



Association for Women Lawyers
of Greater Kansas City

link

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President's Message

Shelley I. Ericsson

"If you want to improve incrementally, compete. If you want to improve exponentially, cooperate." (Author unknown)

I heard this quote recently and it immediately resonated with me as it applies so well to the many facets of our lives: personal, work and community. One of the things that drew me to AWL over 10 years ago was the camaraderie and support offered by other female attorneys. I enjoy getting to know women who are striving to succeed in the legal profession and as mothers and volunteers in the community.

One of the founding tenets of our organization is to promote the equality of women and to provide each other with motivation, support and guidance. I'm proud of AWL members' efforts in that regard. The AWLF Connections program is running smoothly, with mentor/mentee relationships continuing to blossom. The AWLF Practice Development program is in full swing as new female attorneys continue to receive guidance and encouragement on how to build their current practices and define their long-term business goals.

We hit unprecedented numbers with the Food from the Bar campaign as a result of our partnership with the Kansas Women Attorneys Association. Together, almost 6,000 pounds of food and nearly \$5,000 in monetary donations was collected.

We are also coordinating our annual Step Up program where attorneys volunteer their time for an afternoon in Kansas City's Municipal Court to assist women who are currently in shelters and who would otherwise be unable to handle their legal issues stemming from unpaid parking tickets, speeding tickets, and other minor violations. AWL, through its members and the municipal court judges, is able to further assist these women with addressing outstanding tickets through community service programs. Be on the lookout for dates in either late August or

early September to participate in this worthwhile and rewarding program.

To keep up with AWL's many activities, please visit our website at www.awl-kc.org, check out our Facebook page, or follow us on Twitter (accessible from our website).



Shelley Ericsson

AWL WOULD LIKE TO THANKS ITS 2011

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AWLF CONNECTIONS PROGRAM: FUN WITH FOOD

Aubrey Gann-Redmon

The AWLF Connections members have been having entirely too much fun with food! In March, the ladies gathered at the Culinary Center of Kansas City for some mentorship bonding in a massive kitchen. Over wine and conversation, the chef taught everyone how to prepare Vietnamese spring rolls – and the staff got to judge among the different Connections groups. 2009’s Connections group won the award for the tastiest creation, 2010’s group won the most creative presentation, and 2011’s group won the June Cleaver Award for their outstanding taste in fashion and shoes. The group got so caught up in snacking on appetizers and catching up that the Culinary Center had to kick everyone out at 7:15 that night. “We had a blast,” reported Shauna Ripley.

In May, Connections was back for more fun with food only this time they were serving it to those in need at Beacon of Hope soup kitchen, run by the Salvation Army. For the women who were serving the food, it was about more than feeding the hungry, it was also about trying “to spread a little cheer to those who needed it,” said Kelly McCambridge. “The experience was a great opportunity to give back to our community and enjoy each other’s company at the same time. It felt good to do good and have fun. Plus they let us keep the hairnets.” Judging by all the work Connections has been doing with food, those hairnets might come in handy later on down the road! Samara Zaman, had a similar experience: “The staff was so kind and helpful, and the individuals we served were thankful and happy to have us there.”



Meet Jean Peters-Baker, Jackson County’s Newest Prosecutor

By Shelley I. Ericsson

I knew this day would come. In fact, from about the first time I met Jean Peters-Baker in law school, I knew she would accomplish all of her goals, and then some. While the rest of us were stressing over our studies and making plans for our next happy hour, Jean was busy making plans to change the world. We always knew where Jean stood on public issues. She made it known that she was an advocate for victims and that she was on a mission to make our community a better and safer place to live.

Jean began interning in the prosecutor’s office in 1996. She worked under then prosecutor, now U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. When Jean graduated from law school in 1998, she began practicing as an assistant prosecutor for Jackson County. Since that time, Jean has worked in nearly every unit in the prosecutor’s office, including family support, drug enforcement and drug court, domestic violence, sex crimes and child abuse, DART and community justice, grand jury and finally, the warrant desk.

Jean was officially sworn in as Jackson County prosecutor on Thursday, May 26, 2011. AWL is proud to support Jean and we look forward to the many successes she will no doubt have in this new chapter of her life.

