



WBA Foundation Newsletter November 2024

In This Issue:

Message From the President

Wine Tasting & Silent Auction – Impossible N'est Pas Français

Founders Fellow Essay

Chefs Dine In

2023-2024 Annual Report

Giving Tuesday

Grantee Spotlight: Safe Sisters Circle

Planned Giving: Sustaining Legacy Circle

Thank You to Our Donors

Message From the President

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

There is only one way to start this end of the year WBAF Newsletter - Merci beaucoup, les Amis de la WBAF!! Thank you very much, friends of the WBAF! Your support and generosity ensured the **most successful WBAF Wine Tasting and Silent Auction in the event's 22-year history!!**



A full report on that -- our premier fundraising event held on October 24th, themed "C'est la Vin – an Evening of French Wines" -- is provided below. But I excitedly share that the energy the whole evening was enthusiastic and joyful, and the bidding energetic and competitive, as our supporters and their friends and colleagues came together to party for a purpose – to advance the WBAF's mission. A **huge thank you** to all of our sponsors, named below, auction donors and bidders, registrants and attendees for making it not only a successful night for the WBAF but a fun night for all!

In addition to the funds raised by the WBAF's Wine Tasting and Silent Auction being used to support our grants to local non-profits supporting women and girls in need in the DC Metro area, they also support the WBAF Founders Fellow. The Founders Fellow is a law student from a DC-based law school whose summer internship is aligned the WBAF's mission. Our 2024 WBAF Founders Fellow – **Calypso Moschochoritis** of the **Catholic University Columbus School of Law** – shares her summer internship experience at Ayuda in DC, below, in her inspirational essay.

I must take a moment to give a shout-out to 2023 WBAF Champion and former WBAF President, Paulette Chapman, for holding her annual fundraiser – the Chef's Dine-In - for the benefit of the WBAF, at her beautiful home on a lovely evening earlier this fall. Her unfailing generosity and gracious hosting always make such an enjoyable evening for all and such a fruitful one for the WBAF.

You, too, have a chance to do more to support the WBAF this year! You can donate on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, on December 3, **Giving Tuesday**. You also can take time during your end of the year reflection to assess how you can support the Foundation in your estate planning by joining the WBAF's generous **Sustaining Legacy Circle**. Read up on both, below!

As the president of the WBAF, I am driven to keep reminding you of all the ways available to support its mission because **only through your generosity can we support our amazing grantees** in providing much needed aid to women and girls in our community. To help remind you of what kind of work that is, we highlight one 2024 grantee – Safe Sisters Circle – below. Read more about their work helping women and girl survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in DC Wards 7 & 8.

As we head into the closing couple of months of 2024, I invite you to consider planning now for how you can support the WBAF in 2025. No need to delay signing up - WBAF sponsorship opportunities already are teed up for you **here!** This includes our **Cornerstone Sponsorship**, which allows you to sign up NOW as a top sponsor for BOTH our 2025 Grant Awards Ceremony and Wine Tasting & Silent Auction and to get extra benefits!

To keep tabs on all WBAF donation and sponsorship options, as well as all WBAF events, be sure to follow us on **Facebook**, **LinkedIn**, and **Instagram**, or check-in on our **website**.

Thank you for all of your support in 2024 and beyond. Best wishes from the WBAF to you and your family for a healthy and happy holiday season and a wonderful 2025.

With gratitude,

Mary D. K.

Kirkland & Ellis is proud to sponsor the
**Women's Bar Association Foundation's
2024 Wine Tasting & Silent Auction**

KIRKLAND & ELLIS



2024 Wine Tasting and Silent Auction Impossible N'est Pas Français

Le soir de October 24, 2024, the Woman's Bar Association Foundation (WABF) hosted its annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction. It was a night to remember! Sponsors, individual ticket holders, and friends of the Foundation gathered for a good cause online and at the scenic D.C. office of Kirkland & Ellis. This year's fundraiser – themed "C'est Le Vin: An Evening of French Wines" – allowed the almost 200 attendees to indulge in various elegant, fruit-forward, and dry French wines perfectly paired with delicious hors d'oeuvres.





