

LAW MATTERS

May 2021

Volume XXXIII No. 1



LAW Founders Watch Party

Seated from left: Judge Carol Soloman, Christina Norris, Chancellor Carol McCoy, Judge Aleta Trauger, Billye Sue Shipley McMillan, 2021-2022 President Elect Shellie Handelsman, Nancy Krider Corley, Judge Martha Craig (Cissy) Daughtrey, Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman, Kathy Austin, Dean Sue Kay. Standing from left: Abby Rubenfeld, Judge Marietta Shipley, Mary Parker, Jimmie Lynn Ramsaur, Suzanne Keith, Barbara Moss, Judge Patsy Cottrell, Wendy Goggin, Mary Walker, Margaret Behm, Lucinda Smith, Sylvia Brown standing in front of Magistrate Judge Juliet Griffin, Anne Butterworth, Karen Neal and Jeanie Nelson.

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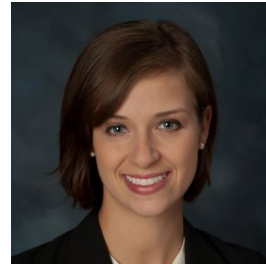
2021-2022 Executive Board



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Shellie Handelsman
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Sara Anne Quinn
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Emily Warth
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Leighann Ness
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Tabitha Robinson
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Courtney Orr
First Year Director



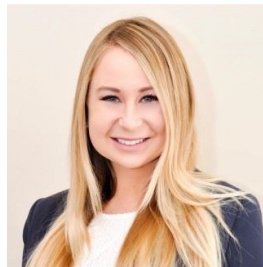
Shundra Manning
First Year Director



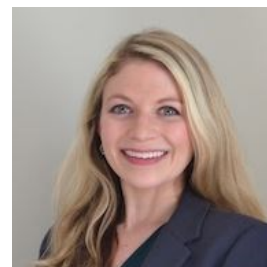
Amanda Bradley
Newsletter Editor



Hannah Kay Freeman
Newsletter Editor



Devon Landman
Newsletter Editor



Caroline Sapp
Newsletter Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kimberly Faye



Thank you to all those that were able to attend our 2021 40th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting, and thank you again to the Sustaining Sponsors who made the celebration and meeting a great success! We had a fabulous turnout for the virtual event and the surprise appearance of several of our founders at Marietta Shipley's house was the perfect addition! For me, it was truly an honor for Sara Anne to pass the gavel to me during such a special moment for our organization. I'm looking forward to this year and things hopefully returning to "normal."

The monthly board meeting on June 8 will also serve as our annual board retreat this year. Although I would

love for it to be an in-person meeting, there are still caps on attendance at most office spaces, so it will be via Zoom. Nevertheless, I am very excited to hear goals and ideas for this year from our new Executive Board and Committee Co-Chairs and putting those into action. Sara Anne and the board did an excellent job at reinventing the organization during the pandemic. It will be an honor and a privilege to follow her and to build upon the tremendous progress she and the board accomplished during her tenure.

My message this month is not very long, but I would love to end each month with a quote that inspires me, whether it be from a speech, poem, or song, and hope that it inspires you as well. This month, I share a quote from Taylor Swift's speech at the BRIT Awards, when she made history by becoming the first woman and youngest person ever to win the Global Icon honor. "[T]here is no career path that comes free of negativity. If you're being met with resistance, that probably means that you're doing something new. If you're experiencing turbulence or pressure, that probably means you're rising. And there might be times when you put your whole heart and soul into something, and it is met with cynicism or skepticism. You cannot let that crush you. You have to let it fuel you because we live in a world where anyone has the right to say anything that they want about you at any time, but just please remember that *you have the right to prove them wrong.*"

I believe this quote spoke to me because sometimes the voice telling us that we are not rising to the occasion comes from within—from our own fear and self-doubt. I will admit, I've had those thoughts and fears in beginning my term as President, but I have the right to prove myself wrong too. I know that I will not get everything right this year, but what I can say is that I will work every day with all of you to help make LAW the very best it can be and to live out its core values.



