



# FAWL

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

MIAMI-DADE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER / Summer 2009

## 26th Annual Judicial Reception and Scholarship Luncheon

By Julie Braman Kane,  
Miami-Dade FAWL President-Elect

Miami-Dade FAWL proudly hosted members of the state and federal judiciary at our 26th Annual Judicial Reception and Scholarship Luncheon on December 4, 2008 at the Ritz Carlton Coconut Grove. The beautiful luncheon celebrated the independence of our judiciary and the unique talents of exceptionally well-qualified scholarship recipients.

President Stacey Koch addressed the judiciary, welcoming all guests to honor the bench for its unwavering commitment to justice in our community. She expressed Miami-Dade FAWL's support to those judges facing controversy for their recent decisions.

Scholarship chairs Katherine Ezell and Sherrill Colombo presented significant scholarships to winners selected from an outstanding field of candidates. Recipients included Myhosie Josie Ashton, recipient of the Miami-Dade FAWL Scholarship; Doris M. Torres, recipient of the Leesfield and Partners Scholarship; Lucy Deutscher, recipient of the Yahr Family Scholarship in memory of Sonny Yahr; Covington Smith Campbell, recipient of the Gamba & Lombana, P.A. Scholarship; Tamar E. Harrigan, recipient of the Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton Scholarship; and Rochelle

Julianne Nunez, recipient of the Memorial Judge Linda Dakis Scholarship.

The Miami-Dade FAWL board was thrilled to award our first annual Magistrate Judge Theodore Klein Award to the Honorable Joseph Farina, Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. Judge Klein demonstrated a lifelong passion for the advancement of women in all professions, including the practice of law. Criteria for the award include a demonstrated initiative for and dedication to women's issues and a longstanding commitment to advancing the position of women in the legal profession. In his capacity as Chief Judge, and throughout his career, Judge Farina has consistently and passionately fought for the advancement of women in the bench and bar. Miami-Dade FAWL was delighted to honor Judge Farina with its first annual Theodore Klein Award.

Miami-Dade FAWL could not have hosted such a beautiful event and had the judiciary as our guests without the extreme generosity of our event sponsors. We extend special thanks to our Grand Benefactor sponsors, law firms Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Shubin & Bass, and Greenberg Traurig.

## Miami-Dade FAWL Wins State FAWL's Most Outstanding Chapter Award

By Stacey A. Koch,  
Miami-Dade FAWL President

On June 26, 2009, the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (Miami-Dade FAWL) received State FAWL's Most Outstanding Chapter Award during the Florida Bar Annual Meeting.

Miami-Dade FAWL was recognized for the multitude of diverse events we presented this year, including topical and instructive CLE luncheons, social and business networking mixers, and community service programs, all designed to forward FAWL's mission of facilitating the administration of justice; fostering courtesy, integrity, ethics and gender equality in the practice of law; and exploring and promoting issues of particular interest to women and women lawyers.

This year, Miami-Dade FAWL provided its members with numerous opportunities to network, generate business, and enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow women attorneys and judges. Our Chapter gave our members additional opportunities to earn CLE credit in a variety of settings and make a difference in their communities. Our more formal CLE programs highlighted issues pertinent to women in our profession designed to empower women to be their own bosses, hold power positions in the bar and community, network and become rainmakers, and overcome gender discrimination in the court room. These programs stressed that although the ceiling has more cracks in it, the ceiling is far from being shattered.

Thanks to the hard work of the Miami-Dade FAWL Board and the support of our membership, Miami-Dade FAWL marketed itself successfully to the greater legal community, achieved its goal of being a full service organization, and as a result, our Chapter's membership increased this year by approximately ten percent. Many of our Chapter's noteworthy programs are highlighted throughout this newsletter and we hope that you will take them time to read them thoroughly.



Send comments, articles ideas or questions to:  
**Alexandra Bach Lagos**  
Miami-Dade FAWL Newsletter Editor

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# FAWL

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

MIAMI-DADE CHAPTER  
Summer 2009

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## President's Message

By *Stacey A. Koch*



It was an exciting and historic time to be the 29<sup>th</sup> President of the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, beginning in March 2008 and concluding July 10, 2009. We witnessed past presidents, Lisa Walsh and Abby Cynamon, become judges and saw members Stacy Glick, Marcia Caballero, Maria Sampedro-Iglesia, Bernard Shapiro, Norma Lindsey, and Yvonne Colodny win judicial elections. Member Dori Foster-Morales was elected to the Florida Bar Board of Governors, and member Juliet Roulhac was not challenged for her Board of Governor's seat. Orlando City Attorney and Past President of Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Maryanne Downs, was sworn in as President Elect of the Florida Bar in June 2009, and will become the Bar's fourth female President since its founding in 1950 next June.

Our country elected President Barack Obama the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America and fortuitously inherited his greatest asset, First Lady Michelle Obama, herself an extremely accomplished lawyer and a wonderful role model for all women. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton garnered 18 million cracks in the glass ceiling nationwide, while closer to home the ceiling cracked further when the Honorable Peggy Quince became first female African American Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court.

Alex Sink set out to further chip away at the glass ceiling in our state. If she wins the 2010 gubernatorial election she will become Florida's first female governor. Ms. Sink has built a strong reputation for herself as Florida's CFO dealing with Florida's souring economy. In her quest to move in to the Governor's mansion and hold Florida's highest political office, will she be free from biased criticism based on her gender? Only time will tell.

Nationally, we recently witnessed the historic nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court. If confirmed, she will add many more cracks in the glass ceiling, becoming the first Hispanic seated on the High Court. No matter what political party you belong to, Judge Sotomayor personifies hard work and determination, yet she has been portrayed in the media by many who never litigated against her or appeared before her as combative, sharp tongued, and outspoken. Would Judge Sotomayor's male counterparts be criticized in the same manner? Judge Sotomayor was chastised for her membership in a private organization of female professionals from the for profit, not for profit, and social sectors that strives to empower women to take charge of their own destinies, a goal our organization shares, and has since resigned her membership. But, even more shocking was one radio host's offer to send Judge Sotomayor and her club a bunch of vacuum cleaners to help them clean up after their meetings. Regardless of your political persuasion, have we really not moved past demeaning sexist rhetoric like this? Collectively these comments demonstrate why organizations like the Florida Association for Women Lawyers are relevant and absolutely necessary in today's world.

To sustain itself and continue providing insightful, germane, and collaborative programs like those we presented this year, our membership must continue to grow in number. If you are not a member of FAWL, I invite and urge you to join today. You can join or renew your membership on the state FAWL website at [www.fawl.org](http://www.fawl.org). Or, email our new Membership Chair, Victoria Kush at [vkush@shb.com](mailto:vkush@shb.com) for an application. And, please feel free to contact any officer or director listed in this newsletter and share how you would like to get involved and how FAWL can help you and your practice.

I am so proud of all the programs we offered during my term as president. Our CLE programs, in particular, were designed to empower and inspire women attorneys to take charge of their futures and lead fulfilling professional and personal lives. They included: She's Her Own Boss — Women Attorneys as Owners of Their Own Firms; Women in Power Positions - Getting and Keeping Your Seat at the Table and Why It's Important; The Art of Networking and Creating Your Own Book of Business; A View from the Bench — Gender and Diversity in the Courtroom; and the Miami Dade FAWL Challenge, which focused on the advancement of women attorneys to partnership in law firms. You can read about these programs and more in this newsletter.

I want to thank all of you who contributed to my year as President and who made our Chapter's year so wildly successful by speaking on a panel, sponsoring a program, attending a program, joining FAWL or renewing your membership, calling me on the phone or cornering me at an event to say hello, share your ideas, or just to pay our Chapter a compliment. Finally, I want to thank my incredibly talented, smart, and hardworking Miami-Dade FAWL board for their teamwork and tireless commitment to our organization. Our Chapter won state FAWL's Most Outstanding Chapter award because of all of you. And, I have no absolutely no doubt in my mind that under the leadership of Julie Braman Kane our Chapter will continue to thrive and flourish.

## Happy Hour for Your Health



By *Amy Rosenberg*,  
Miami-Dade FAWL Director

Over one hundred attorneys attended Miami-Dade FAWL's Happy Hour for Your Health: Nurture Your Mind, Body and Soul at Area 31 in the Epic Hotel. Alternative health practitioners like Omine Eager from CALM (Cleaning up Life's Messes) provided advice to guests on how to organize their lives and practices. Green Monkey, a yoga and balanced living studio, offered expert advice on stress and exercise. The guests enjoyed sweeping views of Biscayne Bay and downtown Miami as well as complimentary food provided by Area 31, a restaurant specializing in sustainable seafood.

# MIAMI-DADE CHAPTER



## Spotlight on Judge Abby Cynamon

by Kristy Johnson,

*A Shareholder at Carlton Fields, specializing in employment, health care and business litigation.*

Judge Abby Cynamon is a well-known figure among the members of Miami-Dade FAWL, as she was President of our organization in 2006-2007. She holds an undergraduate degree in History and Economics from Barnard College, Columbia University. Judge Cynamon received her law degree and a Masters in Taxation from the University of Miami School of Law. Judge Cynamon has been a member of the Florida Bar since 1990. Judge Cynamon formerly served as a Staff Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida (1993-2000) and as a Senior Staff Attorney with the circuit (2000-2008).

While running for judge, Judge Cynamon campaigned throughout the entire community, because she wanted to be able to understand the issues and concerns faced by all members of every different background and way of life in our richly diverse county. Judge Cynamon believes that her time spent campaigning and interacting in the community has helped her be a better public servant. After winning her election in August of 2008, Judge Cynamon began her judicial career on January 12, 2009. She is currently assigned to the juvenile delinquency division of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Miami-Dade County, so I inquired about her experiences on the bench to date.

I knew that Judge Cynamon was well prepared for the legal issues which arise in court, because of her 15 years as an attorney for the 11th Judicial Circuit, where she assisted judges with legal research on a daily basis. Therefore, I asked Judge Cynamon what surprised her after she took the bench. She replied that even though she spent her teenage years in foster care following the death of her mother, she was surprised at the number of children who have no parental figure to turn to for guidance. Also, in cases where the children do have a parent, Judge Cynamon was surprised to see so many parent who are so frustrated with their inability to control their children that they want to relinquish their control of their children to the court system -- sometimes even asking the Court to disregard all due process of law for their children. Although Judge Cynamon understands their frustration, she nevertheless believes it is important to provide a basic explanation of the justice system to parents and children in her courtroom, and to ensure that there is due process of law for all who enter her courtroom.

Judge Cynamon has specific goals that she wishes to accomplish as a judge. First, she believes that it is essential that every child receives a speedy and fair trial and understands what is going on at every stage of the court proceedings. When a juvenile takes a plea, Judge Cynamon takes extra time to ensure that the child understands all the consequences of the plea. She strives to impress upon the children in her court, especially those in foster care, that she relates to their plight. Second, Judge Cynamon likes to empower the teens who appear in front of her by reminding them that it is their choice whether they will follow court-ordered sanctions, or whether they wish to face further sanctions for failing to comply. Third, Judge Cynamon also hopes to find ways to empower young girls in the juvenile system, some of whom already have babies themselves, to take control of their lives by complying with juvenile sanctions and finishing school so that they can make a good life for themselves and their children.

Although there is much anguish in her courtroom, she is thankful for the good and dedicated people that make her courtroom run effectively. Judge Cynamon believes that it takes a special kind of person to work in the juvenile justice system. She is especially grateful to her judicial assistant, Espy Arminana, and her bailiff, Ariel Chandler, for ensuring that things run smoothly in chambers and in the courtroom. Judge Cynamon is also very thankful to her court clerks, Al Gillis, Sancy Cunningham and Mark Pitts and to all the Assistant State Attorneys, Assistant Public

Defenders, members of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice staff and court administration staff. She is also very grateful to the Miami-Dade Police Officers and the Corrections officers who make sure that her courtroom is a safe place for all who enter. She is particularly grateful to her Administrative Judge, Cindy Lederman and her Associate Administrative Judge, Lester Langer, for their guidance, and also, to all her judicial colleagues at the Juvenile Justice Center. "I am proud to be part of a team of professionals which has an enormous ability to help people in a very difficult time," states Judge Cynamon.

Judge Cynamon credits her involvement in Miami-Dade FAWL and other organizations for providing her the experience to work in such a collaborative environment. She explained that much like a leader of an organization, a judge must be able to listen to everyone's input before making a decision, because its important to hear the opinions of people who have unique perspectives and, quite possibly, different objectives. Judge Cynamon suggests that such leadership skills are important for all attorneys but especially for someone interested in being a judge. For those attorneys who are interested in becoming a judge, she strongly encourages you to stay active in bar and community organizations. "Judges must be able to be sensitive to the needs of our entire community," notes Judge Cynamon. "The best way to learn about the needs of our community is to immerse oneself in the community by getting out to meet the people who live here."

Miami-Dade County is lucky to have such a caring judge, and Miami-Dade FAWL thanks Judge Cynamon for her commitment to the children of our community.



## Spotlight on Judge Laurel Isicoff

by Deborah Jofre

On June 17, 2009, the Honorable Laurel Isicoff was a panelist for Miami-Dade FAWL's lunch program, A View From the Bench - Gender and Diversity in the Courtroom. In 2006, Judge Isicoff was sworn in as the first woman bankruptcy judge in the Southern District of Florida. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Isicoff was a partner with Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton for fourteen years. The insight that Judge Isicoff offered at the FAWL luncheon was informative and inspirational, so I followed up with her to get some advice for young attorneys who may want to follow in her footsteps.

When asked what she enjoys most about being on the bench, Judge Isicoff said that being able to make a difference in our community is most rewarding. If you want to become a judge, how do you get there? Judge Isicoff noted that the best way to become a good judge is to become a good lawyer. That begs the question - how do you become a good lawyer? Judge Isicoff's advice is that attorneys, especially young attorneys, must be proactive about their own success. She said, "If you do not believe you are getting the right assignments, go talk to someone." You cannot just sit there and complain that you do not have the work you want." She reiterated that you need to be your own advocate so that you can get the training and experience that you need. Acknowledging that there are firms where the culture would not permit expressing your desire for better work, she stated, "Hopefully the associate will ask the right questions prior to getting the job." She stressed that young associates need to be "proactive and ask the questions ahead of time." If you did not ask the questions ahead of time, or you find that your superiors are not responsive, then you may be in the wrong place. What if you don't know the right questions to ask? Judge Isicoff believes it is important to find a mentor. If you cannot find one within your own firm, there are plenty of mentors, male and female, who can guide you.

When asked what skill set Judge Isicoff has which contributed to her appointment to the bench, she stated that aside from her legal skills as a practicing attorney, she believes her professional reputation was a key factor. During the appointment process, it was clear to Judge Isicoff that the Eleventh Circuit was looking for an attorney who would have an appropriate judicial temperament and that the Circuit judges were very concerned about her reputation for professionalism and the manner in which she treated fellow attorneys. Judge Isicoff is a past board member of Miami-Dade FAWL and we thank her for continuing to be a member of FAWL and for sharing her valuable insight with our members.



## Spotlight on Judge Stacy D. Glick

by Alexandra Bach Lagos

*Miami-Dade FAWL Newsletter Editor*

Recently, I had the benefit of speaking with Judge Stacy Glick. Judge Glick was elected to the Circuit Court bench in August, 2008. She is currently assigned to the Felony Criminal Division. During our interview, I asked the new judge and longtime Miami-Dade FAWL member a few questions about her life, her experiences and her path to the bench.

Judge Glick's roots run deep in this community. She is a fourth generation Miamian and her father is retired Judge Leonard Glick. A graduate of FIU and St. Thomas University School of Law, she began her legal career working in the law offices of Irving J. Whitman P.A., where she gained valuable civil practice experience. Thereafter, she joined the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. At the State Attorney's Office, Judge Glick rose quickly through the ranks to become the Division Chief in Judge Jacqueline Hogan Scola's division, where she handled homicides and supervised three division attorneys. She eventually decided to run for judge after her father's retirement from the bench.

I informed Judge Glick that there are several Miami-Dade FAWL members who aspire to become judges and asked her what advice she has for those members. She said aspiring judges should get as much courtroom experience as possible, get out into the community, communicate with the residents and volunteer their time.

Judge Glick is truly enjoying her new job. One of the aspects she enjoys the most is helping those that appear before her feel comfortable and respected. She realizes that many people are extremely nervous about coming to court, such as jurors. They do not know what to expect. It's important as a judge to explain to them how the system works and what they can expect. When she receives a "thank you" for explaining what is going on from someone appearing before her, she knows she is doing her job well.

Outside of the courtroom, Judge Glick describes herself as a homebody. She enjoys entertaining at home, boating, working out, and spending time with her boyfriend, family, friends and dogs. She also takes pride in volunteering her time to speak at local schools, churches and other local organizations.

## Miami-Dade FAWL Has Great Success With Two New Programs: Table for 8 and Lunch & Learn.

By Stacey A. Koch,  
Miami-Dade FAWL President

Following our sister Central Florida and Collier County Chapters' leads, Miami-Dade FAWL initiated a new members only program this year: "Table for 8," a unique dinner opportunity for members to interact in small groups at local restaurants. Our Chapter's first Table for 8 was in September 2008, and one was held virtually every month since then. Table for 8 was very favorably received by our members who applauded these exclusive and intimate opportunities for social and business networking.

October 2008 ushered in a second new Miami-Dade FAWL program for members only called "Lunch & Learn," where up to twenty members enjoy lunch and earn one hour of CLE credit absolutely free. Our chapter's inaugural "Lunch and Learn," on the topic, "Hidden Assets: Finding More Business in your Law Firm's Client List" was held on October 7, 2008. This was followed by a second "Lunch & Learn" on "Attorneys' Fees and Costs" on January 8, 2009. A third "Lunch & Learn" was held on February 12, 2009 on "Wait, What Happened to my Pension? A Primer on Employee Benefits Law and the Impact of the Financial Crisis on Pension Benefit Plans." A fourth "Lunch & Learn" was held on March 10, 2009 on "Hot Topics in Ethics and the Practice of Law." A fifth Lunch & Learn is planned in August 2009 on "Taking and Defending Expert Depositions." Each program in the Lunch & Learn series was well attended and extremely well received. Our members are grateful for the opportunity to earn an hour of CLE credit and enjoy lunch in smaller groups all courtesy of Miami-Dade FAWL.

# Miami-Dade FAWL's Challenge to Promote Women in the Legal Profession

By: *Xinning Shirley Liu*

On May 29, 2009, the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (Miami-Dade FAWL) hosted a half-day conference at the Downtown Miami Hyatt, drawing over 40 participants, including judges, lawyers, and other business professionals, to discuss its Challenge on promoting the advancement of women in the legal profession. Carlton Fields Miami shareholder, Kristy M. Johnson, as Secretary and soon to be President-Elect of Miami-Dade FAWL, organized and chaired the event with the support and sponsorship of Carlton Fields, along with Blizin Sumberg, Greenberg Traurig, and Holland & Knight. Other firms and organizations that participated include: Akerman Senterfitt, Boise Schiller and Flexner, Burger King Corporation, Clarke Silverglate & Campbell, Colson Hicks Edison, Cozen O'Connor, Miami-Dade County Bar Association, Gibraltar Private Bank & Trust, Gunster Yoakley & Stewart, K&L Gates, Lisa Lehner, P.A., Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Thompson Legal Services, University of Miami School of Miami, and Weiss Serota Helfman.

One of Miami-Dade FAWL's key missions is to actively promote gender equality and the leadership roles of women lawyers in the legal profession, judiciary and community at large. Statistics show that while women graduate law school and join law firms at relatively the same rates as men, the percentage of women partners do not reflect similar progress. Miami-Dade FAWL invited local law firms and corporate legal departments in Miami-Dade County to join its Challenge in supporting

the advancement of women lawyer. Some goals of the Challenge include increasing the percentage of women partners, increasing the representation of women on firm committees, and increasing the number of women practice group leaders. Additionally, the Challenge also encourages law firms to review their flexible-hour policies in assuring that equitable and viable alternative schedules are available for women lawyers. The goal of this conference was to present a draft written Challenge and obtain feedback from the attendees.



The keynote speaker of the conference was Lauren Stiller Rikleen, author of *Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women's Success in Law*. Lauren shared thoughtful insights from her book with the group regarding the management of today's law firms and the related institutional impediments to the retention and advancement of women lawyers. As the former President of the Boston Bar Association, Lauren is the founder and executive director of the Bowditch Institute for Women's Success, as well as the founding member of the Massachusetts Equality Commission. In addition to being an equity partner at Bowditch & Dewey, LLP, she is also currently a member of the American Bar Association Board of Governors and Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus. All attendees of the Miami-Dade FAWL conference received a copy of Lauren's book.



Wendi Christensen, CPA and a tax partner at the Florida Lead Tax Service Group of Deloitte Tax LLP (Deloitte), was another presenter at the Miami-Dade FAWL conference. As Deloitte's Women's Initiative (WIN) leader of the Florida practice for the past 3 years, Wendi discussed programs Deloitte has pursued since 1993 to support the advancement of women, such as the development of Deloitte's career customization pilot and the Females as Buyers program.

The Miami-Dade FAWL conference also included small group discussions lead by four local judges and one retired judge, including the Honorable Mercedes Bach (retired), Honorable Abby Cynamon, Honorable Leslie B. Rothenberg, Honorable Jacqueline Hogan Scola, and the Honorable Lisa S. Walsh. The groups discussed and reported on their unique reflections regarding significant impediments to the advancement of women in the legal profession, and made valuable suggestions to the Miami-Dade FAWL's Board of Directors on improving its Challenge.

The Miami-Dade FAWL Board of Directors will be finalizing the details of the written Challenge and will move forward on the issuance of the Challenge to the local community in the near future. For more information about the Challenge, please contact Kristy Johnson at [kjohnson@carltonfields.com](mailto:kjohnson@carltonfields.com).

*Xinning Shirley Liu is currently a summer associate at the Miami Office of Carlton Fields. Born in China, she moved with her family to South Florida at the age of nine. After graduating from the University of Miami with dual degrees (B.A./B.B.A.), Shirley was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to conduct research on economic and social development in China. A rising third year student at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, she has actively participated in women and minority student organizations, serving as President of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) and the Vice President of the Law Association of Women (LAW).*

## Miami-Dade FAWL Hosts Reception in Honor of



# Chief Justice Peggy Quince

By *Stacey A. Koch*, Miami-Dade FAWL President

On Thursday, June 11, 2009, Miami-Dade FAWL and the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Miami-Dade ("Women's Chamber") hosted a joint cocktail and networking reception in honor of Chief Justice Peggy Quince of the Florida Supreme Court. Lawyers, business people and our local judiciary gathered on the 16th floor terrace of the beautiful Epic Hotel in downtown Miami and were treated to sweeping views of the waterways and delicious cocktails and hors

d'oeuvres. Our organizations' members and other guests enjoyed an unique opportunity to network with each other and the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Miami-Dade FAWL was proud to join with the Women's Chamber and acknowledge Chief Justice Peggy Quince for (i) her advocacy to ensure that the judicial branch of government remains independent and adequately funded so that our courts remain open and Florida citizens' constitutional

right of access to the courts is not jeopardized; (ii) her leadership on improving the prospects for children aging out of the foster care system; and (iii) for being an inspiration and a role model to young women and all minorities, for opening doors for young women both in and out of the legal profession, and for adding many more cracks to the already existing 18 million cracks in the glass ceiling.

## Miami-Dade FAWL Presents A Panel Discussion To University of Miami Law Students

By *Alexandra Bach Lagos*, Miami-Dade FAWL Newsletter Editor

On February 24, 2009 Miami-Dade FAWL presented "Pathways to Success for Women Lawyers" a panel discussion at the University of Miami School of Law. Panelists included

Miranda Soto, lead trial counsel for Allstate Insurance Company; Jenny Adelman of Jenny Adelman, P.A.; Kristy Johnson, shareholder at Carlton Fields, P.A.; Anne Bloom of ARB Mediation Services; and Stacey Koch, Of Counsel at Shook, Hardy and Bacon LLP and President of Miami-Dade FAWL. The event was moderated by Alexandra Bach Lagos, Associate at Shook, Hardy and Bacon LLP.

The panelists addressed a wide variety of topics including the path to partnership, alternative careers in the law, maintaining work life balance, how to be an effective in-house counsel, and the do's and don'ts of opening up a solo law practice. The panelists also fielded questions from law students and faculty.

The panel discussion was well-attended by the student body, many of whom were members of UM's Miami Law Women group. In addition, the discussion was recorded and offered to all law students as a digital podcast. The event was a success and the law school encouraged Miami-Dade FAWL to host similar programs in the future.

## Membership Drive at Manny's Steakhouse

by *Tara Elfering*, Miami-Dade FAWL Director

On April 2, Miami-Dade FAWL hosted its annual Membership Drive at Manny's Steakhouse in downtown Miami. Poveda Mediations and L. Gabriel Bach, P.A. generously co-sponsored the event. We welcomed a huge crowd and many new members. The event gave attendees the opportunity to meet the Miami-Dade FAWL board along with numerous attorney and judiciary members. We held a drawing for a fabulous spa package and handed out spa gift bags, courtesy of the Center for Beautiful Skin in Coconut Grove. Congratulations to Dee Dee Fischer for holding the winning ticket for the spa package.

At the event, guests provided the Miami-Dade FAWL board with ideas of how the organization can better serve them. This past year, we started two new events for our members, Lunch and Learn and Table for 8, where we can learn from each other, network, and converse. If you have any suggestions to improve the services that Miami-Dade FAWL provides to you, please email me at [telfering@shb.com](mailto:telfering@shb.com) If you are not already a member, now is great time to join FAWL and begin to enjoy the benefits of membership. Go to the FAWL website at [www.fawl.org](http://www.fawl.org), to sign up today.

## MIAMI-DADE CHAPTER



## Miami-Dade FAWL's Fundraiser for Kidside, Inc. Benefiting Family Court Services

by Julie Wieliczko, Miami-Dade FAWL Director

On February 5, 2009, over 200 local attorneys, judges and business people gathered for an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and art at the Miami-Dade FAWL 25<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser. This year's event, dubbed "We Love Our Kids", was held at the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery in the Wynwood Art District and was co-hosted by Kidside, Inc. for the benefit of Family Court Services. Guests enjoyed live guitar music and an eclectic display of artwork while bidding on a wide selection of items offered for silent auction. The evening was capped by a live auction of vacation packages, with Emmy award winner Judge David Young presiding as auctioneer. Miami-Dade FAWL extends its heartfelt appreciation to the many members of our community who attended and assisted with the festivities; together, we raised over \$35,000.00 for Family Court Services. Miami-Dade FAWL thanks and congratulates Fundraiser Chairs Patricia Kuendig, Julie Wieliczko, and Bonnie Sockelstone for an incredibly successful event.



## Women In Power Positions - Getting And Keeping Your Seat At The Table

By Annette Segura,  
Miami-Dade FAWL Director

In February, Miami-Dade FAWL had the distinct pleasure of presenting a CLE panel discussion, entitled "Women In Power Positions - Getting And Keeping Your Seat At The Table And Why It's Important." The event featured a distinguished panel of guest speakers, including Barbara K. Boxer, Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Linda Kelly Kearson, Edith Osman, and Lea Souza-Rasile. Ms. Boxer shared her experiences as the General Counsel/Director of Government Relations for PDM Bridge, LLC. Ms. Fernandez Rundle discussed her rise to the position of State Attorney with the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida. Ms. Kearson engaged the audience with her accomplishments as the General Counsel to the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida. Ms. Osman discussed her successes as a shareholder at Carlton Fields, P.A. and as the second female president of The Florida Bar. And, Ms. Souza-Rasile reflected on her experiences as the managing partner of the Miami office of Shook, Hardy & Bacon, L.L.P.

*We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to The Bank of Miami for generously sponsoring this event. The program co-chairs, Miami-Dade FAWL Directors Sherril Colombo, Monica Segura, and Annette Strauch, wish to thank all those who helped make this event such a fantastic experience.*

## Women Making History - A Reception Honoring Hilarie Bass and Ruth Shack

by Marisol Gomez,  
Miami-Dade FAWL Treasurer



On Wednesday, March 11, 2009, the Miami Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers held their annual "Women Making History" Event at Gibraltar Private Bank & Trust in Coral Gables, Florida. The recipients of Miami-Dade FAWL's 2009 Women Making History Awards were Hilarie Bass, Global Operating Shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, LLP and Ruth Shack, President of the Dade Community Foundation.

These phenomenal award recipients have and continue to pave the way for others through their personal achievements and accolades. Ms. Bass has served as National Chair of the 500 member Litigation Practice Group of Greenberg Traurig, Her Presidency of the Florida Bar Foundation and role as Vice Chair of the Litigation Section of the American Bar Association are just some of her remarkable contributions to the legal community. Miami-Dade FAWL is proud to have honored Ms. Bass for

her many accomplishments. Ms. Ruth Shack, President of the Dade Community Foundation was delighted for the recognition she received from Miami-Dade FAWL. Ms. Shack spearheaded a campaign to encourage philanthropy and charitable giving by developing a permanent endowment. The issue of cultural alienation and the need for people to successfully cross ethnic barriers empowers the Foundation's goal and mission. Ms. Shack is an incredibly remarkable woman who has made and continues to make strides in diversifying the Foundation's leadership through their Board of Governors and staff.

Local judges, attorneys and community leaders gathered to honor these remarkable award recipients as they were "Women Making History". We thank Gibraltar Private Bank and Trust and Greenberg Traurig for their contributions to this event.

## Miami-Dade FAWL Presents A View From The Bench

by *Lisa Berlow Lehner*,  
Miami-Dade FAWL Director

The Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers finished its 2008-2009 CLE Luncheon series, focused on empowering women attorneys to take charge of their own destinies, with an all-star panel discussion: **A View From the Bench - Gender and Diversity in the Courtroom**. Miami-Dade FAWL was joined by co-sponsors the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Miami-Dade County ("WCC") and the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association ("GSC"). A View From the Bench featured a diverse judicial panel comprised of United States District Court Judge Marcia Cooke, Bankruptcy Court Judge Laurel Myerson Isicoff and Miami-Dade Circuit and County Judges Ellen Leesfield, Jennifer Bailey, Mary Jo Francis, and Rosa Figarola. Following opening remarks by Miami-Dade FAWL President Stacey Koch, each table of guests was asked to pick a recorder and write down their definition of diversity, which was then shared with the entire room. Each table also wrote down one or two questions they wanted the judges to answer on the topic of gender and diversity in the courtroom. Program chair Lisa Berlow Lehner presented the questions to the panel. These outstanding women judges, from all different courts, each had a tremendous wealth of practical experience to draw on in addressing the topic of gender and diversity in the courtroom. They generously shared their views from the bench on where they saw women in their courts in 2009. M-D FAWL, WCC and GSC members gained invaluable insight from each judge's perspective on issues such as gender differences in the courtroom; professionalism in the courtroom; and how women attorneys address work/balance issues. The judges also shared their viewpoints on how the foregoing circumstances have changed over the years.



## The Art of Networking and Creating Your Own Book of Business

by *Laura K. Wendell, Esq. and Sherril M. Colombo, Esq.*,  
Miami-Dade FAWL Directors

On May 7, 2009, Miami-Dade FAWL, together with the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Miami-Dade County, presented **The Art of Networking and Creating Your Own Book of Business**. Attendance for the luncheon event, held at the Banker's Club, was outstanding. Over seventy people gathered to listen to three outstanding speakers share their experiences and practical tips on this important topic.

Marsha Elser, Esq., a leading matrimonial lawyer and partner in the Miami firm of Elser & Foster-Morales, LLC, started her practice in 1975. Ms. Elser provided an interesting historical time line reminding us of a time when women lawyers were a scarce commodity and had much fewer career opportunities than men. Ms. Elser also shared her expertise on successful business development and described how today's professional women can continue to make strides.

Janice Brown, Esq., a well-renowned expert on business and employment litigation and founder of the Brown Law Group, traveled from San Diego, California to share her successful approach to business development. A witty and delightful speaker, Ms. Brown showered the audience with a wide array of practical tips for successful rainmaking.

The final speaker Janice Gonzalez, President and CEO of JBG Communications of Miami, specializes in marketing, advertising and public relations. Ms. Gonzalez inspired the audience with her tremendous enthusiasm and advice for relationship building. She shared insight into her early professional goals and how she made them a reality.

The event was graciously sponsored by Sharon Thompson, President of Thompson Legal Services, Inc.