(Clockwise, from top,) May Event - Salvation Army, Beacon of Hope Soup Kitchen – Class of 2011

March Event - Culinary Center of K.C. – Honorable Karen King Mitchell (mentor, class of 2011), Sue Sperry (mentor, class of 2010) and Gillian Ruddy (mentee, class of 2011)

Class of 2010

Mary Beth Blake (mentor, class of 2010) and Kendra Mosley Ayuk (mentee, class of 2010)

New Venue for AWL's Golf Tournament

On September 30, 2011, AWL will hold its Sixteenth Annual "I'm Not Serious About Golf" Tournament. This year, the Tournament will be at a new venue, Swope Memorial Golf Course.

Swope is a Professional Golf Association (PGA) golf course. It has many amenities including beautiful grounds, GPS on each cart, locker rooms, large banquet area and a more challenging course for the more experienced golfers.

This is the perfect course for the avid golfer or if you only golf once a year for this fun outing.

We will once again divide the tournament with half of the golfers on the front nine and half of the golfers on the back nine. In addition, we will also be adding some changes to the golf tournament, including a putting competition, a raffle, and hors d'oeuvres for the reception.

Please mark your calendar and sign up early. We are hoping for a sell out this year!

If you have any questions about the Tournament or sponsorship opportunities, please contact **Tricia Scaglia** at tricia@scaglialaw.com or 816-221-7224.



Association for Women Lawyers
of Greater Kansas City

September 30, 2011

"I'M NOT SERIOUS ABOUT GOLF" Tournament NEW LOCATION!

**Swope Memorial Golf Course: 6900 Swope Park Parkway, Kansas City, MO
816-513-8910**

Lunch and Golf (9 holes) for all participants - \$75.00; Lunch only - \$15.00

Lunch - 12 o'clock noon and Tee off - 1:00 p.m.

Registration Form

(Deadline for payment is September 23, 2011. Registrations without payment by September 23, 2011 will not be honored.)

Name _____ Are you an AWL member? Yes ___ NO ___

Phone _____ Email: _____

I have played golf ___ times in the past two years (none is ok)

IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE TOURNAMENT
TEAMS WILL BE COMPRISED OF PLAYERS WITH VARYING FREQUENCY OF PLAY
ABSOLUTELY NO PRE-ARRANGED TEAMS!!!

BE A SPORT!!! BE A TOURNAMENT SPONSOR

A cash donation will allow any individual, law firm, or other business to be a proud HOLE SPONSOR for the AWL/AWLF's premier 2011 sporting event. All other contributions for raffle, goodie bags or services are also encouraged. All sponsors will be appropriately recognized for their generosity as a hole sponsor or a general sponsor. Please mark your sponsorship below.

- _____ \$200 "NOT SERIOUS" Hole Sponsor
- _____ \$300 "COMPLETELY NOT SERIOUS" Hole Sponsor
- _____ \$500 "SERIOUSLY NOT SERIOUS" Hole Sponsor
- _____ \$1,000 "SOLE HOLE" Hole Sponsor
- _____ General Sponsor: Contribution Description: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

(as you would like it to appear on acknowledgement)

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 23, 2011

AWLF is a registered 501(c)(3) organization so donations MAY be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor. AWLF's Tax ID Number: is 26-3040532.

Please submit all registration fees and sponsorship via check payable to AWLF and mail (with Registration/Sponsorship Form) by September 23, 2011 to:

Tricia Scaglia, 4215 S. Hocker, Suite 200, Independence, MO 64055

Registrations without payment by September 23, 2011 will not be honored.

Questions? Call Tricia Scaglia at 816-221-7224 or email her at tricia@scaglialaw.com.



Judges Federman, Dow and Venters holding donations we collected for the Food from the Bar food drive at the Koger Symposium (we received much more than is shown in the photo). Thanks to Tammie Holmes, who is with the court, for taking the photo.

AWL teams up with KWAA to Expand This Year's Food from the Women's Bar Campaign!

By Beth Murano

Although it's sometimes difficult to believe that hunger exists in Kansas City. It does! It's a child who stuffs his pockets during lunch at school so he has food to eat at home in the evening. It's a parent who is –ironically–overweight, because sugar and carbohydrate-laden foods are often the least expensive at the local store. It's a senior citizen who goes without food in order to buy medicine, further jeopardizing her already fragile health. The reality is that there are hungry people in the Kansas City area.

In response to this reality, the third annual Food from the Women's Bar Food Drive was held April 18 – May 13, 2011 in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Food from the Bar is an anti-hunger campaign mobilizing the legal profession as a whole to help alleviate hunger in our communities. This four week effort encouraged law firms and legal offices to participate by contributing money, donating food, and volunteering time at the local food banks. The program is sponsored nationally by the National Conference of Women's Bar Association. Locally, this year marks the first year of a combined organizational effort between Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City (AWL) and the Kansas Women Attorneys Association (KWAA).

