



2016 WOMEN'S INITIATIVES

Helping Pave Our Future



Michael Best is committed to hiring and retaining women professionals and advancing their careers. Women are crucial to continually evolving the firm. As part of the firm's corporate commitment to diversity and its Women's Initiative, Michael Best ensures equality and representation throughout the firm.

Women's Development Group

Each of the firm's offices established a Women's Development Group (WDG) to create and expand programs and policies within the firm that support women attorneys, scientists, and engineers in their professional development. Whether on equity track or not, the goal of the WDG is to support females on their path for long-term employment at Michael Best. There are also WDG coordinators in our offices to facilitate discussion and serve as day-to-day contacts and liaisons for female professionals. Receiving business advice directly from other female attorneys and firm professionals, and having a comfortable place to network internally helps with professional development, as well as morale.

KELLY M. FORTIER

Women's Development Group Chair
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"As a young attorney, I saw that most of the women in my group worked a part-time schedule at some point in their career and were not penalized because of that choice. It was wonderful to see the path they took led to the same place as their full-time male colleagues. Frankly, the firm's willingness to embrace technology and flexible schedules is the primary reason that I'm still practicing (and enjoying) law as a mother of three young kids." – Kelly M. Fortier

2016 Women Honors & Recognition



Two Michael Best Partners Honored As Women in the Law

Amy Schmidt Jones and Katherine Wood Schill were selected as the *Wisconsin Law Journal's* 2016 Women in the Law award recipients. The annual award honors top women attorneys for their outstanding achievements in the legal field and community, while paving the way to success for other women in the legal profession.

Jones is Chair of the firm's Labor and Employment Relations Practice Group, one of Michael Best's largest practice areas and a top-ranked practice in Wisconsin. Jones is the first woman to chair this dynamic group. Since joining Michael Best in 1998, Jones has committed herself to mentoring young attorneys and helped establish the firm's Women's Development Group and Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Schill, a partner in the Litigation Practice Group, devotes her practice to commercial and intellectual property litigation. In more than 20 years with the firm, Schill has established herself as a leading litigator, mentor, role model, and advocate for the firm's female attorneys. In her rise to the partnership, Schill established a flexible work time policy, allowing her to effectively balance a dedication to both her legal practice and her family.



Michael Best Welcomes Eleven New Women Professionals

We value women in the workplace and their commitment to their careers. We welcome these women attorneys, scientists, and engineers who joined the firm in 2016!

- Louise Arnott, Associate
- Katherine C. Hinkle, Associate
- Jill B. Lubetsky, Attorney
- Adrienne S. Ehrhardt, Partner
- Rikki A. Hullinger, Ph.D., Patent Scientist
- Roxane E. Maywalt, Attorney
- Jennifer L. Ewan, Senior Counsel
- Carolyn E. Isaac, Associate
- Abigail J. Griffin, Patent Engineer



Lori S. Meddings Named 2016 Leader in the Law

Lori S. Meddings, a partner in the firm's Intellectual Property Practice Group, has been recognized as a 2016 Leader in the Law by Wisconsin Law Journal. The list celebrates the top judges, attorneys and legal professionals making a difference in Wisconsin's legal community. Throughout her 14 years with Michael Best, Meddings has established herself as a leader in intellectual property law, counseling clients throughout Wisconsin and across the world to combat counterfeiting issues, enforce their trademarks, and protect their valuable intellectual property assets.



Ebben Not Afraid To Lace Up Her Boots

Michelle Wagner Ebben, a partner in Michael Best & Friedrich LLP's Transactional Practice Group, has been named as one of Wisconsin Law Journal's 2016 Up & Coming Lawyers. At Michael Best, Ebben focuses her practice on construction and real estate law. She represents clients in various construction, real estate and project development matters.

Ebben says that although she does not need to lace up her boots often while on the job, there's always a chance she might need them.

"I've been the one person on the construction site that's a woman," she said. But Ebben says she is optimistic that won't be the case for long, given that more women are going both into construction and law than 20 to 30 years ago.

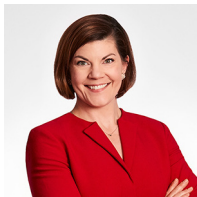
Ebben is considered a rising star in Wisconsin's legal community and was chosen along with 29 others based on a superior demonstration of leadership, community involvement, and determination in legal work, according to the Wisconsin Law Journal.

Congratulations to our Newest Women Partners

Of the 7 new partners announced in 2016, 5 are women. We value their dedication, leadership, strong work ethic, and their commitment to the firm.

- Michelle Wagner Ebben
- Sarah E. Flotte
- Denise Greathouse
- Valerie L. Green
- Molly S. Lawson

Careers That Inspire



Danielle M. Bergner
Managing Partner - Milwaukee Office



Amy O. Bruchs
Managing Partner - Madison Office



Kerryann Haase Minton
Managing Partner - Chicago Office

What's your favorite memory from law school?

I walked into the career planning center for my first round of on-campus interviews wearing a brand new suit that I had purchased for the occasion. The woman at the reception desk looked horrified when I walked in. She said, 'you are wearing pants to an interview?' She then went on to kindly advise me that skirts were appropriate business attire for women. I told her, that's nice, but I don't wear skirts. I can laugh about the absurdity of it now, but at the time it was pretty shocking. I recall this as my 'favorite' memory because it was the first time I remember feeling like a disruptor — albeit, inadvertently!
- Danielle

Who has been your biggest mentor?

Without a doubt, my Mother. She was a professional business person who was named to the Governor's Tourism Council in the 1970's, and she was the first female to be accepted into her community's Rotary Club. My mom showed me that with determination and a strong work ethic, anything can be achieved. - Amy

What advice would you give women professionals who want to have children?

As a new mother with 18-month-old twins and still working full time, I would offer the advice that was given to me: "Do what's best for you and your family. If flex time is what works best for your family, then develop a plan, ask for it and get it." - Kerryann