

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# SYDNEY GARMONG

Partner in Charge of Regulatory Matters  
& Office Managing Partner, Crowe LLP



## **WHF Member Spotlight – June 2020**

### **Partner in Charge of Regulatory Matters & Office Managing Partner, Crowe LLP**

#### **Hometown**

Terre Haute, Indiana

#### **Fun Fact**

My hometown of Terre Haute is in Vigo County which has correctly picked the winner in every presidential election since 1956 and all but two since 1892. Another fun fact – I served as a witness to a wedding where I did not know the bride, groom or presiding minister!

#### **Describe your journey in the financial services industry and how your career has evolved to your current position.**

I have worked in the financial services industry for over 30 years. I started as a bank teller at a local bank during the summers of my college years. Upon graduation, I worked for 10 years at a large regional public accounting firm, Olive LLP, headquartered in Indianapolis, IN where I audited banks, thrifts, credit unions, mortgage companies and real estate partnerships. I moved to Washington, DC to serve in a fellowship with the Professional Standards & Services (PSS) division of the American Institute of CPA's (AICPA). That was an interesting time – Enron failed, Worldcom failed, and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 was passed which resulted in implementing many new regulations of course. In 2002, I returned to public accounting with Crowe and am currently in charge of the regulatory area of our national office and primarily focus on accounting and regulatory issues affecting financial institutions.

#### **What do you love most about what you do?**

Very easy...the people. I work with countless people within Crowe and interact with numerous colleagues at the standard-setters, regulatory agencies, trade associations and other public accounting firms. I also have the opportunity to speak at several conferences and thoroughly enjoy connecting with people in the public accounting and financial services industries.

#### **Hobby(ies)?**

Washington Nationals baseball (2019 World Champions), Indiana University basketball (1987 NCAA Champions), pugs, exercising, reading and wine

#### **How long have you been a member of WHF?**

20 years! I was introduced to WHF by Peter Kravitz who was part of the AICPA Government Affairs team and long-serving WHF Board Member.

**Please describe your involvement with WHF.**

I joined WHF in 1999. I found the public policy luncheons and receptions outstanding. I have met so many amazing members during my time as a WHF member. I volunteered through WHF for EVEN/MELD which taught financial literacy to single young mothers. It was an amazing experience. I served as Treasurer on the WHF Board from 2005 to 2009 following in Bert Ely's shoes. Faith Schwartz asked me to join the WHF Foundation Board where I served as President from 2009 to 2011. It was during the financial crisis and we navigated some rough waters. I then served as Secretary from 2011 to 2013 and moved to serving as Treasurer, my current position.

**What have you gained from being a member?**

Interacting with other members at public policy luncheons and networking events has been a valuable learning experience over the years. Serving on the WHF and WHF Foundation Boards has impressed upon me that diversity in experiences and opinions ultimately leads to the best path forward.

**How do you make the best use of your day? (think techniques to enhance productivity, time management, time out, meditation/prayer, etc.)**

As I'm closing down my computer each evening, I take a few minutes and write down the three most important things I need to focus on the next day on a post-it note and stick it to my laptop so I can hit the ground running each morning. Some days I get all three done...some days none...but it keeps me focused!

**Who or what inspires you?**

The people we hire directly from college inspire me the most. Their youthful ambition and unrelenting eagerness to learn challenge me to do the same each and every day. Our new people make me better and I am committed to do whatever I can to make them better too!

**What is the best advice you have ever received?**

Although it can be extremely difficult at times given short-term pressures, never sacrifice what is best for the long-term. This doesn't apply just to work, but to life itself.

**Who do you look up to the most and why?**

Rick Ueltschy, my long-time mentor at Crowe, because he always made time for me and encouraged me to think big and beyond the day-to-day. He also gave me the advice I noted in question 13!