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From the Chair

By Leslie Pedernales

It has been my pleasure to co-chair the Women in Communications Law committee over this last year. With Carolyn Forrest as the ABA Forum on Communications Law chair and guide, we have really stepped up our game in terms of programs, events and communication.

In November, WICL organized a Dinner & Show evening in New York City. We had our largest group yet see the Tony Award winning show, Come From Away, a musical that tells the true story of what transpired when 38 planes carrying nearly 7,000 passengers were ordered to land unexpectedly in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland immediately following the attacks of September 11, 2001. After the show, we were happy to take over a good portion of Café Un Deux Trois with an even bigger group. WICL also hosted a meeting and networking event in New York at Natsumi. This event serves to bring together WICL members from the tri-state area, as well as those of us attending other conferences and meetings from out of town. Be on the lookout for next year’s events in NYC in November. ......................(continued on Page 4)

WICL Member Spotlight: Giselle Girones

Giselle Girones is an associate in the Jacksonville office of Shullman Fugate PLLC, a predominantly female firm. Before joining Shullman Fugate, Giselle practiced at a well-known litigation firm in Jacksonville. Prior to that, Giselle clerked at a boutique Intellectual Property firm and worked with Universal Music Group as a marketing representative. Giselle is a Florida native, born and raised in Miami, Florida and is a fluent Spanish speaker. Giselle discusses her experience at Shullman Fugate and her journey getting to the firm:

If I had to sum up my experience at Shullman Fugate in one word it would be: wonderful! ......................(continued on Page 5)
Getting to Know Carolyn Forrest
By Catherine Robb

What better way to learn about Women in Communications Law than to ask them? And who better to ask with than our fearless Forum on Communications Law Chair, Carolyn Y. Forrest, VP of Legal Affairs, Fox Television Stations, and a loyal and active member of WICL. Carolyn’s legal career, her term as Forum Chair, and the motivations that drive her work/life balance is impressive and clearly one all WICL members would aspire to themselves.

“I was doing litigation, corporate litigation for Skadden Arps, and I wanted something that was more meaningful, something I could care about. I interviewed for a job with a firm doing media litigation that represented the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, WSP television, and television stations and newspapers around the country. The person who I interviewed with said I could do both corporate litigation and media litigation and suggested I go back and re-read New York Times v. Sullivan. He thought that it would resonate with me, and he was correct, it did. I thought, the First Amendment had been used in the civil rights movement successfully many times, so, when I got started, I really looked at the First Amendment as a friend of the civil rights movement. That was something I could care about and would want to protect—the right of free speech. That’s how I became involved in media law.”

Carolyn has known she wanted to be a lawyer since she was 10 years old, although her love of travel made her first consider a career as a flight attendant or even a traveling missionary. “When I was about 10 or 11 years old, I decided that missionaries had to give up a little more than I wanted to give up, so I decided, maybe I should think of something else. Being an ardent watcher of Perry Mason and other lawyer shows, I decided, yep, that’s what I want to do. I want to be a lawyer, and I have never wavered since.”

A typical day for Carolyn as V.P. of Legal Affairs for Fox Television Stations has her responding to whatever her stations need her to do. “And, if I don’t know it, I either learn it or I find someone else within our company who can help represent the clients, but I do whatever my clients need. Typically, that will mean responding to claims – copyright claims, or tort claims like libel or privacy. We get tons of take-down requests. But we don’t generally take things down that are accurate.” Carolyn reviews all of the stations’ contracts, negotiates their leases and license agreements for their towers, and drafts employment agreements. She has even had to sell properties, which she says is something she never thought she would have to do in her practice. “When you develop a really good relationship with your client, what ends up happening is they want you involved in all of their work, and that’s how we set it up, but I think we were more successful in convincing them that they needed to call us for everything because they do. So maybe that’s job security.”

Carolyn likes to be on the cutting edge, and constantly exposed to new technologies and new ways of looking at media. While it is challenging for a lawyer to keep apace of the changes in technology, Carolyn finds it interesting to experience the process from the inside as opposed to working at a law firm where you are usually reacting from the outside. As she explained, “here we work together to get it done. Yes, I’m giving legal advice, but I’m a part of the process and how the stations think about things. I can give them inside step-by-step legal advice and legal insights, and so, we are a part of the team that’s creating the future of our business and that’s part of the reason I like working in-house generally, and specifically at Fox.”

