

TALLAHASSEE WOMEN LAWYERS



A local chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers

Fall 2019

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another year of TWL! We have planned a year packed with stimulating events and activities and are honored that you will be joining us on our continued journey. TWL is coming off a very successful year under the leadership of Past President Christian Cutillo and we owe her a great debt of gratitude for seeing the organization through the death of beloved and long-time TWL member and former President Catherine Chapman last May. Please read our tribute to Catherine in this newsletter and join us at this year's Judicial Reception on October 10th, where



Magie Ozarowski is a Deputy General Counsel at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. She can be reached at President@mytwl.com.

we will celebrate Catherine's legacy of service to TWL and the greater Tallahassee legal community with the inaugural

presentation of an award named in her honor.

In addition to our annual Judicial Reception, TWL has many novel events planned for this year. Keep an eye on our weekly TWL e-News so that you don't miss any of the excitement! 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. TWL is planning a number of special celebrations in commemoration of this momentous event. On November 13, TWL will serve as a Community Partner to Oasis Center for Women and Girls for its *Women Can Run!* program.

Women Can Run! provides non-partisan campaign training to encourage women to run for elected office. The event will feature an evening of inspirational women leaders. TWL members are encouraged to attend! Later, in March, TWL and its 19th Amendment Committee will be kicking off our “Celebrating 100 Years” lecture series during our regular TWL general membership meetings. The series will culminate in an event in August 2020 marking the ratification of an Amendment that indelibly changed the course of American history.

Throughout this year, we will be seeking articles to include in our e-News and future newsletters, and to submit to other publications, on any topic related to the suffrage movement. Whether it be

about historical perspectives, effects of women’s suffrage, or our local “first women,” we’d love to

hear about it all! For some great books on the subject, please see our suggested reading list in this newsletter that was put together by Judge Jessica Varn.

I hope that everyone is as hopeful and optimistic about this year as I am. We’ve got a lot of plans, but we also have an amazing group of women serving on the 2019-2020 TWL Board. If anyone can pull it off, it will be this group of dedicated, brilliant, and hardworking women.

Magie Ozarowski
TWL President 2019-2020

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REMEMBERING OUR MAMA LION

By Christian Cutillo and Christin Gonzalez

In May, the Tallahassee community lost one of its best. Catherine B. Chapman (5/20/1973 - 5/3/2019) touched countless lives during her all-too-short time with us.

Catherine was an equity shareholder at Guilday Law, P.A., and practiced in a variety of civil law areas, including administrative and regulatory, appellate, business, litigation, employment, healthcare, insurance coverage and defense, nursing home defense, and professional

liability. For her legal work, she received many honors including being named a *Super Lawyers Magazine* “Rising Star” and a Florida Association for Women Lawyers “Leader in the Law.”

To the members of TWL, she was forever the embodiment of our mission – to promote the status of women in the legal community and the community at large. She served for years on the Board of Directors and was a faithful and diligent President in 2015 and 2016. After her Presidency, she remained active among our ranks, and served as 2018-19 Director of CLE. During Catherine’s Presidency, she successfully established the TWL Foundation to increase

TWL’s charitable giving and positive impact in the community. TWL was honored to recognize Catherine’s dedication and service and awarded her the Inspirational Service Award in 2013.



One of her latest endeavors was to establish a Lactation Room at the Leon County Courthouse, which is now named in her honor.

Walter Winchell described a real friend as “one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.” That was Catherine. She was a dedicated and compassionate servant to the cause of equal justice, a champion of what is right and just, and made the world a better place without ever passing judgment. Catherine was generous with her time and talent, and always there to help no matter the challenge or time of day.

To honor her memory, TWL has established the Catherine Chapman Pro Bono Service Award to recognize a member of the Florida Bar who embodies Catherine’s enduring commitment to pro bono legal services and

community involvement. The Catherine Chapman Pro Bono Service Award will be awarded annually at TWL’s Judicial Reception.

Most of all, we remember that she was a fierce friend – defending all who she loved and, as she once coined it, letting her “mama lion” out in defense of those in need.

On a personal note from the authors, Catherine was the first friend we lost since the dawn of texting. When she passed, hours were spent poring over the hundreds of texts between us. What permeates the conversations more than anything is her love.

“I wanted to drop you a note to let you know that I’ve been thinking about you.”

“[S]ending up prayers for you.”

“If you ever need to talk, I’m here.”

