



F.A.W.L. JOURNAL

A Publication of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers

SUMMER 2005

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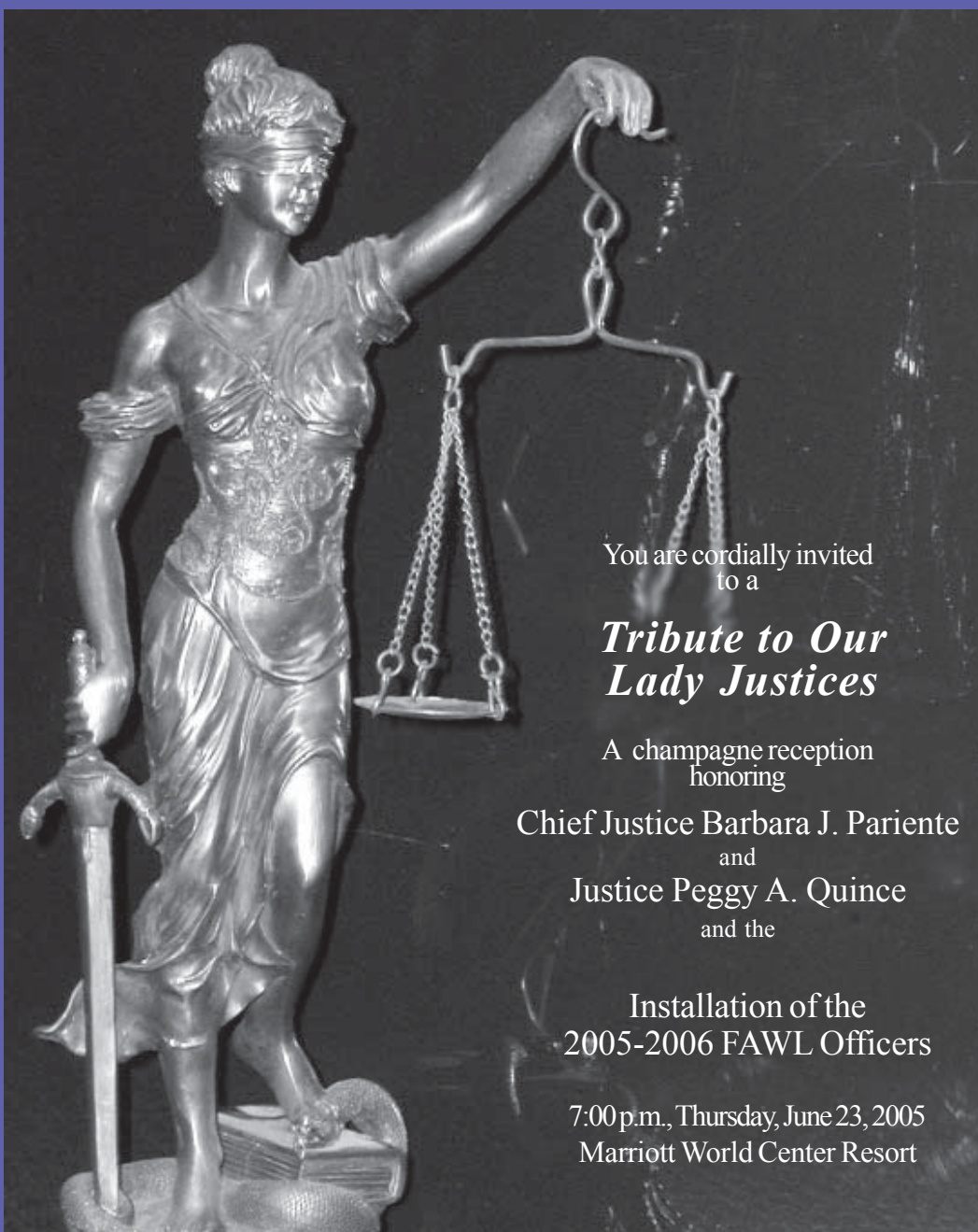
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You are cordially invited
to a

Tribute to Our Lady Justices

A champagne reception
honoring

Chief Justice Barbara J. Pariente
and
Justice Peggy A. Quince
and the

Installation of the
2005-2006 FAWL Officers

7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 23, 2005
Marriott World Center Resort

FAWL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- ▶ **Deborah Magid** 305/579-2584
President miamidadefawl@hotmail.com
- ▶ **Dinita L. James** 813/261-7858
Past President djames@fordharrison.com
- ▶ **June McKinney Bartelle** 850/414-3771
President-elect junemesq@sprintpcs.com
- ▶ **Vene M. Hamilton** 954/442-1099
Secretary vene.hamilton@med.va.gov
- ▶ **Paola Parra** 904/398-9008
Treasurer parra@harrisguidi.com
- ▶ **Amy Furness** 305/529-7253
Treasurer-elect afurness@carltonfields.com
- ▶ **Susan L. Haag** 904/348-2724 x.101
Communications susanhaag@smith.alumnae.net
- ▶ **Sherri L. Johnson** 941/952-1070
Membership sjohnson@dentassociates.com
- ▶ **Wendy Loquasto** 850/425-1333
Public Relations wendyloquasto@flappeal.com
- ▶ **Pat Stephens** 850/894-0055
Executive Director fawl@fawl.org

FAWL COMMITTEES

- ▶ **AWARDS**
Lisa S. Walsh 305/577-1056
lisawalsh@yahoo.com
- ▶ **AMICUS**
Susan W. Fox 813/251-6400
susanfox@flappeal.com
- ▶ **BYLAWS**
Mary K. Wimsett 352/374-3656
wimsett30@yahoo.com
- ▶ **GENDER BIAS COMMITTEE**
Ena T. Diaz 305/372-8282
ediaz@astidavis.com
Pamela Gordon 954/522-2200
pmg@brinkleymcnerney.com
- ▶ **HISTORIAN**
Wendy Loquasto 850/425-1333
wendyloquasto@flappeal.com
- ▶ **JUDICIAL SELECTION**
Sharon B. Glickman 954/752-7701
sharonglickmanpa@aol.com
- ▶ **LEGISLATIVE**
Nola Richardson 954/721-7300
kdstt@aol.com
Joan Stewart 850/224-7818
joan.stewart@floridaea.org
- ▶ **NOMINATING & NAWL LIAISON**
Dinita L. James 813/261-7858
djames@fordharrison.com
- ▶ **SCHNEIDER AND DAVIS FUNDS**
Carolyn C. Coukous 941/262-8800
ccc1@ntrs.com
- ▶ **VIRGIL HAWKINS LIAISON**
Rachelle R. Munson 407/623-1051
rachelle.munson@awi.state.fl.us

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

- ▶ **BARRY WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**
Christina Johnson 407/719-5501
cvj100@msn.com
- ▶ **BREVARD COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS**
Shannon L. Wilson Farmer
..... 321/633-2090
shannon.wilson@brevardcounty.us
- ▶ **BROWARD COUNTY WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**
Candice Tobin 947/769-5491
CandiceDTobin@aol.com
- ▶ **CENTRAL FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS**
Meenakshi A Hirani 407/599-7199
hiranimeena@yahoo.com
- ▶ **CLARA GEHAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS**
Susan E. Lindgard 352/955-5212
susan_lindgard@doh.state.fl.us
- ▶ **COLLIER COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION**
Jeanne L. Seewald 239/598-1221
jseewald@fowlerwhite.com
- ▶ **FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY: FIU WOMEN IN LAW**
LaSonya K. Lacy 305/10-0109
lasonya.lacy@fiu.edu
- ▶ **HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS**
Barbara Twine-Thomas ... 813/221-4454
btwine-thomas@dssalaw.com
- ▶ **JACKSONVILLE WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**
Paula P. Brice 904/398-9008
brice@harrisguidi.com
- ▶ **LEE COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS**
Laurie Anton 239/841.9209
LHAntonEsq@aol.com
- ▶ **MANATEE COUNTY FAWL**
Michelle Hall 941/748-4411
mhall@dyefirm.com
- ▶ **MARION COUNTY FAWL**
Janet L. Fuller 352/351-0312
janetf@acomb.com
- ▶ **MIAMI-DADE FAWL**
Rosana Hernandez 305/358-3580
RHernandez@ghblaw.com
- ▶ **NORTHWEST FLORIDA CHAPTER, FAWL**
Maureen Duignan 850/434-2411
mduignan@shellfleming.com
- ▶ **NOVA LAW CENTER CHAPTER**
Jennifer Kroll 561/584-5122
krollj@nsu.law.nova.edu
- ▶ **PALM BEACH COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS**
Ellen Malasky 561/691-7321
Ellen_Malasky@fpl.com
- ▶ **PINELLAS COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS**
Donna Rose 727/443-2999
vonall4him@aol.com
- ▶ **SARASOTA FAWL**
Evelyn L. Moya 941/321-2990
moyalex@comcast.net
- ▶ **SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY CHAPTER**
Lisa M. Peraza 561/ 603-0120
lisaperaza@bellsouth.net
- ▶ **ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL CHAPTER**
Marisol Gomez 305/275-6055
marisolgom@msn.com
- ▶ **FAWL AT STETSON**
Kate Egelston
egelstonk@law.stetson.edu
- ▶ **UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, WOMEN IN LAW**
Alexandra Spencer
- ▶ **TALLAHASSEE WOMEN LAWYERS**
Elizabeth G. Demme 850/224-7091
bethd@hueylaw.com
- ▶ **VOLUSIA/FLAGLER ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS**
Suzanne W. Ronneau 386/ 248-8117
sronneau@circuit7.org

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS
P.O. BOX 15998 • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317-5998 • 850/894-0055

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.FAWL.ORG FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

SUBMISSIONS:

We encourage authors to submit articles through FAWL's editor, Susan Haag, at susanhaag@smith.alumnae.net or contact the Association's office as referenced above.



