

# The 2016 OWBA/OWBF Annual Conference

## May 18 to 19 – **Seats Filling Quickly!**

Please join us for the Ohio Women's Bar Association (OWBA) and Ohio Women's Bar Foundation (OWBF) Annual Conference taking place on May 18-19, 2016, at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center, Ohio. The event spans two days, featuring 6.25 CLE hours (approved CLE). Some of these include: Judicial Panel - A View from the Bench (sponsored by Thacker Martinsek LPA); Women in Law-Leadership Lessons from the Top (sponsored by the Ohio State Bar Association Women in the Profession Section); Advancing the Next Generation of Women Leaders In the Legal Profession (sponsored by Abercrombie & Fitch); Breaking Down Barriers and Investing in Diverse Talent (sponsored by Bricker & Eckler LLP); and Beyond the Headcount: Inclusive Environments and Diverse Leadership (sponsored by Vorys).

Following the CLE sessions during the first afternoon of the conference is the second annual Honoring Women in Government Reception, from 6 to 8 pm. The reception will recognize Yvette McGee Brown, Partner-in-Charge of Diversity Inclusion and Advancement, Jones Day; and Judge Jennifer Brunner, Ohio's Tenth Appellate District. The reception is free to OWBA members.



For Complete Details Visit [www.OWBA.org](http://www.OWBA.org)

Kicking off the second day of the conference and just prior to the CLE sessions on May 19, is a breakfast featuring a spotlight on Diversity and Inclusion, which features Paulette Brown, the current President of the American Bar Association (ABA) and Partner and Co-Chair of the firm-wide Diversity and Inclusion Committee at Locke Lord LLP. Brown will also be the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon later that day. Brown is the first woman of color to lead the prestigious ABA, a 136 year-old professional legal association with over 400,000 members and we look forward to hearing about her experience.

Following the annual meeting and luncheon that afternoon will be the OWBA reception honoring Brown, from 2 to 3 pm. This is sponsored by John Mercer Langston Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association Women in the Profession Section, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Central Ohio, Hispanic National Bar Association – Region X, Women Lawyers of Franklin County, and Columbus Bar Association.

Gold sponsors for the Annual Conference include Baker Hostetler, Carpenter Lipps & Leland, Littler Mendelson, and Thompson Hine. Silver sponsors are Porter Wright, Nationwide Insurance, Jones Day, Thirty-One Gifts and Reminger. Bronze sponsors are The Gnoesis Group, Dinsmore & Shohl, Roetzel & Andress, Squire Patton Boggs, OhioHealth, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, The Kroger Co., Alliance Data and Ice Miller.

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**AGENDA**

**Wednesday, May 18, 2016**

1:30 – 2:00 PM

CLE Check-In and Networking

2:00 – 3:15 PM

**Judicial Panel:**

**A View from the Bench**

(1.25 hours of CLE pending)

Moderator: **Magistrate Judge**

**Stephanie K. Bowman,**

Southern District of Ohio

Panelists: **Judge Mary DeGenaro,**

7<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals; **Judge**

**Benita Y. Pearson,** United States

District Court, Northern District of

Ohio; **Judge Barbara P. Gorman,**

Montgomery County Common Pleas

Court; **Judge Paul M. Herbert,**

Franklin County Municipal Court

3:15 – 3:20 PM

Networking/Transition Break

3:20 – 4:35 PM

**Women in Law: Leadership**

**Lessons from the Top**

(1.25 hours of CLE pending)

Moderator: **Stephanie R. Hanna,**

Senior Manager, Member Outreach

& Engagement, Ohio State Bar

Association

Panelists: **Michelle Proia Roe,**

General Counsel, Thirty-One Gifts;

**Mary Augsburg,** Executive

Director, Ohio State Bar Association;

**Marchelle E. Moore,** Senior Vice

President, Chief Legal Officer and

General Counsel, The Motorists

Insurance Group; **Patricia A. Wise,**

Partner, Niehaus Wise & Kalas Ltd

and EEOC Select Task Force on

Workplace Harassment

4:35 – 4:45 PM

Networking/Transition Break

4:45 – 6:00 PM

**Advancing the Next Generation**

**of Women Leaders in the Legal**

**Profession** (1.25 hours of CLE

pending)

