



THE CATALYST

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Standing Committee on Women and the Law

Chair's column

By Sandra Crawford, J.D. - Mediator and Collaborative Professional¹

When we truly care for ourselves, it becomes possible to care far more profoundly about other people. The more alert and responsive we are to our own needs, the more loving and generous we can be to other.

—Eda LeShan, psychologist.

Women and the Law is now well underway in our 2010-2011 Bar year and many new and exciting projects are in development. Among these are the planning of festivities in celebration of 2011 International Women's Day in March. Last year the Committee celebrated International Women's Day (<http://www.internationalwomensday.com>) by combining a business meeting with a trip to the Allyu Spa (<http://www.allyuspa.com>) followed by a Peace Circle and a group dinner at Kiki's Bistro in Chicago. This year's activities are being planned to include a business development roundtable (discussing issues of branding, self promotion,

balance, etc) of course followed by another trip to the spa and a communal dinner. These events will be open to all *Catalyst* readers and ISBA members. Anyone interested in participating in part or all of the 2011 ISBA International Women's Day festivities should feel free to contact the Chair directly. Taking care of ourselves includes making time for a full range of activities such as learning, relaxation, meeting new people and breaking bread together. We hope to combine all these in one great day of celebration.

Our plans this year include looking at all dimension of what it means to "truly take care of oneself." Many of our members are juggling child rearing, work, Bar activities, and volunteer commitments, as well as providing care for one or more elderly parent or family member. Acknowledging the latter, Women and the Law's Spring continuing educational program is en-

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Divorce support groups for women offer numerous benefits

By Linda A. Lucatorto, M.Ed, CPC, The Oasis Experience, Inc.® www.oasisexperience.com

While scanning the Calendar of Events section in my local paper, I took note of the various support groups being offered. There were support groups for alcoholics; family member of alcoholics; gamblers; stroke victims; cancer patients; cancer survivors; Alzheimer caregivers; parents of children with Autism, ADHD and the listings went on and on. I found a Divorce Support Group listed, as well. It is quite evident that people who struggle with life challenges are looking for support, assistance

and encouragement, as they confront their difficult circumstances. Divorce is a life-altering change and it creates a myriad of emotions and decisions.

What I have learned, from being a participant of a few different support groups as well as facilitating divorce support groups, is that making the decision to attend the initial meeting is a giant step. Admitting that "the problem" exists

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titled: "Your Clients, Their Elderly Parents and You" and will cover a wide variety of topics faced by practitioners as well as individual who find themselves taking on the care of parents or elderly relatives. We hope that this program will have wide ranging appeal even if you don't practice specifically in the Elder Law area. This program promises to have lots to offer to anyone touched by the issue of caring for the elderly. Look for information about the program on ISBA's daily E-Clips or contact our CLE Subcommittee Chair, Mary Petrucci, directly.

This year's Women and the Law outreach will take us to LaSalle-Peru for a networking event with our female colleagues in that region of the Illinois. By doing outreach and providing an opportunity to dialogue with specific "downstate" communities we make better connections and gain a greater perspective on how well the concerns and challenges faced by women lawyers are being handled and addressed across the ISBA community. In years past we have concentrated our outreach efforts on connecting with women law students. This year we are returning the focus of our outreach to women lawyers who are already established but may still be struggling to make a deeper connection and find a supportive professional network within the ISBA. Service on the Women and the Law Committee or participation in any one of our events is one small step to establishing a better connection. A great opportunity to get better connected to the Women in the Law community is by submitting articles for publication in this newsletter. *The Catalyst* is published four times per year and our next deadline will be in January. Back issues of *The Catalyst* can be viewed on the ISBA's site, <www.isba.org>, Committee Section under the Women and the Law Committee. Anyone interested in writing or submitting an article for women lawyers or about women's interests or issues should feel free to contact either of our newsletter co-editors, Emily Marsalski or Shital Patel directly.

Another way Women and the Law connects with the women lawyers within the ISBA and around the state is in looking for opportunities to nominate deserving women candidates for awards within and outside the ISBA. This year we are happy to have been successful in our nomination of our former Chair, Sharon Eiseman (2007-2008)


for the Women's Bar Association of Illinois' 2010 Women with Vision Award. Sharon will receive her award at the WBAI's 69th Joint Professional Dinner on November 4, 2010, at the Hotel Allegro. She will be honored along with three other professional women from the arenas of Medicine, Academia and Advocacy. Sharon's vision of gathering lawyers in service to women and children has now grown into the highly successful Women Everywhere Project (www.WEchicago.org).

