

# Women Lawyers of Utah NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 3  
February 2001

## WLU Hosts Sessions at Utah State Bar Conventions

On July 5, 2001, at the Annual Utah State Bar Convention in Sun Valley, WLU will present "**Recent Compensation Trends: Their Effect on the Bottom Line and Firm Culture.**" Panelists will be Paula Alvary of Hoffman Alvary & Company, LLC in Wellesly, Massachusetts, formerly a partner in the Law Firm Services Group of PriceWaterhouseCoopers; Denise Drago, a shareholder in the Salt

Lake office of Snell & Wilmer and Utah State Bar Commissioner; and Kristin E. Clayton, Assistant Dean for Legal Career Services, University of Utah College of Law.

WLU's panel to be held at the Mid-Year Convention at St. George on "**Creating Diversity at Every Level of Law Practice**" has been rescheduled. Look for an announcement in the mail with more details.

### Inside this issue:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Video Curriculum:</i>                     | 2 |
| <i>Judge's Role in Sexual Violence Cases</i> |   |
| <i>Palfreyman Helps Bulgarian Women</i>      | 2 |
| <i>WLU Events Calendar</i>                   | 3 |
| <i>IBA President Commended by NAWL</i>       | 3 |
| <i>The Grapevine</i>                         | 3 |
| <i>Membership Application</i>                | 4 |

## Banter with the Bench, by Wendy Lems

The 3rd Annual Banter with the Bench, held on February 13, 2001, was a great success. We were pleased to have a diverse panel of judges present, including Justice Christine Durham, Judges Sandra Peuler, Judith Atherton, Denise Lindberg, Kimberly Hornak, Peggy Acomb, Kathleen Switzer and Penny Breiman. We also had a huge turn out of WLU members. We not only had some good food to enjoy during our luncheon with the Judges, but we received some great "food for thought" from both the panel of judges and our own fellow women lawyers. Judge Hornak encouraged book donations to her library for children who appear before her at the Juvenile Court, and Justice Durham and Judges Atherton and Peuler gave some sage advice about courtroom appearance and demeanor. We thank our judges for their willingness to attend and share, once again, their thoughts, perspectives and experiences of practicing in Utah as women lawyers and judges.

## Woman Lawyer of the Year Award

Submit your nominations for the *Christine M. Durham Woman Lawyer of the Year Award* by **April 1, 2001** to **WLU, PO Box 932, SLC UT 84110**.

The WLU Durham Award will be announced at the April 19, 2001, Spring Fireside with Justice Durham.

## WLU Seeks Board Members

Elections for WLU's 2001-2002 Board will take place in April 2001. We want your input, ideas and energy! Contact any one of the current WLU Board members if you are interested in becoming a member of WLU's Board.

### WLU 2000-2001 Board

*President:* Mary C. Gordon  
*Treasurer:* Julie K. Morriss  
*Secretary:* Wendy J. Lems  
*Newsletter Editor:*  
Lauren R. Barros  
*Past President:*  
Nanci Snow Bockelie  
*Board Member:*  
Kathleen H. Switzer

## National Judicial Education Program Produces Self-Directed Video Curriculum, “Understanding Sexual Violence: the Judge’s Role in Stranger and Non-Stranger Rape and Sexual Assault Cases.”

The National Judicial Education Program has produced a video to help individuals in the judicial system learn to deal fairly with adult victim sexual assault cases, especially non-stranger rapes, without re-traumatizing victims or undermining defendants’ constitutional rights. Although it focuses on the judge’s role, this video/self-study guide will be an

important educational resource for prosecutors, defense attorneys, and attorneys handling civil rape and sexual assault cases. The video curriculum was developed under a grant from the Department of Justice Violence against Women Office and the State Justice Institute, a non-profit organization established by federal law to improve the quality

of justice in State courts nationwide.

To obtain a copy of the video or for more information, contact: the National Judicial Education Program, NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund at (212) 925-6635, Fax: (212) 226-1066, 395 Hudson Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10014-3684, [njep@nowldef.org](mailto:njep@nowldef.org).

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*This article is reprinted with the permission of the author and the Utah Law Forum. Clair Palfreyman went to Bulgaria for a legal internship in the spring of 2000 with financial aid from WLU and other sponsors.*

## Palfreyman Helps Women in Bulgaria by David MacArthur, Forum Staff Writer

Working for the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF) in Bulgaria this past summer was, for second-year law student Claire Palfreyman, a powerful way to delve into the ubiquitous problem of domestic violence.

The issue is a pervasive one here in the United States, but Palfreyman discovered that this is one problem that has no borders.

Bulgaria is a post-Communist country that is grappling with the difficulties of establishing new social structures and institutions. Gender roles are markedly strong in the contemporary Bulgarian culture according to Palfreyman, and women often have fewer opportunities to survive in the public sphere. The resultant tensions have led to a high rate of domestic violence.

