



WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN FOUNDED IN 1919

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Erin Solaiman, Macomb Region
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Melissa Wangler, Tip of the Mitt Region
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Shanna Kaminski, Wayne Region
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Women Lawyers Association of Michigan President's Report *Submitted by Ryan Kelly, WLAM President 2021-2022*

Dear WLAM Members,

This year's theme for the Women Lawyer's Association of Michigan was GRIT. Grit is, by definition, "courage and resolve." Grit is also made up of five characteristics – courage, conscientiousness, perseverance, passion, and resilience. I could not think of a better theme for a year that continued with challenges as we entered a "new normal." Our work within WLAM does not operate in a vacuum, but in the context of the events going on in our society – including the ongoing Pandemic, racial and ethnic dissension, and political divides. Our organization demonstrated our resilience, courage, conscientiousness, perseverance and passion.

After our annual meeting we swore in our board – in person – and on the steps of the Michigan Supreme Court, on May 23, 2022. We were honored to have Justice Elizabeth Clement swear us in, and for those not able to join in person – logged in via ZOOM. Afterwards our group enjoyed a relaxing and reconnecting brunch.

We kicked off our year with our Annual Meeting in a hybrid fashion on June 4, 2022, the theme being Grit. We welcomed renowned speaker, Milana Hogan, author of "Grit, The Secret to Advancement: Stories of Successful Women Lawyers." Members from around the state gathered in small groups, while others joined from home through ZOOM. Members completed the Grit Screening Tool in advance of the meeting, and broke into small groups to discuss different scenarios and how to use the grit toolbox to handle.. Attendees received purple WLAM themed grit masks and a copy of Ms. Hogan's book.



This quickly became the year of perseverance, and WLAM and its work continued to be a priority for our members. What the organization actually accomplished far exceeded everyone's wildest expectations. In fact, so much so that it would take this entire report to list each and every accomplishment by the state, its committees and the regions.

The success this year is in large part to the hard work and out of the box thinking of our eight regions and committees. Some of the incredible programming put on by our committees this year included:

- “Fearless Conversations”
- Pride Panel
- 21-Day Grit Challenge
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Panel
- 14th Annual Tara’s Walk – by our Domestic Violence Awareness Committee
- 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge
- Avoiding and Navigating Malpractice Claims Webinar
- WLAM fun Facts: Done by Dinner Trivia Night
- Three Justices Panel Discussion
- Women’s Well Being Webinar
- Charcuterie Class
- The Inaugural WLAM Leadership Class
- Moms on the Bench

Thank you to each and every one of you who served on our committees this year. WLAM would not be what it is without your hard work, determination during difficult times, and when not possible, finding other ways to engage.

The success is a testament to all of your hard work and commitment to passions embodied in the mission of the organization. It should be no surprise that we maintained our stable membership even in tough times.

I cannot thank enough two other very important people to our organization. Our association manager, Hillary Walilko has been a tremendous asset to me, and keeps us all organized and on track. Thank you, Hillary, you are truly the best! I also cannot thank the Immediate Past President, Roquia Draper, enough for her continued support in my year as President and being a continued resource and asset for our organization.

I look forward to seeing this organization grow in the future, and what lies ahead. I remain committed to the mission of our organization and will ensure this remains a focus of my personal and professional endeavors. I am a better lawyer, leader, and person due to this organization, and am ever thankful for it.

The theme of this upcoming year is the “Power of the Pack.” I am thrilled to transition the gavel to my good friend, and fellow sister in the law, Erin Klug. The Pack is strong – and growing.



Ryan M. Kelly
President (2021-2022), Women Lawyers Association of Michigan



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Nicole Smithson, Treasurer

2022 Statement of Operations

1. Revenue from Member Dues: Dues revenue for the year was \$49,512. Dues revenue for the last five years has been \$49,521 in 2020, \$50,977 in 2019, \$45,669 in 2018, \$44,055 in 2017, and \$42,255 in 2016.
2. Revenue from Annual Meeting: For the second time WLAM held its annual meeting virtually. The net profit for the meeting was \$1,301.28.
3. Dues Paid to Regions: Dues paid to regions totaled \$13,831.75 in 2021.
4. Other Extraordinary Expenses in 2021: Aside from the cost of books and masks given to attendees of the annual meeting and dues paid to regions, expenses were as either essentially anticipated or less than anticipated in 2021.
5. Special Sponsorships: As in years past, we continued to support the regions by offering special project funding. The regions utilized \$1,900 of the \$2,500 available to them.
6. Total Net Revenue: Unfortunately, the pandemic continued to curtail our ability to raise revenue through sponsorships. Thus for the first time in years, the Board voted to raise the rates of WLAM's membership dues to maintain the financial health of the organization. The net revenue for the year was \$740.67.

Following is the 2021 profit and loss detail.



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan
Treasurer's Report
Submitted by Nicole Smithson, Treasurer

Statement of Operations, FY 2021

	<u>Jan - Dec 21</u>
Income	
640 Dues	
640.10 Sustaining Member	
640.10.01 Sustaining - State	7,758.75
640.10.02 Sustaining - Region	3,000.00
640.10 Sustaining Member - Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total 640.10 Sustaining Member	10,758.75
640.20 Attorney 5+ Years	
640.20.01 Attorney 5+ - State	15,230.25
640.20.02 Attorney 5+ - Region	5,775.00
640.20 Attorney 5+ Years - Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total 640.20 Attorney 5+ Years	21,005.25
640.30 Attorney 1-5 Years	
640.30.01 Attorney 1-5 - State	4,350.00
640.30.02 Attorney 1-5 - Region	1,875.00
640.30 Attorney 1-5 Years - Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total 640.30 Attorney 1-5 Years	6,225.00
640.35 Attorney Govt/Non-Profit	
640.35.01 Atty Govt/NP-State	6,195.00
640.35.02 Atty Govt/NP-Region	2,387.50
640.35 Attorney Govt/Non-Profit - Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total 640.35 Attorney Govt/Non-Profit	8,582.50
640.40 Law Student	
640.40.01 Law Student - State	1,518.75
640.40.02 Law Student - Region	656.75
640.40 Law Student - Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total 640.40 Law Student	2,175.50
640.60 Attorney Retiree	
640.60.01 Atty Retiree-State	243.75
640.60.02 Atty Retiree-Region	81.25
640.60 Attorney Retiree - Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total 640.60 Attorney Retiree	325.00
640.85 Unlicensed JD	
640.85.01 Unlicensed JD-State	281.25
640.85.02 Unlicensed JD-Region	118.75
640.85 Unlicensed JD - Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total 640.85 Unlicensed JD	400.00



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Nicole Smithson, Treasurer

640.90 Paralegal	
640.90.01 Paralegal-State	30.00
640.90.02 Paralegal-Region	10.00
640.90 Paralegal - Other	0.00
Total 640.90 Paralegal	40.00
Total 640 Dues	49,512.00
660 Interest Income	1,898.34
680 Other Events/Activities	
680.40 WLAM Apparel/Merchandise	0.00
Total 680 Other Events/Activities	0.00
690 Annual Meeting Revenue	
690.10 Registration - Members	1,615.00
690.30 Sponsorships	4,750.00
Total 690 Annual Meeting Revenue	6,365.00
Total Income	57,775.34
Gross Profit	57,775.34
Expense	
710 Board of Directors	
710.10 Board Meetings	2,177.71
710.20 Conference Calling	317.79
710.30 President/Officers	0.00
710.40 Directors/Officers Ins.	977.00
Total 710 Board of Directors	3,472.50
720 Committee Expenses	
720.10 CREC	0.00
720.20 Membership Committee	
720.20.3 Membership Mailings	166.08
720.20.5 Postage	224.40
Total 720.20 Membership Committee	390.48
720.30 Equal Pay Day	0.00
720 Committee Expenses - Other	25.00
Total 720 Committee Expenses	415.48
730 Licenses and Fees	20.00
740 Regions	
740.10 Region Dues	13,831.75
740.20 Special Project Funding	1,900.00
740.30 New Region Development	0.00
Total 740 Regions	15,731.75
750 Communications/Marketing	
750.40 Print/Promotion Material	0.00
750.50 WLAM Logo Merchandise	618.75



