



## WAAT'S HAPPENING

### Message from the President

Greetings WAAT Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful spring blooms in our community.

This month, I want to talk to you about the value and importance of mentorship. Many of us likely participated in mentorship programs in law school or at some point during our careers. Statistics show that mentorships are especially important for women in the legal profession and help us navigate historic inequities in opportunities for advancement and pay.

I am fortunate to have several mentors in my life. I also serve as a mentor to students in high school and, sometimes, law school. Recently, however, I was called out because I did not genuinely commit to a mentorship I am involved in, and rightfully so. Mentorship is not simply meeting with someone once or twice a year for coffee to ask them how they're doing and offer to answer questions. Though this type of interaction may be valuable for the mentee in the moment, these are often not true mentorship relationships. Mentorships are intentional. They require commitment, thoughtful and challenging conversations, and deliberate actions to build up the person you are mentoring. As an organization, WAAT works with the Women's Legal Forum at Washburn University each year to nurture potential mentorship opportunities with female law students; however, we too, struggle to balance our schedules and commitments. We are continuously looking for ways to improve this program so that our lawyers and students can form meaningful connections and lasting relationships that continue on for several years.

No matter your age or experience practicing law, I challenge each of you to seek out a mentorship that would be meaningful  
(continued on page 2)

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## Message from the President, continued

for you. Think of a lawyer you admire or a colleague you respect for the work that they do or the manner in which they handle themselves. Invite them to lunch and ask them to mentor you. If you prefer to mentor a young lawyer, reach out to someone you see potential in or—better yet—someone who is struggling and needs help. I challenge you to schedule two or three meetings with your mentor/mentee over the next few months, decide where you will meet, and think about what you would like to discuss ahead of time. For example, my mentor and I recently completed the Gallup StrengthsFinder assessment online and discussed our results over dinner. I urge you to do the same. Have meaningful conversations that help you both advance and achieve your goals. If you are a mentor, challenge your mentee to do something to improve herself or work towards a goal she has set each time you get together. You would be surprised how productive and meaningful your mentorship relationship can be if you set a few expectations for your meetings and conversations. Try it out. It has worked wonders for me and I hope it will for you as well. If you are interested in a mentorship and you are struggling to find someone to connect with, please let me know and I would be happy to introduce you to a fellow WAAT member to start that process.

Finally, mark your calendars because our two largest events of the year are coming up at the end of May. First, our annual Just Desserts event to recognize our 2019 Chief Justice Kay McFarland Award recipient, Natalie Haag, is May 30th. Natalie is an extraordinary member of our profession and I can't wait to join all of you in celebrating her achievements in practice and in the community. The following day, on May 31st, we have our Annual Spring CLE. This year, we are offering a six-hour program with four hours of CLE credit, and a very exciting program by the Women's Foundation about women's equity issues in the practice of law. I hope you join us for some or all of the programs on the 31<sup>st</sup>, and I want to thank all of you for your continuing support for our organization.

In partnership,  
Nicole Revenaugh



## RECENT HAPPENINGS

### Self-Defense Class

On March 14, WAAT hosted a free self-defense class for its members and staff from the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. Many thanks to Carrie Mugridge and Prime Martial Arts volunteers, who donated their time, and KCSDV, which donated its training room, for the event. Carrie was attacked last summer and has made it her mission to motivate and empower women through self-defense training. You can learn more about her and learn some basic self-defense techniques [here](#). WAAT plans to offer this event again in the future.



### Food from the Bar 2019



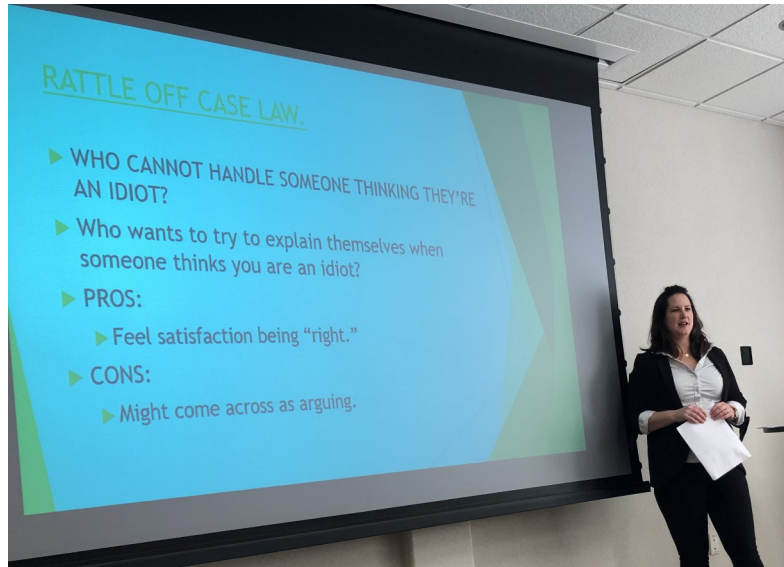
Now through May 3, you can support WAAT's annual Food from the Bar campaign to benefit Harvesters. You can participate by dropping off non-perishable food items at Zimmerman & Zimmerman, located at 909 SE Quincy or donating funds through our virtual food drive [here](#).

