

President's Column  
July 2006

I am honored to have been elected to serve as President of TLAW for the coming year. I hope I am up to this wonderful challenge and know I will need lots of help from TLAW members and other friends to accomplish all the things TLAW does every year.

Linda Seely's outstanding leadership will be a hard act to follow. My congratulations and thanks go to Linda for the successful completion of her term as President. Thank you Linda, for all you did for TLAW! Linda is amazing and a gift to the entire legal community, not just TLAW. Her commitment to providing access to the justice system for all, especially those who do not have the ability to hire the lawyer of their choice, is inspiring. Linda is a good friend, and I know I will rely on her for advice often in the coming year.

I am excited about serving as President of TLAW. I am very interested in feedback from you, the membership, in regard to what you would like to see TLAW do in the coming year. It is important to me for the membership to offer input, so please let me know your thoughts as the TLAW board undertakes to plan for the coming year.

I have selected three agenda items that I want to see TLAW focus on this year. First, TLAW will continue to work within the purposes for which it was established. One of those purposes was "to maximize and to increase the political strength of women lawyers, and in particular to use said strength to increase the number of women serving on the bench." While the number of women on the bench has grown since TLAW's founding in 1988, this will continue to be a major focus of TLAW. Second, TLAW needs to increase its membership numbers in order to be a more effective, powerful statewide bar organization. We will be focusing efforts on attracting new members and bringing back those who have allowed their memberships to lapse. Finally, our profession is hampered by high rates of burn-out, depression, stress and substance abuse. In the past couple of years, there have been many lawyer suicides. I want to see TLAW work with other bar groups in an effort to find solutions to these tragic problems and to help improve the quality of life for lawyers. Please let me hear from you about these and any other issues you feel TLAW should address.

It seems that the older I get, the more quickly time passes. All too soon, it will be

June 2007, my term as president will be coming to an end, and TLAW will be having its annual meeting. The 2006 annual meeting in Memphis was very well attended with over thirty members attending, including two Tennessee Supreme Court justices! Since our next annual meeting will be in more centrally located Nashville, I want to have at least one hundred TLAW members in attendance. This goes along with other TLAW purposes including “to provide and promote opportunities for mutual support and fellowship” and “to provide a source for continuing legal education.” We will have fun, we will socialize and network, and we will have an opportunity to obtain CLE credits. So mark your calendars now for June 14 and 15, 2007!

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