

Professional Development
Speed Mentoring – Networking Mentors
March 7, 2018 • 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Wisconsin Club, Milwaukee



Wisconsin Women in Government (WWIG) will host a speed mentoring event for women in southeastern Wisconsin. The event, to be held on Wednesday, March 7th at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee, will provide an opportunity for participants to strengthen their professional networking skills.

Who Should Attend, Women Looking To:

- **Break the ice**
 - Recent College Graduates
 - Move to the next level in career
- **Raise your profile**
 - Increase Networking Circles
 - Looking to Change careers / New Job
- **Meet lots of contacts**
 - From both the Private & Public Sector

How Speed Mentoring / Networking Works

Over the course of ten rounds, participants will be paired with each mentor for approximately 5 minutes to introduce themselves and discuss their professional goals and experiences. Participants are encouraged to bring business cards to facilitate additional follow up after the event.

List of Mentors

La Keisha Butler, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, City of Milwaukee

Beth Conradson-Cleary, Executive Director for Retirement Plan, City of Milwaukee

Margaret Daun, Chief Corporation Counsel, Milwaukee County

Maria Dorsey, Chief of Court Commissioners, Milwaukee County Circuit Court

Kathleen Ehley, Mayor, City of Wauwatosa

Rebecca Ewald, Village Manager, Village of Shorewood

Becky Glewen, Mayor, City of Beaver Dam*

Jennifer Gonda, Superintendent/Executive Director, Milwaukee Water Works*

Christine V. Hamiel, Shareholder, von Briesen & Roper

Sheldyn Himle, Chief Court Administrator, Milwaukee Municipal Court

Kim Iczkowski, Public Affairs and Outreach Coordinator, Wisconsin State Farm Service Agency

Jasmine Johnson, Senior Manager Government Relations and Affairs, Pfizer*

LaTonya Johnson, State Senator, 6th District

Chantia Lewis, Alderwoman, District 9 City of Milwaukee

Kimberly Montgomery, Mayor's Legislation Liaison, City of Milwaukee*

Janet Protasiewicz, Circuit Court Judge, Branch 24 Milwaukee County

Jessie Rodriguez, State Representative, 21st District

Karen Sands, Director of Planning, Research and Sustainability Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

Sara Scullen, Court Commissioner, Waukesha County

Mary Schanning, Deputy City Attorney, City of Milwaukee

Pat Strachota, Commissioner, Wisconsin Ethics Commission

Gail Sumi, Communications, League of Wisconsin Municipalities

May Vang, Waste Management Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Mary Wagner, Asst. District Attorney & Writer, Sheboygan County

Anne E. Wal, Shareholder, von Briesen & Roper

Anissa Welch, Mayor, City of Milton

Brenda Wood, Senior Legislative Coordinator, City of Milwaukee

Jenny Yuan, Assistant City Attorney, City of Milwaukee*

Maggie Zoellner, Executive Director, Kettle Moraine Land Trust

**Biographies Coming Soon*

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La Keisha Butler, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, City of Milwaukee



La Keisha Wright Butler is a native of Southern Maryland. Butler was a Sondheim Public Affairs Scholar at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Political Science and a Bachelors of Science degree in Information Systems (magna cum laude). In 2007 Ms. Butler graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School with a Doctor of Jurisprudence. While attending Vanderbilt, she was an active member in the Black Law Students Association and was of treasurer of the organization for two years. In 2011, Ms. Butler graduated from New York University School of Law with her Executive Masters of Law in Taxation.

In 2010 Ms. Butler moved to Wisconsin and worked as an attorney for the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, representing the state in income, sales, and property tax cases. She transitioned to the City Attorney's Office for the City of Milwaukee as an Assistant City Attorney in 2014 where she represented the Common Council Licenses Committee, the Fire and Police Commission, and handled various types of litigation. She became the Director of Intergovernmental Relations on July 3, 2017.



Beth Conradson-Cleary, Executive Director for Retirement Plan, City of Milwaukee

In May 2017, the Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP) Board appointed its new Beth Conradson Cleary. Ms. Conradson Cleary had served as the Interim Executive Director since mid-December of 2016 and comes to this role with over ten years of experience both with the City and working with retirement plans. Prior to working for the DCP, she served as the Employees' Retirement System's Deputy Director since 2012, and before that, as an Assistant City Attorney. She has also served as a trustee on the DCP Board from 2011-2014.

Margaret Daun, Chief Corporation Counsel, Milwaukee County



Ms. Daun oversees and manages the provision of legal services for Milwaukee County, including advice and services related to economic development transactions, land leases and sales, issues and regulations related to General Mitchell International Airport, involuntary commitment proceedings at the County's mental health facilities, personnel matters including discrimination and wage claims, pension issues, asset forfeitures, foreclosures, guardianships, public records compliance, and prisoner civil rights actions, among other issues.