Moderator: **Joyce D. Edelman,**

Partner, Porter Wright Morris &

Arthur

Panelists: **Chief Judge Pat E.**

**Morgenstern-Clarren,** United States

Bankruptcy Court, Northern District

of Ohio; **U.S. Magistrate Judge**

**Kathleen B. Burke,** United States

District Court, Northern District

of Ohio; **Lisa Whittaker,** Senior

Attorney, Litigation and Employment,

Ascena Retail Group; **Caitlin E.**

**Anderson,** Assistant General Counsel

of Litigation, Cardinal Health;

**Judge Noceeba Southern Letts,**

Administrative Law Judge, United

States Social Security Administration

5:30 – 6:30 PM

Reception Check-In and Networking

6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Honoring Women in Government**

**Reception**

Government Committee Co-Chairs:

**Yukiko Yee,** Senior Assistant

Attorney General, Office of the

Ohio Attorney General and **Amy B.**

**Koorn,** Attorney, Franklin County

Probate Court

Featured Guests: **Yvette McGee**

**Brown,** Partner-In-Charge

of Diversity, Inclusion and

Advancement, Jones Day and **Judge**

**Jennifer Brunner,** Ohio's Tenth

Appellate District

**Thursday, May 19, 2016**

6:30 – 7:00 AM

Check-In and Networking

7:00 – 8:00 AM



**Breakfast Spotlight on  
Diversity and Inclusion:  
A Perspective from  
Paulette Brown**

Facilitator: **Jocelyn**

**Armstrong,** Assistant Executive

Director, Columbus Bar Association

and President, JMLBA

8:00 – 8:15 AM

Networking/Transition Break

8:15 – 9:30 AM

**Breaking Down Barriers and**

**Investing in Diverse Talent**

(1.25 hours of CLE pending)

Moderators: **Lisa Kathumbi,**

Employment and Labor Law

Attorney, Littler Mendelson;

and **Marilyn McClure-Demers,**

Associate Vice President, Associate

General Counsel Corporate and

Intellectual Property Litigation,

Nationwide Insurance Company

Panelists: **Judge Timothy S. Black,**

United States District Court, Southern

District of Ohio, Co-Convener of the

BLAC-CBA Round Table; **Jeffrey**

**B. Jones,** Shareholder and Board

Member, Littler Mendelson; **Tracie**

**Ransom,** Director of Complaints and

Counsel, Edward Jones; and **Janica**

**Pierce Tucker,** Partner, Taft Stettinius

& Hollister

9:30 – 9:40 AM

Networking/Transition Break

9:40 – 10:55 AM

**Beyond the Head Count: Inclusive Environments and Diverse Leadership**

(1.25 hours of CLE pending)

Moderators: **Lisa Kathumbi**, Employment and Labor Law Attorney, Littler Mendelson; and **Marilyn McClure-Demers**, Associate Vice President, Associate General Counsel Corporate and Intellectual Property Litigation, Nationwide Insurance Company

Panelists: **Earl J. Barnes**, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, OhioHealth; **Yvette McGee Brown**, Partner-In-Charge of Diversity, Inclusion and Advancement, Jones

Day; **Kurt Tunnell**, Managing Partner, Bricker & Eckler and Chair, Columbus Managing Partner Diversity Initiative; **Kimberly S. Amrine**, Member and Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Frost Brown Todd; and **Myra McKenzie-Harris**, Associate General Counsel, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

10:55 – 11:30 AM

urn Break

11:00 – 11:30 AM

Check-In and Networking

11:30 – 1:30 PM

**OWBA/OWBF Annual Meeting Luncheon**

Welcome & Swearing In: **Justice Sharon L. Kennedy**, The Supreme Court of Ohio

Keynote: **Paulette Brown**, President, American Bar Association and Partner and Chief Diversity Officer, Locke Lord LLP

2:00 – 3:00 PM

**OWBA Reception Honoring Paulette Brown**

Please visit [www.owba.org](http://www.owba.org) for registration options and information as well as available sponsorship opportunities. For more information contact OWBA at (866) 932-6922 or [admin@owba.org](mailto:admin@owba.org). ■

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Cherishing the Past While Anticipating the Future of OWBA

By Grace Royalty, U.S. District Court – Southern District of Ohio



This is the last President's Message from my term with the Ohio Women's Bar Association.

At our Annual Meeting in May, I

will transfer leadership to Marilyn McClure-Demers. A natural analogy is to think of it as handing over a baton. I think a better comparison is that I am handing over a family heirloom—like a handmade quilt or a beautiful set of china. It causes you to reflect on the past, but it is also something that you care for and treat with respect so that it remains strong for the future.

