

It is the mission of GAWL “To enhance the welfare and development of women lawyers and to support their interests.”

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**IT’S ABOUT LEADERSHIP**

**Finding Your Seat at the Table**

Leadership comes in many different packages. For lawyers, the most obvious types that spring to mind are the bar presidents, the law firm managing partners, the heads of public agencies, the judges, or the general counsels of the legal world.

These are examples of formal leadership in which the individual has been chosen, appointed,

elected or to lead with a formal title. Their audience is broad and their ideas are large. They are a force for change. They have a voice and they use it to influence their environments. They have a seat firmly planted at the table, wherever that table may be.

So what is their secret? How do leaders get their start? How do they find their seat at the table? By first seeking it out informally, at a smaller table. Every one of you has the potential to be a leader whether it is as chair of a firm committee, a non-profit com-

mittee, or as a member of a GAWL committee. Leadership boils down to passion: realizing what you are passionate about and allowing that passion to bring out the leader within you. It means finding your voice and using it.

Often, as lawyers, we are called upon to lead in many ways without even realizing it. We lead our clients down the right path

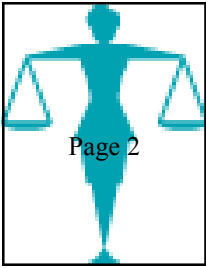
towards a solution. We argue in favor of one side of an issue or another. Some of us speak at CLE’s on topics relevant to our practices.

Others author articles or papers. We agree to mentor a younger lawyer. We volunteer our professional expertise in pro bono matters. The traits and skills we lawyers possess are those of a leader, including vision, enthusiasm, energy, humility, integrity, negotiation, facilitation, listening, and persuasion. You already have the ability to lead. You just need to find the opportunity.

So how do you get started? By



*“Leadership boils down to passion”*



# Op-Ed GAWL's Role in Leadership

“Without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women’s perspective at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved.”

That’s from the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of

the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. (par.182) A strategic objective adopted in Beijing was to “take measures to ensure women’s equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making,” not only in governments but also in such collectives as professional organizations. (par. 190, 194).

This and other national and international instruments inspire us to look at the representation of women in our governing professional body, the State Bar of Georgia. I checked with the State Bar and this is what I found:

The only woman to serve as President of the State Bar *thus far* is Linda Klein, a decade ago in 1998. Over the past ten years, only seven women have served on the 14-member Executive Committee. Of the 147

posts on the Board of Governors (not counting staff members and the Attorney General), 34 posts have been occupied by women for various lengths

of time over the past ten years. Of total Bar membership, the percentage of females has gone from 5.44% in 1970, when there were only 278, to 34.83% in 2008, that is, 14,101. Eight women, including current President Elena Kaplan, have served as President of the Younger Lawyers Division, counting from 1982-83.

Do the math. It is obvious that a greater representation of women in the leadership of the profession’s prime organization is urgently needed so as to reflect the true composition of the Bar of this State. The members of the Bar as well as the Bar as a whole and as an institution will benefit by bringing a greater number of women’s voices and talents, concerns and perspectives, experience and vision, energy and ideas, into the governance and wide-ranging activities of the Bar and into its influence in our Georgia society.

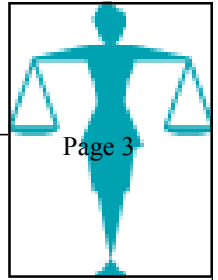
*“Do the math.”*

Life in the Law Series: Rainmaking is underway!

Don’t miss out!

Visit [gawl.org](http://gawl.org) regularly.

Forward this newsletter or an e-blast to friends!



GAWL is uniquely poised to make this happen. As Lee Wallace announced at the Annual Dinner on May 8, there are for the first time in history over one *thousand* GAWL members! Over 300 attended that dinner, including some from among the five chapters around the state. A stellar group has completed the first Leadership Academy. The resources of women for State Bar leadership are abundantly evident. The openings are presented at least annually at election time, not to mention committee and section membership, Young Lawyers Division, and Delegate positions to the American Bar Association.

