



March 2011 Newsletter

DWLA Mourns the Passing of Founder Louise Raggio



Louise Raggio, a founding member of DWLA, died on January 23, leaving behind a legacy of trailblazing legal advocacy. Raggio is well-known in the Texas legal community as the “Mother of Family Law in Texas” due to her tireless work to draft and enact the Marital Property Act in 1967 and the Texas Family Code in 1979. She graduated with highest honors from the University of Texas at Austin in 1939. As a young wife and mother, she attended SMU Law School, where she received her law degree.

Raggio had an outstanding career of firsts: She was the only woman in her law school class; she was the first woman criminal assistant district attorney in Dallas County; she was the first woman to be elected as a director of the State Bar of Texas (in its 100-year history); and she was the first woman trustee and chair of the board of the Texas Bar Foundation.

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*Save the Dates!
Upcoming DWLA Meetings
Noon at the Belo Mansion*

March 10, 2011: “How to Defuse a Hostile Deposition: Ethical Obligations and Strategies,” with Jennifer Edgeworth, Shelly Greco, Michelle Hartmann, and Lisa Hasday. Moderated by the Honorable Gena Slaughter.

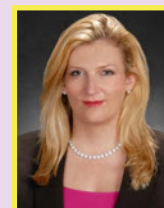
June 8, 2011: Topic to be announced.

September 8, 2011: Topic to be announced.

December 8, 2011: Topic to be announced.



CLE Credit Will Be Awarded



President's Letter
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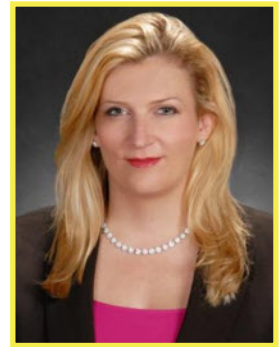


Kristina "Kris" Kastl

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President's Letter



Kristina "Krisl" Kastl

*Greetings to DWLA Members, Friends, &
Potential Members,*

I am honored and privileged to serve as the president of the Dallas Women Lawyers Association in 2011. I'm so excited about our board and our members, and am very much looking forward to the year. The board held its annual retreat on February 26 at the Tara Vineyard & Winery, and I've never been more pleased with the enthusiasm and diverse group of women in attendance.

DWLA has suffered a great loss with the passing of Louise Raggio. It is my goal and the goal of our organization to honor her memory by growing DWLA. As President of DWLA, my goal is to expand the membership of the organization by at least three fold. This growth is not only for the purpose of growing our organization, but also for the purpose of promoting women in both their careers and personal lives. Louise was one of the four founders of DWLA, and we are forever in her debt.

I am confident that with our current board, and their drive and ambition, we will meet or exceed our goals. We are already well on our way toward increasing our membership. We held a happy hour at Chocolate Secrets on February 23 and from that event we already have fifty new members. We very much encourage SMU law students and Texas Wesleyan law students to join the organization, and become involved while they are still in law school.

We also hope to expand our public service arm and networking arm as well as have new and exciting CLE topics. I'm looking forward to meeting many new people at the upcoming CLE on March 10. We are also currently working with Randy Block of Performance Legal to coordinate a CLE and happy hour in May. Please watch for future notices and information regarding that CLE. If you have any input as to what you'd like to see at our CLE events, please contact me at KKastl@kastllaw.com.

