# LAW MATTERS March/April 2020 Volume XXXI Nos. 11-12 "Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass. It's about learning how to dance in the rain." - Vivian Greene

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Christen Blackburn



I hope that each of you are doing well during this unprecedented and uncertain time. I know that each of you, like me, have had to learn how to adapt to our new normal. We are learning how to interact with clients, legal teams, opposing counsel, and the courts remotely, sometimes while also supervising children's school work (and Zoom conferences) or caring for older parents (while also maintaining social distancing). It has been a challenge, both professionally and personally, but we are making it work and I know we will be even stronger when this period is over.

LAW has also had to adapt to our current circumstances. We have had to cancel all in person events, including networking events, book club meetings, and community service projects scheduled during March and April. As you know, our Annual Meeting and Banquet was scheduled for April 23, 2020, but due to Orders from Governor Lee and Mayor Cooper, we are unable to hold our Annual Meeting and Banquet as previously planned, and we may not be able to hold in-person events for some time. But we will adapt!

We will conduct our Annual Business Meeting by telephone on May 19, 2020 at During this call, we will conduct the business of LAW including 12:00 pm. providing the organization's business and financial reports and electing new officers for 2020-2021. Call-in information will be distributed via email in the coming weeks. Please plan to attend to cast your vote!

During our Annual meeting, we usually recognize the incredible women who have been selected to receive LAW's highest honors: The Martha Craig Daughtrey Award and the Rising Star award. This year, I am happy to announce that our Martha Craig Daughtrey award will go to Chancellor Anne C. Martin and the Rising Star award will go to Shellie Handelsman. These women are inspirational role models and mentors in LAW and incredibly deserving of this honor. While we will not be able to give out our awards in our telephonic Annual Meeting, I am looking forward to a time later this year when we can celebrate these women in person!

In the meantime, we are exploring ways to conduct LAW events remotely so that our members can continue to stay connected, to obtain LAW programming, and come together for networking opportunities. I encourage each of you to continue to connect with your friends in LAW via email, text, phone calls or even Zoom (Zoom happy hour, anyone?). This amazing community of women in LAW are here to help, support and encourage you during this time. I look forward to hearing your voices on May 19, 2020 for our Annual Meeting and hopefully seeing you all soon!

# we're all in this together.

#### 2019-2020 LAW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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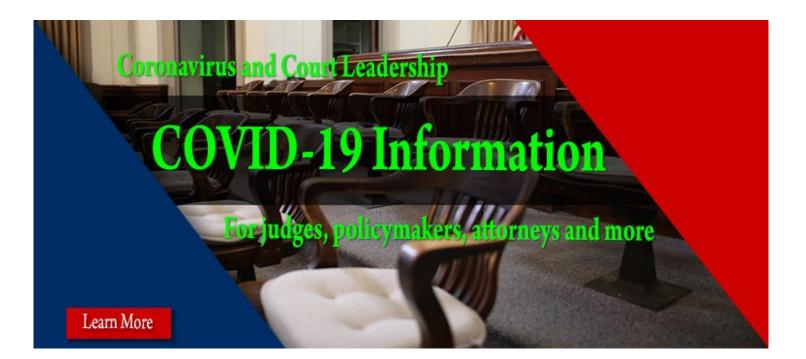
2019 Marion Griffin Women's Symposium Kay Caudle/Andrea Perry

> Executive Director Melanie Gober Grand

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Virtual Lean-In Circles May 5, 2020 6:00 pm Watch for more details! Telephonic Annual Meeting and Election May 19, 2020 Noon An Outlook meeting invitation with the call-in information will be sent soon!



Keep up-to-date on all Tennessee Court Orders, Rules, and Policies Related to Coronavirus by clicking on the image above. A list of resources can also be found at <u>Help4TN.org</u>.

#### February Membership Meeting Recap Building a Diverse Team

By Brooke Coplon



For LAW's February CLE meeting, we took a field trip to Asurion to here from some of LAW's past presidents on "Building a Diverse Team." Candice Reed, the Executive Vice President of Latitude, moderated a panel of Donna Roberts, Vice President and Special Counsel – Diversity & Inclusion of Asurion, April Berman, SVP, Deputy General Counsel at Asurion, and Joycelyn Stevenson, Executive Director of the Tennessee Bar Association.

