

# THE JUSTITIA

COLLIER COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

SPRING 2004

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: *Jeanne L. Seewald*

Season is winding down and many of our Members are finding time to get out of the office and enjoy our beautiful city. Our May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting should be an event worth leaving the office to attend. Judge Lauren Miller will be speaking to us and providing a "View from the Bench." Also, our May meeting will be the culmination of our project with Working Wardrobe. Representatives of Working Wardrobe will be at the meeting to provide additional information about the organization and the services provided. (See page 3 for more information on this project.) Working Wardrobe works in conjunction with Platinum Coast Cleansers to provide clothing for women entering the workforce. Platinum Coast will have a truck at the Collier Athletic Club at 1:15 p.m. to pick up our contributions. Please start working now to clean out your closets and help this worthwhile cause.

On another note, the Florida Association of Women Lawyers (FAWL) has voted to increase its dues by \$10 per year. As you know, CCWBA is a chapter of FAWL and, in the past, \$30 of your \$60 membership dues has been sent to FAWL and each member of CCWBA becomes a member of our State organization.

In order to maintain the same operating budget as in past years, CCWBA will be increasing its dues by \$10. Dues for the fiscal year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> will be \$70. Dues for governmental employees will continue to be discounted, but will increase to \$50.

The Board has worked hard this year to provide value for your membership. We have revised the format of the monthly meeting to include a buffet lunch. We also have been able to reduce the cost of lunch to \$16 for members. Lunch costs for non-members and guests will be increasing to \$20 beginning with the July meeting. This increase enables us to pass along to members the cost of the lunch while accumulating funds to cover the cost of speakers. We also have revised the newsletter and set up a website providing information about our organization and a listing of all members and their practice areas. We believe you will see the value in your membership. Look for your dues statement in the mail in the next few weeks.

This is the first issue of our newsletter under its new name, *The Justitia*. We hope *The Justitia* serves our members for many years to come (see article on page 2).

We want our members to stay in touch and are adding an Announcement section to the Newsletter. Send us announcements about job changes, office openings, new children or grandchildren. We will print your announcement in this new section of *The Justitia* (see Announcements, page 2).

We hope you enjoy your summer and encourage you to stay involved with CCWBA.

Jeanne L. Seewald  
President

Fowler White Boggs Banker P.A.  
5811 Pelican Bay Blvd., Ste. 600  
Naples, Florida 34108  
239-598-1221  
jseewald@fowlerwhite.com

Rebecca Zung Clough  
Vice President  
Community School of Naples  
13275 Livingston Road  
Naples, Florida 34109  
239-597-7575  
rclough@csn.naples.fl.us

Arlene F. Austin  
Treasurer, Immediate Past President  
Arlene F. Austin, P.A.  
5811 Pelican Bay Blvd., Ste. 201  
Naples, Florida 34108  
239-514-8211  
afAustin@worldnet.att.net

Wendy Huffstetler Girardin  
Secretary  
Girardin & Associates  
3001 Tamiami Trail North, Suite 100  
Naples, Florida 34103  
239-430-1130  
wendy@girardinassociates.com

Carolyn C. Coukos  
FAWL Chapter Liaison  
Northern Trust Bank of Florida  
4001 Tamiami Trail North  
Naples, Florida 34103  
239-262-8888  
ccc1@ntrs.com

Jacqueline J. Buyze  
Grant, Fridkin, Pearson Athan & Crown, P.A.  
5551 Ridgewood Drive, Suite 501  
Naples, Florida 34108  
239-514-1000  
jbuyze@gfpac.com

Robin H. Doxey  
Cox & Nici  
1185 Immokalee Road, Suite 110  
Naples, Florida 34110  
239-254-0706  
rdoxey@coxnici.com

Jeanette Martinez Lombardi  
Jeanette M. Lombardi, P.A.  
3033 Riviera Drive, Suite 202  
Naples, Florida 34103  
239-261-7690  
jeanette@jmlfloridalaw.com

Deborah J. Schwartz  
Office of the State Attorney  
Collier County Justice Center  
3301 East Tamiami Trail, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Naples, Florida 34112  
239-774-8470  
dschwartz@sao.cjis20.org

## PART OF A PROUD TRADITION

By: Carolyn C. Coukos, FAWL Chapter Representative

Along with 22 other chapters throughout the state, the Collier County Women's Bar Association is a chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, known by its acronym FAWL. A portion of your CCWBA dues is forwarded to FAWL and every CCWBA member is a FAWL member. The benefits of FAWL membership flow not only to each of our members but also to all Florida women lawyers and, to some extent, all the women of Florida. FAWL is our voice at the state level.

In 1951, twenty-seven women lawyers, who saw the need for a separate women's bar association, assembled in Miami Beach to establish FAWL. At the time, there were 3,700 lawyers in Florida. Less than 100 of them were women. The FAWL founders could not have dreamed of the path they would blaze for the women lawyers of Florida.

Judge Mattie Bell Davis was a FAWL founder. She was present not only at the founding, but also at FAWL's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which was held in connection with the 2001 Florida Bar annual meeting in Orlando. In 1936, when Judge Davis was admitted to the Florida Bar, she was the only woman lawyer in Miami.

She was appointed to the bench in Dade County in 1959 and served as a judge until she retired in 1980. During her life she was a consummate representative of FAWL and epitomized the accomplishments of many who followed her. Judge Davis died last year at the age of 93.

