



# DWLA

December 2011 Newsletter

## President's Letter



Kristina "Kristi" Kostl

DWLA - Women Helping Women

DWLA is a special organization that's been dear to my heart ever since I joined as a young attorney in 2003. What's most important to me is that we are an organization of women helping women. This has been true since the founding of the organization by Louise Raggio, Judge Sarah T. Hughes, Joann Peters, and other trailblazers. I've been extraordinarily energized lately not only by the involvement of new members, but by new enthusiasm among the more senior members of the organization. Now that my term as President has concluded, my goal as Immediate Past President will be to work together with the new officers to continue to increase membership. I welcome Christina Jump as the new President, and I look forward to working with her to accomplish her goals for the year. I'm also thrilled that Michelle Hartmann has agreed to become President-Elect, and I know that she's very excited to take on that new role.

*Continued on Page 4*

**Join Us Today!**

**DWLA Meeting**

**Noon at the Belo Mansion**

December 8, 2011: "Trends in the Courtroom," with Justice Elizabeth Lang-Miers, Judge Gena Slaughter, and Judge Teresa Guerra Snelson. CLE credit will be awarded.



We will also vote on the 2012 Board Candidates (see Page 5).

Happy Holidays  
and  
Happy New Year  
from the  
Dallas Women  
Lawyers Association

### Inside This Issue

- Personal Injury Panel, Page 2
- 2011 Raggio Award, Page 3
- Board Candidates, Page 5
- Member News, Page 6
- Board Minutes, Page 7
- December Meeting, Page 8



## *Panelists Discuss Hot Topics in Personal Injury Law*

DWLA held a panel discussion on September 8 on “Hot Topics in Personal Injury Law: *Escabedo* and Beyond.” Judge Martin Hoffman moderated. On the panel were (in photo above, from left to right) Kimberly Stovall of Stovall & Associates, P.C.; Kelly Crain of Walters, Balido and Crain LLP; Judge Hoffman of the 68th Civil District Court in Dallas County; and Diana Faust of Cooper Scully P.C.

The panelists focused on the recent Texas Supreme Court case *Haygood v. De Escabedo*, which was decided on July 1. The case limits the amount an injured plaintiff can recover for past medical expenses to the amount that the plaintiff has “actually paid or incurred” for those expenses, excluding expenses covered by insurance. Moreover, it is the plaintiff’s burden to produce evidence that the damages claimed resulted from the defendant’s conduct.

Ms. Stovall handled one of the first cases affected by *Escabedo*. In August, she went to trial on behalf of a stockbroker who suffered a traumatic brain injury. The judge, Bob Carroll, appointed a forensic CPA to determine damages. Ms. Stovall said the CPA, paid for by both sides equally, worked “around the clock.” Ultimately, the parties stipulated to a damages amount, and Ms. Stovall recommended this strategy.

Mr. Crain, a defense attorney, noted that he has also used stipulations in the wake of *Escabedo*. Judge Hoffman asked the panelists what they would recommend when the opposing party does not agree on a damages amount. Mr. Crain suggested issuing a subpoena to the relevant insurance companies or taking a short deposition of the hospital’s billing department, to provide the other side with support for the proposed stipulation.

The panelists also discussed health care liability claims, in response to a question from Judge Hoffman. Ms. Faust explained that plaintiffs should try to avoid having their cases characterized as health care liability claims. Such claims, among other things, require expert reports within 120 days and limit the amount of non-economic damages that can be recovered. Ms. Faust gave examples where the question of what constitutes a health care liability claim has been posed to the courts: A patient bitten by a spider in a nursing home has a health care liability claim, whereas a nurse whose colleagues paint his toenails pink while he is undergoing surgery does not.

Many thanks to DWLA CLE Coordinators Ayesha Rafi and Sarita Smithee for organizing this informative panel discussion!

## *Pat Montes Receives 2011 Louise Raggio Award*



DWLA President Krisi Kastl welcomed the audience.



Ms. Montes accepted the award from Judge Nikki DeShazo, the 2010 recipient.