President's Message

By Deborah Magid



"FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE"

On February 15, 1906, suffragette leader, **Susan B. Anthony**, gave her last public speech on her 86th birthday. Anthony devoted a lifetime of tireless work to champion women's rights. It was during her last suffrage speech, given a month before she died, that Anthony told her friends and supporters that when people work together for justice, "failure is impossible." Fourteen years after her death in 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified. In honor of her work, the law was nicknamed the "Susan B. Anthony Amendment." This year women are celebrating their 85th anniversary of winning the right to vote in the United States.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the multicultural National Women's History Project ("NWHP"). Formed in 1980, the NWHP was started by a group of women who noticed that less than four percent of student textbook content was devoted to women and, as a result, young girls had few role models. The NWHP began as a grassroots organization and has grown into a national institution that serves to recognize women's outstanding achievements. Every March, during Women's History Month, the NWHP mobilizes national celebrations and chooses national honorees. This year's theme is "Women Change America." The NWHP is recognizing all of its past honorees on its silver anniversary. The national honorees from the legal profession include: Supreme Court Justices **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** and **Sandra Day O'Connor**; along with **Mary Shadd Cary**, **Anita Hill**, **Belva Lockwood** and **Graciela Olivarez**.

This year is also special because the National Convention of the National Association of Commissions for Women ("NACW") will be held in Miami Beach from July 13th through the 17th. The NACW is the advocate for all government commissions for women in the United States. The Florida Commission on the Status of Women ("FCSW") is hosting the Convention that will bring together nearly 250 women leaders from across the country to share, network and learn. For more information about this event contact 850/414-3300.

The FCSW annually recognizes extraordinary Florida women to be inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. The FCSW was statutorily created in 1991 and consists of 22 appointed nonpartisan members that study and make recommendations on issues affecting women to the Governor, Cabinet and Legislature. The 2004/2005 Florida Women's Hall of Fame inductees are: **Shirley D. Coletti**, **Judith Kersey**, and **Marion P. Hammer**. The Florida Women's Hall of Fame ceremony took place on March 15, 2005, in the Capitol Courtyard, and a number of FAWL members attended.

FAWL was proud to participate in the excitement and join in the celebration of Women's History Month in Tallahassee. FAWL representatives from all over the State visited The Capitol and our legislators during session in Tallahassee. Other women's groups that were also lobbying in Tallahassee on March 14th and 15th included the Florida Women's Consortium, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the National Organization for Women ("NOW"), who staged their annual Lobby Day and Noon Equal Rights Amendment ("ERA") Rally on the steps of the new Capitol on March 14th.

If you are still not ready to become an

active participant in next year's FAWL Lobby Days, just consider the resistance there has been to the passage of the ERA in our State. The ERA was first proposed in 1923 and is still not part of the United States Constitution! The ERA, simply provides that "[e]quality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." The ERA was introduced into every session of Congress between 1923 and 1972, when it was passed and sent to the states for ratification. In 1972, Judge **Mattie Belle Davis** successfully encouraged State FAWL to adopt a resolution in favor of the ratification of the ERA. Senator **Gwen Margolis** perhaps said it best when she received State FAWL's "2003 Friend of FAWL Award," by noting that, in Florida, there is much more support for giving rights to the State's population of pregnant pigs than there is for supporting equality guaranteed by the ERA for the State's population of women. To this day, FAWL continues to lobby for the ratification of the ERA. Unfortunately, the battle has yet to be won, and we need your enthusiastic and continued support.

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is now accepting nominations for the

2006 Florida Women's Hall of Fame Award.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, July 15, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. The selection process and criteria for nominees is specified in detail on the Commission's website - www.fcsw.net

The award is scheduled for presentation on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at the Florida State Capitol.

► MESSAGE, Page 4

This has been a truly remarkable year for State FAWL with four CLE programs, a gender bias survey, and membership on the rise. Moreover, there was the creation of the Distinguished Executive Award to recognize an attorney manager that is exceptionally sensitive to the work/family needs of her employees. We also were able to establish a Statewide mentoring program with PACE Centers for Girls. I owe a debt of gratitude to the tireless efforts of President-Elect **June McKinney Bartelle** and Executive Director **Pat Stephens** for making this year such a success. I am thrilled with the proposed slate of State FAWL Officers for 2005-06 and am certain that our organization will reach new heights under their leadership.

I know there is a tendency for our members to limit their involvement to their local FAWL chapters, but I challenge you to take a new look at the Statewide organization, because only by joining hands across the State can we really attack the issue of gender bias, support important legislative agendas and, in general, become an entity to be reckoned with in the State of Florida as we strive to safeguard and extend the legal rights of women and their families. None of us alone can make substantial inroads into the important issues facing Florida's women and children, but each of us can do a little something to ensure that FAWL's grassroots efforts will result in the progress of big, positive changes for our future.

Let me conclude by asking each of you to reflect on a few words of **Emily Taft Douglas**: "if women understood and exercised their power they could remake the world."



Miami member and FAWL President Deborah Magid speaks during ERA Rally held in conjunction with FAWL Lobby Days at the Florida Capitol.

FAWL is especially grateful to:
Community Coffee
Fernandez and Associates Court Reporters
Signature Office Products
for underwriting assistance
associated with FAWL Lobby
Days Events.

2005 'LOBBY DAYS'



(L-R) Tallahassee member Katrice Jenkins, speaker Katherine Baughman McLeod and Miami-Dade member and Treasurer Amy Furness role play a legislator/lobbying scenario during the Legislative CLE.

The Association enthusiastically thanks the following faulty members of the "2005 Legislative CLE" program.

Peter Dunbar, General Counsel at the Department of Financial Services and former Director of Legislative Affairs for Governor Martinez; **C. ShàRon James**, Barnes & James, P.A.; **Paul F. Hill**, General Counsel of The Florida Bar; **Katherine Baughman McLeod**, Baughman McLeod Associates, LLP, and **Dana M. Wood**, legislative assistant for The Florida Bar.



(L-R) Toyca Williams, The Florida Bar's Voluntary Bar Liaison; President-Elect June McKinney Bartelle; C. ShàRon James; Kasongo Butler; President Deborah Magid and Hillsborough member Veronica Prostko at the breakfast honoring members of the Women's Legislative Caucus.

HIGHLIGHTS: MARCH 14-15

Capitalizing on the national Women's History Month theme, "Women Change America," events sponsored by FAWL and other women's organizations began with an Equal Rights Amendment panel with women legislators on Sunday; a Legislative CLE at the downtown Tallahassee Doubletree Hotel on Monday, followed by the FAWL Board of Directors meeting and legislative briefing. On Tuesday, March 15, events included a legislative breakfast honoring members of the Florida Women's Legislative Caucus at the Mary Brogan Museum and visits to the Capitol. The 3-day event culminated with the Florida Commission on the Status of Women's Hall of Fame Inductees.



At the Capitol: (L-R) June McKinney Bartelle, Deborah Magid, Nuria Saenz De La Torre, Sherri Johnson, Amy Furness, Mary Gomez, Nola Richardson, Veronica Prostko and C. ShàRon James.



ERA Bill Sponsor Representative Athenia Joyner Speaks: Supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment Resolution gathered on the Capitol steps for a briefing prior to visits to legislators. Ratification of the ERA Resolution (Senate SCR 94 and House Bill HCR 203) was supported in FAWL's 2005 Legislative agenda along with a Board vote to oppose legislative regulation of attorney advertising (Senate Bill 0192 and House Bill 0599). The attorney advertising bills died in Committee and the ERA Resolution did not pass. FAWL's Legislative Committee tracked eleven bills of interest to the Association and prepared the Association's legislative agenda following input from local Chapters and members. A listing of the bills is posted at www.fawl.org.

