Relationships Matter
By Tara Aschenbrand

Five years ago, Past Presidents Michelle Roe and Claudia Herrington invited me to join OWBA. Their energy for the organization ignited a passion in me to be part of this incredible organization. Relationships matter... they can open doors that we may have never known about if we kept our heads down and focused on nothing more than our current work. Don’t get me wrong, a good work product is mandatory; but my career became more meaningful to me when I focused on the relationships. Working over a holiday weekend when I was in private practice became more manageable when I was working to help a client who was also a friend. Having a group of mentors and sponsors to bounce ideas off of or guide you as you make a pivotal decision is indispensable.

Through the OWBA, I have a network of supporters and advocates throughout the state and country. It was through these relationships that we welcomed more than 315 attorneys from across the state to the Annual Meeting and Conference, “Knowledge is Power: Taking Control Of Your Career.” During our Annual Meeting, Phyllis Harris, Senior Vice President and General Counsel Legal Operations at Walmart Inc., shared her incredible journey to her current position and highlighted the importance of sponsorship. We also recognized Supreme Court Justice Mary DeGenaro at the Honoring Women in Government reception. The success of our Annual Meeting and Conference depends upon the numerous speakers, moderators and volunteers who work tirelessly to develop thought-provoking CLE sessions, and I want to thank each of you who took time to contribute to this success. A special thank you to the Honorable James L. Graham, Southern District of Ohio, for conducting this year’s swearing-in ceremony.

I am excited to keep the momentum of our Annual Meeting going throughout this year. As done under our Past President Lisa Kathumbi’s direction, we will continue to tackle critical issues impacting women in our profession as we increase our knowledge and expand our own power and control over our careers. Through increased connections and relationships throughout the state (and further), we can better achieve a more meaningful impact in the legal community.

I look forward to working with the OWBA and OWBF boards and to serving you over the next year.

As done under our Past President Lisa Kathumbi’s direction, we will continue to tackle critical issues impacting women in our profession as we increase our knowledge and expand our own power and control over our careers.

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The Ohio Women’s Bar Association Annual Conference was held April 26-27 at Nationwide Conference Center in Columbus.

The first day kicked off with four CLE sessions, sponsored by Hahn Loeser, Thacker Robinson and Zinz, and Taft, with topics including:
- Gender By Us – Challenging Implicit Biases and Gender Norms
- Implicit Bias in the Legal Profession: What Can We Do About It
- Practice and Career Management: Planning and Transitioning – Should I Stay or Should I Go?
- Forget Work-Life Balance: It Is Just Life!

After a successful first day packed with education, guests were invited to the fourth annual Honoring Women in Government Reception, sponsored by Barnes & Thornburg LLP, to honor special guest Justice Mary DeGenaro with the Supreme Court of Ohio. During the reception, guests had the opportunity to converse, drink and snack on appetizers with fellow law professionals and Justice DeGenaro.

We didn’t want to stop learning on Thursday, so Friday started early with two more CLE sessions, sponsored by Squire Patton Boggs, and Steve Habash and Jean Luczkowski:
- Demonstrating Leadership and Navigating Ethical Considerations During Crisis
- Getting the Business: Discussion of Givers – How to Excel at Business Development and Lead Your Career

The CLE sessions wrapped up on time, giving our guests the opportunity to network before our Annual Meeting Luncheon. A special thank you to Major Shaun T. Robinson with the Ohio National Guard for commencing our meeting with an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. We had the pleasure of listening to our distinguished keynote speaker, Phyllis P. Harris, Senior Vice President and General Counsel Legal Operation at Walmart, Inc., talk about her life, starting as a young girl facing adversity in her community, her early career days and her present life. Harris showed true passion and strength in her words describing how she overcame gender and race barriers in many aspects of her life to become the motivated attorney she is and always has been, while inspiring many audience members with her powerful message.