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Nicole Smithson, Treasurer

Total 750 Communications/Marketing	618.75
760 President Expenses	0.00
770 Member Benefits	0.00
780 Other Events/Activities	
780.50 State Events	130.00
780.60 Regional Events	<u>33.50</u>
Total 780 Other Events/Activities	163.50
790 Annual Meeting	
790.01 Speakers	1,500.00
790.10 Facility	
790.11 Audio/Visual	0.00
790.14 Reception	200.00
790.10 Facility - Other	<u>300.00</u>
Total 790.10 Facility	500.00
790.20 Awards	
790.20.1 President	35.93
790.20.2 JLK	366.67
790.20.3 Judge	366.67
790.20.4 Region Member	317.21
790.20.5 Bledsoe Ford	<u>366.66</u>
Total 790.20 Awards	1,453.14
790.60 Mail Services, Postage	43.15
790.80 Give-Aways/Gifts	1,567.43
790.90 Promotion/Marketing	0.00
790 Annual Meeting - Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total 790 Annual Meeting	5,063.72
800 Professional Fees	
800.10 Accounting Services	600.00
800.20 Administrative Services	26,550.00
800.30 Admin/Staff Travel	<u>54.30</u>
Total 800 Professional Fees	27,204.30
810 Dues & Subscriptions	
810.10 NCWBA	300.00
810.20 NAWL	<u>0.00</u>
Total 810 Dues & Subscriptions	300.00
820 Bank Fees	1,627.38
830 Web Resources	
830.10 Website Hosting/Domain	23.44
830.20 Website Development	<u>1,119.00</u>
Total 830 Web Resources	1,142.44
840 Office Supplies	



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan
Treasurer's Report
Submitted by Nicole Smithson, Treasurer

840.10 Copies	313.50
840.20 Stationery/Envelopes	17.80
840.30 Labels	1.50
840 Office Supplies - Other	<u>0.75</u>
Total 840 Office Supplies	333.55
850 Postage	111.41
860 Telephone	384.00
890 Charitable Contributions	<u>445.89</u>
Total Expense	<u>57,034.67</u>
Net Income	<u><u>740.67</u></u>



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan
Membership Committee
2021-2022 Report
Submitted by Susan Chalgian, Vice President

Committee Members: Alexandra Page and Honorable Janet Boes

Membership Committee: This committee works together to encourage new membership and helps WLAM retain current members. The committee maintains the Member Services Program (MSP). The MSP maintains and evaluates existing membership services, and creates programs to promote membership retention and growth. Further, the MSP evaluates future potential member services and submits recommendations to the Board for implementation.

Membership Committee Goals and Achievements: The Membership Committee's focus this year was on retainment given the decreased number of in-person activities, State and regional, that our members enjoy so much. We are lucky to have phenomenal regional boards that were able to create fun and interesting events attended by members in virtual, hybrid, and safe in-person environments. The return of an in-person annual meeting for the State board was well-received by members with an excellent turnout. The committee focused on reaching out to lapsed members for renewal and encouraging regions to bring in new members where possible. We are happy to see that membership not only was retained but grew considerably from this time last year.

Our current membership consists of:

Membership Category	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22
Sustaining	46	49	49
Five + Years	198	212	214
Government/Non-Profit/Judiciary	160	172	172
One to Five Years	90	100	102
Retiree	13	13	15
Student	90	96	92
Paralegal	2	2	3
Unlicensed JD	5	5	6
Total	604	649	653

Regions**	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22
Great Lakes Bay	37	39	39
Macomb	64	64	61
Mid Michigan	82	88	89
Oakland	174	188	188
Tip of the Mitt (Northern)	23	24	26



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan
Membership Committee
2021-2022 Report
Submitted by Susan Chalgian, Vice President

Washtenaw	79	83	79
Wayne	154	169	173
Western	63	69	73
Grand Total	676	724	728

***total for regions may be higher because some members belong to multiple regions*

Additionally, the Membership Committee has increased membership dues to provide support to the WLAM budget for future events as our State and regional boards open up events more this coming year. We aimed to keep the increases comfortable for all categories of members while acknowledging that dues had not been adjusted consistently over the last decade.

Our current membership dues are now as follows:

Membership Category		
Sustaining	\$200	no change
Five + Years	\$125	\$25 increase
Government/Non-Profit/Judiciary	\$50	no change
One to Five Years	\$75	\$25 increase
Retiree	\$25	no change
Student	\$25	no change
Paralegal	\$40	no change
Unlicensed JD	\$100	\$25 increase

Thank you to all of the WLAM board members, State and regional, who participated in recruiting and supporting our membership as a whole. Thank you for all WLAM members who contributed valuable insight into our membership dues discussion. We hope to see membership continue to grow as we enjoy each other's company!

If you are interested in joining the Membership Committee, please contact Nicole Smithson at nicolemsmithson@gmail.com.



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan
Candidate Rating & Endorsement Committee (CREC)
Annual Report
2021-2022

WLAM's Candidate Rating & Endorsement Committee had another busy year. From June 2021 to May 2022 the committee reviewed, interviewed, and rated six candidates who sought appointment by the Governor for open judicial positions throughout Michigan. The Committee also worked to revise the Committee's ratings language and drafted new categories. The Committee anticipates that the new ratings language will be adopted by the Board to apply to those candidates who seek WLAM's rating and endorsement during the 2022 election cycle.

Submitted by,
Amanda Narvaes and Nicole M. Smithson, Co-Chairs



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Technology and Communications Committee Annual Report 2021-2022

This year the Technology and Communications Committee focused their technological efforts on updating the WLAM website. Our committee members took a deep look at our available resources for membership, the functionality of our website, and layout.

By updating our website, our committee included relevant content to the forefront which includes quick access Leadership, the WLAM Foundation, Events, and our Candidate Rating and Endorsement program. We also added links for our social media accounts and YouTube channel which houses all our recorded seminars.

This initiative will continue into the 2022-2023 year and our membership can look forward to more innovative content. Please visit our website at womenlawyers.org to see the updates!

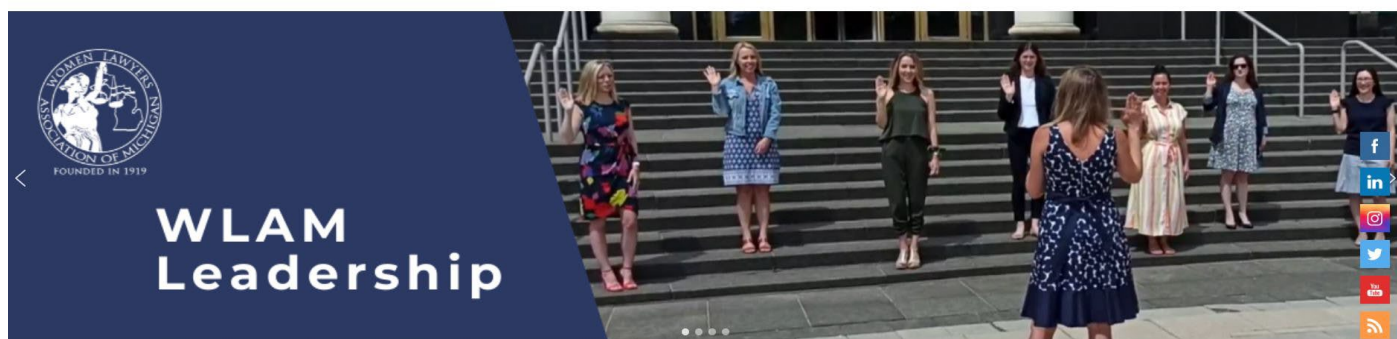
In addition, our committee continued to utilize social media platforms to reach current and future membership.

Submitted by,
Tanya A. Grillo, Chair



Striving to secure the full and equal participation of women in the legal profession in furtherance of a just society.

[ABOUT](#) [CANDIDATE RATING](#) [EVENTS](#) [LEADERSHIP](#) [WLAM FOUNDATION](#) [FIND A LAWYER](#) [FOR MEMBERS](#)

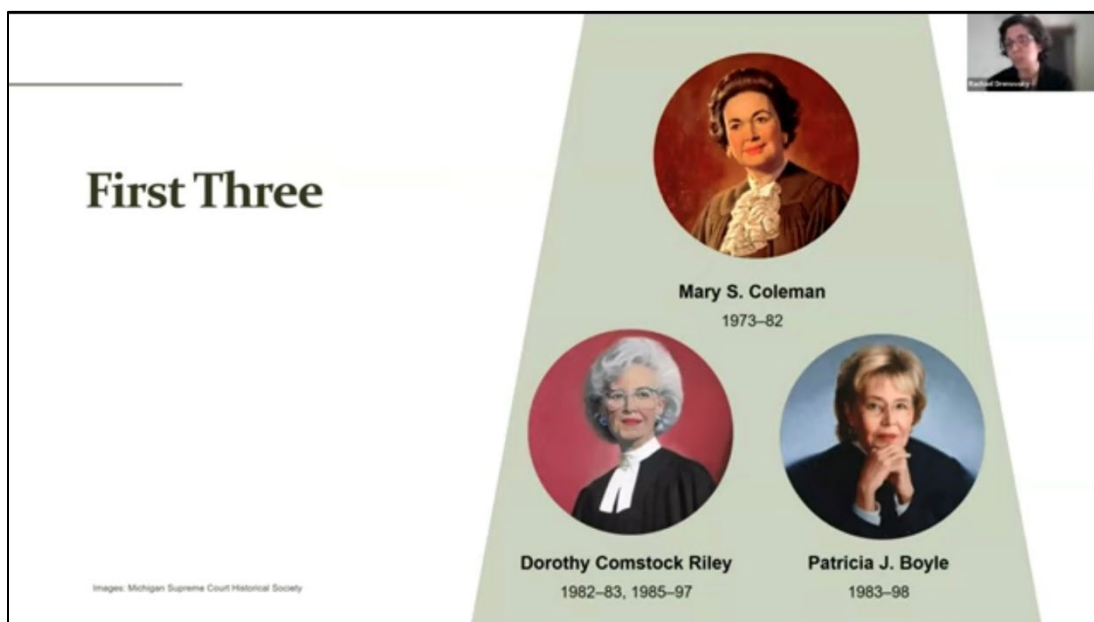




Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Historical Preservation Committee Annual Report 2021-2022

In celebration of Women's History Month, the committee hosted a program by Rachael Drenovsky of the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center on the first three women to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court. WLAM Past President Dorothy Comstock Riley was prominently featured in this engaging and informative program.

