

Amicus – Winter 2008

Newsletter of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association

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This issue features news from the 2008 Lindsborg Conference and plans for the Twentieth Anniversary Conference which will be held in 2009. The importance of KWAA is underscored by a significant first for Kansas women attorneys: **Amy Lemley** of Foulston Sifekin's Wichita office became the **first woman in Kansas selected as a Fellow in the America College of Trial Lawyers.**

Gaye Tibbetts announced the good news on the KWAA listserv in May "*Occasionally some of our friends/members achieve career goals that yield the happy bonus of allowing others to imagine women in positions that until then had been exclusively male. ... Now we can add to that list **AMY LEMLEY, THE FIRST WOMAN IN KANSAS** to be inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers, an incredibly prestigious organization of North American lawyers whose highly vetted membership is limited to those with at least 15 years trial practice who are considered among the top 1 percent in a state. Her achievement opens doors for all of us AND our daughters.*"

The induction took place at the American College of Trial Lawyers 58th annual meeting in Toronto, Canada on September 27, 2008. Amy is the first woman attorney in Kansas to be inducted as a Fellow of ACTL. Approximately 100 lawyers were inducted as Fellows at the meeting in Toronto; about ten were women.

Fellowship is by invitation only, after careful investigation, to those experienced trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility and collegiality. ACTL membership cannot be more than 1% of the total lawyer population of any state; there are only 55 Fellows in Kansas. ACTL's membership includes civil plaintiff and defense lawyers, prosecutors and criminal defense lawyers, government lawyers and public interest lawyers.

Amy estimates that she has been first chair at more than 70 jury trials and participated in 20 appeals. A significant number of those trials have been in the area of medical malpractice, but recently Amy has shifted the focus of her practice to other areas including utility law and section 1983 cases. Amy received her J.D. from the University of Texas and was admitted to both the Texas Bar and the Kansas Bar in 1982. Amy is a long-time member of KWAA and is serving as chair of the Social Committee for the 2009 Lindsborg Conference.

(Adapted from an article by Nancy Ogle in the Wichita Bar-O-Meter)

“A Few Good Women”

We are looking for a few good women. KWAA is about so much more than just putting on a terrific annual conference. Our Gender Bias committee did great work over the years, and our efforts have resulted in more women in leadership roles, such as judgeships, bar and other civic roles, partners, heads of government and corporate offices, etc. There is more work yet to be done, though. But, what? Several women's bar associations have taken on projects to educate members and non-members alike on issues affecting women. Some of those projects include: survey and publish book on flexible work arrangements (including dispelling myths); survey and publish materials on work-life balance; projects focused on generational differences, etc.

Here is the call to arms: We need a few good women to meet with me and other KWAA board members to discuss a project for KWAA. Bring your passion; bring your common sense; bring your enthusiasm. Just don't miss out on a great opportunity to be involved in this endeavor . . . more hands make less work, and diversity of thought and viewpoint are critical. Contact me if you are interested in being a part of something great!

Happy New Year,

Deena Hyson Bailey
President, KWAA 2008-2009
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LINDSBORG CONFERENCE 2008 - OF WOMEN, WAR, AND THE LAW

The Report on Lindsborg 2008 is drawn from two sources- long time KWAA member and past president Nancy Ogle, and first-time attendee Angel Zimmerman, Managing Attorney with Valentine & Zimmerman, P.A.

The founders and long-time supporters of KWAA know how much work has gone into sustaining the organization and the Lindsborg Conference. It is wonderful to hear such an enthusiastic response from the new members.

First Impressions of Lindsborg by Angel Zimmerman

Every young female attorney should set their sights on Lindsborg next July for the 20th anniversary of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association conference. Last year, I went without a fellow female attorney mentor to show me the ropes and I am pleased to report that you don't need one but there are plenty that will volunteer to take you. The welcoming for first time attendees is fabulous. Everyone is pleased to have you there and the encouragement to come back is sincere. There is a genuine interest in you and the desire to develop more than a weekend friendship.

