



FAWL

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

MIAMI-DADE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER / Summer 2010



Marcia Cypen Receives Mattie Belle Davis Award

By: Deborah Baker
Miami-Dade FAWL Director

Each year, the Mattie Belle Davis Award is given to a Miami-Dade FAWL member of the legal profession who exemplifies the ideals of professional achievement, perseverance and dedication that were demonstrated by the late Judge Davis. On July 24, 2010, Marcia Cypen will receive this award at the Miami-Dade FAWL Pearl Gala, at which our Chapter will be celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Ms. Cypen, the Executive Director of Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. (LSGMI) has devoted her entire professional career to promoting Equal Justice Under Law. LSGMI, the largest provider of broad based civil legal services for the poor in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, has a staff of more than 75, which includes 33 top quality attorneys who address daily legal problems and systemic issues each year. LSGMI is what it is today as a direct result of Ms. Cypen's leadership and commitment.

Marcia Cypen has been with LSGMI since June 1974. She was hired as a law clerk, and upon graduating Cum Laude from the University of Miami School of Law in 1976, she was hired as a staff attorney. From 1979 through 1981, Ms. Cypen was the Manager of the Health and Income Maintenance Unit, after which she was promoted to Deputy Director. In June 1983, Ms. Cypen was promoted to and has since been the Executive Director of LSGMI.

Under her leadership, LSGMI has grown to be a \$7.4 million law firm which is highly regarded in both the state and the nation as a model legal services program. In the words of former Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, Raoul G. Cantero, "Marcia is tireless in seeking ways to fund LSGMI in a dire economic climate, and her hard work has resulted in obtaining close to \$1 million in funds for the organization. Through her leadership and direction, the LSGMI has represented countless underprivileged families in receiving free civil legal services in areas like medical benefits, property issues, guardianship and citizenship, to name a few."

As the direct result of Ms. Cypen's vision, LSGMI now owns its main office building, which was purchased through the successful Capital Campaign that she spearheaded. In the words of Third District Court of Appeal Judge Vance Salter, "When [LSGMI] was able to purchase the building in 1997, she herself learned how to be a landlord to the other non-profits invited to become tenants. The result is the Chesterfield Smith Center for Equal Justice, that houses LSGMI's main office and a number of other non-profits providing legal and social services to the poverty community." Not only does Ms. Cypen's business acumen benefit LSGMI, it has also benefited other organizations aiding our community by providing them with affordable office space.

Ms. Cypen has quietly grown and developed LSGMI for more than three decades, without seeking awards or public recognition. Her success has been tremendous and the Miami-Dade FAWL Chapter is pleased to honor her with the Mattie Belle Davis Award.

Receivership Practice

By: Lisa Lehner
Miami-Dade FAWL Political Outreach Committee Chair

Miami Dade FAWL presented a two-hour seminar and cocktail reception hosted by Sabadell United Bank on the subject of Receivership practice in state and federal courts. The program, titled "Receiverships: Basics and Beyond" offered both an introduction to this practice as well as more sophisticated issues such as federal receiverships and law firm management in this area. The panel was: Judge Jennifer Bailey; Chief Administrative Judge for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Scott Dimond of Dimond, Kaplan and Rothstein; Jodie Breece, sole practitioner and certified fraud examiner; Jane Moscovitz, former federal prosecutor currently with her own firm that specializes in white collar criminal defense; and Amir Isaih of Kaufman and Rossin, an accounting firm that has acted as Receiver and has been retained by Receivers. With the influx of commercial and condominium mortgage

foreclosures, Miami-Dade County judges are appointing Receivers more frequently and FAWL's Miami-Dade Chapter hopes to educate and train its members to enable them to seek appointments.

In addition, Judge Bailey announced a committee that she has commissioned from the Dade County Bar and the voluntary bar associations, including Miami-Dade FAWL, to recommend a uniform application process for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit to enable its judges to select from a more diverse pool of potential Receivers. Miami-Dade FAWL's Political Outreach Committee Chair, Lisa Lehner, has been delegated by Miami-Dade FAWL President, Julie Kane as the Chapter's representative to this Committee and the Committee expects to make its recommendations to Judge Bailey this summer.

Send comments, articles ideas or questions to:
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Former Attorney General Honored as the 2010 Recipient of the □ Women Making History □ Award

By: Marisol Gomez-Decena
Miami-Dade FAWL Secretary

On March 25, 2010, Miami-Dade FAWL hosted their annual □ Women Making History □ Event in honor of Women History Month. This year's event was sponsored once again by Gibraltar Private Trust in Coral Gables. Our honored recipient of Miami-Dade FAWL's Woman Making History Award was Janet Reno.

President, Julie Braman Kane introduced Ms. Reno and shared with the audience her numerous accolades. In 1978, Ms. Reno was appointed State Attorney for Dade County and was returned to office by the voters four more times. In 1993, Ms. Reno was nominated and confirmed as the first female Attorney General under Bill Clinton.