Regards,

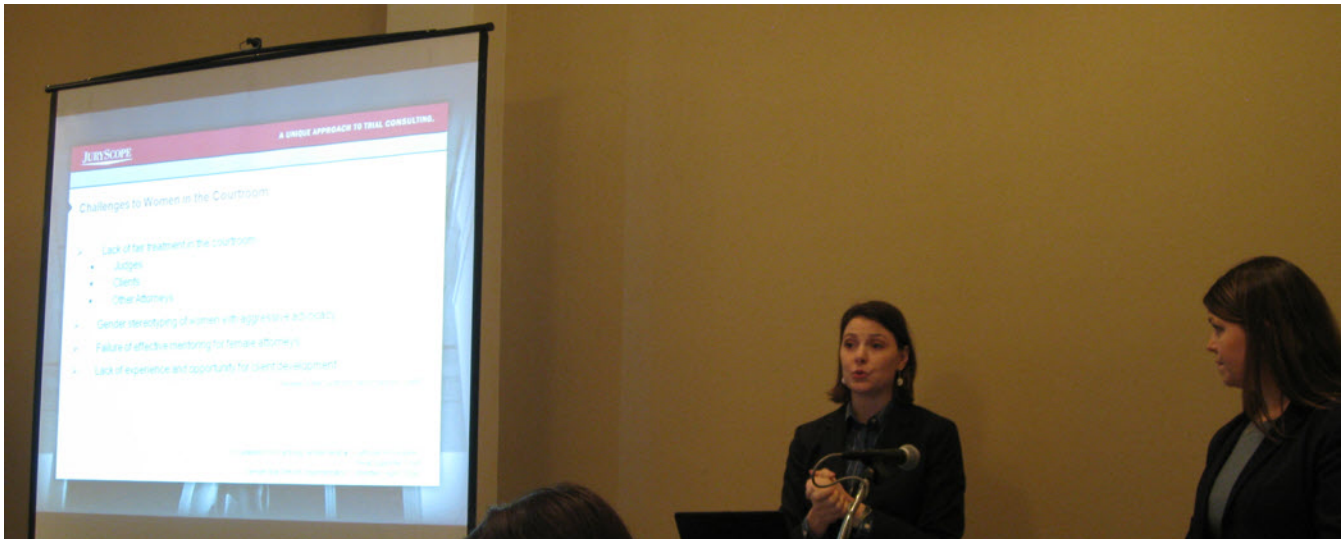
Krisi Kastl

DWLA to Raffle "Shark Ring" for Charity at March 10 Meeting



We will be raffling off a one-of-a-kind shark ring by local artist Keith Livingston - perfect for attorneys! A sample will be available for viewing at the CLE, and the winner will receive a made-to-order ring to guarantee proper sizing. Proceeds from the raffle will support a local charity. Raffle tickets will be sold in advance and on the day of the event. You do not need to be present to win.





JuryScope Discusses Women Litigators and Juror Perception

Johanna Carrane and Christina Ouska of JuryScope, Inc., a Minnesota-based trial consulting firm, spoke to DWLA on December 9 about “Women Litigators and Juror Perception.” They outlined various stereotypes that jurors have about women litigators: that they are sensitive caretakers, so-called “pit bulls with lipstick,” or mere sexual objects. Women in the courtroom take on minor celebrity status. Everything they do and wear is noticed, and they are held to a higher standard than men are.

Unfortunately, these attitudes are not limited to jurors alone. The presenters referenced a 2009 *ABA Journal* article in which male judges advised women to “lose the Ally McBeal look.” They also recalled a male judge who complimented a female attorney on her skirt.

Male attorneys and clients of both genders also harbor stereotypes that affect women’s opportunities to gain experience and advance. Indeed, among large Texas firms in 2008, women made up 44 percent of associates but only 18 percent of partners, despite significant increases in the number of women graduating from law school. Carrane and Ouska cited a failure of effective mentoring.

The presenters offered some practical advice for overcoming these obstacles. A good litigator is prepared and organized, polite but not a wilting flower, firm, confident, and attentive. During voir dire, build rapport with potential jurors by leaving the podium and addressing them by name, ask open-ended questions, listen for unrequested gender references, and be wary of those who express resentment over life trauma they have experienced.

Like it or not, dress is also very important. Carrane and Ouska recommended that women wear a skirt suit rather than a pant suit for the first couple of days in court as well as during important parts of a trial such as cross-examination. Wear a collared shirt rather than a shell, and always wear nylons. Shoes should have a closed toe and heel, and the heel should be appropriate for the individual attorney. Neutral, conservative colors are preferred.

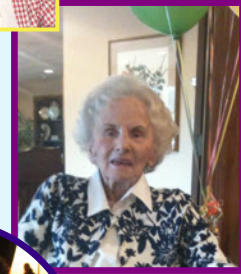
Hair is best pulled back. You should wear no more make-up than you normally wear in the office, if you wear any at all. Jewelry should be modest. Jurors like to see wedding bands, but not large engagement rings. Glasses are okay as long as you do not play with them. The presenters emphasized that you can break these rules if you have the personality to match, and that your demeanor and performance will take you further than any of their dress recommendations.

They concluded the presentation with the hope that stereotypes about female litigators will fade as women gain more of a presence in the courtroom.

DWLA Mourns the Passing of Founder Louise Raggio

(continued from Page 1)

For her work, both professional and civic, Raggio was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, and she was a recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the State Bar of Texas Presidents' Award for the outstanding lawyer of the year (1987), the SMU Distinguished Law Alumni Award (1992), the State Bar of Texas Sarah T. Hughes Outstanding Attorney Award (1993), the Dallas Bar Association's first Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award (1993), the Dallas Bar Foundation Distinguished Career Award (1997), and the Texas Bar Foundation Ethics & Professionalism Award (1997).



Since 1992, DWLA has honored Raggio with the presentation of the Louise B. Raggio Award for professionalism and the advancement of women attorneys. Raggio is also the namesake of the SMU "Louise Ballerstedt Raggio Endowed Lecture Series in Women's Studies" and an award presented annually by the National Business Women Owners Association. In 2003, her autobiography *Texas Tornado*, which she co-wrote with local journalist and author Vivian Castleberry, was published. In March 2008, she was the subject of a television documentary aired in the "Texas Trailblazer" series on KERA-TV.

