

NOMINATION FORM
2010 NCWBA OUTSTANDING MEMBER PROGRAM AWARDS

Name of Project:

Young Lawyers Committee – Mentoring Program

Name of Sponsoring Women’s Bar Association:

Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers

Address:

P.O. Box 173565
Tampa, Florida 33672-1565

Number of Members:

213

Name and Position of Contact Person:

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Young Lawyers Committee Co-Chair

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Project Description

The Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers (“HAWL”) was established in 1983. What began as a small group of women lawyers meeting for lunch has grown into an active, dynamic group with over 213 members, including lawyers and judges. HAWL has monthly lunchtime meetings of the general membership. HAWL members also participate in more than a dozen committees and projects, including the following:

1. Pro Bono: The Pro Bono Projects Committee oversees HAWL’s participation in a number of pro bono projects. Two pro bono projects in which HAWL has been particularly active in recent years are the Homeless Women Veteran’s Project, in which HAWL members represent local homeless female veterans on a variety of matters; and the Kinship Care Project, in which HAWL partners with the University of South Florida’s Kinship Center program to provide assistance to care providers who are raising a child who is a relative, including the staffing of a “warmline” kinship care line providers can call for assistance and advice. In connection with the Kinship Care Project, HAWL was recently awarded a \$4500 grant from the Florida Bar Foundation’s Voluntary Bar Association Community Service Grant Program to support a Kinship Care CLE and Mentoring Training Project.
2. Community Outreach: The Community Outreach Committee involves HAWL members in charitable and outreach projects within the community. Recent events sponsored by HAWL, most of which are conducted annually, have included:

- A toy drive at Christmas for children whose families receive services through Florida’s Kinship Center;
- A food drive at Thanksgiving for America’s Second Harvest;
- A bag, shoes and accessories drive to provide handbags to women from very low income households re-entering the workforce through Dress for Success.
- A luggage drive for foster children in Hillsborough County who had previously been moving their personal items from home to home in garbage bags;
- The Take Your Child to Work Day Program, an annual program HAWL members, their children, and a group of 30-45 middle school students from the community participate in, which includes a courthouse tour for the children where they have the opportunity to observe proceedings and meet judges, lawyers, and law enforcement professionals, followed by a luncheon with HAWL members at which an inspirational speaker is presented; and,
- The Cinderella Project, through which formal-wear and accessories are donated to a local high school and are then provided to needy students for their prom.

Through the Community Outreach Committee, HAWL members have also assisted Habitat for Humanity in building homes in the Tampa Bay area and have painted the homes of low-income and elderly citizens as part of the city-wide program, Paint Your Heart Out, Tampa.

3. Programs Committee: The Program Chair and Program Committee plan the programs for the monthly membership lunches, which generally involve matters of interest to HAWL members. Recent programs have included: a panel discussion regarding the importance of a healthy media to the legal profession, which included reporter David Barstow of the New

York Times, winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for investigative journalism; a talk by renowned sleep expert and clinical researcher Dr. Neal Feldman; and, a presentation from financial planner Cynthia Touchton regarding philanthropic giving. HAWL's upcoming March luncheon will involve a panel of politicians including Florida Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink and Hillsborough County Commissioner Rose Ferlita.

