

Women  
Attorneys  
Association of  
Topeka

Fall 2018



## WAAT'S HAPPENING

### Message from the President

Welcome to “WAAT’s Happening,” the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka’s quarterly newsletter. First and foremost, I would like to thank our Newsletter Chair, Jen Cocking, for taking on the significant task of publishing our newsletter this year. Jen has many fresh ideas for the newsletter and we hope that you find it to be fun, informative and entertaining.

I am very excited to introduce WAAT’s 2018-19 Board of Directors, which includes six new and eleven returning board members. The board has set forth some thoughtful and ambitious goals for the organization and its members, and I feel very privileged to be working alongside them this year.

This past summer, Sarah Morse and I developed the theme, “Together We Rise: Advancing Our Careers and Communities,” for the Kansas Women Attorneys Association’s 29th Annual Conference. That theme continues to resonate with and inspire me as WAAT enters its 2018-19 membership year, and it is my hope that we will continue to build on that theme with innovative programs and activities for our members. To that end, we are excited to offer a variety of CLE and non-CLE programs on the third Wednesday of each month, as well as social, networking, community service and mentorship opportunities throughout the year.

Whatever your next step is in your career, community, or personal life, “Together We Rise” is about finding your purpose and having the confidence in your abilities and resources to pursue it to the fullest. As you stride forward in these endeavors, know that WAAT is here to support you.

In partnership,  
Nicole Revenaugh, President

# 2018-2019 WAAT BOARD DIRECTORY

Want to volunteer with WAAT? Have an idea for a program or social event? Or an item to share for the newsletter or website? Contact any of your WAAT board members to get involved in what's happening in our legal community.



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# 2018-2019 WAAT BOARD DIRECTORY



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# 2018-2019 WAAT BOARD DIRECTORY



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# 2018-2019 WAAT BOARD DIRECTORY



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**WINE SOCIAL**  
Join the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka  
And Washburn Women's Legal Forum  
**Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 8:30 PM**  
**1425 SW Lane St., College Hill Clubhouse**  
**(Rear Entrance)**

**Please bring a bottle of wine or cheese to share. Any unopened bottles of wine will be donated for use at the WAAT Just Desserts fundraiser.**

The flyer features a background image of several wine glasses filled with red wine, arranged on a dark wooden surface. The text is overlaid on this image in a white, serif font with a drop shadow effect.

# WAAT DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

## Erin Beckerman

Partner, Riordan, Fincher & Beckerman, PA  
WAAT Treasurer



**How long have you been in your current position?** I've been with the firm for almost 7 years, and a partner for 3 years. Before moving back to Kansas and joining the firm, I practiced personal injury law at a small firm in Las Vegas.

**What was your first job?** My very first job was working at Hy-Vee as a cashier. I still remember some of the PLU codes for produce (for example, bananas are 4011) and I always prefer to sack my own groceries.

**What's your middle name? Is there a story behind it?** My middle name is Amanda. My parents had actually picked Amanda for my first name, but just a couple days before I was born, my Dad's cousin had a baby girl and named her Amanda. My parents didn't want it to look like they copied the name, so they used Amanda as my middle name instead. Funny to think that if I had been born just a few days earlier my name would be different.

**What's your favorite book(s)?** That's a tough question! As a little girl my favorite book was a Tree Grows in Brooklyn. My grandmother gave me a copy that I still have, so that book will forever hold a special place in my heart. Another book that has always stayed with me is The Color Purple, and one of my favorite, more recent, books is All the Light We Cannot See. It's an absolutely beautiful book.

**What's your favorite thing about fall?** I love going for walks during the fall. The crisp air and sound of leaves crunching under my feet are some of my favorite things. My youngest son was born in October, so this time of year also brings back wonderful memories of welcoming him into our family and newborn baby snuggles.

## Lisa Robertson

City Attorney, City of Topeka  
WAAT Just Desserts Chair



**How long have you been in your current position?** Three years. Was previously City Attorney for St. Joseph, Missouri (for two decades).

**What was your first job?** Lifeguard at the Wathena, KS swimming pool.

**What's your middle name? Is there a story behind it?** Marie. It was my paternal grandmother's name.

**What's your favorite book(s)?** John Adams.

**What's your favorite thing about fall?** K-State Football (EMAW)!

# WAAT DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

## Ashley Jarmer

Research Attorney, Kansas Supreme Court  
WAAT Archives/Bylaws Chair



**How long have you been in your current position?** I have worked for Justice Lee Johnson for a total of four years. I have previously worked at the Kansas Court of Appeals for Chief Judge Richard Greene and as the personnel attorney for the Kansas Department of Transportation Office of Chief Counsel.

**What was your first job?** When I was 14, I had a summer job doing clerical work at an insurance agency. Side note: My most interesting non-legal job was the summer I spent in high school working for a small home construction and remodeling business.

**What's your middle name?** Nicole. **Is there a story behind it?** Yes. My father served in the Army during the Vietnam War. While he was stationed in Germany, he lived above a bakery and became friends with the family that owned it. They had a 3-year old granddaughter named Nicole.

**What's your favorite book(s)?** To Kill a Mockingbird

**What's your favorite thing about fall?** I will narrow it down to three: The weather, Halloween, and football.

## Natalie Washington

WAAT Career Development/CLE Chair



**How long have you been in your current position?** I am a family law attorney. I'm licensed in Tennessee as well as Kansas. I'm currently taking a few months away from practice to focus on my family and I will return to practice early next year. I worked as family law attorney at Joseph, Hollander & Craft from July 2016 until August of 2018. Prior to that I worked as a research analyst for the Kansas Legislative Research Department for two years.