Maria Dorsey, Chief of Court Commissioners, Milwaukee County Circuit Court



Maria Dorsey is the Presiding Court Commissioner of Milwaukee County. She joined the judiciary in 2012 as a judicial court commissioner and was appointed by former Chief Judge Jeffrey Kremers to the presiding court commissioner position in 2014.

Commissioner Dorsey presides over criminal, civil and juvenile cases and supervises the 10 judicial court commissioners in all administrative functions, court assignments and duties.

Commissioner Dorsey graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School. She started her legal career as a prosecutor in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office. As a prosecutor for 19 years, Commissioner Dorsey handled a variety of cases including misdemeanor, felony, juvenile and civil cases.

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Kathleen Ehley, Mayor, City of Wauwatosa



Mayor Kathy Ehley is the 16th Mayor of Wauwatosa and is currently serving her second term. Prior to becoming mayor, Mayor Ehley served for five years as the Executive Director of The Village of Wauwatosa Business Improvement District (BID) overseeing the creation of a strategic development plan for the commercial district and attracting new restaurants and shops, resulting in one of The Village's strongest growth spurts. As a successful business owner and commercial developer, prior to being mayor, she revitalized an office/warehouse into thriving restaurant, retail and office space. She brings her expertise in building relationships and collaboration to her current role.

Christine V. Hamiel, Shareholder, von Briesen & Roper



Chrissy Hamiel is a Shareholder and Chair of the School Law Section where she concentrates her practice on assisting school districts on all aspects of law surrounding education. Chrissy provides advice and guidance to districts on challenging legal matters involving students, educators, staff, administrators and school boards, and provides creative and resourceful solutions to the most challenging issues facing schools today. Chrissy regularly works with school districts on student issues, daily management and operational concerns, pupil special education and accommodation matters, and employment matters. Chrissy is also uniquely experienced with public records, open meetings, board policy, annual meetings, and other issues facing school boards.

Chrissy's experience with student matters includes Title IX, FERPA, IDEA, student discipline and expulsions, special education, constitutional rights, and student and athletic codes of conduct. She regularly advises school districts and other local government entities on employee matters arising under the wage and hour and employment discrimination laws. Chrissy's practice includes service and vendor contracting, as well as assisting clients with strategically managing crisis situations and communications.

Sheldyn Himle, Chief Court Administrator, Milwaukee Municipal Court



Sheldyn M. Himle was appointed as the Municipal Court's Chief Court Administrator in December, 2012, after serving as its Assistant Court Administrator since May, 2010. Ms. Himle previously worked within Court Administration for the 4th Judicial District-Hennepin County, in Minnesota. Her work in the courts began in 2000, when she was the Court Administrator for the State of Minnesota Tax Court of Appeals. Prior to that, her work history includes having been a member of the Dean's Administration team at Hamline University School of Law, and a government relations representative and lobbyist for Grand Metropolitan Food Sector and the Pillsbury Company. She graduated magna cum laude from Hamline University, achieving a B.A. in Political Science.

Kim Iczkowski, Public Affairs and Outreach Coordinator, Wisconsin Farm Service Agency



Kim is a career professional with 16 years of experience in government administrative management and communications. Her emphasis throughout her career has been placed on internal and external communications, employee engagement, and program and performance management. She regularly cooperates with media, stakeholders, partners, and USDA employees to amplify the USDA motto of "Do right and feed everyone." In her previous position she served as the County Executive Director for the Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee County Farm Service Agency. Kim was responsible for directing and managing program and administrative operations for three counties to carry out federal farm programs.

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LaTonya Johnson, 6th District, Wisconsin State Senate



Senator Johnson is currently serving her first term as State Senator for the 6th District, located on Milwaukee's Northwest side. Prior to being elected to the State Senate, Senator Johnson was State Representative for the 17th Assembly District for four years. Senator Johnson has been a resident of Milwaukee for thirty years. For the ten years prior to being elected to the State Assembly, she owned and operated a child care center serving Milwaukee's low-income children. Improving the health, safety, and quality of life for Wisconsin's children and their families is Senator Johnson's top legislative priority, and during her tenure in the State Assembly, she successfully co-authored eight bills enacted into law.

Before running for office, Senator Johnson served as an Executive Board member for AFSCME's District Council 48, President of AFSCME Local 502 Milwaukee Child Care Providers Together, and Chair of AFSCME's Women Committee. She has been a Financial Employment Planner for Wisconsin Shares, a member of the Special Committee on Public Assistance Program Integrity, and the drafting committee for the Wisconsin Shares Subsidy Policy Guide. Senator Johnson has been appointed to the Wisconsin Center District Board, the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council, and the Metropolitan Milwaukee Sewerage District Commission. Senator Johnson is currently a board member for Wisconsin Women in Government.

