

LAW MATTERS

September 2017

Volume XXIX No. 5

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**Just Enough to be Dangerous:
Practical Legal Tips for your
Family and Friends**

**September 19, 2017
Membership Meeting and
One Hour General Credit CLE**

**Speakers: Barbara Moss, Tyler Yarbro,
Rachel Upshaw & Laura Baker**

**11:15 a.m. Registration
11:45 a.m. Announcements
12:00 Noon CLE Begins**

**B.B. King's Jazz Club
152 2nd Avenue North**

(Parking across the street at 2nd and Commerce. Entrance on Commerce.
Lyft using discount Lyft Code LAW0919.)

**Cost:
Members: Lunch \$25/CLE \$15
Nonmembers: Lunch \$30/CLE \$25**

***Reservations must be made by Friday, September 15, 2017, at Noon.**

Register Online at www.law-nashville.org/events

LAW CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 18, 2017	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Book Club
September 19, 2017	11:15 am - 1:00 pm	Membership Luncheon and One Hour General Credit CLE
September 21, 2017	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	A Step Ahead Mixer
September 23, 2017	8:00 am - Noon	Hands On Nashville Volunteer Opportunity
September 26, 2017	7:30 am - 9:00 am	Networking Committee Breakfast
October 3, 2017	11:00 am - 3:00 pm	NBA Diversity Kickoff
October 4, 2017	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Mentoring Circles
October 10, 2017	11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Board Meeting
October 18, 2017	11:00 am - 6:00 pm	Marion Griffin Women's Symposium Student Life Center, Vanderbilt University
November 7, 2017	7:15 am - 9:00 am	Annual New Admittees' Breakfast
November 14, 2017	11:00 am - 11:15 am	Board Meeting
November 14, 2017	11:15 am - 1:00 pm	Membership Luncheon and One Hour General Credit CLE
December 12, 2017	11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Board Meeting
December 13, 2017	2:45 pm - 5:15 pm 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Member Appreciation CLE Holiday Mixer

[Click Here](#) for detailed information and to register.



*Seeking attorneys who were
New Admittees From 1977 – 1987*

Did you, or do you know an attorney who was a New Admittee from 1977—1987 and attended the New Admittees' Breakfast during those years? The 40th anniversary of the New Admittees' Breakfast is this fall, and LAW would like to honor those persons at the Breakfast on November 7th. Please contact the LAW office at info@law-nashville.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Elizabeth Sitgreaves



As I have watched the violence in Charlottesville and Barcelona, the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, and the continuing turmoil regarding our nation's immigration policy that leaves many with an uncertain future, I am left wondering how to react and what I can do. I know I have days where I forget what is going on in our country and our city. Days in which I become so consumed with work, LAW, and making time for family and friends, that I forget there is a need for people, especially attorneys, to speak up and become involved. This week, I had an oral argument in a *pro bono* appeal and after it was done, I was reminded of the feeling that comes from becoming engaged in something that you care about or a cause you believe in.

Our August program at Casa Azafran gave an update on recent changes in our immigration policy. Since that program, even more changes have occurred. We all recall the images of lawyers in airports assisting individuals caught in the swift change in policy following the presidential inauguration. Moments like those make me proud of our profession and the many who sacrifice their time and use their expertise to help others. Representatives from both the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRCC) and Justice for Our Neighbors [spoke](#) on *pro bono* opportunities for lawyers. This newsletter contains additional information on those *pro bono* opportunities.

Following Hurricane Harvey, on September 1, the Tennessee Supreme Court issued a press release announcing #HELP4TX and calling to action "emergency legal responders" to "lend a hand to those impacted by Hurricane Harvey." The Tennessee Bar Association is taking the lead on organizing this effort and more information on ways to volunteer can be found at <http://tncourts.gov/press/2017/09/01/volunteer-spirit-drives-legal-community-create-help4tx>. Now that the clean-up of Hurricane Irma is under way and as Tropical Storm Jose brews in the ocean, unfortunately there may be additional needs for both legal responders and donations. As Nashvillians, we know all too well the devastation that nature can cause to a city, but have also witnessed the good and rebuilding that can come from communities coming together and donating their time and money. I would encourage you to consider volunteering your time and resources. Locally, LAW will participate again in the 2017 Hands on Nashville Day on September 23, 2017. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Community Relations co-chair Samantha Simpson at Samantha.simpson@tncourts.gov.

