



The WAAT Newsletter

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

Sanders enjoys government service, involvement in bar associations

By Rebecca Sisk

Rebecca Sanders graduated from Washburn Law School in 1978, and has spent the majority of her career devoted to government service. She worked in Johnson County from 1989-1993 as an Assistant County Counselor, where she focused on property tax litigation. Sanders made several appearances in front of the Kansas Court of Appeals while working in Johnson County. She later served as the general counsel for the Board of Tax Appeals.

Sanders has also worked for the Kansas Insurance Department under Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius. While serving the Kansas Insurance Department, Sanders argued twice in front of the Kansas Supreme Court. Sanders then moved to the Department of Labor in 2002.

In May 2008, she was selected to be a workers compensation judge for the Department of Labor. In March

2009, Sanders was admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court.

Sanders served as WAAT president in 2002-03. She currently serves as Program Chair and is responsible for attracting the great luncheon speakers for WAAT monthly meetings.

Sanders has been active in the statewide women's bar association, the Kansas Women Attorneys Association (KWAA), as well. In 2005, she chaired the Lindsborg Conference Committee. "It is important to have a statewide organization like this one," said Sanders, "KWAA is such a great resource to assist women attorneys. You can really bounce ideas off one another." Plus, "I have met people in other cities through the women's bar associations whom I would not have met otherwise. It is truly great networking."

Sanders' involvement in both WAAT and KWAA has made a great impact on her life as an attorney. Sanders

remembered a quote from Carol Foreman upon receiving the 2010 Chief Justice McFarland Award. "Carol Foreman once said that involvement in a women's bar association has changed her life, and I would have to agree with her there."

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Becky Sanders in her courtroom.

From the President



**Miranda
Owens**

The weather is heating up and that can only mean that the KWAA annual meeting is just around the corner. It looks like the committee has done a great job again this year in planning this wonderful event. Planned for July 15-17 at Bethany College in Lindsborg, the conference theme is “Reflect, Reboot, Re-energize...Conquer the Decade Ahead.” Political commentator, journalist, comedian, actress and regular contributor to CBS News Sunday Morning, Nancy Giles, will be the keynote speaker. Please don’t miss out on this opportunity to network with the wonderful women attorneys practicing all across the state of Kansas. Check out the KWAA website at www.kswomenattorneys.com for the registration form and more information. We won’t have a WAAT general membership meeting in July and encourage everyone to attend the Lindsborg Conference.

The WAAT board is currently planning our annual retreat to be held in July. We

take this time to have an extended meeting to evaluate policies and generate ideas to become a stronger organization. If you have any issues you would like the board to discuss at the meeting, or ideas on how to make us a better organization, please email them to me before July 20. We want this organization to reflect our members so we need your questions, suggestions and feedback.

Finally, we have some great events coming up. Our August luncheon speaker will be Professor Concannon addressing recent changes to the civil procedure code. You’ll receive a free half hour of CLE at this meeting. We’ll have our annual Read To Me program in September to benefit the Grace Parent Child Learning Center which serves teenage mothers. We are also discussing a social at the Topeka Capital City Crushers Roller Derby in August. Watch the listserve for more details. You won’t want to miss these great events!

I hope you are having a great summer. I look forward to seeing you all at the KWAA annual meeting!

**No monthly
membership
meeting in July.
See you
in August!**

**Becky Sanders
(continued from page 1)**

Sanders recalled why she remains such a dedicated member of these women’s bar organizations. “I have so many friends in this group, that is why I have stuck with it for so long. We really are like a family.”

Sanders reinforced the

idea that there is power in numbers when she recalled Anne Burke’s recent election as Chair of the Supreme Court Nominating Commission. Burke is the first woman to serve in this capacity. “The women’s bar associations have come a long way, and it just goes to show there is definitely power in numbers.”

Sneak Peek: Lindsborg 2010

By Rebecca Sisk

It is time again to sign up for the Lindsborg Conference if you have not already done so! The conference theme this year is “Reflect, Reboot, Re-energize... Conquer the Decade Ahead” and will be held July 15-17, 2010. This conference allows women attorneys the opportunity to share their experiences and expertise. The conference provides 12 hours of continuing legal education credit (including at least 2 ethics hours) on a variety of topics, many of special interest to women. This conference is very reasonably priced and fulfills an entire year’s CLE requirements in the span of two or three relaxing days with friends.

