

# LAW MATTERS

October 2021

Volume XXXIII No. 6



photo by [https://www.dreamstime.com/daveallenphoto\\_info](https://www.dreamstime.com/daveallenphoto_info)

## In This Issue

President's Message	2
Marion Griffin Women's Symposium Summary	3
New Admittees' Breakfast Canceled/Networking at Green Hills Park	7
Awards/Job Opportunities	8
Board Member Spotlight: Archivist Rachel Berg	9
Member Spotlight: Dean Bill Koch	10
Sustaining Members	11

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE


by Kimberly Faye



I want to begin by saying thank you again to everyone who had a part in planning and executing LAW's 2021 Marion Griffin Symposium! All of our speakers were knowledgeable, informative, and inspirational on the various topics, and we have received rave reviews from our attendees. Although we had to postpone the outdoor kick-off reception for the Symposium due to the weather, we are working to reschedule the reception and hope to share an update on that soon.

As most of you may know, the release date for the July bar exam results has been delayed until late October. Given the short turnaround, it is not possible for the Court to proceed with its swearing-in ceremony in early November as originally planned. Unfortunately, the Court is unable to arrange a date for an in-person ceremony, and therefore, they will not have an in-person ceremony this Fall. As a result, we are transitioning LAW's Annual New Admittees' Breakfast to a virtual event. Although we would prefer to celebrate in-person, I have no doubt that our Breakfast Committee will plan an excellent virtual event to celebrate the new admittees.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to Justice Cornelia (Connie) Clark, a longtime supporter of LAW and an early advocate for women in the legal profession. With Justice Clark's passing last month, it was truly a loss for Tennessee, the legal community, and so much more. I had the opportunity to get to know Justice Clark while clerking at the Court of Appeals. She was always encouraging and inspirational, and a mentor in so many ways. I find this quote from Oprah Winfrey appropriate, "A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself. A mentor is someone who allows you to know that no matter how dark the night, in the morning joy will come. A mentor is someone who allows you to see the higher part of yourself when sometimes it becomes hidden to your own view."



A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself. A mentor is someone who allows you to know that no matter how dark the night, in the morning joy will come. A mentor is someone who allows you to see the higher part of yourself when sometimes it becomes hidden to your own view.

## 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*

### Committee Co-chairs

**New Admittees' Breakfast**  
Kaley Bell, *Chancellor* Claudia Bonnyman,  
April Knox

**Community Relations**  
Savannah Darnall, Jackie Dixon, Danielle Johns

**Diversity Equity and Inclusion**  
Kierstin Jodway, Quynh-Anh Kibler,  
Angela Williams

**Health and Wellness**  
Morgan Bernard, Rachel Taylor

**Judicial Appointments, Elections and Awards**  
Ellen Bowden-McIntyre

**Legislation and Litigation**  
Annie Beckstrom, Jenny Charles

**Marion Griffin Women's Symposium 2021**  
Liz Sitgreaves, Kyontzè Toombs

**Membership**  
Katharine Fischman, Callie Hinson

**Mentoring/Member Development**  
Alaina Beach, Mel Gworek, Corey Harkey

**Networking**  
Katie Bennett, Blake Howell,  
Jessica Cunningham Lim

**Programs**  
Jan Margaret Craig, Mandy Floyd,  
Candi Henry, Malaka Watson

**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](http://www.law-nashville.org).

# 2021 Virtual Marion Griffin Women's Symposium Summary



## **Keynote Address:**

### ***Recent Legislation Regarding Women And Children In The State Of Tennessee***

**Presented by Tennessee State Representative, London Lamar**

Our keynote speaker for the symposium was State Representative London Lamar, a Democrat from Tennessee's 91st District in Memphis. Representative Lamar discussed recent legislation regarding women and children in the state of Tennessee during the 111th and 112th General Assemblies.

True to the introduction given by Kyonzté Hughes-Toombs, members agreed that Representative Lamar was indeed a dynamic speaker! Representative Lamar is a third-generation resident of Tennessee's 91st District. At 30 years old, she currently serves as the second youngest legis-

lator in the current 112th Tennessee General Assembly, and is the youngest woman elected to serve as a state representative in the State of Tennessee. As a sophomore legislator, she was re-elected as Secretary of the House Democratic Caucus.

