



As I Look Back . . .

By **Linda Bond Edwards TWL President.** *Ms. Edwards is a partner with Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell where she concentrates her practice in the area of employment law. She is also a civil mediator certified by the Florida Supreme Court. She can be reached at (850) 222-6550 or at ledwards@rumberger.com*

I can hardly believe that another Tallahassee Women Lawyers (TWL) year has come and gone. At this time last year, I was awed by the many accomplishments of women lawyers who lived many years ago. I am thankful to know that there are many fabulous women lawyers doing great and wonderful things right here in the Tallahassee area. During this last year as president of TWL, I have had the opportunity to work with 30 of those women as Board Members. Together, we presented programs that enhanced the status of women and allowed others to learn more about TWL. We were a proud sponsor of the Women and the Workplace Summit presented by the Tallahassee Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, one of our past presidents Twyla Sketchley, was named as the Richard Ervin award winner, members were recognized as one of 25 Women You Need to Know in Tallahassee, and the list goes on.

To encourage our members we presented the following programs:

August: We hosted a Board Certification Panel to encourage lawyers to increase their professional competence.

September: We wanted more people to know our members and we wanted to know them so we hosted an evening of member to member communications and invited State Agency General Counsels.

October: If you missed the historic and traditional Judicial Reception, you missed the event of the season! Don't fret, as grand and wonderful as it was in 2013, you can expect another fabulous event on October 9, 2014 at Florida's Historic Capitol.

November: TWL became the first voluntary bar in the State to receive the introduction to Benchmarks Program with Bar President Eugene Pettis.

December: Holiday Sharing with Legal Services of North Florida and Guardian Ad Litem. The Dessert Contest got the holiday palate ready!

February: So You Want to Be a Judge. The road to the judiciary sometimes appears to be mystical and intimidating. After this panel discussion with members of the JNCs, elected judges, applicants and the Governor's General Counsel, hopefully the way is clearer.

March: Because Lobbying is "A Different Kind of Advocacy", in cooperation with the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, we participated in Lobby Days and made our presence known in the Legislature.

April: Florida is often ground zero for civil rights issues. The Staff Director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights shared highlights of the Commission's focus and also the path to service through civil rights.

May: We presented our historic Professionalism CLE programs. May was also the time when TWL hosted Girls Where They Are a pipeline diversity program in cooperation with Nims Middle School. Go to You Tube and search TWL Diversity for a view of the program.

June was a thank you to all who participated and served with us throughout the year.

TWL members are strong, vibrant, fabulous, successful and all around awesome and I am thankful for the confidence placed in me to lead such a dynamic organization! I am always reminded that our latter days will be greater than our former days!!



ADVERTISE IN THE TWL NEWSLETTER

Support the Tallahassee Women Lawyers and capitalize on two great advertising opportunities!

Reach every attorney in the Second Judicial Circuit by advertising in the TWL Circuit-Wide Newsletter, or reach the entire TWL membership by advertising in the TWL Member-Wide Newsletter.

Call or e-mail Whitney Langston at 850-425-5439 or WLangston@ausley.com for details.



Be Inspired!

Jessica Leigh, TWL 2014-2015 President, is Deputy Supervising Attorney for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Licensing. In that capacity, she represents the Department in all aspects of administrative and appellate law pertaining to concealed weapon and firearms licenses, private security, private investigation, and recovery services. Ms. Leigh can be reached at TallahasseeWomenLawyers@gmail.com.

This is my first letter as the President of Tallahassee Women Lawyers, and it is an honor to have the opportunity to serve in this position. This year I hope you will “Be Inspired” to improve the status of women in the legal profession, in the Tallahassee community, and across the state of Florida; to engage with members of the judicial, legal and political community, as well as law students and business leaders; celebrate our member and chapter accomplishments; commit to increasing the diversity and strength of our membership; and to connect to one another through our membership meetings or one of our “simply social” events, through friendship and just plain fun.

