



# The WAAT Newsletter

*The Quarterly Newsletter  
of the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka*

## Foreman accepts 2010 McFarland Award

By Brandi Studer

In 2006, the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka founded the McFarland Award. The award is named after retired Chief Justice Kay McFarland to honor her numerous accomplishments in the legal field. This year's recipient exemplifies the award. Carol Foreman has achieved professional excellence in her field; she has inspired women in the field; opened doors for other women; and advanced opportunities for women within the practice.

Carol graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She completed her education at Washburn University School of

Law and graduated in 1980. After she graduated, Carol briefly worked in private practice. Shortly thereafter, she took a job with the State of Kansas as an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). She worked her way up the ladder and became the Chief ALJ and continued to work for SRS for fifteen years. After working for SRS, Carol moved to the Department of Administration. Again, working her way up the ladder, Carol became the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Administration. There she worked on the Anthem Blue Cross acquisition case. In December 2009, Carol accepted her current position as a member of the Kansas Workers



**Carol Foreman, 2010 McFarland Award winner.**



**From left: Delberta Pfeirer, Carol Foreman, Rosemary Foreman, Nancy Bier.**

Compensation Appeals Board.

Carol joined WAAT at its inception and she is also a member of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association. She served as the treasurer of WAAT for several years and has served as a conference chair for KWAA's annual Lindsborg Conference. If that isn't enough, Carol served as an instrumental and invaluable facilitator for WAAT's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. According to Carol, being a part of the women's bar associations has enriched her life. Carol has been a member of the Kansas Judicial Council's Administrative Procedure Advisory Committee, Court of Appeals Jurisdiction Advisory Committee and is

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## From the President



**Jennifer Sherber**

I hope you will join us for the annual meeting on April 28, 2010. During the meeting, we will host a Founders Day luncheon to recognize and celebrate WAAT's founding

members. I hope everyone will attend this annual event and help WAAT build on the momentum created as a result of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in October.

To further promote and celebrate WAAT's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the photos from the event including the large group photo will be on display at the meeting. Following the meeting, the large group photo will be permanently displayed near the WAAT Past President's plaque at the Shawnee County Courthouse thanks to the efforts of Judge Evelyn Wilson.

Please plan to attend the annual meeting and Founders Day luncheon to show your support for WAAT's past and the future as we elect our 2010-2011 officers.

The luncheon will start at noon at the Kansas Bar Association. Please RSVP by April 15<sup>th</sup> to Eryn Wright at [wrighte@kscourts.org](mailto:wrighte@kscourts.org).

**See you at the  
annual meeting  
April 28!**

## Member profile

# Owens looking forward to role as incoming WAAT president

By Amanda Vogelsberg

This year is proving to be phenomenal for Miranda Owens. Owens has been named a partner at Goodell Stratton Edmonds & Palmer, LLP, is WAAT president-elect, and just got engaged and is planning to be married within the year.

In January, Owens' hard work paid off and after only five years as an associate, she was named partner. Presently, she is the only female partner as well as the youngest partner in the firm. Owens enjoys practicing in the areas of estate planning, business and tax planning for corporations, limited liability companies, and partnerships, taxation, probate, and tax-exempt organizations.

Owens excels in her area of expertise because she has a strong foundation. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 2000 and a Master of Accountancy in 2001 from Kansas State University. She graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law in 2004, where she received a tax certificate and CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Estate Planning Principles. As if law school was not challenging enough, Owens passed the Certified Public Accountant exam during that time.

In April, she will take over as WAAT's 27th president. As president, Owens hopes to increase membership by contacting all Shawnee County women attorneys registered with the Kansas

Supreme Court and promote more networking opportunities.

In her spare time, Owens enjoys traveling and spending time with her family and friends, including her fiancé, Thomas Carmona, who is employed by HTK Architects. They plan to be married in October 2010 in Ellinwood, Kansas, with a reception following in Topeka. Unlike many brides-to-be, Owens is completely calm, cool, and collected concerning planning their wedding. If she can find time between being a partner and newly minted fiancée, she plans on taking up biking. Whether on foot or bike, this woman is clearly going places and hopefully taking WAAT along for the ride.



**Miranda Owens.**

# Upcoming board elections to take place at April meeting

By Laurel Klein Searles

Each year, WAAT elects new officers at the annual meeting. This year's annual meeting will take place on April 28, 2010. At this time, members will elect a new president-elect, secretary, and treasurer. These officers will serve on the WAAT board for the 2010-2011 term.

