



WOMEN LAWYERS of Utah Newsletter

Contact Info: WLU, P.O. Box 932, Salt Lake City, UT 84110
<http://utahwomenlawyers.org>; womenlawyersofutah@gmail.com

September 2011

*Special Interest
Articles:*

- Charity Golf Tournament to benefit Cystic Fibrosis.
- First WLU Golf Retreat
- WLU Celebrates Utah Trailblazers in the Law.
- Lady Lawyer Cooking Nights
- WLU Mentoring Social
- WLU Calendar

Mission Statement:

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 need from Utah's justice system and better living and working conditions for all Utah women.

WLU Annual Retreat, November 4-5, 2011



The WLU Annual Retreat will be held at the beautiful St. Regis Deer Crest Resort in Deer Valley, Utah. The retreat not only offers the chance to obtain CLE credits, but to relax and catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

The retreat will consist of an evening session on November 4 and a morning session on November 5, 2011. Full registration at the event will include both sessions and meals. Alternatively, you may register for either of the sessions independently.

As always, following the evening session WLU is sponsoring a courtesy suite with drinks and light hors d'oeuvres, however there will also be some new activities for those who are

planning on bringing children or other family members to the retreat. For example, during the evening session, the courtesy suite will be available to entertain any children in attendance.

WLU is very pleased that the Keynote Speaker at this year's retreat will be former Governor Olene Walker. In keeping with this year's Special Project honoring Women Trailblazers in the Law, Gov. Walker can provide some insight into her experiences as the first, and only, female governor of Utah.

Walker's political background includes eight years in the state legislature including a term as Majority Whip. She served as the fourth Lieutenant Governor of Utah for the 10 years prior to becoming governor. She founded the Salt Lake Education Foundation and served as its director. She served as director of the Utah Division of Community Development. She has chaired the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, the Utah State Housing Coordinating Committee, the Governor's Commission on Child Care, and the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors.

Shortly after becoming governor, she selected former State Representative Gayle McKeachnie to be her lieutenant governor. Olene Walker was the first female governor to be sworn in by a female Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, Christine M. Durham.

Walker received her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from Brigham Young University, Stanford University, and the University of Utah respectively. She is married to Myron Walker; they have seven children and 25 grandchildren.

Charity Golf Tournament Benefits Cystic Fibrosis

WLU Member Carey Seager has organized an annual charity golf tournament to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF). The first annual tournament will be held October 3, 2011 at the Red Ledges Golf Course in Heber City, Utah.

The tournament will directly benefit CFF, a charity that has been recognized by numerous national publications for its efficiency: Nearly 90 cents of every dollar raised by CFF is used to fund medical research to find better treatments and a cure for Cystic Fibrosis.

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. When CFF was formed in 1955, most children diagnosed with the disease were unlikely to live past childhood. Today, thanks in large part to funding from CFF, there has been development of new medical treatments and those diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis may live into their 30s and even longer in some cases.

Tournament participants will receive a complimentary Continental Breakfast and lunch catered by Snake Creek Grill, one of Heber's finest restaurants. Additionally, prizes will be awarded to participants with the longest drive (men's and women's) and closest to the pin.

WLU is a proud sponsor of this event and knows it will be a huge success! For more information contact Carey Seager at 801-363-5000

2011-2012 WLU President's Message



Women Lawyers of Utah, established in 1981, turned thirty this year. As we are discovering in our current Special Project "Women Trailblazers in the Law," WLU and women lawyers in Utah have certainly come a long way. However, as our Initiative on the Retention and Advancement of Women Attorneys revealed, there is still a lot of room for improvement. I believe WLU has been, and will continue to be, instrumental in this process and I am honored to join the many women who have had the privilege as serving as President of WLU. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Board Members who will join me in this opportunity. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to Melanie Vartabedian, our past president, for her years of dedication and efforts which have led to the advancement of WLU and women lawyers in Utah.

I am pleased to continue with Melanie's Special Project honoring the women who paved the way for all of us: the first 100 women attorneys in Utah. This project, which expands upon Charlotte Miller's 1998 project, began with a dinner honoring the first 100 women to be admitted to practice law in Utah. This dinner was held on May 26, 2011, at the Grand America Hotel. At the event, attendees received a booklet honoring the first 100 women and were able to preview the forthcoming documentary. WLU will continue with this project throughout the

year and I look forward to hearing from some of the first 100 women at our upcoming annual Fall Retreat, to be held November 4-5, at the St. Regis Deer Crest Resort in Deer Valley. I would like to sincerely thank Melanie and Cathleen Gilbert for their efforts with this Project, as well as the members of the Special Project Committee.

