



FAWL's Outstanding Public Service Award Nomination Form Deadline March 3, 2014

FAWL is a statewide voluntary bar association comprised of thirty (30) chapters throughout the state. A major purpose of FAWL is to provide a network among the chapters to exchange ideas and information to aid the chapters in providing service to their members and develop women leaders in the community. This award is presented to the chapter that has presented the most outstanding public service program during this past year.

Criteria for Selection:

This award is presented annually to the FAWL chapter that has presented an outstanding program that is: (1) beneficial and/or educational to a non-legal segment of the community, the community at large; or a specific charitable organization or cause; (2) reflective of FAWL's mission, and (3) easily recreated by other chapters.

Chapter Nomination Eligibility:

Each chapter in good standing is eligible and encouraged to nominate a program. The nominated program must have occurred during the 2013-2014 FAWL year. Each chapter is limited to one nomination for this award.

Award Recipient:

The award recipient will receive a two hundred fifty dollar (\$250.00) cash award

Nomination Documentation:

Please provide the chapter Information on this nomination form in the space provided. Please attach a statement of nomination and the supporting materials to the nomination form.

I. Chapter Information:

Nominating Chapter: Broward County Women Lawyers' Association

Nominating Chapter's Contact Person's Name: Jennifer Erdelyi **Telephone:** 954-492-4010

Nominating Chapter's Address: BCWLA c/o Jennifer Erdelyi, Esq., Colodny Fass Talenfeld, 100 SE 3rd Ave., 23rd Floor,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33394

Nominated Program: Partnership with PACE Center for Girls, including "Books and Breakfast" Program

Date of Program: Ongoing **Location of Program:** PACE Center for Girls, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Number of People Involved in Planning/Executing Program: Approx. 12 **Number of People Attending Program:** Approx. 20
girls per "Books and Breakfast" session, many more are impacted by our partnership.

Outcome of Program: BCWLA member volunteers have served as role models to the girls served by PACE, who develop their self-confidence, vocabulary, reading skills, and much more through our reading program. The PACE girls have received clothing and accessories that we have procured through donation drives, and PACE is the recipient of funding that we have donated and raised.

Tools Used to Measure Success of Program: Feedback from the PACE teachers, administrators, and staff about the positive impact that our organization and members have on the girls.

List Any Other Awards Given for Program: None.

II. Statement of Nomination:

Succinctly describe and explain the reasons for the nomination, namely, a brief summary of why this program deserves the award. Limit is 100 words.

III. Supporting Material:

Please attach the supporting materials. Supporting materials are limited to a total of five (5) pages.

Please double check to make sure you have included:

I. Nomination Form *II. Statement of Nomination (100 word limit)* *III. Supporting Materials (5 page limit)*

PLEASE NOTE: The information provided on this nomination form and in the statement of nomination may be used for publication. The only information that will be considered for this award is the nomination form, the statement of nomination, and the supporting materials. If the nomination documentation rules are not followed the nominee will be immediately disqualified.

FAWL's Outstanding Programming Award will be announced at FAWL's Annual Meeting held in June 2014. **Nominations must be submitted as one (1) pdf document via e-mail to admin@fawl.org or faxed to 866-830-5536 by 5:00 p.m. EST March 3, 2014.**

Broward County Women Lawyers' Association ("BCWLA")

BCWLA Partnership with PACE Center for Girls

Statement of Nomination for Outstanding Public Service Award

PACE Center for Girls provides free academic and social services to at-risk adolescent girls state-wide. BCWLA has become a partner with PACE in several ways. Our "Books and Breakfast" program is a book club where Broward FAWL members meet with PACE students to read and discuss a novel and enjoy breakfast together. Additionally, BCWLA and its members sponsor, attend, and support the annual PACE Believing in Girls Empowerment Luncheon. We hold clothing and accessory drives to donate needed items to PACE girls. PACE teachers and administrators have commended BCWLA for the program's impact and its positive influence on the girls.

The following supporting materials are attached:

- Program Description of the BCWLA - PACE Center for Girls Partnership Program.
- Letter of support from PACE Center for Girls Broward.

BCWLA - PACE Center for Girls Partnership Program

Program Description

PACE Center for Girls

The Broward Chapter of FAWL is very proud and appreciative of our partnership with the PACE Center for Girls Broward Chapter. PACE is an organization that provides no-cost, voluntary services such as academics, counseling, life skills training, career and college preparation, and community service projects to adolescent girls. The PACE mission statement indicates that "PACE provides girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy." PACE Center for Girls is a statewide organization with eighteen chapters across Florida, lending itself to be a wonderful organization with which other FAWL chapters can form partnership programs. While lengthy, we felt it important to share the guiding principles of PACE, which are as follows:

Honor the Female Spirit: We value and promote the female perspective by respecting its distinct needs, creating safe and gender responsive environments, and celebrating the female experience.

Focus on Strengths: We look to identify strengths in our girls, their families, our staff and supporters. Using these strengths as our foundation, we build strong, confident, productive community participants.

Act with Integrity and Positive Intent: We believe that all actions and decisions must be guided by the highest ethical principles, respecting the uniqueness of all involved and honoring the differences.

Embrace Growth and Change: We believe that everyone is capable of remarkable growth, and only by encouraging change can individuals, organizations and society reach their full potential.

Value the Wisdom of Time: We understand that patience can be as powerful as immediate action, and each has its place. We value the discernment required for their effective use.

Exhibit Courage: We think courage is essential in making a difference, enabling us to speak for those who cannot, take risks to do what is right, deliver just and fair consequences and be accountable for our actions.

