

Amicus – Fall 2007

Newsletter of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association

From the President – “Size Matters”

Does Size Matter? The KWAA Executive Committee met in Manhattan (little apple, not the big apple) on September 29, 2007, to ask whether as one member phrased it, “does size matter”. The size to which I refer is the size of KWAA. As President, I know that KWAA is a fabulous organization for many reasons and every attorney would benefit from membership. In reality, I know that not everyone who would benefit will take advantage of what we have to offer. Some may claim they are not “joiners” or don’t like “women’s groups”.

To maintain our viability as an organization, we must recruit and retain members. The Executive Committee has decided to focus our efforts on recruiting new attorneys through a personal approach. In the spring of 2008, we will pick a week where we will be asking each of you to commit to contact one person who is not a member and encourage her to join KWAA.

Our efforts to reach more new lawyers include free KWAA membership to law students and first year free KWAA membership to new admittees. In order to

see our “fabulosity” manifested, first time attendees at Lindsborg will receive a half-price fee.

While growth is important, we do not want to forget you, our loyal members. We want to increase the value of your membership. Nancy Ogle and Gabrielle Thompson are working on a new group for solo practice KWAA members. We would also like to develop a winter event.

Consider volunteering to assist on a Lindsborg Conference Committee. Lindsborg 2008 will be July 17 – 19. Joining a committee is great way to meet new people throughout the state. Planning is underway, but it is not too late to help out. Contact Patricia Hamilton to assist with Social, Susana Valdovinos for Program, and Sarah Loquist for Conference Publicity.

Thank you for your commitment to KWAA. I welcome your comments or suggestions.

Kellie Hogan
KWAA President 2007-2008

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Lindsborg Conference 2007 Redefines the Mainstream

by Nancy Ogle, Past President

For the 18th year, attorneys from across Kansas and neighboring states made the trek to Lindsborg for the Kansas Women Attorneys Association’s annual conference on July 19th to 21st. The conference’s theme, Diversity: Redefining the Mainstream, set the stage for the CLEs offered on a wide variety of topics. About 130 lawyers attended the conference and heard the

keynote address by Daisy Jenkins, Vice President of Human Resources and Security for Raytheon Missile Systems. Jenkins, who has been instrumental in developing a diversity plan for Raytheon, discussed the four generations currently in the workforce and how they contribute to the diversity and changing environment in the workplace. Jenkins was also a co-presenter with Carolyn Matthews of a CLE on employment issues. Not only was Jenkins a dynamic and informative speaker, she turned out to be competitive when it came to bidding on the silent auction items!

Several CLE topics and presenters were back by popular demand, and new topics and fresh faces rounded out the program. The CLEs were kicked off by Marty Snyder who reviewed the first major revision of the Kansas Rules of Professional Conduct since their adoption in 1988. In fact, the conference offered 5.5 hours of ethics CLE. Another CLE offering ethics hours was "When Courtrooms Become Showrooms" where a panel consisting of Judge Julie Robinson, Attorney General Paul Morrison and Ron Sylvester, reporter for the Wichita Eagle and husband of Gaye Tibbets, took questions from Mike Kautsch on the ethical implications of high-profile cases. The Appellate All Star Review was back with panelists Judge Richard Green, Justice Marla Luckert and Justice Lee Johnson, who discussed some of the highlights of the Kansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions handed down during the past year.

At the luncheon on Friday, author Diane Eickhoff entertained the crowd by portraying Clarina Nichols who moved from Vermont to Kansas on the eve of the Civil War. Nichols was a journalist and public speaker who helped pave the way for the passage of the 19th amendment and worked for the hot-button issues of her day - women's rights, abolition and temperance. Following her portrayal, Eickhoff returned to the year 2007 and answered questions about Nichols and autographed her book, *Revolutionary Heart: The Life of Clarina Nichols and the Pioneering Crusade for Women's Rights*.

Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Award

On Friday evening, **Judge Janice D. Russell** received the **Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Attorney of Achievement Award**. This award is given annually to an attorney who has achieved professional excellence in her field and advanced opportunities for women within the legal field. The recipient is selected by the KWAA Executive Board from the nominations submitted by members. Stephanie Smith nominated Judge Russell for her involvement with KWAA; long service as a District Court Judge and role model; involvement in Johnson County KWAA activities such as book club and lunch meetings; willingness to share with other women lawyers and campaign to maintain judicial independence. Congratulations to Judge Russell!

