

Member Spotlight:

Maribeth Thomas

Senior Counsel at Tucker Arensberg PC



With a background in engineering, Maribeth's path to her current position at Tucker Arensberg was far from traditional. With a Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering from the University of Pittsburgh, upon graduation, she worked at a research lab jointly funded by Pitt's Engineering Department and UPMC's Orthopedic Department. Upon starting law school at Pitt four years later, she intended to pursue a career in patent law, even obtaining an Intellectual Property Certificate. However, by the end of law school, she was considering a different field and took a position as a law clerk with the Honorable Thomas Piccione in the Court of Common Pleas of Lawrence County and, thereafter, a series of other judges including Judge Fitzgerald and Judge Taddonio in the Bankruptcy Court and the Honorable Patricia McCullough in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. Needless to say, Maribeth is grateful to Judge Fitzgerald and Judge Taddonio for their teachings and mentorship, which she attributes to opening the door to a successful bankruptcy law career in private practice.

With that background, Maribeth's practice is now almost exclusively bankruptcy and state court collections/foreclosure work related to both commercial and consumer issues, generally representing creditors in these matters. However, she does represent business debtors in chapter 11 cases as well and works with her firm's litigation group on issues related to withdrawal liability under ERISA and, in that capacity, represents pension funds as creditors when an employer participating in the pension fund files for bankruptcy. Next month, Maribeth will celebrate her four-year anniversary with the firm. Congratulations!

IWIRC is one of organizations important and valuable to Maribeth for its networking, comradery, and support of its members. She finds the other members of the organization—especially here in the Western Pennsylvania Network—generous with their time and eager to share their knowledge, experiences, and opportunities as both colleagues and friends. Maribeth notes the uniqueness of IWIRC to bring together like-minded women passionate about the same thing and working towards the same purpose. For her, IWIRC is definitely that group and she looks forward to being more involved this year and in the coming years. In addition to IWIRC, Maribeth is extremely involved in both the Junior League, having served on its Board for several years and as its President from 2020 – 2021, as well as the ACBA, for which she is currently seeking a seat on the Board of Governors (consider this her shameless plug for your vote in this year's election! See more on Page 6 *infra*).

Outside of her demanding job and her IWIRC, Junior League, and ACBA involvement, she is passionate about the Pittsburgh Pirates and major league baseball. Noting that it's not always easy to be a fan, she nevertheless loves watching baseball on TV or in person—it makes her happy and her love of the Pirates has taught her loyalty, patience, and how to take good-natured (most of the time) teasing from her friends. As much as she loves the Buccos, nothing is more important to her than her family and friends. She spends as much time as she can with them and is proud to share that her closest girlfriends have been so since elementary school.

We are fortunate to have Maribeth as a proud member of IWIRC and look forward to seeing her at our next event or at a baseball game.