The 2016 OWBA/OWBF Annual Conference

May 18 to 19 – Seats Filling Quickly!

Please join us for the Ohio Women’s Bar Association (OWBA) and Ohio Women’s Bar Foundation (OWBF) Annual Conference taking place on May 18-19, 2016, at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center, Ohio. The event spans two days, featuring 6.25 CLE hours (approved CLE). Some of these include: Judicial Panel - A View from the Bench (sponsored by Thacker Martinsek LPA); Women in Law-Leadership Lessons from the Top (sponsored by the Ohio State Bar Association Women in the Profession Section); Advancing the Next Generation of Women Leaders In the Legal Profession (sponsored by Abercrombie & Fitch); Breaking Down Barriers and Investing in Diverse Talent (sponsored by Bricker & Eckler LLP); and Beyond the Headcount: Inclusive Environments and Diverse Leadership (sponsored by Vorys).

Following the CLE sessions during the first afternoon of the conference is the second annual Honoring Women in Government Reception, from 6 to 8 pm. The reception will recognize Yvette McGee Brown, Partner-in-Charge of Diversity Inclusion and Advancement, Jones Day; and Judge Jennifer Brunner, Ohio’s Tenth Appellate District. The reception is free to OWBA members.

Kicking off the second day of the conference and just prior to the CLE sessions on May 19, is a breakfast featuring a spotlight on Diversity and Inclusion, which features Paulette Brown, the current President of the American Bar Association (ABA) and Partner and Co-Chair of the firm-wide Diversity and Inclusion Committee at Locke Lord LLP. Brown will also be the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon later that day. Brown is the first woman of color to lead the prestigious ABA, a 136 year-old professional legal association with over 400,000 members and we look forward to hearing about her experience.

Following the annual meeting and luncheon that afternoon will be the OWBA reception honoring Brown, from 2 to 3 pm. This is sponsored by John Mercer Langston Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association Women in the Profession Section, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Central Ohio, Hispanic National Bar Association – Region X, Women Lawyers of Franklin County, and Columbus Bar Association.


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For Complete Details Visit www.OWBA.org

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AGENDA

Wednesday, May 18, 2016
1:30 – 2:00 PM
CLE Check-In and Networking

2:00 – 3:15 PM
Judicial Panel:
A View from the Bench
(1.25 hours of CLE pending)
Moderator: Magistrate Judge Stephanie K. Bowman, Southern District of Ohio
Panelists: Judge Mary DeGenaro, 7th District Court of Appeals; Judge Benita Y. Pearson, United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio; Judge Barbara P. Gorman, Montgomery County Common Pleas Court; Judge Paul M. Herbert, Franklin County Municipal Court

3:15 – 3:20 PM
Networking/Transition Break

3:20 – 4:35 PM
Women in Law: Leadership Lessons from the Top
(1.25 hours of CLE pending)
Moderator: Stephanie R. Hanna, Senior Manager, Member Outreach & Engagement, Ohio State Bar Association
Panelists: Michelle Proia Roe, General Counsel, Thirty-One Gifts; Mary Augsburger, Executive Director, Ohio State Bar Association; Marchelle E. Moore, Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel, The Motorists Insurance Group; Patricia A. Wise, Partner, Niehaus Wise & Kalas Ltd and EEOC Select Task Force on Workplace Harassment

4:35 – 4:45 PM
Networking/Transition Break

4:45 – 6:00 PM
Advancing the Next Generation of Women Leaders in the Legal Profession (1.25 hours of CLE pending)
Moderator: Joyce D. Edelman, Partner, Porter Wright Morris & Arthur
Panelists: Chief Judge Pat E. Morgenstern-Clare, United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio; U.S. Magistrate Judge Kathleen B. Burke, United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio; Lisa Whittaker, Senior Attorney, Litigation and Employment, Ascena Retail Group; Caitlin E. Anderson, Assistant General Counsel of Litigation, Cardinal Health; Judge Noceeba Southern Letts, Administrative Law Judge, United States Social Security Administration

