



## FAWL's Outstanding Chapter Award Nomination Form Deadline March 1, 2012

*FAWL's mission is to actively promote gender equality and the leadership roles of FAWL's members in the legal profession, judiciary, and community at large. To achieve these goals, FAWL will uphold the highest standards of integrity, honor, and courtesy in the legal profession; promote reform in law; and facilitate the administration of justice. FAWL's Outstanding Chapter Award is presented to a chapter that actively promotes gender equality according to the mission through its initiatives, programs, and activities.*

### **Criteria for Selection:**

This award is presented annually to the FAWL chapter that has most effectively (1) created new programs, events, or services and/or expanded on traditional programs, events, or services that further FAWL's mission; (2) provided programs, events, or services that encourage and assist members to become leaders in the profession and in the community; (3) sought and gained exposure and recognition in both the legal community and the community as a whole; (4) successfully recruited and retained members; and (5) consistently participated in the state FAWL organization by paying dues in a timely manner, having an active chapter representative, attending meetings and functions, encouraging volunteers for committees and offices, working well with other local chapters, and assisting with FAWL projects.

### **Chapter Nomination Eligibility:**

Each chapter is eligible and encouraged to nominate a local chapter for this award.

### **Award Recipient:**

The award recipient will receive a five-hundred dollar (\$500.00) cash award.

### **Nomination Documentation:**

Please provide the biographical information on this nomination form in the space provided. Please attach a statement of nomination and the supporting materials to the nomination form.

### **I. Chapter Information:**

Nominated Chapter: CENTRAL FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

Nominated Chapter's Contact Person: MELANIE GRIFFIN, PRESIDENT Telephone: 407-428-5106

Nominated Chapter's Address: P.O. BOX 3351, ORLANDO, FL 32802-3351

### **II. Statement of Nomination:**

Succinctly describe and explain the reasons for the nomination, namely, a brief summary of why this chapter deserves the award. Limit is 250 words.

### **III. Supporting Material:**

Please attach the supporting materials. Supporting materials are limited to a total of five (5) pages.

*Please double check to make sure you have included:*

I. Nomination Form  II. Statement of Nomination (250 word limit)  III. Supporting Materials (5 page limit)

PLEASE NOTE: The information submitted for this nomination may be used for publication. The only information that will be considered for this award is the nomination form, the statement of nomination, and the supporting materials. If the nomination documentation rules are not followed the nominee will be immediately disqualified.

FAWL's Outstanding Chapter Award will be announced at FAWL's Annual Meeting held in June 2012 at The Florida Bar Annual Meeting at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Orlando, Florida. Nominations must be submitted as one (1) pdf document via e-mail to [admin@fawl.org](mailto:admin@fawl.org) or faxed to 866-830-5536 by 5:00 p.m. EST March 1, 2012.

## **NOMINATION STATEMENT**

The 2011-2012 year was one of significant growth for CFAWL. Membership increased by more than 100 members. Our events, programs and activities increased so dramatically that CFAWL's 14 member Executive Board grew to a Leadership Team of almost 40, with dozens of additional members assigned to key committee roles. The goals of CFAWL were to be a true team, make members feel welcome and appreciated, and help members get involved if they wanted to become more active in the organization. To help with these goals, CFAWL sent a welcome email to each new member, had a welcome committee at every program and luncheon, made it a priority to personally invite new and potential members to events and sent every member an email to commemorate their birthday. CFAWL also upgraded its member services. We began accepting membership applications online, instituted PayPal to pay for events online, began using Constant Contact to distribute weekly newsletters, and upgraded to Square to accept credit card payments at events. Moreover, we increased our judicial participation by having a judicial liaison to the 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuits as well as the federal courts. These liaisons not only promoted our events and encouraged judges to attend them, but also became an integral part of our organization, hosting multiple Tables for Eight, providing guidance and more. The expansion and vibrancy of CFAWL's 2011-2012 programming, including events focused on members new and old, is evidenced by our attached supporting materials.