Women Everywhere (WE) is a volunteer collective in the Chicagoland area aimed at soliciting and coordinating volunteer activities on behalf of women and children in need. Through the various activities of WE, hundreds of volunteers make a difference by participating in the Community Service Day and the Educational Program. The Community Service Day allows male and female volunteers to give back to their community by volunteering their time to nearly 30 local service agencies dedicated to helping women and children in need. The Educational Program invites high schools girls from around

the area to tour trial or appellate courts, while encouraging them to aspire to interesting and challenging careers. ISBA's Women and the Law Committee has been an active part of the Community Service Day for many years now. We welcome our *Catalyst* readers to join us this year in that effort, which usually takes place around the beginning of June. Stay tuned to this column for more information about that opportunity and other upcoming opportunities for "loving and generous service" to others. ■

1. Women and the Law 2010-11 Chair, Sandra Crawford is a solo practitioner in Chicago. She can be reached directly at lawcrawford@comcast.net. She practices in the areas of family, real estate and Mechanic Lien Foreclosure law. She is an ISBA Assembly Member and the immediate past president of the Collaborative Law Institute of Illinois www.collablawil.org. She frequently writes and teaches on the topics of mediation and Collaborative Practice. For information about the Collaborative Law model of dispute resolution call Sandra directly at (312) 726-8766 or visit www.lawcrawford.com or www.collaborativepractice.com.

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Divorce support groups for women offer numerous benefits

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and that outside assistance is needed can be very difficult. *Awareness* is the first step necessary in learning to manage and deal with a difficult life circumstance. Divorce is a very personal and sensitive issue. Quite often, the idea of divorce buzzes around in one's head for quite awhile, or talk of divorce occurs between spouses. But as the old saying goes, "Nobody knows what goes on behind closed doors." Making the decision to participate in a divorce support group is taking that giant first step in admitting there is a problem in the marriage or one is struggling during the process of divorce.

Women are more likely to recognize that they need and want outside assistance. Women need to share feelings, need to be heard, need to vent. Women need to tell their story. In telling the story, over and over, it becomes more concrete, more real and helps them learn to accept their new reality. The *Empathy, Understanding and Validation* that support groups offer are necessary for managing the stress, healing and recovery. The feelings that women experiences may include: loss/grief; sadness; anger; resentment; confusion; worry; fear and loneliness. This is not an exhaustive list! *Awareness* of your feelings and understanding why you are feeling the way you do is crucial. One must know that it is normal to experience these feelings. Therefore, *Normalizing* of feelings is a key benefit of a divorce support group. Knowing that you are not "crazy" for having certain feelings is very comforting.

Another old saying holds true is "You can't understand unless you've walked a mile in my shoes." Over and over I have heard how difficult it is for women when friends and relatives try to comfort them. Sometimes, people don't know how to offer comfort because they have no idea what it is like to go through a divorce. People mean well, but often times, what they say is not helpful and in some instances, can be hurtful. Being with a group of women who are "walking the walk" is so helpful for there are no explanations necessary. There is no judgment or criticism. Therefore, *Safety* is another important benefit of a divorce support group. A participant is free to express feelings (sometimes scary ones) and know that there is a safety net to support them when they feel they are "sink-

ing." Some groups are available for both men and women. The Empowerment Groups that I have been conducting for over ten years are strictly for women. The reason behind this has to do with *Safety*, as mentioned above. The woman-only group avoids any possibility that people come to the group (consciously or unconsciously) looking for a mate/partner/date. People can be very vulnerable during divorce and eliminating this possibility creates a safety net. Women think differently than men, express themselves differently and therefore, seem to understand each other more readily. In a woman only group, there is no need to be defensive or weigh words in fear of offending the opposite sex.

An important factor in searching for the "right" group relies on your intent or goal in joining the group. In addition to co-ed vs. women only, groups will have other differences. Some have a religious philosophy and some do not. Some are conducted by professionals and other groups are conducted by trained volunteers. Some groups engage in open ended discussions while others have an established curriculum or book that is utilized. Often times, women who have inquired about my group are trying to decide which group they should attend. My advice is that they are all different....you must know what you are looking for. And sometimes, it is not one in lieu of the other or that one is better than another, but rather what best suits you at the time. You may need all the help you can get and may choose to participate in more than one group, at different times.

