



WOMEN LAWYERS
of FRANKLIN COUNTY

WE ARE OUR OWN BEST RESOURCE

September 2017

President's Message: *Katrina M. Thompson*



When I started my legal practice, I knew I needed to build my support network, but I had no idea I would be this successful in finding a group of such passionate, smart, motivated, and hard-working women to be able to call my friends and mentors. WLFC's motto is "We are our own best resource" and I see us continuously living that phrase. I have been honored to serve on the Board for a number of years and through the various roles I have held, I have read your moving essays applying for our scholarship awards, I have heard your insightful questions for our speakers at the monthly luncheons, I have seen your passion for the community through our service events, I have watched you dig deep to tackle difficult issues at our Member's Only Events, and I could not be more impressed by each and every one of you. If our 75th Anniversary Soiree was any indication, we are an organization full of women with big ideas and the work-ethic to see them through. I could not be more proud to now be leading this wonderful organization or more excited to finish out our 75th anniversary strong and see what all we can accomplish together this upcoming membership year.



Upcoming
EVENTS

September 28, 2017: [WLFC Kick-Off Luncheon](#)

October 11, 2017: [Candidate Meet and Greet](#)

October 26, 2017: [WLFC October Luncheon](#)

November 16, 2017: [WLFC November Luncheon](#)



Kick-Off Luncheon – September 28, 2017

Are You Doing Enough: Diversity + Service in the Community

We all recognize the importance of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, but it can be difficult to figure out how to improve diversity and make an impact in our community. Our panel will discuss practical ways to contribute to diversity in the workplace, to reach out and serve those in need of legal services, and combat each of our own implicit biases to help make a real difference.



Panelists include Jocelyn Armstrong the Diversity Coordinator for the CBA, Stephanie Hanna the Senior Manager of Member Outreach and Engagement for the OSBA, Trent Stechschulte the Compliance Officer & Legal Counsel for Equitas Health, and Anna Sanyal the Member Liaison for the Asian Pacific American Bar Association. The panel will be moderated by Hannah Botkin-Doty the Founding Partner of Doty & Obenour LLC and Diversity Chair of WLFC.

Please RSVP to WLFcrsvp@gmail.com. The cost, which includes the expense for lunch, is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Payment should be made at the door.



Candidate Meet and Greet – October 11, 2017

Please join us at the 2017 Candidate Meet and Greet on October 11, 2017 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, at the Offices of the Columbus Bar Association, 175 S. Third Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215. We have invited candidates running for Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk, Franklin County Municipal Court Judge, and Columbus City Attorney to attend.

As with the prior three years, this year's event will be jointly hosted by the John Mercer Langston Bar Association, the Women Lawyers of Franklin County, the Hispanic National Bar Association–Region X, and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Central Ohio.

The format of the event will be casual with mingling for the first half hour. We will then give each candidate three minutes to address the audience beginning at 6:00 p.m. After all speakers have concluded, there will be more opportunity to mingle with members.

Admission is free and appetizers, beer and wine will be served. Please RSVP to WLFcrsvp@gmail.com by no later than October 4th, 2017 so that we may have an accurate count for refreshments.



First Ever WLFC Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient: Bea Sowald



On May 25, 2017, WLFC presented its first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award to Beatrice K. Sowald at WLFC's Annual Meeting. Practicing law for over fifty years, Bea was recognized as being both a long-time member of WLFC as well as a fierce advocate for the advancement of women in the profession. Graduating law school at the top of her class in 1966, Bea recalled a time when women were simply not interviewed, let alone hired, by law firms and many other legal employers. Through her dedication to the profession, leadership, as well as countless hours of mentorship to others, Bea has proven to be a true trailblazer for women in the profession. Bea is a founding member of the domestic relations law firm Sowald, Sowald, Anderson & Hawley, and still maintains an active practice to this day. WLFC is honored to have her in our ranks.



Dining Circle Initiative

The Women Lawyers of Franklin County will again offer the "Dining Circle" Initiative for 2017-2018. The Dining Circle is a mentoring and networking program that provides members with an opportunity to meet other women attorneys in the community and to share experiences in a comfortable environment. Each Dining Circle Group will consist of approximately 7 to 10 women with varying professional backgrounds who will meet once a month during the program year.

Several group options are available to meet members' wide-range of scheduling needs: Early Breakfast (before 8:30 a.m.), Late Breakfast (after 8:30 a.m.), Lunch, Happy Hour, and Playgroup.

There will be a "Kick-Off" lunch for participants to meet one another at 12:30 pm, October 26, at the Columbus Bar Association. Lunch will be provided.

[Dining Circle Application](#)



Linda Lu, Senior Vice President, P&C Legal Personal Lines at Nationwide encourages members to strike their best Wonder Woman Pose while sharing her “Lessons Learned Along the Journey to the Top” at the WLFC Annual Meeting.