As lawyers, we also have the ability to lead and effect change beyond providing *pro bono* legal services. I was proud that LAW partnered with the League of Women Voters in April to put on the program Fundamentals of Democracy: The Vote, the Right, the Barriers to address the history of the Voting Rights Act, including the legacy of Civil Rights Activist John Lewis, and to discuss current barriers to voting. This program also highlighted the significant role that lawyers played and continue to play in ensuring that citizens have access to the fundamental right to vote. When LAW created the Coalition for Fair Courts and provided voter education and outreach on the importance of a fair and impartial judiciary, I saw firsthand how lawyers can have an impact by speaking up about an important cause. As lawyers, we are considered leaders in our community. This gives us a unique opportunity to use the same skills that we use when we handle legal matters for our clients to advocate for issues or causes that we believe in outside of the legal field.

LAW provides opportunities for our members to engage and learn about the various legal and social issues that face us today. We offer opportunities and provide information to our members about *pro bono* legal services. We provide volunteer opportunities for our members such as the Hands on Nashville Day. Personally, I want to challenge myself to continue to engage in causes both legal and non-legal

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2017 Marion Griffin Women's Symposium

Meera Ballal/Laura Smith

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LAW Matters is a monthly publication of the Lawyers' Association for Women, Marion Griffin Chapter, P. O. Box 210436, Nashville, Tennessee, 37221-0436. Voicemail: 615.708.1827; Fax: 888.834.7370; www.law-nashville.org.

To submit articles for the October issue, contact, Jennifer Lankford at jennifer@thompsonburton.com

that I care about, and I challenge you all to do the same whether you take advantage of the opportunities provided by LAW or you find another way to stay engaged. I am inspired by a fellow LAW member and friend, who recently made the bold decision to leave a job that she loved to take a new job where she believes (and no doubt will) play a role addressing issues that she feels strongly about. Seeing someone pursue an opportunity because she feels called to make a difference is inspiration to give back and speak up. I hope that you will too.

Upcoming Monthly Membership Meetings

September 19, 2017—One Hour General Credit CLE We Just Enough to Be Dangerous: Practical Legal Tips for Your Family and Friends

We've all had family and friends ask us questions about unfamiliar areas of the law with the expectation that we know the answers just because we're lawyers. This program is designed to provide helpful tips in four areas of the law that people are most likely to encounter: family law, estate planning, criminal law, and personal injury. Join us to learn "just enough to be dangerous" so you can answer frequently asked questions for your loved ones!



Barbara Moss
Elder Law of Nashville, PLC



Tyler Yarbro
Dodson Parker Behm & Capparella PC



Rachel Upshaw
Miller Upshaw Family Law, PLLC



Laura Baker
The Law Offices of John Day P.C.

Marion Griffin Women's Symposium

*October 18, 2017**

Vanderbilt University Student Life Center

11:00 am—6:00 pm

Keynote Speaker: Former Ambassador Melanne Verveer



Melanne Verveer is the Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security at Georgetown University. The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security seeks to examine and highlight the roles and experiences of women in peace and security through research, global convenings, and strategic partnerships.

Melanne Verveer served as Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues from 2009-2013 following her appointment by President Barack Obama. As Ambassador, she coordinated foreign policy issues and activities relating to the political, economic, and social advancement of women.

Previously, from 2000-2008, Ambassador Verveer served as Chair and Co-CEO of Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international nonprofit she co-founded. Vital Voices invests in emerging women leaders and works to expand women's roles in generating economic opportunity, promoting political participation, and safeguarding human rights. Prior to her work with Vital Voices, Ambassador Verveer served as Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady in the Clinton Administration and was chief assistant to then-First Lady Hillary Clinton.

Ambassador Verveer has a B.S. and M.S. from Georgetown University and holds several honorary degrees. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, and the World Bank Advisory Council on Gender and Development.

She is also the co-author with Kim Azzarelli of the book *Fast Forward: How Women Can Achieve Power and Purpose*. Her book was selected by the Health & Wellness Book Club as its September reading selection.

Stay tuned for more information regarding CLE breakout sessions and concluding reception.

*There will be no regularly scheduled monthly meeting in October due to the Marion Griffin Women's Symposium.

November 7, 2017

New Admittees' Breakfast—40th Anniversary Celebration!



Keynote Speaker: Penny J. White, Former Tennessee Supreme Court Justice and E.E. Overton Distinguished Professor of Law, Director of the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution, and Interim Director of Clinical Programs at the University of Tennessee College of Law

August Program Recap: Field Trip to Casa Azafran

by Jennifer Lankford

Attendees of the August LAW Membership Meeting were in for a unique, informative, and fun excursion as LAW ventured from our traditional meeting location to Casa Azafran, a community center described as the gateway to Nashville's most international and socially diverse district.

