

LAW MATTERS

February 2019

Volume XXX No. 9

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LAW CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 19, 2018	Membership Luncheon 1:15 am—1:00 pm
February 28, 2019	Health & Wellness Book Club 6:00 pm—8:00 pm
March 12, 2019	March Board Meeting 11:30 am—12:30 pm
March 19, 2019	Field trip to the Nashville Library 11:00 am—1:00 pm
March 20, 2019	Diversity Pro Bono Networking Mixer 5:00 pm—7:00 pm
April 11, 2019	Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet 6:00 pm—9:00 pm

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Nominations are now being taken for the 2019 Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey Award and the 2019 Rising Star Award. Click on the links below to access nomination forms. Nominations are due by Friday, March 11, 2019 at close of business.

[2019 Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey Award](#)

[2019 Rising Star Award](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ashonti Davis



Waiting for Progress is Hard, but Good Comes from It

2019 is in full swing. And, February, although the shortest month, provides opportunities for reflection and celebration. With Black History Month, there are numerous exhibits and cultural activities around Middle Tennessee that celebrate, remember, and highlight the rich history of Black Americans in the United States. I had the opportunity recently to visit the African American History Museum in Washington D.C., and the breadth and richness of African American history was not only stirring, but my visit reinforced that progress is often slow.

That reminder of how slow progress can be is simultaneously frustrating and inspiring. Movements for change involve a rollercoaster of highs and lows; they are full of setbacks and small victories. For me, February consistently highlights how important it is to be mindful of history and the sacrifices of individuals of previous generations. The selfless actions of other men and women and the ability to persevere through seemingly hopeless and unjust conditions moved our society forward benefiting us in ways that we often take for granted. Please do not hear what I am not saying – millions of people live in disparate situations not only in Nashville, but across our planet providing numerous opportunities for work and improvement. The resilience demonstrated by the people who fought in the Civil Rights Movement, some of whom lost their lives, is a sobering reminder of our responsibility to make positive contributions to our overall society.

Observing that progress is often slow, Michelle Obama in her memoir, Becoming¹ reflects on that theme throughout the recount of her life story. She remarks, “Life was teaching me that progress and change happen slowly. We were planting the seeds of change, the fruit of which we might never see. We had to be patient.” Waiting and patience are hard. But, our attitudes and what we do during the waiting for change are critical as it can deepen our perseverance and further develop character. Maintaining hope during the waiting sometimes requires us to look back, remembering the triumphs and the failures – a guidepost when mapping a future course. Thankfully, we have people, like Michelle Obama, who have already done just that and we can look to for inspiration.

¹LAW's Health and Wellness Committee will host a book club on February 28th featuring Becoming, and whether you have read the book or not, the themes throughout the book are relatable and engaging, which should provide for a thoughtful discussion.

Are you interested in serving on the LAW Executive Board?

[Click Here](#) to obtain an application. For questions, contact the LAW office at info@law-nashville.org.

The nominating committee will meet on March 1, 2019

2018-2019 LAW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gulam Zade

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Caroline Hudson

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

February Membership Meeting and One Hour CLE

“Women, Money, Marriage, Divorce—Repeat”

Presenter: Rosemary Frank

11:15 am—Noon Registration/Buffer Opens

Noon—1:00 pm CLE

BB King’s Jazz Club, 152 2nd Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37201



Use Code

LAW 219

Tuesday, February 28, 2019

Health & Wellness Book Club

Becoming by Michelle Obama

6:00 pm—8:00 pm

1317C Meridian Street, Nashville, TN 37207

Parking: Park at Kipp School or in the construction zone next to 1317C Meridian Street.

To register for all LAW events go to www.law-nashville.org/events

MARCH

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

**March Membership Meeting and One Hour CLE
Field Trip to the Downtown Nashville Public Library**

Watch for More Details

Note Time Adjustment for this Event

11:00 am—11:30 am Registration/Box Lunch

11:30 am—12:30 pm CLE

Q &A and Tour of Civil Rights Room

BB King's Jazz Club, 152 2nd Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37201



