Superwoman and Real Women: Leading, Following, Caring, Evolving, and Sometimes Making Do

William & Mary Law School

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SEVENTH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Superwoman and Real Women
Leading, Following, Caring, Evolving, and Sometimes Making Do

September 21, 2018
Williamsburg, VA
Much is expected of lawyers in the world. They must provide advice and formulate strategies on many subjects, lead teams of lawyers and paralegals, “manage” their clients, manage their schedules, care for their families, find time for self-care, actualize their potential and yet maintain their humanity, always look good and always talk smart. Believe it or not, it is doable. Sometimes.

This year’s Leadership Conference coincides with William & Mary’s celebration of 100 years of co-education.

In the fall of 1918, 24 women were admitted as undergraduate students, making W&M the first public co-educational university in Virginia.

Today, William & Mary women include professors, deans, coaches, award-winning scientists, playwrights, poets, entrepreneurs, community leaders - and the 28th president of the university.

The 100th Anniversary of Women celebration will feature speakers, performers, events, and surprises. This year is not just for women - it is for the entire Tribe!

www.wm.edu/100yearsofwomen
Seventh Annual Leadership Conference: Superwoman and Real Women - Leading, Following, Caring, Evolving, and Sometimes Making Do

September 21, 2018

SCHEDULE

8:15 AM - 8:40 AM  COFFEE SERVICE AND WELCOME FROM DEAN DOUGLAS
Hixon Center, Penny Commons

8:45 AM - 9:40 AM  PICK-A-PANEL SESSION 1
Panel A: “The Need to Lead,” Room 133

Studies show that most leaders begin to exercise leadership skills in middle school. Others discover their leadership skills in college. Only a few emerge as leaders in middle age. How are leaders built? Who were your influencers? What leadership experiences formed your leadership style? What challenges, setbacks, or failures made you a better leader? How do you prepare for leadership moments? Do you/how do you seize leadership opportunities?

Kristan B. Burch J.D. ’98  
Sheyna N. Burt B.A. ’98, J.D. ’01  
Brandi Zehr B.A. ’04, J.D. ’09
Panel B: “Working as Part of a Team,” Room 124

Increasingly, lawyers work in collaborative teams. This means adapting to differing work styles, differing work ethics, racial and ethnic differences among members of the team, reactions to stress, reactions to “suggestions,” flexibility, sense of humor, meanness, and cooperativeness. How are good teams built and maintained? What tricks of the trade let you achieve your goals, build your own skills, pull your weight but not be exploited? What are the gender dynamics within teams? In a close working environment, are office romances inevitable?

Kimberly Hargrove J.D. ’05
Christine M. Shiker B.A. ’93, J.D. ‘97

9:40 AM - 9:50 AM BREAK

9:50 AM - 10:40 AM PICK-A-PANEL SESSION 2

Panel C: “Sandwiched Between Parents and Children,” Room 133

Here is the jackpot question: how do you balance the demands of a career, the desire for a meaningful life outside of the law, a rich engagement with every member of your family, the unexpected crises that occur in every family, the need for “alone time,” the need for novelty, and the need for sleep?

Hon. Cressondra Conyers J.D. ’92
Jennifer Daniel Kahl J.D. ’15

Nora Garcia Nickel J.D. ’07


Very few lawyers remain in a workplace for a lifetime. They move on, find something better, change their areas of interest, face the reality of a child-filled home life, lose interest in a traditional practice, lose their job, or conclude they do not love the law at all. Or, they do not love their spouse. All of these changes are common, defensible, and often empowering. They can also be scary, and even debilitating. How has change come to you or you to it? What were the signs that you needed a change? What did you fear? How did you create your “new self?” How is the “new self” working out?

