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Passing the Gavel

Outgoing President's Message



*Pamela Houston
with baby Caden.*

With this being my last President's Message, I have to give much thanks to the members of this organization for this past year's success. The OWBA has proven itself, yet again, as a truly worthy organization for women attorneys. I cannot tell you how many calls, letters, e-mails and cards I've received applauding the efforts of the OWBA. The response to our newly designed website and newsletter and their usefulness was overwhelmingly positive.

Further, our continuing and expanding relationship with the YWCA has helped to offer more leadership guidance and support for our members. And, there was that very successful golf outing in Cleveland, which was the best attended outing yet! Taking our Leadership Series to Columbus proved to be a wise move. The attendance at each series was above and beyond our expectations. As such, we will be moving forward and expanding into other areas of the State to help share this wonderful series with more members.

For those of you who attended our First Founder's Luncheon in February were exposed to a terrific get-together of both old colleagues and new. Judge Pat Hemann, who was among the many founders who spoke at the event, stressed the importance of other emerging leaders in the OWBA to step forward to continue to lead and support the OWBA for future members. It is that continued support and strength which will keep this organization growing.

We also looked into how to provide additional membership benefits and found ourselves offering CLE's for our members, which hasn't been done

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for some time. We are joining efforts with the Cuyahoga County Bar Association to sponsor quarterly CLE's for members. Please look for more information on these CLE's.

In addition to the foregoing events, we also participated in smaller, social/networking parties around the holidays, which gave many of us the chance to catch up with colleagues we hadn't had the opportunity to see in quite some time. During many of these events, discussions led to new ideas about how the OWBA can grow and what it can offer its members in the future. So, while it's bittersweet to write this last message as President, it's also exciting to see the willingness of members to want to continue to make the OWBA everything it can be.

As a final note, I am incredibly pleased at the success of our 2007 Annual Meeting. Special thanks to Violet Imre, Susan Petersen, Halle Hebert, Lisa House, Dawn Tarka, Jennifer Corso and all of the other committee members for helping out when I needed it most. We tried to plan the Annual Meeting around my due date, but the baby wouldn't cooperate! Fortunately, we had much of the planning for the meeting completed by the time I went into labor. But, no matter how much was planned, it took the efforts of these, and many more, talented women to pull off such a wonderful event. My event, too, was wonderful and Caden Elijah Houston came into the world on April 16, 2007. For now, Caden and I are both doing well and are enjoying a well deserved maternity leave.

Thanks again for all of your support. I wish all of you the greatest success in your careers. Please continue to support the OWBA and its new President, Susan Petersen!



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Shawn Cormier, OWBA's Bar Associations Liaison Committee Chair, has married, and is now known as **Shawn Cormier-Warren**. She was also named Partner at the law firm of Davis & Young L.P.A., and was a speaker at the Ohio Joint Insurance Fraud Seminar in March. Please note that the offices of Davis & Young have relocated to:

1200 Fifth Third Center
600 Superior Avenue, East
Cleveland, Ohio 44114.

President-Elect, **Michele A. Shuster**, and 2000-2001 OWBA President **Helen Mac Murray**, have joined efforts with colleagues to begin their own practice:

Mac Murray, Cook, Petersen & Shuster LLP
Three North High Street
New Albany, OH 43054
Phone: 614-939-9955

Congratulations, and Best Wishes for Much Success!

OWBA congratulates its Member and 2006-2007 Treasurer, **Jennifer L. Whitney**, on her new position with the New York office of Epstein, Becker & Green, a national labor and employment law firm. We are proud of your accomplishment and wish you great success! Don't forget to keep in touch!

Immediate Past President **Pamela D. Houston** welcomed baby Caden Elijah Houston to the world on April 16, 2007 at 7 lbs. 12 oz. Pamela, Caden and family are doing well. *Best wishes to all!*

SAVE THE DATE!

