

LAW MATTERS

January 2022

Volume XXXIII No. 8



In This Issue

President's Message	2
Laura Baker, Keynote Speaker for LAW's Virtual New Admittees' Breakfast	3
November Membership Meeting Recap	4
"Lessons Learned in Life and Law: Barbara Hart Version"	6
Past President's Spotlight: Dot Dobbins	7
Board Member Spotlight: Newsletter Editor Amanda Bradley	8
Job Opportunities/Committee Reports	9
Sustaining Members	10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kimberly Faye



I always find it perplexing how a year can feel as if it has gone by so fast and so slow at the same time, but here we are, halfway through the first month of 2022! Reflecting on 2021, there were many challenges from returning to work, figuring out the right path for in-person and virtual events, trying to adjust to feel “normal” at social gatherings, dealing with a setback on all the progress we made when the Delta variant came about, and then moving forward and figuring things out all over again.

Although many things about 2021 were exhausting, my favorite was SEEING people again, face to face and not through a computer screen! I am hopeful that will continue and be the standard for 2022, but if 2020 and 2021 taught me anything, it is that we will adjust and thrive, regardless of what is thrown our way.

LAW had hoped to start having more in-person events in 2022, beginning with January's luncheon and CLE. Still, with the spread of the Omicron variant and an increase in positive tests, it looks like we will continue virtual meetings at this time. With a spirit of optimism, I am excited to announce that we are planning to move forward with our Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet in person on April 21 at the Music City Center. Please save the date now and look for emails soon seeking nominations for our LAW Awards, the Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey Award, and the Rising Star Award.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and for walking into the new year, I hope this quote from Martin Luther King Jr. brings some inspiration. “Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase; just take the first step.”

Take the first step in faith.
You don't have to see the
whole staircase, just take
the first step.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

2021-2022 LAW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

2021 NEW ADMITTEES' VIRTUAL BREAKFAST HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO JANUARY 27, 2022 8:30 AM



Keynote Speaker

Laura Baker

Past LAW and Nashville Bar Association President
Shareholder, The Law Offices of John Day, P.C.
Community Volunteer

LAW welcomes Past LAW President, Laura Baker, as the keynote speaker for the Virtual New Admittees' Breakfast honoring new attorneys who passed the bar in October 2021. We hope you will encourage all new attorneys in your firms to join LAW in welcoming Laura and other special guests.

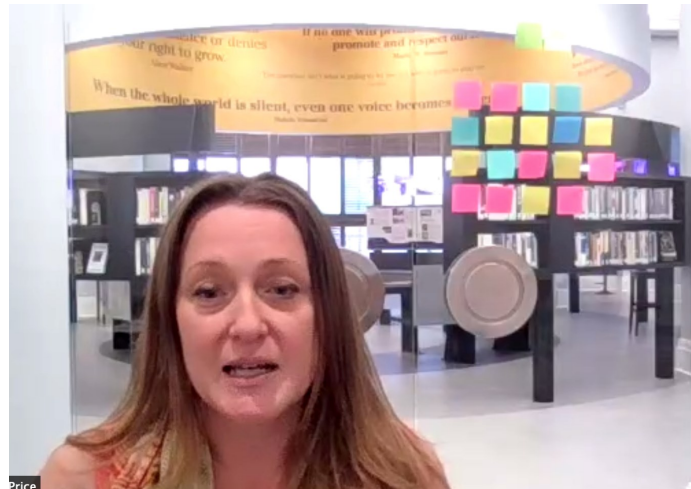
To Register for the New Admittees' Breakfast and all Other LAW Events

Click [Here](#)

November Membership Meeting: *Minor v. Happersett*: What Led Up to This Monumental Decision on Voting Rights That Still Affects Our Democracy Today?

By Devon Landman

On November 16, 2021, LAW hosted Rebecca Price, a program coordinator with the Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library, to speak about the case *Minor v. Happersett* and its monumental impact on women's rights. Rebecca is a public historian with a Master's Degree from George Washington University with a specialty in women's history interpretation in public spaces.