4. Diversity Committee: The Diversity Committee works with committees from other local bar associations to plan diversity-related events, including an annual Diversity Lunch to which all members of local bar associations are invited. The Diversity Committee additionally coordinates HAWL's involvement in the Central Florida Diversity Mentoring Picnic, an annual event involving local bar associations across central Florida, to which law students are invited and encouraged to establish mentoring relationships with attorneys and members of the judiciary.
5. Judicial Recruitment/Judicial Reception Committee: HAWL's Judicial Recruitment Committee and its "Path to the Judiciary Program" received an NCWBA Outstanding Member Program in 2008. It is one of HAWL's significant goals to encourage women lawyers to seek federal and state judgeships; encourage women lawyers to seek positions on Florida's state and federal Judicial Nominating Commissions; educate women lawyers on matters such as the process to become a judge and how to effectively support a judicial candidate; and, help women lawyers, as their careers progress, achieve the appropriate experience and credentials to become judges. HAWL does not endorse judicial candidates, but does provide HAWL members with information regarding judicial openings as well as vacancies on Judicial Nominating Committees, and encourages HAWL members to apply for these positions. Additionally, HAWL encourages its members to monitor Judicial Nominating Committee proceedings. This Committee hosts an annual Judicial Reception open to all members, to which all members of the local state, federal, and appellate judiciary are invited. In addition, once a year, HAWL hosts its "Judicial Reception" honoring all state and federal judges living in the Tampa Bay area.
6. Legislative Committee: While HAWL does not endorse candidates for elected office, the HAWL Legislative Committee has developed a Candidate Questionnaire that it will provide to candidates for state office running in the 2010 election, including the candidates for governor, state senate, and state house of representatives. The questionnaire consists of a series of questions regarding issues the committee believes are of interest to HAWL members. The Legislative Committee intends to publicize the responses to the Candidate Questionnaire to HAWL members.
7. Scholarship Committee: The Scholarship Committee collects and reviews applications and makes a recommendation to the HAWL Board regarding the awarding of five \$500 HAWL Scholarships given annually to students who intend to pursue a degree in law or criminal justice.
8. Newsletter/Publications: The Newsletter/Publications Committee is responsible for preparing a monthly electronic newsletter that provides information about HAWL projects and activities and other matters relevant to HAWL members.

9. Young Lawyers Committee/Mentoring Program: The Young Lawyers Committee and its Mentoring Program were created in 2005, and have recently been reinvigorated with several new events that have sparked the interest of other women's bar associations across the state of Florida. Due to this renewed interest in the Mentoring Program, HAWL is nominating the Young Lawyers Committee and its Mentoring Program for the NCWBA Outstanding Member Program Award.

Narrative and Supporting Material

In 2005, HAWL created a Young Lawyers Committee and a Mentoring Program with the Florida Association for Women Lawyers at Stetson (FAWLS) whereby HAWL members mentor FAWLS members attending Stetson University College of Law. The Program includes periodic networking opportunities and establishes one-on-one mentoring relationships. The Young Lawyers Committee hosts an Annual Kickoff Event and an Annual Recognition Banquet for the mentors and mentees. This year the Mentoring Program was presented to the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division for its Shadow Day at the Courthouse Event, and the Mentoring Program received a \$500 grant and the Most Outstanding Member Service Project Award. Last year the Mentoring Program received a \$1000 grant from the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division for its Annual Speed Mentoring Kickoff Event.

- I. **Program Objectives:** The Young Lawyers Committee's Mentoring Program strives to promote fellowship, education, awareness, understanding, appreciation and adherence to the principles of professionalism. Through one-on-one relationships, participants better understand the importance of character, competency and commitment in our profession. The specific goals of the Program include the following:

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| Goal #1 | To continue the Mentoring Program and foster mutually satisfying mentoring relationships. |
| Goal #2 | To improve professionalism in the practice of law by promoting high ethical and professional standards. |
| Goal #3 | To host an Annual Kickoff Event giving mentors and mentees the opportunity to meet each other before they are matched in the Program. |
| Goal #4 | To host an Annual Shadow Day at the Courthouse for mentees to observe open court and to meet with the local judiciary. |
| Goal #5 | To arrange periodic social events to provide participants with opportunities to network with each other. |
| Goal #6 | To host an Annual Recognition Banquet for the mentors and mentees. |
| Goal #7 | To encourage FAWLS members, following their admittance to the practice of law, to become HAWL members and mentors. |

- II. **Program Description:** The Mentoring Program provides participants with an opportunity to form a mutually beneficial relationship that fosters professional growth, career development, and personal fulfillment. The Mentoring Program pairs law school students from the Stetson University College of Law, who are members of FAWLS, with mentors from HAWL. The mentors are encouraged to answer questions and give advice about the practical and substantive aspects of practicing law. The mentors are an invaluable resource of practical advice, professional contacts and support to aid and guide

the mentee. This Program is intended to help law school students transition from law school to practice; it is not an employment solicitation program or recruiting device.

