



A LOCAL CHAPTER
OF THE FLORIDA
ASSOCIATION FOR
WOMEN LAWYERS

Upcoming events:

November 12, 2014
Florida Military Veterans
Dinner meeting

December 10, 2014
Holiday Party and
Dessert Contest
Lunch meeting

June 10, 2015
TWL's 35th Anniversary
Gala

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Winter 2014

Winter 2014

President's Message

Autumn is consistently a busy time for Tallahassee Women Lawyers. Every October, we recognize members of the judiciary for their service to the Tallahassee community, and this year's 32nd Annual Judicial Reception organized by Rachel Nordby and Diane DeWolf was a tremendous success.

Congratulations to committees and chairs that held successful fall programs- Carol Grondzik and Judge Stephanie W. Ray organized the Tallahassee Women Lawyers/ FSU Women's Law Symposium Mentor-Mentee Mixer at Tucker Duke's; Christian Cutillo hosted our first "Simply Social" event at Painting with a Twist; Christina Shideler organized the Refuge House 5K Run/Walk team; Gigi Rollini planned two Women's Exchange Network events including a TWL, WE Network, and Club 25 mixer with local elected officials, as well as a spa night at So Pure Salon; Christi Gray hosted our first "Table of Eight" of the year; Christin Gonzalez developed inspiring programming on Human Trafficking, Women in Leadership & Philanthropy, and Growth & Development in Tallahassee; and Judge Jessica E. Varn has written numerous sunshine notes. A special thank you to the entire TWL Board of officers, directors, and chairs, who continuously strive to make our organization shine!

In this newsletter, the last for 2014, Tallahassee Women Lawyers also brings you early Christmas and holiday greetings, along with exciting programming and events in the New Year. Mark your calendars now to join us June 10, 2015 for TWL's 35th Anniversary Gala at the Governor's Club, as well as TWL's award-winning Women's Empowerment Series, an entire month of Rookie Camp activities in February, and FAWL Lobby Days in March. TWL also looks forward to partnering with TBA for our April meeting featuring Florida Bar President Gregory Coleman, as well as an inspiring CLE Luncheon in May. More details can be found on our website www.mytwl.org.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with many reasons to be grateful, and your holidays be merry and bright!

On a daily basis I am inspired by our members as well as TWL's involvement in the Tallahassee community, and I am honored to serve as your 2014-2015 President.



Be Inspired!

Jessica Leigh, TWL 2014-2015 President, is Deputy Supervising Attorney for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Licensing. 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.

The 32nd Annual Judicial Reception



Rachel Nordby, TWL Judicial Reception Director, is a Deputy Solicitor General for the State of Florida. In this capacity she represents the State and its agencies before all levels of state and federal courts in cases involving constitutional challenges or issues of statewide importance. Ms. Nordby can be reached at Rachel.Nordby@gmail.com.

On a beautiful evening in October, Tallahassee Women Lawyers hosted the 32nd Annual Judicial Reception. The well-attended event was held at Florida's Historic Capitol, one of Tallahassee's most beautiful venues. Guests at the spirited social enjoyed a variety of food, drinks, and desserts as the sun set over the Tallahassee horizon.

At the reception, guests included members of the local judiciary who were honored for their public service and commitment to the administration of justice throughout the state. Courts represented at the event included the Florida Supreme Court, the Florida First District Court of Appeal, Leon County Circuit and County Courts, the Division of Administrative Hearings, and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida.

The reception would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. This year we were able to appreciate our sponsors in several ways—on our website, through our newsletter, in all reception promotional materials, through signage and slide shows displayed during the reception, and also in our commemorative program, which recognized all judiciary members and reception sponsors. If you missed the program at the reception, you may view a copy on our website at myTWL.org. Again, many sincere thanks to our Platinum, Gold, Silver & Friend sponsors for helping to make this year such a success! A list of sponsors is included on page 8 of this newsletter.