Twelve months looked like a long time when I took office as president, but the work has been made easy

from the amazing support the OWBA has received. We partnered with the Ohio State Bar Association to bring more women into the Ohio Supreme Court's Specialty Certification program. We held a networking and social event with the Toledo Women's Bar Association and the University of Toledo's Women's Law Student Association. Our Government Subcommittee partnered with Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law for our "Inspiring Leaders" Student Giveback Luncheon. After battling bad weather and busy schedules, our Energy Committee was able to present "A Judicial Perspective - Ohio Energy Law" both in-person and through a live webcast. The OWBA thanks the law firm of McDonald Hopkins for sponsoring the event.

Other sponsors brought us CLE programs, Leading with Style, an in-house attorney event in Columbus, a new attorney reception in Cincinnati, a golf event in Dayton, and a tea to welcome the first female dean to the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Finally, we co-sponsored a Title IX Sexual Violence and Harassment Prevention Program with Ohio Northern University.

I am proud of what we have accomplished this year and cherish the hard work of the women who made it possible. While I will continue my work to support the OWBA and its mission, this leadership position will be passed to the next person to run with. I know it will be in good hands. ■

# Event Highlights Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking

By Judge Katarina Cook, Akron Municipal Court

On October 16, 2015, the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking and the Ohio Women's Bar Association were pleased to co-sponsor a seminar featuring Franklin County's C.A.T.C.H Court (Changing Actions to Change Habits) to a full house. The seminar also highlighted Summit County's efforts to combat human trafficking. The event took place at Portage Country Club, and was attended by over 100 people, including judges, lawyers, members of law enforcement, victim advocates, social workers and many other agencies and individuals dedicated to educating and assisting victims of human trafficking.

The Franklin County C.A.T.C.H Court, presided over by Judge Paul Herbert, seeks to treat female prostitution defendants as victims instead of criminals. The Court's staff works with its clients to determine the reasons for their behavior, and to provide them with resources and effective alternatives to the legal system. Instead of repeatedly cycling

these women through the system and labeling them as criminals who willfully break the law, C.A.T.C.H Court recognizes them as victims of abuse in need of medical and psychological treatment. Judge Herbert shared the challenges and rewards of his program and his incredible success rate. Vanessa, a graduate of the program, shared her journey from a life of despair to one filled with hope. The seminar also included a panel of speakers featuring Jaime Blair, Judicial Attorney with the Summit County Juvenile Court, who shared about the Summit County Restore Court; FBI Agent Charles Johnson, who outlined enforcement efforts in our area; and Akron Municipal Court Judge Katarina Cook and Professor Joann Sahl from the University of Akron Legal Clinic, who discussed expungement options for victims of human trafficking. The seminar was a huge success, with one participant



*Magistrate Susan Baker Ross, Vanessa-CATCH Court Graduate, Judge Katarina Cook, Judge Paul Herbert.*

sharing that it touched her heart and left a lasting imprint that will better equip her to do her job.

To learn more about the Collaborative go to [www.endslaverysummitcounty.com](http://www.endslaverysummitcounty.com) or check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CollaborativeAgainstHumanTraffickingSummitCounty](http://www.facebook.com/CollaborativeAgainstHumanTraffickingSummitCounty) ■



*Vanessa speaking about her journey through the CATCH Court.*



*With the Outreach & Education Committee of the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking.*

# Highlighting Members of the OWBA Leadership Institute

*In each issue we will highlight graduates of the OWBA Leadership Institute. This quarter we will highlight Shelby McMillan and Christine Li from the 2013-2014 Leadership Class. If you are interested in applying to the Leadership Institute, contact OWBA at [admin@owba.org](mailto:admin@owba.org).*



*Shelby McMillan,  
Reminger Co.,  
L.P.A.*

## **What did you enjoy the most about the Leadership**

**Institute?** – I enjoyed the opportunity to get to know people from different areas of the legal profession. There were many traditional attorneys; however, there were just as many attorneys working in corporations and for non-profits. Each woman brought her own unique approach to legal analysis and problem solving to the Institute. It was invaluable. I also enjoyed hearing from other women about the experiences that they have encountered at their respective firms. Hearing these stories made me realize how progressive my firm Reminger is with respect to our support of women. I continue to feel blessed to be a part of such a great, forward-thinking firm.

