

# WOMEN LAWYERS OF UTAH

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## WLU 2001-2002 Board

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## WLU President's Message - 2001

# Welcome Women Lawyers of Utah!

It is exhilarating to find myself President of this distinguished organization. WLU has over 250 members, many of whom are among the most interesting and brilliant lawyers I know. And we have a history — a 20 year track record that has earned WLU an established spot in the legal community. With these resources, we can move mountains!

One of the first questions I asked myself when I became President was, "What are our goals for this year?" The choices are endless. What I soon realized is that, as a Board, our first priority was to determine our "goals" for the year. After dinner and much discussion on a warm summer night in May, your new WLU Board set out these goals for the coming year:

**Mentoring and Networking.** This is where WLU has traditionally and will continue to perform its most important function — providing an opportunity for women lawyers to obtain valuable information from each other and thereby become better lawyers and citizens.

WLU should serve as a way for lawyers of all levels of experience to interact with each other and share knowledge and expertise. There are certain issues that female attorneys

may face more frequently than their male counterparts, such as feeling like a minority in our professional field, having to answer the question: "are you an attorney?," wondering whether to adopt a style more like those used by male coworkers, and grappling with traditional roles of motherhood while trying to be a lawyer-and vice versa. Many of us merely want career direction from a successful attorney who is "like us."

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## University of Utah College of Law *Pro Bono Initiative* Seeks Placements for Volunteer Students

In August 2000, the University of Utah College of Law launched *The Pro Bono Initiative*, a program designed to increase student participation in law-related volunteer work and to encourage a pro bono ethic in the legal profession. The Initiative provides students with a broad list of placement choices and encourages each student to complete a minimum of fifty hours of attorney-supervised pro bono work before graduation.

The law school developed The Pro Bono Initiative to help meet the need for pro bono legal services in Salt Lake City. The program's belief and goal is that students who make time for pro bono

work while in law school will become attorneys who make time for pro bono work in their careers. Additionally, the program hopes that access to student assistance will encourage practicing attorneys to take on more pro bono cases.

In its first year, The Pro Bono Initiative asked student organizations to adopt projects and have their members serve as volunteers. The University of Utah Women's Law Caucus agreed to volunteer with Your Community Connection (YCC) in Ogden. Every other Thursday, YCC sponsors a Bar Night where volunteer attorneys are available to speak

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To further this broad goal, WLU will hold the following events this year:

**October 12-13, 2001** *WLU 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Retreat at Deer Valley*  
**November, 2001** *University of Utah Women's Law Caucus Social*  
**January, 2002** *WLU Ski Afternoon & Apres Ski Social*  
**March, 2002** *Banter with the Bench*  
**April, 2002** *Spring Fireside with Justice Christine Durham*

**Legislative or Service Based Action.** Together, the members of WLU comprise a power house of creativity and know-how. This year, we want to take an active role in endorsing legislation and/or supporting a service-based project. As your Board, we want to keep you aware of political issues that may affect women lawyers and their (admittedly varied) interests. Toward this goal, WLU will present **Breakfast with Jim Matheson on August 28, 2001, at 7:30 a.m. at Lamb's Restaurant.** We will also watch upcoming legislation and try to identify a service project where we can focus our energy and resources. We would like to include the University of Utah College of Law Women's Law Caucus (WLC) in any legislation action or service project. The members of the WLC are a vast resource of interest, intellect and energy. And including the WLC in these projects will enable WLU

members to develop mentoring relationships with women law students in a meaningful setting.

**20th Anniversary.** If you haven't heard already, let me tell you: this year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WLU. We hope that, during our Fall Retreat and Anniversary Celebration, as well as throughout the rest of the year, you will think about and discuss with WLU's Board and members what you believe WLU's goals and purposes should be. We want to know not only what you think WLU should be doing, but also what WLU shouldn't be doing. We also want to know your ideas about how WLU should go about achieving our objectives.

Most importantly, we look forward to your participation this year.

Lauren R. Barros  
WLU President 2001-2002

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**We want to hear from you!**

**Have you taken WLU's 20th Anniversary Survey yet?**

Take the survey on WLU's web site at [www.utahwomenlawyers.org](http://www.utahwomenlawyers.org) or email us at [wlu@aros.net](mailto:wlu@aros.net) to request a paper version.

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with potential clients about their legal problems. The volunteers from the Women's Law Caucus spent time interviewing clients and doing intake, sometimes providing follow-up research and legwork.

As The Pro Bono Initiative begins its second year, the program is diligently trying to expand the number of volunteer placements with private attorneys. Law students are interested in working with members of the private bar because these opportunities present realistic legal experience as well as the chance to learn from a practicing attorney. The program believes that placements of women law students with women attorneys are particularly valuable.

While the positive effects of The Pro Bono Initiative are numerous, its success depends on the willingness of attorneys to engage in pro bono projects and to supervise our students. Currently, the program has more students wanting to volunteer than available projects. In agreeing to supervise a student on a pro bono case, attorneys should realize that their immediate workload on the case will be greatly diminished. If you or an attorney in your firm is currently working on a pro bono case or would like to become involved in our program, please contact James Seaman at the Pro Bono office, 581-5418. You can also request a student volunteer at: [www.law.utah.edu/Probono/pb\\_requestvolunteer.html](http://www.law.utah.edu/Probono/pb_requestvolunteer.html).

