

Women Lawyers of Utah Newsletter

Women
Lawyers of
Utah

Volume 16, Issue 2
November 2000

It's Important to Know You're Good

and other nuggets from the October 17, 2000

Women's Alliance for Building Community panel discussion

As I banged my way into a packed audience of women in business suits, I heard the moderator pose the question, "**So - What qualities make a leader?**" I thought this was going to be a yawner, an obligation I had thoughtlessly agreed to in one of my more enthusiastic moments as a WLU Board member. But I quickly found myself all ears, wanting to know what tricks these accomplished ladies had up their power-red sleeves to make those in their male dominated fields crawl on their knees, begging for their favor. This was a presentation not to be missed. For those of you not fortunate enough to have found yourself in the Gore Auditorium (named after the fabric, not the Vice-President) on the Westminster College Campus on the evening of October 17, 2000, here are a few of the best words of advice I've heard in a long time:

Our very own **Mary Gordon** (WLU President), was the first to provide her thoughts about what makes a good leader. Mary said the leaders she knew in the legal community all had certain traits in common. They demonstrated a commitment to their values, to spending time doing legal work that serves the community fairly. They had high ethical standards and treated clients well. **Meghan Holbrook**, the first woman elected Chair of the Utah State Democratic Party, said she thought leadership qualities were gender neutral - "in politics, you have to raise the money, have a self-deprecating sense of humor, and have tolerance for ambiguity."

Elaine Elliott, the women's basketball coach for the University of Utah and regarded as one of the top women's collegiate coaches in the country, stressed that it is important to "know you are good," and that, especially in athletics, which are dominated by men, a leader has to "be dynamic, in a personal way," to stand out from the crowd. **Becky Potts**, Vice-President/General Manager for AT&T Wireless Services' Utah, Idaho, Colorado and Nebraska markets, said she found it essential to be able to really listen to people, to be sensitive to different backgrounds, and to lead by example: "be straight-forward, honest, fair, trustworthy and admit it when you screw up." Becky also stressed that her trick is to manage her time better, rather than work more. Instead of trying to "do it all," she said, "listen to your heart" as

Don't forget to pay your WLU dues when renewing your Bar dues. In an effort to help keep costs down, this will be the last newsletter mailed to non-dues paying members.

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to what you need to do to manage and motivate people best.

In response to **whether leadership qualities in a woman are different**, most of the panel members said Yes. **Susan Sheehan** said she thought women were fearful of "naming something a success." **Mary Gordon** thought women are "far more comfortable saying they don't have an answer" but also more hesitant to be revolutionaries, to upset others by taking positions that they might disagree with. **Meghan Holbrook** noted she thought that women were more able to read how others perceive them, to talk about personal issues, and to be less dictatorial.

Elaine Elliott said, whether you're male or female, everyone needs to understand that every player has a role to play in order to succeed as a team.

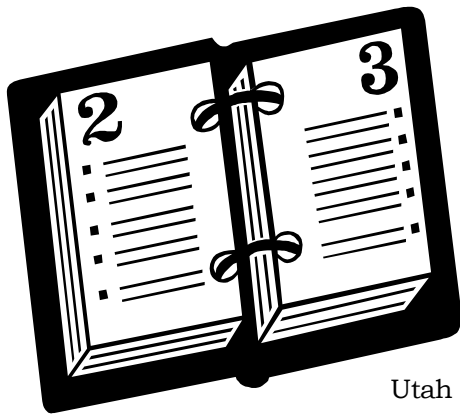
Most importantly: **Elaine Elliott** urged the audience to seek the areas where you have confidence, success and get positive feedback. **Becky Potts** said to try to do what makes you happy when making career choices. **Susan Sheehan** recommended you "go for the intimidating experiences." **Mary Gordon** wisely added that, "you should spend a lot of time with other leaders."