The number of students participating in the Program fluctuates from term to term, but has been as few as 13 and as many as 80. Typically, there are enough HAWL members participating in the Program so each student is assigned their own mentor. HAWL has a strong involvement from its young lawyers, probably because they can relate so well to the needs of the students. It is estimated at this time that as many as 130 students and over 100 HAWL members have participated in some aspect of the Program, either by attending a Mentoring Program function or being assigned a mentor/mentee. HAWL is not aware of any other programs which are attempting to meet this need in the Tampa Bay community.

Rachael Greenstein and **Victoria McCloskey** are the current Young Lawyers Committee Co-chairs and **Dara Cooley** is the current FAWLS President and the Mentoring Chair. Last year, the Young Lawyers Committee Co-chairs revamped the Program and introduced the Mentoring Program's First Annual Speed Mentoring Kickoff Event. The event was repeated this year and was a huge success. As a result of the Second Annual Speed Mentoring Kickoff Event and marketing by HAWL, the Mentoring Program was able to match 37 mentors and 43 mentees. This is a 41% increase from last year's program, which had 56 participants. An article regarding the event was published in the November 15, 2009 Florida Bar News and in the December 2009 edition of the Hillsborough County Bar Association Lawyer Magazine (see attached).

In an effort to increase the interest in the Mentoring Program and to provide participants with another valuable experience, the Mentoring co-chairs organized a Shadow Day at the Courthouse event. Last year, the Program initiated a Shadow Month where mentors were encouraged to bring their mentees to work with them so the mentees could experience the everyday practice of law. In conjunction with Shadow Month this year, the co-chairs coordinated with the local judiciary to organize a day at the Hillsborough County George Edgecomb Courthouse for the mentors and mentees to meet with the judges and to observe open court. This event was well-received by the mentees and the mentors, as well as the local judges. Everyone who attended the Shadow Day at the Courthouse wanted to see this event repeated next year. The Mentoring Program would like to host this Shadow Day at the Courthouse event again next year and would like to expand upon the event by including speakers on topics such as courtroom decorum and lawyer etiquette. An article regarding the event is being published in the February 1, 2010 Florida Bar News (see attached).

In addition to the Speed Mentoring Kickoff Event and the Shadow Day at the Courthouse, the Mentoring Program hosts several informal mixers and an Annual Recognition Banquet for the mentors and the mentees to network and socialize. The Young Lawyers Committee also encourages the Mentoring Program participants to attend HAWL sponsored events. The following is a list of events for the Mentoring Program.

Fall 2009
Mentoring Program Second Annual Kickoff Event – September 17, 2009
Mentoring Program Shadow Month – October 2009
Mentoring Program Shadow Day at the Courthouse – October 28, 2009
Mentoring Program Holiday Party – December 17, 2009
Spring 2010
HAWL Judicial Reception – January 28, 2010
Mentoring Program Spring Mixer – February 4, 2010
Central Florida Diversity Picnic – February 27, 2010
HAWL Softball Tournament – March 2010
Hillsborough County Bar Association Pig Roast – March 20, 2010
Mentoring Program Annual Recognition Banquet – April 2010

III. Evaluation: The Young Lawyers Committee measures the success of the Mentoring Program both quantitatively and qualitatively. On average there are approximately 50 participants in the Mentoring Program each year. This year the Program currently has a total of 80 participants, which is over a 42% increase from last year. The success of the Mentoring Program is also measured by the feedback the Program receives from the mentors and mentees. Last year the Young Lawyers Committee sent out a survey to the mentors and the mentees seeking feedback regarding the Program and the events hosted by the Program. The Program received responses from 8 mentors and 10 mentees regarding their experiences in the Program.

This year, the Program received a lot of positive feedback regarding the Shadow Day at the Courthouse. Judge Claudia Isom commented, *“What a great opportunity for our mentees to get a behind-the-scenes view of our judicial system! I was impressed with the level of professionalism and maturity demonstrated by the mentees’ questions and their approach to the shadow experience.”* Judge Isom’s mentee, **Dara Cooley**, remarked, *“For some students, this was their first time visiting the courthouse. While the courthouse remains a colossal building, for most students the intimidation has departed due to the warm welcome and personal interactions with judges and attorneys experienced during this unique opportunity.”*

IX. Funding Capability: HAWL and FAWLS both provide funding for the Mentoring Program. Also, the Young Lawyers Committee received grants from the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division for the last three years. In 2008, the Program received \$1000 for its Annual Recognition Banquet; in 2009, the Program received \$1000 for its Annual Kickoff Event; and this year, the Program received \$500 for its Shadow Day at the Courthouse. In the future, these events will be absorbed into the HAWL and FAWLS budgets and further subsidized by sponsorships.

