

WOMEN LAWYERS LEAD (WLL)®

WLL is Rebecca Sive's counsel to law firms on strategies for women lawyers to become influential leaders in the public square. The **WLL** purpose is to increase these lawyers' value to their firms by creating external personal networks of powerful decisionmakers—who can become firm clients and advocates—and by making valued contributions to the public good that then inure to the firm's benefit and enhance its reputation.

WLL is a unique approach to breaking down the stalemate in women's leadership in the law, tracking the strategy male lawyers have deployed for decades: building external bases of power and friendship that yield personal loyalty, business alliances, and professional opportunities of benefit to them and their firms. Additionally, **WLL** addresses the competition to "Big Law" from women and minority-owned firms, (also) positioned to "fulfill [corporate] diversity goals."

WLL is both a stand-alone program and can be built into professional advancement seminars, diversity and inclusion retreats, women's-initiative events, or other firm gatherings, including keynotes.

WLL teaches participants how to build a powerful public presence; how to:

- select the issue or cause to advocate
- create a winning "campaign" to lead on that issue
- build a diverse decisionmaker network of influencers in a variety of professions
- identify unique opportunities to leverage one's "candidacy"
- convert colleagues in the public square into advocates of one's business
- maintain the currency of one's brand and main message (through bad, as well as good, times)
- be an effective spokesperson and media commentator

WLL training sessions may be complemented by counsel to the sponsoring firm, to:

- place its women lawyers in valuable civic positions
- promote the civic leadership of its women lawyers through media relations and marketing initiatives
- design client-development events that expand interest in its women lawyers

"Rebecca is a delightful, visionary, and deeply thoughtful speaker on women's leadership"

Rebecca Sive's career has spanned executive positions—in business, government, philanthropy, and the not-for profit sector—where she has earned a reputation as a smart and inspirational leadership strategist. Her 2018 book, **Vote Her In**, makes the case for American women's executive power in every sector of American life. Her earlier book, **Every Day Is Election Day: A Woman's Guide**, is the roadmap for every woman who aspires to be somebody and win a special place in the public square. Sive has been widely honored: for instance, as a founding commissioner of the Illinois Human Rights Commission, which adjudicates matters of discrimination; as a lecturer at, and then founder of, the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy executive education initiative for women's public leadership; and as one of the national leaders who developed women's issues agendas for Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. She is a popular speaker and media commentator and has contributed op eds to **Crain's Chicago Business**, **MSNBC**, **The Huffington Post**, and numerous other media.

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- **Author, Counselor, Speaker/Media Commentator, Professor, Podcast Co-producer/Host**

- **Author**

Vote Her In: Your Guide to Electing Our First Woman President (October 2018): “inspiring, savvy and persuasive on why America needs more female leadership now,” Jessica Yellin, best-selling author and former CNN White House correspondent

Every Day Is Election Day: A Woman’s Guide to Winning Any Office, from the PTA to the White House (August 2013), (on C -Span, at Politics & Prose.): “advocates the importance of [women] realizing their worth in every aspect of their lives,” *Publishers Weekly*

- **Speaker, Counselor, and Media Commentator**

For Starbucks HQ, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Navigant Consulting, Inc., Mesriow Financial, Publicis Groupe, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, University of Washington Law School, AGL Resources, the Women's Funding Network, National Council of State Boards of Nursing, National Conference of State Legislatures, Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago, The Ohio State University, University of Texas, and the Association for Women Journalists. Clients have included the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, and numerous public interest law and service projects. Media appearances include *WGN-TV*, *Fox TV*, *WGN Radio*, *NPR Chicago affiliate WBEZ*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Modern Healthcare*, *Politico*, *Sirius Radio*, and popular podcasts, including *The Girl Talk*.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3I595ZRp51w>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5AkDeeLqNo>,
<https://cantv.org/watch-now/celebrating-women-of-illinois-past-present-and-future/>

- **Podcast Co-producer and Host**

#VoteHerIn, the podcast, tracks the movement to elect the first woman POTUS and features special guests, along with commentary by Sive, who originated the series. With over 25,000 Twitter followers, the host podcast, *TwoBroadsTalkingPolitics*, is an influential women’s issues site with an avid listenership.

- **University of Chicago Lecturer and Executive Education Program Director**

Sive designed and founded the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy women’s public leadership initiative, whose featured faculty included leading lawyers Valerie Jarrett and Amb. Ertharin Cousin, as well as women business leaders Julia Stasch, President of the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Sian Beilock, President of Barnard College; Jessica Yellin, bestselling author and former CNN White House correspondent; and Connie Lindsey, executive vice-president, Northern Trust.

Rebecca Sive has been a corporate officer and director and has received distinguished achievement awards from her undergraduate alma mater, Carleton College, the University of Illinois (from which she received an M.A. in American History), and the Illinois General Assembly. Sive has advised numerous public officials, as well as celebrities and corporate leaders, on their public service and philanthropic and public service commitments. She was a gubernatorial appointee to the Illinois Human Rights Commission; a mayoral appointee as a commissioner of the Chicago Park District; and a founding board member of the Chicago Foundation for Women. Sive is listed in *Feminists Who Changed America*, (University of Illinois Press.)