Casa Azafran, the amazing lunch, and the informative program did not disappoint. Attendees first gathered to enjoy a lunch created and prepared by Chef Karla Ruiz, who also owns the local favorite catering company, [Karla's Caterings](#). Chef Ruiz's lunch included chicken and spinach enchiladas, sautéed vegetables, Mexican wild rice, and a delicious Hibiscus tea. The meal was followed by an informative and timely program, "What's The Clamor About? Immigration Trends and What You Can Do to Help?" The accomplished panel of three talented experts in the immigration arena included Linda Rose of the [Rose Immigration Law Firm, PLC](#), a preeminent immigration attorney; Adrienne Kittos, Legal Director of [Justice for Our Neighbors](#) ("JFRON"), which educates the community on immigration issues and advocates for immigrant rights; and Stephanie Teatro, Co-Executive Director of [Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition](#), a state-wide immigrant and refugee led coalition.

In addition to giving attendees a look at the faces of immigration by offering real life examples of individuals encountered on their road to citizenship, our speakers provided LAW members with information on the status of travel bans, immigration enforcement nationwide, and pro bono opportunities in the immigration arena. Starting at the top, the panel provided LAW with a detailed background on immigration law under the new presidential administration. Attendees received a tutorial on the Executive Orders issued by President Trump within the past seven months, including the oft-discussed travel bans. Linda Rose explained the initial parameters of the bans, legal action taken in opposition to those bans, and explained the current status, under which the United States Supreme Court had permitted portions of the ban to go into effect, i.e., restricting travel from Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. Linda explained that Nashville, with its diverse business community, was particularly posed for disruption under the original version of the ban. Time will tell the complete impact of the ban, with the Supreme Court scheduled to address its overall legality in the fall.

With their cultivated and collaborative expertise, the panelist next walked LAW members through other arising issues on a federal and state level, including providing updates on the potential elimination of DACA, "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals," under which young persons who were born after June 16, 1981, and entered the U.S. before the age of 16, are eligible for, among other benefits, Social Security numbers, temporary work permits, and protection from deportation. Linda also discussed the proposed RAISE (Reforming Immigration for Stronger Economy) Act, as well as increased agency directives aimed at monitoring or limiting the number of immigrants admitted to the United States, including I-9 investigations and workplace raids. Meanwhile, Adrienne Kittos explained the impact of new policies on humanitarian adjudication, to include the impact on U-visa applicants. Adrienne counseled that while immigration is a federally governed issues, it is local communities that enforce these policies and ultimately, it is local communities where the policies are felt.

After briefing us on the legal background, Stephanie Teatro educated LAW on the preferred terms when discussing immigration issues, including appropriate reference is to "foreign nationals," not "aliens," and "undocumented individuals," not "illegals."



(From Left) Linda Rose, Stephanie Teatro and Adrienne Kittos

Stephanie explained that these preferred terms help diminish the connotation of criminality that often accompanies immigration issues.

The panelists concluded their program by discussing a variety of options for LAW membership involvement, including attending DACA training sessions at JFRON, where members will learn how to assist young people applying for temporary work authorization, attending naturalization clinics where attorneys can assist eligible local immigrants in applying for citizenship, and assisting with Family Safety Planning Workshops at Casa Azafran, where immigrant families need help preparing important legal documents that will assist should their status in the United States be jeopardized. Family law practitioners are well-suited to assist with SIJ, Special Immigration Juvenile, guardianship proceedings, where children may receive temporary immigration relief. Other legal practitioners may offer their varied expertise by volunteering with Legal Aid's Third Saturday Legal Clinics, where immigrants face all types of issues, including, most commonly, workers' compensation and landlord-tenant disputes. Finally, LAW members are encouraged to contact their congressional representative to voice their opinions on pending immigration issues.

To learn more about each of these opportunities, our panelists may be contacted at:

Linda Rose, Rose Immigration Law Firm, PLC: (615) 321- 2256; rose@roseimmigration.com

Adrienne Kittos, JFON (Justice for our Neighbors): (615) 454-6185; adrienne@tnjron.com

Stephanie Teatro, TIRRC (TN Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition): (615) 833-0384; stephanie@tnimmigration.org

A huge thank you to Casa Azafran and the distinguished panel for their words of wisdom and insight!



Jennifer is a 2017-2018 Newsletter Editor. She is an attorney with Thompson Burton, PLLC, where she practices employment law.



TOP 5 REASONS TO ATTEND THE INAUGURAL MARION GRIFFIN WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM

Vision or Revision: Equality in the Law

On October 18, 2017, the LAW Marion Griffin Women's Symposium will take place at Vanderbilt University. Below, Meera Ballal, Co-Chair of the Symposium gives LAW members her top 5 reasons to attend this historic event:

1. TO BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN OURSELVES.

Explore how, as attorneys, we can work locally, drawing from experts who continue to fight the battle of equality nationally, to build a world where women have full and equal participation.