The committee also continued recording interviews with past WLAM presidents about their time in office. To watch these interviews, as well as the Three Justices program mentioned above, please check out the WLAM YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2OUArBm-uM4L7zyJVwUE6w/videos>



In addition, committee members contributed information on women's legal history to *e-Focus*, WLAM's quarterly newsletter, and WLAM's social media platforms.

Many thanks to this year's committee members: Kristina Bilowus, Erin Gianopoulos, Lauren Kissel.

Submitted by,
Nicole M. Smithson, Chair



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Programming Committee Annual Report 2021-2022

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

October

- Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on October 17, 2021
- In partnership with the Oakland County Bar Association - Taste of Diversity - October 21, 2021

November

- 21 Day Grit and Growth Mindset Challenge - November 1, 2022 to November 21, 2021
- Debriefing about the Challenge - November 22, 2021

December

- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Panel Discussion - December 6, 2021

January

- Kendra Gives Back - January 26, 2022

February

- WLAM Done by Dinner - February 10, 2022
- Panel Discussion on Avoiding and Navigating a Malpractice Claim presented by Collins Einhorn - Thursday February 17, 2022
- 21 Day Race Equity Challenge - February 1, 2022 - February 21, 2022
- Debriefing about the Challenge - February 28, 2022

March

- Practicing Wellness with the Lawyer and Judges Assistance Program with Molly Ranns - March 9, 2022
- Three Justices - March 16, 2022
- MILW Women, Law, and Empowerment Webinar - March 28, 2022

April

- Legal Ethics of Outsourcing Legal Work with Patrice Asimikas - April 7, 2022
- Make a Difference Day
 - WBA/MSU TriBar Name Change Clinic - March 27, 2022
 - WLAM Mid Michigan - SmallTalk Fundraiser - April 13, 2022
 - WLAM Wayne and Macomb - Expungement Clinic Virtual - April 14, 2022
 - WLAM Western Volunteer Opportunity - April 19, 2022
 - WLAM Great Lakes Bay Volunteer Opportunity - Underground Railroad - March 5, 2022
- Virtual Charcuterie Making Class - April 28, 2022

May

- Moms on the Bench - WLAMom - May 10, 2022

REPORT:

PROS:

- We had a lot of great ideas for programming this year.
- We did a lot of great events.

CONS:

- Attendance was sparse throughout the year. Started out great but didn't see a whole lot of enthusiasm at the end.
- Many people signed up but then did not show up.

Recommendations:

- We kinda had a late start in terms of kicking off the year, so we had to jam in all the events after the 1st of the year. I'd recommend doing a planning meeting over the summer to set the calendar of what we want to do next year.
- I'd recommend only doing one event per quarter, as other committees like Gender Equity, Domestic Violence Awareness, and Diversity and Inclusion will also have events that they want to do during the year.
- We need more coordination with other committees that are planning events.



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Leadership Class Committee Annual Report 2021-2022

The WLAM Leadership Class is a WLAM initiative created to further its mission of securing the rights of women in society, advancing the interests of women members of the legal profession, promoting improvements in the administration of justice, and promoting equality and social justice for all people. The Leadership Class is an inclusive program available to all law students, regardless of their gender, race, national origin, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or any other inalienable trait. While the Leadership Class is designed to further the WLAM mission, we always have been, and will remain, an inclusive organization.

The Leadership Class benefits law students by providing students with the tools to develop the professional skills necessary for success and leadership positions in law, business, government, the nonprofit sector, and the judiciary. Participation in the Leadership Class greatly enhances participants' business contacts, equips them with the tools necessary for professional development, and provides opportunities that typically do not exist without this program.

In order to be eligible, Class Participants must:

1. Be currently enrolled in law school,
2. Attend a Michigan law school or provide a demonstrated commitment to work in the legal profession in Michigan during the upcoming summer,
3. Complete the WLAM Leadership Class Application located [here](#), which includes providing the following:
 - a. Resume,
 - b. Photo,
 - c. Statement about leadership describing the following:
 - i. What leadership means to you;
 - ii. Why you wish to participate in this Leadership Class; and
 - iii. How you expect to use your experience in this program.
 - d. Letter of recommendation.

In addition, by applying for the WLAM Leadership Class, applicants commit to the dates as stated in the [WLAM Leadership Class Curriculum](#).

Class Participants are chosen based on their demonstrated commitment to elevating the standing of women in the legal profession. WLAM may select up to ten (10) applicants, or however many as it deems necessary, to join its WLAM Leadership Class.

For 2021, the Leadership Class was held virtually, with the exception of the Graduation and Project Presentation, that we held during our September 2021 Board Meeting at Warner Norcross. The Curriculum was similar to the one listed below. We had a total of nine participants. For 2022, we have selected a total of fourteen participants.

The WLAM Leadership Class Curriculum is as follows:

Leadership Class Retreat - May 21, 2022

This day-long Retreat features various sessions designed to develop students' leadership skills. Class Participants will also begin the initial groundwork on a group community service project. The seminar is

followed by a mixer so that the students can become better acquainted with each other, program faculty, and class facilitators. The Retreat will feature the following:

- Introduction and Ice Breaker
- Overcoming Obstacles in the Legal Profession Fireside Chat
- DISC Assessment and Presentation
- The Importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Leadership
- Screening of the WLAM Documentary and History about WLAM
- Panel Presentation on Setting Yourself Up for Success
- Tips and Tricks of Effective Leadership from Program Facilitators and Past Class Participants
- Leadership Class Project Planning
- Happy Hour for the Class Participants to get acquainted with one another and Program Facilitators

Speed Networking Event – Judges and Experienced Attorneys – June 22, 2022

In advance of the event, students will receive instruction on how to network. At the speed networking event, students will have the opportunity to have one-on-one meetings lasting approximately seven (7) to ten (10) minutes with the participating judges and experienced attorneys.

Book Club – July 20, 2022

At the start of the class, the class participants will receive a leadership book selected by the class facilitators. Near the end of the summer, the Class Participants participate in a guided discussion of the book. The book selection for this year will be *Huddle* by Brooke Baldwin.

WLAM Leadership Class Cocktail Hour – August 3, 2022

This Cocktail Hour will be an open invitation to the Class Participants to come and network in an informal setting with each other and fellow women attorneys in the legal community. The Class Participants will be able to put the skills they learned from the Speed Networking event to use.

Graduation and Project Presentation – August 17, 2022

Class Participants will have the opportunity to network in a more traditional setting with WLAM Board members. The class participants will present their project to the WLAM Board members present. The class participants will then graduate from the class.

Community Service Project – Ongoing

The Class Participants will select, organize, and execute a self-directed community service project aimed at elevating the standing of women in the legal profession. The 2021 Leadership Class developed tool kits for getting into law school and having success in law school for students in high school, college, and law school. The project shall be completed and able to be presented at the Graduation as stated above.

