



# WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN



## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

### WLAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Officers

Marla Linderman - President  
Michele Rivas - President-Elect  
Kristen Pursley - Vice President  
Suzanne Sukkar - Treasurer  
Julie Gafkay - Secretary  
Hon. Angela Sherigan - Past President

#### Directors at Large

Tricia Dennis  
Roquia Draper  
Hon. Kirsten Frank Kelly  
Sarah Kuchon  
Hon. Denise Langford Morris  
Nicolette Zachary

#### Regional Representatives

Liesel Cervin, Western Region  
Alena Clark, Wayne Region  
Kaitlyn Cramer, Great Lakes Bay Region  
Lori Herr, Mid Michigan Region  
Nicole Smithson, Macomb Region  
Andrea Symbal, Oakland Region  
Rita White, Washtenaw Region



BUILDING BRIDGES  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN



## Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

### President's Report

*Submitted by Marla Linderman, WLAM President 2013-2014*

I am pleased to report that our 95th Annual Meeting raised over \$23,000.00 in revenue, \$18,000.00 over the originally budgeted amount. We had over 125 people attend the meeting and our feedback was very positive. It was a shining moment in our history and set us on the path to our 100th Anniversary. During my year as President, we have continued to work toward improving relations between the State and Regions. Our first steps in our 5-year plan were marked by pleasant surprises. Increased communications helped us recognize how much we share and to focus on working together to achieve our goals.



Marla Linderman

We also focused on our relationship with the WLAM Foundation. The 5-year plan planning session was graciously paid for by the foundation who is a strong supporter of WLAM's efforts to work together as a cohesive group to achieve the goals of our mission statement. Our November meeting was a positive step forward as we devoted significant time to reconnect. Thank you Dawn Van Hoek and Paula Talarico for your attendance and presentation!

We took numerous steps to support women judicial candidates, writing letters of support, not necessarily of any specific candidate, but to point out the gender disparities in the judiciary, especially in the federal judiciary. Letters were written at the state and federal level and this year we celebrate that three additional female judges to the Federal Judiciary.

Hopefully you have noticed that WLAM has been sending e-mail communications when high level judicial positions become available like Bankruptcy Trustee, Magistrate Judge and U.S. Attorney General positions, to ensure that we give our members the best opportunity to apply and be considered for these positions.

WLAM also issued a position statement about the State Bar of Michigan, pointing out the SBM programs that support women in the legal process, and supporting its continuation in its present form.

And at our March board meeting before the Annual Meeting, WLAM voted to create a task force to work with the Lawyers' and Judges' Assistance Program to create a program to help lawyers who are dealing with domestic violence. It is the hope that a program such as this will help prevent future tragedies such as the tragic loss of attorney Lara Stutz.

All in all, it was a productive year for WLAM and it was a pleasure serving as your President during this time!



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan  
Treasurer's Report  
*Submitted by Suzanne Sukkar*

## 2013 Statement of Operations

1. Dues Revenue – WLAM dues revenue declined in 2013 (\$43,707 in 2013; \$45,620 in 2012) but exceeded budget expectations (2013 Dues Revenue budget \$41,720; Actual revenues \$1,987.50 more than budget.) The 2013 Budget anticipated a decline due to the economic climate in Michigan.

2. Annual Meeting Revenue – WLAM's 2013 Annual Meeting exceeded budget expectations and generated \$8,083.59 in net revenue. The original 2013 budget projected net revenue was \$4,077 (\$10,575 projected income; \$6,498 projected expense).

3. Dues paid to Regions – The 2013 budget estimated dues to regions in the amount of \$ 10,430. Actual dues paid to regions in 2013 totaled \$11,082.50 (\$652.50 more than budget projections.)

4. Communications and Marketing. WLAM Board of Directors selected a no-cost broadcast e-mail service to communicate with members, eliminating the cost previously contained in line 750.30.

5. Line Item 820 – Bank Fees is significantly less than budget due to an adjustment in credit card terminal charges. Fees in 2014 are expected to return to approximately \$1,760.

6. Net Income after expenses for 2013 was \$12,287.29, \$1,389.16 higher than 2012 (\$10,898.13.)

WLAM seeks to provide the following membership benefits in 2013-2014:

- A state-wide sponsored event;
- Budgeted upgrades for our communications and technology, with plans for the addition of an online member directory.

## Procedural Improvements

WLAM's administrator continues to provide monthly Statements of Operations that compare actual year-to-date finances with our budget as of that date. We can quickly ascertain if we are on target with expectations. WLAM provides timely requests for information from regional leaders, so that regional financial reports are accurate and dues payments to the regions are prompt.

## Thank you!

I would like to thank all the regional and student chapter treasurers for their hard work this year: Kaitlyn Cramer (Great Lakes Bay Region), Lyndsay Ott (Macomb Region), Lori Herr (Mid Michigan Region), Kristen Pursley (Oakland Region), Anna Frushour (Washtenaw Region), Katie Zeiter (Wayne Region), Jeannine Bolhouse (Western Region), and Joelle Tadros and Nemer Baki (Cooley Lansing.) I would also like to thank WLAM Vice President and former State Treasurer Kristen Pursley, as well as current President-Elect and former State Treasurer Michele Rivas for aiding in the transition of Treasurer's duties.



