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Susan E. Petersen
President

Dear Stylish Leaders

President's Message

When I picked up and read the Wall Street Journal article in January of this year, "*Women in Power: Finding Balance in the Wardrobe*," I couldn't help but smile. There it was in one of the most respectable newspapers in the country – "a woman who fails to dress to impress will pay a high price." I was right in the middle of planning a major fundraiser for the OWBA in which style was the headliner. I was a bit hesitant of what people might think of the premise . . . "too girlie" . . . "not serious enough" . . . "fashion and the law???" The WSJ article gave me affirmation that we were on the right track. Having the "Leading with Style" event sell out at 325 people and bringing in nearly \$40,000 in funds, I know we hit a nerve.

The idea was the brainchild of my fantastic foursome at the OWBA's Cleveland golf outing last Fall: Irene Rennillo, lawyer and co-owner of Rennillo Reporting, Records, & Media; Deviani Kuhar, lawyer and partner at McDonald Hopkins; and Robin Baum, accountant and managing partner of Zinner & Co. It was at about hole 16, we realized that our golf discussions focused more on our love of fashion, shoes, purses, makeup, and spa days, than on whether we should use a nine iron or wedge. We talked about the importance of making business connections with other women and that golf outings shouldn't be the only way to accomplish that. I admitted that I hesitated in talking openly about fashion or style at work for fear of how I would be perceived. By 18, we had come up with the idea of combining our shared passion for style, good food and drink, and pampering into a women's networking event unlike any seen before.



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It is with great pride that I report to you that "Leading with Style" was an unbelievable success. Read more about it on page 8. Our mission was to help eliminate any vestige of the notion that a woman's wish to look and feel good somehow diminishes her seriousness or personal authority. Carrying a fine handbag (or a precious infant for that matter) should not diminish a woman's professional effectiveness any more than holding a golf club makes a man (or woman) a rocket scientist. Keeping yourself balanced, and looking and feeling your best will make you stronger for yourself, your family, your business partners and clients as well as for the community.

The OWBA hopes to recreate this event in a location near you in the upcoming year. If you have an interest in helping to put together a "Leading with Style" committee near you, please email me or call.

As my Presidency comes to an end, I leave with the hope that I helped to bring value to your OWBA membership this year and to fulfill our mission of advancing the leadership, networking, and educational opportunities of women. Going forward, I challenge each of you to lead with style. Break down some barriers. Make a concerted effort to develop business. Support women in the practice and women-owned businesses. And by all means, remember that you are not in this alone. You will not achieve full success as a solo artist. Call it a clan, a sisterhood, a network. . . call it whatever you want. . . you need it and the OWBA is a tool to help you achieve it. Please renew your OWBA membership. Support the organization. Stay involved. Get involved. Give back. Your investment will come back full circle before you know it. I have seen it first hand.

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Save the Date

Monday, September 15
Shaker Country Club, Shaker Heights



Please save the date for the Annual OWBA Cleveland Golf Classic! This year, we are moving the outing to a new and more centralized location in the hopes of attracting a bigger crowd. Please help us to spread the word. We hope to see you there . . .

Female and Male Golfers - All Skill Levels
18 Hole Scramble & Dinner

We are currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with the planning. If you have an interest or want more information, please contact OWBA President Susan Petersen at sep@peteribold.com or 440.275-3511 ext. 237.



e-Discovery

What significance will the amendments to the Ohio Civil Rules have on your practice and your clients?

Coming to a City near you ~ Summer 2008

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SAVE THE DATE!

Date/Time	Location	Event Description
May 9, 2008 11:30 am to 5:30 pm	CSU's Cleveland-Marshall College of Law	<i>Improve Your Bottom Line: Attract, Retain and Promote Women and Minority Lawyers</i>
May 14, 2008 11:30 am to 12:00 pm— Meet & Greet 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm	<i>The Columbus Athenaeum</i> 32 North 4th Street Columbus, OH	Annual Meeting Luncheon Speaker—Suzanne M. Miklos Register at www.owba.org
Tuesday, June 14, 2008 12:00 Noon	<i>Mac Murray, Cook, Petersen & Shuster LLP</i> 6530 West Campus Oval, Suite 210 New Albany, Ohio 43054	MANDATORY In-Person Full Board Meeting
June 12 & 13, 2008 8:30 am to 5:00 pm	<i>The Columbus Athenaeum</i> 32 North 4th Street Columbus, OH	1st Annual Women in Project Management Conference
July 8, 2008 12:00 Noon	Via Teleconference	Full Board Meeting Attendance at Board Meetings is mandatory for OWBA's Executive Committee, District and At-Large Trustees, Committee Chairwomen, and is now open to the entire membership. We encourage you to participate. Contact Elizabeth Cargle for attendance details: accargle@wegmanlaw.com



Members in the News

General Announcements —



Susan E. Poulos, has recently opened her private practice. Susan is a former magistrate for Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court and a former prosecutor in Summit County. Susan has a general practice which includes probate, criminal, juvenile and bankruptcy, among other areas. Her practice focuses on probate, criminal, juvenile and bankruptcy matters. Susan is a 1998 graduate of The University of Akron School of Law (JD/M-Tax) where she was the President of the Student Bar Association.