Our monthly meetings and programs will feature guest speakers that we hope will inspire you, to be inspired and inspiring. More specifically, we encourage you to nominate a member for TWL’s Inspirational Community Engagement Award, to volunteer for one of TWL’s committees, to serve as a mentor to a new attorney or Florida State University College of law student, and to foster friendship and supportive networks in TWL by bringing a new or returning potential member with you to one of our monthly meetings or events. I also plan to continue the initiatives which those before me put into motion including Rookie Camp, Breakfast and Books, FAWL Lobby Days Luncheon, and the award-winning Women’s Empowerment Series, and look forward to celebrating TWL’s 32nd Annual Judicial Reception with each of you on October 9th!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank in advance our 31 member Board of Directors for their willingness to serve TWL, and give of their time and talents to better our organization in countless ways, ensuring our success in the coming year.

If you aren’t already a member of TWL, I hope that you will consider joining our award-winning organization. If you are renewing your membership, on behalf of the entire 2014-2015 Tallahassee Women Lawyers Board, thank you for your continued support. So be inspired to inspire, and **save the dates for an exciting TWL year!**

7/09/2014—“Women & Philanthropy” - Board Installation and Past President’s Reception Dinner Meeting

8/13/2014— “Shaping Our City’s Future: Tallahassee Growth & Development” - Dinner Meeting

9/10/2014— “Combating Human Trafficking: A Strategic Plan for Florida” - Dinner Meeting

10/09/2014—32nd Annual Judicial Reception

11/12/2014—TBA—General Membership Dinner Meeting

12/10/2014—Holiday Party and Dessert Contest Luncheon

1/14/2015—Women’s Empowerment Series I Luncheon

2/11/2015— “How to be a Happy Workaholic” - Women’s Empowerment Series II/Dinner Meeting

3/10/2015—FAWL Lobby Days and Women’s Empowerment Series III Luncheon

4/08/2015— TBA—General Membership Dinner Meeting

5/13/2015—TBA—General Membership Dinner Meeting

6/10/2015—TWL Board Thank You and Year-End Celebration -Dinner Meeting



Florida Modernizes Laws to Protect Elders from Exploitation

By **Twyla Sketchley**. Ms. Sketchley is a Board Certified Elder Law Attorney with the Sketchley Law Firm, P.A.. She can be reached at (850) 894-0152 or at twylaw@sketchleylaw.com

On July 1, 2014, House Bill 409, which passed the House and Senate unanimously, took effect making it easier to prosecute predators, including those who act as a fiduciary (attorney-in-fact, guardian or trustee) and exploit Florida's elders and individuals with disabilities. Attorneys who represent trustees, attorneys-in-fact, guardians, and even caregivers must become familiar with this law to advise clients on the implications of any actions that may be contrary to the best interests or benefit of an elderly or disabled person.

House Bill 409 amends Florida's current criminal exploitation statutes, Fla. Stat. §§ 825.101 and 825.103, to broaden the definition of exploitation from just taking or using funds of an elder through intimidation or deception to include breaches of fiduciary duty and failing to effectively use a vulnerable adult's income or assets for necessities such as food, shelter, medical care, or clothing. Because of these changes, civil litigation involving claims of exploitation pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 772.11 will also change, broadening the actions that allow a victim to recover treble damages and attorneys' fees against a perpetrator.

Under Florida's new law, in addition to knowingly obtaining, using or attempting to use an elderly or disabled adult's property or assets with the intent to deprive the individual of their use or possession, it is a crime (and a tort through Fla. Stat. § 772.11) if one of the following actions occurs involving an elderly or disabled adult:

1. For a fiduciary to breach their fiduciary duty, engage in an unauthorized appropriation of property, abusing his or her power, intentionally mismanage assets, commit fraud in obtaining their appointment, or act contrary to a principal's best interest;
2. Misappropriating, misusing, or transferring without authorization money belonging to an elderly or disabled person from an account in which the individual placed funds, owned the funds, or was the sole contributor of funds, including joint accounts established essentially for convenience; or
3. Intentionally or negligently failing to effectively use an elderly or disabled person's income and assets for the necessities they require for their support and maintenance by a caregiver or any person who stands in a position of trust.