Below is the Timeline that the Leadership Class Committee has followed to implement the 2022 Leadership Class. The Committee plans to follow and update this Timeline each year, as necessary, and based on feedback from the end of the year survey:

October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retrieve feedback from previous Class via a survey.• Reevaluate the goals and objectives of the Program.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start preparation and/or revisions to the application, including all the eligibility requirements for each participant and the required documentation to include in the application (i.e. letter of recommendation).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reevaluate and/or create the Curriculum for the next Leadership Class. • Send out a Save The Date to the membership stating that the applications will be available starting January 1, 2022.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create/reevaluate the sponsorship opportunities available for the Leadership Class. • Start planning the sponsorships we plan to solicit. • Continue to advertise for launch of the Class Application.
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications open on January 1, 2022. • Begin reaching out to law schools to have them advertise for the Leadership Class. • Start asking all identified sponsors identified for sponsorships and continue until May.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host two Virtual Open Houses about WLAM Leadership Class first week of February with the law schools. • Begin planning the Board Retreat, including requesting speaker's participation.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise on social media and to our membership via email that the application deadline is March 10, 2022, and extended to March 25, 2022.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select Class Participants by first week of April and send a notification letter to all Class Participants.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host the Board Retreat – May 21, 2022 – Organized by the Committee • Class Participants begin working on Class Project, which continues throughout.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host Speed Networking – June 22, 2022 – Organized by Essence Patterson
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host Book Club – July 20, 2022 – Virtual – Organized by Nicole Smithson
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation and Project Presentation – August 17, 2022 – Organized by Kirsten Silwanowicz and Tanya Grillo
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrieve feedback from the Class via a survey. • Revise Leadership Class plans for upcoming year in accordance with the survey.

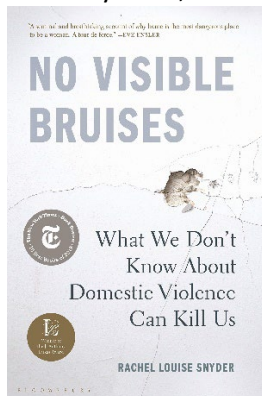


Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Domestic Violence Awareness Committee Annual Report *2021-2022*

The Domestic Violence Awareness Committee is chaired by Zenell Brown and Abril Valdes Siewert. The focus this year was to promote local non-profit organizations servicing victims of domestic violence and creating opportunities for our members to participate in these events.

The following are the meetings/event that were held:

- Monthly Committee Meetings via zoom
- February 2022, Book Discussion “No Visible Bruises” by Rachel L. Snyder



- May 2022, we invited Johanna Kononen, the Director of Law and Policy for the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, who shared about the various programs and opportunities for WLAM Regions to support Domestic Violence Survivor programs in their area.
- Created a spreadsheet with all the local organizations who assists survivors of DV



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan WLAMom Annual Report *2021-2022*

WLAMom had an exciting inaugural year. Our committee met several times throughout the year to discuss everything from shared experiences of motherhood to philanthropic endeavors, and events that the committee could plan and initiate.

WLAMom designed sweatshirts for the WLAM website, with a portion of the proceeds to be donated to charities across Michigan.

We held our first event titled “Moms on the Bench,” which featured Judge Kirsten Frank Kelly, Judge Teri Lynn Dennings, and Judge Angela Lasher and was moderated by Co-Chair, Patricia Woodruff. The event was well-attended and well-received and we hope to make it an annual occurrence.

For the summer, WLAMom intends to host a book club featuring the book, “Pay Up: The Future of Women and Work (and Why It's Different Than You Think)” by Reshma Saujani.

The committee is excited to use this year’s momentum into the next year.

Submitted by:

Patricia Woodruff & Kirsten Silwanowicz
WLAMom Committee Co-Chairs



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATIONS

NCWBA 2021-2022 Year in Review

The National Conference of Women's Bar Associations is an organization whose members are women's bar associations, affiliate groups, and women's law student organizations. WLAM has been a member of this organization since approximately 2008, providing WLAM leadership and members with access to the NCWBA's resources and programming. Please go to www.ncwba.org to learn more about the NCWBA and its resources.



2021-2022 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

The National Conference of Women's Bar Associations is proud to present its 2020-2021 Board Roster. The NCWBA is grateful for our board members who have continued their service with us. In addition, we are pleased to welcome seven new members: Liz Broadway Brown (GA), Kerri Castellini (DC), Kellie Hegan (KS), Noelle M. Natoli (CA), Manisha Patel (NC), Lauren Shurman (UT) and Kara Wild (CA).

We look forward to a prosperous new year and working with such dynamic and successful women.



WHAT'S YOUR WHY? 2021 WOMEN'S BAR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The NCWBA kicked off the 2021-2022 board year with its Annual Women's Bar Leadership Summit: "What's Your Why?" held virtually on August 5-12, 2021.

The keynote speaker was Michelle Silverthorn, Diversity Speaker, Culture Change Expert, Founder of Inclusion Nation, and Author.

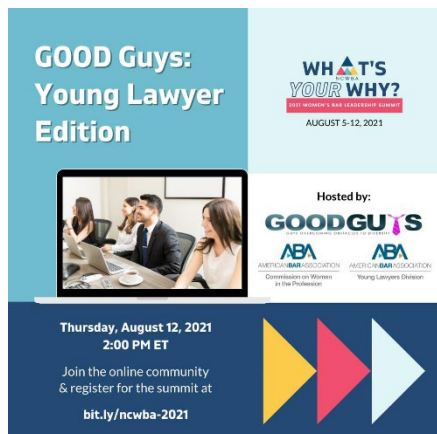


**What's Your Why:
Honesty, Courage,
and Leadership**

Keynote Speaker
Michelle Silverthorn
Diversity Speaker, Author, Consultant

Thursday, August 5, 2021
1:00 PM ET

As part of the Summit programming, on August 12, 2021, the NCWBA also held one of its signature GOOD Guys® programs. GOOD Guys is a program designed to break the impasse in the advancement of women in the legal profession and society by engaging people who have been missing from the conversation for far too long — the GUYS! Back in November 2020, the NCWBA partnered with WLAM to hold a joint GOOD Guys virtual program.



For the August 12, 2021 virtual program, NCWBA partnered with the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession (ABA-CWP) and the ABA Young Lawyers Division (ABA-YLD) for “GOOD Guys and Men in the Mix: Young Lawyers Edition.”

The NCWBA also wrapped up 2021 with another GOOD Guys/Men in the Mix program partnering with the ABA-CWP, this time featuring a Bar Leaders Edition. For more information on GOOD Guys programs and to get the official GOOD Guys toolkit, please go to www.goodguysinlaw.org.

The NCWBA also held monthly webinars on a variety of subjects and quarterly membership zoom calls to interact with member organizations to receive direct input on the value NCWBA can provide to its members like WLAM.



The NCWBA is looking forward to meeting in person in Chicago on August 4-5, 2022 for its Annual Women’s Bar Leadership Summit: Reconnecting for Excellence with keynote speaker Helen Wan, Attorney, DEI Consultant, and author of The Partner Track which is currently being produced by Netflix! A GOOD Guys program and reception will be held on August 4, 2022 in Chicago. Please see www.ncwba.org for more information.



Nicolette Zachary, 2021-2022 WLAM Director at Large & Immediate Past President of NCWBA
Tanya Grillo, 2021-2022 WLAM Secretary & NCWBA Board Member

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Great Lakes Bay Region



FOUNDED IN 1919
Great Lakes Bay

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Members,

As I take a step back to prepare this annual report, I feel thankful for the togetherness we were able to share this year despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic that kept us so isolated for so long. Our year began with our annual meeting on June 10, 2021 held in person at the Saginaw Club. At that meeting, the incoming board was sworn in by Saginaw County Circuit Court Judge Boes, a fellow WLAM member. In addition, we heard from Saginaw County Clerk, and fellow member, Vanessa Guerra. She discussed her experiences within the state legislature and her efforts locally as the Saginaw County Clerk. We also awarded our regional Margaret Louise Rorke award to Karen Hanson, who has practiced as an assistant prosecuting attorney for over 21 years. Our Liberty Bell honoree was Chief Jamie Zecman of the Clio Police Department. She has served communities in Michigan for over 22 years as a law enforcement officer and is the first female police chief in Clio.

Our focus this year was on incorporating and including all members and doing what we could to serve their needs. We also had a goal of adding more volunteer efforts to serve our local communities. I am happy to report that we made significant steps towards these goals that I hope we can continue in the coming years.

Throughout the year, we hosted Bar Reviews throughout our region, including Saginaw, Mt. Pleasant, Bay City, and even via Zoom. During these bar reviews, the board was able to meet with members to discuss what they would like to see from our region and how the board could help.

President
Kailen Piper

Vice President
Emilie DeRemer

Treasurer
Chelsea Utt

Secretary
Elise Boike

Immediate Past President
Laura Kubit

Membership Chair
Janey Lamar

Regional Representative
Alena Clark

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Great Lakes Bay Region

In July, we co-sponsored a golf outing with the local Women in Leadership group. It was a beautiful day and members were able to meet with other women leaders in our community. We look forward to co-sponsoring this event again for the 2022-2023 year.

In December, we held our annual holiday party in Frankenmuth at Fischer Hall with blackjack, craps, and prizes. New this year was the photobooth that allowed our members to capture the fun.

