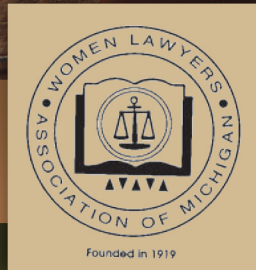


2009 ANNUAL REPORT



**WOMEN LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2010 President's Report

Submitted by Kim D. Winokur, President

While we continue to build a strong organization, the Board has carefully balanced our members' needs while remaining fiscally sound. We have discussed long-range planning goals looking at the big picture of the future of WLAM. The Board recognizes the need to help our members be successful at any stage of their career. We looked to our history and structure to determine how best to do this.

Historically, in 1975, with the influx of women members in the mid-1970's due to the growing number of women entering the legal profession, WLAM reorganized. This was completed in 1977 with the adoption of a regional structure created under the umbrella of the State Association. The reorganization allowed for regular membership meetings at convenient locations and an effective method of dealing with local, as well as statewide issues. This structure remains in effect today. The Board supports local programming by creating the necessary infrastructure to build and maintain independent, strong regions while balancing best practices and statewide support to those regions that need the assistance.

Additionally, the Board focuses on statewide and national issues affecting women. This year's state Board advocated for pay equity, joining some of the grass roots efforts already in place (the Equal Pay Day Coalition) and pending state legislation. Today, women are paid 72 cents on the dollar compared to their male counterparts for the same full-time, year-round work, according to the National Women's Law Center. WLAM's 92nd Annual Meeting being held in May 2010, with the support of WLAM's Gender Equity Committee, will address the disparity between men and women's pay with ideas on how to impact much needed change.

The Board was tasked with the responsibility of approving a balanced budget for 2010. This resulted in re-negotiating the contract with Association Management Resources - UCI Division (AMR), the organization which provides administrative and operational assistance to WLAM. Additionally, WLAM volunteers served on committees and helped with projects to help support our budget and organization goals. Most recently our partnership with AMR has helped WLAM to increase non-dues revenues from sponsorships and strategic partnerships so that we do not rely solely upon membership dues.

I'm proud to report that WLAM has had unprecedented growth by 170 new members! This growth is attributed to execution of our membership plan, increased activities in regions, rebirth of two inactive regions, two new student chapters, and increasing the visibility of WLAM. The Board has begun discussions for the formation of two additional regions. The Board recognizes the need to understand our declining retention rate and continues to explore member benefits as a way of providing value to our existing members.

We thank you for your membership and pledge to work toward earning your continued support throughout the upcoming year.

WLAM COMMITTEES

Report of the 2010 Annual Meeting Committee

Submitted by Lysa Postula-Stein, Chair

This year, WLAM set two goals for the Annual Meeting: (1) To provide knowledge and skills on an intriguing topic; and (2) To minimize our members' personal conflicts associated with attending professional events.

The chosen topic is relevant to all attorneys regardless of specialty: **"Understanding Gender Bias: What You Don't Know Can Hurt Your Career. A Forum on Pay Equity and Family Responsibilities Discrimination."** It is also timely. Michigan's Equity Pay Day occurred on April 20, 2010, and both subjects are currently being addressed in state legislation with the support of WLAM's Gender Equity Committee.

Overviews of pay equity and family responsibilities discrimination will be presented by attorneys Jennifer Salvatore, *Nacht & Assoc., PC*, and Kathleen L. Bogas, *Law Offices of Kathleen L. Bogas, PLLC*. Michigan State Representative Rebekah Warren will then provide the status of legislation. Finally, attorney Susan Hartmus Hiser, *Vercryse Murray & Calzone, PC*, will moderate a panel discussion of these issues. After a short networking break, a new

panel will convene for a "how to" session: "Positioning Yourself for Increased Compensation and Creative Employment Terms." Moderated by Elizabeth Jolliffe, *Your Benchmark Coach*, panelist will include five attorneys: Margaret "Peggy" Costello, *Dykema Gossett, PLLC*; Julie Fershtman, *Zausmer, Kaufman, August, Caldwell & Tayler, PC*; Susan Harmus Hiser, *Denice LeVasseur, LeVasseur & LeVasseur, PC*; and David Winter, *Sommers Schwartz, PC*.

Lunch will be served simultaneous with a presentation of the Jean Ledwith King Leadership Award to Kathleen L. Bogas and the administration of the oath for new officers by Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly. The day also includes a separately scheduled regional executive board member training hosted by Kim Winokur, *Law Offices of Kim Winokur, PLC*.

The venue selected this year was The Henry Ford, arguably the most well-known tourist attraction in Michigan and one that appeals to people of all ages. The entire conference occurs within the parameters of one half of a day so that attendees can join their family and friends in enjoying the sites of Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. Participants have been encouraged to spend the day or take an overnight trip, thus alleviating the ongoing struggles of female attorneys between their personal and professional lives.

Such a well-planned event could not have occurred without the hard work of the dedicated committee: Kim Winokur, Hon. Angela Sherigan, Elizabeth Jolliffe, Jennifer Salvatore, and Alecia Powell. Their commitment over the past year has made this event possible.

WLAM COMMITTEES

Communications & Technology Committee Report

Submitted by Michele A. Rivas

During 2009/2010 the WLAM Communications & Technology Committee (“C&T Committee”) was pleased to provide the following services to our members, our regions and the community:

- **Members:** This year we spent significant time refining our communications network and we have provided the following communications-related benefits to our members: (i) communications regarding various WLAM-sponsored activities; (ii) communications regarding other activities within the State of Michigan that align with the purpose and goals of WLAM; and (iii) a referral service that provides potential new clients to our members. Those communications were provided via various media sources including the WLAM website, constant contacts and LinkedIn. In addition, WLAM met its goals of providing members with the ability

to renew their membership online, and establishing a quarterly eNewsletter.

- **Regions:** This year a communications policy was adopted regarding the use of membership lists. Utilizing these membership lists, your regional communication liaisons worked diligently within the C&T Committee to provide information regarding regional activities on a timely and informative basis.
- **Community:** The C&T Committee has promoted several wonderful events made available by the WLAM Foundation and the WLAM Regions in their efforts to give to the community. Some of these events have provided scholarship opportunities for female law students, law student mentoring, and fundraising for local non-profit organizations.

WLAM would like to thank all of the C&T Committee members for their hard work and dedication this year. The C&T Committee would like to expressly acknowledge the Executive Director’s efforts in improving WLAM communications. In regards to what the future holds, WLAM is pleased to announce that Donna Mallonee will be the new C&T Committee Chairperson this upcoming year.

