

# IWIRC • NY

## 2017 Newsletter | Winter Edition

Members and Friends of IWIRC NY,

Happy new year! The new board is up and running and we are so excited to bring you fresh and new programming in 2017.

We started off the year with a webinar addressing environmental claims and obligations in chapter 11, and the presentation materials are inside! In this newsletter, you'll also find details about our upcoming spring events, including IWIRC at the Shore on March 2-3 and IWIRC NY's tequila tasting on March 28.

Feel free to reach out to any [IWIRC NY board member](#) to get more involved. We are always looking for collaborative and creative women to join our subcommittees. And in the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

[Samantha Martin](#) and [Jasmine Ball](#)

IWIRC NY Co-Chairs

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Remember, if it's  
underlined & blue,  
it's got something  
extra for you!

HAPPY CLICKING!

# IWIRC NY Events: Recap

## IWIRC NY 2016 Sponsor Holiday Party

December 6, 2016

Fig & Olive

[Maeghan McLoughlin](#) & [Sophia Hephastou](#)

On December 6, IWIRC NY hosted an exclusive holiday party at Fig and Olive to thank our sponsors for their generous support. All attendees enjoyed delicious food and specialty cocktails while ushering in the holiday season. IWIRC NY appreciates all of its sponsors and is excited to kick off 2017 with the continued support of the restructuring community.



# IWIRC NY Events: Recap/Preview

## Environmental Claims & Obligations in Chapter 11

Webinar Co-Sponsored by Practical Law

February 8, 2017

[Tanya Meerovich](#) & [Lara Sheikh](#)



On February 8<sup>th</sup>, [Practical Law](#) and [IWIRC NY](#) hosted a free 75-minute webinar in which leading bankruptcy attorneys and advisors from Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, Morrison & Foerster LLP, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, and AlixPartners LLP discussed strategies for addressing environmental claims and obligations in Chapter 11. Attendees heard insights on how environmentally contaminated property, claims and obligations were being addressed in Chapter 11 from experts that continue to deal with these issues in recent and pending oil & gas, mining, and manufacturing cases. The presentation materials are available [HERE](#).

## Fifth Annual IWIRC at the Shore Conference

March 2-3, 2017

Register [HERE](#) for the Fifth Annual IWIRC at the Shore Conference!

The conference will be held on March 2-3, 2017 at the Borgata in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The conference will feature both social and educational networking events, including a CLE/CPE seminar with IWIRC NY panelists, a reception and dinner, as well as a spa event. The conference brochure is available [HERE](#).

## IWIRC NY Tequila Tasting

Save the Date: March 28, 2017

[Maeghan McLoughlin](#) & [Sophia Hepheastou](#)

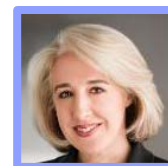
IWIRC NY will host its first tequila tasting on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>! A tequila sommelier (yes, this is a real thing!) will guide us through a variety of different tequilas and teach us about all things tequila. Tequila won't be the only item on the menu. Expect sangria, guacamole, plenty of other cocktails and snacks, and of course, great networking with friends and colleagues. More details to come!

### Webinar Moderator



[Lara R. Sheikh](#), Senior Legal Editor, Practical Law Bankruptcy

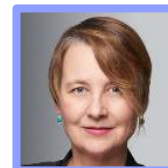
### Webinar Panelists



[M. Natasha Labovitz](#), Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton



[Jennifer L. Marines](#), Partner, Morrison & Foerster



[Claudia R. Tobler](#), Counsel, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison



[Pilar Tarry](#), Director, AlixPartners

## Winter 2017 IWIRC NY Shining Star

The success of our Chapter is due in no small part to the contributions and enthusiasm of our incredible members. In celebration of that fact, we introduced the “IWIRC NY Shining Star” recognition to introduce you to exemplary members of the IWIRC NY community.

### **Professional Background**

Wendy Salz is a branding expert for companies in all types of transition. She has a unique approach to reinforcing the initial valuation of any company: she works directly with the individuals who created the success. She works from the inside out, and then, going to market, she works from the outside in and reconciles the two messaging perspectives. She then focuses her insights to develop digital and traditional marketing plans. Her process comes from more than twenty years of experience across all sectors of industry. Her work is informed further by insights from ten years as a licensed financial advisor. Her areas of focus have been in consumer products, retail, medical and pharmaceuticals, and media & entertainment.