**MONTHLY TABLES FOR EIGHT:** CFAWL hosted more than 20 Table for Eight gatherings since June. Each was unique and gave our members an opportunity to get to better know each other in an intimate setting. One of our favorites was on October 9, when CFAWL hosted a special Table for Eight, called "A Table for Them." CFAWL members met at the Coalition for the Homeless to cook Sunday dinner and served the families that evening. Table participants went in as a group to cook lasagna, garlic bread, corn and brownies for 150! It's always a favorite dinner amongst the families. Attendees left with a different perspective on homelessness and service, and will never forget the experience or the faces of the grateful children and their parents.

**MONTHLY MEMBER LUNCHEONS:** Our monthly luncheons are held at the beautiful downtown Citrus Club. Average attendance has increased from approximately 60 to well over 100-120 per month. Every month we are treated to interesting speakers, such as Past Florida Bar President Mayanne Downs and Dr. G, and also receive updates on all our fabulous programs. Three of our twelve luncheons this year provided 1 hour of CLE credit to attendees.

**MENTORING PROGRAM & QUARTERLY MENTORING LUNCHEONS:** This year, CFAWL paired approximately 100 mentors and mentees to work together throughout the year. In addition to the individual meetings these pairings had, CFAWL hosted four quarterly mentoring luncheons. In September, the topic was "So Many Choices: What area of law best suits me?" In November, we focused on "Blowing in the Wind: How to start and manage a solo law practice." In January, we focused on the topic of: "The Partnership Track: How to Make Partner at Your Law Firm." In April, we'll feature "Moving On: What other career options are available to a JD?"

**June 12, 2011:** CFAWL hosted its annual retreat for its Leadership Team. Approximately 25 Board Members and Committee Chairs gathered for an afternoon of team building and strategic planning.

**June 16, 2011:** CFAWL hosted a joint luncheon with the Orange County Bar Association. Then President of The Florida Bar, Mayanne Downs, was the keynote speaker.

**June 16, 2011:** CFAWL hosted a Tour de France wine tasting at Total Wines. A special toast was made to CFAWL's Outgoing and Incoming Boards of Directors.

**July 13, 2011:** CFAWL members enjoyed a Mini Spa Night!! Baldwin Park Nails reserved appointments for CFAWL members from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Members enjoyed manicures, pedicures, and mini facials while resting, relaxing, and rejuvenating over fellowship, light refreshments and wine.

**July 15 – 16, 2011:** Board of Directors Members Melanie Griffin (President), Angela Miller (President-Elect) and Amanda Green (Director-at-Large) participated in The Florida Bar's Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference to make connections on behalf of CFAWL and learn how to better the organization.

**July 26, 2011:** CFAWL, the OCBA Young Lawyers Section and the Federal Bar Association co-hosted a happy hour to raise funds for the Back Pack Project (described below). **Well over \$3,000 was raised** at this event, which directly benefitted the students of Rock Lake Elementary by providing them with backpacks and other school supplies that they otherwise would not have.

**August 12, 2011:** CFAWL participated in the orientation organization fair at the FAMU College of Law to recruit new CFAWL members.

**August 15, 2011:** CFAWL stuffed 100 back packs and prepared other school supplies at A Gift for Teaching, the non-profit organization with which it partners on its annual Back Pack Project in support of Rock Lake Elementary School.

**August 19, 2011:** CFAWL participated in the orientation organization fair at Barry Law School to recruit new CFAWL members.

**August 19, 2011:** CFAWL and the OCBA Young Lawyers delivered thousands of dollars worth of school supplies during Rock Lake Elementary's Meet the Teacher afternoon. Rock Lake is a Title I school that would have no school supplies but for the help of CFAWL and the YLS. Rock Lake credits CFAWL's help with its rise from an F to an A school. In April, CFAWL and the YLS received a Partner in Education Award from the Orange County School Board for their efforts at Rock Lake.

**August 20, 2011:** CFAWL hosted a private belly-dancing class at *Orlando BellyDance*. Afterwards, all attendees enjoyed a pay-for-your-own brunch at the Green Lemon Café.

**August 24, 2011:** CFAWL hosted a Board Party at OLV Café honoring the hard work of its Leadership Team over the first quarter.

