



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2011

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Chicago Lawyer, Lobbyist Joins WomenHeart's Board of Directors

Tori Jo Wible brings personal experience to national health issue

Washington, DC – (July 21, 2011) -- Living with heart disease in her family history has been an inspiration to Tori Jo Wible, who has now taken her local volunteer work to a national level as the newest board member at WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease. Ms. Wible, a chief counsel in the Legal Services Division at the American Bar Association in Chicago, does not have heart disease herself, but grew up knowing how it could affect a family.

“My paternal grandfather died of arteriosclerosis when my father was 16, leaving him and his two younger brothers without their father. My father has outlived his father by over 40 years and is healthy at 82, having heart disease in my family has made us all more aware of our vascular health,” says Wible.

More recently, Wible’s family was touched again by heart disease.

“My mother passed away 5 years ago, way too young at only 74,” says Wible. “Although there were many contributing factors, she had congestive heart failure and had a stroke while in ICU.”

Grieving and seeking answers, Wible attended a Mayo Clinic event near her home in Chicago, where she reconnected with a Rochester, MN high school classmate, Sharonne Hayes, MD, founder and director of Mayo Clinic’s Women’s Heart Clinic and a WomenHeart board member.

“I found a warm, welcoming group of women who all wanted to heal each other,” recalls Wible. “I got interested in doing more, much more, to assist WomenHeart.”

Wible began by organizing an event for her employer, the American Bar Association, where more than half of the 900 employees are women. “Our offices are in Chicago and Washington, DC,” says Wible, “so we arranged a way to have the presenters at each office on the same day. The WomenHeart staff was fantastic.”



By bringing her professional experience as a lobbyist to WomenHeart’s board of directors, Wible hopes to increase awareness of women’s heart disease, the number one killer of women in the United States.

“I would like to help raise visibility in any way I can and assist with educating men, women and our national leaders on issues of women's vascular health,” says Wible. ”I've done a lot of lobbying in Washington on tax issues — that generally make people's eyes glaze over — but talk about their mothers and their sisters and you can make them sit up and listen!”

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About WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease

WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease is the nation's only patient centered organization serving the 42 million American women living with or at risk for heart disease – the leading cause of death in women. WomenHeart is solely devoted to advancing women's heart health through advocacy, community education, and the nation's only patient support network for women living with heart disease. WomenHeart is both a coalition and a community of thousands of members nationwide, including women heart patients and their families, physicians, and health advocates, all committed to helping women live longer, healthier lives. To receive a free on line heart health action kit or to donate visit www.womenheart.org/kit.