



The Chicago Bar Association
Alliance for Women

2019 Annual Awards Luncheon

Honoring

Linda D. Friedman
Stowell & Friedman, Ltd
Recipient of the Founder's Award

Kathryn C. Liss
DePaul University College of Law
Recipient of the Alta May Hulett Award

May 30, 2019 • The Standard Club

THE CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION

Alliance for Women

Since its founding in 1992, the Alliance for Women has been working within The Chicago Bar Association to advance the interests of women in the legal profession and the larger community. Through monthly programs, special projects, networking events, and professional development, the Alliance brings together the talents of its members to implement strategies that effect change. The Alliance strives to empower women within their law firms and law departments, to empower women in their careers, and to empower women in the community at large.

The Alliance maintains a welcoming environment where people are encouraged to participate and to be actively involved. The Alliance strives, through the work it undertakes and the activities it promotes and sponsors, to be an important resource to every woman attorney in Chicago.

2018-2019 Executive Committee

Lauren S. Novak, Co- Chair • Kimber A. Russell, Co- Chair
Michelle Cassidy, Co- Vice Chair • Nicole E. Kopinski, Co- Vice Chair

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LUNCHEON PROGRAM

— Welcome —

Outgoing CBA Alliance for Women Co-Chairs

Lauren S. Novak
Schiff Hardin LLP

Kimber A. Russell
Vanguard Advocates

—Lunch —

— Presentation of Alta May Hulett Award —

Introduction of Award Recipient
Jill McCall
Mechanical Contractors Association of Chicago

Presented to
Kathryn C. Liss
DePaul University College of Law

— Presentation of Founder's Award —

Introduction of Award Recipient
Patricia Bronte
Stowell & Friedman, Ltd

Presented to
Linda D. Friedman
Stowell & Friedman, Ltd

— Concluding Remarks —

Incoming CBA Alliance for Women Co-Chairs

Michelle Cassidy
Reed, Centracchio & Associates LLC

Nicole Kopinski
Leydig, Voit & Mayer



FOUNDER'S AWARD

Linda D. Friedman

Linda D. Friedman is a founding partner of Stowell & Friedman, Ltd., a civil rights law firm dedicated to advancing the rights of women and people of color across the United States. After serving as the first law clerk to the Honorable Harry D. Leinenweber, Linda founded Stowell & Friedman with Mary Stowell in 1989. Since its inception, the firm has fought to end discrimination and inequity.

Linda has challenged workplace discrimination on behalf of individuals, groups, and classes of employees. Long before the "Me Too" movement brought workplace sexual harassment to the public consciousness, Stowell & Friedman took on Wall Street's "good old boy" culture of pervasive sexism and discrimination. Linda served as class counsel in the landmark class action cases, *Martens v. Smith Barney* and *Cremin v. Merrill Lynch*, which recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for thousands of female employees and ended forced arbitration for discrimination cases in the securities industry. In these cases and thereafter, Stowell & Friedman created an innovative class claims resolution process that empowered individual class members and reflected the firm's commitment to restorative justice.

Linda has also represented hundreds, if not thousands, of women in their individual discrimination and harassment claims. For every high profile win, Linda has counseled dozens of women behind the scenes, quietly helping women—from factory workers to corporate executives to legal professionals—facing discrimination and potentially career-ending disasters.

Linda is committed to achieving justice for those who have suffered racial discrimination. She has served as lead counsel for multiple successful class-action race discrimination suits, including *McReynolds v. Merrill Lynch*, a landmark appellate decision that recovered \$160 million for a class of 1,400 African American Financial Advisors and Trainees. On the few occasions in which increasingly hostile courts did not certify class actions, Linda remained committed to her clients, representing and successfully resolving the claims of every single class member who wished to proceed.

Linda has received many honors for her achievements, and she is a frequent speaker at bar association functions and a commentator for various news outlets including The New York Times, CNN, and the Wall Street Journal. With Linda at the helm, Stowell & Friedman has participated in lobbying for legislative change relating to civil rights laws. In 2019, the firm was recognized as a Civil Liberties Champion by the ACLU of Illinois for its dedication to racial justice. Linda is also proud to serve as pro bono counsel for the Chicago Sky, Chicago's only WNBA team.



ALTA MAY HULETT AWARD

Kathryn C. Liss

Katie Liss is the Director of the Schiller DuCanto & Fleck Family Law Center and an Academic Advisor at DePaul University College of Law. She received her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law and her B.S. in psychology with a double minor in criminology and sociology of law from Miami University (Ohio).