The tasting portion of the evening was led by **Jay Youmans, MW**, the Educational Director and Owner of the Capital Wine School. Jay is an Advanced Level Sommelier (AS), a Certified Wine Educator (CWE), a French Wine Scholar (FWS), an Italian Wine Professional (IWP), a Bordeaux Wine Educator, a Burgundy Wine Educator, a Certified Specialist of Sherry, and Washington, DC's first Master of Wine (MW).

Patrons joyously mingled during this momentous occasion while bidding on cherished items gifted by the WBAF's generous donors. Hot ticket items included vacation stays, sports tickets, a luxury bag, captivating art, fine jewelry, and unique gift baskets. Unsurprisingly, bidding wars were playfully afoot until the final few seconds before the silent auction officially closed. By the end of the night, proceeds from sponsorship and the auction surpassed those of all prior years – including last year's record-breaking fundraising efforts – all thanks to supporters like you!



The Capital Wine School was started by Jay Youmans in 2008 with the goal of offering the highest quality wine education possible while keeping the classes fun and unpretentious. Their instructors are knowledgeable, experienced, and engaging. The school's motto is "seriously fun wine education".



The WBAF is sincerely grateful to all of its sponsors, individual ticket holders, auction donors, and winning bidders for joining us and making this year's Wine Tasting and Silent Auction a record-breaking success and evening of

fellowship! Our collaborative effort has proven the French expression “impossible n’est pas français” to be true: **nothing is impossible**. Continued support of the Wine Tasting and Silent Auction makes the WBAF’s mission of “supporting nonprofits that serve the legal and related needs of women or girls in the D.C. Metropolitan community” possible. Thank you!



We are already planning next year’s fundraiser, including exploring tasty non-alcoholic beverage options to add to the menu and plans to secure the night of Thursday, October 23. So, save the date. Hope to see you there in 2025!



Thank You to Our Sponsors

VIP Sponsors

Baker McKenzie. Sandline

Reserve Sponsors



Select Sponsors



Magnum Sponsors

EVERSHEDS
SUTHERLAND JENNER & BLOCK

Mary Ellen & Rear Admiral
Matthew Kleiman

VENABLE[®]
LLP

Daniel Welch,
Morgan Stanley

TENENBAUM
LAW GROUP PLLC



JACKSON &
CAMPBELL

Kirsten Wilkerson

**Grace Parke Fremlin, Esq.,
former Director of WBAF**

Michelle Persaud

Champagne Sponsors

ReedSmith

KC Kalijarvi, Chuzi,
NF Newman & Fitch, P.C.

**Martynaityte
Family
Giving Fund**

**Beveridge
& Diamond**

Jennifer A. Duane

Ain&Bank

PB PRICE BENOWITZ
ACCIDENT INJURY LAWYERS, LLP

M
MINTZ

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Wine Sponsors

Dr. Indira Henard
Ellen M. Jakovic
Hon. Diane M. Brenneman, ret.
Gaffar Chowdhury - District Wealth
Strategies
Alison Barberi, Planet Depos
ImpactGC
Liz Medaglia & Joe Sinnott
Vickie S. Robinson
Erica J. Dornitz
Chandra N. Branham

Wiley Rein LLP
Bayliss Fiddiman
BDO USA
Charles River Associates
Kathy Gunning & Jack Keeney
Dawn Dalton
vdiscovery
Meredith Margolis/Your P&rtners Team
@ Compass Real Estate
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Mary Blatch

Thank You to Our Auction Donors

8 Chains North Winery
A Better Body by Steve Inc.
Alliance Française Washington DC
Andrew McGhee
Ann Marie Houghtailing
Arudia
Athleta/Gap
Baked by Yael
Bayliss Fiddiman
Bradford Renaissance Portraits
Brother Jimmy's BBQ
Camp Twin Creeks
Candace Beck
Capital Wine School
Carmine's