It is amazing to listen to first hand accounts of what it was like to be the only female in your law school class, or the only female attorney in a town, or to be

excluded from events due to gender. My career is far from that environment. I attended Washburn in the Centennial class and half my classmates were female. I work for a law firm that let my husband and I go to law school and let us swap hours at the office so that our four children never had to have daycare. I salute all of my female predecessor attorneys who made this societal change possible and paved the way for me to truly have it all.

The conference is far from just a reflection of the past and it is fun to still feel the winds of change occurring as I was invited to attend the first meeting for small and solo female attorneys this year. I think there will always be "firsts" we can be a part of which makes this organization so vibrant.

There are so many CLE credits offered that you could obtain a year's worth of CLE in a weekend. The food is fabulous, the company is superb. I love being a female attorney and I love being a mom. Thanks for all those who paved the way so I could easily be both. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

And thank-you Angel, for sharing your enthusiasm-

“Of Women, War, and the Law” Lindsborg 2008 by Nancy Ogle

KWAA's 19th annual conference, held July 17 to 19, 2008, featured the timely theme “Of Women, War, and the Law.” The 125 attendees were impressed by the wide variety of tough legal issues addressed by members of the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps. Brigadier General Malinda E. Dunn gave the keynote address. General Dunn is the first female to attain the rank of Brigadier General in the Army's JAG Corp. Wichita attorney Colonel Kenneth Gale probably had the toughest assignment of his 35 years of military service. Gale not only was a CLE presenter with General Dunn, Lt. Col. Mike Kramer and Washburn Law School Dean Thomas Romig on [Operational Law in the Deployed Environment](#),[©] he also participated in the conference for its duration.

The conference got off to a great start with Dan Monnat and Grace Wu-Monnat's ethics CLE, [Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: Kung Fu Strategies For Trial](#).[©] Some attendees thought the Monnats' presentation alone made the conference a worthwhile experience. The perennial [Appellate All-Star Review](#)[©] starred Court of Appeals Judges, The Honorables Richard Greene, Nancy Caplinger, and Melissa Taylor Standridge. Guest speakers and KWAA members presented CLEs on topics ranging from bankruptcy to immigration to solo practice. The Program Committee managed to squeeze 14.5 CLE hours into less than 48 hours, while leaving time for shopping, great food and hanging out at the Ol Stuga.

KWAA continued the tradition of having a silent auction to raise money for its scholarship fund. KWAA gives two scholarships each year, one each at Washburn and K.U. law schools. Due to the attendees' willingness to shop for a good cause, this year's silent auction raised \$3600 from 105 donated items. Luann Dixon and Ann Branden did a great job of organizing the auction.

KWAA returned to the McPherson County Club for its banquet on Friday night. The entertainment after dinner was a casino night. Despite the relaxed atmosphere of the

Lindsborg Conference and the freshly minted pink Jenny dollars, the 100+ attorneys were highly competitive when vying for the grand prize given to the biggest winner. Sabrina Standifer was not to be denied the prize consisting of a gambling-theme purse and lots of bling, including a tiara and light-up ring the size of the Hope diamond.

During KWAA=s annual membership meeting, President Kellie Hogan passed the gavel to incoming President Deena Hyson Bailey. Both Hogan and Bailey acknowledged the contributions of the volunteers who made the 2008 conference possible, including Conference Chair Linda Graham and committee chairs : Susana Valdovinos, Program; Patricia Hamilton, Social; Sarah Loquist, Publicity; and Carol Boorady, Logistics. Members of the Kansas Legal Professionals, Inc. provided invaluable assistance during the conference.

2008 Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Award

At the Friday evening banquet the **2008 Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Attorney of Achievement Award** was presented to **Nancy Ogle**. This award is given annually to an attorney who has received professional excellence in her field and advanced opportunities for women in her field. Kelly Rundell, who nominated Nancy for the award, reflected on Nancy's career, noting that Nancy actually started as a librarian. She then became a legal assistant, with the goal of becoming a law school librarian. As a legal assistant, she became involved in a complicated case that was removed to federal court. She had direct contact with the judge to resolve the issue and prepared the pleadings he directed. When it was time to actually secure the judge's signature, however, the firm sent one of the most pompous associates not slightly familiar with the case, just in case the judge had questions. That day, Nancy decided

to take the LSAT and almost a year to the day, she entered law school.

