

# Stepping Into Hope & Change -Chicago

A free career development conference for dancers



**Sunday, October 2, 2011**

Lou Conte Dance Studio  
At Hubbard Street Dance Center  
1147 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60647

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## **Sara Stewart Schumann**

### **Plenary Speaker**

**Sara Stewart Schumann** joined the law firm of Allison, Slutsky & Kennedy in 2011. Schumann graduated from Chicago-Kent College of law school receiving a Labor & Employment Certificate as well as her Juris Doctor. At Chicago-Kent, Schumann was the President of the Labor and Employment Law Society; a Trial Advocacy team coach in 2010, and a team participant in 2009, for the ABA Labor & Employment Trial Advocacy Competition; and a Semi-Finalist in the Charles Evans Hughes Moot Court Competition.

Prior to law school, Schumann was a professional ballet dancer, dance instructor, and choreographer for nationally recognized dance and opera companies. Schumann was a choreographer, solo dancer, and ballet master with the Lyric Opera of Chicago from 1990 to 2006. Some of her choreography for Lyric productions includes: *La Traviata*, *Faust*, *Macbeth*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Rigoletto*, *Attila*, *I E Capuletti et Montechi*, and *Un ballo in Maschera*. Additionally, Schumann set her *Un ballo in Maschera* on the Houston Grand Opera, and has worked with the San Diego Opera on its production of *Samson and Delilah*. Schumann has choreographed *Faust*, *Carmen*, and the *Beggars' Opera* for Du Page Opera Theatre; *Carmen* for Milwaukee's Florentine Opera; and last month set Jane Austin's *Persuasion* for the Chamber Opera of Chicago.

As a teacher, Schumann has taught dance extensively throughout the Chicago area, and was a regular faculty member of the Dance Academy of Libertyville prior to receiving her Juris Doctor and admission to the Illinois Bar.

As a performer, Schumann is still remembered in Chicago for her performances with the Lyric Opera and as the American Beauty Rose in *The Nutcracker* at the McCormick Place. She performed the role of Sugar Plum for 16 years as a guest artist nationally and overseas with the Scottish-American Ballet. Other performance credits include dancing with the Maryland Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, and Ohio Ballet. Schumann also competed and performed representing the U.S. in Tokyo, Japan's First International Dance Competition in 1992.

Schumann has dedicated herself to union advocacy and artist representation, since 1990, when she was first elected the shop steward for the dancers at the Lyric Opera of Chicago (Lyric). Schumann was elected to the negotiating team for consecutive agreements between the Lyric and the

American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) which represents dancers, opera singers, chorale singers, and production staff. She was elected to AGMA's national board and has served as the vice chair of AGMA's work rules and contracts committee that reviews and recommends board action on all contracts, waivers, arbitrations, and job actions. Schumann is currently a national Vice President of AGMA and the Chair of the Membership and Member Relations Committee.

Schumann is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Chicago chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association. Schumann is also a certified mediator for the Center for Conflict Resolution, the Treasurer for the Civic Ballet of Chicago, and the proud mother of two sons.

## Acknowledgements

Career Transition For Dancers wishes to thank **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** for donating the space for today's conference. Without them, this conference truly could not have been possible.

We wish to thank all the presenters, panelists and speakers who donated their time to be here.

Thank you **Sherry Zunker** for being our Key Note Speaker and to **Sara Stewart Schumann** for being our Plenary Speaker. **Michael Anderson, Sandi Cooksey, Massimo Pacilli, Sarita Smith Childs, & Zachary Whittenburg** for sharing their stories.

We wish to thank the other performing arts unions, AGMA, AFTRA, AGVA and SAG who helped us with publicity.

We wish to thank the board of directors of Career Transition For Dancers for their support and encouragement to make this event possible.

We wish to thank **Michael Kaiser**, Executive Director of The Kennedy Center who encouraged us to do this event to help our dancer-clients during this difficult economy and changing arts landscape.

We wish to thank all the volunteers, staff and interns who worked so tirelessly to make this event a success.

And a special thank you to **Kaylen Ratto**, Gala and Client Services Coordinator, who administered today's event; **Tiffany Flaim**, Program Coordinator and our counselor extraordinaire **Maryellen Langhout** who continually championed this event and kept our focus; **Suzie Jary** who has traveled here today from Fort Worth, TX to continue to inspire and empower our dancers.

Thank you!

For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.careertransition.org/OnlineResources/Schedule/>.

## Scholarships and Grants

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