

## Women Attorneys in Firm's Texas Offices Benefit from Career-Building Retreat

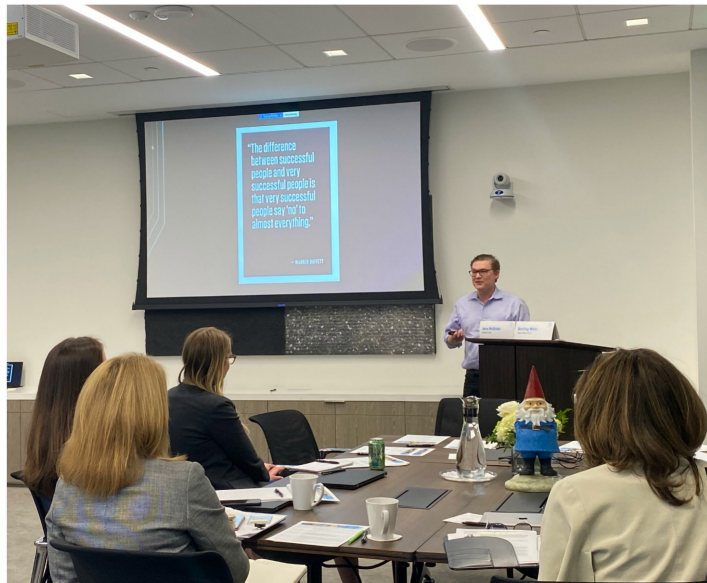
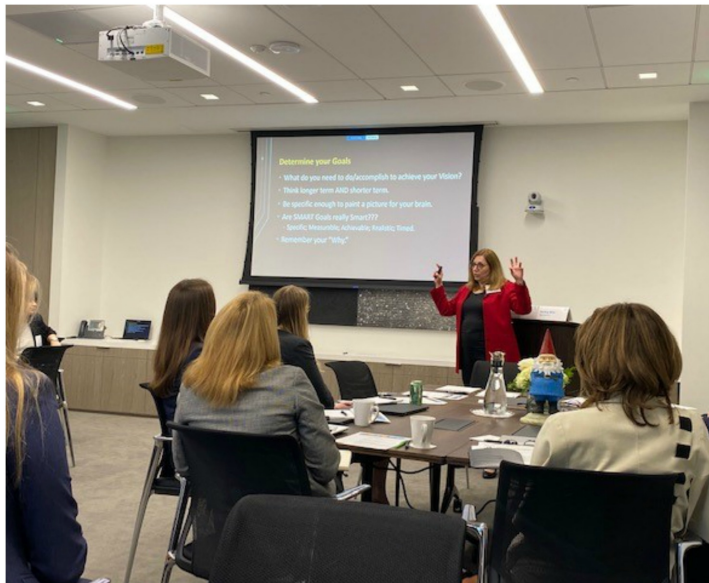
JANUARY 23, 2020

Winston & Strawn's women attorneys in Dallas and Houston recently gathered in the firm's Dallas office for a one-day professional development retreat hosted by our Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI).



The day began with guest speakers Jane McBride, General Counsel at Optimus Legal, and Sterling Miller, a three-time general counsel now with Hilgers Graben, PLLC. Their presentation on “The Essential Lawyer” provided attendees with a number of useful insights:

- Start by defining your goals because “We can’t know what obstacles to remove until we are clear on the desired outcome” (*Essentialism*, Greg Mckeown).
- Make the wisest possible investment of time and energy by doing *only* what is essential.
- Plan and prioritize by creating SMART goals.
- Operate at the highest point of contribution, and learn to say “no” to activities that are not essential to achieving your goals.
- Learn to delegate. You can do anything, but not everything.



The 28 attendees took a break from formal programming for a team building trivia game before reconvening for a fireside chat with Winston Partners [Lisa Cottle](#), [Amanda Groves](#), and [Denise Scofield](#) that was moderated by Houston WLI Partner Chair [Melanie Gray](#). These women shared their advice for rising above the challenges of juggling career and family to position yourself for success:

- Get to know your communication and work style (and that of your client and bosses).
- Communicate effectively and often.
- Leverage technology to be responsive and present.
- Ask questions and share ideas.
- Get involved in business development opportunities early in your career.
- Don't be afraid to build strong friendships with clients and prospects so you can capitalize on opportunities as they arise.



Following a group lunch, Dallas WLI Partner Chair [Natalie Arbaugh](#) moderated a conversation with in-house lawyers featuring Monica Brown, Assistant General Counsel at Lennox International, Inc.; Anne Brooksher-Yen, Senior Associate General Counsel – Litigation at EHS, and Quality, Celanese; and Melissa Drennan, Chief Legal Officer and Chief Compliance Officer at Ryan. Panelists shared their professional experiences and offered tips for career growth:

- Determine your goals and pursue them strategically.
- Seek mentors and sponsors.
- Request informal feedback, and be receptive when someone provides it.
- Learn to anticipate challenges for senior leadership and be proactive in offering solutions.
- Go out of your comfort zone – opportunities for growth and development await.



Attendees became better acquainted by playing the “Guess Who” game before gathering for a cocktail reception to close out a day full of valuable career-building insights.



Visit our [Diversity & Inclusion](#) page for more information on Winston’s programs and initiatives.

2 Min Read

### Related Locations

- Dallas
- Houston

### Related Topics

- Affinity Group
- Women’s Leadership Initiative
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

### Related Regions

- North America

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