

# LAW MATTERS

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Shellie Handelsman



Kudos to our Legislation and Litigation Committee! This generally quiet committee kicked it into high gear last month to assist LAW in issuing not one, but two important and meaningful statements in support of women and women lawyers. This Committee swiftly researched the issues, educated and advised the Executive Board, and drafted statements for the Executive Board's review. I'm so appreciative of the Committee's professionalism and sense of urgency in addressing these time sensitive matters.

LAW's bylaws state that the purpose of the Association shall be to address issues of concern to women within the legal profession and legal issues affecting women generally, including, (1) to promote the efficient administration of justice and the constant improvement of the law, especially as it relates to women; (2) to promote career opportunities for women within the legal profession; and (3)

to foster public dialogue about unjust societal discrimination and bias.

In March 2018, the Board adopted a Policy on Nonpartisan Civic Engagement and Non-Endorsement, which included a section on advocacy and public policy. That section states (1) LAW may take organizational positions on policy issues that impact the mission of the organization or its members, and (2) LAW will maintain a sound understanding of the current public policy environment and how it impacts its members and their communities.

LAW's first statement was made on July 25th in response to the Tennessee Supreme Court's requests for comments on occupational licensing reform and proposed amendments to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7. Tennessee is one of the few states with a full-time work requirement for lawyers to be admitted to practice in Tennessee through comity without taking another bar exam. This Rule disparately impacts female attorneys who take time off for maternity leave or who elect to work on a part-time basis to accommodate childcare responsibilities or life events, such as caring for an ill or elderly family member. In response, LAW sent a memorandum requesting that the Supreme Court amend Rule 7 relative to the full-time work requirement mandated for comity eligibility, and consider part-time work, to account for familial responsibilities and other considerations that disproportionately affect female attorneys seeking to practice in Tennessee.

LAW's second statement was emailed to members of July 29th and is posted on our website. This statement was in response to the *Dobbs* decision. *Dobbs* impaired, rather than expanded, women's constitutional rights for the first time in American history, and divested women of their right to choose to undergo an abortion. As an organization whose purpose is to promote the efficient administration of justice, especially as it relates to women, and to foster public dialogue about unjust societal discrimination and bias, LAW will continue to demand answers and transparency. Our Legislation and Litigation Committee will continue to monitor the progress of ongoing legislation and litigation that affects women's healthcare and educate the Board on these issues so we can continue to raise questions and challenges whenever proposed legislation detrimentally impacts women.

In furtherance of educating the Board and our members on these important issues, our next CLE on August 24 is "The Changing Abortion Landscape After *Dobbs*." It will be a panel discussion about the changing landscape of abortion after *Dobbs*, a discussion about the history of *Roe v. Wade*, and will feature speakers with various professional perspectives and backgrounds. I hope you consider joining us.

Let's be the change we want to see,  
*Shellie*

## Recap of the May Meeting: Part 2 Questions and Answers With Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey

By: Amanda Bradley

On May 17, LAW members and members of the public were treated to a conversation with Judge Martha Craig “Cissy” Daughtrey at the Downtown Public Library. Judge Daughtrey, who recently transitioned to inactive status from her long-time position as a Sixth Circuit Judge for the Court of Appeals, was there to discuss her feminist collection of books which she recently donated to the Votes for Women Room at the library. Chancellor Anne Martin moderated the program. After speaking about her feminist books, Chancellor Martin posed some general questions about Judge Daughtrey’s time on the bench, and the changes in the practice of law.



Judge Cissy Daughtrey was the first female to sit on a court of record in the state of Tennessee, so naturally, she “got roped into” joining the National Association of Women Judges.” Of note, it was her involvement with this same judicial conference that led to the eventual forming of LAW. As Judge Daughtrey has explained before, she noticed how many female judges were in California at that time, and she learned it was due to the existence of a women’s bar association there.

For her initiative here in Tennessee, the beginnings of LAW started with a breakfast committee to put on what is now the New Admittees Breakfast, a signature event for LAW each year. Judge Daughtrey recalls borrowing the list of all Nashville lawyers from the court clerk’s office. The would-be-founders divided up the list and set out to invite each woman whose name appeared on the list. As it turned out, there were quite a few male Beverlys and Shirleys in those days! After Judge Daughtrey and the other founders were done, they returned the list of attorneys to the clerk - in pieces, no less!

LAW’s early efforts focused on trying to convince more women to serve on the bench. Judge Daughtrey made her “so you want to be a judge” presentation around the state and actively recruited women to run. She considers it an honor to be part of the development of women judges in this state.

Chancellor Martin posed the question about the evolution of women in the practice of law. Judge Daughtrey remarked candidly: “We thought it would get much better, much faster,” but progress was slow. She reminisced that there was a time in Nashville when all the women lawyers “could fit into a phone booth.” Now there are so many women lawyers, there are too many to know by name. Judge Daughtrey lamented that we have lost the ability to have personal contact with each one.

A former law clerk asked the question, what effect has the pandemic had on working women? Speaking from her own experience, Judge Daughtrey said instead of working efficiently in the office, she was home trying to work. Like many, she suffered from a loss of focus, and struggled with recreational reading. The pandemic seemingly left many of us sitting all day in front of computer screens working, and in front of tvs, glued to watching the news. Reading a book became a chore. However, even that looked

like heaven, Judge Daughtrey commented, compared to the mothers at home with small children who were not able to be in school. The negative impact is sure to have long term consequences, she believes. Many women have left the work force, and is yet to be determined whether they will return.