Use Code

LAW 319

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Pro Bono Networking Event

Bass, Berry & Sims PLC

Watch for More Details

5:00 pm—7:00 pm

150 3rd Avenue South, Suite 2800, Nashville, TN 37201

Thursday, April 11, 2019

Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet

Omni Nashville Hotel

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

250 5th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203



Use Code

LAW 411

HONORING CHANCELLOR CLAUDIA BONNYMAN, LAW'S FIRST PRESIDENT



On January 15, 2019 a retirement reception was held in honor of Davidson County Chancellor Claudia C. Bonnyman. The celebration at the Historic Metropolitan Courthouse honored her character, years of public service, and esteemed career prior to taking the bench in 2003. The reception included warm remarks from several leading figures of Nashville's bench and bar presented warm remarks. Longtime friend and LAW founding member Margaret Behm, shared the following heartfelt words:

May It Please The Court:

At this retirement reception, we are celebrating the many years of distinguished judicial service of Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman since she was appointed in 2003. But before Judge Dinkins recounts that service, I'd like to talk about Chancellor Bonnyman in the 70s and the 80s, and why those of us who knew her then, expected her to have the exceptional legal and judicial career she has had.

To set the stage, when Chancellor Bonnyman graduated Order of the Coif from Vanderbilt Law School in 1974, 45 years ago, there were:

- Only 12 women in her law school class, and no women partners in Nashville's law firms.
- Women could not join business and service clubs like the City, Rotary and Exchange Clubs or the downtown YMCA.
- Women lawyers generally did not do any work other than estate planning and family law.

It was not until the next year, 1975, that a law professor of Chancellor Bonnyman, Martha Craig Daughtrey, was appointed to the Criminal Court of Appeals, as the first and only woman judge of a court of record in Tennessee.

This Courthouse, where most lawyers congregated and became known, was a place where conventional wisdom considered it a huge detriment for a woman to try a jury case, due to the lack of her credibility and experience. Women were not even allowed to serve on juries until 1951, 20 years before Chancellor Bonnyman started law school. Most of the few women lawyers who came to court were not in private practice, but in government or legal aid.

By 1981, these conditions had generally not changed, but a group of 45 women lawyers (which was almost all of the women lawyers in Nashville), or the "founders", decided to start a women's bar association, which became known as the Lawyers' Association for Women or LAW. All 45 of us were doing our best to gain confidence in ourselves as well as others' confidence in us as lawyers.

As we were organizing LAW, we were aware that our first leader would set the stage as to whether the organization, which was not yet half-baked, was legit. Who would be the person that the bar would take notice? Who would be the person who could instill that confidence? Who would be the face and voice of LAW?

There was one woman among the 45 who stood out among the rest. Claudia Bonnyman was one of the very few who was in private practice, handled many types of cases and had previously clerked for Supreme Court Justice William Harbison. She was very, very smart. She had wisdom and judgment, and she had been practicing for a very long 7 years! Claudia was not just heavily credentialed, however. She was credible. She commanded respect in any group by her presence, her quiet strength of will and her firm intellectual honesty. She was fair, thoughtful, collegial, caring, a true professional and extremely popular! She had a can-do spirit and lots of guts! She was also a mother of a two year old, for she and Gordon had Houston in 1979. And, she was courageous too.

It was obvious why the founders wanted her to be our leader, but what did it mean for her? Without taking on this leadership role, Chancellor Bonnyman was already working very hard to show how good a lawyer, wife and mother she could be in a man's world. To take on the role as the first President of LAW not only took more of her limited time, but also told our bar and community where she stood on opening up the workplace to women lawyers and women's rights. Particularly in those times, such a stand was difficult and controversial. But that did not matter to Claudia. She was our leader and proud to lead.

By her calm and determined demeanor, she set the stage and established a culture of professionalism, learning and advocacy for LAW that remains today. When blazing her own trail where women had not tread before, Chancellor Bonnyman also blazed the trail for many others who saw that you could be a great lawyer, have fidelity to your family and friends and at the same time stand up for what you believe.

This is just a snapshot of Chancellor Bonnyman in earlier times. She has left a long legacy that started way before she assumed the bench. Her character, moral fiber and certainty, steadfast ability to step up and work ethic defined not only her tenure as Chancellor, but her life at every stage. The state of Tennessee and this Honorable Court are forever grateful. Thank you, Chancellor Bonnyman.



On the occasion of her retirement, Chancellor Bonnyman shared these gracious words as well:

Thank you dear friends for such positive comments today. And thank you to the Nashville Bar Association, to LAW and to the individuals who made this lovely reception possible: Chris Norris, Barbara Moss, Patsy Cottrell, Monica Mackie, Pat Moskal, Chancellor Anne Martin and Christen Blackburn.