Since law school, Nancy has clerked for a Kansas Supreme Court Justice, U.S. Magistrate Reid and Judge Patrick Kelly in the federal court, before working for Koch industries and then a Wichita firm. Currently, Nancy is in solo practice. Throughout her legal practice, Nancy has also been a strong advocate of women and an active participant in the bar. In addition to having been a past president of KWAA, Nancy chaired the committee to plan the annual conference and was president of the Wichita Women Attorneys Association. Nancy genuinely wants all women attorneys to succeed and does what she can to make that happen. Kelly said that she nominated Nancy as a way of thanking her for her efforts, as well as recognizing her achievements.

A Letter from Emporia, Kansas

Dear Ladies- Your newsletter editor asked me to write something for your newspaper, and I must say I was thrilled at the prospect, even though it has been quite a while since I last put pen to paper. Speaking of

pens, they appear to have fallen out of favor, which I suppose is just as well- I can find neither pen nor ink. I am going to try this new "email." Does the E stand for eternal?

Your association of learned lady lawyers is a most welcome development. There is such strength in the sisterhood of good women. I regret that I will not be able to attend your twentieth anniversary convention in person, but rest assured that I shall be with you in spirit. I am truly humbled that you have named an award after me. Ladies, take heart and rejoice in your good works, but do not rest on your laurels. There is much work still to be done.

Yrs. truly,

Jennie Mitchell Kellogg. Esq.

Lindsborg 2009 - Twentieth Anniversary Conference
Keynote Speaker - Ellen Goodman
 Save the Dates – July 16-18, 2009

<p>Conference Chair - - Linda Parks Hite, Fanning & Honeyman 100 N. Broadway Ste. 950 Wichita, KS 67202 316-265-7741 parks@hitefanning.com</p>	
<p>Program Co Chair - Patricia Hamilton Stevens & Brand 515 S. Kansas Ave., Ste. 200 Topeka, KS 66603 785-408-8000 pahamilton@stevensbrand.com</p>	<p>Program Co Chair Patti Petersen-Klein Kansas Corporation Commission 1500 SW Arrowhead Topeka, KS 66604 785-271-3361 p.petersen-klein@kcc.state.ks.us</p>
<p>Publicity Co Chair - Sarah Loquist Assistant General Counsel USD 259 201 N. Water Wichita, KS 67202 316-973-4700 sloquist@usd259.net</p>	<p>Publicity Co Chair - Kelly Rundell City Attorney's Office 455 N. Main, 13th Floor Wichita, KS 67202 316-268-4681 krundell@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>Social Chair Amy Lemley Foulston Siefkin LLP 1551 N. Waterfront Pkwy Ste. 100 Wichita, KS 67206 316-267-6371 alemley@foulston.com</p>	<p>Logistics Chair - Sally Pokorny Law Offices of David Brown 1040 New Hampshire, Ste. 16 Lawrence, KS 66044 785-842-0777 sdpokorny@davidbrownlaw.com</p>

Volunteers Wanted

The July 16-18, 2009 conference will be the 20th anniversary of our annual meeting in Lindsborg and you can help make it the best ever. The Publicity Committee is recruiting sponsors to offset the costs for the annual conference in Lindsborg. Although the committee will 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. So talk it up! Show your support for KWAA by requesting that your firm, employer or favorite vendor become a sponsor in 2009. For more information about sponsorships or serving on the Publicity Committee, please contact Sarah Loquist at sloquist@usd259.net or 316-973-4702 or Kelly Rundell at krundell@wichita.gov or 316-268-4681.

Member News

Kathy Bailes and mentee, Niki Piskuric, Missouri young lawyer, are writing a chapter on Will Construction for the Missouri Bar Estate Administration deskbook to be published in the Spring 2009.

Sara Bodenheimer has joined Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice in Kansas City. MO doing construction litigation.