Gender Equity Committee

Submitted by Jennifer Salvatore, Chair

This year (2009/2010), the Gender Equity Committee prepared draft legislation regarding pay equity and Family Responsibilities Discrimination (“FRD”), advocated on these issues at Equal Pay Day in Lansing (April, 2010), at the WLAM Annual Meeting (May 15, 2010), and throughout the year with other organizations such as the Michigan Employment Lawyers Association, NOW and the AAUW.

Attached to this report is the draft proposed legislation as well as background pieces on each issue. Charlotte Croson and Jennifer Salvatore took the lead on drafting the legislation and working with various groups in support of the legislation. Also on the committee, providing advice and support, were the following members: Deb LaBelle, Jean King, Bridget McCormack, Rebecca Schiemke, and Sally Fink.

The Committee worked closely with Rep. Rebekkah Warren (D-Ann Arbor), who intends to sponsor the legislation and introduce it later this term. Jennifer Salvatore spoke about the proposed pay equity legislation at Equal Pay Day in Lansing in April and will be speaking to an upcoming meeting of the bipartisan Women’s Commission.

In crafting the legislation, the Committee worked with the Center on Worklife Law at the University of California, Hastings, whose legislative staff person reviewed the proposed legislation. The Center is a clearinghouse for information on FRD and actively coordinates the drafting and introduction of FRD legislation around the country.

The Committee is excited about the progress on the legislative initiatives and looks forward to the introduction of the bills later this term. Jennifer Salvatore and Charlotte Croson will continue to take the lead on the advocacy work on these issues as the legislation progresses.

WLAM FINANCIAL REPORTS

Annual Financial Report: 2008

June 2008 to December 2008 (due to fiscal year dates changing)

Submitted by Treasurer: Lysa Postula-Stein; prepared by Hillarie Boettger from the historical documents

	<u>June 08 -Dec 08</u>
Ordinary Income/Expenses	
Income	
Advertiser-Newsletter	450.00
Dues Income	40,775.00
Foundation/Membership Donations	2,685.00
Refunds Received	<u>388.28</u>
Total Income	44,298.28
Expenses	
Board Meeting Expenses	170.37
Dues and Subscription-Other	306.00
Executive Director	12,502.98
Foundation Contributions	2,997.44
Licenses and Permits	20.00
Merchant Services	336.77
Miscellaneous	1,350.00
Other Expenses	108.05
Postage and Delivery	625.02
Printing and Reproduction	2,792.34
Professional Fees and Dues:	
Bookkeeper	3,325.00
CPA	457.50
Public Relations	40.68
Refunds for Overpayment	50.00
Regional Dues Payments	9,375.01
Telephone	817.45
Website	<u>275.00</u>
Total Expense	36,549.61
Net Ordinary Income	7,748.67
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Merchant Service Income	1,387.66
Reimbursed Expense	400
Interest Income	<u>163.86</u>
Total Other Income	<u>1,951.52</u>
Net Other Income	<u>1,951.52</u>
Net Income	<u>9,700.19</u>

WLAM FINANCIAL REPORTS

Annual Financial Report: 2009

Fiscal Year January 1, 2009 to December 2009

Submitted by Hillarie F. Boettger, Treasurer

	<u>Jan 09 - Dec 09</u>
Ordinary Income/Expenses	
Income	
Annual Meeting Income	5,560.00
Dues Income	35,762.50
Other	1.00
Non-Dues Revenue	<u>109.63</u>
Total Income	41,433.13
Expenses	
Annual Meeting Expenses	3,907.53
Bank Charges	559.30
Board Meeting Expenses	87.81
Constant Contact	385.25
Education/Business Planning	
Executive Director: Mileage	441.76
Foundation Contributions	
Insurance	700.00
Licenses and Permits	25.00
Marketing: Other	91.65
Management Fees: AMR	34,806.82
Membership Benefit: Speedway Card	208.00
Membership Committee	147.63
Office Supplies	343.98
Office Storage	94.68
Postage	80.61
Printing and Reproduction	31.90
Professional Fees and Dues	600.00
Public Relations	
Regional Dues Payments	4,037.50
Special Projects	
Telephone	735.39
Tax Services	1,875.00
Website	<u>1,539.95</u>
Total Expense	50,002.06
Opening Balance Equity	48,463.59
Net Income	<u>-8,568.93</u>
Total Equity	39,894.66

WLAM COMMITTEES

Membership Report

Submitted by Marla Lindeman, Chair

Starting in June 2009, the Membership Committee started with a total overhaul of the way that WLAM handles membership in response to our organization's needs. We began by writing a Membership Plan, with both short term and long term goals. This plan was approved by the Board in the fall of 2009. At the same time, we were reviewing and analyzing membership data to correctly determine our membership numbers and regional strength. Our preliminary numbers came back as approximately 542 members as of June 2009. However, when our final numbers came back, for September of 2009, it was determined that our membership was 491. Here is the breakdown of regions as of September of 2009.

- Blue Water _____ 1
- Cooley - Auburn Hills _____ 18
- Cooley - Grand Rapids _____ 13
- Cooley - Lansing _____ 39
- Great Lakes Bay _____ 11
- Lakeshore _____ 0
- Livingston _____ 3
- Macomb _____ 19
- Mid Michigan _____ 17
- Monroe _____ 2
- Northwest _____ 0
- Oakland _____ 141
- Out of State _____ 1
- Southwest _____ 2
- Upper Mich _____ 3
- Washtenaw _____ 87
- Wayne _____ 67
- Western _____ 67
- **Grand Total** _____ **491**

These were the numbers used to formulate our goals. Our first priority was to work on retention of our members. Our second priority was to increase membership by 15%.

Retention of Members

Previous to our work identifying our membership, our membership numbers and information lacked reliability. We had names of former members without any information regarding why they were former members rather than current members. Quickly we identified a problem with our renewal process and began making immediate changes to ensure that all members were receiving membership renewal forms. We tried e-mail reminders, mailed renewal application and personal contact. Within a few months, we realized that e-mail, while inexpensive, was not enough to ensure continuous, effective membership renewals. Working with the regions, we have put into a place where 60 days prior to membership renewal, an e-mail is sent out. However, if the e-mail does not generate a renewal, a renewal application is sent out a month before membership needs to be renewed. And when the membership lapses, we then will make personal contact to determine why membership has lapsed. We also have mailed applications to anyone who lapsed within the last 18 months.

