

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Created by the [Wright Institute Los Angeles Alumni Association](#) for the WILA Community

*We're proud of our alumni! You go on to serve as ambassadors for the excellent training and services provided at WILA. This Alumni Spotlight features distinguished WILA alumni and their reflections on their time at WILA, how being an alumnus has helped shape their career, and how they stay connected to the WILA community.*

### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Dana Kiesel

By Lilly Gallay, Alumni Association Newsletter Editor



Dana Kiesel, Ph.D., licensed clinical psychologist, completed her training at [WILA](#) from 1989-1991. She has subsequently served on the Political Action Committee of the California Psychological Association (1993-1998), on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Psychological Association (1993-2002), and as chair of LACPA's Governmental Committee. She is the recipient of the Advocacy Award from CPA and the Presidential Citation award from LACPA. She is also currently chairwoman of the board of the LACPA Foundation and of [Imagine L.A.](#), a nonprofit organization that works to help families exiting homelessness to become self-sufficient. Dr. Kiesel maintains a private practice in Beverly Hills specializing in eating disorders and adult ADHD, and gives presentations about the intersection of these disorders at IOP programs throughout Los Angeles.

Dr. Kiesel recently spoke about how her experience at WILA allowed her to delve deeper with both her patients and herself. **"WILA was really my first psychological home: a place that felt safe to learn in, to go in depth in a way that regular graduate programs didn't allow. I have a great appreciation for the experience of such a holding place; I don't think many places like it exist,"** she said.

Upon finishing her first year of training, Dr. Kiesel recalled that she didn't want to leave--"it's the WILA syndrome," she said. Dr. Kiesel said she felt lucky to have had the full two-year experience: **"the second year was when everything really sank in, when I got to solidify the [psychoanalytic] way of working."** The same feeling of not wanting to sever her ties with WILA returned at the conclusion of her post-doc year, so she rented an office in the same building, in WILA's previous location on Robertson Blvd. The close proximity allowed her to continue her connection with Allen Yasser and Hedda Bolgar, among others; she also supervised new WILA trainees for several years.

Dr. Kiesel reflected that WILA and its alumni continue to be woven into many aspects of her professional life. From finding her current office through a tip from another alum (in a building filled with WILA alums), to the peer consultation group she started with members of her cohort which is still going strong, she feels grateful to remain an active member of the WILA community. **"I've also given to WILA consistently over the years because I feel it's very important to give back. The quality of teaching and supervision is so high, and the commitment and real love that the WILA community has for its students is unique. I just want to support them and have their mission continue forever."**

Information about Dr. Kiesel's practice can be found at [drdanakiesel.com](http://drdanakiesel.com)

#### INSPIRING, ISN'T IT?

HELP ENSURE FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL  
GET THE TRAINING YOU GOT AND THE HELP YOU GAVE.  
DONATE "A SESSION FOR A SESSION"

#### THAT'S IT. ONE

OF YOUR FULL-FEE SESSIONS WILL PROVIDE  
EXPONENTIALLY FOR OUR  
CURRENT STUDENTS AND PATIENTS!