While diversity in the legal profession has improved, representation of both women and other minority groups has a long way to go, especially in the higher levels of the profession. For example, based on the 2019 ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, women make up 48.7% of summer associates and 45.91% of associates but only 22.7% of partners, 19% of equity partners, and 22 % of managing partners (in the 200 largest law firms). Further, in 2018 women lawyers' weekly earnings are only 80% of male lawyers' weekly earnings. Similarly, law school enrollment for minority groups also echoes the makeup of the general

population, minorities only make up 15% of the lawyer population as a whole, 10.7% of non-equity partners, and 6.6% of equity partners.

More concerning is the fact that this statistics have remained generally constant for the past 10 years. In response to this information, the ABA passed Resolution 113 in 2016 to urge legal service providers to expand and create opportunities for diverse attorneys and to urge the buyers of legal services to direct a greater percentage of legal spend towards diverse attorneys. The Model Diversity Survey is the primary tool to implement Resolution 113. The purpose of the survey is to serve as the standard for law firms' reporting of their diversity metrics. The benefits the survey has are data uniformity, time efficiency, and trending year over year in aggregate and for individual firms.

Many companies already use internal surveys like the Model Diversity Survey in order to track their own diversity and inclusion efforts. This data allows companies to not only track diversity over time but tract inclusion efforts as well—to determine how well a company is performing in its goals of keeping diverse employees. Tracking diversity and inclusion at a company is an ongoing effort—employees that work in diversity and inclusion are always tracking this data and looking for new ways to recruit or accommodate diverse employees.

Having diverse employees is beneficial for both law firms and their clients. By having diverse employees, law firms gain a greater assortment of perspectives in their firms to enable them to achieve better results. Ultimately, law firms must be prepared to operate in an increasingly diverse society with increasingly diverse clients—failing to adapt will ultimately hurt a firm's bottom line.



Brooke is a 2029-2020 Newsletter editor. She is an Associate at Wiseman Ashworth Law Group, PLC where she practices in personal injury, employment, civil rights litigation, nursing home litigation, healthcare law, mental health law, and premises liability.











Are you interested in attending a virtual book club or networking event? Contact the LAW office!

<u>info@law-nashville.org</u>



# LAW Announces its 2020 Nominees for the ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award and Traditional ATHENA AWARD



#### Laura Baker—ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award

Laura Baker represents clients in personal injury, wrongful death, and tort litigation across the state of Tennessee. She is a Shareholder with the Law Offices of John Day, P.C. where she has represented clients in hundreds of cases over the course of her thirteen years of practice. Laura is passionate about helping people, and she is passionate about the law. Through her law practice, Laura has been able to give a voice to the challenges that her clients face when suffering from a loss they never expected would happen and to help them hold the responsible parties accountable for the harm they caused. Laura is skilled at helping her clients navigate the legal system, find their voice, and successfully find a resolution to their case.

Laura is President of the Nashville Bar Association, which awarded her the President's Award in 2017. Laura has served on the Board of Directors for the NBA since 2016. Laura was awarded the NBA President's Award in 2017 for her work in establishing the Friday Fundamentals program, a 13-week program for new lawyers designed to bridge the gap from law school to law practice. She served as Chair of the program in 2017 and 2018. In 2014, Laura was selected as one of 28 inaugural members of the Nashville Bar Foundation Leadership Forum. She now serves on the Steering Committee for the Leadership Forum and served as Co-chair of the Steering Committee for the 2018-2019 program year. Laura previously served the NBA as co-chair of the Chancery and Circuit Courts Committee. Laura was inducted as a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation in 2015.

Laura served as the President of the Lawyers' Association for Women, Marion Griffin Chapter from 2014-2015. She also has served this organization in a number of other leadership roles, including as Treasurer from 2012-2013. In 2016, Laura was awarded the "Rising Star Award" by the Lawyers' Association for Women.