Increasing Membership

Our goal was to increase our membership by at least 15% in a year starting in September of 2009. Currently, 9 months into our plan, we have surpassed that goal. Using the most recent April data, we are currently at 605 members which is a 23% increase in membership already. To effectuate this increase, we have used outreach at the State and Region levels, attending new lawyer events and sending out a membership invitation to potential members based on a list provided to us by the State Bar of Michigan. We have also recently instituted procedures where the regions will get basically real time updates on their new members so that contact can be made quickly to ensure that new members are immediately informed of events and opportunities.

Next Steps

We still need to focus on membership retention. This will include further outreach to lapsed members but also increasing membership benefits
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WLAM COMMITTEES

so that our membership's needs are met. We are currently working on helping several regions build and reorganize. We also need to ensure that we continue to follow our membership plan and continue to track what our membership's needs are to help formulate further growth opportunities. Having a membership committee

with members from each region was very helpful in quickly identifying and resolving membership issues. We should continue this committee and also ensure that each region understands the goals of the committee and how it can support the regions' needs.

Regional Development Committee Report

Submitted by Ann Erickson-Gault, Chair

The Regional Development Committee took on the task of re-establishing a region in the area of Saginaw, Bay, and Midland Counties. With the encouragement of attorney Donna Mallonee, a group of women attorneys began meeting and planning. An organizing meeting was held in

early November 2009, where the group chose interim leaders.

President: Julie Gafkay
Treasurer: Donna Mallonee
Secretary: Gera Brown

The organizing group also selected a new regional name: Great Lakes Bay Region of WLAM. The Region became official when their proposed bylaws were approved at the November WLAM board meeting. A regional annual meeting is planned for May 2010 when officers will be elected and the members will discuss events and projects for the coming year.

Program Committee

Submitted by Elizabeth Jolliffe, Chair

Considerations/Recommendations for 2010-2011, and beyond:

- State Program - "Developing Women As Leaders." A leadership training conference or seminar/workshop series. Could be held every other year. Models exist such as the ABA's Women In Leadership Academy and other states' models.
- State Program - Joint program with the State Bar of Michigan, and other SBM sections, similar to the SBM's former Opening Doors conference. A day long series of presentations, w/ multiple tracks, on practice, business and career development, etc.
- Regional ideas - (these are in addition to the types held this past year by the regions)
 - o Women's History Month program
 - o Past Presidents' dinner, or recognition of same at the regions' annual meetings. Bonus: helps increase attendance.

- o Media Members' Tips panel event with members of local legal media and other media on tips for helping the media and talking with the media as a resource (ie. not just related to pending cases) and regarding press releases, etc.
- o "Moms-In-Law" quarterly lunch discussions (brown bag or otherwise)
- o Backpack to Briefcase seminar or series for law students/new lawyers
- o Joint program w/ State Bar of Michigan's Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program ("LJAP") regarding self-care, time & stress management, identification of issues. Contact Martha Burkett at the SBM.
- o Joint program w/ Women Officials Network, or other similarly interested groups, about getting women on the bench and in office.
- o Presentation of WLAM banners to WLAM members newly elected to the bench.
- o Programs featuring judges or held jointly with judges. This can increase judicial membership in WLAM and raise the visibility of WLAM.

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WLAM COMMITTEES

Program Committee Report - continued from page 8

- o Presence at bar admissions ceremonies; as a speaker at a ceremony, and/or with an information table
- o Programs with the State Bar of Michigan's Practice Management Resource Center (see PMRC's online resources on SBM website). They have canned presentations and are happy to work with local associations.
- o Joint programs or networking events with other professional business women organizations such as women in construction, women in banking, women in accounting, women in finance, women in risk management, women in real estate.
- o Career development & success panels.

Upon request, the following regions submitted information on their activities from June 2009 through the present and projected through May 2010. Hopefully the regions will find ideas and inspiration in this shared information. We include contact information for each region to facilitate further sharing of information, collaboration and joint programming among the regions.

- **Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills Student Chapter:**
 - Contact - President Abigail Jennex, jennexa@cooley.edu
 - July 2009 - "Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Does it really exist? If so, how do we break through it?" Panel discussion and dinner.
 - July 2009 - Mixer with the Student Intellectual Property Law Association at Fuse in Rochester.
 - Summer 2009 - Community Service Project for the Family Law Assistance Project at Cooley Auburn Hills.
 - Fall 2009 - Community Service Project for Haven.
 - October 2009 - "Branding, Marketing & Networking" lunch and learn with Lori Williams.
 - November 2009 - Mentoring Kick-off Event with Oakland Region.
 - December 2009 - "Surviving Finals" for first-term students.
- Winter 2010 - Iraq Packs Community Service Project
- February 2010 - Sponsored a team for the Cooley - ACLU Pictionary Tournament for Haiti Relief
- February 2010 - "Beyond Billable Hours: Fit a Legal Career Into Your Life and Not Your Life Into a Legal Career" panel discussion and lunch.
- **Cooley Law School, Grand Rapids Student Chapter, developed in fall 2009:**
 - Contact - President Angelina Clarke, clarkea@cooley.edu, Vice President Amanda Narvaes
 - September 2009 - Welcome Back meeting.
 - October 2009 - Breast Cancer Awareness meeting, with special guest Becky Caminiti of Mary Kay, a 4 year breast cancer survivor, who shared her survival story.
 - October 2009 - Happy Hour with Western Region, Republic Bar.
 - October 2009 - "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk", 3 miles in downtown Grand Rapids.
 - October 2009 - Fundraiser - Class Passes for "First Termers" were sold for \$5 each. A portion of the proceeds were donated to Making Strides Foundation.
 - November 2009 - Academic Forum- "Women in Corporate Law." Panel discussion featuring Katy Sheridan, of Fifth Third Bank (and Western Region President), Kelly Brushaber of Alticor Inc., and Linda Jo Carron of Knape and Vogt Mfg. Co.
 - November 2009 - Fundraiser - Spare Change Drive for Kids' Food Baskets. Proceeds to make snack packs for children during the Thanksgiving Break, and to continue in January.
 - January 2010 - Welcome Back meeting.
 - January 2010 - Kids Food Basket Snack Pack Assembly and Pizza Social.
 - February 2010 - "Preparing for the Bar and MPRE". Guest speaker Kathy Bielefeldt of KaplanPMBR.
 - March 2010 - "A Celebration of Women in the Law" dinner, featuring local historian

WLAM COMMITTEES

JoEllyn Clarey who spoke on first practicing female attorney in Grand Rapids, Elizabeth “Bessie” Eaglesfield. With WLAM State Board representative, members of Western Region, professors and members of local women organizations.