The Annual Meeting also marked another graduating class for the Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute recognized graduates who received between 20-24 hours of quality CLE over six dedicated day-long sessions that focused on the challenges that women face on their career path by providing practical knowledge and strategies on business development. Congratulations to our 2017-2018 Leadership Institute graduates:
- Hillary Anderson, Nationwide
- Ali Anoff, The Procter & Gamble Company

The Annual Meeting and Luncheon marks a new year for the OWBA and OWBF leadership teams. With a new year, comes transition. We welcomed Tara Aschenbrand as the 2018-2019 OWBA President and Leslie Wargo as the 2018-2019 OWBF President. Special guest Judge James L. Graham installed Aschenbrand and Wargo as Presidents for their respective organizations. Each President spoke with very moving words about the honor this position brings and how they have a hopeful future for each organization.
OWBF strives to further education, not only for working professionals, but also for students studying to work in the law profession. Congratulations to Ayesha Haq for receiving the 2018 Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease OWBF Law Student Scholarship.

The Ohio Women’s Bar Association was proud to announce the recipients of this year’s President’s Choice Award and Family Friendly Award:

President’s Choice Award
Congratulations to Lisa Whittaker on being awarded the President’s Choice Award.

Family Friendly Award
Congratulations to Carol O’Brien with the Delaware County Prosecutor’s Office on being awarded the Family Friendly Award.

Diversity and Inclusion is a popular discussion topic but putting it into practice is not always done.

It was an honor to present two awards to individuals and organizations that not only put diversity and inclusion efforts into practice, but also make it a priority in their personal and professional lives.

Diversity and Inclusion Sponsor Award
Congratulations to Kurt Tunnell on being awarded the Diversity and Inclusion Sponsor Award.

Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award
Congratulations to Perez & Morris on being awarded the Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award.

For more information about this year’s award winners, turn to pages 4 and 5.

Thank you again to all who made the Annual Meeting a success. A special thank you to all of our amazing sponsors for supporting all of the efforts set forth by the OWBA and OWBF:

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OWBA Honoring Women in Government Reception
Barnes & Thornburg

Gifts
Thirty-One Gifts
Diversity and inclusion is a popular discussion topic but putting it into practice is not always done. OWBA was honored to present two awards to individuals and organizations that not only put diversity and inclusion efforts into practice, but also make it a priority in their personal and professional lives. Awards were presented at the 2018 Annual Conference and Luncheon on April 27.

Diversity & Inclusion Sponsor Award
Congratulations to Kurt Tunnell on being awarded the Diversity and Inclusion Sponsor Award. This award is presented to a legal professional who has individually championed the careers of women attorneys and the topic of diversity and inclusion. Kurt Tunnell is a long-time advocate and leader of diversity and inclusion initiatives. He successfully led the first majority-owned firm in Central Ohio to reach several diversity and inclusion milestones, including the hiring and promoting of African-Americans to partnership and having the highest percentage of female partners. Tunnell truly illustrates personal passion allowing him to pioneer the diversity movement for the firm he led. Jim Flynn, managing partner at Bricker & Eckler accepted this award on Tunnell’s behalf.

Diversity & Inclusion Champion Award
Congratulations to Perez & Morris on being awarded the Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award. This award recognizes a company, firm or professional organization that has demonstrated leadership and sustained committed to diversity and inclusion. Perez & Morris are, and always have been, a minority-owned business where diversity and inclusion are woven into how their firm was created. This firm strives to employ top diverse legal talent, with one third of their attorneys in Columbus being women and focusing on retention of women of color. Perez & Morris does not promote diversity just for statistics but set a foundation to seek true inclusion in their firm, in Central Ohio and in the national legal community.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee
The Ohio Women’s Bar Association and Ohio Women’s Bar Foundation strive to promote and lead the movement for diversity and inclusion of women attorneys. OWBA’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee adopted a mission and vision statement to highlight our efforts in advocacy.

Mission – To promote greater inclusion in the OWBA and OWBF by increasing diversity of our boards, committees and membership, through recruitment, retention, leadership development and programming for women attorneys which focuses on issues unique to and which impact diverse women attorneys across all dimensions of diversity including race, ethnicity, religion, disability, veteran status and regardless of background and/or affiliation.

