

GAWL'S LEGISLATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Dated January 12, 2012

Policy

The Georgia Association for Women Lawyers is a professional association which provides a forum to enhance the welfare and development of women lawyers. From time to time, GAWL is called upon to take a position on a bill or a piece of legislation. As such, GAWL will consider taking a position on legislation (meaning simply either endorsing or opposing legislation) or a political issue if the issue

- 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.

Procedures

Recognizing that political issues can be divisive, GAWL has determined that a very strict policy on taking positions on legislative issues is necessary.

In order for GAWL to take a legislative position (meaning simply either endorsing or opposing legislation), the following procedure must be followed.

1. The Public Policy Committee may recommend that GAWL take a legislative position on a bill if there is a majority vote of the committee members in attendance at the meeting where the vote is held. The committee members shall be notified at least ten (10) days before any vote is held on the issues being voted on at the upcoming meeting.
2. Upon approval, the Committee Chair or VP of Public Affairs shall inform the Board and request that it approve the recommendation. The Board shall be notified at least ten (10) days before any vote is taken. However, the notice requirement may be waived by unanimous consent of the Executive Committee.
3. The request should include the following information:
 - a. The particulars of the bill;
 - b. An explanation of why the issue presented is important for GAWL consideration; and
 - c. A copy of the legislation.
4. Board approval will require approval by three-fourths (75%) of the voting board members.
5. The Executive Director shall maintain a copy of all correspondence or other materials related to support or opposition of legislation by GAWL.