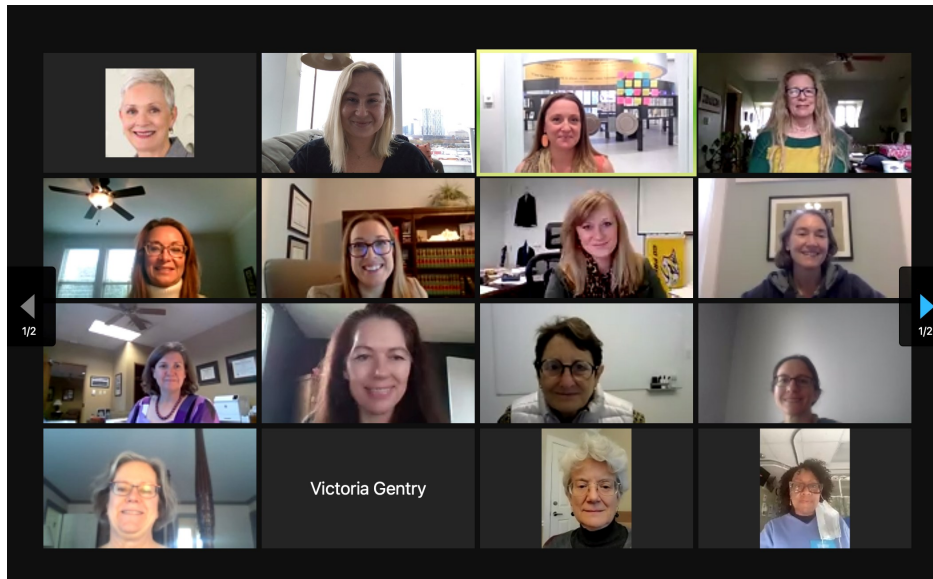


Rebecca began her presentation by describing how times were back in 1872, when Susan B. Anthony famously attempted to vote in the presidential election and was arrested. Rebecca explained that women across the country were voting in municipal and presidential elections as part of the New Departure strategy to test voting rights in courts. However, of all those who participated, a Missouri woman named Virginia Louisa Minor was the only case to go before the U.S. Supreme Court. According to Rebecca, the *Minor* case is incredibly important to understanding the depths of women's voting rights. Rebecca stressed that examining this case close-up shows how complex the suffrage movement was and provides a better understanding of how this movement had such a huge impact outside of just the 19th Amendment.

Virginia Minor

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.
Mrs. Virginia L. Minor's Suit Settled.
The Court of Last Resort Spoils Woman's Suffrage From a Legal Standpoint.





In *Minor*, the U.S. Supreme Court held that, while women are no less citizens than men are, citizenship does not confer a right to vote, and therefore state laws barring women from voting are constitutionally valid. The Supreme Court upheld the state court's decision in Missouri, which had refused to register Minor as a lawful voter because Missouri's laws allowed only men to vote. The *Minor* ruling was based on an interpretation of the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Supreme Court accepted that Minor was a citizen of the United States, but it held that the constitutionally protected privileges of citizenship did not include the right to vote.

Rebecca concluded her presentation by explaining the legacy and impact of the *Minor* case. She explained that this case is still presently "cited as precedent in other Supreme Court cases as a defense that states could impose poll taxes and literacy tests as conditions of voting." Even though the 19th Amendment effectively overruled *Minor v. Happersett* by prohibiting discrimination in voting rights based on sex, it is nevertheless essential to understand the depth of the hurdles women went through to enforce rights that they finally have today.



Devon is a 2021-2022 Newsletter Editor. She is of personal injury and complex civil litigation attorney at Whitfield Coleman Bullock, PLLC.

“Lessons Learned in Life and Law: The Barbara Hart Version”

By Devon Landman



Barbara J. Hart

On the evening of October 14, 2021, the law firm of Robins Kaplan LLP hosted its “Spotlight Series: Lessons Learned in Life and Law” featuring the one-and-only, Barbara J. Hart. The spotlight encompassed a Q&A interview with Barbara that took place via Zoom, and focused on Barbara’s personal and professional growth within the legal profession.