Harvesters serves 26 counties in northeast Kansas and northwest Missouri. About 15% of residents in Harvester's service area are "food insecure"—meaning they may not know where their next meal is coming from. For each dollar you donate, you can help Harvesters provide three meals. Please click the link above by Friday to help WAAT in this worthy cause. Your donation—no matter how large or how small—can make a big impact on hungry children, families, and seniors in our community.



## Monthly Luncheons

WAAT continues to provide high-quality programming on a monthly basis to its members and our broader legal community. If you are interested in presenting or have suggestions for programming you would like to see, please contact WAAT's Program Chair, Julia Holt.



## Business Card Exchange and Social Hour, February 2019

This low-key networking event allowed WAAT members to get to know each other a little better over the lunch hour.

## Betsey Lasister, Denton's US, L.L.P., March 2019

### Choose Your Own Adventure: Preparing for Hard Situations in the Work Place (1.0 hour of Ethics/Professionalism CLE credit)

WAAT board alumna Betsey Lasister created this funny and informative program in an effort to help us all prepare for various confrontations lawyers may face at work.

## Meeting Our Local Women Community Leaders, April 2019

This speed-networking event gave WAAT members the opportunity to meet and discuss a variety of subjects with local women leaders, including:

- Hon. Nancy Moritz, 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals
- Dean Carla Pratt, Washburn University School of Law
- Leah Terranova, Director of Career and Student Counseling Services, KU School of Law;
- Amber Gentry Oetting, Regional Community Relations Manager, Kansas Gas Service
- Debra Clayton, Co-Founder and President, Clayton Wealth Partners

## Good News!

Share your good news with the group anytime by posting on the WAAT listserv or send your triumphs to Jen Cocking for publication in WAAT's quarterly newsletter. Let us share in your success and celebrate with you!

- Members **Michelle Ewert** and **Marty Snyder** will be honored with KBA Outstanding Service Awards at the KBA's Annual Meeting on June 21 in Topeka.
- This April, **Natalie Haag**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Capitol Federal® Savings Bank was awarded CapFed's highest honor, the Henry A. Bubbs Distinguished Service Award.
- Lawyer by day and freelance journalist by night, **Stacy Jeffress** is a blues aficionado. You can read her profile of blues chanteuse Gina Sicilia in the April edition of *Blues Music Magazine* and her piece on blues festivals that raise money for nonprofits in the *Blues Festival Guide 2019*. Email Stacy at [luvmyblues@yahoo.com](mailto:luvmyblues@yahoo.com) if you love the blues as much as she does.
- After 4+ years in the Kansas Legislative Research Department, **Jen Ouellette** started a new job at the Kansas Insurance Department's Workers' Compensation Program in April.
- Shawnee County District Court Judge **Cheryl Rios** and attorneys **Amanda Stanley** (General Counsel, League of Kansas Municipalities) and **Kelly Trussell** (Of Counsel, Sloan, Eisenbarth, Glassman, McEntire & Jarboe, LLC) were selected for the Leadership Kansas Class of 2019.
- **Marty Snyder** retired on March 1 after 36 and a half years of law practice. These days, you can find her climbing trees with her grandsons.
- As President of the National Conference of Women's Bar Association, **Angel Zimmerman** got to attend the Austin Women's Power Summit. Closer to home, Angel was awarded a TopArts Grant through ARTSConnect to paint a bee-themed mural on the Zimmerman & Zimmerman building at 9th and Quincy.



# WAAT DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

## Cherry Reed

Attorney, Kansas Capital Habeas Office  
WAAT Community Service Chair



**How long have you been in your current position?** I have been with BIDS in Kansas for three and a half years. Prior to moving here, I worked in Omaha, Nebraska for two years at Fidelity National Title Group.

**What was your first job?** I was a waitress through high school, college and law school at almost every place you can think of including the Sturgis Rally. It was a lot of work but a lot of fun! Just one of the highlights was serving Blake Shelton at Tapz Bar in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

**What's the first thing you do when you get home from work?** The first thing I try to do is change into workout clothes and go for a walk or workout.

**What's your favorite book?** The Bible or any devotional book.

**It's finally spring! What are you up to?** I am looking forward to planting a garden, planning a few vacations and enjoying time with my awesome husband.