As Carolyn finishes up her term as Chair of the Forum, she says that what she is most proud of has been the emphasis she has placed on getting more people involved in the organization. “What I’m most proud of is that we’ve gotten new voices, new faces, new locations, just trying to reinvigorate the organization by being very inclusive and casting a broad net. I like to say that it’s very important to me that we give more people an opportunity to shine.” During Carolyn’s tenure, the Forum has added additional committee co-chairs, set up new committees (such as digital communications and copyright,
in addition to young lawyers), increased the subject matter and geographic diversity, and has even seen the start of an international law workshop during the annual conference. Carolyn was also successful at securing great new locations for the annual conference—New Orleans and Napa—during her tenure. Remaining on her To-Do list is the ongoing effort to increase membership.

Carolyn has been an active member of WICL for over 20 years, and has consistently attended WICL events and been on the front lines fighting for WICL’s position in the Forum for at least half that. She views WICL as a unique community of women lawyers who are supportive of one another, rather than competitive, and a place to share experiences (and problems) through a network of friends and lawyers whom she might not have known otherwise. “That, I think, is what WICL has done that is most important for me. It provided an opportunity for relationships to be formed and to grow. I’m very thankful for those relationships, and I’m sure I would not have had them had I not been a part of the Forum and not been a part of WICL. The other functions of the Forum don’t necessarily give you the opportunity to interact in a way where you bond and can form a relationship, an ongoing relationship about issues that you have in common.” WICL provided that.

In her personal life, Carolyn has been influenced by one important person. “My love of travel comes from my grandmother who will be 101 in a couple of weeks. She has traveled. She went to the Caribbean and hung out for a couple of weeks when she was 99. Since then, she only travels to visit me, but she will still ride the plane and pack and come down and stay. I mean, if I offered to take her somewhere, she would go.”

In addition to traveling the world, Carolyn is passionate about food, wine and exploring mysteries and adventures through reading. “Everyone knows that I love wine, I love to cook, I love to collect wines. I love, love, love to cook, and I love to have wine tasting dinner parties where I pair food with wine. That’s what I love, but I think most people who know me know that about me.” She went on to say that she loves all food—especially French and Spanish food—and wine; her favorite red wine is probably “anything with mouvedre in it, or syrah.” And, she loves to read, especially mysteries and science fiction. She started reading Isaac Asimov in 4th or 5th grade. “I have always read all of my life. I started reading when I was 3 years old. My family used to get together and spend time reading where my father, my mother and I would sit in the living room together and read books. There was a television and we did watch some television, but we all were into reading. It was nothing for us to read 2, 3, or even 4 books a week. I was reading Sherlock Holmes novels when I was in 3rd grade! I remember a trivia contest where the question was ‘who lives at 221 Baker Street?’ And in the 3rd grade, I raised my hand first and knew the answer, and everyone just looked at me like ‘Why does a 3rd grader know the answer to this?’”

As a leader in WICL, Carolyn would have this advice for women in communications law: “When you give of yourself, you will always receive more than what you give. And I think it is so important for people to mentor younger lawyers through the mentoring process. I think you learn so much more than what you’re sharing, and both parties benefit. So I think it is incumbent on people, no matter what stage you are in your career, to mentor those who are coming behind you.”

Thank you, Carolyn, for sharing yourself with WICL and the Forum, and with the many people who have benefitted from your mentorship and friendship.

*Portions of this interview have been edited for brevity and consistency.

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**That’s What She Said - an Evening with Joanne Lipman**

*By Jenn Dukarski*

Her motivation started with a story, the same one outlined in the introduction of her new book, *That’s What She Said – What Men Need to Know (AND WOMEN NEED TO TELL THEM) About Working Together*. When Joanne Lipman was seated on a flight to Des Moines, she engaged in casual conversation with her seat-mate, a nice gentleman from the New York suburbs. Over plastic cups of white wine, she mentioned that she was headed to speak at a women’s conference. The response was quick: “Sorry! Sorry I’m a man.” He stated how painful his diversity training was and that it, in a
nutshell, concluded that “it’s all your fault.” The rest of the flight resulted in silence, a silence that ultimately led to her book and to the wonderful discussions at the WICL annual meeting and at the following day’s Forum Conference luncheon.