Support during difficult times is certainly necessary, but taking it a step further, I believe that healing and recovery are also very crucial areas that need to be addressed. Healing and recovery impart hope and motivation to begin planning a positive future.

In addition to sharing feelings, I believe, very strongly, that focusing on issues/topics is very important. This assists with *Problem Solving and Reality Testing*, both of which are very important for healing and recovery. Listening to others and learning from varied life experience is a valuable asset of an Empowerment Group. Going beyond validating the feelings and learning how to manage them is the next step, and that is *Self-Discovery*. We

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OFFICE

Illinois Bar Center
424 S. Second Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Phones: 217-525-1760 OR 800-252-8908
www.isba.org

CO-EDITORS

Emily N. Masalski
225 W. Washington St., Ste. 1700
Chicago, IL 60606

Shital A. Patel
spatel0518@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR/ PRODUCTION

Katie Underwood
kunderwood@isba.org

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E. Nicole Carrion, Vice Chair
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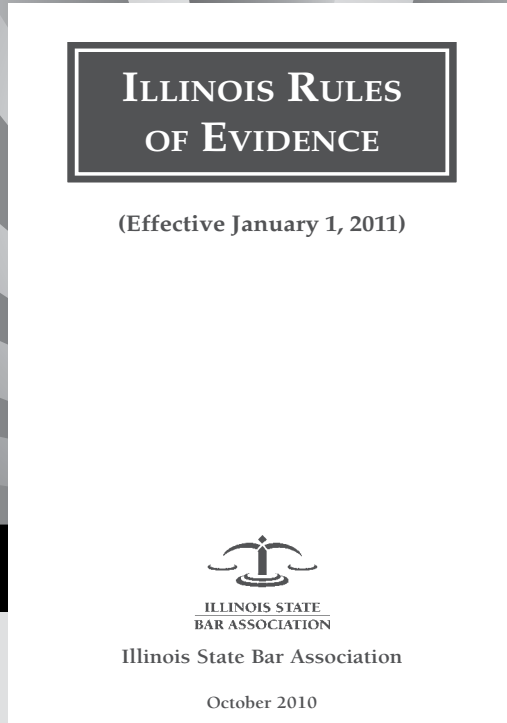
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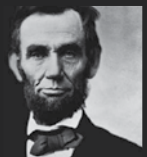
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all have something to learn from our failed marriages and recognizing our contribution to the break down of the marriage is the first step in *Self-Discovery*. Learning from our mistakes helps us to grow and avoid the same pit-falls in the future. *Self-Assessment* may be difficult but it can also be very refreshing. The purpose of an Empowerment Group is to focus on the positive and plan for the future. Over time, some women give up their personal power in their marriage; whether knowingly, or unknowingly. We may not be the same people as when we first married. . . . younger, idealistic and perhaps in-experienced. Life experiences, both good and bad, shape and change us as we journey through life. We can regain or re-discover our personal power Taking contemplative time to do personal assessments opens up doors of opportunity. Identify strengths is a necessary

step in building the foundation for a new and positive life. Discussions on topics such as of positive traits, self-esteem, assertive communication and boundary setting are very helpful in re-defining the self and *Creating Action Plans* for the future.

Most certainly, another benefit of a Divorce Support or Empowerment Group for Women is the *Motivation* it can provide. Quite often, when women hear the life experiences of other women, they may realize that it is possible to overcome and work through challenges, no matter how difficult they may seem. Women are very resilient and creative. When they share their solutions, attitudes, perceptions and viewpoints, other group members are exposed to new ways of thinking. This can result in *Renewed Enthusiasm, Inspiration* and the impetus to take risks and *Embrace Change*. Another favorite saying

of mine is "When I change the way I look at things. . . . the things I look at change."

Oprah Winfrey once had a section in her *O Magazine* titled, "This I Know to Be True." Having experienced divorce after a long-term marriage, and having conducted Empowerment Groups for Women for the past 10 years, this is what I know to be true, "One certainty in life is change. Whether desired or not, it will occur. Face it and embrace it." ■

Linda is President/Owner of The Oasis Experience, Inc.®, which has been offering Day Seminars and Empowerment Groups for women since 1999. She is also a Divorce Coach and Mediator who educates and assists men and women during the transitions of divorce.

