

TLAW Members Inducted Into Tennessee Bar Foundation

The annual Tennessee Bar Foundation (TBF) Fellows' black tie dinner and dance was held on January 12, 2007, in Nashville. The Tennessee Bar Foundation was founded in 1982. It serves three purposes: to honor attorneys who have distinguished themselves in the profession by electing them to membership as "Fellows," to use the contributions of these Fellows to support law-related public interest projects, and to administer the IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts) program. The TBF provides grants to improve the administration of justice and to provide legal aid. Some projects funded in 2007 will address children's issues such as CASA organizations, Exchange Clubs, and family shelters. Other projects funded will fight domestic violence and provide rehabilitation services. The biggest recipients of IOLTA funds will be the various legal services/legal aid organizations across the state.

As of January 2007, there are 640 Fellows selected from the more than 17,000 licensed Tennessee attorneys. New Fellows are invited to join each fall, based upon the suggestion of a peer, the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, and the approval of the Board of Trustees. Each Fellow undertakes a \$1,500.00 commitment to the Foundation upon election.

Several TLAW members are active in the TBF. Donna L. Pierce serves on the Board of Trustees. Susan Emery McGannon is on the Nominating Committee for Fellows. Anne S. Arney is on the IOLTA Grant Review Committee. The TBF's Executive Director is TLAW member Barri Bernstein.



Several TLAW members were inducted into the Fellows this year: Suzanne G. Keith, Linda W. Knight, N. Sue Van Sant Palmer, Margaret Jane Powers, Linda Warren Seeley, and Barbara Zoccola.

Pictured are some of the TLAW members who attended the Tennessee Bar Foundation Dinner on Friday evening, Jan. 12, at the Vanderbilt Marriott Hotel. From left to right, these are:

Jackie Dixon, President - Hollins, Wagster, Yarbrough, Weatherly & Raybin, P.C., Nashville
Linda Knight, Treasurer/Past President - Gullett, Sanford, Robinson & Martin, PLLC, Nashville
Linda Warren Seely, Past President - Memphis Area Legal Services, Memphis
Julie Jones - Bass, Berry & Sims, PLC, Nashville
Sue Palmer, Past President - Stites & Harbison, PLLC, Nashville
Anne Arney - Trauger & Tuke, Nashville
Jane Powers, Past President - The Powers Law Firm, Crossville
Judge Sharon Lee, Director at Large - Tennessee Court of Appeals, Knoxville
Jimmie Lynn Ramsaur - U. S. Attorney's Office, Nashville
Marcy Eason, Past President and President-Elect, Tennessee Bar Association - Miller & Martin
PLLC, Chattanooga

Other TLAW members attending the Dinner included Susan Emery McGannon, Past President - City Attorney, Murfreesboro; Marcia McMurray, President-Elect – Cleveland; Marietta Shipley, Past President - The Mediation Group of Tennessee, LLC, Nashville; Justice Connie Clark, Tennessee Supreme Court (Nashville); Claudia Halton, Shelby County Juvenile Court Referee (Memphis); and, Barbara Holmes of Harwell, Howard, Hyne, Gabbert & Manner (Nashville).

It was a beautifully attired and jovial group of established and well respected female attorneys and TLAW members who posed for the picture included with this article. As the picture was snapped, one TLAW member commented, and the rest of us agreed, that having so many women involved in the Bar Foundation was a sign that women attorneys are doing well enough financially to be able to pay the contribution required to become a member of the TBF! It was a festive evening enjoyed by all those who attended. If you are interested in becoming a member of the TBF, let one of your fellow TLAW members who are also members of the TBF know of your interest. That “old girl” network will do what it can to get you nominated!