She was named one of Nashville's "40 Under 40" by Nashville Business Journal in 2015 and has been recognized by the Nashville Business Journal as "Best of the Bar" four times. Laura has been named a Mid-South Super Lawyer in Personal Injury every year from 2013 to 2018, was selected as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in Tennessee in 2018, and selected as one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in the Mid-South in 2015, 2018 and 2019. Laura was named a Mid-South Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2012.

Laura was selected as an Associate Member of the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court in 2011 and served a two-year term. She was again selected for this organization as a Barrister from 2014 to 2018, and she served on the Executive Committee for the Inn in 2017-2018.

Laura is a member of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association, the Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women, and the Nashville, Tennessee, and American Bar Associations. In 2013, Laura was selected to the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law class, an honor reserved for approximately 30 lawyers across the state each year.

Laura completed her undergraduate studies at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, and earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence at the University of Tennessee in 2006 where she concentrated on Advocacy and Dispute Resolution.



#### DarKenya Waller — Traditional ATHENA Award

DarKenya Waller is currently the Executive Director of Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands (LASMTC). She joined the Legal Aid Society in 2008. She became the Managing Attorney of its Nashville office in 2010 and the Executive Director in 2018. DarKenya received her Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from Jackson State University. She is a graduate of The University of Mississippi - Ole Miss School of Law and earned a MBA from Belhaven University.

DarKenya is a member of the 2020 Class of Leadership Middle Tennessee and was a 2011 member of the Tennessee Bar Association's Leadership Law Program for outstanding young lawyers. She was appointed to the Indigent Representation Taskforce by the Tennessee Supreme Court and most recently to Governor Lee's Criminal Justice Reform Investment Taskforce on the Probation and Parole Subcommittee. She was also appointed this year to the Mayor's Council on the State of Women in preparation for the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Act.

DarKenya is a fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation and a member of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association.

She has held leadership positions with the Lawyers Association for Women – Marion Griffin Chapter and the Nashville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. DarKenya serves on the Board of Directors for the Nashville Bar Association, the YWCA of Nashville, the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services and the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) where she is Board Chair. She has served on the Tennessee State Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and as Chair of the Family Law Task Force of the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services. Ms. Waller has been recognized as a 2016 Woman of Influence, 2018 Best of the Bar by the Nashville Business Journal, 2015 Cable Advocate of the Year by the NCADV, and 2019 Most Admired CEO by Nashville Business Journal.

She is a frequent speaker across the state on the topic of Domestic Violence training judges, clerks, commissioners and the public on the impact of domestic violence. DarKenya is most proud of her work initiating the Civil-Legal Advocate Program which provides free legal representation to victims of Domestic Violence on the Order of Protection dockets in Davidson County, TN.

# SPARTAN RACING

#### By Shellie Handelsman



In August of 2016, a couple friends were running a Spartan Race on the army base at Ft. Campbell and asked me to join them. I hated running and getting muddy, so it definitely took some convincing. We volunteered in the morning before we raced in the afternoon, and it poured all day! I thought I was in shape, but I would never have made it through that muddy race without my teammates pushing me and helping me every step of the way. It was one of the hardest things I've ever done, but when I jumped over the fire and ran across the finish line, I was hooked! I couldn't wait for the next race (even though I could barely walk for days and had bruises and chigger bites all over). It was incredible to see the teamwork and camaraderie along the course. That day changed my life and inspired me to work harder, get stronger, and do better.

Since then, I've been traveling for races around the U.S. and have made friends from around the world. In 2017, I ran 12 races and earned my first trifecta (three Spartan races of different lengths in one year) on my birthday. I starting running some other OCRs (obstacle course races) that year as well. In 2018, I earned a double trifecta.

In 2019, I completed my first Spartan Trifecta Weekend in the mountains of West Virginia and earned another double trifecta that year. I love seeing my progress over the last few years, especially when I'm able to achieve a little more each race on my own. The 200lb tire flip is now one of my favorite obstacles. There are several other obstacles that I was pretty excited to conquer with no assistance. However, the most exciting obstacle I've overcome to date is the rope climb. I completed it for the first time at Wrigley Field this past November (in the snow)!

