



Women Lawyers of Franklin County

“We Are Our Own Best Resource!”

www.wlfc.ws

Janica Pierce Tucker, President
Sandra R. McIntosh, President Elect

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2009

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President's Message

Dear Members:

We are experiencing a difficult time in our country that some of us have never seen or experienced in our lifetime. Daily, we are seeing people lose their jobs, companies close their doors, and the stock market continue to plummet. However, today, I would just like to take the opportunity to offer words of encouragement for each one of you who are impacted in some way by these hard economic times.

I encourage all of us to look to one another for support, motivation, and inspiration. Look at this as an opportunity to choose to be innovative and creative. Take different approaches than what you usually have done, whether it is trying a new area of law or being more creative in how you run your business. All of these things are key to perseverance and continued success.

This is a time that we must reflect on those who have come before us in dealing with all types of issues that our world has faced.

“As long as there is poverty in the world, I can never be rich, even if I have a billion dollars. As long as diseases are rampant and millions of people in this world can not expect to live more than 28 or 30 years, I can never be totally healthy, even if I just get a good check-up at a Mayo clinic. I can be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the way our world is made. No individual or nation can stand out boasting or being independent. We are all inter-dependent.”

Martin Luther King

Taking the words of Martin Luther King, it is important for us to understand that the difficult times of our country are not just shared by one, but shared by all of us, and in order for us to persevere, we must join together as one in order for our world to continue to revive itself and be the strong nation made up of resilient people our forefathers intended.

As always, remember to think about others – help and support one another as “We are Our Own Best Resource”.

Very truly yours,
Janica Pierce Tucker



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"LETS DO LUNCH!"

WLFC Monthly Luncheons @12:30pm
CBA Committee Room
April 1, 2009
(Speaker TBA)
Annual Family Event
(Date TBA Spring)

January 27, 2009 Sandy McIntosh, WLFC President-Elect, chaired the "New Year, New You" event at the Athletic Club of Columbus. The ACC provided lunch and tours of its facilities, including fitness and sports areas. Mark Leventhal of Leventhal Consulting, Washington D.C., spoke about how his company helps busy attorneys lose weight.

On February 4, WLFC members and non members enjoyed a luncheon discussion on alternative work schedules. Speakers, Amy Bartemes and Meredith Knueve of Bricker & Eckler, Corrine Carman and Jen Naumoff of Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease, and Kelly Boggs Lape of Schottenstein Zox & Dunn, shared how they make their non-traditional schedules work.

On March 4, Dawn Hayes, of Hahn, Loeser + Parks LLP encouraged us to network and mingle by playing a game where we associated ourselves with others based on common ground.

The cost for these events, including lunch, is \$10 for WLFC members and \$13 for non-members. Please RSVP to Sandy at smcintosh@ffalaw.com

WLFC Launches Dining Circle!

Kudos to Kerry Green, WLFC Networking Chair, for creating and launching the Dining Circle. The Kick-Off Breakfast held at CBA on January 27, 2009, was a success! Over 170 women lawyers and law students have signed up and divided into 18 personable dining circles. The ladies meet monthly for breakfast, lunch or dinner in local venues. Dining Circle is a fun and easy way to network and encourage each other! To join email Kerry at: kgreen@hahnlaw.com.

WLFC Co-Hosts

"Empowering Women at Work"

Leadership Luncheon Series

WLFC co-hosts Leadership Luncheons with the YWCA, Ohio Women's Bar Association, and Columbus Bar Association. The events unite professional women from Central Ohio for lunch while selected speakers share words of wisdom unique to women's work and life.

WLFC Campaign Chair, Laurel Beatty, and newly appointed Common Pleas Judge, spoke on the Power of Love at the February 5th Luncheon. WLFC will attend Power of Integrity Luncheon on August 6, 2009.

For more info. contact Ciera Adams, Project Coordinator at cadams@ywcacolumbus.org.



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“CARING MATTERS”

OCLRE Still Seeking Volunteers

Feel like donning a black robe and playing judge for the day (or half)? Then consider volunteering for The Ohio Center for Law Related Education. If that’s not a big enough ego boost consider this: OCLRE provides law and citizenship education to more than 243 school districts in Ohio. As a volunteer, you can directly influence an OCLRE student by providing him or her with a positive experience with the legal community. Please consider registering to volunteer as a Judge or Evaluator for one of the following events:

Ohio Middle Schools Mock Trial Competition

April 2 or 3 (*half or full day*)

We the People:

“The Citizen and the Constitution”

Ohio Middle Schools Competition

May 13 or 22 (*half day*)

Project Citizen State Showcase

May 15, 2009 (*half day*)

Youth for Justice State Summit

May 19, 2009 (*half day*)

Please contact: Kate Strickland, Director of Resources kstrickland@ocle.org or call 877.485.3510 for more information!

