

# LAW MATTERS

March 2022

Volume XXXIII No. 10



## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kimberly Faye



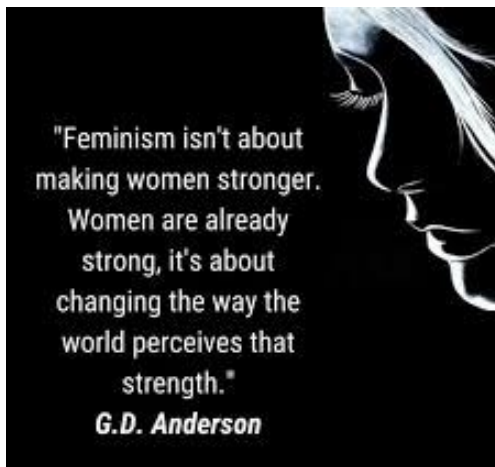
March 2022 marks two years since much of the United States entered coronavirus-related lockdowns. Things are not as bleak as they were in the beginning of the pandemic, and we are still not in the clear, but it is getting a little easier to look to the future with optimism.

With respect to the upcoming months for LAW, I am very optimistic for our upcoming in-person events. Our Networking and Health and Wellness Committees are planning another outdoor yoga event at Diskin

Cider on April 9th. We are also planning a networking and recruiting event at a Sounds baseball game on April 7th where current members will receive a discounted ticket if they bring a potential future LAW member. You will see all the details for these future events in your email and on the website soon, so please stay tuned!

We are also looking forward to our Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on April 21, our first large in-person event since 2019. We will also celebrate our 2022 LAW award winners, Christen Blackburn - Rising Star Award, and Barbara J. Moss - Martha Craig Daughtrey Award. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available for purchase online now.

In closing, I share a quote I read on March 8th as we celebrated International Women's Day, a day that commemorates the passage of all things feminist, gender equality, planetary peace, and many amendments of various constitutions which protect and guarantee women for their equal benefits socially and in legal bindings. "Feminism isn't about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength." G.D. Anderson.



## 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*

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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, Chancellors 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

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).



ANNUAL MEETING AND  
AWARDS BANQUET



MARTHA CRAIG DAUGHTREY  
AWARD  
BARBARA J. MOSS



RISING STAR AWARD  
CHRISTEN BLACKBURN

COCKTAILS 5:00 PM DINNER 6:30 PM

04 | 21 | 2022

DAVIDSON BALLROOM THE MUSIC CITY CENTER  
TICKETS: MEMBERS \$75 NONMEMBERS \$100

TABLE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE  
REGISTER BY MONDAY, APRIL 18

RESERVE YOUR TICKET TODAY! CLICK [HERE](#).

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## HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPCOMING EVENTS

### **TWO HOUR DUAL CREDIT CLE MARCH 28, 2022 5:30—7:30 PM**

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#### **Applying Mindfulness and Meditation Techniques to Improve Wellbeing in the Legal Field**



Presented by Joanna McCracken, an attorney, meditation teacher, and yoga instructor. Joanna is the founder of Mind Your Business. The organization teaches lawyers, firms, and other legal groups how to use meditation, mindfulness, and yoga techniques to overcome occupational stress and create healthier working environments. For more information and to register click [here](#).

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### **STRETCH & SIP/YOGA CLASS/BRUNCH APRIL 9, 2022 11:00—11:50 AM**

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LAW member, Leighann Ness, will lead a medium intensity class that is accessible to all skill levels. (Don't forget your mat!)

Diskin Cider is donating their space for the class. If it fits in your schedule stay and network over brunch to show them our support for offering the free space for the class!

For more information and to register click [here](#).

Join the leadership of middle Tennessee's  
premier women's bar association!

**LAW is accepting applications for the Executive Board and Committee Co-chairs  
for the upcoming 2022/2023 membership year which begins May 1st.  
Application deadline: Midnight, March 20th.**

Click [here](#) to apply for an Executive Board position.  
Click [here](#) to apply for a Co-chair position.

For a list of committees and their descriptions please click on the "About" tab on the website.



## **Joint Membership and Networking Committees Event**

**April 7, 2022 6:35 pm**

The Networking and Membership Committees have reserved the AMI Power Alley on April 7th for the Sounds v. Durham Bulls game at First Horizon Park. The first pitch is at 6:35 pm.