Suzanne Sukkar



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan  
Treasurer's Report  
*Submitted by Suzanne Sukkar*

**Statement of Operations, FY 2013**

	<u>Jan - Dec 13</u>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>640 Dues</b>	
640.10 Sustaining Member	9,650.00
640.20 Attorney 5+ Years	25,825.00
640.30 Attorney 1-5 Years	5,675.00
640.40 Law Student	1,537.50
640.50 Attorney Admittee	375.00
640.60 Attorney Retiree	275.00
640.80 Associate Member	150.00
640.90 Paralegal	120.00
640.99 Attorneys In Transition	100.00
<b>Total 640 Dues</b>	<u>43,707.50</u>
660 Interest Income	136.42
<b>680 Other Events/Activities</b>	
680.10 Strategic Partnerships	0.00
680.20 Miss Rep. Film A2	0.00
680.40 WLAM Apparel/Merchandise	30.00
<b>Total 680 Other Events/Activities</b>	<u>30.00</u>
<b>690 Annual Meeting Revenue</b>	
690.10 Registration - Members	5,845.00
690.30 Sponsorships	16,600.00
690.50 Luncheon	795.00
<b>Total 690 Annual Meeting Revenue</b>	<u>23,240.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>67,113.92</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>710 Board of Directors</b>	
710.10 Board Meetings	20.00
710.20 Conference Calling	263.69
710.40 Directors/Officers Ins.	944.00
<b>Total 710 Board of Directors</b>	<u>1,227.69</u>
<b>720 Committee Expenses</b>	
720.20 Membership Committee	
720.20.3 Membership Mailings	115.95
720.20.5 Postage	144.00



# Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

## Treasurer's Report

*Submitted by Suzanne Sukkar*

<b>Total 720.20 Membership Committee</b>	<b>259.95</b>
<b>Total 720 Committee Expenses</b>	<b>259.95</b>
<b>730 Licenses and Fees</b>	<b>20.00</b>
<b>740 Regions</b>	
740.10 Region Dues	11,082.50
740.20 Special Project Funding	147.26
<b>Total 740 Regions</b>	<b>11,229.76</b>
<b>750 Communications/Marketing</b>	
750.30 Services (Constant Contact)	0.00
750.40 Print/Promotion Material	277.09
750.50 WLAM Logo Merchandise	0.00
<b>Total 750 Communications/Marketing</b>	<b>277.09</b>
<b>760 President Expenses</b>	<b>26.65</b>
<b>780 Other Events/Activities</b>	
780.20 MissRepresentation A2	0.00
<b>Total 780 Other Events/Activities</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>790 Annual Meeting</b>	
790.01 Speakers	1,070.00
790.10 Facility	
790.11 Audio/Visual	801.63
790.12 Food & Beverage	8,547.40
790.13 Room Rental	500.00
<b>Total 790.10 Facility</b>	<b>9,849.03</b>
790.20 Awards	
790.20.1 President	30.21
790.20.2 JLK	132.50
790.20.3 Judge	116.60
790.20.4 Region Member	291.50
<b>Total 790.20 Awards</b>	<b>570.81</b>
790.30 Leadership Training	608.10
790.50 Meeting Materials/Signs	
790.50.01 Signs	102.97
790.50.02 Program	349.80
790.50.03 Materials	434.88
<b>Total 790.50 Meeting Materials/Signs</b>	<b>887.65</b>
790.60 Mail Services, Postage	346.70
790.80 Give-Aways/Speaker Gifts	904.36



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan  
Treasurer's Report  
*Submitted by Suzanne Sukkar*

790.90 Promotion/Marketing	630.41
Total 790 Annual Meeting	14,867.06
800 Professional Fees	
800.10 Accounting Services	600.00
800.20 Administrative Services	24,000.00
800.30 Admin/Staff Travel	289.35
Total 800 Professional Fees	24,889.35
810 Dues & Subscriptions	
810.10 NCWBA	300.00
Total 810 Dues & Subscriptions	300.00
820 Bank Fees	315.12
830 Web Resources	
830.10 Website Hosting/Domain	229.35
830.40 Technical Support Svcs	60.00
Total 830 Web Resources	289.35
840 Office Supplies	
840.10 Copies	113.55
840.20 Stationery/Envelopes	25.49
840.30 Labels	5.25
Total 840 Office Supplies	144.29
850 Postage	202.08
860 Telephone	528.24
890 Charitable Contributions	250.00
900 Prior Year Expenses (2011)	0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>54,826.63</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>12,287.29</b>



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan  
Annual Report of the WLAM Foundation  
April 2014

The WLAM Foundation enjoyed another very successful year of supporting women's education, raising over \$38,000 for scholarships. In 2014, the WLAM Foundation reached the landmark of \$500,000 given away in scholarships over the past eighteen years, to 210 awardees! The success of the Foundation is largely based on the exceptional talent of its Board of Directors, comprised in 2013-14 of Dawn Van Hoek (Chair), Paula M. Talarico (Treasurer), Sandra L. Sorini (Secretary), Lori D. Becker, Z. Kay Fitzpatrick, Nancy Glen, Markeisha Miner, Deborah K. Nowak-Vanderhoef, Meghan Kennedy Riordan, and Maya Watson.

Fundraising in 2013-14 took the forms of event sponsorship (\$1,250), the Sixth Annual Culinary Challenge (\$5,630), the "Dean's List" giving campaign (approx. \$28,225), dues check-off from WLAM members (\$800) and the Kimberly M. Cahill Fund (\$3,600). Major continuing support was shown by corporations and law firms, particularly General Motors, the Albert & Doris Pitt Foundation, the Dickinson Wright Women's Network, Bodman PLC, Carole Chiamp, Judge Pamela Harwood, Kerr, Russell and Weber PLC Fund, Marianne and Judge Lawrence Talon, and the Culinary Challenge Committee. As in prior years, a significant number of individuals also contributed to the campaign, joining the corporations, law firms and special funds in their generous support. The 2013 Dean's List of donors follows:

**Summa Cum Laude (\$2,500 and above)**

Albert & Doris Pitt Foundation  
Culinary Challenge Committee  
Dickinson Wright Women's Network  
General Motors