Linda is a Fellow of the Collaborative Law Institute of Illinois and recently completed a three year term on the Board of Directors.

Family Violence Prevention Fund/DV Awareness Month

By Sandra Blake, Staff Attorney, Life Span

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and in recognition of that designation, the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) emphasized the special opportunity to educate local, state and federal officials about the need for better funding for domestic violence prevention programs and victim services. The organization also issued a call to action to urge Congress to pass two key pieces of legislation.

First, the FVPF advocates the reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, which funds domestic violence shelters and services, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, prevention programs and other critically needed services. In support of this call to action the FVPF points to some staggering facts on domestic violence:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 1,200 deaths and two million injuries to women from intimate partner violence each year.
- According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, on average four or five women a day are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States. Women are 84 percent of spouse abuse victims, 86 percent of victims of abuse at the hands

of a boyfriend or girlfriend, and three in four victims of family violence.

- Some 450 women are raped or sexually assaulted each day, on average, in the United States. [U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics]
- Young women age 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault, and people age 18 and 19 experience the highest rates of stalking. Females age 20 to 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence. [U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics]
- Approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner—a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth. [National Council on Crime and Delinquency Focus]
- The United States Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that 3.4 million persons said they were victims of stalking during a 12-month period in 2005 and 2006. Women experience stalking victimizations at nearly three times the rate of men.
- A 2006 study in the *Journal of Family Psychology* finds that more than 15 million

U.S. children live in families in which partner violence occurred at least once in the past year.

Second, the FVPF and more than 150 other groups advocate the swift passage of the *International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA)*, the first comprehensive piece of legislation aimed at ending violence against women and girls around the world.

According to the FVPF, *I-VAWA* (HR 4594/S 2982) is groundbreaking legislation introduced by a bi-partisan team of Senators and Representatives. *I-VAWA* is particularly significant in that for the first time ever, efforts to end violence against women and girls would be incorporated into U.S. foreign policy and foreign aid. Additionally, it would direct Administration officials to create a comprehensive five-year plan to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls around the world. *I-VAWA* would support the community-based women's groups that are working at the local level to promote prevention, conduct education programs and help victims of violence.

This legislation would also:

- Address international sex trafficking and rape during war;
- Strengthen laws to stop violence against

women and enhance efforts to bring perpetrators to justice;

- Help survivors escape and recover from violence;
- Prevent deaths from HIV/AIDS;
- Expand economic opportunities for abused women; and
- Educate boys and men to be leaders and allies in ending violence against women

and girls.

Statistics and historical data demonstrate that violence against women is a human rights violation and a worldwide pandemic. Approximately one out of every three women worldwide has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. In some countries it's up to 70 percent.

Both Illinois U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and

Roland Burris are co-sponsors of the Senate I-VAWA legislation. Among the Illinois U.S. Representatives who are co-sponsors are: Mark Kirk, Danny Davis, Judy Biggert, Phil Hare, Jesse Jackson Jr., Bobby Rush and Jan Schakowsky.

Visit the FVPF Web site for more information on these and other initiatives at <www.endabuse.org>. ■

Consider yourself asked to run for public office

By Sandra Crawford

As the kids say today “OMG like”—as in OMG like I’ve been asked to run for public office by Jan Schakowsky (Congresswoman from the 9th Congressional District of Illinois) and Shelia Simon (2010 candidate for Illinois Lieutenant Governor) and both on the same day. Not individually you understand but as one of about 50 audience members gathered on October 21, 2010, at the Hotel Allegro Chicago for the “Women Running for Public Office” forum hosted by The Diversity Scholarship Foundation NFP and the John Marshall Law School. The event took the form of a panel discussion and addressed the challenges faced by women running for public office and how those challenges can be overcome. In addition to Congresswoman Schakowsky and Ms. Simon (daughter of the late Senator Paul Simon, D-III) the panel included: Stephanie D. Neeley (Treasurer of the City of Chicago); Dorothy Brown (Clerk of the Circuit Cook of Cook County); and, Robin Kelly (2010 candidate for Illinois State Treasurer). The moderator was ISBA’s very own Aurora Austriaco, who was herself recently a candidate for public office and shared her own interesting stories of encounters on the campaign trail.