In order to attend, LAW members must invite a prospective LAW member to attend with them. The attendance cap is 30 people. The cost is \$14 for the two of you! The committees will pay for appetizers. Drinks are on you!

LAW's membership year begins May 1st. This is a great time to introduce prospective members to LAW!

Click [here](#) to register.



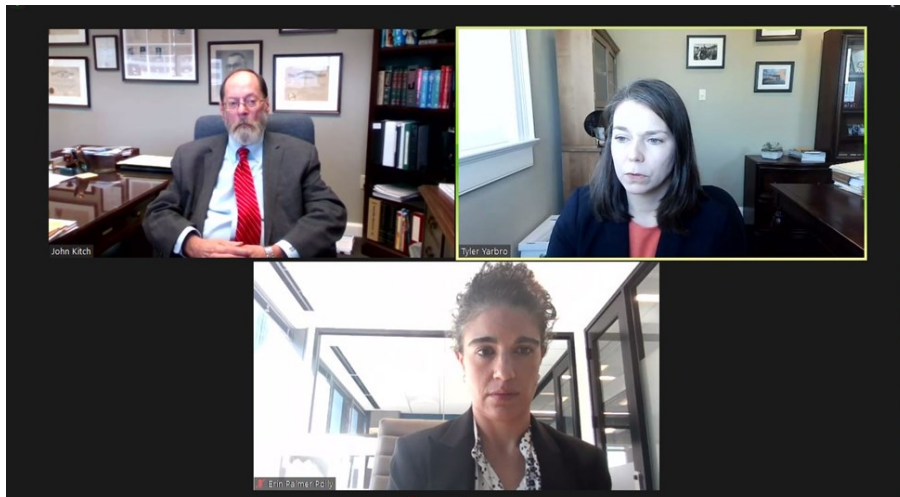
# Client Relationships: Avoiding the “It’s Complicated” Status

By: Hannah Kay Hunt Freeman

On February 15, 2022, LAW held its virtual February Membership Meeting and One-Hour Dual Credit CLE: “Client Relationships: Avoiding the ‘It’s Complicated’ Status.” John D. Kitch, of counsel at Cornelius & Collins, presented the first half of the presentation, “It’s Not You—It’s Them: Red Flags to Avoid When Evaluating Clients.” And Tyler Yarbro, the managing partner at Dodson Parker Behm & Capparella, and Erin Palmer Polly, partner at K&L Gates, presented the final portion of the CLE on “How to Break Up with Your Worst Client.”

The panelists offered insight on how to deal with difficult clients, both before the attorney-client relationship is formed and once it is already established. John Kitch discussed numerous red flags to look out for when considering whether to take on the representation of a new client, such as the potential new client’s reluctance to pay a retainer, whether other attorneys have previously represented this potential client on the same matter, if the potential client refuses to take your or the court’s advice, and if the potential client approaches you right on the border of a statute of limitations or other major deadline, among other warning signs.

During the second half of the program, Tyler Yarbro and Erin Palmer Polly explored situations when lawyers may and must withdraw from representing a client, as well as the corresponding ethical rules and local rules governing those scenarios. The panelists offered helpful tips for managing these difficult client relationships and pointers for going about withdrawing as counsel.



Hannah Kay is a 2021-2022 Newsletter Editor. She is Senior Corporate Counsel at Louisiana-Pacific Corporation.

## Marketing Tips from Devon

Share content as much as possible, preferably at least 3-4 times a week. This can be regular posts, or even stories!

Ask friends with a bigger social media following to share your posts or information about your firm.

Use polls and Q&A's to engage with your followers.

Don't be afraid to share some of your personal life with your followers, if that is something you are comfortable with. It is good to separate your identity from just being a lawyer, as well as showing others the humanized version of yourself.

Share positive client reviews to show others the good work you are doing.

Have a succinct and aesthetically-pleasing bio, and make your contact information easy to find:



Your username should be your first and last name, which makes it easier for people to find your page.

Have a catch phrase in your bio – it makes you stand out!

Sharing legal tips with your followers is great! But be careful not to give specific legal advice to a specific person/follower, that can get you into trouble and potentially turn them into a client (or blur the lines in that regard).

