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Please Join NNWLA on January 20, 2015 for Our General Counsel Presentation

Please join us as we kick off the New Year with a great dinner presentation. Our first event of the New Year will be held on Tuesday evening, January 20, 2015, at 6 p.m. at the Eldorado Hotel and Casino.

The event will feature a panel discussion from the general counsel perspective. We are honored to welcome four distinguished attorneys who act as general counsel for their respective organizations: Mary Dugan, Esq. (University of Nevada, Reno); Kathleen Fellows, Esq. (Hard Rock Hotels); Edie Hofmeister, Esq. (Tahoe Resources, Inc.); and Debra Robinson, Esq. (Monarch Casinos) as our panelists. The panelists will provide information regarding their career paths prior to serving as general counsel for their current organizations, as well as tips for private attorneys who interact with clients' general counsel offices.

The cost is \$35 for members in advance, \$40 for non-members in advance, and \$45 at the door. Advance payments are due by Friday, January 16, 2015. You can pay via PayPal on our website (www.nnwla.com) or by sending a check to our Treasurer Anjali Webster, c/o Gordon & Silver, 100 W. Liberty St., Ste. 940, Reno, NV 89501. Please e-mail questions for the panel to nnwla.rsvp@gmail.com prior to the event. CLE credit is pending approval.

Meet the 2015 NNWLA Board



(Back row: Marilee Breternitz, Tara Zimmerman, Katie Hoffman, Anjali Webster, Katie Brady; Middle row: Kimberly Goodnight, Lauren Berkich, Laury Macauley, Sally Bassett; Front row: Diana Zuccarini; Not pictured: Jennifer Gustafson)

At the final NNWLA meeting of 2014, the membership elected its newest slate of officers for 2015: President Kimberly L. Goodnight, Vice President Lauren D. Berkich, Secretary Laury M. Macauley, Treasurer Anjali D. Webster, Communications and Newsletter Chair Marilee Breternitz, and Events Coordinator Katie L. Hoffman.

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January Highlights:

January 20th: Presentation by various General Counsel at 6 p.m. at the Eldorado Hotel and Casino.





A Word From Our New 2015 President



By Kimberly L. Goodnight

On behalf of the NNWLA board, I want to wish our membership a Happy New Year! I want to take this time to reflect on the past twelve months and thank outgoing NNWLA president, Sara Almo, for all of her hard work and leadership in 2014. During Sara's presidency, NNWLA hosted speakers on immigration, alternative dispute resolution, and international programs. NNWLA also organized two judicial panels—one for Women's History Month and one in Carson City with the full panel of the Nevada Supreme Court. NNWLA also organized many "firsts." We co-sponsored Northern Nevada's first Annual Women in the Law Conference with the Nevada State Bar. We also held our first judicial candidates' mixer where we invited members of the community to interact with and listen to candidates running for judgeships in Washoe County. Finally, our year ended with two preeminent holiday events. Our annual holiday party, graciously hosted by the Honorable Valerie P. Cooke, was a festive and grand event with an impressive turnout by both our membership and distinguished judicial guests. Additionally, due to our membership's generosity, we were able to shop for 50 Veterans Memorial Elementary School students at J.C. Penney's on December 13th. To demonstrate how meaningful this event is to our commu-

nity, we have included a thank you letter from Veterans Memorial Elementary School. The Board thanks all of the individuals and law firms who donated to this event and thanks all of the volunteer shoppers who pitched in a little more at the register to fulfill holiday wishes this year.

In 2015, my first order of business is to introduce to you the recipient of the Outstanding Woman Lawyer award. For those of you who do not know, this award is not given annually but only when one woman's outstanding efforts and achievements deserve celebration. This year NNWLA will be honoring Judge Deborah Schumacher on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at the Atlantis Casino Resort for her dedication to the lives of children and families in this community. Please continue to read our newsletters as our newsletter chair and committee provide us with interviews with Judge Schumacher and details for this celebration.

Lastly, I invite you to join NNWLA for our first event of the year. On Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Eldorado Resort Casino, we will be hosting a panel discussion with prominent general counsels in our state. Ms. Mary Dugan of the University of Nevada-Reno, Ms. Kathleen Fellows of Hard Rock Hotels in Las Vegas, Ms. Edie Hofmeister of Tahoe Resources, Inc., and Ms. Debra Robinson of Monarch Casinos will be discussing their career paths and providing attorneys with practice tips on working with general counsels' offices. We look forward to seeing you in 2015 and thank you for your continued support!