I have certainly thought about the fact that today is my last chance to issue orders and expect them to be heard. I do plan to issue some orders in this part of the program.

This time together is also the best occasion for me to express gratitude for the privilege I have had in serving as the Part I chancellor for 15 years. The chancery position is the best job in the world because the courts embody the community demand that we can and will reach justice when personal disputes or great societal issues arise. The demand is met in

large part because Nashville attorneys are devoted to their clients and do a very fine job of educating the judges here. These same attorneys could have opposed me for the chancery position in three elections but they instead honored me by not doing so.

I hereby order that my affection and admiration for lawyers will exist in perpetuity.

After I was appointed to the bench in 2003 by Gov. Phil Bredesen--I am grateful for his trust and for the appointment --, I was not allowed to wallow in self -doubt and pity as regards the challenge of the new job. That was because Walter Kurtz and Robert Brandt assured me that I could do the job and that serious blunders could be avoided or corrected. These assurances came in the middle of what I perceived as numerous crises. I find and order that Walt Kurtz and Robert Brandt are the proximate cause of the development of confidence over the years and I thank them.

Meanwhile my spouse Gordon was by my side in his loving and kind way, regardless of how late I worked. How did I get the best job and the dearest and most adorable spouse? I hereby order and summon Gordon to do more of the same forever and ever.

The experience of seeking election to this position is something I wish for everyone. Davidson is a huge county. Its residents are diverse and politically engaged. My translator and map wizard was Linda McFayden-Ketchum who managed all three elections and dealt with the intricate campaign reports. Nancy MacLean corralled a small army of volunteers without which a campaign cannot succeed. Thank you Nancy and Linda for the many hours you devoted to me in 2004, 2006 and in 2014.

Vic Alexander, the best CPA in the state, allowed me to place his name on all my written materials as my treasurer. I basked in his excellent reputation and I am grateful to him for his confidence in me. Meanwhile, Margaret Behm and Harlan Dodson provided their wisdom for the big picture then and for the future. And my mentors Cissy Daughtry, Susan and Ashley Wiltshire, and Jean Buchanan were always available to comfort and to energize. My fellow law student Aleta Trauger provided her wisdom and lessons from her extensive experience. These advisors are well poised to accept the restrictive covenants that I order be placed upon them so that these advisor and election campaign experts are allowed to apply their skills across the state of Tennessee and beyond.

I am privileged to move into another adventure. Our Wilson county farm, more time with Gordon and our son, and more involvement with the church await. Can I be at the farm so consistently that I can at last raise chickens with our Norris partners? I am ready to give up Thursday night reading marathons, in preparation for motion dockets. My bedside table is loaded with books recommended by good friends in a walking group ... Conversation flows when walking side by side with someone like Chancellor Carol McCoy. We still have so much to discuss and I miss her insight and humor in the next door suite. Last, my brother just called with the promise that we will spend more time hunting arrowheads in east Tennessee.

I hereby order that any motion to alter or negate these friendships and promises is denied with prejudice.

The sadness I feel about leaving the bench is deeply connected to the people I see every day, sometimes all day. One of my most admired predecessors, Judge Ben Cantrell, said when he retired, "at the end of the day, it's about the people. "

With my staff, it *is* about the people. Debbie Simpkins, Julie Spencer, Wyla Porcello and Greg Nies, my immediate team, make it a pleasure to walk into chambers every day. And the Clerk and Master deputies like Vicki Bailey can be lifesavers. The resources and good will from the court clerk's office are essential to the work of the court. A lawyer asked me once why I had not been angry with a disrespectful litigant. The fact is, when the authority of the chancellor is challenged in a disrespectful way, I sit back and watch the fireworks in chambers because my staff gets angry for me. I have to calm them down so that I can finish the hearing. At that point, anger from me seems like overkill! My affection and loyalty to these people are profound. I order them never to forget me because I will not forget them.

Last, I am sad to leave my fellow judges and all the court staff because they made life in the courthouse more interesting and fruitful. The taxpayers get their money's worth from the Nashville judiciary. The public may not always perceive this, but there is not a single judge I know who would entertain outside communication about a lawsuit and this certainly includes the appellate judges. Such things do not happen in our judiciary. . . I hereby order that there shall be no remedy or maxim to alter the integrity that is on display in the chancery and circuit courts of this county and in our appellate courts.