X. Exhibits: Please see the attached exhibits of articles published in the Florida Bar News, the Florida Association for Women Lawyers Journal and the Hillsborough County Bar Association Lawyer Magazine regarding the HAWL Young Lawyers Committee Mentoring Program.

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February 1, 2010

HAWL mentors Stetson students



THE HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS recently connected with Stetson law students to show them the ropes.

This year the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers Mentoring Program hosted its first Shadow Day at the Courthouse event.

Mentees from the Stetson College of Law, along with their mentors from HAWL, toured the Hillsborough County George Edgecomb Courthouse and observed open court. The co-chairs for the Mentoring Program, Rachael Greenstein and Victoria McCloskey, were able to coordinate this event with the assistance of several judges, including Claudia Isom, Emily Peacock, and Elizabeth Rice.

The event was attended by approximately 30 mentors and mentees. Many of the judges in the 13th Circuit participated by welcoming the mentors and mentees into their courtrooms. The event began with an informal breakfast mixer with the judges, followed by presentations from several court programs, including Hillsborough County's Mediation and Diversion Services. The mentors and mentees were then given a courthouse tour and observed open court proceedings. The event concluded with a luncheon with the judges, where an open discussion ensued concerning topics such as courtroom decorum and lawyer etiquette.

"What a great opportunity for our mentees to get a behind-the-scenes view of our judicial

system," Judge Isom said. "I was impressed with the level of professionalism and maturity demonstrated by the mentees' questions and their approach to the shadow experience."

Judge Isom's mentee, Dara Cooley, who is the president of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers at Stetson, remarked, "For some students, this was their first time visiting the courthouse. While the courthouse remains a colossal building, for most students the intimidation has departed due to the warm welcome and personal interactions with judges and attorneys experienced during this unique opportunity."

News HOME

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THE HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS mentoring program currently has 34 mentors and 42 mentees participating, a 35 percent increase from last year.

HAWL 'speed mentors' students

The Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers is doing its part to give inside information to students at Stetson University College of Law through its mentoring program.

HAWL recently hosted its Second Annual Speed Mentoring Event, with 21 mentees and 15 mentors in attendance.

The HAWL mentoring program currently has 34 mentors and 42 mentees participating, a 35 percent increase from last year.

With the downturn in the economy and the scarcity of legal positions in the area, the mentoring program received a lot of interest from law students looking for alternative means for networking and professional guidance, according to Rachael Greenstein, a co-chair of the project.

"We received a lot of positive feedback from this event last year, and we wanted to continue to provide mentors and mentees with this opportunity to meet each other before they are matched," Greenstein said. "We feel this format contributes to the formation of successful matches that last well beyond the students'

law school careers."

The speed mentoring event was held at the Chester H. Ferguson Law Center. The prospective mentees were given five minutes to speak with each of the prospective mentors. They were encouraged to discuss topics involving their interests in the law, hobbies, and other general information to help them choose with whom they wanted to be matched. At the conclusion of the event, the attorneys and students anonymously ranked their top five choices. The two co-chairs for the mentoring program, Greenstein and Victoria McCloskey, then matched the students and the attorneys based on their preferences, areas of practice, interests, and schedules.

Mentors are encouraged to answer questions and give advice about the practical and substantive aspects of practicing law, as well as provide mentees with opportunities to observe their mentors in practice. The mentoring program is intended to help mentees transition out of law school and provide them with a realistic impression of the practice of law.

Picnic

(Continued from page 1)



Myles Ambrose McGrane IV, Mike Ruiz, Daniel Cervantes, and Myles Ambrose McGrane III. a bit more, so that the larger crowd could be accommodated," Kozyak said. "I believe we had between 2,000 to 2,500 minority law students, judges, lawyers, and guests attend, which was probably a 20 percent increase. The weather cooperated well."