Meet the 2015 NNWLA Board Continued...

Before becoming NNWLA's newest President, Kimberly served as Vice President, Secretary, and Communications and Newsletter Chair of the organization. Outside of NNWLA, Kimberly serves as a staff attorney for the United States District Court, District of Nevada, where she focuses on civil rights cases.

Newly elected Vice President Lauren D. Berkich is also a NNWLA veteran, as she has served on the board in a number of positions. Lauren is an associate at Woodburn and Wedge practicing family law.

Laury M. Macauley previously served on the board as Treasurer and Communications and Newsletter Chair. Laury is the founding partner of Macauley Law Group, P.C. and practices in the areas of bankruptcy and business litigation.

Anjali D. Webster served as the Events Coordinator for the last two years. Anjali is an associate at Gordon & Silver practicing commercial litigation and appeals.

Marilee Breternitz served on the Newsletter Committee in 2014. Marilee is an associate at Laxalt & Nomura, Ltd. and practices civil and commercial litigation.

Katie L. Hoffman also served on the Newsletter Committee in 2014. Katie is an associate at Fennemore Craig. Katie practices gaming and regulatory law.

The 2015 NNWLA Board also welcomes the Newsletter Committee Members: Tara Zimmerman, Sally Bassett, Katie Brady, Jennifer Gustafson, and Diana Zuccarini. Tara practices commercial litigation at Lewis Roca Rothgerber, LLP. Sally is a Newsletter Committee veteran. She is a staff attorney for the Nevada Supreme Court in the Criminal Division. Katie practices commercial litigation and appeals at Gordon & Silver. Jennifer is a Deputy District Attorney for Washoe County in the Civil Division. Diana practices family law at Surratt Law.

We are looking forward to making 2015 a great year!





Thank You to the Veterans Memorial Shoppers and Donors

NNWLA would like to give a special thank you to all the shoppers and donors who made the Annual Veterans Memorial Shopping Event a success! First we would like to thank all of our shoppers: Devon Ahearn, Sara Almo, Stephen Avillo, Sally Bassett, Garrett Berkich, Lauren Berkich, Lauren's parents, Marilee Breternitz, Hillary Bunker, Veronica Chavez, Ellen Chilton, Melinda Corelli, Sam Forrester, John Funk, Stephanie Funk, Kimberly Goodnight, Andrew Gordon, Katie Hoffman, Laury Macauley, Laury's daughters, Victoria Mendoza, Patrick Millsap, Leyla Mirbaha, Deb O'Gorman, Holly Parker, Carrie Parker, Carrie Parker's guests, Jacey Prupas, Jacey Prupas' guests, Kaelin Ragsdale, Jennifer Rains, Catherine Reichenberg, Jeremy Reichenberg, Sarira Sadeghi, Brandon Sendall, Chandeni Sendall, Anjali Webster, and Brandon White.

Thank you to all of our donors! **Gold Level:** Kathi Jackson, Gayle Kern, Ltd., Cecilia Lee, Ltd., Hon. Cynthia Lu, Carrie Parker, Janine Prupas, Jennifer Rains, Marilyn Skender, Woodburn & Wedge; **Silver Level:** Sally Bassett, Hon. Valerie Cooke, Kevin and Dale Davis, Suellen Fulstone, Gunderson Law Firm, Laxalt & Nomura, Ltd., Lemons Grundy & Eisenberg, Hon. Patricia Lynch, Macauley Law Group, P.C., Alice Campos Mercado, Kathleen F. Noneman, Debbie O'Gorman, Holly Parker, Emily Reed, Heather Robertson, Christine Smith (in honor of Ian Smith Meier), Therese Ure, Schoeder Law Offices; **Bronze Level:** Lauren Berkich, Marilee Breternitz, Elizabeth Chilton, Kimberly Goodnight, Alicia Johnson, Andrea Nichols, Courtney O'Mara, Hon. Deborah Schumacher, Janet Traut, and Diana Zuccarini.

Finally, we want to thank the shoppers that went above and beyond the call of duty. We were informed that many of our shoppers provided their students additional shopping money the day of the event. Thank you everyone for making the shopping event extra special!

And the 2015 Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award Goes To...



The NNWLA Board would like to thank everyone who submitted a nomination for the Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award. All of the nominees are fantastic women and have accomplished great things. The 2015 Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award recipient this year is the Honorable Deborah Schumacher.

