

## *GAWL'S AMICUS BRIEF POLICY AND PROCEDURES*

### **Policy**

The Georgia Association for Women Lawyers is a professional association which provides a forum to enhance the welfare and development of women lawyers. As such, GAWL will consider joining or filing an amicus curiae brief in cases which will advance or clarify the law regarding an issue that: falls within GAWL's mission statement; impacts GAWL policy as adopted by the Board of Directors; relates to the administration of justice or the advancement of the legal profession; or affects the rights or interests of women.

GAWL may join or file an amicus brief only upon approval by vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors. GAWL will generally only file briefs at the appellate level.

### **Procedures**

1. Individuals or entities requesting that GAWL join or file an amicus brief should submit a request to GAWL's President. The request may be submitted via e-mail.
2. The request should include the following information: The parties to the case; The court in which the brief would be filed; The case posture; An explanation of how the case will advance or clarify the law, why the issue presented is important for GAWL consideration and why GAWL's participation would assist the court in reaching its decision; and a copy of any decision or ordered appealed from.
3. GAWL's President shall refer the request to the Public Affairs Committee for an initial recommendation.
4. In addition to the factors submitted in the request, the Public Affairs Committee shall consider the resources which would be necessary for GAWL to join or file the amicus brief, the comparative value of selecting a particular case as against other pending or likely litigation requests, and whether any of the litigants are GAWL members.
5. The Public Affairs Committee shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors, indicating why it believes GAWL should or should not join or file the requested amicus brief.
6. If the President determines that time does not permit review by the full Public Affairs Committee, the President, President-Elect and the Vice-President – Public Affairs may conduct the initial review.
7. GAWL may join or file an amicus brief only upon approval by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors. A vote for this purpose may be taken electronically.
8. If GAWL decides to join or file an amicus brief, the brief will be signed by the President if she is admitted to the Court in which the brief is to be filed or by her designee.
9. All briefs filed on behalf of GAWL must be reviewed the President, the President-Elect and the Vice President – Public Affairs or their designees before filing.
10. The Executive Director shall maintain a copy of all amicus briefs filed.