



(l-r: Bernadette Barron, Maureen Beacom Gorman, Shelly DeRousse, Heather Wier Vaught, Mary Melchor, Sylvia Bokyung St. Clair)

The Women's Bar Foundation ("WBF) held its Second Annual Rise Up Reach Back Luncheon-Springfield on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at the Sangamo Club in Springfield, Illinois. WBF honored Ms. Heather Wier Vaught, Chief Counsel to the Speaker and Parliamentarian of the Illinois House of Representatives. Shelly A. DeRousse, President of WBF and partner at Freeborn & Peters LLP, stated "Heather Wier Vaught is one of the most influential attorneys in Illinois. She has played a significant role in very important and high profile issues affecting Illinois, including the impeachment of Governor Blagojevich, redistricting litigation, and the constitutional challenge to Governor Bruce Rauner's withholding of appropriations to pay legislative salaries. WBF was thrilled to honor Heather, as she has achieved such a high level of success in her career and is widely respected by Illinois legislators, attorneys, and government staff."

The hosts of the luncheon were Ms. DeRousse, Bernadette Barron, WBF Vice President and owner of Barron Business Consulting, Maureen Beacom Gorman, WBF Vice President and partner at Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP, Mary Alice Melchor, WBF Vice President and Inspector General for the Circuit Court of Cook County, and Sylvia Bokyung St. Clair, WBF Director and associate at Faegre Baker Daniels LLP. Over 80 WBF supporters and special guests attended the luncheon to honor Ms. Vaught including retired U.S. Magistrate Judge David Bernthal, Fourth District Appellate Justice M. Carol Pope, Fourth Circuit Resident Judge Kimberly Koester, and Village of River Forest President Catherine Adduci. WBF is grateful to its sponsors Richard J. Prendergast, Ltd, Barron Business Consulting, Freeborn & Peters LLP, Marshall Gerstein & Borun LLP, Dove & Dove, Cullen & Associates, Timothy Mapes and Staff, Michael and Lucinda McClain, and the Central Illinois Women's Bar Association. Founded in 1966, the Women's Bar Foundation has given out over 300

scholarships, totaling over \$1.5 million, to women law students in Illinois law schools since its inception. The 2016 Annual Scholarship Luncheon will be held on October 21, 2016 at the Metropolitan Club in Chicago.

Submitted by Mary Alice Melchor, WBF Treasurer and WBAI Director. Mary is the Inspector General for the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Mary is very active in several local and national bar associations and organizations. Mary is licensed to practice in the Illinois, the US Northern District, and the US Supreme Courts.

