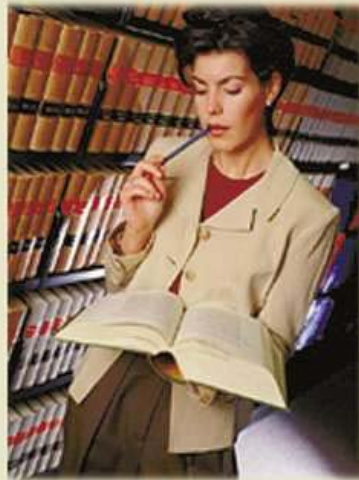


A Tribute to Our Lady Lawyers



FirstLadyLawyer.com

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June 2007

A Special Advertising Section of The Valdosta Daily Times



Lori Huff

Attorney At Law



Lori Huff

Lori is from Vancouver, Washington. She attended California Western School of Law in San Diego California in 1994. How did she get to Valdosta? She married John Huff, a Valdosta native. They have two children, Tiffani (11) and Timothy (8), who attend county schools. The Huff family enjoys family and recreational time; boating, swimming, soccer, football, baseball and cheerleading. During the season, they attend Blazer football games with friends.

Lori has her own firm, with a very specialized interest. She is a "Boutique" law firm that specializes in Corporate Law and Real Estate. Her primary practice consists of Low Income Housing Tax Credit Real Estate Transfers, a large complex commercial transactions, mergers, acquisitions and syndications. In conjunction with the real estate

practice, she has a corporate practice that specializes in corporations, partnerships, LLC's and other business entities. Lori represents several real estate developers from coast to coast. She is licensed in Washington, Oregon and Georgia

When asked about her greatest challenges, Lori's reply was, "The greatest challenge of being an attorney is not letting the label define who you are. The very nature of humans is to label and categorize everything. Once people find out you are an attorney, they form certain expectations and presuppositions about you. It is very important that people see me as "Lori" the mother, friend, and person first and the attorney label comes after all the rest. The greatest challenge of being a female attorney is the same as women in all careers. How do we balance our career and

our family lives? We strive for the impossible goal of being perfect at both and when we fall short, we experience guilt. The greatest challenge is not letting the guilt get you down and consume you. We have the opportunity to enjoy both career and family and we need to take advantage of that opportunity and get rid of the guilt."

When Lori is not being Supermom or Lawyer lady, she is giving back to the community. She has served as member and an officer with Prevent Child Abuse Lowndes County, and has been an advocate for children throughout the state. In the past, she has coached T-Ball and softball.

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Women Lawyers in Georgia

— A Brief History



In 1911 Minnie Hale Daniel became the first woman to graduate from law school in Georgia, but it took five years (until 1916) to get the legislature to pass the "Women's Lawyer Bill" so that women could practice law.

As women gained the right to vote, and other legal barriers to full participation in civic life were removed, Minnie Hale Daniel and 18 other bold women lawyers founded GAWL in 1928. The first GAWL meetings were dinner meetings, but after the stock market crash, dinners were dispensed with and meetings were held at members' homes until better economic times arrived.

In the 1940s, many universities were still not admitting women, and many wonderful pioneers in the profession were denied admittance to school because of gender. Georgia Tech rejected Emily Bourne Grigsby because she was a woman, and Harvard Law School rejected Phyllis Kravitch because of her gender.



Upon her graduation from another law school, no one would hire her as a lawyer. Emily Grigsby's experiences made her an active feminist and Phyllis Kravitch later became the first federal judge in the southeast, among other distinctions.

On December 21, 1953, Governor Herman Talmadge signed into law a bill permitting women to serve on juries for the first time. To pay tribute to the work of GAWL in advancing the legislation, Tommie Parrish, GAWL President, and Gloria Ann Clark, GAWL Legislative Chair, were asked to sit in the Senate Chambers when the bill was passed.

