

WLAM WAYNE REGION

E-FOCUS




MARCH 2022

Members of the Month

January Member of the Month: Narissa Ayoub

February Member of the Month: Cassandra Suder

March Member of the Month: Lisa Okasinski

<p>WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN WAYNE REGION</p> <p>MEMBER OF THE MONTH JANUARY 2022</p> <p>NARISSA AYOUB</p> <p>Narissa J. Ayoub is a Detroit Mercy Law graduate-to-be this May and an intern with the Consumer Integrity Unit at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. Narissa graduated from University of Michigan Dearborn with a B.A. in Psychology, Political Science, and Studio Art. Her motivation to go to law school came from her participation in the Inside Our Prison Exchange. In undergrad and getting to share a space with incarcerated men, Narissa started her involvement with WLAM as a member of the Inaugural Leadership Class. She is also a member of the National Arab American Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. On campus, Narissa is an Associate Director on the Mood Court, Board of Advocates, President of the Criminal Law Society, Vice President of the Women's Law Caucus, and a Pupil in the American Inn of Court program. Prior to law school, Narissa was an advocacy specialist at ACCESS, where she worked in health policy and domestic violence/harassment assault prevention. For the last six years, Narissa has also worked on various political campaigns ranging from Dearborn city council to Michigan governor. When Narissa isn't filling her schedule, she's painting, kickboxing, having coffee with friends, or re-watching BJ Jack Horseman with her cats, Ariya and Apollo. Please join us in congratulating Narissa as our January 2022 Member of the Month!</p>  	<p>WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN WAYNE REGION</p> <p>MEMBER OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2022</p> <p>CASSANDRA SUDER</p> <p>Cassandra attended the University of Detroit Mercy. Cassandra is an Associate at Finding Law in Royal Oak. Her current practice includes all areas of family law, including divorce, child custody and support issues, paternity, parenting time disputes and spousal support modifications. Cassandra speaks Fluent Polish and conversational French. In her free time, you can find her on her peloton, traveling, boating, and exploring new restaurants. She grew up in Leamington, Ontario, the tomato capital of the Canada, but has always had a strong connection to Michigan. Cassandra has gone from farm girl to the divorcee, since moving to Michigan. Please join us in congratulating Cassandra as our February 2022 Member of the Month!</p>  	<p>WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN WAYNE REGION</p> <p>MEMBER OF THE MONTH MARCH 2022</p> <p>LISA OKASINSKI</p> <p>Lisa Okasinski is a real estate attorney and the principal of Okasinski Law, P.C. in Detroit. She has represented clients all over Michigan in residential and commercial transactions and litigation, including drafting and reviewing purchase and lease agreements, land contracts and mortgage documents, as well as resolving title, easement, and boundary disputes. Lisa first became interested in litigation while attending Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, where she was selected as a member of the Jonathan Ault Moot Trial Team. Since graduating and moving to Michigan in 2013, she has successfully represented clients in state and federal courts all over Michigan. As an SCAO-approved mediator, Lisa has volunteered her time with courts and non-profits to resolve numerous cases in Wayne and the surrounding counties. She also serves on the executive council for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the State Bar and is the editor of The Dispute Resolution Journal, through which she has become acquainted with the top mediation and arbitration professionals in Michigan and around the country. Lisa leverages her training and experience in alternative dispute resolution to guide clients to early resolutions of their cases where possible. Lisa is a trusted advisor who values client service and reliable, consistent and authentic communication. Outside of work, Lisa enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and being anywhere in, on, or near the water. Please join us in congratulating Lisa as our March 2022 Member of the Month!</p>   
--	---	--

WLAM Wayne Scholarships

WLAM Wayne is currently accepting applications for our scholarships this year. More information can be found [here](#). Applications are due on March 11, 2022.



WLAM-Wayne is proud to announce
THREE new scholarships!

Scholarships will be awarded to:
One graduating or recent graduate of law school
Two current law students

\$1,000.00 per scholarship

Application Deadline: March 11, 2022

Questions?
Email
wlamwayne@gmail.com



Honorable Kirsten Frank Kelly Award – Seeking Nominations

WLAM Wayne is currently accepting nominations for the Honorable Kirsten Frank Kelly Award. Nominations can be submitted [here](#). Nominations are due April 4, 2022.



CALL FOR
NOMINATIONS

WLAM-WAYNE REGION'S
HONORABLE JUDGE KIRSTEN
FRANK KELLY AWARD

SEE BELOW
FOR DETAILS.

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE:
APRIL 4, 2022

Board Nominations

We are currently accepting nominations for Board positions for the upcoming 2022-2023 year. Nominations can be submitted [here](#). Nominations are due March 16, 2022.



Philanthropy

WLAM Wayne conducted a donation drive for Menstrual Hygiene Products for the month of February. We raised over \$1,000.



