

FAWL CHRONICLES

NAWL-FAWL CONNECTION CONTINUES AT MIDYEAR MEETING



by
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On January 21, 2005, FAWL held a joint meeting with its “mother” association, the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL). This meeting renewed FAWL’s decades-long association with NAWL.

“What is NAWL?” you may ask. NAWL was founded in 1899, when eighteen women lawyers gathered in New York City to form “The Women Lawyers’ Club.” It is a voluntary legal professional organization devoted to the interests of women lawyers and it was established long before most local and

national bar associations admitted women. The club steadily grew and by 1923 its nationwide membership was reflected in its new name, the National Association of Women Lawyers. Over the years, NAWL has served as an educational forum and an active voice for the concerns of women in the legal profession and women worldwide.

Although small in number and geographically diverse, women lawyers were connected with their “Sisters in the Law” by the *Women Lawyers Journal*, first published in 1911, which included articles during the early decades on such recurring topics as the legal status of women, laws of marriage and divorce, property rights of married women, and proposed legislation affecting women.

NAWL was also active on the legislative front. It actively supported women’s suffrage and fought to obtain the right for women to serve on juries. NAWL sought to end child labor and to

enact a minimum wage. Legislative issues pertaining to working women were of special relevance to NAWL members, and they opposed “protective” laws that limited women’s working hours and effectively barred entire industries to women workers. In 1935, NAWL was the first national organization to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment. NAWL’s steadfast commitment over several decades ultimately saw success with the passage of the Equal Pay Bill and Uniform [“No Fault”] Divorce Bill.

Today, NAWL continues to advance the interests of women in and under the law and works towards the social, political, and professional empowerment of women. Its members strive to end discrimination and violence against women and to prevent the erosion of hard-fought gains made by women. To learn more about NAWL’s rich history and activities over the past 100+ years, browse its website at <http://www.abanet.org/nawl/home.html>.

As for FAWL’s connection to NAWL, that dates back to Florida’s first woman lawyer, **Louise Rebecca Pinnell** (admitted 1898), who represented Florida’s women lawyers when she served as state vice president of NAWL during 1938-39.

Many of FAWL’s founding members and early presidents were also active in NAWL. For instance, FAWL’s first president, **Anna Brenner Meyers** (1951-52), served as Treasurer of NAWL in 1945, and it was her experience with NAWL that gave rise to the birth of FAWL in 1951. **Emma Roelsing**, who was also active in founding FAWL, was an early member of NAWL, having served as state delegate from Florida in 1939-42 and as southeastern regional director for several terms. FAWL’s third president, **Esther A. Poppell** (1953-54), was serving as Florida’s representative in NAWL’s Council of Delegates in 1951 when she helped to found FAWL. Past President **Rebecca Bowles Marks Hawkins** (1954-55) became active in NAWL’s Council of Delegates during the mid-1950s and went on to become NAWL President in 1960-61. Past President **Mattie Belle**

Our Gratitude to Members of the FAWL/NAWL CLE Faculty



Speakers, Moderators and Panelists from the joint CLE, “Taking Charge of Your Career: Best Practices for Women Lawyers,” cosponsored with the National Association of Women Lawyers in cooperation with the Association for American Corporate Counsel, South Florida Chapter. Photo on the left (L-R): Hilarie Bass, Jennifer Coberly, Program Chair June McKinney Bartelle, Judge Patricia Seitz, Professor Mary Coombs and NAWL President Stephanie Scharf. Photo on the right (L-R): Eileen Kett, Marcy Kammerman, June McKinney Bartelle, Dorian Denburg, Stephanie Scharf, Arlene Finkelstein and Marianne Hurd Nation. Not pictured are Judge Gill Freeman, Kathy Maus, Angela Haney Orkin, Edith Osman, Kelly Overstreet Johnson, Evett L. Simmons and NAWL Program Chair Lorraine K. Koc.

Davis (1957-58) enjoyed a long association with NAWL, first serving as an assembly delegate in 1954-55, later becoming NAWL President in 1965-66, and then continuing her service as NAWL's delegate to the ABA House of Delegates for eight years between 1967 and 1981.

