



The Value of WIL to the JRCLS

Women in Law (WIL) Committee
Karen Clemes, Chair

JRCLS Leadership Conference
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What is the Mission and Purpose of WIL?

For ALL of us . . .

- ▶ To affirm, acknowledge, and expand the strength and contributions that women lawyers bring to the law, their communities, and their families
- ▶ To encourage women lawyers' participation in local and international JRCLS activities
- ▶ To help all chapters organize Women in Law (WIL) sections within their chapters
- ▶ To facilitate communication, support, fairness, and equal opportunities for women lawyers who support the ideals of the JRCLS
- ▶ To assist women lawyers with similar ideals to network with JRCLS members and to get connected with each other

A Note About Women Lawyers

- ▶ We recognize women lawyers have many paths they can take: practicing full-time, practicing part-time, not practicing for a time/staying at home, working in non-legal fields, etc.
- ▶ We want each of these women to know they are welcome and to remain connected to the law through the JRCLS if that is their wish
- ▶ This means full integration into JRCLS (and participation in WIL)
- ▶ Help them feel welcome, wanted, and safe



Leadership Conference



WIL Pre-law Event September 30, 2015



WIL Reception at Annual Conference



HOW TO BUILD WIL IN YOUR CHAPTERS



- ▶ 1. Invite female attorney to become your chapter WIL board representative or task existing board member with WIL coordination
- ▶ 2. Identify and invite women attorneys in your chapter to WIL events
- ▶ 3. Add women to your chapter boards and leadership, in addition to your dedicated WIL member
- ▶ 4. Plan WIL-focused CLEs
- ▶ 5. Use chapter WIL section to initiate/support pro bono clinic or other service projects
- ▶ 6. Consider event options that meet the needs of your WIL members
- ▶ 7. Consider women in legal leadership roles as speakers at CLE, panels, or annual dinners
 - ▶ Judges
 - ▶ Senior in-house counsel
 - ▶ Partners at law firms
 - ▶ Senior government attorneys
 - ▶ Law professors

8. Integrate Topics of Interest to WIL (and All of Us)

- ▶ The Power and Influence That Comes from a Law Degree
- ▶ The Joyful Lawyer
- ▶ Negotiation/Peacemaking/Healing
- ▶ Leadership in Religious Liberty
- ▶ Women in Political Leadership
- ▶ How to Start and Run a Law Practice
- ▶ Entrepreneurship
- ▶ Gender Bias
- ▶ Networking and Building a Client Base
- ▶ Tips for Conducting Your Job Search
- ▶ Leadership and Your Law Degree
- ▶ How to Re-enter the Practice
- ▶ Work-Life Balance and Priorities
- ▶ Ethics: Making the Right Choices
- ▶ Beyond Traditional Law Practice
- ▶ Preparing for/Obtaining an In-house Position
- ▶ Pros and Cons of Legal Jobs in Government



9. Sponsor and/or Promote WIL Regional Conference

- ▶ 2013 in Phoenix, AZ
- ▶ 2014 in Washington, D.C.
- ▶ 2015 in Orange, CA (September 19, 2015)
- ▶ 2016 at UVU on April 1, 2016 (tentative)



OC Regional Conference Kudos

“Inspiring!”

“Ah-hah moment!”

“[The presentation] spoke to my soul.”



“I heard from so many people that the presentation touched them and caused them to think about refocusing their goals and their lives. I also felt that I should reevaluate my situation (especially at work) to make sure that I keep joy as a daily goal . . . I truly believe that the topic was inspired.”

“Congratulations on the very successful WIL Conference at Chapman University last Saturday. It was really well done. Your local committee did a superlative job. The level of activity there was gratifying.”

Focus on Building WIL in the SLC Chapter

- ▶ September 2014: Kickoff luncheon, Justice Christine Durham of the Utah Supreme Court, “Women in the Law: The 21st Century Version”
- ▶ December 2014: Luncheon, Neylan McBaine, “Football, Primary Songs and Elections: Examining Gender Relations in the Church Today”
- ▶ April 2015: Luncheon and panel discussion “Increasing Women's Influence in Corporate Governance and the Legislature”
 - ▶ Dr. Ann Millner, former president of Weber State University and a Utah State Senator
 - ▶ Ashlee Burt of springBoard Utah
 - ▶ Gretta Spendlove of Durham Jones & Pinegar
 - ▶ Emilee Wagner, member of the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities whose bill was recently passed by the Utah Legislature
 - ▶ Lisa Watts Baskin (moderator), administrative law judge and a member of the organizing committee for Real Women Run, an organization that encourages women to be more involved in civic leadership
- ▶ September 2015: Evening event with Dr. Susan Madsen on the Utah Women & Leadership Project

JOIN US!

Blog: <http://jrclswomen.blogspot.com/>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/JRCLSIntlWIL?fref=ts>

Website:

http://www.jrcls.org/?folder=committees&page=women_in_law&id=7

THANK YOU!

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