



OHIO WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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Our purpose is to promote the leadership, advancement and interests of women attorneys through professional education, networking and the exchange of ideas between our members, local bar associations, business and the community.

Founders' Gala Honors Founders, Past OWBA Presidents and Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor



(L-R): Valoria C. Hoover, OWBA president; Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, Supreme Court of Ohio; Jennifer Breech Rhoads, OWBA president-elect; and Lisa House, OWBA immediate past president.

By Geraldine Cotter

Honoring Ohio's first female Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor with the Founders' Award was an inspiration to all who attended the Founders' Gala on February 1st. The Founders' Award is the OWBA's highest recognition for professional excellence and it is reserved for an OWBA member who has contributed to the OWBA and the legal profession, has rendered services to improve the administration of justice, and has helped pave the way for women in the legal profession.

The weather was cold, dark and icy, but the company and celebration were warm, inviting and stimulating. De-

spite the weather, there were over 50 attendees including Chief Justice O'Connor's colleagues, Justice Evelyn Stratton and Justice Yvette McGee Brown. Joyce Edelman, one of the OWBA's founding members and recipient of the Founders' Award in 2006, was also on hand for the celebration. The OWBA President, Valoria Hoover introduced Chief Justice O'Connor and presented her with the Founder's Award. The Chief Justice shared her goals for Supreme Court as well as her continued dedication to the OWBA. What a night!

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Geraldine Cotter is an OWBA member and is actively working on the Ohio Women's Bar Foundation Leadership Institute. Geraldine is the incoming Vice President of the OWBF.

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