*President's Letter, Continued From Page 1*

Many exciting things happened in 2011 thanks to DWLA. Nicole Babbitt and others did a phenomenal job organizing our new-lawyer reception at Chocolate Secrets in February, which was well-attended. Encouraging law school graduates and newly admitted lawyers to get involved with DWLA is key to our mission. In March, we sponsored a CLE on "Defusing a Hostile Deposition," moderated by Judge Sally Montgomery with Margaret Allen, Jennifer Edgeworth, Shelly Greco, and Lisa Hasday as panelists. In June, wardrobe consultant Bobbi Schwartz gave a presentation sponsored by the James Street Group and Lifesaver Legal with food and drink provided by Edible Envy. This was followed in September by our panel discussion on "Hot Topics in Personal Injury Law: Escabedo and Beyond," moderated by Judge Martin Hoffman. Finally, in October, we honored Patricia Salcido Montes, our 2011 Louise Raggio Award recipient, at the judicial reception in her honor. Pat Montes' legal accomplishments are impressive, but her true passion is to inspire, encourage, and promote other women.

I am grateful to everyone on this year's Board for their help: Margaret Allen, Joan Ballard, Nicole Collier, Staci Glenn, Kay Goggin, Michelle Hartmann, Lisa Hasday, Lynn Javier, Christina Jump, Nicole Babbitt Knox, Justice Elizabeth Lang-Miers, Karen McCloud, Rachel Montes, Judge Montgomery, Nida Nadir, Jill Pollak, Ayesha Rafi, Sloan Rawlins, Sarita Smithee, Susan Steger, Heather Sudbury, Linda Szuhly, Kathryn Veech, Alyson Vrana, and Paula Walsh. I can't thank Ayesha Rafi and Sarita Smithee enough for the great job they did organizing our CLE events. I also extend my special thanks to Joan Ballard, Kay Goggin, and many others for their assistance with the judicial reception, including Paula Walsh, who took photographs. Of course, I am also grateful to our sponsors, and I'd like to give a special shout-out to Susan Gleason of the James Street Group, who was ready and able to give support not only financially, but also by attending events. I appreciate the tireless efforts of Lisa Hasday, who is completing her term as Newsletter Editor this year and moving on to Judicial Profiles, as well as Jill Pollak, who has continued to help with publicity, membership, and many other matters. I congratulate both Jill and Lisa on the birth of their children this year. Special thanks also go to Justice Lang-Miers and Judge Montgomery for being active advisory board members, and especially to Karen McCloud and Rachel Montes for offering their advice on how things should be done. I look forward to the upcoming panel featuring Justice Lang-Miers, Judge Gena Slaughter, and Judge Teresa Guerra Snelson, and to their continuing involvement with the organization.

My involvement with bar activities began with DWLA, but since joining the organization I have also become active with DAYL, DBA, the Dallas Trial Lawyers Association, the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, and numerous other organizations. All this activity was sparked by my work for DWLA. I love this organization and everyone involved. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as President of DWLA and I will continue to support DWLA. Happy holidays and much peace, joy, and prosperity in 2012!

*Yours Truly,  
Krisi Kastl*

# 2012 Board Candidates Announced

President 🌸 Christina Jump

President-Elect 🌸 Michelle Hartmann

VP-Membership 🌸 Nicole Babbitt Knox

VP-Publicity 🌸 Paula Walsh

VP-Judicial Reception 🌸 Alyson Vrana

Secretary 🌸 Staci Glenn

Treasurer 🌸 Lynn Javier

CLE/Newsletter 🌸 Dena Stroh

Judicial Profiles 🌸 Lisa Hasday

Social 🌸 Ayesha Rafi and Sarita Smithee

Historian 🌸 Kay Goggin

DAYL Liaison 🌸 Joan Ballard

Immediate Past President 🌸 Krisi Kastl

Directors-at-Large 🌸 Nicole Collier, Sherry Meyer,  
Nida Nadir, Stephanie Osteen, Jill Pollak, Jenny Womack

Board Advisors 🌸 Justice Elizabeth Lang-Miers,  
Rachel Montes, Karen McCloud, Hon. Sally Montgomery,  
Susan Steger, Linda Szuhy, Kathryn Veech

## Member News

**Laura Benitez Geisler**, of the Geisler Law Firm, was re-elected to the Dallas Bar Association Board of Directors for 2012.