All gathered acknowledged that “the agenda changes when women come to the political table.” However, the consensus was that sexism is still very much alive in American politics with the U.S. ranking only 84th in the world for women in elected position. This juxtaposed with the fact that women now make up more than half of the U.S. population and more than half of all those receiving advanced degrees, such as juris doctorates. The women gathered did not bemoan the fact that sexism is a factor in many elections.

Ms. Neeley advised that “the best way to trump sexism or racism is to work hard.” Ms. Kelly advised to be “quick to listen and slow to speak” and tend to “your split ends.” Many of the candidates talked about having been given unsolicited advice on how to wear their hair as part of the “political strategy.” All agreed that no matter your hair or personal style that remaining authentic and committed to your core values trumps looks any day. Congresswomen Schakowsky did express deep concern that the “a line was crossed last summer on civility” when members of Congress were spat upon during a Tea Party rally. She urged everyone considering a run for election (be it library board or President) to make all attempts to stay away from negativity, which she says “just gets you off your game.” The general consensus of the panel was that no matter what “don’t let anyone else define you” and “don’t question yourself or your beliefs.”

The panelists spoke about their very own personal roads to public office—Ms. Neeley and Ms. Kelly were both asked to run for their positions, while Ms. Brown talked about her choosing to return to law school as a 38-year-old single mother as part of her intentional preparation for her run for public office. All talked about the impact of public life on their families and how important it is to protect ones children and family from the harsh lime light political involvement can often shine on them. Running for open seats, getting involved in not-for-profits organizations and attempting smaller races first, such as school board elections, were all highly recommended as an entry into a career in politics. Doing lots of research and homework on the race you are considering a run for is essential. As is

establishing affiliations with various organizations like: *EMILY’s¹ List*, a national organization dedicated to electing pro-choice Democratic women to office, <www.emilyslist.org> or the *Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership (IWIL)* P O Box 1149, Springfield, IL 62705 217.525.8434, office@iwilinfo.org. Being asked was also considered another key factor in run, ergo Ms. Simon’s and the Congresswoman’s invitation to run—which I gladly pass along to you with their best regards and theirs and the other panelists personal offers of mentorship and guidance.

The panelists spoke also about the tendency of women to be too hard on themselves and often striving for perfection. Ms. Brown and Congresswoman Schakowsky both spoke about the pitfalls of focusing on the 5 percent that didn’t work well is a speech or at an event and not taking time to congratulating oneself on the other 95 percent that did work or go well. “Adequate is often good enough” was Ms. Schakowsky’s advice to those gathered. She also shared with the audience a bright blue burka (also spelled burqa) which she brought back from her travels in Afghanistan. The only ventilation in which is a very narrow mesh grid window at eye level. Her sharing this at an event encouraging women to become more actively involved in seeking elected office gave great perspective on just how advanced women’s issues are here compared to other places around the globe. It also illustrated eloquently how having the ability to use our voices can give us a platform from which to help others on issues like domestic violence. Ms. Schakowsky is actively seeking support for the International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA). Violence against women

and girls represents a global health, economic development, and human rights problem. At least one out of every three women worldwide has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime, with rates of domestic violence reaching 70% in some countries. I-VAWA is an unprecedented effort by the United States to address violence against women globally.

The event was high energy, intimate and interactive with the panelist answering lots of questions posed by the attendees. It included a wonderful buffet supper and was co-hosted by: the Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, the Black Women Lawyer's Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., the Collaborative Law Institute of Illinois, the Cook County Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar As-

sociation, the Illinois Judicial Council, the Lake County Bar Association, and the Women's Bar Association of Illinois. Similar events are currently being planned by the Diversity Scholarship Foundation NFP. So like OMG look for more information about those events in the Bar news and don't miss them! ■

1. EMILY is an acronym for "Early Money is Like

Twice a Woman

By Aristeia Geroulis and Aneta Kuros

Some people in our office get very excited every year for the Chicago International Film Festival, and this year, as a team we decided to see *Twice a Woman* (2 Fois Une Femme), a French Canadian movie about a battered woman directed by Francois Delisle. By the way, we work at Life Span, an agency that assists women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Watching a movie about a battered woman on a Sunday evening isn't necessarily the most ideal way to spend our free time, when assisting victims of domestic violence is what we do five days a week. We know there are a lot of misconceptions about domestic violence in the media, so we went into the movie theater a bit critical and cynical to see if the picture would be an accurate description of what victims experience. Without revealing the plot, we can say this story is about a victim who has a low level of confidence in the legal system and does not use traditional remedies to flee the violence. Even with this condition, to our surprise the movie was a fairly accurate portrayal of a victim's story. A few examples, without spoiling the movie, include parents' misunderstanding of how domestic violence affects the child, the misleading persona the abuser gives off to the world outside of their home, and the limitations of resources a victim experiences after fleeing an abusive partner.