5:30 – 6:30 PM
Reception Check-In and Networking

Thursday, May 19, 2016
6:30 – 7:00 AM
Check-In and Networking

7:00 – 8:00 AM
Breakfast Spotlight on Diversity and Inclusion: A Perspective from Paulette Brown Armstrong, Assistant Executive Director, Columbus Bar Association and President, JMLBA

8:00 – 8:15 AM
Networking/Transition Break

8:15 – 9:30 AM
Breaking Down Barriers and Investing in Diverse Talent
(1.25 hours of CLE pending)
Moderators: Lisa Kathumbi, Employment and Labor Law Attorney, Littler Mendelson; and Marilyn McClure-Demers, Associate Vice President, Associate General Counsel Corporate and Intellectual Property Litigation, Nationwide Insurance Company
Panelists: Judge Timothy S. Black, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Co-Convener of the BLAC-CBA Round Table; Jeffrey B. Jones, Shareholder and Board Member, Littler Mendelson; Tracie Ransom, Director of Complaints and Counsel, Edward Jones; and Janica Pierce Tucker, Partner, Taft Stettinius & Hollister

9:30 – 9:40 AM
Networking/Transition Break
9:40 – 10:55 AM
Beyond the Head Count: Inclusive Environments and Diverse Leadership
(1.25 hours of CLE pending)
Moderators: Lisa Kathumbi, Employment and Labor Law Attorney, Littler Mendelson; and Marilyn McClure-Demers, Associate Vice President, Associate General Counsel Corporate and Intellectual Property Litigation, Nationwide Insurance Company
Panelists: Earl J. Barnes, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, OhioHealth; Yvette McGee Brown, Partner-In-Charge of Diversity, Inclusion and Advancement, Jones Day; Kurt Tunnell, Managing Partner, Bricker & Eckler and Chair, Columbus Managing Partner Diversity Initiative; Kimberly S. Amrine, Member and Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Frost Brown Todd; and Myra McKenzie-Harris, Associate General Counsel, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

10:55 – 11:30 AM
urn Break

11:00 – 11:30 AM
Check-In and Networking

11:30 – 1:30 PM
OWBA/OWBF Annual Meeting Luncheon

Welcome & Swearing In: Justice Sharon L. Kennedy, The Supreme Court of Ohio
Keynote: Paulette Brown, President, American Bar Association and Partner and Chief Diversity Officer, Locke Lord LLP

2:00 – 3:00 PM
OWBA Reception Honoring Paulette Brown

Please visit www.owba.org for registration options and information as well as available sponsorship opportunities. For more information contact OWBA at (866) 932-6922 or admin@owba.org.

President’s Message
Cherishing the Past While Anticipating the Future of OWBA
By Grace Royalty, U.S. District Court – Southern District of Ohio

This is the last President’s Message from my term with the Ohio Women’s Bar Association. At our Annual Meeting in May, I will transfer leadership to Marilyn McClure-Demers. A natural analogy is to think of it as handing over a baton. I think a better comparison is that I am handing over a family heirloom—like a handmade quilt or a beautiful set of china. It causes you to reflect on the past, but it is also something that you care for and treat with respect so that it remains strong for the future.

Twelve months looked like a long time when I took office as president, but the work has been made easy from the amazing support the OWBA has received. We partnered with the Ohio State Bar Association to bring more women into the Ohio Supreme Court’s Specialty Certification program. We held a networking and social event with the Toledo Women’s Bar Association and the University of Toledo’s Women’s Law Student Association. Our Government Subcommittee partnered with Ohio State University’s Moritz College of Law for our “Inspiring Leaders” Student Giveback Luncheon. After battling bad weather and busy schedules, our Energy Committee was able to present “A Judicial Perspective - Ohio Energy Law” both in-person and through a live webcast. The OWBA thanks the law firm of McDonald Hopkins for sponsoring the event.