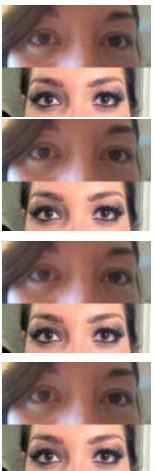
DWLA Historian **Kay Goggin**, of The Law Office of Kay E. Goggin, and a workers' compensation client were honored in October by the Dallas Trial Lawyers Association with the John Howie Award for the pursuit of justice in the face of adversity.

DWLA Board Advisor **Karen McCloud** was awarded the 2011 Committed Mentor Award by the J.L. Turner Legal Association. In appreciation of the value the JLTLA places on quality mentorship, the award is designed to reward outstanding mentors in the Dallas community and to encourage the continuation of mentoring activities and establish mentoring as a core value within the JLTLA and the community at large.

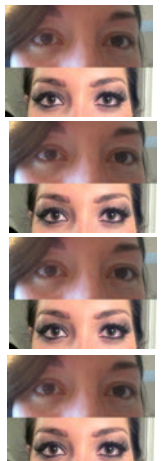
DWLA Director-at-Large **Jill Pollak**, of Law Offices of Terrence G. Turzinski, P.C., and husband Patrick welcomed their baby girl, Brooke Alyse Pollak, on October 17, 2011 at 8:56 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19 1/4 inches long.

**Michele Wong Krause**, of The Wong Krause Firm, was re-elected to the Dallas Bar Association Board of Directors for 2012.

*Please send professional and personal news to Newsletter Editor Lisa Hasday at [lisa.hasday@aya.yale.edu](mailto:lisa.hasday@aya.yale.edu).*



**EYELASH EXTENSIONS** The first thing people notice about you is your eyes. Wake Up to Longer, Thicker, Luscious Lashes without Mascara. It's a time saver. Can be subtle or dramatic. \$100/Full Set - \$50/fill at 2 – 3 weeks. Mink/Silk. Call: Tish at 214-559-2343. Certified Lash Professional. Uptown Dallas





**DALLAS WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, September 8, 2011**

**1. Call to Order**

President-Elect Christy Jump officially called the meeting to order at approximately 11:15 a.m. Members in attendance included Margaret Allen, Joan Ballard, Kay Goggin, Lisa Hasday, Christy Jump, Ayesha Rafi, and Sarita Smithee.

**2. President-Elect's Report - Christy Jump**

Christy Jump gave a report on this year's Judicial Reception. Approximately \$10,000 in sponsorship money has been collected or promised so far. The invitations are being addressed. Joan Ballard will handle getting the trophy for the Raggio Award recipient. She will also explore the audio-visual options. Food for the event is covered under DWLA's contract with The Mansion on Turtle Creek. Quotations from Louise Raggio's book will be displayed. Kay Goggin mentioned that she will pull quotations from a 1998 letter that Ms. Raggio wrote to the DWLA board. Margaret Allen will get the name tags for the event. Flowers will be ordered for the current and past award recipients, as well as for the Raggio family.

Kay Goggin met with the SMU development office regarding DWLA's \$2500 contribution to the Raggio lecture series. Staff from the development office plan to attend the Judicial Reception. Christy Jump encouraged each board member to give \$100 for the lecture series before the Judicial Reception. Checks should be made out to DWLA.

Each board member should compose a job description of her board position and send the description to Christy Jump. Board members should contact Christy Jump and Krisi Kastl with their desired board positions for 2012 by October 15, 2011.

The minutes from the June meeting were not voted on due to the lack of a quorum, but were approved by publication.

**3. Treasurer's Report - Christy Jump**

Christy Jump reported on the available balance in the DWLA business account.

**4. CLE - Ayesha Rafi and Sarita Smithee**

The CLE planned for September 8 is a panel discussion on personal injury law. Sponsorship forms for the Judicial Reception will be placed on each table at the CLE.

A topic has not yet been selected for the December meeting. Christy Jump stated that she hoped the CLE topics would be lined up further in advance next year to allow for ample advertising time.

