



# 2004-2005 LEADERSHIP

## Meet the 2004-2005 FAWL Leadership

### President

**D**eborah Magid is immediate Past-President of Miami-Dade FAWL, having served almost two full terms. She received the Miami-Dade Chapter's President's Award for Outstanding Service in 2000-2001 and the Miami Law Women's 2003 "Women Who Make a Difference Award." As a senior attorney with Help Inc., she provides free legal services to indigents with HIV and AIDS. She is an Adjunct Instructor and Supervisor in the Legal Research and Writing Department at St. Thomas University Law School and manages her own law practice. She served as Vice-Chair of an Eleventh Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee and on The Florida Bar's Simplified Forms Committee. She is a member of The Florida Bar's Family Law Rules Committee and serves on the Board of the Miami-Dade PACE Center for Girls, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida Judicial Sensitivity Initiative Planning Committee and the Southern Regional Leadership Council of Lawyers for Children America. She has been a Guardian ad Litem, a project coordinator for Hands on Miami, a Children's Home Society volunteer and a member of the research committee for FAWL's First 150 Women Lawyers' Celebration. She has published articles in *The Family Law Commentator* and written chapters for "Florida Proceedings After Dissolution of Marriage," a publication of The Florida Bar. She earned her J.D. and B.A., both with honors, from the University of Miami.



### President-Elect

**J**une McKinney Bartelle was President of Tallahassee Women Lawyers for two terms. She is a Supreme Court Certified Mediator and is Martindale-Hubbell AV rated. In 2002, she won the Florida Association of Black Public Administrators Legal Community Service Award. A graduate of Leadership Tallahassee, she serves on The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism and the Mediation Qualifications Board. She is a Neighborhood Justice Center Founding Mediator, a former Leon County Human Services Grant Committee Chair, and in 1997, was recognized as an Outstanding Young Woman in America. She is an Assistant Attorney General in Tallahassee and provides General Counsel services to the Commission for Independent Education. She earned her J.D. at the University of Florida College of Law, where she was President of the Black Law Students Association and a Virgil Hawkins Scholar. She received her B.A. in Print Journalism from Howard University.



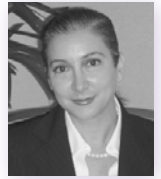
### Treasurer

**P**aola Parra, is immediate Past-President of JWLA in Jacksonville, where she has also served as Vice President of Membership and Events and President-Elect. She is an associate at Harris, Guidi, Rosner, Dunlap, Rudolph, Catlin & Bethea, PA. in Jacksonville.



### Treasurer-Elect

**A**my Furness is an AV rated attorney shareholder in the Miami office of Carlton Fields, where she practices complex civil litigation, including both commercial litigation and product liability. Her leadership experience includes prior service on The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors, as an Officer, Newsletter Editor, and former Member of the Board of Directors of the Miami-Dade Chapter of FAWL. She has also served as a Director for the Welfare to Work Partnership, a volunteer judge for Miami-Dade Teen Court, a pro bono faculty member of the Florida Paralegals' Seminar, a former Steering Committee Member for Vizcaya Museum, and research committee member for the First 150 Women Lawyers Celebration. She spoke at the National Summit for Women in Law on Attaining Goals for Women Attorneys, and has published Gender Equality in the Legal Profession for The Florida Bar Practicing with Professionalism Handbook. She received the Guardian Ad Litem Domestic Violence Pro Bono Award in 1998 and was recognized by President Bush for her contribution to Welfare-to-Work Project 2002. She earned her J.D. from Widener University School of Law, her B.S. from Drexel University.



