Location
Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604

Date and Time
March 3, 2020
Registration 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Program: 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Reception: 4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Spring Summit for Advancing Women in the Law
A summit of legal professionals to discuss the current landscape for women in law and what new research tells us about the need for change.

Topics include:
Why Do Women Stay and Why Do They Leave: Findings from the Achieving Long-Term Careers for Women in Law Research Initiative
What Will Drive Change: Law Firm Leaders Weigh In
New Ways to Break Old Barriers: The General Counsel View
What Do We See and What Do We Say: A View from the Bench

AGENDA
Welcome
12:15 – 12:30 p.m.
Opening remarks by American Bar Association President Judy Perry Martinez (pending)

SESSION 1: Why Do Women Stay and Why Do They Leave: Findings from the Achieving Long-Term Careers for Women in Law Research Initiative
12:30 – 1:15 p.m.
Under the leadership of ABA Past President Hilarie Bass, Stephanie Scharf and Roberta Liebenberg served as co-chairs of a groundbreaking research initiative, Achieving Long-Term Careers for Women in Law. The initiative set out to understand the barriers that continue to prevent women from reaching their full potential as lawyers and why women have been fleeing the legal profession. Scharf and Liebenberg will share key findings from the four-prong research initiative and discuss efforts to develop solutions with ABA Past President Paulette Brown.

Moderator:
Corinne Cantwell Heggie, Partner, Wochner Law Firm LLC

Panelists:
Paulette Brown, Senior Partner and Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Locke Lord LLP
Roberta Liebenberg, Senior Partner, Fine, Kaplan and Black, R.P.C.
Stephanie Scharf, Partner, Scharf Banks Marmor LLC

SESSION 2: What Will Drive Change: Law Firm Leaders Weigh In
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.
Women are more than 50% of law school graduates and nearly 45% of AmLaw 200 associate classes are female, yet women somehow represent less than 25% of all AmLaw 200 equity partners. Why the massive gap and what will drive change? A diverse panel of law firm leaders will discuss what are law firms doing to advance women into roles of leaderships, what actually works, and where improvement is needed.

Moderator:
Eileen Letts, Partner, Zuber Lawler & Del Duca LLP
Panelists:
Cyndie Chang, Managing Partner, Duane Morris LLP, Los Angeles
Guy Halgren, Partner, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP
Andrea Kramer, Partner, McDermott, Will & Emery LLP
Jami Wintz McKeon, Chair, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

BREAK
2:15 – 2:35 p.m.

SESSION 3: New Ways to Break Old Barriers: The General Counsel View
2:35 – 3:35 p.m.
Clients and customers are increasingly demanding diversity in corporate leadership, causing companies to look beyond profit and embrace inclusion. What can be done to retain, promote and develop women lawyers into the role of general counsel? A panel of prominent general counsels will discuss changes occurring in companies and what barriers still need to be broken to promote diverse attorneys in the general counsel role.

Moderator:
Mary Smith, Vice Chair, VENG Group, and CEO and Chair, Caroline and Ora Smith Foundation

Panelists:
Pedro DeJesus, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, & Corporate Secretary, Tampico Beverages, Inc.
Dennis Garcia, Assistant General Counsel, Microsoft Corporation
Dorothy G. Capers, Executive Vice President & Group General Counsel, National Express
Donna Parish, Chief Legal Officer, BMO Financial Group

SESSION 4: What Do We See and What Do We Say: A View from the Bench
3:40 – 4:40 p.m.
Gender balance in the judiciary is not only important for representation of women lawyers, but also for a balanced rule of law. A panel of judges will discuss their journey to the bench and why judiciary diversity enhances the legitimacy of courts. The panel will also discuss the biases they experience and why diverse women’s voices are needed on the bench.

Moderator:
Hon. Virginia Kendall, United States District Court Judge, Northern District of Illinois

Panelists:
Hon. Sara Darrow, Chief United States District Judge, Central District of Illinois
Hon. Rebecca Pallmeyer, Chief United States District Judge, Northern District of Illinois
Hon. Nancy Rosenstengel, Chief United States District Judge, Southern District of Illinois
Hon. Diane Wood, Chief United States Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Reception
4:45 – 6:00 p.m.
Please join us for light refreshments following the program.
Summit Steering Committee
Corinne Cantwell Heggie, Partner, Wochner Law Firm LLC (Co-Chair)
Mary Smith, VENG Group, and CEO and Chair, Caroline and Ora Smith Foundation (Co-Chair)
Aurora Austriaco, Shareholder, Valentine Austriaco & Bueschel, P.C.
Kenya Jenkins-Wright, General Counsel, Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission
Eileen Letts, Partner, Zuber Lawler & Del Duca
Pamela Menaker, Communications Partner, Clifford Law Offices
Jayne Reardon, Executive Director, Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism

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Women’s Bar Association of Illinois

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Federal Bar Association
Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago
Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois
Illinois State Bar Association’s Women in the Law Committee
Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism
Korean American Bar Association of Greater Chicago
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