Certain orders having been issued, this court is adjourned in the spirit of immense gratitude to all.

**LAW PAST PRESIDENTS AND LONG-TIME MEMBERS
CELEBRATED CHANCELLOR BONNYMAN AT HER RECEPTION**

(Photos by Chancellor Carol McCoy)



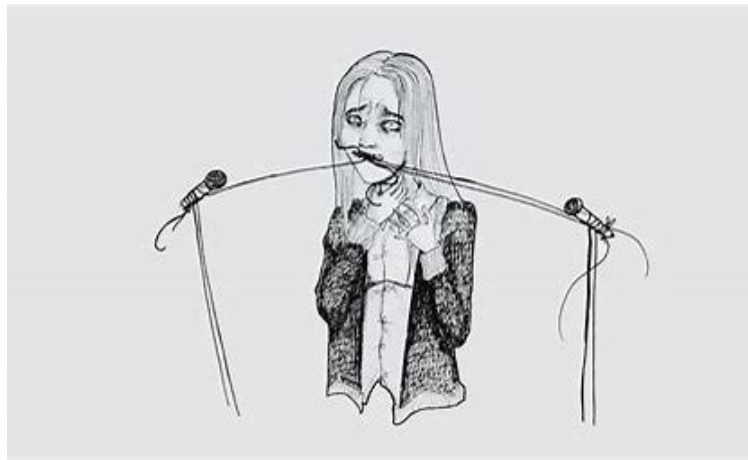
The Glossophobe's Guide to Effective Presentations

By Jane Salem

I'm a self-diagnosed glossophobe; that is, I fear public speaking. Some of you went to law school dreaming of upbraiding a witness with, "You can't handle the truth!" This would be after delivering a killer opening statement where the jurors laughed and cried.

Not me. I dreamt of hiding in a law library and writing briefs. In fact, I'm a member of the ILBA, the Introverted Lawyers Bar Association. Okay, I made that up. But if it existed, I'd join – and *never attend the meetings*.

Some glossophobic lawyers just weren't cut out for public speaking, right? Turns out I'm wrong, after talking to a few experienced public speakers. *Everyone*, even introverts, can succeed at public speaking, with the right mindset and a willingness to work hard. Sure, some people have charisma and the gift of gab. But for most of us, public speaking is a competency. No one delivers the Gettysburg Address when they're first learning, and as effective as some speakers might be, even they can improve.



Here's how:

- **If possible, start by being part of a panel.** General Sessions Judge Lynda Jones said you'll be more at ease when you're part of a team and can defer to someone else if you're stumped.

In the alternative, Brentwood plaintiffs' attorney Liz Sitgreaves, who practices at the Law Offices of John Day, PC, recommended co-presenting with a mentor. He or she can take the lead and keep you relaxed –as relaxed as possible, anyway. It helps when the two of you are talking about a topic you're well-versed in, she added.

- **Over-prepare your material.** There's just no substitute, and it's obvious to the audience when you haven't, said Marshall Davidson, Presiding Judge of the Tennessee Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. You might think you have plenty to talk about, but suddenly you run out of words. Meanwhile, you have 40 minutes left. This actually happened to Judge Jones, who recalled that she then went into "stream-of-consciousness mode" and somehow managed to fill the time. This is an easier situation to handle when speaking before a live audience, because they can ask questions, she noted.
- **Always keep your audience in mind.** Tailor your material. Judge Davidson might be discussing the same point of law, but he'll approach it differently with an audience of appellate lawyers versus a group of adjusters. Ultimately you want to create a script. Judge Jones doesn't commit every word to paper but admitted she often gets fairly detailed writing it beforehand, depending on the topic. Then she tries to whittle it down to bullet points, so she doesn't read to the audience.
- **Incorporate visuals.** Judge Davidson reminded that your audience learns by both listening and observing. Sitgreaves said to keep your slides simple: don't overload them with information. Instead, put the details in written materials. Break up the substantive information in your PowerPoint with clipart, photos, etc.
- **Immediately "hook" the audience.** Tell a story; ask a question relevant to the topic. The goal is to make a connection from the start. If you don't do it then, it's much harder to engage the audience later, Judge Davidson said.

