



**THE
CHICAGO
BAR
ASSOCIATION**

N E W S R E L E A S E

**The Chicago Bar Association
321 South Plymouth Court
Chicago, IL 60604-3997
Ph-312-554-2000
f-312-554-2054**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Linda Heacox
Ph: 312-554-2012
E-lheacox@chicagobar.org**

**ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN OF THE CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION
HONORS TWO WITH ANNUAL AWARDS**

CHICAGO, ILL. (April 16, 2013) – The Chicago Bar Association’s Alliance for Women (AFW) will honor Michelle M. Kohut, an associate with Corboy & Demetrio LLP, and Andrea S. Kramer, a partner at McDermott Will & Emery, at its annual awards luncheon at 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, May 15, at the Standard Club, 320 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago. Tickets are \$50. For reservations, e-mail tdrees@chicagobar.org or call 312-554-2057.

About the Awards

Kramer will be honored with The Founder’s Award, established in 1994, to honor women lawyers who have significantly contributed to the advancement of women in the legal profession or other areas, and whose careers reflect the highest level of professional achievement, ethics, and excellence.

Past recipients include: Laurel G. Bellows, Bellows & Bellows, P.C.; Hon. Sheila M. Murphy (ret.) Of Counsel, Rothschild, Barry & Myers LLP; Pamela Strobel, former Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, Exelon Corporation; Dolores Hanna, former special trademark counsel, Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC; Esther Rothstein, the first woman president of the CBA (dec.); Jane DiRenzo Pigott, managing director of R3 Group; Hon. Beverly Susler Parkhurst; Hon. Martha A. Mills; Judith A. Gold, Perkins Coie LLP; Zaldwaynaka Scott, Mayer Brown LLP; Hon. Joy V. Cunningham; Hon. Carole Kamin Bellows; Susan R. Lichtenstein, former Corporate Vice President and General Counsel, Baxter International Inc.; Hon. Joan Humphrey Lefkow; and Julie A. Bauer, Winston & Strawn LLP.

Kohut will receive The Alta May Hulett Award. Named for Illinois' first woman lawyer, the award honors women who have recently joined the profession. Ms. Hulett was recognized at her death at 23, not only as Illinois' first woman lawyer, but also as a most accomplished lawyer who significantly contributed to the advancement of women and practiced at the highest level of professional achievement, ethics, and excellence. Therefore, the criteria for the Hulett Award are the same as for the Founder's Award, but nominees for the Alta May Hulett Award must have been qualified to practice law for 15 years or fewer.

Past recipients include E. Lynn Grayson, Jenner & Block LLP; former Chicago Bar Association President Jennifer T. Nijman, Nijman Franzetti LLP; Celia Guzaldo Gamrath, Schiller, DuCanto & Fleck; Kathleen L. Nooney, formerly of DLA Piper (dec.); Margot Klein, law clerk to Hon. Geraldine Soat Brown; Aurora N. Abella-Austriaco, Austriaco & Associates Ltd.; Lisa T. Scruggs, Jenner & Block LLP; Adrienne B. Pitts, Sidley Austin LLP; Deborah H. Telman, General Counsel, Ports America Group; Angela R. Elbert, Neal Gerber & Eisenberg; LLP; and Karina Ayala-Bermejo, City of Chicago.

About the Honorees

Andrea S. Kramer

Andrea S. (Andie) Kramer is a partner in the international law firm of McDermott Will & Emery, where she heads its Financial Products, Trading and Derivatives Group, is a member of its GREEN Group and its International Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Group. Kramer is a founding member of the Diversity Committee, and chair of the Gender Diversity Sub-committee. She previously served on the Firm's Management Committee, Compensation Committee, and was co-chair of the Energy Services Group. Based in Chicago, she provides strategic advice in a variety of complex business and financial transactions in areas of critical financial and reputational concern to businesses around the world.

For more than 30 years, she has helped clients successfully resolve difficult legal situations, including federal and state regulatory matters, adversarial proceedings, and tax planning and compliance issues. She is adept at leading teams of outside lawyers and accountants and inside legal, tax, and financial professionals to investigate, assess, and resolve complex problems involving interrelated business objectives, regulatory and legal requirements, and public policy.

Her recent focus has been on federal administrative and legislative counseling; financial risk management and hedging procedures; international dispute resolution; proprietary trading policies, codes of conduct and controls; tax compliance and controversy; and insurance product designs.