Judge Schumacher obtained her law degree from the University of Notre Dame. Before joining the bench in 1997, Judge Schumacher worked in private practice and as a part time court master. Judge Schumacher began her legal career in San Francisco. She moved to Reno in 1985 and became a partner at McDonald, Carano, Wilson, McCune, Frankovich & Hicks from 1985 through 1997. Judge Schumacher served as a part-time court master for the Family Division, of the Second Judicial District Court, from 1992 to 1997.

In 1997 Judge Schumacher joined the bench and has presided over Department 5 ever since. Judge Schumacher has participated in numerous efforts to improve the lives of children and families in our community. We cannot begin to thank her enough for the work she has done in our community before and after taking the bench. For those of you who do not know, Judge Schumacher is officially retiring at the end of 2014.

Please save the date for a dinner event honoring Judge Schumacher on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at the Atlantis Casino Resort. Please remember to read next month's newsletter for more information about Judge Schumacher and the March 25, 2015 Event!





Save the Date for the February Event with State Bar Counsel R. Kait Flocchini

Please join us on February 17, 2014, at noon at Mario's Portofino, 1505 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89502, for a presentation by R. Kait Flocchini entitled "What Every Lawyer Needs to Know About Attorney Discipline and How to Avoid it." The presentation will cover the discipline process and the top 10 ways to avoid becoming involved in a disciplinary matter.

Please RSVP to nnwla.rsvp@gmail.com prior to the event. In early February, you will be able to pre-pay for the luncheon via PayPal on our website. CLE credit is pending approval (including substance abuse).

Thank You to NNWLA's 2014 Sustaining Members

NNWLA would like to thank all of its 2014 sustaining members: Hon. Valerie Cooke, Hon. Frances Doherty, Colleen Dolan, Bonnie Drinkwater, Dawn Ellerbrock, Hon. Linda Gardner, Hon. James Hardesty, Elizabeth High, Gayle Kern, Cecilia Lee, Hon. Cynthia Lu, Christian Moore, Ann Morgan, Karen Peterson, Molly Rezac, Hon. Bridget Robb, Hon. Lynne K. Simons, Jennifer A. Smith, Jennifer Sterns, Sandra O. Wilson, and Joan Wright.

NNWLA appreciates all of your generous contributions this year and your continued support!

NNWLA Mentoring Circles

The NNWLA Board is proud to host the fourth year of its NNWLA Mentoring Circle Program. Each NNWLA Mentoring Circle consists of a group of NNWLA members, usually 6-8 people, who will meet once a month in a casual and confidential setting to mentor each other.

In the Mentoring Circles, NNWLA members will have the opportunity to give advice, get advice, and share experiences, and referrals in a friendly environment. Each Mentoring Circle will consist of a mix of experience levels and practice areas. Because the benefit of the Circle experience depends on everyone's active participation, we ask that members commit to participate for at least a year.

We currently have three active Mentoring Circles—Carson City lunch, Downtown Reno lunch, and Downtown Reno evening. We are looking to create more Mentoring Circles for the 2015 year. If you are interested in creating or joining a Mentoring Circle please fill out the Statement of Interest Form. If you have any questions, please contact NNWLA Communications and Newsletter Chair Marilee Breternitz.

Dues Notice: Please Pay Your 2015 Dues

It is that time of the year again. It is time to renew your membership and pay your dues.

In order to renew your NNWLA membership for 2015, just fill out the attached Membership Registration form (last page) and return it to our new Treasurer Anjali Webster at the address listed on the form.

Stay Connected with NNWLA

Stay connected with the latest news from NNWLA by liking us on Facebook and visiting our website at www.nnwla.com.



NNWLA Membership Meeting

December 9, 2014

The meeting of the membership was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Elections

The following slate was presented to the membership for election:

- President – Kimberly Goodnight
- Vice President – Lauren Berkich
- Secretary – Laury Macauley
- Treasurer – Anjali Webster
- Newsletter – Marilee Breternitz
- Special Events Coordinator – Katie Hoffman

Per these elections, any past board members, including, Sara Almo, need to be removed from the NNWLA bank account.

Anjali Webster needs to be added to the NNWLA bank account. In addition, Kimberly Goodnight, Lauren Berkich, and Laury Macauley need to remain in place on the account.



Veterans Memorial Elementary

STEM Academy

Home of the Eagles!

