

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

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An Opportunity to Re-Connect and Re-Charge

By Christian F. Torggrimson

Everyone remembers the feeling of anticipation. Lying awake at night, unable to sleep because you are overwhelmed with excited expectations: time with family, abundant food, special friends, and shiny presents, all sprinkled liberally with the special glow of the holiday season. Perhaps the child in you was hoping and waiting to hear the footsteps of those eight reindeer on the rooftop.



Christian Torggrimson is the 2008-09 President of GAWL

What happened to all of us? These days, if we are lying awake in bed unable to sleep around the holidays, it is much more likely to be because of the brief that's due the day after Thanksgiving, the December jury trial, or the ever-present need to accommodate children's performances and visits from far-flung relatives with end-of-year busi-

ness responsibilities.

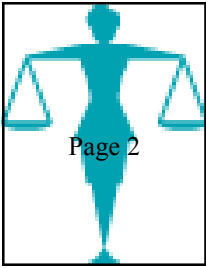
If, like me, you find the holidays come more quickly and prove more

hectic with each year that passes, I invite you to make a resolution this year to use the holiday season to re-connect and re-charge, professionally and personally.

Some suggestions:

Reach out. Make a point to call up past business associates and colleagues whom you have not seen in a while. Invite your former boss or paralegal out to lunch and re-

establish that connection. Holiday cards are great, but they do not sustain a relationship - use them as your vehicle to invite a face-to-face meeting with someone you want to know better, or someone with whom you have lost touch. Make good use of the business cards you collected this year at a networking event by inviting the person to meet for



GAWL Leadership Academy: Class II

GAWL's
Next Monthly
Meeting is
December
2nd at the
home of
Judge Wendy
Shoob.

Visit
gawl.org
regularly.

Forward this
newsletter or
an e-blast to a
friend!

The Selections Committee received applications from outstanding candidates across the state of Georgia. It was difficult to limit the class to 16. We thank everyone who applied and give a special thanks to GAWL members who encouraged people to apply. We appreciate you spreading the word about the Leadership Academy's unique leadership training program.

The Class of 2009 comes from Atlanta, Savannah, Macon and Fayetteville. Their varied practices include bankruptcy, corporate, criminal, employment, entertainment, family, insurance, intellectual property, litigation, real estate and small business. They are solo practitioners, work in corporations, for the government and in large and small firms. Congratulations to each of these

members of The Class Of 2009.

Academy Sessions will occur the full weekend of February 19-20, and Saturday March 27th and

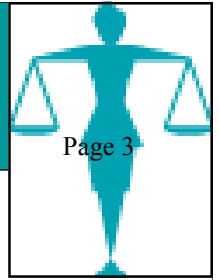
April 24th. Interestingly, this Class will have some interesting sessions, including a segment by an improve group!

GAWL is pleased to sponsor this Academy and to provide financial support to eligible members. Generally, applicants to the Academy must have been in practice for at least five years and be in good standing with the Bar. Be on the lookout for

these new Academy Members!

Please contact Kimberly Childs (770-319-9100) and Dottie Pritchard (404-688-5821) for more information.

- Leadership Academy
Class of 2009:
- Precious Anderson
 - Eleanor Attwood
 - Veronica Brinson
 - Kristin Brooks
 - Veronica Cope
 - Alyson Harter
 - Cassandra Kirk
 - Rhonda Kreuziger
 - Cindy Manning
 - Andraya Mimms
 - Wendy Owens
 - Elena Parent
 - Kathleen Simcoe
 - Julie Wade
 - Mialeeka Williams
 - Jennifer Wolak



If you attended GAWL's 80th Anniversary Dinner, you had the opportunity to view a video regarding GAWL's interesting history. The video included clips of interviews with women representing various generations of professional women in Law. One such interview was with Shayna Steinfeld, a past president of GAWL. Shayna remarked of her presidency that her Board made the difficult decision not to endorse either side of the pro-life/pro-choice issue, in part, because it was so divisive. With the benefit of hindsight, this was a decision that was made in the best interest of the organization. By today's lens, the connection between the pro-life position of GAWL and the promotion of the interests of Women Lawyers, not simply women, appears fairly attenuated. But it was a big deal at the time.

At the anniversary dinner, you also would have heard GAWL's Vice President of Special Events give her personal endorsement of Sara Doyle for the Georgia Court of Appeals. This ringing testimony was followed by Ms. Doyle standing and encouraging everyone to take ten friends with them to the polls on December 2nd, the date of the run off election. After this exchange, the Vice President offered the floor to any other candidates. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Giving personal endorsements of a female attorney does not seem to be a big deal. It certainly does not have the same risk of divisiveness that the abortion issue had some years back. However, to anyone in the room who supported an opponent, it probably struck a unpleasant chord, and it certainly took advantage of a captive audience. After such a lovely evening of celebration, the dinner ended abruptly with a political advertisement. It was an unfortunate punctuation mark to the night that had little to do with GAWL, and everything to do with a single election.

GAWL is moving in a political direction. However, it will take strong leadership to ensure that how GAWL chooses to become political is executed with strategic deliberation and wisdom. Specifically, GAWL should challenge each call to action — be it to take a position or endorse a candidate — by first answering a few questions before running headlong into politics. Specifically, the questions should include:

- 1. Does the issue/race affect the interests of all Women Lawyers or does it affect a few women or women lawyers?**
- 2. Can GAWL make a significant difference in the issue/race?**
- 3. Does the action serve the best interests of GAWL as an organization?**

Had we asked ourselves these questions before involving GAWL in the abortion debates, we may have skipped a harsh lesson. How wonderful that individuals believe that GAWL can make a difference in these issues and races! Nonetheless, pride can be a dangerous thing.