Key Bridge Boathouse
Kings Jewelry
Kirsten Wilkerson
Le Chat Noir
Leslie Ellis, The Caissa Group
Lisa Consiglio Ryan
Liz Medaglia
Lubin Portrait Studio
Lucky Buns
Matt Modell
Michelle Webster
Mike Dee
Movement in Science
MWH Copy
Nancy Long

Carol & Rolando Montoya
Cheesemonster
Chrissy Kopple, Rodan+Fields
skincare+haircare
Craft Wealth Services, LLC
Crème de la Crème Haute Parfumerie
Daniel Welch
Dawn Dalton
DeChane Dorsey
District Cryo
District Pilates
District Wealth Strategies
Dr Indira Henard
Dry Creek Vineyard
Excelleration Coaching
Founding Farmers
French-American Chamber of Commerce
Gaffar Chowdhury CAP
Gerber Kawasaki Wealth & Investment
Management
Glitz & Glam Jewelry by LJ
HLP Integration
Holistically Original
How We Heal
Jackie Johnson
Janemark Winery
Joanne Young
Justina Martynaityte
KAB Career Coach
Katherine White
Kerri Castellini

Nonna Live
Norbeck Country Club
Park Hyatt
Paulette Chapman
Price Benowitz LLP
Public House National Harbor
Pure Barre Rockville & Rockville South
RADM Matthew and Mary Ellen Kleiman
Raquel Skinner
Salamander Washington DC
Sarah Surwit
Sheila CahillArt
Shulman Rogers
Susan Page
Susan West Montgomery
Suzanne Walker
The Geller Law Group
The Irish Whisper
The Line Method
The Museum of Illusions
The St. James
Theresa McElroy
Tiff Moseley
Total Wine & More
Tysons Realty Inc.
Unrequited Positivity
Vickie Harris
Vickie Robinson
Wines for Humanity
Women's Bar Association of the District of
Columbia
Yip Fitness



Crowell
Crowell's Women's Leadership Initiative
is proud to support the work of the
Women's Bar Association Foundation
crowell.com
©2024 Crowell & Moring LLP | Attorney Advertising



Founder's Fellow



The WBA Foundation Founders Fellowship, was established in 2006 and is awarded annually to an area law school to allow a law student to work with local legal services providers on projects to benefit women and girls in our community.

The 2023 Fellowship was awarded to **Calypso Moschochoritis**, a law student at **The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law**. Last summer, Calypso was a Legal Immigration Intern at Ayuda, a Foundation grantee

Calypso shared her experience with us in an essay, which excerpted here. Her full essay is [**posted here**](#).

Working at Ayuda has been one of the most rewarding professional experiences I have had. As an immigrant myself, I have always been passionate about the topic of immigration, and interning at Ayuda solidified my commitment to pursuing a career in this field. While I was initially intimidated because I did not have a deep understanding of the legal technicalities of immigration, I quickly realized that I could apply much of what I had learned in my first year of law school to the job. At Ayuda, I had the privilege of working with an incredible team of legal professionals and immigration advocates. With the guidance and support of my supervisors, I was able to navigate the complexities of immigration cases and gain practical experience on the job. Each day presented new challenges, but with their help, I became more confident in my ability to assist clients. I was entrusted with projects involving asylum applications, U and T visas, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) petitions. It was a rewarding experience that expanded my skills and reinforced my commitment to helping vulnerable communities.

One of my first projects involved assisting a woman who fled her home country due to political persecution. Working with her to draft her asylum brief was an invaluable learning experience, as I gained deep insights into asylum law, particularly within the 4th Circuit, and the history and current events of her country of origin. Another case I worked on involved a pregnant woman who had been assaulted and was beginning the process of obtaining immigration status through a U visa. This case required extensive research to ensure that the involved police department would certify her U visa law enforcement certification. Additionally, I assisted a man seeking asylum due to the persecution he faced in his home country because of his sexual orientation. Interviewing him for his asylum declaration taught me invaluable skills, including how to ask sensitive questions and empathize while maintaining professionalism.