FAWL ANNUAL MEETING

**MARRIOTT WORLD CENTER RESORT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FLORIDA BAR
JUNE 23-24, 2005**

Thursday, June 23, 4:00-6:00 p.m. - FAWL Board of Directors Meeting

Charter Presentation to Barry Women Lawyers Association, Law School Chapter
Election of officers as nominated on page 16.

Thursday, June 23, 7:00-9:00 p.m. - FAWL Champagne Reception

Honoring our Lady Justices, Chief Justice Barbara Pariente and Justice Peggy Quince, and Installation of the 2005-2006 FAWL Officers

Friday, June 24, 2005, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.



Joint Awards Luncheon

Florida Association for Women Lawyers
The Equal Opportunities Law Section of The Florida Bar
Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter National Bar Association

**Keynote Speaker: Robert J. Grey, Jr.
President, American Bar Association**

Grey has devoted his term to creating better justice through better juries via the American Jury Initiative. The Jury Initiative is composed of the Commission on the American Jury and the American Jury Project. The Commission is dedicated to educating the public on and reinvigorating the nation's commitment to jury service. The American Jury Project is modernizing and consolidating varying sets of juror standards into a single model document to reflect the demands of contemporary trials. The American Bar Association is involving organizations across the legal profession in the American Jury Initiative.

The Florida Association for Women Lawyers 2005 Award Recipients



Judge Patricia Seitz
U.S. Southern District of Florida
2005 Rosemary Barkett
Outstanding Achievement Award



Nancy Daniels
Public Defender, 2nd Judicial Circuit
2005 Distinguished Executive Award

Ticket Information:

Registration to attend the luncheon is through The Florida Bar. Tickets are \$35 and should be ordered through The Florida Bar's 2005 Annual Meeting brochure in the May Bar Journal or visit www.flabar.org to order tickets online. This event has a history of selling out. Tickets should be purchased in advance and will not be sold at the door.

FAWL ANNUAL RETREAT

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JULY 23-24, 2005

THE REGISTRY RESORT & CLUB - NAPLES



Mark this weekend to attend FAWL's Annual Retreat and The Florida Bar's Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference. FAWL is once again combining the Association's Retreat with the Bar Leader's Conference in order to take full advantage of opportunities offered to the leadership of Florida's bar associations.

Take advantage of this once a year opportunity to combine the educational program offered to all voluntary bar leaders in Florida with a chance to network first hand with other FAWL chapters around the state. We know your issues and they include membership recruitment and benefits, communication tools, fund-raising and community networking.

Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference: Registration to attend this event is through The Florida Bar. The Annual Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference is scheduled to begin on Friday, July, 22, 2005 and run through Saturday, July 23 around noon. All voluntary bar leaders should receive a brochure in the near future, but for additional information, contact Toyca Williams, Voluntary Bar Liaison at The Florida Bar, at twilliams@flabar.org or 850.561.5764.

FAWL Retreat: The FAWL Retreat is scheduled to begin Saturday afternoon, following the Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference, and attendees should plan to book a room for Saturday evening in order to take advantage of the Registry's property and additional program scheduling Sunday morning. Plan now to send several members of your Chapter. Meet other FAWL leaders as we plan for the coming year. Registration is through the state FAWL office and fees are kept to a minimum, usually to cover meal expenses. Call 850.894.0055 or email: fawl@fawl.org. Additional information is posted on the FAWL website at www.fawl.org

To secure the meeting rate of \$134 reservations should be made by June 21, 2005.

To make reservations call 239.597.3232, ask for "in-house reservations" and request your reservation under the group name: Florida Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference. Nestled upon 23 acres of Southwest Florida's Paradise Coast in the heart of Naples, The Registry Resort & Club offers 474 luxurious guestrooms and suites, acclaimed recreational amenities including a new pool complex complete with private cabanas and Mangrove Mountain waterslide, award-winning dining, supervised children's programs, and their own championship Naples Grande Golf Club. There is a \$10 resort fee included for a total of \$144 per night.

Chapters to Receive Outstanding Membership Recruitment Awards:

As recognition to those Chapters with the greatest increase in paid members for 2004-2005, FAWL's Treasurer, **Paola Parra**, and Membership Chair, **Sherri Johnson**, are pleased to announce the following Chapter awards:

- ▶ Complimentary lodging at the Registry Resort on Saturday, July 23, 2005 and PAID registration for one member to the FAWL Retreat: **Jacksonville Women Lawyers and South Palm Beach County FAWL**
- ▶ Complimentary FAWL Retreat Registration: **Nova Southeastern University Law School, Miami-Dade FAWL and Volusia-Flagler Association for Women Lawyers.**

Interested in learning how they did it? Come to the FAWL Retreat and ask them!



BREAKFAST & BOOKS

A Statewide Juvenile Mentoring Program sponsored by FAWL with funding assistance from The Florida Bar Foundation

While **Michelle Suskauer** was President of the Palm Beach County FAWL Chapter, she toured the Florida Institute for Girls with Florida's Supreme Court Chief Justice **Barbara Pariente**. From that visit, the 'Breakfast and Books' program began. In 2002, Palm Beach County FAWL Chapter volunteers started to meet regularly with the girls, reading the same book. The camaraderie experience of successful women lawyers, serving as role models, helps the girls enhance their self esteem as well as their reading and public speaking skills.

The program was recognized publicly by the Department of Juvenile Justice in a ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda in Tallahassee which Suskauer attended, along with then President of The Florida Bar **Tod Aronovitz**. Encouraged to take the program statewide by the Department, Suskauer secured a grant from The Florida Bar Foundation. The monies are being utilized to assist in the purchase of books for the 19 PACE Centers for Girls located in Florida.

To the delight of State FAWL, **Jacqueline Buyze**, President-Elect of the Collier County Chapter, agreed to coordinate the program statewide and has expanded it to include assistance from Barnes and Noble and community volunteers beyond the scope of FAWL. This article provides a summary of the program from several participating Chapters to date: **Collier County Women's Bar Association, Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Palm Beach County Association for Women Lawyers, Sarasota FAWL, Tallahassee Women Lawyers and Volusia-Flagler Association for Women Lawyers.**

Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers ("CFAWL"):

The Chapter in consultation with **Kellie Homes**, the local PACE Director, has agreed to start off the program with thirteen (13) middle School girls to read *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo. CFAWL is utilizing the book exchange offered by the Collier County FAWL Chapter. In the meantime the director will identify the needs and level of reading of other students. **Amanda Cowan** has been appointed as committee chair to oversee the program.

Collier County Women's Bar Association:

On February 12, 2005, girls from the PACE Center in Immokalee arrived in style at Barnes & Noble for the kick-off



(L-R) **Michele Cummings**, a board member of **The Florida Bar Foundation**, presents a representative check of the grant award to FAWL President **Deborah Magid** at the Association's Midyear Luncheon.

of the Breakfast & Books program. The girls arrived in limousines and were quickly matched with a mentor. The twenty-seven mentors were members of CCWBA, the American Business Women's Association and local teachers, among others.

The girls particularly enjoyed the limousine ride to and from Naples. **Regency Transportation** provided two limousines and Judge **Vince Murphy** kindly donated a gift certificate for limousine service that he had purchased

at a silent auction event.

The Chapter also hosted a silent auction for the PACE Center at the Association's December holiday party, raising \$1,386 toward the program.

"In addition, to these funds," Jacqueline Buyze said, "We are getting a 25% discount on all books [from Barnes and Noble], plus we get them tax free by having PACE purchase them. PACE created a separate account for the funds raised by our chapter and keeps us advised as to the balance remaining in the account. This allows us to get the maximum benefit for all dollars raised."

Buyze continued, "We can set up a book exchange and save costs on subsequent purchases. The CCWBA has purchased 70 books all of the same title and we will be happy to swap books with any chapter. Since January, our volunteers and students have read: *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, and *Hoot* by Carl Hiassan. Participants also wrote alternative

endings to *Hoot* and submitted them in the hopes of winning a scholarship.

Barnes & Noble will conduct a book drive for the benefit of PACE at our request. This is why its so important for chapter leaders to contact the Barnes & Noble in their community. With everyone participating, we should be able to get a lot of books without incurring additional costs. [In Collier County] Barnes & Noble will conduct a fundraiser. They will donate a percentage of proceeds generated in a given time frame (no more than one week) to PACE. PACE can earmark these funds for more books, which will again eliminate the need for additional funds.

“We are dedicating one month to poetry. At that event, we will ask everyone to bring their favorite poem to share with the group. The PACE girls write poetry in the course of the studies and can share their work with the group. This event will not require any additional book purchases.”

Palm Beach Cnty. Assn. for Women Lawyers:

There are 52 students at the West Palm Beach PACE Center. **Kristin Bennett**, the Mentoring Chair for the Palm Beach County Chapter, has also secured a discount from Barnes and Noble and is utilizing the Center’s tax exempt status for book purchases. Palm Beach County remains interested in a book exchange with other FAWL Chapters. As the initiating Chapter, Kristin says, “It is exciting that this program has taken off so well and with such support! Our [PACE] program director emphasized the positive impact we are having on the students and that it doesn’t matter what book we read or what discussion we have. The girls recognize and respect the commitment we have made to them. It is the relationships that are being developed that is the important part of our program.”

