

FOCUS

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Check the WLAM web site for our updated calendar at www.womenlawyers.org



BECAUSE I KNEW YOU

by Z. Kay Fitzpatrick

I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason, bringing something we must learn.

There is no doubt in my mind that Kim Cahill was brought into my life for a reason. Almost 10 years my junior, I always felt she was the more experienced of the two of us. We both were born and raised in the same sprawling suburb, but there the similarity ended.

And we are led to those who help us most to grow if we let them, and we help them in return. Well I don't know if I believe that's true. But I know I'm who I am today because I knew you.

Kim and I worked together on a WLAM project. At that time, Kim was knee-deep in the Macomb WLAM Region and it wasn't long after that she became the Macomb WLAM regional President. If memory serves, she championed the creation of a designated seat on the Macomb County Bar Association (MCBA) Board of Directors for the WLAM Macomb regional president. In Macomb County at that time, this was a big step forward.

Her solid reputation in Macomb County made her a perfect choice to run for the MCBA Board, independent from her role with WLAM. While on that Board she helped me as I sought the position of Executive Director (E.D.) of the MCBA, by offering guidance about the research I should do before interviewing. As I took that job, and enjoyed every minute, I was lucky to be on the receiving end of Kim's greatest skill: counselor.

While working together in Macomb, Kim became statewide President of WLAM, taking

this on just as there was a transition of executive directors for WLAM. As she accepted one of the toughest jobs for any volunteer leader, the best I was able to share was resources from my professional societies.



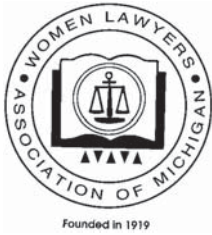
And thus began her legacy as the "volunteer leader who hired the E.D." A year later, I left my position at the MCBA only months before she was installed as MCBA President, again leaving her with the task of finding a chief staff person for her association. In both cases, she accomplished some of the staff role at the same time she took on her volunteer leadership role. A few years later, as a member of the State Bar's Board of Commissioners, she led their search for a new E.D. And finally, just as she became President of the State Bar of Michigan, the E.D. resigned and once again she was in the center of a search. I am sure this was not a legacy she wanted; yet each group was fortunate she took on that role. I cannot imagine anyone doing it better.

So much of me is what I've learned from you. You'll be with me, like a handprint on my heart.

Again in her role as counselor, I turned to Kim for advice through the shifts in my career path over the years. Each time, she talked out the pros and cons with me. She peppered me with questions about where I was headed and why. She reminded me of pitfalls, but just as often she shared thoughts about the benefits that could come from taking a risk. As she did with everything else, she helped me get to the bottom line, crystallizing issues, making

(continued on page 4)

WLAM Annual Meeting "Advancing Women in the Profession"
April 24, 2008, Novi. Registration information inside.



FOCUS is a publication of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan that is designed to be a practical and useful resource for our members. FOCUS is published four times each year. Deadlines are March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15. Features include the President's Column, member news, feature articles, and news of Section and Foundation Events.

Input from members of WLAM is most welcome. Our publication is aimed toward involving you in WLAM state and regional activities and assisting you in your practice. The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan web address is www.womenlawyers.org. If you have any suggestions or an article you wish to have considered for publication, please contact Kathleen Maslanka Peabody, Executive Director at info@womenlawyers.org.

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KIMBERLY M. CAHILL FUND CREATED BY WLAM FOUNDATION

The WLAM Foundation has established a special fund in memory of Kimberly M. Cahill, the Foundation's long-serving Treasurer and dear friend. Kim passed away on January 21, 2008, following a brief but courageous battle with cancer. A gifted leader, Kim served not only on the Foundation's Board, but also as State Bar President (2007) and President of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. Her sparkling wit, intelligence, and commitment inspired us all.