2021-2022 LAW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

Kimberly Faye, *President*
Shellie Handelsman, *President-Elect*
Emily Warth, *Secretary*
Leighann Ness, *Treasurer*
Brooke Coplon, *2nd Year Director*
Tabitha Robinson, *2nd Year Director*
Shundra Manning, *1st Year Director*
Courtney Orr, *1st Year Director*
Rachel Berg, *Archivist*
Samantha Simpson, *Archivist*
Amanda Bradley, *Newsletter Editor*
Hannah Kay Freeman, *Newsletter Editor*
Devon Landman, *Newsletter Editor*
Caroline Sapp, *Newsletter Editor*
Sara Anne Quinn, *Immediate Past President*

Executive Director

Melanie Gober Grand

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.

The Annual Legislative Update is Back! Live and In Person!

June 15, 2021

The Nashville City Club
Atop Service Source Building
201 4th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219

Registration and Buffet Opens at 11:15 am

CLE Noon—1:00 pm

Lunch Only \$25.00

Lunch and CLE \$40.00*

Join us at the Nashville City Club as we welcome the dynamic trio of Mandy Young, Erica Vick and Kim Adkins as they analyze, summarize, and (maybe eulogize) legislation brought before and passed by the 2020 and 2021 Tennessee General Assemblies.

Invite your summer associates and introduce them to LAW!

LAW will offer the CLE as a hybrid, but we would love to see as many of you in attendance who are comfortable in a group setting.



Mandy Young
Butler Snow LLP



Erica Vick
Bass Berry & Sims PLC



Kim Adkins
Kim Adkins Law/The
Capitol Strategy Group

*Sustaining Members who renew their dues by June 30th qualify to receive one hour of FREE CLE. Your membership must be in good standing and your payment received by 10:00 am the morning of the program. If paying by check, please make sure you mail your payment so it is received by June 15th. Members not currently at the Sustaining Membership level who have paid their 2021-2022 dues may upgrade their membership. Please contact the LAW office at info@law-nashville.org to request an updated invoice. Sustaining Members must use their free one-hour CLE by September 1, 2021.

Founders' Watch Party.

By: Tabitha Robinson

On the evening of LAW's virtual Annual Banquet, LAW's fully vaccinated founders gathered for a watch party. Nearly every founder was in attendance, including some who had traveled as far as Memphis to be there. Many remarked that they had not connected with some of the founders in attendance in nearly forty years. In addition to making their special virtual appearance at the Banquet, the founders enjoyed an evening of fellowship and reminisced about fond memories. There were a lot of laughs and catching up on lost time. The founders' watch party was a huge success. Many thanks to Judge Marietta Shipley for hosting this spectacular event!



Judge Patsy Cottrell and Nancy MacLean



Jeanie Nelson and Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey



Christina Norris and Mag. Judge Juliet Griffin



Suzanne Keith and Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman



Judge Carol Soloman and Abby Rubinfeld



Dean Sue Kay, Karen Neal, Wendy Goggin, Mag. Judge Juliet Griffin and Sylvia Brown



Kathy Austin



Waving at 40th Anniversary Event Virtual Attendees

As the Lawyers' Association for Women—Marion Griffin Chapter celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, we are looking back on and honoring our past. As part of the celebration, we are highlighting a LAW founder and past president each month, finding out what drew them to LAW, what they remember most about their time as president, and their reflections on LAW's role in the community now and in the future.

Founder's Spotlight

Jeanie Nelson



What were you doing in your career at the time the Marion Griffin chapter of LAW was founded? After practicing law at Gullett, Steele, Sanford, Robinson and Merritt for 4+ years, I had recently been made a partner. My practice was extremely varied—business litigation; administrative law in areas related to healthcare, transportation, telecommunications; adoptions and all the fun of a general practice where you never know what will come next! My firm was very public minded and supported civic and professional involvement. And that excited me from the beginning, and I had jumped into bar and community efforts.

What memories do you have about the formation of LAW? I have only a general sense of the beginnings of LAW but they are all positive. It was about that time that conversations were also going on about forming CABLE so, frankly, I have merged some of the memories! But I do know it felt so right and so necessary when a number of us got together to discuss and then to actualize. I do remember there were some conversations about whether there should be a separate organization for women lawyers.