In addition to our Annual Fall Retreat, WLU will continue with our keystone events such as the Fireside Chat with Chief Justice Durham, Banter with the Bench, and our Mentoring Socials. Additionally, WLU will continue to reach out to the Community, with events such as the Walk Against Violence (to benefit the YWCA) and Cancer Bites (a benefit for the Huntsman Cancer Institute). As the prior Community Outreach Chair, I especially look forward to these events which give us the opportunity to serve the community while enjoying the company of our colleagues. I invite you to participate in our upcoming WLU events and to consider participating in a WLU committee. Joining a committee is a great way to meet other members of the legal community and to become more involved in WLU. Details about our events and how to join a committee can be found on our website. I am looking forward to another great year for WLU and an honored to serve as its president.

Heather Farnsworth

Lady Lawyer Cooking Nights

By Sarah Starkey

If you have spent any amount of time with me, you know I love chatting, cooking, more chatting, and feeding people (it's the Italian in me)! Lady Lawyer Cooking Night encompasses all of those things with the added bonus of doing a little good for the community.

The concept is not novel but it is full of fun. During law school, I began attending a similar event at the Los Angeles Women's Shelter. It was a great way to get to know other women attorneys in Los Angeles in a more social setting than traditional networking events. When I relocated to Salt Lake City I was excited to find that the Road Home has, as one of their many

volunteer opportunities, a similar volunteer offering; and thus began the planning for Lady Lawyer Cooking Night.

The concept is simple; a group of lady lawyers get together for an evening of socializing while cooking a feast to serve 100. The following evening the ladies reconvene and serve said feast to the families who reside at the Road Home.

We hope to make this a bi-monthly opportunity for lady lawyers in the Salt Lake City area. For each Lady Lawyer Cooking Night we will need: 1) one volunteer to open up their home and kitchen for cooking night; 2) approximately 10 volunteers to cook on the

first evening; and,3) at least 5 volunteers to serve food the following evening at the Road Home. The menu will be set in advance and each participant will be asked to contribute toward the purchase of groceries (approximately \$25.00).

It is not necessary to attend both evenings, you may volunteer for one or both evenings, so long as we have enough cookers and servers for each night. If you are interested in volunteering your kitchen or participating in cooking or serving please email WLU and indicate Lady Lawyer Cooking Night in the subject line.

The first Cooking Night will be scheduled in October or November. Please check the WLU Website for updates and more information about upcoming events.

A native of Spokane, WA, Sarah attended the University of Utah and the Southwestern University School of Law, in Los Angeles, CA. Sarah earned her Juris Doctorate, graduating Summa Cum Laude in 2007. After practicing in Los Angeles, Sarah recently relocated back to Salt Lake City to serve as Staff Attorney for the Larry H. Miller Group of Companies.

WLU Summer Golf Retreat



On August 19, 2011, WLU members participated in the first WLU Golf Retreat, which was organized by board members Aida Neimarlija and Rebecca Ryon and was held at the Nibley Park Golf Course. Participants were able to play a 9-hole course or receive professional lessons on putting, chipping and full-swing.



Following the golf activities, WLU members were invited to a social hour to relax and enjoy the beautiful evening.

The event was so successful that there will likely be more scheduled in the future. So, if you missed this one, make sure you do not miss out next time!



WLU Celebrates Utah Trailblazers in the Law

For more information on WLU and our past and future events, please visit our website at <http://utahwomenlawyers.org>.

WLU thanks X Mission for generously donating WLU's website.

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 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.



In an event honoring the first one hundred women lawyers admitted to practice law in the State of Utah (the "First One Hundred"), on May 26, 2011, the Women Lawyers of Utah, the Utah State Bar, S.J. Quinney College of Law, and J. Reuben Clark Law School joined together for an elegant dinner at the Grand America Hotel. In a sold-out event, over 350 attendees previewed the first public screening of a

work-in-progress; a film dedicated to Utah's women trailblazers containing interview excerpts of several of the First One Hundred. During the evening, each of the First One Hundred in attendance received a lovely memento key chain engraved with the words: "Utah Trailblazer," representative of how each woman has been the key to opening the trail for women to practice law in Utah for generations to come.

As part of the project, Women Lawyers of Utah presented a booklet to each attendee containing biographies, anecdotal stories, photographs, and advice from most of the First One Hundred. Some stories were shared with pride or humor, and others with regret. Many of the First One Hundred acknowledged the assistance of male Bar members in advancing their opportunities and careers.

The evening paid tribute to the First One Hundred for their fortitude, perseverance, and candidness in sharing their stories with us. These women truly paved the way for women lawyers in Utah, who currently make-up fewer than 25% of the Utah Bar.

