WOMEN LAWYERS of UTAH

20**22–20**23 ANNUAL REPORT







The mission of Women Lawyers of Utah is to provide opportunities for women lawyers to develop and advance their careers and to further the cause of women in Utah generally. The objectives of its mission are to educate and inform, to offer support, to encourage community affiliation for professional success, to seek greater responsiveness to women's needs from Utah's justice system and to better living and working conditions for all Utah women.





2022 - 2023 BOARD MEMBERS AND LIAISONS



Lauren Shurman President



Brit Merrill President-Elect



Beth Kennedy Past-President



Taylor Webb Treasurer



Jen Tomchak Secretary



Grace Pusavat Community Outreach Committee Chair



Ashley Gregson Chapters Committee Chair



Anne Freeland Membership & Publicity Committee Chair



Sarah Hafen Path to Partnership Committee Chair



Holly Nelson Judicial Mentoring Committee Chair



Katie Hudman CLE Committee Co-Chair



Maryann Baughs CLE Committee Co-Chair



The Honorable Laura Scott Judicial Liaison



The Honorable Denise Porter Judicial Liaison



The Honorable Michele Christiansen Forster Judicial Liaison



Pat Christensen WLU Advisor



Larissa Lee Career Advancement Committee Co-Chair



Melissa Reynolds Career Advancement Committee Co-Chair



Naz Scott In-House Attorney Liaison



Rachel Terry Government Attorney Liaison



Ellie Rudolf Retreat Committee Co-Chair



Scarlet Smith Historian



Kate Zurcher Retreat Committee Co-Chair



Anaya Gayle Attorney Wellness Committee Chair

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from WLU President Lauren Shurman1
Membership and Publicity
CLE Committee4
In-House Liaison
Government Liaison
Career Advancement7
Partnership Mentoring Committee
WLU Attorney Well-Being9
Community Outreach10
Chapters11
Judicial Mentoring12
Retreat
The Report14
Political Engagement15
Historian16
Women's Law Caucus Report from the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of
Utah17
Women in Law Report from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at BYU
2022–2023 Women Lawyer Award Recipients

Letter from WLU President Lauren Shurman

Thank you, WLU members, for another memorable year! It has been an honor to serve as WLU's President, and I hope you have found plenty of opportunities throughout the year to engage with our programming and connect with our membership. My goal for the year was to foster connection, particularly as we have emerged from the pandemic and resumed in-person events. So much has changed in the Utah legal community over the past several years, including changes spurred by the pandemic and new entrants to legal market. Like many of you, I found myself emerging from these changes with a newfound desire to reconnect with colleagues and friends. WLU has been, for over 40 years now, one of the best organizations for making these connections possible, and this year was no exception.

WLU's year begins in the summer, as a new Board convenes to plan upcoming events for the year. This year started out with a kicker, as the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision in Dobbs, overruling Roe v. Wade and eliminating the constitutional right to an abortion. Recognizing the significance of this decision, the WLU Board immediately got to work and began reaching out to scholars who could discuss the decision and its implications with our members. Our CLE Committee put together a two-part series on Dobbs, both of which were among the most well-attended CLEs in recent history. Undoubtedly, this issue will continue to feature prominently in our programming in the coming years. The high level of engagement surrounding the Dobbs decision also sparked discussion about ways that WLU can facilitate more meaningful political engagement by our members. We formed a Political Engagement Committee that has hit the ground running with programming and content. We look forward to new ideas from this committee and invite you all to participate.

We also were fortunate to celebrate several milestones this year: for the first time in Utah's history, the Utah Supreme Court achieved a female majority of justices, and the first female was appointed to serve as a presidentially appointed U.S. Attorney in Utah. We celebrated these milestones at two signature events. First, all five women who have served as justices on the Utah Supreme Court (Justices Durham, Parrish, Petersen, Hagen, and Pohlman) got together for a remarkable panel discussion, moderated by Judge Michele Christiansen Forster. Second, at our annual Fireside Chat with Justice Durham, we heard from our new U.S. Attorney, Trina Higgins, as well as Judge Carolyn McHugh, Annette Jarvis, and Aida Neimarlija. Both of these events left me feeling so inspired by the progress women have made in the legal community and proud to be a part of WLU's legacy. But the events also reminded us how frustratingly slow progress has been at times, and how far we still need to go. As we were reminded by the panelists, Justice Durham served as the first--and sole--female supreme court justice for over twenty years, from 1982 until Justice Parrish was appointed in 2003, and there has only ever been one female to serve as Utah's Attorney General: Jan Graham, who served from 1993 to 2001. These sometimes sobering statistics make me grateful for the work of WLU's mentorship committees, which truly have been instrumental in encouraging women lawyers to apply for positions at the highest ranks. If you are on the fence about whether to take that next career leap, please reach out to them!

