



WAAT'S HAPPENING

Message from the President

Greetings, Colleagues!

On the heels of WAAT's holiday party and amidst the spirit of the season, I reflect on the things in life for which I am most grateful. While "family" and "health" are atop the list, I would be remiss if I did not include the camaraderie and fellowship WAAT brings to my life.

Our professional lives tend to be a large part of who we are. For many of us, we see our coworkers and colleagues for as many hours in the week as we see our family and friends. I am both proud and grateful that WAAT is a part of that balance.

This is a landmark year for WAAT, and for women. WAAT turns 35 this year. It is the centennial anniversary of the 19th amendment. And, for only the second time in Kansas' history, we have a woman (and former WAAT President) serving our Supreme Court as Chief Justice. I cannot understate the import of these achievements.

As I navigate my year leading WAAT, I maintain a three-fold focus best summarized by the theme "building relationships." This year, we have been and will continue to emphasize the role of mentorship in career-building and professional success as WAAT builds relationships with law students and soon-to-be members of the Topeka legal community. We are facilitating networking among colleagues and fellow professionals to maintain the quality of relationships among the profession. And, we work to engage the commu-

Amber Smith
President

Jennifer Cocking
President-Elect/KWAA Liaison

Erin Beckerman
Treasurer

Ashley Jarmer
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Nicole Revenaugh
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Program Chair

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Kelly Trussell
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Public Relations/Website Chair

nity at large in ways to further one of WAAT's primary purposes: to promote relationships between the legal profession and the public.

We have some very thoughtful and engaging monthly programs coming up, so please mark your calendars and join us! We always meet on the third Wednesday of the month for lunch, networking, and interesting discussion.

Yours,

Amber Smith

35 YEARS OF WAAT

WAAT is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, and we will be honoring the organization's history and leaders throughout the year. We would like to invite you all to participate in some way. Many of you already join us at our events on a regular basis. If it's been a while since you've been to a WAAT event, we would love to see you sometime soon. We also invite you to make a contribution to our archives--any memorabilia you might have, a reflection on your time in the organization or how you've seen the practice of law improve for women since WAAT's founding.

To officially recognize this milestone, the WAAT Board adopted the following resolution at its December meeting and presented it to the membership at our annual holiday party.

Resolution Concerning the 35th Anniversary of the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka

WHEREAS the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka (WAAT) was founded in 1984 by women attorneys seeking mutual support to:

- Promote the efficient administration of justice and the constant improvement of the law, especially as it relates to women;
- Encourage the advancement and support of women in the law;
- Encourage the participation of women in existing professional and bar organizations, particularly at the committee and officer level;
- Promote equality and social justice for all people;
- Improve relations between the legal profession and the public;

WHEREAS WAAT has provided women attorneys with a supportive environment to network professionally;

WHEREAS WAAT has provided high-quality programming to its members and the broader legal community to aid in their personal and professional development;

WHEREAS WAAT has fostered a culture of service to the profession and community and formed collaborative relationships with other organizations for significant and mutual gain;

WHEREAS WAAT has provided women attorneys valuable opportunities to develop meaningful friendships and mentoring relationships; and

WHEREAS WAAT has helped its members to become productive contributing members to the profession and their communities;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED that the 2019-2020 WAAT Board of Directors:

- Commemorates the passing of 35 successful years in the community and celebrates the accomplishments of the organization and its members;
- Thanks the charter members of the organization for their vision, dedication, and success in establishing an organization that plays a vital role in the advancement of women in the profession;
- Thanks the women who have served the organization as president and in other leadership roles;
- Renews its commitment to the future of the organization and upcoming generations of women attorneys;
- Encourages current and former members to renew their commitment to the organization, reconnect with those who believe in its mission, and nurture relationships that are essential to the successful future of WAAT.

It is so RESOLVED.

RECENT HAPPENINGS

Constitution Day 2019

Once again, WAAT celebrated Constitution Day this year by sending attorneys into classrooms across Topeka to talk about the Constitution, civics, and the legal profession. We would like to thank all of our volunteers (listed below) for sharing their time and talent with elementary and middle school students in our community.