Finally, hosting this event is no small task; it is a true team effort, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers step forward each year to ensure the continued success of the event. We would like to thank the many individuals who gave of their time and energy to help make the event a success. Thank you

to the entire Tallahassee Women Lawyers Board and volunteers from the Florida State University College of Law Women's Law Symposium. We would also like to thank the dedicated members of the Judicial Reception committee, who helped with every facet of the event: Rebecca Arends, Elizabeth Barron, Whitney Brummett, Catherine Chapman, Christian Cutillo, Ashley Daniels, Laura Dennis, Diane DeWolf, Angel Eason, Christin Gonzalez, Lacey Kantor, Whitney Langston, Virginia Ponder, Brittany Rhodaback, and Sarah Young.

For photos from the event, please visit www.myTWL.org.

SPREAD SOME SUNSHINE!



Has something wonderful happened in your life or in the life of another TWL member? Do you know of a TWL member who has adopted a child, celebrated an anniversary, opened a new law office, been appointed to a board, or needs a little sunshine due to the loss of a loved one recently?

The TWL Sunshine Chair sends correspondence to TWL members on behalf of the organization and would love to hear about any news related to our members!

To spread some sunshine, simply email Judge Jessica Varn, TWL Sunshine Chair, Jessica.Varn@doah.state.fl.us



Hon. Jessica Varn, TWL Sunshine Chair, is an administrative law judge with DOAH.



~Save the Date~

**Tallahassee Women Lawyers
35th Anniversary Gala**

June 10, 2015 from 7-9pm

Invitation to Follow

November Meeting: Florida's Veterans and Courts



Christin Gonzalez, TWL Director of Programs, is an associate with Novey Law, where she practices in the area of marital and family law. Ms. Gonzalez can be reached at ChristinGonzalez@noveylaw.com

Please join us for our November 11, 2014 meeting at Capital City Country Club, which will feature a presentation on "Florida's Military Veterans and Courts."

Tallahassee Women Lawyers is honored to have John Holzbaur, Director of Military and Veterans Affairs in the Office of the Public Defender for Florida's Fourth Circuit; Wendy Snee, from North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health Administration; and Richard Gordon, Director of Problem Solving Courts for the Office of the Public Defender for Florida's Fourth Circuit.

The three speakers will provide a panel presentation on the Problem Solving Courts in Florida, including the first Drug Court created in Miami nearly twenty-five years ago and the newest and current Veteran's Treatment Court. As it relates to veteran's issues and the Veteran's Treatment Court, the speakers will discuss the current authorizing statutes in Florida for the Veteran's Court, including those currently in place to address both felony and misdemeanor charges.

The presentation will also address new proposed laws and the changing legislation related to veterans issues in Florida. Lastly, the presentation will provide insight into the ins and outs of these courts, as well as discuss the effectiveness of these programs for our veterans.

"Florida's Military Veterans and the Courts"



Richard Gordon, Director of Problem Solving Courts, Office of the Public Defender, 4th Judicial Circuit; Wendy Snee, LCSW, ACSW, North Florida Veterans Health Administration; and John Holzbaur, LCDR, USN (ret), Director Veterans and Military Affairs, Office of the Public Defender, 4th Judicial Circuit

September Meeting: Combating Human Trafficking



Terence C. "Terry" Coonan, is Executive Director of the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights at The FSU College of Law.

He is nationally recognized for his work in combating human trafficking.

Professor "Terry" Coonan addressed the TWL General Membership for our September meeting.

Professor Coonan spoke about human trafficking issues in Florida, a state which is currently a top destination for the trafficking of prostitutes and laborers.

He gave several examples of prostitution and labor "rings"

that had operated in the Tallahassee area, including Jefferson and Gadsden Counties.

He also spoke about current law and other legislation in place in Florida that addresses the issues of human trafficking.

He ended by calling the TWL members to action, challenging each of us to do what we can,

where we can, and to report signs of potential human trafficking to law enforcement.

Thank you, Professor Coonan.

CLE is available if you attended this meeting. Please use Fla. Bar course number 1406115N.