**Magna Cum Laude (\$1,000 to \$2,500)**

Bodman, PLC  
Carole Chiamp  
Hon. Pamela Harwood  
Kerr, Russell & Weber, PLC  
Schoenherr, Cahill & Warnez, PC♥

**Cum Laude (\$750 to \$999)**

Marianne & Judge Lawrence Talon

**Good Citizenship (\$125 to \$749)**

Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, P.L.L.C.  
Hon. Marianne Battani♥  
Lori D. Becker  
Kenneth M. Bernard, CFA  
Bernard Wealth Management Corp.  
Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh♥  
Thomas W. Cranmer♥  
Meri Dembrow♥



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan  
Annual Report of the WLAM Foundation  
April 2014

Nancy J. Diehl♥  
Howard B. & Nina Dodge Abrams Philanthropic Fund  
Dykema Gossett PLLC♥  
Stephanie Fakih  
Julie Fershtman♥  
Z. Kay Fitzpatrick  
Nancy Glen & Ralph McDowell♥  
Charlotte Johnson  
Hon. Marilyn Kelly♥  
Karen S. Kienbaum  
Kathryn Ladewski  
Kathleen & Charles Marn – IN MEMORY OF KAREN SIDNEY  
Barbara McQuade  
Lambro Niforos♥  
Deborah Nowak-Vanderhoef  
Trish Oleksa Haas  
Kristen Pursley  
Margaret Raben  
Linda Rexer – IN HONOR OF DAWN VAN HOEK  
Hon. Victoria A. Roberts♥  
Peter & Martha Ruggirello♥  
Lorraine Weber  
Sandra Sorini Elser  
Talarico & Associates, P.C.  
Andrea Tawil  
Maureen Thomas♥  
Dawn Van Hoek  
Peter Van Hoek – IN HONOR OF DAWN VAN HOEK  
Maya Watson  
Hon. Robert L. Ziolkowski

♥ ***Donations made to the Kimberly M. Cahill Scholarship Fund***

Virtually all of the money raised by the WLAM Foundation goes directly into law student scholarships or an educational endowment fund; less than ten percent of the money raised goes to administration, a very low percentage in the fund-raising world. The Foundation's web site, [www.wlamfoundation.org](http://www.wlamfoundation.org), contains news, archives, photographs, profiles of student-awardees, and much more. Event support was handled with considerable aplomb by Barbara Campos, with the backing and in-kind contributions of Talarico & Associates PC.

Awards made to Outstanding Women Law Students this year totaled \$30,000 (increased from \$25,000 in 2012), awarded to ten students attending Michigan's five accredited law schools. The 2014 Outstanding Women Law Students are:



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan  
Annual Report of the WLAM Foundation  
April 2014

**General Motors Scholars:**

**Yassaman Hajivalizadeh**, Michigan State University College of Law  
**Mylika Johnson**, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law  
**Shannon King**, Thomas M. Cooley Law School  
**Nayda Verier Taylor**, University of Michigan Law School

**Dickinson Wright Women's Network Scholar:**

**Alexandra Smith**, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

**WLAM Foundation Scholars:**

**Zaneta Adams**, Thomas M. Cooley Law School  
**Farah Alkhersan**, Wayne State University Law School  
**Shahar Ben-Josef**, Wayne State University Law School  
**Emily Gillingham**, Michigan State University College of Law

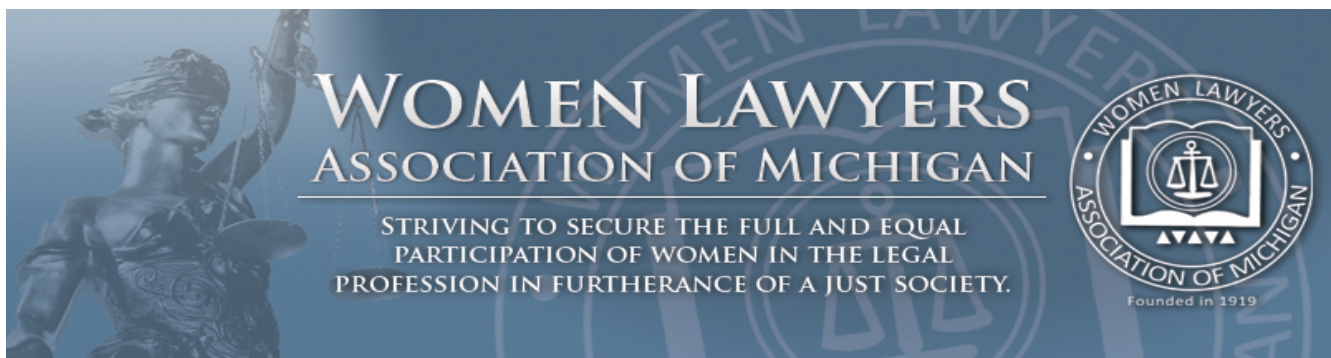
**Kimberly M. Cahill Scholar:**

**Cari Carson**, University of Michigan Law School

Students were selected on the basis of their demonstrated leadership and on their commitment to women's and diversity issues. Full profiles of the students appear on the Foundation's web site, [www.wlamfoundation.org](http://www.wlamfoundation.org). The 2014 Outstanding Women Law Students were introduced at the Foundation's Annual Reception, held on March 26, 2014, at Local Kitchen & Bar in Ferndale. The event was well-attended by students and their families, former awardees, dignitaries, members of the Dean's List, and friends of the Foundation. Attendees were inspired by remarks from the 2014 Honoree, Dawn Van Hoek, who was recognized for her work for the WLAM Foundation and in the Community. Generous sponsors of the reception were Kenneth M. Bernard, CFA, Bernard Wealth Management Corp., Nancy Glen & Ralph McDowell, and Talarico & Associates, PC. The WLAM Foundation would like to especially thank Dr. David Bauer and WLAMF Trustee, Z. Kay Fitzpatrick, for providing us with live entertainment at the reception.

