



*Licensing Executives  
Society International*



*Women in Licensing Alliance (WILA)*

# Mission

Advance the growth of women in leadership through education, mentoring and networking opportunities.

WILA serves as a gathering point for education on the international efforts to advance the skills and leadership of women, and offers international networking and mentorship opportunities.

LESI is well positioned to bring women and men together from around the world to share experiences in professional advancement and cultivate a culture of inclusion and support for the advancement of women in licensing.



# Leadership

## 2025-26

- Chair & Speaker Series – Pamela Cox (LES USA/Canada)
- Vice Chair for Mentorship Program – Judith Miller (LES A&NZ)
- Deputy Vice Chair for Mentorship Program – Claire Le Floch (LES France)
- Vice Chair Communications – Bruna Lins (LES Brazil)
- Deputy Vice Chair Communications – Maithili Shroff (LES USA/Canada)
- Vice Chair YMC – Emanuela Bianco (LES Italy)
- Board Liaison – Sophie Pasquier (LES France)



# 2025-26 WILA Ambassadors



Name	Region
Judith Miller	Australia & New Zealand
Candida Ribeiro Caffé	South America
Cecilia (Xianying) Lou	China
Cintia Bernhardt	Spain/Portugal
Claudia Scapicchio	Italy
Claire Le Floch	France
Dr. Samantha Williams	Britain & Ireland
Kathleen de Belder	Benelux
Carmen Correa Martin	Benelux
Stephanie Pautke	Germany
Junko Sugimura	Japan
Natalia Gulyaeva	Russia
Pauline Khor Hong Ping	Malaysia
Ia Modin	Scandinavia
Richa Pandey	India
Booma Yandava	USA/Canada
Ferzana Haq	Singapore
Rosita Li	Hong Kong
Patricia A. O. Bunye	Philippines
Grace Shao	Taiwan
Eliza Stefaniw	Thailand
Karin Hofmann	Austria
Eszter Szakacs	Hungary
Michele Burnier	Switzerland
Madelein Kleyn	South Africa
Marta Sznajder	Poland
Ruby Ho	Chinese Taipei

# WILA Mentor Program – 2025-26

- WILA’s global mentoring program supports an inclusive business culture within the licensing community by making female role models more visible and transferring key values of professional excellence and networking within LESI.
- In addition to the traditional model of senior practitioners mentoring junior protégés, the WILA mentor program also includes peer to peer mentoring.

“The mentorship program is very useful and I very much enjoy my conversations with [my mentor]. The guide was also useful in providing a structure for our conversation.”



# Social Media & Scholarship

- Bruna Lins and Maithili Shroff generate content to post monthly, especially take-aways from the speaker series
- Junko Sugimura is working with Professor Takenaka, past WILA International Women's Day speaker, to do an interview-style recording and after that to draft an article for submission to *les Nouvelles*.



# 2025-26 Speaker Series

- **September 18, 2025:** *Why Leadership Presence is Key to Handling Difficult Conversations: A Neuroscience Approach* – Speaker: Gina Steele, Steele Leadership, Inc.  
Moderator: Pamela Cox, Marshall, Gerstein & Borun, LLP (LES USA/Canada)
- **October 21, 2025:** Author Kate Zernike will be interviewed about her journey and the impact of her New York Times best-selling book, *The Exceptions: Nancy Hopkins, MIT, and the Fight for Women in Science*, by Michelle Bolos, Marshall, Gerstein & Borun, LLP
- **January 20, 2026:** *Cross-cultural negotiations and why they matter* – Speaker: Tasneem Chopra OAM  
Moderator: Judith Miller, Wrays (LES Australia & New Zealand)
- **March 8, 2026:** International Women’s Day – inspirational interview with the past LESI Presidents (pre-recorded interviews available for use by the local societies for their celebrations)
- **April 28, 2026 at LESI Annual Meeting:**
  - *WIPO WILA Mock Mediation: Healthcare IP & Contract Dispute, Moderator: James Sobieraj (LES USA/Canada)*  
Speakers: John Ritter, Princeton University (LES USA/Canada)  
Charles Valauskas, Valauskas Corder LLC (LES USA/Canada)  
Linda Kawano, GroupOptima (LES USA/Canada)  
Pamela Cox, (LES USA/Canada)  
Gina Bicknell, (LES Britain & Ireland)
  - *Encore of IP Serious Game: How to Do Business and Have Fun - A Smart and Innovative Way of Conceiving IP in Smart Cities*  
Speakers: Emanuela Bianco, Saglietti Bianco (LES Italy)  
Guido Quiram, Michalski Hüttermann & Partner (LES Germany)  
Tom Oliver, Powell Gilbert (LES Britain & Ireland)  
Magnus Hakvåg, House of Knowledge





## *WILA Speaker Series 2025-26*

### *Session 1:*

*Why Leadership Presence is Key to  
Handling Difficult Conversations:  
A Neuroscience Approach*



**September 18, 2025**  
**8:00 a.m. (CDT)**

To register: [Link](#)