Who is Barbara Hart? Well, if you do not already know, she is a nationally-renowned trailblazer and a strong advocate for women in leadership roles. Barbara is a partner at Grant & Eisenhofer and serves on the firm’s Executive Committee. She has nearly three decades of experience as a leader in plaintiffs’ litigation. She has represented institutional investors, including many public pension funds, in securities and antitrust litigation and served as lead counsel in four of the top 100 securities class action settlements. She received her undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University, her M.A. from the University of North Carolina

at Chapel Hill, and her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law where she was on the Dean’s List and a member of the Fordham Law Review.

Barbara began the interview by describing her experience as a female attorney navigating what was, and still is, a male-dominated profession. In her opinion, women need to get together to talk about money and business and engage in less small talk. Moreover, to get ahead of the game, she recommended getting published in academic literature and getting involved in speaking engagements. These strategies, she explained, “will increase the visibility of one’s professional profile.”

There are two takeaways that Barbara wants to be gleaned from her interview: fail faster and take risks. With regard to failing faster, she explained, “No matter what your failures are, there will be women in your corner who are your allies and will carry you through.” She explained the importance of female alliances, especially in male-dominated, adversarial situations. Specifically, Barbara vocalized the importance of women standing up for other women who are being walked on by men. She also stressed that women should be consciously amplifying and elevating other women to be their best selves. With regard to taking risks, Barbara emphasized to “stretch beyond your comfort zone” and “sometimes that requires speaking up” when it is uncomfortable to do so. She underscored the notion that women should be self-promoting and direct, and should forgo the pleasantries.

The interview concluded with Barbara reflecting on what she would have done differently when she was a younger attorney. She explained that early on in her career, at times, she allowed her emotional connection to her firm to conflict with her own self-interest. For example, she held back negotiating higher compensation for herself within her firm so she would be perceived as someone who was “reasonable” or “loyal.” She thought that being a “team player” would encourage others to want to work with her. In retrospect, she wishes she had not been so focused on how she was perceived by others, but rather, she should have lobbied more forcefully for her own interests. “I don’t think that being reasonable is going to win anyone over,” Barbara explained. She has seen men do a lot of questionable negotiation tactics, but then they moved on and got over it, because, well, “it’s business.”

According to Barbara, women need to have this same mentality as men. Women must advocate for themselves just as they do for their clients. And women should be bold and never be afraid to fail or take risks. I know I certainly will be cherishing and executing this advice as I continue to grow in my professional career as an attorney.



Past President's Spotlight

Dot Dobbins

1992-1993

Why (and how) did you first get involved in LAW? I was a founding member of LAW.

What's your favorite memory from your time serving as LAW's president? My most memorable event was the year before when I was Banquet chair and got Hilary Rodham Clinton to speak. She was First Lady of Arkansas, practicing law with the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock and was chair of the ABA Committee on Women in the Legal Profession. She came from Florida because of her aunt's funeral. She gave a terrific speech. I picked her up at the airport, went out for drinks with her, Julie Jones LAW President and Cissy Daughtrey after the Banquet. I was a fan forever after that.

What has serving as president of LAW taught you as a leader? Biggest takeaway(s)? I tell all new presidents at the breakfast we past presidents have with them, their goal is to become immediate past president.

What has changed about LAW and/or the Nashville legal community since you first got involved in LAW? The greatest change is the increase in the number of women practicing law. We were still small numbers when we started LAW with a major goal of increasing the number of women practicing and taking leadership roles in the legal field as judges and in bar associations.

What do you hope LAW's role is in the Nashville legal community going forward? Certainly progress has been made, but no doubt more can be done.

What woman inspires you and why? I still admire Hillary for all she has done and the principals she stands for. I also admire Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan. She has faced many challenges in her state and has handled them remarkably. Young women like poet Amanda Gorman give me hope for women in the future.



Board Spotlight Newsletter Editor Amanda Bradley

Where are you from? I'm a unicorn - born and raised in Nashville. I moved to Brentwood right before starting high school, and after a brief stint in Florida, have lived in Franklin since 2010.