Katie practiced solely in family law for over a decade prior to working at DePaul University College of Law in 2017. As a practitioner, Katie handled divorces, paternity matters, adoptions, orders of protection, and served as a court appointed Child Representative and Guardian ad Litem in Cook County. She completed mediation training at Northwestern University as well as participated in the Houston Family Law Trial Institute program. Katie was named an Illinois Rising Star by Super Lawyers and a Top Attorney in Illinois' Outstanding Young Lawyers by Chicago Magazine.

Additionally, Katie is actively involved in The Chicago Bar Association. She served as Chair of the Young Lawyers Section during the 2016-2017 bar year and she founded as well as presently serves as Chair of the Human Trafficking Committee. Katie also currently serves on the CBA's Board of Managers, The Chicago Bar Foundation's Board of Directors, Miami University's Pre-Law Alumni Advisory Board, and Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth's Fundraising Host Committee. She previously served on the Center for Conflict Resolution Board of Directors and taught Adoption Law as an adjunct professor at DePaul University College of Law.

Join an Alliance for Women Mentoring Circle

The Chicago Bar Association Alliance for Women's Mentoring Circles are designed to benefit women of all ages and in all stages of professional development because junior members learn from those with more experience, and mid-level and senior attorneys gain an invaluable opportunity to hone management skills, build relationships and develop referral networks.

Under the traditional rubric of mentoring, experienced practitioners give and junior apprentices take. But in the AFW's Circles, each member is both a mentee and a mentor. Each Circle is made up of 6 to 8 practitioners of varying levels of experience, and from different practice areas. The Circles allow women to discuss many of the same issues at the heart of the AFW's mission: professional development, networking, and work-life balance. The Circles offer a smaller, private forum, which allows each group to tailor solutions and strategies for their members. Circle discussions might touch on, for example, the balancing act of a new mother, the decision to change practice areas or a firm's promotional practices. They meet at least four times a year but some meet as often as once a month.

If you are interested in becoming a member of a Mentoring Circle, you should be aware of the time commitment. We ask that you only sign up if you are willing to commit to attending regularly, and staying in touch with your Circle. The benefits of the Circles can only be achieved if each member of a Circle is dedicated to making it a success.

For more information on the Mentoring Circles program, visit www.chicagobar.org/mentoring or contact the Mentoring Circle Co-Chairs, Mary Curry at marykcurry@gmail.com or Allison Potter at allisonpotter@discover.com.

Follow Us

Join us on social media to get the latest information on the AFW, its members, and calendar upcoming programs and special events:

www.facebook.com/CBAAllianceforWomen
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The Alliance would like to thank the advisory committee of past co-chairs for its steadfast advice and support:

Cheryl Balough • Julie Bauer
Laurel Bellows • Jennifer Bluestein
Janet Brown • Hon. Geraldine Soat Brown
Esther Chang • Karen Clanton • Regine Corrado
Tanya Triche Dawood • Elizabeth Epstein • Elaine Fox
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Susan Pipal • Kristen Prinz • Kathleen L. Roach • Kaarina Salovaara
Payal Shah • Kari Sheinfeld • Patricia Costello Slovak
Elizabeth (Lisa) Turley • Maureen (Aidasani) Van Neste

Special thanks to
Angie Cruz , CBA Staff Liaison

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Alliance for Women Co-Chairs

The Alliance for Women welcomes Michelle Cassidy and Nicole E. Kopinski as co-chairs for the 2019-2020 bar year. Program planning has begun and the Alliance looks forward to an exciting new year. If you would like to become more involved with the Alliance, please contact Michelle (michellecass3@gmail.com) or Nicole (nkopinski@leydig.com).

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

(in chronological order)

Founder's Award

Laurel G. Bellows
Hon. Sheila M. Murphy
Pamela Strobel
Dolores Hanna
Esther Rothstein
Jane DiRenzo Pigott
Hon. Beverly Susler Parkhurst
Hon. Martha A. Mills
Judith A. Gold
Zaldwaynaka Scott
Hon. Joy V. Cunningham
Hon. Carole Kamin Bellows
Susan R. Lichtenstein
Hon. Joan Humphrey Lefkow
Julie A. Bauer
Gloria Santona
Patricia Costello Slovak
Wendy Pollack
Andrea S. Kramer
Diane L. Redleaf
Stephanie Scharf
Paula Hudson Holderman
Hon. Elaine E. Bucklo
Neha Lall

Alta May Hulett Award

E. Lynn Grayson
Jennifer T. Nijman
Celia G. Gamrath
Kathleen L. Nooney
Margot Klein
Aurora Abella-Austriaco
Lisa T. Scruggs
Adrienne B. Pitts
Deborah H. Telman
Karina Ayala-Bermejo
Angela R. Elbert
Marcia Owens
Julianne M. Hartzell
Michelle M. Kohut
Alison Hayden Kehrner
Megan Mathias
Kristen E. Hudson
Julie A. Johnson
Emily N. Masalski