Vision – To be the most respected and impactful bar association advancing in promoting women attorneys with a focus on diverse women attorneys including women of color, in Ohio, leading the effort for a more inclusive association and practicing bar in the state of Ohio and nationwide.

Jennifer Battle presented the Diversity and Inclusion Sponsor Award to Jim Flynn, managing partner at Bricker & Eckler, who accepted on Tunnell’s behalf.

Kiko Yee presented the Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award to Perez and Morris, accepted by Sarah Perez.
2018 President’s Choice and Family Friendly Award Recipients

The Ohio Women’s Bar Association was proud to announce the recipients of this year’s President’s Choice Award and Family Friendly Award, presented at the 2018 Annual Conference and Luncheon on April 27.

President’s Choice Award
Congratulations to Lisa Whittaker on being awarded the President’s Choice Award. This award is presented to someone who exemplifies the spirit of leadership, dedication and passion for the profession and for the life-long friendships made through OWBA and OWBF. Whittaker eagerly takes reign of new initiatives and projects within the organization with immense passion. Thank you Lisa for all the work you do, especially putting together a successful raffle with fabulous prizes during the Annual Conference!

Family Friendly Award
Congratulations to Carol O’Brien with the Delaware County Prosecutor’s Office on being awarded the Family Friendly Award. This award is given to a legal employer in Ohio who best exemplifies the commitment to work-life balance arrangements and assures that lawyers can take care of their families while pursuing a successful career. O’Brien has created a work culture where she is invested in her employees’ well-being. She’s understanding and willing to work with her staff to make sure they have time for personal issues that need attention. O’Brien is an excellent prosecutor that leads by example with a staff that is proud to work for her.

Lisa Whittaker accepted the President’s Choice Award, presented by OWBA Past President Lisa Kathumbi.

Carol O’Brien accepted the Family Friendly Award, presented by OWBA Past President Lisa Kathumbi.

National Urban League Hosts Pro-Bono Street Law Clinic in Columbus

The National Urban League, one of the nation’s oldest civil rights organizations, dedicated to economic empowerment, is hosting a Pro-Bono Street Law Clinic for residents of the Greater Columbus Area (Columbus, Ohio) on Saturday, August 4, 2018 at its Annual Conference, which will be taking place at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

The organization is in need of volunteer lawyers barred in Ohio and/or legal materials on a wide array of legal topics:, landlord-tenant, consumer law, family law / domestic relations, probate, expungement, law enforcement interaction, school discipline, voting rights, civil rights, employment and school discipline etc...to disseminate at the Pro Bono Event.

To participate, contact:
Elizabeth Friedman
Assistant General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
National Urban League
80 Pine Street, 9th Floor
Office: 212-558-5384
Email: efriedman@nul.org
What I Learned In-House, Before Joining My Firm
By Avery Schumacher, at Bricker & Eckler LLP

I had the unconventional opportunity to work as in-house counsel before becoming an associate at my firm. After graduating from law school, I completed a yearlong corporate fellowship with the nationally recognized health system, OhioHealth Corporation. I worked as a fulltime attorney in the Office of the General Counsel, where the in-house team of attorneys assimilated me as one of their own.

I would not have dreamed of getting that opportunity directly out of law school, but OhioHealth debuted the fellowship just in time for me to be the inaugural fellow.

I learned an incredible amount about being a lawyer by working closely with some of the best and brightest in my preferred area of expertise, health care. Perhaps most importantly to my career now, the fellowship allowed me to understand the needs and functions of a corporate client from an insider’s perspective.

The following are some of the valuable lessons I took away from my fellowship:

● **In-house attorneys want and need you to be concise.** Contrary to what I learned in law school, the corporate client rarely wants a multiple page memo. I learned that after turning in my first assignment as a seven-page memo. In-house counsel is not interested in the intricacies of the law, unless they are vital to the answer. Sure, you must know all of the intricacies of the law, mention their existence, and be able to back-up your answer with more detail upon request, but don’t bog down the client unless it is clear the client wants that much detail.