- **Practice, practice, practice.** If you know your subject cold, Judge Jones said you'll be less likely to stumble on your words once it's show time. She typically practices before a few lawyer friends and gets their feedback. The less experienced you are with public speaking, the more you should practice.
- **Craft your handouts carefully.** Judge Jones said that some lawyers create narratives similar to briefs, while some prefer outlines. Make sure that the materials are truly useful. In other words, don't make them so bare bones that someone who didn't attend the session would be unable to understand.
- **As you speak, look at the audience members throughout the room.** Make eye contact with as many people possible, Judge Davidson said. Vary your tone and volume, and smile. Although you might be nervous, it's important to be open, genuine, honest, transparent and above all, *passionate about your topic*. And don't be rattled by someone checking his phone. It's just a fact of modern practice that lawyers frequently check email/messages, Sitgreaves said. Although she added that it's okay to call out attendees who are having an entire conversation; try saying, "Did something I said strike a chord with you?"
- **But what if it's a webinar/video CLE?** Sitgreaves gave her first CLE speaking to a camera without a visible audience. "They're a little more difficult," she said. "You're just talking, talking, talking." The tips she offered for these types of CLEs are to practice, get feedback, and anticipate how someone in cyberspace might react.
- **Finally... what if you bomb?** For starters, don't assume that's the case—especially if you followed the tips in this article. Sitgreaves recently served as the "boring panelist who covered the substantive law and rules," while a co-presenter gave entertaining war stories, joked, etc. She didn't beat up on herself. They simply served different purposes, and it was an effective presentation overall. "I'm sure my first webinar was terrible," Sitgreaves recalled. "But it's a lot easier to sit there and write a negative review than it is to actually get up there and give a CLE."

Learn from it. You'll do better next time.



Jane Salem is a staff attorney for the Court of Workers' Compensation Claims in Nashville.

What LAW Women Love: The Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra

By Courtney Orr



The attorney I worked for before law school had two pieces of advice for me: (1) don't go to law school and (2) have at least one hobby that is not related to law in any way. Luckily, I already had a non-law related hobby: I played harp and violin in my hometown community orchestra. It is still shocking to me how many times music has saved my sanity during the three years of law school and first few years of legal practice.

I started playing violin when I was 10 years old. My mom played violin when she was in high school, and I wanted to follow in her footsteps. Three years later, I decided that violin wasn't "unique" enough, so I added harp. Little did I know that I would still be playing both instruments 20 years later.

Over the years, music has helped me both celebrate big achievements and work through difficult times. I feel that it allows me to express emotions I would otherwise would not know how to process. It has almost become a type of therapy. It is also a great stress reliever, and mastering a piece comes with a tremendous sense of accomplishment.

As lawyers—even those of us who work in firms—we are used to working with a certain amount of independence. Of course, we work together, bounce ideas off of each other, and benefit from the work of our colleagues. However, at the end of the day your work product is your own and your name is on the pleading, contract, or brief. Conversely, the success of an orchestra depends on every single member pulling their own weight, putting in hours of practice, and blending with the larger group. The process forges a special bond between members that is difficult to replicate in other environments.

When I moved to Nashville, I had spent 16 years playing in orchestras. It only took a few months for me to realize that I missed the camaraderie that came with playing with a group. I started searching for a community orchestra, and I found the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra (NPO).

Many people confuse the Nashville Philharmonic with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. The Nashville Symphony is the profession orchestra that plays weekly in the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. The NPO is an all-volunteer orchestra with approximately 90 members. We rehearse once a week and perform four series of concerts each year. The or-

chestra's mission is to take high-quality classical music out down the downtown Nashville "bubble" and into various neighborhoods around town. All of our concerts are free to the public because we want to make orchestral music as accessible as possible.

Admittedly, most people think of country music when they think of Music City. However, this city is brimming with talented musicians of all types. I invite all of you to come to one of NPO's concerts or to attend one of the Nashville Symphony's fantastic shows. For more details and information about the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra visit <https://nashvillephilharmonic.org/>.



Courtney serves as a Networking Committee Co-chair. She is an Assistant Attorney General (Criminal Appeals Division, and a former law clerk to Judge Robert Holloway, TN Court of Criminal Appeals.

Health & Wellness Book Club: The Pearl that Broke its Shell

By Samantha Thomas

On Wednesday, November 12, the LAW Book Club held its final 2018 meeting to discuss *The Pearl that Broke its Shell*, an international bestseller by Nadia Hashimi. Judge Lynda Jones hosted the discussion at her home where members enjoyed festive decorations, cider mimosas, and a hot chocolate bar.