Many thanks to all for the support shown during the year!

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Van Hoek,  
Chair, WLAM Foundation  
[dvanhoek@sado.org](mailto:dvanhoek@sado.org)



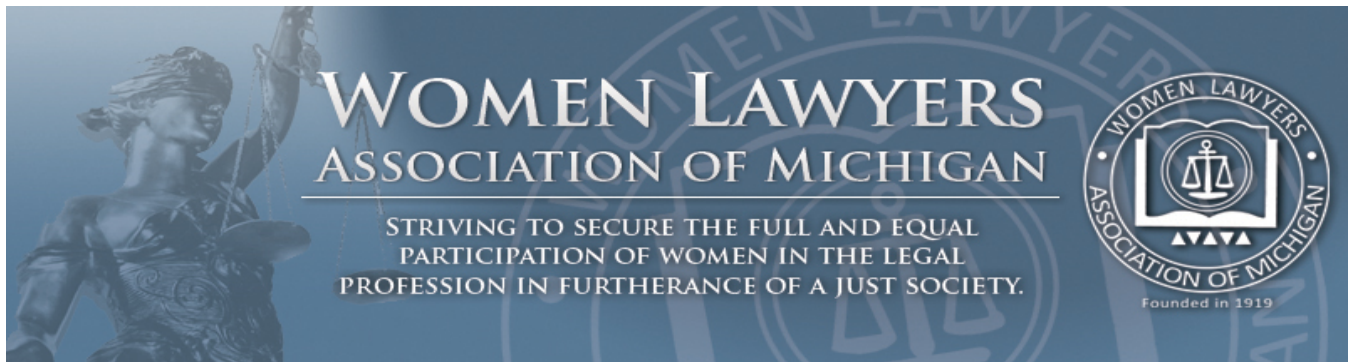
## Great Lakes Bay Region

The Great Lakes Bay Region of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan has had an excellent year. We welcomed several new members into our region, including myself and other new lawyers to the area.

We hosted our annual meeting at the Atrium in Bay City. Throughout the year we hosted several networking events at local restaurants in Saginaw, Midland, and Bay City. For our holiday party, several members met at Harvey's in Saginaw, where we collected items for Shelterhouse, a domestic violence shelter in Midland. In the spirit of the season, our members donated lightly used professional clothing, with some donating gift cards to Target and other stores for the shelter to use as well.

Our board is in the midst of planning a luncheon with Senator Debbie Stabenow for the spring, as well as a speaker series with the area's female judges. We look forward to delivering these enlightening programs, with the hope that our membership can learn valuable lessons from these successful female role models.

Kaitlyn Cramer  
Treasurer, WLAM Great Lakes Bay Region



## Macomb Region

### 2013/2014 Annual Report

The Macomb Region continued to flourish over the past year. In addition to providing its members with opportunities for socializing and improving their practice, Macomb provided support to at-risk children and the local legal community.

Macomb sponsored a CLE on identifying and advocating for victims of domestic violence at the Macomb County Circuit Court in May. Following the seminar, Macomb made a gift of \$100 to Turning Point.

Last summer Macomb encouraged its members to read Lean In by Sheryl Sandberg. In July, about a dozen members met for a frank discussion about the book and the issues it raised at Tin Fish in Clinton Township.

That same month, Macomb had a team participate in the Families Against Narcotics Run at Fraser High School. Team members were the envy of the other participants with their stylish pink and black headbands stating "Macomb Women Lawyers on the Run."

In August, Macomb held its annual membership drive at Ernie's in Clinton Township.

Macomb's president and secretary, Annemarie Lepore and Laura Marji, participated in WLAM's five-year plan brainstorming meeting last fall.

Macomb hosted a punch and cookie reception at the Macomb County Circuit Court to welcome and congratulate the new lawyers following their November swearing-in ceremony. In addition to meeting the inductees, the event gave Macomb an opportunity to connect with other potential members.

That same month, Macomb met its sisters from the Oakland and Wayne Regions at Painting with a Twist in Ferndale for an evening of art, networking, and fun.

## **Macomb Region, *cont.***

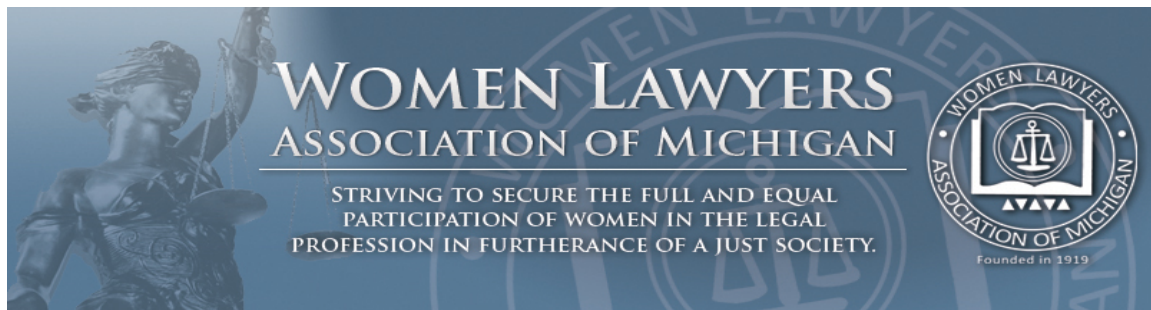
In January, Macomb had a New Year's luncheon at Bath City Bistro in Mt. Clemens. After lunch, Arbitrator/Mediator Tracy Allen offered advice about selecting and effectively using mediators. Ms. Allen also talked about how being a woman is an asset in practicing law.