### **IWIRC Involvement**

Wendy joined IWIRC NY in early 2016 after attending national conferences and realizing the overlap of our membership with other organizations. Since she has spent her professional career actively empowering women and girls in education and professional pursuits, it was a natural extension to join IWIRC NY. She has jumped in to work with the Communications Subcommittee to lend her expertise and roll up her sleeves to spread the word and engage others in the work, making our efforts more accessible and effective for the many women in our industry.

### **Most Memorable IWIRC Moment**

While standing in the middle of the wave of purple at our San Francisco conference, Wendy felt a greater sense of belonging to a larger organization that holds fast to the value and support of the women in our industry. HOWEVER, the MOST FUN she’s had at an IWIRC NY event was at the Paint Party! Having a glass of wine and relaxing together with other friends and members is something women don’t often do. This organization celebrates both the hard work ethic balanced by the opportunities to enjoy each other.



**Name:** [Wendy Salz](#)

**Firm:** [WJSalz](#)

**Title:** Founder and  
Principal Branding Advisor

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& Flom LLP and Affiliates

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# IWIRC NY Member News



Congratulations to our IWIRC NY members on their recent accomplishments. Let us sing your praises! [Email us](#) your accomplishments for inclusion in our next newsletter.

[Sarah Franke](#) of the525group will lead the panel “Aligning Your Conference and Career Goals” at the upcoming IWIRC Annual Conference in Washington, DC. [Congratulate her!](#)

IWIRC named [Carlyn Taylor](#), Global Co-Leader of the Corporate Finance & Restructuring segment at FTI Consulting, as the 2016 Woman of the Year in Restructuring. [Congratulate her!](#)

FTI Consulting promoted three women to Senior Managing Director within the firm’s Corporate Finance & Restructuring segment: [Tanya Meerovich](#), [Tamara McGrath](#), and [Ruth Steedman](#). Congratulate them!



[Samantha Martin](#) will be speaking at IWIRC at the Shore. [Congratulate her!](#)

[Teresa C. Kohl](#) was promoted to Managing Director at SSG Capital Advisors, LLC. [Congratulate her!](#)

[Janice B. Grubin](#), a shareholder in LeClairRyan’s New York City office, received the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGal) 2016 Committee Dedication Award at the Association’s annual Volunteer Awards Night. She currently serves as First Vice President on LeGal’s Association Board of Directors and Chair of its Judiciary Committee. In addition, Janice was recently re-elected as the Association Board’s First Vice President for 2017. [Congratulate her!](#)



# IWIRC NY Member News

Congratulations to our IWIRC NY members on their recent accomplishments. Let us sing your praises! [Email us](#) your accomplishments for inclusion in our next newsletter.

[Michela Ashton](#) was promoted to Manager at Zolfo Cooper. [Congratulate her!](#)

[Helen Zhang](#) and [Deborah Praga](#) have joined Zolfo Cooper. [Congratulate them!](#)

[Georgiana Nertea](#) joined Sherwood Partners, Inc. [Congratulate her!](#)

[Kelly DiBlasi](#) was promoted to partner at Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP. [Congratulate her!](#)

[Kaitlin Walsh](#) welcomed baby Malcolm. [Congratulate her!](#)

[Denise Kaloudis](#) welcomed baby Athena. [Congratulate her!](#)

## Looking for ways to get involved?

Join one of our subcommittees! We're always looking for a few good women (or men) to help us plan events, prepare our newsletters, or enhance our sponsor and member experience.

Drop us a line at [iwirc.nyc@gmail.com](mailto:iwirc.nyc@gmail.com) for more information.

# IWIRC NY Member News

Welcome to IWIRC NY's New Members  
who joined as of February 10, 2017

[Rachel Chesley](#)

FTI Consulting, Inc.

[Nava Hazan](#)

Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

[Alexandra Mahnken](#)

JW Infinity Consulting

[Diana Perez](#)

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

[Deborah Praga](#)

Zolfo Cooper, LLC

[Christine Tchoi](#)

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

[Helen Zhang](#)

Zolfo Cooper, LLC

Need to renew your membership or become an IWIRC NY member?  
We want to see you here in our next newsletter!  
Register or renew [HERE](#) today.