Other sponsors brought us CLE programs, Leading with Style, an in-house attorney event in Columbus, a new attorney reception in Cincinnati, a golf event in Dayton, and a tea to welcome the first female dean to the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Finally, we co-sponsored a Title IX Sexual Violence and Harassment Prevention Program with Ohio Northern University.

I am proud of what we have accomplished this year and cherish the hard work of the women who made it possible. While I will continue my work to support the OWBA and its mission, this leadership position will be passed to the next person to run with. I know it will be in good hands.
On October 16, 2015, the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking and the Ohio Women’s Bar Association were pleased to co-sponsor a seminar featuring Franklin County’s C.A.T.C.H Court (Changing Actions to Change Habits) to a full house. The seminar also highlighted Summit County’s efforts to combat human trafficking. The event took place at Portage Country Club, and was attended by over 100 people, including judges, lawyers, members of law enforcement, victim advocates, social workers and many other agencies and individuals dedicated to educating and assisting victims of human trafficking.

The Franklin County C.A.T.C.H Court, presided over by Judge Paul Herbert, seeks to treat female prostitution defendants as victims instead of criminals. The Court’s staff works with its clients to determine the reasons for their behavior, and to provide them with resources and effective alternatives to the legal system. Instead of repeatedly cycling these women through the system and labeling them as criminals who willfully break the law, C.A.T.C.H Court recognizes them as victims of abuse in need of medical and psychological treatment. Judge Herbert shared the challenges and rewards of his program and his incredible success rate. Vanessa, a graduate of the program, shared her journey from a life of despair to one filled with hope. The seminar also included a panel of speakers featuring Jaime Blair, Judicial Attorney with the Summit County Juvenile Court, who shared about the Summit County Restore Court; FBI Agent Charles Johnson, who outlined enforcement efforts in our area; and Akron Municipal Court Judge Katarina Cook and Professor Joann Sahl from the University of Akron Legal Clinic, who discussed expungement options for victims of human trafficking. The seminar was a huge success, with one participant sharing that it touched her heart and left a lasting imprint that will better equip her to do her job.

To learn more about the Collaborative go to www.endslaverysummitcounty.com or check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CollaborativeAgainstHumanTraffickingSummitCounty.

Vanessa speaking about her journey through the CATCH Court.

With the Outreach & Education Committee of the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking.
Highlighting Members of the OWBA Leadership Institute

In each issue we will highlight graduates of the OWBA Leadership Institute. This quarter we will highlight Shelby McMillan and Christine Li from the 2013-2014 Leadership Class. If you are interested in applying to the Leadership Institute, contact OWBA at admin@owba.org.

Shelby McMillan, Reminger Co., L.P.A.

What did you enjoy the most about the Leadership Institute? – I enjoyed the opportunity to get to know people from different areas of the legal profession. There were many traditional attorneys; however, there were just as many attorneys working in corporations and for non-profits. Each woman brought her own unique approach to legal analysis and problem solving to the Institute. It was invaluable. I also enjoyed hearing from other women about the experiences that they have encountered at their respective firms. Hearing these stories made me realize how progressive my firm Reminger is with respect to our support of women. I continue to feel blessed to be a part of such a great, forward-thinking firm.

What piece of advice would you give to someone who is just beginning the Leadership Institute or who is considering applying? My advice would be to keep an open mind. You will be learning new ways to approach leadership and learning new ways to problem solve. If you leave all your notions of what is appropriate and correct at the door, you will learn many different unique and collaborative ways to approach a task or problem, or how best to resolve a conflict.

How did participating in the Leadership Institute change you and/or make you better? The Leadership Institute taught me to listen more and talk less. Interacting with women from all walks of life and various legal backgrounds provided a unique perspective to approaching problem solving, as well as sharpening leadership skills that I had already possessed. Participation in the Leadership Institute made me both a better person and a better leader.

