

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION GAWL FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

www.GAWL.org

February 2014

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Release Your Competitive Spirit at the 2015 GAWL Foundation Art Auction

By Cindy Manning

The GAWL Foundation's signature event, the annual Art Auction, is coming up on March 28. This is a favorite evening for me and my husband. This amazing event raises money to provide scholarships for women law students committed to working in the public sector in Georgia. This is one of a few annual events where GAWL members are highly encouraged to invite their friends, family and significant others. It is the only event my husband regularly attends and we always closely guard it on our calendar. We are not art connoisseurs. Neither of us could tell the difference between an impressionist and an abstract painting. Nonetheless, each year my husband seems to get a personal invitation from the Foundation.

This stems from his competitive spirit. If you have attended many live auctions, or even to a lesser extent, silent auctions, you likely know where I'm going with this. It's not that there are many pieces that he feels we must have in our modest home or offices. It's that he thinks he can "read" the other bidders and get them to pay more (all for a very great cause, remember) for the item they are bidding on. My husband fancies himself a bit of a poker player and

his favorite part of poker is figuring out the intentions of his opponent. He takes this (self-perceived) talent to the Art Auction and occasionally does what he can to help the cause.

Before you think this should somehow deter you from attending for fear that you will pay an inflated price, know that his efforts fail as often as not have therefore resulted our agreeing to certain rules on what he is now allowed to bid on. His antics have had some unfortunate side effects. Occasionally, his (self-proclaimed) reading skills have been somewhat inaccurate and we almost always end up going home with at least one accidental item. This unintended consequence hit its peak about two years ago when my husband (after maybe a couple of the signature cocktails) was convinced that a Georgia fan in the house was willing to go sky high on some UGA items. He was wrong. Twice. And we ended up the not-so-proud owners of an uncomfortably large picture of Uga (UGA's bulldog mascot) and a collage of SEC paraphernalia. Neither of us went to UGA and we have no need for UGA or SEC gear in our house. After a year of trying to get any of our UGA fan friends to purchase them, we ended up donating the two pieces back to



the Foundation the following year. This made my husband a hero with the Foundation but also resulted in our new "rules".

So have no fear. My husband will be there. He will even likely be bidding on some items. But he is now limited to "gambling" on items that at least one of us might like to own.

So bring your competitive spirit to the GAWL Foundation Art Auction. Maybe you will get into a bidding war with my husband, in which case I wish you great success... please! Maybe you would prefer to sit back and watch the live auction, satisfied to bid on the numerous and diverse silent auction items. Either way, it will be a fun and entertaining night and I sincerely hope to see you there.

Cindy Manning, the founding partner of Manning Legal Group, LLC, specializes in criminal defense and civil litigation with a focus on individualized client service.



GAWL celebrated at its annual Holiday Party on December 3rd with more than 100 people in attendance. The event was hosted by the Honorable Judge Jill Pryor at her home and helped to raise close to \$1000 for the GAWL Foundation. Above, Aimee Clark Todd (GAWL Foundation Board Member, Troutman Sanders LLP), Morgan Bemby (GAWL Foundation Communications Chair, Wood & Bemby LLC), Kristy Zimmerman (GAWL Special Events Chair, Platt Law Firm) and Karyl Davis (GAWL Executive Director) attend GAWL's annual Holiday Party. Below, Christina Baugh (GAWL Treasurer, Fellows, LaBriola), Maria Tsagaris (McCalla Raymer LLC) and Nicole Leet (Gray, Rust, St. Amand, Moffett & Brieske LLP). Photos courtesy of Annie Jordan (Senterfitt & Knight, LLC).



Leading Through Collaboration and Inspiration
By Michelle West & Megan T. Hodgkiss

This year, GAWL celebrates ten years since its first Leadership Academy. The 2015 Leadership Academy kicked off at Serenbe January 20-22 with a session titled "Leading Yourself: Leaning Into You." Sixteen women from diverse practice areas make up this year's Leadership Academy class. They are united for a common theme – *Lean In and Lead On*.

On Friday, the group discussed their expectations of the program and what they wanted to gain from their



Havana Nights—Art Auction 2015 Preview
By Morgan Bemby

Imagine the scene: High above the nighttime lights of Atlanta, you enjoy a tropical cocktail and a plate of exotic Cuban bites sits in front of you. A roomful of enthusiastic partygoers peruse paintings and photographs, adventure packages and dining experiences. The buzz grows as the start of the live auction grows near. At the end of the evening, the GAWL Foundation has raised thousands of dollars to fund scholarships and grants for the coming year.

The GAWL foundation will host its [22nd Annual Art Auction](#) Saturday, March 28, 2015 at Nelson Mullins' Atlanta office in Atlantic Station. This year's theme - Havana Nights - will inspire attendees as they bid in live and silent auctions. The festivities begin at 7:00pm and run until 10:00pm.

Tickets are now on sale [here](#). Act by February 26th to get early-bird pricing: \$55 general admission; \$45 GAWL member; \$35 guest of GAWL member (limit one per member); \$35 Law Student and Public Sector GAWL member. Guests who purchase early-bird tickets will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 credit

towards any auction purchase at the event.

As always, the live and silent auctions will feature works from local artists, culinary and shopping experiences and exotic domestic and international vacation packages. Thus far, the Committee has secured the ever-popular African Safari package and a new trip to Antigua. Follow our [Facebook event page](#) for the latest news on auction items.

