

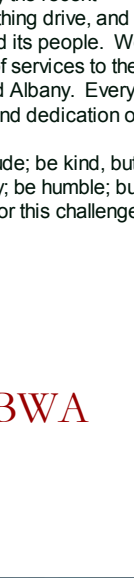
REPORTER

January 2010

Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys
P.O. Box 4381
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

IMAGES: Reflections of Who We Are

It is my privilege and honor to serve as the 29th President of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys. I am honored that the members of this prestigious organization saw fit to choose ourselves. How others see us and what effect does that have on our existence in this beloved community. Through our programming this year, I hope to make us all more cognizant of the images we portray, as well as the perceptions that our status as Black women and Black women attorneys often create in the global community. I also hope to illustrate to the rest of the state and beyond the powerful images of Black women and the issues that are central to our mission of advocating for women and children's issues from health and fitness, to education and the protection of our children from sexual predators and abusive lifestyles, from packing homelessness to joblessness, to investing in a pipeline of young people who are primed and ready to take their seat at the table and lead us into a brighter future for all.



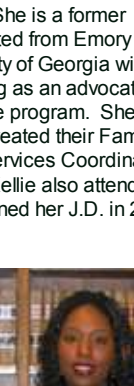
This year you will see a marked increase in the amount of service we provide to our community and to the global community. There are women and children in dire need in our city, throughout the state, and across the world. We as GABWA members are in the special position to be able to serve the least, the last, and the lost. Many of our GABWA members spent time in Labadee, Haiti in November as part of our annual CLE at Sea. Little did any of us know that two months later, the country would be rocked by an earthquake of epic proportions. Throughout the year we will pay special emphasis on the need created in Haiti by the recent earthquake. We will coordinate service projects, clothing drive, and other projects to assist with the rebuilding of that nation and its people. We will also continue to provide the same depth and range of services to the citizens of Atlanta, Savannah, Macon, Columbus, and Albany. Every city within our reach will be touched by the compassion and dedication of our members.

The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not fully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not excited; and be proud but not arrogant. I am up ready for this challenge and excited about a fabulous year.

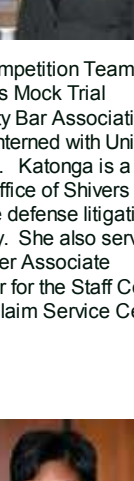
Yours for GABWA,
LaKeitha Daniels

Meet the Leadership: GABWA Date Month

LaKeitha Jonise Daniels, President - LaKeitha Jonise Daniels is legal counsel for Concessions International, LLC, a family and minority-owned company and a leading airport concessionsaire, with operations in Atlanta, Detroit, Denver, Miami, Columbia, Seattle, Portland, and St. Thomas. She is also the Principal of The Results Group, LLC, a legal and consulting firm that provides advice and counsel to small businesses, political candidates, and a host of other clients. When the economy found her out of a job last year, she followed one of her passions and opened "Sweet Justice", a bakery serving traditional and gourmet cakes and cupcakes for her own business. LaKeitha served as Corporate Counsel for Harland Clarke, a Fortune 500 company focusing on payment systems, deep as a litigation specialist at Neiland Mullins. LaKeitha has been a member of GABWA since 2003, serving on the Executive Board for the past 4 years as President-Elect, Vice-President, Parliamentarian and Historian/Journalist. She was recently named to the Atlanta Business League's 2010 list of "Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence". LaKeitha was also named one of Georgia Trend's Top 40 Under Forty for 2008 and named Community Champion by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for 2009. Ms. Daniels is a member of a host of community organizations, on the Board of the Red Clay Democrats and the American Constitutional Society, and a member of Delta Sigma Theta. She received her Juris Doctor from Tulane University School of Law and completed her undergraduate degree in Mass Media Arts/Public Relations at Clark Atlanta University.



Jamala S. McFadden, President-Elect/Judicial Review Co-Chair - Jamala is a senior associate at Sutherland. She focuses her practice on complex business litigation and defending employers in employment litigation matters. She also provides advice and consulting to various policy makers and practices a employment laws and member of Sutherland's Hiring and Pro Bono & Community Service Committees. She chairs the National Bar Association's Pro Bono & Community Service Committee and serves on the Boards of Atlanta Legal Aid (Advocare), the Justice Center, and the West End Boys & Girls Clubs. In addition, Jamala co-chaired the Georgia State Bar's 2007-2008 graduation ceremony. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Michigan Law School. She is the proud parent of Jamal, who is an active Man of GABWA.