Date	Location	Event Description
Thursday, June 7, 2007 12:00 Noon to 1:30 p.m.	Cuyahoga County Bar Association 900 Leader Building 526 Superior Avenue East Downtown Cleveland 216-621-5112/www.cuybar.org	The New Ethics Series CLE The Rules Have Changed...Navigating Conflicts of Interest and Corporate Representation Under the New Ohio Rules
Tuesday, June 12, 2007 12:00 Noon	Via Teleconference	Executive Committee Meeting*
Tuesday, July 10, 2007 12:00 Noon	Via Teleconference	FULL Board Meeting*
Tuesday, August 14, 2007 12:00 Noon	Via Teleconference	Executive Committee Meeting*
Monday, September 10, 2007	YWCA/OWBA Golf Classic Blue Heron Golf Club in Medina	Mark your calendars today for a beautiful on this great golf course! Based on the success and feedback from last year, we look forward to having another great event combined with the YWCA. The day will include a Golf Clinic and 18 Holes of Golf, followed by Dinner. Details to follow.



***Executive Committee Meetings** are mandatory attendance for the President, President-Elect, Vice President, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Director. Unless otherwise stated, the EC meetings will be held via teleconference, and call-in information e-mailed to those expected to be in attendance.

Full Board Meetings are mandatory attendance by the Executive Committee members, District and At-Large Trustees, Committee Chairwomen and the Executive Director. Board Meetings are open to the General Membership as well, which we welcome and encourage if anyone wishes to actively participate in OWBA activities and wish to be considered in future leadership positions. RSVP is required for attendance by the General Membership, at which time location and/or call-in directions will be provided via e-mail.

Project Update: Ohio's First 100 Women Attorneys

OWBA's 2007-2008 President, Susan E. Petersen, has made it a priority to complete the project kicked off a few years ago, to track down Ohio's first 100 women admitted to the practice of Law. We are going to spend this next year researching to find the names and the stories of Ohio's First 100, and then hope to interview family members, friends, and researchers for a video documentary featuring some of the highlights of our project while paying tribute to all of the First 100. We are also considering a possible book publication as well.

To start, we are in contact with the Ohio Supreme Court to dig up the names and the stories behind Ohio's First 100. However, the early records are handwritten and many contain only initials without data on gender and are contained in four filing cabinets at the Court. Therefore, we are hoping to enlist the help of each of Ohio's law schools for information regarding its first female graduates which presumably, may have gone on to become licensed practitioners in Ohio.

The first woman admitted to the practice of law in Ohio was Nellie Conise Luttes on April 4, 1898, and her sister Florence Luttes was admitted several months later in 1898. A few additional names have also been compiled, which will begin the process.

Thanks to those of you who have already expressed interest in working on the project — you will be contacted for help. Please note also that we would love to have some volunteers to assist us with going through the Supreme Court's four filing cabinets of names. Susan Petersen can be reached via email at sep@peteribold.com or by phone at 440-285-3511 ext 233. ■

OWBA's Annual Meeting 2007

In Review

OWBA's Annual Meeting was held on April 19th at The City Club of Cleveland. We were pleased to have over 170 OWBA members, guests, and members of the Judiciary. We welcomed two keynote speakers, **Leslie Ungar** of Electric Impulse Communications, who made us aware of communications skills to polish; and **Justice Maureen O'Connor** of the Ohio Supreme Court, who provided us with wonderful information about the Court and its workings.

Although outgoing President **Pamela Houston** was unable to attend due to the birth of her baby, Halle Hebert and Susan Petersen were present to fulfill her role. The *President's Choice Award* was given to **Lisa R. House** of Reminger & Reminger Co., LPA (Columbus) who has been an invaluable asset to the OWBA through her service not only as Annual Meeting Committee co-chair, and Law School Liaison Committee Chair, but has gone above and beyond to assist with various events, including OWBA's Silent Auction in November 2006, negotiating the repurchase of the OWBA.org website, and has been an constant source of help and support. She will continue to serve as OWBA's Third District Trustee.

