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GRAWA events highlight legislative, judicial branches

BY GRETA K. KOLCON

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Sept. 17 — Constitution Day

The Constitution of the United States has been called the “highest law of the land.” Sept. 17 is Constitution Day, to commemorate the date in 1787 on which the Constitutional Convention adjourned deliberations at Independence Hall, having completed the U.S. Constitution.

On this day also, students all over the country will study the Constitution because, beginning in 2005, federal law mandates that all publicly funded educational institutions provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution on that day.

A key aspect of the founders’ vision of “a more perfect union” was the division of power among three branches of government. The founders sought to ensure that the government they established would not have all of its powers concentrated in the hands of a few officials or a single branch. GRAWA has two upcoming programs that celebrate two of the three branches of government — the legislative and the judicial.

Sept. 20 — Legislative Breakfast

On Sept. 20, GRAWA will host its first Legislative Breakfast from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Nixon Peabody, LLP, Clinton Square, 14th floor. The event is intended to provide a forum for discussion with members of the local legislature. It is free and open to the public.

GRAWA’s Legislative Committee, led by Kim Duguay, actively participates with other chapters on the statewide legislative committee, and works closely with the designated legislative consultant to advance legislation of interest and concern. GRAWA members who participate in other statewide substantive committees regularly work with the committee to evaluate proposed bills, make recommendations and provide testimony.

Oct. 12 — Judicial Candidates’ Luncheon

GRAWA’s annual Judicial Candidates’ Luncheon is a

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not-to-be-missed opportunity to hear from candidates for judicial offices. This is the only event of its kind and allows attendees to pose questions to candidates. Plan to attend, and plan not to leave early — some of the most interesting discussions tend to be generated by the question and answer portion toward the end of the program.

GRAWA’s Judicial Evaluation Committee, co-chaired by Eileen Buholtz and Cynthia Carroll, compiles information about candidates seeking judicial office and rates candidates to inform the community about a candidate’s qualifications.

The luncheon is set for 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 12 at the Rochester Convention Center.

Oct. 17 — New Member Reception

GRAWA’s annual New Member Reception will take place on Oct. 17 at Nixon Peabody, LLP, Clinton Square, 14th floor, beginning at 5 p.m.

In addition to recognizing new members, members who have been admitted to practice for 25 years also will be honored. This is a great opportunity to learn more about opportunities to serve on committees, both locally and statewide, or to reconnect with professional colleagues in the community. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please submit your renewal promptly. On Oct. 1, all member benefits will terminate for those who have not renewed.

GRAWA’s committees are in full swing, and opportunities for professional development and networking abound. Don’t miss the opportunity to attend the Women’s Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Oct. 7; member discounts on upcoming CLE programs; mentorship program events and more. For questions about membership, contact Membership Chairwoman Sharon Higginbotham.

Visit www.grawa.org for more information, or to submit your membership renewal application.

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