Elizabeth C. Carver J.D. ’84
Joelle Laszlo J.D. ’09

Ann K. Sullivan J.D. ’78

10:40 AM - 10:55 AM BREAK

10:55 AM - 11:25 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout 1 - “How Can I Build a Personal Brand That is Authentic?” Room 134

Sheyna N. Burt B.A. ’98, J.D. ’01
Margaret Hardy J.D. ’95

Joelle Laszlo J.D. ’09
Christine M. Shiker B.A. ’93, J.D. ’97

Breakout 2 - “How Can I Identify the Best People With Whom to Work?” Room 137

Elizabeth C. Carver J.D. ’84
Ann Fairchild J.D. ’96
Wendy N. Reed J.D. ’92

Ann K. Sullivan J.D. ’78
Amanda Wieker J.D. ’09
SCHEDULE

Breakout 3 - "What is the Worst Part of Your Job? Seriously..." Room 133
Kristan B. Burch J.D. '98
Hon. Cressondra Conyers J.D. '92
Shannon E. Daily J.D. '09
Kimberly Hargrove J.D. '05
Jennifer Daniel Kahl J.D. '15
Nora Garcia Nickel J.D. '07

11:25 AM - 11:35 AM BREAK

11:35 AM - 12:05 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout 4 - "How Does One Cultivate Mentors and Champions?" Room 133
Sheyna N. Burt B.A. '98, J.D. '01
Hon. Cressondra Conyers J.D. '92
Shannon E. Daily J.D. '09
Ann Fairchild J.D. '96
Christine M. Shiker B.A. '93, J.D. '97

Breakout 5 - "How Do I Persuade My Clients I Am A Grownup?" Room 134
Kristan B. Burch J.D. '98
Jennifer Daniel Kahl J.D. '15
Joelle Laszlo J.D. '09
Wendy N. Reed J.D. '92
Amanda Wieker J.D. '09

Breakout 6 - "How Are Summer Associates Really Judged?", Room 137
Elizabeth C. Carver J.D. '84
Margaret Hardy J.D. '95
Kimberly Hargrove J.D. '05
Nora Garcia Nickel J.D. '07
Ann K. Sullivan J.D. '78

12:20 PM - 1:20 PM ALUMNAE LUNCH (by invitation)
National Center for State Courts
"Building Resilience by Overcoming Fear of Failure"
Ann Fairchild J.D. '96

1:35 PM - 2:20 PM Panel E: "Leaning In and Leaning Back - Do I Want to Be the Best or Do I Want to Be Content? Can I Have Both?, Room 127

"Satisficing" is defined as "aiming to achieve only satisfactory results because the satisfactory position is familiar, hassle-free, and secure, whereas aiming for the best-achievable result would call for costs, effort, and incurring of risks." Are you a satisficer? Or do you want more? In what areas of your life? What costs are reasonable to be (or have) the very best? What efforts? What risks? Where do you place yourself on the "lean in - lean back" spectrum? Can women who lean in co-exist with women who lean back? Can we all get along?

Jessica Arons J.D. '00
Shannon E. Daily B.A. '06, J.D. '09
Margaret Hardy J.D. '95
Barbara Johnson J.D. '84 (Moderator)
Wendy N. Reed J.D. '92
Jessica Arons '00
Senior Advocacy and Policy Counsel for the Reproductive Freedom Project
American Civil Liberties Union
Washington, D.C.

Jessica Arons is the ACLU's Senior Advocacy & Policy Counsel for Reproductive Freedom. In this role, she supports ACLU affiliates with policy needs; coordinates strategic initiatives; and works to leverage and integrate advocacy, litigation, and organizing strategies regarding reproductive health, rights, and justice.

Most recently, Ms. Arons served as president & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project and director of the Women’s Health & Rights program at the Center for American Progress. She also worked for the ACLU’s Reproductive Freedom Project; James & Hoffman, LLC; the Supreme Court of Virginia; the White House; and the 1996 Pennsylvania Democratic Coordinated Campaign.

She is on the advisory board of If/When/How and is a former board member of the ACLU of Virginia and the D.C. Abortion Fund. She received her Juris Doctorate from William & Mary Law School and her Bachelor of Arts from Brown University.

Kristan B. Burch '98
Member and Co-Chair of Intellectual Property and Franchising
Kaufman & Canoles P.C.
Norfolk, Virginia

Kristan Burch is an equity partner in the Litigation Section at Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. She currently serves on the Executive Committee for the firm.

After graduating from the University of Virginia (Bachelor of Arts) and William & Mary Law School (Juris Doctorate), she clerked for the Honorable James E. Brabham in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division.