Do you specialize or have a niche? Yes. I focus my practice on Workers’ Compensation defense. I represent businesses, both large and small, and third party administrators in the management of claims before both The Industrial Commission of Ohio and in Common Pleas Court.

If you weren’t a lawyer, what would you be? This is the easiest question! I have two “fantasy” professions. First, I would love to be a jeweler, ideally for a design house like Cartier, or Harry Winston. My second “fantasy” job would be to own a food truck or a sandwich shop. The appeal of these two very different professions is basically creating happiness for others. It is unusual for someone to be unsatisfied after they get a lovely piece of jewelry, or be disgruntled after eating a delicious sandwich.

Christine Li, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the Chief Legal & Governance, Nationwide

What did you enjoy most about the Leadership Institute? I really enjoyed getting to know the other women in our class. We all had diverse career paths, yet we also shared many similar experiences. It was wonderful making those connections.

Where do you work? Reminger Co., LPA’s Cincinnati office.
connections and learning from one another.

**What is something that you learned that you implemented in your career/life?**
The importance of taking advantage of professional and personal opportunities as they arise, regardless of whether or not they come at the “right” times. It is important to be open and really consider or evaluate opportunities.

**Do you stay connected with anyone from your class?**
Absolutely. Many women are based in Columbus and we make an effort to connect outside of the Institute.

**What piece of advice would you give to someone who is just beginning the Leadership Institute or who is considering applying?**
If you’re considering applying, take the chance! It is well worth it – not only professionally, but also personally.

**How did participating in the Leadership Institute change you and/or make you better?**
Participation in the Leadership Institute helped me become a better leader. It reinforced the power of positive collaboration, but also the need to give back to others. We were fortunate to have many women leaders in the community speak to us during the Institute. I appreciated their insight and their willingness to spend time with us.

**Where do you work?**
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

**Do you specialize or have a niche?**
I support Nationwide Investments, with a focus on structured finance.

**If you weren’t a lawyer, what would you be?**
A travel writer!

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**Going All In**

By Kristyn Huening, FirstGroup America

On March 13, 2016, I had the honor of hosting my 10th annual fundraising event for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation. Conquering childhood cancer has been my motivation all along, but something else happened along the way; I found my passion. And, for the first time in my tenure…I shaved my head. I went all in, and it feels amazing!

It is so easy to get caught up in the rigorous of being a mom, a wife, CEO of the household, and maintain a full-time legal career. At any moment, I can be one or, as is usually the case, filling all of the aforesaid roles simultaneously, and I allow those I am serving to dictate my priorities. I love being a mom, a wife and an attorney, but by doing something else that I am passionate about, and going all in, even if for a short amount of time, gives me an additional sense of self.

For me, that passion is finding a cure for childhood cancers.

I committed to something bigger than myself. Focusing on my own priorities of raising money and shaving my head has allowed me to finally feel like I have given my all toward affecting change in the lives of kids battling this horrible disease. And in the process, I am teaching my children empathy; that helping others is important, and that going all in and finding something to be passionate about can be gratifying and at the same time have a tremendous impact on lives of others.

If you are not familiar with the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, it is a non-profit organization committed to conquering childhood cancers one research grant at a time. Because research for childhood cancers comprises only 4 percent of the grants, the St. Baldrick’s Foundation ensures that every grant funded by the organization goes directly to childhood cancer research.

While I am not advocating that everyone go to the extreme of head shaving, I am most definitely an advocate for focusing, even if momentarily, on what’s important to you. Whether it be something personal, related to your career or family, I encourage all of you to find something that makes you want to go all in.