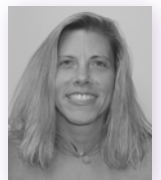
### Secretary

**V**ene Hamilton is serving her 2nd term as FAWL Secretary, having served previously as Journal Editor and President of the Broward County Chapter. She is also a former President of the T.J. Reddick Bar Association and is currently Chair of The Florida Bar's Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee. She has served on the Broward County Commission Committee on the Status of Women, as a Guardian Ad Litem for the 17th Judicial Circuit and is a member of the Broward County Bar Association. She has served as a mentor for Broward County School Board's Take Stock in Children, and a board member of Broward's Community College Foundation and Broward County's Fair Campaign Practices Committee. She earned her J.D. from the University of Florida College of Law, where she was Executive Research Editor of the International Law Journal. She received her M.S. and B.S. degrees in Health Care Management from Florida International University. She is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family and County Court Mediator, and a Florida Supreme Court Certified Arbitrator.



### Communications Editor

**S**usan Haag is Vice President of the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Assoc. coordinating the Mentor Project. She has been active in the Jacksonville Bar and AFTL (both as Young Lawyers Section, Board of Governors), ATLA, Jacksonville Trial Lawyers and the Chester Bedell Inn of Court. She is an honors graduate of Smith College



and earned her J.D. from UF College of Law. While at UF, she was President of the John Marshall Bar Association, Law College Council and a Vice President of the Law Association for Women. She also served as Editor on the Journal of Law & Public Policy, receiving the Huber Hurst Award. She was on the Trial Team. She is a nine-time Ironman Triathlete and Member of Team USA-Long Course.

### Membership

**Sherri Johnson** is a former President of the Sarasota Chapter of FAWL. She has also served as State FAWL's Judicial Selection Committee Chair, Awards Committee Chair, and Chapter Representative. She is a member of The Florida Bar Appellate Practice Section and serves on the Sarasota County Bar Association Board of Directors. She is also a member of the Judge John M. Scheb American Inn of Court. She earned her B.A. and J.D. with honors from the University of Florida, where she served as Research and Student Works Editor of the Journal of Law & Public Policy. She is an associate at Dent & Associates, P.A. of Sarasota, practicing in the areas of ad valorem taxation, appellate law, business law and real estate.



### Public Relations

**Wendy S. Loquasto** is a founding partner in Fox & Loquasto, P.A., a statewide appellate practice law firm, and she anchors its Tallahassee office. She is a former president of Tallahassee Women Lawyers (1996-97), and was the recipient of the 2004 Outstanding Past Voluntary Bar President Award presented by the Florida Council of Bar Association Presidents. She has been a longtime member of the FAWL Board, having served almost continuously since she was Secretary in 1995-96 as Membership and Website Committee Chairs, Chapter Representative, and more recently as Historian. Loquasto was instrumental in organizing the First 150 Women Lawyers Project for The Florida Bar and FAWL, and she compiled and edited *Celebrating Florida's First 150 Women Lawyers*, which was published in connection with that project. She also assisted FAWL Historian Judge Mattie Belle Davis in compiling and editing *A History of Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL) 1951-2002*, which was published in connection with FAWL's 50th anniversary celebration. She earned her J.D. from Stetson University College of Law, graduating magna cum laude in May 1988, and she received her B.A. in History and Political Science from the State University of New York (S.U.N.Y.) at Oswego.



### Immediate Past President Nominating Chair

**Dinita L. James** earned her undergraduate degree from the School of Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She worked for more than seven years as a reporter and editor for the *Greensboro News & Record* and the *Tampa Tribune* before entering law school and now advises clients on dealing with the media in high-profile cases. She returned to the University of North Carolina at Chapel



Hill for law school, graduating first in her law school class and earning a J.D. with the highest honor. She served as Executive Articles Editor for the *North Carolina Law Review* and was a member of the Order of the Coif. She has extensive experience litigating complex matters in state and federal court, including large employment discrimination class actions. She also has represented employers in defense of individual cases arising under anti-discrimination, whistleblower protection and anti-retaliation laws and in enforcement of non-competition and trade secret agreements. For three years she co-chaired the ABA Litigation Section's Committee on Class Actions and Derivative Suits, and now she co-chairs the Section's CLE Coordination and Evaluation Committee. She is President-Elect of the Ferguson-White American Inn of Court and serves as the FAWL liaison to the National Association of Women Lawyers.