The new law also creates a permissive presumption of exploitation in instances when a non-relative receives in excess of \$10,000.00 in property, in either a single or multiple transactions from a person age 65 or older when the non-relative has known the elder for less than 2 years and the elder has not received "reasonable equivalent financial value" in the transaction. This permissive presumption excludes commercial transactions and bona fide charitable contributions. The permissive presumption allows, but does not require, a jury to presume a transaction was the result of exploitation based on the facts and circumstances. It does not shift any burden of proof to a criminal defendant accused of exploitation.

Finally, under the amendments, the penalties for exploitation of the elderly or disabled person were increased significantly, making exploitation, regardless of value, at least a third degree felony. The law also allows the court to return any money seized with a search warrant to the victim following an evidentiary hearing.

Many of the new provisions in this law are the first of their kind in the United States and will serve as a model for other states.

Law Day Reception 2014 Celebrates *Pro Bono* Service

By: **Mary Dekle, Resource Developer, Legal Services of North Florida, Inc.;** **John Fenno, LSNF Director of Development/Private Attorney Involvement;** and **Wendy Loquasto, TWL Liaison to LSNF**

In honor of Law Day, Tallahassee Women Lawyers joined Legal Services of North Florida (“LSNF”), the Legal Aid Foundation, and Tallahassee Bar Association, among others, in recognizing all the attorneys who generously give their time and talent in the provision of *pro bono* services.

TWL Past President Twyla Sketchley, along with Stephanie Johnson, Judge Sjostrom, and Sonia Crockett, were honored at the 2014 Law Day Celebration on May 6th at the University Grille. This annual event honors *pro bono* attorneys in the 2nd Judicial Circuit who dedicate their time and expertise to providing hope and justice in our community.

Those who attended the Law Day Reception were moved by the story of Twyla Sketchley, the 2014 Richard W. Ervin Equal Justice Award Winner. Twyla can trace her passion for the law and advocacy for elders back to her childhood on a reservation in rural Montana. Twyla grew up in poverty, but the plight of seniors in her family and community was much worse. Her Great Aunt Twyla taught her “that I could take the fight that I was learning every day just to survive, and that I could make my world a better place.” The Ervin Award is given by the Capital City Bar Presidents Council to recognize significant contributions to the legal system in Florida. Twyla was honored for her work on behalf of the elderly and disabled.

Sonia Crockett was recognized as the Florida Bar President’s 2014 Pro Bono Awardee for the 2nd Judicial Circuit, and over 750 attorneys were honored for their service to those in need.

Other honorees included LSNF attorney Stephanie Johnson, who was presented with the Joy Aukema Taps Children’s Advocate of the Year Award, and The Honorable Jonathan Sjostrom, who received the Parks & Crump Thurgood Marshall Judicial Award.

Pam Bondi, Florida’s Attorney General, gave the keynote address. “I thank you for all the legal aid that you provide,” Bondi said as she also noted that, through the efforts of attorneys working with victims of mortgage fraud, \$8.4 billion was secured to help individual homeowners and legal services programs working with those in danger of losing their homes.



Hot Line Volunteers Needed

Don't let the *pro bono* work stop with the Law Day celebration. Let's all pitch in to continue the important work of bringing hope and justice to those in legal need throughout the year.

One easy way to do this is by volunteering on LSNF's Telephone Legal Advice Hotline, which needs volunteers to staff the hotline on Monday-Thursday from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. Sign up for a time slot now and/or recruit others to participate. **These are call backs, which allow you some time to study the question before responding!**

For more information, contact John Fenno at 701-3306 or email at john@lsnf.org. Remember, government attorneys are eligible for up to 5 hours of administrative leave each month to participate on the hotline.