JaDawnya C. Butler, Vice President - JaDawnya C. Butler is a Solo-Practitioner with The Butler Law Group, LLC specializing in Criminal Defense and Family Law. She currently serves the Bar through The Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys as Vice President and as the Co-Chair of The State Bar's Young Lawyers Division. She is Women in the Profession Committee. She attended Spelman College where she earned a degree in Bachelor of Arts in History. JaDawnya attended The University of Florida Levin College of Law where she earned the highest grades in several of her classes and was the speaker at her law school graduation. JaDawnya is also a past president of the Georgia Court of Appeals. Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears of the Georgia Supreme Court and the oldest Black female law firm in the Southeast. Thomas, Kennedy, Sampson & Patterson. She is the recipient of The University of Florida's 2007-2008 Outstanding Alumni Award and was a recipient of The Young Lawyers Division's Leadership Academy, and a recent appointee to The Fulton County Board of Ethics.



Stacey Burton, Vice President of Technology - Stacey serves as Human Resources Business Partner for Google's Atlanta office. Prior to working for Google, Stacey worked for Fisher & Phillips where she defended employees against various labor and employment claims and counseled employers on employment practices. She also graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law and holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Psychology from Columbia University. Prior to attending law school, Stacey worked for CIGNA Corporation as an associate in their Human Resources Leadership Development Program.



Kellie Kenner, Vice President, Augusta - Kellie is an Assistant Solicitor in the Augusta-Richmond County Solicitor's Office. She is a former staff attorney for Judge Gail S. Tusan. Kellie graduated from Emory University with a B.A. in Psychology and the University of Georgia with a B.S. in Psychology. After graduate school, she began working as an advocate for the Fulton County Solicitor's Office Victim Assistance program. She worked for the Solicitor's Office until Fulton County created their Family Law Court, at which time she was promoted to the position of Family Law Advocate. While working with the Fulton County Family Court, Kellie also attended the Georgia State University College of Law and earned her J.D. in 2004.



Katonga Wright (Harris), Vice President - Katonga-Katonga is licensed in both Georgia and Florida. She attended Emory University, Atlanta, GA (BS-Chemistry, May 1999), before practicing law. Katonga worked as a forensic toxicologist and expert witness with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Laboratory. She attended Georgia State University College of Law, in Columbus, GA, and was the Vice-President of the Student Trial Lawyers Association Mock Trial Team, Vice-President, Black Law Students Association, 2007 National Mock Trial Competition Regional Winner, National Runner-Up, 2006 Bioethics Mock Trial Competition Team- First Place, and a 2006 Georgia City Bar Association Scholarship Recipient. From 2006-2007, Katonga interned with United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Georgia. Katonga is a Traverses Insurance Staff Counsel Attorney with the office of Silvers & Associates, Alpharetta, GA. She practices insurance defense litigation with a concentration in personal and business liability. She also serves as chairperson on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Summer Associate Program, Southeast Regional Recruiting Coordinator for the Staff Counsel Diversity Committee, and serves on the Alpharetta Claim Service Center Diversity Executive Board.



Judge Erica L. Woodford, Vice President, Macon - Judge Woodford was appointed to the position of Associate Civil Court Judge and Magistrate of Bibb County on January 2, 2007. Prior to her current position, she operated a private law practice in Macon from May 2001 - December 2006. She received her B.A. from Mercer University in 1987 and her J.D. from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in 2000.



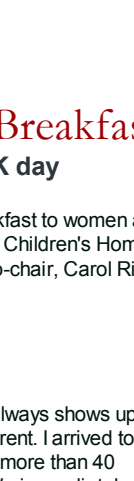
Gwendolyn Gordon Waring, Vice President, Savannah - Gwendolyn received a B.A. from Princeton University in 1977. After a 12 year career in retail management and merchandising, she received a Juris Doctor from Georgia State University College of Law in 1992. She practices civil trial litigation concentrating on family, probate, and employment discrimination law in Savannah. She also serves in the following organizations: Metropolitan Community Church, Parliamentarian and a Past-President of GAAA; and the Telfair Museum of Art.



