

Amicus Newsletter Spring 2012



Special points of interest:

- SEE WHAT OTHER MEMBERS ARE DOING! Pgs 6-12 and 16
- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Pgs 1-2
- LINDSBORG 2012 (Cover), pages 3-4
- DISTRICT EVENTS Pgs 6-12
- OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER AND VOICE MAIL: 785-260-0452

Humor & Effective Legal Writing 5

District Events 7

KWAA Governing Council 13

Awareness—90% of self-defense 14

Pioneering Women 16

Food from the Bar 18

KWAA Membership App 20

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Elizabeth Sweeney-Reeder



When I had my son, Patrick, 7 years ago I was pretty vulnerable to criticism. Well-meaning (and sometimes not so well-meaning) people gave me their unsolicited advice on how to parent my child. Combined with my incessant research about every baby topic imaginable, I became a very stressed out, unsure and crazed first time mom. Then there was the guilt. Just about everything made me feel guilty. Maybe I was doing it the wrong way? What if I hurt my baby?

KWAA was my refuge from the craziness. Instead of making me feel guilty about going back to work after the birth of my son, my fellow women attorneys asked, not “if” but “when” I would be going back to work. They encouraged me and bolstered my confidence with their experiences of the dual profession of mother and attorney. When I *asked* for advice, I received it in a no-nonsense, nonjudgmental, practical manner.

(Continued, page 2)

LINDSBORG 2012 Leadership: Charting Our Course

KWAA's annual conference this year will start on July 19, and go through Saturday, July 21. We are fortunate to have Fortune 500 leadership advisor Denise

Brosseau join us to present the keynote address, “Moving From Leader to Thought Leader.”

Ms. Brosseau is the CEO of Well-

Connected Leader.



Sharing a meal together, 2011

Continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Elizabeth Sweeney-Reeder (Cont from page 1)

Being a new parent for a second time has been a whole different experience for me. I feel much different than I did in 2005. I have grown as a mother, an attorney and a woman. While my colleagues in KWAA continue to support and encourage me, they have helped make me a better woman, confident in my ability to do the right thing, on the job and at home. I have been able to encourage other professional first time moms that you can have a balance. You can be a mother and an attorney.

A KWAA member gave Charlotte the book *The Country Bunny and the Little Gold Shoes* by Du Bose Heyward. As I had never heard of this book before, little did I know what an impact it would have on me and summarize my hopes for Charlotte. I believe that the message of the book is one I have also received from KWAA.

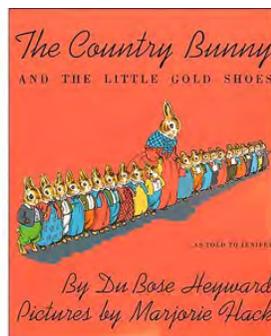
The Country Bunny is the story of a little girl country bunny who dreams of being an Easter bunny. Many tell her that she cannot do it. She grew into a lady country bunny and had children. The naysayers laughed and said see we told you, you will never realize your dream. Eventually it was time for a new Easter bunny. The country bunny was chosen over all the other bunnies. Grandpa Bunny chose the country bunny because she was wise, kind, swift and clever. These were all skills the country bunny had utilized as a mother. The country bunny worked hard as an Easter bunny. She never gave up and was ultimately rewarded by Grandpa Bunny.

To me and one day for my daughter, the message of this book is that **you can be whatever you want to be**. Although you will come across those who want to stand in your way, persevere and you will ultimately receive your reward.

ThRough KWAA I have met many women, who due to their confidence and courage, have made it possible for this message to be my reality.

The Country Bunny was written in 1939 at a time when a woman working outside the home was not the norm. A woman attorney, especially an attorney who was a mother, was a rarity. Although the story is over 70 years old, it is still as relevant as the shared experiences of our seasoned members. I am always amazed at the trials that some of our members went through to be able to study and practice law. Through hardships and degradation they endured, worked hard, persevered and were able to receive their reward.

That is what KWAA and its members have instilled in me and what I hope it will instill in generations to come, including my daughter. Depending on what point you are in your career, I encourage you to talk about your experiences or listen to others at a local gathering or at Lindsborg so we don't forget how far we have come and how important it is that we do not go back to that place where we let other bunnies define us.



LINDSBORG 2012 Leadership: Charting Our Course

(Continued from page 1)

Advising women on how to excel to the top in their organization and companies, Denise is also a sought-after speaker in the areas of leadership, thought leadership and entrepreneurship. KWAA is fortunate to have Denise visit us to share her dynamic and engaging program which she has presented to Fortune 500 clients such as Intel, Abbott Labs, and KPMG, to name a few, as well as other associations and organizations across the U.S.