Since joining Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. in 1999, Ms. Burch has practiced in the Litigation Section focusing on construction law and intellectual property with her office in Norfolk, Virginia. She is a member of the firm’s Government Contracts and Construction Law Practice Group and the firm’s Infrastructure & Transportation Team. She is co-chair of the firm’s Intellectual Property Practice Group.

Ms. Burch served as President of the Hampton Roads Chapter of the Federal Bar Association from 2006 to 2007. She served as the Chair of the Intellectual Property Law Section from 2008 to 2009 and served as the Chair of the Intellectual Property & Information Technology Section of the Virginia Bar Association from 2010 through 2011. She served on as the Chair of the Construction and Public Contracts Law Section of the Virginia State Bar from 2011 to 2012. Ms. Burch served on the staff for the Harry L. Carrico Professional Course for the Virginia State Bar from 2011 through 2014 and currently serves on the staff for the Professionalism Course for Law Students. She served two terms as the Chair of the Litigation Section of the Virginia State Bar from 2015 to 2017. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Norfolk-Portsmouth Bar Association.

Ms. Burch was selected by her peers to be included in Virginia Business magazine’s “Legal Elite” from 2004 through 2017 and in Virginia Super Lawyers from 2013 through 2017. She was named Top 40 Under 40 by Inside Business in 2007. She has been listed in Best Lawyers in America from 2015 through 2018.

Sheynia Nicole Burt '01
The Law Offices of Sheyna N. Burt, PLC
Manassas, Virginia

Sheyna Burt is the owner of The Law Office of Sheyna Nicole Burt, PLC, a law firm focusing on the representation of community associations, charitable nonprofits, and families in Virginia and the District of Columbia. She prides herself on helping clients to identify and achieve their goals, from the Homeowners Association Board trying to address crime in the community, to the orchestra raising money to remove barriers to access to healthcare, to the single mother desperate to help her kids succeed.

Ms. Burt’s legal career began behind the scenes in Judges’ Chambers - she served as a law clerk to the Judges of the Circuit Court for the City of Alexandria, Virginia for nearly two years. From there, she practiced insurance coverage defense at a multinational law firm and community associations law at a boutique firm before opening her own shop. Ms. Burt is frequently invited to speak on matters of legal concern for organizations such as the National Conference and Expo of the Community Associations Institute, the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the Community Association’s Institute Conference and Expo, the Neighborhood Leaders Group, the Riverside Rehabilitation Center, the Prince William Committee of 100, and the Prince William County Bar.


She was a founding member of the Prince William County Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, graduated in 2013 from Leadership Prince William, is an Elder for Stewardship and Finance for Covenant Presbyterian Church, and serves on the Boards for the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, Keep Prince William Beautiful (President), Manassas Business Council (Secretary), and Prince William’s Court Ap-
Elizabeth C. Carver '84
Partner
Dowd Bennett
St. Louis, Missouri

Elizabeth Carver is a partner with Dowd Bennett LLP in St. Louis, where she focuses her practice on appellate litigation in federal and state courts.

Before joining Dowd Bennett, she was a partner with Bryan Cave, where she practiced for 31 years. Ms. Carver has successfully handled appeals in a wide variety of substantive areas, including employment, banking, class action, product liability, breach of contract, tort, and insurance matters.

She has extensive experience representing defendants in appeals involving large punitive damage awards. Ms. Carver has argued cases before the Eighth Circuit, the Federal Circuit, the Missouri Supreme Court, and the Eastern and Western Districts of the Missouri Court of Appeals. She has briefed appeals in those courts and others, including the Fifth and Seventh Circuits, the Arkansas Supreme Court, and the Illinois Appellate Court. She has prepared amicus briefs on behalf of National Public Radio and the Product Liability Advisory Council, and has worked on a number of interlocutory appeals and extraordinary writ proceedings.

In addition, Ms. Carver regularly consults with trial counsel on legal issues such as dispositive motions, Daubert motions, and class action certification. She also assists with trial preparation, including pre-trial motions and briefing, jury instructions, and preserving potential trial error for appeal, as well as post-trial briefing. After graduating from William & Mary Law School in 1984, Ms. Carver clerked for the Honorable Floyd R. Gibson, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame.

