



FAWL's Outstanding Chapter Award Nomination Form Deadline March 1, 2013

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) promoted diversity in the workplace, the practice of law and/or in the community; (5) successfully recruited and retained members; and (6) 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: Tallahassee Women Lawyers
Nominated Chapter's Contact Person: Meghan Daigle Telephone: (850) 201-8845
Nominated Chapter's Address: PO Box 13978, Tallahassee, FL 32317

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 2013. Nominations must be submitted as **one (1) pdf document** via e-mail to admin@fawl.org or faxed to 866-830-5536 by 5:00 p.m. EST March 1, 2013.

Nomination Statement

Tallahassee Women Lawyers is an Outstanding Chapter because it continues to create new, unique programs furthering FAWL's mission. These are programs that are easily replicated and shared with chapters. TWL created Get Involved Tallahassee to promote TWL members service on Bar committees. As a result, more TWL members than any other chapter applied for Bar positions. TWL provided those materials to FAWL for its Path to Leadership program. In addition, at the request of sister chapters, TWL provided FAWL chapters with materials to create a Judicial Reception like the one TWL has held for the past 30 years. TWL will share one of its unique programs promoting leadership with FAWL in Tallahassee on March 12, 2013. TWL also has one of the strongest mentoring programs in FAWL. TWL mentors members of its FAWL sister chapter, FSU's Women Law Symposium.

TWL actively promotes the accomplishments of its members through a coordinated awards program. In addition to the TWL Inspirational Service Award, TWL nominates members for Bar, FAWL and Section Awards. This promotion leads to the recognition of women lawyers throughout the Bar, the State and our community.

TWL has an active FAWL representative and members that attend FAWL functions and volunteer. In addition to regular FAWL activities, TWL members were instrumental in drafting the new FAWL civility policy, coordinating FAWL to assist with the NAWL conference, and serving as the FAWL Liaison with the Young Lawyers Division.

Tallahassee Women Lawyers

General Programming Furthering FAWL's Mission

TWL continued its tradition of innovative speakers and incredible programs with the 2012-2013 theme, **Alternatives to Women Lawyering in the 21st Century**. At its monthly general membership meetings, this year's programs educated members on emerging trends in the profession including virtual law firms, alternative and flexible work schedules, alternative career choices, and managing your own firm. TWL focused on pioneering women who continue to have "caretaker" roles in society including caring for aging parents and children. One particularly poignant example of a pioneering woman excelling was Rachel Rodgers, our February speaker who appeared via Skype because she was restricted to bed rest due to complications with her pregnancy. It was the perfect example of technology allowing women to have successful careers in spite of what were once considered the female limitations.

This year's programs also emphasized women in leadership in the communities, the Bar and their careers. TWL is pleased to share one of those programs with FAWL. As part of FAWL Lobby Days events, TWL's *Women's Empowerment Series, Part III* will feature a presentation about how women can participate in politics, including running for public office.

The TWL 2012-2013 general meetings schedule is attached for further details.

Supporting, Encouraging & Mentoring Members To Become Leaders

TWL has a special emphasis for promoting women in leadership positions. To further than goal, this year TWL created a unique, half-day program, Get Involved Tallahassee, inspired by the Bar leadership's calls for diversity in Bar committees. The program was the first of its kind in Florida and supported by a grant from the Florida Bar. TWL's FAWL representative, Holly Dincman, chaired the committee created materials and a program walking TWL members through the Bar committee application process and the requirements of service. The program featured TWL and Bar leaders, including both Gwynn Young, Florida Bar President, and Eugene Pettis, Florida Bar President Elect, speaking to participants about the Bar committee appointment process and how to get involved. Twenty eight (28) members of TWL applied for Bar committee positions, more than any other chapter of FAWL. TWL has provided the materials for this program to FAWL to be used in FAWL's Path to Leadership program.

TWL also has one of the strongest mentoring programs of any voluntary bar in the state. TWL's mentoring program has several components. The first is one to one mentoring of young lawyers and members of FSU's Women's Law Symposium. Each year seasoned TWL members and leaders are matched with young lawyers and WLS members. These pairings create mentoring relationships. Mentors bring mentees to TWL meetings, court hearings, and Bar functions, encouraging involvement and creating the next generation of TWL and Bar leaders.

