

RIWBA: Promoting the advancement of women in the profession — and society

By: Kelly A. Kincaid September 17, 2020

I am honored and grateful to serve as the president of the Rhode Island Women's Bar Association for the 2020-2021 membership year.



When I joined this organization in 2007, I was searching for other individuals who were experiencing or had experienced the realities of what it is like to practice law as a woman. I found that what consistently brought me back to this group was the comfort that my experience was an experience shared by a community of smart, talented and amazing women.

In 2014, I was nominated to join the board and serve as the Newsletter Committee chair. During my time on the board, I have served with dedicated and intelligent women who truly prioritize the importance of supporting, educating and highlighting the remarkable women in our community. I am excited to step into the role as president to foster the growth and development of this great organization.



The purpose of the RIWBA is not only to promote the advancement of women in the legal profession, but to promote the advancement of women in a just society. Over the years, I have received feedback and questions as to why there is even a need for the RIWBA to exist. Although disheartened by this sentiment, I have to remind myself that oftentimes when people are living a life of privilege, whether it is socio-economic, education, gender or race, they may not always be aware of what it is like to live (or even practice law) as someone else.

That is why I believe that this organization must exist, as it rightly exposes the importance of our profession, the unique qualities of femaleness within our profession, and it strives to close the inequality gaps within the legal community.

I hope as president that I can continue to foster our community of women with the goal of promoting the advancement of our legal profession. I hope that one day we will not be questioned as to why we want to promote women and equal justice for all. If I can be even a small part in moving this organization forward to support equality within our profession and within our community, I will be forever grateful.

This group is better when our members are engaged.

My goal this membership year is to continue to offer quality and diverse programming that helps to support the interest and needs of our members. The RIWBA will continue to offer engaging CLE programming; the newsletter will keep you informed of the latest events and opportunities; and we will continue to support our commitment to the community through our Community Engagement Committee.

The RIWBA is an organization truly focused on its members. If you have ideas or would like to get involved, please reach out and/or join a committee. This group is better when our members are engaged.

Thank you for this opportunity, and I look forward to "seeing" you in the upcoming year.

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