OWBA's **2007 Hultin, Hemann and Resnick Scholarship** was awarded to Jessica Clarke, student at OSU's Moritz College of Law, J.D. Candidate May 2008. In addition to an exemplary personal statement submitted to OWBA, Jessica's extensive involvement in Student and Community Service/Outreach programs has made her a worthy recipient of this award. A special "Thank You" to the donations of Justice Alice Robie Resnick and Joyce Beatty (Minority Leader of the Ohio House of Representatives) toward the Law Student Scholarship Fund.

OWBA's **2007 Family Friendly Award** recipient is *Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.*, whose offices offer a variety of exemplary benefits to its employees. SS&D's Family Friendly benefits include part-time and reduced schedules; telecommuting on a case-by-case basis; flexible work schedules on a case-by-case basis; parental leave, Mother's Lounge (at some offices); paid leave in cases of adoption; BlackBerry® and laptop conveniences; Positive Parenting classes; and other benefits such as retirement policies, health insurance, prescription drug program, dental and vision insurance, life insurance, flexible spending accounts, long-term disability, LifeWorks (employee assistance program), and supplier discounts from companies (ie. GM, Verizon, Cingular, etc.).

Judge Melody Stewart of Ohio's Eighth District Court of Appeals, was present to swear-in the 2007-2008 Officers and Trustees. Once Pamela Houston's outgoing president's message was shared, the Gavel was passed to incoming president **Susan E. Petersen** of Petersen & Ibold (Chardon, Ohio).

Many thanks to the Sponsors of the Annual Meeting who made this great event possible!
OWBA's Title Sponsor was FIRSTMERIT. Other event sponsors, including those who made donations, and firms/companies who purchased tables (in alphabetical order):

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Continued on Facing Page

Annual Meeting 2007 *Continued*

Incoming OWBA President Susan E. Petersen with husband, Todd Petersen.



Susan E. Petersen, Vice President of Private Banking at FirstMerit Ellen M. Forbus, and co-Keynote Speaker Leslie Ungar.



Justice Maureen O'Connor addresses Annual Meeting attendees.



Lisa House presents OWBA's scholarship to law student Jessica Clarke.



Judge Melody Stewart swears-in 07-08 Board Members.

OWBA Founders' Banquet *In Review*

OWBA celebrated the first *Founders' Banquet* on February 9, 2007 at the Cleveland Athletic Club, where we honored OWBA's first Founders' Award Recipients, **Kerin Lyn Kaminski** and **Holly Taft Sydlow**. OWBA's Founders' Award will be presented annually to an outstanding OWBA member who has contributed to the OWBA and the legal profession. The recipient(s) will have rendered services to improve the administration of justice, and helped pave the way to success for women in the legal profession. In addition, we acknowledge her willingness to give back to the legal community, as well as the general public, while at the same time demonstrating professional excellence. We had over 100 OWBA members, judiciary, attorneys and family members present for this wonderful event. Our speakers at the event included Judge Patricia Hermann, Pamela Hultin, Sheryl Benford and Mickey Rabin who shared their experiences both inside and outside of the OWBA. Thanks to all of you for taking the time to support the OWBA!



Founders' Award Recipients **Holly Taft Sydlow** and **Kerin Lyn Kaminski**.

Many thanks to those who made this event possible by being a sponsor:

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Many Female Lawyers Dropping Off Path to Partnership

By Sacha Pfeiffer, The Boston Globe

For women, the law remains a frustrating profession.

Female lawyers continue to face intractable challenges in their attempts to become partners, causing them to abandon law firm careers - and the legal profession entirely - at a dramatically higher rate than men, according to a local study to be released today.

The study echoes the findings of other recent major reports, but offers more detailed statistics and demographic data. It also aims to draw attention to the social consequences of this troubling exodus: As fewer women ascend to leadership positions in their firms, the pool of women qualified to become judges, law professors, business chiefs, and law firm managers is shrinking.

"This shows that we are reaching a crisis point when it comes to the retention and advancement of women in the legal profession, and therefore a crisis point when it comes to women leaders generally," said Lauren Stiller Rikleen, a senior partner at the law firm Bowditch & Dewey and author of the book "Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women's Success in the Law."

