

IWIRC NEWSLETTER

Network News



Connecting Women Worldwide



Be Connected



Be Informed



Be Inspired

Network News

Minnesota Network

Last summer, the Minnesota Network held its annual boating event. Attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch, followed by boating on Lake Minnetonka! The event provided a great opportunity to connect with other IWIRC-MN members, as well as savor some sunshine before the long Minnesota winter arrives.

IWIRC-MN thanks the sponsors who made this event possible: event sponsor Maslon LLP and the IWIRC-MN 2024 annual sponsors ASK LLP, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., and Stoel Rives LLP!

In November, the Minnesota Network co-hosted a wine tasting event with the TMA - Minnesota Chapter Women's Committee. Attendees, with the help of guides from Sips Ensemble, toured island wines of the Mediterranean and enjoyed delicious appetizers and good conversations.

Thank you to Sips Ensemble for the wonderful experience, to our fantastic co-host TMA - Minnesota Chapter, and to our IWIRC-MN 2024 annual sponsors who made this event possible: ASK LLP, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., and Stoel Rives LLP!



Chicago Network

The IWIRC Chicago Annual Champagne High Tea at the Four Seasons was a delightful gathering, with over 70 women in attendance. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of elegant conversation and champagne, highlighted by a beautiful performance from the Uniting Voices Chicago Children's Choir, making the event even more memorable. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect, celebrate, and support the local community.



IWIRC Caribbean Regional Event

We were pleased to welcome over 50 attendees from across the Caribbean as well as from North America, Europe and the UK to our inaugural IWIRC Caribbean Regional event held in association with INSOL International's one day Bahamas Seminar. The event comprised a panel featuring IWIRC Board members, Grainne King, Caribbean Regional Director (Harneys) and Nyana Miller, Director of International Programmes (Sequor Law), IWIRC BVI Co Chair Antonia McIntyre Anderson (Grand Thornton), IWIRC Chicago member Oksana Koltko Rosaluk (DLA Piper) as well as the proposed founders of IWIRC Bahamas, Tara Cooper Burnside KC (Higgs & Johnson), Sophia Rolle Kapousouzoglou (Lennox Paton) and Jean Green-Thompson (KPMG)



The event provided a great opportunity to showcase the increased connectivity and breadth of IWIRC's reach in the Caribbean and globally, discuss with members and would-be members alike the great benefits of joining IWIRC, and was a great evening of networking with colleagues from across the restructuring industry. With Grainne acting as moderator, highlights included:

- A discussion around the benefits of membership, the support, the camaraderie and the assistance membership can bring when marketing in other jurisdictions, and last but not least, the referrals!
- The obstacles and how to overcome them in setting up a new network from Antonia and Nyana's own experiences
- A conversation about the beginnings of IWIRC and IWIRC's founding members, including the late great Selinda Melnik whom Oksana was lucky enough to call a colleague and mentor in DLA Piper

IWIRC Caribbean Regional Event

- Tara's own experiences in entering the insolvency industry in the Bahamas and the support she drew from having senior females in the industry as mentors and some insights from Sophia, Jean and Tara on what the Bahamas hopes to achieve with their new network.

The event continued with networking drinks and canapés kindly hosted by Lennox Paton, followed by a fabulous dinner at seafront venue, Solemar with thanks to our sponsors, IWIRC, Harneys, Higgs & Johnson, KPMG and DLA Piper.

We are so pleased with the success of the event and the support from the restructuring industry in the Bahamas. We look forward to building upon this momentum and getting our newest chapter off the ground. Plans are already afoot for our next regional event in 2025 so stay tuned!



IWIRC Literary Society

The IWIRC Member Services Committee hosted a monthly virtual social event, the IWIRC Literary Society meeting on Thursday, December 19th. The theme was entitled, "Polar Express - Escape Your Holiday Stresses with a Book." Participants each brought one book that they wanted to share with the group, some even were holiday-themed, and they told us why they either hated it or loved it.