### Amicus Chair

**Susan W. Fox** is a founding shareholder in Fox & Loquasto, P.A. and manages the firm's Tampa office. She is board-certified in appellate practice. Susan received her J.D. with honors in 1976, and B.A. with honors in 1972 from the University of Florida. She has a wealth of bar experience. She was President of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers in 1998-99, after having served in numerous other capacities on its Board. She is a past President of FAWL (2001-2002), and past Editor of the *FAWL Journal*. She is currently Vice Chair of the Appellate Practice Section of The Florida Bar and is a past Chair of The Florida Bar Appellate Court Rules Committee (1999-2000). She is an active member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and received its "Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award" in 1998. She received The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award in February 2000.



### Bylaws

**Mary K. Wimsett** is a Guardian ad Litem Program Attorney for the Eight Judicial Circuit. She also serves as Special Counsel to the State Office of the Guardian ad Litem Program. She graduated cum laude from Vanderbilt University with honors in English. She attended law school at the University of Florida where she was a Florida Bar Legal Services Fellow and UF Center for Governmental Responsibility Public Service Fellow. Upon graduating with honors in 1997 from law school, she moved to Tallahassee where she worked as an Assistant Public Defender for the Honorable Nancy Daniels. She handled felony, juvenile and misdemeanor caseloads for over two years. In the winter of 2000, she became a Guardian ad Litem Program Attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit where she handled dependency and family law cases. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Florida Bar Juvenile Rules Committee. She previously served as FAWL's Treasurer, Membership Chair and President-Elect of Tallahassee Women Lawyers. She and her husband Gary, an attorney for the University of Florida, live in Gainesville with their daughter Emma and are expecting their second daughter in December.



► LEADERSHIP, Continued on Page 10

### Gender Bias Co-Chairs

**E**na T. Diaz is an associate with the Miami office of Akerman Senterfitt where she practices primarily labor and employment law. She received her undergraduate degree from Duke University and J.D. from Southern Methodist University School of Law where she was the recipient of the Arthur I. and Jeannette M. Ginsburg Scholarship and on the Dean's List. She serves on the Miami-Dade County Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board, the Citizen's Board for the University of Miami and was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to the Florida Humanities Council. She is a member of the Dade County Bar Association, the Cuban American Bar Association and a graduate of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Leadership Miami Program.



**P**amela M. Gordon received her Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Florida State University and her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Miami School of Law. While in law school, she was awarded the Dan Bradley Scholarship and the James Weldon Johnson Fellowship. In addition, she participated in Spellman Inn of Court, was involved with Journal: *Yearbook of International Law* and Advanced Moot Court, and was a member of Miami Law Women and the University of Miami Recruitment Retention Committee. Her practice focuses on fraud and civil forfeiture litigation, as well as on marital and family law. She is currently the Vice President for the Caribbean Bar Association, Treasurer for the Miami-Dade County Chapter of FAWL and a member of the American Bar Association and the Broward County Bar Association. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Legal Aid of Broward and Collier County.



### Legislative Co-Chairs

**N**ola M. Richardson is a law partner with Richardson & Tynan, P.L.C. in Broward County. She served as President of the Broward County Women Lawyers' Association from 1999-2000. Having chaired the FAWL Legislative Committee in 2003-2004, she and her cochair plan to expand on the success from the 2004 Legislative Event and to strengthen FAWL's voice in Tallahassee as well as statewide.