**September 8 and 14, 2011:** CFAWL hosted Fall Into Fashion Preview Parties at Bella and Ginger, two of the Winter Park Boutiques participating in Fall Into Fashion, described below. At Bella, CFAWL members celebrated the fall season and CFAWL's Fall Into Fashion event with a Donna Degnan trunk show. Throughout the show, members enjoyed a cocktail and met Sue Horn, the design assistant and fit specialist from Donna Degnan. At Ginger, members enjoyed champagne, cupcakes and storewide discounts of 15-40% off. They also received a free gift if they purchased their ticket to Fall Into Fashion.

**September 15, 2011:** CFAWL hosted its New Members Reception at the law firm of Dean Mead. Approximately 170 people, including several members of the judiciary, attended this special event honoring CFAWL's new members and participants in CFAWL's 2011-2012 mentoring program. Hors d'oeuvres from That Deli in Lake Mary were served along with beer, wine and soda, while the acapella group Yella provided smooth entertainment.

**September 21, 2011 – YOUNG LAWYERS HAPPY HOUR:** Before gathering with other CFAWL members at All Fired Up to paint pottery, discussed below, young lawyer CFAWL members met at Shipyard Emporium to enjoy light refreshments and appetizers.

**September 21, 2011 - POTTERY PAINTING:** CFAWL members painted their own pottery at *All Fired Up*. CFAWL provided light refreshments and wine to participants.

**September 26, 2011 – OATH OF ADMISSIONS:** CFAWL participated in the OCBA YLS' Fall Oath of Admissions Ceremony to welcome the newest members of the legal community to Orange County and recruit additional CFAWL members.

**Oct. 6, 2011 - FALL INTO FASHION:** CFAWL fell into fashion on October 6, 2011, offering attendees the rare treat of seeing up close and personal the best of the fall lines that local women-owned boutiques were carrying for the fall season, and the opportunity to learn from and talk personally to the fashion experts from these boutiques. This event was to raise money for A Place for Children, a non-profit daycare facility in the Orange County Courthouse that provides childcare for children of all persons having business at the courthouse so that the children do not have to witness difficult legal proceedings including divorce and domestic violence, as well as CFAWL's inaugural scholarship benefitting third year law school students who need financial assistance

preparing for The Florida Bar Exam. **CFAWL raised well over \$10,000 at this event!** This event was also an opportunity for CFAWL to educate the public about our organization, as professionals from a variety of industries in Central Florida attended Fall Into Fashion.

**October 12, 2011 – BARRY WOMENS LAWYERS ASSOCIATION MEETING:** CFAWL's Membership Director, Amanda Perry, attended this meeting and addressed the WLA's membership about CFAWL opportunities and opportunities for partnering together.

**October 22, 2011 - EXTREME MAKEOVER: HARBOR HOUSE PART 2:** CFAWL Young Lawyers and Barry Women Lawyers Association visited Harbor House of Central Florida, a comprehensive domestic violence services agency, for the second time this year to makeover two bedrooms and two bathrooms. This visit wrapped up Extreme Makeover: Harbor House, a one-year service project benefitting Harbor House and the hundreds of women and children who seek emergency shelter there each year. Throughout 2011, CFAWL Young Lawyers had the opportunity to makeover the common living room, children's playroom, computer room, and 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. With each visit, the group collected in-kind donations, shopped for room decor and furnishings, painted, deep-cleaned, and formed friendships while serving the community.

**October 26, 2011 – FALL FESTIVAL PARTY:** CFAWL hosted a Fall Festival Party where it welcomed its members to bring significant others and family to introduce them to CFAWL friends. Food and wine was served in the beautiful back porch garden setting of Palmer's Nursery. Children enjoyed activities such as pumpkin-carving, coloring and face-painting! The event was very well attended, and everyone left raving about how much they enjoyed the opportunity to bring their family members with them to a CFAWL event.

**October 28, 2011 – GLORIA STEINEM:** Rollins College hosted Gloria Steinem and CFAWL attended! The Winter Park Institute of Rollins College hosted Women Today: An Evening with Gloria Steinem. The writer and feminist organizer offered insight on what the women's movement should prioritize today in order to effectively transform tomorrow. A pay-for-your-own dinner was hosted beforehand at Eola Wine Company. CFAWL members who attended this event commented on how remarkable the evening was, and how they left feeling inspired, motivated and energized.