Working at Ayuda was emotionally taxing. The horrors my clients experienced in their home countries, and what some continued to endure in the United States, were unthinkable. I had to learn how to compartmentalize my emotions so that I would not carry the weight of their stories home with me. My supervisors were an incredible resource in this respect. They taught me that it is only human to feel those emotions and that, with time and reflection, I would be able to empower my clients without emotionally burdening myself.

On the other hand, I also recognized the incredible strength my clients displayed. Travelling through numerous countries for months to arrive in an unfamiliar place, starting life over while leaving most of their families behind, is both physically and emotionally draining. Although Ayuda and many other organizations provide invaluable help to new arrivals, more still needs to be done. Children who arrive in the United States alone are the most vulnerable.

I learned this firsthand while working with a teenage boy who had to leave his home country because his mother could no longer care for both him and his sister.

After he arrived in the United States, immigration officials from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) apprehended him and later transferred him into the care and custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). ORR then released him into the care of a family member residing in the United States. Unfortunately, this relative never took care of him and forced him to work and pay rent. Thankfully, one of his coworkers recognized the situation and offered to take care of him. This person enrolled him in school and has since helped him pursue legal immigration status. Cases like this, where community members must step in to protect the most vulnerable, are all too common. It is crucial that government and community organizations ensure that everyone in the United States can live safely, especially when the government plays a role in where they end up.



Chefs Dine In



For 12 years, WBA past president Paulette Chapman has opened her home to host a fundraiser for the Foundation. Called “Chefs Dine In,” the event brings together Association and Foundation leaders for a potluck dinner and evening of camaraderie. This year’s theme was “September to Remember: Our Fondest Foods and Most Memorable Meals.” The evening’s chefs prepared their favorite dishes to share and guests brought a photo representing a favorite memory to share on a posterboard.



2023-2024 Annual Report

The Foundation's 2023-2024 Annual Report is available for download ([click here](#)). The report summarizes our activities for the past fiscal year, highlights our grantees, lists Foundation donors, and includes information about our other efforts, such as our Founders Fellowship and fundraising events.



Remember the WBA Foundation on Giving Tuesday, December 3.

Help us reach our fundraising goal of \$4,000.

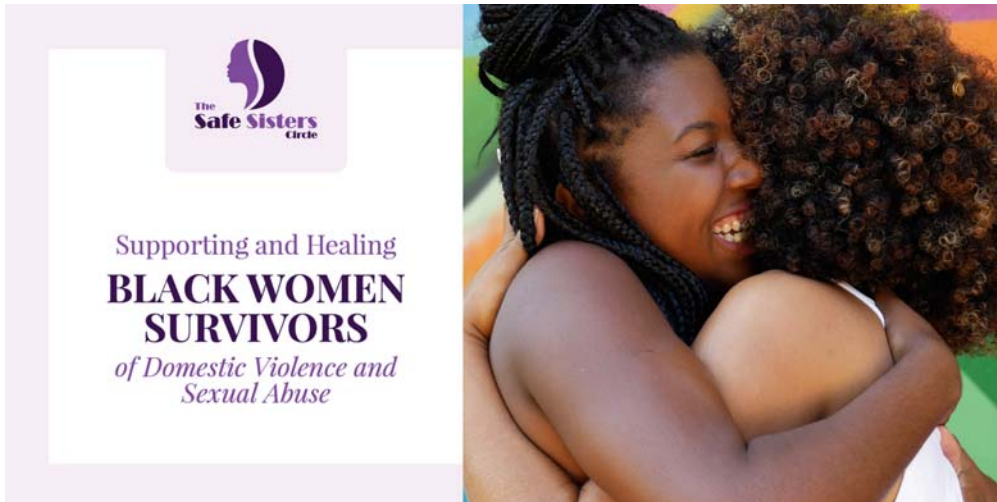
[Click here to donate](#)



The **Safe Sisters Circle** provides free culturally-specific, trauma-informed, and legal holistic services to Black women survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse. Rooted in Safe Sisters Circle is the belief that there is value in



having an organization established for Black women and where the majority of service providers and leadership within the organization are also Black women. The WBAF grant supports East of the River Women's Legal Services Project, which provides free legal services to Black women survivors of domestic and sexual violence living in Wards 7 and 8, specifically civil protection order hearings, family law cases, and victim advocacy cases. Safe Sisters Circle will also provide educational workshops and hold listening sessions for survivors and advocates living or working in Wards 7 and 8.