**J**oan Stewart, whose legislative interest was initially sparked as a legislative intern with the Florida Legislature, graduated from the Florida State University College of Law. Prior to law school, Joan received her M.A. in English from FSU in 1974. She received her B.A. with highest honors in English from Arkansas Polytechnic College in 1968, taught English for four grades at Hughes High School in Arkansas then moved to Florida for graduate studies. She has served as counsel and research author for the Center for Employment Relations and Law at FSU College of Law, as hearing officer and editor of the *PERC News* at the Public Employees Relations Commission, and as counsel representing law enforcement and correction officers state-wide for the Police Benevolent Association. While at PERC, she also served as



editor of the *Check-Off* for the Labor and Employment Law Section of The Florida Bar. Currently she serves as counsel representing instructional and non-instructional employees in administrative and appellate proceedings for the Florida Education Association. She is a Past-President of the Legal Aid Foundation of the Tallahassee Bar Association and of the Legal Services of North Florida. Her nineteen-year-old daughter is currently pursuing a career in law.

### Sunny Schneider and M.B. Davis Funds Chair

**C**arolyn C. Coukos is a Vice President of Northern Trust Bank. She is employed in Northern's Naples office and manages its estate settlement department for Southwest Florida. She is a member of the Board and a former President of the Collier County Women's Bar Association. Carolyn moved from Indiana to Florida in 1994. While in Indiana, she was Vice President and Trust Counsel for Bank One in Indianapolis. She left Bank One after ten years to set up her own law office and practiced for another ten years, concentrating in estate and trust law and employment law. She was nominated by the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission to be Judge of the Indiana Tax Court, a statewide appellate level court. She also led a statewide coalition of citizens organizations which was dedicated to the enactment of community property law in Indiana. She was the founding chair of the Women Lawyers Division of the Indianapolis Bar Association, the only association for women lawyers in Indiana. She received a B.A. degree from the University of Kansas and a J.D. degree from Indiana University School of Law.



## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

*Brevard County Association for Women Lawyers:*  
**Shannon L. Wilson Farmer**

*Broward County Women Lawyers Association*

**C**andice D. Tobin is a Law Clerk with United States District Judge James L. Cohn in Fort Lauderdale. Serving a second term as President of the Broward County FAWL Chapter, she received her Juris Doctor degree cum laude from Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center where she served on the Nova Law Review Board of Editors. She is a member of The Florida Bar's Civil Procedure Rules Committee.



*Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers*

**M**eenakshi A. Hirani practices law in the areas of commercial law, civil litigation, real estate, real estate closings and issuing title policies, probate guardianship & estate planning. She has a J.D. degree from Stetson College of Law, MBA from Crummer Graduate School of Business at Rollins College, Masters in Comparative Law from University of San Diego, and LL.B. and undergrad degrees from India. She is licensed to practice law in India, Florida, and Washington, D.C. She has been involved with CFAWL for many years, holding various positions



of Secretary, State Representative, and currently President of the association. She has created and maintains the CFAWL website since 2002. She was also the Sub Committee Chair of the Bylaws Amendment Committee of FAWL during 2002 to 2004.

*Clara Gehan (8th Judicial Circuit):*  
**Susan E. Lindgard**

### *Collier County Women's Bar Association*

**Jeanne L. Seewald** is a shareholder in the Corporate Group of Fowler White Boggs Banker P.A. in Naples. She has a broad business practice. She is a member of the American Bar Association, admitted to practice in the Arkansas Bar Association, member of the Executive Council of the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar, Vice Chair of the Intellectual Property Law Section of The Florida Bar, and member of the Collier County Bar Association. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association. She received a B.A. in Business and Economics in 1980 with honors in 1980 from Hendrix College and a M.B.A. in 1984 from the University of Central Arkansas. She received her J.D. with honors in 1992 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law, where she served as Executive Editor of the *UALR Law Review*.