In 1971 Georgia lawyers Dorothy Toth Beasley and Margie Pitts Hames argued opposing sides of *Doe v. Bolton* (the companion case to *Roe v. Wade*) at the U.S. Supreme Court. Court insiders believe this was the first time in that court's history that women argued both sides. Dorothy Toth Beasley later became Judge Beasley of the Georgia Court of

Appeals and left a legacy in marble when she had "and women" chiseled into the quote behind the bench in the courtroom.

By the late 1980s, much had changed for women lawyers in Georgia. But those women practicing in rural areas were as lonely as our founders in the 1920s. Hon. Cathy Cox, who was elected Secretary of State of Georgia in 1998, practiced in Bainbridge and was the only "lady lawyer" for 11 counties!

It wasn't until 1992 that Georgia got a woman on the Supreme Court. Justice Leah Ward Sears was also the youngest person ever to serve on the court, and was previously the first black woman Superior Court judge in Georgia. Shortly thereafter Justice Sears was joined by Justice Carol Hunstein.



Source: www.gawl.org (Georgia Association of Women Lawyers Website)

Copeland, Haugabrook & Walker

Copeland, Haugabrook and Walker are a team of progressive and aggressive lawyers, one of whom is Karla Walker, who was born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut.

The other two partners are Roy Copeland and Nathaniel Haugabrook. Karla received her B. A. in History at Yale University, and then obtained her Doctorate of Jurisprudence at Mercer University. When she graduated in 1996, she moved to the Valdosta area to begin her new career. She has been at her current firm for 10 years; six of those as a partner.

Her areas of focus are personal injury (including car accidents and other forms of negligence), workers compensation and criminal defense. She is a member of the Georgia Bar Association, Valdosta Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Association of Yale Alumni, and Starling Group Board, which focuses on local economics.

During her time spent at Yale, she was the Musical Director and President of the Yale Gospel Choir. She was also a student worker for the Dean of Undergraduate Affairs.

Determined to learn and gain experience in her field, while in law school, Karla was the research assistant for one of her professors.

When asked of her greatest challenges, Karla's reply was, "One of my greatest challenges as an attorney is overcoming the stereotypes and stigma. Many approach you with the shady/liar mentality. For the most part, the field is male dominated. I am accustomed to being the only woman in the room, but it's something you get used to. It only becomes an issue for me when I encounter a disrespectful person who is not accustomed to an aggressive, intellectual woman."

Though she is tough in the courtroom, she still enjoys life. Karla is the Youth Pastor at her church, where she is responsible for overseeing all youth activities. She participates in the Hands Up Ministry, where she is a speaker and coordinator for the program, which is designed to provide youth age 16 and up the skills needed to succeed in their finances, careers and education. Some of the other programs she works with are: Girls of



Karla Walker

Grace Summer Program, Roadmap to Success, and she was the Chairperson for the Community Outreach Day at the Tabernacle Church. Karla recently started a seminar for first time probationers. During the seminar, she addresses employment, education and other issues that young adults face. She enjoys being a positive impact for other people.



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Women In the Justice System

Women are an integral and now permanent part of the legal profession, comprising 24 percent of the nation's lawyers. The percentage of female lawyers has nearly doubled since 1985 when it was 13 percent, and is eight times the percentage of women practicing law in 1971 (only 3% in '71).

Women's place in the profession continues to grow. Forty-four percent of all law students are women, and it is expected that women will make up 40 percent of the legal profession by 2010. At the same time, current projections suggest that the legal profession will never be 50 percent female even though the population is.

Women have begun to establish themselves as leaders in the profession. As of 1997, women comprised 14 % of law firm partners, 19% of full time professorships at law schools, 8% of law school deans, 19% of federal judges, and 20% of state civil judges.

Their representation in leadership positions is outpacing their overall increasing numbers. In the last 10 years while the overall growth of attorneys was 77%, women roles in leadership position grew by over 100%.