Denise began her career in the high tech industry, with executive positions at Kensington and Motorola before co-founding the Forum for Women Entrepreneurs (now Watermark), Invent Your Future Enterprises, and the Springboard Venture Forums which have led to over \$5 billion in funding for women-led businesses.

Come ready to learn how to increase your promotability by becoming known as the go-to person in your field of expertise; the (spoken and unspoken) responsibilities and opportunities that come along with taking on a leadership role in your company, organization or community; and the tips, tools and tactics of other women leaders of all ages and backgrounds who have successfully made the transition from leader to thought leader.

You can check out Ms. Brosseau's work at www.wellconnectedleader.com.

For your CLE needs:

A fabulous program is planned, addressing your practice, what ever your experience level is. You will find programs for those with little or no experience in a certain area and others for very experienced practitioners. These programs will also provide CLE credits. We have received approval for 12 hours of CLE for Kansas including 2 hours of ethics, and requested Missouri approval for 12 hours of CLE credit, including 2 hours of ethics!



(Continued on page 4)

LINDSBORG 2012

(Con't from page 3)

Get to Work on Winning the "Rockin' Region Award

The Silent Auction Committee is launching a new program this year. We will be soliciting "Region Baskets" from each of the 11 KWAA Regions. You should be hearing soon from your Region Representatives regarding putting together a basket depicting either your geographic flare or the conference theme, "Leadership." The region with the highest selling basket will be awarded the "Rockin' Region Award" – a priceless recognition worth one year of bragging rights! We will continue to offer numerous additional items for your purchasing pleasure, including some similar to years past and some new exciting items. Contact Margann Bennett (margann.bennett@washburn.edu) or Gabe Beam (gabeam@fdic.gov) if you have items to donate or ideas to share. Set aside some money for the auction, and don't forget we take only cash or checks.



Last year at the Galleries in Lindsborg



One of three silent auction tables from last year's Lindsborg conference

Because our KWAA Members Have Brains, Skills, and Talent.....

The Social Committee is hard at work crafting fun and creative ways to socialize, celebrate, and reconnect with one another, as well as introducing first-timers to the camaraderie that is Lindsborg. The festivities will begin on Thursday with the traditional KU and Washburn law school receptions, along with a new all-comers reception for non-Kansas law school grads. Then, following the keynote speaker, we look forward to a wine and dessert reception in the newly reopened Sandzen Gallery.

Friday's fun will kick off early with a 5k walk and run led by Carole Boorady, who might tell us what life is like in Miz-zou country for a KU grad. Later in the afternoon, we'll enjoy the hospitality of the Chamber of Commerce and the downtown shops for shopping and sipping a cool beverage. Save your energy, though, because you won't want to miss dinner at the McPherson Country Club and the KWAA Talent Extravaganza at which Judge Marten

already has agreed to perform!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Susan Berson (sberson@banktaxlaw.com) or Mary Beth Blake (MBlake@Polsinelli.com), your co-chairs for this conference.

Look forward to seeing you in Lindsborg!

Humor and Effective Legal Writing Presented by Cathy Dean, Lauren Tucker McCubbin and Amy Fitts of Polsinelli Shughart PC From the Lindsborg 2011 Conference

- In writing to analyze or persuade, strive for these major goals:

Get your point across quickly with an up-front summary.

Focus the argument.

Make it interesting.

Supply smooth transitions.

Quote smartly and deftly

Bryan A. Garner, *Legal Writing in Plain English, A Text with Exercises*, The University of Chicago Press, 2001, Part Two.



- As is the case with beauty, humor is often in the perspective of the reader. Sarcasm never has a place and has been duly noted as “the language of the Devil”... A well-turned phrase or humorous comment, which is natural and neither personal nor malicious, can be a breath of fresh air in a brief. Anything that appears contrived or forced should never find its way in, or the writer should eliminate it before filing.”

Judge J. Thomas Marten, *A Few Questions and Thoughts on Writing*, 50 Washburn L.J. No. 2 (Winter 2011)

- “In proper doses and in the right context, levity can add to the writer’s ability to engage the audience...it tends to make the experience of reading more entertaining (assuming the reader has a sense of humor), which alone makes it easier for the writer to hold the reader’s interest.”

Mark K. Osbeck, *Elegant Expressions: Reflections on the Nature of Great Legal Writing*, available at: <http://works.bepress.com>

- “[O]ne of my favorite moments of reading briefs involved a touch of humor. A party seeking more time to accomplish a task had complained of receiving a semi-trailer load of discovery documents from opposing counsel. Opposing counsel, in a footnote, refuted this statement, saying that they all had fit comfortably in the back seat of her Taurus.”