A NEW VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY SCHEDULING CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE TO SELF-SCHEDULE AND SEE WHO ELSE IS VOLUNTEERING FOR THE HOTLINE, NIGHT CLINICS, HOMELESS CLINICS, ETC. GO TO: <http://lsnf.org/documents/calendarsignup.htm>

THANK YOU, TALLAHASSEE WOMEN LAWYERS!

Tallahassee Women Lawyers came to the rescue once again for FSU College of Law, serving as jurors or judges in FSU's second annual national civil mock trial invitational on March 21-23. The case involved water law issues in Suwannee, a state in a fictional universe. Tastea Water Bottling Company sued Ikra Yaitso Curmudgeon Farms, alleging massive water withdrawals caused the bottling company's spring to reverse flow, and the natural bridge on its property to collapse into a sinkhole during a Civil War reenactment. Twelve law schools from across the country competed, and Faulkner University Jones School of Law won, with Columbus School of Law taking second place. Judges Bruce McKibben, Karen Gievers, Barbara Hobbs, Stewart Parsons, and Lawrence Stevenson presided over several of the rounds.



Hon. Bruce McKibben , with the top two teams at FSU College of Law's Mock Trial competition

LSNF News & Upcoming Events

June 1, 2014: LSNF announced the launch of its annual Partners in Service Campaign for Florida attorneys who are required to report their pro bono gifts of time and money to The Florida Bar on their annual dues statement. See www.lsnf.org/partners-in-service. The campaign runs through August 15 and coincides with the period for renewing Bar dues. Give \$350 to LSNF to become a Partner in Service and be able to report that contribution on your Bar dues form.

June 27, 2014: LSNF was recognized at the Annual Florida Bar Convention at the Gaylord Palms, Orlando, as this year's top pro bono program in Florida. LSNF received The Florida Bar General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section's "L. Michael Roffino Pro Bono Award" at the Section's luncheon.

July 17, 2014: LSNF; the Leon County Clerk of Courts; volunteer attorneys from the Law Firm of Williams, Gautier, Gwynn, DeLoach and Sorenson, P.A.; and Herzog Mediation will hold a Small Claims and Landlord Tenant informational clinic describing the small-claims process and the handling of landlord and tenant issues from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, at the Leon County Courthouse Annex, Courtroom 2, 1920 Thomasville Road (across from Jax Liquors). FREE and open to the public.

Pull Out Your Calendar and Save the Date - TWL's 32nd Annual Judicial Reception

By **Rachel Nordby**, 2014-2015 Judicial Reception Director, and **Diane DeWolf**, 2014-2015 Judicial Reception Development Chair

Every Fall, Tallahassee's legal community gathers to honor members of the local judiciary for their service. This year, the 32nd Annual Judicial Reception will be held from **5:30-7:30PM on Thursday, October 9, 2014, at Florida's Historic Capitol.**

October will be here before you know it – so save the date! And look for a detailed article about the event in the upcoming Fall 2014 Newsletter.

For information concerning sponsorship opportunities, please contact Diane DeWolf at (850) 414-3818. Also, a sponsorship form is included on page 8 of this newsletter.





Tallahassee Women Lawyers 32nd Annual Judicial Reception Sponsorship Form

*****This Year's Reception Takes Place October 9, 2014*****

Please return your sponsorship form no later than **August 1, 2014** to be included as an "Early Bird" sponsor in our October circuit-wide newsletter.

Please return your sponsorship form by **September 15, 2014** to receive event recognition.