WLU Retreat Nov 11-12



WLU members relaxing during recent retreat held November 11-12 at Daniels Summit Lodge



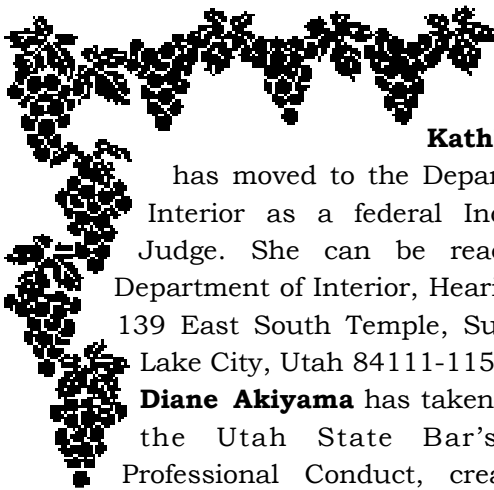


January 23, 2001 - Eat, drink, mentor, and be merry with members of the University of Utah **Women's Law Caucus** - 6 p.m. at the Lazy Moon Pub

February 2001 - The immensely popular "**Banter with the Bench**" is Back - exact date TBA

WLU Event Calendar

March 1-2, 2001 - World Women Lawyers Conference, sponsored by the Women's Interest Group of the International Bar Association - London, England. Sessions will focus on "Women's Rights as Human Rights" and Women, Islam and the Law." Keynote speakers include U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, CNN journalist Christiane Amanpour, and Queen Noor of Jordan. Information available from the International Bar Association at: confs@int-bar.org; 271 Regent Street, London W1b 2AQ, England; fax: 44 (0)20 7409 0456.



The Grapevine updated November 13, 2000

Kathleen Switzer has moved to the Department of the Interior as a federal Indian Probate Judge. She can be reached at the Department of Interior, Hearings Division, 139 East South Temple, Suite 600, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-1159.

Diane Akiyama has taken a position at the Utah State Bar's Office of Professional Conduct, created by the departure of Carol Stewart. **Kate Toomey** is now the Chief Deputy.

Laurie Gilliland left her position as law clerk to Judge Norm Jackson on the Utah Court of Appeals to become the habeas petition lawyer at the federal court.

Ruth Lybbert is the new President of the Utah Trial Lawyers Association. It is rumored that Ruth is the first woman President of UTLA.

Cheryl Mori-Atkinson left Giauque, Crockett, Bendinger & Peterson to clerk for Justice Durham.

Lisa Peterson was recently elected Secretary of the Labor and Employment Section of the Utah State Bar.

Eve Furze, former clerk for Justice Durham, recently left the Washington, D.C. firm of Covington & Burling to join Giauque, Crockett, Bendinger & Peterson.

Cameron Denning, formerly of Dart, Adamson Donovan & Hanson, has become a partner at the Law Firm of Hanks, Rooker & Denning, 8 E. Broadway, Suite 740, Salt Lake City, UT, (Ph): 363-0940.

WLU treasurer **Julie Morriss'** firm of Morris, O'Bryant Bateman and Compagni was recently ranked by *Intellectual Property Today* as one of the top 300 law firms in the country for the number of trademarks registered in 1999. The firm was only one of two Utah-based law firms to be recognized.

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DISCLAIMER: This Newsletter is meant to inform, educate, and support the women lawyers in Utah. Articles reflect the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or positions of WLU or its Board. We gladly accept submissions for publication about issues or events of interest or importance to you. We will publish position pieces by candidates for bar positions who are fully paid members of WLU, but do not endorse any candidates for Bar positions or other public office. WLU reserves the right to refuse to publish any item for any reason.

Membership Application

Any person who is a graduate of or a student at an accredited law school or a member of the Utah State Bar is eligible for membership in WLU. At present, we have approximately 250 members. The benefits of membership include a quarterly newsletter, social gatherings and a vote on important issues. Mail this form and your check to:

WLU, PO Box 932, Salt Lake City, UT 84110

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: (home or office): _____

MAILING ADDRESS (home or office): _____

Email Address: _____

LAW SCHOOL & YEAR OF GRADUATION: _____

UTAH STATE BAR NO.: _____

AREA(S) OF PRACTICE: _____

DUES SCHEDULE:

In practice < 3 years: \$30.00

In practice 3+ years: \$40.00

Law Students: \$15.00