You know the saying, “the numbers don’t lie”? Well, the numbers associated with the 2017 DRI Women in the Law Seminar tell it all.

270: The record number of attendees who came to Scottsdale, Arizona, on the first of February to attend the 2017 DRI Women in the Law Seminar. The word is out that this seminar is not to be missed! The seminar and the DRI Women in the Law Committee continue to grow every year under the fearless leadership of Heidi Friedman and Diane Averell. Of course, this year’s seminar would not have been possible without the incredible hard work and dedication of Program Chair Kirsten Small and her team, including Program Vice Chair Janet Hickson, Marketing Chair Marie Chafe, Marketing Vice Chair Bianca Liston, and yours truly as the Activities Chair, as well as countless others who made it all happen. Kudos, ladies, for an amazing job!

2,707: The number of feet above sea level that a brave group of women climbed to reach the summit of Camelback Mountain. Although the climb at sunrise was challenging, the views from the summit were spectacular and well worth it.

73: The average daily temperature in Scottsdale during the seminar. The days were filled with sunshine, a welcome respite from the cold weather that many escaped for a few days. The beautiful pink sunsets behind the mountains were also breathtaking.

156: The number of women who enjoyed a fun evening of Southwestern food, drinks, line dancing, and a toasty fireside chat with friends at the foot of Mummy Mountain on Wednesday evening.

8: The number of small group networking activities offered to attendees of the seminar on Thursday afternoon. For the first time at a DRI seminar, attendees had the opportunity to spend the late afternoon networking with others while enjoying an activity of their choice. There was something for everyone. Attendees could choose to learn chair yoga to keep their minds alert and their bodies healthy while sitting at their desks. They could channel their inner artists by learning how to paint from a local artist, or how to draw from a children’s book illustrator. Some chose to join the book club, while others had a question and answer session with a female entrepreneur who started her own business. Those who wanted a lighter afternoon chose to play board games, or a trivia game to show off their useless knowledge. And those who wanted a more traditional networking activity were treated to an afternoon of fun ice-breaking activities led by the women’s marketing coach, Marianne Trost.

1,700: The dollars donated to Dress for Success Phoenix by the DRI Women in the Law Seminar attendees. In addition to cash, the women donated hundreds of pieces of clothing and accessories (two car loads) to empower women in the Phoenix area to dress for success as they return to the work force. Although this year’s seminar is over, our influence over the lives of other women will continue. Special thanks to Rebecca Nickelson and Kelley Haladyna for their leadership in this important program.

10: The number of DRI Women in the Law Committee members chosen to participate in the inaugural “Pathways to Leadership” class. Members chosen for this privilege have been assigned mentors to guide them along the way toward leadership positions in DRI. Once again, this committee is leading with innovation!

46: The number of taxis and Uber cars, according to the bell hops at the Omni Montelucia, called to the hotel on Thursday night to transport groups of women to local restaurants to enjoy food, fun, and fellowship. Back by popular demand, attendees had the opportunity to meet other women while dining at some of the area’s best restaurants.

3: The number of things that we learned from an incredible panel of in-house counsel led by Anna Beninger of Catalyst, Inc., which women can, and should, do to take charge of their careers: (1) get training...
through experience by seeking assignments that will increase your skills; (2) gain access to power by enlisting the help of important people in your workplace and seeking high-profile projects; and (3) make your achievements visible.

1: The number of attendees whose middle name is the scientific symbol for the speed of light, and whose grandfather was a Nobel prize-winning chemist: the one and only Jessica c Kornberg, the first woman president and CEO of Bet Tzedek, a leading public interest law firm. Through her story, she inspired us to take risks and to be bold. It was unforgettable.

4: The number of inspiring “Quick Takes” that we heard on Thursday morning. These talks discussed everything from generational and cultural differences, to the different ways that men and women react to deception, to embracing failure and taking risks.

11.25: The hours of CLE that attendees earned if they attended all of the educational sessions offered during the seminar. The program was chock-full of important information and skill-building presentations, including sessions on preserving error for appeal, handling issues that arise in multi-defendant litigation, overcoming gender stereotypes, litigating in the spotlight, managing litigation risk, and understanding business principles. These presentations were full of advice from the perspective of both in-house counsel and outside counsel. Finally, we ended the seminar on a high note when Meade Hartfield and Bethany White led an interactive game requiring audience participation to answer some thorny ethical issues.

0: The number of attendees who were not encouraged, enlightened, or made better for having attended the seminar. The seminar offered so much in the way of quality legal education, important skill building for women lawyers, unparalleled opportunities to network, and incredible support in a breathtakingly beautiful setting. This conference is like no other, and it truly is a must for those who want more out of their practice. Plans are underway for another great seminar, dates and location to be announced. Please stay tuned and plan to join us! You’ll be so glad that you did.