- **Cooley Law School, Lansing Student Chapter:**
 - Report not available.
 - Contact - President Samantha Hoover, hooversa@cooley.edu
- **Great Lakes Bay Region, developed in fall/winter 2009/2010:**
 - Contact - Julie Gafkay, jgafkay@gafkaylaw.com, (989) 652-9240, Donna Mallonee, donnamallonee@yahoo.com
 - November 2009 - First regional informational meeting with introductions to WLAM by President Kim Winokur and Immediate Past President Ann Erickson-Gault.
 - February 2010 - Board meeting w/ President, Treasurer and Secretary.
 - March 2010 - Membership meeting with program on pro bono opportunities.
 - May 5, 2010 - Annual Meeting with election of Board of Directors (tentative).
- **Oakland Region:**
 - Contact - President Nicole Wilinski, nwilinski@plunkettcooney.com, (248) 594-6229
 - October 2009 - First Annual Diversity Networking Event co-hosted w/ Straker Bar Association.
 - November 2009 - Annual Mentorship Kickoff Event.
 - November 2009 - OCBA Admission Ceremony.
 - December 2009 - Annual Holiday Party and Charity Event, Tom’s Oyster Bar, Royal Oak.
 - January 2009 - E-Discovery lunch and learn.
 - March 25, 2009 - Annual Wine Down Fundraiser.
 - May 20, 2010 - Annual Dinner, Radisson, Bloomfield Hills.
- **Mid Michigan Region:**
 - Contact - President Sarah Wohlford, swohlford@honigman.com, (517) 377-0724
 - October 2009 - Carolyn Stell Scholarship Reception to present the scholarship award and also honor Judge Thomas Boyd.
- **Washtenaw Region:**
 - Contact - President Suzanne Sukkar, sukkar@piercelawoffice.com, (734) 769-9191, Vice President Angela Walker, awalker@nachtlaw.com, (734) 663-7550
 - June 2009 - Annual Women Lawyers v Judges Softball Game, Buhr Park, Ann Arbor. Added fundraising element this year to benefit American Cancer Society.
 - August 2009 - Family Picnic, Gallup Park, Ann Arbor.
 - September 2009 - Speaker Series lunch featuring Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith. Vinology, Ann Arbor.
 - September 2009 - Michigan Football Tailgate Party.
 - October 2009 - Diversity Week w/ Washtenaw County Bar, panel discussion on strategies for increasing the visibility and success of women of color in large firms.
 - October 2009 - Michigan Football Tailgate Party.
 - November 2009 - Speaker Series lunch featuring representatives from Women’s Center. Vinology, Ann Arbor.
 - December 2009 - Annual Holiday Party at member Nora Wright’s home, downtown Ann Arbor.
 - January 2010 - Make It Rain! Rainmaking panel and dinner. Mediterraneo Restaurant, Ann Arbor.
 - February 2010 - Networking reception with women law students at Michigan Law School. Pizza House, Ann Arbor.
 - March 2010 - First Quarterly “Moms-In-Law” round table brown bag lunch discussion. 200 North Main Street, lower level conference room, Ann Arbor.
 - March 2010 - Annual Joint Dinner with Washtenaw County Bar Association. Featuring Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, and jazz combo from Community High School Jazz Program. Weber’s Restaurant, Ann Arbor.
 - April 2010 - Speaker Series lunch featuring elections lawyer and MI Secretary of State candidate Jocelyn Benson. Vinology, Ann Arbor.
 - May 12, 2010 - Annual Lunch Meeting, Cottage Inn, Ann Arbor.

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WLAM COMMITTEES

Program Committee Report - continued from page 10

- **Wayne Region:**

- Contact - President Joni Van Genderen, jonivangenderen@gmail.com, (248) 767-1622. Vice President Allison Bach, abach@dickinsonwright.com, (313) 223-3604
- June 2009 - Board & Committee planning potluck, member Natalie Priest Yaw's home, Detroit.
- June 2009 - Supported Second Annual "Lawyers v Judges Culinary Cookoff" for charity, Detroit.
- August 2009 - Happy Hour, outdoors on patio of historic Whitney Restaurant, Detroit.
- September 2009 - First Annual End of Summer Garden Party, Court of Appeals Judge Kirsten Frank Kelly's garden, Grosse Pointe.
- September 2009 - Michigan Football Tailgate Party.
- October 2009 - Networking Reception w/ women law students at Wayne State Law School.
- October 2009 - Michigan Football Tailgate Party.
- December 2009 - First Quarterly "Moms-In-Law" round table lunch discussion. SMART Detroit conference center, Penobscot Building, Detroit. Sponsor for sandwich tray.
- December 2009 - Rockin' the Holiday Party, Hard Rock Café, Detroit.
- January 2010 - Winter Dinner Wine Down, Board member Jeri Parkin's home, Northville. Also attended by members from Washtenaw and Oakland Regions.
- February 2010 - "Celebrating Our Diverse Bar", joint networking event w/ numerous local bar associations, Fishbones, Greektown, Detroit.
- March 2010 - Networking Reception w/ women law students at University of Detroit Law School.
- March 2010 - Board and Committee Building Pizza Dinner @ Buddy's, Dearborn.
- April 7, 2010 - Quarterly "Moms-In-Law" round table brown bag lunch discussion. SMART Detroit conference center, Penobscot Building, Detroit.
- April 29, 2010 - "Beyond the Basics: Social Media 301 for Lawyers. Ethical, Etiquette and Practical Issues." A panel discussion. Dickinson

Wright, Detroit.

- May 13, 2010 - Annual Lunch Meeting. Featuring US Attorney ED MI Barbara McQuade, who is a long time WLAM member and the first female US Attorney for the ED MI in the office's 198 year history. Westin Book Cadillac, Detroit.

