

WOMEN'S HISTORY CELEBRATION EVENT-SCRIPT

Welcome to Women's History Celebration and CLE on Gender Bias in the Law. I am Wendy Fisher, President of the Brevard County Association for Women Lawyers, and we are delighted to have you here to participate and share in the exciting and important event. Thank you for coming. And thank you to our co-hosts, Brevard County Bar Association who is recording this event so we can offer this CLE online to members of the Florida Bar across the state. We also want to extend a special thank you to The Florida Bar who has provided partial funding for this event.

Gender Bias in the Legal Profession has been brought to the forefront recently when The Florida Bar Young Lawyers performed a survey that revealed young female attorneys are still regularly experiencing gender bias in their legal careers and encountering roadblocks to achieving work-life balance. In fact, more than 40% of those surveyed reported experiencing gender bias during their legal career. This issue has been ongoing for decades, but 2017 is the year we can eliminate gender bias in the workplace. Tonight's guest speakers will discuss what we have gone through to get where we are today, what we are still seeing in our legal profession, and how we can achieve true gender equality and eliminate bias in the legal field. Without further ado, I would like to introduce our first speaker.

Our first speaker tonight is Terry Sanders. Terry Sanders is the statewide President of Florida NOW. Terry attended Golden Gate University in San Francisco where she received her B.S. in Information Science. She worked as a business analyst before retiring to become a "full-time" activist, although she has been fighting for equality and women's rights since she was a young girl. After serving as the President of Brevard's Chapter of NOW, she was elected to lead the statewide Florida NOW chapter as their president. She has supported gender equality all her life and now works around the state towards NOW's mission lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life. Please join me in welcoming Florida NOW President, Terry Sanders.

Our next speaker tonight is Katherine Hurst Miller. Katherine Hurst Miller is an attorney from Wright and Casey, PA, a law firm in New Smyrna Beach. Ms. Miller has trial and appellate experience in her different practice areas and is a frequently speaker for bar associations and industry groups. Ms. Miller is heavily involved in legal and community service activities. She serves as the 2016-17 President of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division which has recently performed a survey on gender bias in the legal profession prompting The Florida Bar's focus on eliminating gender bias. She also sits on The Florida Bar Board of Governors, and participates in a number of committees for The Florida Bar. Previously, she was the President of the Volusia Flagler Association for Women Lawyers, the Young Lawyers Representative to the Volusia County Bar, the Vice President of Finance of the Junior League of Daytona Beach, and a Commissioner on the Seventh Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission. She is a Trustee for the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach. Ms. Miller has been recognized as a Florida Super Lawyers "Rising Star," a Florida Association for Women Lawyers "Leader in the Law," a Volusia Business Report "40 Under 40," and the Volusia Flagler

Association for Women Lawyers 2014 “Woman of the Year.” Please join me in welcoming Katherine Hurst Miller.

Our Final Speaker of the night is Mayanne Downs. Mayanne Downs is the president and managing partner at the GrayRobinson law firm, the first woman to take the reins at one of the state's largest firms. Ms. Downs, a central Florida native, has been a part of the Central Florida business community for over 35 years and has practiced law for 25 years. Mayanne’s practice areas include commercial litigation, appellate law and high stakes domestic matters. Ms. Downs served most recently as the 61st President of The Florida Bar, and has also served as the President of the Orange County Bar Association, the President of the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, the President of the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers, and the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. In her role as President of the Bar, Mayanne traveled thousands of miles, spoke over 30 times, made presentations to over 20 editorial boards, testified before the Florida Legislature, and instituted the first direction communication between bar leadership and bar members about legislative matters. Please join me in welcoming Mayanne Downs.

Thank you to our speakers for their amazing presentations. Now it is up to us to ensure that Brevard County is known for their fair practices and their elimination of gender bias in the legal profession. With that goal in mind, the Brevard County Association for Women Lawyers has created an award to honor a male and female member of the legal profession here in Brevard that exemplify persons working towards the elimination of gender bias and achievement of equality in the law. The Founders’ Award was created in honor of the founding members of Brevard County Association for Women Lawyers, who created the organization to do just that. BCACL was founded to provide support and networking for women lawyers in Brevard County, Florida, and to promote leadership roles of women in the legal profession, judiciary and community at large.

This year’s male recipient has been committed to promoting equality in the legal profession. He has been a long time member of the Brevard County Association for Women Lawyers and has encouraged many male and female lawyers to join and work towards the elimination of bias. He was one of the youngest Brevard County Bar Association Presidents in its history and also served as the past president of the Florida Council of Bar Association Presidents. He served as a prosecutor for three years at the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, trying many jury trials, and started the Child Sexual Abuse Prosecution Unit. He received the Teaching Excellence Award for his work at the Brevard Community College Criminal Justice Center (now the Eastern Florida State College Criminal Justice Center) and is a lifetime member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the first ever lifetime member of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, was chairperson of the 18C Grievance Committee of the Florida Bar and was chairperson of the 18th Judicial Circuit Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee “A”, is a member of the American Association for Justice, Florida Justice Association, The Florida Council of Bar Association Presidents, the Brevard County Bar Association, and the Orange County Bar Association. His work for this community is truly

inspiring, which is why this year's Founder's Award for the male member of the legal profession is presented to Douglas R. Beam.

This year's female recipient was one of the first members of BCAWL and a true advocate for equality. She began her career as one of the first female public defenders in Broward County before becoming the first female judge appointed by a governor in Brevard County in 1994. She has said she wanted to make a difference in this world, and her work has shown that. After working with a domestic violence victim, she began giving free legal advice at the Women's Center and chaired the new Florida Family Law Subcommittee on Domestic Violence. She was asked to sit on the Commission on Minimum Standards for Batterers' Intervention and founded Brevard County's Domestic Violence Task Force. As chair of this task force, she created a visitation center at the Salvation Army, educated schools on domestic violence, and provided cell phones to victims. Her work with domestic violence has made a huge difference for women in this county, but the real impact is seen on a door in her office. It is completely covered with photos of children she has helped in her judicial career, and has maintained contact. She has received numerous awards for children's advocacy including the William E. Gladstone Award, a statewide award for judicial leadership and service to Florida's children, and recognition by the Brevard County Commissioners for her work on children's issues. She has been an asset to this organization and has been a true mentor and role model to many in the legal community. That is why this year's female recipient of the Founders' Award is the Honorable Lisa Davidson.

Thank you all for attending. We hope you are as inspired as we are, and will go forward to help eliminate bias. And one great place to start is by visiting BCAWL's website at bcawl.com and clicking the link to be a member. This issue affects us all, and it is up to us to make the legal profession in Florida and Brevard County the best it can be. Thank you.