Chantia Lewis, Alderwoman, City of Milwaukee



Chantia was born and raised in Milwaukee, has lived in District 9 for more than 10 years and is a small business owner, mother, wife, and veteran of the United States Air Force. She is an Emerge Alum who earned her degree from Alverno College, focusing on community leadership and development. Chantia is dedicated to progress and helping others achieve their goals. For three years, Chantia has been a board member for 9to5 Wisconsin, an organization that fights for social justice, and has recently been appointed to the 9to5 national board. She has worked on campaigns advocating for paid sick days and expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Janet Protasiewicz, Circuit Court Judge, Branch 24 Milwaukee County



Janet has served as a Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge since 2014. Currently, she serves in the Criminal Division, hearing a Felony Drug calendar. Previously, Janet served Milwaukee County as an Assistant District Attorney from 1988 until 2014. Janet has extensive litigation experience in both criminal and complex civil litigation. She has served in the Family Division (Divorce and Separation), Juvenile Division (Children in Need of Protection and Services, Termination of Parental Rights, Sexual Assault, and Delinquency), and Criminal Division (Misdemeanor and Felony). She argued before the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2000, on the issue of best interests of the children in a complex TPR case. She supervised a team of attorneys prosecuting CHIPS. Janet instructed at the United States Department of Justice - National Advocacy Center, Columbia, South Carolina, the training ground for federal and state prosecutors, from 1998-2005. Janet frequently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Marquette University Law School, teaching trial advocacy.

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Jessie Rodriguez, State Representative, 21st District



Representative Jessie Rodriguez was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly during a Special Election in November 2013. She currently resides in Oak Creek, Wisconsin with her husband, Aaron and son, Noah. She serves on three Assembly Committees including Education, Energy and Utilities, and is the Chairperson for the Committee on Family Law.

Jessie was born in Puerto El Triunfo, El Salvador in 1977. During a civil war in 1984, she moved to Massachusetts with her family and eventually to Milwaukee in the early 1990s. She graduated from Hamilton High School and is a Marquette University alumna where she graduated with a B.A. in communication studies.

The educational opportunities she was presented led to her interest in promoting the benefits of the Parental Choice Program and her position as Outreach Coordinator for Hispanics for School Choice. She is able to combine her insight of the communities she represents with her vast knowledge of the Choice Program to work on innovative education reforms to ensure quality education for all student

Karen Sands, Director of Planning, Research and Sustainability Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District



Karen Sands is the Director of Planning, Research and Sustainability for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) where she's worked for over 15 years. As director, she oversees integrated grey and green infrastructure planning for water reclamation, flood management, and storm water management (plus sustainability in general). With a career spanning 25+ years, Karen has held planning positions in the public and private sectors in Wisconsin, Maine, and New York. She is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and is an Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP). She serves on boards of directors for the Water Quality Board of the International Joint Commission, Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust Inc., Northwest Side Community Development Corporation, and Discovery World. She is also secretary for the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Sara Scullen, Court Commissioner, Waukesha County



First Appointed as a Waukesha County Court Commissioner in 2017. Previously served as Judicial Staff Attorney for Milwaukee County Circuit Court - Juvenile Division, 2014-2017. Assistant District Attorney, for Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office from 1999-2014. She received her JD from the University of Minnesota in 1997.

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Mary Schanning, Deputy City Attorney, City of Milwaukee



Mary L. Schanning is an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Milwaukee specializing in real estate development. She previously served as the City Attorney for West Bend, Wisconsin, where she handled all aspects of municipal law including eminent domain, land use and development, zoning, public construction, employment law, open meetings and public records. Mary received a B.A. from the University of Miami and her J.D. from the College of William & Mary. She serves as the Treasurer of her condominium association and as the Secretary / Treasurer of the Association of Municipal Attorneys of Milwaukee. Mary served two terms as a Director on the Government Lawyers Division Board and is in her second term as its Treasurer. Mary is also a member of the GLD's CLE Committee.

Pat Strachota, Commissioner, Wisconsin Ethics Commission



Born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Strachota graduated from St. Mary's College, South Bend, Indiana. She served on the Washington County, Wisconsin Board of Supervisors from 1986 to 2002. She worked for the Washington County Department of Human Resources as a personnel/safety analyst. She served in the Wisconsin State Assembly from 2005 to 2015, where she was the Assembly Majority Leader. She was appointed to the Wisconsin Ethics Commission in 2017.

Gail Sumi, Member Engagement and Communications Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities



Gail Sumi is the League's Member Engagement and Communications Director. She works with League members and staff to strengthen member involvement, provide strategic direction for and implement the League's communications plan, manage outreach and connect with partners. She also manages the League's social media including Facebook, Twitter - find us @LeagueWIMunis and LinkedIn and is responsible for other strategic communications and publications including the magazine content and coordination of the web. Gail joined the League staff in 2011.