“Love you!”

We love you, too, Catherine. We really, really do.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Yeary

Jessica Yeary has dedicated her career to criminal defense since being admitted to the Florida Bar in 2009. She spent the first nine years of her profession zealously representing the indigent accused as an Assistant Public Defender in Tallahassee. This year, Ms. Yeary joined an elite group of attorneys when she became a Florida Bar Board Certified Specialist in Criminal Trial Law. She is passionate about criminal justice reform and leadership, currently serving as the President of the Tallahassee Chapter of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Having benefited greatly from mentorship early on in her own career, Ms. Yeary is committed to supporting young advocates and aspiring attorneys. She mentors law students through FSU Law's Association of Criminal Justice and through Tallahassee Women Lawyers. Ms. Yeary uses her trial expertise to coach the trial team at FSU Law School and high schoolers through the TWL-sponsored PACE Center for Girls Mock Trial program.

Ms. Yeary is an attorney at Caminez & Yeary, P.A. where she partners with her husband, Ryan Yeary, in bringing justice for their personal injury and criminally accused clients. Originally from Cape Coral, Florida, she received a Bachelor's in Criminology from the

University of Florida in Gainesville and a Juris Doctorate from Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, where she and her husband met and got married.



After law school, the Yearys ventured to Ryan's hometown of Tallahassee where they've settled down to raise their family. When she's not advocating for her clients or giving her time to local organizations, Ms. Yeary can be found on the baseball and football fields in town cheering on her two sons.

Tallahassee Women Lawyers' Pace Mock Trial Program

As part of its commitment to community service and promoting the interests of young women, Tallahassee Women Lawyers' ("TWL") sponsors a mock trial program at the PACE Center for Girls ("PACE") each semester. Led by Judge Jessica Varn, an administrative law judge at the Florida Department of Administrative Hearings ("DOAH"), and Allie Akre, an attorney at Ausley McMullen, the TWL/PACE Mock Trial Program is a semester-long program in which twelve young women enrolled at PACE prepare for and compete in an internal mock trial.



The program meets for one hour each week, where breakfast (usually donuts!) is provided. At the beginning of each semester a case is selected, and the students are divided into two groups—prosecution and defense—and assigned either an attorney or witness role. Throughout the semester the young women learn how to analyze a fact-pattern, draft opening and closing statements, prepare a witness, and conduct cross-examination. The participants also learn other practical skills such as public speaking, self-confidence, and the procedures that govern a courtroom.



Judges and attorneys from around Tallahassee volunteer to work with the young women in small groups or one-to-one to help them prepare for trial. At the end of the semester the program participants travel to DOAH to present their case in a real court room to a mock jury. The program concludes with a verdict and a pizza party.



For those unfamiliar with PACE, it is an alternative non-residential academic center for girls. In addition to academic instruction, PACE provides career preparation, counseling, and transition services, among other things, for students enrolled in the program. It was established in 1985 as an alternative to institutionalization or incarceration for young women. There are twenty-one centers throughout Florida that serve over 3,000 students each year. The PACE Center in Leon County was opened in 1994 and annually serves about 130 young women ages 12-17.

TWL's involvement with PACE began as a book club in which TWL members would visit PACE to read books with the young women. Recognizing a need to expand the program, the Mock Trial program was formed and has been a success ever since. In fact, several young women who have participated in the program have expressed interest in careers in the criminal justice field. TWL volunteers routinely express how rewarding it is to work with the young ladies at PACE, and how much they enjoy watching the girls transform over the course of the semester.

TWL Immediate Past President Christian Cutillo will have STAR POWER at the December 11 DWTS Fundraiser for LSNF!

By Wendy Loquasto, TWL Liaison to LSNF

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. will be partnering with Fred Astaire Dance Studios and hosting its third annual Dancing with the Stars Tallahassee fundraising event on Wednesday, December 11, 2019.

Everyone knows the wildly popular 29-season dance competition TV series. LSNF's annual event brings DWTS to our community and features local Tallahassee celebrities. You may recall that the late Catherine Chapman (TWL President 2015-16) was in the inaugural group of celebrity dancers, performing an over-the-top YMCA dance routine in 2017, and last year she returned as a DWTS Alumni to shake her stuff to Tina Turner's Proud Mary.

