

# Alliance News

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN • VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3 • SPRING 2005

## There Is Still Much To Be Done

by E. Lynn Grayson and Jane DiRenzo Pigott  
Co-Chairs, Alliance for Women

**O**ur year as Co-Chairs of the Alliance for Women is almost at an end. As always, many things were accomplished, but there remains much to be done. Some of the highlights of this year include:

- programming for monthly meetings that covered a wide range of topics and appealed to a wide range of legal professionals;
- service projects that allowed legal professionals to give back to the girls and women in our community;
- advocacy spotlights on some key issues facing women: abuse and sexual assault;
- a transactional workshop where senior women attorneys help other women enhance their substantive skills;
- a membership directory of various women's bar associations was published;
- other coordinated efforts with other women's bar groups; and
- the Call to Action on Women's Leadership.

The CBA's Call to Action\* was publicly announced on January 25, 2005, with nine leadership signatories: *Baker & McKenzie LLP, DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP, Jenner & Block LLP, Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, McGuire Woods LLP, Schiff Hardin LLP, Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, and Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP*. As of April 4, 2005, twenty-six law firms have signed the Call to Action.

We expect the number of signatories to continue to grow.

A number of vehicles have been used to communicate about the Call to Action within the Chicago legal community. Managing partners and general counsels have been informed of the Call to Action. Other CBA committees and other Chicago area

### CALL TO ACTION SIGNATORIES (AS OF 4/04/05)

Rank	Law Firm
1	Baker & McKenzie LLP
2	Bell, Boyd & Lloyd
3	Chapman & Cutler
4	DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP
5	Greenberg Traurig, LLP
6	Hennessy & Roach, P.C.
7	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP
8	Holland & Knight LLP
9	Jenner & Block LLP
10	Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman
11	Kirkland & Ellis LLP
12	Latham & Watkins LLP
13	Lord, Bissell & Brook LLP
14	McDermott Will & Emery LLP
15	McGuire Woods LLP
16	Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon P. C.
17	Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP
18	Pattishall, McAuliffe, Newbury, Hilliard & Geraldson LLP
19	Quarles & Brady LLP
20	Schiff Hardin LLP
21	Schiller, DuCanto and Fleck
22	Sidley Austin Brown & Wood
23	Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP
24	Tressler, Soderstrom, Maloney & Priess
25	Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz
26	Winston & Strawn LLP

\* The Call to Action, a list of best practices, the signatory page and a current list of signatories can be found at [www.chicagobar.org/calltoaction](http://www.chicagobar.org/calltoaction).

bar associations have received the Call to Action and members of the Alliance Executive Committee have spoken about the Call to Action with interested bar groups. Law students have expressed material interest in

the Call to Action and Alliance Executive Committee members have spoken about the Call at DePaul's and Northwestern's Law Schools. Chicago area corporations have  
(See *Much To Be Done*, Page 2)

*(Much To Be Done Cont'd from Page 1)*  
also invited Alliance members to speak about the Call to Action. Moreover, representatives of large law firms have met to discuss the Call to Action goals and share best practices.

Benchmarks on the Call to Action's goals will be promulgated shortly for Chicago law firms. Interim status reports on the Call to Action goals will be issued for Chicago

law firms. By 2007, we expect to report that there has been material progress in the number and percent of women leaders in the Chicago area legal profession.

The Alliance had diverse participation this year – a start on our goal of creating broader relevance and importance of the Alliance for Chicago area women attorneys. We encourage each of you to find a way to contribute to and participate in future Alliance events so that this trend continues. If you have an interest in becoming more involved in Alliance activities, please feel free to contact either one of us: Lynn Grayson (lgrayson@jenner.com) or Jane Pigott (jdpigott@r3group.net).

Finally, we congratulate next year's Co-Chairs of the Alliance – Alyse Lasser and Kathy Roach. Alyse is a senior professional in executive search whose legal background gives her a decided competitive edge with her clients doing searches for legal talent.

Kathy is a senior litigator at Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP and Chair of the Firm's Committee on the Retention and Promotion of Women. Sidley, based on Kathy's Committee's efforts, won the coveted Catalyst Award this year, only the second law firm to ever do so. We wish Alyse and Kathy every success next year and look forward to continuing to be part of key Alliance initiatives. ☞

*Ms. Grayson is a partner at Jenner & Block, where she is a member of the Firm's Environmental, Energy and Natural Resources Law and Defense & Aerospace Practices. Ms. Pigott is Managing Director of R3 Group LLC, and specializes in providing leadership, change, and diversity/inclusion consulting to organizations.*

# Alliance News

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CBA ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN

SPRING 2005



2004-05 Co-Chairs  
E. Lynn Grayson  
Jane DiRenzo Pigott

**Contributors**  
Jane DiRenzo Pigott  
E. Lynn Grayson  
Sheila Nielsen  
Joseph Glendinning  
Jean Janes

**Editor**  
Sonali Kolhatkar Oberg

**Design and Layout**  
Swanie Brooks  
Chicago Bar Association

Send news to:  
Jean Janes  
Much Shelist Freed Denenberg  
Ament & Rubenstein, P.C.  
191 North Wacker Dr., Suite 1800  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Phone: (312) 521-2405  
Fax: (312) 521-2305  
Email: jjanes@muchshelist.com

Having problems receiving your newsletter?  
Contact Awilda Reyes, CBA Committee Coordinator, at 312-554-2134 or areyes@chicagobar.org

## Mark Your Calendar



- May 12, 2005** Alliance for Women Annual Founder's Award Luncheon. The AFW will honor outstanding women lawyers who have significantly contributed to the advancement of women in the legal profession through their vision, leadership, mentoring, and support of others. Joy V. Cunningham, senior vice president and general counsel of Northwestern Memorial HealthCare and current CBA president, will receive the Founder's Award. Aurora N. Abella-Austriaco, of Peck Bloom Austriaco & Mitchell LLC, will receive the Alta May Hulett Award. At the Standard Club, 11:30 a.m. (reception), 12:15 p.m. (awards luncheon). For more information and tickets (\$55 per person) contact Tamra Drees at (312) 554-2057.
- May 12, 2005** Women Everywhere: Partners in Service. Presentation of Educational Program for girls and young women in the Chicago area.
- May 26, 2005** Women Everywhere: Partners in Service. Join approximately 400 volunteers for a day of community service and outreach to local agencies helping women and children in need. For more information or to volunteer, contact Volunteer Committee Chair Courtney A. Stevens at Jenner & Block LLP, cstevens@jenner.com or (312) 840-8621 or visit [www.women-everywhere.org](http://www.women-everywhere.org).