In Kim's honor, the Foundation will commit all Cahill Fund contributions to projects benefiting women leaders. In the discretion of the WLAM Foundation Board, awards will be made in two categories: (1) to elected presidents of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan and its Regional Chapters who attend the State Bar of Michigan's annual Bar Leadership Forum, and (2) outstanding women law students meeting the Foundation's criteria for leadership. Through a partnership with the State Bar of Michigan inspired by Kim's example, a Leadership Roundtable will be underwritten by the WLAM Foundation to follow the Bar Leadership Forum.

Contributors to the Cahill Fund at the \$125 and above level each year will receive admission to and recognition at the Foundation's Annual Awards Reception. Held each spring to announce winners of the Foundation's annual scholarships, the Reception features keynote remarks on leadership, entertainment, and an opportunity to network with other donors and community leaders. More information is available at www.wlamfoundation.org.

Donations to the Cahill Fund may be payable to the "WLAM Foundation" and mailed to Dawn Van Hoek, 645 Griswold, 3300 Penobscot, Detroit, MI 48226; donations may also be charged to a credit card at <http://www.wlamfoundation.org/youcan.html>.

A TRIBUTE TO KIM CAHILL BY WLAM LEADERS

Kristin Arnett, WLAM President 2007-08

This issue of FOCUS has a very special purpose: to remember the kind, intelligent, warm and simply outstanding woman, Kim Cahill. I first met Kim last year at the WLAM annual meeting on April 20, 2007. I had heard of Kim, of course, as she was the current president of the State Bar of Michigan and a past president of WLAM. She was well-known to most of our members and at least in name to all. Kim was generous and never hesitated to partake in our WLAM events.

At our annual meeting we had the privilege of honoring Kim with the Jean King Leadership Award. It was such a pleasure to have been able to honor Kim in that way. She was certainly deserving of such an award. Although I did not have the opportunity to get to know Kim the way many of you did, my brief meeting with her was very special. It is difficult not to wonder why such a born leader

and friend too many was taken so young. But instead I hope everyone will think often about what Kim accomplished, what she stood for, the sacrifices she made along the way, and what she sought yet to achieve and try to follow in her footsteps.

Janet Welch, SBM Executive Director

I liked to say when introducing Kim that no one should ever invite her to join an organization without being prepared for her to end up as its President. Her rise to the top was an inevitable result of her incomparable skills: Kim was never stymied by a problem or intimidated by a goal, and she derived great pleasure in helping an organization develop and grow. It was the great good fortune of Michigan lawyers, and particularly Michigan's women lawyers, that her passion was the law, equal justice, and equal opportunity for all who want to enter our wonderful profession.

Visit us online at www.womenlawyers.org

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed herein are of the authors exclusively and do not necessarily reflect those of the Publicity Committee or Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. The Publicity Committee and Women Lawyers Association of Michigan disclaim all liability resulting from statements or opinions contained in FOCUS. It is the responsibility of the individual lawyer to determine if advice or comments in an article are appropriate or relevant in a given situation.

Laura Slenzak, WLAM President 1997-98

Grace under pressure. Anyone who ever even met Kim would have used that phrase to describe her. She was the proverbial duck -- gliding along the surface, looking effortless, while paddling furiously underneath. Some people make it look easy, and when we see them it is easy to say that they have a God-given talent. As if God didn't give us all talents, for one, and as if being given the talent by God somehow means you didn't have to put in a lot of time and effort to realize you have that talent and to perfect it. Kim knew that being graced with God-given talent did not mean you had a free ride. She worked hard, and worked well, and what looked on the surface to be effortless was the result of years of training and patience and practice. So, yes, Kim was very graceful under fire. Because she had tested herself in the fires, and had come out stronger. We should all strive for the same.

Nancy Diehl, SBM President 2005-06, WLAM Jean King Leadership Award recipient 2006

For those of you who did not know Kim personally, you really missed out. She was an extraordinary person highly intelligent, strongly principled, exceptionally kind and very down to earth. Spending time with Kim was energizing, uplifting and always interesting. Kim never ceased to amaze me with what she knew. But there were no airs about her. She liked to laugh and have a good time and she wanted everyone around her to have fun too. Her smile and good humor were

infectious. Many people said that Kim was the best. But I say that Kim was better than the best. My heart is sorrowful, but my spirit is strong because I was so blessed to have Kim Cahill as my friend.