For years, law firm leaders have insisted that as more women graduate from law school and enter private practice, the presence of women in leadership positions in the judiciary, in business, and in academia would grow correspondingly. But even though the gender gap in law firm hiring has been narrowing over the past decade, women are dropping off the partner track at alarming rates.

Of the 1,000 Massachusetts lawyers who provided data for the report, 31 percent of female associates had left private practice entirely, compared with 18 percent of male associates. The gap widens among associates with children, to 35 percent and 15 percent, respectively - reflecting the cultural reality that women remain the primary caregivers of children and are therefore more likely to leave their firms for family reasons.

The dropout rate among women lawyers is overwhelmingly the result of the combination of demanding hours, inflexible schedules, lack of viable part-time options, emphasis on billable hours, and failure by law firms to recognize that female lawyers' career trajectories may alternate between work and family, the report found.

The report, "Women Lawyers and Obstacles to Leadership," which was produced by the MIT Workplace Center in conjunction with several of the state's major bar associations, is rife with devastating commentaries on law firm life, including one female lawyer's remark that "I would not encourage my daughters to enter the legal profession."

Among its findings:

- Women make up only 17 percent of law firm partners.
- Women leave the partnership track in far greater numbers than men.
- Women stop pursuing partnership mainly because of the difficulty of combining work and child care.
- Nearly 40 percent of women lawyers with children have worked part time, compared with almost no men, even though men in the profession have more children than women, on average.
- Many firms have flextime policies but are "clever in discouraging their uses."

The impetus for today's report was a 2003 address to the Women's Bar Association by US District Court Judge Nancy Gertner, who called for urgent attention to the relative lack of women in leadership positions in the law. That spurred the creation of the Equality Commission, comprising representatives from the WBA, Women's Bar Foundation, Boston Bar Association, and Massachusetts Bar Association.

The commission's report surveyed the state's 100 largest firms about their attrition rates from 2002 to 2004, and also surveyed individual male and female lawyers about their movements in and out of firms from 2001 to 2005. About half the firms responded. Among individual lawyers, about 35 percent, or nearly 1,000, responded.

Of women who jump off partnership track, slightly more than half move to legal positions at nonprofit groups, government agencies, or corporations, where their schedules are often less grueling, according to the report. But 46 percent leave the law altogether, compared with less than a third of men who leave the partnership track.

Lawyers who step off the partnership track can often stay at firms in other capacities, including as so-called income partners. But the hours are often just as grinding, and income partners are essentially salaried employees, unlike "equity partners" whose earning potential is higher.

Practicing law also seems to force women to choose between working and having a family, the report said; senior male lawyers are more likely than their female peers to be married or living with partners (99 percent vs. 84 percent, respectively) or to have children (80 percent vs. 68 percent).

Two other local studies in the past decade reached similar conclusions. In 1999, a Boston Bar Association report concluded: "We are in danger of seeing law firms evolve into institutions where only those who have no family responsibilities - or, worse, are willing to abandon those responsibilities - can thrive." In 2000, the Women's Bar Association released a report that found workplace flexibility was critical to women's success, but often elusive.

"The conclusions of all of these studies are very much the same," said Mona Harrington, program director of the MIT Workplace Center, "and that in itself is a story: Nothing is changing."

The ramifications of that failure to change extend well beyond law firm corridors, the study's backers warned. "If we don't reverse this trend, we will not only not have a greater representation of women on the bench and in academic institutions," said Pamela E. Berman, a recent past president of the Women's Bar Association, "but we'll actually see regression."

Sacha Pfeiffer can be reached at pfeiffer@globe.com.