GAWL has an opportunity and a challenge. Given the richness of its undisputedly qualified statewide membership, the opportunity to participate in the leadership levels of the State Bar is ripe. The challenge is to formulate a strategy for action which will yield the election of women to positions of leadership. GAWL's own Board can appoint a think-tank to develop the ways and means necessary to achieve the objective of election of qualified women to the Board of Governors and Officer positions. The think-tank can assess what has worked in the culture of the Bar, what action can be taken to enhance the electability of women candidates, what issues are of importance to Bar members for candidates to address in campaigning.

Twice, GAWL has sponsored "Georgia Women on the Run" conferences to educate members on running for public office. Shayna Steinfeld and Nancy Whaley organized these powerful and practical sessions. The proposed think-tank can draw lessons from them for application to the State Bar venue. Shayna is celebrated today by all of us as the new President of the Atlanta Bar Association, having been installed on May 20. This can happen in the State Bar, too, if GAWL makes leadership positions in the State Bar a goal.

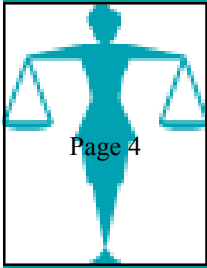
***"Without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved."***

**Rising 3L and GAWL member seeks experience in small to medium sized law firm in the Family Law arena, paid or unpaid. Obviously, motivated and networking early. She's right for you.**

**Contact Jennifer Keaton, 404-582-8467, for her contact information.**

**Five Simply Ways to Get Involved with GAWL**

- 1. Attend or Host an NNB.**
- 2. Join a Committee**
- 3. Write an Article for the Newsletter**
- 4. Volunteer to Chair a sub-committee**
- 5. Check out [www.gawl.org](http://www.gawl.org)**



## It's About Leadership Continued from Page 1

becoming active in GAWL. When we think of bar involvement, we tend to groan a little on the inside, thinking of all those billable hours that will be wasted. However, being an active member is an opportunity to cut your leadership teeth. It is an opportunity to not only find your voice, but to use it at a table that wants to hear your voice. The audience may be limited but the potential to be a force for change is endless.

GAWL is the training ground for women lawyers to become leaders through Board positions, five Chapters, the Foundation, committees, the Judicial Applicant Review Committee, Neighborhood Networking Breakfasts, and the Leadership Academy, just to name a few. This year, GAWL has new plans to train even more members to be the leaders of tomorrow. We will conduct another Leadership Academy, expand our NNBs, hold a mid-year membership meeting with CLEs and networking, and celebrate GAWL's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Each and every one of these events offers leadership possibilities for you.

If we want to change the current leadership and see women lawyers at all levels, it is up to us to become those leaders, to find the table, sit down and use our voice. And it starts with something as simple as joining a GAWL committee, expressing your opinion at a meeting, planning an event, or carrying out an idea. It ends with being a force for change.

There is an opportunity in GAWL waiting for you. How will you become a force for change? Where will you use your voice? Where will you find your seat at the table? What kind of leader will you be?

*Christian Torgrimson is the current GAWL President and a partner with Pursley Lowery Meeks LLP, practicing in eminent domain and real estate related litigation. She can be contacted at 404-880-7180.*

## GAWL's 2008 Board Retreat

Over Sunday and Monday, June 8 and 9, the newly installed Board members of GAWL descended upon Callaway Gardens for a retreat to establish its goals for the year. Past President of GAWL, Rebecca Godbey, facilitated the retreat where over 25 women committed to complete a Strategic Plan put into place six years ago. The 2009-10 GAWL year will implement a new five-year strategic plan.