Judge J. Thomas Marten, *A Few Questions and Thoughts on Writing*, 50 Washburn L.J. No. 2 (Winter 2011)

- “Never do I think, ‘This point could be made better if I work on a good joke.’ Instead, what happens is that I will think, ‘This point could be made better, and as I sit and ponder, sometimes a good phrase will come, sometimes a good analogy, and sometimes a good joke.’”

Kenny Hegland, *Humor as the Enemy of Death, or Is It “Humor as the Enemy of Depth”?* 1992 BYU L. Rev. 375 at 375, n.2.

- The use of humor should help illustrate a point, not overshadow it. It should tie into facts in the record. Knowing your audience is even more crucial in this context.

- “I would not convey the thought that an opinion is the worse for being lightened by a smile. I am merely preaching caution.

Benjamin Cardozo, *Law and Literature*, Reprinted in 39 Colum. L. Rev. 119, 52 Har.L. Rev. 471 and 48 Yale L.J. 489 (1939) (simultaneously after Cardozo’s death).

LOL!

- Humor in judicial writing is appropriate: 1. When it helps the reader by clarifying an issue or an enigmatic point of the law. 2. When it is brief. 3. When it is relevant. 4. When it does not mock the litigants or detract from the sanctity or severity of the circumstances.

Continued on page 15

M E M B E R N E W S

The Best Lawyers in America, the oldest and one of the most respected peer-review publications in the legal profession, selected Foulston Siefkin Partners, Holly A. Dyer, Amy S. Lemley, Trisha A. Thelen, Patricia Voth Blankenship and Special Counsel Marta Fisher Lingenberger for the "Best Lawyers in American 2012 Edition."



Holly



Amy



Trisha



Patricia



Marta

Kathy Bailes is presenting a paper in April on "Traces of Classical Mythology in the Contemporary Political Arena" in Boston at the American Culture Association conference. It will focus on references to mythology in political speeches, quotes, cartoons and even a Saturday Night live skit.

Diane Belquist received the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award at the Topeka Bar Association annual meeting.

Vincent Cox presents award to Diane



The Honorable Carol Beier was inducted into the KU Women's Hall of Fame on April 3, 2012 for her significant contributions and achievements, overall impact and outstanding character, serving as a role model for students.

Brooke Bennett Aziere, partner in Foulston Siefkin's Wichita office, was named a 2011 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyer Rising Star. Brooke is a member of the firm's health care practice group.

Carol Boorady placed first in the women's race on March 3, 2012 in the True Life Run at Flat Branch Park with a time of 23:28 before adjustments for

various obstacles that brought her time to 16:28. Further, Carol has been named an administrative law judge.

Miranda Carmona was selected by the Jayhawk Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America as one of this year's Greater Topeka's 20 Under 40, an award honoring 20 of Topeka's professionals for excellence in their professions and service to the Topeka community.

Mary Christopher joined Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds & Palmer as partner at the beginning of 2012. She has also been chosen by the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce to be part of the 2012 Leadership Greater Topeka class.

Martha Coffman is now the General Counsel for the Office of Judicial Administration.

Carol Foreman was appointed to the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission by Chief Justice Ness.

Amy S. Lemley, partner in Foulston Siefkin's Wichita office, was selected as a 2011 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyer. She focuses on complex litigation and the defense of professionals.

Roberta Sue McKenna retired from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services on December 9, 2011 after almost 27 years.

Mira Mdivani, received the University of Missouri, Kansas City Foundation Pro Bono Award.

Steve Cosentino, Pres. UMKC Law Fndtn, presents award to Mira.



Kelly Rundell won the 2012 Louise Mattox Attorney of Achievement Award.

Judge Maritza Segarra was named in Ingram's, Kansas City's business magazine, as one of "50 Kansans You Should Know."

(Continued on page 7)

M E M B E R N E W S (Con't from page 6)

Elizabeth Sweeney-Reeder, Assistant Miami County Attorney, gave birth to Charlotte Rose Hope Reader on October 31. Charlotte was 6 pounds 8 ounces and 19 inches long. Mom and baby are well and went home on November 2. This is the second child for Elizabeth and her husband Jeff. Their son, Patrick, is 7 years old.

Alleen Van Beber and her son opened their new furniture business in KC, MO in November.

Michelle Wade and Dillon Strohm published the article FAA Notice of Proposed Policy Clarification for the Registration of Aircraft in Owner Trusts and the article BARR is back! Read both articles on the firms website at www.jetlaw.com.