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# Upcoming Industry Events

**[ACG Leadership Week 2017](#)**

**February 13 – 15 Washington, DC**

~

**[ABI/AIRA/UT School of Law VALCON 2017](#)**

**March 1 – 3 Las Vegas, NV**

~

**[Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition Gala Awards Dinner](#)**

**March 6 New York City**

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Davis Polk proudly supports IWIRC NY in its mission to globally connect women in the insolvency and restructuring professions.



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**[ABI Wine Enthusiast Endowment Dinner \(Sponsored by Rust | Omni\)](#)**

**April 5 New York City**

~

**[ABI 2017 Annual Spring Meeting](#)**

**April 16 – 19 Washington, DC**

~

**[15<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Atlantic Regional Symposium](#)**

**June 7 – 8 Atlantic City, NJ**

~

**[TMA Northeast Conference](#)**

**August 30 – 31 Saratoga Springs, NY**



# IWIRC NY Social Media: Are You Connected?



## [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [LinkedIn](#)

We've *doubled* our followers in a year's time, with a combined total of **537 followers** on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, and it's not too late for you to join us.

Being a "friend" of IWIRC NY on social media has become more rewarding than ever! Continue to look out for more giveaways to upcoming events on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

[Like](#), [follow](#), or [join](#) us today!

### Additional LinkedIn Networks

[IWIRC New Jersey](#)

[IWIRC Delaware](#)

[IWIRC Chicago](#)

[IWIRC Greater Maryland](#)

[IWIRC Western Canada](#)

## Diverse. Inclusive. Supportive.

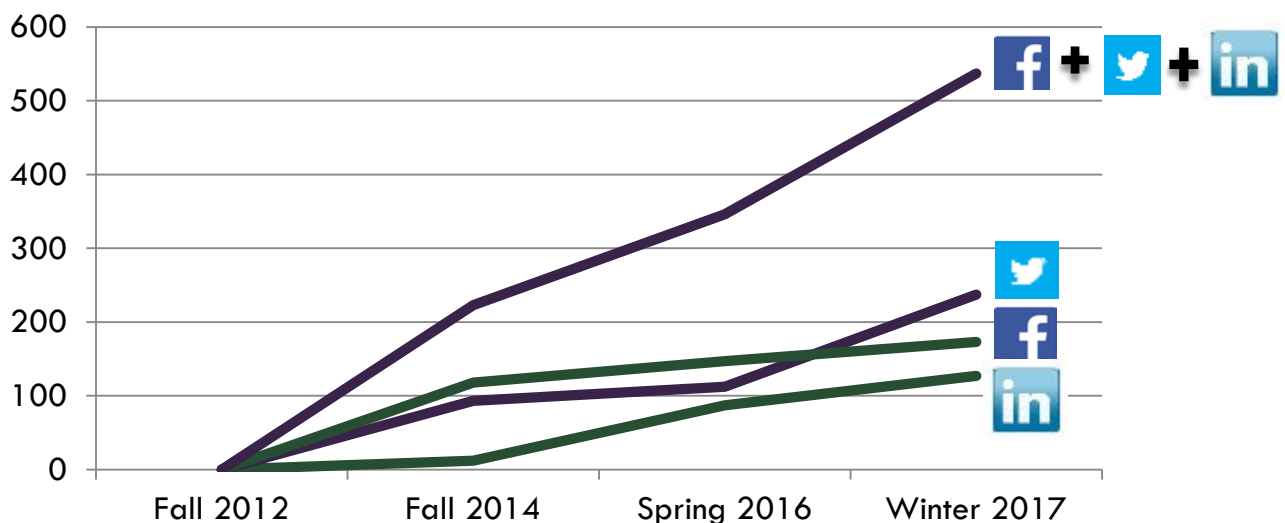
Kirkland & Ellis is proud to sponsor International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC)

Learn about Kirkland diversity initiatives at [www.kirkland.com/diversity](http://www.kirkland.com/diversity)