In 2020, I'm hoping to master more upper body obstacles. One day, I'm hoping to run a clean, burpee free race without assistance (for every failed obstacle in a Spartan race, you have to complete 30 burpees).



OCR racing has become a truly important part of my life. It motivates me to get up every day and train. It's connected me with friends I would never have met otherwise. One of my favorite parts of racing now is helping others face their fears, by getting them to try a race for the first time or helping them complete obstacles they are afraid to try. I've always been afraid of heights (and still am), but many of the obstacles on the course help me continue to face that fear.

Without my friends who convinced me to run just one race, I wouldn't be racing like I am today. It's part of who I am now and I can't imagine my life any other way. It's helped motivate me to become stronger and reminded me that I can do anything I set my mind to (and work my butt off to achieve)!

If you ever want to step out of your comfort zone and join me for an OCR, let me know!







Shellie is a First Year Director for LAW. She is an attorney at Handelsman Law and practices in the areas of estate planning and probate law, entertainment, sports & intellectual property law, and business law. At the time Shellie wrote this article, she did not know she had been chosen as the 2020 Rising Star recipient!

# **The Culinary**



#### Supporting Our Restaurants During This Time By Paul Grand

The dining scene in our nation has undergone a paradigm change in the past month, and quite literally almost overnight. The restaurants in Tennessee have transformed their operations significantly to meet the unique new economic conditions present at this time in our history. While dining out at our favorite restaurants is no longer an option, our creative, innovative, and dedicated restaurant community has adapted to this hopefully temporary new normal. The coronavirus crisis has challenged the restaurant community to change its business model. To generate cash flow, retain as many employees as possible, and, quite frankly, to stay in business, the restaurant community has pivoted its business model. Many restaurants exclusively offer take out and curbside pickup while continuing their partnership with food delivery services such as Uber Eats, Grubhub, and Postmates. Delivery options vary by the individual restaurant. Some offer curbside pickup only; others send their employees to deliver your order within a specified radius, while others will offer both options along with their partnering restaurant delivery services.

One of the best resources for obtaining information about your favorite restaurant is The Nashville Scene. Go to <u>www.nashvillescene.com</u> and click on the Food and Drink link. There you will find "Today's Take Out Pick," which is the featured restaurant of the day. Click on the TTP. (Hang on, you are almost there.) Read about the featured restaurant or scroll through the article, to find an alphabetized list of restaurants currently offering take out options. Scroll through the list to your favorite restaurant, or search for your new favorite. The guide will take you to each restaurant website so you can view their menus, hours of operation, and delivery options. It's a lot of clicking, but it is worth it!

As you probably know, by Special Order of the governor, restaurants are now allowed to offer "adult beverages" to-go when purchased along with a food order. Many establishments are incorporating this option into their take out/curbside service by offering pre-mixed "batched" cocktails along with beer and wine. If you have a personal beer "Growler," they will fill it for you, if you do not, they most likely will have one available for purchase along with the beer. Please note that the person picking up an order that includes alcohol must be 21+ and show their ID, so do not interrupt your teenager from their "Fortnite" or Tiger King viewing sessions and send them on this particular errand.

Several restaurants, coffee shops and bakeries are offering a selection of bread, baked goods, produce from local farms, eggs, milk, and even meat and poultry for pickup. They will list these as options on their website menus. If you have been to the grocery store recently and have found these items in short supply, this is a viable option to explore.

The medical community in our area has also been challenged during this time in more ways than can be addressed adequately in this article. A GoFundMe site has been set up called Local Meals for Local Heroes and uses the donations to purchase meals from locally-owned restaurants and delivers them to healthcare facility staff in our area. The donations allow one to support local restaurants as well as providing our frontline healthcare workers with a thank you for their dedication to serving our community.

The culinary scene has certainly changed and will evolve in many ways for the near future until we are all able to and comfortable in venturing out into the dining scene again. Until that time, we are fortunate to have the option of enjoying the considerable culinary talent that has been developed and is part of our community. Until then, Sláinte!



Paul is the Director of Education at Lipman Brothers, Melanie's husband and the person who named this column!