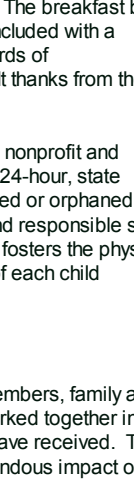
Anissa Floyd, Secretary - Anissa Floyd graduated from Tulane University School of Law. She focuses her practice on Labor and Employment Law. Currently, she serves GABWA as the Secretary for the second consecutive year.



Royce Blitt, Assistant Secretary/Newsletter Chair - Royce Blitt is a Child Advocate with the Fulton County Juvenile Court. She graduated from Stetson College of Law where she competed on the moot court team winning best brief and arguing in the final round of the Robert H. Taylor Moot Court Competition. Royce earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois.



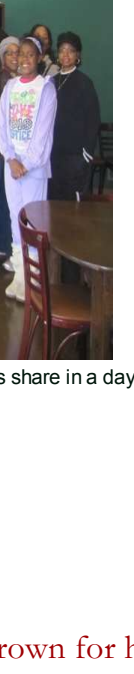
DeLana Jones, Treasurer - DeLana is an associate in the Labor & Employment Department of Seyfarth Shaw LLP. She previously served as GABWA Treasurer in 2008. She received her undergraduate degree from Florida A&M University and her Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. Prior to attending law school, DeLana worked as an auditor for Arthur Andersen and KPMG.



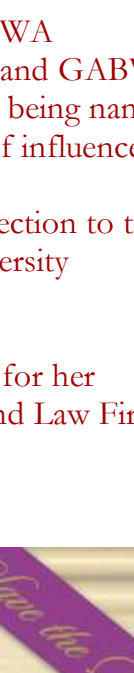
Rita Treadwell, Parliamentarian - Rita Treadwell is an associate at Work History, Training & Rice, PLLC. She served as a mentor and Co-Chair of Sister to Sister in 2004 and volunteered with the Civil Pro Bono Program for over two years. Rita earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. She is also a member of the Junior League of Atlanta where she serves as Co-Chair of the Board Bar Committee. Rita is also a member of the University of Georgia. She received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Hampton University and her Juris Doctor from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University.



Enjoliqé Aych, Historian/Journalist - Enjoliqé Aych is an associate attorney at Enjoliqé Aych LLP, where she practices on pharmaceutical and medical device products liability litigation. In addition, she has experience in government contracts and government litigation. Enjoliqé served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Patsy Y. Porter of the State Court of Georgia and interned at the Supreme Court of Georgia's Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears. In 2001, Enjoliqé earned a Juris Doctor, cum laude, from the University of Georgia School of Law. In 2003, Enjoliqé earned a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society from American University. Enjoliqé is also a professional and community leader including serving on the Editorial Board of The Atlanta Lawyer, and membership with the American Health Lawyers Association, the Young Lawyers Division of the Georgia State Bar Association, the Atlanta Bar Association, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, and the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation. Enjoliqé currently participates in the State Bar of Georgia's 2010 YLD Leadership Academy.



Karen W. Neely, Member-at-Large - Karen is an associate with Bryan Cave Powell Goldstein Employment, and Immigration Practice Group. In her litigation practice, Karen defends employers against discrimination and retaliation claims under Title VII, the ADA, the FMLA, and the FLSA. In addition to litigation, she advises employers on preventive management including the development of effective personnel policies and practices on harassment and discrimination. Karen's practice also includes counseling employers on compliance with state employment laws.



Adwaa Ghartey-Togoo Seymour, Member-at-Large - Adwaa Ghartey-Togoo Seymour is an associate at Bryan Cave Powell Goldstein practicing in the area of Commercial Litigation and Product Liability law. Ms. Seymour graduated from Georgia State University College of Law and obtained her undergraduate degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio with a Bachelor of Arts in Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs. Ms. Seymour has a strong background in public interest advocacy. She represents children pro bono in truancy proceedings in Fulton County Juvenile Court through the Truancy Intervention Project and serves on the Board of the Georgia Children's Treatment Council. She has also volunteered to have access to high-quality, affordable after school and summer learning opportunities. Ms. Seymour also serves in a leadership capacity over her child's youth ministry. Ms. Seymour has been an active GABWA member for the past several years serving as the organization's Inter-Bar Relations Chair for the past two years. She has also served on GABWA's Auction Committee and the GABWA Foundation Scholarship Committee. This year, Ms. Seymour was named one of GABWA members as one of the organization's Member-At-Large and as Chair of the Ad-Hoc Sponsorship and Awards Committee.