Letter from WLU President continued . . .

Whether you found opportunities to connect with WLU members at one of our CLEs, socials, or community service projects, I hope you will send us your feedback and let us know what type of programming you would like to see in the future. And, as you peruse the pages of this report, see if there is a committee that you would like to join. Better yet, invite a colleague to join with you. The breadth and quality of WLU's programming depend in large part on active engagement by WLU members who volunteer their time to committee work. Believe me, I know it is hard to find time to add non-billable activities to our plates, but I think I speak for most, if not all, of our Board when I say that participation in WLU committees helps to make the practice of law more engaging, meaningful, and fun. Speaking of the WLU Board, these incredible women keep WLU running seamlessly and have made my tenure as President a joy. Kudos to each and every one of them for their dedication to WLU's mission and hard work in making our events come to fruition. I'd like to extend particular thanks to this year's past president, Beth Kennedy, as her tenure on the Board winds down. You will not find a more passionate advocate for WLU than Beth, and I know we will continue to see her in committee meetings and at events in the future. I am so pleased to turn over the reins to the extremely capable hands of Brit Merrill, who is stepping into the role of President. I look forward to seeing all that WLU will accomplish under Britt's leadership and in the years to come, and I hope to see you all at our next retreat in Fall of 2023!

Sincerely,

Lauren Shurman WLU President, 2022-2023

Membership and Publicity

Chair: Anne Freeland

Committee: Daphne Oberg, Lena Daggs, Ashley Walker, Brit Merrill, Bethany Warr

With in-person CLE and WLU social events back in full-swing, our committee was able to get the word out about WLU's many events and other information of interest to our members via our weekly announcements. We also made use of WLU's Facebook page to further spread the word on WLU events. In conjunction with the Wellness Committee, we published articles in our weekly announcements with tips and thoughts on mental and physical wellness tailored to women attorneys. For most of the year the Utah job market for attorneys was very active with a steady flow of open positions, which we posted on WLU's website for the benefit of our members. We also provided information to graduating law students about the benefits of joining WLU via flyers distributed at graduation and word of mouth.

In the 2022 fiscal year, Women Lawyers of Utah had a total of 1,109 members. This was the first year that WLU membership exceeded 1,000! Of the total WLU members, 213 were Utah State Bar members for three years or less and 896 were Utah State Bar members for more than three years. The Utah State Bar does not currently collect data on an attorney's sex, but reported 13,744 total active, inactive, in-house counsel, and paralegals.

CLE Committee

Co-Chairs: Katie Hudman and Maryann Baughs **Committee:** Danica Baird, Melinda Bowen, Marcia Fuller Durkin, Shelby Hughes, Morgan Lee, Allison Librett, Tori Linde, Erika Paulus, Sarah Vaughn

The WLU CLE Committee provides high quality, free monthly CLEs to WLU members, and provides assistance with CLE applications for other WLU events. The CLE Committee selects CLE topics that are relevant to WLU members and also gives female practitioners from various practice areas opportunities to participate as panelists and speakers. This year, the CLE Committee provided the following CLE events:

June 23, 2022: Guardianships in the Media - Britney Spears and Beyond (Attendance: 135)

August 2, 2022: Understanding *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* Part 1 (Attendance: 555)

September 7, 2022: WLU Corporate Counsel (Attendance: 100)

September 21, 2022: *Depp v. Heard* - The Lawsuit and the Court of Public Opinion (Attendance: 188)

October 19, 2022: Title IX: History, Triumphs, & Challenges (Attendance: 120)

October 25, 2022, 2022: WLU's Picnic with Practitioners (Attendance: 32)

November 16, 2022: Maximizing Your Legal Career (Attendance: 159)

December 14, 2022: Ethical Hot Topics (Attendance: 236)

