
TLAW

Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TLAW - Thinking Back and Looking Ahead

In June, at its most recent annual meeting, TLAW celebrated the past year under the leadership of President Wendy Longmire. I want to take this opportunity to thank Wendy for her leadership of TLAW over the past yearundefinedshe guided us through another year of growth and change with both clarity and grace. Not only did TLAW connect with law students at Lincoln Memorial University, Belmont University and the University of Memphis through panel presentations by lawyers in a wide variety of professional settings, but also TLAW offered those presentations to practicing lawyers for CLE credit. With the help of Amy Everhart, Technology Committee Chair, TLAW continued the implementation of its new, expanded and more interactive website. Beth Bates, Corresponding Secretary, directed the publication of several great newsletters, which informed us all on the activities of our friends and colleagues and developments within the legal community across the state. And, Linda Knight, our dedicated Treasurer, kept our accounts and helped us thoughtfully steward our financial resources. Too many other members of TLAW's Board were also actively involved in the past year's success for me to be able to name them all here. And, no recognition of the accomplishments of the past year would be complete without mentioning the tireless work in so many areas by our wonderful Executive Director, Karol Lahrman.

As you may know, TLAW was formed in 1989 with the goals of providing opportunities to female attorneys for mutual support and fellowship, to achieve the full participation of women lawyers in the rights, privileges and benefits of the legal profession, to increase the numbers of women serving on the bench, to provide CLE

and to support the status of progress of women in society. While much has changed for the better since 1989, women remain underrepresented at the highest levels of our profession. Studies show that despite numerous years of nearly equal rates of enrollment in and graduation from law school when comparing women and men, currently only 17% of women in private practice are equity partners and only 21% of Fortune 500 general counsels are women. Although the statistics are slightly better, women have yet to obtain equal representation in the judiciary and other areas of the profession. (See, e.g., Statistics from the ABA Commission on Women.) Bearing these numbers in mind, it is clear that TLAW's mission remains relevant.

Looking ahead, TLAW intends to continue improving the service it provides to our membership. We hope to accomplish this through continuing outreach to both law students and practicing lawyers; providing opportunities for improving our own lives and practices and to learn from one another by panel presentations, CLE and networking opportunities; leveraging technology to better communicate, through newsletters and e-mail updates as in the past, and also through Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter; through regional and local social and networking events; and through further enhancement of our website (www.tlaw.org) and exploration of the capabilities technology offers for sharing information and creating forums for discussion of issues relevant to our membership.

Our Board and Committee Chairs have plans for implementation of these goals and we are excited to begin work! The work of TLAW is important and the goals are big; but with many hands, the individual yoke is light. As I thank the individual TLAW officers, board members and committee chairs listed in this newsletter for volunteering to take on leadership roles within TLAW in 2014-15, I also encourage you to reach out to me, or to any of them, if you would like to be more involved in TLAW. Not only can TLAW use your help, but we would love to help you get "plugged in"! I am excited and honored to serve as TLAW's President for 2014-2015. I look forward to working with our members across the state over the coming months and hope each of you will consider an area of TLAW's mission that excites you and get involved!



Cheryl Rice, President

TLAW ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION IN GATLINBURG, TN

Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women continued its tradition of holding its annual convention and meeting in conjunction with the Tennessee Bar Association's annual meeting this past June in Gatlinburg at the Park Vista Hotel.

During the convention, TLAW and the TBA produced an afternoon of joint CLE programming on the theme of "Better Next Year," which included a compelling presentation on the disease of addiction, speakers who informed us about issues in planning for the care of the elderly and disabled and the needs of their caregivers, and professionals who provided tips on mentoring, effective networking, and using technology to structure alternative workplace environments. The afternoon of CLE was followed by a joint cocktail

reception sponsored by TLAW, TABL and the TBA, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

TLAW's annual breakfast meeting took place the next morning, Friday, June 13, and was attended by a number of lawyers and jurists, including Tennessee Supreme Court Justices Cornelia Clark and Gary Wade, Court of Appeals Judges Holly Kirby and Neil McBrayer, Court of Criminal Appeals Judges Jeffrey Bivins and John Everett Williams, Chancellors Jerri Bryant, Claudia Bonnyman and Carol McCoy and Circuit Judge Creed McDaniel. Chief Justice Wade administered the oath swearing in the organization's new officers and directors.

TLAW's 2014-2015 officers are Cheryl Rice of Knoxville, President; Beth Bates of Jackson, Vice-President; Linda Knight of Nashville, Treasurer; Ijeoma Ike of Jackson, Recording Secretary; Kristi Rezabek of Jackson, Corresponding Secretary; and Wendy Longmire of Nashville, Immediate Past President. TLAW's 2014-2015 Regional Directors are Jamie Ballinger-Holden (East TN), Julie Bhattacharya Peak (Middle TN) and Lanis Karnes (West TN).