Besides the domestic violence aspect of the film, the acting, cinematography, script and direction, were all impressive. We were able to explore Quebec without really being there, only making us regret we do not speak French. The actors did a great job creating such challenging roles with an exceptional

performance on the part of the young actor who plays the son.

After the movie finished, we had the pleasure of meeting the director, who was available for Q&As. The audience inquired about the research that was put into the movie to which the director replied that it was very minimal. He spoke briefly to an abused woman who is now living in a shelter, a police of-

ficer and a medical staff person. Our perception is that the director has more knowledge of issues that stem from domestic violence than he admits to. While it is a fictional movie, we feel that it does a good job of depicting domestic violence. ■

N.B. Aristeia Geroulis is an Assistant Director of Operations and Aneta Kuros is a Women's Counselor with Life Span.

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Women With Vision Speech for November 4 Dinner

By Sharon Eisman

My heartfelt THANKS to the WBAI, President Matern, and the Nominating Committee for their vision in selecting my fellow awardees—and for the honor given to me...which I accept not for myself but as a symbol of recognition that the projects my colleagues and I have worked on are worthwhile. I am also grateful to the ISBA Women and the Law Committee for nominating me—Sandra Crawford and Diana Law in particular. I care deeply about this group of accomplished women and am touched by their vote of confidence.

I was asked to tell you about how I got here, what has impacted me during my life and career, and what message I have for you.

I've reached this point in my career because of a sense of purpose that seems to infuse me daily and maybe also because of good genes and my exercise regimen. For all of this, I am indebted to my determined mother who overcame extraordinary odds and fought depression by giving to others; several family tragedies that taught me to confront challenges; and the joy of motherhood followed by a divorce and a second marriage that added two young boys to my then-family constellation of two daughters at the very time I was in my second year of night law school and working full-time during the day.

I have continued this intense schedule since I discovered that I am able to do many things at once when I care enough about the goal I am pursuing and have the support of family and friends along the way. In this regard, I have been fortunate. Some of these special people are with me tonight: my two remarkable daughters, Erica and Alexis; my second—and last—husband Noel; dear friends Marty and Lois; my smart and fun-loving office colleague Patty; Candace, my first boss in the practice of law—and younger than I am; Carole, my high school cheerleader teammate; and Sandra, the chair of Women and the Law.

At any given time, there is a great deal to do to improve conditions faced by so many individuals and communities—I've chosen to focus on women. The best way to HELP, and feel nourished at the same time, is to find something that interests you, convene a few compassionate and dynamic people you

respect, and begin a DIALOGUE about what kind of difference you'd like to make and FOR WHOM. The seed of an idea, when planted in the right soil and well-tended, will blossom into a useful project.

Ideas do flourish in the company of others, and in my case those others are often women who are receptive and brave enough to share their ideas and let them evolve into something else because of contributions from those with different perspectives. Implementing good ideas requires that we also share the workload, give credit where it is due, and maintain a sense of humor. When these elements converge, there is a contagious energy that, like FUEL, starts and maintains our engines and takes us in unexpected directions if we are up for an adventure.

SO:

***Where did the 'Women Everywhere: Partners in Service Project' come from? ...a casual talk in 1999 among a group of women attorneys fed up with being undervalued by their male counterparts who brainstormed about how to improve the status of women in the profession. I asked: WHAT IF all women attorneys in Chicago decided not to show up for work one day? What would happen? How would the men react? That query progressed to talk of a citywide boycott by women attorneys and then, *more constructively*, to imagining what we would do on that day off since we needed to be useful, and then to defining a service project. This collaboration led to the creation of Women Everywhere, a service and education partnership that includes many minority and women's bar groups.