In February, members gathered at the Underground Railroad Resale Center in Saginaw to volunteer on a Saturday morning. The Underground Railroad serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human slavery. The organization provides emergency shelter and services to victims in the community. Given that their mission closely aligns with the goals of WLAM, this organization was selected by the board to provide volunteer efforts. Members gathered and organized donated items at the resale center for members of our community.

In April, members met once more to continue their volunteer efforts in the Egg My Yard event. Members dressed as a bunny and hid easter eggs at local homes for children to collect in the morning hours of Easter. Egg My Yard is an annual event that benefits community organizations throughout Saginaw County. This year, funds raised went to the Underground Railroad.

Our next annual meeting is June 30th. We look forward to once again meeting with members as we plan out our goals for the next year. Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute their time and resources to our region. We wouldn't be successful without everyone's continued support.

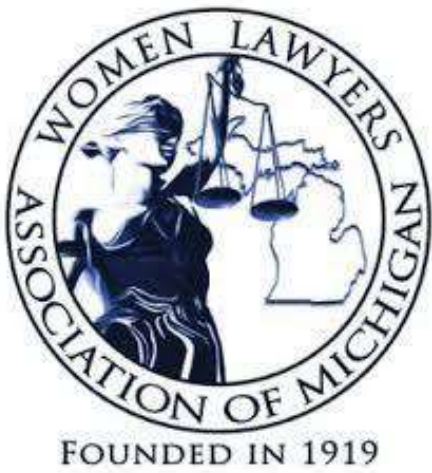
Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Great Lakes Bay Region

Sincerely,



KAILEN C. PIPER
WLAM GLBR 2021-2022 President



WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT ~ MACOMB REGION

WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION—MACOMB

2021 Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Macomb Region Board of Officers



*Kristina Josephi
President*



*Lesia Fedorak
Vice President*



*Jenna Bommarito
Treasurer*



*Lori Smith
Secretary*



*Laura Polizzi
Immediate Past President*



*Erin Solaiman
Regional Representative*



*Kimberly DiBartolomeo
Director at Large*



*Jennifer Lindquist
Director at Large*



Golf Mixer

October 1, 2021 - Sycamore Hills Golf Course



On October 1, 2022, the Macomb Region hosted its annual Golf Mixer at Sycamore Hills Golf Course. We had a great turnout with over 50 golfers and we raised over \$300 for Samaritan House. Everyone had a great time and we are looking forward to next years event!

Presidential Reception Honoring State Bar of MI President Dana Warnez

October 12, 2021 – Blake's Orchard



On October 12, 2021, the Macomb regoin partnered with the Macomb County Bar Association, the Macomb County Foundation, and the Macomb County Probate Bar Association to host a Presidential Reception honoring longtime WLAM Macomb member, Dana Warnez as the new State Bar of Michigan President.



Holiday Luncheon

December 8, 2021 – Testa Barra



On December 8, 2021, the Macomb region hosted a Holiday Luncheon at Testa Barra. We raised over \$500! We used the proceeds raised to donate feminine products to Macomb Feed the Needy, which is an organization that assists homeless individuals. Members in attendance received a WLAM travel cup as a special "thank you" for their membership.



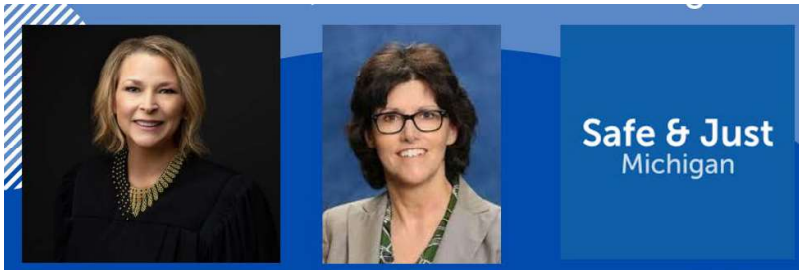
Special Guests:

- Dana Warnez (President State Bar of MI)
- Judge Jennifer Andary (42nd District Court)
- Judge Kathleen Galen (38th District Court)



Expungement Training

April 14, 2022 - Zoom



The Macomb Region partnered with the WLAM Wayne Region to host an expungement training over Zoom. The training was hosted by the Honorable Michelle Rick, Anne Yantus, and Safe & Just Michigan.

Cocktails for a Cause

May 12, 2022 – Filippa's



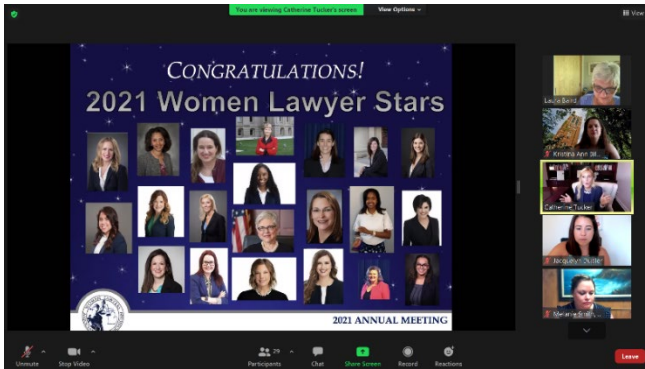
WLAM Macomb held the Annual Cocktails for a Cause event on May 12, 2022 on the patio at Filippa's in Shelby Twp. We had a great turn out with many judges, law students, political candidates, lawyers, and other community members in attendance.



WLAM Macomb raised over \$2,500.00 for Friends of Kids. We specifically chose to donate the funds to the Hats Off to the Grads Program, which provides High School graduates that are aging out of the foster care system with the essentials they need to continue on into adulthood. We sponsored two graduates and helped get them the essentials they need to move forward with all their future endeavors.

16th Circuit Court Judge Teri Lyn Dennings was our featured guest and spoke about her journey to the bench. Judge Dennings is a longtime WLAM Macomb Member and supporter of our organization so we are very appreciative of her insight.

WLAM Mid-Michigan Annual Report 2021-2022



Greeting from WLAM Mid-Michigan! As a region, we were excited to get the year underway. Our prior term ended on a high note with the regional annual meeting. The annual meeting was accompanied by the 2021 Women Lawyer Stars presentation as well as a panel discussion, entitled “How COVID-19 has Changed the Landscape for Women at Work and at Home.”

In August, we had an informal meet and greet barbecue for the board and their families. Our first meeting of the year was held on September 20th at Kelly’s in downtown Lansing. It was the first in-person gathering since the onset of the pandemic and an opportunity to truly reconnect.



At the meeting, the board collaborated on various ideas and plans. The events included the Komen More Than Pink Walk on October 17th, with WLAM Mid-Michigan having their own team along with partnering with MSU Law Women’s Law Caucus.

The walk was a wonderful success, uniting judges, attorneys, and students alike. Connections were made and WLAM raised approximately \$1000.00 for the Komen Foundation.



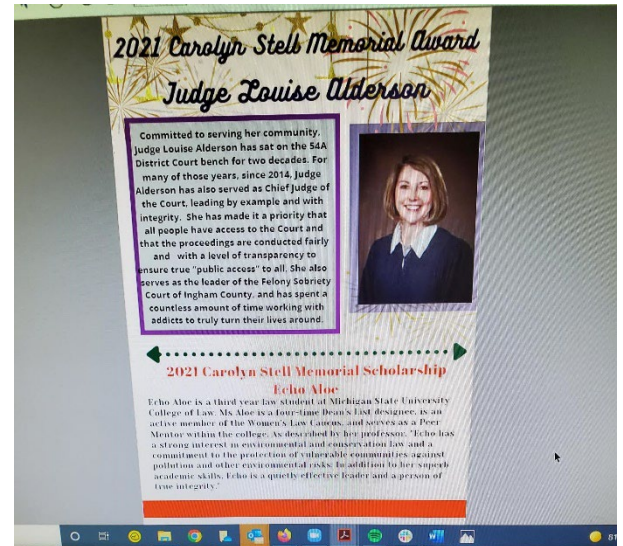
In November, we joined forces with the other regions of WLAM with our state and regional meeting held at the Graduate in East Lansing. It was wonderful to connect with the other WLAM leaders and share collective ideas and insights.



At the beginning of the year, we launched our newsletter, providing our membership with informative updates and opportunities to engage with the Board. Most notably, the Board had been working hard collecting nominations for the 2021 Carolyn

Stell Memorial Award and Scholarship. We were extremely proud and excited to announce the recipients. The Carolyn Stell Memorial Award for distinguished service to her community went to the Honorable Judge Louise Alderson, Chief Judge of the 54A District Court, Ingham County. Judge Alderson served on this bench for 20 years, many of which she has served as the Chief Judge.