**What was your first job?** My very first job was at Wendy's.

**What's your middle name? Is there a story behind it?** My middle name is Monta. Funny story, I recently found out I have been mispronouncing it for over 30 years. I'm named after my cousin Mona. So my middle name is supposed to be pronounced "Moan-tay". I've been saying "Mun-tay" for as long as I can remember.

**What's your favorite book(s)?** My favorite book is Sula by Toni Morrison.

**What's your favorite thing about fall?** My favorite thing about fall is watching the leaves change color.

# RECENT HAPPENINGS

## McFarland Award and Just Desserts



WAAT presented the 2018 Chief Justice Kay McFarland Attorney of Achievement Award to Angel Zimmerman at Just Desserts on May 31, 2018. The McFarland award is WAAT’s highest honor and is given annually to an attorney who has achieved professional excellence in her field; influenced other women to pursue legal careers; opened doors for women lawyers in a variety of job settings that historically were closed to them; or advanced opportunities for women within a practice area or segment of the profession. During the nomination process, Angel was described as a person who

“intends—no, insists—on bringing all of us on the path with her. Everyday, through her actions, Angel inspires young girls, women new to the profession, as well as seasoned attorneys, to be leaders, mentors and achievers.” Congratulations, Angel! Thank you for inspiring us and for all the work you do to promote the advancement of women in our profession!

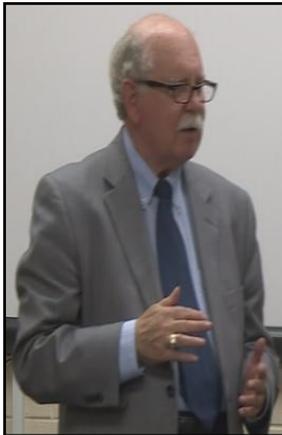
And thank you to our Just Desserts sponsors and everyone else who attended, made a donation, or purchased items at our silent auction. Through your contributions, we raised \$4,000 this year. Half of the proceeds will be donated to the YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment, which provides services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking in northeast Kansas. The other half will go to the Washburn Women’s Alliance Scholarship Fund. The Washburn Women’s Alliance provides scholarships to undergraduate single parents enrolled at Washburn. Please join us in thanking Cherry Kolb, last year’s Just Desserts Chair, for everything she did to make this annual event such a success.



# RECENT HAPPENINGS

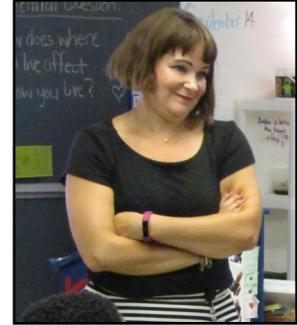
## Constitution Day 2018

For the last several years, WAAT has worked with local schools to celebrate Constitution Day, a federal holiday commemorating the signing of the Constitution. During the third week of September, Topeka attorneys left the office for the classroom to teach elementary and middle school students about the Constitution and the legal profession. There's no set curriculum, which gives attorneys the flexibility to tailor their presentations to their assigned age



group and their own interests. This year, students had lessons on topics such as the Bill of Rights, the Fourth Amendment, and voting rights.

In connection with Constitution Day, long-time WAAT supporter and Court of Appeals Judge Joseph Pierron was profiled by WIBW for giving over 400 civics lessons to students since 1996. Many thanks to Judge Pierron and all of our colleagues who volunteered this year.



## Informed Voters Project

Judge Cheryl Rios and WAAT President Nicole Revenaugh presented on the Informed Voters Project (IVP) at the September monthly membership meeting. IVP is an initiative of the National Association of Women Judges that aims to educate voters and increase public awareness about the judiciary. As a follow-up to Judge Rios and Nicole's



presentation, WAAT hosted an IVP training session on September 26 at Zimmerman & Zimmerman P.A. The training was given by Angel Zimmerman and Judge Karen Arnold-Burger of the Kansas Court of Appeals, who discussed common questions and concerns raised by lay people about the judiciary. If you would like to learn more about IVP or give an IVP presentation to a community group before the election, please contact Nicole Revenaugh for more information.

# RECENT HAPPENINGS

## Miscellany

**Sertoma Duck Race.** WAAT sponsored a team in the 2018 Sertoma Great Topeka Duck Race. In our inaugural year, we raised \$295.00. The funds were split equally between Sertoma Club recipients and WAAT’s designated beneficiary, the YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment.

**August Membership Meeting.** Jared Maag, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas, presented *U.S. Supreme Court 5-4 Votes and Dissenting Opinions* for 1 hour of CLE credit at WAAT’s August membership meeting. Attendees Tina Dean and Ashley Jarmer were the lucky winners of our drawing for tickets to the YWCA of Northeast Kansas’ annual Women’s Night Out.

**Read to Me.** WAAT members donated 58 books and \$340.00 during our annual Read to Me book drive and fundraiser for the Highland Park Parent-Child Learning Center. Thanks to all who participated!

**YWCA Voter Registration Initiative.** WAAT has partnered with the YWCA of Northeast Kansas to help people register to vote in Topeka. If you would like to participate in this non-partisan effort to register new voters before the upcoming general election, please contact Nicole Revenaugh or signup through the YWCA at this [link](#).

# WHAT’S HAPPENING NEXT

<b>October 17</b> Noon	<b>Monthly Membership Meeting</b> The Robert L. Gernon Law Center (KBA) Hon. Lori Dougherty-Bichsel, Topeka Municipal Court Judge Clean Slate Day and Alternative Sentencing Court
<b>October 25</b> 5:30 p.m.	<b>WAAT Wine Social</b> College Hill Clubhouse 1425 SW Lane
<b>December</b>	<b>WAAT Holiday Party</b> Information coming soon!