

FBA Past Presidents

Discuss Women in the Law



Ellen M. Lazarus
1993-94



Adrienne A. Berry
1998-99



Jackie A. Goff
1999-00



Joyce E. Kitchens
2003-04



Robyn J. Spalter
2005-06
*deceased



Juanita Sales Lee
2008-09



Ashley L. Belleau
2010-11



Fern C. Bomchill
2011-12

Why do you think it is important that the Federal Bar Association is having a conference on women in the law?



Women lawyers in the United States have made significant strides in this past century, but they still struggle to advance in the legal profession. Certain questions come to mind: What lessons can be learned from the integration of more women into high-level government attorney positions? Is there a “glass ceiling” for women lawyers? Why are women so underrepresented in the judiciary? Why is there still a significant pay disparity? Can women lawyers truly achieve a family–work–life balance without personal or professional sacrifice? What are the perceptions of powerful or “less traditional” women? Are women attorneys perceived by some employers as less committed to their practices than men are? Are there particular legal environments that may be “friendlier” to women attorneys? How can we keep talented women attorneys from opting out of practicing law? Are there dialogues that we can start in law schools to help mentor and expand women attorneys’ choices? Meaningful research and analysis of these issues can help us assess how to address these challenges.



It is important to have a women in the law conference because for most women lawyers, their professional life is different from their male counterparts. Women need to share experiences and network with other women all over the country.



I think it helps women to share their experiences, so having a women in the law conference allows women to network, bottom line. It is still a male dominated world and you have to play in it, but women should never overlook the contacts they can make among themselves. Women are still in a profession where men remain the majority and it is still noteworthy when women become managing partners