourself and your interest in or experience with women's bar associations to [wombarlead-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wombarlead-owner@yahoogroups.com). The manager of the ListServe is Professor Kathleen Waits of the University of Tulsa College of Law. The NCWBA's web site is at [www.ncwba.org](http://www.ncwba.org).

## Banter with the Bench

WLU will hold the annual Banter with the Bench in March of 2002. Enjoy lunch and conversation with our colleagues and members of the bench. Details will follow both by mail and on the WLU website.

## Volunteers Needed

The South Valley Sanctuary, a safe haven for victims of domestic violence established in 1998, is in need of volunteers to perform a variety of services, including answering crisis calls, working with children, organizing storage areas, maintenance and community education. For more information, call Beth at 255-1095. Donations can be mailed to: South Valley Sanctuary, P.O. Box 1028, West Jordan, Utah, 84084.

## BYU Women's Law Forum Joins WLU

We are happy to report that the BYU Women's Law Forum has officially joined WLU. This means that the group will receive copies of the WLU Newsletter and participate more frequently in events and projects. Welcome aboard!

## Nominations for Woman Lawyer of the Year

WLU is currently seeking nominations for the 2002 Christine M. Durham Woman Lawyer of the Year.

*Eligibility:* Any woman who is a member of the Utah State Bar and is actively involved in law-related activity, including government, education, the judiciary, private practice or corporate work.

*Criteria:* The recipient of the award shall have:

- demonstrated professional excellence and integrity;
- displayed an awareness of the needs and concerns of women through her work and activities; and
- helped to advance the position of women generally or in the legal profession

*Nomination Format:* Nominations should be made in writing and should name the person, describe her qualifications and state generally why she should be considered for the award. Nominations should be submitted via e-mail to [wlu@aros.net](mailto:wlu@aros.net) or by mail to Women Lawyers of Utah, P.O. Box 932, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84110.

*Deadline:* Nominations for the 2002 award must be received by April 1, 2002.

The Utah Women's Alliance for Building Community (UWABC) is an umbrella organization dedicated to highlighting women's expertise and achievements for positive changes in social, political, and economic arenas. In October, 2001, UWABC named the following as 2001 Community Builders Award recipients:

**Utah Women's  
Alliance for Building  
Community Names  
Recipients of  
Community Builder  
Awards**

*Nancy Bostick-Ebbert*, former rancher and cattle breeder who is now a passionate and articulate environmental activist.

*Kathleen Daly*, former Director of the Sprague Library who guided the library through a renovation process to become a community gathering place and source of learning.

*Vicki Newman*, Executive Director of the Salt Lake Interfaith Hospitality Network, which coordinates fourteen different churches to host homeless families and provide assistance to them in reestablishing themselves in stable living and working situations.

*Linda Smith*, Artistic Director of RDT who has employed creative processes to encourage different ways of thinking and expanded awareness and who has been instrumental in providing assistance to fledgling artists through the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center.

*Sweet Candy Corporation*, which was honored for changing work place demographics and assisting people from diverse backgrounds and cultures to work effectively together.

Members of UWABC include WLU, the American Association of University Women, KRCL 90.9 F.M. Community Radio, the Association for Women in Communications, Westminster College and the Salt Lake Public Library, among others. To find out more about joining UWABC, visit their website at [www.uwabc.org](http://www.uwabc.org) or call Phyllis Le Fevre at 553-0755.

**Margaret Olsen** has taken a teaching position at the University of Utah.

**Aimee Nagles** recently accepted a position as a Staff Attorney at the Third Judicial District Court in and for Salt Lake County, State of Utah.



# Membership Application

Any person who is a graduate of or a student at an accredited law school or a member of the Utah State Bar is eligible for membership in WLU. At present, we have approximately 250 members. The benefits of membership include a quarterly newsletter, social gatherings and a vote on important issues. Mail this form and your check to:

WLU, PO Box 932, Salt Lake City, UT 84110

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DUES SCHEDULE:

TELEPHONE: (home or office): \_\_\_\_\_ In practice < 3 years: \$30.00

MAILING ADDRESS (home or office): \_\_\_\_\_ In practice 3+ years: \$40.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Law Students: \$15.00

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

LAW SCHOOL & YEAR OF GRADUATION: \_\_\_\_\_

UTAH STATE BAR NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

AREA(S) OF PRACTICE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISCLAIMER: This Newsletter is meant to inform, educate, and support the women lawyers in Utah. Articles reflect the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or positions of WLU or its Board. **We gladly accept submissions for publication about issues or events of interest or importance to you.** We will publish position pieces by candidates for bar positions who are fully paid members of WLU, but do not endorse any candidates for Bar positions or other public office. WLU reserves the right to refuse to publish any item for any reason.