*FAWL at Stetson: Julia Baginski*

### *Women In Law, Florida International University College of Law*

**LaSonya K. Lacy** is the Founder and President of Women In Law and the FAWL Chapter at the Florida International University College of Law. She is an evening law student and works full-time as the general liability paralegal for the law firm of Wagenfeld Levine in Miami. Wagenfeld Levine is an insurance defense firm with offices in Miami, St. Louis and Philadelphia. Ms. Lacy has ten years of experience in the legal field. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing and Management from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri and her Paralegal Certificate from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas.



### *Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers*

**Barbara Twine Thomas** is currently a partner in the firm of Stewart & Twine, P.A. Her practice includes civil trial practice and employment/personnel law and family matters. Her clients include the City of Tampa's Civil Service Board and the City of Tampa's Code Enforcement Board. She is former General Counsel to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, where she represented the Authority in all matters, including labor management and administration, bond finance and environmental and business matters. Her past governmental service includes service as a Special Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Justice, Senior Attorney, Hillsborough County Attorney's Office and



Managing Attorney Legal Services of the United States Virgin Islands. She was also previously associated with the law firm of Grunert & Stout, USVI. She is a graduate of the University of South Florida and the University of Florida School of Law. In addition to her current Leadership of HAWL, her civic and social activities include: Past President George Edgecomb Bar Association (2001-03); President Elect. Hillsborough County Bar Foundation; Hills. Co. Bar Association; Co-chair Local, County & City Section (2000-02); League of Women Voters; Life Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; V.P. Scholarships.

### *Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association*

**Paula P. Brice** is a member of Harris, Guidi, Rosner, Dunlap, Rudolph, Catlin & Bethea, P.A. in Jacksonville and practices primarily in the areas of marital and family law.



### *Lee County Association of Women Lawyers*

**Laurie Anton** was admitted to The Florida Bar in 1989. She focuses her practice in the area of workers' compensation law, dealing with all major carriers and a wide variety of employers for those cases involving a large spectrum of issues. She has litigated cases against the Special Disability Trust Fund, securing reimbursements for clients, Employer-Stop Work Orders before the Department of Financial Services, Division of Workers Compensation, PTD and other complicated cases. She is a Certified Mediator in Circuit Court as well as before the Federal District Court for the Middle District of Florida. She serves as Treasurer for the Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Section and is a member of the Workers' Compensation Section of The Florida Bar. She has served on the Board of Directors for "Voices For Kids," a charitable organization for the Guardian Ad Litem Program in the 20th Judicial Circuit. She has been a member of the Sarasota/Bradenton Claims Association and Florida Association of Self-Insureds. She is also a Certified Insurance Instructor in the State of Florida and provides seminars to carriers throughout Florida. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Miami and M.B.A. (1994) and J.D. (1989) from Nova Southeastern University.



*Manatee County FAWL: Vanessa N. Opstal*

### *Marion County FAWL*

**Janet Fuller** graduated from the University of Florida College of Law in 1987. She practices in the area of Social Security disability law at Ayers, Cluster, Curry, McCall, Collins & Fuller, P.A. in Ocala. She is married and has a nine-year old son and is active with his school and sports activities.



### *Miami-Dade County Association for Women Lawyers*

**Rosana Hernandez-Fabrikant** was born in Ecuador and raised in South Florida. She is a 1996 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law. In 1992, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Smith College, Massachusetts.

► **LEADERSHIP**, Continued on Page 12

She is a Junior Partner with Gilbride, Heller & Brown, P.A., where her practice areas include commercial, civil, employment and insurance litigation. Before joining Gilbride, Heller & Brown, P.A., she practiced in the area of health care law at Zuckerman Spaeder LLP. She has worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services conducting Medicare and Medicaid fraud and abuse investigations. She is a 2000 graduate of Leadership Miami and previously served as Miami-Dade FAWL's Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, Secretary and President-Elect. **Alexander Spencer** succeeds her as the 2005 President this term.