Judge Daughtrey was asked about the then-leaked draft Alito opinion on abortion authored by Justice Samuel Alito. She stated she is weeping over the inevitable opinion and said we are going back to the 1950s with this line of thinking. Of course, we can't predict what will happen. But Judge Daughtrey is encouraged that young people are taking to the street protesting. Time will tell the course of history when the published opinion is released.

This transitioned into a question about the future of Supreme Court. As you would expect, Judge Daughtrey has a habit of reading every opinion the Supreme Court releases, and she follows the SCOTUS blogs religiously. In light of the current political climate though, she has lost the desire to monitor the activities of the Supreme Court.

The question of whether she is disheartened by the current judiciary is a resounding YES. Packed with people who don't value women's rights, Judge Daughtrey believes it may take two generations to correct. She feels sorry for Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who she calls the voice of reason that's left. Of course, Judge Daughtrey can speak more freely now than before because she is on inactive status as a senior judge. Her final lasting comment on the subject was that previously our Supreme Court was meant to create rights rather than take them away. This is new. "I do think the Supreme Court has shot itself in the foot," she says.

A law student in the audience asked: What should women new to the practice of law do to jumpstart their careers? "Join LAW," Judge Daughtrey quipped, ever the recruiter, to the delight of LAW members. Mentoring is key. Judge Daughtrey remembers being gifted with a file of legal forms for potential cases. Another tip was to get to know staff in the clerk's office. Remember their names. Judge Daughtrey also instructed women to, "Gather yourselves together. Bounce ideas off one another. But make it happen." Sometimes, she said, we just need to be asked. And then don't forget to pay it forward. Judge Daughtrey closed with, "Hold the door open so that someone can come in behind you."



*Amanda is a 2022-2023 Newsletter Editor. She is Of Counsel at Hartzog & Silva, PLLC.*

# Recap of Annual Legislative Update

By: Leighann Ness

On June 21, 2022, LAW held its annual Legislative Update at the Nashville City Club. Our reliable, well-informed, and entertaining speakers, Mandy Haynes Young, Erica Vick Penley, and Kim Adkins, did not disappoint. It is nice to get the download of how bills came to be and the dynamics that led to the ultimate outcome! And, as always, the main topics were guns, alcohol, and abortion, with a sprinkling of other issues.

Most notable:

## **GUNS**

SB 2628 by Nicely/HB 2509 by Grills: Removes short-barrel rifle or shotgun from the prohibited weapons list in Tennessee.

SB 2671 by Kyle/HB 2794 by G. Johnson: (failed bill) Would have made it a class A misdemeanor to knowingly or recklessly permit a child under 12 to possess or use a firearm unless permitted by the parent, supervised by an adult, and used for a lawful sporting activity. Would have also increased punishment from Class A misdemeanor to Class E felony for illegally providing a handgun to a juvenile.

## **ALCOHOL/MARIJUANA**

SB 384 by Walley/HB 19 by Holsclaw: Prohibits retailers from providing case discounts that take the sale to below cost.

SB 1904 by Briggs/HB 1927 by Lamberth and SB 2266 by Nicely/HB 2366 by Hurt: Bills (both failed) aimed at regulating hemp-derived products containing delta-8 or delta-9 THC. Hemp containing delta-8 has been taken off the controlled substances, so, it is available with no licensing or regulation. Products containing delta-9 are still illegal in Tennessee and federally.

## **ABORTION**

SB 2582 by Crowe/HB 2779 by Alexander: (failed bill) Would have made Tennessee law similar to what is in effect in Texas where physicians must check for a heartbeat (cannot knowingly perform an abortion except under certain circumstances) and would allow civil action against a provider that performs or induces an unlawful abortion.

## **COVID-19**

SB 2188 by Niceley/HB 2746 by Lynn: Permits ivermectin suitable for human consumption to be sold and purchased as an over-the-counter medication, not requiring a prescription.

SB 2448 by D. White/HB 2671 by Farmer: Basically, this bill extends through July 1, 2023, the prohibition on claims for getting COVID-19 at an event.

SB 2574 by Crowe/HB 2535 by Alexander: Requires a long-term care facility in the period for which a public health emergency has been declared due to COVID-19 to allow residents to have visitors during end-of-life situations. Requires the patient to be permitted at least one resident representative in accordance with designated guidelines.

## EDUCATION

SB 1861 by Hensley/HB 1895 by Ragan: Allows state to withhold funding if a K-12 school violates the rule that a child's gender at birth determines participation in sports.

SB 2153 by Hensley/HB 2316 by Ragan: Prohibits males from participating in intercollegiate or intramural athletic teams in higher education that are designated for females.

For a full listing provided by the speakers and more details on each, please click the link below.

<https://www.law-nashville.org/resources/2022%20L.A.W.%20Legislative%20Update%206.21.2022.pdf>



# Recap of July Membership Meeting

By Leighann Ness

On July 19, 2022, LAW held its monthly luncheon and CLE at Belmont University's College of Law. Overcoming the Caregiving Crunch was the topic and the speakers were Grace Southerland Smith, Executive Director of AgeWell Middle Tennessee, and LAW member Brooke Coplon, an Associate at Wiseman Ashworth Trauger Law Group.



