

GAWL

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*by Lindsay Verity, GAWL
 President, 2011-2012*

As my year as GAWL president comes to a close, I would like to share some tips on how to get involved in GAWL. I recommend that you start by joining a small group that meets on a monthly basis, such as a mentoring circle, neighborhood networking breakfast or a chapter lunch. In these small settings, you will see the same people and build relationships. Once you know a few people from your small monthly gatherings, you will feel much more comfortable attending GAWL programs. Naturally then, the second step is to become involved in a committee and attend GAWL's big events. After serving on a committee for a year or so, I recommend joining the GAWL or GAWL Foundation board. The following summary will hopefully explain some of the workings of GAWL, its committees, its chapters, and the GAWL Foundation.

It is the mission of GAWL "to enhance the welfare and development of women lawyers and to support their interests." GAWL

GAWL 101

supports and promotes women lawyers by providing networking opportunities, personal and professional development programs, leadership training, and community outreach. We



Lindsay Verity

enhance the self-defined success and satisfaction of women lawyers, using our circles of influence to achieve tangible results for our members.

GAWL has a statewide board that ensures the continued viability of the organization and carries out the mission of the organization. Behind the scenes, we have several board positions and committees that manage our communications (Communications Committee), recruit new members (Membership

Committee) and form strategic partnerships (Strategic Partnerships Committee). The rest of the statewide board, in partnership with our eight chapters and the GAWL Foundation, organizes programs and activities to further our members' development and help our larger community.

Each committee has its own purpose. The Special Events Committee coordinates and manages GAWL's Annual Dinner and mid-year event. The Leadership Committee organizes our statewide Leadership Academy for attorneys who have been in practice for at least six years and the Leader Within program (a joint program with the Atlanta Bar Association's Women in the Profession Committee) for less-seasoned attorneys. GAWL's mentoring chairperson matches groups of about eight to ten members with differing levels of experience to support each other through monthly meetings.

GAWL's Public Affairs Committee is composed of three sub-committees. The Work Place and Public Policy Committee (formerly the Gender

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Register Now to Attend GAWL's 2012 Annual Dinner

200 Peachtree St
 Thursday, May 10, 2012

5:30pm Cocktails

6:30pm Dinner & Kathleen Kessler Award

(Board installation & awards ceremony will take place from 4:30 – 5:30pm.
 All are welcome to attend)

Register online at www.gawl.org • \$55 for members • \$85 for non-members

200 Peachtree St. Atlanta, GA 30303
 Valet Parking Available

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Equity) provides our members with opportunities to improve their careers and communities through work place policy advocacy and education. The Judicial Applicant Review Committee (“JARC”) researches judicial applicants and reports its findings to the State of Georgia’s Judicial Nominating Committee (which recommends a short list of qualified individuals for judicial appointments to the Governor). The third, and less formal, subcommittee is the Candidate’s Committee, which helps GAWL members get elected.

Our Programs’ Committee serves to support the events put on by each of GAWL’s eight chapters. Most chapters host a holiday party for its members, a judicial reception to honor the women judges in their local circuits, and monthly lunches. Additionally, we have several monthly Neighborhood Networking Breakfasts (NNBs) throughout the metro-Atlanta area, which serve as a great way to meet other members in a more informal setting.

The GAWL Foundation is the non-profit arm of GAWL, whose mission is to encourage

philanthropy among our members. The Foundation provides community service and pro bono opportunities, gives grants primarily to organizations that provide free legal services to disadvantaged women and girls, and gives scholarships to deserving female law students in Georgia. To raise money for these scholarships, in particular, and the Foundation more generally, the Foundation plans an annual art auction, which is always a highlight of the year. Lastly, the Foundation manages and promotes the Ruth and Ruby Crawford Endowment Fund to

benefit the GAWL Foundation. As you can see, GAWL has many opportunities for you to develop yourself and your network. I encourage you to find your niche in GAWL and make the most of your membership this year.

Lindsay C. Verity is the Director of the Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Project at the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. Lindsay assists relatives with adopting or gaining custody of the children in their care and trains volunteer attorneys to handle adoption cases for these long-term caregivers.

Attorneys Hold Benefit for A Gift of Love

Douglasville attorney Frank Winn hosted a Super Bowl party as a benefit for A Gift of Love, helping to raise over \$3,400 for the children’s charity. The event was sponsored by The Douglas/Paulding Chapter of The Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (GAWL) and The Douglas County Bar Association. The crowd of over 100 people joined together to watch the Super Bowl, enjoy great food, and have the chance to win prizes at the Winn home while helping children in Douglas County.

A Gift of Love, founded by

Juanita Clay, provides food for over 200 children on a weekly basis. During the holiday season, the organization provides food, clothing, and toys for close to 1,000 children and their families. The mission of A Gift of Love is to reach out to as many children as possible, providing food, clothes, and meeting children’s needs to be healthy and successful. Juanita Clay stated, “The donations will be a great help for the Spring Break Food Boxes, benefiting over 700 children. I just thank everyone that made the Super Bowl party and donations a success.”

“We can’t thank Frank and his family enough for opening their home for this fun community service project and we hope the efforts will help many children,” said Lois Gerstenberger, President of GAWL Douglas/Paulding Chapter. “Spending time with Juanita Clay and learning about the work A Gift of Love does for children was a joy. Our GAWL chapter was very proud to sponsor this event along with The Douglas County Bar Association.”

