

Women
Attorneys
Association of
Topeka

Winter 2018/2019



WAAT'S HAPPENING

Message from the President

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a joyous holiday season with your families, friends and colleagues. It was wonderful to see so many of our members at the WAAT Holiday Party at the Topeka Civic Theatre last month. I am very excited about the upcoming programs that our Program Chair, Julia Holt, has put together for this Spring. We also have some powerful mentoring opportunities coming up with students from the Women's Legal Forum. Stay tuned for emails on our upcoming events!

For many of us, January is a time for reflection. We evaluate our challenges and achievements from the previous year and contemplate our aspirations for the year ahead. It's a time to renew our resolve to better ourselves and commit to supporting our peers in their own endeavors. Whatever opportunities may lay on the horizon for you, I encourage you to pursue them to your fullest ability and to use your fellow sisters in law as resources to help you achieve your goals.

I hope that all of you will allow WAAT to be a resource as well. Our organization is committed to providing affordable membership dues, CLEs, and programs, as well as opportunities to mentor law students, participate in community service projects, and network with other professionals. Above all, WAAT offers a safe and supportive environment for our members to discuss personal and professional issues unique to women lawyers in our community, and I hope that you will take advantage of our organization and the tremendous camaraderie it provides to our members.

In partnership,
Nicole Revenaugh

Nicole Revenaugh
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RECENT HAPPENINGS

Looking for a Few GOOD Guys

This past October, WAAT member Angel Zimmerman, who is currently serving as President of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, hosted a GOOD Guys (Guys Overcoming Obstacles to Diversity) panel discussion at the Downtown Topeka Ramada. This nation-wide program was started by the NCBWA in 2016 to highlight the roles men must play in advancing women and other diverse professionals in the workplace. The panel was moderated by WAAT member Natalie Haag and featured men from a variety of organizations in our community. At the end of the program, community representatives gave each of the participants a plaque of appreciation for being supportive of diversity and inclusion. WAAT President Nicole Revenaugh presented a plaque to panel member Larry Zimmerman, and thanked him for his support of diversity and inclusion of women in the legal profession.



Kay's Garden Groundbreaking

In November 2018, WAAT members participated in a groundbreaking ceremony and fundraiser for Kay's Garden at the Topeka Zoo. Kay's Garden will bring to life former Kansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Kay McFarland's dream to have a premier Japanese garden here in the Capital City. Kay's Garden is principally funded by a legacy gift to the Zoo from Chief Justice McFarland, and will include the garden itself, event space, and a gallery devoted to telling Chief Justice McFarland's life story and empowering future generations of women. Kay's Garden is expected to open in the spring of 2020.



RECENT HAPPENINGS

WAAT Wine Social

WAAT's annual wine social was held October 25 at the College Hill Clubhouse. This ever-popular event drew a good crowd of lawyers and law students, and we collected about 20 bottles of wine for our upcoming Just Desserts event. If you pledged a bottle of wine at the wine social for Just Desserts, please contact Lisa Robertson to arrange delivery.



2018 Holiday Party

WAAT members got into the holiday spirit in December with the help of Topeka Civic Theatre and Buddy the Elf. After a dinner of spaghetti and maple syrup (or something like that) we passed through the seven levels of the Candy Cane Forest, through the Sea of Swirly-Twirly Gum Drops, and into the theater for TCT's production of Elf the Musical. As some of us learned and others were reminded: "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."



Next time you see WAAT Social Chair Jen Oullette, please thank her for all of her hard work planning the events during this very social calendar quarter.

WAAT DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Whitney Casement

Associate, Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds & Palmer LLP
WAAT Past President

How long have you been in your current position? I have been an Associate at Goodell Stratton since April 2017. Previous to that I was an Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Kansas Attorney General under Derek Schmidt from graduation until I moved to my current position.



What was your first job? Bank teller at Centera Bank in Satanta, Kansas right after high school and during breaks in college. I also had odd jobs in high school, but I don't feel like those really count as a "first job."

If you could eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be? Salad. I know that's lame, but I've actually thought about this question a lot. All of the bad foods that I love so much would get old very quickly. And salad is so yummy and healthy and can be made in so many different ways. It's just practical!

