

WOMEN LAWYERS OF UTAH

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 5

March 2006

Mission Statement: The mission of Women Lawyers of Utah is to provide opportunities for women lawyers to develop and advance their careers and to further the cause of women in Utah generally.

The objectives of its mission are to educate and inform, to offer support, to encourage community affiliation for professional success, to seek greater responsiveness to women's needs from Utah's justice system and better living and working conditions for all Utah women.

MENTORING SOCIAL A SUCCESS

Salt Lake City – February 26, 2006 By Tracey M. Watson

The Women Lawyers of Utah held their annual winter social at Green Street Social Club on the evening of Thursday, February 23, 2006. The social initiated WLU's volunteer mentor programming, matching experienced lawyers with either law students or "new" lawyers. Each year the event grows in number of participants, successful mentor-mentee matches, and just plain fun. This year was the best ever.

Gracing our presence were some very familiar, successful and busy women lawyers of Utah, including Carolyn Nichols, Barbara Polich, the Honorable Carolyn McHugh, Melissa Barbanell, Monica Whalen, Bea Peck, Kristen Sparks, Kathy Wyer, Juliette White, Sharee Moser, Julia Pettitt and Susan Rose. They were joined by WLU Board President, Margaret Plane, and board members Lauren Barros, Laurie Gilliland, Hanni Rausch, Dawn Emery, Michelle Morin, and myself. What makes the evening especially fun, however, are the courageous law students who are eager to participate in the program. There were more than two dozen students in attendance throughout the evening.

Worthy of note, the happiest woman lawyer of the year award may go to Melissa Barbanell, who is enjoying her work with Barricks Gold as an environmental policy analyst. Melissa loves her new job. Despite working as an analyst, Melissa cannot seem to abandon the practice of law. She is currently representing herself in litigation against Salt Lake City regarding the erecting of a tennis bubble in Liberty Park; oral argument pertaining to summary judgment on the matter is approaching. Another contented woman lawyer present was Sharee Moser who loves her associate position with the newly formed Magleby and Greenwood. Bea Peck also seemed particularly pleased with her decision to become a named partner with Peggy Tomsic; Bea was also rushing to Jeremy Ranch to fulfill her responsibilities as a newly elected member to their Board of Governors. Finally, I think I may give Bea a little competition for the bronze medal here, as not a day goes by that I am not gratified by my continued learning and practice with Clawson & Falk.

In addition, Barbara Polich joined us upstairs for food, insight, encouragement and good conversation, despite a broken ankle (which Barbara, the renown litigator, complained is too severe a description) and the temporary limitation on her permitted number of steps per day. At one point, we caught Barbara, Monica Whalen and Carolyn Nichols stealing a few moments together to catch up on old times; that moment was broken up when Carolyn received a message from her blackberry that her four children between 16 and 17 years-old (that's right—one 17 year-old and triplet 16 year-olds!) were short on milk and oatmeal for the morning.

Continued Page 2

Mentoring Continued from page 1

Lauren Barros reported spending the morning trying to get the ear of the Utah Legislature, which prompted empathy from Margaret Plane, who spends the better part of her working days while the legislature is in session making the same efforts. Nonetheless, through the camaraderie provided by WLU, many in attendance found mutual support and the courage and strength to keep up the good fight.

WLU hopes that those who participate in the mentoring program use it as an opportunity to share experiences, to sit down with each other, and to talk about our experiences in practice. Thank you to those who are participating in the mentoring program, and to those who attended the mentoring social.

Special thanks to those who could not make the social but whom without their support we could not have pulled if off: our Team Questar, including Julie Wray and Abbie McGrane, and our website guru, Mary Gordon.

Lastly, though it took some discovery, we have finally confirmed the reason underlying the rumors and various sightings of Mary Gordon outside of the offices of Manning, Curtis, Bradshaw and Bednar. Mary Gordon purchased Jade Market (n.k.a. 353 Market or The Market) next door to Cup of Joe's on 200 S between 300 and 400 West.

Although she is continuing her practice emphasizing corporate law, estate planning and taxes in an "of counsel" role with MC2B, Mary has decided to also try her hands at satisfying a new clientele – those who wish to shop at her neighborhood grocery store. As Mary describes her own store, "[t]hink of it like a 7-11 but with food you want to eat."