Anne E. Wal, Shareholder, von Briesen & Roper



Anne is a Shareholder in the Real Estate, Construction Law and Banking, Bankruptcy and Business Restructuring Sections of von Briesen & Roper, s.c. She represents privately and publicly held businesses, financial institutions and governmental and quasi-governmental entities in construction, real estate and commercial finance matters.

Anne has an extensive background in banking as a former Business Banker, Middle Market Commercial Banking Paralegal and Project Manager for compliance issues at three of the largest banks in Milwaukee. While at Chase Bank (formerly Bank One), Anne was a member of a national project team formed to create new versions of Middle Market commercial loan documents.

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Brenda Wood, Senior Legislative Coordinator, City of Milwaukee

While a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Brenda Wood got the political bug after working on Senator Herb Kohl's first campaign. After graduation, she worked for Quad Graphics in Wisconsin and Los Angeles. Politics called again and she answered by working on Senate races in Wisconsin and Missouri. She moved to Washington, DC and worked for a grassroots lobbying firm and a national Democratic political media firm. She returned to Wisconsin and took a position with the City of Milwaukee working for Mayor John Norquist doing outreach, serving as his business liaison, and eventually becoming his executive lobbyist to the Common Council. Her passion for public service was borne. She spent seven years as an owner and partner in a public affairs consulting business. In 2008, she returned to City Hall as a lobbyist for the City of Milwaukee and is currently the Intergovernmental Policy Manager for the Common Council. She lives in Milwaukee with her husband, Joel, and has two children, Christopher and Eva, and two cats, Marco Polo and Carmello.

May Vang, Waste Management Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



Ms. Vang oversees and manages administrative activities for the Air and Waste Division with work involving delivery and interpretation of complex technical and scientific program policies in addressing program and customer needs. She has extensive experience working with Regional and Divisional Leaders, and Program Supervisors to coordinate staffing resources, budget allotments, programs resources and service delivery implementation strategies. She has direct supervision of 4 permanent team members within a work unit of over 70 members; linking professional assistance where necessary to complete project assignments within established performance metrics.

Mary Wagner, Asst. District Attorney & Writer, Sheboygan County



Prosecuting attorney, award-winning author, blogger and motivational speaker. From soccer mom to supreme court arguments, body cast to spike heels, newspaper stringer to frequent guest speaker about law and life. Proof positive that "it's never too late to make mid-course corrections!" Mary T. Wagner has worked as an Assistant District Attorney in Sheboygan, Wisconsin since 2000, prosecuting infractions from ordinances to felonies on behalf of the people of Wisconsin.

Anissa Welch, Mayor, City of Milton



Anissa graduated in 1990 from UW-Whitewater. She has three children Kayla, Jake and Teddy. The family has lived in the City of Milton for ten years. Anissa has been employed by Rock County for 20 years and is a Juvenile Probation Officer. She has been actively involved in the Rock County community and City of Milton. Anissa is a 2012 graduate of Emerge Wisconsin. Anissa has donated her time to the Salvation Army, ECHO, Rotary Gardens, Rock County and Milton Community Gardens, Milton Optimists, Independence Day Committee and Milton Youth Coalition. Anissa is a supporter and has volunteered for the new Milton Youth Center, treasurer for Milton Independence Day Committee, is a volunteer Master Gardener, certified Red Cross volunteer and supporter of the local Women's Fund.

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Jenny Yuan, Assistant City Attorney, City of Milwaukee

Jenny Yuan is an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Milwaukee specializing in employment law. She represents the City of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Board of School Directors against claims of discrimination based on race, sex, age, disability, or any other protected category under federal and state law. Her practice also encompasses First Amendment issues. Jenny has also represented the City of Milwaukee on Section 1983 civil rights claims. She has been an Assistant City Attorney since 2013. At the beginning of her career, Jenny was a public defender in Waukesha County representing indigent individuals. She was a public defender from the time she graduated law school in 2006 until 2008. Jenny received her B.A. from the University of Washington and her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Maggie Zoellner, Executive Director, Kettle Moraine Land Trust



Maggie has worked as a professional ecological restoration project manager for over 20 years. She has extensive experience managing and improving the native ecosystems in the Midwest. She has developed and managed complex watershed and habitat restoration projects for county nature preserves combining intensive management, biological monitoring and volunteers. Maggie also designed and implemented woodland and stream restorations, dam removal projects and native seed and plant installations. In Wisconsin she has served as a state park property manager and water quality specialist for the WDNR. Maggie has served on multiple local and regional planning committees and since joining the Kettle Moraine Land

Trust in 2010, has secured multiple state and federal grants to improve aquatic habitats, water quality and wildlife habitat and to acquire lands for permanent protection by the Kettle Moraine Land Trust. Maggie was promoted from Program Manager to Executive Director in 2015.