

How to Maximize Your NCWBA Membership

*by Angel Zimmerman, NCWBA board member and 2012–2013 President
Kansas Women Attorneys Association*

Speaking as a past president of a women's bar association, it can be quite an eye-opening experience how quickly one's presidency goes by. Attending a Women's Bar Leadership Summit is one way to be more prepared.

The NCWBA Women's Bar Leadership Summit is held during and in the city of the ABA annual meeting. For a preview of future meeting sites, [click here](#). If you have a board year that starts in January, you may wish to send your president-elect to the Summit in the preceding year so she gets the opportunity to start mingling with other women's bar leaders and feeling invigorated to begin her presidency with a bucket of ideas. If your board year starts in July, you may still wish to send your president-elect, or possibly timing is such that sending your newly-minted president to her first big event in July/August works well for your organization. Some organizations find it useful to send both their president-elect and their president. As the president already has her plate more than full with other responsibilities, the president-elect can be tasked with the "return and report" mission for the organization and also help the president determine which projects might be appropriate for immediate implementation or which may need a multi-year approach.

Additionally, your organization may want to consider ongoing steady representation at the Summit to help even more in facilitating implementation of programs from other sister organizations within your own organization without having to recreate the wheel. In this regard, it can be particularly helpful if your organization is capable of paying for or sharing costs with those who attend. This allows members in your organization to feel there is equal opportunity to participate, and leadership is not reserved for those who can pay for travel on top of their donation of time. This may also open up the opportunity for women who may have time but not money to contribute. And it is often the events that are attached to the check book or budget line item that do not get forgotten from year to year on the benefits they provide to the organization.



2013 Women's Bar Leadership Summit Attendees (l-r) Wichita Women Attorneys Assn. President Ali Merchant, Angel Zimmerman and Kansas Women Attorney Association President Mira Mdivani