AgeWell is a nonprofit with three key roles: a trusted and impartial community resource, a catalyst for solutions for unmet needs, and a champion and advocate for issues concerning the elderly and their caretakers. Its objectives are to identify key resources for elderly and their care givers, to recognize barriers to care and solve for those, and to help others make plans so that they can avoid a caregiving crisis. Grace started by quoting Rosalynn Carter who said, "There are only four kinds of people in this world--those who have been caregivers; those who currently are caregivers; those who will be caregivers; and those who will need caregivers." She explained that needs can be small like changing a lightbulb or providing a ride, or great, like full time care. Those that are providing care are often middle aged, still working full time, and have children to care for as well, thus, taking care of elderly family members can provide tremendous strain on time, energy, emotions, and finances.

In order to mitigate or minimize the impact of caregiving, Grace suggested:

- planning in advance through early communications including all interested family members;
- using good listening skills to understand the emotional concerns family members have as they are making tough transitions with downsizing possessions, changing living environments, or giving up control of certain aspects of their lives

learning as much as possible about medications, insurance, and finances of those you will be caring for, especially if dementia is a factor.

Brooke spoke about what people can do to plan ahead from a legal perspective. She suggested explained that competency/capacity to make decisions is a continuum and it is best to determine that early. If competent, it is best for the person to execute an advanced directive to state the wishes for their medical care, establish a power of attorney for medical care and/or a general one, and to appoint a decisionmaker as well as a backup person. She cautioned that appointing different decisionmakers for financial and medical decisions can be confusing for medical providers because, for example, some medical choices might depend on the cost of various options. Lastly, she explained that copies of controlling documents should be shared with those that can help effectuate the wishes in them like caregivers, family members, medical providers, financial professionals, and legal professionals.

Grace closed with noting that AgeWell has its Directory of Services, Aging & Caring: A guide for Families & Caregivers, and an Eldercare Coach resource online to help those in need. It was an informative hour and touches so many of us! For further information, visit <https://agewelltn.org/>.



*Leighann is a 2022-2023 Newsletter Editor. She is a Senior Operations Counsel at HCA Healthcare.*

## **CALLING ALL WANNABE WRITERS!**

Have you tried one of Nashville's newest restaurants? Been on a great girls' trip or romantic getaway? Have any funny things happen to you in court, or have great parenting advice to share? LAW would love for you to submit articles for our newsletter. If you've got a passion for writing, and have something of interest to share with fellow members, the Newsletter Committee would like to publish your piece in an upcoming newsletter. Just write it and send to Melanie Grand or one of the 4 current newsletter editors. If you're willing to write an article, but need some direction or suggestions for a proposed topic, please reach out to one of the newsletter editors. The 2022 Newsletter editors are: Amanda Bradley, Leighann Ness, Devon Landman, and Kierstin Jodway.



# The Culinary Docket

By Tabitha Robinson



## The Hart, in Two Parts

Tucked away near the railroad tracks in Chestnut Hill, you will find The Hart. The Hart is one of the key tenants in the Bento, a residential complex aptly named due to its small compartmental-like living spaces that resemble the Japanese-style bento lunchboxes. As you might guess, The Hart serves up a fusion of Hawaiian and *izakaya* fare. My experience at The Hart was good enough to warrant a second visit just a few days later. Unfortunately, the second visit was not as good, but it is worth a try for its invigorating atmosphere and food.

For my first visit, I went on a quiet early weeknight evening with a friend. In fact, we were the only ones seated for a large portion of our time there. Even so, the atmosphere was bright and buzzy with lush plants adorning nearly every surface. The restaurant is an open space with a large, vegetation-adorned bar as its focal point. The decor was modern with light wood finishes, simple lines, and caned furniture statement pieces. While the seating was thoroughly uncomfortable (there were literal *milk crates* repurposed as chairs in there), I overlooked it due to the otherwise pleasing atmosphere.



Our server was attentive and informative. She helped us navigate the lengthy menu and provided insights on what items could be accommodated for my friend's food allergies. Up first were the cocktails. I ordered the "Queens Satisfaction," a drink served up in a specialty glass with umeshu (Japanese plum liquor), coconut shochu (a distilled rice beverage), allspice, and lapsang (a variety of black tea). My friend ordered the "Secret Garden," a gin martini with St. Germain and basil. We both enjoyed our drinks. Mine was fruity and sweet in the most mature sense. The tinge of allspice invoked hints of au-

tumn. My friend described her drink as “green tasting” and “floral forward,” but in a good way. Both were presented beautifully—mine had a brown sugar crusted rim, and my friend’s had a floating floral blossom.



Up next were the mains. The Hart’s food menu is divided up into five categories: “snacks,” izakaya-style light offerings, “raw,” sushi-type items, “salads,” “binchotan,” various grilled meats and vegetables on skewers, and “Hart plates,” traditional Hawaiian-inspired dishes. We started with the shishito peppers, a selection from the snacks menu. The peppers were abundant and adorned with sesame seeds of both the black and white variety. It was served with a shiso tartar sauce on the side, which elevated the appetizer from great to excellent. Shortly after, our two sharable mains arrived. We ordered the tuna poke dish and the “handroll party.” The tuna poke was marinated in shoyu and came crowned with hijiki seaweed, a nice leafy contrast to the fatty richness of the fresh tuna. Served on the side were lotus root chips, which added an additional savory component. The “handroll party” was certainly a party. It came to the table deconstructed as various ingredients that typically comprise a sushi handroll—nori, sushi rice, multiple varieties of fresh fish, cucumber, and cilantro. We then concocted our own handrolls using the provided ingredients. It was a fun experience to share with a friend, and the individual ingredients were fresh and of superior quality.