Jennifer Lyday, the 2025 Member Services Committee Co-Chair, hosted the event and talked about one of her favorite holiday reads, *The Matzah Ball*, by Jean Meltzer. Jean, who happens to be the sister of 2025 IWIRC Chair Evelyn Meltzer, joined the fun for part of the meeting. She talked about how she intentionally incorporated not only swoon-worthy romance in her novels, but also a deep exploration of fascinating topics such as Judaism, chronic illness, and the publishing industry. She also talked about how she was inspired to write a heroine who was someone she wasn't seeing in the books she read, a heroine like her. She also talked about the book's enemies-to-lovers trope and how it was a favorite of hers. She is working on book number 5, which will be another holiday-themed book, and may be back to talk to the group after her fourth book comes out later this year.

UNCITRAL

IWIRC was pleased to attend the UNCITRAL Working Group V: Insolvency Law 65th Session in Vienna as an observer. IWIRC was proud to support its delegates, Katharina Crinson, Debby Lim, Pooja Mahajan, and Karen Fellowes, who attended these important sessions.



Channel Islands Network

The Channel Islands Network and ARIES hosted an Après Ski themed holiday party on 17 December 2024 complete with cheese fondu and a chocolate fountain. Over 80 guests attended at the Alpine Lodge in Guernsey to celebrate the festive season and the event was kindly sponsored by Ogier and Begbies Traynor.



Northeast Ohio (NEON) Network

The Northeast Ohio Network held an event on February 5, including a tour of the historic Federal Reserve building in downtown Cleveland, followed by a reception. The tour included a look at the historic vault, which is as big as a basketball court inside.



London Network

Christmas Party – 3 December 2024

The IWIRC London network was delighted to host our Christmas Party at the Ned. ! It was lovely to see so many of our wonderful members and friends and celebrate the festive season in style!



Managing Menopause in the Workplace – 16 January 2025

The IWIRC London network was delighted to host our Managing Menopause in the Workplace event hosted by K&L Gates. Executive coach, Anna Allerton explained why the effect of menopause in the workplace is important and, based on her own experience as a former journalist and TV Producer, shared tips on how women can support their careers alongside the menopause. Thanks to Anna for her helpful advice and insight and to our event organisers for an excellent Be Inspired event!

Charity Quiz – 5 February 2025

It was great to host our annual IWIRC London Charity Quiz on 5 February 2025 in aid of Solace Women's Aid. We raised over £3,400 on the night, which will go a long way in supporting women and their children as they move from a refuge into their own home - providing them with security and the opportunity to start a new life.



Scotland Network

In October last year, our North of Scotland sub-committee organised a fantastic Be Connected Escape Rooms event – they may not have solved all of the puzzles but everyone was in high spirits after winning some prizes in the quiz!

In November last year, we held an exclusive end of year Be Connected event for our IWIRC Scotland members, which was a make-up masterclass at Charlotte Tilbury, giving us all a chance to catch up, enjoy a festive treat, and leave with some goodies! Their New Crew sub-committee also held a Be Connected Christmas Wreath making workshop which was a fabulously festive way for our junior in career members to make new contacts and catch up.

Earlier in February, we held a Be Informed event where members Allana Sweeney, Fiona Carlin and Alex Fagerson from Burness Paull shared their experiences and insights of working on Scottish Restructuring Plans. The event was open to both members and non-members and was well attended and received by the Scottish Restructuring and Insolvency community.



Florida Network

The Florida Network and its members have been busy making connections and promoting the success of its inspiring solvency professionals. On November 8, 2024, members of the Florida Network gathered at The Capital Grille in Maimi for the annual meeting and excellence awards luncheon to conduct Network business and recognize the outstanding insolvency professionals leading the Network. Melissa Sydow of Underwood Murray was recognized as the Emerging Leader, Heather Ries of Fox Rothschild was recognized as the Trailblazer, and Nicolette Vilmos of Berger Singerman was recognized as the Hall of Fame recipient. The Florida Network thanks these inspirational women who are advancing the goals of IWIRC and promoting the success of women in the insolvency and restructuring profession.

On November 20, 2024, the Florida Network partnered with the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association for a happy hour at Bouzy in Hyde Park. Connections were made and reinforced over hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. The Florida Network is on a mission to give back to the communities where its members live and work. Over the holidays, the Network hosted a virtual food and toy drive to benefit Metropolitan Ministries, a not-for-profit organization helping the homeless and at-risk families in the greater Tampa Bay area.



