

**Women & The Law
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, December 1, 2015 12:30pm
DSBA Offices**

IN ATTENDANCE: Natalie Woloshin, Kathleen Murphy, Kyle Gay, Laina Herbert, Pam Meitner, Suzanne Seubert, Stephanie Habelow [By Phone] Kathy Miller, Loren Barron, Leslie Spoltore, Sharon Morgan, Stacy Newman, Tricia Enerio, Tiphonie Miller, Raeanne Warner

I. Approval of minutes from the November 4, 2015 meeting

Approval of the minutes will be addressed at the Section's January meeting.

II. Good and Welfare

Natalie Haskins was approved by the legislature as a judge in Family Court. Her investiture date is to be determined.

III. Committee Reports

A. Retreat Committee

Save the Date for the Retreat on **March 4-5, 2016**. The Retreat Committee is pretty far along with planning and intends to again have vendors present. The Retreat will be at the same location as last year, the Atlantic Sands Hotel. There will be a charity element, but the format is to be determined.

Laina Herbert asked for the charity to be the Roxana Arshat Fellowship. Because of the nature of the economy, all of the Fellowship's investments are down for the fiscal year. Several members inquired as to the nature of the funds available for the Fellowship. Laina described the Fellowship as less than \$10K per year for an individual for three years. The endowment itself is not available for distribution. The only funds available for distribution are: (1) the interest generated by the endowment and (2) any additional money raised during each fiscal year. Laina will make a report about the status of the Fellowship fund at next month's meeting.

B. Legislative Committee

Natalie Woloshin reported on behalf of Rebecca Byrd. The Legislative Luncheon will be held on **April 21, 2016** on legislative hall. The Legislative Committee will be meeting again in the new year, and suggestions for topics should be sent to Rebecca. Suzanne Seubert suggested the decline of the number of female legislatures as a topic to be addressed at the luncheon.

C. Awards Committee

Loren Barron shared that the Community Service Awards nominations are due in January, and the award will be given by the DSBA in May. The Awards Committee will meet in January to discuss nominations. Loren will draft an email describing the criteria for the award to be sent to the email list. The Community Service award is given to honor work in the community that is outside the legal profession.

D. Advocacy Committee

Stephanie Habelow reported that the Advocacy Committee met in November and discussed conducting a survey of Delaware law firms that focuses on issues facing women in the profession today. The Advocacy Committee also has ideas for panel discussions and will coordinate with the Programming Committee.

Natalie Woloshin added that one of the panels begin considered for the Retreat will address alternatives to the traditional partnership track.

Pamela Meitner asked about the plan for the survey. Stephanie reported that the Manhattan Bar Association had conducted a survey that the Committee was using as a model. The plan is to gather pertinent information and statistics to make them available to Delaware attorneys. The information may also be used to make recommendations. Pamela suggested broadening the survey to cross gender lines, *i.e.*, to address paternity as well as maternity issues and to address turnover rates. Pamela also noted that surveys can be skewed by “asking bias,” and she encouraged the Committee to seek out individuals at University of Delaware who have experience in creating surveys. Natalie Woloshin suggested that the Commission on Women survey administrators may be an additional resource for the Committee.

IV. Referral Bank

Kyle Gay reported that the Section is establishing a LinkedIn Group to be used as a way to disperse information about the Section and the Section’s events. The group can also be used as a referral bank for Section members who wish to refer matters to other Section members.

V. Event to Honor Judicial Appointees

Kyle Gay reported that an event is being planned to honor the recent judicial appointees. The event will be co-sponsored with the Multicultural Judges and Lawyers Section. It will be held on **January 28, 2016** at Morris James LLP.

VI. Donations to the Baylor Women’s Correctional Institute

Suzanne Seubert brought to the attention of the Section that Baylor Women’s Correctional Institute has no library. She is looking for people who may be interested in addressing this issue. Natalie Woloshin shared that the Section has been trying to work with the Women’s Prison for

some time on various issues with varying levels of success. Suzanne commented that what is needed is accountability and transparency.

Natalie added that technically the prison can't accept donations through a non-profit. She appreciates that the library is a paramount issue. In order to make progress, the Bureau chiefs have to get involved and Rob Coupe is supportive. In addition to the library, the prison needs toys or books for family visits and Facetime calls for families, especially those who live in Georgetown. Pamela Meitner suggested that the Fund for Women may be an appropriate non-profit partner for sending donations to the prison.

The meeting was adjourned.