On May 14, 2012, Ms. Conyers was elected by the Virginia General Assembly as Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge for the counties of Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex, making her the first elected African-American judge to serve in Virginia's 9th judicial circuit.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Conyers served as the Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Williamsburg and the County of James City. Prior to coming to the Williamsburg/James City Commonwealth’s Attorney's Office, she was a Deputy Commonwealth’s Attorney in Newport News, VA for eleven years, where she prosecuted all types of cases, specializing in child physical and sexual abuse cases.

Judge Conyers is a past president of both the Peninsula Bar Association (PBA), and the Williamsburg Bar Association (WBA), where she served as the first African-American president of the WBA. She is a charter member of the Williamsburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

Judge Conyers is or has been actively involved in teaching various aspects of law. She is an Adjunct Professor at the William & Mary Law School, and has served on the faculty of the National District Attorney’s Association’s National Advocacy Center.

In 2012, Judge Conyers was awarded the Jane Matilda Balin Award for Outstanding Lawyering by the Black Law Students Association of William & Mary Law School. She has also been recognized for her leadership by being awarded the 2015 Prentis Award by William & Mary for distinguished service to the college and the Williamsburg community.

Judge Conyers is married to Anthony Conyers, Jr. and together they are the proud parents of three adult children, and the adoring grandparents of four remarkable grandchildren, Brandon, Morgan, Avery, and "Bernie".

Shannon Daily '09
Associate
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Richmond, Virginia

Shannon Daily is an Associate on the Bankruptcy, Restructuring, and Creditors' Rights Team of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP in Richmond, Virginia. Her practice focuses on representing debtors, creditors' committees, creditors, and other parties in interest in complex chapter 7, 11, and 15 bankruptcies; adversary proceedings; commercial litigation; loan workouts; reorganizations; receiverships; and corporate recovery matters. Ms. Daily also regularly provides legal opinions and advice in connection with complex transactions for asset based-lending, safe harbored financial contracts, asset securitizations, conduits, derivatives and other financial hedges, REITS, REMICS, real
estate finance, and other capital markets transactions.

Ms. Daily enjoys handling pro bono work, including landlord/tenant disputes for the Pro Bono Housing Unit at Legal Aid Justice Center, international child abduction cases, estate planning matters, and corporate governance matters for local non-profits. Every year since 2010, Ms. Daily has received the E. Randolph Williams Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service. She was also recognized by Richmond's Style Weekly in 2017 as one of the "Top 40 Under 40."

She is a 2009 graduate of William & Mary Law School, where she was a proud member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Team and the Bill of Rights Journal. Prior to law school, she attended William & Mary. She graduated with honors as a member of Phi Beta Kappa in 2006, with Bachelor of Arts degrees in French and International Relations. While at William & Mary, she played cello with the William & Mary Symphony Orchestra, sang with the William & Mary Opera Workshop, was the President of the Equestrian Team, and had the opportunity to study abroad in Montpellier, France and Madrid, Spain.

Ann Fairchild '96
General Counsel, Region North America Siemens Corporation Orlando, Florida

Ann Fairchild is General Counsel for Siemens North America as well as Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary of Siemens Corporation in the United States. She oversees the legal operations of Siemens in the United States and Canada. Ms. Fairchild is an active business partner to the regional executive management of Siemens, enhancing business strategy and policy through pragmatic legal advice and the development of a strong, diverse legal organization across North America.

Prior to her current position, Ms. Fairchild was General Counsel of Dresser-Rand, a Siemens Company, as well as the Head of Legal for the US Projects Center of Expertise, the organization responsible for providing legal support for the Power & Gas, Wind, Power Generation Services and Mobility Divisions of Siemens. From 2008-2013, Ms. Fairchild was the General Counsel for the Oil & Gas Division of Siemens AG, based in Düsseldorf, Germany; here, she had global responsibilities for the legal affairs of the Oil & Gas operations of Siemens.