* * *

Op-Ed pieces are submitted to the GAWL Newsletter through the op-ed editor. These editorials are intended to address important and/or controversial issues in the field. Members are encouraged to respond to Op-Ed pieces through the Newsletter Editor. Additionally, unsolicited op-ed submissions and related Letters to the Editor are welcomed. Generally, opinion pieces are published anonymously.



Reconnect and Recharge

Con't from Page One

Volunteer with a local charity. Purchasing a gift for an underprivileged child or donating to food drives is something everyone can do and no one has ever regretted. Joining with friends or family to serve up dinner in a shelter (or to host a taco bar, as the GAWL Board did in October at Nicholas House) adds a fun, social element to your good deed. The Atlanta Food Bank is particularly strapped for food donations this holiday season. Organizing a fundraising drive gives you a chance to network with other civic-minded individuals while serving the community. The GAWL Foundation has numerous opportunities for GAWL members to give back, including the Adopt-A-Family program through Atlanta Legal Aid Society that helps families give their children much needed clothing and even a gift or two on Christmas morning and other holidays.

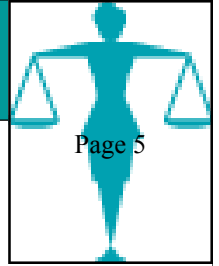
Reflect. The holidays can be an excellent time to re-assess your career, your marketing plan or your business development goals. Are you on the right path to achieve your career goal? Or do you need to set a goal? As you work through that mountain of business cards to compile your holiday greetings list, ask yourself what worked and what did not. How many of your marketing efforts came to fruition in 2008? What is your plan for improving those efforts in 2009? Was there a particular issue or point of law that you explored which could give rise to a bar journal article or a speaking opportunity?

Resolve. Make the decision that you will take time for yourself, your family and your friends not just at the holidays, but throughout 2009. We lawyers are fairly bad and disconnecting from the office and fully engaging elsewhere. For those of us in families where both parents work, all too often vacation planning is delayed until the last minute, when it becomes least convenient (and most expensive) to travel. Regardless of your marital or family status, many of us will forego the vacation altogether, or take a long weekend instead, and find ourselves at the end of the year with a bounty of billable hours, but not one picture having a blast on the beach. Not one picture of you smiling and enjoying time with your spouse or partner, friends, kids, parents, or even pets. Start looking now for spring break vacations - commit yourself early and you are more likely to follow through and take an actual vacation.

Take time for you. Whether you decide to join a dance class, make a spa appointment, schedule a visit with a personal trainer, or just start exercising on a daily basis, the most precious investment you can make is taking the time to take care of yourself. A smart woman recently said that when you leave this earth, no one will talk about how great your billables were. Show respect for yourself, your family, and friends by scheduling that check-up AND that massage. If you find yourself marveling at how quickly the holidays have once again rolled around, use that as a reminder to make the most of the time you have, and to take joy in that time.

Give thanks. Most importantly, remember to give thanks for what you have, for what you receive from others and for what you are able to give. Women lawyers are privileged to have the intellect and the opportunity to thrive and succeed. But we can't and shouldn't do it all alone. Thank the parents, the sister or brother, and the friends in your life who have been there for you. Thank your clients for the business they entrust to you and the mentors who support you.

GAWL MEMBERS ON THE RUN



One of GAWL's objectives this year is to change the face of leadership by influencing the election or appointment of GAWL members into leadership positions. By supporting members who seek out these positions, we can influence this process and ensure that more women become leaders on the bench and in the State Bar. The first step is to disseminate information about GAWL members who are running for elected offices.

Be sure to vote in the December 2nd run-off election and remind friends, neighbors, clients, co-workers, and perfect strangers to go to the polls that Tuesday!

Judge Navanethem Pillay of South Africa Appointed to the United Nations as High Commissioner for Human

Several years ago, we were thrilled to feature Judge Navanethem Pillay of South Africa as the key note speaker at GAWL's Annual Dinner.



Navanethem Pillay

At the time, Judge Pillay was serving on the International Criminal Court in the Hague. The Court was the first permanent court established to address human rights violations, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, including for example the genocide in Darfur.

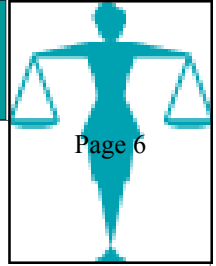
Judge Pillay proudly served on the Court until September 1st of this year when she began a term with the United Nations as High Commissioner for Human Rights! She was appointed by the Secretary-General and confirmed by the General Assembly of the United Nations and is now the world's leading human rights official.

Judge Pillay's appointment is especially noteworthy because this year we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the most significant human rights document. A copy of recently was put into permanent orbit by the spaceship "Endeavor" on its trip to the Space Station, giving the Declaration a symbolic place above all people on this planet.

Judge Pillay will be at the Carter Center in Atlanta for a Conference on Human Rights in December. For more information, go to the High Commissioners' website, www.ohchr.org. Congratulations to Judge Pillay!

Contributed by Judge Dorothy Beasley. Judge Beasley is a former President of GAWL and leader in the profession. She also has chaired the Georgia Law-Related Education Consortium and the Steering Committee for the Court Futures Projects, and has traveled to Albania for the ABA's Central and East European Law Initiative. In between such ventures, Judge Beasley also finds time to attend GAWL events, such as the 80th Anniversary Dinner.

GAWL Developments



Are you Hiring? Looking for a special situation?

Beginning in January 2009, GAWL will be adding a feature to its website:

A Job Bank!

If you have a legal position opening and would like to post the vacancy on the GAWL website, please email Heather Wright the following information:

1. A start and end date for the posting (both are required).
2. The Position Title (required) and any descriptive information about the information that you would like included.
3. How to apply for the position and contact information (at least an email address or phone number is required).

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