# A Girlfriends' Weekend in New York: Courtney Orr and Brooke Coplon

The holidays were over, and Nashville had entered its annual winter hibernation. Feeling a little stir crazy, we packed our bags and headed to New York City.

We started our adventures on the Lower East Side. The Tenement Museum NYC is a must-visit for anyone looking for a unique perspective on the history of the neighborhood. Unlike most museums, the Tenement Museum does not have a designated exhibit space where visitors can wander and explore on their own time. Instead, museum staff offer a variety of guided walking

tours through the neighborhood or former tenement buildings. We opted for the "Outside the Home" tour, which took guests through a day in the life of an immigrant living in the lower east side circa 1900.



It had started snowing during our tour, so we decided to go in search of warm food at one of the local Jewish delis. Unfortunately, both Katz Deli and Russ and Daughters Café both had lines out the door, and we were too hungry to wait. Never deterred, we picked up some babka from the Russ and Daughters Deli.

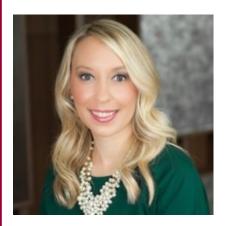
Speaking of baked goods, if you are planning a trip to New York, we highly suggest that you place bakeries high on your list of must-sees. As Nashville become more and more popular, our culinary scene is starting to mirror New York's. (We found so many restaurants that also had Nashville locations!) But the bakeries have not headed South just yet. And, boy, are they worth a visit!

Our top pick is Breads Bakery on East 16th Street near Union Square. We each got items to go, and we immediately regretted not buying more once we had eaten them. But there is good news for those of us outside Manhattan: Breads will deliver babka to your home! We will definitely order some the next time one of us hosts a party.

Finally, you can't go to New York without seeing a Broadway show. And what better show for a girlfriends' trip than "Mean Girls: the Musical"? Tina Fey has struck again, turning her 2004 classic into a blockbuster for the Great White Way. We laughed, we cried (because we were laughing so hard), and we, too, feared Regina George. (Also, TPAC just announced Mean Girls is coming to Nashville next season! The limit does not exist for this Broadway show!)

The best thing about New York is that every trip there will be different. You'll never be able to fit the whole city into a short weekend trip. We suggest you pick the neighborhoods you want to explore and don't be afraid to get off the beaten path. And pack good walking shoes.

# Board Member Spotlight Katie Bennett Co-chair Networking



Where are you from? Tell us about your path to practicing law. I'm from Rineyville, Kentucky (which I'm sure you haven't heard of but it's about 50 miles outside of Louisville). My father encouraged me to pursue law school from a young age because I enjoyed reading and writing and as an elementary student told him I was an "analytical thinker." I didn't really heed his advice initially, but I started working in a law firm while I was in college and decided to pursue law school after that experience. After practicing law for 6 years, I began working as a Legal Recruiter with Latitude.

What do you do professionally, and what is your favorite part of your job? I'm a Director of Legal Recruiting and Placement at Latitude. In my role, I help experienced attorneys and paralegals transition into life-changing consulting engagements and permanent positions. My favorite part of my job is that I get to work with outstanding attorneys and paralegals and am able to assist them in making a career transition that is in line with both their career and personal goals which is incredibly rewarding.

What brought you to Nashville? I moved to Nashville when I accepted an in-house counsel position at UBS. I love this city and I'm so proud to call Nashville home.

**Tell us about your family/pets**. My fiancé, Justin, and I are getting married in August on his parents 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We each had a dog named Franklin when we met so we now have two dogs named Franklin. One is a golden doodle and the other is a dachshund and they are both spoiled rotten.

Who has been a major influence in your life and why? First, my parents. They taught me to respect others, love your family and to work hard. My mom is a retired school teacher and my father is a retired police officer and I admire them both so much for being public servants and for creating a wonderful home for my sister and me to grow up in. Their influence, love and support have been invaluable throughout my life. Second, Harvey Johnson has been my professional mentor. I worked for him while I was in college in Bowling Green, Kentucky and returned to practice with him as a new lawyer. As a college senior, he took me to visit his alma mater, The University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, where I ultimately attended and graduated from law school. He provided guidance and mentorship throughout law school and my first years as an attorney. Mentoring young attorneys is so crucial to our profession and I'm thankful that he's always been someone I could turn to for advice.

