

Year End Review

Tallahassee Women Lawyers, a chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
August Programs	2
September Programs	3
 Developing a Voting Rights 	
Agenda	
 Yoga Under the Oaks 	
October Programs	4 - 6
• Mixer w/ Michelle Suskauer	4
 Judicial Reception 	4
 Judicial Reception Photos 	5
 Food for Thought 	5
 Zumba with Me 	6
November Programs	6 - 7
 The Drones are Here 	6
December Programs	7 - 8
Annual Holiday Luncheon	7
Justice Perry's Retirement	8
Charity Event	8
January Programs	9 - 10
TBA's Chili Cook Off	9
• Finding Justice for	
Human Trafficking	
Survivors	10
February Programs	11
Women's Health Panel	
March Programs	12
• Reflections from an Avoider	
April Programs	13 - 14
Lobby Days Luncheon	13
Meeting with Pres. Schifino	14
Pace Mock Trial Program	14
May Programs	15
• Diversity & Inclusion	15
June Programs	15 - 16
• Rose Deeb Kitchen Award	15 16
• Amendment 2	16
• Fla. Bar Convention &	10
FAWL Meeting	16
Other Items	10
WE Network	9
Fla. Bar Foundation	9 17
• TWL Membership	18
TWL Board	19

President's Message

It has been a great year for Tallahassee Women Lawyers! We expanded membership, created new programs, and presented two new awards to outstanding members of the community. I would like to thank all our wonderful speakers for their excellent presentations and the



Christin F. Gonzalez, TWL President 2016-2017

Tallahassee Bar Association, the Big Bend Paralegal Association, the Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center, and the Florida State University College of Law for their support. Because of our collaboration, TWL held joint meetings that featured presentations on human trafficking, election laws, and Amendment 2, and a presentation by the President of the Florida Bar.

This year, TWL strengthened its partnership with the PACE Center for Girls to create a mock trial program for PACE students. The students learned about the court system, the legal process, and had the opportunity to meet with local lawyers and judges. TWL established its Diversity and Inclusion Award, which will be presented annually to an individual or business that has done an exemplary job of promoting diversity and inclusion in our community. Thanks to the generosity of the Kitchen family, TWL also established the Rose Deeb Kitchen award, which will be given annually to a female attorney who has overcome significant obstacles to become an attorney.

As my tenure as President of TWL comes to a close, I would like to express my immense gratitude to the members of the 2016-2017 Board of Directors and to the TWL membership for making this year a success. This year would not have been possible without you. On a personal note, this has been the most rewarding year of my legal career, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve an amazing organization and to meet remarkable lawyers and judges in our community.

I am excited to see what great things our wonderful 2017-2018 Board of Directors will accomplish, led by Rachel Nordby as our new President. Please save the date for the 2017-2018 Installation Meeting, which will be held on <u>July 20, 2017 at</u> 6:00pm at the Capital City Country Club.

A big thank you to <u>Stephanie Hayes Photography</u> for documenting the Judicial Reception and other TWL events this year! AUGUST PROGRAMS 2

THE SAME RIVER TWICE

At its August 10, 2016 General Membership Meeting, TWL hosted University of Florida Professor Mary Adkins, who presented "The Same River Twice: How Florida's Constitution Came to Be What It Is." Professor Adkins provided interesting and though-provoking history and commentary based on her extensive research on the Florida Constitution, its revisions, and the Florida Constitution Revision Commission.



Check out Prof. Adkins' book Making Modern Florida: How the Spirit of Reform Shaped a New State Constitution, HERE.





"SWEAT-WORKING"

This year, FAWL President Leora Freire encouraged all FAWL local chapters to highlight women's health issues, and TWL gladly accepted the challenge.

In late August 2016, TWL participated in Barre & Sweat-Working at The Refinery.



At the September 2016 General Membership Meeting, which was co-sponsored by FSU College of Law's Women Law Symposium, Florida State University College of Law Professor Franita Tolson presented "Developing a Voting Rights Agenda in the Age of Post-Racial Politics," sharing her research on voting rights and discussing potential legislative agendas that could better protect voting rights and limit restrictive voting laws.





