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Members and Friends of IWIRC NY,

It is hard to believe 2020 is drawing to a close!

We want to express a tremendous amount of gratitude to all of our sponsors this year. As we navigated the move to Zoom events and kids and dogs in the background, our sponsorships enabled us to be nimble in adapting and continuing to offer interesting programs — from cannabis industry presentations to flower arrangements and aromatherapy. And we've got some great programming on deck for the first quarter of next year that we're excited to roll out to you in the next few weeks. We are also in the midst of our 2021 sponsor drive; if you are interested in learning more, please reach out to info@iwircny.com.

Last month we welcomed three new faces to our Board — we are excited to introduce them to you in the newsletter, as well as recapping our recent events, sharing member news and updates, and a justice section that outlines practical ways to combat food insecurity in our communities.

Finally, it is with some sadness that we share this is Samantha's last co-chair letter. After six years helping to lead IWIRC NY, we are grateful for her service and stewardship. She won't be far though — Samantha will be sticking around as Board Advisor. And please keep an eye out for a special tribute to Carren Shulman, our former Co-Chair and Board Advisor who helped shape IWIRC NY into the organization it is today, in our next issue!

We hope you and your families have a happy, healthy, and safe start to 2021!

Best,
Samantha Martin
Jasmine Ball
IWIRC NY Co-Chairs

Become a Member

Joining IWIRC NY is easier than ever.
[Sign up](#) and select New York as your primary network.

Get Involved

Interested in joining an IWIRC NY subcommittee?
Do you have member news to share? [Drop us a line.](#)

IWIRC • NY www.iwirc.com/networks/new-york



Substantive Event: Cannabis Industry - Opportunities & Hurdles in the Distressed Horizon

November 19, 2020

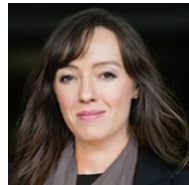
Sharmeen Khan and Alissa Nann—
Substantive Events Co-Chairs

We hosted an engaging and informative substantive panel about the cannabis industry, its challenges, and the unique opportunities for distressed advisors in light of its operational hurdles and upcoming legal reforms/uncertainties. Our panel consisted of an eminent group of female professionals participating in this relatively novel industry who shared their unique perspectives on legal, operational, policy-related and financial aspects as well as the their experiences as women in the cannabis industry.

A special thank you to our panelists!



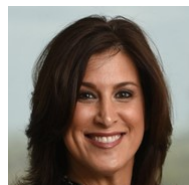
[Katie Ashton](#), Partner and co-chair of the Cannabis group, Dentons



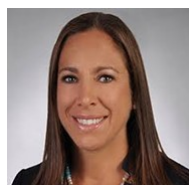
[Jessica Billingsley](#), Chief Executive Officer, AKERNA



[Elaine Carey](#), Managing Director and Co-Lead of Cannabis Practice, FTI Consulting



[Saphira Galoob](#), Principal and CEO, The Liason Group, and Senior Public Policy Advisor and Executive Director of the National Cannabis Roundtable



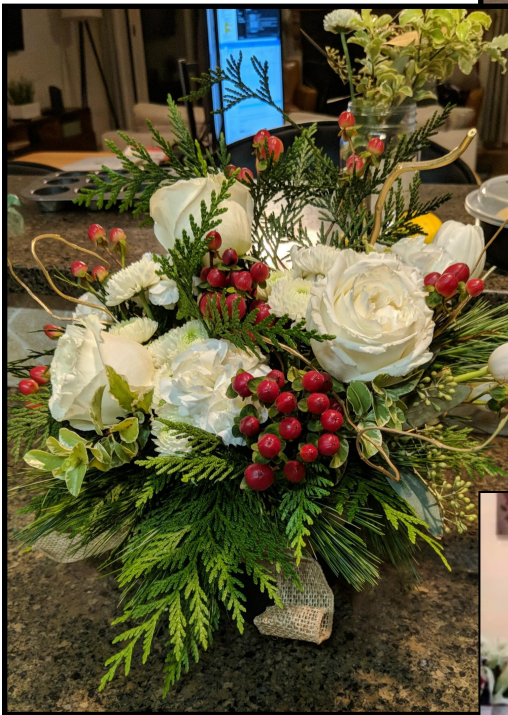
Moderator: [Leah Eisenberg](#), Foley & Lardner

Networking Event: Holiday Floral Masterclass

December 17, 2020

Sophia Hepheastou and Maeghan McLoughlin—
Networking Events Co-Chairs

We had a lovely time with the IWIRC Houston network learning to arrange and design a beautiful holiday bouquet. From the comfort of our own homes, we shared wine, got our networking on, and learned a new skill — it is harder than it looks!! Take a peek at some of the masterwork of our IWIRC NY florists!