**WLU Board Votes to Add More Members**

At a recent WLU Board meeting, the board members voted unanimously to remove the upper limit on the number of board members permitted to serve on the Board at the same time. The Board's hope is that increasing its membership will increase the number and quality of WLU projects and events. If you or anyone you know is interested in serving on the WLU Board of Directors, please contact Lauren Barros, current WLU president, at 532-2666 or [laurenb@crslaw.com](mailto:laurenb@crslaw.com). WLU Board Members must be current members of the Utah State Bar.

## WLU 20th Anniversary Celebration and Retreat

Join us for good times, a little history and a lively discourse in beautiful Deer Valley, Utah as we celebrate “**The People and Stories of WLU’s Past and Next 20 Years**”

**Date: October 12-13, 2001**

**Place: The Chateaux at Silver Lake, Deer Valley Resort, Utah**

The Chateaux at Silver Lake is a luxurious French country-style lodge located in the heart of mid-mountain Silver Lake Village and just seconds from Deer Valley shopping, hiking, mountain biking and spa services. The Chateaux has an outdoor hot tub and swimming pool.

### Schedule

On Friday evening, **Sonia Pressman Fuentes** will present a keynote speech on **The Second Wave of the Women’s Movement**. To understand where we’re going, we must know where we came from. Ms. Fuentes, a founder of the National Organization for Women and a pioneer of what is called the “Second Wave” of the women’s movement in the mid-1960s, will offer a fascinating look at the people and history of a movement that has affected the lives of all Americans. Ms. Fuentes is the author of *Eat First – You Don’t Know What They’ll Give You: The Adventures of an Immigrant Family and Their Feminist Daughter*.



At the breakfast session on **Saturday morning**, former WLU board members will recount the **Oral History of WLU**, describing the formation of WLU, its early history, and the contribution of women lawyers to the Utah legal system through WLU during the past 20 years.

Log on to [www.utahwomenlawyers.org](http://www.utahwomenlawyers.org) for more information and a registration form.

On Saturday afternoon, **Justice Christine M. Durham**, Utah Supreme Court Justice and a

long-time mentor and supporter of WLU, will lead a lively discussion of the results of **WLU’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Survey** and **the future of WLU**. What are the most important issues facing Utah women lawyers and women in the justice system today, and what should WLU do about them? Bring your comments and ideas.

**\$100 scholarships** for retreat fees are available for law students, solo practitioners and attorneys employed by government and non-profit entities. See the web site announcement for details.

**And ...** we’ll give you plenty of **free time** after dinner on Friday and on Saturday morning to reconnect with friends, enjoy the fall colors, gallery stroll, take a hike, rent a mountain bike, get a massage or just relax in the hot tub.

**Cost: \$170.00. What a deal!** For the price of what you’d ordinarily pay for a day-long CLE, you get lodging, dinner and social hour Friday night, breakfast Saturday morning and up to **5 hours of CLE**.

**RSVP Deadline: September 12, 2001**

## New Resource on Gender Bias in the Courts

The National Judicial Education Program recently announced the publication of *Gender Fairness in the Courts: Action in the New Millennium*, by Lynn Hecht Schafran and Norma J. Wikler. The publication, a product of the Gender Fairness Strategies Project, is designed to help courts, bar associations and community organizations implement the mandate of the National Conference on Public Trust and Confidence in the Justice System, where 500 justice system leaders — including nearly every state chief justice, state court administrator and state bar president — voted to make implementing the recommendations of the Task Forces on Gender, Race and Ethnic Bias in the courts a priority.

Five organizations cooperated to create the Gender Fairness Strategies Project: (1) the National Association of Women Judges (which held its annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah just a few years ago); (2) the National Judicial College; (3) the National Center for State Courts; (4) the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession; and (5) the National Judicial Education Program. The State Justice Institute funded and supported the project.

*Gender Fairness in the Courts* reflects the distilled wisdom of these five organizations plus that of a diverse group of Gender Bias Task Force Implementation and Standing Committees, gender fairness experts and judicial educators. The publication will be useful for a wide variety of professionals, including judges, court administrators, judicial educators, bar associations, prosecutors, public defenders, court watching organizations, judicial nominating and disciplinary commissions, attorney disciplinary commissions, legislatures, law schools, advocates against

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## Woman Lawyer of the Year

Women Lawyers of Utah has named **Carolyn B. McHugh** as The Christine M. Durham Woman Lawyer of the Year. Ms. McHugh is a shareholder in Parr Waddoups Brown Gee & Loveless, where she practices commercial litigation and environmental law. The Durham Award is awarded annually to an exceptional woman attorney who has demonstrated professional excellence and integrity in her practice, 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.