The second component of TWL's mentoring program is the "Table of Eight" meetings. These meetings are hosted by a seasoned TWL member, judge or leader. Six to eight other participants sign up to attend. Over a meal, these groups discuss everything for work-life balance to overcoming bias in the courts and work place. This program creates comfortable settings to develop lasting relationships.

The final component of TWL's mentoring program is Rookie Camp. Rookie Camp was, at the time of its creation, the first of its kind in Florida and won the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Most Significant Member Project. Rookie Camp is a program for law students and young attorneys. It gives them an opportunity to ask questions and learn what to expect when they become a lawyer. Discussions include everything from ethical considerations in dealing with difficult opposing attorneys to appropriate dress for a deposition. The importance of diversity and leadership in the legal profession is highlighted. This program is put on free of charge. This year it has been improved and expanded. The Florida Supreme Court is hosting the program and it is modeled after the Judicial Roundtable Event at the Florida Bar Annual Convention.

TWL's Recognition in the Community as a Leader

TWL is the only local bar association monitoring local judicial appointments. TWL's long-standing Judicial Nominating Commissions monitoring program was utilized again this year. TWL volunteers monitored judicial nominating commission interviews for questions that appear to be gender-bias or issues that may show gender bias in the appointment process. When TWL members are recommended to the governor for judicial appointment, TWL then writes letters in support of their appointment pointing out the importance of diversity on the bench.

In addition to being active in the judicial nominations process, each year, TWL hosts the TWL Judicial Reception. This year's 30th Anniversary Judicial Reception was the biggest and most successful in TWL history. The Judicial Reception began as an opportunity for TWL members to spend time with area judges, including Supreme Court Justices in a relaxed, social atmosphere. This program has grown to be the most anticipated event of the year for the legal profession. This year was so successful, TWL received requests for materials or instructions on how other FAWL chapters could host a Judicial Reception in their areas. Jessica Leigh, TWL's 2012-2013 Judicial Reception Chair, has created materials and distributed them to FAWL chapters interested in creating their own Receptions.

In May, TWL will hold its annual Lunch & Learn CLEs. These programs are recognized in the local legal community as quality, useful and affordable CLE programs. This year's programs are dedicated to ethics and professionalism and tie to this year's theme, **Alternatives to Women Lawyering in the 21st Century**. The first of the two part series is entitled Professional Conduct in the Real World with its topic based on a quote by Katherine Hepburn "Enemies are so stimulating." The second part is entitled Developing a Satisfying Career: Quit Whining and its topic is based on a quote by Maya Angelou "All great achievements require time." These programs are designed to, through humor, honesty and enjoyment, give participants advice and guidance on how to make the best possible decisions in difficult situations. Since TWL is located in the Capital, it pulls speakers from a rich source of celebrated attorneys, lobbyists, legislators, Bar leaders, and Judges.

TWL also works to recognize its members' service and accomplishments in the community and State. First, TWL periodically recognizes the pro bono services and support of pro bono service with the TWL Inspirational Service Award. Recipients' service is recognized and celebrated at a presentation during a general membership meeting. TWL then sends a press release to local news outlets summarizing the member's accomplishments. TWL also focuses on recognition of

our members through our Awards Committee. The Chair finds awards appropriate for our members' amazing accomplishments. The committee completes the nomination packet or procedure, and, as is appropriate, solicits support from TWL members and other organizations. Not only does this create recognition of TWL members, but inspires other members to action and increases member loyalty, improving member retention.

TWL's Community Involvement, Service & Leadership

TWL also has a recognized commitment to community involvement and leadership. Every year, TWL mentors the girls at the PACE Center for Girls through its Breakfast & Books program. Over the past two years, TWL has updated and expanded the program. It now takes place over four months. This year's book is Harper Lee's To Kill a Mocking Bird. Each month TWL members attend a reading and discussion group at the PACE center. The girls discuss the themes of the book with the TWL members and ask questions. The improved program provides opportunities for the girls to get to know the various TWL volunteers and to see the potential in their own lives.