Planned Giving: Sustaining Legacy Circle

To effectively pursue the WBA Foundation's mission of meeting the legal needs of women and girls in the DC area, we must ensure the Foundation's

long-term financial vitality. Planned gifts can help you support the Foundation and its mission in a significant way in the future without affecting your current income or savings.

Did you know that you can make a gift to the Foundation that costs you nothing during your lifetime, but that is priceless as part of the legacy you leave behind?

- Name the WBA Foundation as a beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy, a retirement or investment account, or a charitable annuity;
- Establish a bequest through your will or trust;
- Establish a charitable trust that supports the WBA Foundation and your loved ones.

Your attorney or financial planner can work with you to identify other ways to support the WBA Foundation and provide tax savings while possibly leaving more assets to your heirs.

The growth of the WBA Foundation's endowment depends primarily on gifts from bequests. Please consider including the WBA Foundation in your estate planning and let us know if you have already named the Foundation as a beneficiary.

Sustaining Legacy Circle members are incredibly generous supporters who have named the WBA Foundation in their estate planning and/or have already made a bequest to the Foundation.

[Learn more about leaving a planned gift to the Foundation](#)

Sustaining Legacy Circle (as of October 31, 2024)

Candace Beck
Gaffar Chowdhury
Grace Parke Fremlin
Rachel & Matt Hardwick
Mary Ellen Fleck Kleiman
Bridget Bailey Lipscomb
Nancy A. Long
Susan Kovarovics
Elizabeth Sinnott Medaglia

Sadina Montani
Monica G. Parham* (*bequest funds received in 2022*)
Suzanne Reifman
Suzanne Richards* (*bequest funds received in 2018*)
Joseph H. Sinnott
Kirsten L. Wilkerson
Natalia C. Wilson
**deceased*



WBAF Board member **Kerri Castellini** describes how you can include the Foundation in your planned giving. Click the image to view the video.



Thank You to Our Donors

Does your employer match donations? We love matching funds! If you need any documentation or forms to secure matching funds, please let us know.

The following organizations and individuals made donations between August 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024, through payroll deductions, recurring gifts, and other programs.

Mary Blatch	Jennifer Mammen
Hon. Diane Brenneman	Eva Meier
Serafina Concannon	Microsoft
Kathleen Gunning	Consuela Pinto
Janine Harris	Vickie Robinson
Jacqueline Johnson	Michelle Webster
Elizabeth Jones	Gai IWestover
Mary Ellen Kleiman	Kirsten Wilkerson
Susan Kovarovics	MJ Wilson-Bilik
Nancy Long	

[Click here to donate today](#)

WBA Foundation Leadership

2024-2025 Officers

President

Mary Ellen Kleiman
Disability:IN

Vice President

Kerri Castellini
Price Benowitz LLP

Treasurer

DeChane Dorsey
Advanced Medical Technology
Association (AdvaMed)

Assistant Treasurer

Tiffany Malott
Veritext

Secretary

Raquel Skinner
American University Washington
College of Law

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Tracie Bryant
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Elizabeth Dalmut
Amazon

Dawn Dalton
DC Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

Michael Dee
Orrick

Bayliss Fiddiman
National Women's Law Center

Rachel Hardwick
AARP

Dr. Indira Henard
DC Rape Crisis Center

Kirsten L. Wilkerson
Immediate Past President

Erica Holmes
DLA Piper LLP (US)

Jackie Johnson
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Janell Mallard
Wiley Rein

Tiffany Malott
Excelsia Injury Care

Justina Martynaityte
ICON

Tiffany Moseley

Vickie Robinson
Microsoft

Sarah Surwit
Consilio

Gwendolyn Prothro Renigar
Step toe

Jennifer Mammen
Bryan Cave Leightner Paisner LLP
WBA President-Elect
Ex-Officio