Upcoming Events: Rookie Camp

Tallahassee Women Lawyers is excited to announce its Fifth Annual Rookie Camp program. This year's program will involve three exciting events. We will kick off Rookie Camp on February 11, 2015, with an hour of Table of Eight networking. Following this round of networking, Dr. Wayne Hochwarter, Jim Moran Professor of Management at the Florida State University College of Business, will give a presentation on how to achieve and maintain work-life balance as a lawyer. Based on his years of research, Dr. Hochwarter will provide us with insight and advice into how to be a "happy workaholic."

Our second event, on February 18, 2015, will begin with a presentation by a Tallahassee financial planner who will give us the ins and outs of the loan repayment process. This presentation will be followed by a judicial panel, which will focus on the importance of developing good communication skills at the beginning of one's legal career. The third hour of the event will include a few rounds of speed mentoring, which will afford attendees the opportunity to

make many new connections and be "mentored" by local judges, attorneys, and other legal professionals.

On February 25, 2015, Rookie Camp will close with a fun evening socializing with the Women's Law Symposium at Florida State University. We look forward to seeing you all there!



By: **Sarah Young**, Ms. Young serves as TWL's Young Lawyers Chair. She is currently employed at the First District Court of Appeal. She may be reached at youngs@1dca.org.



Christian Cutillo, TWL Special Events Chair, is an associate with Vezina, Lawrence & Piscitelli, P.A. Ms. Cutillo can be reached at ccutillo@vlpilaw.com

December Meeting: HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Please join Tallahassee Women Lawyers on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 for the annual holiday luncheon.

This wonderful TWL event will be held from 11:30am-1:00pm at the First District Court of Appeal and features lunch from Newk's, a dessert contest and a non-profit showcase. Please RSVP by December 3, 2014 to twlrsvp@gmail.com.

If you would like to compete in the dessert contest, please

specify what dessert you will be entering into the competition when you RSVP.

We look forward to seeing you there!





Catherine Chapman, TWL President-Elect, is a shareholder with the law firm of Guilday, Schwartz, Simpson, West, Hatch & Lowe, P.A. where she practices civil and administrative litigation and appellate law. Ms. Chapman can be reached at Catherine@guildaylaw.com

“I think you’ll want to come back”

Membership Has Its Rewards.

TWL publishes four newsletters in a “TWL year” (July 1 – June 30). Two are sent to all attorneys in the Second Judicial Circuit. The other two, of which this newsletter is one, are sent to TWL members only.

Since we are reaching the midpoint of the TWL year, I thought I’d look briefly back over the experiences of the last few months. After all, it is the holiday season and that in and of itself lends itself to a bit of introspection.

From a big picture perspective, TWL has provided us with information that we can use to expand our impact in our local community and society at large – if we choose to do so. It occurs to me as I write this that the information gleaned from these meetings can be used in a variety of contexts.

By way of example, in July, Alyce Lee Stansbury, Founder and President of Stansbury Consulting and Joy R. Watkins, J.D., President and CEO of the Community Foundation of North Florida spoke about the “art of making the ask” (i.e., a donation to a particular organization). These same negotiation skills translate into the legal and corporate world.

In September, Professor Terence Coonan, Executive Director of the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights at The FSU College of Law, spoke about current issues related to human trafficking in Florida. Before hearing Professor Coonan speak, I had no idea that Florida is currently a top destination for the human trafficking of prostitutes and laborers. Professor Coonan also provided us with steps we can take should we suspect that human trafficking has occurred. Professor Coonan

was inspiring. It is one thing to bemoan such activities; it is another thing to actively work to stop them – one person at a time.

TWL has also provided opportunities for us to come together socially as a community. To name a few, TWL hosted a Painting with a Twist event and participated in the Refuge House 5K Run.

The next half of the TWL year will prove to be equally as informative and fun. If you have not done so, I encourage you to come to at least one meeting. I think you’ll want to come back. If you come, please look for me! I love meeting new people and look forward to the opportunity to meet you.



Ms. Fitton was presented with two tickets to the 32nd Judicial Reception for penning the winning essay, published at right.

TWL thanks everyone who entered.