Sarasota FAWL:

Sarasota-FAWL met the Polk County PACE Girls in Lakeland at a brunch on April 8, 2005. The book, *First Things Last*, by Angela Johnson was discussed. The book is the recipient of the Coretta Scott King Award and is the story of a young student who became a single dad after his girlfriend went into a coma during the baby’s birth. It is a tender story of love, responsibility and teenage parenthood. PACE center chose this book for discussion. Four volunteers from the chapter (Professor **Beverly Blair**, **Joan Donnelly**, Magistrate **Susan Maulucci** and Chapter President **Evelyn Moya**) traveled to Lakeland (120 miles from Sarasota) to meet with the 8 girls. President Moya also invited members of the Lakeland Bar Association to participate in the program.

“We were amazed by the girls’ wisdom and the expressions of their moral values, even as they contrasted their lives with those of the characters in the book,” said Moya. “Driving back to Sarasota, we relished the thought



“One of the great rewards of being a Justice of the Supreme Court is having opportunities to interact and hopefully influence our young people. The book club at PACE was especially rewarding because both the girls and the lawyers read the same book and had an opportunity to discuss their differing views of people and relationships.”

*Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy Quince
(top row, third from left in above photo)*

that in the practice of family law and juvenile law, lawyers do dramatically change children’s lives.”

Tallahassee Women Lawyers:

Florida Supreme Court Justice **Peggy A. Quince** led the book club discussion in Tallahassee with 60 students at PACE Center for Girls on April 19, 2005. The Justice asked the girls to identify which of the main female characters they identified with and why, from the book *The True Meaning of Cleavage* by Mariah Fredericks. The chapter donated pizza and cake.



Justice Peggy Quince with participating TWL mentors at the PACE Center.

TWL chose to meet with the girls in a book club fashion including the students, PACE center staff, and the participating TWL members. **A. Mirelle Fall** chaired and coordinated all the activities, including a timed puzzle game, a character quote activity, and discussion questions relating to the book’s theme that centered around the relationship of two close girlfriends as they enter high school and develop their separate identities. During the break out groups, Justice **Peggy Quince** visited with the six classrooms

FAWL CHRONICLES

NAWL-FAWL CONNECTION CONTINUES AT MIDYEAR MEETING



by
Wendy Loquasto
Historian

On January 21, 2005, FAWL held a joint meeting with its “mother” association, the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL). This meeting renewed FAWL’s decades-long association with NAWL.

“What is NAWL?” you may ask. NAWL was founded in 1899, when eighteen women lawyers gathered in New York City to form “The Women Lawyers’ Club.” It is a voluntary legal professional organization devoted to the interests of women lawyers and it was established long before most local and

national bar associations admitted women. The club steadily grew and by 1923 its nationwide membership was reflected in its new name, the National Association of Women Lawyers. Over the years, NAWL has served as an educational forum and an active voice for the concerns of women in the legal profession and women worldwide.

Although small in number and geographically diverse, women lawyers were connected with their “Sisters in the Law” by the *Women Lawyers Journal*, first published in 1911, which included articles during the early decades on such recurring topics as the legal status of women, laws of marriage and divorce, property rights of married women, and proposed legislation affecting women.

NAWL was also active on the legislative front. It actively supported women’s suffrage and fought to obtain the right for women to serve on juries. NAWL sought to end child labor and to

enact a minimum wage. Legislative issues pertaining to working women were of special relevance to NAWL members, and they opposed “protective” laws that limited women’s working hours and effectively barred entire industries to women workers. In 1935, NAWL was the first national organization to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment. NAWL’s steadfast commitment over several decades ultimately saw success with the passage of the Equal Pay Bill and Uniform [“No Fault”] Divorce Bill.

Today, NAWL continues to advance the interests of women in and under the law and works towards the social, political, and professional empowerment of women. Its members strive to end discrimination and violence against women and to prevent the erosion of hard-fought gains made by women. To learn more about NAWL’s rich history and activities over the past 100+ years, browse its website at <http://www.abanet.org/nawl/home.html>.

As for FAWL’s connection to NAWL, that dates back to Florida’s first woman lawyer, **Louise Rebecca Pinnell** (admitted 1898), who represented Florida’s women lawyers when she served as state vice president of NAWL during 1938-39.

Many of FAWL’s founding members and early presidents were also active in NAWL. For instance, FAWL’s first president, **Anna Brenner Meyers** (1951-52), served as Treasurer of NAWL in 1945, and it was her experience with NAWL that gave rise to the birth of FAWL in 1951. **Emma Roelsing**, who was also active in founding FAWL, was an early member of NAWL, having served as state delegate from Florida in 1939-42 and as southeastern regional director for several terms. FAWL’s third president, **Esther A. Poppell** (1953-54), was serving as Florida’s representative in NAWL’s Council of Delegates in 1951 when she helped to found FAWL. Past President **Rebecca Bowles Marks Hawkins** (1954-55) became active in NAWL’s Council of Delegates during the mid-1950s and went on to become NAWL President in 1960-61. Past President **Mattie Belle**

Our Gratitude to Members of the FAWL/NAWL CLE Faculty



Speakers, Moderators and Panelists from the joint CLE, “Taking Charge of Your Career: Best Practices for Women Lawyers,” cosponsored with the National Association of Women Lawyers in cooperation with the Association for American Corporate Counsel, South Florida Chapter. Photo on the left (L-R): Hilarie Bass, Jennifer Coberly, Program Chair June McKinney Bartelle, Judge Patricia Seitz, Professor Mary Coombs and NAWL President Stephanie Scharf. Photo on the right (L-R): Eileen Kett, Marcy Kammerman, June McKinney Bartelle, Dorian Denburg, Stephanie Scharf, Arlene Finkelstein and Marianne Hurd Nation. Not pictured are Judge Gill Freeman, Kathy Maus, Angela Haney Orkin, Edith Osman, Kelly Overstreet Johnson, Evett L. Simmons and NAWL Program Chair Lorraine K. Koc.

Davis (1957-58) enjoyed a long association with NAWL, first serving as an assembly delegate in 1954-55, later becoming NAWL President in 1965-66, and then continuing her service as NAWL's delegate to the ABA House of Delegates for eight years between 1967 and 1981.

FAWL's association with NAWL has continued throughout its 50+ year history and most, if not all, of FAWL's presidents have served in some capacity on the NAWL board, frequently as Florida's delegate. Two additional FAWL members have led NAWL: Past President **Adele T. Weaver** (1967-68) served as NAWL President in 1970-71 and, more recently, FAWL member **Gail Sasnett-Stauffer** (Clara Gehan/Gainesville Chapter) was NAWL President in 2000-01. NAWL's highest honor, the Arabella Babb Mansfield Award, was first bestowed in 1997 on a FAWL member: **Martha W. Barnett** (Tallahassee Chapter).

FAWL and NAWL also have a long history of holding joint meetings. **Emma Roesing** co-chaired the NAWL annual meeting held in Miami in 1959. She also co-chaired NAWL's annual meeting in Miami Beach in August 1965, when FAWL sponsored a boat ride for all attendees and many FAWL members participated in the business and social meetings. The NAWL annual dinner featured **Lorna Lockwood**, Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, who spoke on "An Independent Judiciary," and Judge Davis was installed as NAWL President during that dinner. In 1982, NAWL, FAWL, and FAWL's Miami-Dade County Chapter sponsored a seminar on "Networking." In May 1989, the Southeast

Regional Conference of NAWL was held in St. Petersburg Beach, and FAWL, along with the Pinellas and Hillsborough County Chapters, co-sponsored the conference, which had a theme of "Women, Children and the Law." NAWL President **Jeanne Schubert Barnum** installed the 1991-92 FAWL Board of Directors, when the baton was passed from **Ava Doppelt** to **Leslie Reicin Stein** and FAWL celebrated its 40th anniversary with a delicious birthday cake. Most recently, in February 1995, FAWL partnered with NAWL and the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations in hosting the Third Annual Conference on Women and the Law during the ABA's midyear meeting in Miami. The program opened with "Women in Power," which addressed how to increase the number of women elected and appointed to offices at all levels, and included segments on children as the silent victims of domestic violence and rainmaking.