Corporate/Law Firm Name: _____
 Sponsorship Contact: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Corporate/Law Firm Web Address: _____

Platinum Sponsor - \$1000 or more

Corporate/Law Firm name, web address, and contact information in the Fall/Winter TWL newsletter, and October and November TWL E-news

Corporate/Law Firm logo on the TWL website

Corporate/Law Firm name on all event press releases

Corporate/Law Firm name on promotional materials at the Judicial Reception

8 complimentary tickets to the 32nd Annual Judicial Reception

Gold Sponsor - \$500 or more

Corporate/Law Firm name and web address in the Fall/Winter TWL newsletter, and October and November TWL E-news

Corporate/Law Firm logo on the TWL website

Corporate/Law Firm name on all event press releases

Corporate/Law Firm name on promotional materials at the Judicial Reception

4 complimentary tickets to the 32nd Annual Judicial Reception

Silver Sponsor—\$300 or more

Corporate/Law Firm name in the Fall/Winter TWL newsletter, and October and November TWL E-news

Corporate/Law Firm logo on the TWL website

Corporate/Law Firm name on promotional materials at the Reception

2 complimentary tickets to the 32nd Annual Judicial Reception

Friends of TWL - \$150 or more (limited to individual sponsors)

Individual name in the Fall/Winter TWL newsletter, and October and November TWL E-news

Individual name on promotional materials at the Judicial Reception

1 complimentary ticket to the 32nd Annual Judicial Reception

Please send check made payable to Tallahassee Women Lawyers to:

Tallahassee Women Lawyers

Attn: Diane DeWolf, 2014-2015 JR Development Chair

P.O. Box 10567

Tallahassee, Florida 32302



TWL “Simply Social”: Painting with a Twist

By **Christian Cutillo**, 2014-2015 TWL Special Events Chair. Ms. Cutillo is an associate with Vezina, Lawrence & Piscitelli, P.A. and can be reached at ccutillo@vlplaw.com.

Please join Tallahassee Women Lawyers members on Tuesday, August 19, 2014, for a “simply social” event at Painting with a Twist, 1660 North Monroe Street, Suite 8, in Tallahassee. The private TWL event is scheduled for two hours starting at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$40.00 and \$5.00 from each reservation will be donated to Refugee House. Please feel free to bring in your favorite beverage to enjoy during class as well as food/snacks. Space is limited so please register by either calling Painting with a Twist at 850-222-1385, or through the following link, <http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/events/viewEvent.aspx?eventID=247246>.

We look forward to seeing you!

MEMBER NEWS

Twyla Sketchley was named the National Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys’ 2014 Florida Chapter Member of the Year during the mid-year meeting of the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys in Orlando, Florida on June 6, 2014. Ms. Sketchley is a Board Certified Elder Law Attorney with the Sketchley Law Firm, P.A.

Wendy Loquasto began her term as Chair of the Appellate Court Rules Committee on July 1. She was also elected to the Executive Council of The Florida Bar Appellate Practice Section and selected as a “Super Lawyer” in Appellate Practice by Super Lawyers Magazine.

TWL thanks its **2013-2014 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs:**

OFFICERS

Linda Bond Edwards, President
 Jessica Leigh, President-Elect
 Laura Anstead, Treasurer
 Winifred Acosta NeSmith, Secretary
 Tracy Moyé, Public Relations
 Meghan Boudreau Daigle, Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS

Christi Gray, Mentoring
 Catherine Chapman, Newsletter
 Whitney Langston, Judicial Reception
 Katherine Viker, Development
 Elizabeth Roach, CLE
 Janeia Daniels Ingram, FAWL Representative
 Karla Ellis, Programs

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LIAISONS

Iris Elijah
 Hon. Stephanie Williams Ray
 Lindsey Lawton
 Hon. Jessica Varn
 Hon. Judith Hawkins
 Jessica Slatten
 Elizabeth Barron
 Tiffany Rousseau Cruz
 Gigi Rollini
 Christin Foster Gonzalez
 Twyla Sketchley
 Olivia Klein
 Grace Kim
 Hayley Day
 Dana Brooks



Tallahassee Women Lawyers
Membership Application and Dues Statement
Membership from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

c/o FAWL
 P.O. Box 3228
 Lantana, FL 33465-3228

Please check here: ___ New Member ___ Renewing Member
 *Please login to the FAWL website to update your contact information on file. If questions, please contact FAWL by phone (866) 241-FAWL (3295), or e-mail: admin@fawl.org.