Kristyn Huening is in-house counsel, primarily focusing on employment law, for a national transportation company in Cincinnati. She is also the OWBA District 12 Trustee and co-chairs the Cincinnati Leading with Style planning committee. For more information on the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, please visit www.stbaldricks.org.
News

Sustaining Members

Deborah Akers-Parry
Wolf and Akers LPA

Randal Sue Bloch
Wagner & Bloch

Magistrate Judge Stephanie Bowman
U. S. District Court
Southern District of Ohio

Angela Courtwright
Ice Miller LLP

Sherri Dahl, Esq.
Dahl Law LLC

Judge Patricia Delaney
5th District Court of Appeals

Jennifer Elleman
Lexis Nexis

Amanda Gatti
Reminger Co., LPA

Melissa Graham-Hurd
Melissa A. Graham-Hurd, Atty. at Law

Nita Hanson
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP

Kathleen Havener
The Havener Law Firm LLC

Claudia Herrington
JobsOhio

Valoria Hoover
Valoria Hoover Law Offices, LLC

Jennifer J. Jacquemain
Oldham Company, LLC

Lisa Kathumbi
Littler Mendelson

Magistrate Judge Karen L. Litkovitz
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio

Helen MacMurray
Mac Murray Petersen & Shuster

Catherine Martineau
MacMillan Sobanski & Todd, LLC

Amanda Martinsek
Thacker Martinsek LPA

Marilyn McClure-Demers
Nationwide Insurance

Jean McQuillan
Case Western Reserve University
School of Law

Susannah Muskovitz
Muskovitz & Lemmerbrock, LLC

Denise Platfoot Lacey
University of Dayton School of Law

Julie Rabin
Rabin & Rabin Co LPA

Alice Rickel
Alice Rickel & Assoc

Grace Royalty
U. S. District Court
Southern District of Ohio

Nancy Sabol
The Ohio Northern University Pettit
College of Law

New OWBA Members
(as of January 1, 2016)

Brianne Brown
Ohio Department of Medicaid

Margaret Castro
U.S. Attorney’s Office

Jeanne Cors
Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP

Haily Duong
Moritz College of Law

Rachel Hackle
University of Cincinnati College of Law

Allison Haedt
DHL Global Busines Services

Christy Hendricks
OhioHealth

Allison Kropp
Dinsmore & Shohl

Lin Maggi
A & A Elect Dist Inc.

Beverly Marsh
Standley Law Group LLP

Stacy Meloun
Agee Clyer Mitchell & Portman

Lisa Messner
MacMurray, Petersen & Shuster LLP

Jaelyn Miller
University of Cincinnati College of Law

Cailin Murphy
Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP

Theresa Rakocy
Fay Sharpe LLP

Meghna Rao
Squire Patton Boggs

Liesel Schmader
The Ohio State University Moritz
College of Law

Brenda Shoemaker
U.S. Attorney’s Office (DOJ)

Catherine Venard
Nationwide Insurance

Amanda Martinsek
Recognized Among
Top 25 Women Lawyers in Cleveland;
Top 50 in Ohio

For the second year in a row, Thacker Martinsek Founding President and Co-founding Shareholder, Amanda Martinsek, has been rated by her peers as among the Top 25 Women Lawyers in Cleveland by Super Lawyers. Added to this distinction for 2016 was the honor of also being rated among the Top 50 Women Lawyers in the State of Ohio.

This year marks the 10th consecutive year Amanda has been listed in Super Lawyers, a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations. Only 5 percent of Ohio’s almost 39,000 eligible attorneys receive this recognition.
Event Recap: 
Title IX Sexual Violence and Harassment Prevention Program

Ohio Northern University’s (ONU) Title IX Office held a free event on April 4, 2016, from 1 to 4 pm in the Dicke Forum in the Business Building of Ohio Northern University’s campus.

The topics covered were:
- **Title IX – Sexual Violence and Harassment: How do we recognize them?** What resources and options are available?
- **Title IX – Through the Eyes of a Victim: Why do they stay? Why don’t they report?**
- **Title IX – Consent and Sexual Assault: Breaking through the Myths**

The speakers were engaging. Thank you so much to Kelly Jennings Yeoman, partner at Vorys; Muriel Black, prevention coordinator at Open Arms Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services; and Michael Tarbet, prevention coordinator Crime Victim Services for providing such a wonderful and informative program to our attendees.