GET A WORK OUT, JOIN A CAUSE!

Go solo or hook up with your WLFC buddies. Either way, the following local events will help you get your rear in gear and the proceeds go to a worthy cause:

THE FISHER 5K

Sunday, April 26, 2009 @ 9 am

The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business organizes the Fisher 5K. Proceeds of the race benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Columbus.

The course starts and finishes on Woody Hayes Drive in front of the Huntington Plaza at the Fisher College of Business and guides you through the campus taking you by the Oval, Mirror Lake, and The Ohio State University Stadium (aka “The Shoe”).

Race registration rates through March 1st are \$21/person, and after March 2nd they go up to \$26 a person. If you are interested in walking or running with WLFC contact Bree Brown @ BRBrown@auditor.state.oh.us

Rotaract Golf Scramble 2009

Shotgun Start 8:30am

Registration begins 7:00am

Heritage Golf Club Hilliard, Ohio

Friday June 19, 2009

Proceeds benefit Alzheimer’s Association, Central Ohio Chapter. Singles, Teams and Sponsors welcome.

Go to www.alz.org/centralohio and click on “Special Events” to download forms to register or sponsor. For more info. contact Michael Horigan, Co-Chair 578-2313 or email golfscramble@columbusrotaract.org

Are you a WLFC member and committed to a cause that you want to share with others? Email your fave fundraisers or volunteer projects to regina@voltolinilaw.com. Put WLFC Caring Matters in the subject line!



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“WLFC VOICES”

Opportunity or Exploitation?

An objective and thought provoking observation of an East Indian Surrogacy Program

By Susan Garner Eisenman

Fellow, American Academy Adoption Attorneys

Chair, Ohio Adoption Law Roundtable

Recently I attended a conference on assisted reproduction technology offered by the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys in Chicago. One of the speakers, Benhur Samsur, directed an Indian Surrogacy Agency, a program linking American couples with East Indian women for surrogacy. The program requires Surrogates, who must be 20-30 years old and married with children of their own, to reside in a hotel with other Surrogates during the pregnancy. The embryo, which is transferred to create the pregnancy, can be made using the intended parents' genetic materials or with donor zygotes. The child is surrendered upon birth to the intended parents from the United States. The fees, while one-half the going rate for an American surrogacy, are extraordinary amounts in India. Samsur offered global positioning devices to attorneys who referred couples to the surrogacy program.

After the speech, I asked whether Indian women had sufficient autonomy (socially and economically) to make a valid consent to this process. I learned that the decision was generally a family decision and the monies are used to buy homes or start businesses, which enhance the woman's status within the family. I wonder: Is it exploitation or a golden opportunity?

Is the decision to surrogate truly a women's private choice like abortion or birth control, which is solely the province of the women, her doctor and perhaps the other parent(s) of the child? Moreover, how are the biological children of the Surrogates impacted by their mothers' absence from their own family? Should gestational motherhood be a function which has economic value to the family unit by attaching a monetary fee? If so, should "brokers" be compensated for linking families and surrogates or is this a form of exploitation? Finally, are these women being reduced or enhanced by these activities?

What a strange and wonderful world in which we live!

Susan can be reached for comment at adoptohio@aol.com

Are you an WLFC member who wants to voice your opinion on an issue relevant to women and the law? Email your article to regina@voltolinilaw.com. Put WLFC Voices in the subject line.



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"ROCK THE BAR"

On February 25, 2009 Governor Ted Strickland appointed our very own **Laurel Beatty, WLFC Campaign Chair**, to the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas.

The Ohio Supreme Court appointed **Janica Pierce Tucker, WLFC President**, to the Board of Commissioners for Grievances and Discipline.

Sandra McIntosh, WLFC President Elect, and **Aneca Lasley, WLFC Past President**, were recognized as Rising Stars in Ohio Super Lawyer Magazine.

Susan Eisenman, WLFC Member, founded the Ohio Adoption Law Roundtable and co chairs the organization with **Rosemary Pomeroy, WLFC Past President**.

Capital University recognized **LeeAnn Massucci, WLFC Community Service Chair**, as outstanding "Graduate of the Last Decade", and will present her with the "G.O.L.D" award at Capital University's Annual Alumni Luncheon on May 1st, 2009.

President Kathleen Trafford, Columbus Bar Association, appointed **Sandra McIntosh, WLFC President Elect**, to the 2009 Nominating Committee to select candidates for the Board of Governors election to be held in May.

Don't be too modest! WLFC sisters deserve recognition and inspiration. Send notice of WLFC members' accomplishments at bar or in the community to regina@votolinilaw.com. Don't forget to put "WLFC Rock the Bar" in the subject line.