



Monday Monday

Connecting the Dots with Karen Kaplowitz



Helping you create and reinforce the habits of successful career building, gleaned from my work as a business development strategist, trainer and coach

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Happy Thanksgiving 2024

As we approach Thanksgiving 2024, I am filled with gratitude for so many blessings in my life, both professionally and personally. First, I appreciate how lucky I was to be born after WWII into an era of peace, expanding prosperity, opportunities secured by major civil rights laws and rulings, and medical advances. Looking back, I am grateful for an amazing run of timely good fortune none of which I take for granted. Some examples stand out:

- As a child in the 50s during a polio epidemic, I was vaccinated with the new Salk polio vaccine.
- I was introduced to feminism by my freshman English professor at Barnard, [Kate Millett](#), who a few years later wrote the seminal feminist text, *Sexual Politics*.
- In college, I was one of the leaders of a group of Barnard and Columbia students who volunteered for Senator Robert F. Kennedy, providing constituent support.
- I applied to law school during the Vietnam War. Because men were being drafted for the war, law schools, including my alma mater The University of Chicago, accepted [record numbers](#) of women for the first time. When the Law School later refused to bar law firms that discriminated against women from participating in on campus recruiting, we had a new civil rights law, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, to use to challenge the policy.
- Upon graduating, I became the third woman lawyer hired by the largest firm in Los Angeles, O'Melveny & Myers, and spent three years learning how to be a lawyer among extraordinary professionals like my mentor Don Wessling and Warren Christopher, who later became Secretary of State. And when a Bankruptcy Judge called the firm to object to a woman lawyer appearing in his courtroom, the partner on the case, Everett "Bud" Clary, resisted and appealed to the District Court Judge, Harry Pregerson, who intervened on my behalf.

This year, I am grateful to have been blessed with good health and meaningful work including serving as an advisor on [Seramount's Best Law Firms for Women & Diversity Initiative](#). The [2025 Best Law application](#) is now open.

At a time of cultural and political upheaval, I don't take anything for granted and feel lucky to have opportunities to help keep doors open for current and future generations. Looking forward to working with you and others in the business community and legal profession to use the lessons of the past to shine a light on the present and safeguard the future.

Wishing you a great Thanksgiving holiday!