The program held in January, "Taking Charge of Your Career: Best Practices for Women Lawyers," continued the tradition of the joint FAWL and NAWL meetings and furthered the two associations' shared goals of advancing the interests of women in the law and professional empowerment of women. The Association of Corporate Counsel, South Florida Chapter, joined FAWL and NAWL to present this program, which was the third in a nationwide series of continuing education programs. President-elect **June McKinney Bartelle** organized an excellent program joining FAWL President **Deborah Magid**, NAWL President **Stephanie Scharf**, and ACC/South Florida Chapter

President **Arlene Finklestein** with an outstanding lineup of panelists drawn from a variety of professional backgrounds who provided tips for career success, including south Florida lawyers **Jennifer Coberly**, **Hilarie Bass**, **Dorian S. Denberg**, **Marianne Hurd Nation**, **Eileen Kett**, **Arlene Finkelstein**, and **Evet Simmonds**; University of Miami School of Law Professor **Mary I. Combs**; U.S. District Court Judge **Patricia Seitz**; 11th Circuit Court Judge **Gill S. Freeman**; and Tallahassee attorneys **Angela H. Orkin**, **Kathy J. Maus**, and **Kelly Overstreet Johnson**, who is Florida Bar President. Following the CLE, everyone adjoined to FAWL's midyear luncheon, which allowed FAWL, NAWL and ACC/South Florida Chapter members to network, socialize, and exchange ideas about the latest trends in gender bias, as presented by **Holly English**, nationally known author of *Gender on Trial: Sexual Stereotypes and Work/Life Balance in the Legal Workplace*. If you missed this great event, make a note to remind yourself to attend the next FAWL and NAWL joint meeting. It's bound to be a meeting that will empower you!

NAWL's Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago on August 5, 2005, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association and in cooperation with the National Association of Women Judges and other national and regional women's bar associations. **Dinita James** serves as FAWL's liaison to NAWL.

Celebrating with a Champagne Luncheon



Holly English, nationally known author of the book, "Gender on Trial: Sexual Stereotypes and Work/Life Balance in the Legal Workplace," was the keynote luncheon speaker.



(L-R): Angela Haney Orkin, C. ShàRon James, Moderator Kathy Maus and Rachelle Munson at lunch.

FOCUS ON LOCAL CHAPTERS

Jacksonville Women Lawyers:

The Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association (JWLA) is proud of another banner year. The group's regular monthly luncheons have featured an impressive array of keynote speakers. The gatherings, held at the River City Brewing Company in downtown Jacksonville, are most informative and have served as excellent networking and fellowship opportunities. Each month's luncheon is based upon a theme which promotes engaging dialogue on a wide variety of topics of interest to those in the legal profession.

Recent JWLA luncheon presentations included: "Benefits of Pro Bono Service" with **Cindy Laquidara**, Chief Deputy General Counsel and pro bono counsel to the family of missing U.S. serviceman Scott Speicher, and **Michael Figgins**, Executive Director of Jacksonville Area Legal Aid; a Judicial Panel entitled "Put Forth Your Best Evidence" featuring Circuit/County Judges and General Masters; Women's History Month featuring **Candace Moody** of the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women; Chief Justice **Barbara J. Pariente** of the Florida Supreme Court and **Jon Gordon**, aka "Energy Addict."

Board President **Paula Brice** states, "This has been a very successful year for JWLA thanks to the hard work of the Board and members. We have substantially increased our membership this year and have joined with the Florida Coastal School of Law to present a lawyers' panel for the students. We also are enjoying the sponsorship of



(L-R): JWLA President Paula Brice, JWLA President-Elect Deborah Greene, Duval County Judge Pauline Drayton, Publicity Chair Ingrid Bethel and Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara J. Pariente.

Bailey Publishing, which co-hosted our April 15th luncheon. At that luncheon, we were honored to have the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, **Barbara J. Pariente**, as our speaker. I believe that was the first time

that Justice Pariente spoke at a Jacksonville voluntary bar event since she became the Chief Justice. It was a privilege to be able to host her attendance in Jacksonville, and we look forward to continued success with our upcoming events."

Brice is joined on the JWLA Board by **Ingrid Bethel**, VP of Public Relations; **Heather Collins**, Secretary; **Patricia Dodson**, VP of Information Technology; **Linda Farrell**, VP of

Membership and Events; **Deborah Greene**, President-Elect; **Susan Haag**, VP of Professional Development, and **Maria Keebler**, Treasurer. For more information on JWLA, please visit their website at www.jwla.org.

Sarasota Chapter Starts Legal Mentoring Program at Cysis:

The Sarasota Chapter has started a legal mentoring program for the students of Cysis, a high school for teenaged parents. After conferring with the principal and the guidance counselor of the school, the chapter scheduled seminars and lectures in the following areas: immigration, employment, emancipation, stalking, dating violence, child support, paternity, child custody and visitation. There are approximately 80 students at Cysis ranging in age from 12 to 19. The school has an on-site day care center. **Lori Hultman**, a board certified labor attorney, presented a

mock employment interview seminar on March 22. **Jeremy Sensenig**, an immigration law attorney, presented a lecture and gave counseling on immigration law. **Debra Salisbury** and **Evelyn Moya** are scheduled to present on emancipation and dating violence respectively. The program is designed so that the students could avail themselves of the information before graduation at the end of the school year.

Apart from the legal mentoring project, Sarasota-FAWL's **Jeremy Sensenig**, **Chris**



Panelists at Florida Coastal School of Law (L-R): Michelle Kalil; Giselle Carson, Deborah Greene; Linda Farrell; Kathleen Von Hoene; Ingrid Bethel; Kathleen Klein; Erin O'Brien; Lois Ragsdale; Marianne Lloyd Aho; Patty Dodson; Beth Luna; Maria Keebler and Susan Haag.

Sensenig and **Dana Laganella Gerling** have started the Cyesis Clothes Closet drive. Support from the Sarasota bar community has been overwhelming. Donations of used professional clothing have been received and were distributed to Cyesis students in April.

During the 2004-2005 term, the Chapter has had the following lunch meetings: "Retirement Solutions for Small Firm Practice," **Cynthia Fallon**, Merrill Lynch; "Electronic Filing," **Karen Rushing**, Sarasota County Clerk of Court; "Career Dressing," Saks Fifth Avenue; "Effective Communications in Court," Judge **Rick DeFukria** and jury consultant **Linda Larson**; "Research Results on Judicial Opinions Concerning Courtroom Attire," **Dr. Melissa Pigott**; and "Disinheriting the IRS," **Marvin Feldman**.

The Hon. **Virginia Covington** of the U.S. Middle District Court will be the featured guest at the Installation Dinner on June 28 at Waterside on the Quay. **Marjorie Schmoeyer**, a board certified family law attorney, will be installed as the new President.

Tallahassee Women Lawyers Monitors Judicial Screening Process by C. ShàRon James

The Florida Association of Women Lawyers made a commitment more than four decades ago to increase the number of women judges in the State of Florida. Since that time, Florida has increased the number of women on the bench. However, the numbers relative to women members of the Bar and the number of women law students remain disappointing. Statistics confirm that women remain under represented in Florida's judiciary. In a recent article by **Wendy Loquasto**, published in the *FAWL Journal*, she states that as of April 1, 2004, The Florida Bar reported that 31.2 percent of its members are women and 68.8 percent are men. But Florida has a Supreme Court that is 28.5% female, a District Court of Appeal that is 20.9% female, 21.7% of all circuit judges are women and 28.9% of the county court judges are women. In essence, there is still a disparity between the number of female members of the Bar and the number of female members of the judiciary. In keeping in line with FAWL's effort to increase the number of women jurists, over the years FAWL has monitored the judicial screening process.

One of FAWL's most recent opportunities to screen the judicial nominating process occurred in Tallahassee. Applications were sought to fill a vacancy on the First District Court of Appeal created by the retirement of **Anne C. Booth**. A local Judicial Nominating Commission Review Team was formed to oversee the process for FAWL. Review Team members included, **Letisha Bivins**, **Carrol Cherry**, **Susan Bodell**, **C. ShàRon James**, **Wendy Loquasto** and **Chelsea Hall**.

The Team was asked to look for any overt or subtle

hints of gender inequities throughout the interview. For example, did the JNC ask any questions regarding the candidate's experience? If so, did you feel that the question was asked in a way that could potentially penalize applicants who have public interest backgrounds? Were there any questions asked regarding one's ability to balance family life or motherhood with judicial service? Do you feel that any of the questions were inappropriate? If so, what were those questions and why did you feel it was inappropriate?

Did you feel that any of the questions were subtly biased? For instance, one year a FAWL monitor reported that some of the male commissioners indicated a preference for applicants with jury experience. The monitor felt that this could have been a bias against women because women were less likely to be litigators.

The interviews were held October 27-29 in the Judicial Meeting Room at the Supreme Court. The monitors provided feedback on the interviews and an overall rating of the success of the interviews. Overall, the feedback was positive.