WAAT members can also serve on the board of directors by serving as a committee chair on any of the following: Program Committee, Career Development Committee, Website Committee, KWAA Liaison, Public Relations Committee, Just Desserts Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, Membership Committee, Archives/Bylaws Committee, or Social Committee.

In order to be considered for a position as an officer or a committee chair, members should

contact the current WAAT president, Jennifer Sherber, or the WAAT president-elect, Miranda Owens, to express interest in serving on the board of directors. Before the annual meeting, the Nominating Committee will nominate candidates to serve as officers. At the annual meeting, a new president-elect, secretary, and treasurer will be elected. The president will appoint Committee Chairs.

Serving on the board of directors provides members with an opportunity to help fulfill the mission of WAAT—advancing the interests of women in our professional and private communities. It is also a great way to network and meet new people.

Members are encouraged to express their interest in serving on the WAAT board of directors by contacting Jennifer Sherber or Miranda Owens.

## **McFarland Award (continued from page 3)**

now on the Judicial Planning Committee where she serves as Chair.

During her free time, Carol can be found outside. She enjoys sports and playing golf and tennis. She also loves to read and travel the world. Most recently Carol floated down the Danube river from Hungary to Romania. She has also traveled to Turkey. About five years ago she went to Australia and while she was visiting Sydney she had dinner at the home of fellow Washburn Law

graduate Lori Callahan. Lori describes Carol as a "natural leader and someone who effectively brings people together for a common purpose," and added "Carol is one of the most delightful people I know."

Carol was presented with the McFarland Award on February 24, 2010. A luncheon was held and Carol was presented with a beautiful plaque. When she was notified that she won Carol said that she was extremely excited and then humbled by the award. Two of her sisters, Nancy Bier

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## Member News

**Robin Kempf**, former WAAT board member, will be studying public administration at the University of Kansas, where she will be working toward a PhD. Her interests include government accountability and inspectors general. This step is likely a career change from the law for Ms. Kempf, as she hopes to teach and research following her graduation.

**Susan Krehbiel William**, a shareholder in the law firm of Coffman, DeFries & Northern, P.A., was selected by her peers for inclusion in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of tax law.

WAAT president-elect **Miranda Owens** became a partner in Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds & Palmer, LLP in January.

**Brandi L. Studer**, associate attorney with Henson, Hutton, Mudrick, & Gragson, was selected to participate in the 2010 Leadership Greater Topeka Class through the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

**Angel R. Zimmerman** has accepted partnership at Valentine & Zimmerman, P.A., with the title of managing partner. The firm's name has changed to Valentine, Zimmerman & Zimmerman, P.A. Zimmerman has also accepted a position on the board of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society KS/MO Chapter and a membership committee position for the National Association of Retail Collection Attorneys.

**— Member news was compiled by Mindy Reynolds**

*Do you have member news you'd like to submit? A WAAT newsletter committee member will post to the listserv before each edition comes out to solicit submissions. Be sure to respond to the e-mail if you'd like to be included in the July 2010 edition.*

## Board Members

**Jennifer Sherber**  
President

**Deb Hughes**  
Secretary

**Diane Bellquist**  
Past President

**Amanda Kiefer**  
Programs

**Miranda Owens**  
President Elect

**Marta Linenberger**  
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**Mary Christopher**  
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**Lisa Montgomery**  
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Just Desserts

**Patti Petersen-Klein**  
KWAALiaison

**Laura Graham**  
Archives/Bylaws

**Eryn Wright**  
Social

**Jennifer Hays**  
Young Lawyers

**Angel Zimmerman**  
Membership

**Brooke Hesler**  
Website/Newsletter

## Newsletter Committee Members

**Brooke Hesler**  
**Laurel Klein Searles**  
**Patricia Scalia**  
**Brandi Studer**  
**Mindy Reynolds**  
**Amanda Vogelsberg**  
**Teresa Watson**

*If you're interested in serving on the Newsletter Committee, please contact Brooke Hesler at [brooke.hesler@gmail.com](mailto:brooke.hesler@gmail.com)*

## **McFarland Award** (continued from page 3)

and Rosemary Foreman, attended the luncheon along with Carol's former assistant, Delberta Pfeifer. Also in attendance were Justice Marla Luckert, Judge Christel E. Marquardt, Judge Mary Beck Briscoe, Judge Cheryl Rios Kingfisher, Judge Evelyn Wilson, and Susan Farley, First Lady of Washburn University. The room was packed with women who admire Carol's spirit for the legal profession and her many accomplishments as an attorney.