In March, Macomb held a well-attended cocktail reception at Andiamo Italian Bistro in Sterling Heights. Attendees were asked to bring a new stuffed animal for donation to Care House, an organization that provides investigation and treatment services to victims of child sexual and physical abuse. Over 50 new plush toys were collected!

Finally, Macomb partnered with the Young Lawyers Section of the Macomb County Bar Association in April to host a dinner reception for Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Faunce (also a WLAM member) and District Court Judge Michael Chupa at Villa Penna in Sterling Heights.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole M. Smithson  
Macomb Region Representative



## Mid-Michigan Region

### Annual Report 2013-2014

The Mid-Michigan Region started the year with a very successful annual meeting. Our honorary speaker was Justice Bridget Mary McCormack. At this meeting, we were able to present WLAM courtroom banners to both Honorable Andrea Larkin and Honorable Janice Cunningham.



We had a Carlisle Collection boutique shopping spree for a cause on October 10, 2013. The Carlisle Collection is an amazing one for professional women. A portion of all sales supported our annual Carolyn Stell Scholarship.



Our annual Stell Reception was held on November 7, 2013. The Mid-Michigan Region honored Judge Amy Ronayne-Krause for her efforts in advancing women's rights. Judge Amy Ronayne-Krause is a valuable member of the WLAM.

We also honored student, Rachel Gruetzner with the Carolyn Stell Scholarship. Rachel received an award of \$1,000.00 to use for her studies.

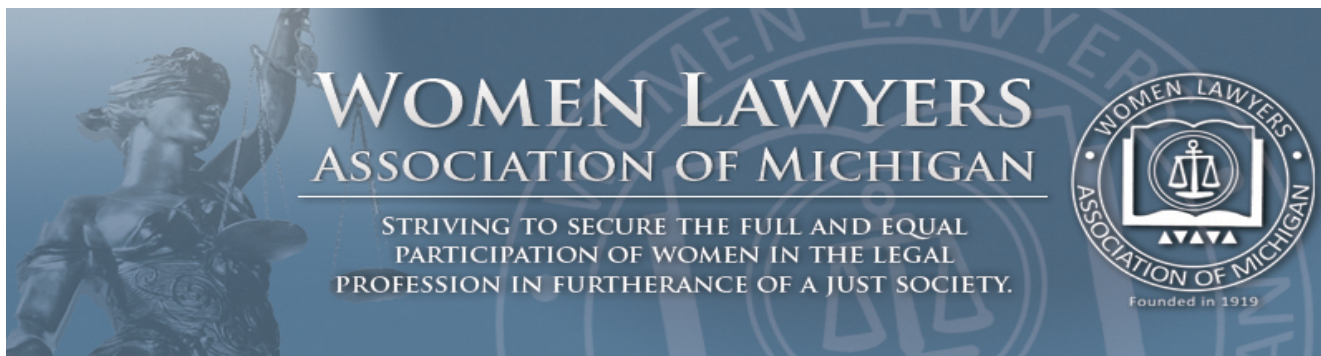
In December, we held our second annual Holiday Party. At the party, we collected supplies for Eve (End Violent Encounters).

We kicked off the New Year with a mixer and lecture, Sponsors v Mentors: How Sponsors Can Accelerate Careers. This presentation was performed by Elizabeth Jolliffe. All those who attended learned valuable information.



We are currently planning for a mixer in April 2014 and our annual meeting in June 2014.

We will also be taking nominations and applications for the Mid-Michigan board. We welcome all members to be leaders in this terrific organization!



## Oakland Region



### WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OAKLAND COUNTY REGION OF WLAM

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#### Annual Report 2013-2014

**Summer Planning Meeting** – The WBA geared up for a new year at its Summer Planning Meeting on July 13, 2013. The agenda for the 2013-2014 year was discussed and special events were planned. Committees and special committees were assigned for the years activities and the group was pleased to welcome some new faces. The new board was eager to kick off a year full of great events and activities.



**Patriot Week** – The Oakland Region kicked off their year by participating in Patriot Week. Representatives from the Women's Bar Association of Oakland County visited Beechview Elementary in Farmington Hills where they read the book, "I Could Do That!: Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote" to the 3rd and 4th grade classes. Esther Morris was the driving force behind

## Oakland Region, cont.

suffrage in Wyoming and the first woman to ever hold elected office. The students really enjoyed the book and talking to the women attorneys from the Oakland Region. The book was donated to the school library. Next year, the Women's Bar Association hopes to reach out to multiple elementary schools during Patriot Week with similar activities.

**Awards!** – The Oakland Region was very proud to learn that some of its board members and past board members were nominated for awards. They were as follows:

***Super Lawyers:*** Melissa Graves, Kristin Murphy

***Super Lawyers Rising Stars:*** Channelle Kizy-White

***dbusiness Top Lawyers:*** Kristin Murphy, Channelle Kizy-White

***Lawyers Weekly Women in the Law:*** Stacey King, Kristen Pursley

Stacey King and Kristen Pursley were honored at a luncheon on September 26, 2013, at the Detroit Marriott, in Troy, where the Honorable Victoria A. Roberts, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, was announced as Woman of the Year.

**WBA Autumn After Hours** – The WBA hosted its annual Autumn After Hours on Thursday, October 24,

2013 at Hamlin Corner in Royal Oak. This event was a free, casual gathering for legal professionals to visit with old colleagues and meet new ones. Lawyers and law students interested in learning more about the WBA attended the event. WBA membership information was provided and WBA board members were available to chat about the wonderful activities in which the WBA participates.

**Painting with a Twist!** On November 19, 2013 the WBA joined together with members of the Macomb and Wayne WLAM Regions for a fun joint event at Painting with a Twist in Ferndale where each participant painted a masterpiece while enjoying wine and snacks. This was a great event that was enjoyed by all that attended!