2. TO NETWORK AND MEET WOMEN LAWYERS AND BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS.

In addition to a fabulous keynote speaker and compelling breakouts, enjoy ample time with other women attorneys at lunch, breaks and a cocktail hour to discuss the issues important to our day. Our attendees will include judges, partners, law professors, students, litigators and women in business who want to learn more about advancing the causes of women.

3. TO BE INSPIRED.

Led by a keynote from and small breakout by Melanne Verveer, hear stories from all over the world about women who have incorporated power and purpose into their life and, in turn, have advanced the cause of all women.

4. TO EARN CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION.

Earn 3.5 CLE credits while you eat lunch, snack and drink wine! And all for the bargain price of \$150.

6. TO LEARN.

Explore topics as varied as human rights on the global scale to entrepreneurship in technology to violence on the college campus...and more. These diverse topics offer something for everyone!

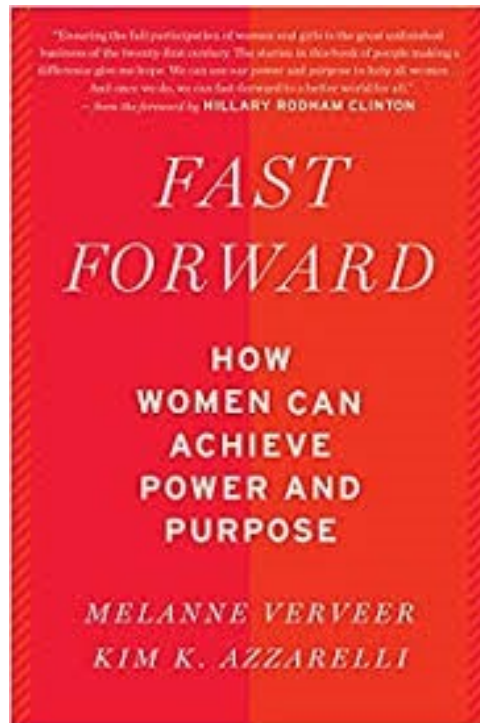
To enjoy the above, and much more, [register](#) for the Marion Griffin Women's Symposium today!



Meera is a co-chair of the 2017 Marion Griffin Women's Symposium.

Book Review: Fast Forward

by Meera Ballal



A must read for any LAW member attending the Marion Griffin Women's Symposium, our keynote speaker and author, Ambassador Melanne Verveer, along with Kim Azzarelli in, ***Fast Forward: How Women Can Achieve Power and Purpose***, reveal how the world's most inspiring women are using their mounting economic power to create success and meaning in their lives while simultaneously building a better world for all women.

Building on the premise that companies, countries and organizations all over the world are waking up to today's new reality: women control the lion's share of purchasing power and are essential to global competitiveness, Verveer and Azzarelli layout a simple, three-step process for female success. (1) Find your power; (2) find your purpose; and (3) connect with others to achieve your life's goals. Outlining this process in a toolkit that any woman can use, the authors also provide personal stories and practical advice from more than 70 trailblazing women in every field and occupation. From fashion icons like Diane von Furstenberg to International Monetary Fund managing director Christine Lagarde to philanthropist Melinda Gates, the book provides examples of how real women, every day, use their positions to build an easier road for other women.

If you loved Sheryl Sandberg's *Lean In*, then ***Fast Forward: How Women Can Achieve Power and Purpose***, is the next step in the continued discussion of how women, working together, can accomplish anything.

And if you bring the book to the Symposium, Ms. Verveer will sign it!



A Highly Anticipated Vacation to Europe

by Tracy Alcock

This summer, my husband and I traveled to Europe. We were gone for over two and a half weeks, visiting five countries and nine cities. That is, if you count our visits to the Montreal and Toronto, Canada airports, which I do because we stayed overnight! This was my husband's first trip to Europe, and my fourth. It was my first trip back to Europe in over eleven years after I spent a semester in college studying abroad in Granada, Spain. This was a long overdue, and highly anticipated, trip for both my husband and me!

After studying abroad many years ago, I always imagined that I would travel to Europe every few years, especially with my future spouse. My husband, on the other hand, had never seen the sights of Europe and did not know what he was missing. He has always focused on the importance of saving money for our future, while I always remind him of the importance of traveling while we are young, healthy, and able! So, as any lawyer would do, we reached an agreement before we even married on this matter. We agreed that while we could take mini-vacations over the years, we would wait to travel to Europe until we met a desired goal: when I paid off my law school loans, and I started saving for the future. As soon as I paid off my law school loans, we could then plan the trip for Europe. This way, my husband would have peace of mind that we were both on our way to saving for our future, we both would be happy that my law school loans were history, and we would get to vacation in Europe.