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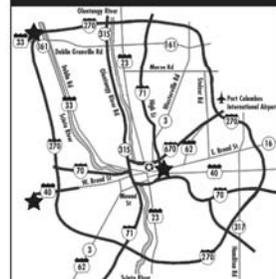
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One year ago, Ms. JD was an idea shared by a group of law students from around the country. Politically, racially, and geographically diverse, these women were all concerned by the rates at which women opt out of the legal profession, the lack of representation of women in the highest courts and echelons of the legal community, and the role of gender in the progression of many women's legal careers. Since then they've raised funds from law schools and law firms including Yale, Michigan, Stanford, UCLA, Latham Watkins, Cooley Goodward, Paul Weiss, and Wilkie Farr & Gallagher. Today Ms. JD is an interactive blog featuring posts from women lawyers, students, and their allies from around the country.

Who is Ms. JD?

Ms. JD provides a forum for dialogue and networking among women lawyers and law students. Ms. JD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan community founded by a group of law students from around the country. Contributors are dedicated to reinforcing and expanding the representation of women in law school and the legal profession.

Ms. JD seeks to improve the experiences of women in law school and the legal profession. Obstacles to equal participation hinder not only women in the law but also their colleagues, clients, children, and communities. Ms. JD consequently strives to give voice to why it matters that women continue to face these barriers. In doing so, Ms. JD spreads the word: women's victories are everyone's victories.

Already students and practitioners have filled the site with posts. Featured bloggers include Professor Barbara Babcock, Slate Magazine writer Dahlia Lithwick, Judge Dorothy W. Nelson, legal pioneer Shirley Hufstедler, Professor Herma Hill Kay, and Judge Deanell Reece Tacha.

For more information, visit www.ms-jd.org.

For more information, email ms-jd@legallyfemale.org or visit <http://legallyfemale.typepad.com/>.

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- Should you lengthen the term of your loan, thereby lowering your monthly payments?
- Can you shorten the term of your loan, thereby building your equity faster?
- **Decide if refinancing is advantageous**
 - Is the current interest rate for refinancing lower than your existing rate?
 - Can you afford the closing costs and transaction fees?
 - Does your current lender offer special deals for refinancing?
 - What effect will the refinance have on your payments and your current home equity?
- **Compare your best refinance option** with your current mortgage.
- **Determine your payoff amount**, including any prepayment penalty. (Consult with your lender.)

If you need a larger loan or to obtain an ongoing source of funding in order to remodel, make major purchases, pay off other loans and consolidate debt, or meet any other financial needs:

- **Determine the amount of money you need.** Is this an unknown amount, likely to fluctuate over a long period of time? If so, a home equity line of credit might be your best financing option. You can take money out as you need it and pay interest only on what you borrow.
- **Assess current interest rates.** Are interest rates generally better than your existing rate?
 - If yes, cash-out refinancing (replacing your existing mortgage with a larger amount) might be your best option.
 - If no, getting a home equity account is a smart way to leverage your home asset. It allows you to keep your current mortgage intact.
- **Determine the details of the products you're considering.** Be sure to consider closing and transaction costs, as well as your new monthly payment. Ask your lender for help.

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- **Assemble required financial information**, such as:
 - Year property was acquired
 - Original cost of the home
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 - Income information
 - Information regarding other debts
 - Bank statements
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Meet Your OWBA!

Listed below are the Executive Officers and Board of Trustees members of the Ohio Women's Bar Association for 2007-2008. The next edition of the OWBA Network will list Committee Chairs as well. Visit our website, <http://www.OWBA.org> for contact updates.