Teresa Watson has been named to the 2011 list of Super Lawyers in Kansas in the area of Appellate Law.

Sherri Wattenbarger received the 2011 Woman of the Year award from the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City. She was also named a recipient of the Women's Justice Award for Public Service from the Missouri Lawyer's Weekly. (See page 16 for more)

Angel Zimmerman lead a panel discussion of national creditors at the NARCA fall conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. On another note, she and her business partner/husband bought a building! Valentine, Zimmerman & Zimmerman will move into their new space at 909 SE Quincy, downtown Topeka, in the summer of 2012. Further, Angel spoke about work/life balance and the importance of local community involvement at the Women in Law breakfast session at the International JRCLS conference held at Stanford University School of Law in February. In March, she spoke at a HUBNET software users group meeting about computer and management tips, held in Tampa Bay, Florida.

(Continued on page 16)

D I S T R I C T E V E N T S

DISTRICT 1—JOHNSON COUNTY

April 26 at Chili's; 12-1pm at 5880 Antioch, Merriam, KS 66202

May 15 Book Club at Mary Stevenson/s house; email lkrebs@sbcglobal.net for more information

May 24 at Ruby Tuesday; 12-1pm at 15400 W 119th St, Olathe, KS 66062

June 21 at Applebees; 12-1pm at 12242 W 95th, Lenexa, KS 66215

DISTRICT 7—SEDWICK COUNTY:

April 27, 2012 @ 12:00 pm—Louise Maddox Award Luncheon; Location—TBD

May 2012 (date TBD) - Annual Joint Meeting with the Women Accountants; Location TBD

June 2 2 hour Ethics CLE

June 28 Wine and chocolate event

(Continued, page 8)

DISTRICT EVENTS

DISTRICT 11—DOUGLAS COUNTY:

Meets every second Thursday of the month at noon at the Eldridge Hotel at the TEN Restaurant in Lawrence.

DISTRICT 5 -SHAWNEE COUNTY

April 26th, **JUST DESSERTS** event to benefit the Washburn Women's Alliance Scholarship Fund; 5:30 pm—7:30 pm at Serendipity at 820 N Kansas Avenue. See pages 9 and 10 for the invite and registration form.

May 5th, **SECOND ANNUAL LAW DAY 5K RUN/ 1 MILE WALK.** The Young Lawyers Division and the Law Day Committee of the Topeka Bar Association have joined together again this year to coordinate the 2nd Annual Law Day 5K race/ 1 mile walk. The race will be at Washburn University Law School at 9:00 a.m.. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Kansas Legal Services, Inc. You can register online through www.active.com. For more information, visit www.topekabar.com under "events." See page 11 for the registration form.

DISTRICT 6—NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS

May 3, 4:30pm to 7:00pm Join local women attorneys for a **SPRINGTIME EVENING ON THE VERANDAH AT COLBERT'S.** See the invitation on page 12.

Other districts: Get your events in the Fall newsletter. Email dara@valentine-law.com by

DISTRICT EVENTS (Continued from page 8)

REGION 5, SHAWNEE COUNTY



The Women Attorneys Association of Topeka cordially invites your attendance at its annual fundraiser:

JUST DESSERTS

TO BENEFIT THE WASHBURN WOMEN'S ALLIANCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Thursday, April 26th 2012

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

At Serendipity ~ 820 N. Kansas Ave.

~ ample parking in back ~

Join us in the NOTO Arts District, at the most chic new venue in town! There will be delectable sweet treats and light hors d'oeuvres, plus wine, gourmet coffee and soft drinks. Enjoy an evening of goodies and good friends ~ while supporting a great cause! PLUS: surrounding art galleries will be open for a mini "art walk" for Just Desserts attendees! You WON'T want to miss this fabulous event!



*** WASHBURN WOMEN'S ALLIANCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND ***

Registration:

- \$25/each if postmarked by April 23rd
- \$30/each if postmarked after April 23rd or paid at the door
- Mail advance registration forms and checks to:

WAAT, P.O. Box 2483
Topeka, KS 66601

DISTRICT EVENTS (Continued from page 8)

REGION 5, SHAWNEE COUNTY

JUST DESSERTS MAIL-IN REGISTRATION AND/OR SPONSORSHIP FORM THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2012

Registration to attend: (Fill in blanks)

If postmarked by April 23, 2012: # _____ at \$25.00/each = total: _____

If postmarked after April 23, 2012: # _____ at \$30.00/each = total: _____

Sponsorship Levels – All sponsors will be recognized on WAAT's website and in the event program:
(Check box to select level)

Scrumptious! (Includes four complimentary registrations to attend) _____ \$125.00

Sweetest! (Includes three complimentary registrations to attend) _____ \$100.00

Sweeter! (Includes two complimentary registrations to attend) _____ \$75.00

Sweet! (Includes one complimentary registration to attend) _____ \$50.00

Other Amount: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Name(s) of person(s) registered:

Sponsorship recognition should be given to: (if different than registrants listed above, i.e. firm name)

Please mail this form with payment to:

WAAT
P.O. Box 2483
Topeka, KS 66601

THANK YOU!!!!!! WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!!