Flash forward a little over five years after my law school graduation date, and thanks to the plan that my husband and I had established, I finished paying of my law school loans. If it were not for my husband's motivation, and this agreement to wait to travel to Europe, I likely would have a thirty-year payment plan for the loans. Instead, we paid them off in five years, and I was ecstatic that the loans were behind me, never to be seen again. My husband was happy that finally we both could save for the future. I immediately starting planning for Europe and booking the tickets! As a side note, while the focus of this article is not about school loans, I think this is something many young professionals have in common. I hope this can encourage you, or your family or friends, to start payback plans and savings goals if you are in a similar financial situation. If you are not in a similar situation, then consider yourself very fortunate and lucky.

Now, back to my Europe vacation planning. My husband gave me full reigns in planning the trip. I get a high from travel planning and connecting all the dots to create the big picture. I do not like the "pay for one option and enjoy it all" approach, rather I – for some reason – choose the headache of planning out each and every step. With that level of optimism – or shall we bluntly say, because we are slightly crazy – we were scheduled to visit London, Paris, Amsterdam, Milan, and Rome, along with side trips to Bath and Lake Como, and an airport layover in Toronto. I spent a lot of weekend time picking the perfect hotels, flights, trains, and restaurants. I built this up so high that it was all I could talk about with my husband for the months leading up to the trip.

As luck would have it, I came down with some sort of lengthy virus the week before the trip. Thanks to my high expectations – and quite frankly nerves – I was terribly upset over the idea that the perfect trip that I had envisioned would not be a reality. In my mind, I still had more planning – let alone a lot of packing – to do, but I was not going to have time. My health and rest needed to be my main priority aside from working.

By the end of the week, though slightly fatigued, I was healthy enough to pack and fly out of Nashville – and thank goodness, after the first few days abroad, I felt well enough to enjoy most of the trip's experiences. Despite the initial sadness I felt from being sick, I think this was meant to be. It turns out, I did not need that additional time planning or fretting over the details. I had done enough by scoring some wonderful hotels, booking the transportation ahead of time, and making – even if just a few – restaurant reservations. Everything else, we figured out together upon arrival. It also turns out, that the rest the doctor ordered me to take while traveling, was wonderful and it meshed well with my husband's own desires. My husband emphasized the importance and duration of each meal – wanting to savor each opportunity to enjoy his new surroundings. This was some of the best medicine I could have asked for.

The cities themselves were just as I had remembered and magical. I picked the cities on the trip to give my husband a taste of some of the must-see big cities in Western Europe. My husband and I had such a wonderful time simply being together. We saw amazing sights, ate mouth-watering food, drank delicious wine, walked miles and miles, biked through the canals of Amsterdam at dusk, cruised along the River Thames, River Seine, and River Amstel, laughed when we walked in the rain, got lost in Rome, and smiled – for the most part – through it all. A few issues came up during the trip –we packed too much so we each carried a heavy suitcase, and our flight home from Rome was canceled at the last minute with no explanation – that caused some annoyance. However, once we returned, we have found ourselves frequently talking about Europe again – this time reminiscing on our shared memories and both yearning to visit again and eat that oh-so-delicious Italian food and bike on those perfect bridges over the canals in Amsterdam.



Tracy is a 2017-2018 LAW Newsletter Editor. She is an Assistant General Counsel for the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of General Counsel.

LAW Calls for ATHENA Nominations!

Each year during Women’s History Month in March, Nashville joins more than 500 communities throughout the United States, Canada, China, Russia, United Arab Emirates, Bermuda, Greece, India, and the United Kingdom in honoring exceptional women leaders who inspire others to achieve excellence in their own professional and personal lives. The Athena Awards program in Nashville is organized by Cable under the Cable Foundation’s 501(C)(3) and pursuant to a license from ATHENA International.

Each year, LAW submits two exemplary women as a nominee for the ATHENA Award and the Young Professional (YP) ATHENA.

The criteria for the Athena nominees is:

- Have achieved the highest level of professional excellence
- Contribute time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community
- Actively assist others, particularly women, in realizing their full leadership potential

The criteria for the YP Athena nominees is:

- An emerging woman leader who demonstrates excellence, creativity, and initiative in her business or profession
- Contributes time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community
- Serves as a role model for young women, both personally and professionally
- Is between the ages of 25-40 at the time of application deadline

If you would like to suggest a name for consideration as LAW’s nominee, please email Emily Warth (Emily.warth@asurion.com) and Shellie Handelsman (Shellie@swlawgroup.com) by **September 30**. Please include in your nomination a paragraph or two explaining why your nominee should be nominated for this award based on the criteria above.



Board Member Spotlight

Kimberly Veirs

LAW Board Role: Programs Committee Co-Chair

Where did you grow up? Tell us about your path to practicing law: I grew up in Bristol, Tennessee, known for the Bristol Motor Speedway and more recently the Battle at Bristol football game last year. I knew that I wanted to be an attorney since I was in middle school. I enjoy all aspects of law, government, and politics, and I think our profession allows us the opportunity to really make an impact on the communities we serve.

