

State Reporter



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WWL Mission Statement

The principal purposes of Washington Women Lawyers are:

- to further the full integration of women in the legal profession, and
- to promote equal rights and opportunities for women and to prevent discrimination against them.

Capitol Chapter Supports Thurston County Juvenile Drug Court - *By Rebecca Glasgow*

In April of 2006, the Thurston County Juvenile Drug Court was established. The program is for juvenile offenders charged with certain offenses who have significant chemical dependency issues. If a participant successfully completes the drug court program, then their case is dismissed. The Juvenile Drug Court is currently at capacity with 16 participants. Participants are required to engage in an extensive program that includes intensive drug or alcohol treatment, including individual and group therapy sessions, and weekly attendance in court.

In early 2010, Juvenile Court Commissioner Christine Schaller, a longtime WWL member and former Capitol Chapter board member, approached the Capitol Chapter with a challenge. Frequently, Juvenile Drug Court participants need things like school supplies, bus passes, and snacks to help get them through long days of school and treatment obligations. Dedicated Juvenile Court staff had been purchasing and providing as many of these items as they could with their own personal funds. Commissioner Schaller asked the Capitol Chapter to help.

The Capitol Chapter board arranged for a kick off lunch at which Commissioner Schaller and a Juvenile Court treatment provider explained the Juvenile Drug Court program and the incredible impact that it can have on its participants' lives. They also described the challenges that some participants face in meeting all of their school and court obligations, leaving little or no time to find a job. In addition, many participants cannot count on financial support from family members. The combination of these factors creates a real challenge for some drug court participants to be able to pay for transportation, school supplies, and other necessities.

WWL's Capitol Chapter members responded enthusiastically by donating funds for a supply closet for the Juvenile Drug Court. Capitol Chapter Board Member Phyllis Barney then committed to serving as coordinator and shopper extraordinaire. Using donated funds, Phyllis stocked the closet with snacks, school supplies, bus passes, and other requested supplies.

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WWL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jessica Skelton, WWL President

It's hard to believe that it's already 2011 and that means another WWL membership year is upon us. For those of you who already have renewed your WWL membership for 2011, we thank you for your continued support of our organization. If you have not yet had a chance to renew for 2011, there are two easy ways for you to do so: either online or by completing and mailing in our 2011 membership form. You can find both on WWL's website at www.wwl.org/membership/.

Your membership provides critical support for WWL and its programs across the state. This year, we are continuing to focus on fulfilling WWL's mission statewide by furthering the full integration of women in the legal profession, promoting equal rights and opportunities for women, and preventing discrimination against them. Below are a few examples of projects we are working on.

Remembering where we came from: WWL's Legacy Project

The WWL Legacy Project honors our heritage and pays tribute to the contributions of founding WWL members and pioneering women judges and attorneys in Washington. Over the past year, Legacy Project Chair Karrin Klotz has been conducting and recording interviews with these women, so that WWL members

can understand the history of women attorneys and judges in Washington State, honor that history, and learn from it. Five of these interviews, with Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, Justice Susan Owens, Justice Mary Fairhurst, and Justice Debra Stephens, and with U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Patricia Williams, are available on WWL's website at www.wwl.org. Keep your eye out as we continue to post more of these interviews throughout the year, and as we plan a culminating Legacy Presentation and CLE at the end of 2011. If you would like to help with the Legacy Project, please contact Karrin Klotz at KarrinK@aol.com.

Serving WWL members across the state: Chapter Programs & Opportunities

WWL chapters across the state have begun conducting membership drive activities and planning CLEs and other events for their members. If you have not done so already, be sure to contact your local chapter board and inquire about what they are planning for 2011. And please do not forget—our WWL State Board meetings are always open to our members. The meetings take place the second Wednesday of each month and typically are held at the K&L Gates offices in Seattle (but for those of you in other locations, we always have a call-in number for the meetings

and are always open to invitations to take our meetings on the road!). If you need additional information, please contact WWL State Board Secretary Jennifer Valenta at Jennifer.Valenta@leahyps.com. We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting or event soon!