1200 Locust Street, Reno, NV 89502
Phone (775) 333-5090 Fax (775) 333-5092

December 17, 2014

Dear NNWLA,

We are honored at Veterans Memorial STEM Academy to be educating some of the most wonderful students in all of Washoe County. Our staff does a great job of making connections with the families and keeping the 'whole child' in mind as they go through the day to day of maintaining academic success for all our students. I am thankful to be a part of such an amazing staff. Here at Veterans we know taking care of the whole child starts with making sure their basic needs are attended. While we can take care of some of these needs at school, such as providing meals and safety at school, there is a limit to what we can do for our students.

Our staff is extremely grateful for all of you at Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association, and all the volunteers who were at JC Penny on this past Saturday to help us go beyond the limits of what we, as a staff, can offer. The JC Penny shopping event made it possible for fifty of our students to buy new clothes, shoes and warm coats. As you realize, these are basic needs that weigh on many of our parents' minds, but they have few resources to address.

Some of you were there and had the opportunity to experience the amazing energy that brought the store to life on Saturday. I spoke to several of you who expressed how much joy you get from this event. If you were not able to join us, please know that you donated to an awesome cause!

This is my eighth year at Veterans Elementary, and I believe I am a part of the most wonderful elementary school in the county. I look forward to coming to work every day! I also feel very lucky to be a part of this community that cares so much about our students. Your group is what makes our Biggest Little City, the Best Little City!

Thank you for recognizing our need, and giving generously of your resources and of yourselves. Our Veterans staff would like to wish you happiness during this Holiday Season and throughout the year!

Kind regards,

Sussan Bowser

Sussan Bowser, M. A.
School Counselor
Veterans Memorial STEM Academy

NNWLA 2015 Mentoring Circle Statement of Interest

Full Name: _____

Employer: _____

Office Address: _____

Office Phone: _____ **Office Fax:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Primary Practice Area(s): (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

The following information will help NNWLA best evaluate the particular needs and composition of each Circle:

Are you currently in a mentoring circle? yes no

If yes, which one are you currently in? _____

If yes, would you like to stay in your current circle or change? stay change

How many years have you been in practice? _____

What type of environment do you practice in?

small firm (less than 5 lawyers) mid-size firm (less than 10 lawyers)

large firm (more than 10 lawyers) in-house academic solo practitioner

public interest counsel government

In what primary geographical location would you most be interested in meeting with a Mentoring Circle?

Downtown Reno South Reno Sparks Carson City

Other (specify _____)

When would you prefer to meet with a Circle? (rank preferences)

Breakfast Lunch After Work

Would you be interested in acting as a facilitator of your particular Mentoring Circle?

yes no maybe

Although the Circles do not necessarily have a set format, we will provide a list of potential topics for discussion. What topics would you like to see a Mentoring Circle discuss?

Do you have any suggestions to improve the Mentoring Circle experience?

I am a current NNWLA member or will become one before participating in a Mentoring Circle. (initial your consent) _____

Please return your Statement of Interest by February 13, 2015 to:

Marilee Breternitz
c/o Laxalt & Nomura, Ltd.
9600 Gateway Drive
Reno, Nevada 89523

2015 Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association Membership Registration

Name: _____

Telephone (work): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

(Personal information will not be published or provided to third parties)

State(s) and Years (s) admitted to practice:

_____ Nevada _____

_____ Others: _____

Membership Type/Annual Dues:

- _____ Fewer than two years of practice in Nevada - \$50.00
- _____ Government attorneys (regardless of years of practice) - \$50.00
- _____ Retired attorneys (regardless of years of practice) - \$50.00
- _____ More than two years of practice in Nevada - \$75.00
- _____ Sustaining member - \$125.00

Please make checks payable to "Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association" or NNWLA and remit to:

Anjali Webster
c/o Gordon & Silver
100 W. Liberty St., Ste. 940
Reno, NV 89501

More information about you (check all that apply):

My practice areas include:

- _____ Solo practitioner
- _____ Fewer than 5 attorneys in firm
- _____ 5- 10 attorneys in firm
- _____ More than 10 attorneys in firm
- _____ Contract Attorney
- _____ Employed by Government
- _____ Agency/Court
- _____ Judicial Law Clerk
- _____ Not currently practicing
- _____ Seeking employment

What subjects/activities would you like to see as topics for the monthly lunch meetings?

- _____ political/legislative issues
- _____ family law issues
- _____ career options
- _____ local legal community issues
- _____ other (please specify) _____
- _____ mentoring
- _____ stress management
- _____ CLE credit
- _____ issues particular to women practicing law

Do you have any suggestions as to activities and/or events that you would like NNWLA to sponsor or participate in during 2015? _____

Other comments: _____