Haniyah J. Miller, Student Member-at-Large - Haniyah J. Miller is a second-year law student at Georgia State University, School of Law. Prior to attending law school, she was a member of the Delta Chi Fraternity at Georgia State University. Currently, she serves as a Senior Editor to the Southern Region Black Law Student Association Law Journal, Vice-President of the Georgia State University BLSA Chapter, Corporate Legal Intern to the CEO of MARTA, and a member of the Board of Directors for a non-profit organization, Alternate Life Program. Haniyah J. Miller has also been on the Gala Committee and Technology Committee for GABWA. She was also awarded the GABWA Scholarship for 2009.



Sonja Natasha Brown, Immediate Past President - Sonja Natasha Brown is an Assistant District Attorney who serves as the Director of Victim Services with the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. Sonja is the immediate Past President of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA), and previously served as GABWA's Vice-President and Community Service Co-Chair. She was recently named the 2008 John Marshall Law School Distinguished Alumni, one of Atlanta's 100 Most Influential Women by the Atlanta Business League, and one of the 100 most influential in law and business by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. Sonja received her JD from John Marshall Law School - Atlanta and her undergraduate degree from Clark Atlanta University where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Media Arts.



GABWA's Annual MLK Breakfast

GABWA celebrated a day "on" as they served breakfast to women and children in two different locations, Carrie Steele Pitts Children's Home and Mary Hall Freedom House. Community chair and co-chair, Carol Riley and Mystical Sludaway share their day of service.

Carrie Steele Pitts Children's Home
Wow! What a great way to start out 2010! GABWA always shows up and shows out and this MLK, Jr. Day holiday was no different. I am proud to be a part of this MLK, Jr. Day holiday and to have more than 40 volunteers ready and willing to begin working. We immediately divided up the responsibilities and before you know it, a wonderful breakfast of eggs, grills, bacon, toast, danishes and juice were ready to be served. The 30 children and 10 adults arrived with smiling faces and hungry stomachs ready to devour the delicious meal. The breakfast began with a wonderful prayer by the residents and was concluded with a rendition of the Black National Anthem and some words of encouragement from GABWA members and heartfelt thanks from the children.

The Carrie Steele Pitts Children's Home is a private, nonprofit and non-discriminatory child caring agency that provides 24-hour, state approved residency for neglected, abandoned, abused or orphaned children. Through the services of caring, informed, and responsible staff, the home aims to maintain a family environment that fosters the physical, social-emotional, mental and spiritual development of each child.

Mary Hall Freedom House
Thank You! Thank You! Thank You, to all GABWA Members, family and friends who gave of their time on Monday. We all worked together in the spirit of giving back, just a small portion of what we have received. The gesture may have seemed small but it made a tremendous impact on the women and children of Mary Hall Freedom House. In addition to providing breakfast to the women and children of Mary Hall Freedom House, we had enough food to make approximately 30 to-go plates to provide breakfast to a small portion of Atlanta's homeless community. Thanks to all who were able to donate items (diapers, baby wipes and Similac) to benefit Genesis Shelter. The Community Service Committee would like to thank all of the GABWA members, friends and family as well as the staff and residents of both the Mary Hall Freedom House and Carrie Steele, Pitts Group Home who participated in the success of this special day. GABWA can proudly say our "Day of Service" was a true success!!!!

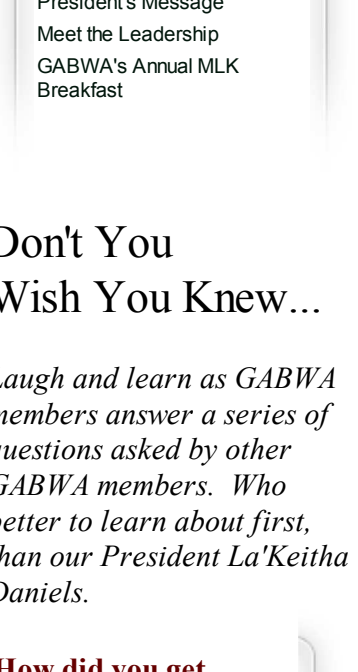
Carol D. Riley, Community Service Committee, Chair
Mystical Sludaway, Community Service Committee, Co-Chair



You Go Girl!