One team member monitored three JNC interviews. Two of the candidates were males, one candidate was a female. The monitor stated, "The JNC asked all three candidates questions about their experience, both in broad terms and in specific terms. For example, the first candidate was asked whether or not he felt trial experience was necessary; the second candidate was asked how her experience as a judge in family and criminal court cases would help her as an appellate court judge and what elements in her background would help her deal with cases in business, commercial or regulatory matters; and the third candidate was aggressively questioned by one member of the JNC about his experience, which appears to have been limited to capital criminal appeals." Most of the monitors agreed that all of the questions were relatively the same and equally appropriate.

Monitoring the JNC interviews was an interesting experience. I am very glad that I did not have to make the decision to fill the vacancy. I felt the interviews went well; the applicants answered very difficult questions with grace. Personally, the most disheartening of all was the number of female applicants that were interviewed. Of the thirty candidates interviewed, less than 25% were women. Although the screening process has gotten better over time, I feel that more women should apply for judicial positions. If we, as members of FAWL, are dedicated to increasing the number of women in the judiciary we must do our part by making ourselves available to serve and make a difference as members of the judiciary.



Congratulations to FAWL Members

► **Sharon R. Bock**, elected Clerk & Comptroller of Palm Beach County last



(L-R): Chief Judge Fine, Clerk Sharon Bock and Chief Justice Pariente.

November, was sworn in to office by Supreme Court Chief Justice **Barbara Pariente**, on February 11, 2005.

Clerk Bock, the first member of the Bar to be elected Clerk in Palm Beach County's 96-year history, served as Chief Deputy Clerk for almost seven years before taking office. She is an expert on the subject of privacy versus accessibility of public records on the Internet and the role of the Clerk & Comptroller and authored the article, *Electronic Access to Court Records — A Virtual Tightrope in the Making*, The Florida Bar Journal, November 2004.

► **Julia Frey**, a member of CFAWL, was selected by *The Best Lawyers in America® 2005-2006*. This publication chooses the "Best Lawyers" and area of practice based on conversations and/or recommendations with clients and other attorneys. Frey practices real estate law in the firm of Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed



► The **Florida Commission on the Status of Women** bestowed the Certificate of Achievement Award upon **Susan Fox** at a ceremony held in her honor at the Gibbons Alumni Center on the Tampa campus of the University of South Florida in October. Susan's accomplishments include establishing the Domestic Violence Injunction Assistance



(L-R): **Susan Fox** recognized by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women.

Project, seeking clemency for women jailed for killing their abusers, as well as countless hours of pro bono service. The **Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers** nominated Susan in recognition of these accomplishments and her most recent work with HAWL's Kinship Care Legal Assistance Project.

The Kinship Care project is a partnership between HAWL and Florida Kinship Center at the University of South Florida School of Social Work, which operates a Kinship Care Warmline, 800-640-6444, a toll-free listening line for grandparents and other relatives raising children in Florida. About 350,000 children in Florida now live with relatives other than parents. Warmline provides these kin caregivers with emotional support and informational services.

With HAWL's participation, the Warmline also answers common legal questions and refers caregivers to volunteer or reduced fee attorneys. HAWL's pro bono project has provided legal consultations with nearly 100 Kinship caregivers. Through HAWL's efforts, approximately ten of these care givers have proceeded with adoption, two with guardianship and many others have obtained legal forms for medical powers of attorney.

HAWL's work on the Kinship Care Project has been made possible by two grants from the Florida Bar Foundation which HAWL obtained with Susan's assistance. In the fall of 2003, HAWL applied for a \$1,000 education grant to present a free CLE program to educate its members on the legal issues related to kinship care. The program was videotaped and the videotapes of the program have been distributed statewide. In June 2004, HAWL received an additional \$5000 community service grant from The Florida Bar Foundation to partner with Florida Kinship Center in offering a one-day Kinship Legal Assistance Summit, which was held

on October 15, 2004. This Summit served about 175 caregivers and 250 children.

► **Mary Alice Jackson**, a past president of the Sarasota County Chapter, has been nominated for the Outstanding Past Voluntary Bar President's Award sponsored by the Florida Council of Bar Presidents.

► State FAWL Membership Chair and past president of the Sarasota County Chapter, **Sherri Johnson**, has become a partner at Dent and Johnson.



► **Lori Hultman** has been named a partner at Kunkel Miller & Hament and was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court Commission on Art in the Court.

► **Laurel Johnson** has opened her own law practice in Sarasota, Laurel D. Johnson, specializing in Wills, Trusts, and Probate.

► **Dana Laganella** has joined her husband as a partner of the Gerling Law Group Chartered and will be focusing on Estate Planning and Elder Law in Sarasota.

► Tallahassee Women Lawyers Past President **May Lou Rajchel** was appointed Senior Vice President of Research Development for Florida TaxWatch.

► **Rochelle A. Reback** was awarded a Human Rights Award by the Tampa-Hillsborough Human Rights Council, Inc. Reback was presented the award by Congressman **Jim Davis** and Tampa Mayor **Pam Iorio** at a breakfast at the DoubleTree Hotel in the presence of 500 guests. The award was presented to honor Ms. Reback's 20 year career as a criminal defense and civil rights lawyer protecting civil and human rights in our courts and as a community activist working to promote justice, tolerance, and respect for diversity. Reback, a former statewide board member of the ACLU of Florida, is also a founder of Tampa: Safe and Free, an organization which educates the community about civil liberties issues.

► **Jeremy Sensenig**, Sarasota, has opened his own law practice, Sensenig Law Firm, specializing in Immigration Law.

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United States District Court
Middle District of Florida
United States Courthouse
and Federal Building
2110 First Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901
virginia_covington@flmd.uscourts.gov

Virginia M. Hernandez Covington
United States District Judge

Phone (239) 461-2050
Fax (239) 461-2059

November 24, 2004

Dinita James, Esquire
Ford & Harrison LLP
101 East Kennedy Blvd.
Suite 900
Tampa, FL 33602-5133

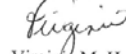
Dear Dinita:

Just a short note to thank you for coming to my investiture ceremony. I can not tell you how much it meant to me to have you there, particularly since I have been a member of HAWL since its inception and a member of FAWL for over 20 years. The book that you and Susan Fox gave me is absolutely beautiful and I have already placed it on my bookshelf. I know that it will remind me of my investiture and my love for HAWL and FAWL every time that I look at it.

Please tell the members of FAWL how much I appreciate all of their support. I meant what I said last Friday. It is only because of their help that I am here today.

I look forward to seeing you in Tampa for some of HAWL's events. Hopefully once my calendar is under control it will be easier for me to make those arrangements. Take care and thanks again for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,



Virginia M. Hernandez Covington



Virginia Hernandez Covington with family following her investiture as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Middle District of Florida.



Members of the Lee County Association for Women Lawyers honored Kelly Overstreet Johnson, as President of The Florida Bar, and welcomed Judge Virginia Covington as the area's newest federal judge at the Chapter's Annual Bar and Judicial Appreciation Event on May 3, 2005. (L-R): Hon. Hugh D. Hayes, Chief Judge of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit; Kim Howard; Kelly Overstreet Johnson, Laurie H. Anton, LCAWL President; Hon. Virginia M. Hernandez Covington; Josephine Gagliardi, and Ellen Kane.



NOMINATIONS FOR 2005-06 FAWL OFFICERS

by **Dinita L. James**
Nominating Committee Chair

The Florida Association for Women Lawyers does not elect its governing body in a purely democratic fashion. Each chapter, through whatever means its by-laws or membership determines, appoints one member of the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee proposes a slate of individuals for the Executive Board positions. The by-laws provide for nominations at large, but that has rarely, if ever, happened. Members can vote either in person at the annual meeting of the Association, to be held this year June 23 at the Marriott World Center, or by the ballot included with the April 2005 FAWL E-News and this article.

The Nominating Committee is chaired by **Dinita James** as Immediate Past President, and has as its members the President-Elect **June McKinney Bartelle**, Treasurer-Elect **Amy Furness** and past Presidents **Susan Fox** and **Siobhan Shea**, and past and long-serving Executive Board Member **Julie Koves**. The positions of President, Immediate Past President, and Treasurer are filled by succession pursuant to the by-laws, ensuring some continuity in the top leadership of the Association. The Nominating Committee had an impressive array of nine final candidates from chapters around the state from which to fill the remaining six positions.