The collective efforts of AWL and KWAA produced outstanding results for Harvesters Community Food Network, Cross-lines Community Outreach, and the Blue Valley Multi-Service Center Food Pantry. All three of these charitable organizations do a commendable job providing emergency food assistance to our community in any given week. In total, 5856 pounds of food were donated and approximately \$4,610 in monetary donations was collected. Based on the amount of donations that went directly to Harvesters, they estimate that they will be able to provide 22,627 meals to our community.

AWL would like to send a special thanks to colleagues at KWAA. Without KWAA's help, we would have not been able to have reached so many more participants this year and had such incredible results. Most importantly, thank you to all who participated and made this the best Food from the Bar campaign yet!

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Platinum Sponsor Highlight

Husch Blackwell, LLP: Leaving a Pro Bono Legacy

By Amber Steinbeck

Husch Blackwell has a long-standing commitment to bridging the justice gap and improving access to critical legal services for the underserved and underrepresented. As a Signatory Member of the Pro Bono Institute's Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, a national organization that encourages pro bono work in law firms across the country, our attorneys are encouraged to provide pro bono legal services to individuals, public service groups and charitable organizations. The firm also provides much needed financial support to non-profit organizations that focus on providing care and services to the indigent.

We are proud that in 2010, our attorneys donated nearly 15,000 hours to pro bono services covering a broad range of areas, including civil rights, children's rights, discrimination, criminal defense, immigration and housing. For many of our attorneys, their pro bono efforts meet the needs of those in their own communities. In Kansas City, our attorneys are helping to gain commitments from developers to acquire and rehabilitate residential properties in areas of Kansas City with high foreclosure rates. Attorneys in our St. Louis and Kansas City offices assist local families with children who are diagnosed with learning disorders, such as autism. The volunteer attorneys work with families in disputes over educational services, medical reimbursements and other legal issues. Attorneys in our other offices regularly provide their legal services via area bar associations.

Recognition

Husch Blackwell is fortunate that its commitment to pro bono and community service has been recognized by public interest agencies, bar associations and other organizations throughout the United States. Recent recognitions include:

- 2011 Outstanding Community Partner Award, The Center for Women in Transition
- 2011 Difference Maker, Memphis Area Legal Services
- 2010 Outstanding Law Firm, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
- 2010 Pro Bono Firm of the Year, Legal Aid of East Tennessee
- 2010 Community Awareness Award, The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- 2010 Excellence in Pro Bono Award, The Public Interest Law Group

Each year, Husch Blackwell attorneys invest in their communities by dedicating their time and skills to those who are unable to afford legal services and representation. Below are just a few of the programs in which we regularly participate:

Juvenile Detention Dockets

In Kansas City and St. Louis, several Husch Blackwell attorneys provide pro bono representation to juveniles entering the justice system. Long time AWL member and Husch Blackwell attorney, David Schatz

was one of the founders of this program in Kansas City in 2007. He notes that: "for many juveniles, their first contact with the County or City Court when charged with a delinquency or a status offense is during the Detention Hearing, which must be held within 72 hours of their initial detention. Due to funding cutbacks, the Jackson County and St. Louis City Public Defender's offices no longer provide attorneys to represent juveniles in these initial proceedings, leaving juveniles to face the court without an advocate. It is imperative that the local bar step in to help our justice system and protect these juveniles." More than a dozen Kansas City attorneys have volunteered to represent juveniles during detention hearings on a rotating schedule. In St. Louis, several of our attorneys partner with Saint Louis University Law School to advise juveniles all the way through the legal process, including trial, motions and pleadings.

"These kids don't know what's going on when they find themselves in this situation," says Dasha Lyeshchenko, an AWL member and Kansas City Husch Blackwell attorney who represents juveniles. "We can help the kids and parents make decisions to help them navigate more smoothly through the legal system. The majority end up not being detained. Although many of the kids have had a rough start in life, I'm glad we can offer the families some support."

Domestic Violence Programs

Husch Blackwell assists individuals affected by domestic violence; the firm has relationships with Women's Safe House in St. Louis and Harmony House (formerly known as the Family Violence Center) in Springfield.