Illustrious Florida women attorneys followed in Judge Davis's footsteps and launched outstanding legal careers. Among them were US Attorney General Janet Reno; Florida Bar Presidents Patricia Seitz and Edith Osman; U.S. Court of Appeals Justice Rosemary Barkett; American Bar Association President Martha Barnett; and Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Rosemary Pariente.

FAWL continues to expand its chapter network, adding three new chapters during the past year in South Palm Beach County, the University of Miami Law School and Florida International University Law College. FAWL's website ([fawl.org](http://fawl.org)) will eventually provide links to member firm websites and will facilitate referrals to members around the state. FAWL publishes a journal three times a year. FAWL sponsors free CLEs, biannual statewide luncheons for its members, and an annual Retreat.

FAWL lobbies the Florida legislature on issues of importance to women and women lawyers. In connection with this program, FAWL sponsors an annual reception for members of the Florida legislature. FAWL provides e-mail alerts to its members with respect to legislative issues of importance to FAWL. FAWL files amicus briefs on select cases of importance to women and women lawyers. FAWL's president is a member of The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

A Florida woman lawyer who is a FAWL member is part of a distinguished history and an on-going effort to support women lawyers and issues of importance to women throughout the state. CCWBA is proud of its FAWL connection.



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### OUR NEWSLETTER HAS A NEW NAME!

At the April meeting, we announced the new name of our revived newsletter, *The Justitia*. Justitia was the Roman goddess of justice. The name was submitted by Emily Mayne and for the winning submission Emily received a gift certificate to a local restaurant. We appreciate all the submissions for the Name the Newsletter Contest and hope you enjoy the new identity for our newsletter.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Coukos (a.k.a. "Nana") is proud to announce the birth of her granddaughter, Jamie Annette Coukos-Wiley. Jamie was born at Sibley Hospital in Washington D.C. on Monday, April 12, 2004, weighing in at 7 lbs. 11 oz. Her proud Mom and Dad (Pamela Coukos and David Wiley) and her big brother, Bennett James Coukos-Wiley, welcomed her to the family. Jamie was named after her recently deceased grandfather - James Coukos.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 26	Circuit Court Judge Lauren Miller Past President of Miami-Dade Chapter of Florida Association of Women Lawyers  A View from the Bench.
June 23	Mary Beth Clary, Esq., Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP Winner of American Bar Association, Business Law Section, Glasscutter's Award 2001  Update on the American Bar Association and Opportunities for Involvement
July 28	State Representative Carole Green Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives  Florida Legislative Update
August 25	TBA
September 22	Fall Reception and Joint Meeting with Lee County Women's Bar Association
October 27	Kelly Overstreet Johnson, Esq., Broad & Cassell President-Elect of The Florida Bar  An Update on The Florida Bar
November	NO MEETING
December	HOLIDAY RECEPTION

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## PROJECT WITH WORKING WARDROBE

CCWBA completed its project to assist Voices for Kids in February. We now are undertaking a joint project with Working Wardrobe. Since March 2000, Working Wardrobe has helped over 100 women in Collier County by providing clothing to assist the women in obtaining or maintaining employment. Most of the women who have been assisted have never worn professional clothing. In the words of Rachelle Dover, co-founder of Working Wardrobe and President of the local chapter of the American Business Women's Association, "to these women it isn't a suit jacket, but a life jacket."

Working Wardrobe assists women who are referred by local organizations such as shelters, welfare transition programs, unemployment, college placement offices, staffing agencies and even employers. Working Wardrobe was established after its founders, Ms. Dover and Sandra Waite, learned that 33% of interviewers have not hired someone due to poor manners and appearance. Working Wardrobe was created to address the gap between assistance and independence by providing interview appropriate clothing for

women seeking employment. Working Wardrobe asks a simple question for women in need: "Without a suit, how can she get the job? But without a job, how can she afford the suit?"

The rule of thumb is to donate only those items that you yourself would feel comfortable wearing to a job interview. Working Wardrobe needs gently worn women's business attire, shoes and handbags. No other accessories are being accepted by Working Wardrobe at this time. Working Wardrobe works in conjunction with Platinum Coast Dry Cleaning which cleans the clothing at no charge.

Please clean out your closets and bring your donations to the May 26<sup>th</sup> lunch meeting. Representatives of Working Wardrobe will be on hand along with a truck from Platinum Coast to pick up the donations. If you cannot attend the May meeting, you may drop off your donations at the office of Jeanne Seewald at 5811 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 600 (HMA Building).

**MEMBERS  
OF THE  
COLLIER COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Susan Ramsey Aldrich  
G. Helen Athan  
Maureen Aughton  
Arlene F. Austin  
Nadia B. Babella  
Sonia M. Bretzmann  
Jacqueline J. Buyze  
Karen A. Caco  
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Ellen A. Goldman  
Cynthia B. Hall  
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Jeanne L. Seewald  
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Deborah A. Stewart  
Helen Sundgren  
Amanda M. Trammell  
Melissa Vasquez  
Judith C. Wheeler  
Mimi Wolok

**\*NEWSLETTER MAILED TO MEMBERS ONLY\***

COLLIER COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.  
5811 PELICAN BAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 600  
NAPLES, FLORIDA 34108