Joanne Lipman served as the chief content officer at Gannett and was editor-in-chief of the USA Today. A profound talent, she rose through the ranks of the Wall Street Journal to become the first woman deputy managing editor. And her aim at the issue of women in the media resonated with the group when she stated, “I feel so strongly that we need more women in leadership in journalistic organizations because the leaders of our journalistic organizations are the ones who are setting the tone, who are determining what we think of as a society is important and what we think of as trivial.”

During the WICL evening program, the group wrestled with excellent questions, including how to work with the good guys – the men who feel that they are one wrong word away from creating an unintended bad act. This topic, which gained traction in the WICL meeting, and is duly covered in the book. Talking to a tech executive, Lipman discussed the gap between men and women. He said, “I thought I was a good guy. I treated everybody fairly. Lots of people are like me. They are well intentioned. But they don’t know what they don’t know.” Lipman stressed the role of men. To address women’s issues, she stated, men must be in the room.

Even though one in four Americans believe that we will invent time travel before women run half of the Fortune 500 companies, the book offers a handy “Cheat Sheet” which gives tips for everyone to level the playing field. Topics covered in her Cheat Sheet include ideas on interrupters, brag buddies and promotions. For these and other tips on getting the discussion started, That’s What She Said is available in bookstores and online now!

From the Chair (continued from Page 1)

In March, WICL hosted our annual meeting during the ABA Forum on Communications Law Conference at the Silverado Resort & Spa in Napa, CA. Our meeting featured a question and answer session with Joanne Lipman, author of That’s What She Said: What Men Need to Know (and Women Need to Tell Them) About Working Together. Ms. Lipman answered questions from WICL members in advance of her keynote address to the Forum on the same topic and provided candid responses and insights. As always, the networking part of the meeting was a great success, with many first time Forum conference attendees connecting with WICL members to help build our ranks!

In April, WICL is planning a breakfast meeting on Sunday, April 8 just prior to the start of the Representing Your Local Broadcaster conference in Las Vegas, NV. The meeting will feature a panel discussion, Charting Your Own Path as a Woman in Communications Law and will highlight the different career paths navigated by a variety of women in our Bar. On the Saturday evening before the breakfast and conference, we will also be organizing another Dinner & Show evening to see Michael Jackson’s Cirque du Soleil at the Mandalay Bay hotel.

As I wrap up my year as chair, I would like to thank my co-chair Catherine Robb of Haynes and Boone and co-chair-elect Jenn Dukarski at Butzel Long for all their help in organizing our events and communications. Additionally, Forum chair Carolyn Forrest of Fox TV, and Robin Luce Herrmann of Butzel Long, have been remarkably generous with their time and guidance. I look forward to seeing you all at future WICL events and hope you will consider becoming more active in WICL!
Get Involved!

There are many ways to become more involved with WICL. Below are some of our upcoming events. We hope to see you at some or all of these events. We also encourage you to take part in the various WICL projects and subcommittees described below. For more information about any of these events or projects, please contact the WICL Co-Chairs.

EVENTS

Spring in Las Vegas
In connection with the Representing Your Local Broadcaster continuing legal education seminar at the NAB Show in Las Vegas, WICL plans to host a Dinner & Show event on Saturday, April 7, as well as a breakfast program on Sunday, April 8. We will be organizing for a dinner at Jardin at the Encore Hotel and then seeing Michael Jackson’s Cirque Du Soleil at the Mandalay Bay Hotel.

November in New York City
We are thrilled to be meeting in New York for two special social events: a Dinner & Show event and after theater supper at Café Un Deux Trois; and a networking and educational luncheon.

