Final Report: University of Chicago Law Women’s Caucus Reception in Honor of Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer ’79

Evaluation and summary of the project:

In honor of the centennial of Women’s Suffrage, the University of Chicago’s Law Women’s Caucus (LWC) hosted a reception in honor Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer. Not only is Judge Pallmeyer a distinguished alum, she is also the first woman to serve as Chief Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Overall, the event was a resounding success and was a great way to kick off 2020. Our target audience was our 1L membership and we promoted the event heavily. We incurred the bulk of our expenses from food and beverage so we were very grateful for our ABA funds to help provide our guests with a hearty meal. We chose a women-run catering company, Unforgettable Edibles, to advance our mission to highlight women’s leadership in law and business. Unforgettable Edibles devised a menu to remind students of a home-cooked meal. This came as a much-needed treat at a stressful time in winter quarter when many of our members feel homesick. Following dinner, our guests were treated to the speaking program. The three speakers particularly engaged 1Ls who shared that meeting Judge Pallmeyer helped them envision careers for themselves in the federal judiciary. Guests shared that they felt inspired by Judge Pallmeyer’s remarks about how men can promote gender equity throughout the legal profession. Specifically, Judge Pallmeyer’s anecdote about how she would not have been appointed if not for her predecessor stepping down served as a palpable example about how men can advocate for women’s equity and parity. Our attendance was bolstered by a number of men allies, including our Law School Dean and many of our male student leaders.

Number of attendees:

We had 49 guests, including Judge Pallmeyer, her two clerks. and our Law School Dean

Actual costs incurred:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost Incurred</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Beverage</td>
<td>$2,083.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linens, Serving Equipment etc.</td>
<td>$1,533.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing Brochures</td>
<td>$82.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Actual revenues received:
We received no revenues from this event
Rebecca R. Pallmeyer graduated from Valparaiso University and earned her law degree from the University of Chicago Law School. Following a one-year clerkship with Justice Rosalie Wahl of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Judge Pallmeyer practiced commercial litigation with a Chicago law firm.

From 1985 until 1991, Judge Pallmeyer was an Administrative Law Judge with the Illinois Human Rights Commission, a quasi-judicial agency responsible for enforcement of the state’s anti-discrimination laws. On October 1, 1991, Judge Pallmeyer was appointed a United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. She served as Presiding Magistrate Judge from 1996 until 1998. In 1997, President Clinton nominated her for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, where she has served since October 1998.

Judge Pallmeyer served from 2013 to 2019 as a member on the Committee on Court Administration and Case Management and since March 2019 has served on the United States Judicial Conference. She is an honorary fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and a member of the ALI-CLE Employment and Labor Law Advisory Panel. Since 2006, Judge Pallmeyer has served on the faculty for the annual ALI-CLE program, Current Developments in Employment Law, held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Judge Pallmeyer is past President of the Lawyers Club of Chicago; past President and active member of the Richard Linn American Inn of Courts, an Inn focused on intellectual property law; and an active member of the Chicago Bar Association, the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois, and the American Bar Association. She is the immediate past Secretary to the Labor and Employment Law Section of the American Bar Association.

Judge Pallmeyer became Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois on July 1, 2019.
The University of Chicago Law Women’s Caucus honors:

Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer  
United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Thursday, January 30, 2020

WELCOME  
Christine O’Connell ‘21, LWC President

DINNER  
Unforgettable Edibles

INTRODUCTION OF JUDGE PALLMEYER  
Claire Lee ‘21, LWC Vice President

REMARKS  
Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer ‘79

Thank you to the American Bar Association,  
Lo & Sons, and the Office of the Dean of Students  
for supporting this event.
The Law Women's Caucus cordially invites you to:

A RECEPTION IN HONOR OF JUDGE REBECCA R. PALLMEYER '79

Thursday, January 30
6:30 PM
Law School Green Lounge

Guest of Honor
Judge Pallmeyer graduated from the Law School in 1979. Following a one-year clerkship with Justice Rosalie Wahl of the Minnesota Supreme Court, she practiced commercial litigation in Chicago before serving as an Administrative Justice for the Illinois Human Rights Commission. She was appointed as Magistrate Judge to the Northern District of Illinois in 1991 and Associate Judge in 1998. In July 2019, Judge Pallmeyer was sworn in as the Chief Judge, becoming the first woman to hold the title in the Northern District of Illinois.

This event is made possible thanks to the generosity of our cosponsors: The Dean of Students Office, the American Bar Association, and Lo & Sons. The Law Women's Caucus thanks them for their commitment to gender equity in the legal profession.

By invitation only. For more information or to request accommodations, please contact lwc@law.uchicago.edu