Susan can be reached at (330) 730-3430 or at Susan@AttorneyPoulos.com. Susan's website is under construction at AttorneyPoulos.com.

Verdicts/Settlements —

In 2008, **Susan Petersen** negotiated a confidential \$2.15 Million dollar personal injury settlement for a client and her family. The 47 year old female plaintiff suffered a traumatic brain injury after being struck by a medium duty vehicle while crossing the street as a pedestrian in a crosswalk in Ohio. The driver of the vehicle did not have a valid Ohio driver's license at the time of the incident. Plaintiff litigated the case under both a negligence and negligent retention cause of action.

Susan Petersen and Todd Petersen of Petersen & Ibold also recently settled a wrongful death product liability case in federal court against General Motors Corporation for a confidential amount. The Plaintiff alleged that GM defectively designed the fuel system on the truck driven by Plaintiff's decedent and which resulted in a post collision fuel fed fire. The decedent was burned 85% of his body and lived for 3 months.

**If you have something newsworthy to report,
please submit your announcement for consideration to aecargle@wegmanlaw.com.*



**Have you recently moved or switched jobs?
Have a verdict or settlement to report?
Call Elizabeth Cargle at 216-642-3342
or e-mail (aecargle@wegmanlaw.com) with your new
contact information.**

**Please include the firm name, address, phone, fax, email
address and website (if applicable).**



History of the OWBA

By Michele Shuster, President-Elect

This Fall, we will be holding our second Annual Founding Members and Past Presidents Dinner. The OWBA’s Founding Members and Past Presidents are a remarkable group of women and I am pleased to share their story with you:

April 1991, **Justice Alice Robie Resnick** came to Cleveland to speak at a luncheon of women attorneys sponsored by a local law firm. During her address, she suggested a statewide women’s bar association as a goal to be established in Ohio. Coincidentally, at that same time, **Pamela Nagle Hultin**, a Cleveland area attorney, and **Patricia A. Hemann**, now a Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court, had also been discussing the absence of a statewide organization in which women could discuss issues relating to women lawyers in the practice. Justice Resnick’s comments dovetailed with the thoughts that had been percolating in the discussions between Pat Hemann and Pam Hultin. It was from those discussions that a meeting was scheduled to determine if an interest existed among women attorneys and judges in establishing such a bar association.

On September 21, 1991, the first statewide meeting was held with 26 dynamic, powerful attorneys and judges from all over the state, in all types of public and private practice and judicial levels. During that meeting, the attendees adopted the *Purpose* of the OWBA, which is set out in the current Bylaws. That first meeting was a catalyst for the actual formation of the OWBA, which was officially formulated in May of 1992.

From those initial beginnings, presidents have dealt with such mundane but vital issues as where to permanently house the Ohio Women’s Bar Association, the hiring of an executive director, establishing a website, and raising the capital for continuing the economic viability of the OWBA. The OWBA has also focused on addressing the positive image of women in the profession and the challenges they faced during the 1990s. Such issues as gender fairness in the judicial system and domestic violence have also been tackled by the organization.

The success and strength of the Ohio Women’s Bar Association can be attributed to the dedication of all the members of the OWBA, as well as the strong leadership that our Past Presidents have given to the organization. The Past Presidents are as follows:

Pamela Nagle Hultin	1992-1993
Mary Lynn Readey	1993-1994
Barbara J. Smith	1994-1995
Linde Hurst Webb	1995-1996
Laura A. Hauser.	1996-1997
Kirsti Talikka Garlock.	1997-1998
Maria A. Kortan-Sampson	1998-1999
Jami S. Oliver.	1999-2000
Helen Mac Murray.	2000-2001
Debra J. Horn.	2001-2002
Suzanne M. Nigro.	2002-2003
Michelle J. Sheehan.	2003-2004
Halle M. Hebert.	2004-2005
Monique B. Lampke.	2005-2006
Pamela D. Houston	2006-2007

I look forward to seeing you this fall as we come together to honor these remarkable women and the organization they established.

Plan Your Route to Long-Term Financial Security

Submitted by Deborah Kellner

Key Private Bank

Legal Professionals Team

If you haven't established a plan for lifetime financial security, now is the time to get started. The route to a secure financial future is paved with sound strategies and dedication to reaching your goals.

Start where you are

So what should be the first step toward building a plan? Calculate what you have, what you owe and what you're earning. These numbers will help you and your advisors evaluate your financial condition and develop strategies to achieve your goals.

List your major assets. For couples, this should include assets that are jointly owned. Document real estate, investment portfolios, cash and savings accounts, retirement funds, business ownership, deferred compensation, insurance policies and valuable collections.

Next, list major liabilities and whether each debt is secured, as well as interest rates and repayment schedules. Subtract total liabilities from total assets to derive your net worth. Then, detail your income sources and estimate monthly expenses. Finally, gather photocopies of estate planning documents, shareholder agreements and divorce settlements, if any.