- **Western Region:**

- Contact - President Kathlene ("Katy") Sheridan, Kathlene.sheridan@53.com, (616) 653-5212
- June 2009 - Women Lawyers vs Judges Charity Softball Game to benefit the YWCA of West Central Michigan. Fifth Third Ballpark in Grand Rapids.
- September 2009 - Social/Networking event at Cooley Law School.
- October 2009 - Happy Hour with Cooley Grand Rapids Student Chapter.
- October 2009 - Panel discussion on non-profits service including various non-profits such as Grand Rapids Community Foundation and Gilda's Club. At the University Club.
- November 2009 - Alternative Legal Career Options, University Club. A panel of women lawyers who work in alternative careers to practicing law, including the CAO of Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids, Jennifer Jordan, Prose Law Clerk for Western District of Michigan, Lisa DeFerrari, and the Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Western Michigan, Nancy Haynes.
- November 2009 - Service event at Mel Trotter Ministries.
- December 2009 - Holiday Reception at Grand Rapids Community College's Warren Hall.
- January 2010 - Social/Networking event, University Club.
- February 2010 - Investments, University Club.
- March 2010 - Women Lawyers in Grand Rapids, a panel and audience discussion, University Club
- April 2010 - Take Your Child to Work Day, University Club
- May 2010 - Service event at Mom's Bloom 5K Run/Walk.
- May 4, 2010 - Annual Dinner, Amway Grand Hotel.

WLAM REGIONS

Great Lakes Bay Region

Submitted by Julie A. Gafkay,
Regional Representative

The Great Lakes Bay Region of the WLAM was established on October 21, 2009. The first meeting of the Great Lakes Bay Region was held on Wednesday, November 11, 2009. At that meeting an interim President, Treasurer, and Secretary were elected. A board meeting was held on February 16, 2010. There are currently 12 members of the region. The goal of the region is to have quality programs to increase awareness and membership. The region is in the planning stages for its annual meeting to be held in mid-May.

Events

Membership Meeting with Program on Pro Bono Service

On March 4, 2010, a membership luncheon meeting was held at Bay Valley Resort in Bay City, Michigan. The program speaker was the Pro Bono Coordinator of Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, Marilyn Hackett. She talked to the group about opportunities to provide pro bono services and the need that her agency had for attorneys to volunteer their services.

Services

The Honorable Janet Boes is a current member of the Great Lakes Bay Region. She will be presented with the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan banner at our annual meeting to put with her flag in her courtroom.

Macomb Region

Submitted by Michelle Lundquist,
Regional Representative

Officers:

President- Michelle Lundquist
Vice-President- Kristin Stone
Treasurer - Linda McGrail Belau

The Macomb region faced the same obstacles that the other regions have faced due to the stressed economy. Many of our former members stated that they could not become members due to the cost of membership dues.

After much discussion with past members, the Macomb region decided to take a fundamental approach to the membership. Most women were not interested in having meetings on the nights and weekends so daytime lunch meetings were established. Meetings have become informal gatherings with much of our business being conducted over emails.

A few years ago much of the housekeeping affairs were abandoned. With the assistance of the board members, the bank accounts and recorded history were collected, reviewed and updated. There is a new commitment and an increasing swell of interest that should produce a fully active and successful organization within the coming months.

Events:

Kentucky Derby Party

The party was held on May 2, 2009, at Madison's in downtown Mt. Clemens. This was the first big event that the group has held since its resurrection. The purpose of the event was to draw people back into WLAM and to introduce ourselves to younger attorneys. The event was a blast! Women were encouraged to show up in Derby hats and competitions were held for the best rendition for "My Old Kentucky Home." Approximately 25 people attended the party which was highlighted by the race. A light buffet was offered with signature mint juleps. The party is scheduled again for May 2, 2010 at 4 p.m. at Madison's.

Round Table Discussion with Judge Diane Druzinski

The Macomb region held a luncheon with Judge Druzinski regarding drug court. The Judge was kind enough to reserve the jury room in the Macomb County Circuit Court. The event was held on a motion day in the court which meant a lot of hungry attorneys and face time with the judge. The event drew 33 people who attended the presentation and question and answer session with the judge. Due to the large draw, similar activities will be scheduled in the future.

WLAM REGIONS

Mid-Michigan Region

Submitted by Nicki Proulx,
Regional Representative

During 2009, the WLAM Mid-Michigan Regional membership remained constant and we provided the following events and services to our members:

1. **Events:** 16th Annual Stell Scholarship Reception and various member relations/mixer events
2. **Services:** Mentorship program to Cooley Student Chapter
3. **Awards presented:** Stell Scholarship to Joscelyn Gorsline and “Judge of the Year Award” to Judge Thomas P. Boyd

Oakland Region

Submitted by Melissa Graves,
Regional Representative

The Women’s Bar Association - Oakland County Region of WLAM hosted a variety of networking events, professional seminars and social events throughout the 2009-2010 year. The different types of events appealed to a wide range of participants, including a large number of law students and new lawyers, and were an integral part of the WBA’s success in generating new members. As the 2009-2010 year draws to a close, we are already busy planning for the coming year and look forward to even more growth.

Events:

Our events for the past year included:

Annual Dinner: The year started off with our Annual Dinner on May 21, 2009 at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, where we were honored to have Supreme Court Justice Maura Corrigan as our Keynote Speaker. In addition to inducting our incoming officers, Justice Corrigan also entertained us with a surprise performance of “Everything’s Coming Up Roses,” complete with piano accompaniment!

Heart Health Seminar: On October 7, 2009, Beaumont Hospital hosted us for an informational seminar about women’s heart health, which also included a tour of Ministrelli Women’s Heart Center as well as delicious appetizers.

Networking Event: On October 8, 2009, we co-hosted a diversity networking event with the

D. Augustus Straker Bar Association. The event was held at Rader, Fishman & Grauer, PLLC in Bloomfield Hills. There were over 75 attendees at this free event and invitations were sent to all affinity and special interest bar associates.

Mentorship Program: On November 4, 2009, we held our mentorship kick-off event at Cooley’s Auburn Hills Campus. During this event, first year attorneys and law students from Wayne State University, University of Detroit Mercy and Cooley-Auburn Hills were matched with mentors. The event was highly attended by both law students and lawyers and almost 60 women were matched with mentors. The mentorship program itself is designed to be informal, so it is up to the mentors and mentees to determine how often they want to meet and what type of activities they want to engage in. However, it is strongly encouraged that mentors and mentees check in via email or phone once a month or, better yet, meet in person for coffee, lunch, to attend a deposition or hearing, or to attend a WLAM event.

Holiday Party: The WBA ended the 2009 year with a bang at its 27th Annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction at Tom’s Oyster Bar in Royal Oak. The approximately 100 attendees, including a number of local judges, enjoyed cocktails and a delicious display of appetizers and desserts at the event, which raised an estimated \$1,000.00 for the Pink Fund (www.thepinkfund.org), a local charity providing short term financial aid during the period of active treatment and recovery from breast cancer.

