



# Newsletter

**August 2011**

## I.O.W.A. Annual Meeting Is A *Splash!*



Mary Mascher

Bonnie Campbell

Lu Ann White

On June 23, 2011, I.O.W.A. held its 26th Annual Meeting and Dinner at the Splash Seafood Bar & Grill in downtown Des Moines. I.O.W.A. was pleased to feature keynote speaker, Iowa General Assembly Representative, Mary Mascher, who spoke on "Finding Common Ground on a Rocky Road." Ms. Mascher described the family values and experience that have informed her approach to legislative diplomacy in an inspiring, yet down-to-earth address. The evening also featured presentation of the Arabella Mansfield and Gertrude Rush awards to recipients Lu Ann White and Bonnie Campbell respectively. The Annual Meeting's attendees included prominent members of the local bench and bar, and law students from both Drake Law School and the University of Iowa College of Law.

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## This Year's Arabella Mansfield and Gertrude Rush Awards Go To— Lu Ann White and Bonnie Campbell

I.O.W.A. is pleased to recognize the 2011 recipients of its Arabella Mansfield Award and Gertrude Rush Award.

The Arabella Mansfield Award was established in 2002 and features outstanding women lawyers in Iowa who have promoted and nurtured women in the legal profession. The Award's namesake is the first female lawyer admitted to the practice of law in the United States.

I.O.W.A. is proud to recognize Lu Ann White, recipient of its Tenth Annual Arabella Mansfield Award. Ms. White is a partner at Hanson, Bjork, & Russell, L.L.P. in Des Moines, where she specializes in litigation.

Ms. White has been a member of the bar for 30 years, and is known for her mentoring spirit, and her achievements and dedication to local chapters of the bar, the Iowa State Bar Association, and the ABA. She is one of the

founding members of I.O.W.A. She has also served as President of the Polk County Bar Association and Polk County Women Attorneys, and as Secretary of I.O.W.A. She has served on a number of committees for the Iowa State Bar Association, and has also served on ISBA's Board of Governors.

Ms. White also served for six years on the Judicial Nominating Commission for Judicial District 5C. She is also the liaison for Iowa on the ABA

Litigation Section's Woman Advocate Committee, and a co-char of its Mentoring Subcommittee.

Ms. White is also involved in the Des Moines community. She is an active volunteer and former board member of the Des Moines Choral Society, with which she has been singing for the past 17 years.

Ms. White is also a member of the Women's Development Connection, and she is a supporter of the Chrysalis Foun-

## This Year's Arabella Mansfield and Gertrude Rush Awards Go To— Lu Ann White and Bonnie Campbell (Continued from Page 1)

dation, supporting women and girls in central Iowa. She is an active volunteer for the Cornell College Alumni Association and has served as its President.

Ms. White is known for hosting and organizing networking opportunities for women, for helping women improve "rainmaking" skills and for her encouragement of young lawyers and law clerks.

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Bonnie J. Campbell received the Ninth Annual Gertrude Rush Award. The Award's namesake is the first African American woman to be admitted to the bar in Iowa.

The Gertrude Rush Award was co-established in 2003 by I.O.W.A. and the Iowa Chapter of the National Bar Association.

This award recognizes a lawyer who manifests the pioneering spirit of Gertrude Rush, demonstrates leadership in the community and in the legal profes-

sion, and demonstrates concern for human and civil rights.

Ms. Campbell served as Iowa's first female Attorney General from 1990-1994. Ms. Campbell also served as a key official to the Clinton Administration in the areas of crime and gender-equity. In 1995, President Clinton chose Ms. Campbell to lead the Violence Against Women Office of the Department of Justice. Ms. Campbell's work for that department resulted in her being named one of the most influential people in America by *Time* magazine in 1997.

Ms. Campbell continued to serve with the Justice Department, and headed its Working Group on Trafficking. She was instrumental in the creation of a U.S. treaty with Italy on ending trafficking in women and girls. Ms. Campbell was also appointed by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to represent the United States in international negotiations on the creation of an International Criminal Court.

Ms. Campbell's dedication to gender equality and the protection of women has consistently extended abroad, and in 1995 she was a member of the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China.

Ms. Campbell is known not only for her work nationally and internationally, but also her local commitment, and has been described as "a natural role model and mentor who empowers others to take on difficult challenges."

**Bonnie Campbell, recipient of the Ninth Annual Gertrude Rush Award, has been named by *Time* magazine as one of America's 25 most influential people.**

## Video Histories of Willie Stevenson Glanton and Judge Ruth Klotz

In late 2010, I.O.W.A. helped capture the video oral histories of local civil rights leader, Willie Stevenson Glanton, and local probate Judge, Ruth Klotz.

Willie Stevenson Glanton was honored, in 2010, with receipt of the prestigious, ABA Margaret Brent Award. Of the award, Mrs. Glanton said "I have found myself in an exclusive group of women who miraculously made our marks in spite of being assailed by all sides."

Mrs. Glanton is the second African-American woman to be admitted to the Iowa Bar. She was Iowa's first African-American female assistant county attorney. In addition, Mrs. Glanton toured Africa and Southeast Asia for the U.S. State Department before being elected to the Iowa State Legislature. She was Iowa's first African-American female legis-

lator. In 1966, Mrs. Glanton joined the U.S. Small Business Administration as an attorney and an equal opportunity advocate. Mrs. Glanton was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1986, and the National Bar Association Hall of Fame in 1995. In 2004, the Des Moines University named a minority student scholarship in honor of Mrs. Glanton and her husband, the late Judge Luther T. Glanton, Jr.