Last was dessert. Being the sugar connoisseurs we are, we ordered both offerings: the black sesame panna cotta and the grilled pineapple. The black sesame panna cotta was one of the more creative desserts I’ve tried in Nashville. The panna cotta came topped with a delicious macadamia nut streusel and a mango granita. The panna cotta was camouflaged in a bowl that was intentionally matching in color. I’m a little embarrassed to admit that I almost asked the server if the panna cotta was accidentally omit-

ted, but that is what I think makes this a fun dish. The grilled pineapple came with a rich vanilla ice cream and a basil-infused olive oil. The pineapple was grilled in such a way that it amplified the caramelized, sugary elements of the fruit. And the basil-infused olive oil delivered an element of savory freshness that took the pineapple to the next level.



Because I very much enjoyed my first experience, I decided to take my husband back a few days later. This time, we went on a Friday evening. We made reservations for 7:30 p.m. but weren't seated until 7:45. It became evident that they might have been a little understaffed, because it wasn't until 8:00 that our server arrived for our drink orders. We decided to hasten the process and ordered our drinks and appetizer in tandem. We ordered the "hurricane popcorn," which the menu described as having "furikake, butter, and mochi candies." The popcorn was another fun dish with a strong umami element. It paired well with our drinks. This time, I ordered the "Afterglow." This cocktail came in a highball glass adorned with another flower blossom and a pineapple leaf. This cocktail was a mélange of competing strong flavors: tequila, mezcal, crème de banane, spicy bitters, lemon, and pineapple. It was overwhelming to me, but I can see how some would enjoy it. My husband's drink, on the other hand, was delicious. He ordered the "Royal Bermuda Yacht Club," which was a rum-based drink with elements of falernum, orange curacao, and lime. For folks who enjoy drinks that taste like candy, this is for you.



After our drinks were delivered, we had already been at the restaurant for about an hour and were very much ready to order our mains. I ordered the pork katsu plate, and my husband had the kahuna burger. Despite the long wait, both dishes were excellent. My husband described the kahuna burger as "a good burger with Hawaiian elements." It came with American cheese and teriyaki sauce and was served on a

Hawaiian roll. The pork katsu is what one would imagine. It came with sliced and panko-breaded pork shoulder served on a bed of cabbage and a side of steamed rice. It was savory, satisfying, and had elements of what I'd consider traditional comfort food—the pork was tender and freshly fried, and the pillowy rice served as a good carby complement. We forewent dessert as we had already been at the restaurant for over two hours.



All in all, my subsequent visit to The Hart was still a good one. The food was phenomenal despite the service, but I can understand why it was subpar considering the general nature of the restaurant economy right now. If you go on a busier evening, I suggest making sure you allow yourself plenty of time to dine and treat the experience as an exercise in patience. The food is great, and the menu options are interesting and fun. As a bonus, there is tons of free street parking, which is certainly a rarity in Nashville nowadays. Follow your Hart and check this restaurant out.

### Meet the Food Critic Tabitha Robinson—Secretary



**Where are you from? Tell us about your path to practicing law.** I'm an elusive Nashville "unicorn." I grew up right here in Nashville. After graduating from Martin Luther King Magnet High School, I received my Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Clemson University. After graduating from Clemson, I went straight to law school and graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 2017.

Coming from a family of first-generation immigrants, I initially thought that I would go to law school to become an immigration lawyer. My experiences during law school exposed me to a wide variety of practice areas—many of which I didn't even know existed. Because of this, my interests grew, and it opened the door to new opportunities I hadn't contemplated. During the summer between my 1L and 2L year, I interned at Nashville Electric Service in their Legal Department. Shortly after graduating from law school, I had the opportunity to return to NES, and I have been there ever since!

**What do you do professionally, and what is your favorite part of your job?** I am a Staff Attorney for Nashville Electric Service. My practice areas include workers' compensation, probate, bankruptcy, contracts, torts, policy drafting, and internal affairs. I love everything about my job, so it's hard to define one "favorite part." I love that I work in so many different areas of the law and every day looks different because of it. It means that I'm always learning something new, and I love learning. I also love my close-knit team. We have a great dynamic and are always challenging each other, both professionally and intellectually.

**What leadership roles have you had with LAW?** I have been a Newsletter Editor (2018-2019 and 2019-2020), First Year Director (2020-2021), and Second Year Director (2021-2022). I am the Secretary for the 2022-2023 board year.

**What is your favorite part of LAW?** My favorite part of LAW is that it provides so many opportunities for members to form relationships with other women in the law, whether that is through a CLE, Lean-In Circle, happy hour, or even a Pilates class. I believe this is where LAW really shines. I have made wonderful friends through LAW and its programs.