## Oakland Region, *cont.*

**Women's Bar Association 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Party** WBA hosted its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Party on December 12, 2013 at a great new venue, Great Lakes Culinary Center. Party goers were able to mingle and participate in quick culinary lessons which assisted in making some of the appetizers served at the party. A silent auction was held with proceeds benefitting the Tiane Brown Fund at Wayne State University, in honor of the late Ms. Brown. The WBA was able to make a significant donation to this worthy cause.



## Oakland Region, *cont.*

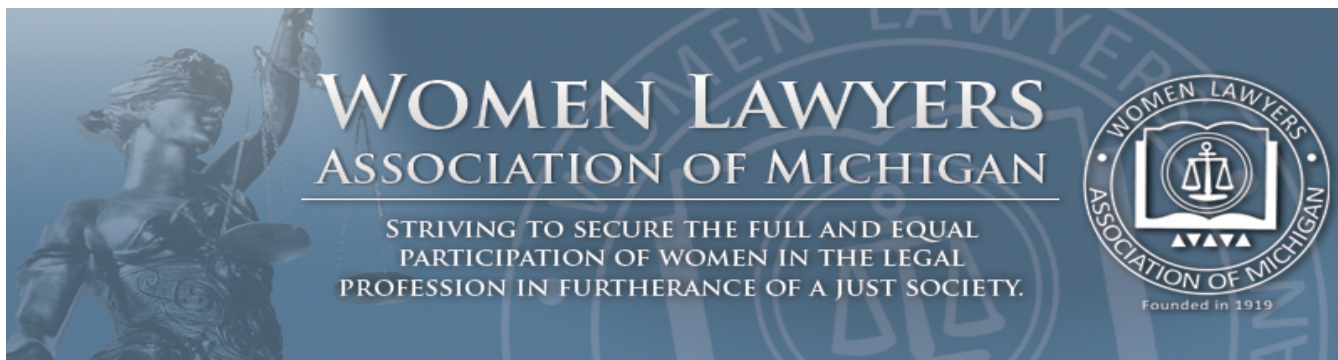
**Mentor Mingle** On Thursday, January 30, 2014 the WBA, the Cooley Women Lawyers Student Group, and the Thomas M. Cooley Career and Professional Development Office held their annual mentorship event. The event provided law students and young attorneys with the opportunity to chat & mingle with various attorneys experienced in their respective fields. It was set up in a "speed-mentorship" fashion where the Mentors were assigned to a table allowing groups of Mentees to rotate between the Mentor tables in 15 minute increments. Mentors included attorneys practicing in the areas of criminal law, family law, appellate & intellectual property law. There was also an in-house attorney, a law professor, and a new lawyer. The Honorable Shalina Kumar and the Honorable Phyllis C. McMillen from Oakland County Circuit Court both attended this successful event.

**Board Building Meeting** The WBA held its Annual Board Building meeting on March 12, 2014 at Peking House in Royal Oak. Several new faces joined the meeting to learn more about getting involved in the WBA Board.

**Barristers and Brews!** On Thursday, March 20, 2014, the WBA hosted its annual fundraising event. The event took on a new twist by providing the opportunity for guests to sample some of Michigan's local craft beers from Woodward Avenue Brewers in Ferndale. Attendees enjoyed great food, great beer, greater company, and even a little March Madness basketball.



**WBA Annual Dinner** The WBA Annual dinner will be held on May 7, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, Michigan. At that time, the 2014-2015 Executive Board will be installed and the Judge's Recognition Award and 5<sup>th</sup> Annual WBA Award will be presented. Please join us in celebrating a successful 2013-2014 year. For more information please visit <http://www.wba-oakland.com/events/wba-annual-dinner/>.



## Washtenaw Region

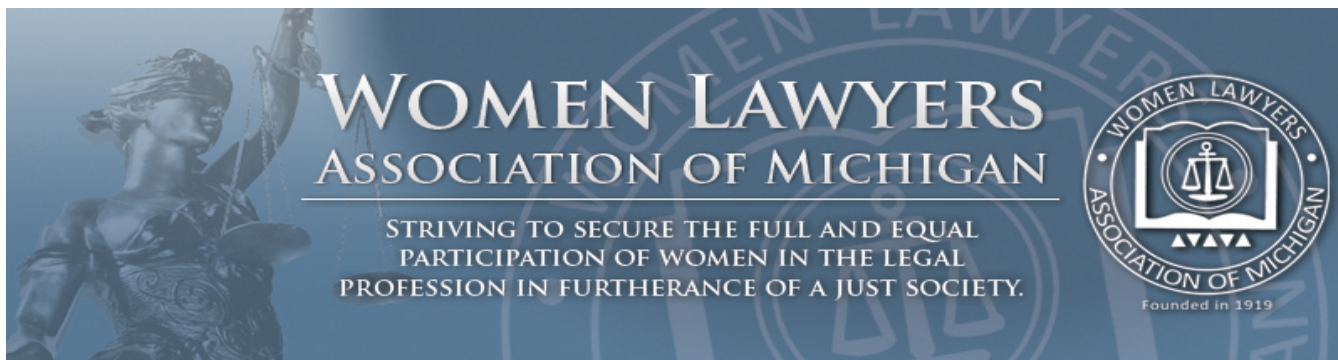
The **Washtenaw Region** had another great year. It started in May with the swearing in of our new board members. The new board members were: President, Kate Sharkey; Vice President, Jennifer Lawrence; Treasurer, Anna Frushour; Secretary, Angie Martell; Regional Representative, Rita White; Communications Chair, Lori Burke; and Membership Chair, Kym London.