In attendance were guests, friends, family, attorneys, judiciary and other prominent members of our community who wanted to partake in this special evening honoring Ms. Reno for her many accomplishments. Ms. Reno's profound words, moved many to tears in the audience as she portrayed the struggles and accomplishments that have and continue to face many in our society.

Hors d'oeuvres, drinks and soft music set the ambience for this wonderful Miami evening event on the terrace of Gibraltar Private Trust. The event chaired by Marisol Gomez-Decena, Secretary of Miami-Dade FAWL, was a memorable event for those in attendance and one to be continued in years to come.



Table for 8 in January

By: Maria Enriquez
Miami-Dade FAWL Director

On January 27, 2010, Director Maria E. Enriquez hosted four Miami-Dade FAWL members for January's Table for 8 at Talavera Cocina Mexicana, a Mexican restaurant recently opened by the creators of Jaguar in Coconut Grove. Members Madelin D'Arce, Patricia Kopco, Linda Leali, and Leslie Lott enjoyed the fresh Mexican fare and engaging in conversation about pets, children and local politics. Overall, the group gave Talavera two thumbs up!

Table for 8 in February

By: Carly Hammond
Miami-Dade FAWL Director

Board member Carly Hammond hosted Miami-Dade FAWL members for a delightful Table for 8 at Bin No. 18 on Biscayne Blvd. in February. Guests Judge Spencer Eig, Patricia Kopco, Linda Leali, and Adilia Quintana enjoyed a delicious meal and interesting conversation, ranging from new diet fads (for example, see the book Eat Right for Your Type by Peter D'Adamo) to Chinese drywall cases.

Miami-Dade FAWL Board Accomplishments

By: Alexandra Bach Lagos
Miami-Dade FAWL Treasurer

Miami-Dade FAWL extends its congratulations to Marisol Gomez-Decena. Marisol was recently elected Chair of ASPIRA, a non-for-profit youth organization dedicated to fostering the social advancement of our youth by pursuing educational goals through peer leadership, community service and college prep workshops. We would also like to applaud our former President, Stacey Koch Lieberman, on being selected as Educate Tomorrow's First Mentor of Excellence and Monica Segura-Fernandez, on being named Florida SuperLawyer Rising Star. Congratulations are also in order for our current President Julie Braman Kane - the recipient of the South Florida Business Journal's "Women Extraordinaire" Award. Finally, we would like to congratulate our former presidents, Lisa Walsh, on winning her election to retain her seat on the County Court bench, and Edith Osman, on receiving the Junior League of Miami's Women Who Make A Difference Award.

Fiesta Miami: Miami-Dade FAWL's Fundraiser for Foster Care Review

By: Patricia Kuendig and Julie Wieliczko
Miami-Dade FAWL Directors

On April 16, 2010, Miami-Dade FAWL held its annual fundraiser to benefit local charity, Foster Care Review. Over 150 guests attended this year's event, which took place at the Bakehouse Art Complex in the Wynwood Art District of Miami. "Fiesta Miami," the theme for the fundraiser, was carried out with entertainment, food and games celebrating the Hispanic heritage. A Mexican Loteria game was a highlight of the evening with entertaining callers including Judge David Young. The evening was capped with a "fishbowl" auction emceed by local personality Adora. Miami-Dade FAWL extends its heartfelt appreciation to the many members of our community who attended, assisted and sponsored the festivities; together, we raised \$11,000.00 for Foster Care Review. Miami-Dade FAWL thanks and congratulates Fundraiser Chairs Patricia Kuendig, Julie Wieliczko and Deborah Baker for an incredibly successful event.



Mentorship Program

By: Carly Hammond
Miami-Dade FAWL Director

Throughout the school year the mentors and mentees who have participated in Miami-Dade FAWL's inaugural mentorship program have been getting to know one another by phone and email, at lunches and networking events. Several mentor/mentee pairings were spotted at FAWL's general membership cocktail in January, and others celebrated the end of exams together in May. If you missed out on the program this year but would like to participate next year, please contact Mentoring Committee Co-Chairs Carly Hammond, Lott & Friedland, P.A., chammond@lott-friedland.com, or Maria E. Enriquez, Holland & Knight, LLP, maria.enriquez@hklaw.com

Board of Governors Race

By: Lisa Lehner
Miami-Dade FAWL Political Outreach Committee Chair

Miami-Dade FAWL presented a forum for the four candidates vying for the open seat on the Florida Bar Board of Governors: Jason Murray, Michael Fowler, Leslie Lott and Roland Sanchez-Media. Each candidate was given the opportunity to present his or her platform and then the audience had the chance to raise questions. This forum gave Miami-Dade FAWL members and attendees a unique vantage point that is not typically offered in Bar races where candidates seldom appear in public settings together and respond to live questioning. The race resulted in a run-off between Leslie Lott, a trademark and patent lawyer with her own Coral Gables firm and Roland Sanchez-Medina, past-president of CABA and founder of his Coral Gables firm where he is a transactional lawyer. Ms. Lott's win marks the first time the Dade delegation to the Board of Governors has ever had three women members, with Dori Foster-Morales and Juliet Roulhac as the other two.