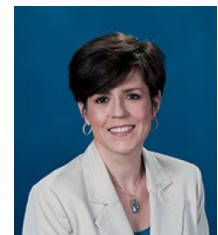
Congratulations Kelly Muga Fitton, Winner of TWL’s First Annual Writing Contest: Importance of an Independent Judiciary

An independent judiciary is crucial to the fair and impartial carriage of justice promised by a democratic government. Adherence to that principle, without any appearance of impropriety, is the only manner in which the general public can be assured of the dispensation of justice through the legal process.

The notion of judicial independence originates with the principles of a separation of powers, which invests in each of the three branches of government “checks and balances” over the other two, in order to prevent the centralization or overexten-

sion of power. But the need for the concept far exceeds the tyranny feared by the framers of the Constitution. Rather, it goes to the very core of our legal system; one that is wrought with complicated questions and even more complex decisions. Judges are tasked with deciding matters based upon the pertinent facts and applicable laws and without regard to politics, popular opinion or financial or other influence. They have forgone the possibility of more financially lucrative careers in order to ensure that the law is evenly and impartially applied, despite personal ideology, partisan pressure or the demands of private enterprise. An independent

judiciary stands for the proposition that the scales of justice will not tip to one side or another, regardless of deep pockets, social or political influence, or religious ideology. Instead, it will hold steadfastly to the rule of law, and apply it independently and objectively.



Member News and Notes



The Honorable Suzanne Van Wyk has been appointed as a member of the Florida Bar Foundation. Congratulations!

Jana McConnaughay has been appointed the Chair of the Elder Law Section of the Florida Bar. Congratulations!



Hayley Day has been selected to serve on the Florida Bar Annual Convention Committee. Enjoy!



Judge Terry Lewis has authored another great book, "Delusional" and he has received the Fredrick Clifton Moor Award from the Rotary Club.



Best wishes to Sarah Young, who recently announced her engagement!



Angela Huston has been selected as a Fellow for the William Reece Smith Jr. Leadership Academy. Good luck!

Congratulations to Virginia Ponder and Jessie Harmsen, (not pictured) who were selected for the inaugural class of Thunderdome Tallahassee.



Meghan Boudreau Daigle, TWL Past President 2012-2013, has been appointed as Traffic Hearing Officer of the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida.

Congratulations to Courtney Brewer, who earned certification in Appellate Law.



Tallahassee Women Lawyers is Especially Grateful to the Many Sponsors of the 32nd Annual Judicial Reception

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In Kind Sponsors

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TWL PARTICIPATES IN REFUGE HOUSE 5K



This year TWL was excited to participate in The Refuge House 5k! The run/walk was held on October 5, 2014 at 4pm at the Southwood Town Center.

TWL members and friends ran/walked as a group, and raised much-needed funds for Refuge House. For more information on how you can help, go online at <http://www.refugehouse.com>



Call for Articles or Submissions

TWL's newsletter is not just for news! That's right, if you have a timely and short (175-250 word) article that you'd like to submit for publication, please forward it to me.

Topics can be anything from changes in the law, updates on rules, practice pointers, or items of general interest to the membership.

The newsletter is published quarterly. The Fall and Spring

issues are printed and mailed circuit-wide. The Winter and Summer issues are distributed electronically.

Due to space considerations, articles for the print issues are limited to 250 words. If your article that you'd like to have considered for publication is longer than 250 words, it may be partially published in the electronic issues, with a link to your repository. Contact me for details.

Submission guidelines:

- Word format, please
- Submit via email to trudy@guildaylaw.com
- No advertisements
- Deadlines:
 - 2/20/15
 - 5/15/15



Trudy Innes Richardson, TWL Newsletter Director, is a shareholder at Guilday Law where she focuses on civil litigation, family law, and has begun an equine practice. Ms. Innes Richardson can be reached at Trudy@guildaylaw.com



Carol Grondzik, TWL Director of Mentoring, is an attorney with Lutz, Bobo, Telfair, Eastman, Gabel & Lee. In this capacity, Carol focuses on civil litigation, specializing in housing law for multi-family housing owners and the manufactured home industry. Ms. Grondzik can be reached at csgondzik@floridahousinglaw.com

Fall Mixer Kicks Off Mentoring Program

Over 40 law students who are members of the FSU Womens' Law Symposium have been paired with a TWL mentor. In addition, many returning mentees continue with their mentors from the previous year. Participants in our mentoring program had an opportunity to meet and greet their mentors or mentees at the Fall Mixer held at Tucker Duke's Lunchbox. The weather cooperated and everyone had a good time visiting on the deck at Tucker Duke's. Thanks to all involved, particularly the leadership of the WLS.