Florida Network

On January 15, 2025, the Florida Network kicked off the new year by hosting a coffee break/happy hour at The Ben, Proper Grit in West Palm Beach. The Network's West Palm Beach members gathered to celebrate fresh starts and new opportunities with old and new friends. The next day, they hosted an axe throwing event at Bananas' Axe Cabana in Orlando. We learned that Judges Vaughan and Robson throw a mean axe!

The Florida Network has lots in store for its members this year. The Network is hosting its annual Paskay dinner on Thursday, February 27, spring tea events in Tampa (TBA), Orlando (March 28), Jacksonville (TBA), and Miami (March 8) in March, and is in the planning stages for its first inaugural retreat to be held in Key West in June (20-22). Stay tuned!



New York Network

On the evening of October 22, 2024, the New York network hosted its fall substantive event: “The Legacy of IWIRC through Generations.” We were fortunate to have amongst us a distinguished panel of IWIRC NY members and female restructuring professionals, ranging from founding members to the newest generation of IWIRC enthusiasts. The panelists included Judith Elkin (Of Counsel at Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones, Founding Member of IWIRC and Past Chair of IWIRC International), Leslie Berkoff (Partner at Moritt Hock & Hamroff, Past Chair of IWIRC International and Co-Chair of Advisory Council), Carren Shulman (Past Chair of IWIRC NY and Member/CO-team leader of the UNCITRAL team), Camille Bent (Partner at BakerHostetler, Past Vice-Chair of Communications in IWIRC NY, Past Director at Large of IWIRC), Isabel Arana (Director at AlixPartners, Past Sponsorship and Mentorship Co-Chair of IWIRC NY and Past Communications Co-Chair of IWIRC Chicago), Natalie Rowles (Associate at McDermott Will & Emery, and member of the Substantive Events Committee of IWIRC NY). The panel was moderated by Sharmeen Khan (Senior Director at MERU and then Co-Chair of Substantive Events in IWIRC NY).

Together we celebrated the history and legacy of our beloved organization, discussed IWIRC’s success and legacy across generations in upholding its ethos – to connect, support and promote women in the practice of insolvency and restructuring worldwide, and talked about how we can continue to pass on the torch for generations to come. It was indeed an evening to remember! Please check out this memorable panel discussion [here](#).



On February 19, IWIRC NY celebrated its flagship Galantines Day at Olfactory, a unique perfume store in Soho. This Galantines event is a great way to connect with restructuring professionals and reconnect with old friends in the new year. During this event, each guest has the chance to make her own customized perfume with a name. Everyone also enjoys snacks and drinks from Murray’s Cheese, and gifts from our sponsors. The event proved to be another success in IWIRC NY’s flagship events and was sold out during early bird season.



Hong Kong Network

On Thursday, 13 February 2025, the Hong Kong Network hosted the 2025 Chinese New Year Dim Sum Lunch at Madame Fù. Over 50 members and friends in the restructuring and insolvency sector attended the lunch to celebrate the Year of the Snake and connect with old and new friends. We would like to thank BRG for their generous sponsorship of this event.



Western Canada Network

The Western Canada Network enjoyed some much needed R&R at the annual spa day held in November. Members enjoyed a variety of services from manicures, to pedicures, to blow-outs, to all of the above!



Indonesia and Singapore Networks

The Indonesia and Singapore Networks hosted an Indonesian Restructuring Case Studies webinar on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. The speakers included Jacqueline Chan, partner at Milbank; Tracy Tania, partner at Assegaf Hamzah & Partners; Charles Evans, senior director at Alvarez & Marsal; as well as moderator and financial journalist Eveline Danubrata. The panelists discussed notable Indonesian restructurings, addressed regulatory reform and due diligence, and offered insights for potential investors, lenders and borrowers. More than 110 attendees logged in from a broad range of companies with a mix of borrowers, lenders, investors and advisers in the region.



Singapore Network

The Singapore network hosted its annual Christmas party in November at Sospiri, a South Italian restaurant overlooking the Central Business District of Singapore. The dinner was attended by close to 100 practitioners from the restructuring and insolvency industry. It was an enjoyable evening of good Italian food, wine and even better company.