● **In-house attorneys have many clients too, all competing and vying for their attention.** Complicating things further, those clients are non-lawyers. One might imagine that there is less pressure on in-house counsel, but that is wrong; the pressure is just different. In-house counsel are expected to be generalists and to issue spot when presented with business plans. Answering a pointed legal question is rarely the only task, and there is less opportunity to extensively research an issue. That is why in-house counsel rely on outside counsel for narrow subject matter expertise, and that is where we can provide value.

● **In-house counsel are pressured by finances, even without billable hours.** Corporate clients are under immense pressure to be everything to everyone in their organization, all while staying under budget. Yes, outside counsel must be efficient to be successful, but outside counsel are generating revenue that can serve as evidence of skill and value. In-house counsel must prove their value as a cost center and show their worth through different measures. As outside counsel, it is important to keep this in mind when delivering a product.

● **Corporate clients want you to take a position.** It may not always be possible as outside counsel to make a recommendation in the gray area because of the risk involved, but that is a daily expectation of in-house counsel. In-house counsel are in a better position to ascertain their organization’s appetite for risk, but often the reason the in-house counsel is calling outside counsel is because their client wants an affirmative recommendation or a creative solution in the gray area, beyond just defining where that gray area lies. Working as outside counsel, I know we cannot always make that affirmative recommendation, but I try to keep it in mind when working with corporate clients.

The experience and knowledge that I gained in my year in-house will stick with me for the rest of my career, and it helps me to be a better partner for my business clients.

I hope that more organizations develop and participate in legal fellowship programs because they bring value to both the fellows and to the organizations of which they are a part. Besides the obvious value of having legal work and research at a first-year attorney salary, organizations also benefit by having someone motivated and energized to learn. In addition, there is unseen value. For an organization like OhioHealth, which has tremendous pride in its mission and values, the fellowship gives the organization a chance to shape and develop new attorneys into the type of outside counsel with whom they would like to work. The fellowship program allows organizations to train future counsel to be their strongest advocates, because the best outside counsel is one that truly understands the needs of the clients they serve.

Avery Schumacher is an associate attorney at Bricker & Eckler LLP, where she practices health care law. She earned her law degree from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law simultaneously with her Master of Health Administration from The Ohio State University College of Public Health. She may be reached at aschumacher@bricker.com.
Gender discrimination, sexual harassment, unequal pay, work-life balance issues and health issues are all major challenges in the legal profession facing women today.

Regardless of the area of law you practice, or how many years you have been practicing, you have probably experienced one if not all of these challenges.

You likely identify with the “overcomitter”
Some say I have it all. I’m a single female lawyer with an above-average income, plenty of friends and a healthy family. My day starts at 7 am, when I go for a run. I get to the office by 9 am, only to be inundated with demanding clients, millions of meetings and unforgiving deadlines. I have one client on hold while I email another. My best friend just texted me to ask if I’m still going to make it to her charity event at 6 pm. Mom wonders if I’m still going to bring an appetizer to dinner tonight at 6. Once again, I’ve overcommitted. What am I going to do?

Or maybe the “mom on the go”
The day starts early for me, around 5 a.m., as I check work email, respond to clients and determine my plan of action for the day. Today, Tommy has a clarinet lesson at 4 pm, and Jenny has a concert rehearsal at 4 pm. I’m trying to figure out how to be in two places at once – actually three. My boss just informed me that we have a mandatory meeting at the same time. My kids are not old enough to drive, and my husband is out of town. What am I going to do?

These are only two scenarios of the many challenges that women in the legal profession face. When looking at the lives of female lawyers, it is easy to see how stress, anxiety and depression can creep in from being overwhelmed, trying to be perfect, running out of time, and the constant competition in the legal profession. All of the issues facing female attorneys only highlight the truth that there are many factors and issues impacting attorney well-being. In a recent study, lawyers reported that among the most common mental health conditions are “anxiety (61.1%)… [and] depression (45.7%).”


The Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (OLAP) has been providing confidential assistance for more than 25 years to attorneys, judges and law students who struggle with substance abuse and mental health. Unfortunately, stigma of seeking help, as well as the fear of others finding out remain the biggest obstacles to attorneys seeking assistance for their issues.