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diversity

## See How We've Grown! IWIRC NY Followers By the Numbers



# IWIRC NY TIPS:

## Mentors – Finding One, Being One



### Mentoring takes time and effort, but pays dividends

[Sara Temes](#), Member, Bond Schoeneck & King PLLC

Good mentoring relationships clearly benefit the mentee and the mentor, but they also harness the collective wisdom and experience of organizations and industries. Here are a few suggestions to avoid common mentoring pitfalls:

1. **HOW TO ASK/OFFER:** The biggest barrier to developing a new mentoring relationship may be determining how to start. Do not be afraid to ask someone you admire if you can bend their ear for career advice. A would-be mentor could reach out to a less experienced professional with words of encouragement, a few tips or even the offer of a long-term mentoring relationship.
2. **IS IT A GOOD FIT?:** Before embarking on a mentoring relationship, consider complementary (not necessarily identical) personal and professional goals. It can be helpful to have a mentor with a career and personal path that mirrors yours. But mentoring can also be a key to understanding others within an organization or industry in furtherance of career and business development goals. For instance, mentors and mentees can come from different departments or even from a different organization within the same industry (i.e. through IWIRC or other professional groups) and women shouldn't hesitate to mentor men (and vice versa).
3. **LET IT EVOLVE:** A long-term mentoring relationship can start with simple advice on office logistics and move through stages of open communication and trust that would allow a mentor to deliver constructive criticism and encouragement when needed. The best mentoring relationships result in mutual promotion, accumulated knowledge, sharing of ideas, and introductions to clients.
4. **MAKE THE TIME:** Mentoring can offer many benefits to an organization, including improved productivity, reduced turnover and increased loyalty. But it takes time that many busy professionals would otherwise be spending on client work. Organizations must encourage mentoring through mentorship training, developing formal mentoring programs, and rewarding effective mentors who take the time to encourage and teach the next generation.



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## Sponsor Spotlight: Member Profile



**Jane VanLare**  
Cleary Gottlieb

**Jane VanLare** is a partner at Cleary Gottlieb based in the New York office. Jane’s practice focuses on restructuring, insolvency and bankruptcy litigation.

Jane has advised on significant transactions in the bankruptcy and restructuring space, including acting as counsel to Overseas Shipholding Group’s successful restructuring and exit from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, which *IFLR* named as “Restructuring Deal of the Year,” Goldman Sachs in the Lehman Brothers Chapter 11 proceedings, which *IFLR* named as a “Restructuring Deal of the Year,” and to Truvo Group in its Chapter 11 proceedings, which *IFLR* named as an “EMEA Restructuring Deal of the Year.” Jane has also advised Nortel Networks in its Chapter 11 proceedings, including litigation of certain claims and litigation relating to the allocation of nearly \$7 billion in proceeds of asset sales; Cascade Investment in the Chapter 11 proceedings of its portfolio company, Optim Energy; an ad hoc group of bondholders in the debt restructuring of Maxcom Telecommunications; and Colony Capital in successful dismissal of Chapter 11 petition and reorganization of over 100 hotels.

Jane serves on the board of IWIRC NY. She regularly publishes articles relating to bankruptcy and restructuring. Most recently, she co-authored an article titled “Chapter 11 Venue – Defending (or Upending) the Debtor’s Choice,” which was published in *Pratt’s Journal of Bankruptcy Law*.

Jane received a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the *Harvard Negotiation Law Review* and a A.B. degree, *magna cum laude*, from Harvard College. Jane joined the firm in 2010 and became a partner in 2016.

Jane can be reached at (212) 225-2872 or [jvanlare@cgsh.com](mailto:jvanlare@cgsh.com).

## Sponsor Spotlight: Member Profile



**Abigail Lerner**  
Prime Clerk

**Abigail Lerner** is the Director at Prime Clerk. Abby has nearly 10 years of restructuring experience. Before joining Prime Clerk, Abby was a senior associate in the Business Finance & Restructuring department of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP where she represented debtors, creditors, and lenders in the context of complex chapter 11 cases and out-of-court restructurings. During her time at Weil, Abby conducted seminars on small businesses in distress on behalf of the Legal Aid Society and participated in other pro bono projects involving small business bankruptcies.

Abby graduated summa cum laude from Binghamton University and holds a J.D. from New York Law School. Abby enjoys hiking and travelling, and recently returned from a trip hiking in the Italian Alps.