Check your ego at the door, but BE **CONFIDENT** IN YOUR POSTS!

## PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DATA IN THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The LAW Membership Directory is a members only directory. LAW members love to refer business to one another! Keep your contact information and areas in which you practice updated so our members can connect with one another—professionally AND personally! business to one another!

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.

## LAW MENTORING AND MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

LAW's Mentoring and Membership Development Committee hosted a virtual Lean-In discussion on February 22nd. Participants watched videos and read an article from the ABA's 21-Day Grit and Growth Mindset Challenge, and they discussed ways a "Growth Mindset" can impact their legal practice, as well as potential challenges. In an open discussion, participants also reflected on how their mindsets may have impacted their past failures or successes, and shared ideas for habits that might improve performance in the future. We look forward to the next Lean-In event on April 26th, hopefully in-person.

## Early voting for Davidson County begins on April 13th! Remember the following LAW members when you go to the polls to vote!

### Chancery Court Chancellor

Part I—Chancellor Pat Moskal  
Part II—Chancellor Anne Martin  
Part III—l'Ashea Myles

### Circuit Court Judge

Division I—Wendy Longmire  
Division II—Judge Amanda McClendon  
Division VII—Andra Hedrick  
Division VIII—Lynne Ingram  
Division VIII—Judge Kelvin Jones

### Criminal Court Judge

Division II—Judge Angie Dalton  
Division III—Judge Cheryl Blackburn  
Division VI—Cynthia Chappell

### Juvenile Court Judge

Judge Sheila Calloway

### General Sessions Judge

Division II—Judge Melissa Blackburn  
Division III—Judge Ana Escobar  
Division IV—Judge Allegra Walker  
Division V—Robin Kimbrough Hayes  
Division V—Judge Dianne Turner  
Division VII—Marcus Floyd  
Division VIII—Judge Rachel Bell  
Division IX—Judge Lynda Jones

### Register of Deeds

Register of Deeds Karen Johnson

### District Attorney General

Sara Beth Myers  
Danielle Nellis





## Board Spotlight

### Archivist

# Samantha Simpson

**Where are you from? Tell us about your path to practicing law.** I grew up in Columbia, TN. I enjoyed public speaking as a high schooler and I loved studying history and political science in college, so attending law school after college seemed like a natural fit. I graduated from Belmont University College of Law and clerked for three years for the Honorable Robert L. Holloway, Jr., before moving to my current position.

**What do you do professionally, and what is your favorite part of your job?** I am an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Appeals Division of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General. I represent the State before the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, Tennessee Supreme Court, and United States Supreme Court. My favorite part of my job is discussing complicated nuances of criminal law with my coworkers as we determine the best way to represent the State in an appeal.

**What leadership roles have you had with LAW?** I have served as a Community Relations Co-chair, First Year Director, Second Year Director, and Archivist.

**What is your favorite part of LAW?** Meeting other female lawyers and learning from the women lawyers who broke barriers in the courtrooms of Tennessee.

**Describe yourself.** I just got engaged, so I am now a fiancé! I have two nephews, and “Auntie Sam” is one of my favorite titles. After losing my dad to Covid last year, supporting my mom and spending time with my family has become immensely important to me. I am also “mom” to two wonderful rescue cats, Nolle and Judi. They constantly entertain me and I cannot imagine getting through the last two years without them.

**It’s a Saturday night in Nashville (pre-COVID-19) - what are you up to?** I’m an introvert, so a restful evening at home or spending time with family.

**Facebook or Instagram?** Instagram. I spend way too much time laughing at funny Reels.

**Phone call or text?** Phone call for work stuff and text for friends and family.

**Netflix or Hulu?** Netflix or Amazon Prime



## Member Spotlight

### Diamond Stewart

**Where are you from? Tell us about your path to practicing law.** I was born in Nashville, Tennessee, but my family moved a lot when I was growing up. In addition to Nashville, I also spent a significant amount of time living in Daytona Beach, Florida, and Atlanta, Georgia. We moved back to Nashville during my high school years and I attended Brentwood Academy. For undergrad, I stayed in Tennessee and attended Sewanee: The University of the South. While at Sewanee, I worked as a research assistant in the psychology department and found an interest in research and writing. I originally thought that I would get my Doctorate in psychology. However, during my junior year of college, one of my professors invited me to co-author a book with her and asked me whether I ever thought about attending law school. Although law school was not part of my original plan, I thought more about it and decided to take the LSAT. I graduated from Belmont University College of Law in 2020. During law school, I interned in-house for numerous companies such as Title Max, MAPCO, and the Nashville Predators. Those internship experiences solidified my interest in corporate and transactional law. Despite having to finish law school online, graduating law school during the pandemic, and taking an online bar exam, I wouldn't have traded anything about my law school journey. I met amazing colleagues, professors, and mentors along the way.

**What do you do professionally, and what is your favorite part about your job?** Currently, I practice Labor & Employment law at Burr & Forman. We assist businesses in navigating day-to-day employment related issues including wage and hour compliance, discrimination, retaliation, harassment, and other similar matters. My favorite part about my job is being proactive and playing an active role in dealing with situations before they happen and helping businesses navigate, solve, and overcome obstacles. I enjoy keeping companies up-to-date on the ever-changing laws and drafting employment handbooks and policies. I also value the opportunity to work and learn from my colleagues at Burr & Forman.

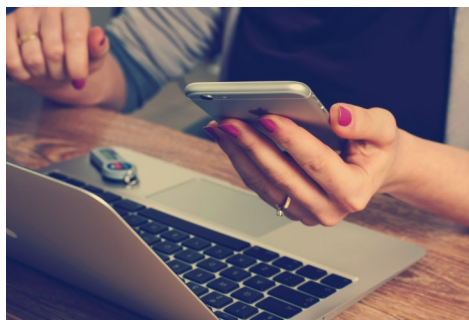
**What's your favorite thing to do in Nashville?** My favorite thing to do in Nashville is explore! Since I last lived here, Nashville has grown tremendously! I love to try all of the new restaurants and unique spots. I am also a big fan of Nashville sports and love to attend Predators and Titans games!

**Why (and how) did you first get involved in LAW?** I first got involved with LAW early on after I heard about the bar association from multiple colleagues. After being admitted into the bar, LAW was one of the first bar associations that I joined. As a minority and a woman, I admire what LAW stands for. LAW supports efforts to increase diversity in the bar and encourages women to celebrate each other. I am excited about what we can all do together, and I can't wait to continue building and fostering relationships through LAW.

**What woman inspires you and why?** Michelle Obama is an inspiration. Not only is she the first African-American First Lady, but she also advocates for women and education. My mom has also always been an inspiration to me, and I wouldn't be the woman I am today without her! I've learned from my mom all of my life and am still learning from her to this day. She is driven, intelligent, loyal, hard-working, and always puts her family first.

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**



### Belmont University Fellows Program

Belmont University College of Law is accepting applications from lawyers interested in a fellowship through the Belmont University Fellows Program. Applicants should have a law degree, a strong academic background and an interest in pursuing a teaching/research position. A special focus will be placed on applicants from under-represented groups in the profession. During the two-year program, fellows will be mentored by a faculty member and engage in scholarly research. Those interested should contact Deborah Farringer ([Deborah.farringer@belmont.edu](mailto:Deborah.farringer@belmont.edu)) for more information.

Legal Aid Society of Middle TN & the Cumberland has several job openings in the Tullahoma and Nashville areas. [Tullahoma Staff Attorney](#), [Tullahoma Paralegal](#), [Sr. Deputy Director, Nashville](#)

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### ***LAW Liaison to NBA YLD Board—Jan Margaret Craig***



This year, the Nashville Bar Association Young Lawyers Division created a new position called the “LAW Liaison,” and I am excited to serve in this capacity on the NBA YLD Board this year! The idea behind this role is to further strengthen the relationship between the two Nashville-based bar associations by sharing events and updates of interest to both memberships.

In my role as LAW Liaison, I will provide monthly updates about upcoming LAW events and news of interest to the NBA YLD Board. If you would like me to highlight an upcoming LAW event or related news in my report to the NBA YLD, please email me at [janmargaret.craig@wallerlaw.com](mailto:janmargaret.craig@wallerlaw.com).

Likewise, as events of interest to the broader legal community come up at NBA YLD Board meetings, I am happy to report back to the LAW Board and membership. I look forward to serving as a liaison between these Nashville-based bar associations.

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