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IWIRC NEWSLETTER

Connecting Women Worldwide



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Member News

Edited Reprint of a 2014 Letter from Past Chair Sheryl Seigel (2000-2002) to IWIRC on its 20th Anniversary – In Tribute to IWIRC's 30th Anniversary

An open letter to anyone considering joining IWIRC (and in tribute and praise of my dear friends and IWIRC colleagues)

If you had to give one reason to give to someone considering joining IWIRC, what would that be? At the conclusion of an interview for the 20-year anniversary video commissioned by IWIRC, this question was asked of me.

Anyone who knows me can verify that I am rarely at a loss for words. Still, I paused for what seemed a very long time before responding. Later, that day I thought more about why this happened.

Unexpectedly, this simple question had unleashed a floodgate of memories, experiences and emotions, making it difficult for me to distill my endorsement of IWIRC into a single reason. Mindful of the importance of this answer, I very much wanted to respond in a manner that would broadly resonate with anyone who might be considering joining IWIRC and, at the same time, pay proper tribute to the amazing and brilliant IWIRC professionals that I have met and worked with, in some cases, for almost two decades. On considering the question, I mentally began to list, evaluate and rank the multitude of "reasons" that came rushing through my mind.

Returning to the interviewer's question, the short answer is "the people." And, while this does not fully express the depth of my connection to and admiration for IWIRC, it does epitomize why IWIRC is unique. We are professionals, mostly women, who understand the competing demands of work, life and family. We are strong, yet vulnerable, confident, yet self-doubting, gregarious, yet sometimes introspective. Women who never fail to engage, motivate and inspire populate IWIRC.

Professional confidence. If I can sum up what IWIRC has given to me in a single phrase, it would be that. IWIRC helped shape my professional life. It allowed me to take on challenging and significant responsibilities and gave me the confidence to venture outside my comfort zone. I am proud to have served as Chair of IWIRC from 2000-2002. In 1999, I experienced the terror and joy of being program chair of the IWIRC NCBJ conference the first time we programmed in San Francisco (where our evening reception included the inaugural and first of many more to follow, IWIRC skills training sessions involving wine appreciation). IWIRC friends and colleagues have expanded my outreach, opening doors to work opportunities and

to speaking and leadership roles in other organizations. These experiences taught me important skills, broadened my perspective and, most importantly, allowed me to have confidence in what I could accomplish.

IWIRC members are among my most revered colleagues and dearest friends. You have been with me as I celebrated my kids growing up, at wedding anniversaries and the marriages of my children. You “know my story.” You inspire me. You generously have shared your work and life experiences, family occasions and significant milestones with me. Along the way, we have provided one another with encouragement, mentoring, advice, a shoulder to lean on, validation and sage counsel; better equipping us all to face career crossroads and challenges, tackle client problems and grapple with professional and workplace dynamics.

IWIRC is an organization focused on the advancement of women professionals. We foster networking, learning and mentoring in a non-threatening and non-competitive environment in which members can openly share work and life experiences. We provide a forum and platform for members to publicize their successes, seek and provide mentoring, share intelligence and refer opportunities to one and other. We also provide members with opportunities to enhance their skills, expand their professional outreach, develop their external profiles and gain leadership experience and proficiency. We build professional confidence. We help members navigate hurdles and achieve goals. The real icing on the cake is that we have such a great time doing this!

At the very first IWIRC NCBJ program in Toronto in 1994, I experienced an immediate affinity with the women in the room, many of whom are friends to this day. It says so much about IWIRC that I experience the same feeling each time I attend an IWIRC event, no matter the venue. IWIRC is to be acknowledged and praised for having developed a future generation of leaders, a dynamic and growing network of local chapters and a strong and loyal member base. I look forward with great anticipation to the next 20 years. THE PEOPLE, they are the reason why you join IWIRC: people to look up to, emulate, mentor, promote, share, laugh and vent with and, yes, forever treasure.