FAWL's association with NAWL has continued throughout its 50+ year history and most, if not all, of FAWL's presidents have served in some capacity on the NAWL board, frequently as Florida's delegate. Two additional FAWL members have led NAWL: Past President **Adele T. Weaver** (1967-68) served as NAWL President in 1970-71 and, more recently, FAWL member **Gail Sasnett-Stauffer** (Clara Gehan/Gainesville Chapter) was NAWL President in 2000-01. NAWL's highest honor, the Arabella Babb Mansfield Award, was first bestowed in 1997 on a FAWL member: **Martha W. Barnett** (Tallahassee Chapter).

FAWL and NAWL also have a long history of holding joint meetings. **Emma Roesing** co-chaired the NAWL annual meeting held in Miami in 1959. She also co-chaired NAWL's annual meeting in Miami Beach in August 1965, when FAWL sponsored a boat ride for all attendees and many FAWL members participated in the business and social meetings. The NAWL annual dinner featured **Lorna Lockwood**, Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, who spoke on "An Independent Judiciary," and Judge Davis was installed as NAWL President during that dinner. In 1982, NAWL, FAWL, and FAWL's Miami-Dade County Chapter sponsored a seminar on "Networking." In May 1989, the Southeast

Regional Conference of NAWL was held in St. Petersburg Beach, and FAWL, along with the Pinellas and Hillsborough County Chapters, co-sponsored the conference, which had a theme of "Women, Children and the Law." NAWL President **Jeanne Schubert Barnum** installed the 1991-92 FAWL Board of Directors, when the baton was passed from **Ava Doppelt** to **Leslie Reicin Stein** and FAWL celebrated its 40th anniversary with a delicious birthday cake. Most recently, in February 1995, FAWL partnered with NAWL and the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations in hosting the Third Annual Conference on Women and the Law during the ABA's midyear meeting in Miami. The program opened with "Women in Power," which addressed how to increase the number of women elected and appointed to offices at all levels, and included segments on children as the silent victims of domestic violence and rainmaking.

The program held in January, "Taking Charge of Your Career: Best Practices for Women Lawyers," continued the tradition of the joint FAWL and NAWL meetings and furthered the two associations' shared goals of advancing the interests of women in the law and professional empowerment of women. The Association of Corporate Counsel, South Florida Chapter, joined FAWL and NAWL to present this program, which was the third in a nationwide series of continuing education programs. President-elect **June McKinney Bartelle** organized an excellent program joining FAWL President **Deborah Magid**, NAWL President **Stephanie Scharf**, and ACC/South Florida Chapter

President **Arlene Finklestein** with an outstanding lineup of panelists drawn from a variety of professional backgrounds who provided tips for career success, including south Florida lawyers **Jennifer Coberly**, **Hilarie Bass**, **Dorian S. Denberg**, **Marianne Hurd Nation**, **Eileen Kett**, **Arlene Finkelstein**, and **Evet Simmonds**; University of Miami School of Law Professor **Mary I. Combs**; U.S. District Court Judge **Patricia Seitz**; 11th Circuit Court Judge **Gill S. Freeman**; and Tallahassee attorneys **Angela H. Orkin**, **Kathy J. Maus**, and **Kelly Overstreet Johnson**, who is Florida Bar President. Following the CLE, everyone adjoined to FAWL's midyear luncheon, which allowed FAWL, NAWL and ACC/South Florida Chapter members to network, socialize, and exchange ideas about the latest trends in gender bias, as presented by **Holly English**, nationally known author of *Gender on Trial: Sexual Stereotypes and Work/Life Balance in the Legal Workplace*. If you missed this great event, make a note to remind yourself to attend the next FAWL and NAWL joint meeting. It's bound to be a meeting that will empower you!

NAWL's Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago on August 5, 2005, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association and in cooperation with the National Association of Women Judges and other national and regional women's bar associations. **Dinita James** serves as FAWL's liaison to NAWL.

Celebrating with a Champagne Luncheon



Holly English, nationally known author of the book, "Gender on Trial: Sexual Stereotypes and Work/Life Balance in the Legal Workplace," was the keynote luncheon speaker.



(L-R): Angela Haney Orkin, C. ShàRon James, Moderator Kathy Maus and Rachelle Munson at lunch.