Laura M. Canfield, WLAM President, 2001-02, presented Kim Cahill with the 2007 WLAM Jean King Leadership Award

Kim was always a mentor and role model, beginning with our time together on the WLAM board back in the early 90's all the way through the past year when she was offering me advice on getting into real estate development. Kim was always ready and willing to give. Her leadership skills were extraordinary, and her career has always been an inspiration to female attorneys like me. But more than that, Kim was just a fun, kind, genuine, good person that you really looked forward to being around. She'll be so missed by so many of us.

Dawn Van Hoek, WLAM President 1989-90, WLAM Foundation Chair

A Tribute to Kim Cahill. Things I liked best about Kim (and will miss the most):



WLAM Foundation Board members shared in the laughter of crowning Kim Cahill as she ascended to President of the State Bar of Michigan. Kim was only the fourth woman to hold that office.



Kim Cahill, Kris Arnett and Jean King at the WLAM Annual Meeting at which Kim received the WLAM Jean King Leadership Award. Kim was then the SBM President, Kris just became the WLAM President, and Jean is for whom the award is named.

- Her love of good wine and conversation
- Her willingness to step into a big pile of doo-doo and start shoveling
- Her fearlessness in pursuing an unpopular, but just, idea
- Her impatience with the narrow-minded and inflexible
- Her way of saying "um," and then letting you have it
- Her ability to connect personally with you even as others were pulling her in ten directions at once
- Her beautiful jewelry
- Her deep appreciation of Michigan's beauty, and willingness to just hang out in a spot of sunshine for a while
- Her wicked wit, often expressed in a deadpan aside
- Her "take-it-to-the-bank" reliability
- Her ability to see through phonies, but not forget that they are some mother's child
- Her voice on the line . . .

Note: Kim Cahill was Treasurer of the WLAM Foundation from 1997 to 2008

MEMBER NEWS



National Association of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) honored WLAM member **Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek** recently as a Featured Member in the NAELA News publication. “Patti is known for her passion in fighting for the rights of people with disabilities. In particular, she has focused on the right to self-determination and independence regardless of one’s physical, mental or emotional limitations,” writes Jo-Anne Herina Jeffreys in the publication.

Some of Ms. Kefalas Dudek’s Michigan accomplishments include:

- Authoring the Model Contracts for Michigan’s Self-Determination Initiative
- Successful litigation using Olmstead to garner least restrictive housing options for many of her clients
- Establishing the state’s first Pooled Trust for Medicaid Planning

Note: “Expanding Your Practice to Include Disability Issues” can be downloaded from the NAELA web store (www.NAELA.com) for \$20.

Oakland County Commissioner Tim Burns recently appointed WLAM 1st Vice President, **Ann Erickson Gault**, to serve on the newly formed Women’s Commission for Oakland County to represent the 19th District (Clawson & Troy). The 27-member Commission will gather information and community feedback about the economic and social

conditions facing women in Oakland County, and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on policy changes.

“Pay equity, women’s health care and gender discrimination are among some of the unique challenges that women face,” stated County Commissioner Tim Burns. “This Women’s Commission creates a forum to gather information and propose solutions to advance social and economic change for all women in Oakland County. Developing policy and assisting women in meeting challenges facing them in the 21st century is essential to strengthening our economy and improving overall quality of life in Oakland County and Michigan.”

“Ann Erickson Gault understands the demands of balancing a professional career with the responsibilities of being a mother,” noted



Commissioner Tim Burns, Ann E. Erickson Gault with her husband Tom and Their daughter Eleanor.

Burns. “I believe that she will bring a great deal of insight to this new informational forum and I look forward to receiving the feedback that will be coming from the Women’s Commission for Oakland County.”