Seek Excellence: We strive for excellence in all we accomplish by holding true to our mission while consistently meeting high standards of performance, reflecting critically upon our accomplishments, seeking innovative solutions, and believing all things are possible.

Create Partnerships: We believe in developing effective partnerships and long-term relationships, by listening to our staff, our girls, and their families and our communities, incorporating their input and involving them in our decision-making.

Invest in the Future: We place our faith in the long-term growth and development of our girls, staff, agency and communities, believing it is the best strategy for creating results that have lasting impact.

The mission and guiding principles of PACE are so very much in line with the goals and values of FAWL, and they resonate with our members, who have continued to enthusiastically support the PACE program throughout the years since our partnership began.

Books and Breakfast

Nearly ten years ago, the Broward Chapter of FAWL, together with PACE Center for Girls - Broward Chapter, developed "Books and Breakfast," a book club program for the girls served by PACE. The program has been continuously ongoing since then. For a two to three month period each year, BCWLA members volunteer to meet with PACE students on a weekly basis, for about an hour each time, to read and discuss a novel. The FAWL women and the PACE girls take turns reading aloud from the chosen book. These sessions are facilitated by a PACE staff member, who works with the girls on new vocabulary words and concepts, and leads discussion on any difficult topics that may be raised by the novels.

Unfortunately, many of the PACE participants have experienced very challenging situations in their young lives, including physical and sexual abuse, neglect, parental incarceration, bullying, and discrimination. The books that are selected by PACE staff, the girls, and the BCWLA volunteers, often address such topics, and allow the girls to discuss and process these issues in a safe setting. For example, last year's chosen book was *The Bluest Eye*, a 1970 novel by Toni Morrison, which takes place in Ohio in 1941, and centers on a young black girl who is subject to abuse and discrimination because of her dark skin and features, and wishes for blond hair and blue eyes to fit in with those around her.

Reading out loud in a group provides the young women with an opportunity to build their self-confidence and their public speaking skills. Broward FAWL members bring breakfast to the sessions and by sharing this meal together, the PACE girls and BCWLA members get to know one another. Our member volunteers - strong, smart, and articulate, yet warm, caring, and generous women lawyers and judges - serve as wonderful role models to the 15-20 girls who participate in each session. The program concludes with a student-driven art project related to the book. The feedback that has been received on this program has been overwhelmingly positive, and our members, as well as the PACE students, have found the program to be extremely rewarding.

Believing in Girls Empowerment Luncheon

On an annual basis, PACE Center for Girls Broward hosts a complimentary fundraising luncheon that educates attendees on the challenges that participating PACE girls face, and their courageous efforts to achieve success and a brighter future. The luncheon program includes speakers who describe the great programs offered at PACE, as well as presentations from PACE girls themselves, who speak of the positive difference PACE has made in their lives. Attendees are informed and inspired by the PACE success stories that are shared, and the funds raised at this event make a tremendous difference to PACE.

The Broward chapter of FAWL sponsored this special program, which took place this year on February 21, 2014. In addition to our financial support, two members of our Board of Directors, one of whom is the Vice Chair of PACE's Board, served as Table Captains for the event. These ladies successfully communicated their passion and belief in the PACE mission to others within our chapter, resulting in two full tables of BCWLA members being present at the luncheon and supporting PACE on an individual basis as well.

Donation Program

An important function of the PACE Center for Girls program is the assistance provided to participants with college and career preparation. However, as we all can imagine, it is difficult and stressful to go on a job or college interview if you do not have appropriate clothing to wear. Women attorneys are in a perfect position to assist the young ladies of PACE in building their professional wardrobes. BCWLA supports this effort by soliciting donations of gently-worn professional clothes, shoes, purses, and other accessories, which we then donate to PACE. In addition, PACE maintains an "Incentive Cabinet" that provides the girls with small rewards for achieving their goals. These items, like lip gloss, hand lotion, perfume, fun socks, sunglasses, and other similar accessories, are also collected by BCWLA for donation to PACE.



March 3, 2014

Florida Association of Women Lawyers
Post Office Box 38339
Tallahassee, FL 32315

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SUBJECT: Broward County Women Lawyers Association
RE: Award Application – Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

It is an honor to support the application to honor the Broward County Women Lawyers Association for FAWL's Outstanding Public Service Award for 2014. BCLWA has partnered with PACE in several capacities for many years.

BCWLA has facilitates a very successful program with our girls – *Books and Breakfast*. The members meet with our girls weekly for several weeks reading a book together followed by discussion. It not only promotes reading as a healthy pastime, it has proven to be a source of role modeling for the girls. The girls learn how some of the ladies achieved their success and about any struggles they may have encountered in achieving their goals.

We maintain a clothes closet - *Career Gear* - available to our girls when they have job interviews as well as for girls needing assistance with appropriate clothing when they obtain a job. BCWLA has held clothing drives and made practical and well received donations to our *Career Gear* closet.

We annually have a Believing in Girls luncheon to introduce PACE to the community. BCLWA participates by being table sponsors and bringing colleagues to the event. BCWLA member Jamie Finizio Bascombe has co-chaired the event.

Member Jamie Finizio Bascombe has been intimately involved with PACE Broward since we began offering services to at risk girls in Broward County. Ms. Finizio Bascombe currently serves as our Board Vice Chair as well as Co-Vice Chair of our Broward Advisory Council. She has chaired numerous committees for fundraising events. Ms. Finizio Bascombe is an ardent advocate for PACE programming and the girls. She has participated in PACE Day in the Legislature on several occasions.

BCWLA has made a significant impact in the lives in girls in Broward County. We strongly support their application for this award.

Sincerely,

Aggie Pappas, MSW
Executive Director

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