



The WAAT Newsletter

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

Crotty sworn in as newest member of Shawnee County bench

By Laurel Klein Searles

Rebecca Crotty was sworn in as the newest member of the Shawnee County bench on September 27, 2010. She was surrounded by friends and family who had supported her throughout her career.

“Anyone going through a judicial selection process is humbled by the realization that one’s success is dependent on many other individuals. I was extremely lucky to have many capable individu-

als working for my selection and I feel very fortunate to have been selected.”

Judge Crotty has a wealth of life and legal experience to bring to the bench. She has a degree in secondary education and worked as a teacher at Capital City High School in Topeka. After graduating from Washburn Law School, she worked as a research attorney for the Kansas Supreme Court. She returned home to Garden City as vice president and bank counsel

at the Garden National Bank, later the Bank of America. She then worked in private practice for a few years before becoming a magistrate judge in Finney County. She was later appointed to serve on the Kansas Court of Tax Appeals.

“My life did not include a grand plan to one day become a judge, but many of my past experiences should help me to be a good judge. My experience in banking

(continued on page 3)



Hon. Rebecca Crotty, left, and below with her daughter, Beth. Sharing in the moment were Justice Marla Luckert and Chief Judge Nancy Parrish.



From the President



**Miranda
Owens**

We are barely into October, but I am already looking ahead to our February meeting. Every year we honor one outstanding attorney for the Justice Kay McFarland Award. I implore each of you to begin thinking about who you will nominate. The award criteria include the following:

- The individual has achieved professional excellence in her field; and
- Influenced other women to pursue legal careers; or
- 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.

The nominations will be due during the month of December. We will be posting to the list serve and announcing at the general membership meeting when the nominations will be due and attaching the nomination form.

So often we get caught up in the daily grind that we do not take the time to really think about the other women attorneys who have helped us personally or helped the profession in general. It is important that we take the time to recognize these women and encourage others to take that extra step in order to help our fellow women attorneys.

I know that each of you must know an attorney deserving of this great award. Please take the time in the next couple of months write down your nominations. Have a great holiday season!



THE KANSAS COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
ANNOUNCES THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2010, POSTING OF
JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS FOR ALL
SUPREME COURT JUSTICES, COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES,
DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE JUDGES
WHO WILL STAND FOR RETENTION ELECTION
ON NOVEMBER 2. THE ADDRESS OF THE WEBSITE IS:
WWW.KANSASJUDICIALPERFORMANCE.ORG
PLEASE REVIEW THE EVALUATIONS AND ENCOURAGE YOUR
CLIENTS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY TO DO THE SAME
BEFORE VOTING ON NOVEMBER 2.

WAAT to host holiday party at Topeka Civic Theatre

WAAT will host its annual holiday gathering on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, at Topeka Civic Theatre. Participants will enjoy wine, appetizers and dessert, along with the TCT production of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas." The festivities will begin at 5 p.m. at TCT, 3028 SW Eighth Avenue, Topeka. A cash bar is also available.

Price for the tickets this year is \$27. Those who wish to buy tickets must notify Amanda Kiefer on or before November 17. For more information, contact Amanda at Amanda.Kiefer@securitybenefit.com.

Rebecca Crotty

(continued from page 1)

assisted me in knowing how to operate an organization in an efficient manner and assisted me in knowing how to manage and motivate staff when necessary. Private practice gave me a glimpse of the rigors of that side of the business and reinforces my belief that it is a judge's duty to assist the attorney in moving cases along. My prior experience on the bench in Finney County and with the state tax court gave me experiences in managing cases and rendering decisions."

Judge Crotty credited dedicated friends and professional colleagues for boosting her career opportunities. "Along my career path, more and more women have played a significant role in every aspect

of my professional life," she said.

Judge Crotty said this was evident at her investiture, where Chief Judge Nancy Parrish presided. Judge Crotty's friend Patty Riley introduced her. Justice Marla Luckert administered the oath. Judge Crotty's daughter Beth participated in the ceremony. This is captured in the photo of Judge Crotty taking the oath, which she said "speaks volumes" in demonstrating how the involvement of competent women is so important.

WAAT offers its most heartfelt congratulations to Judge Crotty with best wishes for many years on the Shawnee County bench.

KWAA updates website

The Kansas Women Attorneys Association (KWAA) has updated its website by contracting with a new vendor, Club Express.

Among other features, the new website will allow members to renew and pay membership dues online as well as register for certain KWAA events and pay registration fees electronically. Another benefit of the new website is the online membership directory which can be searched in any number of ways, including by practice area.

By now, all KWAA members with valid e-mail addresses should have received a welcome e-mail from the new website with a user name and login.

Please log in to the new website and review the contact information contained in your directory listing as soon as possible and correct any information that is not correct or is missing.

The website will continue to be accessible at kswomenattorneys.com and kswaa.com. Contact KWAA president Sarah Loquist at sloquist@usd259.net for more information.

Board Members

Miranda Owens
President

Mindy Miller
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Jennifer Sherber
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Becky Sanders
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Jennifer Hays
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Angel Zimmerman
Membership

Teresa Watson
Newsletter

Newsletter Committee Members

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

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

KALAP offers resiliency discussion group

A discussion group solely for lawyers will premiere in Topeka on Friday, September 17, 2010. The Kansas Lawyers Assistance Program (KALAP) will facilitate the group. It will meet at the KALAP office, 515 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 202, on the third Friday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. Group members are welcome to bring their lunch.

Dr. Rae Sedgwick, who holds both a J.D. and a Ph.D. in Psychology, will guide the discussion. The Topeka Resiliency Group, and any group sponsored by KALAP, is confidential and there is no charge for participation. A similar group has been organized in Johnson County.

Resiliency is that skill which helps a person bounce back from difficult or stressful situations or events. Statistics indicate that lawyers experience depression or alcoholism at about double the rate for the general population so the development of resiliency traits is particularly beneficial to the profession.

To register, or for more information, contact the KALAP staff at 785-368-8275 or kalap@kscourts.org.

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on October 20, 2010
Location: Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

General Membership Meeting

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on October 27, 2010
Topic: Gwen Elliott and Prof. Jeff Jackson,
Gender Diversity in the Judiciary
Location: Kansas Law Center (KBA building)

Meet & Greet

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on October 28, 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 November 10, 2010
Location: Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

General Membership Meeting

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on November 17, 2010
Topic: to be announced
Location: Kansas Law Center (KBA building)

Holiday Party

5 p.m. on December 1, 2010
Join us at Topeka Civic Theatre for
cocktails, appetizers and a show!

**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 _____

Return to:

WAAT

PO Box 2483

Topeka, KS 66601