Busses filled with students arrived from the University of Florida and Stetson University, where lawyers waited to greet them. U.S. District Court Judge Paul C. Huck, heading up the Florida alumni contingency, worked for months to make sure there was a good turnout of students and alumni. The Ruden McCloskey firm sponsored the bus from UF. The largest sponsor was BNY Mellon Bank, allowing the Law Magnet program at

law school you will do the leg work the trial attorneys don't want to do and wouldn't necessarily get any trial experience. I guess it will be three more years of deferring the high salary, which isn't too bad. It was very valuable advice. Just the idea that the elder statesmen are passing down knowledge to the younger generation — I love that concept."

That concept of minority law students meeting experienced lawyers and judges to mentor their transition into the practice of law is the brainchild of Miami lawyer John Kozyak, who started the picnic five years ago.

"The picnic was fantastic this year. We had more sponsors and spread everyone out

Carol City High School to use its tent to help minority high school students also find mentors.

"This was a first and a big hit," Kozyak said.

As she has at every picnic since the beginning, Chief Justice Peggy Quince attended the event with her daughter, Peggy Buckline, president of the Black Law Students Association at St. Thomas.

Florida Bar President Jay White, along with President-elect Jesse Diner and past Presidents Frank Angones and Miles McGrane, joined a huge group of Bar leaders who mingled with the students.

The kids' tent and entertainment was sponsored by the Association of Corporate Counsel.

"It was a successful day," proclaimed Cervantes, who attended his first picnic as a student in 2006. "There were so many attorneys, judges, and people willing the help out students. This is something you pay forward. So many people, like Jolin (Kozyak), have opened up doors for me. And the people I met at these social events, they don't want anything in return. The only thing I can do to say thank you is to open doors and talk to students coming behind me, like Mike. And everyone at the picnic understands that."

HAWL launches 'speed mentoring'

The Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers is doing its part to give inside information to students at Stetson University College of Law through its mentoring program.

The Stetson mentoring program, established in 2005, matches female law students at Stetson with practicing women attorneys in the Tampa Bay Area. The mentors provide guidance on matters from general law school survival to job searches, work/life balance, and information on what the practice of law is like on the other side of the J.D.

The mentoring program has been very successful; this year alone, 29 mentors and 27 mentees signed up to participate.

In an effort to match prospective mentees with mentors with similar interests, the cur-



RACHAEL GREENSTEIN, right, gets to know a Stetson student during HAWL's recent speed mentoring event.

rent chairs of the program, Vanessa Andros and Rachael Greenstein, set up an event modeled after "speed dating." The event was held recently at the Chester H. Ferguson Law Center. The prospective mentees were given five minutes to speak with each of the prospective mentors. At the conclusion of the event, the attorneys and students anonymously ranked their top five picks. In years past, mentors and mentees were matched based on the student's stated area of interest. This year the "speed mentoring" provided an entirely new approach which gave the mentees the opportunity to meet with all the participating attorneys.

"We wanted to give them the opportunity to choose who they wanted to be paired up with," Greenstein said. "I think both the attorneys and students enjoyed the event because it gave them an opportunity to meet with each other to see if there was anyone specific with whom they connected."

CHAPTER NEWS

NATIONAL AWARDS: BROWARD COUNTY WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS, TALLHASSEE WOMEN LAWYERS AND STATE FAWL

Contributor: Tara Rao, Public Relations/ Publicity Committee of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers

Broward County Women Lawyers Association (BCWLA), Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers (HAWL) and Tallahassee Women Lawyers (TWL) carried away the awards at the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations ("NCWBA") this summer. State FAWL also won the Public Service Award for the statewide Breakfast and Books program, a mentoring program for girls at risk originated by the Palm Beach County Association for Women Lawyers.

The awards were presented at a lunch hosted by the NCWBA in conjunction with the 2008 Annual Women's Bar Leadership Summit on Friday, August 8, 2008 in New York City, New York. BCWLA was recognized for its' local Breakfast and Books program.

HAWL was presented a new award, the 2008 Outstanding Member Program Award for its "Path to the Judiciary" program. The NCWBA presents the award to those women's bar associations that are focused on providing training and other great benefits to their members and attorneys. The HAWL program helped to encourage women attorneys to pursue careers in the judiciary. It included two one-hour continuing legal education sessions, entitled "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Becoming a State Judge" and "How to Join the Federal Judiciary," which were attended by a total of 170 people. HAWL also hosted a judicial reception in conjunction with the program that was well attended by members of the local and federal judiciary.