Introducing our Newly Elected IWIRC NY Board Members!

Thanks to all that participated in the election process for 2021 IWIRC Board. Congratulations to the winners — especially the new joiners. If you are interested in getting more involved in IWIRC NY, please email info@iwircny.com



Sophia Hepheastou
Networking Events
Co-Chair



Erin Diers
Hughes Hubbard &
Reed LLP
Communications Co-Chair



Sharmeen Khan
FTI Consulting, Inc.
Substantive Events
Co-Chair



Lily Liang
AlixPartners
Membership &
Sponsorship Co-Chair



Shirley Luo
Shenkman Capital
Board Co-Chair

Thank you to our outgoing Board Members Samantha Martin and Kaitlin Walsh for their generous time and commitment to IWIRC NY!

Addressing Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a massive problem that has reached a head since the coronavirus pandemic began. Tens of thousands of New Yorkers rely on food banks to feed themselves and their families. During the holiday season many offices conduct food or donation drives to bring awareness and resources to this issue — but what can you do if your office drive isn't happening this year?

1. **Donate money.** Did you know that the most helpful thing you can donate to your local food bank is cash? Often food banks purchase items directly, particularly those that are not donated and are perishable (e.g. fresh produce and dairy or items specific to their communities like culturally or medically specific dietary items). In many cases, food banks purchase this food at lower prices than you'd spend at the grocery store, due to special deals and discounts with food companies, *so donated dollars can turn into more meals*. If you want to donate food — check out this [list of what to donate and what to avoid](#).
2. **And better yet, make it monthly!** Food banks often have an influx of food and donations with the aforementioned drives around the holiday season. But hunger is a year-round phenomenon. By making a regular donation, you ensure your community has predictable support throughout the year.
3. **Volunteer your time.** Even in the COVID environment, there are opportunities to volunteer safely. From sorting and packing to stocking food for distribution or assisting with no-contact distributions at drive-thru pickup centers, there are plenty of ways to help out. Some food banks have even moved volunteer shifts online, so you can help fundraise or spread awareness from the comfort of your own home!
4. **Advocate.** The USDA provides billions of meals to communities facing hunger each year in a program that is one of the most reliable sources of food for food banks, providing 1.7 billion meals in 2020. Unfortunately, food banks could lose 50% of the food – or 850 million meals – from the USDA in early 2021. Want to get involved? Reach out to your representative and tell them that food banks need an increase in USDA food to help our neighbors facing hunger.

For more information or to find a local foodbank to donate your time, talents, or funds to visit <https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank>.

Congratulate your fellow IWIRC NY members on their recent accomplishment! Click on a name to send a note.

Give yourself some shine! Email us your accomplishments for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Honors

[Rachel Albanese](#), Partner at DLA Piper, received a [North American Pro Bono Award](#) from the firm in November 2020. In addition, she will be presented with the [Fourteenth Annual Executive of the Year Award](#) from New York Institute of Credit in February 2021.

Stretto's [Sheryl Betance](#) was selected by M&A Advisor as a winner of the 2020 Emerging Leaders Awards.

[Lisa Donahue](#), Managing Director and Global Co-Leader of AlixPartners' turnaround and restructuring practice was awarded the Harvey R. Miller Outstanding Achievement Award for service to the restructuring industry. The award, sponsored by law and business publisher The Beard Group, annually recognizes leaders in the turnaround and restructuring business who have had stellar careers and pivotal roles in the biggest deals. Lisa is the first woman to receive the award in its 20-year history. [Watch Lisa's interview](#) with Tim Coleman, Partner and Global Chairman of the Restructuring and Special Situations Group at PJT Partners, in honor of her award.

[Natasha Labovitz](#), Co-Chair of Debevoise's Restructuring Group, will become a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. The 2020 class of Fellows will be inducted at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in March 2021.

[Krista L. Kulp](#), Associate at Cole Schotz, was awarded the Kathryn R. Heidt Memorial Award from the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association in October 2020.

And congratulations again to IWIRC NY's own [Isabel Arana de Uriarte](#), a Senior Vice President at AlixPartners and Sponsorship and Membership Co-Chair for IWIRC NY, who was [a semi-finalist for IWIRC's 2020 Rising Star Award](#).

Stretto is proud to support International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Federation

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DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES CREATE

MASTERPIECES



Kelley Drye is proud to sponsor the New York Chapter of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation.