What did you envision as the goal or purpose of LAW when it was founded? We knew that we needed a way to be in mutual support of each other. We were beginning to outgrow (thank heavens!) the small round tables and booths then where most of the women lawyers could get together to encourage each other. We knew we wanted it to be a very professional, learning experience. And we wanted to be sure it enabled the building of relationships. Many of us practiced at that time in places where we were the only or one of the only women. From the beginning, we knew that pushing for opportunities for women on the bench and in other positions would be important.

What has your membership in LAW provided for you over the years? My career in law has taken a number of forms—all challenging and often in circumstances totally new for me. The solid set of friendships and ever-present support from LAW colleagues gave me the confidence to take those risks. After 13 years in private practice, I was appointed Chief Deputy Attorney General, the first woman to serve in that position. But I knew Patsy Cottrell and Kate Eyler and other strong women in that office would stand behind me. My next chapter was in national politics and policy—in Al Gore's run for President in 1988 and for Vice President in 1992. Both of those efforts had colleagues from LAW times beside me (and in front of me!). And, standing there in D.C. with me, when I faced Senate Confirmation for General Counsel of EPA, were Margaret Behm and Marietta Shipley. And the final professional chapter for me was to co-found The Land Trust for Tennessee and be its CEO for 16 years—and, again, this new endeavor had many of those same historic friends cheering and lending their hands.

What has changed about LAW and/or the Nashville legal community since LAW was formed? I encourage all of you to look back at the founder profiles previously done in the newsletter to see all the progress that has been made across our city by women, through a variety of uses of our legal educations. You only have to look at the numbers and quality of judges, partners in firms, the corporate counsels, the outstanding lawyers throughout our city and state government and other roles to see. I give LAW an enormous amount of credit for building the confidence level of women, of encouraging all the bar associations to multiply opportunities for women, and for the promotion of women. The world is a better place.



Past President's Spotlight

Candice Reed

2009-2010

Why (and how) did you first get involved in LAW? I attended my first LAW meeting as a summer associate. I began my legal career at Miller & Martin, which at the time was one of Nashville's largest law firms. Katie Edge, Mandy Young, and Mary Ellen Morris, who were partners with the firm, walked all of us summer associates up 4th Avenue to the Nashville City Club for our first LAW meeting and introduced us to a number of the judges and lawyers in attendance. Everyone was extremely welcoming and showed genuine interest in me and my career plans (even though I was still "just" a summer clerk). I felt an instant kinship with these women—like they were saying, "You're one of us now. And we want to see and help you succeed." It didn't matter that I was just starting my career, and most of them were already very accomplished. They invited me into their circle. So when I returned to Nashville after law school graduation, I believe LAW was the first bar association I joined.

What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishment while serving as president of LAW? When I served as President in 2009-2010, I had already transitioned out of the daily practice of law into a business role, which was different than LAW's past presidents. My goal was to expand LAW's membership and engagement to better reflect the full diversity of our bar. For me, this meant being intentional about choosing a diverse group of people to lead our committees. Our leadership team that year included women and men, of different races, ages, and experience levels, who specialized in various practice areas across a wide spectrum of workplace environments (e.g. firms of various sizes, in-house, government, not-for-profit and for-profit businesses, etc.). I believe the diversity of our board expanded LAW's overall reach and yielded interesting programming that was relevant to many attorneys who were not previously connected with LAW. As such, we increased our membership and engagement (moving, for the first time, into the main dining room at the City Club for all of our lunch meetings that year).

What's your favorite memory from your time serving as LAW's president? There are two events that shine equally bright in my memories of serving as LAW President. First, our leadership team decided to show our collective gratitude to our members by inviting them to a free three-hour CLE that we planned to coincide with the annual holiday party that year. It was our "gift" to LAW members for supporting us and the association throughout the year and became the first of LAW's now-annual Member Appreciation CLEs.

Second, in February of that same membership year, we invited all of the area affinity bar associations (i.e. Napier-Looby Bar Association, TLAW, Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and Tennessee Stonewall Bar Association) to join us in hosting our monthly lunch program. It was rewarding to work with these other associations and ultimately stand in front of a full-capacity crowd at the City Club to listen to civil rights pioneers Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Adolpho A. Birch, Jr., George Barrett, the Honorable Richard H. Dinkins, Mariah Wooten, and Harris Gilbert discuss their personal experiences with integrating the Nashville bar just a few years earlier. Hearing their inspiring stories and sitting among colleagues from across our local bar felt like being at a big family reunion.

