

Laurie Christensen: AWA's New President

By Linda Seeley

Laurie L. Christensen is one of those. You know, the kind of person who buys cute little sweaters and things...for her dogs and cats! Laurie is a self described 'pet parent' to Buck, Sam, Cleo, Olivia, Scarlett and Otis all of whom she obviously adores. Laurie is also a scuba diver, master gardener and a native of Hawaii not to mention her skills as a seamstress, crafter and attorney. I asked her one day during a phone conversation to tell me a little about what drives her.

Laurie: My parents are both retired and active volunteers with their church. They both bowl and do crafts plus they garden as well so I have some big footprints to follow. My dad and my husband, Eric, are both veterans as is my mother in law and I am so proud of their service to our country. My family has a tradition of volunteerism and I want to keep that up.

LCWS: Tell us about why you decided to go to law school.

Laurie: I graduated from the University of Hawaii with a Bachelor of Arts in communication and worked at the college radio station as a 'radio personality'. I had a lot of fun with that. For a while I worked as a paralegal and decided that I should try my hand at law school. When I was attending the University of Memphis School of Law, I was very fortunate to work for Judge Kay Robilio as a law clerk and loved working with, and for her. I am now a staff attorney with the Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation.

LCWS: What are your plans for the AWA this year?

Laurie: There are so many things I want to do. I want to grow our membership and invite in women who don't normally participate. I want to increase our public service programs for the benefit of the citizens, keep our mentoring program strong and our mentors and mentees interested and active and to conduct more CLE programs focusing on women's issues.

The Board has had lengthy discussions about some of the weightier topics like issues and attitudes facing female attorneys not to mention the disparate treatment in the courtroom and workplace we face. I also want to encourage other female lawyers and law students. I think it is so important to remember where we came from so that those behind us can benefit from our journey.

Sounds like a tall order for the AWA, but with Laurie's energy and drive, it is sure to be a successful year for all the attorneys in Memphis.