



WOMEN LAWYERS of Utah Newsletter

UtahWomenLawyers.ORG

July 2008
Volume 5 Issue 11

- 1 Message from the President
- 1 Congratulations to Kathleen Switzer, the 2008 Woman Lawyer of the Year!
- 2 Grapevine
- 2 Mark Your Calendars
- 2 Newly-Elected WLU Officers
- 3 Initiative on the Advancement and Retention of Women
- 4 Get More Involved
- 4 Past Presidents' Dinner
- 4 Free Membership in WLU

Contact Information:

*If you need to contact us,
please feel free to mail us at:*

Women Lawyers of Utah
P.O. Box 932
Salt Lake City, UT 84110

Our website is:

UtahWomenLawyers.org



Lisa Yerkovich

Message from the President

As WLU begins its 27th year, we recognize and thank our members who founded this organization in 1981 and those who have kept it thriving. Special

thanks to Eve Furse, our past president, for her foresight, dedication and direction over the last year. We invite those of you who were early leaders and members to reconnect with WLU by sharing your wisdom and experience as a future board member, committee member, mentor or in another capacity. As President-Elect, Kim Przybyla, put it, "We want to bridge the past with the present." We look forward to more involvement by our early, long-time members.

Through Eve's, Melanie Vartabedian's and their committee members' efforts, WLU is about to launch its survey for the Initiative on the Advancement and Retention of Women in Law Firms. As you may know, the Initiative was designed to understand more fully the retention and advancement of women lawyers at Utah law firms. WLU has partnered with BYU to create and distribute a state-wide survey to all Bar members who took the Utah State Bar exam between 1985-2005. We need your participation and encourage you to complete the survey and urge your fellow attorneys (both male and female) to do the same. This survey will help determine bar members' experiences, concerns and perceptions about retention and advancement of women in Utah firms. Current plans are to have the preliminary survey results available in July/August 2008. More information on the Initiative is included below.

This summer WLU's Work/Life Balance Committee plans to hold one or more informal brown bag luncheons to facilitate additional discussion and networking opportunities for our members.

The Annual WLU Retreat is set for September 26th and 27th at The Lodges at Deer Valley. This year's

Friday afternoon speaker will be Beth Noymer Levine. Ms. Levine worked in public relations and corporate communications in New York and Atlanta before establishing SmartMouth Communications here in Salt Lake City. SmartMouth Communications was created to help people maximize the delivery of their ideas and messages and to dispel the unnecessary self-conscious worrying that comes with speaking and presenting. Ms. Levine will speak on the differences in male/female communication styles and conduct a workshop on how women can communicate more effectively in the professional setting. At the Saturday morning session Cindy Marteney of the Marteney Group will speak on "personal branding" for business development. Ms. Marteney is a marketing adviser and executive trainer who founded her own company several years ago. Fall Retreat details and registration information are included with this newsletter. Please join us!

In addition to the Annual Retreat, WLU's CLE Committee will be involved in the Fall Forum Program again. We will also continue hosting WLU's other traditional programs including the Fireside Chat with Justice Durham and the Banter with the Bench. We hope to add more gatherings throughout the year so that we can become better acquainted and network more with each other. We look forward to an exciting year!

Congratulations to Kathleen Switzer, the 2008 Woman Lawyer of the Year!

Kathleen H. Switzer was presented with the 2008 Christine M. Durham Woman Lawyer of the Year at the 23rd Annual WLU Fireside held on April 23, 2008. Judge Switzer is currently serving as the first and only female federal administrative law judge in the state of Utah. Before this appointment, Judge Switzer served as a Judge Pro Tempore for

continues on page 2

WOMEN LAWYERS OF UTAH

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.



GRAPEVINE

Former WLU President, Margaret Plane, received the 2008 Young Lawyer of the Year Award.

Susan Baird has left Berman Savage and joined the litigation department of Parsons Behle & Latimer where her practice focuses on business, employment and real estate litigation.

Carolyn Montgomery has joined Callister Nebeker & McCullough.

Carolynn Clark is leaving Ray Quinney & Nebeker to take a part-time faculty position teaching legal writing at the J. Reuben Clark Law School at BYU. She has also accepted an in-house position with Idaho Technology, Inc., a biotech company.

Samantha Slark has left Berman Savage and joined Anderson & Karrenberg.

Jackie Rogers will be taking a 3-year hiatus from Ray Quinney & Nebeker beginning in August 2008 to join her husband who is pursuing a degree in Chinese medicine in Tucson, Arizona.

Congratulations to Elaina Maragakis of Ray Quinney & Nebeker and her husband, Steve Simos, on the birth of their twin boys on January 18, 2008.

Joanna Miller will leave the Third District Court at the end of July, where she was a law clerk to Judges Quinn and Lubeck. She is joining Kruse, Landa, Maycock and Ricks, where she will practice family law.

Erin Arnold Barkley will leave her position as an attorney at the Utah Trust Lands Administration, in July, to begin a 16-month bicycle tour. Follow her on her route across Asia at: <http://www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/bikingbarkleys>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WLU Annual Fall Retreat
September 26 and 27, 2008
The Lodges at Deer Valley

See the insert for the retreat registration forms, agenda and lodging forms.

Congratulations to Kathleen Switzer, the 2008 Woman Lawyer of the Year!

continued from page 1

the Utah Small Claims Court, an Indian Probate Judge for the United States Department of Interior and an Administrative Law Judge for the Utah Labor Commission. Before her judicial involvement, Judge Switzer spent time working as legal counsel for both the Utah Department of Health and GTE Health Services. Judge Switzer also spent four years as an attorney at Fabian & Clendenin and participated in various pro-bono endeavors, including work as a pro bono attorney for Utah Legal Services. Furthermore, Judge Switzer has contributed greatly to the Utah State bar by serving on numerous committees. She has always been an active member of Women Lawyers of Utah and served as its liaison to the Bar.