Title	Name/Firm	Phone/Fax/E-mail
President	Susan Petersen Petersen & Ibold Village Station 401 South Street Chardon, Ohio 44024	Phone: 440-285-3511 Fax: 440-285-3363 E-mail: sep@peteribold.com
President-Elect	Michele A. Shuster Mac Murray, Cook, Petersen & Shuster LLP Three North High Street New Albany, Ohio 43054	Phone: 614-939-9955 Fax: 614-939-0987 E-mail: mshuster@mcpplaw.com
Vice President	Robin E. Harvey Baker & Hostetler LLP 312 Walnut Street, Suite 3200 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-4038	Phone: 513-929-3409 Fax: 513-929-0303 E-mail: rharvey@bakerlaw.com
Secretary	A.Elizabeth Cargle Wegman Hessler Vanderburg 6055 Rockside Woods Boulevard, Suite 200 Cleveland, Ohio 44131	Phone: 216-642-3342 Fax: 216-642-8826 E-mail: aecargle@wegmanlaw.com
Treasurer	Beth C. Bolyard Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP 41 South High Street, Suite 1300 Columbus, Ohio 43215	Phone: 614-365-2787 Fax: 614-365-2499 E-mail: bbolyard@ssd.com
Immediate Past President	Pamela D. Houston Andrews & Pontius, L.L.C. 4817 State Road, Suite 100 P.O. Box 10 Ashtabula, Ohio 44005-0010	Phone: 440-998-6835 Fax: 440-992-6336 E-mail: phouston@andrewspontius.com
First District Trustee	Barbara Bison Jacobson Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP 221 East Fourth Street Atrium II, Suite 2000 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202	Phone: 513-723-4000 Fax: 513-723-4056 E-mail: bbjacobson@vssp.com
Second District Trustee	Mary K.C. Soter Attorney at Law 5518 North Main Street Dayton, Ohio 45415-3455	Phone: 937-278-8275 Fax: 937-278-1115 E-mail: jim@soterlaw.com
Third District Trustee	Lisa R. House Reminger & Reminger Co., L.P.A. 65 East State Street, Fourth Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215	Phone: 614-228-1311 Fax: 614-232-2410 E-mail: lhouse@reminger.com
Fourth District Trustee	Kyra M. Raimey Law Offices of Kyra M. Raimey LLC 8050 Beckett Center Drive, Suite 117 West Chester, Ohio 45069	Phone: 513-874-8740 Fax: 513-874-8775 E-mail: kraimey@raimeylaw.com
Fifth District Trustee	The Honorable Patricia A. Delaney Fifth District Court of Appeals 110 Central Plaza South, Suite 320 Canton, Ohio 44702	Phone: 330-451-7918 E-mail: judgedelaney@co.stark.oh.us

Title	Name/Firm	Phone/Fax/E-mail
Sixth District Trustee	Yolanda D. Gwinn United States District Court 1716 Spielbusch Avenue Room 318 Toledo, Ohio 43624	Phone: 419-213-5582 Fax: 419-213-5588 E-mail: ygwinn@ohnd.uscourts.gov
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Ninth District Trustee	Jennifer Mingus Mountcastle Thompson Hine LLP 3900 Key Center 127 Public Square Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1291	Phone: 216-566-5874 Fax: 216-566-5800 E-mail: Jennifer.Mountcastle@ThompsonHine.com
Tenth District Trustee	Barbara A. Roubanes Barbara A. Roubanes Co., L.P.A. 555 Metro Place North Suite 575 Columbus, Ohio 43017	Phone: 614-793-8113 Fax: 614-793-8957 E-mail: bar@roubaneslaw.com
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Twelfth District Trustee	Barbara L. Morgenstern Visiting Assistant Professor, Journalism Program Miami University, Oxford Ohio 646 Flagstaff Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45215	Phone: 513-227-4638 E-mail: morgenbl@muohio.edu
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Shading indicates Trustees continuing the second year of their two-year terms which began in 2006-2007.

One more thing ...

On Being a Late Bloomer

By Lesley Dormen '68

PHOTO BY SIGRID ESTRADA

It's almost spring, although in Greenwich Village, where I live, I swear I saw some about-to-waken blossoms back in December, baffled to find themselves in winter's strange 60-degree weather. Sixty is baffling — as an age as well as a temperature. As *my* age. Isn't "aging baby boomer" an oxymoron?

What's crazy is, I hear myself trumpeting the number with glee. Unlike those dizzy blossoms, I bloomed late. For instance, I'm on the verge of publishing my first novel. A first novel at 60 isn't exactly Grandma Moses territory, but the streets where I live are so crowded with literary wunderkinds that 60 makes me something of a standout.