**October 29, 2011 – BREAST CANCER WALK:** CFAWL called upon all of its members to put on their pink bras and support Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Orlando Metro at Lake Eola Park! This year's honorary breast cancer survivor was N. Diane Holmes, two time breast cancer survivor and fellow CFAWL member. The event included live music at Lake Eola and all along the walk through downtown Orlando, a VIP area and goodies for breast cancer survivors, a Kidz Zone and a very special closing ceremony which involved all of the breast cancer survivors who attend the event. CFAWL partnered with the Barry Women Lawyers Association and the FAMU Womens Law Caucus on this event and encouraged its members to join the teams created by these students and support them in this wonderful endeavor!

**November 2, 2011 – PROFESSIONALISM AWARDS:** The OCBA annually honors a member of the judiciary with a professionalism award. This year, CFAWL nominated its 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Judicial Liaison, Judge Antoinette Plogstedt, for this award.

**November 9, 2011 – BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS:** CFAWL hosted **two tables of 10** at this annual fundraiser to raise money for Orange County's Legal Aid Society.

**November 10, 2011 – PAST CFAWL PRESIDENT JUDICIAL INVESTITURE:** CFAWL members attended the investiture ceremony for the Honorable Margaret H. Schreiber, as Judge of the Circuit Court, a special event honoring our fellow CFAWL member and Past President.

**November 16, 2011 – JOINT VOLUNTARY BAR ASSOCIATION HAPPY HOUR:** CFAWL participated in this event, which as in past years, raised money and non-perishable food donations for the Second Harvest Food Bank. CFAWL had a great showing at the event, which was chaired by CFAWL member Karen Persis. Karen and her committee put a fun spin on the event, giving it a Touchdown for Hunger theme and asking all attendees to wear their favorite college colors. CFAWL President Melanie Griffin won best dressed for the evening, donning a brightly colored garnet and gold dress with matching FSU accessories.

**November 17, 2011 – ANNUAL CHOCOLATE MAKING PARTY:** CFAWL hosted its ever-popular event where members had a fun girls'-night-out with the chance to combine white, milk and dark chocolate with an array of gourmet fillings and mix-ins while sampling some of Farris & Foster's own to-die-for creations and treats provided by CFAWL. The creations made were divine, only outshined by the wonderful fellowship between CFAWL's members.

**December 7, 2011 – ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY:** CFAWL hosted its annual holiday party at Dubsdread, where approximately 150 CFAWL members gathered with their significant others and guests. Everyone was treated to savory h'orderves, a holiday champagne cocktail, wine and beer, chocolates, live holiday carolers, a surprise guest – Santa taking pictures with members and delivering scratch-off lottery tickets to the good boys and girls!, and raffle gifts in a winter wonderland themed setting. Everyone had a wonderful time and left in high holiday spirits!

**December 16, 2011 – ANGLE TREE PROJECT:** CFAWL once again sponsored deserving students at Rock Lake Elementary School (**82 this year!**). As discussed above, Rock Lake is a Title I School where 98% of the school's population lives at or below the federal poverty line. The students adopted by CFAWL would otherwise not have experienced the joy of unwrapping holiday presents. All children adopted received a toy from their wish list (many of them bikes!) together with a warm jacket/fleece, a pair of shoes, one pair of pants, two shirts, and miscellaneous socks, underwear, pajamas, and toiletries. All gifts were given to the students at a party hosted by CFAWL complete with juice, cookies, cupcakes and lots of love and hugs!

**January 11, 2012 – CLE Lunch 'N Learn:** David Henry of Henry/Potter Civil Mediation hosted a special Charity CLE Lunch 'N Learn for CFAWL members on the topic of Advanced Mediation Advocacy: Break-Through Strategies for Successful Mediation. One hour of CLE credit was awarded to each attendee. Mr. Henry also donated \$10.00 on behalf of every person who attended to CFAWL to use during its work at SafeHouse of Seminole this year. With 38 attendees, that resulted in \$380.00 extra dollars to use towards CFAWL's work at SafeHouse of Seminole, a shelter for abused women and children.