KWAA's silent auction has grown to the point that this year's auction brought in \$4500! Through the generosity of silent auction donors and bidders, KWAA gives scholarships annually to students at the University of Kansas School of Law and Washburn University School of Law. LuAnn Dixon organized this year's silent auction.

After a long absence from the conference, golf was reintroduced. The golfers gathered at the McPherson County Club on Thursday morning and included: Kathy Webb, Laurie B. Williams, Becky Sanders and Patti Petersen-Klein. This year's golfers made plans to continue this resurrected tradition and name the golfing event after themselves.

As Program Committee Co-chair Kathy Bussing put it, attending the Lindsborg Conference is like going to a family reunion. The KWAA family owes a big "thank

you!" to the Kansas Legal Professionals who again volunteered their time to help with several tasks prior to the conference and kept things under control at the registration desk throughout the conference. The KLP volunteers were: Alicia Lang, Barbara Wise and Pam Licon. The Lindsborg Conference would not happen without the hard work of the committee chairs and members. The leadership for the 2007 Lindsborg Conference included: Conference Co-chairs Judge Evelyn Wilson and Gaye Tibbets; Program Co-chairs Kathy Bussing and Carmen St. Martin; Logistics Chair Susana Valdovinos; Social Chair Marty Snyder; and Publicity Chair Deena Bailey. The Publicity Committee raised over \$7000 in sponsorships, which goes a long way in helping KWAA's financial health!

Lindsborg 2008

You won't want to miss the next fabulous Lindsborg gathering! Mark your calendar **now** for the 2008 conference which will be July 17 to 19, 2008. To learn more, and especially to **volunteer** contact:

Conference Chair - Linda Graham

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785-776-9844

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Volunteers Wanted

The Publicity Committee needs **YOU!** One of the committee's primary responsibilities is recruiting sponsors to offset the costs for our annual conference in Lindsborg. In the coming months, many of you may be contacted and asked to personally contact the law firms or companies for whom you work and encourage them to become a sponsor for the conference. While the committee will still be mailing out information to

potential sponsors, learning about the conference from someone known by the firm or company often makes a huge difference in whether they choose to sponsor KWAA's conference. Please show your support for KWAA by requesting that your employer become a sponsor in 2008! For more information about sponsorships or serving on the Publicity Committee, please contact Sarah Loquist at sloquist@usd259.net or 316-973-4702.

Member News

Janet Arndt, former assistant director of the Kansas Court of Appeals central research department has joined the Attorney General's office in the Legal Opinions & Government Counsel division.

Deena Hyson Bailey, KWAA President-Elect has a new position as the in-house employment and labor counsel for Cargill Meat Solutions in Wichita.

Amy Bertrand left the Department of Administration in December 2006 and is pursuing a Master's Degree in Social Welfare at KU. She is currently doing a practicum with Van Go Mobile Arts in Lawrence, and hopes to continue working with creativity in a therapeutic setting.

Sharon Dickgrafe has been appointed to the KBA awards and diversity committees. She has also filed as a candidate for Sedgwick County District Court Judge, Eighteenth Judicial District, Division 10. Sharon is currently an Assistant City Attorney with the City of Wichita.

Emily Haverkamp, who practices immigration law at the Mdivani Law Firm, has been named the Training Director and member of the Board of Directors for the Kansas City Chapter of Amigos de las Americas, <http://www.amigoslink.org>. She also recently organized, moderated and presented a CLE for KCMBA entitled "International Issues in Family Law."

U. S. Magistrate Judge Karen Humphreys chairs the board of directors for Diversity Kansas and the Kansas Leadership Center. She also serves on the KU Alumni Association board of directors and is the U.S. Magistrate Judge representative to the 10th Circuit Judicial Council. Karen also conducts court proceedings at Ft. Riley for misdemeanor matters. She notes "that has been a most interesting assignment because of that fort's significant involvement in the Iraq war. Many citizens forget that federal court has jurisdiction over offenses committed by civilians on federal military installations. "

Robin Kempf associate general counsel for the Kansas Board of Regents since 2005, has been chosen by the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board to fill the newly created post of Inspector General. As part of her duties she will audit, investigate and conduct performance reviews for the Medicaid program, MediKan and the State Children's Health Insurance Program. The position must be confirmed by the Senate after the Legislature convenes in January 2008.