The Kelley Drye logo, featuring the name "Kelley Drye" in a blue and green font.

To learn more about Kelley Drye's diversity initiatives, please visit www.kelleydrye.com/diversity

Congratulate your fellow IWIRC NY members on their recent accomplishment! Click on a name to send a note.

Speaking Engagements & Publications

[Jasmine Ball](#), Partner at Debevoise & Plimpton, recently spoke on a panel about International Supply Chain: Challenges in the Time of Pandemics and Global Disruption at the International Law Weekend 2020: International Law in Challenging Times sponsored by The American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA).

[Carrienne Basler](#), Managing Director of AlixPartners' turnaround and restructuring practice, will be speaking during the Practising Law Institutes' (PLI) virtual program "[Recent Developments in Distressed Debt, Restructurings and Workouts 2021](#)" on the session titled "Market Update and Role of Various Advisors" to be held on January 28th, 2021.

[Carrienne Basler](#), (AlixPartners), [Rachel Albanese](#) and [Jamila Willis](#) (both DLA Piper) participated in the virtual panel "Restructuring in the Time of COVID-19", hosted by the National Association of Women Lawyers in November 2020.

[Samantha Martin](#), Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, recently spoke on the ABI panel "How to Restructure an Industry that Has Been Shut Down, and How to Prove Feasibility When You're Starting from Ground Zero" at the Insolvency 2020 Summit, and on the panel "The Art of Negotiation: Influencing Board Decisions & Getting the Board Onside" at the Women, Influence & Power in Law 2020 conference.

[Michele Michaelis](#), a Managing Director with BDO's Business Restructuring and Turnaround Services practice, recently spoke on the panel for [BDO's Solutions for Growing Distress in Healthcare](#) webinar which framed the signs of distress, addressed which subsectors are most at-risk and why, and provided considerations for troubled healthcare entities.

[Amanda Orenstein](#) organized FTI Consulting's 3rd Annual WIN Holiday Event which supported [Women in Need NYC](#), which serves homeless women, men, and children in the NYC area. Gifts and holiday cards were sent to brighten the holidays for Women in Need's children and families.

[Becky Roof](#), Managing Director of AlixPartners' turnaround and restructuring practice was recently quoted in a Bloomberg article: "[Energy's Distress May Ease Because So Many Already Went Bust.](#)"

AlixPartners published a report entitled "[COVID-19 through the lens of disruption - seven years of change in seven months.](#)"

Promotions

[Sheryl Betance](#) was promoted to Senior Managing Director at Stretto.

[Kay Wang](#) was promoted to Vice President in the turnaround and restructuring services practice at AlixPartners.

Welcome to IWIRC NY's New Members

Kirstin DiCecca

Hilco

Gabrielle Fromer

Herrick Feinstein

Ann Miller

Stout

Cristine Pirro Schwarzman

Ropes & Gray

Drop them a line personally welcoming these new members by using the hyperlinks on their names.

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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& Plimpton**

Debevoise is pleased to support the **International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation**

DWR To join the conversation about women in the workplace, visit the Debevoise Women's Review at women.debevoise.com

DEBEVOISE
WOMEN'S
REVIEW



We are proud to support the **International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation**

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Roberta Probber is a Senior Director in the Turnaround & Restructuring practice. She has over 10 years of experience in forensic accounting, restructuring and cash flow management for both distressed and non-distressed companies. Her industry experience includes healthcare and senior living, non-profit museums, retail and consumer products, financial services, manufacturing and food and poultry processing.

While working from her newly established dining room office, Ms. Probber has been actively supporting senior living facilities facing issues related to the COVID-19 crisis. She has been working with clients confronting liquidity constraints due to declining occupancy, PPE costs, staffing challenges and other issues as they face increasing pressure in their ability to meet debt payments and adhere to financing covenants.

Ms. Probber has represented unsecured and secured creditors in bankruptcy situations, analyzed and negotiated preference actions, worked to develop and negotiate sustainable debt restructuring plans and developed business valuations for use in litigation.

She has worked with companies to manage short and long-term cash flow in distressed and non-distressed situations, identified and investigated pre-petition fraudulent conveyance issues and directors' and officers' liability, and managed the disposition of assets as well as claim evaluation and reconciliation. In addition to working on behalf of bankruptcy estates, Ms. Probber has successfully defended a major multi-national company facing millions of dollars of potential preference exposure.