Annual Forum Meeting
The 2019 annual meeting of the ABA’s Forum on Communications Law will be held in Miami, FL. Mark your calendar and save the date! Next year’s 24th Annual Conference is in Miami, Florida, January 31 through February 2, 2019. We’re staying on the beach at the Nobu Eden Roc and WICL will host a program and reception that will provide an opportunity for education and networking with outstanding women in the profession. Yes, the Super Bowl is Sunday, February 3, 2019, and we suggest you book your flights early if you’re flying from or connecting through Atlanta, Georgia, which is where the Super Bowl is being held.

PROJECTS & SUBCOMMITTEES

Newsletter Subcommittee
Responsible for putting together three newsletters each year, the one you are reading now in the fall/winter and one in the spring. Please consider contributing articles, news items about your successes and career, or help in putting the newsletter together.

Web Subcommittee
Responsible for overseeing and updating the content on the WICL section of the Forum Committee’s website. We hope this subcommittee will be in close contact with the newsletter subcommittee.

Legacy Interview Project Subcommittee/Joint Subcommittee with the Young Lawyers Division
The project’s goal is to record interviews with experienced practitioners of our Bar who can provide advice on the building blocks for a successful career in media law. A standard interview questionnaire will be provided to the junior attorney interviewers who are solicited and selected by WICL and the Young Lawyers Division jointly. The resulting recorded interviews may be utilized for different purposes. By asking more junior attorneys to conduct the interviews, we hope to get more of you engaged in our Bar. Finally, this will be a wonderful way to document and preserve information on the careers of distinguished members of the Bar. The subcommittee will assist in selection of interviewers and interviewees, coordination of interviews, and editing. We would need three to five members of this subcommittee to help out with the project.

Speaker’s Bureau Subcommittee
Responsible for recruiting candidates from our membership and establishing a list of WICL members who would be willing to speak/present on media/communications-related topics. These candidates would develop presentations on their own field of expertise and could be called upon to speak at WICL and Forum events.

WICL Member Spotlight: Giselle Girones
(continued from Page 1)

I always knew I wanted to pursue a career involved with the media. I graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Communications and Sports Management and my experiences
throughout college really solidified my interest in the field. While in college I was a contributing writer for the campus newspaper and also wrote some pieces for our local Greek magazine. I also worked with the Football Office drafting press releases and assisting with other press-related tasks. I balanced all this while working as a marketing representative for Universal Music Group, where I had the chance to promote and work with artists under multiple music labels.

Despite those experiences, I always had law school in the back of my mind. After taking several media law-related courses, I realized I could merge my passion for the media with my natural knack for analyzing and solving problems. My experiences throughout law school really solidified Media and Intellectual Property as the practice areas I wanted to pursue, however, upon graduating, I ended up taking an associate position with a well-known general defense firm in Jacksonville where I primarily focused on workers’ compensation, insurance coverage and business litigation.

I have always been heavily involved with local and national organizations and it was ultimately my involvement in law school as Vice President of the EASL organization that led me to Shullman Fugate. As the Vice President, I had reached out to Rachel Fugate in the hopes of securing her as a speaker at one of our events. Although the timing did not work out, I remained connected with Rachel on LinkedIn as someone I could look up to in the field.

I stumbled upon the associate position at Shullman Fugate when I saw Rachel’s post about the opening while scrolling through LinkedIn. I took the leap of faith and applied for the position. The interview process far exceeded any expectations I had. I first interviewed with Deanna and instantly knew that this was the place for me. Throughout the interview she anticipated my concerns and questions and the entire process felt right. I then had the opportunity to meet with Rachel and the connection was instant. I knew the firm would be an excellent place to work at and it was refreshing to see two high-powered women at the head of it all, although that certainly was not the driving force behind my decision to apply or accept. Instead, I chose to accept the position because it was not only in the practice area I wanted to be in but because I felt like they were genuinely invested in my growth as a lawyer.

In the seven months that I have been at the firm, I have gained invaluable experience and have had more opportunities than I did in my first full year of practice. We are all like-minded and highly-motivated women who continuously push each other to do better and better. I can honestly say that my skills significantly grow each passing day. It is an honor to get to represent our clients alongside women who are excellent role models for which I am thankful every day.