## **What is something that you learned that you implemented in your career/life?**

I learned that it is okay to say “no” sometimes. I also learned that saying “no” does not make you any less of any attorney, person, or woman. This has translated to me having a healthier work/life balance.

## **Do you stay connected with anyone from your class?**

Many members in my class were from Columbus and Cleveland. There

were a few women from Cincinnati in my class, and it is always a pleasure to bump into them. One of the events I look forward to every year is the OWBA luncheon. It’s a perfect opportunity to visit and catch up with former classmates and meet the new attendees of the Leadership Institute.

## **What piece of advice would you give to someone who is just beginning the Leadership Institute or who is considering applying?**

My advice would be to keep an open mind. You will be learning new ways to approach leadership and learning new ways to problem solve. If you leave all your notions of what is appropriate and correct at the door, you will learn many different unique and collaborative ways to approach a task or problem, or how best to resolve a conflict.

## **How did participating in the Leadership Institute change you and/or make you better?**

The Leadership Institute taught me to listen more and talk less. Interacting with women from all walks of life and various legal backgrounds provided a unique perspective to approaching problem solving, as well as sharpening leadership skills that I had already possessed. Participation in the Leadership Institute made me both a better person and a better leader.

## **Where do you work?**

Reminger Co., LPA’s Cincinnati office.

## **Do you specialize or have a niche?**

Yes. I focus my practice on Workers’ Compensation defense. I represent businesses, both large and small, and third party administrators in the management of claims before both The Industrial Commission of Ohio and in Common Pleas Court.

## **If you weren’t a lawyer, what would you be?**

This is the easiest question! I have two “fantasy” professions. First, I would love to be a jeweler, ideally for a design house like Cartier, or Harry Winston. My second “fantasy” job would be to own a food truck or a sandwich shop. The appeal of these two very different professions is basically creating happiness for others. It is unusual for someone to be unsatisfied after they get a lovely piece of jewelry, or be disgruntled after eating a delicious sandwich.



*Christine Li,  
Assistant General  
Counsel, Office of  
the Chief Legal  
& Governance,  
Nationwide*

## **What did you enjoy most about the Leadership Institute?**

I really enjoyed getting to know the other women in our class. We all had diverse career paths, yet we also shared many similar experiences. It was wonderful making those

connections and learning from one another.

### **What is something that you learned that you implemented in your career/life?**

The importance of taking advantage of professional and personal opportunities as they arise, regardless of whether or not they come at the “right” times. It is important to be open and really consider or evaluate opportunities.

### **Do you stay connected with anyone from your class?**

Absolutely. Many women are based in Columbus and we make an effort to

connect outside of the Institute.

### **What piece of advice would you give to someone who is just beginning the Leadership Institute or who is considering applying?**

If you’re considering applying, take the chance! It is well worth it – not only professionally, but also personally.

### **How did participating in the Leadership Institute change you and/or make you better?**

Participation in the Leadership Institute helped me become a better leader. It reinforced the power of positive collaboration, but also the

need to give back to others. We were fortunate to have many women leaders in the community speak to us during the Institute. I appreciated their insight and their willingness to spend time with us.

### **Where do you work?**

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

### **Do you specialize or have a niche?**

I support Nationwide Investments, with a focus on structured finance.

### **If you weren’t a lawyer, what would you be?**

A travel writer! ■

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## Going All In

By Kristyn Huening, FirstGroup America



On March 13, 2016, I had the honor of hosting my 10<sup>th</sup> annual fundraising event for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation. Conquering

childhood cancer has been my motivation all along, but something else happened along the way; I found my passion. And, for the first time in my tenure...I shaved my head. I went all in, and it feels amazing!

It is so easy to get caught up in rigors of being a mom, a wife, CEO of the household, and maintain a full-time legal career. At any moment, I can be one or, as is usually the case, filling all of the aforesaid roles simultaneously, and I allow those I am serving to dictate my priorities. I love being a mom, a wife and an attorney, but by doing something else

that I am passionate about, and going all in, even if for a short amount of time, gives me an additional sense of self.

For me, that passion is finding a cure for childhood cancers.

I committed to something bigger than myself. Focusing on my own priorities of raising money and shaving my head has allowed me to finally feel like I have given my all toward affecting change in the lives of kids battling this horrible disease. And in the process, I am teaching my children empathy; that helping others is important, and that going all in and finding something to be passionate about can be gratifying and at the same time have a tremendous impact on lives of others.