Continues on pg. 6



Banter With The Bench

On September 20, WLU hosted Banter with the Bench, one of the year's most anticipated events.

Attendees enjoyed lunch catered by Mini's Cupcakes, including a variety of their amazing cupcakes.

This year's event was emceed by Jenifer Tomchak and focused upon the judges' personal experiences in applying for and gaining a seat on the bench.

As always, Banter was very informative and offered participants insight into the process of becoming a judge and the

importance of female attorneys to pursue careers on the bench.

This year's event also paid tribute to Judge Sandra Peuler, who is scheduled to retire in January 2012.

As always, Judges in attendance highly encouraged women lawyers to be active in the judicial nomination process and to take every opportunity to apply for judicial opinions.



Fall Mentoring Event

The WLU Fall Mentoring Social took place on September 22 on the patio at Caffe Molise. This event allows attorneys the opportunity to be matched with a law student from the law schools at the University of Utah or Brigham Young University.

If you missed the opportunity to participate in the most recent social, WLU will be hosting another mentoring event in the Spring to allow everyone the opportunity to take part in this important program.

For students, the event allowed them to make contact with female attorneys already in practice in order to work on their networking skills.

As the Utah Bar has recently recognized, mentoring is an important aspect of ensuring a successful transition from student to practicing attorney.



Women Lawyers of Utah
PO Box 932
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

E-MAIL:
womenlawyersofutah@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

Utahwomenlawyers.org
-OR-

Facebook and LinkedIn
Search for Women Lawyers of
Utah and request to join!

Utah Trailblazers Cont'd



Special Projects Committee Members: Carrie Towner, Carrie Boren, Heidi Kingman, Cathleen Gilbert and Katt Judd.



Grapevine Section

- Tracey Watson accepted a position as General counsel for the Utah Educators Association.
- Eve Furse was elected to represent the Third Division of the Utah State Bar Commission.
- Ballard Spahr LLP was honored as one of the 2011 Best Law Firms for Women by the National Association for Female Executives and Flex-Time Lawyers Division of the Utah State Bar Commission.
- WLU congratulates the 100 new female attorneys who will be sworn in at Abravanel Hall on October 31, 2011.
- If you have any announcements or other information you would like to include in the grapevine section, please e-mail womenlawyersofutah@gmail.com

Speakers included Chief Justice Christine M. Durham, one of the First One Hundred; Elder Dallin H. Oaks, retired Utah Supreme Court Justice; Robert L. Jeffs, Utah State Bar President; Dean Hiram Chodosh, S.J. Quinney College of Law; and Associate Dean Kif Augustine-Adams, J. Reuben Clark Law School. Women Lawyers' Special Projects Committee Chair Cathleen C. Gilbert introduced the film *Women Trailblazers in the Law*. Women Lawyers of Utah Past-President, Melanie Vartabedian, who commissioned this special project just one year ago with the 2010-11 Women Lawyers of Utah Board, provided opening and closing remarks for the event.

Women Lawyers of Utah extends a special thanks to the Utah State Bar, S.J. Quinney College of Law, and J. Reuben Clark Law School for their generous co-sponsorship of this project, and also to the numerous other contributors to the project, who were acknowledged at the dinner, in the documentary film, and in the booklet.

The *Women Trailblazers* booklet and documentary can be viewed on the Women Lawyers of Utah website at: <http://utahwomenlawyers.org>

Join WLU on Facebook and LinkedIn

Were you aware that WLU has group pages on both Facebook and LinkedIn? Well, some of you do because you are already members. However, if you have not joined already, WLU invites you to join both groups where you can see exclusive content, such as pictures from our events. You will also be able to post information to our wall. If you would like to join, simply search for Women Lawyers of Utah on either site and request to be added. How easy is that? (Hint: it's pretty easy.)

WLU Upcoming Events Calendar

WLU Events October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Charity Golf Tournament. Red Ledges Golf Course, Heber City	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Cancer Bites Brewvies Cinema Pub 7-10 p.m.	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Last day to register for WLU Fall Retreat	22 Walk Against Violence 9:00 a.m. at Liberty Park
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31				Nov. 4 WLU Fall Retreat @ St. Regis Deer Creek Resort	Nov. 5 WLU Fall Retreat @ St. Regis Deer Creek Resort.

All information relating to calendar events can be found on the WLU website:
[Http://utahwomenlawyers.org](http://utahwomenlawyers.org).

If there is an event you would like to include on the WLU events calendar or website, please e-mail
 WLU at womenlawyersofutah@gmail.com.