Since the early 1980s, she has helped shape legislative and regulatory policy for derivative products. She provided testimony to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee at the December 2011 hearing on “Tax Reform and the Tax Treatment of Financial Products.” From that hearing, Ways & Means Chairman Camp has issued a tax proposal, a portion of which has been incorporated in the 2014 President’s budget. Over the years, her comments and public testimony have assisted the government to modernize the taxation and regulation of financial products and derivatives.

Kramer is rated by *Chambers USA* as a *Leading Individual in Tax* and by *The Legal 500* as among the country’s *Leading Lawyers* in Domestic Tax and as a *Leading Lawyer* in Structured Finance and Derivative Products. She has been selected by her peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* and as a *SuperLawyer*.

She has written over 150 articles on topics including derivatives taxation, operational and reputational risk in trading operations, insurance coverage versus use of derivatives, energy trading and corporate governance. She was co-editor-in-chief of CCH’s quarterly *Journal of Taxation of Financial Products* for its first six years of publication. Kramer is the author of *Financial Products: Taxation, Regulation, and Design* (CCH, 3 ed., 2006, 2013 Supplement), a three-volume, 3,600-page treatise that is supplemented annually. As the leading treatise on financial products law, her book has been cited over 90 times by courts and tax commentators. She co-edited and contributed three chapters to *Energy and Environmental Trading: US Law and Taxation* (Cameron May, July 2008). She is the co-editor and a contributing author of *Energy and Environmental Project Finance Law and Taxation: New Investment Techniques* (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Her many awards include the 2011 Women with Vision Award (Women’s Bar Association of Illinois), and the 2012 National Public Service Award (Business Law Section of The American Bar Association). She has also been named by the *National Law Journal* as one of the “50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America.”

An adjunct professor at Northwestern University School of Law, she currently teaches “Taxation of Financial Derivatives” in Northwestern’s Graduate Tax Program and previously taught derivatives documentation as part of “Derivatives: Design, Regulation, and Documentation.”

Kramer is committed to improving gender diversity in professional service firms. She has spoken at more than 40 national diversity conferences and written numerous articles on equal access for women to career opportunities and leadership roles. She is a founder of WLMA, the Women’s Leadership and Mentoring Alliance, a not-for-profit organization committed to increasing women’s leadership opportunities and mentoring for professional women. At her own firm, she was recognized with McDermott’s Star Mentor Award for her work with women throughout the firm, her initiation of the firm’s Women’s Leadership Series and her efforts to enhance the working environment for women within McDermott.

She is a founding board member, chair emerita, and now serves as vice chair of the board of The Women’s Treatment Center (TWTC), a Chicago-based residential and outpatient treatment facility for alcohol and substance abuse in pregnant women and women with small children. She is board chair of the Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW), one of the largest women’s funds in the world, committed to funding programs to assure that women and girls live in safe, just, and healthy communities within which they have the chance to realize their potentials.

Kramer graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Illinois. She graduated cum laude from Northwestern University School of Law, where she served as a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*.

She joined McDermott in 1993 after several years at a smaller Chicago firm.

Michelle M. Kohut

Michelle M. Kohut, a Chicago personal injury trial lawyer, joined the law firm of Corboy & Demetrio in 2004 and practices in all areas of personal injury law, including cases arising from automobile collisions, medical malpractice, construction negligence, premises liability, product liability and railroad negligence.

She has tried many personal injury cases to verdict and has obtained numerous multi-million dollar settlements. After two days of trial, she secured the \$5 million settlement of a case in which a hospital and doctor delayed the delivery of a baby, resulting in severe brain damage. Other large settlements included a \$2 million award to a roofing foreman who fell through a hole

in a roof, fracturing his heel, and a lawsuit against a hospital for \$1 million on behalf of an emergency room patient who was not properly treated or diagnosed.

She is an active member of several bar associations including the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and the Women's Bar Association of Illinois, which she serves as First Vice President. She has also served as President of Women Everywhere - Partners in Service Project, Inc., a community service project which seeks to open doors to women and children in need and to expose high school girls to challenging careers in the legal profession. Kohut has also served on the Board of Directors of Heartland International Health Center, which is dedicated to improving the health of people from several Chicago communities through affordable, high quality, multilingual, and culturally competent health services.

In 2007, in recognition of her success, hard work and community involvement, she was named one of "40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch" by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company. She has also been honored with the designation of Illinois Super Lawyer, Rising Star each year since 2008.

A graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law, she was a Judicial Law Clerk to William D. Maddux, Presiding Judge of the Law Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, prior to joining Corboy & Demetrio.