It's a Saturday night. What are you up to? I'm likely out to dinner with my fiancé trying out a new Nashville restaurant.



### Health and Wellness Book Club

The Health and Wellness Committee hosted its February 11th book club in Goodlettsville, TN. They discussed <u>Heartland</u> by Sarah Smarsh. Partmemoir, part powerful analysis, <u>Heartland</u> takes a look at class, identity, and the perils of being born into poverty in a country known for excess.



# **Networking Committee Visits City Winery**

On Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, LAW members fought the snow and cold to come together at City Winery for an evening of laughing, good wine, and great conversation. Members were able to relax and catch-up with old friends, while welcoming two new student members. Thank you for everyone who could make it out. For those who we missed, there is always the next event!



# Mentoring & Member Development Committee Quarterly Lean In Circle Meeting

A conversation about implicit bias with Michele Bendekovic, Director of Diversity & Inclusion at Bass, Berry & Sims. Michele lead us in an engaging discussion about various forms of implicit bias and provided practical solutions to addressing implicit bias through a scenario about the horn and halo effects in the performance evaluation context.







## TYPES OF IMPLICIT BIAS

Affinity Bias Confirmation Bias Attribution Bias Conformity Bias The Halo Effect The Horns Effect The Contrast Effect Gender Blas Ageism Beauty Blas

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

Audrey Anderson Anne Arney Kristi W. Arth Katherine Austin Catie Bailev Laura Baker Cindy Barnett Kathryn Barnett Margaret Behm Sonya Bellafant April Berman Judge Allegra Birdine Judge Cheryl Blackburn Christen Blackburn Judge Melissa Blackburn Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman Jan Bossing **Dewey Branstetter** Hunter Branstetter Mary Katherine Bratton Lori Brewer Tracey Carter Kay Caudle Jenny Charles Justice Connie Clark Kimberly Clark Chris Coleman Brooke Coplon Kristen Cass Corra Nancy Krider Corley Chelsea Curtis Cynthia Moon Cutler Judge Angie Dalton Judge Martha Daughtrey Rebecca Demaree Jackie Dixon Sherie Edwards Jason Epstein Raquel Eve Amy Everhart Amy Farrar Doreen Farthing Judge Mark Fishburn Alex Fisher Mandy Floyd Shana Fonnesbeck Grace Fox Victoria Gentry

Jason Gichner Jessica Gichner Madeline Gomez Elizabeth Gonser Elizabeth McCoyd Greer Shellie Handelsman Sarah Hannah Corey Harkey Laura Heiman Lisa Helton Candi Henry Lisa Hinson Jenny Howard Kyonzte Hughes-Toombs Anne Hunter Lynne Ingram Mene Jividen Michele Johnson Judge Kelvin Jones Judge Lynda Jones Brendi Kaplan Jenney Keaty Anne Marie Kempf Dean Bill Koch Nina Kumar Lauren Lamberth Amelia Lant Pirjin Laser Lynn Lawyer Jessica Levine Courtney Leyes Haverly MacArthur Alexandra MacKay Nancy MacLean Chambre Malone Chancellor Anne Martin Judge Amanda McClenden Chancellor Carol McCoy Susan McGannon Elise McKelvey Laura Merritt Amy Mohan Brianna Montminy Valerie Diden Moore Marlene Moses Chancellor Patricia Moskal Barbara Moss

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Kate Stauffer Joycelyn Stevenson Mariam Stockton Grace Stranch Judge Jane Stranch Scott Tift Elizabeth Tipping Martha Trammell Judge Aleta Trauger Byron Trauger Robert Tuke Vanessa Vargas-Land Erica Vick DarKenya Waller Emily Warth Elizabeth Washko Malaka Watson Bernadette Welch Courtney Williams Karen Williams Susan Neal Williams Tyler Yarbro Helena Walton Yarbrough Amanda Young Jane Young Gulam Zade Rachel Zamata