Tallahassee Women Lawyers was also recognized with a new award for the "Women's Professional Empowerment CLE Series," The series, shared with



(From left) BCWLA members Judge Stacy Ross, a former board Member, PACE board member, and Breakfast & Books volunteer, Tonja Haddad Coleman, immediate past president, and Jacquelyn Holden, FAWL chapter representative.

all FAWL members as free online CLE included former Florida Bar President **Edith Osman**; former ABA President **Martha Barnett**; former Florida Bar President **Kelly Overstreet Johnson**; Secretary of Florida's Department of Community Affairs **Linda Loomis Shelley**; **Cari Lynn Roth**, with Bryant Miller Olive; former Florida House of Representatives member **Loranne Ausley** and Florida Supreme Court Justice **Barbara Pariente**.

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FAWL AT UF

Submitted by Jennifer Cohen, President

I am thrilled to report FAWL at UF's first meeting this semester was quite a success. It was held on September 10 as no classes are scheduled on Wednesdays at noon and this is a highly coveted time for many student organizations to convene. At least two other organizations, including Gators for Alternative Dispute Resolution (GADR) and Black Law Students Association (BALSA) held meetings this same date. To entice students to attend, BALSA served lunch to attendees. While these and other campus activities vied for students' attention during this hour, FAWL at UF managed to gauge the interest of at least 22 students. Our

chapter's executive board was extremely pleased with such an enthused response from students. The following day, we tabled at the student organization fair and also received a great response. On October 8, **Rebecca O'Neill**, a member of the Clara Gehan Chapter and a general counsel with Shands Legal Services, participated on a panel of attorneys at our meeting for a short Q&A session. On October 22 we hosted a WestLaw training topic "Looking for Ways to Distinguish Yourself at Your Next Interview," for all FAWL at UF members and WestLaw provided a pizza lunch. We also are offering opportunities for our members to be involved with volunteer opportunities through Dress for Success and Gainesville's Children's Home Society.

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HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS (HAWL)

Submitted by Tara Rao, HAWL Public Relations

Mentoring Program

You have heard it a thousand times, "They don't teach you that in law school!" Thankfully, the Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers is doing its part to give the inside information to students at Stetson University College of Law through its mentoring program. The mentoring program, established in 2005, matches female law students at Stetson with practicing female attorneys in the Tampa Bay Area. The mentors provide guidance on matters from general law school survival to



job searches, work/life balance and information on what the practice of law is like on the other side of the J.D. The mentoring program has been very successful; this year alone, 29 mentors and 27 mentees signed up to participate.

In an effort to match prospective mentees with mentors with similar interests, the current chairs of the program, **Vanessa Andros** and **Rachael Greenstein**, set up an event modeled after "Speed Dating." The event was held October 3 at the Chester H. Ferguson Law Center. The prospective mentees were given five minutes to speak with each of the prospective mentors. At the conclusion of the event, the attorneys and students anonymously ranked their top five picks. In years past, mentors and mentees were matched based on the student's stated area of interest. This year the "speed mentoring" provided an entirely new approach which gave the mentees the opportunity to meet with all participating attorneys. When asked why they switched to the new format, Rachael Greenstein said, "We wanted to give them the opportunity to choose who they wanted to be paired up with. I think both the attorneys and students enjoyed the event because it gave them an opportunity to meet with each other to see if there was anyone specific with whom they connected with. I think everyone had a great time and I know a lot of the students, as well as the attorneys, are really excited about the program this year." One mentor, **Deborah Larned Werner**, said, "I think it was the best ever Mentoring Event!"



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(From left) Mary Scott, President-Elect of the JWLA, Linda Farrell and Anita Pryor, President of the JWLA.