Crediting Barack Obama as her inspiration, Representative Lamar realized there was no one young in state politics and so she ran on a platform of 1. Strong schools, 2. Healthy families, and 3. Safe communities. After losing her first election, Representative Lamar persevered and won her second election in 2018. She has continued to push her platform of strong schools, healthy families, and safe communities by sponsoring legislation in those three areas. Representative Lamar is strategic in finding legislation she can work with the Republican majority to pass.

A politically-savvy lawmaker, Representative Lamar has been successful in identifying issues within her platform that she can work with members from across the aisle to pass. Some of the legislation Representative Lamar has helped to pass includes mandatory training for teachers to recognize and report suspected human trafficking (HB0117 enacted April 30, 2021); adding self-defense as an available defense for human trafficking victims (HB0017 Comp. became Pub. Ch. 115 on April 21, 2021); and passing a law requiring that female inmates be provided women's health screenings while incarcerated such as routine mammograms (HB0843, Comp. became Pub. Ch. 168 on 5/3/2021).

Representative Lamar acknowledges herself as the only women in the state legislature of child-bearing age to highlight and bring attention to women's issues. She capitalizes on her age and gender to bring awareness to the needs of female Tennesseans and continues to fight for their voices in politics. However, wise beyond her years, Representative Lamar told LAW members that as a woman of color, sometimes her constituents are disappointed when she does not speak up on an issue. She acknowledges it's a delicate balancing act of being a voice for issues important to her constituents, while maintaining a rapport with members of different political parties in order to be able to pass legislation. Sometimes that has meant meeting with constituents protesting on the capitol steps and encouraging them, but not publicly making a statement in their support. Representative Lamar pulled back the curtain for LAW members to share one example of when her political strategy went out the window in order to speak out against a last-minute bill against CRT being taught in classrooms that was passed this past spring. Representative Lamar's speech on the house floor went viral, and her constituents appreciated Representative Lamar voicing criticism against this bill.

Representative Lamar gave LAW members some practical tips of how we can become more involved in the political process in Tennessee. Some suggestions are to defend clients, serve as lobbyists, file lawsuits against bad laws, serve as judges and other elected officials, and help with campaigns, both financially and with boots on the ground campaign work.

Most, if not all, LAW members left the symposium inspired by Representative London Lamar's keynote speech. She continues to be a strong advocate for women in Tennessee state politics and we look forward to following her career and seeing what great things she has yet to accomplish. Members can follow Representative Lamar on Instagram @londonlamartn or @replondonlamar.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION OVERVIEWS**

### ***What Is Your Personal Brand And Why Is It Important?***

Presented by Tea Hoffmann, the Managing Principal of Law Strategy Corp.

In this highly interactive session, Tea led us in a discussion of what branding is, and how to be strategic with it. Tea taught us that branding is not what we say it is, but rather branding is what others say about you/your firm. Member Barbara Moss, a participant in this session, was called out for her intentional branding of wearing hats as a great example of how we can intentionally brand ourselves. Tea asked members to think about what we promise to clients up front, and whether we deliver on those promises. Branding requires strategy! We compared commercials of several Nashville lawyers and law firms. Tea also talked about the importance of making a good first impression because research tells us that within the first 30 days of representation if a client is unhappy, they tell an average of 10 other people about their negative experience. Research also tells us the satisfied customers are far less likely to leave positive reviews without prompting from us. Tea encouraged members to find their brand and promote it on all outward-facing materials, such as websites and business cards, and she stressed the importance of seeking positive client testimonials, reviews and videos.

With 1.3 million lawyers in the U.S., clients have a lot of choices. Branding can help potential clients find you and separate you from the rest of the firms out there.