TWL member Karen Walker took home the Judges' Choice Award for best dance routine at last year's DWTS – she wowed the crowd with flips over her dance partner and flying through the air! Debra Henley won the 2018 People's Choice Award by bringing in a whopping \$20,000 in votes/donations!

Other DWTS Alumni include: Class of 2017 – TWL President Catherine Chapman, Retired First DCA Judge Nikki Clark, Attorney Dana Brooks Cooper, Attorney Dina Foster (who won Judges' Choice Award in 2017), Retired Judge & now Attorney Lewis Killian, Attorney Dean LeBoeuf, Leon County Sheriff Walt McNeil, FSU College of Law School Dean Erin O'Hara O'Connor, Public Defender Andy Thomas, and Attorney Barbara Walker. This inaugural dancing team raised over \$60,000 for LSNF – not bad for the first event!

Class of 2018 – State Attorney Jack Campbell, Attorney Jami Coleman, Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association President and CEO Carol Dover, Attorney Jimmy Fasig, FSU Assistant Dean Debra Henley, Attorney Rachel Borntreger, Attorney Neil St. John Rambana,



Attorney Brandi Thomas, FSU First Lady Jean Thrasher, and Attorney Karen Walker (Judge's Choice Award winner). These dancers brought in over \$106,000 for LSNF!

DWTS 2019 kicks off with a VIP Reception from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m., followed by the Celebrity Dance Competition from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. After the awards are presented, everyone can Dance with the Stars at the After Party from 9:00 until 11:00 p.m. VIPs enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, liquor, beer, wine, and refreshments, and celebrate an evening of networking with the Who's Who of Tallahassee.

BIG NEWS: DWTS has a new venue this year – FSU Champions Club, located atop Doak Campbell Stadium. There should be more room for everyone to have fun! (Remember that After Party, where you can dance too!)

OTHER BIG NEWS: This year, TWL Immediate Past President Christian Cutillo has opted to follow in the footsteps of Catherine and Karen and agreed to be one of the 10 celebrity dancers at the December 11 event.



A true litigator at heart, Christian's competitive spirit was a driving factor in saying "Yes!" to Dancing with the Stars, but she is most passionate about raising money for a cause that is so important to our local community. "I am both humbled and honored to raise money for LSNF to advance its mission – providing an opportunity for justice to those in need," Christian said.

Christian is already working with Fred Astaire Dance Studios, which has volunteered to work with all the dancers to develop their routines, and she is EXCITED (and perhaps a little apprehensive) to strut her stuff to raise money for LSNF.

Ultimately this is a fundraising event to help our most vulnerable neighbors, and Christian has set her eyes above and beyond the normal ask. Christian has committed to raising not only the \$10,000 that each dancer is asked to raise, but she has raised her personal goal to \$20,000! Sounds like a big goal – and it is! However, Christian is already halfway there at just over \$10,000!! With the help of her friends and supporters, she is hopeful to meet it.

TWL has already stepped up to help and earmarked its \$250 Friend Sponsorship for Christian.

You can help Christian meet that goal by

sponsoring DWTS and earmarking your sponsorship dollars for Christian. Go to www.dancingtallahassee.org and check out the sponsorship opportunities, which range from the Primary Sponsor at \$10,000 to Community (\$5,000), Justice (\$2,500), Liberty (\$1,500), Family (\$1,000), Patron (\$500), and Friend (\$250). VIPs at all levels receive admission to the VIP Reception. Single admission tickets may be purchased for \$200 but, for only \$50 more, you'll be a Friend and get all the benefits of the VIPs.

You can also help Christian raise the money by voting for her during the event.

Of course, you can also help the other celebrities in their fundraising efforts – all the money goes to LSNF. The other celebrity dancers this year include Mutaqee Akbar, Rocky Bevis, Kristin Dozier, Tom Findley, Jasmyne Henderson, Mia McKown, Carrie Roane, Josie Tamayo, and Glenda Thornton.

It's not too early to commit to a sponsorship or buy your ticket – DWTS has sold out the last two years. There will be more room this year, but that does not preclude another sold out show. Contact LSNF Developer of Philanthropic Partnerships Jason Zaborske at 850-701-3313, email Jason@LSNF.org, or visit www.dancingtallahassee.org for more information.

Come FAWL in Love with GAL

By Thomasina Moore

When my husband Dennis and I were in law school, our fellow students would jokingly refer to us as "Sue and Bill Moore." While the reference was tongue in cheek, many people truly believe attorneys never do anything except for money. But at the Guardian ad Litem Program, we know many attorneys want to volunteer their time and talent. We also know

how difficult this can be, given the many personal and professional challenges we all face.