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LANGDALE VALLOTTON, LLP

1007 North Patterson Street • Valdosta • 229-244-5400

Christina L. Folsom, "Tina", received her Juris Doctorate from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in 1999. She formerly practiced in Albany, GA before relocating to Valdosta and joining Langdale Vallotton in 2006. She is a member of the Valdosta Bar Association and the State Bar of Georgia. She is admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the Supreme Court of Georgia, the Court of Appeals for the State of Georgia, as

well as the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia.

In conjunction with her professional affiliations, Tina is also actively involved in the community. She is involved in the Valdosta Junior Service League, and volunteers her time at Habitat for Humanity and America's Second Harvest. She is a member of Park Avenue United Methodist Church. She also has given ethics presentations to educators on behalf of the Professional Association

of Georgia Educators.

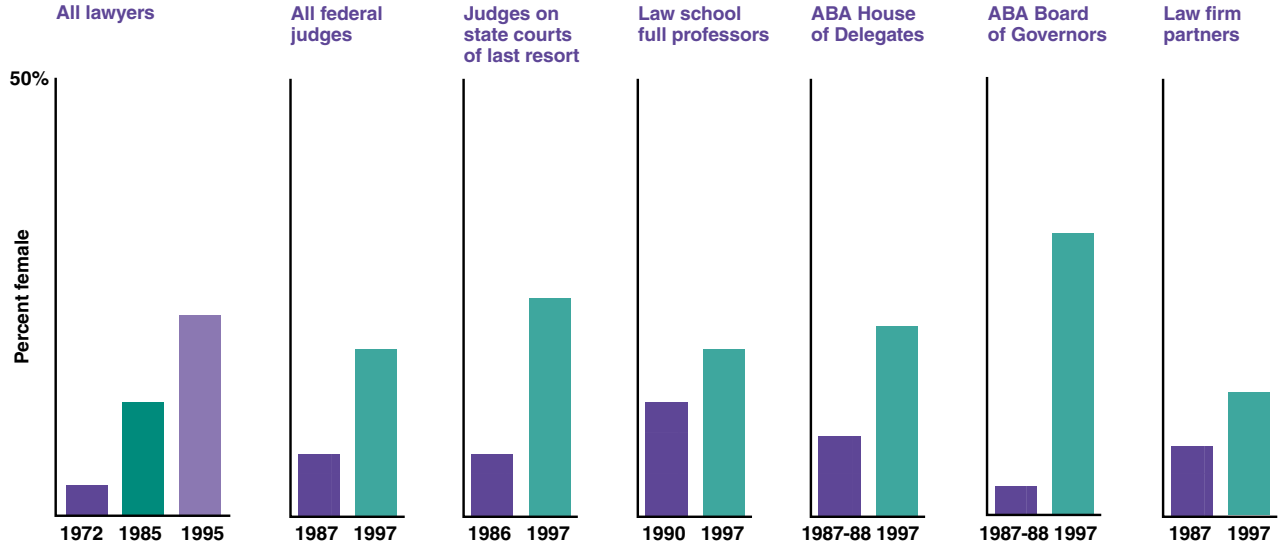
Tina's practice includes representing creditors in bankruptcy, representing educators in disciplinary actions brought by the Professional Standards Commission as well as in employment actions brought by local school boards, representing employees and employers in worker's compensation cases, and general civil litigation.



Christina Folsom

Continued from page 5

Graph 1 / Women as Leaders in the Legal Profession



Sources: American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession, Report to the ABA House of Delegates, on the Status of Women in the Legal Profession, August 10, 1988; American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession, *Women and the ABA: A*

History of Women's Involvement in the ABA, 1965-1989; American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession, *1997 Goal IX Report Card*; Federal Judicial Center; National Center for State Courts

<http://www.abanet.org/media/factbooks/womenlaw.pdf>

**MOORE CLARKE
DUVALL & RODGERS**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**2805 N. Oak Street • Valdosta
229-245-7823**

**Mother, Wife, Attorney &
Community Volunteer**

Valdosta native Ellen Golden is a woman on the go – Ellen is a mother and wife active in her community and her profession. She is a tireless volunteer and is a local attorney with the firm of Moore, Clarke, DuVall & Rodgers, P.C.