What brought you to Nashville? My husband's job brought us to Nashville in January of 2016, but it has always been our ultimate goal to live in Nashville since it is centrally located between our families.

Tell us about your family. I have been married for 3.5 years to my husband, Brick, and we live in Fairview with our adorable puppy, Dixon.

What do you do professionally and what is your favorite part of your job? I am in the Labor & Employment group at Bass, Berry & Sims. I work on a lot of employment litigation cases, as well as the day to day counseling that we provide employers on their policies and procedures. I also conduct labor and employment due diligence on mergers and acquisitions. My favorite part of my job is working through the day to day issues with our clients to find solutions that benefit both the employer and employee.

If you weren't a lawyer, what would you be and why? I would probably design a women's clothing line, with a focus on women who are below or above average height. I am six feet tall and my definition of "tall" exceeds that of many retailers who carry a tall line.

What is your favorite thing about being a LAW member? I love meeting people who practice all different kinds of law and hearing about their jobs. I find it fascinating how many different directions you can go with a law degree.

What do you like to do in your spare time (if you have any)? I love to volunteer in the community, workout, and try new restaurants in town.

What books are you reading right now and what is the last book you read? The last book I read was "Grace not Perfection," by Emily Ley and I am currently reading "Love Your Life Not Theirs," by Rachel Cruze, which is very helpful in tackling those pesky student loans that so many of us are paying off.

What is your favorite quote, piece of advice, or a motto you try to live by? "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a battle of their own."

Any "fun facts" about you other LAW members don't know? My very first job in Nashville was as a college intern for Secretary of State, Tre Hargett, right after he took office in 2009. To this day, that was hardest interview I have ever done.

What woman most inspires you and why? My sister, Kristin, has always inspired me in all that she does. She is a Senior Manager for Ernst & Young, where she has worked for the past 12 years. She handles a tremendous amount of pressure with grace and poise, and I am constantly calling her for career and life advice.

It's a Saturday in Nashville, what are you doing? On an ideal day-- breakfast at home with my husband, some sort of workout class, and exploring the city and trying new restaurants with family and friends.



New Member Spotlight

Victoria Gentry

Where did you grow up? Tell us about your path to practicing law: I grew up in Richmond, Virginia and attended a women's college, Sweet Briar College. From an early age, I knew that people who can do the "hard stuff" in life should do the "hard stuff." I saw the need for competent and compassionate lawyers in my own community (especially in the areas of immigrants' rights and juvenile justice) and I thought that I might be good at educating and advocating for others. In law school, I worked with International Justice Mission in Guatemala defending children against sex abuse and with Southern Migrant Legal Services in Nashville defending the rights of migrant farm workers. I graduated from Belmont University College of Law in 2015 and I have been practicing corporate immigration law ever since.

Tell us about your family. I have been married for five years to my husband Jesse, who is also a lawyer. We have two dogs and an ever-rotating cycle of foster animals.

What do you do professionally and what is your favorite part of your job? I am an attorney at The Immigration Group and I practice corporate immigration law, which consists mostly of helping companies bring foreign workers to the U.S. My favorite part of my job is informing my client that her green card has arrived. This information is usually a huge relief for clients who have been waiting many years for permanent residency. It's wonderful to see families celebrate their hard-fought journey to becoming citizens.

If you weren't a lawyer, what would you be and why? I ask myself this question a lot and my answer for this season is that I would be a park ranger. I have always had a huge connection to the outdoors and I spend my free time hiking, camping, and roaming outside. Nature is wild and I love being a part of its untamable power!

What is your favorite thing about being a LAW member? I first became acquainted with LAW in law school via a speed-networking event. Everyone involved was very professional, candid, and encouraging. I am finding that these qualities mark all LAW events, which makes it easy to meet others and feel part of the Nashville legal community.

What do you like to do in your spare time (if you have any)? I am runner, so I am often at the gym or running in local races around Nashville. I also love to cook and I spend a many nights around the dinner table with friends.

What books are you reading right now and what is the last book you read? I am a voracious reader. I am currently reading *The Two-Story House*, *The Assassin's Blade*, and *#GirlBoss*.

