

SPRING SUMMIT FOR ADVANCING WOMEN IN THE LAW

A SUMMIT OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE FOR WOMEN IN LAW AND WHAT NEW RESEARCH TELLS US ABOUT THE NEED FOR CHANGE

EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604

MARCH 3, 2020

REGISTRATION 11:30 AM–12:30 PM
PROGRAM 12:30 PM–4:30 PM
RECEPTION 4:45 PM–6:00 PM

TOPICS INCLUDE

- » Why Do Women Stay and Why Do They Leave: Findings from the Achieving Long-Term Careers for Women in Law Research Initiative
- » What Will Drive Change: Law Firm Leaders Weigh In
- » New Ways to Break Old Barriers: The General Counsel View
- » What Do We See and What Do We Say: A View from the Bench

This program has been approved for **3.75 HOURS OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CLE CREDIT** in Illinois through WBAL.

AGENDA

12:15 – 12:30 PM

WELCOME

Opening remarks by American Bar Association President Judy Perry Martinez

12:30 – 1:15 PM

SESSION 1 WHY DO WOMEN STAY AND WHY DO THEY LEAVE: FINDINGS FROM THE ACHIEVING LONG-TERM CAREERS FOR WOMEN IN LAW RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Stephanie Scharf and Roberta Liebenberg, under the leadership of ABA Past President Hillarie Bass, served as co-chairs of a groundbreaking research initiative, Achieving Long-Term Careers for Women in Law. The initiative set out to understand the barriers that continue to prevent women from reaching their full potential as lawyers and why women have been fleeing the legal profession. Scharf and Liebenberg will share key findings from the four-prong research initiative and discuss efforts to develop solutions with ABA Past President Paulette Brown.

MODERATOR

» Corinne Cantwell Heggie, Partner, Wochner Law Firm LLC

PANELISTS

- » Paulette Brown, Senior Partner and Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Locke Lord LLP
- » Roberta Liebenberg, Senior Partner, Fine, Kaplan and Black, R.P.C.
- » Stephanie Scharf, Partner, Scharf Banks Marmor LLC

1:15 – 2:15 PM

SESSION 2 WHAT WILL DRIVE CHANGE: LAW FIRM LEADERS WEIGH IN

More than 50% of law school graduates are women and nearly 45% of AmLaw 200 associates are female, yet women somehow represent less than 25% of all AmLaw

200 equity partners. A diverse panel of law firm leaders will discuss what law firms are doing to advance women into roles of leadership, what actually works, and where improvement is needed.

MODERATOR

» Eileen Letts, Partner, Zuber Lawler & Del Duca LLP

PANELISTS

- » Cyndie Chang, Managing Partner, Duane Morris LLP, Los Angeles
- » Guy Halgren, Partner, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP
- » Andrea Kramer, Partner, McDermott, Will & Emery LLP
- » Jami Wintz McKeon, Chair, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

2:15 – 2:35 PM

BREAK

2:35 – 3:35 PM

SESSION 3 NEW WAYS TO BREAK OLD BARRIERS: THE GENERAL COUNSEL VIEW

Clients and customers are increasingly demanding diversity in corporate leadership, causing companies to look beyond profit and embrace inclusion. What can be done to retain, promote, and develop women lawyers into the role of general counsel? A panel of prominent general counsel will discuss changes occurring in companies and what barriers still need to be broken to promote diverse attorneys in the general counsel role.

MODERATOR

» Mary Smith, Vice Chair, VENG Group, and CEO and Chair, Caroline and Ora Smith Foundation

PANELISTS

- » Pedro DeJesus, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, & Corporate Secretary, Tampico Beverages, Inc.

- » Dennis Garcia, Assistant General Counsel, Microsoft Corporation
- » Dorothy G. Capers, Executive Vice President & Group General Counsel, National Express

3:40 – 4:40 PM

SESSION 4 WHAT DO WE SEE AND WHAT DO WE SAY: A VIEW FROM THE BENCH

Gender balance in the judiciary is not only important for representation of women lawyers but also for a balanced rule of law. A panel of judges will discuss their journey to the bench and why judiciary diversity enhances the legitimacy of courts. The panel will also discuss the biases they experience and why diverse women's voices are needed on the bench.

MODERATOR

» Hon. Virginia Kendall, United States District Court Judge, Northern District of Illinois

PANELISTS

- » Hon. Sara Darrow, Chief Judge United States District, Central District of Illinois
- » Hon. Rebecca Pallmeyer, Chief Judge United States District, Northern District of Illinois
- » Hon. Nancy Rosenstengel, Chief Judge United States District, Southern District of Illinois
- » Hon. Diane Wood, Chief Judge United States District, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

4:45 – 6:00 PM

RECEPTION

Please join us for light refreshments following the program.

SUMMIT STEERING COMMITTEE

CORINNE CANTWELL HEGGIE

Partner, Wochner Law Firm LLC
(Co-Chair)

MARY SMITH

Vice Chair, VENG Group, and CEO and Chair,
Caroline and Ora Smith Foundation (Co-Chair)

AURORA AUSTRIACO

Shareholder, Valentine Austriaco & Bueschel, P.C.

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