---

Summary submitted by LAW member Amanda L. Bradley, of counsel at Hartzog & Silva, PLLC

### ***Impact of Remote Working and Post-Pandemic Changes for Transactional and In-House Lawyers***

Presented by Laura Smith, General Counsel for Nashville Electric Service, Mollie Gass, Attorney, Rudy Winstead & Turner, PLLC, and Ale' Dalton, Associate, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP

On September 22, 2021, speakers Laura Smith, General Counsel for Nashville Electric Service, Mollie Gass, Attorney, Rudy Winstead & Turner, PLLC, and Ale' Dalton, Associate, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP, responded to prompts for one of the first breakout session of the LAW Symposium, Impact of Remote Working and Post-Pandemic Changes for Transactional and In-House Lawyers. The speakers discussed their experience working remotely and changes in their work environment as a result of the pandemic.

The speakers also mentioned the challenges they faced at work, such as training new employees, office space, maintaining a personal connection with other employees, etc. To maintain that personal connection, one suggestion was picking up the phone and chatting with other employees, associates, paralegals, etc.

The panel also addressed positive changes of post-pandemic life, including taking time for oneself, flexibility, and options to work remotely or in the office.

---

Summary submitted by LAW member Caroline E. Sapp

## Virtual Litigation

Presented by Kimberly Veirs, Margaret Dodson, and Briana Sprick Schuster

In the “Virtual Litigation” breakout session, Kimberly Veirs, Margaret Dodson, and Briana Sprick Schuster provided helpful insight into the benefits and challenges of virtual litigation, as well as best practices. Virtual litigation can be more efficient, with lower travel costs and comfortable settings, but technological difficulties can arise at any moment. Being prepared and having a back-up plan in case of a technical difficulty is essential. The presenters also recommended creating agreed protocols for both you and your client and the opposing party and counsel. Consider including provisions for the scope of the protocols, which vendor to utilize, conduct of witnesses and other participants, and the preferred manner of sharing exhibits. Finally, ensure that your witnesses are prepared for a virtual hearing or trial, including professional attire and a neutral background.

Summary submitted by LAW member Samantha Simpson, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Appeals Division

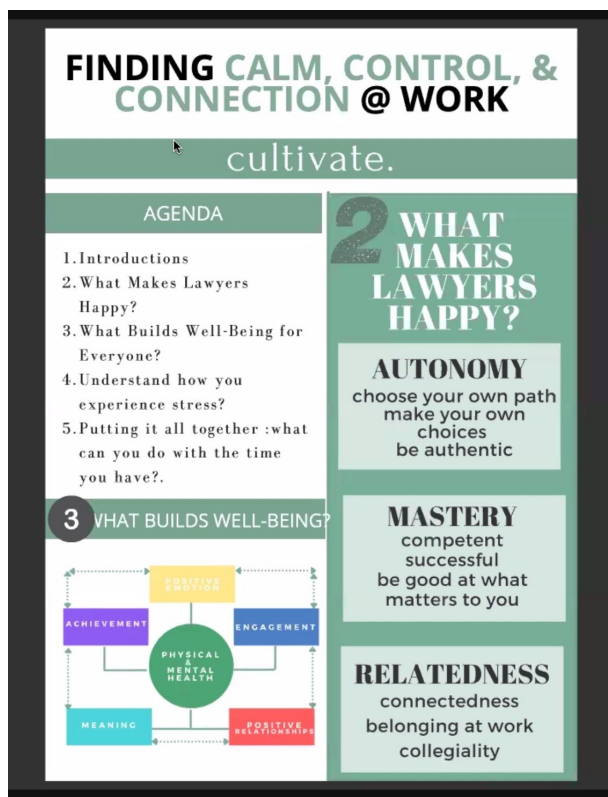
## How To Find Calm, Control, and Connection at Work

Presented by Tara Owens Antonipillai, Founder of Cultivate

This breakout session focused on helping lawyers find calm at work. What makes lawyers happy? 1. Autonomy, 2. Mastery, and 3. Relatedness. Tara led members through a discussion about the importance of our own mindsets during stressful situations. We can't always avoid stressful situations, but we can learn to harness our physiological response to them. Tara suggested some short-term strategies for harnessing the “fight or flight response” such as deep breathing, mindfulness, and prioritizing relationships. Tara presented members with an interactive survey of activities that bring us joy. The survey results pointed out that most of the activities that bring us joy are those with do *with* other people, emphasizing our need to stay connected.

