

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTH PALM BEACH  
COUNTY FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS**

On Wednesday, April 6, 2011, the Board of Directors of the South Palm Beach County's Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL) unanimously voted to support and endorse the attached Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers in an effort to oppose the numerous bills affecting our court system that are currently pending in the Florida legislature. It is extremely rare for the board of the South Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers to take positions on proposals before the legislature. We are doing so now only because of our grave concerns that the proposed legislation will dramatically alter our constitutional system in which three (3) separate branches of government function within a system of checks and balances and separated powers. Indeed, the passage of any one of these bills could have an immediate and deleterious impact on the ability of the judiciary to serve the citizens and businesses of Florida as an effective, fair and impartial branch of government. The Board of South Palm Beach County's Chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers believes such efforts to undermine the judiciary must be opposed.

RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the South Palm Beach County Florida Association for Women Lawyers on this 11<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011.

  
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Tanya McConnell, President

  
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Leorah Greenman, Secretary

**RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS**

WHEREAS, the Florida Association for Women Lawyers is an organization dedicated to the promotion of justice, the enhancement of the delivery of quality legal services to the citizens of the State of Florida, and the support of a strong and independent judiciary; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, comprised of twenty-eight chapters, is proud to have among its membership a number of Lawyer-Legislators, including members who presently serve in the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate in Tallahassee, Florida; and

WHEREAS, members of the Executive Committee of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers desire all Legislators to promote those Bills that would encourage a strong and independent judiciary and promote the continuing and important role of The Florida Bar in the determination of those individuals who would comprise judicial nominating committees and otherwise be involved in those important functions that are necessary for the promotion of a strong third branch of government; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers is aware of a number of Bills currently pending before the Florida House of Representatives that would either jeopardize or greatly alter the ability of the judiciary and The Florida Bar to perform these important functions, including proposed legislation that would (1) substantially alter the rulemaking authority of the Florida Supreme Court; (2) eliminate judicial nominating committees for all appellate courts, including the Florida Supreme Court; (3) eliminate judicial qualification committee confidentiality; (4) replace the current seven member form of the Florida Supreme Court and replace it with two co-equal, but divided, five member panels; (5) eliminate the existing role of The Florida Bar in the judicial nominating committee process; (6) raise the

retention rate required for a judge to continue in his or her public service from a simple majority to a 60% supermajority; and (7) alter the structure for determining the pay of a member of the judiciary based upon that judge's ability to dispose of cases quickly; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Association for Women Lawyers believes that the passage of any one of these proposals could have immediate and deleterious impact on the ability of the judiciary to fully and properly serve the citizens and businesses of Florida as an effective and independent branch of government.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED** that:

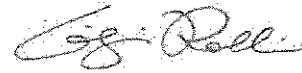
1. The Florida Association for Women Lawyers fully supports the position of The Florida Bar regarding each of these several Bills, and it calls upon all members of the Florida Legislature, particularly those who are present members of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers or who represent in whole or in part the citizens of The State of Florida, to consider strongly the position of The Florida Bar with regard to each of these weighty and important matters; and

2. The Florida Association for Women Lawyers urges each of the Members of the Florida Legislature to allow for greater public debate on these matters of great importance, particularly as these matters had not been part of any widespread discussion or debate prior to the conclusion of the 2010 elections; and

3. The Florida Association for Women Lawyers requests that each of the Members of the Florida Legislature, at a minimum, postpone any vote to enact any of the measures discussed above until such time as the full opinion of the members of The Florida Bar and the Florida Association for Women Lawyers may be heard and until a full allowance for both public debate and consideration of alternatives has been allowed; and

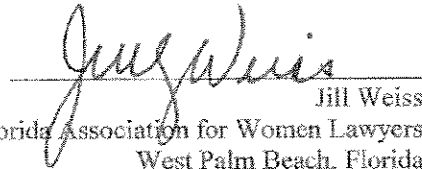
4. Because no emergency exists that requires exigent action by the Florida Legislature on these matters, it is the further resolution of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers that the Florida Legislature should therefore table these matters until the next Legislative Session to allow for the full discourse and consideration referenced above to occur.

**RESOLVED** by the Florida Association for Women Lawyers on this 5th day of April, 2011.



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Gigi Rollini  
President, Florida Association for Women Lawyers  
Tallahassee, Florida



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Jill Weiss  
Secretary, Florida Association for Women Lawyers  
West Palm Beach, Florida



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Elizabeth Willard Willis  
Chair, Legislative Committee  
Tallahassee, Florida