I have other reasons to crow. Last winter, the dog of my dreams — a 2-year-old yellow Lab named Eliza, a washout from the Guiding Eyes Organization — joined our household after I spent a four-year wait on that worthy organization's coveted list.

As a late bloomer, I'm used to waiting. I married late (42), but I snagged the man of my dreams — a dream I wouldn't have thought to concoct had I been one second younger.

Here's another recently realized accomplishment: teaching. As an undergrad, I did a U-turn right out of Miami's education program and safely into English when student teaching became required. Now I'm teaching fiction writing to adults and loving it.

I hate those better-sex-at-60 cheerleaders as much as anyone, but after a young adulthood and early middle age marked by depression, ambivalence, and a glass-half-empty view of life, I'm not shy about boasting that my future has never felt more promising.

If you're a late bloomer yourself, or aspire to become one, permit me to offer a few pointers.

Know unhappiness. It's not that childhood knocks, paralyzing indecision, and a dark view are required, but anyone who's read *David Copperfield* knows life's upsets can trigger a noble search for identity.

Get lost. I didn't change course to get from there to here. I've been a dog lover since childhood, a journalist and essayist since my 30s, a marriage seeker since I was old enough to slow dance, a bossy schoolmarm since discovering my little brother didn't know his adjectives and adverbs. Searchers lose and find their course — over and over again.

Make mistakes. When I confessed mine to my husband-to-be (a man with "not guilty" written all over his face), he said he didn't think he could trust a woman who hadn't screwed up a fair amount. Oscar Wilde said experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes, but how else can you correct your course if you don't veer wildly off it now and then?

Fly your freak flag. I didn't marry young, become a mother, or learn to parallel park. On the other hand, I know how to tap dance, get out of debt, and create a fictional alter ego. If you look at my life as a map, I doubt you'll find it pretty. Side roads and wrong turns aren't necessarily scenic when you're on the hunt for yourself.

Don't ask "Who am I?" but "What gives me pleasure?" Dare to be banal and grandiose. Then hunt down those pleasures. Some of my desires took longer to realize than others. Yet by the time I closed in on them, it seems they'd been upgraded, like a computer that saves while you sleep. It was no longer enough to write a short story — I wanted to see it published. Dreams beget more dreams.

Lose faith. Some years all my good dreams went missing (all those dateless, dogless, sorry-for-myself New Year's Eves). This is it, I thought. I

despaired. Each time I recovered, I patted myself down for those dreams, the way you check for your wallet after being jostled on a crowded street. And there they were, right where I'd left them, still ripening.

Learn how to lose. I tell my students what Samuel Beckett said. "Fail again. Fail better." Loss is a certainty, grief a necessity, perfection unattainable. Wallow and wail if you must, but allow for the possibility that unhappy forces can galvanize you. I didn't bloom until both my parents had died.

Late bloomers have to create their own brand of luck. "No one should come to New York to live unless he is willing to be lucky," E.B. White wrote. Find out where your own willingness lives, then plant yourself in luck's path until it mows you down.

Are you there yet? Don't even think of resting on your laurels. Plant new dreams. Keep flowering. That's what I plan to do.

Lesley Dormen is the author of The Best Place to Be (Simon & Schuster, 2007). Her articles and essays have appeared in most major magazines and many anthologies. She teaches fiction at the Writers Studio in Greenwich Village, where she lives with her husband, Quentin, and her Labrador retriever, Eliza.



"One more thing" is a place for you to share your own reminiscences and observations about everyday happenings. Submit essays for consideration to: Donna Boen, *Miamian* editor, "One more thing," 208 Glos Center, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056 or e-mail to Miamian@muhio.edu. Please limit yourself to 700 words and include your name, class year, address, and home phone number.

Spring 2007

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Memorable Quotes!

Somewhere out in this audience may even be someone who will one day follow in my footsteps, and preside over the White House as the President's spouse. I wish him well!