Bringing WWL to new corners of the state: New WWL Chapters

This year, WWL and the WWL Foundation have partnered to support the founding of one or more new WWL chapters in Washington. The WWL Foundation is a charitable organization that supports and enhances the mission of WWL, including the promotion of diversification and proportional representation of women in the legal profession. There is a critical need to support women attorneys in areas where WWL does not have active chapters, and particularly in the central and eastern portions of the state. If you would like to get involved in planning for new WWL chapters, please contact me at Jessica.Skelton@klgates.com. If you would like to support the WWL Foundation, please send tax-deductible contributions to:

WWL Foundation
P.O. Box 4275
Seattle, WA 98194-0275

Thanks you again for your support of WWL and its mission. We look forward to a terrific 2011!

WWL TREASURER'S NOTE:

HOW YOUR STATE BOARD IS SERVING YOU!

Did you know that our organization is actively involved in assisting our chapters in their membership development? We recently contributed to the *Capitol Chapter* membership event at the Swing Wine Bar in Olympia. Financial underwriting was provided to the *St. Helens Chapter* for their "What Not To Wear" social event and membership drive. Great successes and team building for women attorneys!

The WWL State Board also enthusiastically endorses Women's Law Caucus events at our state law schools. In January the Board agreed to support the *Gonzaga Law School Annual Event*, where the Myra Bradwell award is presented to a Gonzaga Law alumna who has made a significant contribution to women's and children's issues through the law. The following month, the Board moved to provide sponsorship for the *University of Washington Women's Law Caucus Alumni Event*.

We provide financial support and visibility to these deserving events. Thanks to all of our members statewide who contribute to these events through their membership dues.

*Submitted by Jeanne Marie Clavere,
WWL State Treasurer*

WWL Foundation: Supporting Women in the Law

By Jennifer Grant, WWL Foundation President

The Washington Women Lawyers Foundation, a nonprofit organization formed under IRS 501 (c)(3), is the charitable arm of the Washington Women Lawyers organization. For many years, the WWL Board of Directors discussed the benefits of having contributors receive a tax credit for donations made to further the WWL's mission.

In 1997, the Foundation was formed. The Foundation's mission, consistent with that of the state organization, is "to support and enhance the charitable and educational purposes of the Supported Organization (WWL), including the support of educational opportunities and efforts relating to the elimination of discrimination and the support and promotion of diversification and proportional representation of women in the legal profession."

In 2010, the Foundation received financial support from WWL members who gifted funds to the organization when renewing their membership with WWL, as well as receiving a \$1000 matching funds gift from another Foundation that wished to remain anonymous. To earn that gift, the Foundation was challenged to raise \$1000 in the first quarter of 2010. WWL members rose to the occasion, and the gift was awarded.

Last year the Foundation used its resources to further the goals of WWL. For instance, WWL has traditionally mentored and worked with female law students who serve on their schools' Women's Law Caucuses by having student representatives serve on the Board of Directors at the state and chapter level. The Foundation supported the work of women law students at our local law schools by gifting funds to their Women's Law Caucus. The financial gifts allow these up-and-coming lawyers to host events and grant scholarships.

The gift to Seattle University was applied to the Kellye Testy Scholarship and awarded to Therese Norton. Norton is a self-professed aspiring public interest employment attorney. The gift to Gonzaga University was applied to their 1L Scholarship Program and awarded to Frieda Zimmerman, a deserving recipient who hopes to practice public interest law. The gift to the University of Washington was applied to their annual Alumnae Appreciation Reception.

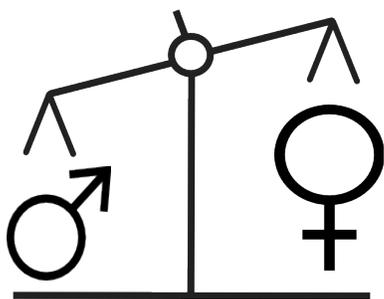
The Foundation continued its annual support for the King County Bar Association's Martin Luther King, Jr. luncheon. Equal rights and opportunities for women and minorities continue to be an issue, and the Foundation proudly supported the celebration of Dr. King's life and work. *- continued on pg. 6*



Female Judges Matter: Gender and Collegial Decisionmaking in the Federal Appellate Courts

By Jennifer L. Peresie

Article Reviewed by: Grete L. Schultz; Pierce Co.
Public Defender



Several years ago, the Yale Law Journal published an interesting note written by Jennifer L. Peresie on the influence of female judges presiding in federal court: *Female Judges Matter: Gender and Collegial Decisionmaking in the Federal Appellate Courts*. Peresie examined several hundred federal decisions to determine whether having a female judge on the bench would influence the way the court ruled on cases she termed “gender-coded,” where plaintiffs alleged sexual harassment or sex discrimination in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. After conducting quantitative research on these types of cases, Peresie presented several theories explaining the ways in which female judges affected the outcome in these cases.

