



WILLIAM & MARY
LAW SCHOOL

Seventh Annual Leadership Conference - September 21, 2018

Superwoman and Real Women – Leading, Following, Caring, Evolving, and Sometimes Making Do

Much is expected of lawyers in the world. They must provide advice and formulate strategies on many subjects, lead teams of lawyers and paralegals, “manage” their clients, manage their schedules, care for their families, find time for self-care, actualize their potential and yet maintain their humanity, always look good and always talk smart. Believe it or not, it is doable. Sometimes.

8:15 AM – 8:40 AM Coffee Service and Welcome from Dean Douglas

Hixon Center, Penny Commons

8:45 AM – 9:40 AM Pick-a-Panel Session 1

Panel A: The Need to Lead

Room 120

Studies show that most leaders begin to exercise leadership skills in middle school. Others discover their leadership skills in college. Only a few emerge as leaders in middle age. How are leaders built? Who were your influencers? What leadership experiences formed your leadership style? What challenges, setbacks, or failures made you a better leader? How do you prepare for leadership moments? Do you/how do you seize leadership opportunities?

Kristan B. Burch J.D. '98

Member and Co-Chair of Intellectual Property and Franchising
Kaufman & Canoles P.C.
Norfolk, Virginia

Brandis (Brandi) Zehr B.A. '04, J.D. '09

Partner
Wiley Rein LLP
Washington, DC

Panel B. Working as Part of a Team

Room 124

Increasingly, lawyers work in collaborative teams. This means adapting to differing work styles, differing work ethics, racial and ethnic differences among members of the team, reactions to stress, reactions to “suggestions,” flexibility, sense of humor, meanness, and cooperativeness. How are good teams built and maintained? What tricks of the trade let you achieve your goals, build your own skills, pull your weight but not be exploited? What are the gender dynamics within teams? In a close working environment, are office romances inevitable?

Kimberly Hargrove J.D. '05

Partner, Troutman Sanders LLP
Tysons Corner, Virginia

Amanda Wieker J.D. '09

Administrative Patent Judge
United States Patent & Trademark Office
Washington, DC

9:50 AM – 10:40 AM Pick-a-Panel Session 2

Panel C: Sandwiched Between Parents and Children

Room 120

Here is the jackpot question: how do you balance the demands of a career, the desire for a meaningful life outside of the law, a rich engagement with every member of your family, the unexpected crises that occur in every family, the need for “alone time,” the need for novelty, and the need for sleep?

Hon. Cressondra Conyers J.D. '92

Presiding Judge, Chief Judge
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Mathews, Middlesex, and Gloucester, Virginia

Susan Llewellyn Deniker J.D. '99

Member, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC
Bridgeport, West Virginia

Nora Garcia Nickel J.D. '07

Partner, Troutman Sanders
Richmond, Virginia

Panel D. Changing Firms, Changing Practices, Changing Your Life

Room 124

Very few lawyers remain in a workplace for a lifetime. They move on, find something better, change their areas of interest, face the reality of a child-filled home life, lose interest in a traditional practice, lose their job, or conclude they do not love the law at all. Or, they do not love their spouse. All of these changes are common, defensible, and often empowering. They can also be scary, and even debilitating. How has change come to you or you to it? What were the signs that you needed a change? What did you fear? How did you create your "new self?" How is the "new self" working out?

Elizabeth C. Carver J.D. '84

Partner

Dowd Bennett

St. Louis, Missouri

Joelle Laszlo J.D. '09

Assistant General Counsel

Vencore, Inc.

Washington, DC

10:55 AM – 11:25 AM Breakout Sessions

Rooms 133, 134, 137 & 138

Breakout 1 - How Can I Build a Personal Brand That is Authentic?

Breakout 2 - How Can I Identify the Best People With Whom to Work?

Breakout 3 - What is the Worst Part of Your Job? Seriously...

11:35 AM – 12:05 PM Breakout Sessions

Rooms 133, 134, 137 & 138

Breakout 4 - How Does One Cultivate Mentors and Champions?

Breakout 5 - How Do I Persuade My Clients I Am A Grownup?

Breakout 6 - How Are Summer Associates Really Judged?

12:20 PM – 1:20 PM

Lunch

National Center for State Courts

Luncheon Speaker:

Ann Fairchild J.D. '96

General Counsel, Region North America
Siemens Corporation
Orlando, FL 32826-2399

1:35 PM – 2:20 PM

**Panel E: Leaning In and Leaning Back – Do I Want to Be the Best or Do I Want to Be Content?
Can I Have Both?**

Room 127

“Satisficing” is defined as “aiming to achieve only satisfactory results because the satisfactory position is familiar, hassle-free, and secure, whereas aiming for the best-achievable result would call for costs, effort, and incurring of risks.” Are you a satisficer? Or do you want more? In what areas of your life? What costs are reasonable to be (or have) the very best? What efforts? What risks? Where do you place yourself on the “lean in – lean back” spectrum? Can women who lean in co-exist with women who lean back? Can we all get along?

Jessica Arons J.D. '00

Senior Advocacy and Policy Counsel for the Reproductive Freedom Project
American Civil Liberties Union
Washington, DC

Shannon E. Daily B.A. '06, J.D. '09

Associate, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Richmond, Virginia

Margaret Hardy J.D. '95

Shareholder and President
Sands Anderson
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Wendy N. Reed J.D. '92

President and Managing Shareholder
Wright & Talisman
Washington, DC