In 2010, St. Louis volunteer lawyers began visiting The Women's Safe House, a local domestic violence shelter, twice a month to meet with residents facing a variety of legal issues. In coordination with Saint Louis University Law School's Family Law Clinic, Catholic Legal Ministries and Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Husch Blackwell lawyers handle a variety of legal matters, including traffic warrants, permanent housing, divorce and custody cases. In the last six months, 67 residents received legal assistance from 10 Husch Blackwell lawyers.

The firm's relationship with Springfield-based Harmony House started three years ago; currently, Springfield partner Paul Satterwhite serves as president of the organization's board. In addition to Paul, Springfield attorneys Charlie Cowherd and Kevin Meyers have worked on behalf of Harmony House residents in child custody and spousal support matters.

Immigration & Asylum Services

Attorneys in the firm's Kansas City, St. Louis and Denver offices also handle a number of cases for individuals seeking immigration status or asylum in the United States. Our attorneys serve clients of local refugee support organizations. Our key roles are working on establishing

(continued, p. 6)



Meet Langdon & Emison, Platinum Sponsor

Langdon & Emison is a firm that has earned national distinction in products liability litigation. As Personal Injury/Wrongful Death and Product Liability lawyers, they have handled cases across the country in State and Federal Courts. They particularly have led the way in matters related to auto product defects, in particular post-collision fuel-fed fires.

Over the last couple years the firm has delved into mass tort litigation (AWL president-elect Phyllis Norman heads up that division of the firm). In addition to representing clients who have been injured by dangerous drugs and defective medical devices, Langdon & Emison has enjoyed success in railroad crossing accidents, trucking accidents, and many other product defect and injury/death cases.

The firm's attorneys have recently been recognized for their prowess in the courtroom. In 2010, Bob Langdon was named one of two "Legal Champions" for the state of Missouri by Missouri Lawyers Weekly as part of its "Lawyer of the Year" awards program. His partner Kent Emison was inducted recently into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and earlier this year was appointed by Gov. Nixon to the Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. Phyllis, meanwhile, was named "Young Lawyer of the Year" by KCMBA, and a "Rising Star" by Missouri Lawyers Weekly and Super Lawyers, all this year alone.

Their clients have received big awards as well. Last year, Bob and Phyllis were part of a successful trial team in California that won a \$23.4 million verdict. The firm also won an \$8 million verdict in Platte County, Mo. The great majority of their cases come from referring attorneys who recognize Langdon & Emison's experience and their genuine caring for their clients, as well as their leadership in the profession.

Among the organizations that the firm's attorneys currently provide leadership in 2011 are the AWL, the Attorney Information Exchange Group, the AAJ, the KCMBA, and the Lafayette County Bar Association. Langdon & Emison is dedicated to promoting diversity in the workplace, including supporting women in the practice of law. They are a small and close-knit firm consisting of seven attorneys who work together as a team on each case to which they are assigned. The firm is able to use each team member's diverse background to achieve their goal of helping clients receive compensation and justice.

Langdon & Emison is proud to continue to be a sponsor of the Association for Women Lawyers and is proud to promote diversity in the workplace.

Husch Blackwell, (continued)

permanent residency for the clients and helping them navigate the Immigration and Naturalization Service process.

In one recent asylum case, Husch Blackwell Kansas City attorney Stacey Meyer Bowman's client was, along with her husband, a member of a political party that opposed the ruling government in her home country in Africa. Both were abducted, beaten and tortured by government supporters and the police, who continued to further brutalize Stacey's client while forcing her husband to watch the attack. In another case, Husch Blackwell Denver attorney Sudee Mirsafian Wright's client was suffering the long-term and horrific effects of mutilations performed on her during infancy at the request of her mother. Both female clients feared persecution if they returned to their home countries, and Sudee and Stacey were faced with proving to an immigration judge that this fear was well-founded.

"Even though my parents brought me and my brothers to the United States in the mid-1980s in order to escape the oppressive Iranian government, I often take for granted the freedom we have in this country," Sudee said of her experience. "The asylum case reminded me that there are millions of people around the world that would do almost anything to live here."

Husch Blackwell, LLP was and is a pioneer in its support of pro bono initiatives, a philosophy shared and promoted time and again through AWL and its membership. So, when approached this year to be a sponsor of AWL, the request was met by Husch Blackwell with a resounding yes and a decision to support AWL monetarily at the highest level—platinum sponsorship. We encourage your support of AWL in the same capacity.

If you or your firm would like to support or sponsor AWL in a similar capacity, please visit the AWL website at awl-kc.org.