That's why we created the "FAWL in Love with GAL" pro bono initiative. This is a partnership between the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL) and the Guardian ad Litem Program (GAL) that matches FAWL members who are attorneys or law students with older youth in foster care.

The initiative was built on the concept of "episodic mentoring" –the notion that mentees

can learn a great deal from mentors in as little as 20 minutes. Episodic mentoring occurs when there are short-term developmental interactions between the mentor and mentee, also known as “mentoring moments.” These offer the foster youths, many of whom will soon be on their own, the advantage of learning to ask questions and hold conversations that will promote their own development, empowering them for the future. And they offer attorneys an opportunity to change a child’s life for the better – with a shorter, more defined volunteer time commitment.



Each year thousands of teens age out of foster care. Most go through this critical transition with no support system at all. The "FAWL in Love with GAL" project provides that support by matching them with mentors who will guide them to independence. Studies show that at-risk youths with mentors achieve more positive outcomes across the board, and that just one hour per month can make a difference in their lives.

Magie Ozarowski, president of the Tallahassee Women Lawyers Board of Directors, knows the importance of working with at-risk youth. She has volunteered with the GAL Program for more than 4 years, advocating for the interest of youths in dependency court and the community.

“These kids have been in crisis,” says Magie. “It is powerful being one of the people responsible for helping to move them to a better place.”

Although one of her mentees has aged out of foster care, Magie continues to meet with and mentor her.

“I help her talk through issues and I make sure she is doing okay,” Magie says. “She is a bright kid and needs as much support as she can get. She trusts me.”

The goal of the "FAWL in Love with GAL" project is for all older foster youths to have a mentor like Magie. The project is designed to be flexible for attorneys. They can meet with the teens once a month at a location of their choosing, such as their offices.

The mentors will act as counselors and advisors to their mentees, considering the whole child. By considering the whole child, the mentors will help bring about better outcomes, which take into consideration the youth’s legal needs, worldview, and aspirations. By providing information and acting as role models, the mentors encourage youths to find and use their own true voices.

“The benefit of your experience helps put them on the right track. You give them the confidence to be the best they can be,” Magie says.

As part of the project, the GAL Program is offering a free 7-hour CLE training. The training, which also includes 2 ethics credits and 1 bias elimination credit, provides information about the dependency system and the challenges faced by youths in foster care. The mentors also work with the GAL Program, which supports the mentors and teens and advocates for the teens in the dependency process.

Magie encourages attorneys and law students to get involved with the project.

“It not only changes their lives, it changes yours,” she says. “It is a serious responsibility, but you are able to shepherd a youth to independence and get to see the fruits of your labor.”

TWL's 19th Amendment Committee News Bulletin

By Jessica Varn

Tallahassee Community College holds an annual celebration during which 10 community women and five current TCC female students are recognized for their outstanding leadership skills as well as their service to the community.

The 2020 theme is ***Valiant Women of the Vote***, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which began giving women the right to vote on the federal level. Nominations are being accepted for this year to recognize women who have worked for the preservation and continuing efforts of women's rights. Nominations are due by **December 2, 2019**. The nomination form is

available on TCC's website. The nominees should have achieved significant success in areas related to this year's theme, women's issues, transforming culture or society, history or politics, or as educators, leaders, writers, scientists, or others.

The Honoree ceremony will be held on **Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education**. Visit <https://www.tcc.fl.edu/about/community-initiatives/womens-history-month/> for more information.

TWL's 19th Amendment Committee Reading List

The 19th Amendment Committee has also put together a **Reading List**, for you and your colleagues, friends, and family members to find great selections on the topic of women's suffrage. Happy reading!

Books for Children

Bold & Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote, by Kirsten Gillibrand.

Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote, by Tanya Lee Stone

Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles, by Mara Rockliff

I Could Do That! Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote, by Linda Arms White

Marching with Aunt Susan: Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Women's Suffrage, by Claire Rudolf Murphy

Elizabeth Started All the Trouble, by Doreen Rappaport

Susan B. Anthony, by Alexandra Wallner

Books for Tweens and Teens

With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote, (Grade 7 and up) by Ann Bausum

Roses and Radicals: The Epic Story of How American Women Won the Right to Vote (ages 10 and up), by Susan Zimet.