What has changed about LAW and/or the Nashville legal community since you first got involved in LAW? I believe the Nashville legal community is vibrant and has become more diverse since I first joined LAW 21 years ago. As a law school student, when I interviewed for jobs in Nashville, people would ask me what my connection to the city was—the assumption being that someone would only stay in Nashville if they had ties to the city outside their job. I don't believe that was true then, but it certainly isn't true now. Nashville has become a destination city—and not just for bachelorettes looking for a fun weekend. Attorneys from across the country are moving here and joining our bar, bringing with them a broad range of experiences, perspectives, and strengths. It is rewarding to work with these attorneys every day and watch how they are strengthening and expanding our bar.

There is a growing diversity of jobs and opportunities as well. Attorneys now have the option of crafting a career that works best for them and aligns with their professional and personal goals. As a profession, we are recognizing that one size does not fit all and allowing for reduced-hour or flexible schedules, for example, which I believe helps prevent burnout and keeps more good lawyers (especially women) in the profession.

What do you hope LAW's role is in the Nashville legal community going forward? As Dory would say, "Just keep swimming!" I hope that LAW continues to do the good work that it has done for 40 years of advocating on behalf of women, supporting women in the legal profession, and adding women to our courts and elected positions. As the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, our work continues until "there are nine [women Justices on the Supreme Court]."

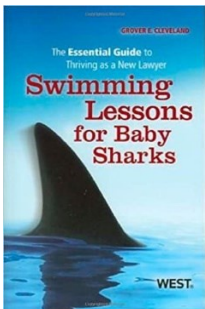
What woman inspires you and why? There are so many women who inspire me . . . Justice Sonia Sotomayor, former First Lady Michelle Obama, Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, Glennon Doyle, Malala Yousafzai, Oprah Winfrey, Dolly Parton, Greta Thunberg, my Latitude colleagues, Katie Bennett and Cynthia Moon, my late grandmothers Edna Reed, Nellie Nunley and Betty McClellan, so many of my LAW friends Thankfully, the list is long. But I am especially and specially inspired by my mother, Rebekah McClellan, who shows me the enduring support of family and how to love and forgive and find joy in the everydayness of life; and my 7-year-old daughter, Stella, who daily reminds me to laugh loudly, play hard, dream big, feel all my emotions, speak up for myself and others, and occasionally put down my phone.



Books, Podcasts, and Social Media Recommendations for Lawyers

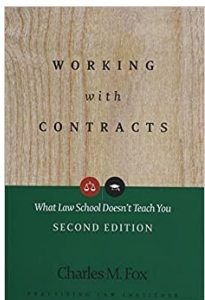
By: Alé Dalton

As an early-career lawyer, it can be intimidating to realize that even after a few years of practice, there is still so much to learn. While nothing can replace day-to-day practice in gaining extensive knowledge and developing new skills, easily-accessible resources can make the process less daunting. Below are a few of my favorite recommendations to super-charge your practice as a young attorney.



Swimming Lessons for Baby Sharks: The Essential Guide to Thriving As a New Lawyer by Grover Cleveland

This book is my favorite gift and recommendation for new associates! It is a comprehensive guide on learning the practice law and how to be a great young lawyer, including organizational templates and checklists.



Working With Contracts: What Law School Doesn't Teach You, 2nd Edition by Charles M. Fox

Written by a practicing attorney (now retired), this book teaches you the basics of how to put a contract together, what matters and does not at the end of the day, and how to become a more proficient drafts-person.

**STOP
PUTTING OUT
FIRES**



Stop Putting Out Fires: Building a More Efficient and Profitable Law Practice by Jeremy W. Richter

This book is a wonderful tool for learning how to have a more productive practice. The author is also very active on social media. Great for more senior attorneys as well, with a particular focus on practice management and client service.

Podcasts

While both of these podcasts are no longer in production, I find myself revisiting certain episodes from time-to-time.



