

## President's Message

This issue of the TLAW newsletter features some of the great activities that TLAW has been involved with as well as upcoming activities for its members. We are excited to share this news.

In August, I had the privilege of marching with other TLAW members in the parade for the Women's Suffragists Memorial dedication in Knoxville. People from across the state attended this historic event which commemorated three Tennessee women who were instrumental in Tennessee's ratification of the Constitutional amendment which gave women across the nation the right to vote. In this issue, you will read some of the inspiring remarks given by Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey at the dedication.

Since our last newsletter, TLAW's executive director, Pamela Roller, resigned to take advantage of a wonderful business opportunity. TLAW has been fortunate to hire a new Executive Director, Tessa Lemos Del Pino, and you can learn more about her in this issue. She started with TLAW this fall and is enthusiastically looking forward to helping us increase our membership and its participation in TLAW. Please welcome her aboard.

As I have said before, one of my goals this year is to increase TLAW's membership. The board and I have been busy reminding lapsed members to renew their membership as well as recruiting new members. If you know of someone whose membership has lapsed, please encourage them to renew, and if you know attorneys who are not members, please sign them up for membership. A membership renewal/application form is available at [tlaw.org](http://tlaw.org). In order to recruit new bar admittees to membership in TLAW, I and several TLAW board members are attending the new admittee swearing-in and welcoming activities in order to share the benefits of joining TLAW. Our goal is to double TLAW's membership this fall in order that TLAW will continue to be a powerful force in the legal community.

The TLAW directory is published every two years and is a great tool for networking and making referrals to other members across the state. TLAW will be publishing a new version of the directory and distributing that to our membership early in 2007. If your membership application or renewal form has been submitted by December 15, you will be included in the directory.

In order for TLAW to continue to be relevant to its membership, TLAW will be conducting an online membership survey early in 2007. We hope to learn more about what you need and want from TLAW. In the mean time, if you have suggestions, please contact either myself or our new Executive Director (at [tlaw@tlaw.org](mailto:tlaw@tlaw.org)) with your ideas.

Problems with depression, substance abuse and suicide in our profession continue to make the news. I want TLAW to consider the issue of the well being of members of our profession, and hope to offer a program on health and wellness at our annual meeting. Other bar groups are interested in this issue as well. I am serving on an attorney well being round table hosted by the Tennessee Bar Association. In November and

December, TLAW is co-sponsoring a seminar called “Lawyering and the Good Life” in several cities across the state, and registration information on this bargain priced CLE is in this issue. Also, there are wonderful, confidential and free services available to our profession through the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program. The holidays can be a particularly tough time for lawyers, judges and law students and TLAP is available to help in a variety of ways. To learn more about TLAP, please see the article in this issue.

I believe TLAW’s most important goal, as stated on the certificate I received when I became a charter member in 1988, is to “achieve and promote the full participation of women lawyers in the legal profession.” Recently two of our members applied to make history by becoming the first female Attorney General in the history of Tennessee. TLAW members did their best to help this happen by contacting members of the Tennessee Supreme Court on their behalf. Unfortunately, it was not to be. Nevertheless, congratulations to Margaret Behm from Nashville and Pamela Reeves from Knoxville for applying and trying. You make us proud of your efforts!

As the president of TLAW, I am invited to participate in a lot of enjoyable events. In September, I spoke at the Equal Justice Conference, which is sponsored by the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services and several other organizations. Attendees at that conference dedicate their careers to helping the low-income members of our society. As TLAW president, I am privileged to serve on the Tennessee Judicial Conference Executive Committee. In October, I attended their fall meeting at Pickwick Landing State Park. In November, I attended the Diversity Summit II at the Tennessee Bar Association office, which was co-sponsored by TLAW. All of these activities, while very different, served to remind me of the great profession and legal community to which we belong and how much we have for which to be thankful.

As 2006 rapidly draws to a close, I hope we will all find time to do whatever is most meaningful to us in this season of holidays and celebrations. Happy Holidays!