Winter Wine Down

We hosted our Winter Wine Down on February 23, 2022 virtually where we discussion personal branding with WLAM Wayne Past President and GM Counsel Jennifer Dewey, The Ladies in Law Ameena Shiekh and Jasmie Rippy, and founder and owner of the criminal defense firm Rushing Law Sydney Rushing. We had a great turnout and ended the night with break out rooms for our guests to ask questions one on one with the panelists. Goody bags were delivered with chocolates, hand painted coasters from a local Wayne County female artist, and, of course, wine.



Legal Libations

In January we hosted a virtual Legal Libations and did Speed Networking with students from the Women's Law Caucus from Detroit Mercy Law and Wayne State Law.

In February we hosted an outdoor Valentine's Legal Libations to skate at the Rink at Campus Martius.



In March we are hosting Legal Libations on March 30, 2022, in partnership with the Association of Black Judges of Michigan to honor Judge Kristina Robinson Garrett with a WLAM Banner. Time and Location TBD. Stay tuned!



Social Media Campaigns

Throughout the month of February, we have been posting facts, people, and resources for **Black History Month**.

WLAM WAYNE CELEBRATES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LOCAL BLACK EXCELLENCE




Hon. Karen Fort Hood
Michigan Court of Appeals

Judge Karen Fort Hood served as Michigan's first Black woman elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals and first Black woman to chair the Judicial Tenure Commission. Prior to serving on the Court of Appeals, Judge Fort Hood was a Wayne County Prosecutor, Recorder's Court Judge, and Wayne County Circuit Court Judge. In gratitude and honor for her immeasurable contribution to our legal community, WLAM-Wayne announced the Hon. Karen Fort Hood Scholarship in January 2022. The scholarship will be awarded to a current law student who lives, works, or attends law school in Wayne County.

WLAM WAYNE CELEBRATES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH


LOCAL BLACK EXCELLENCE



Earlene always wondered why information on establishing a successful legal career was so elusive. It became apparent that information was not readily available for people like Earlene. So she set about trying to identify information and make it available to other lawyers. Earlene orchestrated the development of an instructional manual on "Jump-Starting Your Law Practice" and collated a Black Women Lawyers Directory. Earlene actively participates in diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. She serves on numerous mentoring panels, conducts cable broadcasts, and writes articles to make information available for women and people of color. As an attorney and ADR professional, Earlene conducts mediations, arbitrations, and extensive training. She constantly strives to gain experience and visibility in venues and on panels that do not typically include people who look like her to expand the pathways for others. She is also currently participating in developing ADR vignettes to promote the utilization and publication of minorities and women to enhance their careers. For Earlene, divulging some of the "best-kept" secrets enhances opportunities for others. Her motto is "Information is Power!"

Throughout the month of March, we have been posting facts, people, and resources for **Women's History Month**.

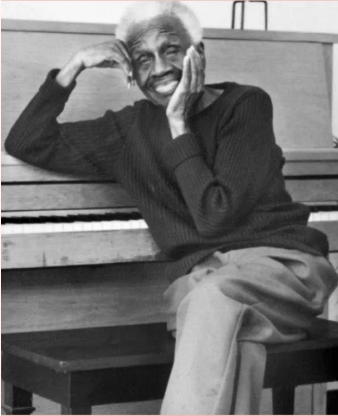
WLAM Celebrates Women's History Month



Vicki Saunders

Founder of SheFO, Vicki is an entrepreneur committed to building businesses that have a positive impact on the world. SheFO is a radical collective project to direct resources to women and non-binary persons with innovations that address global priorities. Through this work, Vicki is modelling a new way of organizing resources to build inclusive communities and economies.