Membership Mixer at La Loggia

By: Patricia Kuendig
Miami-Dade FAWL Director

On January 13, 2010, Miami-Dade FAWL hosted a Membership Mixer at La Loggia in downtown Miami. Fitness Together and Brenda B. Shapiro, LLC, generously co-sponsored the event. We welcomed a huge crowd of current members and many new members. The event gave attendees the opportunity to network with one another, meet the Miami-Dade FAWL board and have input into future programming and events put on by Miami-Dade FAWL. Fitness Together generously donated gift certificates for a free personal training session at one of their two facilities to each attendee.



President's Message

By: Julie Braman Kane
Miami-Dade FAWL President

It's hard to believe that I am writing my last column as Miami-Dade FAWL's president. I promised a year ago to focus on quiet changes, strengthening our community, and addressing the not-so-public needs of women practicing law. I hope, and I believe, that Miami-Dade FAWL has been successful in that regard.

As President, I receive much praise for work done by others. However, the officers and directors deserve all the credit for bringing the various events and projects to fruition during this wonderful year celebrating our 30th anniversary. Each board member donated many hours away from her family and her practice to ensure that this year's programs and events were successful, and they each deserve our thanks.

I'd like to focus on three questions. Where were we thirty years ago, where are we today and what does the future look like?

In anticipation of our 30th anniversary gala, I looked back at the headline-making events that captured the world's attention thirty years ago. America boycotted the Moscow Olympics. President Jimmy Carter signed legislation bailing out the then-failing Chrysler Corporation. AIDS was unknown, although a rare form of pneumonia was emerging. The US Embassy in Iran was home to hostages whose fates were in the hands of a man named Ayatollah Khomeini. A Miami jury acquitted four Miami-Dade Police officers in the killing of Arthur McDuffie, sparking race riots, dozens of injuries, and 14 deaths. Ted Turner gambled on cable, and CNN went on the air. Legislation was passed instituting a peacetime draft. Ronald Reagan earned the Republican nomination for President, and the Republican Party dropped its support for the Equal Rights Amendment. John Lennon was shot.

I then reviewed women's history in America over the past thirty years. In 1980, NOW organized a march to support the ERA. Over 90,000 men and women participated. Since then, women have made great strides both in public and private life. The next year, Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court. In 1983, Dr. Sally Ride became the first American woman in space. In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed Janet Reno - Florida's first woman state attorney - to serve as the first woman U.S. Attorney General. Nominated by President Bill Clinton in 1997, Madeleine K. Albright became the first woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of State. In 2000, Hillary Rodham Clinton became the only former First Lady elected to the United States Senate. In 2005, Condoleezza Rice became the first African-American woman to serve as Secretary of State. In 2007, Nancy Pelosi became the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the past year, Miami-Dade FAWL hosted two of these history makers — Madeleine Albright and Janet Reno. We listened and learned from them. We learned that, like them, we need to lead. These women are true history makers. Look around the community we serve. Who are our history makers? We draw inspiration from the past to promote the future. We have thirty years of leaders — our past Miami-Dade FAWL Presidents — whom we honor on this special anniversary. We welcome the opportunity to learn from them all, and we call on them all to continue to lead our community. All do, and more leaders will emerge from our board. Miami-Dade FAWL has a dynamic and inspirational board, committed to the ideals of leadership and community upon which FAWL is based. Welcome our future leaders, open doors for them, and let them surprise you. Ours are the leaders of the past, the present and the future. I speak for the entire Board when I say we look forward to thirty more years of strong leadership and change for our community.

On a personal note, I appreciate the great honor and trust that the members of Miami-Dade FAWL and our legal community have bestowed on me. I hope I have lived up to your expectations. I know that the Board and our membership have more than lived up to mine. **Thank you for the opportunity to serve.**

Diversity Mixer

By: Tara L. Elfering
Miami-Dade FAWL Director

On May 13, 2010, Miami-Dade FAWL hosted a diversity mixer in downtown Miami at La Loggia. The event was supported and well attended by members of the Asian Pacific Bar Association, Puerto Rican Bar Association, South Asian Bar Association, Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyer's Association, and Cuban American Bar Association. Several mentees from Miami-Dade FAWL's Mentoring Program also attended the diversity mixer. During the happy hour, attendees met and networked with a diverse group of attorneys and judiciary members. The setting provided a relaxed environment in which to meet, or reconnect with, other attorneys from different backgrounds. This event was intended to advance Miami-Dade FAWL's goal of attaining diversity within our organization, as well as the legal community as a whole. Miami-Dade FAWL looks forward to hosting future diversity events aimed at bringing members of our community's various voluntary bars together.