**January 20-22, 2012 – AFFILIATE OUTREACH CONFERENCE:** CFAWL Young Lawyers attended the conference annually hosted by The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division and presented its grant proposal, Changing the Family Landscape, for its 2012-2013 public service project.

**January 24, 2012 – HOLIDAYS IN JANUARY HAPPY HOUR:** The Third Annual Holidays in January Happy Hour was at Urban Flats in downtown Orlando. Attendees were treated to UNLIMITED wine, beer and appetizers. Holidays in January is sponsored by CFAWL, the Orange County Young Lawyers Section, and the Hispanic Bar Association to provide gifts and necessities to children who did not receive anything during the traditional holiday season at the following organizations: Arnold Palmer Pediatric Oncology Wing, United Cerebral Palsy and The Boys and Girls Club. **This year, the three organizations raised \$4,735 to benefit their Holidays in January Project!**

**January 24 & 25, 2012 – FAWL MEETINGS & LOBBY DAYS:** Wynne McFarlin attended these meetings in Tallahassee as the Chapter's representative.

**February 15, 2012 – LADIES NIGHT OUT:** Our February Program featured an evening out downtown focused completely on the sweet side of life at the Dessert Lady. CFAWL provided a selection of cake bites for attendees to enjoy. Coffee, wine and other desserts were available for CFAWL members to purchase from the regular menu.

**February 23, 2012 – CLE Lunch 'N Learn:** Foley & Lardner attorney Adam Losey hosted a special Charity CLE Lunch 'N Learn for CFAWL members. The FREE lunch featured a presentation on "e-Discovery: Doesn't Take an Einstein." One hour of CLE credit was awarded to each attendee. Adam is donating \$10.00 to CFAWL's Changing the Family Landscape Project at SafeHouse of Seminole on behalf of every person who attending.

Upcoming Meetings/Activities/Plans:

**March 15, 2012 – ANNUAL JUDICIAL RECEPTION:** CFAWL's annual Judicial Reception will be held from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Courtyard at Lake Lucerne (located at 211 North Lucerne Circle, Orlando, FL 32801-3721). This year we have a Mardi Gras theme and have retained an authentic New Orleans style band to entertain. The event is free to all CFAWL members and members of the judiciary, and we expect approximately 200 attendees.

**March 20, 2012 – PRIVATE YOGA CLASS:** CFAWL is taking it to the mat - the yoga mat! Join fellow CFAWL members for a private (CFAWL members and guests only) introductory yoga class at College Park Yoga. Whether you're a first-timer or an experienced yogi, this will be a great opportunity to learn the mental and physical benefits of yoga. Also consider joining us for a light, healthy (pay for your own) dinner at Infusion Tea beforehand. We'll leave Infusion Tea and head over to College Park Yoga at 8:00 p.m. Namaste!

**April 11, 2012 – RUNWAY FOR JUSTICE:** CFAWL is proudly presenting its Spring Fashion Soirée: Runway for Justice, a high-end fashion runway show sponsored by NEIMAN MARCUS. This amazing event will benefit A Place for Children and CFAWL's inaugural scholarship fund, and serve as CFAWL's annual Professional Women's Exchange ("PWE"). This will not be your average fashion show. Guests and supporters will be treated to a night of private shopping, a silent auction, wonderful door prizes and delicious delicacies. They will also enjoy the most cutting edge fashion show this spring. The main focus of this event is to raise \$10,000 for A Place for Children, described under Fall Into Fashion above. The purpose of PWE is to encourage networking, support and growth among Orlando's professional women and women owned businesses.

**April 13, 2012 – CFAWL Scholarship:** CFAWL is proud to announce its inaugural Bar Study Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship is intended to promote CFAWL's mission while helping the recipient during his or her study for the July 2012 Florida Bar Exam. Further information and the scholarship application and criteria to apply therefore are available on the CFAWL website at <http://www.cfaw.org/bar-study-scholarship>. The scholarship will be awarded at CFAWL's April luncheon.