If you are not familiar with the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, it is a non-profit organization committed to conquering childhood cancers one research grant at a time. Because research for childhood cancers

comprises only 4 percent of the grants, the St. Baldrick’s Foundation ensures that every grant funded by the organization goes directly to childhood cancer research.

While I am not advocating that everyone go to the extreme of head shaving, I am most definitely an advocate for focusing, even if momentarily, on what’s important to you. Whether it be something personal, related to your career or family, I encourage all of you to find something that makes you want to go all in. ■

*Kristyn Huening is in-house counsel, primarily focusing on employment law, for a national transportation company in Cincinnati. She is also the OWBA District 12 Trustee and co-chairs the Cincinnati Leading with Style planning committee. For more information on the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, please visit [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org).*

## Sustaining Members

**Deborah Akers-Parry**  
Wolf and Akers LPA

**Randal Sue Bloch**  
Wagner & Bloch

**Magistrate Judge Stephanie Bowman**  
U. S. District Court  
Southern District of Ohio

**Angela Courtwright**  
Ice Miller LLP

**Sherri Dahl, Esq.**  
Dahl Law LLC

**Judge Patricia Delaney**  
5th District Court of Appeals

**Jennifer Elleman**  
Lexis Nexis

**Amanda Gatti**  
Reminger Co., LPA

**Melissa Graham-Hurd**  
Melissa A. Graham-Hurd, Atty. at Law

**Nita Hanson**  
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP

**Kathleen Havener**  
The Havener Law Firm LLC

**Claudia Herrington**  
JobsOhio

**Valoria Hoover**  
Valoria Hoover Law Offices, LLC

**Jennifer J. Jacquemain**  
Oldham Company, LLC

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Littler Mendelson

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Thacker Martinsek LPA

**Marilyn McClure-Demers**  
Nationwide Insurance

**Jean McQuillan**  
Case Western Reserve University  
School of Law

**Susannah Muskovitz**  
Muskovitz & Lemmerbrock, LLC

**Denise Platfoot Lacey**  
University of Dayton School of Law

**Julie Rabin**  
Rabin & Rabin Co LPA

**Alice Rickel**  
Alice Rickel & Assoc

**Grace Royalty**  
U. S. District Court  
Southern District of Ohio

**Nancy Sabol**  
The Ohio Northern University Pettit  
College of Law

**Laura Sanom**  
Faruki Ireland & Cox P.L.L.

**Christine Santoni**  
Reminger Co., LPA

**Wednesday Shipp**  
Procter & Gamble

**Michele Shuster**  
Mac Murray Petersen & Shuster

**Carrie Starts**  
Reminger Co., LPA

**Patricia Walker**  
Walker & Jocke

**Linde Webb**  
Lydy & Moan, LTD

**Kate Wexler**  
Brouse McDowell, LPA

**Ann Zalocco**  
Comenity LLC

## New OWBA Members (as of January 1, 2016)

**Brianne Brown**  
Ohio Department of Medicaid

**Margaret Castro**  
U.S. Attorney's Office

**Jeanne Cors**  
Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP

**Haily Duong**  
Moritz College of Law

**Rachel Hackle**  
University of Cincinnati College of Law

**Allison Haedt**  
DHL Global Business Services

**Christy Hendricks**  
OhioHealth

**Allison Kropp**  
Dinsmore & Shohl

**Lin Maggi**  
A & A Elect Dist Inc.

**Beverly Marsh**  
Standley Law Group LLP

**Stacy Meloun**  
Agee Clyer Mitchell & Portman

**Lisa Messner**  
MacMurray, Petersen & Shuster LLP

**Jaclyn Miller**  
University of Cincinnati College of Law

**Cailin Murphy**  
Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP

**Theresa Rakocy**  
Fay Sharpe LLP

**Meghna Rao**  
Squire Patton Boggs

**Liesel Schmadler**  
The Ohio State University Moritz  
College of Law

**Brenda Shoemaker**  
U.S. Attorney's Office (DOJ)

**Catherine Venard**  
Nationwide Insurance



## Amanda Martinsek Recognized Among Top 25 Women Lawyers in Cleveland; Top 50 in Ohio

For the second year in a row, Thacker Martinsek Founding President and Co-founding Shareholder, Amanda Martinsek, has been rated by her peers as among the Top 25 Women Lawyers in Cleveland by Super Lawyers. Added to this distinction for 2016 was the honor of also being rated among the Top 50 Women Lawyers in the State of Ohio.