Amber (Van Hauen) Steinbeck is a partner with Husch Blackwell and is currently serving on the AWL board as the Vice Chair of Community Support.

IT'S THE TOOLS OF YOUR TRADE, [WO]MAN! — Justice Scalia

A Summary of Writing Tips from the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States

In 2006, well-known legal writing authority Bryan Garner began interviewing the Supreme Court Justices for tips on legal writing. Videotapes of those interviews have been available online at www.lawprose.org since they were completed. More recently, however, The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing published and made available full transcripts of those interviews. A long read, but chock full of useful tips and inspiration for what is often a daunting task. I recommend reading each of the eight transcripts in their entirety, but until we all have the extra time, this article is intended to provide a thousand foot view.

Not surprisingly, there were common themes:

Lawyers have an obligation to the profession to cultivate their writing skills

To the extent that lawyers don't write well, to the extent they abuse words, to the extent they use them incorrectly, they are making dull the tools of their trade, which is a terrible thing.

- Justice Scalia

That's the difference between being a professional and not. You have an obligation as an officer of the court, and regardless of the financial realities, you're the one standing up there, not your clients. If you have an obligation, you put in whatever is necessary to get it done and then hope the client will pay for it. A slipshod performance because "I only had so much money I could bill or afford to spend on this brief" is a great disservice to the court.

- Justice Roberts

Lawyers are great at taking complicated things, and that's a lawyer's greatest, greatest virtue, I think to me, is that he is a generalist . . . that's what they're paid to do.

- Justice Breyer

Footnotes are a waste of time

I don't care. I don't read them that closely. If it is important, you put it in the text.

- Justice Thomas

There is no point in using a footnote. Make a decision: Is it relevant and important or not?

- Justice Breyer

On one of Justice Roberts's drafts, Justice Rehnquist circled a lot of things and said, "Let's

put all these things in footnotes." After Justice Roberts complied, he said, "now cut out all the footnotes."

- Justice Roberts

Be brief

I have yet to put down a brief and say, "I wish that had been longer".

- Justice Roberts

Prolixity is probably the worst offense that most unskilled brief-writers are guilty of.

- Justice Scalia

It's the old adage, "If I'd had more time, I would have written less."

- Justice Alito

Bad writing signals poor thought process

You don't have a lot of confidence in the substance if the writing is bad.

- Justice Roberts

I think there is a clear relationship between good, clear writing and good, clear thinking. And if you don't have one, it's very hard to have the other.

- Justice Alito

Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus. "False in one, false in all." It's the same thing about sloppiness. If you see somebody who has written a sloppy brief, I'm inclined to think this person is a sloppy thinker. It is rare that a person thinks clearly, precisely, carefully and does not write that way. And it's rare that someone who is careful and precise in his thought is sloppy in his writing. So it hurts you. It really hurts you to have ungrammatical, sloppy briefs . . . even typographical errors. It just shows you're not careful.

- Justice Scalia

If someone uses improper grammar, you begin to think, well, maybe the person isn't as careful about his work, or his or her work, as he or she should be if he doesn't speak carefully. Grammar is really quite important.

- Justice Stevens

Avoid legalese

A good test is, if you used the word at a cocktail party, would people look at you funny?

- Justice Scalia

We might think we're saying something

important when we're really not. It can be pretentious.

- Justice Kennedy

If you can say it in plain English, you should.

- Justice Ginsberg

Avoid legal jargon as much as possible. It adds nothing.

- Justice Breyer

Legalese is totally unnecessary.

- Justice Alito

The Justices also remarked on the importance of grammar and, regardless of the "rules", their preferences for purposes of flow and clarity:

"Which" slows you down, "that" just seems to have a better pace to it. You can usually get rid of both of them.

- Justice Roberts

Adverbs are a way for you to qualify, if you don't use them, it forces you to think through the conclusion of your sentence. And it forces you to confront the significance of your word choice, the importance of your diction.

- Justice Kennedy

Viewpoints on the most important part of a brief differed slightly as well:

The most important thing is to be accurate and intellectually honest in your arguments and state them clearly.

- Justice Stevens

The framing of the question is crucial. "Man, that's everything."

- Justice Scalia

I like the summary of the argument. It gives you a preview, "here's what I am going to tell you."

- Justice Thomas

Be scrupulously honest because if a brief-writer is going to slant something or miscite an authority, if the judge spots that one time, the brief will be distrusted – the rest of it.