The Appellate Allstar Review is back again this year, along with some other wonderful opportunities to receive CLE credits, including: Solo Practice: Starting Out on the Right Foot; Electronic Discovery; and Honor the Law! The Essential Role of Civility in the Legal System. The conference also provides career coaching, powerful networking opportunities, and the chance to meet bright,

energetic attorneys from all corners of the state.

The keynote speaker this year is political commentator, actress and comedian Nancy Giles. Giles is a political commentator for the Peabody Award Winning “CBS News Sunday Morning.” She was also part of the ensemble cast in the Emmy-award winning TV show *China Beach* and the comedy series *Delta*. Giles has been the announcer and sometimes co-host of “Fox After Breakfast.” She has co-hosted radio talk shows with CBS correspondent Erin Moriarty, and has reunited with Moriarty this year on the radio for “The World According to Giles and Moriarty.”

Registration is available for the Lindsborg Conference up to and including the first day of the conference, and dorm rooms are available until full. All meals are included in the registration. There is a one-day registration option available. Additional tickets for keynote speaker Nancy Giles are \$10 at the door. Additional registration information is available at www.kansaswomensattorneys.com.

Member News



Special thanks to **Hon. Nancy Parrish** for speaking at WAAT’s June membership luncheon with an update on the Kansas judiciary.

Teresa L. Watson, a partner in the law firm of Fisher, Patterson, Saylor & Smith, LLP, was selected by her peers for inclusion in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of appellate law.



Amanda Kiefer announces the arrival of her daughter, Elena Joy, on February 4, 2010. Elena weighed 9 lbs. 3 oz.

— **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 listserve 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 next edition.

Renew your membership for 2010-11!
Please see form attached to this newsletter.

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WAAT's Just Desserts a sweet success

Hon. Carol Beier hosted this year's Just Desserts fundraiser in her lovely Topeka home on April 29. This year's event raised \$1,386.55, all of which went to the Washburn Women's Alliance to fund scholarships for single mothers attending Washburn University.

Special thanks to Jennifer Conkling Bazin, event chair and coordinator of this year's sweet success. WAAT would like to recognize the following financial sponsors:

Marla J. Luckert, Bryan Lykins Hejtmanek & Fincher

Sloan Eisenbarth Glassman McEntire & Jarboe, LLC

Stumbo Hanson LLP, Kelly Kauffman

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WAAT would also like to thank the following contributors of goods and services:

Law Office of Carol Ruth Bonebrake, PA (marketing materials)

Fresh Fish Creative/Linh Trieu (design and event photography)

Rachel Feldkamp (desserts), George Vial (wine pairings)

Rebecca Thao (flowers)

Newsletter Committee Members

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

Contact Teresa Watson at twatson@fisherpatterson.com for more information or to volunteer.

Upcoming Events:

KWAA Annual Conference and CLE

July 15-17, 2010

"Reflect, Reboot, Re-energize...Conquer the Decade Ahead"

Location: Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas

Board Meeting

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on August 18, 2010

Location: Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

General Membership Meeting and CLE

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on August 25, 2010

Topic: Prof. Jim Concannon, Changes to the Code of Civil Procedure

Location: Kansas Law Center (KBA building)

Meet & Greet

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on August 26, 2010

Mingle with other WAAT members at the monthly meet and greet.

Location: The Celtic Fox

Board Meeting

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on September 15, 2010

Location: Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

General Membership Meeting

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on September 22, 2010

Topic: Read To Me

Location: Kansas Law Center (KBA building)

**WOMEN ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF TOPEKA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

2010-2011

Name: _____

Firm/Agency _____ Title: _____

Mailing Address _____ City/ST/Zip _____

_____ Check here if you do NOT want your address listed in directory or used for related mailings

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Practice Areas: _____

Undergraduate Institution: _____ Degree: _____ Year: _____

Law School: _____ Year: _____

Annual Dues (May 1, 2010 - April 30, 2011)

New Admittees 2010, free _____ Admitted to Bar 1-3 years, \$20 _____

Admitted to Bar 4+ years, \$30 _____

Committee Preferences

I am interested in serving on one of the following committees

Membership _____ Bylaws _____ Social _____ Young Lawyers _____

Program _____ Newsletter _____ Public Relations _____ Website _____

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WAAT

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