Proskauer

Proskauer Women's Alliance: Spreading the Message of Malala Yousafzai

Fall 2016

Proskauer Women's Alliance

In March 2016, the Proskauer Women's Alliance (PWA) hosted their marquee event in celebration of Women's History Month: a screening and discussion of the documentary film, *He Named Me Malala*. The screening is the latest of many social and professional development events hosted by PWA, which aims to strengthen relationships among lawyers within the firm, increase the visibility of women lawyers to firm leaders, and foster leadership and development opportunities for women lawyers.

He Named Me Malala is an intimate portrait of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai, who was targeted by the Taliban in Pakistan and severely wounded by gunshot when returning home on her school bus. The then 15-year-old (who turned 18 this past July) was singled out, along with her father, for advocating for girls' education. The attack sparked an outcry around the world. She miraculously survived and co-founded the Malala Fund, a not-for-profit organization that empowers girls globally through education to achieve their potential and be agents of change in their communities.

The film presentation echoed a similar event held during Women's History Month in 2015, when the PWA hosted a screening of *Girl Rising*, a documentary about girls in developing countries who have overcome nearly impossible odds to pursue their dreams of an education.

Such events are part of a broad range of activities and development opportunities organized by the PWA. For example, each month in offices across the country the PWA hosts "Third Thursdays" events, which focus on cultivating relationships, networking and sharing suggestions and advice. Third Thursday themes have ranged from photography exhibits featuring images of women immigrants, to creating care packages for Proskauer-bound law school graduates preparing for the bar exam, to holding receptions to welcome summer associates.

Every quarter, the PWA also hosts a speaker series called "Building Blocks for Success," at which participants explore professional and business development topics such as how women can develop authentic executive presence and the essentials of client origination.

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