YOGA UNDER THE OAKS

For TWL's next Women's Health Initiative, members participated in yoga under the oaks at Mahan Farms, where they were able to learn and test out relaxation exercises for the office. TWL Past President Twyla Sketchley taught the yoga class.







OCTOBER PROGRAMS 4

THE 34TH ANNUAL JUDICIAL RECEPTION

On October, 13, 2016, Tallahassee Women Lawyers hosted the 34th Annual Judicial Reception. The well-attended event was held at Florida's Historic Capitol, one of Tallahassee's most beautiful venues. Guests enjoyed a variety of food, drinks, and desserts as they mingled together in historic surroundings.

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 on social media, through signage displayed during the reception, and also in our commemorative program, which also recognized all judiciary members. Again, many sincere thanks to our Platinum, Gold, Silver & Friend sponsors for helping to make this year such a success!

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.

For questions, please contact Sarah Young Hodges, 2016-2017 Director of Judicial Reception. Ms. Hodges is Chief Appellate Counsel for the FDOH. She may be reached at sarahcourtneyyoung@gmail.com.

MIXER WITH MICHELLE SUSKAUER



In October, TWL teamed up with the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Florida Government Lawyers to meet and greet with Michelle Suskauer, who was a candidate for President of the Florida Bar. Suskauer will be sworn in as the next Florida Bar President on June 23, 2017. Michelle is a Past President of FAWL.





Thank You to our JR sponsors!

DiamondDean Mead

Platinum Berger Singerman

Gold

Akerman LLP
Ausley &McMullen
Baker Donelson
Carlton Fields
Guilday Law
Holland & Knight
Hopping Green & Sams
Messer Caparello

Gold

The Mills Firm
Pennington P.A.
Radey Law Firm
Rumberger Kirk & Caldwell
Theriaque & Spain
Upchurch Watson White & Max
12 Oaks Recovery

Silver

Novey Law

Friends

Wendy Loquasto

OCTOBER PROGRAMS 5



















FOOD FOR THOUGHT

On October 19, 2017, David W. Grimes joined TWL for a "Food for Thought Luncheon," at Food Glorious Food. Grimes began with a presentation of updates in LGBT law in Florida and then opened the floor for questions and discussions on the legal issues within the LGBT community.







TWL members participated in a third Women's Health Initiative event on October 25th by taking a Zumba class, which also benefitted the Big Bend Homeless Coalition's HOPE Community. The HOPE Community Program provides emergency or temporary housing and support services for women and families.





THE DRONES ARE HERE!

TWL welcomed Steven M. Hogan on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 for a presentation on drone law. Mr. Hogan is an attorney with Ausley McMullen in Tallahassee, Florida and his practice focuses on commercial litigation, tax litigation, and commercial drone law. He is the author of The Drone Revolution: How Robotic Aviation Will Change the World, and hosts the Drone Law Today podcast. Mr. Hogan's fascinating presentation to TWL, held at Domi Station, was entitled The Drones Are Here! Navigating the State and Federal Law on Flying Robots. Those in attendance learned about the legal landscape of drone law and its many complicating factors, and even were given the opportunity to inspect a real drone. Thank you, Mr. Hogan, for your excellent presentation!

For question, please contact Christian Cutillo, 2016-2017 TWL Director of Programs. Ms. Cutillo is an associate with Vezina, Lawrence & Piscitelli, P.A. and can be reached at cutillo@vlplaw.com.





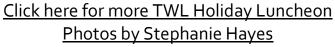
TWL'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AND DESSERT COMPETITION

On December 7, 2016, TWL had its Annual Holiday Luncheon and Dessert Competition at the FSU College of Law Rotunda. Along with the holiday-themed desserts, members heard from Rick Minor, the CEO of the Second Harvest of the Big Bend, who educated TWL members on SHBB's role in distributing millions of pounds of food to hungry families in the Big Bend. TWL also collected food and fund donations to benefit SHBB.















DECEMBER PROGRAMS 8

JUSTICE PERRY'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Tallahassee Barristers Association, TWL, and the Tallahassee Bar Association held a retirement celebration honoring Justice James E.C. Perry on December 6, 2016.





