



WOMEN LAWYERS
of FRANKLIN COUNTY

WE ARE OUR OWN BEST RESOURCE

May 2018

President's Message: *Katrina M. Thompson*



As our membership year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on all that I have gained from being a part of WLFC over the years. From my first dining circle as a baby lawyer to this year's Hot Topics and Hot Chocolate Members Only event, I have gained so much perspective and confidence from each of our members and am a better person, lawyer and leader due to my continuous participation in the organization. Thank you for joining me on the journey this year. I am so grateful for each and every one of our record number of members. We are our own best resource!



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Upcoming
EVENTS

May 24, 2018 – Annual Meeting

TBD – Members Only Event – Roundtable Discussion of Women in the Profession Survey Results



WLFC Mock Interview Program

The 2018 WLFC Mock Interview Program took place between January and February of this year. In its second year, the program provided law students from Capital University Law School, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and even one student from Ohio Northern University Law School with the opportunity to schedule practice interviews with volunteer attorneys and receive direct feedback about their interview responses from women legal practitioners in Franklin County. Similar to last year, the law students were tasked with contacting their desired employer directly and expected to participate in the mock interview at the employer's office location.

A total of sixteen law students participated in the program. Both the volunteer attorneys and law students reported that the program was a great success and helpful!

The program was wonderful, thank you so much for coordinating! I interviewed two law students, and both were professional, prepared, and very grateful. I have no criticisms of the program or process, everything ran smoothly and was easy to handle from my end. – Alexis Preskar (WLFC Volunteer Attorney)

The program was a great success! The first year students found the program very helpful. They appreciated the volunteer attorneys treating the interview like a real interview and students reported feeling more prepared. – Kimberly Despas, WLFC Law Student Representative (OSU)

Thank you very much to the WLFC Members who volunteered to serve as mock interviewers this year: Judge Terri Jamison (Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations/Juvenile Division); Alexis Preskar (Kohrman Jackson & Krantz (KJK), LLP); Allison Harrison (Allison L. Harrison Law, LLC); Bridjette Brown and Laura Repasky (Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services); Chenee Castruita (Mazanec, Raskin & Ryder (MR&R)); Christina McIntyre (Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP); Christine Duraney (Freund, Freeze & Arnold); Colleen Koehler (Ohio Attorney General's Office); Jennifer Whitehurst (Ohio Department of Commerce); Kailee Gold (Cardinal Health); Kristen Lewis (Huntington National Bank); and Rebecca Rayner (Reminger Co., LPA).

We look forward to hosting WLFC Mock Interview Program again next year!

Please feel free to contact Bridjette Brown, WLFC Law School Liaison at bbrown@fcdjfs.franklincountyohio.gov with any innovative ideas that you might have to increase student participation in the future!



March Luncheon: Women in the Profession

At our March luncheon, we explored some of the highlights from our survey results with our panel members. The panel members consisted of attorneys who were named in the survey responses as being notable members of our community in addressing issues facing women in the legal profession.

During the luncheon we were only able to brush the surface on the important issues that were raised through the WLFC Women in the Profession survey. We will be distributing the survey results shortly and plan to host a members-only event where we can engage in meaningful discussions with our members about the results. Stay tuned!





WLFC Surpasses Goal of 300 Members!

At the time of our last newsletter, we were very close to hitting our goal of 300 members. As we near the end of our programming year, we are so excited to announce that we have hit our highest membership yet – 328 members! Here is the spotlight from our 300th member: Brenda Searcy!

Brenda is a first year law student at Capital University Law School with a unique background and calling. Brenda is not a traditional student - she is 54 years old and commenced law school after obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Music and working for many years as a successful musician. Brenda also loves gardening and felt a call to work in a capacity to help the environment.

Brenda was born in Texas but spent much of her teenage and young adult years in central Ohio. She graduated high school from Westerville North and attended The Ohio State University. Brenda moved to Pennsylvania as a young adult and spent most of her adult life there. Four years ago, Brenda returned to central Ohio to help care for her father. His health returned and Brenda decided to pursue her long-time dream of being an environmental lawyer.

WLFC wishes her the best of luck in the endeavor and looks forward to her continued membership for many years to come.



Columbus Commitment – Has Your Employer Signed to Show its Commitment to Equal Pay?

According to the Columbus Women's Commission, "women in Columbus earn 78 cents to every dollar earned by a man. This puts Columbus even lower than the national average of 80 cents for every dollar earned by a man. Women of color experience even greater disparity. Nationally, African-American women earn 63 cents for every dollar a man makes, while Latina women earn 54 cents. Despite this, women are participating in the workforce at a rate of 63% in Central Ohio and make up just over 50% of our population locally."

The Columbus Commitment asks local employers to sign a voluntary pledge to address gender and race-based pay inequality. Please click the link for more information and check with your employer to see if they have pledged to address pay inequality.

<https://www.columbus.gov/payequity/>



Diversity Event at Trism

WLFC hosted an event at Trism celebrating diversity and fostering connections between law school students and lawyers. We recognize the importance of reaching out to law students and ensuring that these future attorneys know there are professional organizations that celebrate diverse backgrounds and provide support as they enter the legal profession. The event was well-attended and we hope to continue to host this event in the future.





Have Any Historic WLFC Documents?

Please bring us your historic WLFC documents! If you have anything WLFC related that should be archived for posterity please e-mail it to: WLFCboard@gmail.com or, if it is hard copy, you can drop it off at our Data Historian Ashley Watson's office:

Brennan, Manna & Diamond, LLC
250 Civic Center Dr., Suite 300
Columbus, OH 43215

If you could label your documents with the chair/board position that they pertain to and the year they were created that would be very helpful. Thank you!