Tara, along with her super volunteer, Tabitha Robinson, participated in a roll play conversation between coworkers to demonstrate how to be a good listener and a constructive responder – rather than listening passively or steamrolling over the other person by bringing the conversation back to us with our own examples. Finally, Tara led members through some simple breathing exercises and relaxation techniques.

Summary submitted by LAW member Amanda L. Bradley, of counsel at Hartzog & Silva, PLLC





# Thank you to the 2021 Marion Griffin Women's Symposium Sponsors!

Presenting Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



Platinum Sponsors



## 2021 NEW ADMITTEES' BREAKFAST CANCELED

The New Admittees' Breakfast and the fall swearing-in ceremony has been canceled. The Supreme Court was unable to find a date before the end of the year that was mutually acceptable so all of the justices to attend. LAW will host a virtual New Admittees' Breakfast in early 2022. Sponsorship refunds will be sent to firms who already contributed to the 2021 Breakfast.



## Knock Out Breast Cancer

## LAW Networking Event at Green Hills Park Festival



LAW Networking Event at Green Hills Park Festival, held Sept. 11, 2021, was a great success. The free festival raised funds for Friends of Green Hills Park and featured music, food trucks, local vendors, and LAW's very own Blake Howell as emcee. After two hours of activities for kids and adults, the family-friendly movie Moana was shown on a big screen.

The Festival was organized by LAW member Lora Barkenbus Fox, and emceed by LAW member Blake Howell.





## LAW Member Receives Nashville Bar Association 2022 Liberty Bell Award

LAW member Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle, of the Davidson County Chancery Court Part III is the recipient of the Nashville Bar Association Liberty Bell Award. The Liberty Bell Award is given to that person or group—but not necessarily lawyers or law-related groups—who have promoted better understanding of the rule of law, encouraged greater respect for law and the courts, stimulated a sense of civic responsibility, or contributed to good government.



## Former LAW Member Receives Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award

Former LAW member Judge Julia Smith Gibbins of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit is the recipient of the 39<sup>th</sup> Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice award, the highest honor that is bestowed upon an Article III federal judge in the country. Judge Gibbins was a LAW member when she served as legal counsel for former Governor Lamar Alexander. [Here](#) is a link to the full press release.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Working Together. Doing Justice. Restoring Hope.



Legal Navigator (Positions available in each LAS service area.) [Click Here For Details](#)

Victim Advocate in Columbia. [Click Here For Details](#)

Lead Family Law Attorney in Nashville. [Click Here For Details](#)

Housing Attorney (Positions available in each LAS service area.) [Click Here For Details](#)

---

### Latitude Legal

Director of Legal Recruiting & Placement. [Click Here for Details](#)



## Board Spotlight

### Archivist

### Rachel Berg



**Where are you from? Tell us about your path to practicing law.** I grew up in the suburbs of New York City. In high school, I became interested in current events—particularly politics and the Supreme Court. This led me to take a number of law related coursework in undergrad, such as Civil Rights. I also was elected to be a member of my school’s Judicial Board, which adjudicated violations of campus regulations. I really liked that coursework and my experience being a “judge” in these trials. After college, I thought law school might be in my future, so I decided to spend a year working as a litigation paralegal at a large law firm in New York City to make sure. My experience there solidified my desire to go to law school (most people probably think that makes me crazy!).

**What do you do professionally, and what is your favorite part of your job?** I am a Commercial Litigation Associate at Polsinelli. My practice focuses on consumer class action defense and multidistrict litigation. My favorite part of my job is persuasive legal writing and finding ways to explain complex issues in a straightforward manner. I also enjoy working with my talented colleagues at Polsinelli—both here in Nashville and in other cities across the country.

**What leadership roles have you had with LAW?** My first year on the Board I was a co-chair of the Mentoring/Member Development Committee, where I worked on programming for the Lean-In Circles. My second year on the Board, I was a co-chair of the Programs Committee, which was during the pandemic so we had to pivot to the virtual environment and create timely CLEs to engage LAW’s members. This year, I am an Archivist. I am enjoying learning about and playing a role in preserving LAW’s impressive history.