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WLAM REGIONS

Oakland Region - continued from page 13

Lunch and Learn: The WBA started its programming for 2010 with a January 21, 2010 lunch time panel discussion on e-discovery issues. The event, held at the Iroquois Club in Bloomfield Hills, was well attended and included guest speakers Carol Romej, an e-discovery litigator at Butzel Long who has served as General Counsel to two major technology companies, and Scott Matthews of Spectrum Computer Forensics, an e-discovery litigation support and forensics expert.

Wine Down Fundraising Event: On March 25, 2010, the WBA hosted its fourth annual "Evening to Wine Down" event at BlackFinn Restaurant in Royal Oak. The event has proven to be a favorite among our membership and provided a great opportunity to network and socialize for all that attended.

Upcoming Events:

The WBA Annual Dinner will take place on Thursday, May 19, 2010 at the Radisson Kingsley Hotel in Bloomfield Hills, where the 2010-2011 Executive Board will be installed. In addition, Colleen McDonald, a candidate for the Michigan Senate, will be our Keynote Speaker and we will present our first annual award.

On Tuesday, June 15, 2010, the WBA will host a lunch time discussion for college sophomores interested in attending law school as part of Thomas M. Cooley Law School's CLEO program.

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit our website (www.wba-oakland.com) or contact our incoming President, Elizabeth Smith, at esmith1@assetacceptance.com.

Washtenaw Region

Submitted by Teresa Killeen,
Regional Representative

The Washtenaw Region of WLAM adhered closely to the state-wide organization's goals of increasing membership and providing support to each member regardless of where that member is in their career.

Membership

The Washtenaw Region increased its membership throughout the year. I leave the details to the report from the Membership Chair.

Programs

The Washtenaw Region had another year of aggressive and innovative programming. We hosted 15 events - all of which were well-attended.

We started in the summer of 2009 with a family picnic (on the hottest day of the year!). In September, we hosted a Speaker Series

(featuring gubernatorial candidate Alma Wheeler Smith) and held a tailgate party before the UM football game.

In October, we presented a panel discussion on strategies for increasing the visibility and success of women of color in large law firms. This panel discussion, which included former Supreme Court Justice (former President of the ABA and former mayor of Detroit) Dennis Archer, and Bonnie Mayfield, was part of the Washtenaw County Bar Association's annual Bias Awareness Week.

We also hosted a second UM football game tailgate because the first one was so popular!

In November, we hosted another Speaker Series, with Jane Haasinger and Judy Malcolm from the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan, speaking on "Mid-Career Challenges in Life and Work for Women: What We Can't See Can Hurt Us."

In December, we held our annual Holiday Party at the home of member Nora Wright. The *continued on page 15*

WLAM REGIONS

Washtenaw Region - continued from page 14

Mary E. Foster Award, given to a local member annually in recognition of their leadership, talent and significant contribution to women attorneys and women in general. Mary E. Foster was the first woman licensed to practice law in Washtenaw County. This year, the award was presented to Jennifer Salvatore.

In January, we brought back Bonnie Mayfield (because she was so popular as a speaker at the Bias Awareness panel), to participate in workshop called "Make It Rain! Rainmaking for Career Success." The other presenters were Elizabeth Jolliffe and Jim Hayes.

In February we hosted another annual event: a social hour with the UM Women Law Students Association. As a nice balance to the family picnic which we held on the hottest day of the year, this event ended up being scheduled on the worst winter weather of the year and had to be postponed at the last minute. Despite the postponement, the event was very well attended.

In March, which is Women's History Month, we co-hosted a joint dinner with the Washtenaw County Bar Association with Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly as our guest speaker. The event was had the largest attendance of any event all year for both WLAM and the County Bar.

In March, we also began our Moms-in-Law lunch series. It's a brown bag lunch get together for women practitioners who want to connect with other practitioners who are (or have) balancing the demands of motherhood with the demands of practice.

March was a busy month! At the end of the month, we participated in a fund-raiser for the Big Brother/Big Sisters organization by putting together 2 teams of bowlers for a bowl-a-thon, including the Honorable Darlene A. O'Brien.

Other events planned for the year are:

Another Speaker Series at the end of April, featuring Jocelyn Benson who teaches at Wayne State University Law School and is an elections law expert. She is also the Democratic Party's nominee to be Secretary of State.

In May, we will host our local annual meeting, as well as participating in the state-wide annual meeting.

In June, we host our annual Lawyers v Judges softball game, and another Moms-in-Law lunch meeting.

And in July, we'll return to having a family picnic. This year it will be hosted by Heidi Salter-Ferris.

Value to Members

What did all this activity accomplish? We have a strong local that provides its members with good networking opportunities. Networking opportunities is the primary reason people join WLAM, according to our survey. Through programs with a wide appeal (such as the purely social events) and programs with more specialized appeal (such as the tailgates and Moms-in-Law lunches), members develop one-on-one relationships with those members with whom they share specific interests, and get a second chance to interact at the larger events.

We've given our members the chance to talk one-on-one with the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, a gubernatorial candidate, a nominee for the Michigan Secretary of State, our local judges, and our local "movers and shakers."

How did we accomplish this? Through a lot of hard work from the local leadership and the unflagging help of our state-wide Programs

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WLAM REGIONS

Washtenaw Region - continued from page 15

Director, Elizabeth Jolliffe. Elizabeth generously shared with us the ideas she gleaned from her work in the Wayne County region, and was equally generous in sharing her network. As a result, we were able to bring strong, effective speakers to Washtenaw County.

Finances

Our treasury is solid, under the steady hand of Treasurer Erane Washington-Kendrick (who was recently appointed a Regent at Eastern Michigan University by Governor Granholm). We retain a balance of just over \$2,000, and were timely and accurate in our quarterly reports.

Leadership Training

The Washtenaw Region has an honored tradition of reaching out to our members and mentoring them towards their goals. Former leaders of the local continue to stay involved with the organization. It helps us develop a “pipeline” of leadership that’s critical to the on-going success of the organization. The value of this tradition is evident in looking at the upcoming state-wide Board of Directors. Four Washtenaw Region members are on the proposed slate: Kim Winokur (will become the Past President); Teresa Killeen is nominated as the Treasurer; Heidi Salter-Ferris is nominated as a Director-at-Large; and Suzanne Sukkar (our current Washtenaw Region president) is nominated

as a Director-at-Large. Washtenaw Region’s nominated Regional Director for the 2010-2011 year is its former president, Amy (Smith) Reiser.

