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New Women's Bar Association of Illinois President Corinne C. Heggie addresses at the association's 105th annual dinner at the Hilton Chicago Thursday. Heggie said she plans to mark the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment during her time as president. She said she also has several other projects to help women empowerment. Sarah Mansur

## 19th Amendment put into spotlight

New WBAI president plans to honor women's suffrage centennial

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Women's Bar Association of Illinois President Corinne C. Heggie wants to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Congress passing the 19th Amendment during her tenure by encouraging bar group collaboration and local partnerships.

"Throughout the year, the Women's Bar Association of Illinois is paying tribute to that suffragette movement and women's collaboration to get the law on the books,

by partnering with various bar associations within the state of Illinois," said Heggie, a partner at the Wochner Law Firm LLC in Northbrook.

Heggie was installed as president at the WBAI's 105th annual dinner Thursday night at the Hilton Chicago.

Heggie said the group's year-long tribute to the women's suffrage movement that culminated in the ratification of the 19th Amendment is meant to elevate WBAI's mission of advancing and promoting women in the legal

profession as well as trying to leverage the power that can come from associations working together.

On Oct. 16, the WBAI is partnering with the Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on Women and the Law, the Black Women Lawyer's Association of Greater Chicago and the Chicago Bar Association's Alliance for Women Committee to sponsor a luncheon commemorating the 19th Amendment's passage.

The guest speaker will be U.S. District Judge Rebecca R.

Pallmeyer, who by then will be serving as the first female chief judge in Chicago's federal district court.

Congress passed the proposed 19th Amendment on June 4, 1919, and Illinois became the first state in the union to ratify it six days later. It took effect after the 36th state ratified in August 1920.

Heggie joined WBAI more than a decade ago, not long after she graduated from DePaul University College of Law in 2001, because the mission of the organization resonated with her.

“I decided I wanted to spend more time with the women who are a part of the organization and planning and working on initiatives to move our mission forward,” she said.

After graduating from law school, Heggie began her career at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP and spent nearly 15 years there. In May 2016, she joined Sharf Banks & Marmor LLC as counsel. Heggie started working at the Wochner Law Firm in March 2018.

Stephanie A. Scharf, a partner at

Scharf Banks Marmor LLC, said Heggie is extremely committed to advancing women in the law

“She has the unusual ability to be both creative and practical in developing programs that serve the goals that she wants to achieve,” said Sharf, who received the Myra Bradwell Woman of Achievement Award at Thursday’s event for her efforts to promote women in the legal profession.

For example, Scharf said, WBAI and the ISBA’s Women and the Law Committee are joining to

form an ad hoc committee to help women attorneys interested in serving in government.

Heggie said the committee will be a resource “to help fill vacancies in state, city and municipal board positions with qualified women who are ready to serve.”

During her tenure as president, Heggie said the group plans to host Alison Henderson of Moving Image Consulting to assist female attorneys with communication skills.

Henderson said she wants to

help WBAI members leverage their nonverbal skills and body language signals to achieve their career and leadership goals.

“Many people think the body language coaches are only for the courtroom or litigators. There are also so many other areas of your business that these skills can enhance,” Henderson said.

“[Heggie and I] have been talking about women empowerment and giving as many tools as we can to this group and to the attorneys that are members,” she said.