These are some of the highlights from this past year:

1. Kickball Game: In June, we broke from our annual tradition of Judges vs. Lawyers softball game and instead held a kickball game at Buhr Park. Kids and adults played together; we grilled hot dogs, had snacks, enjoyed great conversation and a little exercise with colleagues, friends and their families.
2. Annual Summer Party: In July, at member Heidi Salter-Ferris' home on Ford Lake in Ypsilanti, we held our annual summer party. Members brought a dish to pass and enjoyed the beautiful views.
3. Summer Happy Hour: We held a casual happy hour at a local outdoor beer garden in Ann Arbor in August. It was a beautiful day and well-attended.
4. Annual WLAM Tailgate: In September, member Elizabeth Jolliffe hosted a tailgate party for the University of Michigan football game. The weather was beautiful, the brunch food was great, and many members walked to the football game after the morning tailgate.
5. Lily Ledbetter Events: In October, Lily Ledbetter gave the Vivian B. Shaw Lecture at the University of Michigan. The Washtenaw Region co-hosted a roundtable and lunch with Ms. Ledbetter and a pre-lecture attorney/law student mixer.
6. Bias Awareness Lunch: Also in October, as part of Bias awareness week, the Washtenaw Region hosted a luncheon on Human Trafficking. We had a wonderful panel of experts, including Elizabeth Campbell from the University of Michigan Human Trafficking Clinic, Nakisha Chaney from Nacht Law and Mira Sussman from Jewish Family Services.
7. Skills Event: On November 14, the Washtenaw Region hosted a wine tasting event at Zingerman's Roadhouse in Ann Arbor. Each attendee was served with five courses of wines and delicious small plates. We learned how to properly taste wine and with which foods the wines paired best. We enjoyed conversation with colleagues and the lovely atmosphere.

## Washtenaw Region, *cont.*

8. Annual Holiday Party: At the home of member Nora Wright, we celebrated the holidays together. The party included the presentation of the Mary Foster Award which is given annually to a local member in recognition of her leadership, talent and significant contribution to women attorneys and women in general. This year the award was given to Heidi Salter-Ferris.
9. Joint Reception with the Washtenaw County Bar Association: On January 23, 2014, the Washtenaw Region jointly held a reception, as we do on an annual basis, with the Washtenaw County Bar Association. This year, the event was held at Weber's Inn, and Justice Bridget McCormack spoke about the Lawyers Oath and what it means to lawyers today.
10. Stress Relief Event: In February, we hosted a "Yoga for Everyone" event. Our member, Sally Rutzky led the event. She gave wonderful tips and easy stress relief moves for the office or at home.
11. Women's History Month: On March 27, 2014, we celebrated Women's History Month by having an open house lunch. Jennifer Salvatore of Nacht Law spoke about income disparity in Michigan.
12. Moms in Law Lunch Discussion: On April 22, 2014, we held a moms-in-law lunch discussion group. Our region holds casual brown bag lunches on a regular basis for parents to discuss the challenges of practicing law while parenting.
13. Social Skills Event: On May 8, the Washtenaw Region and the SBM-YLS will host social skills event at Stixx in historical downtown Ypsilanti, where we will practice playing pool and socialize with friends.
14. Annual Luncheon: On May 20th, the Washtenaw Region will host our annual end of the year luncheon. The incoming board will be sworn in at this event.



## Wayne Region

### May 2013 – April 2014 Annual Report

Community Service Events: Member participation in two MentorJet speed mentoring evenings at Wayne State Law School and University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and the Region's second annual joint service event at Gleaners Community Food Bank in March with the Barristers Section of the Detroit Metro Bar Association.

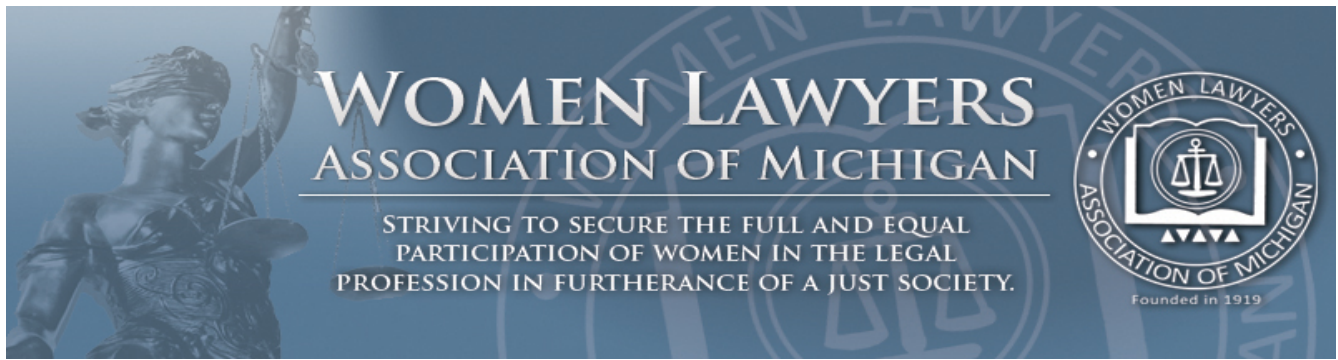
Professional Development: The Region again sent two leaders to the State Bar's annual Bar Leadership Forum on Mackinac Island; February Lunch & Learn "*Sponsors v Mentors: Sponsors Accelerate Careers*" and April "*Behind the Bench*" lunch discussion featuring Wayne Circuit Civil Division Judge Lita Popke. Behind the Bench was an exclusive members-only joint event with the Detroit Metro Bar Association. April book discussion on "*Think: Straight Talk for Women to Stay Smart in a Dumbed-down World*" by Lisa Bloom, lawyer and prize winning journalist.