Ms. McHugh's qualifications for this award are numerous. She established herself early as an outstanding litigator, counselor and scholar, and continues to represent the highest standards of the legal profession both as an attorney and as a friend and advocate of women in and of the legal system. Judge Kimberly K. Hornak, in her introduction of Ms. McHugh at the Durham Award ceremony on April 19, 2001 described Ms. McHugh as "brilliant, dedicated, loyal, committed, and a tremendous asset to the Utah Bar and Women Lawyers of Utah. And if she is a friend of yours you are very fortunate."

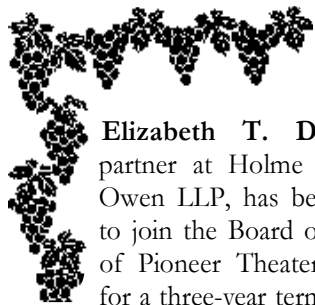
Ms. McHugh received her J.D. from the University of Utah College of Law in 1982, where she graduated

Order of the Coif and second in her class. She served on the Editorial Board of the Utah Law Review and received American Jurisprudence Awards for highest grade in six subjects. She was Finance and Educational Director for the Women's Law Caucus, an Eccles Fellow and a William H. Leary Scholar.

Ms. McHugh is a frequent author and speaker on environmental law issues. In addition to her regular practice, Ms. McHugh regularly represents low income clients, *pro bono*, in divorce, custody, termination of parental rights, adoption and paternity proceedings, and serves as a volunteer court-appointed *guardian ad litem* for children in abuse and other proceedings.

As Judge Hornak observed in her introduction, "Lynn does not have the word 'No' in her vocabulary." This is borne out by Ms. McHugh's long-standing and myriad services rendered to the legal profession and the Utah community. To name only a few of Ms. McHugh's appointments, she has served as Chair of the ABA planning committee, conference of Environmental Law, Chair of the Needs of Children Committee, Utah State Bar, and as a member of the Utah Supreme Court Advisory Committee, Rules of Professional Conduct. Ms. McHugh has been a member of Women of Lawyers of Utah since its formation, and served as its President in 1996.

Ms. McHugh is equally well known and recognized for her work in the community. She has served as a trustee and on the Executive Committee of Catholic Community services since 1994. She has served as a trustee of the University of Utah College of Law Alumni Association, and was named Alumna of the Year by that association in 1997. She has also served as a board member of Utah Children and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salt Lake, and as a volunteer in the J.E. Cosgriff Memorial School's Adventure Seekers Reading Program.



### Grapevine

**Elizabeth T. Dunning**, a partner at Holme Roberts & Owen LLP, has been selected to join the Board of Directors of Pioneer Theater Company for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2001.

**Gretchen Havner** was recently promoted to the felony division at Salt Lake Legal Defender Association, where she has worked for the last eighteen months. She will be assigned to the Salt Lake Division of the Third District Court (Matheson Courthouse).

**Polly Samuels**, who is currently serving as WLU Treasurer, recently completed a clerkship with Utah Court of Appeals Judge James Z. Davis. She is now working in the Criminal Division of the Attorney General's Office, where she will be involved in prosecutions statewide.

# 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.*

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domestic violence and sexual assault and civic and religious organizations.

To order a copy of *Gender Fairness in the Courts*, send a check for \$25 made out to NOW Legal Defense to The National Judicial Education Program, NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, 395 Hudson Street, Fifth Floor, New York, New York, 10014. Additional information can be obtained by calling 212-925-6635 or e-mailing [njep@nowldef.org](mailto:njep@nowldef.org).

## Women & Minority Representation at Law Firms

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that about 30 percent of all lawyers today are women. According to the National Directory of Legal Employers, in the year 2000, San Francisco and San Diego were among the best cities for women lawyers, where their law firms indicate that approximately 19% of their partners and 50% of their associates are women. Miami ranks highest with respect to lawyers who are members of minority groups. Miami's law offices report that at least 6% of their partners are minorities, while 85% of their offices indicated that about 16% of their associates are minorities.

## WLU Board Members for 2001-2002

This year's President of WLU is Lauren Barros, who practices at Cohne, Rappaport & Segal. This year's Vice President is Wendy Lems, who practices at Corporon & Williams. Also elected to WLU's Board of Directors are Cameron Denning, who will serve as Secretary, Polly Samuels, who will serve as Treasurer, and Christine Greenwood, who will serve as the Editor of the WLU Newsletter. Mary Gordon, last year's WLU president, will continue to serve on the board. Mary also serves as an *ex officio* member of and WLU liaison to the Utah State Bar Commission.

## Help Wanted

*Flying J Inc. Ogden Utah*

In-house attorney position. Flying J seeks an attorney with solid experience in real estate transactions, real estate financing and general commercial transactions. The position will pay in the neighborhood of \$50,000-\$75,000, depending on experience and qualifications. Working hours are 8-5 Monday through Friday, and there are *no billable hours*. Flying J is a fully integrated oil company based in Ogden, Utah. Annual sales are approximately 4.3 billion dollars. The Flying J legal department consists of 5 lawyers and 4 support personnel. Contact Barre G.



**Women Lawyers of Utah**  
[www.utahwomenlawyers.org](http://www.utahwomenlawyers.org)

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