Abby can be reached at (212) 257-5449 or [alerner@primeclerk.com](mailto:alerner@primeclerk.com).

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## Sponsor Spotlight: Member Profile



**Jennifer Kimble**  
Prime Clerk

**Jennifer B. Kimble** is the Director of Business Development for Prime Clerk. Jennifer has over 11 years of restructuring experience representing debtors, creditors and retiree committees, creditors and lenders in complex chapter 11 cases and out-of-court restructurings. Prior to relocating to New York, Jennifer served as Special Counsel in the Bankruptcy Group at Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell PC, as a partner at a Birmingham, Alabama based law firm Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker LLP and as an associate in the Bankruptcy & Creditors Rights Group at Burr & Forman LLP.

Jennifer is actively involved in IWIRC, currently serving as the Communication Director for IWIRC and previously serving as the IWIRC Director of Programming. She also volunteers with the IWIRC New York Membership Subcommittee. In 2010, Jennifer co-founded and subsequently co-chaired the Alabama IWIRC Network (now the Gulf Coast Network).

Jennifer graduated summa cum laude from Mississippi State University and holds a J.D. from the University of Mississippi. She is a member of the Junior League of New York and enjoys CrossFit in her spare time.

Jennifer can be reached at (212) 257-5487 or [jkimble@primeclerk.com](mailto:jkimble@primeclerk.com).

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## Sponsor Spotlight: Member Profile



**Kelly DiBlasi**  
Weil, Gotshal &  
Manges LLP

**Kelly DiBlasi** is a partner in Weil's Business Finance & Restructuring Department.

Kelly's practice focuses on debtors, creditors, and equity interest holders in all areas of domestic and international restructurings and crisis management, both in and out of court. Currently, Kelly is representing CHC Group, a global helicopter service provider operating on six continents with more than 220 aircraft, in its chapter 11 cases, as well as Canadian steel giant Essar Steel Algoma in its chapter 15 cases. Recently, Kelly represented a group of secured lenders in a pre-arranged chapter 11 proceeding for Magnum Hunter Resources, and won a motion to dismiss the chapter 11 cases of Baha Mar on behalf of the Export-Import Bank of China. Previously, she advised Financial Guaranty Insurance Company (FGIC) as a creditor in the chapter 9 case of the City of Detroit, and worked on behalf of the Superintendent of Financial Services of the State of New York, as Rehabilitator of FGIC. She has also been involved in representing Washington Mutual, Inc. (the parent holding company of Washington Mutual Bank, the subject of the largest bank failure in U.S. history) in its chapter 11 case., J.C. Flowers & Co. LLC (as investor in certain funds and trusts that underwent a global restructuring), GE Capital Aviation Services (as aircraft creditor in several airlines' chapter 11 cases), LandSource Communities Development LLC (as debtor), Credit Suisse (as creditor in multiple cases, including a CCAA proceeding in Montreal), and New World Pasta Company (as debtor).

Kelly was recently recognized by *Turnarounds & Workouts* magazine as one of its "Outstanding Young Restructuring Lawyers" for 2016 and previously was named a "Rising Star" for restructuring and insolvency in the U.S. by *IFLR1000*.

Kelly also represents, on a pro bono basis, the N.Y. Police and Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund, as well as several U.S. military veterans seeking assistance with applying for disability benefits. Her pro bono work has also included assisting a non-profit entity in connection with its out-of-court restructuring.

Kelly has served as a teacher's assistant at Cardozo School of Law and Harvard Law School. She frequently presents at bankruptcy seminars and led the new associate training program for the Business Finance & Restructuring Department. In addition, Kelly served on a firm task force focused on the Dodd-Frank financial legislation, specializing in that portion of the legislation dealing with resolution planning, and is a member of the Women@Weil Mentoring and Networking Subcommittee.

Kelly is a member of IWIRC NY and recently served on the "Insights on Oil & Gas Restructurings: A Conversation with the Industry's Leading Ladies", discussing recent developments in oil & gas restructurings.

Kelly can be reached at (212) 310-8032 or [kelly.diblas@weil.com](mailto:kelly.diblas@weil.com).

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[Lara Sheikh](#)  
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[Maeghan McLoughlin](#)  
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