Social Events: 25 members got together in July for a planning and networking mixer at Union Streetn; annual End of Summer Wine & Garden Party hosted in August by Wayne Circuit Judge Lynne Pierce; annual Membership Mixer in November at Traffic Jam & Snug; joint event at "Painting With a Twist" in Ferndale with the Oakland and Macomb Regions in November; Holiday Skating Party at Campus Martius in December; annual Winter Wine Down at Rita White's home in Plymouth in February; attendance at the annual Celebrating Our Diverse Bar multiple bar mixer in March in Detroit.

The Region's May 14, 2014 Annual Meeting Luncheon, will feature a panel discussion on "*Cybersecurity, Data Breaches, Your Practice & You.*" Panelists: Barbara McQuade, US Attorney ED MI; David Miller, Chief Security Officer at Covisint; and Susan Asam, cybersecurity lawyer at Dykema Gossett. \$30/\$25 for law students. Info: [bariblakewood@gmail.com](mailto:bariblakewood@gmail.com) The Region's annual lunch meeting last May was one of the first bar group events in the state to feature a major panel discussion on human trafficking.

Members will also participate on our Komen Race for the Cure team for the third year on June 7. For more information to participate, or make a donation, please contact Jennifer Stallings at (313) 223-3059 or [jstallings@dickinsonwright.com](mailto:jstallings@dickinsonwright.com)

Finally, members also look forward to attending the 7th Annual Bench Bar Culinary Challenge on June 12, an always popular outdoor cook off between teams of judges and lawyers. The Bench Bar Culinary Challenge returns to the Grosse Pointe Park home of WLAM Wayne member and Court of Appeals Judge Kirsten Frank Kelly. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. This independent event is not affiliated with any bar association but the proceeds always benefit Alternatives for Girls, Crossroads for Youth, and the WLAM Foundation Scholarship Fund. Tickets \$50. [lxh@maddinhauser.com](mailto:lxh@maddinhauser.com)



## Western Region



Kimberly Large, *President*  
Kelly Brushaber, *Vice President*  
Jeannine Bolhouse, *Treasurer*  
Lindsay Canan, *Secretary*  
Liesel Cervin, *Regional Representative*

### ***Women Lawyers Association of Michigan*** *Western Region*

#### ***Board Members at Large:***

Christina McDonald	Wafa Adib-Lobo
Amanda Narvaes	Rebecca Smith
Nicole Paterson	Linsey Gleason
Claire Whitman	
Linda Jo Carron, Immediate Past President	

2013-2014 Annual Report  
Submitted by  
Liesel Cervin

#### 2013 Membership Luncheons

- In September, Western Region members enjoyed a social luncheon at the Sundance Grill in Grand Rapids. The board members were introduced and the upcoming programming was discussed with attendees.
- In October, Western Region members enjoyed a luncheon at the University Club in Grand Rapids, featuring April Sawhill from Varnum LLP. Ms. Sawhill presented on preparing for the unexpected and ways to prevent being underinsured.
- In November, Western Region members and their guests enjoyed an evening pasta making class held at the Local Epicurean in Grand Rapids. The group enjoyed 1 1/2 hours of private instruction on making homemade pasta, conversation and appetizers.

#### 2013 Holiday Reception

In December, we hosted a holiday reception to support the YWCA of West Central Michigan. The event, held at the YWCA, offered hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and wine to local judges, lawyers and law students. Attendees made cash donations to the YWCA to support its community based programs. Overall \$350 was donated.

## Western Region *cont.*

### 2014 Membership Luncheons

- a. In February, Western Region members enjoyed a social luncheon at the University Club in Grand Rapids, featuring Eileen McKeever from the YWCA. Ms. McKeever described how WLAM members may learn from friends, family, colleagues, or clients that they are victims of domestic abuse and advised that we can best help by listening and providing Y contact information. We also learned that the Y houses families for as long as they need to find alternative safe shelter.
- b. In March, Western Region hosted a social luncheon at Sundance Grill. Our March meeting did not feature a speaker; rather we enjoyed lunch and took the opportunity to reconnect with one another and began discussions about our annual Charity Softball Game in June.
- c. On April 24, Western Region is hosting its annual Bring Your Child to Work Day. We have changed the format for this year's event, and will host an evening event from 6:00 to 8:30 PM at Brush Studio in Grand Rapids. Judges, members, non-members, and their children can create some beautiful art pieces together, while reducing stress and spending quality time together in a fun environment. Brush Studio recommended this class for ages 6 and up, which will be noted in the invite, but members can use their judgment regarding whether their children may enjoy this painting event. Cost will be \$25 members, \$30 non-members, \$15 children, \$0 judges. Water, lemonade, light appetizers and desserts will be provided and a cash bar will be available.

### 2014 Western Region Annual Meeting

Western Region will again host its Annual Meeting evening reception on Monday, May 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at Bistro Bella Vita in Grand Rapids. The reception will be similar to last year's event with members and guests enjoying wine and hors d'oeuvres, while WLAM Western Region honors Sue Keener as this year's Outstanding Member, announces election results and provides any other information to ensure the success of our Annual Charity Softball Game in June. Tickets for the Charity Softball Game will be available for sale at the Annual Meeting.

### Charitable Endeavors

Western Region is currently planning for the 31st Annual Women Lawyers vs. Judges Charity Softball Game to be held on June 7, 2014 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Fifth Third Ballpark in Grand Rapids. Proceeds will benefit the YWCA of West Central Michigan.

This spring, WLAM Softball Committee handled the following tasks: (1) sent sponsorship request letters to donors; committee members followed up with their designated firms and companies, (2) ticket pricing was established at \$15 for adults and \$10 for children; and (3) publicity is underway. This year, we hope to raise more than last year's total proceeds of \$17,000 for the YWCA, including a \$500 sponsorship from Western Region.