We don't know how she gets it all done, but we wish Mary the best of luck in her continuing legal endeavors and her new grocery store; and we thank her for her continuing support and involvement in the Women Lawyers of Utah.

NOMINATIONS WANTED!

Christine M. Durham Woman Lawyer of the Year.

The winner will be announced at the Spring Fireside on April 5, 2006.

Looking for a woman lawyer who:

Demonstrates professional excellence and integrity;

Displays awareness of the needs and concerns of women through her work and activities; and

Works to advance the position of women generally or in the legal profession.

The nominee must be a member of the Utah State Bar, actively involved in a law-related activity, including government, education, the judiciary, private practice, or corporate work.

Nominations must be in writing. Submit your letter or e-mail to Evelyn Fursee: 170 South Main, Ste. 400, Salt Lake City, UT 84101 or fursee@howrey.com by **March 15, 2006**. Include her qualifications and a statement of why she should be considered for the award. Please do not hesitate to ask the nominee for her assistance in preparation of the nomination if that will help you provide a more complete picture.

If you submitted a nomination last year, and the person was not selected, the nomination will be carried over to this year. Although you need not re-nominate the individual, please submit any additional information you would like the committee to consider.

The winner is chosen by a group of past recipients.

We are truly fortunate to have so many talented women lead the way in our profession in Utah. Please help us continue to honor these women and others who inspire, teach, and set examples for us by both nominating such a wonderful woman and attending the Spring Fireside this April 5, 2006.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

APRIL 5, 2006

Annual Fireside and Presentation of Woman Lawyer of the Year Award

- WHEN: 5:30 P.M.
- WHERE: at the Club House for the Northpoint Condominiums,
798 N. Northpoint Dr., Salt Lake City, Utah 84103.
- WHAT: Terrie McIntosh of Questar (last year's recipient) will announce this
year's Christine M. Durham Woman Lawyer of the Year Award.
- WHO: Chief Justice Durham will lead us in a roundtable discussion.

The Fireside is **free** to members and \$20 for non-members. To become a member of WLU, download a membership application at www.utahwomenlawyers.org OR use the application at the end of this newsletter. CLE credit approval pending. Please RSVP to Eve Furse at furse@howrey.com by **April 1, 2005**.

GRAPEVINE



Hanni Rausch has accepted a clerkship with the Honorable Judge Jenkins in the United States District Court. She will begin clerking in the end of March.

Dawn W. Emery has taken a position with Ayres Law firm practicing criminal defense.

Peggy Hunt joined Ray Quinney and Nebeker where her practice will focus on bankruptcy law, commercial litigation and appellate work. Peggy formerly served as Judicial Law Clerk for the United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Tenth Circuit.

CHECK IT OUT!

WLU's Annual meeting is coming up in May. Board elections are held at the Annual Meeting. Look for more information about the meeting and how to get involved.

Patricia Christensen sent along the link to the following article on mentoring and young women professionals by Elissa Ellis, "More women business leaders should step into the limelight; women are charging up the corporate ladder largely unseen by the next generation." From the February 27, 2006 issue of the Christian Science Monitor at <http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0227/p09s01-coop.html>.



**LOOKING
FOR A
NEW JOB?**

Ayres Law Firm is seeking a law clerk to help with a growing criminal defense practice. Please contact Dawn Emery at 835-8192 for more information.

If you have something you would like on the calendar please contact Dawn Emery at demeryesq@comcast.net or 835-8192

WHY JOIN WLU?

As stated succinctly by the National Conference of Women’s Bar Associations: “To be successful, every attorney must build a network. Joining a women’s bar can jumpstart this process. The opportunities for business referrals and access to resources for substantive legal and practical advice and possibilities for leadership and visibility in the profession are all present in women’s bar associations.” <http://www.ncwba.org>

Membership Application

Dues Schedule	
In Practice < 3 yrs	\$30
In practice 3+ yrs	\$40
Law students	\$15
Name:	
Email:	
Phone:	
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 publications 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.*

Women Lawyers of Utah
PO Box 932
Salt Lake City, UT 84110