The Stell Memorial Scholarship (presented in collaboration with Themis Bar Review) was awarded to Michigan State University College of Law 3L student (now graduate) Echo Aloe.



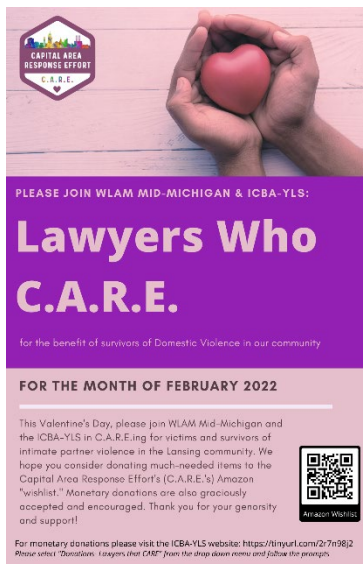
In lieu of a dinner/reception, due to the ongoing health concerns regarding COVID 19, WLAM MidMich was going to honor the award recipients with a virtual reception. However, the ultimate consensus was honor both recipients at the Annual Dinner and Meeting during June 2022.

WLAM MidMich also was hard at work planning and executing a multilayered fundraiser for CARE (Capitol Area Response Effort), an organization that supports domestic violence survivors in Lansing. The first step was a headshot fundraiser where members came together and raised several hundred dollars. The second step was fulfilling an Amazon wish list of much-needed purchases that would be shipped to CARE directly. MidMich was joined by the Ingham County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section in helping promote this important cause.

During the winter months, we also launched our book club, kicking off our reading with “Untamed” by Glennon Doyle. In the spirit of women supporting other women, MidMich found a local, women-run bookstore that would purchase our selections for book club and make them available. In turn, our membership was encouraged to purchase locally.

We also participated in the WLAM challenge for all regions of finding a day to engage in pro bono initiative and outreach. We hosted a benefit at Reno’s East to benefit Small Talk Children’s Advocacy Center on April 13th, engaging with our membership and raising money for Small Talk.

The year continues to move forward with plans for an outreach event with MI bar exam test takers and plans for the fall. Our year will culminate on June 15th at 5:30pm at Capital Prime. Our theme is celebrating women during the pandemic and beyond. Please join us so we can celebrate YOU!



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Oakland Region | Women's Bar Association Annual Report 2021-2022

The Women's Bar Association – Oakland Region had an extremely memorable and rewarding year. The WBA was able to hold in-person and virtual events for our members and continued to work towards promoting the WBA's mission of advancing the interest of women in the legal profession and promoting equality for all.

The 2021-2022 Executive Board consisted of Kristina Bilowus (President), Stephanie Brochert (President-Elect), Nicole Gettler (Vice President), Brittany Mouzourakis (Treasurer), Kristin Fernandez (Recording Secretary), Elyse Culberson (Communications Secretary), Laura Parker (WLAM Representative), Jacqueline August (WLAM Representative), and Katherine Pacynski (Immediate Past-President).

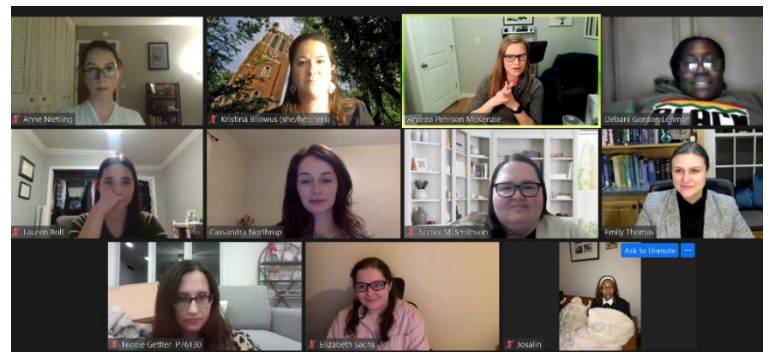


The WBA continued with its monthly Literary Ladies Book Club, which was founded in June 2020 by WBA Treasurer, Brittany Mouzourakis. The WBA read a variety of books including, *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai, *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende, *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson, *Geisha, A Life* by Mineko Iwasaki, *Radium Girls* by Kate Moore, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, *Fly Girls* by Keith O'Brien, and *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes & Other Lessors from the Crematory* by Caitlin Doughty. The WBA looks forward to continuing our Literary Ladies Book Club this upcoming year.

The WBA held its monthly Bar Briefs both in-person and virtually and enjoyed partnering with other organizations, including the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers, the WLAM-Wayne Region, the National Arab American Bar Association, and Michigan State College of Law's Women's Law Caucus. For the WBA's September 2021 Bar Brief, the WBA was joined by special guest, Judge Kameshia D. Gant of Oakland County Circuit Court.



For its mentoring and outreach efforts, the WBA Board participated in numerous events including a speed networking event with Wayne Law's Women's Law Caucus, the Michigan Lawyers Weekly panel on Women, Law and Empowerment in celebration of Women's History Month, and a fireside chat event held by the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law's Women's Law Caucus.



In November 2021, the WBA had a virtual event featuring Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ with a special introduction by Judge Denise Langford-Morris. Sr. Helen is the leading American advocate for abolishing the death penalty, the founder of the Ministry Against the Death Penalty, and the New York Times best-selling author of *Dead Man Walking*, which was one of the WBA's Literary Ladies Book Club books.



In December 2021, the WBA, led by WBA Vice President Nicole Gettler, supported Operation Good Cheer and purchased Christmas gifts for six individuals. The WBA aims to annually support Operation Good Cheer and continue fulfilling Christmas wishes.

The WBA hosted a variety of events for its membership. In February 2022, Financial Advisor, Melissa Joy, presented about financial literacy and financial planning. In March 2022, the WBA had a cardio fitness event at Tracie LG Fitness, a female-owned gym in Berkley.

72% of Americans have felt financial stress recently
(American Psychological Association's 2021 [Stress in America](#) survey)

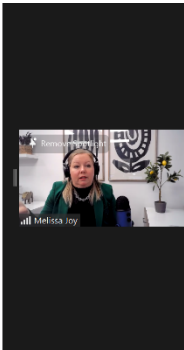
8 in 10 women will end up alone and solely responsible for their financial well-being (UBS Own Your Worth - 2018)

34% of cohabiting couples (married or not), one or both partners couldn't correctly identify how much money the other makes, and 36% are unaware of the amount they have invested (Fidelity survey 2018)

57% say they purposely avoid talking about personal finances (eMoney 2019 survey)

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In April 2022, the WBA revived its Table for Eight event, which featured Ebony L. Duff of Garan Lucow Miller P.C. in a virtual format. Attendees enjoyed charcuterie boards made by Rana Zaim of The Grazing Hour and engaged in candid conversation about their personal and professional experiences.



In May 2022, the WBA co-hosted an event with the Incorporated Society of Irish-American Lawyers and the Italian American Bar Association of Michigan at The Morrie. The event featured Michigan Supreme Court Justice Megan Cavanagh, where Justice Cavanaugh discussed administrative developments in the Michigan Supreme Court.



The WBA was proud to celebrate the successes of its members throughout the year. Vice President Nicole Gettler and Communications Secretary Elyse Culberson were selected as members of the Michigan Lawyers Weekly Up & Coming Lawyers Class of 2022. President Kristina Bilowus was recognized as a “Top 5 Under 35” by the Ingham County Bar Association. Past-President Katie Pacynski was awarded the 2022 Regional Leadership Award by the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

In May 2022, the WBA held its Annual Dinner at the Birmingham Athletic Club. Judge Denise Langford-Morris was awarded the Joan Young Judicial Excellence Award, Channelle Kizy-White was awarded the Evelyn Forrest Distinguished Advocate Award, and rising second-year law student from Wayne State University Law School, Alexandria Sharpe, was awarded the Sarah Killgore Wertman Scholarship. The 2022-2023 Executive Board was graciously sworn-in by Judge Kameshia D. Gant. The WBA is looking forward to another exciting and rewarding year with the new Executive Board!





WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
TIP OF THE MITT REGION
ANNUAL REPORT
MAY 2021-MAY 2022

The **Tip of the Mitt Region** endured the pandemic with GRIT and maintained a roster of 24 members throughout the course of the year!