Congratulations to...

Immediate Past President Sonja Brown for her promotion within the Fulton County D.A.'s office.
President LaKeitha Daniels, GABWA member Allegra Lawrence-Hardy, and GABWA member Gwen Keyes-Fleming for being named one of Atlanta's top 100 women of influence.
Allegra Lawrence-Hardy for her election to the President of the Atlanta Legal Diversity Consortium.
President-Elect Jannala McFadden for her promotion to Counsel at Sutherland Law Firm.



In This Issue
President's Message
Meet the Leadership
GABWA's Annual MLK Breakfast

Don't You Wish You Knew...

Laugh and learn as GABWA members answer a series of questions asked by other GABWA members. Who better to learn about first, than our President LaKeitha Daniels.

How did you get involved in GABWA? When I began as an associate at Neilson Mullins in 2003, Anita Wallace Thomas told me "You need to join GABWA. As a matter of fact, you need to join and get involved so that in 7 years you can be President." Talk about prophetic, I haven't doubted a word she's said since then.

What is the biggest challenge facing GABWA today? Participation. We are an organization to that boasts about having 500 members yet we rarely see our members come out in those numbers. I'd like to see us meet this challenge this year through our JUST ONE Campaign and get more of our inactive members to become more active.

If your life became a book, what would the title be?
"Out of the Mouths of Babes." I have been the youngest person, everywhere, my entire life. I started reading at the age of 2 so that's when my mom put me in school. That meant I was always the youngest person in my grade level. I graduated high school at 16, with a high school diploma and an Associates of Arts degree due to my dual enrollment in high school and community college. So I then became the youngest student in the entering class at Clark Atlanta. I thought perhaps law school might change that but entered Tulane as the youngest 1L in the Class of 2003. Although I've been the youngest everywhere, my entire life, it has afforded me great success and wonderful opportunities.

Best travel experience?
Spending 10 days traveling with my best friend to Milan, Venice, Florence and small cities in between. Florence is hands down my favorite city in the world. I'm sure it has a small something to do with the fabulous Gucci outlet there, but not much.

What are your favorite luxuries or little indulgences?
Swedish Massage from Spa Sydell in Midtown (Call Rasheed and you'll never call another!).

Characteristic you most admire in yourself?
Loyalty. I am a trusted, "ride-or-die" type of person. My friendships with people run deep and those who are closest to me know that no matter what, I am going to ride with them to the end of the earth.

Moment you realized you wanted to become a lawyer?
The first was a child at the center of the Boycott Miami, a citywide boycott led by local African-American lawyers and businessmen, in response to the shunning of Nelson Mandela's visit to Miami Beach upon his release from prison. The last was as a Senior in college who decided that a PR degree wasn't enough to make me going money by itself...I had to do SOMETHING...so I said "let's take the LSAT".

Dream alternative career if you were independently wealthy?
A stylist! I love to shop! If I could shop for others all day and then dress them up, it would be a dream come true for me.

What one thing would you take to a desert island?
Another person. Does that count? I don't really like being by myself. The voices in my head start to get louder.

What are the causes I believe in?
Eradicating homelessness. When I was 8, my parents started a homeless mission at our church in Miami. So every Friday night until I graduated high school, we would go out and feed the homeless in Downtown Miami. It gave me an in-depth look at poverty and how we could all be one paycheck away from homelessness. It's also why one of my favorite places to perform service is the Genesis Shelter, a transitional facility for homeless babies and their families.

Favorite form of exercise?
Walking up and down the aisles of the mall (great leg work) and lifting weights cleverly disguised as shopping bags into and out of my trunk (to work on my biceps and triceps of course).

Best strategy for staying balanced?
Making time for myself. If you wait on others to give you time, you'll never get it. Even when I made time just for me because it makes me a better employee and a better person. I also try not to take myself too seriously. Life is short. We should laugh more often. It creates a much more pleasant life.

Why "Sweet Justice"?
In July of last year I got laid off from my comfy, cushy in-house job and began doing something that I loved to do--bake. I always baked for other people and all of a sudden had much free time with which to do it. So I decided to open my own business as a lawyer turned baker, and so it became "Sweet Justice."