The group discussed the book's representation of Afghani women, as the novel alternates between the recent past and the late 1800's, telling the story of two women who became "bacha posh," meaning "dressed up as a boy." This was a common practice then and now, in which a family with only daughters will sometimes choose to dress one daughter as a son, and the community looks the other way. This allows the family to avoid the stigma of failing to produce a son, while allowing the young girl a freedom only afforded to boys. Family, teachers, and locals may all be aware of the ruse, and yet they act as if the daughter were a son. The bacha posh can accompany the family's daughters outside the house, can work, and can attend school. In the book, this is a serious consideration for the present-day family, as they must contend with an absent, drug-addicted father. As the only male in the family, his lack of support means the family might not eat, earn money, or leave the house. The daughter who is chosen as bacha posh not only provides for her family, but is also free to attend school, play sports, run in the streets, and conduct herself with the freedom and light-heartedness only shown to young boys.

The book uses this structure to highlight the difference between the treatment of Afghani men and women, and girls and boys, even in 2007. It is incredible to think that a female child cannot be allowed to run and play; however, this difference in youth prepares the reader for the rest of the book, in which women are abused, demeaned, married as children, and forced to fight for survival.

Topics of conversation for the group included female representation in international politics, the treatment of abused women by other abused women – a common theme in the book, in which men take several wives, who are all subject to the same abuse – and human trafficking. Particularly, Judge Jones and Grace Stranch both shared work stories of human trafficking here in the United States, with international workers brought to this country with promises of visas and a better life, but in fact forced to "earn" freedom or buy out their "debt." Conversation also meandered to the International Court of Justice, owing to the characters' political involvement and the war lords in the book. The group agreed that several of the book characters should have been subjected to a court of justice!

Join the LAW Book Club for Michelle Obama's *Becoming*, on **Thursday, February 28, 2019.**



New Member Spotlight

Phillis Rambsy

Where did you grow up? Tell us about your path to practicing law. I grew up in Jackson, Tennessee. I am from a family of educators, almost everyone in my family works in some sphere of education. My professional path also started in education. I always say that my path to practicing law was "accidental". I had planned to obtain a Ph.D. and become an educator. Immediately after college, I attended graduate school. I obtained a Master's degree, and had a great position at a university. I really don't know what happened, but at some point, I developed an interest in a legal education. I describe my change in career path by saying that I fell down and bumped my head and woke up in law school.

What brought you to Nashville? I first moved to Nashville almost 10 years ago to work at a law firm. I eventually left that firm, and moved to the DC-area. The firm that I worked with in the DC-area eventually opened a Nashville office that I led. I now own my own firm, RAMBSY LAW, and I split my time between the DC-area and Nashville. But I'm a Tennessee girl at heart, so I'm always happiest when I can lay my head down at my home in Nashville.

Tell us about your family. I have a fun and funny family! And my family is so supportive about anything--including my decision to leave graduate school and pursue a legal career; then my decision to live in a number of different places; and my decision to start my own law firm. My family is also very smart. I have two younger brothers who are both college professors. Both of them had doctorate degrees by age 25/26. My parents are retired public school teachers. I have a number of other extended family members who have careers in education. I'm the only attorney in my family--and sometimes I feel like I'm not doing enough by choosing this career.

What do you do professionally and what is your favorite part of your job? I recently opened my own law firm--RAMBSY LAW. My practice is primarily dedicated to employment law, and I represent employees in matters including unlawful discrimination, sexual harassment, and negotiating employment related contracts. I love being able to help clients maximize their employment positions--whatever phase of employment the client may be experiencing. I also love that I represent employees from all industries and at all levels, so I get to learn a little about a number of different things.

If you weren't a lawyer, what would you be and why? I would be a full-time educator. I have never really left my educational career behind, and I still am a part time instructor at a university in Maryland. I also would not mind being a full-time bartender! In fact, I may pursue the bartending gig, even while being a lawyer.

What is your favorite thing about being a LAW member? The support, knowledge, and relationships that can be built through LAW. There are so many members doing so many different things. I've been able to connect with some fantastic people through LAW. It's just amazing to be in the midst of so much power and potential.

What do you like to do in your spare time (if you have any)? I am adamant about having "free time" and "me time". Being a lawyer/practicing law is what I do, it is not who I am. I'm very careful about having a life that does not include any aspect about practicing law. I make sure to regularly connect with friends who are not lawyers. I like to take runs and go on long walks---I call those times my "thinking" times. I also work-out frequently. I'm a frequent traveler--my frequent flyer miles and hotel perks continue to increase. And it's well known that I love to shop. I would probably describe myself as a "professional shopper"; and I have a shoe collection that now exceeds over 400 pairs of shoes.