The 2021-2022 Tip of the Mitt Region of WLAM Board Members were sworn in on June 9, 2021. The elected Board was composed of the following Directors:

President - Amanda Skeel

Vice President - Amber Libby

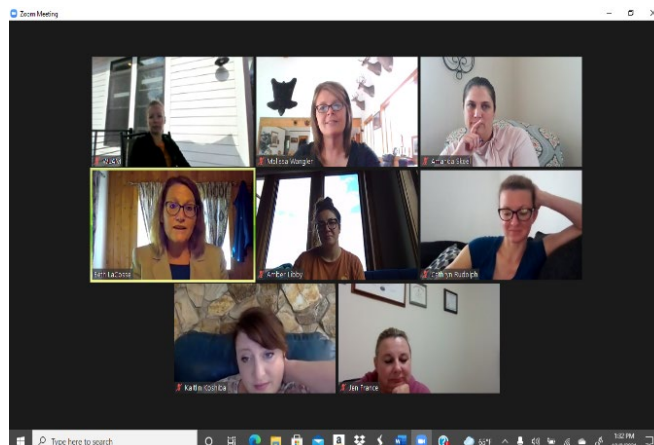
Secretary - Kaitlin Koshiba

Treasurer - Cathryn Rudolph (sworn in October 5th to fill our Treasurer vacancy)

Regional Representative - Melissa Wangler

Directors at Large - Jennifer France, J Lyn Jorgenson, Kelsey Michaud, Lori Schmeltzer

The Tip of the Mitt of WLAM held its **First Annual Meeting** virtually on Saturday, October 9, 2021. The meeting began with a yoga and meditation session. Attendees also enjoyed mimosas while they worked through the business agenda, followed by presentations by Karen Sprague of the Great Lakes Recovery Center, Melissa Goodrich of the Cheboygan County Prosecutor's Office, and Beth LaCrosse from the Federal Public Defender's Office. Attendees also played virtual trivia!



The **Emelia C. Schaub Pioneer Award** was presented at the end of the Annual Meeting in October. Emelia Christina Schaub, one of the first women lawyers in our Region and in the state, was born in Leelanau County in 1891. She is credited as the first woman in the country to successfully defend a murder trial; she then became the first woman in Michigan to be elected and serve as a prosecutor and served six terms in Leelanau County. Ms. Schaub served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan in its early years and devoted much of her time to local civic organizations as well. The Tip of the Mitt Region created the Emelia C. Schaub Pioneer Award to recognize women in the Region who are leaders in the practice of law and who exemplify the courage, professionalism and civic involvement for which Ms. Schaub was well-known. The 2021 award recipients were (pictured left to right): Hon. Angela Lasher., Hon. Valerie K. Snyder, Hon. Jennifer E. Deegan.



October 2021 was a very busy month for our region! The Tip of the Mitt WLAM hosted a **reception for Michigan Court of Appeals Judges** on October 4th. Members welcomed the Hon. Kirsten Frank Kelly, Hon. Anica Letica, and Hon. James Robert Redford of the Michigan Court of Appeals ahead of their session in Emmet County.



In December 2021, President Amanda Skeel initiated the **President's Holiday Giving Challenge**, which encouraged members of the Region to make charitable contributions to those in need. Every qualifying donation earned the participant one entry into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card. The total amount raised by members was \$826.91! The 2021 winner of the gift card was Jennifer France!

On March 23, 2022, The Tip of the Mitt hosted a **Happy Hour Meet & Greet** with the Traverse Area Women Lawyers Association, a committee of the Grand Traverse Leelanau Antrim Bar Association, at Bonobo Winery in Traverse City. The event allowed us to introduce ourselves to the WLA and build connections and relationships with them in effort to encourage future collaboration.

On May 14, 2022, the Tip of the Mitt held its **FIRST IN-PERSON Annual Meeting** at the Inn at Bay Harbor! The agenda included networking and brunch, along with dynamic guest speakers, Marcella Costin, a Northern Michigan entrepreneur, and Chris Krajewski, who currently serves as the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Program Director with the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan. Attendees played "Legal Jeopardy", organized by Events Committee member, Jennifer France. The Honorable Valerie K. Snyder, WLAM member, also swore in the new 2022 - 2023 Board members.





Newly sworn Tip of the Mitt Region President, Amber L. Libby, is a Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Cheboygan County, MI. At the Annual Meeting, she spoke on realities, goals, and encouragements of the Tip of the Mitt Region looking forward.



The **2022 Emelia C. Schaub Pioneer Award** recipient was Shelley Kester! Shelley's father, Patrick Wilson, accepted the award on her behalf. Shelley A. Kester is an award-winning attorney in Northern Michigan and a business owner as the President and Owner of Wilson Kester; a law firm with a staff of 13 - comprised of largely women lawyers, paralegals, law clerks, and administrative staff. The Traverse City Business News, naming Shelley as one of the 50 women leaders in business, recognized Shelley's leadership as a woman business owner. Shelley is a Leelanau County resident - like Emelia Schaub - and she has contributed to the legal

profession serving as past president of the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association, a member of the Michigan Supreme Court Bar, and Board Member of Women Lawyer's Association of Michigan. Shelley's father, Pat Wilson, who accepted the Award on her behalf previously practiced throughout his law career in Northern Michigan with Emelia C. Schaub.



WLAM WASHTENAW ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

ANNUAL WLAM & WCBA JOINT FAMILY PICNIC.

WLAM, Washtenaw Region and the Washtenaw County Bar Association held its summer picnic on July 7, 2021 at Gallup Park in Ann Arbor. This was Washtenaw Region's first in-person event since the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020. This is always a well-attended family friendly event, but more people RSVP'd for this event than in past years. A playground not far from the beautiful Huron River was popular with the children and their parents. Grill masters included District Court Judge Joseph Burke, Retired Judge Charles Pope, and WLAM Washtenaw Membership Chair, John Reiser. Photo taken by Lillian Saba.



Photograph (left to right around the table) Bill Vanden Broeck, Kristin Davis, Kaylon Wilson, Sandy Musser, and Kym London.





HAPPY HOUR, SESSIONS ROOM IN ANN ARBOR

WLAM, Washtenaw Region members gathered for a well-deserved break at the Sessions Room in Ann Arbor on August 25, 2021. Friends and colleagues gathered to celebrate a return to “normal life” at a popular local restaurant and tap room. Pictured below from left to right around the table are Patricia Reiser, Francis Hollander, Kristin Davis, Mara Kent, John Kline, Robin Wagner, Lynelle Morgan, Sally Fink, and Karen Sendelbach. Photo was taken by John Reiser.



SUMMER PARTY



WLAM Washtenaw held its Annual Summer Party at the beautiful home of Jinan Hamood, who graciously opened her home for this great event! Pictured top (l-r) Kaylon Wilson, Sandy Musser, Marla Linderman, Kate Sharkey, and Jen Lawrence. Bottom (l-r) Tricia Reiser and Kate Sharkey.

ANNUAL JOINT WLAM & WCBA Tailgate

Elizabeth Jolliffe graciously hosted the joint WLAM, Washtenaw and the Washtenaw County Bar Association Tailgate at her home on the old west-side of Ann Arbor on September 18, 2021 before kickoff of the Northern Illinois v Michigan game. This is a popular family-friendly and well-attended event. Thanks to Elizabeth for hosting this great event at her beautiful home. Pictured from left to right, top to bottom: Lillian Saba and her children, Laura Sagola, Frances Hollander and her spouse, Kym London, Elizabeth Jolliffe, Charlotte Croson, Lori Buiteweg, and Angie Walker



WINE, DINE, AND PUMPKIN PAINTING

Elizabeth Jolliffe invited WLAM members to enjoy an evening outdoors at her home for a Wine, Dine, and Pumpkin Painting event. WLAM Washtenaw Members enjoyed delicious homemade soups, bread, the great company of other members, and, of course, painting pumpkins (just in time for Halloween). Thanks again to Elizabeth for a wonderful event. Pictured from left to right: John Reiser, Mara Kent, Fred Beal, Nora Wright, Tricia Reiser (seated Jennifer Sullivan and Kristin Davis).



PURPLE RUN CHARITY EVENT TO BENEFIT SAFE HOUSE



**7TH ANNUAL
PURPLE RUN**  
OCTOBER 9, 2021
A 5K to BENEFIT SAFEHOUSE CENTER

SPONSORED BY



WLAM, Washtenaw proud to be one of the sponsors of the Annual Purple Run. A 5K to benefit Washtenaw County's Women's Shelter. From left to right: WCBA President, Joy Gains, WLAM Members: Lillian Saba, Alison Love, Jinan Hamood, Sandy Musser, and Kristin Davis.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
2021 Holiday Barn Bash – A joint WLAM Washtenaw and WCBA
Charity Event and Presentation of the Mary Foster Award



On Saturday, December 4, 2021, from 6 – 11 p .m. WLAM, Washtenaw and the WCBA sponsored a joint holiday charity event at the home (barn) of WLAM Vice-President, Jinan Hamood, who once again opened her lovely home to WLAM and WCBA member for this very successful event. Admission was free with a donation to one of the following charities: Toys for Tots, Food Gatherers, the Huron Valley Humane Society, or Secret Santa Society of Ypsilanti. Everyone attending was required to have their COVID-19 vaccinations.