This year marks the 10th consecutive year Amanda has been listed in Super Lawyers, a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations. Only 5 percent of Ohio's almost 39,000 eligible attorneys receive this recognition. ■

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Grace Royalty

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Kristyn Huening

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Judge Katarina Cook

Sherri Dahl

Tara Aschenbrand

Kate Wexler

OWBA/OWBF Liaison

Carrie Starts

Past Presidents

Pamela Nagle Hultin (92-93)

Mary Lynn Readey (93-94)

Barbara J. Smith (94-95)

Linde Hurst Webb (95-96)

Laura A. Hauser (96-97)

Kirsti Talikka Garlock (97-98)

Maria A. Kortan-Sampson (98-99)

Jami S. Oliver (99-00)

Helen MacMurray (00-01)

Debra J. Horn (01-02)

Suzanne M. Nigro (02-03)

Michelle J. Sheehan (03-04)

Halle M. Hebert (04-05)

Monique B. Lampke (05-06)

Pamela D. Houston (06-07)

Susan E. Peterson (07-08)

Michele A. Shuster (08-09)

Lisa R. House (09-10)

Valoria C. Hoover (10-11)

Jennifer Breech Rhoads (11-12)

Michelle Proia Roe (12-13)

Mag. Judge Stephanie K. Bowman (13-14)

Claudia S. Herrington (14-15)

## Event Recap:

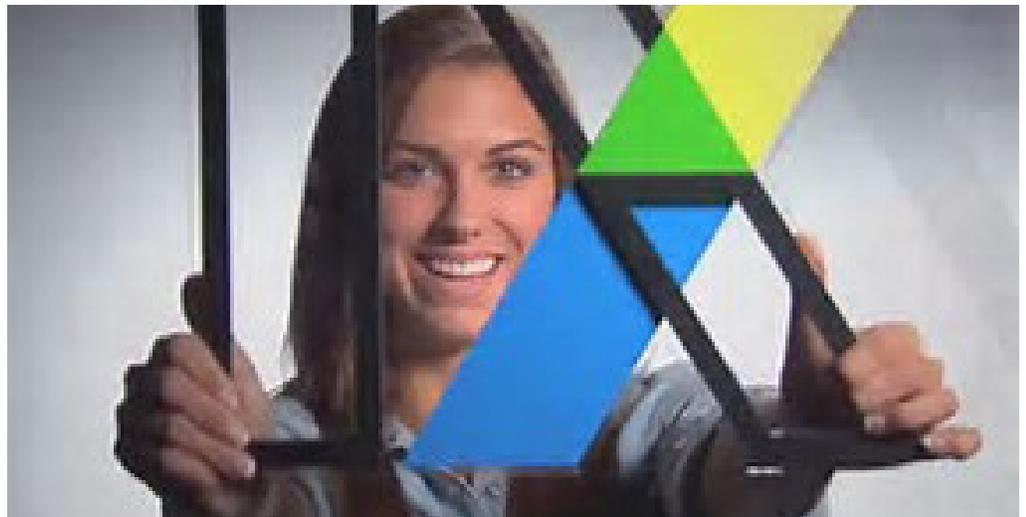
# Title IX Sexual Violence and Harassment Prevention Program

Ohio Northern University's (ONU) Title IX Office held a free event on April 4, 2016, from 1 to 4 pm in the Dicke Forum in the Business Building of Ohio Northern University's campus.

The topics covered were:

- Title IX – Sexual Violence and Harassment: How do we recognize them? What resources and options are available?
- Title IX – Through the Eyes of a Victim: Why do they stay? Why don't they report?
- Title IX – Consent and Sexual Assault: Breaking through the Myths

The speakers were engaging. Thank you so much to Kelly Jennings Yeoman, partner at Vorys; Muriel Black, prevention coordinator at Open Arms Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services; and Michael Tarbet, prevention coordinator Crime Victim Services for providing such a wonderful and informative program to our attendees.



## Follow us on Social Media

The Ohio Women's Bar Association can be found on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Join our groups, like us and connect to us to share information and connect with women attorneys across Ohio.



<http://www.facebook.com/OhioWomensBarAssociation>



<http://www.twitter.com/OWBA>



<http://www.linkedin.com/Group/OhioWomen'sBarAssociation>