TWL also encourage members to be involved in the community through local charities. This year TWL learned about two programs its members could support: Boys and Girls Club and Boys Choir. Both help supervise at-risk children and provide support and activities to help them become leaders and contributors to our future. At the December TWL meeting, TWL members raised donations for these two charities and our local Office of Public Guardian.

TWL appointed has a Charitable Chair to coordinate TWL's charitable efforts and to generate support for the many worthy charities that support our community. TWL members provide the Charitable Chair with the specifics of charitable events, fund-raisers and requests for assistance. The Chair broadcasts that information to TWL members. These activities increase the visibility of TWL members' charitable involvement and of the charities they support.

Membership, Leadership & FAWL Involvement

Tallahassee Women Lawyers began the 2012-2013 year with 250 members – our highest membership ever. TWL has a strong, diverse board of 29 members—13 officers and directors and 16 appointed chairs. The Board meets monthly to manage TWL's general membership programming, annual Judicial Reception, Annual CLE, Rookie Camp, Mentoring, PACE Breakfast & Books, awards nominations, promotion of charitable involvement and all other special events and programming. This year the Board added Technology and 2012 Election chairs. TWL has an active Facebook page and a website at www.mytwl.org maintained by the Technology Chair.

In addition to maintaining remarkable programming and support of our community and our members, TWL also has an active presence in FAWL. On March 12, 2013 TWL will host FAWL for its annual Lobby Days. TWL's FAWL Representative, Holly Dincman, attends FAWL functions, provides regular reports to TWL on all FAWL functions, and encourages TWL participation in all FAWL activities and committees. Gigi Rollini was instrumental in coordinating FAWL's participation in the NAWL convention and chairs the MAP committee. Twyla Sketchley assisted FAWL in drafting FAWL's civility policy. Jenny Shoaf Richardson serves as the FAWL Liaison to the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors.

2012-2013 TWL GENERAL MEETINGS

TWL GENERAL meetings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
Meetings will be held at Capital City Country Club, 1601 Golf Terrace Drive,
Tallahassee (850) 222-0419

July 11, 2012

Installation Meeting

Speakers: Justice Peggy A. Quince and Wendy Loquasto

Dinner meeting

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

August 8, 2012

Candidate's Forum (Leon County Judge's race)

Lunch meeting

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

September 12, 2012

Preparing for Financial Change and Donating to Charity

Speakers: John Harvard, CPA and Theresa Flury, Esq. of Boys and Girls Club

Dinner Meeting

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

October 23, 2012

30th Annual Judicial Reception

5:30 p.m – 7:30 p.m

November 14, 2012

The Importance of Non- traditional Legal Jobs-Is that Your Path?

Speaker: Mary Lou Rajchel, TWL Founding Member & Past President & President &
CEO of Florida Trucking Association

Lunch Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

December 12, 2012

Dessert Contest & Charity Fund-raiser for

Boys & Girls Club, Tallahassee Boys Choir, Office of Public Guardian

Lunch meeting

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

January 9, 2013

Women's Empowerment Series, Part I

Presentation of the Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Kristine Knab, Esq., Vice-chair of Commission

Executive Director of Legal Services of North Florida

Dinner Meeting

6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.

February 13, 2013

Women's Empowerment Series, Part II

Creating and Founding a firm with and without an Office Rachel Rodgers, Esq. (by Skype) Virtual Law office practitioner and consultant

Tammy deSoto Cicchetti, Esq., Founder of The Cicchetti Law Firm

Lunch Meeting

11:30-1:00pm

March 12, 2013 (please note Tuesday**)**

Women's Empowerment Series, Part III

What you need to know about the Political Process and How to Participate as a Woman in America's Politics

Speakers: Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda, Florida State Representative – District 9
Kimberly Mitchem-Rasmussen, Executive Director/Founder of Political Institute for Women

In association with *FAWL & FAWL Lobby Days*

Lunch Meeting

11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

April 10, 2013

Speaker: Gwynne A. Young, President of The Florida Bar
"Status After Legislative Session"

Dinner meeting

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

May 2013

Lunch CLEs

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

(two CLEs offered in May focusing on ethics and/or professionalism)

June 12, 2013

TBA Networking & Professional Development

Dinner Meeting

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.