DISTRICT EVENTS (Continued from page 8)

REGION 5, SHAWNEE COUNTY

Mail in Registration Form

Annual Law Day 5k Race/One Mile Walk

Saturday, May 5, 2012

Race Time: 9:00 a.m.



Event (circle one) 5K 1 Mile Walk

Name _____

Birth Date ____/____/____ Age on Race Day ____ Gender (circle) Male Female

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

5K Entry Fee: \$25 (postmarked by April 23)
\$30 (after April 23)

One Mile Walk Entry Fee: \$20

Additional donation: \$ _____

Total enclosed: _____ (Make checks payable to: Topeka Bar Association)

- Free water bottle to the first 50 registrants - donated by The Vernon Company.
- Timing of the event will be provided by Sunflower Striders Running Club.

Shirt Size (circle one): S M L XL (Shirts are not guaranteed for race day entrants)

Mail Registration Form to: Paula Huff, Executive Director
Topeka Bar Association
534 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 1130
Topeka, KS 66603

Waiver of Liability:

I know that running and volunteering in running events are potentially hazardous activities. In consideration of my participation in this event, I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, hereby, for my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any claims for damages I may have against the Topeka Bar Association, Sunflower Striders Running Club, Washburn University, the City of Topeka, any sponsors/benefactors and race officials thereof, including their employees, agents, representatives and successors and any other person or entity providing services for the event, from all claims and liabilities of any kind arising from my participation in this event. I hereby assume the risks of participating in this event. I attest and verify that I am medically able and sufficiently trained for the completion of the event. I hereby agree that in the event of cancellation due to storm, rain, inclement weather or other "acts of God" conditions, my registration fee shall not be refunded.

Signature _____

Parent's Signature (if under 18) _____

Date _____

DISTRICT EVENTS (Continued from page 8)

REGION 6, NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS

JOIN LOCAL WOMEN ATTORNEYS FOR A SPRINGTIME EVENING ON THE VERANDAH AT COLBERT'S

4:30-7:00pm, Thursday, May 3

- Meet other women practicing law locally
- Chat with your friends
- Network
- Enjoy delicious hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and your favorite drink
- Gaze at the gorgeous view over the prairie



Angel Zimmerman, incoming president of KWAA, and partner with Valentine and Zimmerman, will tell us about the organization.

BEVERAGES AND FOOD PROVIDED BY THE KANSAS WOMEN ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

Please RSVP TO: kcarpenter@rileycountyks.gov

We want to have plenty of food and drinks.

**Please spread the word to all the
women attorneys you know!**



KWAA GOVERNING COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Elizabeth H. Sweeney-Reeder
Past President: Sarah Loguist
President Elect: Angel Zimmerman
Treasurer: Amy Walters
Secretary: Cassie Pfannensteil Rodriguez

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Nominating and Transition Committee:
Sarah Loguist, Elizabeth Sweeney-Reeder,
Angel Zimmerman
Executive: See Executive Committee above
Membership: Tracey T. Beverlin
Newsletter: Dara Montclare
Career Development: Anne McDonald
Publicity: Bethany Roberts
Archives: Gabrielle Thompson, Carol
Boorady, Marie Landry

STANDING COMMITTEES (Continued)

Women in Law: Patricia Hamilton
ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Susan Berson &
Mary Beth Blake, Co Chairs
Fundraising/Vendors:
Deena Hyson Bailey
Program: Cathy Dean
Publicity: Bethany Roberts
Entertainment: Kathy Bailes,
Sherri Wattenbarger
Logistics: Susana Valdovinos
Silent Auction: Gabrielle Beam,
Margann Bennett
Solo & Small Firm Practice: Nancy Ogle