**Describe yourself.** I love people, having good conversations with people, and forming substantive relationships. As a Nashville native, I am deeply fond of and proud of this city. I love engaging in service activities and flourish when I am involved in planning programs and events for the community. I'm a proud ailurophile. I play saxophone, and one of my favorite parts of the week is teaching saxophone lessons to middle and high-school students at W.O. Smith Music School. I'm also a weather nerd, and consequently, a certified severe weather spotter. I love coffee and will never turn it down. I also enjoy gardening/attempting to keep plants alive, baking, cooking, Fantasy Football and NFL Football, running and taking long-distance walks, and photography (mostly of birds).

**It's a Saturday night in Nashville (pre-COVID-19) - what are you up to?** I'm likely at a restaurant with my husband or friends. I love trying Nashville's newest and greatest culinary ventures. If I'm not at a restaurant, odds are that I'm doing the cooking. I love having friends over for dinner parties where I make elaborate meals that can take most of the day to prepare.

**Facebook or Instagram?** Nowadays, I prefer Instagram. It's a nice way to keep up with friends and trends without the messiness of Facebook. My cats also happen to be microinfluencers on the app and have more followers than me.

**Phone call or text?** Text. Outside of work-related matters, I hardly ever talk on the phone. If I want to catch up with someone, I much rather meet in-person, even if that means taking a weekend trip to do it.

**Netflix or Hulu?** HBO Max. About a month ago, I subscribed to what I thought was a month-to-month plan on the platform. I wanted to see what all the hype about "Euphoria" was and then cancel the subscription. Unbeknownst to me, I accidentally paid for a year of HBO Max, and now, I'm hooked. My favorite shows right now are "Succession" and "The Way Down," a documentary miniseries about Gwen Shamblin Lara.

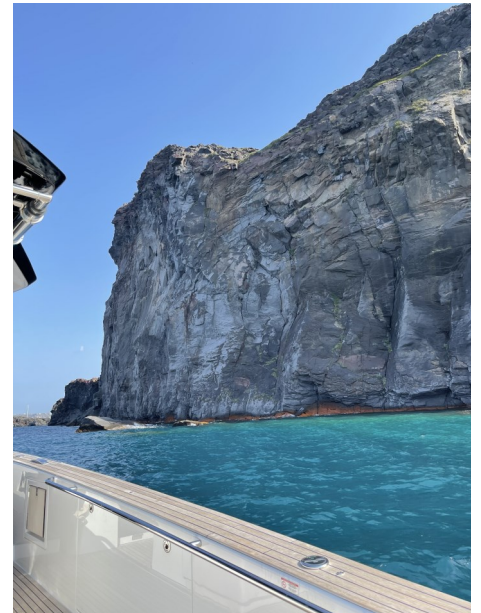
## Traveling with Kids: Greece in May 2022

By Leighann Ness

I love to travel, so I applied for passports for my kids so that I could use the excuse that I am taking them to show them the world! Truthfully, all three of us love to travel, so, it has been a win, win, win!

This year, we sat down in early March and started looking for ideas for our summer vacation. I had heard about Scott Dunn travel agency through fellow LAW member, Emily Warth, who used them for a fabulous trip to South America with her family. So, my daughter, Rylee (17) and my son, Nathan (8), and I started with the suggestions for families on Scott Dunn's website. We fell in love with the pictures of Greece, and I spoke with a Scott Dunn agent a few days later who got a general feel for the kinds of activities we liked and took care of planning everything . . . hotels, transfers between cities, activities and tours – perfect for a busy attorney. Everything was top notch and private (just a guide with the three of us). It was a luxurious and, most importantly, low stress way to travel, especially with me being the only adult. I booked our airfare to Athens separate from the travel package, but the agent helped me pick the best flights. She said it would be easier for me to make changes if something happened if I had direct communication with the airline.

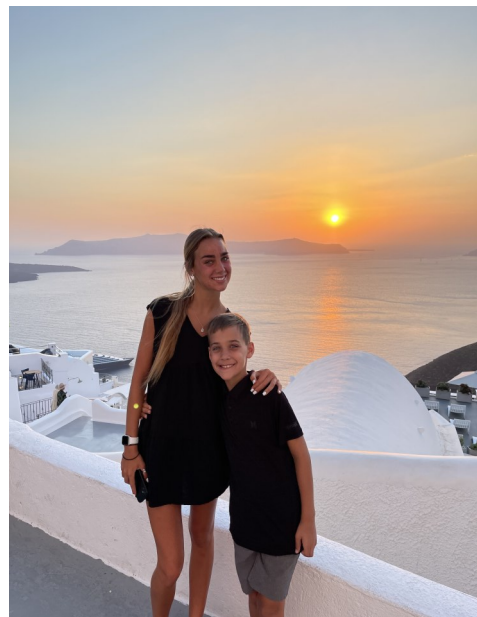
Our first stop was **Athens**. Someone met us as we passed through security with a sign that said, "Ness Family". From that point until we flew home, all we had to do was show up in our hotel lobby at the appointed time where people were waiting to take us to our next activity. It maximized our time to have fun and explore! We had a private tour of the Acropolis, which was amazing and overwhelming. I just re-



member feeling so grateful that I had this opportunity with my kids; seeing the amazement on their faces was priceless. Also, I immediately realized that having private guides was ideal given our age differences. Every guide knew how to keep my 8-year-old engaged and make everything interesting and accessible to him.