The author initially began her research because she saw a lack of explanation for the way female judges appeared to influence court decisions on sexual harassment and sex discrimination cases. She began by gathering a sample of all the sexual harassment and discrimination cases decided in federal court between 1999 and 2001 involving Title VII discrimination, totaling 556 cases.

Peresie’s findings are comprehensive, and her ultimate conclusion is that, although female

judges do not cause plaintiffs to be successful in the majority of cases, the presence of a female on the bench does result in a higher success rate for plaintiffs overall. The presence of just one female on the bench makes the plaintiff’s success rate 34 percent, compared to a success rate of 17 percent with an all-male bench.

After arriving at these results, Peresie hypothesizes about the reasons why the presence of a female on the bench can impact the probability of a plaintiff having a successful outcome. First, Peresie suggests that a female on the bench might lead to more deliberation between the judges during their decisionmaking process—more discourse, more compromise, and a give-and-take mentality between the judges. Second, Peresie suggests that male judges might defer to a female judge’s opinion in a gender-coded case. Third, Peresie presents a theory called “logrolling,” where male judges will essentially, and unofficially, trade their vote in these gender-coded cases for the support of the female judge in other cases that are of particular importance to the male judge. Finally, Peresie posits that perhaps the mere presence of a female on the bench in gender-coded cases could cause her male counterparts to be more moderate in their evaluation of the case.

Peresie goes on to discuss her findings in much greater detail, accounting for many different variables. Ultimately, her research illuminates the pivotal role that female judges on the federal bench play in holdings in gender-coded cases. Plaintiffs in these cases typically are still not successful in their claims, but the chances of having a successful outcome greatly increase with the presence of a female judge on the bench.

I am left thinking about the importance of female judges generally—the way in which their presence, point of view, and societal position change judicial decisionmaking as a whole.

<http://www.yalelawjournal.org/images/pdfs/211.pdf>

Of Note!!! - Chapter News for You!

Whatcom County WWL is busy! Please keep an eye out for our membership drive. We are seeking a new Treasurer. This spring, our social event is at the Upfront Theater in Bellingham. We are participating in the 2011 Human Race on May 14. This will be a 5k walk /10k run which allows each participant to choose which non-profit their pledges will benefit - WCWWL will be participating on behalf of LAW Advocates. We are volunteering to provide free legal advice at the LAW Advocates Street Law Clinic on June 25. We are in the process of developing a September CLE with the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center related to mediation and ethics. If you would like to join us at any of these events, please contact Jamia Burns at wwlwhatcomcounty@gmail.com. And a special thank you to Erin Chirsman-Glas for all of her hard work in 2010 & 2011!

Kitsap County WWL

proudly announces its
newly elected board -
President - Jennifer Brugger
V. President - Elizabeth Starks
Secretary - Crystal McDonald
Treasurer - Lynn Fleishbein
Chap. Rep - Dalynne Singleton

Pierce County WWL is stepping out this March 24 for social hour at La Bella, a local nail salon. Spring (and peep toe shoes) is around the corner, and we decided to try a different venue for catching up with each other. We'll enjoy wine with our mani/pedis. If you are interested in joining us, please email Annie Arbenz at aarbenz@harlowefalk.com.

Our annual Spring Clean is coming up as well. Each spring, we clean our closets out and collect interview clothes for the clients at Washington Women Employment & Education (WWE). WWE enables Pierce and King County women to support their families with computer and job training, among other classes. WWE provides interview clothing to all of its graduates to ensure the best chance possible at landing that job. The Spring Clean will be a fun social event in late April, as well as a clothing drive. If you would like to come to the Spring Clean or donate to it this year, please contact Pierce County WWL through paulinewoodman@mac.com.

Supporting Juvenile Court - *continued from pg. 1* - The drug court participants have been particularly delighted with Phyllis's snack choices. As more supplies are needed, juvenile staff communicates those needs to Phyllis, who seeks additional donations from the WWL chapter.

At a recent Thurston County Bar Association meeting highlighting the success of Thurston County's Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts, two Juvenile Drug Court participants shared accounts of the events and choices that had led them to their offenses, along with their recent hard work and success in the drug court program. Meeting attendees were certainly surprised by the very young age at which these youth began using alcohol or controlled substances. They were also saddened by the fact that adult family members were sometimes the ones to introduce the youth to these substances. In some cases, these circumstances result in a lack of support as the youth work to remain clean. In the end, drug court participants were inspiring both in describing their challenges and in the courage with which they addressed a room packed full of lawyers.