Approximately 30 percent of OLAP’s referrals are women. Work-life balance, high job demands and gender discrimination are all areas of concern expressed by female attorneys, law students and judges. These stressors lead to symptoms (feeling overwhelmed, stress, sadness, irritability, difficulty making decisions, difficulty sleeping, change in eating habits, increased alcohol use, anxiousness) that may result in a diagnosis of depression, anxiety or substance use disorders. While not all of OLAP clients are diagnosed with a mental health disorder or substance use disorder, there are many factors impacting well-being and healthy functioning.

OLAP can help you determine a game plan to address your particular challenges. Here are a few suggestions to get you moving:

Start talking about it: The best way to change your circumstance is to start talking about it. Engage your friends, colleagues and support system and let them know your struggles. Being isolated and “soldiering on” will just keep you stuck! Also, most often than not you learn those around you are often battling similar issues, and you can gain strength in numbers.

Self-care and wellness: It starts with you! Make sure you are taking care of yourself. Sleep, nutrition and exercise are all vital to your overall wellness and ability to handle stress. Schedule your yearly doctor’s appointments and stay on top of your health.

Create your own definition of success: Don’t let others determine your success. Always be evaluating what your career and personal goals are and readjust as necessary. Ensure you have proper mentoring and support, regardless of how many years you have been practicing.

Seek support: If you are struggling with mood and/or substance use, don’t be afraid to seek the help that you need to get well.

(Continued on next page)
Highlighting a Member of the OWBA Leadership Institute: Melissa Baldwin, Contract Compliance Specialist, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

In each issue we will highlight graduates of the OWBA Leadership Institute. This quarter we will highlight Melissa Baldwin. If you are interested in applying to the Leadership Institute, contact OWBA at admin@owba.org.

What did you enjoy the most about the Leadership Institute?
I enjoyed meeting other women who were truly interested in enriching their careers by improving personal leadership skills. It was very rewarding to be in these sessions with peers who were at comparable points in their careers.

What is something that you learned that you implemented into your career/life?
One of the sessions was on personalities and how to best address a message to a person within a particular personality profile – essentially how to best get your message across to a person who thinks differently. It was one of the best sessions I attended, because it gave me tools to approach interpersonal situations with more confidence and agility in my messaging.

Do you stay in contact with anyone from your class?
I have not kept in regular contact with any class members, but seeing a class member is like seeing an old friend- there’s an ease to discussions and comfort in the interaction that is not always present with others. It’s also really comforting to know that when one of my classmates has had a “personal win,” I can just drop her a quick note of congratulations – and know that the thought was appreciated (at least, I hope it was!).

What piece of advice would you give to someone who is just beginning the Leadership Institute or who is considering applying?
Be as open as possible. The ideas and concepts explored in the Institute can be incorporated into your practice and personal life.

How did participating in the leadership Institute change you and/or make you better?
It gave me more confidence in myself, which is exactly what I had hoped to gain. It needed to be able to practice different skills - whether it was public speaking (planned or impromptu) or assessing how to approach difficult conversations. Being in a safe environment to “try things out” was valuable and allowed me to make mistakes, and then move forward.

Where do you work?
Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Supply Chain

Do you specialize or have a niche?
Public Contracting

If you weren’t a lawyer, what would you be?
For a very brief moment, I was almost a Geology Major in college, because I thought being a paleontologist or researching volcanoes/earthquakes would be really awesome. Then I saw the science class requirements and realized I’d have three more years of college. As a second-semester junior, I reconsidered and chose a major that would let me graduate on time. But I still think field researchers have great jobs.

What would you like to tell us about yourself (i.e. your family, hobbies, etc.)
Which one of these is not true? 1) My husband and I hiked the Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim for our 25th Wedding Anniversary; 2) I scuba-ed with hammerhead sharks in the Bahamas; 3) My children (17-21 years old) have already traveled to 4 continents; or 4) My middle daughter attends Miami University - the same university that her parents (and grandparents) attended. They are all true!

What’s a Woman To Do (from previous page)
Drop the judgment: This means of yourself! We are often our harshest critics.

Support each other: Build each other up!