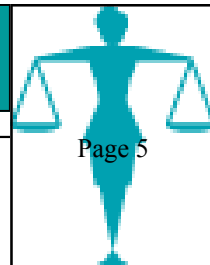
GAWL President, Christian Torgrimson, explained to the Board that this year, GAWL's 80th, will have the theme of "Leadership and Celebration." In support of this theme, the Board committed to add two major events to GAWL's current signature events (the Annual Dinner and Symposium). These two events will be a

Mid-Year meeting and a GAWL Ball. The Vice President and Chair of Special Events will focus on creating new leadership positions, though sub-committees, to accomplish these projects.

Other major initiatives include the exploration of a public relations campaign, establishing a history of GAWL exhibit, and increased outreach to attorneys outside Metro-Atlanta. The action items from the Retreat are being compiled by Board members in anticipation of their July 10th Board Meeting. The annual plan will be uploaded to the [www.gawl.org](http://www.gawl.org) website.

GAWL members are encouraged to contact the Board throughout the year. Contact information for all Board members is listed on the website.

## GAWL Supreme Court Trip: Inductees List



On May 27, 2008, GAWL and members of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association met in Washington, D.C. for the honor of induction into the United States Supreme Court bar. Georgia Supreme Court Chief Leah Sears presented the Georgia attorneys to the full panel of the Supreme Court. These attorneys included:

<b>Hon. Pamela Boles</b>	<b>Colleen Golden</b>	<b>Andrea McGee</b>
<b>Kimberly Childs</b>	<b>Holly Hempel</b>	<b>Melinda Moseley</b>
<b>Amy Lynn Daldry</b>	<b>Jennifer Hightower</b>	<b>Catherine Salinas</b>
<b>James Dalton II</b>	<b>Michelle Kancer</b>	<b>Gwendolyn Fortson Waring</b>
<b>Linda Dunlavy</b>	<b>Megan Kelly</b>	<b>Megan Watkins</b>
<b>Stephen Fusco</b>	<b>Cheryl Legare</b>	<b>Michelle West-Osundu</b>
<b>Lois Gerstenberger</b>	<b>Allison McCarthy</b>	<b>Heather Wright</b>

## Life in the Law Series: The Art of Rainmaking

It's that time of year again!

Join us for GAWL's summer **Life in the Law Series: The Art of Rainmaking**. Remaining Sessions include:

***Breakfast on June 18:***

**Make the Time to Make the Rain** presented by Julie Flemming-Brown

***Lunch on June 25:***

**Brag: It's Not a Dirty Word** presented by Debbie Stone

***Breakfast on July 9:***

**Bulls-Eye Networking:**

**A Diagram of How to Go from Meeting People to Developing Referral Resources and Advocates** presented by Wendy Kinney

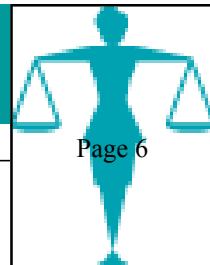
***Lunch on July 16:***

**Wining and Dining Clients and Potential Clients:**

**Business Dinner Etiquette** presented by Lynn Marshall

Each of the five sessions will be held at Maggiano's in Buckhead. Register online at [www.gawl.org](http://www.gawl.org) or at the door; public interest/judiciary rates apply.

## Upcoming Events



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### June 18th

**Life in the Law Series: Make the Time to Make the Rain.**  
7:30 a.m. at Maggiano's Buckhead

### June 19th and 20th

**Decatur Neighborhood Networking Breakfast. 7:30 a.m. at Sweet Melissa's on the Square. RSVP to Jessica Harper.**

### June 19th

**Cobb Galleria/Vinings Neighborhood Networking Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at J. Christopher's (1675 Cumberland Parkway). RSVP to Kim Childs.**

### June 25th

**Join the Communications Committee or Intown NNB for Breakfast. Join the Life in the Law series or the Working Moms Affinity group for lunch. Check the online calendar for details.**

### June 26th and June 27th

**Volunteer with the GAWL Foundation on the annual Girl Scout Project.**

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