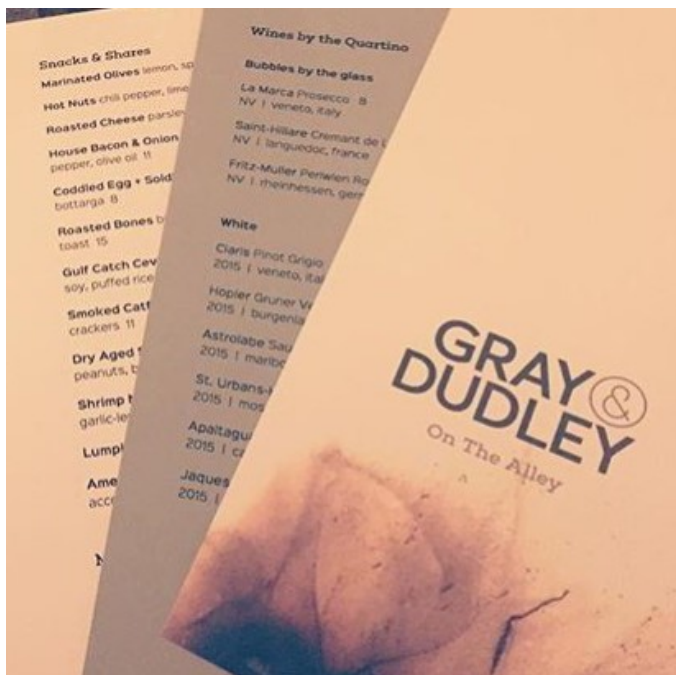
What is your favorite quote, piece of advice, or a motto you try to live by? "If you don't stand up for yourself, then no one will."

Any "fun facts" about you that other LAW members don't know? I am fluent in Spanish.

What woman most inspires you and why? Lately, I have been very inspired by women who serve in the armed forces. They are determined, resilient, and powerful. I am especially inspired by Kate Norley's and Kayla Williams' continued efforts to advocate for young veterans' mental health after returning the U.S.

It's a Saturday in Nashville, what are you doing? Running errands, eating at the buffet at Whole Foods, then sitting around a fire pit with friends.

The Culinary Docket



As many of you may know, I recently transitioned from clerking for Judge Frank Clement at the Court of Appeals to the world of private practice at Bone McAllester Norton, PLLC. Eager to catch up with Judge Clement and his wife, Philip and I met the Clements for dinner a couple of weeks ago at Gray & Dudley. After seeing numerous photos on social media of the restaurant's enticing food and intriguing penguins (yes, you read that correctly—more to follow), Gray & Dudley quickly arrived at the top of my “must-try” restaurants list, and it surpassed my expectations!

Located on the ground floor of the new 21c Museum boutique hotel, the new eatery's name pays homage to the building's previous life as the Gray & Dudley Hardware Company. With Nashville's booming growth, I always appreciate when new businesses find a way to keep the history of our city alive. When you first walk into Gray & Dudley, it's apparent that the décor is inspired by the adjacent contemporary art-filled galleries of 21c. I could elaborate on the art and my thoughts about it, but I would much rather share details about our wonderful meal.

We started dinner with cocktails and appetizers. My drink of choice was the Hot Weather Necessity, one of Gray & Dudley's original cocktails, made with vodka, champagne, lemon, strawberry, and mint. It was light and refreshing, perfect for a hot day. My favorite appetizer was the Dry Aged Steak Tartare, with preserved lemon, fried peanuts, and berbere—the latter of which is a fiery, aromatic, and highly flavorful Ethiopian all-purpose seasoning blend. The tartare was probably my favorite dish of the night! The fried peanuts provided a unique texture to the dish. Also, rather than serving with toast points for topping, the tartare comes with a thin, chip-like pretzel, adding the perfect amount of salt to the dish.

For my entrée, I ordered the Grass-Fed Butcher Steak, which was a New York Strip, topped with button mushrooms and a vinaigrette sauce. The steak was flavorful and cooked exactly as ordered, but the side dish stole the show! In lieu of the hand cut fries that come with the dish, I opted for the summer squash gratin. The squash was layered like lasagna and rich in flavor, with parmesan, lemon, and hollandaise sauce. Summer squash is one of my favorites, and I loved Gray & Dudley's creative approach on this classic. Philip ordered the fries, which of course I tried, and they were excellent, especially when dipped in the homemade aioli.



After devouring our entrées, notably without taking time to stop and capture photos of the food, we had little room left for dessert. Although we didn't order from the dessert menu, our server brought us complimentary cotton candy, teal in color. In addition to the teal cotton candy, a teal penguin, approximately 3.5 feet tall was placed close to our table. During our dinner, we saw many penguins, strategically placed at other tables. The short story, according our server, the teal penguins are the newest flock of penguins, deriving from the original penguin sculptures (red in color) created by the Cracking Art Group. The red penguins were first exhibited at 21c's Louisville location in 2006. The penguins were so popular with visitors to the hotel that they have remained on permanent exhibition. With each new 21c hotel location, a new flock of penguins, different in color, is introduced.