January 17, 2023: Engaging in the Legislative Session (Attendance: 113)

January 18, 2023: Understanding *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Organization* Part 1 (Attendance: 208)

February 8, 2023: Tips for Success - Navigating, Joining, or Returning to the Legal Profession after Other Life Pursuits (Attendance: 159)

March 14, 2023: Utah's Five Female Supreme Court Justices: Insights on Professionalism, Civility, and Overcoming (Attendance: 202)

In-House Liaison

Chair: Naz Scott

Committee: Elise Walker-Brown, Anna Crandall, Melanie Grayson, Lucy Wasmund

This goal of this position is to connect and provide resources for in-house women attorneys. We also offer an in-house perspective at WLU annual and monthly events. We look forward to partnering with the government attorney committee for an event in the upcoming year. We have plans to develop avenues for corporate counsel to connect, including CLE and social events.

Government Liaison

Chair: Rachel Terry

Committee: Melina Shiraldi, Angela Clifford, Diane Orcutt, Karin Fojtick, Ruth Hackford-Peer, Heather Waite-Grover, Lucia Maloy, Sarah Shechter

This is the second year for this position, which provides support and programming for women attorneys in the public sector. We do that by providing input on existing and future WLU events and programs as well as providing events specifically for women in government.

Last year we had two networking events. We also lowered the cost for WLU membership for public sector attorneys. This year we will provide additional programming and collaboration on CLEs and other social networking events.

Career Advancement

Co-Chairs: Larissa Lee & Melissa Reynolds

Committee: Committee: Alexandra Mareschal, Aline Longstaff, Judge Amy Oliver, Elise Walker Brown, Evangeline Burbidge, Holly Nelson, Jenifer Tomchak, Kayla Quam, Lara Swensen, Rebecca Buchert, Ruth Hackford Peer, Tamara Lemmon

Career Advancement kicked off the year with Picnic with the Practitioners, a luncheon

in which our members had the opportunity to participate in small group discussions at practice area specific tables with leaders in law firms, in-house, and government. Attendees discussed career advice, managing client relationships, professionalism and ethics, and more.

It then hosted Fireside Chat with Justice Durham and Friends, Judge Michele Christiansen Forster presented the Christine M. Durham Woman Lawyer of the Year Award to Lisa Remal. Justice Christine Durham (ret.) led a panel discussion on leadership with Judge Carolyn B. McHugh (Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals), Trina Higgins (U.S. Attorney for the District of Utah), Annette Jarvis (Managing Shareholder of Greenberg Traurig), and Aida Neimarlija (General Counsel for Larry H. Miller Real Estate).

In June, Career Advancement will be hosting Banter with the Bench, a luncheon where WLU members will have the opportunity to hold a small group discussion with our female judges. The committee will also host our first ever WLU golf lesson and 9-hole scramble this summer.

Path to Partnership Committee

Chair: Sarah Hafen

The Partnership Mentoring Committee is a new committee which offers mentoring support and assistance to women in years 5 to 10 of practice who are interested in pursuing a path to partnership in a law firm setting or advancing into senior roles in an inhouse setting. So far, the Partnership Mentoring Committee has been matching mentees with mentors confidentially on an ad hoc basis as it receives mentoring requests via email. The Partnership Mentoring Committee has a goal to help connect Women Lawyers of Utah members and other women attorneys throughout the state with each other in a mentoring capacity in order to help facilitate meaningful connections and enable attorneys to determine and seek the career path that best fits with their interests.

Going forward, the Partnership Mentoring Committee hopes to continue to help match mentees with mentors and is considering other ways in which it could help Women Lawyers of Utah members and other attorneys determine their desired career path, shift their career trajectory if needed, and ultimately find their ideal career. Facilitating this through mentoring relationships provides opportunities for women to connect with and lift each other in these pursuits. The Partnership Mentoring Committee strives to assist in this effort and hopes to provide additional meaningful opportunities for women to connect in this way and to find success in their desired careers.