Ms. Fairchild is also the co-executive sponsor of the Women's Information Network at Siemens, or WIN@Siemens, a national network committed to promoting the inclusion, awareness and understanding of issues and challenges facing women within the Siemens workforce. The purpose for WIN@Siemens is to heighten awareness and address the unique business needs of women at Siemens, which contributes to Siemens core values and supports the Siemens goal of inclusion by attracting, retaining and motivating a diverse workforce.

She joined Siemens Power Generation Inc. in 1999. Prior to joining Siemens, Ms. Fairchild was an associate with McGuire Woods in McLean, Virginia. She clerked for the Honorable Tommy Miller, United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia from 1996-1997.

Ms. Fairchild obtained her Bachelor of Science in Commerce from the McIntire School of Commerce, University of Virginia in 1993, and her Juris Doctorate from William & Mary Law School in 1996.

Margaret Hardy '95
Shareholder and President Sands Anderson Fredericksburg, Virginia

As President of Sands Anderson, Margaret Hardy brings 22 years of leadership experience when advising clients and guiding the firm’s growth and vision. She’s a skilled attorney, combining her legal talents with a genuine belief in the value of working together, motivating each other, and learning from one another. Ms. Hardy strategically guides operations and supports her clients’ successes with forethought and positive leadership. In addition to serving as President, Ms. Hardy is managing shareholder for the Fredericksburg office and serves healthcare clients, local governments, and businesses with complete legal support. She also offers her talents as Group Leader of the Healthcare Group and member of the Government, Business, and Litigation Groups.

A registered nurse, Ms. Hardy applies her experience as a thorough and steadfast ally for health care clients navigating medical malpractice actions or disciplinary actions. Her creative legal solutions can further help businesses and professionals facing litigation to look ahead and proactively address their unique needs. She also guides local governments seeking resourceful and knowledgeable support. In addition, she serves as special commissioner, effectively and efficiently handling delinquent real estate tax collections. In this role, Ms. Hardy has helped recover millions of dollars of real estate taxes for several jurisdictions in Virginia.

Kimberly Hargrove '05
Partner Troutman Sanders LLP Tysons Corner, Virginia

Kimberly Hargrove is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Troutman Sanders LLP and is a member of the firm’s finance practice. She joined Troutman Sanders immediately after graduating from William & Mary Law School in 2005. She worked
in the firm’s Tysons Corner office for 13 years before recently moving to the D.C. office. Her practice focuses on lender representation in commercial real estate lending transactions, commercial finance, and troubled loan workouts.

She represents a number of national, regional, and local banks and non-bank lenders in all aspects of secured and unsecured credit transactions, including real estate acquisition; development and construction loans for many different types of commercial real estate; health-care lending transactions with a focus on the seniors housing industry; complex loans secured by many types of personal or business assets; community development loans; loans to non-profit entities; and loan purchases and sales. She leads a team of attorneys on both hallmark real estate projects in the D.C. metro area, as well as real estate projects located across the country.

Ms. Hargrove grew up in the Hudson Valley, but after attending William & Mary, has never since left the Commonwealth of Virginia. She is married to former William & Mary Law School classmate Justin, and they have two sons: Ryker (4) and Dax (20 mos.), 1 golden retriever, and 2 cats (all males, which is why she is happily attending this conference).

Barbara L. Johnson ’84
Founder
BLJohnsonLaw PLLC
Washington, D.C.

Barbara Johnson earned her Bachelor of Science (pre-med concentration in Chemistry) in 1975 from Hampton University, and her Juris Doctorate from William & Mary Law School in 1984. Ms. Johnson began her professional career in 1976 at The Dow Chemical Company as an analytical chemist.

After law school, Ms. Johnson was a member of a three-person legal department responsible for all legal matters at Dow’s Texas operations. She was a partner with Wickliff & Hall, PC, a minority-owned law firm in Houston, Texas, for 9 years and was an employment law partner with Paul Hastings LLP for 14 years. In 2016, she founded BLJohnsonLaw PLLC.

She also serves as Counsel to the firm of Potter & Murdock LLC, and specializes in the representation of management in labor and employment matters ranging from civil rights discrimination to breaches of contract. In addition, she represents companies before state and federal agencies and assists them with workplace investigations, compliance, and diversity and leadership programs.