We had a great time at Gray & Dudley, and I highly recommend you visit them and the penguins



Kimberly is a First Year Director and LAW's restaurant critic. She is an associate at Bone McAllester & Norton PLLC.

LAW Members are invited to:

Mix and mingle with A Step Ahead of Middle Tennessee, members of Tennessee Women in Medicine and the Women's Political Collaborative of TN while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

September 21st

5:30 - 7:30 pm

2301 Hampton Avenue, Nashville, TN 37215

At 6:15 A Step Ahead of Middle Tennessee will share details about their work in the community to decrease teen and unintended pregnancies. To learn more about A Step Ahead, visit www.astepaheadmiddletn.org.

[Click Here to Register](#)

LAW COMMITTEE CORNER

Recent Events

The Health & Wellness and Networking Committees got together on August 23rd for a healthy networking event in conjunction with Small World Yoga. LAW member Alex Fisher taught the class!



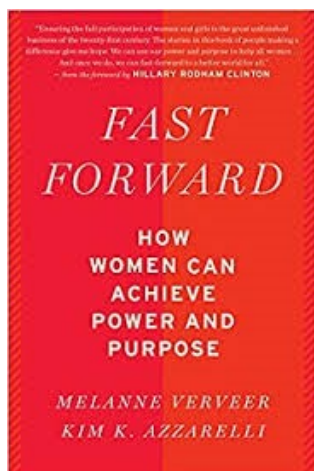
Upcoming Events

Mentoring & Member Development Committee Meeting **September 14th** **Noon** **Washington Square Building** **222 2nd Avenue North - 2nd Floor Conference Center**

The LAW mentoring and member development committee is kicking off a new Mentoring Circles program this year. The program is modeled after "Lean In Circles" and consists of small peer groups that meet regularly to learn and grow together.

Grab your lunch and head to the committee meeting to get involved and plan the Mentoring Circles Kickoff Event on October 4th!

For questions, contact committee co-chairs: Chambre Malone (chambre.malone@gmail.com) and Jennifer Moreno (jennifermoreno@nashville.gov)



Health & Wellness Book Club **September 18th** **6-8 pm** **2805 Westwood Avenue, 37212**

The Health and Wellness Book Club's September selection is Fast Forward: How Women Can Achieve Power and Purpose. The book was co-written by Melanne Verveer, the keynote speaker of the inaugural 2017 Marion Griffin Women's Symposium October 18, 2017. Plan to attend with your favorite drink and an appetizer to share.

Hands On Nashville **September 23rd** **8:00 am - Noon** **Margaret Allen Middle Prep, 500 Spence Lane, Nashville, TN 37210**

To join the team, email Community Relations Committee co-chair Samantha Simpson at samantha.simpson@tncourts.gov. You will receive an invitation to join the team by email. Contact Samantha by September 15th if possible to let her know your interest in being a part of the team!

September Networking Committee Event **September 26th** **7:30 - 9:00 am** **EiO and The Hive, 5304 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209**

We are changing it up this month and meeting for breakfast! Arrive when your schedule allows and order and pay for your food/drinks at the counter. LAW will have a space reserved to eat and mingle. There's parking at and around the restaurant. Here is a [copy of the menu](#) for you to review ahead of time.

Diversity & The Law: A Historical Perspective

October 3rd

11:30 am - 3:00 pm

Bass, Berry & Sims, 150 3rd Avenue South, Suite 2800, Nashville, TN 37201

Diversity & The Law: A Historical Perspective is a unique program offering a candid conversation - featuring speakers such as Gregg Ramos, Abby Rubinfeld, Margaret Behm, Julian Blackshear, Hal Hardin, Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman and others about our shared history of exclusion and eventual inclusion of all attorneys into the Nashville Bar. LAW is a partnering organization for this event. Register at nashvillebar.org

LAW Mentoring Circles Kickoff

October 4th

6-8 pm

Neal & Harwell, PLC, 1201 Demonbreun Street, Suite 1000, Nashville, TN 37219

The LAW mentoring and member development committee is kicking off a new Mentoring Circles program this year. The program is modeled after "Lean In Circles" and consists of small peer groups that meet regularly to learn and grow together. If you are interested in planning the Kickoff, attend the planning meeting at Noon on September 14th ([222 2nd Avenue North, 2nd Floor](http://222-2nd-Avenue-North-2nd-Floor-Conference-Center) Conference Center).

Free parking is being offered!

After you register for the Kickoff, email either Chambre Malone (chambre.malone@gmail.com) or Jennifer Moreno (jennifer.moreno@nashville.gov) and tell them your practice area(s).

Practicing Parents Watch for more details!



Practicing Parents Committee planning upcoming programs!

**Thank you to our Sustaining Members who support the programs,
mission and purposes of LAW above and beyond the Sliding Income Scale categories.**

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