Tell us about your path to practicing law. I don't have any lawyers in my family, but learning about Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor as a kid made me want to become a lawyer. I've always been drawn to trailblazing women. I used to say that my plan was to become the second female Supreme Court Justice until RBG beat me to it! Plans changed and life happened along the way. I got married and divorced, and wound up back in Tennessee with my then two-year-old son as a suddenly-single parent. I'd been a stay-at-home mom and had a degree in vocal performance so I wasn't exactly professionally qualified to do much! A friend-of-a-friend was a lawyer in Nashville, and she needed a new legal assistant. I got the job, and my interest in law was renewed. Eventually I started law school when my son was in kindergarten. I worked fulltime during the day as a legal assistant while taking classes 2-3 nights a week. I could not have done it without my family who were/are amazingly supportive.

What do you do professionally, and what is your favorite part of your job? I am in private practice at Hartzog & Silva in Franklin, TN. I practice primarily in the area of family law handling divorces and parenting plan modifications, but I also have some juvenile, probate, estate planning and conservatorship cases. I just recently finalized my first adoption case and it is hands down the most rewarding part of my job. I would love to increase my adoption practice.

What leadership roles have you had with LAW? I've co-chaired the Practicing Parents' Committee, served two terms as Archivist, and am now part of the Newsletter Committee.

What is your favorite part of LAW? I enjoy the friendships I've made with other women within the legal community and the LeanIn mentoring groups have also been extremely valuable/meaningful to me.

Describe yourself. I'm sarcastic and witty, obsessed with the Kentucky Wildcats and the color pink. (Gee, this feels like a dating app profile!) I am a single parent to a 13-year-old boy who is my world, and have 2 dogs.

It's a Saturday night in Nashville (pre-COVID-19) - what are you up to? Dining al fresco on a patio somewhere, hanging out with family, or watching college football or basketball.

Facebook or Instagram? I use Facebook more for information: to ask or answer questions within the legal community (Girl Attorney), to learn what's eating my hostas and what to do about it (Tennessee Gardeners), or to find out what's going on at my son's school. Instagram is my place to relax and see cute pictures of puppies and get home organization tips (@getneat_withlisa).

Phone call or text? I'll out myself as an elder millennial, so I am equally comfortable with phone calls or texts.

Netflix or Hulu? More Hulu these days: Brooklyn 99 and McCartney 3, 2, 1 are current faves.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Senior Counsel Opening at Bridgestone, USA

https://bridgestone.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/External/job/Bridgestone-Tower/Sr-Counsel--Software-Licensing-and-IT-Transactions_2021_38067

Tennessee Alliance For Legal Services—Executive Director

Click [Here](#) for description and how to apply.

LAW's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee Partnership with Dress for Success Nashville A HUGE Success!

The Lawyer's Association for Women - Marion Griffin Chapter sold 56 t-shirts and which raised \$1,017 for [Dress for Success Nashville](#), an organization that empowers women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. Thank you to everyone who participated helping the DEI Committee reach its goal!

Virtual Holiday Mixer Trivia Edition Year Two

Back by popular demand, on December 2, members gathered virtually for a trivia night in lieu of LAW's traditional holiday mixer. At the start, members had time to talk and catch up from the comfort of their homes while donning festive apparel and sipping beverages of choice. Once the trivia game began, members were divided into teams and sent to break-out rooms to answer questions. This was a fun and unique way to get to know LAW members better while engaging in a little friendly competition. Amazon gift card prizes were awarded to the first, second and third place teams, with Blake Howell, Blake's friend Megan, and Amanda Bradley of the team "Three French Hens" taking home first place and bragging rights for the year.

The trivia event was hosted by Challenge Entertainment. They host live and virtual trivia events across the country, and can be hired for private parties or family gatherings. Click here for more information: <https://challengeentertainment.com/>.

We hope to be back in person for holiday festivities next year, but this was a good tradeoff event to mix and mingle with LAW members, engage in holiday cheer, and demonstrate our capacity for useless knowledge.

**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		