Unfortunately, there are few

resources to help those who suffer from such violence. Funds are scarce and cultural mores insist that such issues are private affairs. Palfreyman recognized the difficulty of the situation. “Even though there are laws, the police are hesitant to enforce them because there are cultural taboos against invading the private sphere,” she said.

The Spurgeon Public Interest Fellowship paid Palfreyman’s expenses to go to Bulgaria. This fellowship supports one law student each summer in a non-traditional public interest internship, and Palfreyman was chosen for the summer of 2000.

Palfreyman spent the first six weeks of the summer with the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights in Minneapolis. There she studied the structures and workings of domestic violence legal clinics in the United States.

Palfreyman then took this

knowledge to Bulgaria to help establish clinics where law students and attorneys could offer their services pro bono to victims of domestic abuse. “These kinds of clinics are common here in the U.S., but we had to start from ground zero in Bulgaria. No one there really knew how to go about it,” Palfreyman said.

Once in Bulgaria, Palfreyman fulfilled an important function in proofreading English documents produced by the Bulgarian women she worked with. “Through the editing process, I was able to learn a great deal about some of the problems of gender inequality facing Balkan women,” Palfreyman said. The reports were submitted to European and other international human rights groups who might provide the funding to establish the legal clinics. It was

*(Continued on page 3)*

## First Female President of International Bar Association

In December of 2000, the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) award-winner Dianna Kempe became the first female president of the International Bar Association. The International Bar Association is the world's largest organization of Law Societies, Bar Associations and individual lawyers engaged in international practice, representing more than 2.5 million lawyers.

Ms. Kempe is a Senior and Managing Partner at the Bermuda law firm Appleby, Spurling & Kempe. As the founder of the IBA Women's Interest Group, Ms. Kempe will bring together women lawyers at the first World Women Lawyers Conference to be held in London March 1-2, 2001. Ms. Kempe conceived and organized the landmark event. Featured speakers include ABA President Martha Barnett, U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright, and CNN journalist Christiane Amanpour.

## Job Opening

The Litigation Division of the Attorney General's Office has an opening for an attorney in its Employment Section that it would like to advertise to WLU members. The attorney will have direct responsibility for complex litigation at all stages through trial, and will defend state agencies, school districts, and their employees in administrative agencies, and in state and federal courts. Interested applicants should submit their resume to Helen Petersen, 236 State Capitol, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114 by Friday, March 9, 2001, at 5:00 p.m.

*(Continued from page 2)*

vital that they be of a professional quality in order to be taken seriously. Palfreyman ensured that they were.

Beyond the proofreading duties she performed, Palfreyman did extended networking with other organizations. "I was amazed at the cooperative attitude I sensed among the various groups there. They had so little to work with, but had a strong sense of solidarity I don't see as much in the States," Palfreyman said. The dedication and altruism of the women Palfreyman worked with and encountered seem to have been the most powerful memories Palfreyman has of her experience in Bulgaria.

## WLU Event Calendar



**March 3, 2001, 12 noon - Starting Your Own Law Practice;** WLU/WLC Brown Bag Lunch at the University of Utah College of Law

**March 21, 2001, 6 p.m.** - WLU movie night at Mary Woodhead's home, 880 West 200 South (on the corner of 900 West and 200 South).

**April 2, 2001, 12 noon** - WLU/WLC Brown Bag Lunch at the University of Utah School of Law (Topic: TBA)

**April 19, 2001, 6 p.m.** - Spring Fireside with Justice Durham & Announcement of the Woman Lawyer of the Year - Northpointe Condominiums, 798 Northpointe Drive (top of "F" Street), Salt Lake City.

**April 27, 2001** - WLU is co-sponsoring the Governor's Commission on Women and the Family Pay Equity Conference. Mary Woodhead, a WLU member and former board member, will present a session at this conference. Contact Nanci Snow Bockelie (536-5200) [nsb@bockelie-law.com](mailto:nsb@bockelie-law.com) if you are interested in attending this conference.

## The Grapevine

**Wendy Lems** has moved to the firm of Corporon & Williams, 808 East South Temple, SLC, UT 84102.

**Victoria C. Bushnell** has moved to the firm of Bushnell & Kozak, 1881 Prospector Avenue, Park City, UT 84060.

If you have an article or grapevine item you would like to submit, DO! Please send, email, or fax it to Lauren Barros at Cohne, Rappaport & Segal, 525 East 100 South, Fifth Floor, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102; phone 532-2666; fax 355-1813; email: [laurenb@crslaw.com](mailto:laurenb@crslaw.com).

**Women Lawyers  
of Utah**

PO Box 932  
Salt Lake City, UT 84110

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: (home or office): \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS (home or office): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

**DUES SCHEDULE:**  
In practice < 3 years: \$30.00  
In practice 3+ years: \$40.00  
Law Students: \$15.00

**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.