Founded in 1980, Tallahassee Women Lawyers is a voluntary bar organization of women and men in Tallahassee's legal community. It is dedicated to promoting the status of women in the legal community, and establishing and maintaining supportive networks among women in the legal profession. Open to all members of The Florida Bar and other state bars as well as law students, TWL consists of members from all levels of the judicial, legal, and political community. Members of Tallahassee Women Lawyers automatically become members of Florida Association for Women Lawyers. TWL meetings are held monthly. Programs typically feature guest speakers and are often approved for CLE credit. For more information, please visit TWL's webpage at www.mytwl.org. We look forward to your participation this year!

Name: _____

Florida Bar Number: _____ Check here if not a member of The Florida Bar

Firm/Employer: _____

Primary practice area(s): _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Preferred E-Mail Address: _____

In providing an email address, you are opting to receive electronic newsletters or other relevant membership information. If you do not wish to have your information published in the "Attorney Locator" of the State FAWL website, please check this box.

Committees: Please check any committees that you would be interested in serving on.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Judicial Reception | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Party | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards & Recognition | <input type="checkbox"/> JNC Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Programming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast & Books, PACE | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Rookie Camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Lawyers Section |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter & E-News | <input type="checkbox"/> Website Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Women's | <input type="checkbox"/> FAWL Activities/Lobby Days | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |
| Exchange (WE) Network | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events | _____ |

Membership: \$85 Member \$85 Affiliate Member* \$45 Law School Member*

Annual Membership into FAWL's Mattie Belle Davis Society (cost is an additional \$100)

*Affiliate members are non-lawyers who are not law students and are subject to approval by majority of the TWL Board. Law Student and Affiliate members shall not be entitled to vote or hold office.

Checks should be made payable to FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS (or FAWL) and mailed to P.O. Box 3228, Lantana, Florida 33465-3228.

Online renewal is also available through the Tallahassee Women Lawyers' Chapter page of FAWL's website at www.fawl.org.

For TWL membership questions, please contact Catherine Chapman at catherine@guildaylaw.com.

TWL
 PO Box 10567
 Tallahassee, FL 32302



www.mytwl.org



Upcoming Events

July 9, 2014

“Women in Leadership & Philanthropy”

Board Installation and Past President’s

Reception Dinner Meeting

Capital City Country Club

6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

August 13, 2014

“Shaping Our City’s Future: Tallahassee
 Growth & Development”

Dinner Meeting

Capital City Country Club

6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

September 10, 2014

“Combating Human Trafficking: A Strategic
 Plan for Florida”

Dinner Meeting

Capital City Country Club

6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

TWL BOARD 2014-2015

Jessica Leigh, President

Catherine Chapman, President-Elect

Elizabeth Barron, Treasurer

Katherine Viker, Secretary

Christi Gray, Public Relations

Karla Ellis, CLE

Whitney Langtson, Development

Jennifer Sweeting, FAWL Rep.

Rachel Nordby, Judicial Reception

Carol Grondzik, Mentoring

Trudy Innes Richardson, Newsletter

Christin Gonzalez, Programs

Linda Bond Edwards, Immediate Past
 President

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LIAISONS

Meredith Hinshelwood

Lindsey Lawton

Christina Arzillo Shideler

Tracy Moyé

Twyla Sketchley

Olivia Klein

Michael Williams

Diane DeWolf

Wendy Loquasto

Jessica Slatten

Hon. Stephanie Williams Ray

Christian Cutillo

Jamie Royal

Hon. Jessica Varn

Hayley James Day

Kristin Adamson-Landau

Gigi Rollini

Sara Young