

2004 Women in Law Leadership Academy

Last year's conference was held on April 16-17, 2004 at the Wyndham Hotel in Chicago. Over 200 women lawyers were in attendance. A similar Academy will be held in the spring of 2005. Stay tuned for more information. Below is a brief description of the Women in Law Leadership Academy offered last spring.

You have heard the expression "born to lead." At the heart of this notion is the fact that sometimes leadership skills come naturally and in other instances, leadership needs a guiding and nurturing hand. The Commission on Women is pleased to launch the first-ever "Women in Law Leadership" Academy in April 2004. The Academy's mission is to empower recently licensed women lawyers by providing a skill set that enables them to direct and manage their own careers more effectively by gaining knowledge, finding mentors and honing their networking capabilities – thus providing guidance to stay the course and keep one's career intact and moving forward. Attendees will get practical advice from successful lawyers who have overcome the obstacles facing women in the profession and gain the confidence they need to thrive, find the right balance, and develop the capacity to lead.

We invite women lawyers from all law firms, corporations, government agencies, academia, judiciary, and nonprofits to join us. Our target audience is women who have been in practice fewer than 10 years. However, we welcome those women who have been practicing more than ten years and indeed might find this Academy an important informational "tool" in their career development. We seek a diverse audience from all racial and ethnic backgrounds, and anticipate that participation in this Academy will be a superb opportunity for all participants to mix, mingle, and learn together. Knowing that law firms and other legal employers recognize the value in retaining their young lawyers, we trust that they will take advantage of this program by actively encouraging your recently hired women to attend.