What books are you reading right now and what is the last book you read? Last book I read was The Art and Science of Respect by James Prince. I love to read. If I have even 5-10 minutes free, I pick up a magazine, book, or newspaper.

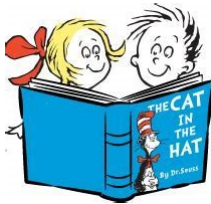
What is your favorite quote, piece of advice, or a motto you try to live by? I have two: Tough times don't last, Tough people do! and Seek Justice, Defend the Oppressed.

Any "fun facts" about you that other LAW members don't know? I took dance lessons (ballet, tap, jazz) for most of my life, and still love to dance. I collect whiskey and shoes--what a combination! I'm named after my mother--so my mother's name is also Phillis Rambsy. My mom has a twin sister, and her name is also Phillis. Although I'm often on an

airplane, sometimes multiple flights each week, I'm still overcoming a fear of flying. Water is my favorite beverage--I don't drink sodas at all.

What woman most inspires you and why? I believe strongly in the power and influence of women, so I attempt to model my personal and professional life after a number of amazing women. It's cliché to say my mom, but my mom. She continues to amaze me with the ways that she can find good in so many situations and be nice to others. Her advice, often made up of one-liners, has shaped me into a strong woman. If it's too cliché to give mom as the answer to this question, then I would have to say that I'm amazed by a number of women who break barriers, stand up for justice, and continue to create new ways of doing things. These women include (in no particular order, and some are living and some have passed) Josephine Baker, Oprah Winfrey, Beyoncé, Bozama Saint John, Viola Davis, Serena Williams, and Aretha Franklin. I'm also fortunate to be inspired by so many of the women in my close group of friends. In particular, these good friends inspire me: Dr. Tara Jenkins, Robin May, De Asa Nichols, Dr. Jemima Pierre, and Dr. Regina Flippin--all of these friends, in some way, are responsible for the success that I enjoy!

It's a Saturday in Nashville, what are you doing? Probably 2-3 Saturdays out of the month, I will not actually be in Nashville. I may be at my home in Maryland. Or I may be on some trip, since I love to travel. If I am in Nashville, I'm probably sleeping in (and "sleeping in" to me means that I'm out of bed by 8-9am). I usually do a jog or walk in the late mornings. But it's not really a jog/walk for speed or even health, as I usually venture off into some stores to shop during my journey. It's not unusual for me to return from my walk/jog with shopping bags full of clothes/shoes. Also, I'll probably jog right into a bar and have a drink (I'm a whiskey lover!). If I go out on a Saturday evening, I go somewhere that has good music and/or dancing, as I love to dance. If I stay in on a Saturday, I watch old TV shows. Saturday is also a "vision" day for me; I make plans for the activities in life which will take me to the next level. So Saturdays may find me doing research, writing business plans, making calls, or sending out networking emails. Saturday is also my "cheat" day for food! And all of my Saturdays usually include a Manhattan cocktail!



Community Relations Book Drive

In support of Read Across America day and the mission of the Lawyer's Association for Women, Marion Griffin chapter, we are pleased to kick off a book drive in support of local schools. Our goal is to deliver 120 books to 4 schools during the first week in March (480 total). Please help us reach the goal by purchasing books from the link below or bringing your books to any upcoming LAW event.

Read Across America day is a nationwide initiative to encourage reading. There is a particular focus on celebrating the many diverse readers within our schools. As such, the included list is filled with books with diverse characters, empowering messages and diverse authors. There are several books are not regularly found by or readily available to students mixed in with childhood classics. Please feel free to share widely!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact P. Danielle Nellis (pdnellis@gmail.com) or Brooke Coplon (brooke@wisemannahworth.com)

View my Wish List:

https://smile.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/34P8TK56E5LEW/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_gm_wl

KUDOS

... to LAW Founder and Past President, Susan McGannon on becoming president of the Middle Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women in Murfreesboro.

... to Past President Patricia Head Moskal on her appointment as Chancellor of the Chancery Court for the 20th Judicial District. Gov. Bill Haslam appointed her to replace Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman who retired in January.

**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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