—Barbara Bush, First Lady [at Wellesley College Commencement]

No written law has ever been more binding than unwritten custom supported by popular opinion.

—Carrie Chapman Catt [Speech at the Senate hearing on woman's suffrage, February 13, 1900]

In politics if you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman.

—Margaret Thatcher, British politician

A woman is like a teabag. It's only when she's in hot water that you realize how strong she is.

—Nancy Reagan, First Lady

A man's got to do what a man's got to do. A woman must do what he can't.

—Rhonda Hansome

Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition.

—Timothy Leary



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Join an OWBA Committee

Below is a brief description of each active OWBA committee. If you wish to participate, please e-mail Violet Imre at violet@owba.org and we'll sign you up!

Legislative and Elected Officials/Judicial Selections (JCRC)

Monitor legislation of interest to women, and provide pertinent information for dissemination to our membership. Alongside the *Cleveland Bar Association*, *Cuyahoga County Bar Association*, *Cuyahoga Criminal Defense Lawyers Association*, *Norman S. Minor Bar Association*, members of the JCRC interview candidates and review their qualifications to make recommendations to the general public through Judge4Yourself.com.

Programs and Projects

Any Networking events (ie. wine tastings, brown bag luncheons, etc.) or projects of interest to members. Also, seminars held by a guest speaker from the healthcare field (Breast Cancer/Heart Disease Forums, etc.) or financial/investment fields. Creativity is welcomed to find topics of interest to OWBA members.

Community Service

This committee enables OWBA members who love getting involved where opportunities to help are available. In the past, we've done Blood Drives, helped at Shelters, events at the Zoo for children, professional clothing drives, participated in fundraising "walks", etc.

Long-Range Planning

Chaired by OWBA's President-Elect, this Committee oversees past accomplishments vs. the direction OWBA should be headed in the year to come.

Mentoring

Plan ways of bringing our seasoned attorneys together with those seeking direction and advice.

Membership

Plan membership drives and creative opportunities to expand OWBA's membership.

Law School Liaison

Since OWBA offers complimentary membership to law students, this committee brings students and student organizations alongside the OWBA for various events and projects, and is in charge of selecting the annual Law Student Scholarship recipient.

Bar Associations Liaison

We have been able to establish and maintain a good relationship with the various Bar associations in Ohio. This committee's task is joining efforts to plan events and projects beneficial to everyone involved.

Annual Meeting and Convention

OWBA seeks to plan at least one, possibly two larger scale events annually. This committee plans the details, location, speakers, and assists in funding major events.

Part-Time Employment

OWBA honors a legal employer annually in Ohio who best exemplifies the commitment to work-life balance arrangements. Seeking nominations and submitting recommendations to the Executive Committee is the task of this committee.

Publications, Public Relations and Newsletter

OWBA's quarterly *OWBA Network* Newsletter is an accomplishment made possible by people who enjoy finding good articles, and/or writing substantive material. Anything pertinent to Ohio's women in law is welcome for submission. This committee seeks out usable material, and reviews/edits the newsletter once it is drafted.

Marketing/Strategic Planning

As OWBA expands, the need for this committee has increased greatly. Help with “selling” OWBA to potential sponsors, bringing on businesses who would benefit from the patronage of our members, and ensuring that the OWBA name is recognizable in Ohio’s legal community.

Ohio’s First 100 Women Attorneys

Based on a project done by CSU’s Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, OWBA is embarking on a project to re-search who the first 100 women attorneys licensed in Ohio were! This project will entail several aspects, including research, publications, marketing, funding and event coordination.

Golf Outing: Cleveland Columbus

OWBA has teamed up with various local organizations (YWCA, NAWBO, EWGA, etc.) to plan outings that offer not only an enjoyable experience, but an excellent networking opportunity for attendees. Experience in golf is not mandatory to work on this committee!



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Visit OWBA's website for an archive of *OWBA Network* Newsletters, Calendar of Events, and more as we continue to develop the site to meet our members' needs:

<http://www.OWBA.org>



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