TLAW thanks its convention sponsors, Pinnacle Financial Partners, the law firm of Gullett Sanford Robinson & Martin PLLC, LAW Anne Schneider Chapter and Rimkus Consulting Group, Inc. for their generous support of TLAW and its mission.



Sworn in officers, Cheryl Rice, Ijeoma Ike, Linda Knight, Wendy Longmire, Karen Crutchfield and Jamie Ballinger Holden



Thank You to Sponsors, Pinnacle, Lawyers' Association for Women Anne Schneider Chapter, Gullett Sandford Robinson & Martin PLLC and Rimkus.



TLAW Annual Breakfast Meeting

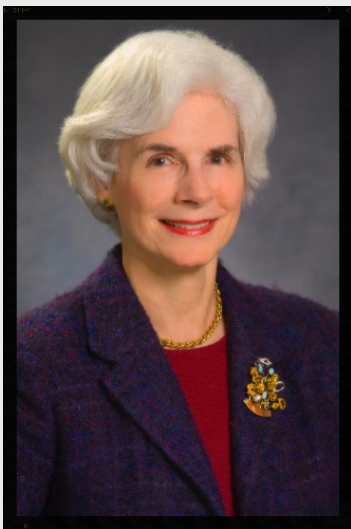


TLAW Joint Reception with TBA

TLAW Website Makes Joining, Renewing and Reserving Easier with PayPal!

TLAW has recently expanded its services by linking our website to PayPal so that those who wish to do so can join TLAW, renew their memberships, and make

reservations for events and conventions through PayPal rather than sending in paper forms with checks. Several members have successfully paid their dues through PayPal since implementation of the new payment method. While members are still welcome to pay by check, we wish to make TLAW as user-friendly as possible, and we hope this will be a welcome step into the digital age!



Linda Knight, Treasurer

VISIT WWW.TLAW.ORG TODAY!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHAPTER NEWS

ETLAW News

ETLAW will be conducting a book study on *Dare to Ask! The Woman's Guidebook to Successful Negotiating* by Cait Clarke. This book study will occur at a date TBD in August. You can contact Jamie Ballinger Holden for more information at 865-637-0203 or by e-mail at jballingerholden@londonamburn.com.

SETLAW News

By Rebecca H. Miller
SETLAW Representative

Selma Paty Event August 21 – SETLAW is hosting a special event to honor a longstanding member of the Chattanooga Bar, Selma Cash Paty. The program will include a short video and recognition of Ms. Paty for her contributions to the Chattanooga legal community. More details to come!

Lipman Confirmed as U. S. District Judge

Sheryl H. Lipman of Memphis was unanimously approved by the Senate on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 to serve as a federal district judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. She replaces U.S. District Judge Jon McCalla, who announced last year that he was going on senior status. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Ms. Lipman was University of Memphis's general counsel and also served as chief of staff to the school's interim president, R. Brad Martin.

Reeves Sworn In As First Female Federal Judge In East Tennessee

Pamela L. Reeves was officially sworn in as the first female district judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee on May 30, 2014. She was joined at the ceremony by fellow federal judges, Knoxville's first female mayor Madeline Rogero and Gov. Bill Haslam, who delivered the keynote speech. Reeves was nominated by President Barack Obama to fill the vacancy created when U.S. District Judge Thomas W. Phillips took inactive senior judge status.

LAP SPACE

Parenting will make you do and say some pretty bizarre things. People who, at one time, were perfectly rational and socially proper find themselves wiping mucus off of other peoples' faces with their shirt sleeves and discussing bowel movements with other, formerly rational adults with the seriousness usually reserved for United Nations negotiations. Parents find themselves having to conjure reasonable explanations at a moment's notice for the mysteries of life, such as why bathing will not make you turn invisible (a real concern because the dirt on your skin is what you can see) and why you can't wear your favorite socks every day ("because they stink" is not a good enough answer in some circles).

Parents are the people who act like World Cup spectators when a soccer ball accidentally hits their five-year-old on the leg (while she is picking a dandelion which happened to grow in front of the goal) and then rolls slowly into the net. Parents are the people who routinely have conversations with one child about not touching, staring at, or breathing upon the other child on the other side of the SUV and who have to explain why "I have short-term memory loss" is not something you can tell your teacher so that you don't have to answer questions in class (worked for my boy for almost an entire semester before someone ratted him out).

Parents are also the people who have to manage logistics better than UPS without a team of well-trained professional drivers to pick up and deliver priceless cargo around town. I will freely admit that I have been rather vocal about my displeasure with the number of snow days that my boys have enjoyed this year. There is nothing like leaving a client meeting to find three messages saying, "Mommy, our school is closing early;" "Mommy my teacher says you have to come get us now;" and "Mommy

my teacher says we will be sitting on the sidewalk if you don't come right now." That message means you have to drop everything you had planned for that day and then drive like a crazy person in weather that, apparently, is bad enough to shut down school because it is too dangerous for driving. But, then again, my boys have spent 11 and 14 years respectively turning my brain into mush, so irrational behavior is par for the course at this point. Snow days, sick kids, and babysitters that move on to other career paths bring a whole new perspective to work-life balance because, quite frankly, they interrupt the plan for the day and require reserves of creativity and patience that none of us ever knew we had. So what can we do?

