

Women in eDiscovery

By Gayle Absi

Women in eDiscovery (www.womenineDiscovery.com) is an online resource for networking, education and news and events surrounding legal technology. The Founders of Woman in eDiscovery envisioned an organization with no barriers for any woman. Many organizations limit their membership by profession or by employer type. Membership in this organization is not limited in this way and currently comprises attorneys, paralegals, vendors, government employees, general counsels, secretaries, chief operating officers and women from all walks of technology. Membership is free and all meetings include a meal and education at no charge. Since starting less than a year ago, it boasts over 800 members and fifteen local chapters (including one in London, England) with another dozen in the works.

A Cleveland chapter is coming soon. When I inquired about the local Cleveland chapter, Lana Schell, one of the founders told me, "It is part of our agreement with our members that we do not release our members' names or information, so I apologize that I cannot share their information with you at this time. Once a Chapter Director is in place, her information will be available via the website."

The Women in eDiscovery organization has a yahoo group that is a good resource for asking questions and following lines on topics involving eDiscovery. See <http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/womenineDiscovery/>. I have learned of good educational opportunities and read informative discussions on topics of interest to me on this site.

The Women in eDiscovery states at both web locations a non-solicitation rule and a policy not to share information about its members (as evidenced by the response I received about the Cleveland Chapter) and since I've been a member of this group, I feel that these policies have been respected.

The organization is incorporating as a non-profit organization and hopes to offer more educational opportunities as it grows.

The founders of Women in eDiscovery are three professional colleagues in Washington D.C., Shawna Childress, Margaret Havinga and Lana Schell. Meeting periodically on their own to discuss topics surrounding legal technology, they decided to share their ideas with other professional friends, who passed the news on to others and less than a year later Women in eDiscovery has developed!

Women in eDiscovery Mission Statement:

The mission of the Women in eDiscovery is to bring together businesswomen interested in technology related to the legal industry and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and other businesswomen grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition.

Women in eDiscovery Goals:

- To create leadership and networking opportunities among women who are interested in helping themselves and other businesswomen grow personally and professionally.
- To advocate the viewpoint of professional women in the legal industry especially on issues affecting the application of technology in their roles at work and at home.
- To bridge the knowledge gap for women between old technology, traditional technology, and future trends.
- To offer educational and certification opportunities for women who are interested in furthering their education in legal and technology fields.
- To establish a strong communication network among women focused in the legal and technology industries.

Look for the start-up of the Cleveland chapter of Women in eDiscovery and the informative luncheons that will promote networking and educational growth of all women interested in legal technology.

Since 1999, ABSI Legal Technology, LTD. has provided consulting services to support attorneys' use of technology in the practice of law. In her more than 25 years working within and with corporate law departments and law firms of all sizes, Ms. Absi has extensive experience in producing electronic records in litigation, and designing and managing databases. She has overseen complex software implementation, including case management and multi-location software projects and has managed large volume document review teams.

As a CT Summation Certified Trainer with proven expertise in database design and management, Ms. Absi helps numerous companies and firms learn and utilize the latest technologies available.

ABSI Legal Technology, LTD. is certified through the Women's Business Enterprise Council (WBENC), the largest third-party certifier of businesses owned by women in the U. S. Visit us on the web at www.absiltd.com.