TWL & BIG BEND PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION "WHITE CHRISTMAS" CHARITY EVENT

On December 4, 2016, TWL paired up with the <u>Big Bend Chapter of the Paralegal Association of Florida</u> to attend Theatre Tallahassee's production of Irving Berlin's White Christmas musical. The organizations also participated in a dessert contest, judged by the Theatre Tallahassee's actors, and donated toys for <u>Toys for Tots!</u>







JANUARY PROGRAMS 9

TBA'S ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF

On January 18, 2017, TWL entered TBA's Annual Chili Cook Off with a "Big Apple" chili recipe and gimlets in honor of the "Tallahassee Mad Women" theme. The Big Apple Chili was delicious, click HERE for the recipe.

Thank you to Hilary Powell for planning and organizing our team!



TWL'S WOMEN'S EXCHANGE NETWORK

The WE Network's purpose is simple: To build a broad network of professionals and community leaders to facilitate business, leadership and volunteer development for women professionals.

WE Network members are lawyers and non-lawyer professionals, business owners, and non-profit leaders who get to know one another in person at social events during the year, and the services fellow members provide through an online directory of professional services.

WE Network membership is by registration and approval. All TWL members are automatically enrolled, and non-lawyers can register at www.we-network.org. All professionals who share a commitment to the advancement of women and who are committed to assisting other members with business, leadership and volunteer development are welcome.

There is no fee to belong, and it takes just minutes to create your personalized WE Network Member Profile for the directory at www.we-network.org!

If you are interested in serving on the WE Network Committee, please contact Gigi Rollini at grounding-action-no-network Committee,



*Gigi Rollini is AV-Rated "Super Lawyer" in appellate and administrative law, and an equity shareholder with Messer Caparello, P.A. She has been named one of Florida's Top 50 Women Lawyers by Super Lawers magazine and one of Tallahassee's 25 Women to Know, is a past president of TWL and FAWL, and is now FAWL's Delegate to the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL). She can be reached at qrollini@lawfla.com or (850) 553-3454.

JANUARY PROGRAMS 10

PROGRAM: FINDING JUSTICE FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

By Robin Hassler Thompson, J.D., M.A.

Human trafficking has tentacles throughout the Big Bend of Florida where trafficking is alive and well. Moreover, the justice system has a vital role in preventing trafficking and helping victims. And, regardless of an attorney's practice area, human trafficking is important to understand.

Most people think only of the criminal justice system when they consider human trafficking. Why is that? Clearly, we get most of our information about this issue when there is a high profile prosecution, when a trafficker is sent to prison, or when we see a trafficker's mug shot on the evening news. These are all compelling and important events that bring the horrific reality of sex and labor trafficking into our awareness. They are also one way that we bring justice to our communities and to trafficking victims.

Less often do we see the civil side of the justice system in action, unless there is a large dollar jury verdict against a trafficker. We simply do not easily connect civil relief to human trafficking victims. Yet, this is kind of legal assistance can be what survivors need the most to be able to recover from being trafficked and to move on with their lives.

Traffickers exploit the labor and very lifeblood of other people. They cause extreme harm to them and to their families. The harms they cause it can last a lifetime. These harms include fraud, wage theft, sexual violence, physical violence, and an array of other violations. How can the justice system help a victim to heal? In this area, clearly victims need financial relief. They have been forced to work for a little or no pay. They've been discriminated against and harmed. They've been enslaved.

Attorneys and others in the justice system can play a vital role in bringing help and relief to this population. We as attorneys also can bring awareness to the rest of our community, as well as our clients, about this horrific reality by using the federal and state laws provide specific civil remedies for human trafficking victims. In addition, survivors need help with many civil matters including protection orders, expunction, benefits relief, Family and child custody matters, and immigration. Lawyers can also help victims to recovery restitution awarded in criminal cases. Lawyers who represent employers and businesses can also make sure that their clients are not engaging with third parties who are labor traffickers.