First, don't be afraid to ask for an extension of a deadline, to change an in-person meeting to a teleconference, or ask a colleague to cover a hearing when doing so will not jeopardize your client's interests. Working parents are all in the same boat because at any given point in time, any one of us can get that phone call that changes the plan for the day whole day. Being honest about why you need an extension on a deadline or to reschedule a hearing should not be a terrible thing.

Second, be professional and pay it forward when you can do so without jeopardizing your client's interest. If opposing counsel asks for an extension on a deadline because he/she has to make a mad dash across town to pick up a child or because the powers that be close the schools the night before a meeting, feel free to say, "Yes," unless doing so would violate an ethical duty to a client. Usually a couple of days are all that is needed to get things back on track, and you never know when you are going to need to ask for the same courtesy no matter what stage in life you happen to be at any given point in time.

Third, appreciate the moments for what they are – moments in time. As I write this, I am sitting in a chair with a sleeping eleven-year-old who woke up way too early, his faithful poodle who never leaves his side, and a laptop perched on the one knee that is not occupied by boy or poodle. It isn't easy trying to balance all three of these in my lap without letting one of them slide off onto the floor. But some day, both the boy and the poodle will be gone, and the laptop will not have to share valuable lap space. At that time, the laptop can have my full attention. For now, the laptop will have to be content with just one knee because, for this moment in time, this stage of life, the boy and the poodle get as much space as they want.



By Melissa B. Carrasco

Meet the 2014 - 2015 Board of Directors

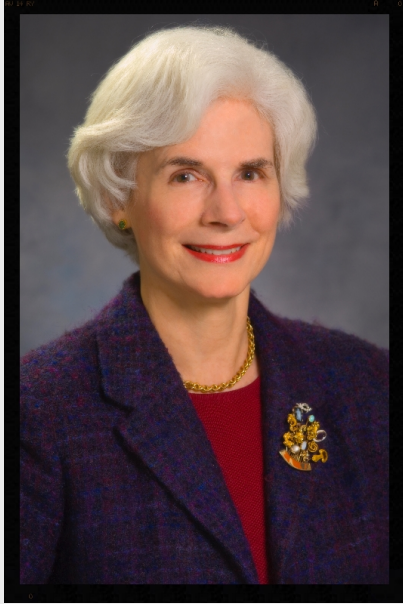


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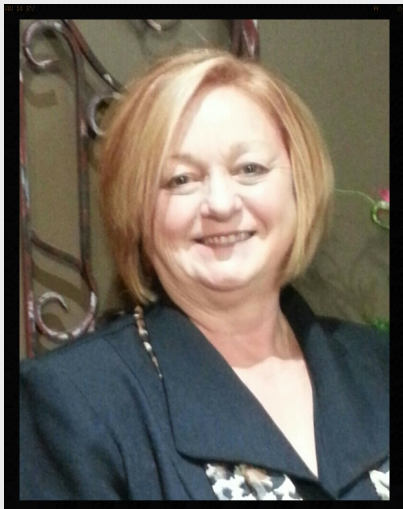
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<p>Legislation Committee</p>	<p>Seeking Representative Contact Cheryl Rice at crice@emlaw.com</p>
<p>EEO / Placement Committee</p>	<p>Seeking Representative Contact Cheryl Rice at crice@emlaw.com</p>
<p>CLE Committee</p>	<p>Ramona DeSalvo Desalvo & Levine, PLLC, Nashville, TN rdesalvo@desalvolevine.com</p>
<p>Membership & Local Organization Committee</p>	<p>Kim Harvey Looney Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, LLP, Nashville, TN Kim.Looney@wallerlaw.com</p>
<p>Annual Meeting Arrangements Committee</p>	<p>Alyssa Minge Leitner, Williams, Dooley & Napolitan, PLLC alyssa.minge@leitnerfirm.com</p>

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Publications Committee	Chaired by Corresponding Secretary Kristi Rezabek kristi.rezabek@tncourts.gov
Community Relations Committee	Karen Crutchfield Kcrutchfield@wimberlylawson.com

We Want To Hear From You!

CALL FOR REPORTS AND PHOTOS!

**Don't you love the photos in this edition?
Please share photos of recent events, important milestones
and announcements of upcoming events.
TLAW wants to hear and promote local chapter events
throughout the state.**

**Please send announcements, articles and photos to
Corresponding Secretary Kristi Rezabek
at Kristi.Rezabek@tncourts.gov**

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