## Ashley Rohleder

Attorney, Kansas Association of School Boards  
WAAT Secretary



**How long have you been in your current position?** I have been with the Kansas Association of School Boards for just over a year, advising school boards across the state. Previously, I worked at Washburn Law Office, LLC, practicing in family law and municipal criminal cases.

**What was your first job?** My first job was as a "dietary aide" in a nursing home, helping serve meals to the residents, while I was in high school.

**What's the first thing you do when you get home from work?** When I get home from work, the very first thing I do is take off my shoes, then usually flip through the mail.

**What's your favorite book?** I have not had a favorite book since I read Louis Sachar's Holes several times in middle school. Now, it feels like every book I read is my favorite!

**It's finally spring! What are you up to?** Now that spring has arrived, I love that I can get outside to read or walking to explore the new neighborhood I moved in to in December. And, because it is light later, I find myself getting a lot more done in the evenings!

## Nicole Revenaugh

Partner, Irigonegaray, Turney, & Revenaugh, L.L.P.  
WAAT President



**How long have you been in your current position?** After six years of civil litigation practice as an associate, I just recently joined Irigonegaray, Turney, & Revenaugh, L.L.P. with three new partners! We started our practice together at the beginning of 2019 and practice criminal defense, personal injury, estate planning and family law. I am loving every minute of it.

**What was your first job?** My very first job was working in the Nearly New Thrift Store while I was in high school. I sorted through donations and helped value and tag inventory. It wasn't very exciting work, but it helped me earn a little gas money on the weekends.

**What's the first thing you do when you get home from work?** Change out of my work clothes and put on jeans or sweats.

**What's your favorite book?** My favorite book of all time is *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova. It's a historical fiction mystery about eastern Europe during the rule of Vlad the Impaler. The book that I am recommending to everyone I see right now is called *Dream Teams* by Shane Snow. It is a series of stories about real companies and teams (in sports, politics, music, etc.) that demonstrate the importance of inclusivity and cognitive diversity in creating the most productive and efficient work environments.

**It's finally spring! What are you up to?** Working outside in the yard! I love to do landscaping and gardening. I also love taking my daughter to the zoo and Gage Park now that the weather is nice again.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & MISCELLANY

### Supreme Court Nominating Commission

Part of WAAT's core mission is to support the advancement of women in the profession and encourage the participation of women in bar leadership positions. To that end, we want to encourage you to reach out to the three women who are running to fill the open seat on the Supreme Court Nominating Commission for the Second Congressional District to either express your support or discuss their candidacies if you are still undecided. Ballots are due on or before Wednesday, May 15.

- Sara Beezley, Pittsburg, [sara@beezley.law](mailto:sara@beezley.law)
- Heather Cessna, Lawrence, [hrcessna@gmail.com](mailto:hrcessna@gmail.com)
- Shaye Downing, Lawrence, [sdowning@sloanlawfirm.com](mailto:sdowning@sloanlawfirm.com)

## Miscellaneous Items

- Board members **Ashley Rohleder** and **Hon. Becky Sanders** hosted a WAAT table at Washburn Law's Spring Opportunity Fair on January 15.
- WAAT members **Nicole Revenaugh**, **Amanda Stanley**, and **Angel Zimmerman** were invited to a Women in Law networking event at KU in March. If you are a KU alum and are interested in helping WAAT develop a more formal relationship with the school and students who want to work in Topeka after graduation, please contact Nicole Revenaugh.
- Beginning in July 2019, the costs of WAAT luncheons will be \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. It's been several years since prices have been raised, and these modest increases will help WAAT continue to provide affordable monthly programming and keep annual dues low.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT

Watch your email for details on these upcoming events.

<b>May 15</b> Noon	<b>Monthly Membership Meeting</b> The Robert L. Gernon Law Center (KBA) Journeys to Motherhood: Lawyers' Perspectives A panel discussion with Hon. Melissa Standridge, Jacq Nance, Natalie Chalmers, and Jo Friesen, facilitated by Eunice Peters and Ivery Goldstein (1.0 hour of CLE Credit)
<b>May 30</b> 5:30 p.m.	<b>Just Desserts</b> The Governor's Row House 811 SW Buchanan
<b>May 31</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>WAAT's Annual CLE</b> Washburn University School of Law
<b>June 19</b> Noon	<b>Annual Meeting and Election of Officers</b> Location TBA
<b>July 18-20</b>	<b>KWAA Annual Conference</b> Bethany College, Lindsborg



## Just Desserts

Please join us at Just Desserts on Thursday, May 30 as we honor Natalie Haag with the Chief Justice Kay McFarland Attorney of Achievement Award. Natalie has been practicing law in Kansas for over 30 years and currently serves as Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Capitol Federal® Savings Bank. She has volunteered her time and talent for countless community and bar organizations and works tirelessly to advance women in the profession. Register today to celebrate with us!