Ms. Johnson was a member of the Board of Trustees of the William & Mary Law School Foundation, and served as its president (2014-2016) and vice president (2012-2014). She is Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Chair of the National Employment Law

Council, and a member of the Counselors Council of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Ms. Johnson was most recently appointed to William & Mary’s Board of Visitors in 2017.

Jennifer D. Kahl ’15
Associate
The Heritage Law Group
Newport News, Virginia

Jennifer D. Kahl is a 2015 William & Mary Law School alumna. After participating in W&M’s Elder Law and Veteran’s Benefits clinics, she went on to practice Elder Law in the Hampton Roads area. She is currently an associate attorney at The Heritage Law Group where she specializes in Medicaid planning and estate administration.

Since her graduation three years ago, Ms. Kahl and her husband have had two new babies and started two new businesses. Life is a flurry of diapers, invoices, spreadsheets, and court dates! Jennifer has learned that there is no “right way” to be a young female attorney in the modern world. Each woman must discover what works best for her, ignoring what others believe about a “proper career” or an “ideal family”.

She loves her job, and she loves her family! She has a great desire to help other young women find similar happiness with their careers and families.

Joelle Laszlo ’09
Assistant General Counsel
Vencore, Inc.
Washington, D.C.

Joelle Laszlo is the Senior Counsel at Peraton Inc., a Herndon, Virginia-based contractor offering cutting-edge space, intelligence, cyber/signals intelligence, defense, homeland security, electronic warfare, and secure communications solutions to the U.S. Government. She provides legal guidance to support all aspects of the business, with a focus on ensuring compliance with Federal procurement processes and procedures, teaming and subcontracting conditions and obligations, and operational and contract performance requirements.

Ms. Laszlo is a 1999 graduate of Yale University, and received her Juris Doctorate from William & Mary Law School in 2009. Immediately before joining Peraton, she was the Assistant General Counsel for Vencore, Inc., a leading provider of information solutions, systems engineering, and analytics services. In her first position following law school, she advised U.S. and multinational clients in government contracts and export compliance as an associate in Reed Smith LLP’s Global Regulatory
Enforcement Group in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Laszlo has been a member of the Advisory Board of William & Mary Law School's Puller Veterans Benefits Clinic since 2015, and became its Co-Chair in 2016. Her other notable pro bono work is serving as the registered agent and legal advisor to The Espwxa Foundation, a Virginia grassroots non-profit dedicated to empowering Haitians to overcome poverty.

Nora Garcia Nickel ’07
Partner
Troutman Sanders
Richmond, Virginia

Nora Nickel has more than eight years of experience in commercial real estate, specifically the multifamily housing finance industry. She specializes in representing many of the top national lenders in origination, sale and servicing of loan transactions sold to secondary market investors - primarily Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Ms. Nickel has been with Troutman Sanders LLP since starting as a Summer Associate in 2005; in 2016, she was made partner where she currently serves. She has served as lead counsel for pool of 21 Freddie Mac CME loans secured by projects in 4 states totaling $500 million; she’s also led the refinancing of 17 of these properties. Ms. Nickel has served as lead counsel for the first ever Freddie Mac Reverse 1031 Exchange, a Capital Markets Execution program securitized loan that permits multiple takeout options for the sponsor.

Ms. Nickel currently serves on the Law School’s Alumni Association Board and is the current board secretary and chair of the alumni activities committee. She also is the Membership Chair for the Asian Pacific American Bar Association and has served as co-chair with the Virginia Bar Association/Young Lawyers Division Committee and Lawyers for Arts.

Wendy N. Reed ’92
President and Managing Shareholder
Wright & Talisman
Washington, D.C.

Known for her depth of knowledge and superb handling of clients, Ms. Reed focuses her practice on representing electric utility clients before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and federal courts. She is particularly focused on representing transmission owners in a variety of matters including transmission rates, tariffs, regional transmission organization (RTO) formation, and compliance. In addition, she has extensive experience counseling the MISO Transmission Owners on all regulatory issues, as well as representing U.S. and Canadian entities on a wide range of electric regulatory matters.