Attorney Wellness

Chair: Anaya Gayle

Committee: Maria Cruz, Him Hammons, Susan Motschiedler, Holly Nelson, Kayla Quam, Michelle Quist, Kristin Raffone Vazquez, Rebecca Ryon, Arminda Spencer, Bethany Warr

The Attorney Well-Being Committee is committed to raise awareness of and engagement in activities aimed to improve well-being through prevention of substance abuse and mental health crises, treatment of those issues, and to encourage a continuous process toward thriving in all aspects of our lives. The process involves the following six fundamental spheres of well-being: emotional, occupational, intellectual, spiritual, physical, and social.

This year, the Wellness Committee initiated weekly "Wellbeing Features" in the WLU newsletter this year. The features have been written by members of the Wellbeing Committee and are focused on tips, techniques, and examples that we have used to try and improve our wellness in all aspects of our lives – professionally, personally, financially, physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc. They have been very well-received, particularly those that highlighted personal experiences of our committee members.

Additionally, we have regularly scheduled service activities – particularly with the Geraldine King Women's Center. We anticipate scheduling additional wellness activities in the coming year.

Community Outreach

Chair: Grace Pusavat Committee: Mary Squire

The Community Outreach Committee hosts social, community service, and mentoring events. Past events include providing meals for youth at the Homeless Youth Resource Center, empowering children experiencing homelessness through the Girl Scout Troop at the Road Home Midvale, providing mentoring to law students, and connecting WLU members through networking opportunities.

Chapters

Chair: Ashley Gregson

The following liaisons served as representatives for their respective Chapters:Chantelle Peterson (Southern Utah Chapter); Kara North (Central Utah Chapter); and Erin Byington (Northern Utah Chapter - 1st Judicial District). The

With this set of liaisons the Chapters committee intends to assess the needs of each particular Chapter and plan targeted programming to meet those needs, including local in-person gatherings with formal agendas (e.g. CLEs or Banter-with-the-Bench-style meetings) and informal gatherings to establish and support connections between WLU members within their Chapter.

This year, the chapters held the following events:

- Southern Utah WLU Mix & Mingle co-Sponsored by WLU Government Liaison hors d'oeuvres and drinks @ Southgate Golf Course Clubhouse) (9/28/22) (Attendance: approx. 15)
- Central Utah WLU Banter with the Bench CLE (Lunch with Central Utah Judges @ Riverside Country Club) (10/6/22) (Attendance: 26)
- Northern Utah 1st District WLU Lunch CLE (Wellness Discussion with Dianne Balmain @ Herm's Inn) (11/11/22) (Attendance: approx. 11)

Judicial Mentoring

Chair: Holly Nelson

The Judicial Mentoring Committee continues to work toward WLU's goal of equal representation of women at all levels of the judiciary which strengthens the public's perception of the legitimacy of the courts by showing our courts are open, transparent, inclusive and representative of the community as a whole. Enhancing judicial diversity also strengthens the community's sense of procedural fairness and helps add to the base of judicial experience prior to joining the bench.

The Judicial Mentoring Committee continues its work with "Project Pipeline" as a more focused approach to judicial mentoring and continues to strive toward closing the "gavel-gap." The committee is also working diligently to gain detailed information on how to support female candidates in the interview process with a new executive branch. Since taking office, Governor Cox has appointed multiple women to the bench including Cristina Ortega to the 2nd District Court, Monica Diaz to the 3rd District Juvenile Court, and Judge Dianna Hagen to the Utah Supreme Court (pending confirmation).

Additionally, the members of the Judicial Mentoring Committee, as well as many other WLU members, continue to be active in community outreach in a concerted effort to bring young women into the legal field. For example, Judge Laura Scott, Judge Denise Porter and WLU Board Member Grace Pusavat were recent panel members in the Utah Women & Leadership Project's Spring Forum series entitled "Career Exploration for Girls and Women: Law & Nonprofit." This webinar hosted over 100 live participants from all over the western United States and was distributed to over 300 registrants. It is the committee's hope that these types of events, along with continued mock interviews and judicial mentoring will continue to provide support to women in the Utah legal community and help ultimately close the "gavel-gap." This progress would not be possible without the exceptionally qualified women who are willing to step forward to be considered for judicial positions. And we continue to be grateful for all of the judges, lawyers, and WLU board members who have devoted significant time and effort to our goals.