- Justice Ginsberg

The most important thing in a brief when you state the facts is you must be fair.

- Justice Kennedy

Clarity is necessary, elegance is plus.

- Justice Alito

Writing Tips, continued

Nearly the entire group commented on the extensive outlining process of writing and the numerous rounds of editing. Justice Thomas remarked that “editing is the key to it all” and Justice Ginsberg noted that she goes through “innumerable” drafts—“I try hard, first of all, to write an opinion so that no one will have to read a sentence twice to get what it means.”

Above all, perhaps, the Justices want to know, up front, the key points of your case and why you should win. Justice Thomas encourages lawyers to “just say what you’ve got to say; get it upfront” and in your conclusion, “tell the Court what you want it do to.” Judge Breyer agrees, “[i]n the beginning, I want to see what the question is; and the end, I want to know what the summary is.” Justice Alito finds, in the company of some of the others, including Justice Roberts, that a summary paragraph at the beginning makes for an easier read. The Justices, like Justice Kennedy do not necessarily want lawyers to suppress their personalities, and appreciate context and human interest in briefs, but clarity certainly wins the day on the bench—“I want it clear, and I want it fast. And if possible, I want it elegant.” - Justice Scalia.

The full text of the transcripts is available at:
http://www.scribes.org/sites/default/files/Scribes-Journal_Volume-13_Garner-transcripts.pdf



Spring Judicial Reception a Success

On March 22, 2011 AWL held its annual Spring Judicial Reception at The Boulevard Brewery. This well-attended event is held each year to recognize and thank the judiciary for all they have done and continue to do for AWL and the legal community.

This year’s event benefitted New House Shelter. Cash donations were collected and we would like to thank everyone who donated to this worthy cause. Boulevard Brewery generously provided all attendees with a parting favor which consisted of a pint glass with AWL’s logo.

AWL would also like to thank our sponsors for this event. Events are not possible without your support. Platinum sponsors include: The Henning Law Firm, Husch Blackwell, Langdon & Emison, Lathrop & Gage, and Stinson Morrison Hecker. Gold sponsors include: Dysart Taylor Lay Cotter & McMonigle and McCollum & Griggs; Silver sponsors include: Seyferth Blumenthal & Harris and Siro Smith Dickson; and Event sponsors include: Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice and Fox Stretz & Quinn. A special thanks to Xact Data Discovery who provided the invitations and signage for the event.

Congratulations to AWL members who have recently received well-deserved recognition:

The following AWL members were honored by Missouri Lawyers Weekly at its Women’s Justice Awards banquet on April 22, 2011 in St Louis:

- Kimberley Fournier (Public Service Practitioner)**
- Tracy Bornman (Business Practitioner)**
- Susan Ford Robertson (Litigation Practitioner)**
- Arimeta R. DuPree (Rising Star)**
- Phyllis Norman-Komoroski (Rising Star)**

Congratulations to all these women on the well-deserved honor.

Phyllis Norman-Komoroski was also recently recognized as Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association’s Young Lawyer of the Year. Congratulations, Phyllis!

Congratulations to the following AWL members that graduated from the **2010-2011 KCMBA Bar Leadership Academy**:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Arimeta Dupree | Emily Haverkamp |
| Carly Duvall | Kendrea White |
| Sara Bruchman | Margaret Aisenbrey |
| Mary Jane Judy | Alicia Koranda |
| Megan Wiese | |

Additionally, past president and long time AWL member **Susan L. McGreevy** has been selected by the KCMBA as one of this year’s recipients of the prestigious Deans of the Trial Bar Award. This award is presented annually and spotlights individuals whose superb litigation skills and professional demeanor are viewed as exemplary by their peers. She was recognized at an awards dinner on May 20 during the Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference. Susan practices at **Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP** where she heads the firm’s Construction Law Group. Congratulations Susan!



left to right- Kristi Burmeister, Angela Tsevis & Michelle Marvel

New Member Reception Held May 10th

The AWL Board of Directors, through the sponsorships of **Holman Schiavone LLC** and **The Henning Law Firm**, hosted a private reception for new AWL members on May 10, at the home of AWL Membership Vice Chair, Anne Schiavone. This 2nd annual event was organized to welcome new members in an intimate environment and provide an introduction to member benefits. Representatives from each AWL committee addressed the group to highlight its activities and recruit committee members. Please join the AWL Board of Directors in welcoming the **105 new members** who joined AWL between June 2010 and May 2011.