On January 26 and 27th, The Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center and Tallahassee Women Lawyers hosted a program to help inform the justice system about human trafficking. On January 26, national expert on civil human trafficking cases, and President of Human Trafficking Pro Bono, Martina Vandenberg, provided insights about what every attorney in this community could do to assist on the civil side. Kate Mogulescu, with the ABA's Human Trafficking Reentry Project, presented on Florida's human trafficking expunction law. A panel of lawenforcement experts including newly elected Sheriff Walter McNeil and former U.S. attorney Pamela Marsh spoke about what law enforcement needs in order to make these cases. On January 27, Ms. Mogulescu, Darby Kerrigan Scott and Robin Hassler Thompson presented a program focused on Florida law, including human trafficking and expunction.

For questions, please contact Robin Hassler Thompson, Executive Director of STAC at 850-597-2080 or Robin@surviveandthriveadvocacy.org or Christin Gonzalez at christingonzalez@noveylaw.com.







FEBRUARY PROGRAMS 11

WOMEN'S HEALTH PANEL

TWL participated in another Women's Health Initiative on February 8, 2017, featuring a "Women's Health Panel." The Panel featured attorney Dana Brooks Cooper; Dr. Marlisha Edwards, a family practitioner; and Heather Fuselier, who is a well-known health and wellness coach in Tallahassee. discussion focused on both mental and physical health, and the speakers provided practice tips on how women lawyers can maintain their health in a busy, and often stressful, profession.

Thank you to Heather Tyndall-Best for organizing this program.







Thank you, Marlisha, Heather, and Dana!

MARCH PROGRAMS 12

WOMEN LEADERS: REFLECTIONS FROM AN AVOIDER

TWL held its March meeting on International Women's Day, with a presentation from Florida State University College of Law's Dean O'Connor. Dean O'Connor began serving as the Dean of FSU College of Law in July 2016, and she previously taught at Vanderbilt Law School. Dean O'Connor is a noted scholar in conflict of laws, arbitration, and the law market.

It was an honor to have such a notable woman lead our meeting on International Women's Day. Thank you, Dean O'Connor and FSU Law!











LOBBY DAYS LUNCHEON

Each year, the Florida Association for Women Lawyers hosts Lobby Days, where members can learn about the legislative process and meet the FAWL Board, Tallahassee Women Lawyers, and Florida lawmakers. There are several events set up during Lobby Days which allow members to talk with legislators about women's and minorities' issues.

During Lobby Days, TWL pairs up with FAWL to host an event, and this year TWL organized a luncheon featuring President Emeritus and Professor Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte. Professor D'Alemberte presented on "The Unique Florida Constitution and the Opportunity to Improve It," which provided an overview of the process to be taken by Florida's 2017-2018 Constitutional Revision Commission along with insights into the logistics of the Commission's work.







TWL President Christin Gonzalez, TWL
Immediate Past President Catherine
Chapman, and FAWL Executive Director
Kevin Hudson welcomed attorneys from all
over the state at the Lobby Days Welcome
Reception.



APRIL PROGRAMS 14

TWL & TBA JOINT MEETING WITH FLA. BAR PRESIDENT SCHIFINO



On April 12, 2017, TWL and Tallahassee Bar Association held a joint meeting with guest speaker, Florida Bar President Bill Schifino, who presented on how the Florida Bar is addressing certain focus areas during his term, including: advocacy for the judicial branch; pro bono initiatives; access to justice; the justice gap; diversity and inclusion; gender bias; member engagement; member services and technology; and a special emphasis on the Constitution Revision Commission.

During this meeting, TBA presented its Annual Martha Barnett Women Lawyers of Achievement Award to Kris Knab, who retired this year after working for 38 years at Legal Services of North Florida. Congrats, Kris!



PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

Spear-headed by TWL member Marisa Button, TWL hosted a 6-week Mock Trial program with the PACE Center for Girls. The participants assumed the roles of attorneys, learned how to review facts, form arguments, and hold a mock trial. At the end of the program, TWL and PACE visited the Florida Supreme Court, simulated a Supreme Court case, and were able to sit in the Justices' seats! Thank you to the volunteers who made this program possible!





DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION LEADERSHIP AWARDS

TWL presented its inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Award on May 10, 2017, to First Commerce Credit Union and attorney David Grimes. First Commerce Credit Union received the award for its longstanding initiatives in recruiting, hiring, and retaining a population that looks and feels like the community. David Grimes was presented with the award for his work promoting LGBT rights in the community.

The awards ceremony was followed by a presentation on "Updates in LGBT Law in Florida" by award recipient David Grimes and Jon Harris Maurer, the Board Chair for Equality Florida Institute, Inc.







INAUGURAL ROSE DEEB KITCHEN AWARD

The Inaugural Rose Deeb Kitchen Award was presented to attorney Marie Mattox for her strength, perseverance, and ability to overcome challenges to become the incredible attorney she is today. The award is created in honor of Rose Elizabeth Deeb Kitchen, who was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1937. Ms. Kitchen did not attend law school because her father disapproved of her continuing her education. Nevertheless, Ms. Kitchen spent five years "reading the law" and studying law books under her sheets before attempting the bar exam, which she passed in 1937. Ms. Kitchen started her law career as an assistant state attorney for Attorney General Richard W. Ervin, who later became a Florida Supreme Court Justice. Throughout her legal career, Ms. Kitchen worked with the legislature to propose and draft bills and, even after she retired from legislative services, she remained in public service. Ms. Kitchen was a founding member of Tallahassee Women Lawyers. She was also a member of the Florida Government Bar Association and one of the first senior directors of the Tallahassee Bar Association. Ms. Kitchen's son, Deeno Kitchen, and grandson, Gautier Kitchen, presented the award.



JUNE PROGRAMS 16

PROGRAM ON AMENDMENT 2 AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGISLATION

On June 2, 2017, TWL and the Big Bend Chapter of the Paralegal Association of Florida hosted its second annual joint meeting, which featured a presentation on Amendment 2 and medical marijuana legislation in Florida. We would like to thank Louise Wilhite St. Laurent, Deputy General Counsel, Prosecution Services Unit of the Florida Department of Health, for an excellent presentation.





FLORIDA BAR CONVENTION AND FAWL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Photo: Three generations of TWL Presidents at the Florida Bar Convention. (L to R) Rachel Nordby, President-Elect; Christin Gonzalez, President; and Catherine Chapman, Immediate Past-President



At FAWL's Annual Membership Meeting, Jennifer Sullivan, TWL Past-President, was sworn in as FAWL's President. Congrats, Jen! Photo: Jen Sullivan and FAWL's Immediate Past-President, Leora Freire

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION

By the Honorable Suzanne Van Wyk

Just what is the Florida Bar Foundation anyway? As lawyers, we have all heard of the Foundation, but to many attorneys, and to the general public, the organization is not well understood. This article will provide a brief introduction to the organization, its history, and its purpose, and will also note challenges now faced by the Foundation, its grantees, and by extension the tens of thousands of impoverished Floridians they serve.

The Foundation was created as a not-forprofit corporate entity in 1956, and obtained 501(c)(3) charity status in 1961. In its early years it was small and thinly funded, but from modest beginnings changes were to come which would elevate the work of the Foundation to levels far beyond those its founders might have imagined. transformation began in 1978, when a firstin-the-nation program of collecting interest on law firm trust accounts, IOTA, was adopted. The alchemy of IOTA takes advantage of trust account funds that would otherwise realize no interest income to create sizable revenues by pooling all of those funds so that the interest may be used to support legal aid services. The IOTA program developed further in 1981, as formalized by the Florida Supreme Court's opinion in Matter of Interest of Trust Accounts, 402 So. 2d 389 (Fla. 1981), and then really took off in 1989, when the program became mandatory. Matter of Interest on Trust Accounts, 538 So. 2d 448 (1989). As a result, all law firms in Florida now comply with rules that interest on nominal and short-term funds held in trust accounts be paid to the Foundation to improve the administration of justice and to expand the delivery of legal services to the poor. And this has not just benefitted Floridians, as the path blazed here has since been followed by every other State.