Retreat

Co-Chair: Ellie Rudolph and Kate Zurcher

Committee: Beth Kennedy, Pat Christensen, Alyssa Florack, Judge Rita Cornish, Whitney Krogue, Jan McCosh, Brit Merrill, Susan Motschiedler, Holly Nelson, Kim Neville, Emily Tabak, Bethan Warr, Kaileen Balzano, Judge Michele Christiansen Forster, Laura Kyte, Hadley Bybee, Luisa Gough, Madison Scott Roemer, Liz Butler, and LaShel Shaw

After canceling and postponing due to the pandemic, Women Lawyers of Utah was finally able to hold its Annual Retreat at the St. Regis Deer Valley on May 6-7, 2022. This retreat marked a special occasion; not only was WLU able to gather after years apart, but we also celebrated our 40th Anniversary. Friday night programming focused on WLU's Past, Present, and Future to celebrate our 40-year legacy, provide lessons learned, and highlight WLU's contribution to our provision. We heard from a number of our leaders in the WLU community, including:

- The Honorable Christine M. Durham, WLU Founder and President 1981-1982
- Patricia Christensen, WLU President 1988-1989
- Charlotte Miller, Utah State Bar President 1997-1998
- Peggy Hunt, WLU President 2009-2010
- Aida Neimarlija, WLU President 2012-2014

We also honored women in our community:

- 2020 Woman Lawyer of the Year Award, Margaret Diane Plane
- 2021 Woman Lawyer of the Year Award, Judge Michele Christiansen Forster
- 2022 WLU Mentoring Award, Andrea T. Martinez
- Reva Beck Bosone Scholarship Awards, Darian Hackney and Dyana Thurgood
- Cora Snow Carleton Scholarship Award, Erin Kitchens Wong

On Saturday morning, we heard from Dr. Kirtly Parker Jones, a University of Utah physician and professor. A founder of the U of U's Center for Excellence in Women's Health, she created a concept called the Seven Domains of Women's Health. She shared insights on health and wellness for women lawyers and the importance of encouraging flexibility in our old standards and expectations for women in the legal profession. We also heard from Dr. Anne Brafford, founder of Aspire, an educational and consulting firm for the legal profession. She authored the ABA-published book Positive Professionals and co-chairs the ABA Law Practice Division's Attorney Well-Being Committee. She discussed how to build positive law practice environments for women lawyers to foster healthy institutions where women lawyers can thrive. Lastly, we hosted a panel discussing the importance of effective mentoring in the women's legal profession from a mentee's perspective. Our panel was made up of attorneys from many different practices: Naz Scott (HireVue), Kayla Quam (Dart Adamson & Donovan), Ruth Hackford Peer (United States Attorney's Office), and Karina Sargsian (Holland & Hart).

Judges and retired judges gathered in a breakout session led by Judge McHugh to discuss topic of The Evolution of Identity – Changing Perspective from Taking on the Role of Judge.

Political Engagement

<u>Barriers to Advancement:</u> Findings from the 2020 Study of Gender & Racial Bias in Utah's Legal Profession

Last year the Special Projects Committee served the special purpose of organizing, preparing, and educating the community about the 2020 Study. Going forward, the 2020 Study's results and recommendations will be implemented through CLE and other WLU projects.

The 2020 Study is available at: <u>https://initiative.utahwomenlawyers.org</u>.

Historian Committee

Chair: Scarlet Smith

Committee: Britt Merill, Anne Freeland, Luisa Gough, LaShel Shaw, and Kaileen Balzano

The WLU Historian Committee goals are to (1) collect and preserve Utah Women lawyer's experiences and (2) document and preserve WLU's organizational history.

This year, the Committee continued to transcribe stories collected from retired and senior women attorneys. It collected WLU records thoughtfully saved over the past 40 years by Pat Christensen, past WLU President and current WLU advisory. The recordings of stories, transcriptions, and documents were delivered to the Aileen H. Clyde 20th Century Women's Legacy Archive at the University of Utah.

The Committee also started efforts to collect photographs and historical documents from the WLU membership to archive with the collection. By setting up an electronic storage system, the committee hopes to collect programs, photos, and other information for WLU's various events throughout the year.

Finally, this Annual Report was prepared by the Historian Committee to further its goal to document and preserve WLU's organizational history.