The Lawyer Stress Solution with Kara Loewentheil

Favorite episodes:

Episode 9: Mid-Year Review Meltdown

Episode 14: Taking Charge of Your Professional Development



Hustle & Flow by Heather Hubbard

Episode 67: How to Be a Rockstar Associate

Episode 91: Dealing with Negative Feedback

Hashtags on Social Media

#AppellateTwitter

As described by [Law.com](https://www.law.com), “[A] growing and thriving community of lawyers, judges, law professors, and journalists on Twitter who are interested in and who cover news relating to appellate practice and the most recent noteworthy appellate court rulings.” Non-appellate lawyers are welcome!

#PracticeTuesday

A hashtag under which attorneys, law students, and law-adjacent professionals pose and answer questions related to practicing law.

#LadyLawyerDiary

A hashtag for women in the legal profession. A mix of professional and social, this community has provided a great sounding board during the pandemic. The community hosts Zoom happy hours and works to connect younger attorneys with mentors.

**Don't Miss Out on What's Ahead!
Renewal Your 2021-2022 Dues
TODAY!**



New Member Spotlight

Joy Longnecker

Where are you from? Tell us about your path to practicing law. I was born and grew up in upstate New York. My family moved to Alabama when I was in 9th grade (FUN). As the navy blazer I wore in my third-grade school picture clearly demonstrates (see below), I knew from a very young age that I wanted to be a lawyer.

What do you do professionally, and what is your favorite part about your job? I'm a shareholder at Baker Donelson, and my practice focuses on white collar defense and commercial litigation. I really enjoy leading internal investigations and helping clients navigate and overcome difficult and challenging circumstances.

What brought you to Nashville? My baby sister. Also, the food scene. I love to eat.

Tell us about your family. My husband and I have been married since 2014. We have two little girls, ages 1 and 3, and two mutts, Archer and Sterling.

What are your hobbies? When I have time to do it, I really enjoy hiking and reading. I'm also very good at sleeping.

What is your favorite quote, piece of advice, or a motto you try to live by? Make good choices. I try to make good choices when it comes to how I treat myself, my family, my co-workers, and my community.

What woman inspires you the most and why? Single mothers. I have an extraordinary amount of respect for mothers in general, but single mothers have my utmost respect and admiration. I have an amazing husband who is incredibly supportive, but motherhood is still one of the hardest jobs I've ever had. I salute all of the women out there, particularly attorneys, who are doing it all for their families.



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

Mallory Acheson	Grace Fox	Kate Melby	Caroline Sapp
Audrey Anderson	Hannah Kay Freeman	Laura Merritt	Carolyn Schott
Anne Arney	Victoria Gentry	Casey Miller	Cynthia Sherwood
Kristy Arth	Jessica Gichner	Amy Mohan	Dianna Shew
Gail Ashworth	Elizabeth Gonser	Jesse Morris	Judge Marietta Shipley
Catie Bailey	Melissa Gworek	Lynn Morrow	Emily Shouse
Laura Baker	Anne Hamer	Marlene Moses	Beth Sims
Cindy Barnett	Shellie Handelsman	Chancellor Patricia Moskal	Elizabeth Sitgreaves
Margaret Behm	Corey Harkey	Barbara Moss	Laura Smith
Katie Bennett	Laura Heiman	Ann Murphy	Leslie South
Rachel Berg	Lisa Helton	I'Ashea Myles	Joycelyn Stevenson
April Berman	Jessica Hill	Margaret Myers	Camille Steward
Paige Bernick	Lela Hollabaugh	Karen Scott Neal	Maria Stewart
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Dewey Branstetter	Judge Lynda Jones	Courtney Orr	Martha Trammell
Hunter Branstetter	Quynh-Anh Kibler	Larry Papel	Judge Aleta Trauger
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Cynthia Cutler Moon	Joy Longnecker	Phillis Rambsey	Susan Neal Williams
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Meredith Eason	Chancellor Anne Martin	Tabitha Robinson	Mandy Young
Sherie Edwards	Henry Martin	Abby Rubenfeld	Gulam Zade
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Amy Everhart	Meg Mazzone	Amber Rutherford	
Doreen Farthing	Judge Amanda McClendon	Joyce Safley	
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Marcus Floyd	Susan McGannon	Julie Sandine	
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