At the luncheon, Becky Sanders introduced Carol and highlighted Carol's personal and legal accomplishments. Among the lengthy list of accolades and accomplishments Becky shared a story to show Carol's formidable diplomatic negotiation skills: Several years ago Carol, Becky Sanders, Cathy Reeder, Laura Ice and Kathy Webb went to Saint Louis, Missouri, to watch KU play basketball. When they returned to their hotel room after the game, they found that Laura's carefully

concealed billfold had been stolen. After some communication about the loss, the women retreated to the hotel bar, most certainly to discuss the stolen wallet. While at the bar, Cathy's billfold was stolen! So, Carol took the lead and reported the stolen wallets to the hotel management. By the next morning, the women were reassigned to the Presidential suite for the same price as their small hotel room and were treated to complementary bottles of wine and a birthday cake for Cathy.

Although this group of women now laughs about this event, they cannot help but remember the skills Carol taught them on the trip. Diplomatic negotiation leads people into doing what you want and need them to do and all the while they are happy to help you get where you need to be. While they went to Saint Louis as Jayhawk fans, they left as Carol fans. In her introduction Becky said, "I was a Carol fan before [the trip] but I was a confirmed fan after that."

Congratulations to Carol!

## Upcoming Events:

### General Membership Meeting

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on April 28, 2010  
Topic: Elections and Founders Day Luncheon  
Location: Kansas Law Center (KBA building)

### Just Desserts

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on April 29, 2010  
Come join us at Kansas Supreme Court Justice Carol A. Beier's house. The event will benefit the Washburn Women's Alliance. (See event flyer attached.)

### Board Meeting

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on May 19, 2010  
Location: The Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

### General Membership Meeting

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on May 26, 2010  
Speaker: TBD  
Location: Kansas Law Center (KBA building)

### Meet & Greet

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on May 27, 2010  
Mingle with other WAAT members at the monthly meet and greet.  
Location: The Kansan Grill, 703 S. Kansas Ave.

### Ethics CLE—Walking the Ethical Line

11:45 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. on June 4, 2010  
WU Law, Room 102—3 hours ethics CLE pending  
(See registration form attached.)

WOMEN ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF TOPEKA, INC.



**Walking the Ethical Line**

**3 HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY CREDIT** (approval pending)  
Meet your KS and PLI Insurance requirements in one setting.

**FRIDAY JUNE 4, 2010, at WASHBURN LAW SCHOOL, Room 102**

**AGENDA:**

- 11:45 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.** Registration and box lunch pick up
- 12:10 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Kimberly L. Knoll – *“Ethics: A Year In Review”*  
You will hear the Deputy Disciplinary Administrator discuss cases and conduct that goes over the line.
- 1:15 p.m. to 2:05** Kimberly L. Knoll – *“Ethics: Victim Contact – Where Do You Draw the Line?”*  
Review and discussion of the applicable rules, conflicts of interest and ethical dilemmas in cases involving victims.
- 2:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.** Marty M. Snyder - *“Ethical Considerations in Settlement Negotiations”*  
What tactics are considered just “puffing” or “sharp advocacy?” What conduct is over the line? Review and discussion of Kansas Rules of Professional Conduct that apply to settlement negotiation scenes portrayed in popular movies.



**REGISTRATION:**

<b>Box Lunch</b> (must be paid by May 26, 2010 to get lunch)	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>WAAT Members</b> – \$25 per CLE credit hour	<b>\$25 x ___ hours</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>Non-Members</b> – \$30 per CLE credit hour	<b>\$30 x ___ hours</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Checks payable to:  
**Women Attorneys Association of Topeka, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 2483  
Topeka, KS 66601-2483

A SPRING EVENING OF SWEET TREATS  
AND DELIGHTFUL COMPANY



# Oh Just Desserts

TO BENEFIT THE WASHBURN WOMEN'S ALLIANCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**APRIL 29th**

**5:30-7:30**

At the home of  
Justice Carol Beier

3620 SW 11TH STREET  
TOPEKA, KS 66604

**\$20 PER PERSON**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
ON-LINE REGISTRATION +  
SPONSORSHIPS, PLEASE VISIT

[www.crblawtopeka.com/  
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Sponsorship Levels

Gold \$100

Silver \$75

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REGISTRATION CHECKS AND  
DONATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO:

WAAT

P.O. BOX 2483  
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