Women's Law Caucus Report - S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah

WLC Board 2022-2023

- President: Katherine Tatum
- Vice President: Anna Hall
- Treasurer: Jessie Weeks
- Secretary: Madelynn Woolf
- WLU Liaison: Meg Glasmann
- WLU Liaison: Carlie Lythgoe
- Development Director: Kasey Lindstrom
- Communications Director: Olivia McQuarrie
- Mentorship Program Coordinator: Camille McBride
- Mentorship Program Coordinator: Corinne Doerner
- 3L Representative: Madi Rooker
- 2L Representative: Grace Sponaugle
- 1L Representative: Tayzlie Haack
- 1L Representative: Lindsey Spero

Mentorship Opportunities

- For the third year in a row, WLC managed a student mentorship program where we connected first-year students with 2L and 3L student mentors. Mentors were able to provide guidance to new students as they navigated classes, interviewing, career planning, networking, and more. Twenty-one 1Ls participated in the program, and because of the abundance of 2L and 3L volunteers, some first-year students were able to be paired with two mentors. These relationships last well beyond the academic year, and we intend to continue this program as it has become an annual staple of WLC membership.
- WLC also coordinated an attorney mentorship program where we connected second- and third-year students with female identifying attorneys in the community. Mentors advised students about many things such as working in their given fields, finding work/life balance, and managing stress. We successfully paired twenty-five 2L and 3L students with attorneys with similar interests and backgrounds. We look forward to connecting more members of the legal community with the rising generations of lawyers.
- In the fall, WLC expanded its second annual lunch series event. Our WLU liaisons
 put together three weeks of in person lunches with women judges and
 attorneys. Each lunch was a unique opportunity for students to learn from and
 network with our amazing Utah legal community. Many of the participating

attorneys and judges were hand selected from Meg Glasmann's network of women mentors, while others were volunteers from WLU. We sought to provide students with the chance to meet with attorneys and judges from a wide array of practice areas and years of legal practice. Nearly sixty students attended the series. Students raved about this event and we look forward to hosting it again next year.

• <u>Special thanks to our participating attorneys and judges</u>: Holly Nelson, Maren Laurence, Elise Walker Brown, Justice Diana Hagen, Taylor Webb, Michele Myer, Judge Debra Jensen, Ashley Biehl, Julie Bartlett, Larissa Lee, Alex Vandiver, Melinda Bowen, Alyson McAllister, Jennie Wingad, LaShel Shaw, Melina Shiraldi, Justice Jill Pohlman, Emily Adams, Judge Amy Oliver, and Margaret Plane.

Education, Seminars, and Discussions

- PILO x WLC Lunch Panel: Women in Government: In conjunction with the Public Interest Law Organization (PILO), WLC hosted this panel highlighting women in government jobs. Panelists included a guardian ad litem, an assistant attorney general, a deputy district attorney, a lobbyist, and a Utah state representative.
- Volunteering at WLU March CLE Utah's Five Female Supreme Court Justices: Insights on Professionalism, Civility, and Overcoming Career Challenges. WLC provided nearly a dozen student volunteers to help with check in for this incredible WLU event. We are very appreciative that twenty of our student members had the opportunity to attend this event, free of cost.

Skills Clinics

• Self-Defense Clinic: Some great professors, WLU attorneys, and even judges joined WLC members at a self-defense class this spring, teaching situational awareness and some basic self-defense techniques.

Socials

- *Fall Social*: WLC hosted a Fall Social to give incoming 1L members an opportunity to meet and chat with the WLC board, eat breakfast, and vote on club t-shirt designs.
- *Spring Social*: WLC will be hosting a Spring Social to give members an opportunity to take a break from studying for finals, eat lunch, and interact with each other.
- If/When/How x WLC Valentines Trivia: In conjunction with If/When/How, WLC hosted a Valentines-themed Trivia night.
- *Dentons Social*: Dentons Durham Jones Pinegar invited WLC members to eat lunch and network with their Women Lawyers Group. Attorneys talked about their jobs, and students were encouraged to ask questions.
- *Kirkland & Ellis Women Law Students Reception:* Kirkland & Ellis invited WLC members to network and ask their attorneys questions about what it's like to work in Big Law.