In addition to Judge Switzer's notable legal career, she has also achieved a great deal of success in nursing and the military. Judge Switzer has a Master's Degree in nursing and is a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. She also served our country in the Persian Gulf War as a nurse.

After Judge Switzer was recognized as the 2008 Woman Lawyer of the Year, Chief Justice Christine Durham shared with the group an overview of the advancement (and lack thereof) of women in the legal profession. As in past years, the 2008 Fireside was well-attended. It was enjoyable and inspiring to be in the company of so many accomplished professionals.

Newly-Elected WLU Officers

WLU elections were held at the annual meeting on May 21, 2008. Our newly elected board is comprised of the following people...

President: Lisa Yerkovich

President-Elect: Kimberly Przybyla

Past President: Eve Furse

Treasurer: Peggy Hunt

Secretary: Adria Swindle

Career Advancement Committee Chair:
Joanna Miller

Community Outreach Committee Chair:
Heather Farnsworth

CLE Committee Chair: Laurie Gilliland

Judge: Honorable Carolyn McHugh

Firm Retention Initiative Committee Chair:
Melanie Vartabedian

Membership and Publicity Committee Chair:
Jennifer Brown

Retreat Committee Chair: Addie Maudsley

Work-Life Balance Committee Chair: Julia Pettit

Women’s Law Caucus Liaison: Adrienne Bell

Initiative on the Advancement and Retention of Women

Following the distribution of the preliminary survey results, WLU will hold two symposia (projected to take place in the fall of 2008) to disseminate key findings from the survey and facilitate meaningful discussion of the survey results and the issues affecting the advancement and retention of women in law firms. Each symposium will consist of a panel including experts, leading local attorneys and a facilitator. The purpose of the symposia is to generate a spirited exchange among the panel and audience and to develop techniques for increasing the advancement and retention of women in law firms.

The Initiative Committee has recruited a wonderful Advisory Board to help guide this process and create community support. The Advisory Board is comprised of:

Christine M. Durham, Chief Justice of the Utah Supreme Court

Paul M. Warner, Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court

Hiram Chodosh, Dean of the University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law

Kevin Worthen, Dean of Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School

Nathan Alder, Christensen & Jensen and President-Elect of the Utah State Bar

Peter W. Billings, Fabian & Clendenin

Patricia W. Christensen, Parr Waddoups Brown Gee & Loveless

Charlotte L. Miller, Kirton McConkie and Utah State Bar Delegate to the ABA

Douglas M. Monson, Ray Quinney & Nebeker, P.C.

Alan L. Sullivan, Snell & Wilmer

WLU projects the total cost of this endeavor to be approximately \$75,000. With the help of many local law firms and a generous donation by the Utah State Bar, WLU has raised approximately \$30,000 to date. Below is the list of law firms and organizations that have contributed to the Initiative to date:

COMMITTED SPONSORS

As of June 18, 2008

Platinum Sponsors

Utah State Bar	\$10,000.00
----------------	-------------

Gold Sponsors

Ray Quinney & Nebeker P.C.	\$ 5,000.00
----------------------------	-------------

Stoel Rives LLP	\$ 5,000.00
-----------------	-------------

Silver Sponsors

VanCott Bagley Cornwall & McCarthy	\$ 2,500.00
------------------------------------	-------------

Dorsey & Whitney	\$ 2,500.00
------------------	-------------

Bronze Sponsors

Women Lawyers of Utah, Inc.	\$ 2,000.00
-----------------------------	-------------

Parr Waddoups Brown Gee & Loveless	\$ 1,000.00
------------------------------------	-------------

Fabian & Clendenin	\$ 1,000.00
--------------------	-------------

Small Firm Sponsors

Young, Hoffman, Strassberg & Ensor, LLP	\$ 250.00
-----------------------------------------	-----------

Other/In Kind Sponsors

Utah State Bar Young Lawyers Division	\$ 500.00
---------------------------------------	-----------

If you would like more information about the Initiative’s Budget, sponsorship benefits, or any other matter, please contact Melanie Vartabedian, Chair of the Firm Retention Initiative Committee (vartabedianm@Howrey.com or 801-533-8383) or Eve Furse, Past President of WLU (evefurse@yahoo.com or 801-554-4672).

Past Presidents' Dinner

On June 11, 2008, Lauren Barros hosted the first annual Past Presidents' Dinner. WLU's past presidents were invited to share their experience and knowledge with new WLU President, Lisa Yerkovich. The dinner, the brainchild of Eve Furse, was a great success. Each of the past presidents shared stories from her past involvement with WLU and words of advice for Lisa. Lauren Barros, Diana Cannon, Pat Christensen, Jane Conard, Eve Furse, Carolyn Nichols, Margaret Plane, Ginger Smith, Julie Wray and Lisa Yerkovich attended the event.

Free Membership in WLU

WLU's Board has voted to extend free memberships to members of the judiciary and WLU's past presidents.

Get More Involved

If you are interested in being further involved with WLU, please join one of our seven committees: (1) Annual Retreat Committee; (2) Career Advancement Committee; (3) CLE Committee; (4) Firm Retention Committee; (5) Community Outreach Committee; (6) Work/Life Balance Committee; and (7) Publicity and Membership Committee. Joining a committee is not only a great way to be involved, but it is also a wonderful opportunity to work and get know other women lawyers in the Utah community. If you are interested in joining a committee or would like more information, please contact Kim Przybyla at kprzybyla@stoel.com.

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 members. We gladly accept submissions for publication about issues or events of interest 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.