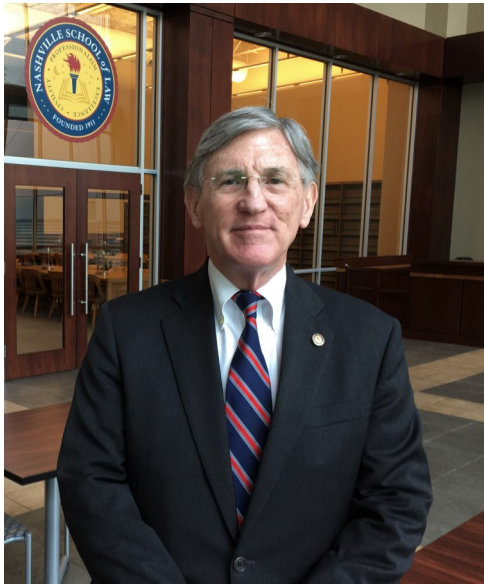
**What is your favorite part of LAW?** My favorite part of LAW is the people! I’ve met so many great female (and male) lawyers from LAW events and have been so enriched by this community.

**It’s a Saturday night in Nashville (pre-COVID-19) - what are you up to?** Going out to dinner with my husband to one of our favorite restaurants. We are big foodies and love trying all different types of food. Our favorite is Rolf & Daughters. Dinner usually ends in a debate over whether to get dessert, which then results in a compromise of us going to the grocery store to get a lower calorie dessert option like Skinny Cow ice cream bars instead.

**Facebook or Instagram?** Instagram.

**Phone call or text?** Phone call. I prefer to have a conversation and hear people’s voices rather than the back and forth of texting.

**Netflix or Hulu?** Netflix. A favorite recent Netflix show of mine is Get Organized with the Home Edit.



## Member Spotlight

### Dean Bill Koch

**Where are you from? Tell us about your path to practicing law.** When he was alive, my wife's uncle enjoyed reminding me, "You ain't from around here, are ya." My grandfather and father moved to Hawaii in the early 1900s. I was born and raised in Hawaii. I changed my major from pre-med to English following my freshman year at Trinity College. Rather than pursuing a Ph.D. in English, I decided on law school after meeting John Beasley, Vanderbilt Law School's chief recruiter at that time, on a cold, snowy New England morning.

**What do you do professionally, and what is your favorite part about your job?** I am the fifth President and Dean of the Nashville School of Law. The favorite parts of my job are helping students become effective legal professionals and fostering their respect for the United States Constitution and commitment to the Rule of Law through my second-year Constitutional Law Class.

**What brought you to Nashville?** Vanderbilt Law School and John Beasley. He is very, very persuasive.

**What is your favorite thing to do in Nashville?** Other than working at Nashville School of Law, I enjoy attending performances at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and the Schermerhorn Symphony Center with my wife, Debby. We also enjoy sampling Nashville's many excellent restaurants. When I first came to Nashville, Jimmy Kelly's, Mario's, Vizcaya, and the King of the Road Motel were about the only dining options.

**Why (and how) did you first get involved in LAW?** I have been involved with LAW in one way or another since its founding in 1981. I regularly attend the Annual New Admittees' Breakfast and was privileged to be the guest speaker many years ago. I continue to be an active member because I encourage NSL students to become involved with LAW for professional development and networking.

**Tell us about your family.** Debby and I have been married for 36 years. We met in 1979 as members of Governor Lamar Alexander's staff. Debby was Deputy Press Secretary; I was Counsel to the Governor. Her job was to craft the Governor's public statements; my job was to advise him on what not to say. They used to put us in a room to work out our differences. She was right more often than I was. I take allergy shots to co-exist with our cats, Tess and Edward.

**What are your hobbies?** My hobbies are reading, travel and photography. While COVID-19 has significantly curtailed our travel, Debby and I have particularly enjoyed spending time in England, France, and Hawaii. We have been fortunate to become friends with members of the legal community in England and enjoy visiting them. I like to photograph landscapes, cityscapes, and people being people. In addition to taking the photos, I also develop (ACR and Photoshop) and print them. Currently, I am participating in a mentoring workshop with a landscape photographer on Maui.