Women in Law Report - J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University

WIL Board 2022-2023

- o President: Erin Kitchens Wong
- Vice President: Carly Madsen
- o Secretary: Kekai Cram
- o Treasurer: Katrina Cole
- o WLU/Alumni Chair: Ginnie Kim Pace
- o Mother's Representatives: Caroline Kneedler Despain & Margaret Jarvis
- o Social Media Chair: Jessica Annen
- Publicity Chair: Brittany Graff
- Service Co-Chairs: Brittany Thorley & Maren Smith
- o 1L Representatives: Hannah Biesinger & Rebecca Lines
- o 2L Representative: Rachel Slade
- o 3L Representative: CJ Jasperson

BYU Women in Law Mission Statement

The mission of BYU Women in Law (WIL) is to (1) recognize and address the unique challenges facing women in law and (2) create a community of support and belonging for women in the legal field both within and outside of the law school. WIL seeks to empower women at BYU Law to find success in their educational pursuits and their future legal careers. Events which support our mission include member social events, networking and professional development opportunities, and community service.

The goals of WIL are to:

- 1. Encourage participation from every woman at the Law School;
- 2. Promote the highest achievement of women in the Law School and elsewhere; and
- 3. Advance the interests of women in the community at large

WIL worked this year to update the organization's mission statement to better reflect our organization's goals

Main Events

- "Defining Success" Seminar: WIL hosted a panel of women lawyers, Shannon Grandy, BYU Law School's Dean of Career Development; Geidy A. Achecar, attorney at Fillmore Spencer; and Sarah Brinton, Chief Compliance Officer & Associate University Counsel at BYU, to provide insights into the legal field and their personal journeys in their careers.
- **Sexual Harassment Training**: In conjunction with the American Constitution Society and the Federalist Society, WIL invited BYU's Title IX Administrator to speak to the student body about sexual harassment and the resources available to students.

• Women in Government Seminar: WIL and the Government & Politics Legal Society (GPLS) featured Cheryl Mori, Senior Advisor to the Regional Director at U.S. SEC, in a Successful Careers for Women in Government"seminar.

Service

- **Clothing Swap:** WIL invited students, faculty, and administration to participate in a professional clothing swap. Extra clothing was donated to the local Provo Deseret Industries.
- **Stump the Professor:** WIL held its highly anticipated annual charity event, "Stump the Professor" in February. Students submit trivia questions before the event to stump law school professors. All proceeds from ticket sales are donated to The Refuge, a local non-profit organization that supports victims of domestic and sexual violence. Firms generously participated by either matching funds or donating prizes to be given to students.
- **Period Products at BYU Law**: Past WIL President Brooke Gledhill Wood, working for the Policy Project, helped press monumental legislation to provide free period products in state buildings. WIL worked with BYU main campus to provide free period products in all law school bathrooms. Because of its initiative, the law school was the first building on campus to install the product dispenser machines.

WLU Involvment

- Women Lawyers of Utah CLE: Evening with the Utah Supreme Court Justices: WLU generously provided for 16 law students to attend the WLU CLE event hosting past and present female Utah Supreme Court Justices. WIL is grateful for the support from WLU in giving these students the opportunity to hear from inspiring women.
- State and Local Government Conference: WLU members participated in and contributed to the 2023 Government & Politics Legal Society's annual conference. A special thank you to Judge Denise Porter and Rachel Terry for assisting WIL VP Carly Madsen in organizing the conference.

2022–2023 Award Recipients

Women Lawyers of Utah Awards

2022 Christine M. Durham Woman Lawyer of the Year Award: Lisa Remal
2022 WLU Mentoring Award: Andrea Martinez
2022 Reva Beck Bosone student scholarship: Darian Hackney and Dyana Thurgood
2022 Cora Snow Carleton student scholarship: Erin Kitchen Wong

Utah State Bar Awards

2023 Dorathy Merrill Brothers Award: Ashley Peck2022 Mentoring Award: Honorable Su Chon2022 Raymond Uno Award: Sade Turner2022 Distinguished Service Award: Noella Sudbury

Federal Bar Association

2023 Distinguished Service Award: Juliette White

The WLU supports and recognizes women lawyer's accomplishments. For the 2022–2023 year, the WLU Board expanded its Awards initiative and nominated deserving women lawyers for every award presented to attorneys in the state of Utah. Whether they win the award or not, we notify the women we nominate so they know we and others in the community value them and their contributions. We also post information about the awards in our WLU weekly newsletter to encourage our members to nominate women for awards.