From Acropolis, we took a taxi to Astir Beach, about 35 minutes away, and relaxed the rest of the day. We were on our own for any meals other than breakfast every day, but food in Greece was not hard to find. There were plenty of "tavernas" within walking distance with excellent and inexpensive food (and wine)! Also, everyone spoke enough English that language was not too much of a barrier.

After two nights in Athens, we took a ferry to **Sifnos**, an island located in the Aegean Sea. Sifnos is home to approximately 2,500 permanent residents. They all seem to know each other and have such a beautiful community and welcoming spirit. It was everything you picture in your mind of a Greek island. The buildings are all white, most have blue doors, all churches have a blue dome roof (and there are around 250 churches!). There are stone paths connecting villages, and very narrow winding roads. On Sifnos, we had lots of time to relax at the resort's enormous pool and private beach, but we also had two activities planned by Scott Dunn—a ceramics studio visit where we got to make our own pottery and a walking tour through four of the tiny, connected villages on the island. Both were excellent experiences!!!



After three nights on Sifnos, we took another ferry ride to **Santorini**. We stayed in a small village centrally-located in Santorini, close to shops and tavernas, and quieter and much less crowded than the more touristy areas of Fira and Oia. Our time on Santorini was busy as it was a larger island with more iconic points of interest than Sifnos. We took a horseback ride to the beach, went on a half day boat ride in the volcano caldera, which ended with a dinner and the sunset, and did a 4-mile hike from Fira to Oia with a private guide. All were amazing experiences!

Overall, we loved our trip. I would highly recommend going and if you want the ease we had with all the moving about, I highly recommend Scott Dunn to plan it for you. However, if you want to arrange lodging, transfers, and activities yourself, it is definitely doable. I listed contacts and other details [Here](#) in case you want to check out some of the same experiences!



# Notes and Notations

## **PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DATA IN YOUR LAW MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT!!**

**LAW needs your data!** Please update your account as soon as possible with your current place of employment and practice areas (and anything else that is missing).

Please review your information TODAY! If you do not know your password, please email the LAW office at [info@law-nashville.org](mailto:info@law-nashville.org) to receive a new one.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **NEW ADMITTEES' BREAKFAST**

**NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

**MUSIC CITY CENTER  
REGISTRATION 7:15  
PROGRAM 8:00**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
CHANCELLOR PAT MOSKAL**



## **Abby Sparks Named Executive Director of the Nashville Bar Association**

**KUDOS to LAW past president Abby Sparks on her new position!** Abby most recently was assistant commissioner of people operations for the Tennessee Department of Human Services. She earned her law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 2006. Before her first state job,

Abby became involved with LAW shortly after moving to Nashville in 2007. She was co-chair of many committees and served on the executive board before becoming president for the 2015-2016 board year.

Abby takes her new post on September 6th.



# Opportunities for Leadership Growth

By Ellen Bowden McIntyre and Judge Lynda Jones

Co-Chairs of LAW's Judicial Appointments, Elections, & Awards Committee

As lawyers and LAW members, many of us aim to grow our leadership skills. But we often do not know how to avail ourselves of programmatic opportunities for this growth. This article summarizes some leadership programs for both lawyers and non-lawyers in Tennessee that may reap many benefits. The lawyer-only programs enhance our connections to the bar, and the wider community leadership programs can make us more well-rounded overall leaders with a wider set of skills and connections.

## **“TBALL” – Tennessee Bar Association’s Leadership Law**

Six-month leadership training program for 35 attorneys statewide with five-15 years of experience based on the year when they were licensed

Program starts in January and features six sessions around the state on topics including policy and politics, community leadership, and issues in the courts

TBALL alumni must nominate an attorney, who can then apply for the program

Tip: To participate in TBALL, look at the list of alumni on the program website to try to find someone willing to nominate you

Nominations start in August, and applications start in September

## **Nashville Bar Foundation’s Leadership Forum**

Monthly workshops and activities focusing on local leadership and community issues for 25 selected attorneys who practice in Davidson County with three to eight years of experience

Encourages diversity in the practice of law and helps build relationships among attorneys

Nashville Bar Foundation Fellows with 12+ years of experience mentor each year’s Leadership Forum class

Nominations due in June

## **Leadership Tennessee**

Issue-specific education for demonstrated leaders from a variety of fields (not limited to law), with these specific programs:

### **Leadership Tennessee NEXT**

Provides in-depth personal and professional development for early to mid-career professionals

Accepts applications through April 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Signature Program**

10-month program with five sessions for proven leaders and change agents

Applications due in March

Collaborative learning and non-partisan dialogue on issues of statewide importance for the three grand divisions of Tennessee

Vision for Tennessee to rise as a state with leaders and citizens who are engaged and committed to problem-solving

### **Leadership Middle Tennessee**

Class of 35-40 established leaders on a journey through Middle Tennessee with an 11-month curriculum

Requires two letters of recommendation, including one from a program alumnus

Applications due in June

### **Leadership Nashville**

Class of 44 leaders attends seven 13-hour program days bookended by two overnight retreats

Offers a three-dimensional view of Nashville to exchange ideas on the city's development

\$1,000 tuition

Applications start in January, and class announced in June

### **Cable**

Billed as Tennessee's largest and most established network of diverse professionals committed to connecting women and opportunity