**Women In Law, Miami Law School:  
Ana Rosa Ramirez**

**Northwest Florida FAWL**

**Maureen Duignan** is a board certified criminal trial lawyer also practicing in family law. This will be her second term as president. She is the first female partner with Shell, Fleming, Davis & Menge PA, one of Pensacola's larger law firms established in 1956. She is active in many community organizations as well as the local bar. She is also serving as Chair of the First Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee. She enjoys biking, water skiing and roller-blading.



**Nova Law Center**

**Jennifer Kroll** is a May 2005 Juris Doctor Candidate at Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center. She is Secretary of the Italian American Law Student Association and a member of Phi Alpha Delta, Fleming Chapter.

**Palm Beach County Association  
for Women Lawyers**

**Ellen S. Malasky** is a Senior Attorney with Florida Power & Light Company, where she is a member of the labor and employment law practice group. Her leadership experience includes two terms as Chair of the Palm Beach County Consumer Affairs Hearing Board, Chair of the Judicial Relations and Labor and Employment Law Committees of the Palm Beach County Bar, and she is a 2003 graduate of Leadership Palm Beach County. Malasky was recently named as one of Florida's Legal Elite in the July 2004 issue of *Florida Trend Magazine*. She received the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County's Pro Bono Award for 2004, and was named in Who's Who Millennium edition for 2000-2001. Malasky received her J.D. from Pace University School of Law and her B.A. from Skidmore College. She also lectures extensively in the area of labor and employment law.

**Pinellas County Association for Women Lawyers:  
Donna Kay Rose**

**Sarasota FAWL**

**Evelyn L. Moya** has a practice in health law and family law. She was a 1997 graduate of Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in Ohio, where she was Editor of *The Gavel* and the 1997 recipient of the Pro Bono Award for asylee and refugee representation at ProBar, an Immigration Law project of the Texas Bar Association. She has served as director for



three terms and later as vice-president of Sarasota-FAWL before becoming its first Asian president. She served as health chair of the Sarasota County Commission on the Status of Women and is Vice-President of Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc., with offices in Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. She has also been a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist for over 20 years.

**South Palm Beach County FAWL**

**Lisa M. Perez** is a founding member and an attorney in Hodgson Russ LLP's Immigration Practice Group. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), FAWL, South Palm Beach County Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. She is admitted to practice in New York and Florida, having received her J.D. cum laude from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She has published articles in the *Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce* monthly newsletter, *The Reporter*, and in the *EDGE*, Florida Law Report, has served as a mentor for AILA, and was an invited lecturer for the 2003 Coming to America Seminar, the 2000 New York State Personnel Council Annual Institute, and also presented at many events such as the SUNY Annual Human Resources Conference; has given oral televised presentations transmitted to 60 campuses; and has conducted immigration training seminars for employers.



**St. Thomas University Law School Chapter**

**Marisol Gomez** shares that the Chapter has an October "Women in Law" program planned featuring a distinguished panel of female attorneys, judges and other guest speakers to discuss gender-related issues. The Chapter has a membership of 30-45 members and supports Special Olympics as their volunteer organization.

**Tallahassee Women Lawyers**

**Elizabeth Gibbons Demme** graduated with honors in 1999 from the Florida State University College of Law, where she was a staff member of the *Florida State University Law Review*. She graduated cum laude from Florida State University with a B.A. in Political Science in 1995, completing her undergraduate studies in just over two years. She practices primarily in the litigation section of Huey, Guilday, Tucker, Schwartz & Williams, where she focuses on professional liability defense for lawyers, dentists, realtors, and nursing homes. She is married and has a two-year-old son.



**Volusia-Flagler County  
Association for Women Lawyers**

**Suzanne Ronneau** relocated to Central Florida in 1999 to take a position with Central Florida Legal Services. She was immediately encouraged to take an active role in the Women Lawyers Association, and has been on their Board for the last four years. She is now employed by the Seventh Judicial Circuit as a Family/Dependency Mediator. Suzanne graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 1992 and was in private practice in the Cincinnati area prior to relocating to Florida. ■