AC HOC COMITTEES:
Awards: Linda Parks
KBA Liaison: Patti Petersen-Klein

DISTRICT / REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

District 1—Johnson County	Linda Krebs	Mira Mdivani
District 2—NE Kansas	Sally Pokorny	Cheryl Trenholm
District 3—SE Kansas	Lisa Montgomery	Raye Ann Tucker
District 4—E. Central KS-Emporia	Tamara Niles	OPEN
District 5—Shawnee County	Becky Sanders	Miranda Carmona
District 6—N. Central KS	Ann Zimmerman	Brenda Stoss
District 7—Sedgwick County	Kellie Hogan	Amy Fellows Cline
District 8—W. Central KS	Tracey T. Beverlin	Candace Bridgess
District 9—SW KS	Shirley Calvin	Susan J. Whitfield-Harding
District 10—NW KS	Melissa Hunsicker-Walburn	OPEN
District 11—Wyandotte County	Malissa Walden	Rae Sedgwick

“Awareness makes up 90% of self-defense”

By Angel Zimmerman

The need to be aware of your surroundings became particularly close to me as I received an email from a female attorney telling me of a female attorney who was shot and killed between her garage and the back of her house upon arriving home from her 40th birthday celebration. (I am 40.) It does not appear that there is probably anything she could have done to protect herself but again reminded me of self-defense training and many internet sources and police departments that agree that awareness makes up 90% of self-defense and 10% is actual techniques.

I think we all know that we are to be mentally aware of our surroundings, but we get busy with who we are with or often the thoughts in our own head.

We can remind ourselves, spouses and kids to pay attention by simple reminders. I am often reminded that I am in “code white” by my kids. It means that mom is not paying attention and has no idea of her surroundings. The color code of awareness has been a helpful strategy – even a “game” in our home.

It is said that we should try to stay in “code yellow” most of the time. This is just normal routine living – you are not paranoid but paying attention so you have the ability to notice something odd – such as the trashcans have moved or there is a person in the crowd that is acting odd. “Code yellow” does many helpful things for us. It helps us take in the absolutely breathe taking beauty in this world. It also keeps us alert and paying attention, so we avoid the, “mom, mom, mom, mom, are you listening” issue when the kids catch us not paying attention and it helps us be in a position to notice when others need help.

The next level is “code orange.” This is where you know something is not right and you are now paying very close attention to every detail that you can take in and are trying to plan escape routes and what you can do to protect yourself and those around you. This may be a surprise person in the parking garage with you as you spend a late night at the office. There may be nothing wrong and the gentleman in the garage with you was also working late and is trying to hurry to get home to his family. This is often called the ready position and helps you prepare for “code red” or allow you to gracefully move back to “code yellow” and say a prayer of gratitude that all is well and also that you didn’t act in a way that you would regret.

“Code red” is when you are in danger. You need to carry out what you decided to do when you were in “code orange.” You are in conflict and you must decide fight or flight. Any opportunity you are given, even if it is split seconds to get to go from yellow, to orange, to red protects your opportunity to be successful.

This simple technique is easy to use and easy to practice. Take the time to ask yourself, “What code was I in?” As I always tell my kids, “Go out there and do great things.” But I think behind that statement is a charge to be aware of what is happening around you so you can do great things.

Have an awesome week.

Humor and Effective Legal Writing

(continued from page 5)

- Eg. “If the defendants were at fault in leaving an uncovered hole in the sidewalk of a public street, the intoxication of the plaintiff cannot excuse such gross negligence. A drunken man is as much entitled to a safe street as a sober one, and in much more need of it.”
Robinson v. Pioche, Bayerque & Co., 5 Cal.460, 461 (1855).
- Eg. In law, as in life, two wrongs add up to two wrongs, nothing more.
Cubanski v. Heckler, 794 F.2d 540, 546 (9th Cir. 1986)
- Eg. As a linguistic matter, “and” and “or” are not synonyms; indeed they are more nearly antonyms. One need only start the day with a breakfast of ham *or* eggs to be duly impressed by the difference. *MacDonald v Pan Am. World Airways, Inc.*, 859 F.2d 742, 746 (9th Cir. 1988).
- Eg. The two provisions have about as much in common as apples and pineapples: They sound vaguely similar but grow on entirely different statutory trees.
Cubanski v. Heckler, 794 F.2d 545 (9th Cir. 1986)
- Eg. *Avista Management, Inc. v. Wausau Underwriters Ins. Co.*, 6:05-cv-1430-Orl-31JGG (Fla. M.D. June 6, 2006)(ordering the parties to resolve discovery dispute by “one (1) game of ‘rock, paper, scissors’”)
- Eg. *Physicians Choice of Arizona, Inc. v. Miller, et.al.*, Case No. CV 2003-020242 (Sup.Ct. of Arizona, Maricopa County Jul, 19, 2006 (granting motion to compel acceptance of lunch invitation)
- Humor that happens naturally and elucidates a point can be an effective way to engage and persuade a reader—whether it be in the legal context or not.
- Humor, for humor’s sake, serves no purpose in legal writing.