JACKSONVILLE WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Anita Pryor and Ingrid Bethel

The Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association (JWLA) hosted its annual Judicial Reception on June 5, 2008. The purpose for the event is two-fold. It provides an opportunity to honor the judiciary of the Jacksonville area community and recognize the woman lawyer of the year. This year's recipient for the JWLA's Woman Lawyer of the year is **Linda Farrell**, a shareholder with the law firm of Boyd Jenerette in Jacksonville practicing workers' compensation defense. The association continues to hold luncheon meetings at the River City Brewing Company with the October luncheon featuring guest speaker **Doug Wilder**, author of *Wilder Success*, who spoke on marketing for attorneys. JWLA also collected and donated children's costumes to Community Connections of Jacksonville, an organization that provides Halloween costumes to children who might not otherwise have one for a special Trick or Treat celebration hosted for the children by a local corporation on October 31.

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Miami-Dade FAWL 2008-09 Board



MIAMI-DADE FAWL

Beginning the year on July 11 with Miami-Dade FAWL's (M-D FAWL) installation of officers by the Honorable **Rosemary Barkett** and the presentation of the Mattie Belle Davis Award to Judge **Jacqueline Hogan Scola** of the 11th Judicial Circuit, it has been a whirlwind of events. A look at the association's webpage on the state website and you'll see that Miami-Dade members have many options — including networking events, CLE and community service. M-D FAWL and the Miami Women's Chamber of Commerce co-sponsor several networking events a year which have included a book signing luncheon on October 3 featuring author **Candace Bushnell**, author of the *New York Observer's* "Sex in the City" column and the "Work All Day...Wine Down and Play;" wine tasting event on October 16. October also brought an opportunity for members to attend a new member's only event, "Lunch and Learn," on the topic, "Hidden Assets: Finding More Business in your Law Firm's Client List." The association continued its presence at the 5th Annual Minority Mentoring Picnic for law students with a food booth on November 1. Another CLE on November 13, "She's Her Own Boss: The Nuts and Bolts of Opening Your Own Law Practice," featured an impressive panel of women with personal experience: **Melanie Damian** of Damian & Valori, LLP; **Cynthia Everett** of Cynthia A. Everett, P.A.; **Jacqueline Valdespino** of Valdespino & Associates and



Judge Jacqueline Hogan Scola (left) with Miami-Dade FAWL President Stacey Koch.

HAWL

Speed Mentoring Event

The Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers Mentoring Program has done it again! This year the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers' Mentoring Program hosted its Second Annual Speed Mentoring Event. This year's event was a huge success with 21 mentees and 15 mentors in attendance. As a result of this event and announcements made by the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers, the Mentoring Program currently has 34 mentors and 42 mentees participating this year. This is over a 35% increase from last year's participation and they expect the numbers to grow! With the downturn in the economy and the scarcity of legal positions in the area, the Mentoring Program received a lot of interest from law students looking for alternative means for networking and professional guidance.

The Speed Mentoring Event was held on Thursday, September 17, 2009, at the Chester H. Ferguson Law Center. The prospective mentees were given five minutes to speak with each of the prospective mentors. They were encouraged to discuss topics involving their interests in the law, hobbies, and other general information to help them choose their mentor. At the conclusion of the event, the attorneys and students anonymously ranked their top five choices. The two co-chairs for

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Dr. Nucci specializes in the treatment of spinal injuries; including non-operative AGF autologous growth factor (using a patient's own growth cells to speed the healing process), minimally invasive percutaneous procedures and multi-level instrumented fusions. He is one of only a handful of surgeons in the United States that performs thoracic percutaneous procedures. We are also happy to announce the addition of Dr. Wendell Bulmer to our medical staff. Dr. Bulmer specializes in general orthopedic surgery; treating patients with Letters of Protection as well as workers comp.

We gladly welcome patients with Letters of Protection.

**The Hillsborough
Association for
Women Lawyers
Mentoring Program
has done it again!**

the Mentoring Program, Rachael Greenstein and Victoria McCloskey, then matched the students and the attorneys based on their preferences, areas of practice, interests, and schedules.

The Mentoring Program, established in 2005, matches law students at the Stetson College of Law with practicing attorneys in the Tampa Bay Area. Mentors are encouraged to answer questions and give advice about the practical and substantive aspects of practicing law, as well as provide mentees with opportunities to observe their mentors in practice. The Mentoring Program is intended to help mentees transition out of law school and

provide them with a realistic impression of the practice of law.



Author: Rachael L. Greenstein, Assistant County Attorney



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