WLAM Celebrates Women's History Month



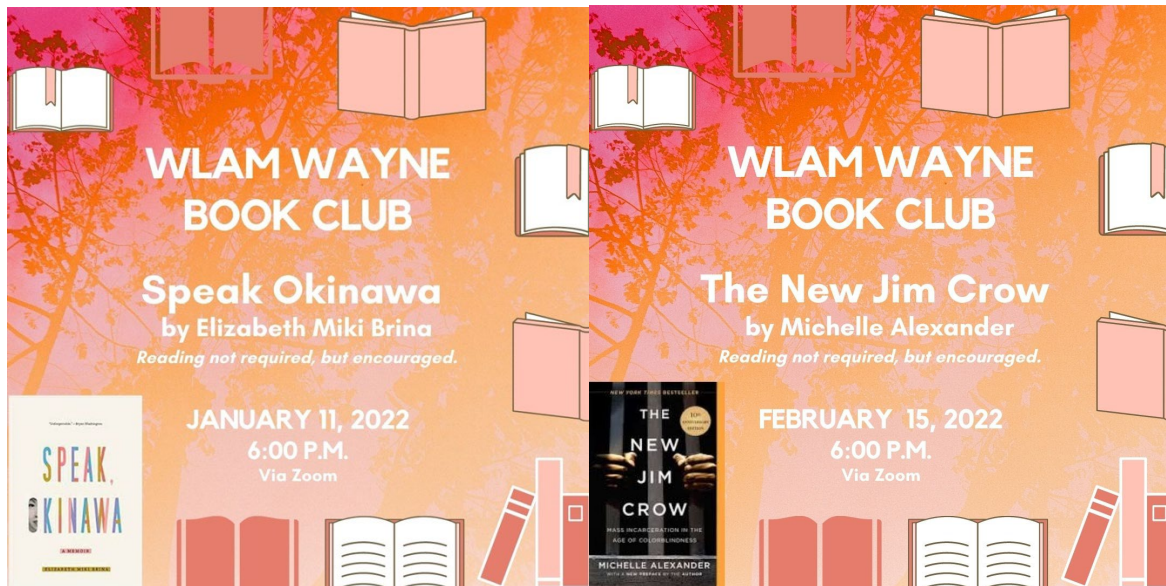
Ruth Ellis

Ellis, born in 1899, became a LGBTQ+ rights activist at a young age, but when she moved to Detroit in 1927, she really got to work. Ellis was a successful entrepreneur and openly gay woman who inspired her community. Her home became a safe spot for primarily Black, LGBTQ+ people in the city. She died at 101, but her legacy remains through her namesake organization, The Ruth Ellis Center, a trauma-informed center for homeless and at-risk LGBTQ+ youth.

Book Club:

The January Book was the *Speak, Okinawa* by Elizabeth Miki Brina.

The February Book was *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting this year will have a panel discussion about the recently revoked Pink Tax and the new Ann Arbor ordinance that recently went into place requiring all public restrooms to be stocked with feminine hygiene products. Stay tuned for more information.

Spring Wellness Event

Please join us for rock climbing at DYNO Detroit Rock Climbing, followed by brunch at Cork and Gables. Tickets can be purchased [here](#). Sponsorships are available. Questions can be directed to our Director of Programming Patty Woodruff at patricia.a.woodruff@gmail.com.



Saturday March 26th 10:00 a.m.
Detroit Rock Climbing

Board Meetings

Our March Board Meeting will be on March 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

A flyer for the WLAM Wayne Region Board Meeting. The top section has a white background with the text "WLAM WAYNE REGION BOARD MEETING" in bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this is a graphic featuring a rainbow flag and three women with their arms raised, with the text "WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN" below it. The bottom section has a dark blue background with four white boxes containing text. The first box on the left says "March 21, 2022 6:00 p.m.". The second box on the right says "RSVP to President Kirsten Silwanowicz at kirsten.silwanowicz@gmail.com.". The third box on the left says "WEITZ & LUXENBERG Fisher Building 3011 W Grand Blvd 24th Floor Detroit, MI 48202". The fourth box on the right says "Everyone is welcome! Validated parking located at New Center Place Parking. Virtual options will be available when possible."/>

**WLAM WAYNE REGION
BOARD MEETING**

**WOMEN
SUPPORTING
WOMEN**

March 21, 2022
6:00 p.m.

RSVP to President
Kirsten Silwanowicz
at
kirsten.silwanowicz
@gmail.com.

WEITZ & LUXENBERG
Fisher Building
3011 W Grand Blvd
24th Floor
Detroit, MI 48202

Everyone is welcome!
Validated parking
located at New Center
Place Parking.
Virtual options will be
available when possible.

Our April (and final) Board Meeting of the year will be on April 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

WLAM WAYNE REGION BOARD MEETING



April 11, 2022
6:00 p.m.

RSVP to President
Kirsten Silwanowicz
at
kirsten.silwanowicz
@gmail.com.

WEITZ & LUXENBERG
Fisher Building
3011 W Grand Blvd
24th Floor
Detroit, MI 48202

Everyone is welcome!
Validated parking
located at New Center
Place Parking.
Virtual options will be
available when possible.

Book Clubs

Our March Book Club will be *Around the Way Girl* by Taraji P. Henson on March 15, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. You can RSVP [here](#) for the Zoom link.

WLAM WAYNE
BOOK CLUB

Around the Way Girl
by Taraji P. Henson
Reading not required, but encouraged.

MARCH 15, 2022
6:00 P.M.
Via Zoom

WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF THE WAYNE REGION
FOUNDED IN 1919
WAYNE REGION

Our April (and final) Book Club will be *Disability Visibility* by Alice Wong on April 12, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. You can RSVP [here](#) for the Zoom link.

**WLAM WAYNE
BOOK CLUB**

Disability Visibility
by Alice Wong
Reading not required, but encouraged.

APRIL 12, 2022
6:00 P.M.

Via Zoom