PIONEER WOMEN OF KANSAS

Paula Hurt wrote in about the PBS documentary by Ken Burns on Prohibition and the book "The Rise and Fall of Prohibition," by Daniel Ilrent. The book and documentary highlight the work of Assistant US Attorney General Mabel Walker Willebrandt. Willebrandt was the US Attorney in charge of enforcing the

Volstead Act. She attained a prominent position at a time when women were not going to law school to speak of and she was mostly unnoticed. Paula thought other KWAA members might be interested in knowing about this phenomenal woman. Wikipedia offers more information, if you are interested.



MEMBER NEWS (Con't from page 7)

 The 11th Annual
Women's Justice Awards

WWW.MOLAWYERSMEDIA.COM

43

Public Service Practitioner Award

Sherri Wattenbarger

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE • TRIAL ATTORNEY • OFFICE OF THE U.S. TRUSTEE • KANSAS CITY



Law school: University of Missouri-Kansas City

Undergraduate: B.A., University of Missouri-Kansas City

Sherri Wattenbarger's day job — enforcing U.S. bankruptcy law — is important enough. But her role in the community extends to what she would say is a full circle. She helps counsel young people on financial issues and works to give young women a chance at paid internships with nonprofits. And through the example of grueling sports, she shows the power of perseverance.

You're a devoted triathlete and encourage other women to get involved. Does being a triathlete help you in your work? Yes. One reason I'm such an avid proponent of sports in general and triathlon in particular is that sports teach us many lessons that transfer readily to other areas of our lives. For example, training for triathlons and preparing for trial share remarkable similarities. They both require long-term planning and preparation, and they reward tenacity, focus and efficiency.

Will you offer a piece of advice for young people considering entering the law? I advise law students to explore not only the subject matter that intrigues them, but also the day-to-day work activities they enjoy. For example, some legal environments require more quiet time researching and writing, while others require public speaking or being "on stage." Others combine some of each of these, like my job. Understanding which activities bring you the most satisfaction will help you find a practice where you will thrive.

What does it mean to you to win the Public Service Practitioner Award? This recognition brings full circle the volunteer work I do, much of which is centered on mentoring — whether it is young lawyers, young athletes or teaching Girl Scouts about financial literacy.

WWAT WINE TASTING

The Wichita Women Attorneys Association Wine Tasting. On February 4, 2012, Seventy-five Wichita Woman Attorneys gathered to drive away the winter blahs over wine and appetizers. Author: Kelly Hogan



POTWIN POTTERY NIGHT

WAAT and Washburn's Women's Legal Forum law students met for a night of camaraderie and creativity at Potwin Pottery. The ten mentor/mentee matches got to know each other while participating in a pottery experience. We painted and then they baked. It was two weeks before we saw our finished pieces, but what a rewarding, fun, experience to share.



The Road Less Traveled



On March 28th, WAAT enjoyed a luncheon with speakers (as shown in the picture from right to left), Justice Marla Luckert, Mary Feighny, Judge Joseph Pierron and Camile Nohe, who did a joint presentation in skit form about the book, *The Road Less Traveled*, a history of women lawyers in Kansas.

"Career jumping" event

The career jumping event (like speed dating, for careers), sponsored by PREP KC was a huge success. Here, Sherri Wattenbarger is telling high school girls about her career. The goal is to expand their understanding of career options.



Encouraging Our Community to Fight Hunger APRIL 30 THROUGH MAY 25, 2012

FOOD FROM THE BAR



What do you call hundreds of our area's most prominent lawyers helping our local food banks?

Food from the Bar!

In conjunction with the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, KWAA is fighting against hunger in our communities with a donation drive starting on April 30, 2012 through May 25, 2012. "Food from the Bar" will raise funds and food for our state's local food banks and pantries.

KWAA is collaborating with various organizations this year. Those collaborations include the Association of Women Lawyers of K.C., the Johnson County Bar Association and the Kansas City, Kansas and Missouri Federal courthouses in the Greater KC area. In Wichita, KWAA is collaborating with the Wichita Women Attorneys Association ("WWAA"). In Topeka, KWAA is collaborating with the Topeka Bar Association ("TBA") and the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka ("WAAT").

Rising food prices and continued unemployment bring increased demands on our local food pantries, with children and the elderly most at risk. Your support can guarantee full stomachs for our children and elderly. If you would like to get involved, the contact information for our coordinators is listed by area. Should you not see your city or district listed, it is because no one has volunteered from that district or city yet. If you are willing to make the time to volunteer for a city or district that is not listed, please contact Susan Berson at sber-son@banktaxlaw.com.

GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA

KATHY BUSSING

Husch Blackwell
816-983-8231 (Direct)
Kathryn.bussing@huschblackwell.com

SHERRI WATTENBARGER

Office of the U.S Trustee
U.S. Department of Justice
816-512-1948
Sherri.Wattenbarger@usdoj.gov

LAWRENCE

JOAN HAWKINS

785-843-1009
lawsolutions@sunflower.com

SALINA

KAREN BLACK

karenblk@swbell.net
785-825-8261

DEBRA EGLI JAMES

Hampton & Royce, LC
(785) 827-7251 - Telephone
debjames@hamptonlaw.com

Karen and Deb raised the most donations per capita last year!

TOPEKA

ANGEL ZIMMERMAN

785-357-0021
angel@valentine-law.com

Continued on page 19

Encouraging Our Community to Fight Hunger APRIL 30 THROUGH MAY 25, 2012

(continued from page 18)

FOOD FROM THE BAR



Monday, May 7th

You can help the Food from the Bar effort by bringing a donation to the Johnson County Bar luncheon at the Ritz Charles in Overland Park! Cereals and canned goods or check donations made payable to **Community and Family Support Services, Inc.** or **"CFSS, Inc."** will be gladly accepted!

FOOD FROM THE BAR



Saturday, April 28

Join us at Hamburger Mary's in K.C. for charity bingo from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Proceeds go to the Food from the Bar! Only \$10 donation, per bingo card, **no** credit cards will be accepted, only cash or check made payable to **"Crosslines" or Community and Family Support Services, Inc., or "CFSS, Inc."** Prizes and fun, though be prepared that bingo "Mary's style" is not your grandma's bingo! For details and directions, visit: <http://hamburgermarys.com/kc/>. Suggested donation is only \$1 per card, 15 cards for \$15.

JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

SUSAN BERSON

The Banking & Tax Law Group LLP
(913) 397-2702 (Direct)
(816) 510-0179 (Mobile)
sberson@banktaxlaw.com

LINDA C. KREBS

913. 829.7685 (Office)
913. 302.3318 (Cell)
lckrebs@sbcglobal.net

MALISSA L. WALDEN

Walden & Pfannenstiel, LLC
913.438.1112
mlwalden@wplawpractice.com

May 5th

In Topeka, help the Food from the Bar effort by bringing a donation to the 5K Law Day Run. Canned goods, cereals or check donations made payable to "Project Topeka" will be gladly accepted!

WICHITA

MEG MATHEWSON

Henry & Mathewson
admin@fletmath.kscoxmail.com



KANSAS WOMEN ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
DUES NOTICE AND MEMBERSHIP FORM
DUES OF \$50.00
FOR AUGUST 1, 2011 TO JULY 31, 2012

If you have not joined KWAA for this year, complete this form and mail it with your check for \$50.00 made payable to the Kansas Women Attorneys Association to:

KWAA
PO BOX 598
Topeka, Kansas 66601

NAME: _____

FIRM/AGENCY: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ (will be included in the directory)

AREAS OF PRACTICE, check all that apply:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appellate | <input type="checkbox"/> General Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arbitration/Mediation | <input type="checkbox"/> Government Counsel | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate | <input type="checkbox"/> Judiciary | <input type="checkbox"/> Workers Compensation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collections | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Counsel | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Education/Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Litigation | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elder | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Malpractice | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Traditional/Non-Legal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Estate Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury | |

SAVE THE DATE

Lindsborg 2012

THEME:

LEADERSHIP

July 19 –21 2012

Chairs include:

Conference Chair: Susan Berson

Conference Chair: Mary Blake

Logistics Chair: Susana L Valdovinos

Publicity Chair: Bethany Roberts

Social Co-Chairs: Kathy Bailes
Sherri Watttenberger

CHAIRS (Continued)

Silent Auction Co-Chairs:

Gabrielle Beam
Margann Bennett

Program Chair:
Cathy Dean

Program Members:

Caroline Bader
Kathy Bussing
Ruth Graham

Martha Hodges Smith

Laura Ice

Mira Mdivani

Trish Rose

Gaye Tibbets

Kathy Webb

Feel free to contact Susan Berson for any questions or if you would like to get involved: Partner, The Banking & Tax Law Group, LLP; 4745 W 136th St, Suite 70; Leawood, KS 66224; (913) 397-2702 (Direct); (816) 510-0179 (Mobile); sber-son@banktaxlaw.com



Kansas Women Attorneys Association