Throughout her legal career, Raggio practiced law with Raggio and Raggio, the law firm that she and her late husband, Grier, founded in 1956. Subsequently, she was joined at the firm by her three sons, Grier Jr., Thomas, and Kenneth. Raggio continued to practice law until one year ago. She is survived by her sons, their spouses, her seven grandchildren, and her six great-grandchildren.

DWLA historian Kay Goggin reflected: "When Louise and the few other women attorneys including the late Sarah T. Hughes, and Annette Stewart and Joanne Peters, first gathered to meet as a women's lawyer group in the late 1960s, they were not allowed to join the Dallas Bar Association much less meet at its facility. Louise will always be remembered for her efforts in securing legal rights for families in the State of Texas, but also for leading the way for societal acceptance for women practicing law in Dallas."

DWLA will make a donation in Raggio's honor to the Raggio Endowed Lecture Series in Women's Studies at SMU.

Profile

Judge Sally Montgomery

County Court-at-Law 3

By Christina Jump

Judge Sally Montgomery has been on the bench fourteen years, and is currently in her ninth year as the Judge of County Court at Law No. 3 for Dallas County. She also serves as the Dallas representative to the Texas Association of County Courts at Law, and in this capacity has testified before the State Senate.

Since first taking the bench in 1997, she has noticed fluctuations in the treatment of women in the courtroom. She believes that, more than gender, age and experience help attorneys gain credibility.

Judge Montgomery hopes that female attorneys recognize that they are fortunate to be so well represented in the practice of law. Her advice to incoming women lawyers is as follows:



• *Dress professionally.* Judge Montgomery knew the late Louise Raggio for many years, and recalls that it was very important to Ms. Raggio that female attorneys dress professionally, so that judges and juries would focus on their arguments and not their attire.

• *Use your voice.* If juries can't hear you, they

will likely not be persuaded by you.

• *Be organized.* Know the rules of evidence before getting to the courtroom, and know how to get your evidence in, as well as the difference between arguments for opening statements versus voir dire.

In her time away from the bench, Judge Montgomery is working on a book about women on the bench, and related political history.

Before taking the bench, Judge Montgomery earned a 4.0 in her master's program, and has a background in oil and gas. She also taught high school chemistry, was a national high point swimmer at thirteen, and as one of her first endeavors helped start an Indian Princesses group (now Y Guides or Adventure Guides, through the YMCA).



**DALLAS WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 9, 2010**

1. Call to Order

President Susan Steger officially called the meeting to order at 11:22 a.m. Members in attendance included Staci Glenn, Lee Baldwin, Krisi Kastl, Margaret Allen, Michelle Hartmann, Lisa Hasday, Christy Jump, and Justice Elizabeth Lang-Miers.

2. Secretary's Report - Staci Glenn

The Minutes from the June 10, 2010 Board Meeting were presented for approval. Susan Steger moved that the Minutes be approved, and Krisi Kastl seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. President's Report - Susan Steger

President Steger announced that DWLA now has a voting position on the Board of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers. The position is currently held by Alyson Vrana. DWLA is considered a sister bar to DAYL.

A discussion was held regarding a possible affiliation with Attorneys Serving the Community.

Christy Jump attended the DBA New Member Reception on behalf of DWLA on November 18, 2010. The event was well-attended and contact information was collected for approximately 40 people.

A Happy Hour for newly licensed women lawyers is scheduled for February 23, 2011, at Chocolate Secrets in Dallas.

4. Treasurer's Report - Susan Steger

In Lynn Javier's absence, President Steger reported that the current available balance in the DWLA business account is \$17,454.01.

5. President-Elect's Report - Krisi Kastl

The Slate of Officers for 2011 was presented to the Board:

President: Krisi Kastl; President-Elect: Jill Pollak; VP Membership and Publicity: Nicole Babbitt; VP Judicial Reception: Joan Ballard; Secretary and Website: Staci Glenn; Treasurer: Lynn Javier; Newsletter Editor: Lisa Hasday; CLE/Outreach: Ayesha Rafi and Sarita Smithee; Judicial Profiles: Christy Jump; Historian: Kay Goggin; DAYL Liaison: Alyson Vrana; Directors-at-Large: Margaret Allen, Nicole Collier, Michelle Hartmann, Nida Nadir, Heather Sudbury, Paula Walsh

6. Judicial Reception - Margaret Allen

Margaret Allen led a discussion regarding possibly reducing costs for the Judicial Reception in 2011. She has received good feedback about the 2010 Judicial Reception.