While the challenges facing women in the practice of law are many, there is tremendous hope for this profession. The Ohio State Bar Association, local bar associations, OLAP, and other lawyer assistance programs across the country are working together to address these issues head on and make lawyer well-being a priority. It is each of our responsibilities to continue to have the hard conversations, be brutally honest about what challenges each of us, and not be afraid to seek help when needed. If you or someone you know in the legal community is struggling, please call OLAP for assistance at (614) 586-0621.
Fashion, Food and Fun! – Leading With Style Cincinnati Recap

From scenic Ohio River views to trendy fashions, Leading with Style was a success! On May 10, the Ohio Women’s Bar Association and the Ohio Women’s Bar Foundation hosted their annual Fashion Show in Cincinnati at Anderson Pavilion. Guests enjoyed delicious food and fun lifestyle vendor gifts while having the opportunity to view the latest trends in both men and women’s fashion.

Many guests took home multiple outstanding raffle and silent auction items, as well as a cork pull where many won high-quality wine and bourbon. Throughout the evening, participants were able to take advantage of the cigar bar and Top Golf lesson outside on the patio, while enjoying the nice weather.

OWBA and OWBF would like to thank our phenomenal co-chairs Amy Ahn-Roll and Jennifer Dollard-Smith for dedicating their time and passion to lead this event.

We would also like to thank our sponsors:

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Without all of you, we would not have been able to host such a great event. We cannot forget to thank our wonderful vendors!

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Meg Valentine
Orangetheory Fitness
Pink Tulip
Pitaya Boutique
Rodan + Fields
Cigar BarStaus
Tabacconist
Top Golf
Your Stylist Jackie Neville

A special shout out to Kendra Scott for not only being a vendor, but also for donating a profit of their sales to OWBA and OWBF!

Lastly, OWBA and OWBF would like to thank all who attended and participated in this year’s fundraising event and we hope to see you all again next year! ■
Sustaining Members

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

Sherri Dahl, Esq.
Dahl Law LLC

Melissa Graham-Hurd
Melissa Graham-Hurd & Associates, LLC

Nita Hanson
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP

Claudia Herrington
JobsOhio

Valoria Hoover
Ohio Attorney General’s Office

Aneca Lasley
Squire Patton Boggs

Rachel Lawless
Nationwide Insurance

Karen Litkovitz
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio

Sandy Lynskey
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Mac Murray & Shuster

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Carrie Starts
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Linde Webb
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New OWBA Members (as of June 1, 2018)

Leigh Anne Benedic
Porter Wright

Megan Bickerton
Columbiana County Prosecutor’s Office

Lindsay Capps
Abercrombie & Fitch

Abby Chermely
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Julianna Clark
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Helen Simpson
The Huntington National Bank

Lindsay Sloan
The Huntington National Bank

Janay Stevens
Dinsmore & Shohl

Honorable Melody Stewart
8th District Court of Appeals

Carolyn A. Taggart
Porter Wright

Tracey Turnbull
Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP

Jessica Voltolini
Ice Miller LLP

Melanie Webber
Fisher Phillips LLP

Courtney White
Dinsmore & Shohl
Celebrate OWBF’s 10th Anniversary!

The Ohio Women’s Bar Foundation will be hosting a fundraising gala in celebration of their 10th anniversary on September 14. OWBF was formed in 2008 as the educational and charitable arm of the Ohio Women’s Bar Association. The Foundation’s mission is to accelerate the advancement of women lawyers as leaders in the profession and to facilitate their service to the community. OWBF’s long-range plan endeavors to secure resources to fund educational opportunities for women lawyers that will facilitate their service to the community.

You won’t want to miss this opportunity to celebrate 10 years of success and support the Foundation’s future endeavors! Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for more information!

Celebrating a Decade of Promoting Diversity and Advancing Women in the Law Through Extraordinary Education and Leadership Training

The Vault | Columbus, Ohio

Follow us on Social Media

The OWBA and OWBF can be found on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Join our groups, like us and connect to us to share information and connect with women attorneys across Ohio.

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/OhioWomensBarAssociation
Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/OWBA
LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/Group/OhioWomen'sBarAssociation