**Moderator: Pamela Cox,**  
**Marshall Gerstein & Borun LLP**



**Speaker: Gina Steele, President & CEO, Steele Leadership, Inc.**



*Gina Steele was a patent litigator and prosecutor for many years. She worked at both large law firms and IP boutiques before founding her own IP law firm. After learning a lot about leadership along the way - often through trial and error - she became a leadership coach to help other professionals succeed. She is passionate about helping smart professionals ascend to leadership roles while staying true to themselves. She received her Executive Coaching Certification from the University of California, Berkeley Haas School of Business, holds a certificate in the Neuroscience of Business from the MIT Sloan School of Management, and is a certified mediator. In addition to being the President and CEO of Steele Leadership, Inc., she currently serves as the President of the Women's IP Lawyer's Association (WIPLA) in Silicon Valley. Her website is <https://SteeleLeadership.com>.*



## *WILA Speaker Series 2025-26*

### *Session 2:*

*The Exceptions: Nancy Hopkins, MIT, and  
the Fight for Women in Science*



**October 21, 2025**

**9:00 a.m. (ET) at the LES  
USA/Canada Annual Meeting**

### *Moderators:*

**Pamela Cox, Marshall  
Gerstein & Borun LLP**



**Michelle Bolos, Marshall  
Gerstein & Borun LLP**



### *Speaker: Kate Zernike*



*Kate Zernike has been a reporter for The New York Times since 2000. She was a member of the team that won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting for stories about al-Qaeda before and after the 9/11 terror attacks. She was previously a reporter for The Boston Globe, where she broke the story of MIT's admission that it had discriminated against women on its faculty, on which The Exceptions is based. The daughter and granddaughter of scientists, she is a graduate of Trinity College at the University of Toronto and the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and sons.*



## *WILA Speaker Series 2025-26*

### *Session 3: Cross-cultural Negotiations & Why they Matter*



**January 20, 2026  
2:00 p.m. (CST)**

To register: [Link](#)

**Moderator: Judith Miller  
Wrays**

**Speaker: Tasneem Chopra OAM, Cross Cultural Consultant**



*A Cross-cultural Consultant, Tasneem addresses issues of equity and belonging through an intersectional lens in leadership of government, corporate, arts and NFP's within Australia and overseas. As an industry expert, she assists engineers D&I policies, executes workshops, curates exhibitions and promotes social change towards greater cultural inclusion.*

*Tasneem is also an accomplished international speaker and commentator on topics related to leadership, cultural inclusion, gender justice, intersectionality, migration, social cohesion and social justice.*

*For her efforts she was appointed inaugural Ambassador for Women of Colour, Australia, is a former Anti-Racism Champion with the Australian Human Rights Commission and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal, Strategic Advisor to the Victorian Public Service Commission, Fire Rescue Victoria, Ambulance Victoria, NSW Legal-Aid Anti-Racism Advisory Group and the Collingwood Football Club Anti-Racism Panel. She is a seasoned media commentator and an Adjunct Fellow at Victoria University with several articles published.*



## *WILA Speaker Series 2025-26*

*Session 4:  
Celebrating International Women's  
Day March 8, 2026*



**March 8, 2026**  
(pre-recorded interviews)

## *Inspiration from past LESI Presidents*

**Audrey Yap**



**Fiona Nicolson**



**Sonja London**



**Patricia Bunye**





*WILA Speaker Series 2025-26  
LESI Annual Meeting, Dublin*

*WIPO WILA Mock Mediation:  
Healthcare IP & Contract Dispute*



**LESI Annual Meeting**  
**April 28, 2026**  
**4:05 p.m.**

An interactive mock mediation of an IP and contract dispute in the HealthCare industry, including experiences from women with C-suite responsibility and university innovators.

*James Sobieraj*



*John Ritter*



*Charles Valauskas*



*Linda Kawano*



*Pamela Cox*



*Gina Bicknell*





## LESI 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*"IP Serious Game:  
How to Do Business and Have Fun –  
A Smart and Innovative Way of  
Conceiving IP in Smart Cities"*



**LESI Annual Meeting**  
**April 28, 2026**  
**4:05 p.m.**

Join us in Dublin for the LESI 2026 annual conference: the IP Serious Game session will revolve around companies and characters already introduced during the first episode held in Singapore (such as famous Mr. Big). This time the task will be to solve IP related industries' challenges. This workshop aims and includes elements that cover and put focus on the goals and purpose of WILA.

**So, are you game?**

[Read more and register here](#)

**A GAME WITH A PURPOSE**



### MEET THE SPEAKERS:



**Magnus  
Hakvåg**

CEO  
HOUSE OF KNOWLEDGE



**Emanuela  
Bianco**

Name Partner  
SAGLIETTI BIANCO



**Tom  
Oliver**

Partner  
POWELL GILBERT



**Guido  
Quiram**

Managing Partner  
MICHALSKI  
HÜTTERMANN &  
PARTNER



To join WILA:

Contact Pam Cox at [pcox@marshallip.com](mailto:pcox@marshallip.com)