Features monthly lunches aimed at enhancing leadership skills and providing networking opportunities

Two levels of membership:

\$250 annual fee with pay as you go lunch fee

\$635 annual fee that includes lunches

### **Tennessee Government Executive Program**

Several great leadership programs available to Tennessee State employees (lawyers and non-lawyers) that all fall under the umbrella of the Tennessee Government Council

**Tennessee Government Executive Institute (TGEI):** designed for senior executive leaders, such as Deputy Commissioners and Directors, with a two-week residential executive institute

**Tennessee Government Management Institute (TGMI):** designed for mid-level managers, with a two-week residential management institute

**Tennessee Government Professionals Institute (TGPI):** designed for individual contributors/ non-supervisory staff

**LEAD Tennessee** – designed for both current and emerging leaders, with 12-months of intense development in eight leadership core competencies

#### **Accelerated Leadership Institute**

These programs provide fantastic content, plus amazing networking opportunities across Tennessee State government.

LAW members who are state employees and wish to participate should contact their agency's Human Resources or Talent Management Office to learn more about the selection process, which varies by state agency.

See <https://www.tn.gov/hr//hr-tn-government-leadership.html>

## L'Evate (formerly Leadership Donelson-Hermitage)

Leadership training and relationship building that aligns business and community leaders from the Donelson, Hermitage, Old Hickory, and City Side communities  
Business Class applications due in March, and M3 class applications due in July

## Sororities

Several sororities – like Alpha Kappa Alpha – offer their own leadership programs for their alumna

We encourage you to check out the list of programs in the area and seek out the ones best suited for your personal leadership growth!



Judge Lynda Jones



Ellen Bowden McIntyre

## Community Relations Committee Initiative for 2022-2023

### Seeking Volunteers for MNPS Accelerating Scholars Tutoring Program



Grace Bailey, Coordinator for the Accelerating Scholars program with MNPS, spoke to LAW's full board at its meeting earlier this month. After her presentation, all agreed this is a great program for LAW members to get behind and support students in the MNPS system.

MNPS needs to recruit 2,000 volunteers to tutor 7,000+ students in 1st through 8th grade reading and 4th through 9th grade math.

Volunteers will be trained on content, how to structure a virtual tutoring session, the virtual platform all virtual tutors and students will use, and more.

Volunteers will provide at least three, 30-minute-long, one-on-one, virtual or in-person tutoring sessions every week for at least 10 weeks during the fall semester. Session times will be matched to each volunteer's availability.

Accelerating Scholars tutoring sessions can take place during the regular school day or during structured after-school programming.

This will be a convenient and easy process, and your impact could make a lifetime of difference in the lives of Nashville's students. If you're interested in volunteering in this program, [sign up today](#).

## Meet the Board Event-June 9, 2022

On June 9, 2022, LAW members gathered at Sonny's Patio Pub & Refuge in Germantown for the annual Meet the Board event. The weather was warm but the beverages were cold and the event was well attended by members new and old. Meeting in person, especially in a social setting, is so much fun after all our time apart. It was great to get to know each other a little better and strengthen our LAW community!



## 2022-2023 LAW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Board

Shellie Handelsman, *President*

Emily Warth, *President-Elect*

Tabitha Robinson, *Secretary*

Rachel Berg, *Treasurer*

Shundra Manning, *2nd Year Director*

Courtney Orr, *2nd Year Director*

Corey Harkey, *1st Year Director*

Jessica Lim, *1st Year Director*

Kaley Bell, *Archivist*

Amanda Bradley, *Newsletter Editor*

Kierstin Jodway, *Newsletter Editor*

Devon Landman, *Newsletter Editor*

Leighann Ness, *Newsletter Editor*

Kimberly Faye, *Immediate Past President*

### Committee Co-chairs

**New Admittees' Breakfast**  
Callie Hinson, Erin Palmer Polly

**Bylaws and Long Term Planning**  
Sara Anne Quinn

**Community Relations**  
Grace Fox, Jackie Dixon, Hollie Parrish

**Diversity Equity and Inclusion**  
Princess Rogers, Catherine Tabor

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

**Judicial Appointments, Elections and Awards**  
Judge Lynda Jones, Ellen Bowden McIntyre

**Legislation and Litigation**  
Annie Beckstrom, Olivia Park

**Marion Griffin Women's Symposium 2023**  
Christen Blackburn, Sherie Edwards

**Membership**  
Katharine Fischman, Quynh-Anh Kibler,  
Kimberly Veirs

**Mentoring/Member Development**  
Alaina Beach, Katie Bennett,  
Chancellor Anne Martin

**Networking**  
Blake Howell, Jorie Zajicek

**Nominating Committee**  
Kimberly Faye

**Oral History**  
Laura Baker, Liz Sitgreaves

**Practicing Parents**  
Mariam Stockton, Angela Williams

**Programs**  
Jenny Charles, Brooke Coplon,  
Jan Margaret Craig, Barbara Moss

### Executive Director

Melanie Gober Grand

## Members in the News!



Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle is the Nashville Bar Journal's 2022 Lifetime Achievement honoree. She served as chancellor of the Davidson County Chancery Court, Part III for more than 20 years. Chancellor Lyle will retire at the end of August.



