

WOMEN OWNED LAW

WOL CONNECTIONS

Message From The Board By: Shira Katz Scanlon, WOL President



As I step into the role of President of Women Owned Law, I find myself both humbled and energized. Humbled, because I have the privilege of following in the footsteps of our incredible immediate past president, Nancy Mertz, who has poured her energy and passion into continuing the work of our founder, Nicole Galli. Energized, because the foundation these exceptional women created (with the help of many others!) affords us the opportunity to grow, innovate, and expand in ways that continue to serve our members, partners, sponsors, and the broader legal community.

Nancy's leadership has been nothing short of extraordinary. As the first non-founding president, Nancy nurtured WOL into the thriving, supportive network we are today. On behalf of our board and the entire organization, I want to offer heartfelt thanks for her unwavering commitment and countless contributions.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the future. Women Owned Law will continue to deliver the programming and networking opportunities that have become the hallmark of our community. From our Law Firm Boot Camp to Symposium, from our innovative virtual programming to unparalleled regional events, we are committed to creating spaces where our members can learn, connect, and thrive.

I am also looking to the future with a spirit of growth. That means reaching more women who can benefit from our resources, expanding the ways we bring people together, and continuing to shine a light on the incredible accomplishments of our community. The journey ahead is one of opportunity, collaboration, and, yes, a little boldness; the same spirit that has defined Women Owned Law for nearly a decade.

I'm grateful for this opportunity, the implicit trust of every single person who helped make WOL what it is today, and to everyone who will help us write the next chapter.

The best part? We get to do it together. There are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved, lend your expertise, gain connection and more. I'd love to see you at upcoming events and/or on a committee. If you don't know where to start, look for the weekly events email or check out the [events calendar](#)

Shira Katz Scanlon
President, Women Owned Law

From the WOL Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force

Calling all WOL Members!

As we enter into the beginning of Fall and shift back into a busy rhythm, we hope this message finds you refreshed and ready for the season ahead.

Please take a few minutes to log in to your WOL member profile and review the **newly updated prompts**. We've refined these questions to better reflect the diverse experiences, perspectives, and identities within our community.

By updating your member profile you are helping us:

- Design programs that are more inclusive and relevant
- Create benefits that reflect the needs of our entire membership
- Ensure that everyone feels represented and supported in our initiatives

Your participation makes a meaningful difference in how we can serve you and our community as a whole.

Please log in today and update your profile—it only takes a few minutes, and the impact will last far longer.

Thank you for helping us continue to build a welcoming and equitable organization. Wishing you a smooth transition into fall, and we look forward to all the exciting opportunities this new season will bring.

-The WOL DEI Committee

Member Updates

Promote your recent success in the new *Member Updates Column*! Mention an upcoming (or recorded) speaking engagement, or special news to share with fellow WOL members? [Click here](#) to submit your news today!

All submissions must be received by October 28 to be included in the November newsletter.

Member Column

Communication is Key

Why Law Firm Leaders Must Make Time for Their Team Members

By: Laurin D. Johnson, Esq., LL.M.



The Evolution From Letters to Slack Messages

In the past, a client or colleague had two options to reach you: call your office (hoping you were available) or send a letter. Boundaries were clear, because communication channels were limited.

Now, clients and colleagues can call your mobile or office phone, use Slack, text, WhatsApp, DM, or email. With endless ways to connect, it's ironic how often communication is still lacking in the workplace. What often separates well-managed firms from poorly managed ones is how leaders communicate with their team members...

[Read More](#)



Member Spotlight

Elektra Yao

Yao Law Group

<https://yaolawgroup.com/>

Elektra is an immigration and entertainment attorney who blends creativity with advocacy. Raised by immigrant parents from Italy and Côte d'Ivoire, she understands the immigrant journey and the arts. With a background in documentary filmmaking and media, she saw talented international artists struggle with visas due to legal language barriers. This inspired her to become their advocate. As founder of Yao Law Group, a seven-figure firm with a 99% O-1 visa approval rate, she helps global creatives secure U.S. opportunities. Fluent in French, Italian, and Spanish, Elektra leads with empathy, cultural fluency, and a deep passion for empowering visionary talent.

[Read More](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

B2B Meeting

Tuesday, October 09 | 12:00pm EST

(Virtual via Zoom)

Attorneys Only Networking

Tuesday, October 28 | 12:00pm EST

(Virtual via Zoom)

NYC Tenement Museum Tour

Thursday, October 30 | 6:00pm EST

(In-person - NY)

LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS 10/23

B2B Meeting

Thursday, November 6 | 12:00pm EST

(Virtual via Zoom)

WOL After Hours: Art, Vibes & Views at the Philly Art Museum

Friday, November 7, 2025 | 5:30pm EST

(In-person - PA)

WOL Virtual Event

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | 12:00pm EST

(Virtual via Zoom)

Bowery Mission Volunteer Event

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | 12:00pm EST

(In-person - NY)

FOLLOW WOMEN OWNED LAW

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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