**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	Doreen Farthing	Susan McGannon	Emily Shouse
Audrey Anderson	Kimberly Faye	Ellen Bowden McIntyre	Elizabeth Sitgreaves
David Anthony	Judge Mark Fishburn	Elise McKelvey	Laura Smith
Anne Arney	Mandy Floyd	Kate Melby	Leslie South
Kristy Arth	Marcus Floyd	Laura Merritt	Kimbra Spann
Gail Ashworth	Shana Foncesbeck	Casey Miller	Joycelyn Stevenson
Katherine Austin	Grace Fox	Amy Mohan	Camille Steward
Catie Bailey	Hannah Kay Freeman	Marlene Moses	Maria Stewart
Laura Baker	Victoria Gentry	Chancellor Patricia Moskal	Mariam Stockton
Cindy Barnett	Jessica Gichner	Barbara Moss	Judge Jane Stranch
Kathryn Barnett	Elizabeth Gonser	Ann Murphy	Rachel Zamata Swanson
Mollie Gass Bauer	Jennifer Griffin	Margaret Myers	Rachel Taylor
Annie Beckstrom	Danica Grosko	I'Ashea Myles	Scott Tift
Margaret Behm	Melissa Gworek	Karen Scott Neal	Elizabeth Tipping
Katie Bennett	Shellie Handelsman	Leighann Ness	Martha Trammell
Rachel Berg	Corey Harkey	Magistrate Judge Alistair Newbern	Judge Aleta Trauger
April Berman	William "Paz" Haynes	Christina Norris	Byron Trauger
Paige Bernick	Laura Heiman	William O'Bryan, Jr.	Robert Tuke
Judge Cheryl Blackburn	Lisa Helton	Courtney Orr	Vanessa Vargas-Land
Christen Blackburn	Candi Henry	Larry Papel	Erica Vick
Judge Melissa Blackburn	Jessica Hill	Rebekah Parkhurst	Emily Warth
Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman	Lela Hollabaugh	Joelle Pepper	Elizabeth Washko
Jan Bossing	Kyonzte' Hughes	Andrea Perry	Malaka Watson
Amanda Bradley	Joelle Hupp	Barbara Perutelli	Bernadette Welch
Dewey Branstetter	Kimberly Ingram	Bart Pickett	Karen Williams
Hunter Branstetter	Michele Johnson	Erin Polly	Susan Neal Williams
Mary Barrett Brewer	Judge Kelvin Jones	Sara Anne Quinn	Emeritus Dean Melanie Wilson
Judge Thomas Brothers	Judge Lynda Jones	Phillis Rambsey	Tyler Yarbrow
Taylor Caleb	Brendi Kaplan	Jimmie Lynn Ramsaur	Jane Young
Judge Sheila Calloway	Quynh-Anh Kibler	Candice Reed	Mandy Young
Chancellor Rose Cantrell	April Knox	Lauren Roberts	Gulam Zade
Dr. Tracey Carter	Dean William Koch, Jr.	Jennifer Robinson	
Kay Caudle	Nina Kumar	Tabitha Robinson	
Jenny Charles	Christie Laird	Linda Rose	
Will Cheek	Lauren Lamberth	Abby Rubenfeld	
Justice Cornelia Clark	Devon Landman	Jennifer Rusie	
Nancy Krider Corley	Ed Lanquist, Jr.	Amber Rutherford	
Brooke Coplon	Courtney Leyes	Joyce Safley	
Jan Margaret Craig	Wendy Longmire	Maria Salas	
Chelsea Curtis	Joy Longnecker	Julie Sandine	
Cynthia Cutler Moon	Kim Looney	Caroline Sapp	
Jacqueline Dixon	Alexandra MacKay	Carolyn Schott	
Margaret Dodson	Monica Mackie	Lindsey Shepard	
Brenda Dowdle	Nancy MacLean	Michael Sheridan	
Meredith Eason	Chancellor Anne Martin	Cynthia Sherwood	
Sunny Eaton	Henry Martin	Dianna Shew	
Sherie Edwards	Meg Mazzone	Kristen Shields	
Judge Ana Escobar	Judge Amanda McClendon	Judge Marietta Shipley	
Amy Everhart	Chancellor Carol McCoy		