Working with other Organizations

Through working with other organizations on joint events, our region has developed good relationships with our local bar, our local law schools, our local judiciary, and some of our specialty bar organizations. These relationships help us network and foster the goals and ambitions of our members. When a local member is looking for a resource, we’re able to tap into not just our membership, but the networks of each of our members.

Shout-Outs

Elizabeth Jolliffe, for bringing so many ideas, for hosting the UM tailgate parties, for being willing to put her considerable talents to work on behalf of our organization and our members.

Suzanne Sukkar, for putting together such an ambitious schedule of events and seeing them all through - from idea to implementation to publicity.

Erane Washington-Kendrick, for keeping a careful eye on the finances and making sure we were fiscally responsible.

Wayne Region

Submitted by Elizabeth Jolliffe,
Regional Representative

Bottom Line Up Front

The Wayne Region increased its membership from 70 to 104 between September 2009 and April 2010. We attribute this growth to increasing our visibility within the legal community. We believe the increased visibility results from the variety of our activities and our successful continuous

outreach efforts to encourage WLAM members and nonmembers to attend our events.

Events

The Region’s activities this past year included easy ones, bigger ones, familiar ones, and new ones.

Very easy events included the summer happy hour at the historic Whitney Restaurant in Detroit and a holiday gathering at The Hard Rock Café in December. Familiar events were the networking receptions at Wayne State Law School in October

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WLAM REGIONS

Wayne Region - continued from page 16

and the University of Detroit Mercy Law School in March, the same as the previous year. Falling into the easy yet new category were two Michigan football tailgate parties at the home of a WLAM Wayne member, and attended by WLAM members from the Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw Regions.

We held bigger events like the first annual “End of Summer Garden Party” in September and a “Winter Dinner Wine Down” in January. The End of Summer Garden Party was held at the Grosse Pointe home of Michigan Court of Appeals Judge and WLAM Wayne member Kirsten Frank Kelly. Over 80 lawyers, judges and law students attended. Judges lined up to host the next several years. A national women’s organization donated 90 copies of a beautiful book on women’s history. The End of Summer Garden Party has the potential to be a signature event in the Wayne legal community.

We held the Winter Dinner Wine Down at WLAM member Jeri Parkin’s home in Northville. Over 40 lawyers, judges and law students attended this relaxed dinner party, including lawyers and law students from the Washtenaw and Oakland Regions.

This year we also started a new program, “Moms-In-Law” quarterly lunches, with our first in

December and the second in April. The lunches were round table discussions. The first focused on obtaining reduced or flexible work schedules. The second focused more on scheduling and work load challenges. We anticipate that future lunches may focus on even more specific topics and/or speakers. We welcome suggestions.

Our year will wrap up with a lunch and learn on April 29th and our annual meeting on May 13. The lunch and learn is entitled “Beyond the Basics: Social Media 301 for Lawyers. Ethical, Etiquette and Practical Issues.” A panel of three lawyers will present and discuss the issues and challenges in an interactive format. The event will be held at Dickinson Wright in Detroit. Our annual lunch meeting will feature the new US Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Barbara McQuade. McQuade is a long time WLAM member and she is the first female US Attorney for the Eastern District in the District’s 198 year history. We will also present WLAM banners to three WLAM members of the judiciary who have not previously received them: Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Kirsten Frank Kelly, new 36th District Court Judge Noceeba Southern and 36th District Court Magistrate Renee McDuffee. The annual lunch will be held at the beautifully restored Westin Book Cadillac in Detroit.

Western Region

Submitted by Kelly Brushaber,
Regional Representative

Events:

The following is a list of the events of the Western Region of Women Lawyers Association of Michigan from May 2009 to the end of April 2010:

- Wednesday, May 6, 2009: Annual Dinner held at the Amway Grand Hotel. The speaker was Professor Chris Whitman from the University of Michigan Law School and the WLAM Western Region Outstanding Member was

awarded to Judge Sara Smolenski. We had 41 in attendance

- Saturday, June 13, 2009: The Annual Charity Softball Game to benefit the YWCA, Women Lawyers vs. Judges was held at Fifth Third Ballpark. We sold 500 tickets and raised over \$11,000 for the YWCA. The Judge’s team won with a score of 5 to 2.
- Saturday, September 26, 2009: Picnic and Play Family Event held at Millenium Park in Grand Rapids. We had 10 in attendance.
- Thursday, October 22, 2009: Pro Bono Kick-off with representatives from various area non-profit organizations (including Grand Rapids Community Foundation and Gilda’s

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WLAM REGIONS

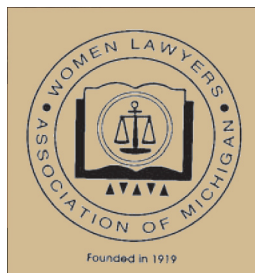
Western Region - continued from page 17

Club), including Barb Craft of the area's Pro Bono Network (newly formed) who described opportunities for volunteer and pro bono work. We had 26 attendees of this event which was held at the University Club in Grand Rapids.

- Tuesday, November 17, 2009: "Career Options Outside of Private Practice." A panel of women lawyers with careers outside of private practice, including Lisa DeFerrari (pro se law clerk at the federal court), Jennifer Jordan (Chief Administrative Officer at Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids), and Nancy Haynes (Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan), discussed the opportunities they embraced and the steps it took for them to get to their current positions. We had 26 attendees.
- Tuesday, November 24, 2009: Community Service Event at Mel Trotter. We had a lot of interest in participating in this event, though the sign-up was limited to 6 people. We are looking in to having a service event like this on a more regular basis.
- Tuesday, December 8, 2009: Holiday Event at Grand Rapids Community College's Warren Room. Judges and newly admitted lawyers were our honored guests. We had about 50 attendees.

Room. Judges and newly admitted lawyers were our honored guests. We had about 50 attendees.

- Thursday, January 28: Social networking membership luncheon at University Club in Grand Rapids. We had 23 attendees.
- Thursday, February 25: Membership luncheon featuring a financial planning discussion led by PNC Bank representative, S. Shuster. We had 23 attendees.
- Thursday, March 25: Membership luncheon in which members and guests participated in a panel discussion as a follow up to the Grand Rapids Bar Diversity Roundtable event regarding female attorney retention at firms and businesses. We had 33 attendees.
- Thursday, April 22: "Bring Your Child to Work Day." Membership luncheon in which members and judges will bring their children. The program will feature the children learning about various famous women in history by guessing names based on descriptions presented by local judges and WLAM Regional board members. Members will also be donating items for the Kids' Food Basket in connection with this event.



