



Mysteries of the Secret Society Revealed!

The Circle of Minerva

There is no secret handshake, no shrouded rituals, no initiation rites – just a committed group of CWBA members who are quietly leading by example. The **Circle of Minerva** was launched in June 2012 to provide a reliable and sustaining source of funding for the mission of the Colorado Women’s Bar Association Foundation – to implement the charitable and educational work of the CWBA, to promote the advancement of women in the law, and to protect and promote the welfare of all women.

The origins of the Circle of Minerva can be traced to 1992 when the Foundation created the Leadership Circle to recognize a small group of members who made significant contributions over ten years. According to Past CWBA President Lynda McNeive, “the idea was to have people make a multi-year commitment – a continued level of donation that the Foundation could rely on to cover basic commitments and allow us to be more strategic.”

In 2012, the Leadership Circle was renamed the Circle of Minerva after the Roman goddess of wisdom (Minerva is often equated to the Greek goddess Athena, a name which more people may know). Each member of the Circle of Minerva is given a pin with the image of Minerva on it and the honor of calling themselves a part of this elite group of leaders who are advancing the cause of women in the law.

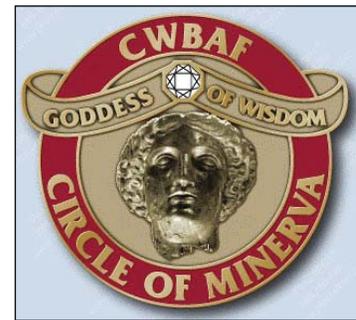
Past CWBA Foundation Board Chair Liz Starrs remembers that the change included a reduction in the level of contribution “so that young attorneys who have limited resources (paying off school loans, raising a family, etc.)

could still contribute to the important work of the Association.”

In joining the Circle of Minerva, members agree to contribute \$150 a year for five years to the Foundation. The funds have been used to support a number of important initiatives over the years. Since 1992, the Foundation has funded scholarships for a total of 60 students at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and the University of Colorado School of Law. In 1998, the Foundation spearheaded fundraising efforts for a nationally recognized, decade-long study on gender equity in careers and compensation in the legal profession. The Foundation also contributed to a study on part-time law firm partnerships through the Project for Attorney Retention and to the New Families, New Futures educational program for families going through the divorce and separation process.

If you feel passionate about the advancement of women in the law and want to do more, please consider joining the **Circle of Minerva** (www.cwba.org/circle-of-minerva/) today.

Kristin M. Bronson is a Partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP and a CWBAF Board Member.



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