New WLFC Board Members Announced



2017-18 Board of Trustees

President: Katrina Thompson
President-Elect: Katherine "Kitty" Ivan
Secretary: Rachel Sabo
Treasurer: Gina Piacentino
Trustee at Large: Megan Gonzalez
Immediate Past President: Ashley Oliker

Committee Chairs

Bylaws: Michalea Delaveris
Community Service: Ann Hancock
Diversity: Hannah Botkin-Doty
Events: Jenny Schiller & Meghna Rao
Judicial Campaign/Legislative Action: Jolene Griffith
Law School Liaison: Bridjette Brown
Membership: Lisa Messner
Networking: Lori Keating
Public Relations: Lia Meehan
Social Media: Kailee Goold
Women in the Profession: Celia Kilgard-Schnupp
Student Representative: Kimberly Despas (Ohio State University)
Student Representative: Sara Valentine (Capital University)



Two \$2,500 Scholarships Awarded at Annual Meeting



Name: Holly Torres
School: Capital Law
Year: 3L, Graduated Class of 2017

Ms. Torres was raised in Mercedes, Texas and was initially inspired to attend law school after observing her peers encounter obstacles related to immigration.

According to Ms. Torres, "Organizations like the Women Lawyers of Franklin County help [breakdown] stereotypes and preconceived notions [about female professionals]. WLFC serves as a support system for female legal professionals to help each member succeed – because no one would do a better job than a woman who has already been there and done that."

During law school, she worked as a Legal Intern at Abercrombie & Fitch; a Legal Extern at Nationwide Insurance; and a Law Clerk at the Legal Aid Society of Columbus.

She has also held many leadership positions throughout her academic career, including serving as: Capital's Women's Law Association (WLA) President (2016-2017); Capital's Student Bar Association Secretary (2016-2017); and a member of the Hispanic Law Students Association. Last, we are also proud to say that she served the Women Lawyers of Franklin County Capital Law Student Representative from 2016 through 2017. Congratulations Holly!



Name: Lauren Sabo
 School: OSU Law
 Year: 2L, Graduating Class of 2018

Ms. Sabo always had a passion for service and the law. However, after becoming a high school multi-intensive special education teacher in 2011, she was convinced that a career as an attorney was the right path.

Ms. Sabo taught twenty-two students with a range of disabilities. Most of her students were behind in credit hours and had not been challenged in years.

According to Ms. Sabo, "As I rebuilt a struggling program, I had to navigate a significant amount of resistance to change [and] persuade others to fundamentally shift the way multi-intensive special education programs were viewed...Through patience, resilience, and persistence, I slowly restructured schedules and secured funding for additional paraprofessionals, creating a model where students attended lunch, chose elective classes with their peers, and began integrating into general education core subject classes...I was purposefully drawn to law school, in order to advocate for these incredible students and families as well as to promote teachers in a more positive light. [This] allow[ed] for [a] less adversarial means to achieve better educational outcomes for students with disabilities."

During law school, she worked as a Research Assistant at OSU Moritz College of Law, a Legal Extern at the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas; and a Legal Intern at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

She has also held many leadership positions throughout her academic career, including serving as: Moritz Board Fellow for CASA of Franklin County (2016 – Present); Emerging Leader Fellow for the National Wildlife Federation (2016 – Present); and Teacher and Coach for Project Unify/Special Olympics (2012 – 2014). Congratulations Lauren!



WLFC Continues to Celebrate 75 Years!



Founded in 1942, WLFC continues to celebrate its 75th Anniversary during the remainder of 2017. Thank you again to all of our members and sponsors who made our Soiree last Spring such a success. If you have not had a chance to view our video detailing our rich history, please click on the link below.

[75 Years! - A Celebration of the Women Lawyers of Franklin County](#)



Moritz College of Law Looking for Volunteer Judges

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law is looking for volunteers to assist in the annual Lawrence Negotiations Competition as a scoring judge. The competition runs from **Monday, October 2, 2017, through Thursday, October 5, 2017**. No special expertise in ADR is required to judge the competition. The night of the competition, judges should expect to arrive at the Moritz College of Law by 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided, followed by a brief informational session detailing the evening's events. The competition rounds will begin at approximately 6:15 p.m. and will end at approximately 9:15 p.m. In addition, judges will receive a ticket to attend **a free, 2.5 credit CLE on legal ethics and professional conduct**, which will take place at Moritz on December 2, 2017.

If you are interested in volunteering, please click on the link to register: [Registration](#)

Please contact Ryan Steyer at steyer.15@buckeyemail.osu.edu for additional information.



Want to Become a WLFC Member?

Please take a minute to confirm that you are currently a member for the 2017-2018 year by clicking on this link: [Current WLFC Members](#).

If you are not currently a member and wish to join, you can register in any of the following ways:

1. NEW! Join or renew online: http://www.wlfc.ws/WLFC/Join_Benefits/WLFC/Join.aspx
2. Submit a paper application: [paper application](#)
3. Register by phone: Call the CBA (614-221-4112) and ask for Becky Hartman