

# NOTES FROM FAWL'S MIDYEAR MEETING

**F**AWL President Susan Fox opened the Winter meeting by welcoming Ted Aronovitz, President-Elect of the Florida Bar. "FAWL is special," said Aronovitz.

He solicited FAWL's assistance to The Florida Bar in combating what he sees as "the Legislature's more aggressive attack on judicial independence," saying that he "really hope[s] that an organization as powerful and as active as FAWL will respond."

Other highlights of the Winter meeting included visits from FAWL member and House Minority Leader Rep. Lois Frankel and Florida Bar Equal Opportunity Section Chair Marcia Cohen, and the announcement of the final group of honorees as FAWL's Golden Stars.

(See story on page 14.)

Judge Winifred Sharp and Tanya Yazgi were present to accept their awards at the meeting, while the remaining awards presentations will be made at meetings of the nominating chapters.

Fox paid tribute to FAWL Historian Mattie Belle Davis, noting that because of her service, "FAWL is unique among women's organizations in being able to document its history and its founders." Fox announced that the history book Judge Davis has written is in the final stages of publication and should be available for members soon. The book will be distributed free to all members, as Judge Davis' gift to the organization.

Fox reminded attendees of the organization's mission. "FAWL is here to root out gender inequality and our mission is not yet accomplished." As areas where gender bias remains a reality in Florida, she pointed to salary disparities, barriers to ascension to leadership positions, lack of diversity in judicial assignments to divisions, and women judges being targeted for discipline for conduct that does not subject male judges to discipline.

"FAWL makes a difference," Fox said. "Our voices are stronger in unison than alone."



**GOLDEN STAR**  
*Tonia Yazgi,*  
*among those*  
*honored at*  
*FAWL's meeting.*