# Just Desserts

## REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIP FORM

Thursday, May 30, 2019 5:30PM ~ 7:30PM

The Governor's Row House – 811 SW Buchanan Street

### REGISTRATION:


WAAT Member & Non-Members \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 each (\$30 at the door)

Law Students \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 each (\$20 at the door)

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

 **Heavenly** ~ Includes a Reserved Table for 8 Attendees & Special Recognition \_\_\_\_\_ \$500  
(8 Tickets + \$300 Donation)

 **Delectable** ~ Includes 4 Attendees & Special Recognition \_\_\_\_\_ \$300  
(4 Tickets + \$200 Donation)

 **Delightful** ~ Includes 4 Attendee Registrations & Recognition in Program \_\_\_\_\_ \$200  
(4 Tickets + \$100 Donation)

 **Sweetest** ~ Includes 3 Attendee Registrations & Recognition in Program \_\_\_\_\_ \$150  
(3 Tickets + \$75 Donation)

 **Sweeter** ~ Includes 2 Attendee Registrations & Recognition in Program \_\_\_\_\_ \$100  
(2 Tickets + \$50 Donation)

 **Sweet** ~ Includes 1 Attendee Registration & Recognition in Program \_\_\_\_\_ \$50  
(1 Ticket + \$25 Donation)

————— Sponsors, please RSVP by May 16, 2019 —————

### NAME(S) OF PERSON(S) ATTENDING:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSORSHIP RECOGNITION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO: (I.E. PERSON, FIRM OR ORGANIZATION)

\_\_\_\_\_

Proceeds from 2019 Just Desserts are used for the benefit of the Washburn

Women's Alliance Scholarship & YWCA NE Kansas Center for Safety and Empowerment.

Register and/or sponsor online at [topekawomenattorneys.com](http://topekawomenattorneys.com) or submit this form with payment to:

WAAT, P.O. Box 2483, Topeka, KS 66601



Questions? Contact Lisa Robertson at 816-244-1763 or [Nicole@ITRLaw.com](mailto:Nicole@ITRLaw.com)

**Women Attorneys Association  
of Topeka (WAAT)**

**WAAT 2019  
Spring CLE**

**May 31, 2019  
9:00 a.m.**

**Washburn University  
School of Law**

**1700 SW College Ave. | Room 100  
Topeka, Kansas**



9:00 am — 11:00 am **Larry Zimmerman**  
*#MeToo and Our Judiciary.*

11:00 am — 11:30 am **Networking Break**

11:30 am — 12 Noon **Lunch**

12 Noon — 2:00 pm **Women's Foundation**  
*Overview of how we are working statewide to eliminate barriers for women in the workplace and civic engagement training.*

2:00 pm — 3:00 pm **Penny Moylan, Deputy Disciplinary Administrator**  
*National Task Force on Attorney Well-Being and Kansas update.*

3:00 pm — 4:00 pm **Diane Bellquist, Joseph, Hollander & Craft LLC**  
*Spotting unethical creeps — Different ways ethical problems can creep into your practice and how to avoid them.*

**Registration is required.**

**Walk-in registration is welcome.**

**Payment in advance or at the door.**

*\$25/credit hour for members and \$35/credit hour for nonmembers.*

*Lunch will be an additional cost (\$10/person)  
and printed materials will be \$10 each.*

**Contact: Amber Smith, [a.smith@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:a.smith@kcc.ks.gov)  
or Natalie Washington, [natalie.t.washington@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.t.washington@gmail.com)**





KWAA's annual conference is not your average CLE conference. In fact, we've often heard it described as summer camp for lawyers. This year, on the conference's 30th anniversary, we are embracing that description and taking you to Camp Lindsborg--complete with merit badges, smores, camp activities and all the things that prepare you to climb mountains and make you happy. Learn tips for keeping that Camp Lindsborg-happiness with you all year long by listening to our Keynote Speaker, Gretchen Rubin, as she talks about her research on human nature and her insight into how we can make our lives happier, healthier, more productive, and more creative. You can expect the amazing line-up of speakers and CLE courses, networking, and social events that you've come to expect from the Lindsborg conference plus special events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Lindsborg conference and the 25th anniversary of KWAA. Come join us!

## GRETCHEN RUBIN KEYNOTE SPEAKER



NUMBER 1 NATIONAL BEST SELLING AUTHOR OF THE HAPPINESS PROJECT, 3 OTHER NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLERS, AND 5 OTHER BOOKS



AWARD WINNING AND TOP-RANKING PODCASTER, "HAPPIER WITH GRETCHEN RUBIN"



YALE LAW GRAD AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE YALE LAW JOURNAL



CLERKED FOR JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR



KANSAS CITY NATIVE



# KWAA

KANSAS WOMEN ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION