

Women Lawyers' Forum Report 2013-2014

The Women's Lawyers' Forum is the connecting point for women in the legal profession. Through the inter-lacing of the social and the professional, the Women Lawyers' Forum provides an opportunity for women in the law to meet to talk and get to know each other better, for personal and professional benefit. The Forum organizes several events each year where women can engage, relax, and enjoy the company of other women who share the law as a common thread.

The Executive of the Women's Lawyers' Forum met regularly to plan the year's calendar of events and discuss issues of importance to women in the practice of law. We continued as in past years to plan events that brought women together.

The following events were planned this year:

So you Want to Be a Judge?

On October 8, 2013, the WLF hosted an informative panel session about the application process for the provincial and federal judiciary, the appointment processes and the lifestyle and work demands of judges.

All levels of Court were discussed, with speakers the Honourable Madam Justice Freda Steel, Manitoba Court of Appeal, the Honourable Madam Justice Brenda Keyser, Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench, the Honourable Judge Lee Ann Martin, Provincial Court of Manitoba, , and Master Joy Cooper, Court of Queen's Bench of Manitoba.

MBA Mid Winter Conference

The WLF co-sponsored a session with the CCA Section, "General Counsel Speak - Lessons for Law Firms on Women's Advancement and Increasing Client Connections"

International Women's Day

To honour International Women's Day, the WLF accepted donations for the Salvation Army's annual SNOW night. This night provided those involved in the sex trade a special night free from violence, harm, hunger and exploitation. It was designed to give them an opportunity to connect to programs and services provided by community partners such as Sage House, Clinic and The Salvation Army in a non-judgmental and supportive environment, and provided a safe place for sleep, food, resources, games, crafts, make-up, manicures, hairstyling, photos, movies, gift bags and door prizes.

Building a Dream: Professional Development Networking Event-The Story of an Entrepreneur

This event was held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at ANNA Magazine Studio. The topic was Building A Dream: Professional Development Networking Event - The Story of an Entrepreneur with speaker Mari Loewen of ANNA Magazine. We heard how Mari started ANNA Magazine and evolved her business into one of Winnipeg's coolest entertaining venues. She also shared some tips on easy entertaining and fabulous food from the ANNA kitchen. We were then treated to a mini-trade show featuring successful women entrepreneurs from around Winnipeg. They showcased their business, provided samples and shared their stories.

Celebrating Success-Wine and Cheese Reception for Women Lawyers and Judges

For the final event of the year a wine and cheese reception for women lawyers and judges will be held on June 10th, at the Blackstone Lounge, Taylor McCaffrey LLP. Co-hosted by the WLF and the Manitoba

branch of the Canadian Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges, we will be honoring the appointments of, Judge Anne Krahn, Justice Gwen Hatch and Justice Sadie Bond, the retirement of Judge Krystyna Tarwid and Patricia Lane's receipt of the Isabel Ross Hunt McLean Award.

A special thanks to this year's Executive and MBA Executive Director and Sections Coordinator Melissa Tannahill for all of your hard work and assistance in organizing the events.

Respectfully submitted,
Robynne Kazina, Co-Chair
Judge Cynthia Devine, Judicial Co-chair