***What about the Joint Task Force on older women's issues? Being in my late 50s when I became the WBAI president inspired me to think about women in my age group (but poor and alone) and the financial, health care, housing, and post-retirement hurdles they face, particularly those women with limited resources. WHAT IF there could be a forum to examine these concerns and find solutions to problems faced by aging women? WHY NOT have the WBAI partner with others who have a special expertise in the area? From my conversations with Kerry Peck, then-CBA president and elder law attorney, the JTF was born. And shortly there-

after, Elizabeth Wells joined me and remains by my side as my co-chair. The Task Force is still going strong at 11, the age of my oldest grandchild, Andrew.

***On a lighter note, I returned to my office one day last week after hunting for a birthday card for my five-year-old granddaughter, Greta. I was surprised and distressed to still, in 2010, find cards only for princesses and sweet little girls, while all the boy cards flaunted action figures and power messages. I lamented this sad state of affairs to my neighbor Patty, and in an exchange about the need for better images for girls, we both said WHAT IF there was an alternative to that stereotypical greeting card? Surely the demand would be great so WHY NOT open a special card shop called "For Real Girls"? Unless that could be my business after retirement, the idea likely won't go anywhere—but *it could*—and all because of an expressed gripe about the status quo shared with a well-chosen colleague.

Now for the message: **YOU ARE IT! YOU ARE THE MESSAGE.** Nothing meaningful and enduring can be accomplished in a vacuum or without the energy, participation and support of ALL OF YOU. Nothing I've accomplished has been in a vacuum nor would it have taken shape without many of the women in this room—who can claim credit for the successes of these projects. I am grateful for your support and I'd like you to stand up and be counted.

Since you are the MESSENGER as well, the second part of my message is: ASK 'WHAT IF?' AND 'WHY NOT?' AS OFTEN AS YOU CAN. Magic doesn't always happen, but when it does, and you're in the room, your life can change—and the relationships you develop in that room you will cherish for the rest of your life. That is what I treasure most—selfishly, I get great satisfaction from being and working with you, and these days, as I am aging, particularly those of you who are younger—because you make me feel young and re-energize me.

My next project just may be to partner with Dawn, Jody, and Linda, the three other amazing awardees you will soon meet. Imagine the flow of ideas in that gathering!

Again—Thank You. ■

Upcoming CLE programs

To register, go to www.isba.org/cle or call the ISBA registrar at 800-252-8908 or 217-525-1760.

December

Wednesday, 12/1/10- Teleseminar—Estate Planning for Family Businesses, Part 1. 12-1.

Thursday, 12/2/10- Teleseminar—Estate Planning for Family Businesses, Part 2. 12-1.

Friday, 12/3/10- Webcast—Corporate Attorneys and the Duty to Report. Presented by the ISBA Corporate Law Section. 12-1. <<http://isba.fastcle.com/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=6226>>

Tuesday, 12/7/10- Teleseminar—Offers-in-Compromise. 12-1.

Wednesday, 12/8/10- Teleseminar—Structuring Real Estate Investment Vehicles. 12-1.

Thursday, 12/9/10- Chicago, USEPA Region V—Green-Surfing the Internet: A Practical Guide for Environmental Practitioners. Presented by the ISBA Environmental Law Section. 9-11am; 12:30-2:30pm; 3-5. 20 max per session.

Thursday, 12/9/10- Friday, 12/10/10- Chicago, Sheraton Hotel—Mid-Year Master Series Programming. Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association.

Monday, 12/13/10- Teleseminar—Employees V. Independent Contractors: Employment & Tax Implications. 12-1.

Tuesday, 12/14/10- Teleseminar—What Employment Lawyers Need to Know About Social Media. 12-1.

Wednesday, 12/15/10- Teleseminar—Partnership/LLC Agreement Drafting, Part 1. 12-1.

Thursday, 12/16/10- Teleseminar—Partnership/LLC Agreement Drafting, Part 2. 12-1.

Friday, 12/17/10- Webcast—Attorney-Client Privilege: Who's Your Client?. Presented by the ISBA Corporate Law Section. 12-1.

<<http://isba.fastcle.com/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=6231>>.

Tuesday, 12/21/10- Teleseminar—Family Feuds in Trusts. 12-1.

Wednesday, 12/22/10- Teleseminar—Structuring Joint Ventures in Business. 12-1.

January

Tuesday, 1/4/11- Teleseminar—Patent and IP Law for the Business Lawyer. 12-1.

Thursday, 1/6/11- Teleseminar—Business Planning for the New Health Care Law: What You Need to Know About the Year Ahead. 12-1.