Two "Tables of Eight" have been held this semester: Christi Gray hosted the first one in October and Haley Day and Sarah Young hosted the November Table of 8. Thanks Christi, Haley and Sarah! Tables of 8 provide an informal way for attorneys, judges, and students to interact in an informal but more intimate setting. The events usually involve a meal, lunch or dinner, and are held at venues selected by the hosts--at a restaurant or in their home. The next Table of 8 is scheduled for January 14, 2015. Details to follow. Let me know if you would like to host a Table of 8.

Final exams begin the Monday after Thanksgiving. Send a word of encouragement to your student and remind her to sleep.



NOMINATE A TWL MEMBER FOR TWL'S 2014-2015 INSPIRATIONAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Tallahassee Women Lawyers wants to recognize its members whose engagement in the Tallahassee and legal community is an inspiration to our organization. Each month, TWL will recognize a TWL member who has provided extraordinary and inspirational service in the Tallahassee community through his/her community engagement.

We need your help in recognizing our members and ask you to nominate a TWL member that inspires you through volunteer work, pro bono service, non-profit board service, and other community engagement in the Tallahassee community. Nominees must be a TWL member licensed to practice law in Florida, and be actively engaged within the Tallahassee community in providing service.

To submit a nominee, send the nominee's name, contact information, and a one-page description of the nominee's engagement and service within our community, to TWL's Awards Chair, Shoshana Silver, at

ShoshanaJean@gmail.com.

Nominations are due by the first day of each month.



Shoshana Silver, TWL Awards Chair, is an attorney with the Florida Department of Health Prosecution Unit. She can be reached at ShoshanaJean@gmail.com

Women's Empowerment Network Events



On **Thursday, September 4**, the Tallahassee Professional Women's Exchange ("WE") Network, together with Club 25 (Tallahassee's "25 Women You Need to Know"), jointly hosted an evening of fun and camaraderie at one of our Midtown women-owned establishments, Paisley.

The food and networking were absolutely amazing! Many of our female elected officials attended as well as WE network members.



On **Tuesday, October 21**, WE Network hosted its infamous Spa Night at So Pure Salon & Spa on Market Street. The cost for two hours of spa heaven was only a \$25 donation to TWL's WE Network.

The event was truly wonderful. As if a 2-hour spa treat wasn't enough, participants received goody bags that typically include Aveda products and free or discounted future spa services.

The event raised \$375 in all!



Gigi Rollini, TWL WE Network Chair, is an AV rated attorney with Messer Caparello, where she practices in the areas of appellate law, administrative law and civil litigation. Ms. Rollini can be reached at grollini@lawfla.com

The WE Network is a cross-professional women's network of more than 350 members committed to promoting women's professional business & leadership development in Tallahassee. For questions or to get more involved on the WE Network's planning committee, please contact Gigi Rollini, WE Network Chair, at grollini@lawfla.com or (850) 553-3454.

To seek to become a part of the WE Network, go to www.we-network.org, and submit your registration application today! (TWL Members and affiliates are automatically accepted.)

2014-15 MEETING SCHEDULE
(all meetings at Capital City
Country Club unless noted)
Rsvp to: twlrvsp@gmail.com

July 9, 2014

Dinner meeting

August 13, 2014

Dinner meeting

September 10, 2014

Dinner meeting

October 9, 2014—32nd Annual
Judicial Reception Historic Capitol

November 12, 2014

Dinner meeting

December 10, 2014—Holiday
Party and Dessert Contest First
District Court of Appeal

Lunch meeting

January 14, 2015

Lunch meeting

February 11, 2015

Dinner meeting

March 10, 2015—FAWL Lobby
Days

Lunch meeting

April 8, 2015

Dinner meeting

May 13, 2015

Dinner meeting

June 10, 2015

Dinner meeting



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