The mother of a ten year old son, Ellen enjoys supporting Seth, a student at West Gordon Elementary, who likes playing baseball. Ellen is married to our State

Senator Tim Golden, part-owner of Beacon Hill Financial, a mortgage brokerage firm located in Valdosta.

Past Board Chair of the Lowndes County Children's Advocacy Center, Ellen is focused on helping children. Ellen is an active member of Park Avenue United Methodist Church. She also volunteers at local nursing homes, and enjoys conducting bingo games for seniors. Ellen enjoys yoga and is an exercise enthusiast.

A legal practitioner since 1989, she joined the law firm of Moore, Clarke, DuVall & Rodgers in October 2006. MCDR specializes in the representation of individuals and companies with their business needs. The firm's practice groups include Real Estate, Business and Banking, Tax, Agriculture and Civil Litigation Defense. Ellen is a member of the Civil Litigation team and while this

group includes employment law and insurance defense litigation, Ellen focuses her practice in workers' compensation defense by representing employers in claims brought by employees.

Ellen was born and raised in Valdosta. She attended the Valdosta City School system and graduated from Valdosta High School in 1982. She later graduated with honors from Valdosta State University in 1986. Ellen received her Juris Doctor in 1989 from Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University.



Ellen Golden



Anderson & Bradley

“Team Work is Everything”

The Anderson & Bradley Law Firm is comprised of two dynamic women who are not afraid of the courtroom. Nancy Anderson and Latesha Bradley united to start a small, full-service law firm that provides representation in the areas of family law, criminal defense, probate, personal injury and immigration law. Both ladies believe that because of their backgrounds and unique perspectives, they are able to relate to their clients on a personal level and be aggressive advocates for their clients.

Latesha Bradley is a Valdosta native and graduate of Valdosta High School. She was encouraged by her father, Clifford Bradley I, to pursue a career in law like his favorite TV personality, Perry Mason. She obtained a B.A. in History at Georgia Southern University and her Doctorate of Jurisprudence at Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. After graduation she moved back to Valdosta to begin her

career at Georgia Legal Services.

Nancy Anderson is from Conway, South Carolina. Her first inspirations to become a lawyer were as a teenager when she read the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It was the character Atticus Finch who inspired her to pursue a career in law. After graduation from high school, she moved to Atlanta to attend college and law school. During the summer of 1998 Nancy came to Valdosta to participate in an internship program at Georgia Legal Services. This is when she first met Latesha. After graduating from Emory University School of Law, she decided to move to Valdosta to continue her work as a Staff Attorney.

During their time at GLSP, Nancy and Latesha became good friends and colleagues. They were inspired by each other's aggressive styles and compassion for their clients. After working together for several years, they decided to open their own firm in January 2003.

Both ladies are recipients of the Distinguished Trial Advocacy Award, given by the International Academy of Trail Lawyers, recipients of 2005 Georgia Rising Star Award, and in 2006 they received the award of



Latesha Bradley & Nancy Anderson

excellence for serving victims of domestic violence. In addition, they are members of the Georgia Bar Association, Valdosta Bar Association and the Valdosta Criminal Defense Association. Nancy and Latesha are also sponsors of the Southside Recreation Center Great Easter Egg Hunt, Fun Fitness day, and team sponsor for the Buccaneers.

When the successful duo is not working, they enjoy extra curricular activities like everyone else. Latesha is involved in several ministries at Woodlawn Forrest Church of Christ and enjoys sports, traveling and spending time with her family. In her free time, Nancy enjoys traveling, politics, and spending time with her family and friends.

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