7. CLE - Michelle Hartmann

President Steger thanked Michelle Hartmann for the outstanding job she did selecting CLE programs in 2010.

Ms. Hartmann reported that SMU Law Career Services requested that DWLA partner with it for an event to be held at the Belo. The Board discussed the costs and alternative, non-monetary ways in which DWLA can be involved.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.



**DALLAS WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Our Mission: The Dallas Women Lawyers Association is a non-profit corporation uniting for the mutual benefit of women attorneys and to elevate the standing of women in the legal profession.

Membership Benefits:

- Free CLE seminars on substantive law topics
 - Opportunities for networking and professional career advancement
 - Assisting with community service projects
 - Opportunities to meet and interact with the Dallas judiciary
 - Community and Pro Bono Involvement opportunities
 - Job Bank information and data available to members
 - Special events, such as the annual Judicial Reception
- Active Year: January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011**

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP DUES (Licensed Attorneys): \$35.00
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP DUES (Law Students): \$15.00*
(*SMU Law Students who are members of WIL receive complimentary dues)
JUDGES: COMPLIMENTARY

Please complete the following information and return to the address below with your dues payment.

NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS/WEB SITE ADDRESS: _____

YOUR AREAS OF PRACTICE:

_____ Administrative/Governmental	_____ Employment/Labor Law	_____ Family Law
_____ Appellate Law	_____ General Practitioner	_____ Bankruptcy
_____ Intellectual Property	_____ Corporate	_____ International Law
_____ Criminal	_____ Community Legal Services	_____ Dispute Resolution
_____ Litigation	_____ Employment/Labor Law	_____ Probate/Estate Planning
_____ Personal Injury	_____ Other (please specify: _____)	

LAW SCHOOL ATTENDED/YEAR GRADUATED: _____

Please rank the types of activities you would be interested in participating (1 most interested - 3 least interested and indicate any interest in serving on a committee):

_____ CLE	_____ Committee Interest
_____ Networking with other women lawyers and professionals	_____ Committee Interest
_____ Community Service/Pro Bono Activities	_____ Committee Interest

Please identify any topics of interest for future CLE topics: _____

Signature

Date

www.dallaswomenlawyers.org
Return application and dues payment to:
Nicole Babbitt, Vice President - Membership
Kastl Law, P.C.
4144 North Central Expressway, Suite 640
Dallas, Texas 75204
214.821.0230 (direct) 214.821.0231 (fax)
nbabbitt@kastllaw.com

Thank You

DWLA would like to thank the following sponsors of its 2010 Judicial Reception:

Platinum

Haynes and Boone, LLP
Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Silver

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
The Ashmore Law Firm, P.C.
Dallas Bar Association -
Probate, Trust & Estates Section
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP
KASTL LAW, P.C.
Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP
Merrill Corporation

Bronze

Margaret Allen • Beckham & Mandel
Calloway, Norris, Burdette & Weber, PLLC
CPI Bonding Company • Equivalent DATA
Andrew Jee PC • Kathleen's Sky Diner
Justice Elizabeth Lang-Miers • Mary Alice McLarty
Judge Sally Montgomery • Yvette Ostolaza
Susan Steger • Heather Sudbury
TARA Vineyard & Winery

Friends

Lee Baldwin • Dedman & Handschuch, PLLC
Marsha L. Dekan • The Duran Firm, PLLC
Encore Trust Company • The Friedman Law Firm, PLLC
Alexandra Geczi • Michelle Hartmann
Lisa Hasday • Jarvis Gems and Jewelry Appraisals
Lynn Javier • Christina Jump • Keyboard Kids
The Kipness Law Firm, PC • MediVisuals, Inc.
Karen D. McCloud • Jill A. Pollak
Renwick & Associates, PC • Linda Szuhy
Kathryn Veech • Alyson Vrana • Paula J. Walsh

DWLA Board of Directors 2011



President ★ Krisi Kastl
President-Elect ★ Jill A. Pollak
VP - Membership & Publicity ★ Nicole Babbitt
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,
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.

Panel on Hostile Depositions to Present on March 10

DWLA will present a panel discussion on "How to Defuse a Hostile Deposition: Ethical Obligations and Strategies," at its next meeting on March 10 at noon in the Vinson & Elkins Room at the Belo.

The panel will include Jennifer Edgeworth, Shelly Greco, Michelle Hartmann, and Lisa Hasday. The Honorable Gena Slaughter, pictured at right, will moderate the discussion.



Ms. Edgeworth is a partner at Hermes Sargent Bates, LLP. Ms. Greco is a personal injury attorney for Eberstein & Witherite, LLP. Ms. Hartmann is a partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP. Ms. Hasday is an Assistant U.S. Attorney, handling civil litigation. All of the panelists practice in Dallas.

Judge Slaughter has served on the 191st District Court since 2007.