In respect to liquidating trusts, Ms. Probber has guided operations to efficiently wind down bankruptcy estates by reducing expenses and managing operations, including the wind-down retirement plans, while focusing on maximizing returns to creditors.

Prior to joining FTI Consulting, Ms. Probber was a Senior Manager with CohnReznick's Restructuring, Litigation and Transactional Services team.

Before entering the restructuring industry, Ms. Probber spent nearly 20 years working with financial institutions. As a bank stock analyst, she was cited in regional and national publications and recognized by the Wall Street Journal as one of the top five stock pickers for Banks and Savings and Loans for 2001. Her investment banking experience includes raising capital, mutual to stock conversions, mergers and acquisitions and development of capital plans for distressed banks and thrifts.

Ms. Probber is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Insolvency & Restructuring Advisor. She is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors, International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation and New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants.



Roberta Probber,
Senior Director
FTI Consulting

Virtual Event

January 20

AIRA/NYC

[Register Here](#)

Diversity in Insolvency: Putting Inclusive Ideas into Practice

January 21

ABI

[Register Here](#)

Bankruptcy Review: Important Decisions of the Last Twelve Months

January 25

3rd Circuit and Rutgers

[Register Here](#)

Super Networking Party

January 28

NYIC

[Register Here](#)

14th Annual Women in Achievement Awards

February 3

NYIC

[Register Here](#)

2021 TMA Distressed Investing Conference

February 23-25

TMA

[Register Here](#)



We proudly support the **International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation** and join them in their efforts to empower and encourage women in the insolvency field.

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FTI Consulting has extensive experience in making an impact on some of the world's largest and most complex challenges and opportunities. Every year, we help **more than 5,800 organizations** transform the way they anticipate and respond to events.

FTI Consulting wishes all a wonderful holiday season and a healthy, prosperous 2021.



FTI Consulting is an independent global business advisory firm dedicated to helping organizations manage change, mitigate risk and resolve disputes: financial, legal, operational, political & regulatory, reputational and transactional.

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Connect with Us

We now have a combined total of 595 followers on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, and it's not too late for you to join the fun. 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!



Additional Facebook Networks

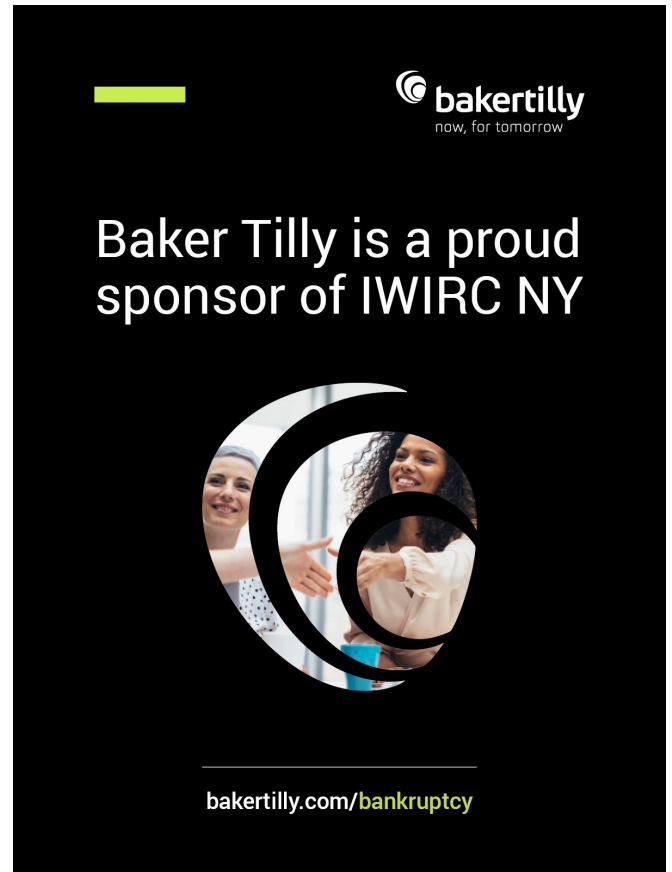
[IWIRC](#)
[IWIRC DC](#)
[IWIRC Hong Kong](#)
[IWIRC Singapore](#)
[IWIRC So Cal](#)

Additional LinkedIn Networks

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[IWIRC Delaware](#)
[IWIRC Greater Maryland](#)
[IWIRC Georgia](#)
[IWIRC New England](#)
[IWIRC New Jersey](#)
[IWIRC Ontario](#)
[IWIRC So Cal](#)
[IWIRC Western Canada](#)

Additional Twitter Networks

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Carren Shulman

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