**5. Newsletter - Lisa Hasday**

Lisa Hasday would like to train someone to take over as Newsletter Editor. She will no longer be able to serve as Newsletter Editor next year due to responsibilities with the American Bar Association.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.



# Thank You

DWLA would like to thank the following sponsors of its 2011 Judicial Reception:

## Trailblazer

The James Street Group

## Gold

Baron and Blue • Eberstein & Witherite, LLP  
Frenkel & Frenkel • S. Reed Morgan, P.C.  
U.S. Legal Support

## Silver

The American Association for Justice  
Al Ellis, Sommerman & Quesada, LLP  
Ferrer, Poirot & Wansbrough  
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP  
IKON Office Solutions, Inc. • KASTL LAW, P.C.  
Law Office of Kay E. Goggin • Mary Alice McLarty  
Rachel Montes, Montes Law Group LLP  
Yvette Ostolaza and Peter B. Dewar  
Payne Mitchell Law Group • Protegga, LLC

## Bronze

Red Door Spa & Salon, Dallas • Mansion on Turtle Creek  
Turley Law Center • Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

## Friends

Margaret Allen • Joan Ballard • The Beckham Group  
Breakfast Club Chicks • Nicole Collier • G Publications  
Penny Goetz, P.I. Pros • Michelle Hartmann  
Lisa Hasday • Lynn Javier • Christina Jump • Krisi Kastl  
Nicole Babbitt Knox • Lackey Hershman, LLP  
Justice Elizabeth Lang-Miers • Law Office of W.J. "Bill"  
Morris • Karen D. McCloud • Nancy Montes  
Hon. Sally Montgomery • Audrey Moorehead  
Nida Nadir • Jill A. Pollak • Ayesha Rafi  
Renwick & Associates, PC • SettlePou • Stratos Legal  
Sean Sullivan • Linda Szuhy • Tamar Meeks Mediation •  
Tarpley Dispute Resolutions • Alyson Vrana  
Paula J. Walsh • Elisabeth A. Wilson

# DWLA Board of Directors 2011



President ★ Krisi Kastl  
President-Elect ★ Christina Jump  
VP - Membership & Publicity ★ Nicole Babbitt Knox  
VP - Judicial Reception ★ Joan Ballard  
Secretary & Website ★ Staci Glenn  
Treasurer ★ Lynn Javier  
Newsletter Editor ★ Lisa Hasday  
CLE/Outreach ★ Ayesha Rafi and Sarita Smithee  
Judicial Profiles ★ Christina Jump  
Historian ★ Kay Goggin  
DAYL Liaison ★ Alyson Vrana  
Immediate Past President ★ Susan Zoila Steger

Directors-at-Large ★ Margaret Allen, Nicole Collier,  
Michelle Hartmann, Nida Nadir, Jill A. Pollak,  
Heather Sudbury, Paula Walsh

Board Advisors ★ Justice Elizabeth Lang-Miers,  
Rachel E. Montes, Karen D. McCloud, Hon. Sally  
Montgomery, Sloan Rawlins, Linda Szuhy, Kathryn Veech

DWLA's newsletter is published four times per year on our website, <http://www.dallaswomenlawyers.org>. If you would like to contribute, please contact Newsletter Editor Lisa Hasday at [lisa.hasday@aya.yale.edu](mailto:lisa.hasday@aya.yale.edu).

## Judges to Discuss Courtroom Trends at Dec. 8 Meeting

DWLA will present a panel discussion on "Trends in the Courtroom" at its next meeting on December 8 at noon at the Belo.

The panel will include Justice Elizabeth Lang-Miers, Judge Gena Slaughter, and Judge Teresa Guerra Snelson. Justice Lang-Miers serves on the Fifth District Court of Appeals, Judge Slaughter serves on the 191st District Court, and Judge



Snelson serves as an Associate Judge for the Civil District Courts in Dallas.

At the meeting, we will also vote on the 2012 board candidates. The candidates are listed on page 1 of this newsletter.

Many thanks to Ayesha Rafi and Sarita Smithee for organizing the CLE, and to the judges for serving on the panel.