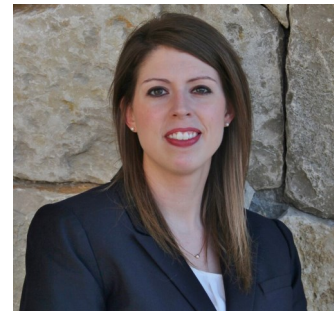
What's your favorite book? To Kill a Mockingbird. I know, also lame and cliché, but it is what it is. Second favorite is the unabridged version of the Jungle. That book was life changing for me in college. Even though it is fiction, it really opened my eyes to the plight of immigrants, outsiders, and people who are impoverished and how unfortunate circumstances (e.g., health, death, job loss) can really compound until it is impossible to overcome.

Welcome to 2019! What are you looking forward to this year? I am looking forward to potentially adopting a baby!

Jen Cocking

VP and Associate General Counsel, Capitol Federal Savings
WAAT Newsletter Chair

How long have you been in your current position? I've been at the Bank for about three years. Before that, I was a research attorney for Chief Justice Nuss at the Kansas Supreme Court.



What was your first job? In high school, I worked summers at a pool store (swimming not billiards).

If you could eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be? Stove-popped popcorn. My popcorn pan is one of the most important things I own.

What's your favorite book? I know I asked this question, but I can't possibly pick a favorite! I love Jane Austen, Harry Potter, and novels set in the art world. I've also discovered so many wonderful children's books now that I have a daughter. I'm so happy she loves to read.

Welcome to 2019! What are you looking forward to this year? As I write this at the end of January, I'm looking forward to being warm!

WAAT DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Jen Ouellette

Principal Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Dept.
WAAT Social Chair



How long have you been in your current position? I've been with KLRD since September of 2014. I started as a Legislative Fellow after the bar and then joined as a Fiscal Analyst the following year. I am now a Principal Fiscal Analyst and work in both fiscal and policy areas. My subject matters are health and social services.

What was your first job? My first job was at Golden Corral in Garden City, KS when I was 16.

If you could eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be? Very hard to pick one food for the rest of my life but I guess it would be pizza.

What's your favorite book? I cannot pick one favorite book.

Welcome to 2019! What are you looking forward to this year? This year I am most looking forward to going on my first cruise Labor Day weekend!

Amber Smith

Chief Litigation Counsel, Kansas Corporation Commission
WAAT President-Elect.



How long have you been in your current position? I started my career at the Kansas Insurance Department and began my work with the KCC in 2011 as Litigation Counsel. I have held my current position as Chief Litigation Counsel since 2015.

What was your first job? In the summers during high school I was a Lifeguard/Swim Lesson Instructor for Shawnee County Parks and Recreation.

If you could eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be? Does this limit the response to a *single* food, like carrots? Or could it be a dish or an entrée? If I get an entrée, then it would be chicken enchiladas. If I am limited to a single food item, then I'll go with graham crackers.

What's your favorite book? The one I've just read. So long as it's a good read, I can really get into whatever book I'm reading at the time. I have a hard time picking a favorite from such an expansive universe.

Welcome to 2019! What are you looking forward to this year? 2019 is shaping up to be a great year for concerts. I'm looking forward to catching some awesome live performances.

RECENT HAPPENINGS

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 see, please contact WAAT's Program Chair, Julia Holt.



October 2018

Hon. Lori Dougherty-Bichsel,

Topeka Municipal Court Judge

Clean Slate Day and Alternative Sentencing Court

November 2018

WAAT Past-President/KWAA Liason Whitney Casement and President-Elect Amber Smith
Don't Be a Work Martyr: Breaking Unhealthy Attorney Habits



January 2019

Hon. Karen Arnold-Burger,

Kansas Court of Appeals Chief Judge

Enhancing Justice, Reducing Bias: An Introduction to the Concept of Implicit Bias and the Impact on the Legal System (1.0 hour of CLE)

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT

Watch your email for details on these upcoming events.

Feb. 20 **Monthly Membership Meeting**
Noon

March 14 **Free Self-Defense Class**
5:30 p.m.

May 31 **WAAT's Annual CLE**
9:00 a.m. Washburn University School of Law