BECAUSE I KNEW HER *continued from front page*

me consider all the objective facts and acknowledging the emotions, before making a decision.

Kim could read a situation and distill it into an action plan better than anyone I’ve ever known. She was politically astute, regardless of whether the political arena was the neighborhood, the Board room, the county bench, or state government. She took it all in and summarized it into a few sentences to describe the core issues. Seldom did she read it wrong.

If I had to name the one most important thing I learned from Kim – when I am smart enough to remember the lesson – it is to stop and listen first. Kim was deliberative. Around the Board table, she asked questions in order to get all the information (and emotion) out in the open; seldom jumping in with an opinion until she had heard several others first. The ex-

ception, of course, was when she popped up with a clever and witty response that eased tension – or subtly put someone in her or his place. But as much as anything, I learned from her example – as a lawyer, a leader, a confident & strong woman, a devoted sister and daughter.

And now whatever way our stories end, I know you have re-written mine, by being my friend.

Kim played the game of “celebrity sighting.” She claimed to see a celebrity on every trip she took to Chicago. While we sat in the mezzanine at the Fisher Theater, she could point out the back of the heads of local judges; lo and behold, at intermission, when those bodies got up and heads turned, she was right. And at a Red Wings game, with one glance across the rink, she let me know Gordie Howe was in the house.

Kim had many friends from many different facets of her life. College friends who were so dear she would cross the continent to spend a birthday with them. Professional colleagues she saw regularly in the courtroom, at the Board table, or working on a pro bono project. Those of us who were on the edge of her professional and personal life, whom she made feel special during those moments of time she had to give us.

To us – she was the star.

Who can say if I’ve been changed for the better? But because I knew you – I have been changed for good.

Lyrics from “For Good” – from the play, Wicked



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WELCOME NEW WLAM MEMBERS (NOVEMBER 15, 2007 - FEBRUARY 25, 2008)

Caterina Amaro	Farmington Hills	Garmo & Associates, PC
Kristina Araya	Livonia	
Mary C. Barnes	West Bloomfield	
Tiffany Barron	Redford	
Barbara Bechtel	Grand Rapids	
Nivita Beri	Bloomfield Hills	Rader, Fishman, & Grauer, PLLC
Angela Emmerling Boufford	Bloomfield Hills	Butzel Long
Margaret Browning	Northville	Browning & Associates
Zenell Brown	Southfield	Wayne County
Rebecca L. Chamberlain	Royal Oak	Chamberlain Legal Services
Rebecca Craig	LaSalle	
Angela D'Allessandro	Windsor	Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone LLP
Ellen Davis	Clinton Twp.	
Carla Eldred	Grandville	Law Office of Carla Eldred
Carina Fiore	Detroit	
Jamie Fluhart	Brighton	
Stacey Fluhart		
Jessica S. Fox	Charlotte	
Rosemary J. Frenza	Ann Arbor	
Kathleen Geiger	Grand Rapids	U.S. District Court
Caryn Gordon	Detroit	Garan Lucow Miller, PC
Bridget Grace	Royal Oak	
Joelle L. Gurnoe	Bloomfield Hills	Theresa Law Center, PC
Emiko Hayashi	Royal Oak	
Keela Johnson	Shelby Township	
Audrey Johnson	South Lyon	AJ5 Services
Edwina King	Detroit	
Valerie	Lafferty	Okemos
Cheryl L. Landrum	Port Huron	Common Law Group, PLLC
Kari Low	Bloomfield Hills	Dickinson Wright, PLLC
Michelle Lundquist	Sterling Hts.	O'Reilly Rancilio PC
Victoria Marquard	Canton	
Lauren McAuley	Rochester	University of Detroit-Mercy
Sarah McElwaney	Riverview	
Patricia A. Murray	Grand Rapids	Michigan Court of Appeals
Morgan L. Nye	Harper Woods	
Lisa J. Peterson	Ann Arbor	Bassett & Associates, PLLC
Kathleen M. Poelker	Ann Arbor	Kathleen M. Poelker, PLLC
Stephanie L. Pries	Grand Rapids	Rhoades McKee
Leah Rayfield	Troy	
Sara Rubino	Troy	
Jill M. Schinske	Farmington Hills	
Melissa Seaman	Madison Hts.	
Sarah Shaver	Detroit	Clark Hill, PLC
Lauren Spodarek	Ferndale	
Karen Stebbins	Royal Oak	
Robin D. Stephens	Ann Arbor	Robin D. Stephens, PLLC
Lisa Stickler	Grand Rapids	
Gail H. Straith	Birmingham	
Michelle Thomas	Southfield	Bodman LLP
Tracie L. Tomak	Battle Creek	Tomak Law Office
Katherine Trever	Berkley	
Christine Trinh	Bloomfield Hills	Adkison, Need & Allen, PLLC
Melanie VanAntwerp	Clawson	
Jodi VanAvery-VanBonn	Grand Rapids	Spectrum Health Hospital
Andrea Z. Warmbier	Grand Rapids	Price, Heneveld, Cooper, DeWitt & Litton, LLP
Sarah Wohlford	Lansing	Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn
Rachel Leola Wolock	Detroit	Dickinson Wright PLLC
Rachel Woodruff	Warren	
Fallon Yaldo	West Bloomfield	
Natalie L. Yaw	Detroit	Dickinson Wright PLLC

Apologies to Julie Greenberg. Her firm in the Autumn issue should have read Gifford, Krass, Sprinkle, Anderson and Citkowski, PC

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WHAT “SHOULD” ARE YOU RUNNING?

By Brady Mikusko

Professionals, such as attorneys, with cultures of high performance and high pressure often seek Life Coaching when they recognize unhappiness or “stuckness” in their personal or professional lives. As their Coach, I work with them to explore their dissatisfaction and inevitably they refer to what they “should or shouldn’t be doing” or what they “should or shouldn’t have done.” *I should be better at marketing. I should be able to handle conflict. I should be able to manage my emotions. I should get my work done more efficiently. I shouldn’t be so stressed out...*

Without exception, each client’s list of *Shoulds* is long. Without exception, the internal voice of each client (the self-talk that we hear inside our heads) is relentlessly critical. Coaching is a place and time to examine and explore these *Shoulds* and to ask the *Why* regarding the *Shoulds*. *Why* should you be better at marketing? *Why* should you be able to handle conflict? *Why* shouldn’t you be stressed out?

Frequently, the *Why* relates to an old beliefs. *I have to be perfect. I cannot make mistakes. I cannot fail. I cannot disappoint people.* Note that these kinds of standards are impossible to reach. The truth is that perfection is non-existent except in nature. Everyone makes mistakes. Failure is an essential part of life. And who has not disappointed someone at some point?

Often the *Whys* spring from strategies that developed when we were very young. This surprises a lot of my clients, but it make so much sense. After all, we were all so powerless in childhood. Certainly children are too powerless to question the beliefs and strategies that their caregivers are teaching, unintentionally or otherwise. I refer to beliefs and strategies such as: *I have to be nice – to everyone. Conflict is bad and must be avoided. I must help people in pain. When an adult asks me to do something, I must say yes. I am allowed to go out and play only after all the work is done.*

To add to the challenge, the self-talk of our *Shoulds* more often than not drains us of the very energy needed to bring them to light and truly examine them. Instead we feel defeated, helpless and stuck.

In Coaching, our work is to “unearth” and examine these strategies and beliefs. A client is encouraged to repeatedly raise this important

question: “Does this old strategy or old belief serve me now?” When your answer is “No” then you have already begun the powerful work of replacing your default list of *Shoulds* with a more intentional list -- a list which is much more likely to reflect the truth of who you are now. Living and working from this new list is guaranteed to be much more satisfying than running your life based on programs from the past. **Intentional living versus default living, is what I call it.**

As a Life Coach, I guide my clients through the process of examining their *Shoulds* and uncovering the new beliefs and strategies that facilitate their living and working more joyfully and more attuned to themselves. We try to keep it light. This humorous piece by Steve Bhaerman on the Disease of Oughtism captures that spirit and I share it with his permission.

STAMP OUT “OUGHTISM”

Oughtism is a disease of the oughtanomic nervous system. The unfortunate victims oughtomatically do what others tell them they *ought* to do. If left untreated, Oughtism can eventually result in a total loss of the ability to think.

Are you Oughtistic? Take this simple test.

Yes/No

- Do you feel obligated to give blood even when you’re down to your last pint?
- Do you put on clean underwear each day just in case you get hit by a car and have to go to the hospital?
- Are you reading this only because somebody said you ought to?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions you could be Oughtistic. But don’t feel bad. You aren’t alone. Forty million Americans suffer from this silent crippler. And most of them don’t even *notice*.

Yes, Oughtism can be cured. But first, you must know its warning signals:

- Any involuntary nodding of the head up and down – especially when someone asks for volunteers.
- Sharp pangs of guilt after digesting a single chocolate-chip cookie
- An enlargement of the onus



- An empty feeling between the ears
- Constriction of the intestines; that duty-bound feeling

So join us, won’t you? Let’s stop this epidemic before we all become oughtamats. Copyright: 1986 Swami Beyondananda (Steve Bhaerman).

If you have resonated with this article in some way you might begin to take the time to explore your list of *Shoulds* and the voice that insists that you “ought to” do something. As you create your list, ask yourself a few questions about each one: Why should I? Is it *really* necessary? Will the world fall apart if I don’t do “a”, “b” or “c”? And whose voice is it that is making these demands on my life? Be careful, though. Such an inquiry could lead to profound change. Who knows? You might even eat a single chocolate chip cookie with a new-found sense of freedom and no guilt!

Brady Mikusko, MA, LMSW, is a Certified Life Coach through Newfield Network, Inc. and the International Coaching Federation. She has extensive professional experience in communication, stress reduction, relationship work, and conflict resolution, and has worked with attorneys and other professionals in many aspects of life. Her clients reside in all parts of the country but her practice is based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. www.bradymikusko.com; 734.747.8240.



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation

... dedicated to women's education since 1983

www.wlamfoundation.org

December, 2007

Denise Ilitch Keynotes Annual Awards Reception on March 18th



Denise Ilitch

The WLAM Foundation is pleased to announce that Denise Ilitch, President of Ilitch Enterprises and prominent woman lawyer, will offer remarks at the Awards Reception taking place on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. Ms. Ilitch will discuss "Opening Doors With a Law Degree," drawing on her experiences in business, the non-profit community, and her "of counsel" position at Clark Hill, PLC.

Entertainment will be provided by the popular Forumshoppers, a quartet of talented singers led by Judge William Giovan of Wayne Circuit Court, will return to entertain those attending the Foundation's Annual Awards Reception. The Forum-shoppers presented original songs last year that amused the crowd tremendously. Attendees of the event include law student awardees and their families, donors, and many prominent lawyers and judges. Please note that the date for the reception has changed from the date originally published.

The Awards Reception will take place in the beautiful atrium of the St. John Conference Center, on the web at www.stjohnsgolfconference.com/. This venue, located at 44045 Five Mile Road in Plymouth, Michigan, is conveniently located near major freeways. It is well known for its excellent food and beautiful surroundings. The reception will take place on March 18th, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Admission for the Awards Reception is \$25, payable by check or credit card; reservations should be made by March 11, 2008. Please call Debbie at (734) 762-7260. Tax-deductible contributions to the WLAMF scholarship fund also are welcome: see www.wlamfoundation.org.



The Forumshoppers, led by Judge William J. Giovan (third from left), other members are: Euel Kinsey, Marvin Shupski and David Montera.

Words of Thanks From Prior Awardees

The WLAM Foundation often hears from awardees on the impact of scholarships they have received. Here are excerpts from comments made by 2007 awardees:

The support of the General Motors WLAM Scholars program is critical to me – and all the others you have supported – because every bit of financial support helps make the pursuit of public interest work possible. Moreover, encouragement from members of the legal community means a great deal; you legitimate public interest work, and you motivate me, and I'm sure other recipients, to work even harder. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Jennifer Hill, General Motors Scholar, University of Michigan Law School

While attending law school I have been involved in several organizations that focus on community development and volunteering, including Students Helping Students Read, Student Board of Governors and the Black Law Students Association. I have also been involved in several volunteer projects, such as Comcast Cares Day events and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. In addition, I am currently a student in the law

school's Small Business and Non-Profit Clinic, and am providing free legal services to a local small business and non-profit organization. It is very comforting to know that businesses like Ford Motor Company are dedicated to uplifting the people and the community around them. By awarding me this scholarship, you are enabling me to concentrate more on schoolwork and community service without having to worry about finances.

Karissa Holmes, Ford Scholar, Wayne State University Law School

I have represented abused children who had been removed from their homes, victims of domestic violence seeking divorces or custody of their children, children with diseases or disabilities seeking government benefits, and low-income families in landlord-tenant disputes. The sheer volume and diversity of cases in the metro-Detroit area made me realize how prevalent these problems are, and how often women and children in particular are left to navigate the legal system alone.

*Amanda Dallo, WLAMF Scholar, University of Michigan Law School
(Continued on next page)*

This award is particularly meaningful to me as I struggle with the demands of a full-time job while attending law school in the evening. As I do not believe it particularly common that evening students are recognized for their achievements, I am exceptionally honored that I have been selected for this prestigious award.

Meredith Mullins, Ford Scholar, University of Detroit Mercy Law School

I will be graduating from law school in less than three months with a substantial amount of debt as a result of obtaining a law degree as well as ordinary living expenses incurred throughout the past three years. The impact of this award, however, goes farther than simply helping to relieve these financial obligations. This gracious monetary award has assured me that my efforts in law school have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. Such honorable recognition encourages me, upon graduation, to utilize my abilities and to begin a new chapter in my life while confidently entering the working world.

Breanne M. Smith, WLAMF Scholar, University of Detroit Mercy Law School

Lori D. Becker Joins WLAM Foundation Board

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation is pleased to announce that Lori D. Becker has joined its Board of Directors. Ms. Becker is the Managing Partner in a Novi law firm specializing in business law, contract negotiation, estate planning, real estate, family and criminal law. She teaches business law at Walsh College and Northwood University, and completed her Master of Business Administration degree while also attending law school at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Ms. Becker has worked for over eight years as an advocate with HAVEN, assisting domestic violence victims. As the 2006-07 Awardee of the Foundation's Ford Mentium grant, Lori developed leadership skills that support her collaborative approach to family law, particularly alternative dispute resolution as to divorce.



Lori D. Becker

Gift in Honor of:

A generous donation has been made in honor of **Markeisha Miner**, by the **Wolverine Bar Association**, which awarded Ms. Miner the 2007 Margrette A. Taylor Distinguished Young Lawyers Award. Ms. Miner was a 2002 Outstanding Woman Law Student Awardee of the WLAM Foundation. She is now an attorney at Dickinson Wright PLLC, in Detroit.

WLAM Foundation Contributions

Do you know the power of a dollar contributed to the WLAM Foundation? Only pennies (generally, under 10% of money raised) go to administrative costs, and the rest goes directly into projects supporting women's education.

Contributions are made in several forms: fundraising events take place during the year, WLAM members exercise their "dues check-off" option, art prints are available any time, and firms and corporations take part in the annual Dean's List campaign. You can jump in right now through another popular option: use the contribution form in this newsletter to honor a special person or event. Whichever giving choice you make, we'll be sure to acknowledge your contribution here.

The Foundation Board thanks these generous donors who made recent tax-deductible contributions.

