

## American Bar Association Annual Meeting in Chicago

July 30–August 4, 2015

Check the Commission's website at [www.americanbar.org/women](http://www.americanbar.org/women) for information on all Annual Meeting events.

### Women as Lead Counsel at Trial: What You Can Do to Take the Lead (CLE Showcase Program)—Saturday, August 1

Why aren't more women sitting as lead counsel in major litigation matters and how can we change the situation? Although women have made great strides in the litigation arena, men still predominate in first chairs involving litigation for individual plaintiffs and corporations throughout the country. This panel will present innovative ABA research about roles played by men and women in the courtroom and discuss how women can advance into lead roles at trial, how clients can have an impact on the diversity of their trial lawyers, and what firms can do to advance talented women into first-chair trial lawyers.

The annual **Women's Caucus Meeting** will take place on Sunday, August 2, 2:15PM–4:30PM, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago (Regency Ballroom B). The caucus provides a perfect opportunity for ABA members to meet, network with colleagues, discuss issues of concern to women lawyers, announce ABA candidacies, learn more about Commission activities and programs, and increase involvement in the Commission.

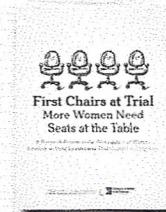
### Jennifer Rosato Perea Named Dean of the DePaul University College of Law

DePaul University in Chicago has selected a nationally recognized leader in legal education as dean of the College of Law. **Jennifer Rosato Perea**, an accomplished scholar in family law, bioethics, and civil procedure, joined DePaul July 1, 2015. Throughout her 25 years in higher education, which includes 11 years as a law school administrator, Perea has been an active voice in the national dialogue

about legal education. She previously served as dean of the Northern Illinois University College of Law in DeKalb from 2009–2015 and served as acting dean of the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law in Philadelphia during its first year of operation in 2006.

### First Chairs at Trial: More Women Need Seats at the Table

By Stephanie A. Scharf and  
Roberta D. Liebenberg



The American Bar Foundation and the Commission on Women in the Profession recently published the groundbreaking report **First Chairs at Trial: More Women Need Seats at the Table**. Written by Stephanie A. Scharf and Roberta D. Liebenberg, this study is the first of its kind to provide an empirical snapshot of the participation of women and men as lead counsel and trial lawyers in civil and criminal litigation. The research used a random sample of all cases filed in 2013 in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

As revealed in this study, women are consistently under-represented in lead counsel positions and in the role of trial lawyer for all but a few types of cases. For instance, in civil cases, men are three times more likely than women to appear as lead counsel and to appear as trial lawyers.

*First Chairs at Trial* also identifies characteristics of cases, law firms, and clients that impact the extent to which men and women serve in lead counsel roles. The report concludes with recommendations for closing the gender gap and setting forth best practices and strategies that can be implemented by law schools, law firms, courts, clients, and women lawyers themselves to increase the ranks of women lead counsel.

Download *First Chairs at Trial* from the Commission's website at [www.americanbar.org/women](http://www.americanbar.org/women).

## SHORT Takes

### On Books

Review by **Monica Fennell**

*Finding Bliss: Innovative Legal Models for Happy Clients & Happy Lawyers*

141 pages

Deborah Epstein Henry, Suzie Scanlon Rabinowitz, and Garry A. Berger (ABA Publishing 2015)

Deborah Epstein Henry's latest book, *Finding Bliss: Innovative Legal Models for Happy Clients & Happy Lawyers*, tackles head-on the skepticism that the title invites. This ambitious book identifies and explains innovations in the legal profession and how to use those advances to foster mutually beneficial relationships between lawyers and clients. While telling their own stories and

showing that there is no single path to success in the legal world, Epstein Henry and her coauthors offer advice for improving areas of legal service delivery by examining innovation, value, predictability, trust, flexibility, talent development, relationship building, and diversity and inclusion.

From the foreword by Anne-Marie Slaughter to the quote from Michele Coleman Mayes that opens the last chapter, *Finding Bliss* is sprinkled with varied insights from in-house counsel on what makes legal clients happy. The authors describe relationship building as a way to be a generous person and not as a quid pro quo. They also include bold proposals, such as outsourcing the practical skills training for junior lawyers to bar associations. "Happy lawyers are ones who feel valued and enjoy both the substance of their work and the lifestyle it affords them . . ." ☺