Rita Roberts-Turner, has joined the law firm of Klein Solomon Mills employment law and government services, in addition to work with churches and other religious and nonprofit organization. She was recently the chief administrative officer at WeGo Public Transit.



Meredith Eason has moved from Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs and is now with Farmers Insurance where she is Corporate Counsel—Litigation.



Kristi Arth, has been named a "Top 40 Young Lawyer" by the ABA. She is assistant professor of law and the director of field placements at Belmont University College of Law. Kristi also runs a Legal Fiction Workshop, for Belmont Law students, and serves on an ABA group that vets nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court.

## KUDOS

KUDOS to the following LAW members selected as recipients of the 2022 Nashville Business Journal Best of the Bar Awards.

Laura Baker  
Cindy Barnett  
Margaret Behm  
April Berman  
Cynthia Chappell  
Miranda Christy  
Sherie Edwards  
Ed Lanquist  
Kim Looney  
Marlene Moses

Barbara Moss  
Erin Palmer Polly  
Chay Sengkounmany  
Liz Sitgreaves  
Laura Smith  
Emily Warth  
Tyler Yarbro  
Mandy Haynes Young  
Gulam Zade

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

Elizabeth Alexander	Amy Everhart	Casey Miller	Laura Smith
Audrey Anderson	Doreen Farthing	Amy Mohan	Leslie South
Anne Arney	Kimberly Faye	Cynthia Cutler Moon	Abby Sparks
Kristy Arth	Mandy Floyd	Elizabeth Moreton	Marcie Stephens
David Anthony	Marcus Floyd	Mary Ellen Morris	Maria Stewart
Gail Ashworth	Grace Fox	Marlene Moses	Mariam Stockton
Katherine Austin	Hannah Kay Freeman	Chancellor Patricia Moskal	Judge Jane Stranch
Catie Bailey	Victoria Gentry	Barbara Moss	Rachel Zamata Swanson
Laura Baker	Jessica Gichner	Ann Murphy	Catherine Tabor
Cindy Barnett	Elizabeth Gonser	Margaret Myers	Rachel Taylor
Kathryn Barnett	Jennifer Griffin	Karen Scott Neal	Scott Tift
Lisa Bashinsky	Melissa Gworek	Leighann Ness	Elizabeth Tipping
Mollie Gass Bauer	Shellie Handelsman	Magistrate Judge Alistair Newbern	Martha Trammell
Annie Beckstrom	Corey Harkey	Christina Norris	Judge Aleta Trauger
Margaret Behm	Laura Heiman	William O'Bryan, Jr.	Judge Dianne Turner
Katie Bennett	Lisa Helton	Tony Orlandi	Kimberly Veirs
Rachel Berg	Candi Henry	Courtney Orr	Judge Allegra Walker
April Berman	Callie Hinson	Larry Papel	Emily Warth
Judge Cheryl Blackburn	Rachel Hogan	Kaitlin Parham	Elizabeth Washko
Christen Blackburn	Kimberly Ingram	Rebekah Parkhurst	Bernadette Welch
Judge Melissa Blackburn	Kierstin Jodway	Erica Vick Penley	Carolyn Wenzel
Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman	Michele Johnson	Barbara Perutelli	Memorie White
Jan Bossing	Judge Lynda Jones	Erin Polly	Angela Williams
Amanda Bradley	Brendi Kaplan	Sara Anne Quinn	Karen Williams
Dewey Branstetter	Quynh-Anh Kibler	Phillis Rambsey	Susan Neal Williams
Hunter Branstetter	Katherine Knight	Jimmie Lynn Ramsaur	Devon Williamson
Mary Barrett Brewer	Dean Bill Koch	Candice Reed\	Tyler Yarbrow
Josh Burgener	Kaylee Kohlmaier	Carolyn Reed	Jane Young
Taylor Caleb	Nina Kumar	Lauren Roberts	Mandy Young
Judge Sheila Calloway	Christie Laird	Jennifer Robinson	Gulam Zade
Chancellor Rose Cantrell	Lauren Lamberth	Tabitha Robinson	
Dr. Tracey Carter	Ed Lanquist, Jr.	Abby Rubenfeld	
Cindy Chappell	Courtney Leyes	Amber Rutherford	
Jenny Charles	Wendy Longmire	Joyce Safley	
Jennifer Cook	Joy Longnecker	Maria Salas	
Brooke Coplon	Kim Looney	Julie Sandine	
Nancy Krider Corley	Chancellor Ellen Lyle	Marie Scott	
Jan Margaret Craig	Alexandra MacKay	Lindsey Shepard	
Chelsea Curtis	Monica Mackie	Michael Sheridan	
Judge Angie Dalton	Nancy MacLean	Cynthia Sherwood	
Carrie Daughtrey	Chancellor Anne Martin	Dianna Shew	
Ashonti Davis	Henry Martin	Kristen Shields	
Jacqueline Dixon	Meg Mazzone	Judge Marietta Shipley	
Margaret Dodson	Judge Amanda McClendon	Emily Shouse	
Brenda Dowdle	Chancellor Carol McCoy	Susan Sidwell	
Meredith Eason	Joanna McCracken	Elizabeth Sitgreaves	
Sunny Eaton	Susan McGannon	Kate Skagerberg	
Jennifer Eberle	Ellen Bowden McIntyre	Judge Jennifer Smith	
Sherie Edwards	Kate Melby		

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