Holly Dyer, Foulston Siefkin partner, and KWAA member, was recently appointed to the University of Kansas School of Law Board of Governors for a three-year term. The Board of Governors serves as the voice of the alumni to the law school, and individual members represent districts within and outside Kansas. Holly's term will run through 2011.

Patricia E. Hamilton has become Of Counsel to Stevens & Brand, LLP., at its new Topeka, Kansas office at 515 Kansas Avenue, Ste. 200. She is listed in Best Lawyers in America in bankruptcy and creditor-debtor rights. She will continue to emphasize her practice in bankruptcy, creditor-debtor rights, and banking law. Her new telephone number is (785) 408-8000.

phamilton@stevensbrand.com

Emily Haverkamp and Mira Mdivani of the Mdivani Law Firm, Overland Park, spoke about application of the Violence Against Women Act to immigrant survivors of domestic violence and other violent crimes at the October 2008 Kansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence conference. Emily also presented to the Daughters of the American Revolution about The Path to Citizenship, and received a lovely Kansas themed throw, which was one of the best thank-you gifts she's ever received.

Kellie Hogan, KWAA Past-President, was named a Champion of Respect by the Wichita Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Coalition.

Kana R. Lydick has joined the Lawrence office of Stevens & Brand, LLP. She was previously with the Topeka firm of Henson, Clark.

Mira Mdivani was voted Best of the Bar, Immigration Law, by the Kansas City Business Journal, for the fifth year in a row. (Editor's note- It is time to rename this the Mira Mdivani Award for Excellence in Immigration Law!) Mira also published a new book, ***I-9 Audits: The Best Way to Prevent I-9 Disasters***. Mira joined Emily Haverkamp in a presentation about application of the Violence Against Women Act to immigrant survivors of domestic violence and other violent crimes at the October 2008 Kansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence conference.

Judy Moler has retired after 12 years as General Counsel at the Kansas Association of Counties. She is now working part time as General Counsel for the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission.

Linda Parks was named in the Top 50 women Super Lawyers for Kansas/Missouri. Linda is also the Conference Chair for Lindsborg 2009.

Patti Petersen-Klein, KWAA President-Elect, reports that she and KWAA member **Marty Snyder** both serve as Adjunct Professors for Pretrial Advocacy Workshops at Washburn School of law. This fall is Marty's 20th year teaching the workshop, and Patti's third. Patti was one of Marty's students back in 1995 and states she was "inspired by Marty's dedication to teach students what they really need to know about pre-trial practice." This spring, **Marty** will begin teaching **Professional Responsibility**. While Marty indicates her new assignment may be a bit "scary", KWAA members who have attended many of Marty's ethics presentations at Lindsborg believe otherwise. She is an absolute natural to teach that course at the law school level and Washburn students will be fortunate to have Marty imprint the same ethical standards she has upon our conference attendees.

Sally Pokorny, a charter member of the KWAA, was selected by Governor Kathleen Sebelius to fill a judicial vacancy in the 7th Judicial District in Douglas County. Sally will join Judges Jean Shepherd, Paula Martin, and Peggy Kittel, making a female majority on the district court bench. Another first for Kansas women attorneys! Congratulations Sally!

Deborah Frye Stern, RN, JD has been promoted to Vice President Clinical Services and General Counsel of the Kansas Hospital Association. She has been with KHA since 2002. Prior to joining KHA, Stern was an attorney with the law firm of Alderson, Alderson, Weiler, Conklin, Burghart & Crow, L.L.C. Prior to earning her law degree, Stern spent 17 years working at Stormont-Vail HealthCare in the areas of home health, quality improvement and risk management.

Susana Valdovinos, who is in her second year of a three-year term on the Kansas Hispanic and American Affairs Commission has also been appointed by Gov. Sebelius to the Kansas Arts Commission. These two appointments have given her the opportunity to reach out to other communities and extend her participation as a citizen of

Kansas in areas she had not influenced before such as health care for the Hispanic and Latino population and the arts across Kansas.