Frank Winn, host of the benefit party stated, “We had a wonderful turnout that raised more than we expected. I wanted to help A Gift of Love because of their service to children. We appreciate the businesses and individuals that provided prizes and everyone that helped with the event.” Douglasville Long Horn, Chick-Fil-A at Arbor Place Mall, Greystone EMC, and the Vineyard and Winery Association of West Georgia provided prizes. Friends and family that helped and provided food and prizes were The Frank Winn Family, Austin Smith, The Nick Winn Family, Nila Winn, Darice Lewis, Judge Peggy Walker, The

Gerstenberger Family, Sara Martin, Alyssa Kee, Martha Carver, Talia Nurse, Travis Glahn, Allison Frutoz, Nancy Stewart, Darlene Cole, David Lindsey, Mary Henry, Shaw Powell, Captain Herb Emory, and Kevin Drummond. Special thanks to Dennis Burkhalter and Jim Lewis. Dennis served as the grill master and Jim Lewis donated a 32” flat screen TV for the half-time drawing.

“The Douglas County Bar Association was very pleased to co-sponsor the benefit for A Gift of Love. The legal community really stepped up to make the event very successful,” said Travis Glahn, Douglas County Bar Association President.

More information about A Gift of Love can be found at their website (www.agiftofloveservices.org). GAWL Douglas/Paulding Chapter meets the second Wednesday of each month at Sam & Rosco’s for lunch at noon. More information about GAWL can be found at www.gawl.org. The Douglas County Bar Association meets the second Friday of each month for lunch at noon at The Douglasville Downtown Conference Center.



Juanita Clay (founder of A Gift of Love), Judge Peggy Walker, Lois Gerstenberger (GAWL Douglas/Paulding Chapter President), Frank Winn (Benefit Host), Talia Nurse (GAWL Douglas/Paulding Chapter Vice-President), and Captain Herb Emory of WSB-TV. (Not pictured Travis Glahn, President of The Douglas County Bar Association).

The Leader Within – A Student’s Perspective

by Megan Hodgkiss

The instant I heard about GAWL’s Leader Within event, I knew that I had to attend. “It’s so motivational,” gushed my fellow members of the Druid Hills/Toco Hills Neighborhood Networking Breakfast, “you’ll leave the event saying ‘I actually can make things happen!’” As a law student still trying to find a place in the industry, let alone lead it, I was curious about this event – and what it could potentially mean for me. I was not disappointed.

The Leader Within began Tuesday morning with a round of coffee and friendly introductions. Taking a look at the impressive program, I decided on the two breakout sessions I thought were most advantageous for students: Preparing a Professional Development Plan and Bulls-Eye Networking.

In the first session, presenter Debby Stone of Corner Office Coaching taught me how to create a career vision which incorporates my strengths, weaknesses, priorities and goals. She said that the difference between having a career by default and having a career by design is a well-planned professional roadmap.

Next, I attended author Wendy L. Kinney’s presentation on Bulls-Eye Networking, in which she shared her secrets of turning handshakes into bank deposits. As a student, I am always attending networking events and hoping that the people I meet are the right people. After Ms. Kinney’s session, I feel prepared to network more effectively and to make all my new contacts count.

Perhaps the best advice I garnered from The Leader Within came from Atlanta City Attorney Cathy Hampton. Speaking to the assemblage of GAWL members, she stressed the importance of finding not just a mentor –

but a champion. Ms. Hampton spoke about the obstacles of being a female leader, and how these champions will help inspire you, keep you focused on your goals, and encourage you to take risks.

It has been several weeks since The Leader Within, and much of what I learned continues to resonate with me. I have considered what I want from my legal career, how I can create opportunities, and who I want to have in my corner. Graduation is approaching, and I feel more confident about my place among Georgia’s legal professionals. Most importantly, I cannot wait for The Leader Within 2013!

Megan T. Hodgkiss is a third-year student at Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School. After graduation this May, she plans on passing the Georgia Bar Exam with flying colors and pursuing a career in Media and Communications Law.

GAWL Members at John Marshall Law School Participate in “Teens for Jeans”

by Megan Hodgkiss

DOZENS OF DISADVANTAGED TEENAGERS are now sporting a new pair of jeans, thanks to the charitable efforts of GAWL’s John Marshall Law School chapter. The student organization recently participated in the annual Aeropostale “Teens for Jeans” clothing drive. GAWL members asked classmates to rummage through their closets and bring in pairs of slightly-used denim. At the end of the clothes drive, the collection box was overflowing with one-hundred pairs of jeans! GAWL Member Nicole

Fegan, who helped organize the drive, brought the clothing to the designated Aeropostale store in Lenox Square Mall. The retailer will donate the jeans to local homeless shelters.

“Participating in drives like Teens for Jeans provides the essential foundation of what GAWL stands for,” says GAWL Chapter President Kara Foskey, “The JMLS Chapter of GAWL strives to benefit the community in any way we can.”

Atlanta’s Aeropostale collected more than 400 pairs of jeans, including the donations from John Marshall Law School. Nation-

wide, Teens for Jeans had more than 11,000 schools participating, and collected more than one million pairs of jeans. This year, the school that collects the most denim wins \$5,000, a celebratory party, and a new pair of Aeropostale jeans for every student. For more information about Teens for Jeans, visit dosomething.org/teensforjeans. To read more about the John Marshall Law School Chapter of GAWL, including its current fundraiser--a cell phone drive for a local battered women’s shelter--visit johnmarshall.edu/Students/organizations.php or gawl.org.



GAWL Member Nicole Fegan, GAWL Chapter President Kara Foskey, GAWL Member Emily Hueter-Willoughby

GAWL IS ON LINKEDIN AND FACEBOOK!

SEARCH FOR US UNDER

“GEORGIA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS.” AND “GAWL FOUNDATION.”

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