While snacks, bus passes, and supplies offer only a small measure of assistance in the face of significant challenges, Capitol Chapter members are pleased to provide what assistance they can. The Capitol Chapter is committed to continuing this service through further fundraising and snack drives. If you would like to help, please contact Phyllis Barney at phyllisbarney@earthlink.net. And if your county has a Juvenile Drug Court and your local chapter would like to start a similar program, please feel free to contact Rebecca Glasgow at becca_glasgow@hotmail.com.

Becca Glasgow is an Assistant Attorney General in Olympia. She is currently serving as Publicity Co-Chair on the WWL State Board and as Past President on the Capitol Chapter Board.

WWL Foundation - continued from pg. 3

The WWL 2010 Annual Event, held in Spokane, celebrated the “Female Faces of Justice.” The Foundation played a key role in securing the original art used for the event. Local artist, environmental law attorney, creativity coach, and WWL supporter Maggie Yowell created an amazing collage that profiled more than 60 prominent Women of Justice. The collage, which was mounted on a piece of slate, was gifted to the Foundation and presented to the keynote speakers—the female justices of our State Supreme Court. Chief Justice Madsen accepted the gift from the Foundation and stated that Yowell’s artwork would be proudly displayed at the Temple of Justice.

The Foundation would appreciate your support in 2011. If you would like to support the Foundation, please send tax-deductible contributions to:

WWL Foundation
P.O. Box 4275
Seattle, WA 98194-0275

For more information about the Foundation or its work, please contact WWLF President, Jennifer Grant, at jennifer.grant@seattle.gov.

Meet the Newest WWL State Reporter Vice Presidents!!!

My name is: *Grete Schultz.*

I hale from: *Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.*

My current home is in: *Seattle.*

My practice focuses on: *Criminal Defense.*

A typical day in my life involves: *I recently started a new job and I am excited to be working with people and spending time in the courtroom. Outside of work, I can often be found cooking, exploring the city, and walking my puppy.*

My favorite aspect of legal practice is: *being an advocate for my clients and ensuring them access to the judicial system. Also, as a young attorney, I have very much enjoyed learning new facets of the legal practice on a daily basis.*

I got involved with WWL because: *I went to law school out of state and wanted to get involved with an organization whose ideals and goals I believe in. I also wanted to be able to meet and interact with likeminded attorneys in the area and find my place in a legal community.*

As VP of the State Reporter, I want to: *work with the other VPs to produce a newsletter that our members will find informative and interesting, and also engage members of WWL to contribute ideas, articles, and suggestions to create a fantastic final product.*

My next great adventure will be: *settling into my career and my life here in Seattle—but I’m sure that big adventures are not too far off!*

My name is: *Pauline Woodman.*

I hale from: *the sunny State of California.*

My current home is in: *West Seattle.*

My practice focuses on: *Tax Issues with the Internal Revenue Service.*

My favorite aspect of legal practice is: *taking difficult or intricate problems and making them understandable for my clients.*

If I could not practice law, I would: *build houses with Habitat for Humanity.*

One lesson I have learned is: *never be afraid to ask for help; the worst that someone will say is no.*

I got involved with WWL because: *I wanted to meet more people and learn what was going on in Washington.*

As VP of the State Reporter, I want to: *be sure that other new Washington women lawyers know that they can read our prior newsletters online to learn what is happening here.*

My next great adventure will be: *starting my own practice.*

Want to highlight one of your members? Email Jeannie Duncan at jeanneduncan@gmail.com

In Memorium
Mary Wechsler



Mary Wechsler was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, to parents who were active in the civil rights movement. In 1969, she moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington, and she spent five years teaching at an alternative school before deciding to attend the University of Puget Sound Law School, where she excelled in her studies while also raising a young daughter.

Mary served as a highly regarded family law attorney in Seattle for 31 years, during which time she also led several efforts to improve the practice of law at the state and national levels.

Mary served as President of the King County Bar Association and of the Washington State Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She also served twice as President of the Washington Chapter of the American Judicature Society, and that organization honored her with the title of Distinguished Lifetime Director for her outstanding contributions to the judicial system. Mary also received the title of Outstanding Attorney from both the Washington State Bar Association and the King County Bar Association. And in 1995, Governor Mike Lowry appointed Mary to the Walsh Commission on Judicial Selection.