President: June McKinney Bartelle of Tallahassee Women Lawyers is a past President of the Chapter for two years. She is a Supreme Court Certified Mediator and is Martindale-Hubbell AV rated. She is a graduate of Leadership Tallahassee, serves on The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism, Education Law Committee and is a Mediation Qualifications Board Member. She is also a member of the Tallahassee Barristers Association, William H. Stafford American Inn of Court, the Florida Government Bar Association, the Tallahassee Bar Association and Virgil Hawkins Chapter of the National Bar Association. She has previously served on the Mediation Qualifications Complaint Committee and chaired the Capitol City Bar Presidents Council. McKinney Bartelle is a Neighborhood Justice Center Founding Mediator and a former Leon County Human Services Grant Committee Chair. She also is a 2002 recipient of the Florida Association of Black Public Administrators Legal Community Service Award and in 1997 McKinney Bartelle was recognized as an Outstanding Young Woman of America. She is currently a Senior Assistant Attorney General in Tallahassee and provides General Counsel services to the Commission for Independent Education. She previously worked for the Office of the General Counsel, Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, where she was Chief Attorney from 1999 to 2001. McKinney Bartelle has also served the Florida Public Service Commission Office of the General Counsel, Bureau of Telecommunications, the Public Defenders Office as Misdemeanor Division Chief from 1996 to 1998 and she worked for the Department of Labor and Employment Security Division of Unemployment Compensation, Bureau of Appeals, as an Appeals Referee/Hearing Officer. McKinney Bartelle's nonlegal experience includes editorial and writing

experience for several publications in Washington, D.C. She earned her J.D. at the University of Florida College of Law, where she was President of the Black Law Students Association as well as a Virgil Hawkins Scholar and an Earl Warren Legal Training Scholar, and worked as an Associate Editor for Development, Journal of Law and Public Policy. McKinney Bartelle is an active alumna of Howard University. McKinney Bartelle has served State FAWL on numerous committees and on the Executive Board the past two years as Public Relations Director and President-Elect.

President-Elect: Wendy S. Loquasto is a shareholder in Fox & Loquasto, P.A., which is a statewide appellate practice law firm with offices in Tampa and Tallahassee. Loquasto manages the Tallahassee office and has a varied appellate practice, including civil, criminal, workers' compensation, and family law appeals; extraordinary writs; and postconviction motions. Prior to entering private practice, Loquasto clerked for Judge Richard W. Ervin, III, at the First District Court of Appeal for 15 years. She is a Director on the Executive Council of The Florida Bar Appellate Practice Section and a member of The Florida Bar Journal and News Editorial Board. Loquasto has served on the FAWL Board of Directors in numerous capacities almost continuously since 1995, when she served as Secretary. She currently serves as Public Relations Officer and Historian, and previously served as Assistant Historian, Chapter Representative for Tallahassee Women Lawyers, and Chair of the Membership, Website, Bylaws, and Nominating Committees. Loquasto was instrumental in organizing the First 150 Women Lawyers Celebration, which teamed FAWL with The Florida Bar in honoring the first 150 women and first five African-American women lawyers admitted by the

Florida Supreme Court to practice law in Florida. She compiled and edited *Celebrating Florida's First 150 Women Lawyers*, which was published as part of that celebration, and she received the President's Award of Merit from Florida Bar President Edith G. Osman for her service. Loquasto also assisted Judge Mattie Belle Davis in compiling the last ten years of FAWL's history and editing *History of Florida Association for Women Lawyers (1951-2002)*, which was self-published by Judge Davis as part of FAWL's 50th anniversary celebration in 2001. She was a recipient of one of FAWL's Golden Star Awards, which was presented at the 50th anniversary celebration. Loquasto is also a former president of Tallahassee Women Lawyers (1996-97), and she received the Florida Council of Bar Association Presidents' 2004 Outstanding Past Voluntary Bar President Award for her service.

Secretary: Mary K. Wimsett is a Guardian ad Litem Program Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit. She also serves as Special Counsel to the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Program Office. She graduated cum laude from Vanderbilt University with honors in English. She attended law school at the University of Florida where she was a Florida Bar Legal Services Fellow and UF Center for Governmental Responsibility Public Service Fellow. Upon graduating with honors from law school, Wimsett moved to Tallahassee where she worked as an Assistant Public Defender for the Honorable Nancy Daniels. She handled felony, juvenile and misdemeanor caseloads for over two years. In 2000, she began working for the Guardian ad Litem Program of the 2nd Judicial Circuit. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Florida Bar Juvenile Rules Committee and will continue to be Vice Chair for the 2005-2006 year. Wimsett previously served as FAWL's Treasurer,

Membership Director and Bylaws Committee Chair. She and her husband, Gary, an attorney for the University of Florida, live in Gainesville with their daughters, Emma and Charlotte.

Treasurer: Amy Furness succeeds to Treasurer after making great strides in strengthening FAWL's sponsorship support this year as Treasurer-Elect. She is an AV-rated attorney shareholder in the Miami office of Carlton Fields, where she practices commercial litigation and product liability. Her leadership experience includes prior service on the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors, as an Officer, Newsletter Editor, and former Member of the Board of Directors of the Miami Dade Chapter of FAWL. Furness also has served as a Director for the Welfare to Work Partnership, a volunteer judge for Miami-Dade Teen Court, a pro bono faculty member of the Florida Paralegals' Seminar, a former Steering Committee Member for the Vizcaya Museum, and research committee member for the First 150 Women Lawyers Celebration. Furness spoke at the National Summit for Women in Law on Attaining Goals for Women Attorneys, and has published Gender Equality in the Legal Profession for the Florida Bar Practicing with Professionalism Handbook. She received the Guardian Ad Litem Domestic Violence Pro Bono Award in 1998 and was recognized by President Bush for her contribution to Welfare-To-Work Project 2002. Furness earned her J.D. from Widener University School of Law, her B.S. from Drexel University, and studied International Comparative Law in Rome, Italy.

Treasurer-Elect: Carolyn Coukos is nominated for her second term as Treasurer-Elect, after taking a year off from FAWL. Coukos is Vice President of Northern Trust Bank and manages its estate settlement group for Southwest Florida. Prior to joining Northern Trust Bank in 1997, she spent 10 years in private practice in Indianapolis, Indiana in the areas of trust and estate law and employment law litigation. She earned her J.D. degree cum laude from Indiana University School of Law, where she was associate editor of the Indiana Law Review, as well as editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, Dictum. Her B.A. in English is from the University of Kansas. She has served on the board of FAWL's Collier County chapter (the Collier County Women's Bar Association) since 1998 and was its President from 1999 to 2001. She has been active in bar, civic and political activities in Indiana and continues to be so in Florida. Notable among them, she founded the Women Lawyers Division of the Indianapolis Bar Association and served as its first president and on its Executive Council from 1987 to 1993. Coukos co-chaired the Indiana State Bar Association's Committee to study the adoption of community property law in Indiana. She was nominated by Indiana's Judicial Nominating Commission for an appellate judgeship.

Public Relations Director: Rebecca Harrison Steele is nominated for her first term on the FAWL Executive Board. Steele is Director of the ACLU of Florida's West Central Florida Office, a post she assumed in April 2004. She is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Tampa office, which serves the West Florida community through litigation and public education, especially in the areas of racial justice, police misconduct, and civil and voting rights restoration for people with past felony convictions. Steele worked in the Tampa offices of the firms of Trenam, Kemker and Holland & Knight, and clerked with Judge Charles R. Wilson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. She graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in theatre. She received her law degree, magna cum laude, from the Stetson University College of Law, and has served as an adjunct professor at the law school. She is a past President of the Board of Directors for WMNF-FM radio and is the immediate past President of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers.

Journal Editor: Sherri L. Johnson is a former two-term President of the Sarasota Chapter of FAWL, and currently serves as FAWL's Membership Director. She has also served as chairman of FAWL's Judicial Selection and Awards committees. Ms. Johnson graduated with honors from the University of Florida College of Law in 1997, where she was a member of Florida Blue Key and an editor of the *Journal of Law & Public Policy*. Ms. Johnson is now a partner in the law firm of Dent & Johnson, Chartered, where she concentrates her practice in ad valorem tax law representing county property appraisers, as well as appellate law, business and real estate law. Johnson serves on the Board of Directors of the Sarasota County Bar Association, and as Membership Chairman of the Judge John M. Scheb American Inn of Court. She has published an article on ad valorem tax law in the *Stetson Law Review*, and is a regular presenter at property appraisers' conferences. She was recently named the 2005 Young Lawyer of the

Year by the Gulf Coast Business Review.

Membership Director: Mary C. Gomez is a solo practitioner in Miami Lakes. Her practice concentrates on complex marital and family law cases. Ms. Gomez was formerly an associate attorney at the Miami office of Carlton Fields, where she was a member of the family law practice group. She currently serves as Journal Editor for the Miami-Dade Chapter of FAWL and on the Dade County Bar Association's Family Court Committee. Additionally, she is on the legislation committee of the Family Law Section of the Florida Bar. Gomez received her J.D. from Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center, *magna cum laude*, and her B.A. *summa cum laude*, from Saint Thomas University. While at Nova, Ms. Gomez was a member of the Moot Court Society and was the Associate Editor of the Nova Law Review, where she published an article on sexual harassment in the workplace.

