

Lisa Collins Honored for Phenomenal Fundraising on Behalf of Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys

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GABWA President Rita Treadwell thanks Lisa Collins for her successful three-year stint as chair of the Glitter Gala & Auction

Scholarships for black women attending law school. A mentoring program that puts juvenile offenders on the path to college. Free health screenings and education. Pro bono advice on housing issues and estate planning. All of these programs are funded and supported by the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA) and much of it has been made possible by the more than half a million dollars raised during Partner Lisa Collins' three-year tenure as the chair of GABWA's signature fundraising event, the Glitter Gala & Auction.

GABWA recently honored Collins for her ground-breaking success as Gala Chair. Collins is a member of the GABWA Executive Board and the longest-serving Gala Chair in the organization's history. She steps down this year as Gala Chair, having led the effort to raise more than \$500,000 for the GABWA Foundation's outreach efforts. Collins will remain active in the Gala planning process, staying on as a "chair emeritus" to assist the incoming organizer. "It's so much work, but it's wonderful for fundraising and for raising GABWA's profile," she said.

Collins is not alone in her dedication to GABWA and its work. Partner Charlotte Combre is the vice president of the GABWA Foundation and Associate Ava Blake is the chair of the organization's Intellectual Property Law Section. "Both have been invaluable to the success of the Gala and in service to the GABWA Foundation," Collins said.

Collins said that in addition to the law school scholarships, one of the most life-changing programs GABWA supports is Sister2Sister®, in which the organization partners with the Fulton County Juvenile Court to provide mentoring and life skills workshops to teenage girls convicted of nonviolent crime. "It's been a great success. The majority of the girls in the program go on to college and do not re-enter the court system," Collins said. "And many of them are the first in their families to attend college."

In seeking corporate sponsorships for the Gala, Collins also notes that she has been able to build relationships with many Georgia business executives and in-house counsel, having met with key leaders from Home Depot, Coca-Cola, Mercedes-Benz and Delta, among others.

GABWA also plans an annual trip for its members that combines travel and legal education. Collins has joined her fellow members to visit Dubai, and just this summer, Switzerland, where the group toured the Swiss Supreme Court and met the chief justice.

GABWA was founded in 1981 and has an active membership of nearly 500 men and women. Its mission is to support and galvanize the power of black women attorneys, advocate for women and children, and empower communities.



(L to R) Back row: Associate Craig Cupid, Partner Lisa Collins, Associate Ava Blake; Front row: Partner Charlotte Combre, Counsel Toni Paschall, Legal Secretary Sanaa Hooda, Associate Kaitlyn Appleby and Summer Associate Jarvarus Gresham