Cayman Islands Network

ABI drinks – 23 January 2025

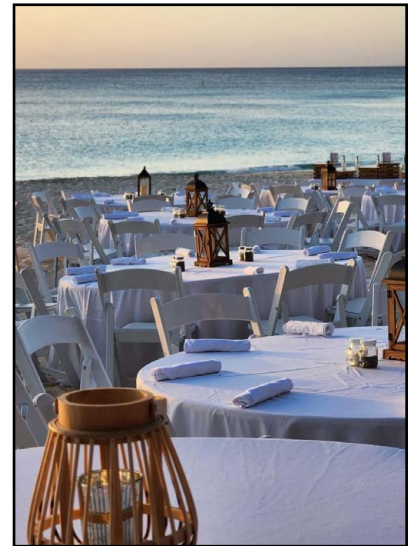
The Cayman Network was pleased to host networking drinks at Door No. 4, in conjunction with the American Bankruptcy Institute and RISA Cayman. With over 200 attendees of various nationalities and professions, the turnout at this event was amazing.

Beach BBQ – 12 February 2025

Our members had the wonderful opportunity to connect at IWIRC Cayman's annual Beach BBQ at The Westin. 147 attendees enjoyed a beautiful sunset, drinks and a fabulous buffet on the beach.

Aim Higher Raffle – 21 February 2025

IWIRC Cayman has once again been a proud supporter of the Aim Higher programme, which provides sponsorship to a select group of year 10 students at John Gray High School in the Cayman Islands to receive additional maths tutoring in the lead up to their final exams. Through the sale of raffle tickets and IWIRC Cayman's own contribution, over CI\$8,500 was raised for this good cause.



IWIRC on Ice

Insolvency and restructuring professionals from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin gathered on January 29th and 30th for the 6th annual IWIRC on ICE at the award-winning Sundara Inn & Spa, regularly rated in the Top 10 destination spas in the world. With many women returning for their sixth year, and several others attending for the first time, old connections were strengthened, and new connections were formed. On day one, the group enjoyed a hosted wine and appetizer social followed by a lesson in improv from professionals from the University of Wisconsin. That event was followed by a dinner at the historic Del Bar, a traditional Wisconsin supper club. The following day offered a chance to partake in a guided fun run and/or a private yoga event. After the exercise, the group enjoyed two seminars, one discussing artificial intelligence and another on business valuations. The discussions stemming from these seminars was robust and insightful. Following the seminars, the group headed to the spa for some down time and relaxation. That evening, there was another hosted dinner and drinks, and the group faced the challenge of escaping Wisconsin Dells' Elusive Escape Rooms. We are happy to report that all groups successfully escaped. Everyone is already looking forward to next year's IWIRC on Ice!



IWIRC in the Blue Ridge

We had a wonderful time at the 3rd annual IWIRC in the Blue Ridge on February 16-18. IWIRC members gathered for relaxation and camaraderie in beautiful Asheville, North Carolina, where we enjoyed dinner, a CLE on beating stress, and the phenomenal spa at the historic Omni Grove Park Inn. This event is co-hosted annually by the KIT and Carolinas Networks. Thank you to all of our sponsors and the amazing women who made it a success!



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Follow IWIRC networks on social media! Click the icons below to be directed to their pages.

IWIRC Brazil 

IWIRC Carolinas 

IWIRC Cayman Islands  

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IWIRC DC  

IWIRC Delaware 

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IWIRC Greater Maryland 

IWIRC Greater Philadelphia 

IWIRC Georgia 

IWIRC Florida   

IWIRC Houston  

IWIRC Hong Kong    

IWIRC India 

IWIRC Ireland  

IWIRC Latin America  

IWIRC London  

IWIRC Malaysia 

IWIRC Mexico  

IWIRC Michigan  

IWIRC Midlands & North of England 

IWIRC New England  

IWIRC New Jersey 

IWIRC New York  

IWIRC Northern California 

IWIRC Ontario  

IWIRC Puerto Rico 

IWIRC Scotland 

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IWIRC Western Canada  

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Thanks for sharing your Network News!

Has your network hosted a great event? Have some exciting events coming up? We want to hear!

Send your submissions to news@iwirc.com to be featured in future IWIRC Network News communications.



IWIRC

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