WLAM FOUNDATION

WLAM Foundation

Submitted by Dawn Van Hoek, President

The WLAM Foundation enjoyed another very successful year of supporting women's education, raising over \$40,000 for scholarships. The success of the Foundation is largely based on the exceptional talent of its Board of Directors, comprised in 2009-10 of Dawn Van Hoek (Chair), Paula M. Talarico (Treasurer), Sandra L. Sorini (Secretary), Lori D. Becker, Z. Kay Fitzpatrick, Nancy Glen, Karen Maheu, Markeisha Miner, Alice McCann Osburn, and Meghan Kennedy Riordan.

Fundraising in 2009-10 took the forms of dues check-offs and direct donations from WLAM members (approx. \$1500), event sponsorship (\$1500), the Parisian Community Day event (\$400), the Second Annual Culinary Challenge (\$3300), the "Dean's List" giving campaign (approx. \$33,000), and the Kimberly M. Cahill Fund (\$1200). Major continuing support was shown by corporations and law firms, particularly General Motors, the Albert & Doris Pitt Foundation, the Dickinson Wright Women's Network, and Eisenberg & Associates, PC. As in prior years, a significant number of individuals also contributed to the campaign, joining the corporations and law firms in their generous support. The 2010 Dean's List of donors follows:

Summa Cum Laude (over \$2,500)

General Motors

Magna Cum Laude (\$1,000 to \$2,500)

Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, PLLC
Bodman, LLP
Carole Chiamp
Dickinson Wright Women's Network
Eisenberg & Associates, PC
Hon. Pamela R. Harwood
Albert & Doris Pitt Foundation
Schoenherr, Cahill & Warnez, PC ♥
Talarico & Associates

Cum Laude (\$750 to \$999)

Kathleen Bogas

Good Citizenship (\$125 to \$749)

Nina Dodge Abrams
Barnhart Trust
Lori Becker
Margaret Bossenbery
Susan L. Cameron ♥
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Margaret Sind Raben
Meghan Kennedy Riordan
Sandra Sorini Elser
Hon. Victoria Roberts
Marianne Talon
Maureen E. Thomas
Dawn Van Hoek

♥ *Donations made to the Kim Cahill Scholarship Fund*

Virtually all of the money raised by the WLAM Foundation goes directly into law student scholarships or an educational endowment fund; less than ten percent of the money raised goes to administration, a very low percentage in the fund-raising world. The WLAM Foundation also received generous in-kind support from the State Bar of Michigan, which continued to host the Foundation's web site, www.wlamfoundation.org. The site contains news, archives, photographs, profiles of student-awardees, and much more. Event support was handled with considerable

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WLAM FOUNDATION

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aplomb by Debbie Behrmann, with the backing and in-kind contributions of the KRA Immigration Law Group and Kerr, Russell and Weber, PLC.

Awards made to Outstanding Women Law Students this year totaled \$25,000, awarded to ten students attending Michigan's five accredited law schools. The 2010 Outstanding Women Law Students are:

Dickinson Wright Women's Network Scholar:

- **Erin Kane Lane**, Michigan State University College of Law

Cahill Fund Scholar:

- **Elizabeth Campbell**, University of Michigan Law School

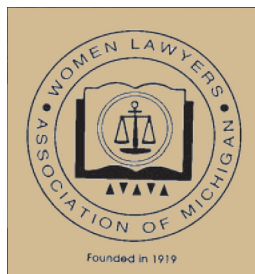
WLAM Foundation Scholars:

- **Ebonie L. Byndon-Fields**, Michigan State University College of Law
- **Jessika Croizat**, University of Michigan Law School
- **Jennifer Ann Dukarski**, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
- **Heather M. French**, Thomas M. Cooley Law School
- **Ruth A. Lyons**, Wayne State University Law School
- **Heather Jean Main**, Thomas M. Cooley Law School

- **Jennifer A. Pollock-Mason**, Wayne State University Law School
- **Lakena T. Pruitt**, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Students were selected on the basis of their demonstrated leadership and on their commitment to women's and diversity issues. Full profiles of the students appear on the Foundation's web site, www.wlamfoundation.org. The 2010 Outstanding Women Law Students were introduced at the Foundation's Annual Reception, held on April 15, 2010 at the Detroit Golf Club. The elegant event was well-attended by students and their families, former awardees, dignitaries, members of the Dean's List, and friends of the Foundation. Attendees were inspired by remarks from Chief Justice Marilyn J. Kelly, Michigan Supreme Court, who received the Foundation's first Legacy Award. Generous sponsors of the reception included Bodman LLP, the Hohausser Law Firm, Kerr, Russell and Weber PLC, and Talarico & Associates. Entertainment was generously supplied by Noteworthy, a women's a cappella group featuring attorneys Tracy Allen and Deborah O'Brien.

Many thanks to all for the support shown during the year!



NATIONAL OUTREACH

National Conference of Women's Bar Associations (NCWBA)

Submitted by Nicolette Zachary, NCWBA Liaison

The National Conference of Women's Bar Associations (NCWBA) is an organization of women's bar associations, for women's bar associations, representing approximately 35,000 women lawyers. It provides a national forum for exchanging ideas and information vital to organizational growth and success in today's profession. Through WLAM's membership in the NCWBA, the members of WLAM also enjoy the benefits and resources of the NCWBA.

In July 2009, the NCWBA held its Annual Summit in Chicago, Illinois. The theme of the 2009 Summit was "Learning From Each Other: Resources and Networking For Women's Bar Associations." The Summit led off with a panel on successful collaboration between women's bar associations and other organizations to promote political, legal, or community service agendas. This panel was followed by the NCWBA's annual "Best Practices" session, in which members from women's bar associations across the country share their innovative ideas and success stories for programming, boosting membership, community services, and improving women's bar association resources. The afternoon session of the Summit involved a facilitated training session on strategic networking led by Carol Frohlinger, co-author of "Her Place At The Table: A Woman's Guide To Negotiating Five Key Challenges To Leadership Success."

The 2010 Annual Summit, "Transforming Law, Transforming Lives" will be held in San Francisco, California on August 6, 2010 at Golden Gate University School of Law. Members of WLAM are encouraged to attend.