Katherine Kirk is spending three months in Jordan in connection with the ABA Rule of Law Initiative. She will be working with the courts, judges and attorneys in Jordan building and expanding mediation programs, and establishing mediation rules and protocol. She will also be writing training manuals, doing training and "having a very exciting adventure!" Kathy practices in Lawrence, and sent an invitation to join other Douglas County Women Attorneys for lunch the first Thursday of every month at 11:45 at the Eldridge Hotel.

Marta Linenberger is now with Foulston Siefkin in the Topeka Office. She was formerly the General Counsel for the Kansas Health Policy Authority .

Mira Mdivani, who practices immigration law at Mdivani Law Firm, has again been named the Best of the Bar for Immigration Law by the *Daily Record*, *Pitch Weekly* and *The Kansas City Business Journal*. The Pitch newspaper, Vol. 27 No. 13, for Oct. 4-10, 2007, praised Mdivani as one of the “Best of Kansas City.”

“The Russian-born lawyer went to law school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City; since she started her own firm in Overland Park, she’s been recognized over and over for her toughness and expertise in business and family immigration law. But outside the boardroom, Mdivani is also a tireless advocate for victims of domestic violence, helping immigrant women who are often bound to abusive marriages by their illegal status. ... More important than winning cases or earning awards, though, Mdivani wants to repair the disconnect between immigrants and Americans. She even published a glossy cookbook last year showcasing the international recipes of some of her clients.”

Mira shared her cookbook, recipes, and stories at the 2006 Lindsborg Conference!

Rebecca Rand, formerly the research attorney for several judges in Johnson County, has joined the Attorney General's office in the Legal Opinions & Government Counsel division.

Lauren Reinhold and husband Kent Clasen welcomed their daughter Jules on Sept. 15, 2007. She joins her brother Miles, age 6. Lauren practices in Lawrence.

Trish Rose was one of 40 individuals selected for the Leadership Kansas class of 2007. Participants are chosen for their potential for playing a leadership role in Kansas and evidence of professional and personal improvement after completing formal education. The program is sponsored by the Kansas Chamber of Commerce.

Jennifer Schmidt is a Fellow at KU’s Dole Institute of Politics. This fall she lead a study session on “Women in Politics: Career Stories.”

Marty Snyder announces the birth of her second grandson, Ayden Douglas Barnett, on July 31, 2007.

Gabrielle Thompson, formerly Managing Attorney of the Manhattan office of Kansas Legal Services, has opened a new office in Manhattan. Her Elder Law practice offers a combination of traditional estate planning and probate law with planning for appropriate living arrangements, surrogate decision-making and long-term care or home health care and assisted living. She also practices in the area of family law, including divorce, custody, guardianship and adoption. Contact Gabrielle at P.O. Box 1713, Manhattan, KS. 66505. (785) 539-3336. gabrielle7000@sbcglobal.net

Malissa Walden and husband Don announce the birth of their daughter Opal Adelle Walden on June 2, 2007 at 1:15 p.m. Opal weighed 7 lb. 9 oz. and was 19.5” Opal attended the Lindsborg conference and made many new friends among the bench and bar. Malissa noted “I wasn’t sure I was going to be able to get her back from the Justices!” Opal is doing well and “growing like a weed!” Malissa is an attorney with Kansas Legal Services in Kansas City.

KWAA STARTS GROUP FOR SOLO AND SMALL FIRM PRACTITIONERS

by Nancy Ogle

The last CLE time-slot on Saturday morning of the Lindsborg Conference is a tough gig. By that time, many people need to get back on the road and return to the demands of their lives. This year one of the CLE offerings at that time was "A Guide to Starting and Running a Solo Practice Without Tripping On the Rules of Professional Conduct," with presenters Judy Taylor, Robin Lewis, and Deborah James. Despite its place on the schedule, the room was filled to overflowing. Not only was the CLE presentation outstanding, but the attendees jumped into the discussion and shared concerns and helpful information.

Out of that CLE has grown an interest in starting a group within KWAA of solo practitioners who are interested in meeting once or twice a

year for a short program or discussion lead by experienced solo practitioners and an opportunity to network. This idea has been expanded to include attorneys in small firms, because solo and small firm practitioners share several of the small issues and special needs. The goal is for the first meeting of this group to be in the spring of 2008 at a quasi-central location, like Emporia.

An email was sent to the KWAA listserv announcing the formation of this group in September. Several people responded expressing their interest and offering ideas. If you want to get involved or have ideas and suggestions to offer, please contact Nancy Ogle at nancy@ogle-law.com or phone: 316-263-4958. Watch the listserv for announcements about the inaugural meeting.