Prior to joining Wright & Talisman, Ms. Reed was an associate in the energy and administrative practices of a well-regarded Washington, D.C. law firm. While in law school, she served as editor-in-chief of the William & Mary Journal of Environmental Law.

Christine M. Shiker ’97
Partner
Holland & Knight
Washington, D.C.

Christine Shiker is a partner at Holland & Knight LLP in the Washington, D.C. office and is a member of the firm’s Land Use and Government Law Group. Ms. Shiker represents clients on a number of land use and zoning matters in the District of Columbia, including proceedings before the Zoning Commission, the Board of Zoning Adjustment, and the District of Columbia Council.

Ms. Shiker’s experience includes processing planned unit developments and securing map and text amendments to the District of Columbia Zoning Regulations before the District of Columbia Zoning Commission; obtaining variance and special exception relief for property owners before the District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment; and preparing analyses and opinions on zoning and building code issues. Ms. Shiker also is experienced in securing public space approvals before the District of Columbia Public Space Committee. Likewise, Ms. Shiker’s practice includes pursuing legislative changes and approvals before the District of Columbia Council, including alley and street closings and dedications.

Ms. Shiker serves as chair of Holland & Knight’s Women’s Initiative in the Washington, D.C., office.
Ann Sullivan is one of the Sullivan Law Group's senior partners and leads the Employment Law Group. She has been recognized as one of the best lawyers in America for Employment Law, Management and Employee. She has been voted Super Lawyer for more than a decade. She represents employers across the full spectrum of labor and personnel issues, including ERISA claims, Fair Labor Standards Act grievances, discrimination actions, sexual harassment and wrongful discharge litigation. She has successfully concluded several collective actions under the FLSA.

Ms. Sullivan is married to a former prosecutor and defense attorney, and she has two daughters and a son-in-law. She enjoys being a master gardener, with a focus on community gardening; her affiliation with Rotary; The Muse Writing Center; and her extended family.

Her prior civic commitments include teaching English as a second language; chairing the Board of Trustees of the Norfolk Public Library and the Norfolk Law Library; serving as president of the Norfolk Sunrise Rotary Club; co-chairing Paint Your Heart Out; chairing the Virginia Bar Association Civil Litigation section; and Lawyers Helping Lawyers. She considers herself a lifetime learner.

Amanda Wieker is an Administrative Patent Judge with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's Patent Trial and Appeal Board, where she presides over inter partes trials concerning the patentability of contested, issued U.S. patents. She also hears appeals from adverse decisions of U.S. Patent Examiners, regarding pending patent applications.

Ms. Wieker began her career as a Patent Examiner, where she examined patent applications for various mechanical technologies. After attending William & Mary Law School, she joined the law firm of Ropes & Gray as a patent litigation associate. In that capacity, she litigated patent cases before U.S. district courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. International Trade Commission, and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. In 2014, she was appointed as an Administrative Patent Judge.

Ms. Wieker earned her Juris Doctorate in 2009 from William & Mary Law School, and her Bachelor of Engineering from Vanderbilt University in 2002, where she studied Biomedical Engineering. She is admitted to the bars of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. She lives outside of Richmond, Virginia, with her husband Steve, and her two children, Liam and Owen.

Brandi Zehr advises candidates, officeholders, political parties, PACs, corporations, trade associations, and other organizations on compliance with all aspects of law concerning the political process, including state and federal campaign finance, ethics, lobbying, and pay-to-play laws. She's currently a partner at Wiley Rein LLP.

Ms. Zehr counsels candidates running for federal office at all stages of the electoral process. She represents clients before the Federal Election Commission (FEC) in enforcement proceedings, rulemaking comments, and advisory opinion requests. In addition, Ms. Zehr represents clients before the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE), U.S. House Committee on Ethics, and U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics in ethics matters.

Ms. Zehr's professional experience includes: Law Clerk for the National Republican Senatorial Committee; Associate Counsel (2009) and Law Clerk (2007-2008) with the Republican National Committee (RNC); Outside Counsel for Governor Tim Pawlenty’s Presidential Campaign; Deputy General Counsel for the Jeb Bush Presidential Campaign; and Counsel at the Office of Commissioner Lee E. Goodman.
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