ON IWIRC'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY: Sincerest gratitude and respect for EACH of the amazing members and visionaries who have contributed to IWIRC'S growth and continued success from 1993 until today. Praise and encouragement to everyone in our global community working to propel IWIRC forward to its Golden Anniversary.

Happy 30th Anniversary IWIRC!
Sheryl Seigel
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MEMBER NEWS



Adeola Akinrinade was recently promoted to Partner at Eisner Advisory Group LLC.

Lauren P. Berret, Chair of the IWIRC Greater Philadelphia Network, was promoted to Director within EisnerAmper's Bankruptcy and Restructuring Services Group.

Patricia Cervantes, a member of the Mexicos network, completed an LL.M. in Law at the Queen Mary University of London, and was awarded the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Chevening Award.

Laura Day DelCotto has been named the Chair of the recently formed Well-Being Committee of the Kentucky Bar Association.

Mariane L. Dorris, of Shuker & Dorris, P.A. in Orlando, FL, was presented with the Mentor Champion Award for her outstanding contributions to the Florida Bar Business Law Section's IMF Committee.



Mariane L. Dorris

Kara K. Gendron was elected to the board of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys.

Hannah Gethin started a new job with Kroll, as Senior Manager based in Grand Cayman.

Heidi Hockberger published an article in Law360 on August 1st titled, ["Who Owns Crypto Assets? Know The Bankruptcy Risks."](#)

Sara Keith, Vice Chair of IWIRC Houston Network, was promoted to Senior Legal Counsel, Global Litigation – Bankruptcy & Credit at Shell USA, Inc.

Sharmeen Khan recently joined MERU as a Senior Director based out of our New York office.

Gemma Lardner (Chair, Cayman Islands network, Ogier) and **Andrea Harris** (Co-Chair of the Channel Islands network, Grant Thornton) were on a panel together in Amsterdam at the International Insolvency Institute's NextGen day ahead of their annual conference. They spoke on a panel titled "Credible Plan B" and discussed statutory and equitable remedies.



Gemma Lardner and Andrea Harris

Sophie Lyall joined White & Case.

Liv Machado was recognized in the 25th edition of the Latin Lawyer 250 ranking in the restructuring and insolvency practice.

Gavern Mitchell was a panelist at the 20th Annual Caribbean Commercial Law Workshop which was held in Miami by the Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. The theme of the 2023 Workshop was "The Commonwealth Caribbean's Contribution to International Commercial Law" and her paper was titled "Cross-border Trade and Investment- The Bankruptcy and Insolvency Perspective."

Adine S. Momoh of the Minnesota Network and At-Large Director of IWIRC International was a featured speaker on the panel entitled “ Big Bankruptcy Stuff from the Supreme Court and the Eighth Circuit,” during the 2023 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference.



Adine S. Momoh

Elina Nikolaidou co-authored a publication on recent developments in involuntary winding up, in Cyprus. [Read the publication here.](#)

Maria da Penha Mauro received the award as “Judge of the year - 2023 and ESG,” granted by the Order of Economists of Brazil, on August 4, 2023, in the city of São Paulo, Brazil.

Rosa M. Rojas Vértiz, member and Co-Chair of the LATAM network, has been appointed Co-chair of the LATAM Regional Committee of the International Insolvency Institute.

Helen Sevenoaks opened Sevenoaks Law, her own law firm specializing in restructuring and insolvency and commercial litigation.

Siobhan Sheridan was featured in the [“Younger Members’ Spotlight”](#) in the most recent edition of INSOL World.

Yuhua Yang was invited by an insolvency practitioner in Italy to introduce China’s cross-border insolvency practice and its recent developments, and published a subsequent article entitled [“Cross-border Insolvency Practice in Mainland China: Latest Developments and Trend.”](#)

Congratulations on these fantastic achievements!

Have you recently changed jobs? Been published? Written an article? Received a promotion? We'd love to share and celebrate your professional news!

Send your submissions to news@iwirc.com to be featured in future IWIRC member news communications.



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