Before the party started, there was a short program which included the presentation of the Mary Foster Award.

Mary Foster was the first woman lawyer in Ann Arbor. She entered law school at age 49 and graduated with high honors from The University of Michigan Law School in 1876. According to “The History of Washtenaw County,” 1881 edition: “Mrs. Foster ranks high among the profession in this part of the state, and her success has exceeded her most sanguine expectations.”

Therefore, in honor of Mrs. Foster’s achievement, the award bearing her name is bestowed annually to a member of our organization whose leadership, talent, and significant contributions to women provide a role model for women in the profession and women in general. This year, WLAM Washtenaw bestowed the award on the **Honorable Tracy Van den Bergh** who is *well deserving* of this award.

To say this event was well attended is an understatement—with over 75 people gathering together to celebrate the holidays, this was a terrific, one-of-a-kind-event. Jinan is definitely a great hostess, as is her spouse, Oscar. Live music was by the all attorney band Soul What! The band stopped playing just before kickoff so guests could watch the Michigan Wolverines go head to head with the Iowa Hawkeyes.



Judge Tracy Vandenberg, Mary Foster
Award Recipient

Enjoy the photos of this truly wonderful event.



Jennifer Lawrence with the Director of the Secret
Santa Society of Ypsilanti

Below: The Band, "Soul What!"



Group photos of WLAM, Washtenaw and WCBA members below:



Jinan Hamood



Stephanie Garris

More photos of the Band—with Rita White rockin' it!



WLAM Washtenaw Remembers Jean King

Jean Ledwith King, renowned Ann Arbor attorney, trailblazer, and longtime WLAM member, died October 9 at the age of 97. Throughout her career, she fought for equal rights in education, employment, sports, and politics. Her groundbreaking work *changed the lives of countless women and girls and inspired those who knew her.*



“I’m a bomb-thrower. You can’t negotiate when you have nothing — no power and no respect. I have many times assembled women who are afraid and taught them how to represent themselves. . . .women . . .have been so punished for standing up for themselves.” - Jean Ledwith King

WLAM WASHTENAW SPONSORED THE SECOND ANNUAL GAL-ENTINE’S (GUY-ENTINE’S) GIFT EXCHANGE FOR VALENTINE’S DAY 2022

Participating members were randomly assigned to his or her Gal-entine and these members exchanged gifts! This was a popular and fun event (think Secret Santa in February)!



Black History Month 2022 February 1, 2022 – March 1, 2022

WLAM Washtenaw Board of Directors encouraged members to participate in the racial equity challenge in February in recognition of Black History Month by directing members to the WLAM Statewide website for the challenge.



BOOK CLUB

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan - Washtenaw
and the Washtenaw County Bar Association's
Labor and Employment Law Section hosted the discussion of
the book *She Said* by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey
on April 13, 2022.



WLAM WASHTENAW ANNUAL MEETING

WLAM Washtenaw held their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 from 12 PM to 1:30 PM at the Original Cottage Inn Pizza in beautiful downtown Ann Arbor. The full slate of candidates was unanimously elected by the membership at the meeting and were sworn in by the Honorable Tracy Van den Bergh.

The New Board of Directors:

**President: Jinan Hamood
Vice President: Lillian Saba
Treasurer: Frances Hollander
Secretary: Kaylon Wilson
Membership Chair: John Reiser
Communications Co-Chairs: Fawn Armstrong & Ashley Londy
Regional Representative: Cassandra Musser
Immediate Past President: Kristin Davis**

Sponsors of this event included: Law Office of Jinan M. Hamood; Blanchard & Walker, PLLC; Hamilton, London & Davis, PLC; and Linderman Law PLLC



The newly elected Board of Directors sworn in by the Honorable Tracy Van den Bergh. Pictured below from left to right: Judge Tracy Van den Bergh, Kristin Davis, Sandy Musser, Kaylon Wilson, John Reiser, Jinan Hamood, Ashley Londy and Fawn Armstrong. CONGRATULATIONS! We know you will do a great job.

WLAM – WAYNE REGION **ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022**

Board Orientation

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Wayne Region had its orientation on July 10, 2021 at which the Region's theme for the year "Women Supporting Women" was determined.



Welcome Back Mix and Mingle

We hosted our Welcome Back Mix and Mingle at Belle Isle Park on August 19, 2021. The event consisted of networking and raffles and allowed members to meet the board, join a committee, and give input on what they want to see this year. The event was well attended and a great time was had by all.



Wine and Garden Party

We hosted our Wine & Garden Party, which will be hosted by Judge Chandra W. Baker, will take place on September 30, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Viand in Detroit.



Membership Drive

In November, we hosted our Membership Drive at the Fowling Warehouse.





Winter Wine Down

We hosted our Winter Wine Down on February 23, 2022 virtually where we discussed 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 September, we hosted Legal Libations Leila in Detroit, honoring Judge Yvonna Abraham.



In October, we hosted Legal Libations at La Noria in partnership with the Hispanic Bar Association of Michigan with President Marva de Armas.



In November, we hosted Legal Libations at Pop's for Italian in partnership with the Women's Bar Association (WLAM Oakland Region) and honored Judge Breeda O'Leary.



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 hosted Legal Libations in partnership with the Association of Black Judges of Michigan to honor Judge Kristina Robinson Garrett with a WLAM Banner.



In April, we hosted Legal Libations after our Board Meeting at the Kiesling in Detroit.

Spring Wellness Event

We went rock climbing at DYNO Detroit Rock Climbing, followed by brunch at Cork and Gables.



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

Book Clubs

WLAM Wayne hosted various book clubs this year including the following:

September: The Boys Club by Erica Katz (novel)

October: The Lost Children Archive by Valeria Luiselli (fiction)

November: The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein (non-fiction)

January: Speak, Okinawa by Elizabeth Miki Brina (memoir)

February: The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander (non-fiction)

March: Taraji P. Henson's Around the Way Girl (memoir)

April: Disability Visibility by Alice Wong (anthology)

Board Meetings

We hosted our Board Meetings this year at Weitz and Luxemburg in their Detroit offices in the Fisher Building on the second Monday of the month.

WLAM Wayne Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting this year hosted 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.



WLAM Wayne Scholarships

WLAM Wayne created three scholarships this year and awarded them to the following awardees at the Annual Meeting:

- Hon. Pamela R. Harwood Scholarship
 - Lindsey LaForest
 - Rita Soka

- Hon. Karen Fort Hood Scholarship
 - Fatmeh Cheaib
 - Stephanie Thomas
- Kaminski Law Scholarship
 - Fatima Dakroub

Member of the Year Award

The recipient of the WLAM Wayne Member of the Year Award was Khawla Rahman.

Honorable Kirsten Frank Kelly Award

The recipient of the WLAM Wayne Hon. Kirsten Frank Kelly Award was Hon. Yvonna Abraham from the 3rd Circuit Court.



Philanthropy

In December we raised awareness about First Step and raised funds for a holiday drive.

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



In April, we hosted an Expungement Clinic in partnership with WLAM Macomb Region.




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**.

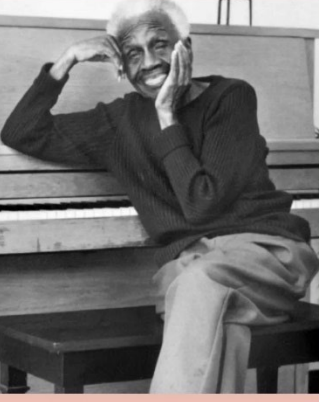
WLAM Celebrates Women's History Month



Vicki Saunders

Founder of SheLO, Vicki is an entrepreneur committed to building businesses that have a positive impact on the world. SheLO 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 space 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.



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan
Western Region Annual Report 2021-2022
Submitted by Melissa Kelleigh, Regional Representative

Events

- I. “Let’s Get Together in Person Again” Happy Hour
Held on June 17, 2021
- II. “Women Lawyers v Judges” Softball Game
Held on September 14, 2021



- III. Happy Hour
Held on September 22, 2021
- IV. Breast Cancer Awareness event
Held on October 9, 2021
- V. November Event, sharing the most interesting facts about your area of law
Held on November 17, 2021
- VI. Holiday Party
Held on January 14, 2022
- VII. “A Night of Pampering” a night of fashion, makeup and fun
Held on February 24, 2022



VIII. April Volunteer Opportunity, volunteering with Family Promise a non profit organization dedicated to assist families experiencing homelessness
Held on April 19, 2022

IX. Performing at Just Lips, dancing, lip syncing and fun
Held on March 9, 2022 as part of the Grand Rapids Bar Association fundraiser Legal Aid.



X. Western Region Annual Meeting
Held on May 17, 2022