In addition to IOTA funds, the Foundation also receives charitable contributions and cy pres recoveries. Attorney General Bondi has been guite helpful in the latter regard, and sums from various settlements with financial institutions relating to mortgage and foreclosure abuses have been for entrusted to the Foundation distribution to assist with foreclosure prevention and community redevelopment.

All funds coming to the Foundation are administered by highly competent staff led by Executive Director Bruce Blackwell, and overseen by a 33-member Board of Directors. The Board's current President is attorney Matt Brenner, of the Lowndes Drosdick firm in Orlando. From Polk County, Board members include Tom Oldt, a non-attorney member who is an investment advisor in Winter Haven, and this author. Anyone with questions about the Foundation is encouraged to contact either Tom or me.

The core mission of The Florida Bar Foundation is to improve access to justice. Compared to other times and places, we are blessed with an exceptional system of justice. But the system is not reasonably accessible to many people with real need. That justice gap means about 80% of those who cannot afford an attorney will not have assistance for their legal needs. There are various ways to try to fill that gap, including pro bono volunteers and pro se clinics and programs, but by far the largest force providing legal services to the poor are legal aid attorneys.

Currently, 28 grantee organizations receive funds from The Florida Bar Foundation to provide legal services to those who otherwise would not have such services. Highlighting the significant work done by these organizations is beyond the scope of this brief introduction, but I encourage you to read the heartwarming stories of justice which are regularly published on the Foundation's website, in The Florida Bar News and other

publications, and which I understand will be featured in the March 2017 issue of The Florida Bar Journal. In our Tenth Circuit, the primary recipients of such funds are the Heart of Florida Legal Aid Society, which provides legal assistance in family law and domestic violence matters, and Florida Rural Legal Services, which provides help in a broader subject area including elder law, housing, education, public benefits, and other areas for those who meet the income eligibility and other qualifying conditions.

Since 1982, nearly half a billion dollars have been generated for the cause of justice from IOTA funds. The amount realized does vary depending on the amounts held in law firm trust accounts, and the interest rates these earn. IOTA initially generated just a few million dollars per year until it became mandatory in 1989 and began generating more than \$12 million annually. When banks were required to pay comparable interest rates on IOTA accounts beginning in 2004, revenues reached a high of \$72 million. But in the last seven years, historically low interest rates have dropped annual IOTA revenues to roughly \$5.5 million. The good news is that during the boom years the Foundation Board and staff made the wise decision to retain funds in order to have a reserve for future years when rates may drop. The bad news is that rates have now been at historic lows since 2009, and that reserve fund will be completely depleted in

Some of the reduction in funds has been made up by charitable contributions, cy pres awards, and other sources, but the reality is the Foundation is now staring into an abyss where the level of funding for legal services for the poor distributed to grantee organizations is on the verge of effectively dropping from roughly \$7.6 million this year for general legal assistance to the poor from IOTA to \$2.2 million per year in general support from IOTA by 2018, and may stay at that low level until rates paid on IOTA accounts recover. For the last several years the Board and staff, along with the various grantee organizations, have been making Continued next page.

THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION (Cont.)

plans and adjustments, and very hard choices, that this dire reality forced upon us. But there is no avoiding that the coming years may be very difficult for individuals who have legal needs but cannot afford an attorney.

If you are so inclined to support the cause of civil justice, there are many ways you might help. First, take a pro bono case. The pro bono coordinator at Florida Rural Legal Services would be delighted to hear from you and place a client with you. Second, you can support the Foundation by becoming a Fellow or by legacy in your will or other contribution. Finally, you can directly support your local legal aid organization that provides the kind of services you believe deserve your support.

As officers of the Court, we are privileged to serve within a system of justice that is one of civilizations greatest achievements. Unfortunately the system does suffer from a sizable justice gap, which the Foundation does much to help fill. As it is now seriously limited in its ability to bridge that gap, the assistance of the Bar and the general public to support that cause is sorely needed.

TWL MEMBERSHIP - WHAT HAS IT DONE FOR YOU LATELY? A LOT!