Choose your transportation

Now, decide how to get from where you are to where you want to be. Of course, you'll need retirement and estate plans, as well as insurance for health, property and autos. Here are several other elements you may require to reach your financial goals:

- Unified tax and investment strategies
- Charitable giving plan
- College savings plans
- Elder care for aging parents
- Long-term care savings or insurance for yourself and your spouse
- Life insurance for dependents or estate liquidity

Keep in mind that building or adjusting a comprehensive financial plan might lead you to revise existing arrangements to ensure they'll produce the desired long-term results and work as part of the whole.

Consult "travel agents"

Just as a travel agent can help you plan a complicated trip, professional advisors can help you plan your financial future. Start with your accountant, who is familiar with your financial status and can provide insight into additional issues that you may encounter.

An estate planning lawyer is generally best qualified to prepare wills, trusts and powers of attorney. For information and guidance related to your employer-provided retirement plan, you may wish to consult your company's benefits administrator.

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An experienced financial advisor can help coordinate the elements of your plan into an integrated whole, recommend tax strategy to support it, and develop an investment profile. An effective investment profile should include both short- and long-term investment objectives and provide an accurate assessment of your ability to tolerate risk.

Finalize your destination

Now, set goals in dollar amounts and establish deadlines for achieving them. No financial advisor is better equipped to determine your needs than you. Work through the details, ideally with your family. Then, ask your advisor to review your goals and help you judge whether they're realistic, based on your net worth, income, age and other factors, including inflation and interest rates.

Having articulated your goals, assemble the elements that will comprise your plan. And be sure to establish milestones so that you can track your progress over the years.

With an effective plan in place, your journey to a secure financial future can begin. Of course, reaching your destination means long-term saving and investing. Even if your plan includes an overall strategy, carefully evaluate each investment decision to determine tax consequences and rate of return as economic conditions and personal circumstances change over the years.

Hit the road

Setting financial goals, developing strategies and creating plans doesn't have to be a burdensome process. Like a cross-country trip, the journey can be every bit as fascinating as the destination. Start now, while you have a wider range of choices, as well as the time you need to accumulate the funds that will assure the success of your plan. Then, keep going until you reach your destination.

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LEADING *with Style*

OWBA and the Rennillo Foundation Co-Host "Leading with Style"

Sold-Out Premier Women's Networking and Charity Event Leads Top Talent to Discover & Embrace Own Leadership Style

The OWBA and the Rennillo Foundation jointly hosted "Leading with Style" on Thursday, April 24th at the offices of Rennillo Court Reporting in downtown Cleveland. This cross-networking, shopping and pampering event was a phenomenal success, bringing out more than 300 of Northeast Ohio's top professional women and bringing in nearly \$40,000 dollars in funding.

Specifically, sponsor contributions to the event raised \$15,000 for the OWBA's Annual Scholarship Fund, which had dwindled down to \$100 at the start of the year. A silent auction and raffle raised \$14,849.00. Ticket purchases brought in \$7,000 to the organization. The Rennillo foundation matched ticket proceeds to benefit the Urban Community School of Cleveland, a non-traditional, independent elementary school serving preschool through eighth grade.

Saks Fifth Avenue showcased the latest styles in formal business and business-casual wear. It extended preferred pricing for items purchased during the event and for attendees through the subsequent weekend. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres satisfied appetites as personal shoppers made their rounds offering tips on accessorizing with shoes and jewelry that are also available for purchase. Lu-Jean Feng, MD, founder/Medical Director of Lu-Jean Feng Clinic Health & Wellness Center, put her spa on the road for this event and brought in cabanas, where she and her staff offered massages, facial treatment sessions, and manicures. Spas, restaurants, and style leaders from Greater Cleveland generously donated items and services, including Spa Walden of Aurora donated \$15,000 in gift cards for spa services which each attendee received.

"We're so busy taking care of everyone else that we often neglect to take care of us. We were looking for an event to remind women that it's okay to take time to care for our ourselves," OWBA President and organizer Susan Petersen said. Organizer Irene Rennillo, President of Rennillo Court Reporting, Media & Services, enlisted the assistance of Christine Lobas, owner/president of Studiothink, Rennillo's full service creative marketing, design and communications firm, who helped steer the uniquely female event "Leading with Style" toward reality. "As a female business owner, I really believe we should be helping each other not only to grow our businesses and successes but to also support each other in building balance and credibility for focus on health, image and issues of emotional and social well-being," Lobas said.

Men seem to network quite naturally in business but for women it's often an acquired skill. Rennillo, Petersen, Lobas and others agree that women need not mimic men in the way they network and the things they talk about and focus on. It's really ok to care about style and success, hemlines as well as the bottom line, and hot colors along with hot stocks.

"Leading with Style" was about more than the image women project in the workplace. It was about embracing the idea that strong, smart and beautiful emanate from the inside out whether we are busy raising children, leading a firm, making a difference in our community or changing the way people think. "It's about finding and embracing our own leadership style and helping each other do the same," Rennillo adds.



LEADING *with Style*



LEADING *with Style*



LEADING

with Style

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to the Members of the
Leading With Style Committee*

THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT
THEIR DEDICATION AND VISION.

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