The Art Auction Committee thanks its wonderful event sponsors: Lueder, Larkin & Hunter; McCalla Raymer; Nelson Mullins; Shea Barclay Group; Weissman, Nowack, Curry & Wilco; and Wood & Bemby. Sponsorships are still available, beginning at \$250. If your firm is interested in sponsoring the Art Auction, please email gawl.artauction@gmail.com for details.

Morgan Bemby is the GAWL Foundation Communications Chair. She is also a founding member of Wood & Bemby LLC, located in Lawrenceville. Her practice focuses on general business law, including intellectual property, estate planning and administration and state and local tax law.

experience. Most of the participants expressed excitement about meeting similarly situated women professionals. They were also hopeful that the Academy would assist them in developing both professionally and personally. After completing a Myers-Briggs personality assessment, which was led by Debby Stone of Novateur Partners Group, LLC, the class engaged in role play scenarios to explore their personality tendencies.

Elaine Levine (Koufman, Levine & Greiner) and Robin Sangston (Cox Communications) kicked off day two with a session titled "Mentoring Rules of

Thumb." The in-depth session explored different types of mentoring relationships and how to get the most out of various mentoring situations. The rest of the day's activities included a session by Ekene Onu (Refresh with Ekene) on "Building a Framework for Your Success Strategy," introspective group activities and a relaxing walk through Serenbe's labyrinth.

Leadership Academy participant Keisha Steed summed up the weekend: "I truly feel that the 2015 GAWL Leadership Academy is an example of how women

(continued on p3, *Leadership*)
Leadership (cont'd from p2)

Academy is an example of how women

Leadership Academy Class of 2015

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Carol Allen | Ave Mince-Didier |
| Virginia Almy | Latrevia Kates |
| Alice Benton | Daphne Parker |
| Rachel Berlin | Kathryn "Katie" Ray |
| Victoria Kealy | Tracy Rhodes |
| Ze'eva Kushner Banks | Dorothy Sachs |
| Heather Malick | Keisha Steed |
| Shalanda Miller | Meredith Watts |

can come together as individuals, but instantly bond as a whole over shared interests, common goals, fellowship, and the courage to show our vulnerabilities to find the truth about what we really desire and how to become the true leaders within."

This year's academy is specifically designed and seeks to provide a *wholistic* approach to leadership by examining the concept from every angle and perspective that women attorneys encounter. Our remaining three sessions are titled: "Leading In Your Community – Leaning Into Service," "Leading In Your Profession – Leaning Into Your Career" and "Wholistic Leading – Putting it All Together."

Just days after the Leadership Academy kick-off, the GAWL Leadership Committee executed another successful event – The Leader Within. This popular program and CLE, which takes place annually at the State Bar of Georgia, is an intensive

training seminar geared toward attorneys who want to develop their leadership skills. This year's program featured a panel presentation and two break-out sessions, followed by a networking lunch and keynote address. The Leader Within focused on a multitude of personal and professional challenges which attorneys face, including: conquering stress, developing and maximizing a mentoring relationship, where to focus time and energy, whether to change practice areas and learning how to ask. This year's speakers hailed from a variety of legal environments; they provided attendees with invaluable advice on becoming a leader in the workplace.

The Leadership Academy and the Leader Within are the GAWL Leadership Committee's two annual hallmark events. Learn more about the Leadership Committee and its programs at www.gawl.org.

Michelle West is an attorney and mediator. She currently serves as Director of the State Bar of Georgia's Transition Into Law Practice Program, where she assists new lawyers as they enter the legal profession. Michelle serves as GAWL's VP of Leadership.

Megan T. Hodgkiss is an attorney, mediator and freelance writ-

er. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Communication at Georgia State University. Megan serves as GAWL's VP of Communications.

GAWL's annual Legislative Reception was held January 15, 2015 at the Blue Room in the Freight Depot in downtown Atlanta.



GAWL invited all female members of the General Assembly and judiciary to the annual event which showcases Georgia women in the profession. The event was attended by approximately 100 GAWL members, local judges and legislators. The 2015 Legislative session started just days before the event which provided attendees ample opportunity to discuss upcoming legislation. Attendees included (above) Laurie Rashidi-Yazd, Laurie Vickery Benesh and Jamie Duguay. Photos Courtesy of Laurie Rashidi-Yazd.

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Upcoming GAWL Events

Check GAWL's [upcoming events calendar](#) for additional information on our events.

- Feb 9: GAWL Lunch & Learn
- Feb 10: Druid Hills Neighborhood Networking Breakfast
- Feb 11: Perimeter Neighborhood Networking Breakfast
GAWL Foundation Board Nicholas House Dinner
- Feb 18: GAWL JMLS Building a Professional You
- Feb 19: North Fulton Neighborhood Networking Breakfast
East Cobb Neighborhood Networking Breakfast
- Feb 20: Working Moms Affinity Group Meeting
- Feb 24: GAWL Gwinnett February Gathering
- Feb 26: Decatur Neighborhood Networking Breakfast
- Feb 27: Solo/Small Firm Affinity Group Lunch
- Mar 11: Alternative Practice Affinity Group Lunch
Newer Lawyers Affinity Group
GAWL Executive Board Nicholas House Dinner
- Mar 16: Feminist Affinity Group Meeting
- Mar 27: GAWL Foundation Spring Grants Deadline
Solo/Small Firm Affinity Group Lunch
- Mar 28: GAWL Foundation Art Auction

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