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Judge Ruth Klotz has served as Polk County's sole probate Judge for the past thirty-three years. She is viewed as a mainstay in Polk County and receives only accolades from the attorneys who regularly practice before her.

In 1954, Judge Klotz graduated from

Drake Law School at the top of her class. Before being appointed to the bench in 1978, and in addition to her time spent in private practice, Judge Klotz worked as a Special Counsel to the Department of Revenue, and a Trust Officer for Banker's Trust.

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Richard Lyford of Dickinson Mackaman Tyler & Hagen, P.C. and Marc Harding of the Harding Law Office have worked to capture Iowa's legal history through interviews of its bench and bar members. Former Iowa Supreme Court Justice Linda Neuman interviewed both Mrs. Glanton and Judge Klotz. I.O.W.A. Board Member Megan Flynn compiled background information on the interviewees and scheduled the sessions.



## Judge Romonda D. Belcher Makes Iowa History

I.O.W.A. invites its members to celebrate the upcoming one-year anniversary of the August, 2010 appointment of Romonda D. Belcher as Polk County District Associate Judge. Judge Belcher is the first African-American, female judge in Iowa. Prior to her appointment, Judge Belcher worked as an Assistant Polk County Attorney for 15 years.

Judge Belcher grew up in Plymouth, North Carolina. She received her undergraduate degree from Howard University, and her law degree from the Drake Law School.



## I.O.W.A. Is A Partner In 50-50 In 2020 (by Jennifer Smith)

I.O.W.A. is a partner in 50-50 in 2020. I.O.W.A. joins a distinguished group who are partnering to promote the election of women to public office. (AAUW, BPW, Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, Iowa Women's Foundation, Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University, Iowa N.E.W. Leadership at the University of Iowa, The Center for American Women in Politics at Rutgers University, The White House Project, and the Women in Food and Agriculture Network.)

50-50 in 2020 is dedicated to a ten-year project:—to elect women to 50% of the seats in the Iowa Legislature, 50% of the Iowa Congressional delegation, and a woman Governor by the year 2020, which will be the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in this country. (Iowa and Mississippi are the only two states that have never elected a woman to the U.S. House or Senate, nor to the office of Governor.) 50-50 in 2020 is not a PAC and as an organization, does not endorse women candidates.

The year 2012 presents the best opportunity to elect a large number of women, because of reapportionment. There are 14 new House districts and 7 new Senate districts, and the reshuffling of district lines has caused a number of incumbents to retire or run in a district that may not

be as familiar to them. It is an excellent time for women to step up and take some of those empty seats.

Studies show that when women run for office they win in the same percentage that men do; that women can raise money just as effectively, if not more effectively than men. The problem is that for every woman who runs, there are seven men who run. Our culture is not one that encourages women to get involved in politics. Women are rarely asked to run, and may undervalue their qualifications or doubt their abilities.

50-50 in 2020 believes that women need to be asked, trained, mentored and supported. In January 50-50 in 2020 will offer a "Blueprint for Winning Academy" for women who are running for the legislature and higher office. It will provide expert, hands-on help to candidates in organizing their campaigns, refining their message, and fundraising. 50-50 in 2020 will connect them with mentors in their own parties to shadow for a few days in the legislature and to be available for advice during their campaigns.

I.O.W.A. and 50-50 in 2020 are passionate about this for two basic reasons:

Recent studies show that while

women have made tremendous gains in terms of numbers of women at entry- and mid-level positions in business, academia, journalism, law, and other fields, forward progress beyond that point has slowed to a halt in many areas, and in some areas have regressed. Politics is one of those areas. The high point of women holding elected office in this country was 1992. Currently, women hold 16.6% of the seats in Congress and 23.3% of the seats in state legislatures. In Iowa, we have slipped from 23% to 21% after the last election.

Women in politics are critical to the advancement of women in other fields. Susan B. Anthony wisely said, "Women will never have equality until they have the vote and help make the laws." Laws are made by politicians, and the world of politicians is still dominated by men. Women bring a different perspective to the political arena, and 50-50 in 2020 believes that large numbers of women lawmakers will result in a more inclusive and collaborative process, and more sensible, pragmatic results.

A century is long enough to wait!

Please visit <http://50-50in2020.org> to learn more about how you can support 50-50 in 2020.

**2010-2011 I.O.W.A. Leadership****President**

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Amanda Van Wyhe

Rebecca Ann Moore

Dawn Boucher

Elisabeth Reynoldson

**Join I.O.W.A. Today!**

Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys (I.O.W.A.) provides an excellent opportunity to network with other lawyers throughout the state and have an impact on issues affecting women and the legal profession. Members stay informed and stay connected through a list serve, an email distribution list for announcements, a membership directory, board meetings and other I.O.W.A. meetings, CLEs, and website.

I.O.W.A. is for law students considering options in the legal field, new attorneys starting out in a professional career, and more experienced attorneys looking to share ideas and concerns. The Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys promotes the welfare and interest of women lawyers and women affected by the legal system, and provides a network of communication and support for members.

I.O.W.A. holds its annual meeting in conjunction with the Iowa State Bar Association's annual meeting in June. I.O.W.A. usually sends representatives to

the American Bar Association's Annual Meeting and the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations (NCWBA).

Each year, I.O.W.A. gives two awards, the Arabella Mansfield Award and the Gertrude Rush Award. Both are presented at the I.O.W.A. annual meeting and dinner. CLEs, in a teleconference format, are offered at a reduced rate to I.O.W.A. members.



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