Announcements of Interest

KCSDV (Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence) is excited to announce it will be expanding its work on child welfare issues with 2 new positions. One position will focus specifically on assisting domestic violence and sexual assault programs to increase their capacity to serve children and the other position will focus specifically on building collaborative relationships with other statewide child welfare organizations in order to better address the needs of children & youth who are exposed and subjected to sexual and domestic violence. Those position announcements and applications are ly p on the website. www.kcsdv.org Click on job opportunities.

KCSDV is also hiring an Outreach Advocacy Coordinator who will focus on improving advocacy services for underserved communities with a particular emphasis on immigrant and foreign-born victims, and women of color. While this position will work closely with the Immigration Project at the Coalition, this person will also look more broadly at how services can reach those victim/survivors in every community who may not currently be accessing services. That position description will also be available on the website.

KCSDV is very excited to be expanding into new areas and increasing response in other areas. Please feel free to forward this announcement to good people who might be interested. Direct questions to Joyce Grover [joyceg@kcsdv.org].

New Resources for Domestic Violence Survivors

The Allstate Foundation has launched a new Web site providing information and resources to financially empower survivors of domestic violence. <<http://www.econempowerment.org/>> www.EconEmpowerment.org. The site is just one component of The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program, which provides comprehensive programming to energize, empower and equip domestic violence survivors with the resources, knowledge and skills they need to achieve safer and more financially secure lives. "Financial control is an aspect of domestic violence that is frequently overlooked," said Jennifer Kuhn, program manager for The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program. "Abusers frequently isolate their victims by controlling access to money and financial resources. Financial abuse can be more devastating than physical abuse in some situations. With our new Web site, <<http://www.econempowerment.org/>> www.EconEmpowerment.org, we provide critical resources and information to help survivors find financial independence free from abuse."

KWAA Officers 2007-2008

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District Representatives

	Term expires 2008	Term expires 2009
1	<p>Judy Taylor Taylor Law Firm 100 E. Park Ste. 6 Olathe, KS 66061 913-390-1999 jtaylorattty@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Mira Mdivani Mdivani Law Firm 7007 College Blvd Ste. 460 Overland Park, KS 66211 913-317-6200 mmdivani@uslegalimmigration.com</p>
2	<p>Katherine Kirk Law Offices of Jerry K. Levy 4840 Bob Billings Pkwy Lawrence, KS 66049 785-749-1323 kathykirk@earthlink.net</p>	<p>Emily Donaldson Stevens & Brand 900 Massachusetts Ste 500 Lawrence, KS 785-843-0811 edonaldson@stevensbrand.com</p>
3	<p>Jennifer Brunetti 214 East McKay Frontenac, KS 66763 620-235-0100 jbrunetti@frontenac.ks.com</p>	Open
4	Open	<p>Tamara Niles 125 W. Fifth Ave. Arkansas City, KS 67005 620-442-6010 tniles@arkansascityks.gov</p>
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8	<p>Trish Rose Forker, Suter & Rose PO Box 1868 Hutchinson, KS 67504 620-663-7131 lawfirm@pixius.net</p>	<p>Ellen Neufeld Dept. of Social & Rehabilitation Serv. 600 Andrew Ave. South Hutchinson, KS 67505 620-663-5731, Ext. 326 egn@srskansas.org</p>
9	<p>Rebecca Crotty Board of Tax Appeals 915 SW Harrison, Ste. 451 Topeka, KS 66612 785-296-2388 crotty.rebecca@bota.ks.gov</p>	<p>Shirley Calvin Kansas Legal Services 120 Grant Ave. Garden City, KS 67846 620-275-0238 calvins@klsinc.org</p>
10	<p>Leslie Hess PO Box 1450 Hays, KS 67601 785-623-4110 lhess@lesliehess.com</p>	Open
11	<p>Nancy Roe 707 Minnesota Ave, Ste. 603 Kansas City, KS 66101 913-621-6512</p>	<p>Cassie Pfannenstiel Rodriguez SRS Child Support Enforcement 1308 N. 132nd St. Kansas City, KS 66109 913-279-7658 cpfannenstiel@srs.ks.gov</p>

Editor's Note

I am excited about the opportunity to stay connected with the KWAA and its members through the Newsletter. Please let me know if you have ideas, suggestions or other thoughts about the Newsletter and its function. Please also report any errors , especially with regard to contact information. Prof. Sandy McKenzie scm@ku.edu.