Susana Valdovinos also reports that she is part of a small group of former Bob Ault art students who have formed a non-profit art studio organization to continue Bob's legacy and belief that art is for everybody. With help from the K-State Center for Engagement and Community Development, the Washburn Law Clinic, and the Washburn Small Business Program the Legacy Community Arts Center is in operation and offering art classes for children, young adults and adults. Legacy Community Arts Center, 1315 SW 6th Street (6th and Lane), Topeka, Kansas 66606, telephone: 785-228-2236, email: legacycac@gmail.com. "I would like to invite all of my Topeka and nearby colleagues to stop by the studio (call to make arrangements because we are not there all the time) and try taking a class or two. We all have a creative vein within ourselves."

Ann Zimmerman was recently elected president of the Salina League of Women Voters. Since her election, the Salina League has co-sponsored the Salina area candidate forum, sponsored a community discussion on "Race, Class and the Divisions Between Us," won first prize for their booth at the county fair and held a social event to share refreshments and watch the movie "Iron-Jawed Angels" about the final push for women's right to vote in the early twentieth century.

Announcements of Interest

Family and friends of **Jana Mackey**, a second-year KU law student who was murdered in July, 2008, have formed an organization to honor her memory. Jana was a passionate advocate for women and individual rights. The organization, 1100 Torches, takes its name from the 1100 hundred people who attended a memorial service for Jana held in Lawrence at Liberty Hall. The organization seeks to collect the stories of 1100 people inspired by Jana to help others. You can see the stories collected so far, learn more about Jana's activism, and submit your own story at www.1100torches.org.

Editor's Note

Please let me know if you have corrections, comments or questions about the newsletter. Happy Holidays, and thank-you for allowing me to serve as Newsletter Editor. Sandy McKenzie scm@ku.edu

KWAAs Officers and Committee Chairs 2008-2009

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District Representatives

	Term expires 2009	Term expires 2010
1	<p>Mira Mdivani Mdivani Law Firm 7007 College Blvd Ste. 460 Overland Park, KS 66211 913-317-6200 mmdivani@uslegalimmigration.com</p>	<p>Ann Smith Ann L. Smith Law Office 8032 Swarner Dr. Lenexa, KS 66219 913-268-3855 alsmith@everestkc.net</p>
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3	Open	<p>Jennifer Brunetti 214 East McKay Frontenac, KS 66763 620-235-0100 jbrunetti@frontenac.ks.com</p>
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5	<p>Vivien Olsen Prairie Band Pottawatomie 785-966-3940 volsen@pbpnation.org</p>	<p>Marie Landry 912 SW Naismith Topeka, KS 66606 785-273-3189 marie.landry@cox.net</p>
6	<p>Betsy Marietta Marietta, Kellogg & Price 148 S. 7th St., PO Box 2478 Salina, KS 67402 785-825-5403 betsymariettalaw@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Brenda Stoss Salina Municipal Court 255 N. 10th, PO Box 1154 Salina, KS 67402 785-826-7230 Brenda.stoss@salina.org</p>
7	<p>Kathy Harrell-Latham Redmond & Nazar 245 N. Waco Ste 402 Wichita, KS 67202 316-262-8361 kharrell-latham@redmondnazar.com</p>	<p>Amy Fellows Cline Triplett, Woolf & Garretson LLC 2959 N. Rock Rd. Ste 300 Wichita, KS 67226 316-630-8100 adfellow@twgfirm.com</p>
8	<p>Ellen Neufeld Dept. of Social & Rehabilitation Serv. 600 Andrew Ave. South Hutchinson, KS 67505 620-663-5731, Ext. 326 egn@srskansas.org</p>	<p>Trish Rose Forker, Suter & Rose PO Box 1868 Hutchinson, KS 67504 620-663-7131 lawfirm@pixius.net</p>

9	<p>Shirley Calvin Kansas Legal Services 120 Grant Ave. Garden City, KS 67846 620-275-0238 calvins@klsinc.org</p>	<p>Rebecca Crotty Board of Tax Appeals 915 SW Harrison, Ste. 451 Topeka, KS 66612 785-296-2388 crotty.rebecca@bota.ks.gov</p>
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