Immediate Past President: That is what current FAWL President **Deborah Magid** of the Miami-Dade Chapter will become when she concludes her successful term and passes the gavel to McKinney Bartelle at the Installation Ceremony and reception on June 23, 2005 at the Orlando Marriott World Center. Deborah is a newly appointed Magistrate in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. She also teaches legal research and writing at St. Thomas University School of Law. She is a former President of the Miami-Dade Chapter and previously has served on the FAWL Executive Board as President-elect, Treasurer, and Secretary. She was the 2002 recipient of the Miami-Dade FAWL Chapter's President's Award and the Miami Law Women's "Women Who Make a Difference" Award in 2003. She serves on the board of the Miami-Dade PACE Center for Girls and the Southern Regional Leadership Council of Lawyers for Children America. She is also a founder of the HIV Education and Law Project's "Safe Girls" Program.



2005-2006 BALLOT FAWL OFFICERS

- I approve the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee.
- I do not approve the proposed slate and instead cast my vote for the following write-in candidates:

FAX this ballot to 850/894-0055 by **June 16, 2005** to be counted or vote online through the FAWL website at http://www.fawl.org/news_events/BallotSlate.htm

SIGNATURE: _____

► **Jill S. Schwartz** has been named as one of the top 5% of attorneys in the “Best Of The Bar 2004” survey, as published in the *Orlando Business Journal* on November 19, 2004. Ms. Schwartz is the founder and managing partner of Jill S. Schwartz & Associates, P.A., a Winter Park, Florida law firm focusing its practice on Labor and Employment Law, as well as Marital and Family Law.



► **Leslie Reicin Stein**, Past President of FAWL, recently retired as General Counsel for Verizon Information Technologies Inc. and has been elected as Vice President & General Counsel of Special Data Processing Corporation (SDP) in Clearwater. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Stetson University College of Law where she teaches labor and employment law courses.

► **Rebecca O’Dell Townsend** has been appointed by the Supreme Court of Florida to its Committee on the Arts in the Courtroom. Rebecca practices appellate, public interest and intellectual property law in Tampa. She is a native of St. Petersburg.

► **Karen Walker** of Holland & Knight was elected Chair of the Board of Directors of United Way of Big Bend, Inc. in Tallahassee.

► **Andrea Zelman** has been elected to the Board of Directors of A Gift for Teaching of Tampa. A Gift of Teaching ensures that the children of Hillsborough County have the basic tools for learning by transferring the community’s surplus supplies into the hands of teachers and children in need. ■



LAST CALL TO BE A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE MATTIE BELLE DAVIS SOCIETY

Charter Membership Enrollment Information
July 1, 2004 -- June 30, 2005

In June 2004, FAWL brought into existence the Mattie Belle Davis Society which was created in honor of the late Judge Davis and her extraordinary lifelong commitment to FAWL and the women lawyers of Florida.

An announcement followed in the Autumn 2004 edition of the *FAWL Journal*, and, since then, the following persons have joined the MBD Society:

Nancy Toman Baldwin
June McKinney Bartelle
Henrientta S. Biscoe
Cesar R. Camacho
Susan Hamilton Churiti
Susan W. Fox
Vene Hamilton
Dinita James

C. Sha’Ron James
Juliette “Julie” Koves
Wendy Loquasto
Deborah Magid
Elizabeth Ann Morgan
Nola Richardson
Siobhan H. Shea
Hon. Winifred J. Sharp

At the June 2005 meeting in Orlando, FAWL will officially close the inaugural year of the MBD Society and recognize the founding members at a reserved table at the annual meeting luncheon and in the autumn edition of the *FAWL Journal*. If you want to be among those who are recognized as founding members of the MBD Society, it is essential that FAWL receive your membership form and donation before June 13, 2005 or contact the FAWL office at 850/894-0055 or email fawl@fawl.org.

To become a founding member, check the last box of the form on page 19 of the membership application, complete the form and send it in along with your check to FAWL for \$100 to: FAWL, P.O. Box 15998, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-5998.



Send you member news to
fawl@fawl.org

Don’t forget to post updates in
your member profile on the fawl
website at www.fawl.org

All members have the ability to
provide a law firm link and post
biographical information.

Florida Association for Women Lawyers

MEMBER APPLICATION

Application also available at website: <http://www.fawl.org/>



NAME

FLORIDA BAR NUMBER

CHECK HERE IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA BAR

FIRM/EMPLOYER

LAW SCHOOL (*Student Members Only*)

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

BUSINESS PHONE

FAX

HOME PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS (*Members providing an email address opt to receive electronic newsletters or other relevant membership information*)

PRIMARY AREAS OF PRACTICE

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: NEW MEMBER RENEWAL STUDENT

AMOUNTS BELOW INCLUDE LOCAL AND STATE DUES. LOCAL CHAPTERS MAY VARY. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE CHAPTER AND REMIT CORRESPONDING PAYMENT TO THE CHAPTER ADDRESS OR FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS • P.O. BOX 15998 • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317-5998

- Barry Women Lawyers Assn, 6441 East Colonial Dr, Orlando, FL 32807: \$30
- Brevard Cnty. Assn. for Women Lawyers, c/o Kathleen Smith, P.O. Box 6699, Titusville 32782-6699: \$50
- Broward Cnty. Women Lawyers Assn, 4875 N. Federal Hwy, 10th Floor, Fort Lauderdale 33308 \$60, \$35 Student
- Central FL Assn. for Women Lawyers, c/o Linda Dolan, P.O. Box 3791, Orlando 32802 \$75, \$35 Student
- Clara Gehan Association for Women Lawyers, c/o Ruth Gorme, P.O. Box 3188, Ocala 34478-3188 \$45
- Collier County Women's Bar Assn, 5811 Pelican Bay Blvd., #201, Naples 34108: \$60, \$40 Gov/Student
- FAWL at Stetson, 1401 61st Street South, St. Petersburg 33707 \$17 Student
- Florida Interational University, FIU Women in Law, University Park, GL 400, Miami 33199 TBA Student
- Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers, P.O. Box 173565, Tampa 33602 \$70
- Jacksonville Women Lawyers Assn., P.O. Box 1923, Jacksonville 32201 \$80
- Lee County Association for Women Lawyers, P.O. Box 280, Fort Myers 33902-0280: \$60
- Manatee County FAWL, P.O. Box 1591, Bradenton 34206-1591 \$50
- Marion County Chapter, ATTN: Janet Fuller, 1130 S.E. 17th St., Ocala 34471 \$40
- Miami-Dade FAWL, c/o State FAWL, P.O. Box 15998, Tallahassee 32317 Regular/Affiliate \$80, Gov./Legal Aid \$60; \$30 Student
- Northwest FL Chapter of FAWL, c/o Maureen Dignan, 226 S. Palafox Place, 9th FL, Pensacola 32501 \$60
- Miami Law Women, University of Miami School of Law, P.O. Box 248087, Coral Gables 33124 \$10 Student
- Nova Law Center Chapter, Shepard Broad Law Center, 3305 College Ave., Davie 33314 \$15 Student
- Palm Beach Cnty Assn. for Women Lawyers, P.O. Box 7488, West Palm Beach 33405 \$60
- Pinellas County Association for Women Lawyers, 133 N. Fort Harrison Dr., Clearwater 33755: \$65
- St. Thomas University Law School Chapter: \$35
- Sarasota FL Assn. for Women Lawyers, P.O. Box 50512, Sarasota 34232 \$65
- South Palm Beach Cnty. Chapter, c/o Amy Fanzlaw; P.O. Drawer 40; Boca Raton 33429 \$60, \$30 Student
- Tallahassee Women Lawyers; P.O. Box 10567, Tallahassee, 32302: \$75, \$40 Student
- Treasure Coast Assn. for Women Lawyers, P.O. Box 2904, Stuart, 34995: \$65, \$35 Gov/Student
- Volusia/Flagler Assn. for Women Lawyers, P.O. Box 15211, Daytona Bch 32114... 60, \$10 Student
- Not affiliated with a Local Chapter \$40 Regular; \$10 Student
- Judge Mattie Belle Davis Society** (*an annual contribution to State FAWL made in addition to regular dues*) \$100

and invited the girls to visit the Supreme Court to learn more about Florida's judicial system. The six classrooms were facilitated by TWL members **C. ShàRon James, June McKinney Bartelle, Kendra Davis, Maja Holman, Katrice Jenkins** and **Karusha Sharpe**.

TWL received numerous thank you cards from the students and one wrote, "I Loved The Book. Thank Everyone for letting us read a great book you all purchased for us & came to our school and got to socialize with all the woman lawyers. It was a neat experience to me. I loved every part of the book. And I also want to Thank Everyone for the food & cake. It was very nice. I appreciate that. Well thank you so much I enjoyed everything!"

Jacqueline Buyze, Persident-Elect of Collier County Association for Women Lawyers, listens as a PACE student reads at a picnic at Loudermilk Park in Naples on May 7. Buyze has served as the Statewide Breakfast & Books coordinator for State FAWL during 2004-2005. See page 8 for story.



Florida Association for Women Lawyers

P.O. Box 15998,
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5998
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