Friday, 1/7/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—2011 Family Law CLE Fest. Presented by the ISBA Family Law Section. TBD.

Tuesday, 1/11/11- Teleseminar—Restoration of the Estate & Gift Tax in 2011: Planning & Drafting Issues, Part 1. 12-1.

Wednesday, 1/12/11- Teleseminar—Restoration of the Estate & Gift Tax in 2011: Planning & Drafting Issues, Part 2. 12-1.

Friday, 1/14/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—New Laws for 2010 and 2011. Presented by the ISBA Standing Committee on Legislation. 12-2.

Tuesday, 1/18/11- Teleseminar—Asset-Based Finance: Business Borrowing Against assets in a Tight Credit Environment, Part 1. 12-1.

Wednesday, 1/19/11- Teleseminar—Asset-Based Finance: Business Borrowing Against assets in a Tight Credit Environment, Part 2. 12-1.

Friday, 1/21/11- Teleseminar—Ethics in Representing Elderly Clients. 12-1.

Friday, 1/21/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—The Health Care Reform Act- An Overview for the Health Care Attorney. Presented by the ISBA Health Care Section. 9-12.

Friday, 1/21/11- Collinsville, Gateway Center- Mississippian Room—Tips of the Trade: A Federal Civil Practice Seminar- 2011. Presented by the ISBA Federal Civil Practice Section. 8:30-11:45.

Tuesday, 1/25/11- Teleseminar—Alternatives for Financially Distressed Mid-Size Businesses, Part 1. 12-1.

Wednesday, 1/26/11- Teleseminar—Alternatives for Financially Distressed Mid-Size Businesses, Part 2. 12-1.

Friday, 1/28/11- Teleseminar—Attorney Ethics in Social Media- Blogs, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and More. 12-1.

Tuesday, 1/31/11- Teleseminar—Dangers of Using "Units" in LLC Planning REPLAY. 12-1.

February

Tuesday, 2/1/11- Teleseminar—2011 Ethics Update, Part 1. 12-1.

Wednesday, 2/2/11- Teleseminar—2011 Ethics Update, Part 2. 12-1.

Friday, 2/4/11- Bloomington, Bloomington-Normal Marriott—Hot Topics in Agriculture- 2011. Presented by the ISBA Agriculture Law Section; co-sponsored by the ISBA Mineral Law Section. TBD.

Tuesday, 2/8/11- Teleseminar—Sophisticated Choice of Entity Analysis, Part 1. 12-1.

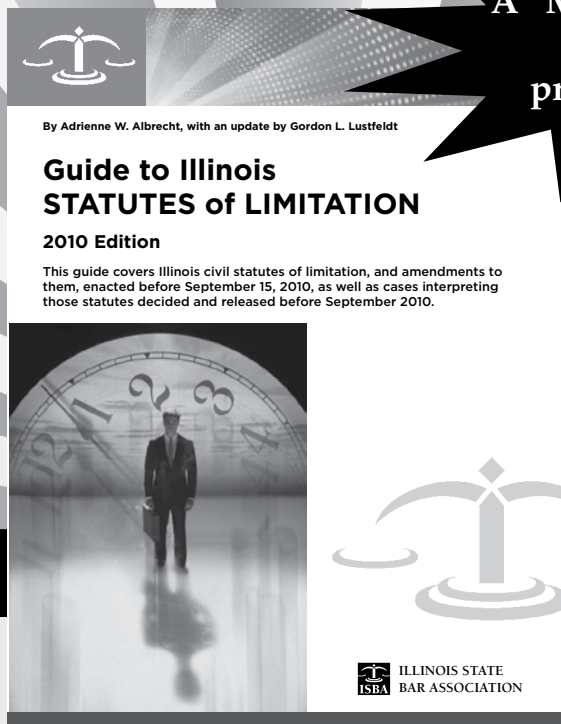
Wednesday, 2/9/11- Teleseminar—Sophisticated Choice of Entity Analysis, Part 2. 12-1.

Friday, 2/11/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—ADR- Arbitration and Mediation Issues- 2011. Presented by the Civil Practice and Procedure Section. 9-4:15.

Tuesday, 2/15/11- Teleseminar—The New Normal of Buying and Selling Commercial Real Estate, Part 1. 12-1.

Wednesday, 2/16/11- Teleseminar—The New Normal of Buying and Selling Commercial Real Estate, Part 1. 12-1. ■

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