Mary had a lifelong passion for justice and always expected the best of herself and others, which translated into her law practice, her volunteer activities, and her personal life.

Among the bar, Mary's peers knew her for her professionalism and impeccable ethics, setting a high standard with her calm, reasonable, and courteous demeanor toward the court, fellow lawyers, and parties to a case—attributes which are particularly notable in the often difficult and emotional terrain of family law.

Amidst her tremendous professional and volunteer achievements, Mary's highest commitment was always to her family, and she raised three children with her husband of 30 years.

Mary was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis ("ALS," also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease) in late 2009, and she retired her law practice in April 2010. Justice Faith Ireland hosted Mary's retirement party, which was a prominent event among members of Washington Women Lawyers, who knew Mary as a longtime member.

Mary died of ALS on January 21, 2011, at the age of 63. She is survived by her husband, David Sellinger; her daughter, Risa Wechsler; her sons, Kirk and Michael Sellinger; her mother, Helen Heyrman; and her siblings, Mark Heyrman, Anne Szymczak, Paul Heyrman, and John Heyrman.

In memorium, the family requests donations to the ALS Association Evergreen Chapter, <http://web.alsa.org/goto/Mary.Wechsler>. Donations go to support the work of the ALS Association in its struggle to find a cure for ALS and its support for those affected by this devastating disease.



2011 ANNUAL MEMBER REGISTRATION/INFORMATION FORM

P.O. Box 2026, Seattle, WA 98111

Name:		Check box <input type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> RENEW
Company / Organization:		Work Fax:
Contact E-mail:		Contact Phone:
Contact Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
CHAPTER OF RECORD		
Annual Membership Dues: <input type="checkbox"/> Capitol (Thurston) \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> Clark/St. Helens \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> King \$55 <input type="checkbox"/> Kitsap \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> Pierce \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Snohomish \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Spokane \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> Whatcom \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$45	WWL Annual Membership Dues Computation: The cost of your annual WWL membership includes membership in one WWL chapter. Please select your chapter below and mark the corresponding annual membership dues in the box to the left. If you would like to belong to a chapter in an additional county that already has an active chapter, please so indicate in "Additional Chapters" below, and add the additional charge to your primary dues. Students may select one chapter without charge and pay only for additional chapter memberships. Annual WWL Dues (circle one): Adams ?Asotin Benton ?Chelan ?Clallam ? Clark ? Columbia ? Cowlitz Douglas? Ferry? Franklin? Garfield ?Grant ?Grays Harbor ?Island ?Jefferson ? King ? Kitsap ? Kittitas? Klickitat? Lewis? Lincoln ? Mason? Okanogan? Pacific ?Pend Oreille ? Pierce ? San Juan ? Skagit ? Skamania ? Snohomish ? Spokane ?Stevens? Thurston ? Wahkiakum ? Walla Walla ? Whatcom ? Whitman ? Yakima --- Bolded chapters are listed on the left with their respective dues. Dues for the rest of the state are \$45. If there is currently no active chapter in your county, WWL would like to help you start one. Check here if you are interested in starting a chapter in your county: _____	
Judiciary \$30 _____ (please indicate a chapter preference by circling a chapter above) Student FREE! _____ (please indicate a chapter preference by circling a chapter above)		
ADDITIONAL CHAPTERS - INDICATE BELOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A MEMBER OF AN ADDITIONAL CHAPTER		
<input type="checkbox"/> Capitol (Thurston) \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Clark/St. Helens \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> King \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> Kitsap \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Pierce \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Snohomish County \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Spokane \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Whatcom \$10		
Optional Contribution to WWL Foundation: _____ (WWLFF is a qualified 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and contributions to the WWLFF are tax deductible)		
SUBTOTAL ADDITIONS TO ANNUAL DUES: _____		TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Please check here if you would like to become more involved in WWL: For more information about getting involved with WWL, please visit www.wwl.org or e-mail WWL at wwl@wwl.org .		

QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO ANN BAUS AT WWL@WWL.ORG

WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYERS STATE BOARD 2010-2011

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WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYERS

P.O. Box 2026
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Washington Women Lawyers

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To submit Chapter News, event notices, or announcements, please email Jeannie Duncan at jeanneduncan@gmail.com with the word "Announcement" in the subject line.