Erin Beckerman	Barbara Boudreaux	Kate Butler
Emily Grant	Vernon Jarboe	Stacey Jeffress
Chelsey Langland	Natalie Nelson	Jen Ouellette
Rachel Pickering	Chase Pumford	Sara Rust-Martin
Angel Zimmerman		

Holiday Party

WAAT celebrated its annual holiday party at the Kansas Museum of History on December 12. In honor of WAAT's 35th Anniversary in 2020, President Amber Smith read a resolution passed by the Board of Directors to commemorate the occasion. The resolution was also passed at the December Board of Directors meeting and shared on the WAAT listserv.

The museum is currently commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment's passage with a special exhibit, *#MarthaMakesHistory*. The exhibit follows a year in the life of "everyday revolutionary" Martha Farnsworth, a Topeka suffragist who kept a diary of her life on an almost daily basis for nearly 40 years. She worked hard for the cause of suffrage but lived a life typical of women of her day. The exhibit will be open to the public through December 2020.

In addition to a private viewing of the exhibit and a presentation from the curator of the exhibit, Senior Archivist Megan Rohleder, the traveling exhibit "*100 Years After the 19th Amendment: Their Legacy, and Our Future*" from the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress 19th Amendment Centennial was displayed.



Monthly Membership Meeting Recap

WAAT continues to provide high-quality programming on a monthly basis to its members and our broader legal community. If you are interested in presenting or have suggestions for programming you would like to see, please contact WAAT's Program Chair, AnnLouise Fitzgerald.

U.S. Supreme Court Update, August 2019

It's become a WAAT tradition to have Assistant U.S. Attorney Jared Maag provide our annual Supreme Court update every August. In this one-hour CLE, Jared briefed us on the Kansas cases appearing before the high court this term and other interesting cases on the docket.

Assistance Dogs and the ADA, September 2019



WAAT Past-President Whitney Casement and Letha Nelson from KSDS Assistance Dogs, Inc. gave a presentation on Assistance Dogs and the ADA. Whitney and Letha provided information on training dogs and how assistance and therapy dogs are treated under state and federal law. Pictured at left is Gardetto. Whitney and her husband Daniel trained Gardetto for KSDS. He has now been placed as a facility dog at a psychiatric residential treatment facility in Salina.

Emojis and the Law, October 2019

In October, Terry Beck, Michelle Ewert, and Hon. Kathryn Gardner provided a one-hour CLE on emojis and the law. Their presentation focused on recent cases in which courts have had to wrestle with how to interpret emojis in electronic communications presented as evidence.

Mentorship Panel, November 2019

WAAT traveled to Washburn University School of Law for a mentorship panel that was well-attended by both members and students. Many thanks to our panelists Judge Cheryl Rios, Judge Rachel Pickering, Prof. Andrea Boyack, Danielle Hall, Mickey Brassel, Danielle Packer, and Kerry Clark for sharing your insights and experiences with us.

GOOD NEWS

Share your good news with the group anytime by posting on the WAAT listserv or send your triumphs to the WAAT Board for publication in our newsletter. Let us share in your success and celebrate with you!

- **Whitney Casement** was named one of Topeka's Top 20 under 40, became Secretary of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association, and adopted a beautiful baby girl.
- **Jen Cocking** was elected Chair of the Kansas CLE Board.
- **Danielle Hall** was named Go Topeka's Women of Influence Distinguished Mentor in 2019 and became the director of the Kansas Lawyers Assistance Program.
- **Ashley Jarmer** accepted a position as a research attorney in the chambers of Chief Justice Marla Luckert.
- WAAT Past-President **Marla Luckert** was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court.
- **Sarah Morse** became President-Elect of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association.
- WAAT Past-President **Rachel Pickering** was appointed to the Third Judicial District bench.
- WAAT Past-President **Nicole Revenaugh** was selected for the Leadership Greater Topeka 2020 class. Nicole was also awarded Go Topeka's Women of Influence Rising Star Award in 2019.
- **Amanda Stanley** was named President of the State League Counsel Board, which is an affiliate of the International Municipal Lawyers Association.
- **Kelly Trussell** became a partner at the Sloan Law Firm.
- Chief Judge **Evelyn Wilson** of Kansas's Third Judicial District was appointed to be the next Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court. Chief Judge Wilson also shared that the Shawnee County Drug Court has had a successful year, with many people receiving much needed treatment and counselling.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT

Watch your email for details on upcoming events.

January 15 Monthly Membership Meeting
KBA