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Contribution Form

Your contribution is a way to recognize and honor special people and events. If you wish publication of the reason for your contribution, please provide it here:

Contribution in honor of:

[please provide name or other details]

Donation amount: _____

Your name and address:

Honoree's name and address [so that we can acknowledge your gift]:

**Contributions to the Foundation
are tax-deductible.**

Please send this form and your check to:
WLAM Foundation
645 Griswold; 3300 Penobscot Building
Detroit, MI 48226

2008 "Dean's List" Campaign Underway

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation supports women's education through a vigorous "Dean's List" Fundraising Campaign each year. Those individuals, law firms and corporations making a contribution to the Foundation's scholarship fund in an amount over \$125 are recognized annually at the Foundation's Awards Reception. That reception is set for Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at the St. John's Conference Center, in Plymouth.

To join this distinguished group, donors may contribute any of the following amounts:

Contribution amount:

_____ \$2,500 and above*	Summa Cum Laude (4 admissions to reception)
_____ \$1,000 to \$2,499	Magna Cum Laude (3 admissions)
_____ \$ 750 to \$999	Cum Laude (2 admissions)
_____ \$ 125 to \$749	Good Citizenship (1 admission)

**A three-year commitment to an annual gift over \$2,500 entitles donors to the special naming of the award, in their honor.*

A contribution to the WLAM Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is tax-deductible.

Contributors should respond no later than March 11, 2008, to ensure inclusion in publicity for the Awards Reception. Checks should be payable to the "WLAM Foundation," and sent to WLAM Foundation, 12763 Stark Road, Suite 201, Livonia, MI 48150. To charge by phone, please call Debbie at 734-762-7260.



Newsletter Contact

Dawn Van Hoek
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**Women Lawyers
Association of
Michigan**



Founded in 1919

23210 Greater Mack, #117
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
www.womenlawyers.org

Change of Address

Members should send notification in writing to: info@womenlawyers.org or WLAM Executive Offices, 23210 Greater Mack, #117, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 Attn: Membership Records.



DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

WLAM sends members a monthly E-newsletter filled with information. We also e-mail updates about upcoming events of interest to you. If you haven't been receiving these, and want to, please be sure we have your e-mail address. Send a message to info@womenlawyers.org or call 800.654.5959. Thank you!

WLAM NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

With changes approved during the 2007 Annual Meeting, WLAM will now handle election of officers as stipulated in the WLAM Bylaws, Article XIII, Election of Officers and Directors at Large, Section 2. Slate of Officers Directors at Large:

The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for each office to be filled at the annual meeting of members. The slate shall be provided to the active members of the Association by mail, e-mail, other electronic means, or published in the official publication of the Association not less than six (6) weeks prior to the date of the annual meeting of members.

The slate of officers will be posted on the WLAM website at www.womenlawyers.org. Please review the slate prior to attending the Annual Meeting, April 24, Crowne Plaza in Novi, where the vote will be taken.

CANDIDATE RATING AND ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED.

In a year with so many open court races, WLAM has the opportunity to make its voice heard. Every WLAM region has the opportunity to have its own Candidate Rating and Endorsement Committee to help identify the best candidates. To participate in your regions' CREC, you must join the state CREC committee. Pursuant to our rules, membership on the committee cannot be activated until 30 days after your written request is received by the chair of the Legal Affairs Committee. So if you wish to be a part of this important process, you need to submit your request by April 1, 2008.

At the state level, the CREC will be rating and/or endorsing the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court candidates.

Each region is asked to send written notice of the name of the regional chairperson and at least four members who will serve on this committee via e-mail to CREC Chair at info@womenlawyers.org or via postal mail to WLAM, 23210 Greater Mack, #117, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080.

If you need more information, please feel free to call Marla Linderman, Legal Affairs Chair at (734) 665-8444.

WLAM will hold training for members interested in participating in the WLAM Candidate Rating and Endorsement program. That training is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Sat., April 5 at the State Bar Building in Lansing.

Direct questions to the WLAM Executive Office at (800) 654-5959.

Women Lawyers Association
of Michigan
23210 Greater Mack, #117
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