In one of Janet Jackson's signature songs, "What Have You Done For Me Lately?" (released January 13, 1986), the singer analyzes the dwindling state of her romantic relationship. The up-tempo dance song is an anthem for anyone frustrated with a decline in quality of any given relationship, be it personal or professional.

As demonstrated by the above activities (which does not include ALL that TWL has done this year), TWL has done for us all lately. If you are a current member, I encourage you to renew your membership. (The current membership year runs from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017). If you are not a current member, then I encourage you to join. As detailed below, membership in TWL offers many benefits (both tangible and intangible). Unlike Janet's disappointing love interest, TWL does not neglect its members!

Your annual membership with TWL includes the following:

- Membership with the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL), a statewide organization
- Networking events and opportunities for members to create and maintain supportive relationships in the community
- Discounted rate for attendance at TWL monthly meetings and FAWL's Annual Lobby Days
- CLE opportunities
- Discounted rate for attendance at the Annual Judicial Reception and other social events
- The opportunity to be considered for TWL and FAWL awards
- Young Lawyer Section events and mentorship opportunities with FSU Law students
- Involvement in community outreach programs, such as "Girls Where They Are" and "Breakfast and Books."

TWL's Spring membership drive began on March Anyone who joins TWL or renews their membership between March 1, 2017 and June 30, 2017 will have their membership status run through June 30, 2018.

You can become a member of Tallahassee Women Lawyers online at www.fawl.org or by completing the Membership Application and mailing it, along with your dues, to:

FAWL
P.O. Box 731685
Ormond Beach, FL 32173-1685

If you have any questions about membership or you would like to get involved with one of TWL's wonderful committees, please contact me at twlmembership@gmail.com.

By Rachel Nordby. Ms. Nordby is a Deputy Solicitor General for the State of Florida. 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. She may be reached at (850) 414-3684 or twlmembership@gmail.com.

TWL has so many things in store for you this year. Don't miss out!

Join or renew today!

OUTGOING 2016-2017 TWL BOARD

Community Service/Special Events Chair

Hillary Powell

WE Network

Gigi Rollini

INCOMING 2017-2018 TWL BOARD

Community Service/Special Events Chair

Jillian Pratt

WE Network

Gigi Rollini

President President Christin Gonzalez Rachel Nordby **President-Elect President-Elect** Rachel Nordby **TBD** Treasurer **Treasurer** Jennifer Sweeting Hannah Monroe **Secretary Secretary** Elizabeth Barron Magie Ozarowski **FAWL Representative FAWL Representative** Heather Tyndall-Best **TBD Immediate Past-President Immediate Past-President** Catherine Chapman Christin Gonzalez **Judicial Reception Director Judicial Reception Director** Sarah Hodges Stacy Biggart **Development Director Development Director** Katherine Viker Katherine Viker **Mentoring Director Mentoring Director** Christi Gray Christi Gray **Newsletter Director Newsletter Director** Amanda Gay Marisa Button **Programs Programs** Chistian Cutillo Diane DeWolf **Public Relations Director Public Relations Director** Magie Ozarowski Amanda Gay **CLE Director CLE Director** Trudy Innes Richardson Christian Cutillo **Meetings Coordinator Meetings Coordinator** Shoshana Silver Halley Stephens **Awards Awards** Hannah Monroe Jessica Icerman **Legal Services Liaison Legal Services Liaison** Wendy Loquasto Wendy Loquasto **Employment Chair Employment Chair** Nancy Benavides Nancy Benavides **Sunshine Chair Sunshine Chair** Hon. Jessica Varn Hon. Jessica Varn **Young Lawyers Chair** Young Lawyers Chair Hillary Powell **Breakfast & Books/Philanthropy Breakfast & Books/Philanthropy** Marisa Button Hon. Jessica Varn Historian Historian Olivia Klein Olivia Klein **JNC Monitoring Chair JNC Monitoring Chair** Angela D. Miles Amber Stoner JR Development Chair JR Development Chair Stacy Biggart Angela D. Miles **Mentoring Co-Chairs Mentoring Co-Chairs** Hon. Stephanie Ray & Karen Hundley Hon. Stephanie Ray & Karen Hundley