



Dear Class of 2012,

First off, congratulations on making it here! You've worked hard to get here, and you'll work even harder while you're here, but it will all be worth it in the end. Below is some information on our organization. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any of the officers or members.

Women in Law offers an opportunity to *all* law students—female and male—to enhance their law school experience through a unique combination of professional networking, social, and volunteer events. WIL focuses on promoting the interests of women within the legal profession through all of these activities; that aspiration is not exclusive to any particular subset of persons, and we encourage anyone who supports the interests of women in the legal profession to join.

We host meetings at the law school with female lawyer speakers who hail from all areas of life-after-law-school, be it politics, private firms, nonprofits, corporate work, and many more. Our professional networking events include activities with various professional groups in the area, including the South Carolina Women Lawyer's Association. We also host potlucks, dropins, and happy hour-style events, sometimes just within our own membership or with organizations in other graduate departments, such as the American Medical Women's Association student chapter at MUSC and the Moore Association of Graduate Women. This year, we're excited to announce that we will host an evening speaking event with Chief Justice Jean H. Toal, the Chief Justice of South Carolina's Supreme Court, and the newest Justice to the South Carolina Supreme Court, Justice Kaye Hearn. In addition, this fall we will have the longest practicing female lawyer in South Carolina, as well as a panel of corporate attorneys, as speakers (just to name a few) for our lunchtime speaking events.

Sponsored community projects include the annual Halloween Carnival at the law school, in conjunction with other student organizations, for children of the faculty, staff, and students and children from the Women's Shelter and St. Lawrence Place; with assistance from the Young Lawyers' Division of the South Carolina Bar, the annual Race Judicata 5K Road Race in the Shandon area to benefit the Women's Shelter; and several more throughout the school year. Our membership has many facets, so do not think that joining means you have signed on for a year of continuous community service projects. Feel free to come only to the events that appeal to you most, when *you* can.

This letter is meant to give you a quick "snapshot" of what our organization is all about, but it can't possibly communicate the camaraderie or the experiences you'll find if you attend one of our meetings. I hope you'll take the time to stop off at one of our meetings (free lunch!) or check out our TWEN and Facebook websites. I look forward to meeting you soon.

--Sincerely,
Johanna C. Valenzuela (valenzue@mailbox.sc.edu)
President, Women in Law, 2009-2010