Votes For Women: American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot (ages 12 and up), by Winifred Conkling.

Rebel Voices: The Global Fight for Women's Equality and the Right to Vote, (ages 10 and up) by Louise Kay Stewart

Fighting for Equal Rights: A Story about Susan B. Anthony, (ages 8-11) by MaryAnn N. Weidt

Alice Paul and the Fight for Women's Rights, (ages 10 and up) by Deborah Kops

The Hope Chest, (9-12) by Karen Schwabach

Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony, Inspired by Historical Facts, (7-10) by Nikki Grimes

Rightfully Ours: How Women Won the Vote, (9 and up) by Kerrie Logan Holihan

You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton? (8-12) by Jean Fritz

Books for Adults

Gilded Suffragists: The New York Socialites Who Fought for Women's Right to Vote, by Johanna Neuman

Suffragists in Washington, D.C., the 1913 Parade and the Fight for the Vote, by Rebecca Boggs Roberts

Lucy Stone: An Unapologetic Life, by Sally G. McMillen

Alice Paul: Claiming Power, by J.D. Zahniser and Amelia R. Fry

A Woman's Crusade, Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot, by Mary Walton

My Own Story, by Emmeline Pankhurst

The Woman's Hour, the Great Fight to Win the Vote, by Elaine Weiss

Votes for Women! The American Woman Suffrage Movement and the Nineteenth Amendment: A Reference Guide, by Marion W. Roydhouse

Suffrage: The Epic Struggle for Women's Right to Vote, by Susan L. Poulson

Mr. President, How Long Must We Wait?: Alice Paul, Woodrow Wilson, and the Fight for the Right to Vote, by Tina Cassidy

African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850–1920, by Rosalyn Terborg-Penn

Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement, by Robert P. J. Cooney Jr.

Remembering Inez: The Last Campaign of Inez Milholland, Suffrage Martyr, by Robert P.J. Cooney, Jr.

Jailed for Freedom, by Doris Stevens

Florida and the 19th Amendment

Florida ratified the 19th Amendment:
May 13, 1969.

Women first organized and collectively fought for suffrage at the national level in July of 1848. Suffragists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott convened a meeting of over 300 people in Seneca Falls, New York. In the following decades, women marched, protested, lobbied, and even went to jail. By the 1870s, women pressured Congress to vote on an amendment that would recognize their suffrage rights. This amendment was sometimes known as the Susan B. Anthony amendment and became the 19th Amendment.

The amendment reads:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

In the late 1800s, regional suffrage organizations began to form in states across the US. But the suffrage movement had roots in abolitionism (movement to end slavery). As a result, southern women's suffrage groups were slower to organize. Organized efforts to promote women's suffrage lagged in Florida until Ella C. Chamberlain founded the Florida Women's Suffrage Association in 1893. But when Chamberlain moved out of state four years later, the organization disbanded.

Women's suffrage did not have widespread support in the state until the 1910s when groups like the Florida Equal Franchise League and the Orlando Suffrage League were founded. Many women's suffrage groups in Florida often only supported the white woman's right to vote. As a result, African American women were frequently excluded from the suffrage organizations of white women.

Women from Florida were also involved in national organizations like the National Woman's Party. By the late 1910s, their efforts were paying off. After decades of arguments for and against women's suffrage, Congress finally approved the 19th Amendment in 1919. After Congress passed the 19th Amendment, at least 36 states needed to vote in favor of it for it to become law. This process is called ratification.

States across the US held special sessions to vote on the amendment. Some states ratified the amendment while others voted to reject it. Florida, however, did not hold a vote on the amendment. Many politicians and newspapers in the state were against women's suffrage.

On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, recognizing women's right to vote.

On May 13, 1969, Florida showed its support for women's suffrage by belatedly ratifying the 19th Amendment.

Florida Places of Women's Suffrage: State Capitol Building

In 1913, the Equal Franchise League of Jacksonville petitioned the Legislature to consider a bill recognizing women's suffrage rights. Suffragists were given the opportunity to speak at an evening session that April in front of the state representatives. Citizens packed the Capitol Building to hear the argument for women's suffrage. The bill was rejected and Florida women had to wait another seven years to exercise the right to vote. The Florida Capitol Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is no longer houses the state legislature, but operates as the Florida Historic Capitol Museum. It is open seven days a week.

(This information is reprinted from the website of the National Park Service found [here](#)).

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