

Celebrating Women's History Month



Emily Ward

Litigation,
Associate
Atlanta



Emily Ward is an Associate in the Litigation Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP. Emily specializes in white-collar defense and civil litigation including healthcare, business and environmental litigation, as well as administrative and regulatory matters.

Who is a woman in history that inspired you? The Notorious Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She's tenacious, brilliant, and a game-changer for women lawyers. I so admire her ability to work with and empathize with those she disagrees with philosophically – that kind of professionalism is often lacking and her friendship with the late Justice Scalia, in particular, is an inspiration.

What career advice would you give your younger self? Go take a government job as a public defender or assistant prosecutor for the first couple of years out of school. Yes, the money will be terrible and make it hard to pay back loans, but the experience you'll get will be worth it in the end.

Did you have a mentor? If so, how did they encourage you in your career? I am fortunate enough to have two! SGR Partners, Tony Cochran and Tom Beaver, have taken it upon themselves to include me in all types of client matters, treat me in private and in front of the clients like I am their equal, and go out of their way to ensure our clients and colleagues hear about my successes big and small. They also have encouraged me to be active in the state and local Bars so that my peers see me as a leader in the legal community. Although these activities take me out of the office – and can decrease the billable hours I get in the short term – they are wise enough to realize the work I do now will return as clients and referrals in the years to come.

If you could make one change to help women at work, what would it be? Ensure that all women, not just partners or even attorneys, have the flexibility we need so that we can accomplish everything we do professionally, personally, and in our communities. Although it's common to hear of those at the top of their field working something other than 9-5 or somewhere other than their desk, but it's not as common for those on the lower echelons of professional life. Whether it's working from home one day a week, working a modified schedule on Tuesdays so you can be the den mom for your kid's scout troop, or working 8-4 because your commute is just terrible, those types of accommodations can enhance someone's work life and create happier, more productive, and more loyal employees.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? My husband is the chef/owner of our restaurants, Southern Belle and Georgia Boy, so I help out with a lot of the behind the scenes work whenever I can. I have a business mind and entrepreneurial streak so the whole process is fun. I also love going to both spaces with my friends, family, and colleagues to show it off and do a little "quality control" – those cocktails aren't going to try themselves!

Jill Bechtold

Litigation, Partner
Jacksonville



Jill Bechtold is a Partner in the Litigation Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP. Jill specializes in the area of civil litigation focusing on medical and professional liability defense, employment disputes, product liability defense, business litigation, trucking litigation and insurance defense.

Why did you choose your practice area? My middle name comes from my great-grandmother, Faye Cashatt Lewis, who was one of the first women to graduate

medical school from Washington University in St. Louis. I grew up always loving the art of medicine and learning how the human system worked and reacted. My law practice started by protecting hospitals, doctors, and nurses and now it allows me to continue researching and learning various medical topics while defending our companies in major tort actions.

Who is a woman in history that inspired you? I grew up wanting to be like Amelia Earhart: fearless, brave and adventuring. Ms. Earhart had an early passion and commitment, yet the world told her no. In the end, she died doing what she loved while making a bold statement.

What career advice would you give your younger self? Be easy on yourself. At the beginning of your career, it is easy to focus too much on the negatives: what I should have said at the hearing, why did I write that, how can I get that client to like me more? What I didn't realize at the time was that those early years were about learning lessons and the real growth comes from making mistakes. Mistakes can be a powerful drive for young women, but sometimes a little grace helps too.

Did you have a mentor? If so, how did they encourage you in your career? I was lucky enough to have several mentors. Some were lawyers but many were not. While the words may have been different from each, the same message came from them all: build on your talents to achieve success. They taught me too many of us try to emulate other successful people. However, your skillset and talents may be vastly different. My mentors understood that an individual using their strengths to the best of their advantage will always be the most successful. My mentors were also the best at just listening to my concerns, a rare trait sometimes in people.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? Doing anything with my children. They are the funniest and most perfect people that I know!



March 2020



The Women of Smith, Gambrell & Russell

Marsha Ajhar Intellectual Property Gadget Girl	Danielle Comanducci Real Estate Franco-American Globetrotter	Ellen Fontanella Aviation Fly Girl
Laura M. Andrew Health Care Green Thumb	Jessica Cowin Litigation	Simone Ford Litigation
Susan Atkinson Health Care Semi-Pro Singer/Actor	Audria Crain Corporate Essay-Contest Winner & Runner	Emily Friedman ERISA Lover of Beaches & Interior Design
Amanda Attenasio Real Estate My Mother's Daughter	Amy Croft Litigation	Chloe Furfine Litigation Avid Shutterbug
Jill Bechold Litigation	Cassandra Daum Litigation Future World Traveler	Nicole Godani Corporate Political Enthusiast & Volleyball Player
Elizabeth Blakely Corporate Book Reader	Alexandra Davidson Corporate Aspiring Avenger (Iron Woman)	Sarah Gordon Litigation Northern New Englander
Priscilla Bonsu Corporate Globe Trotter/ Free Spirit	Melissa Dearing Immigration Survivor	Alison Graham Private Wealth Services Handywoman Extraordinaire
Elizabeth Borland Intellectual Property Chorister	Sharon Duvall Real Estate Boating Beauty	Sasha Greenberg Litigation Beyoncé's Inspiration
Amy Buice Litigation	Anne Edwards Litigation Sun Worshiper	Amy Heppner ERISA Cross Country Mom
Danielle Burnette Litigation Cocktail Connoisseur & Fashion Fanatic	Marcia Ernst Litigation Lake Life Lover	Akiyo Hewett International Loving Wife & Mother
Lisa Carrasco ERISA Mother of Twin Girls	Shani Smith Fisher Aviation Mother of Dragons	Nicole Kalkines Litigation Brunch Enthusiast

Susie Kim
Immigration
Intrepid Wayfarer

Teri King
ERISA
Mom of Twin Boys

Simone Kraus
International
Language Enthusiast & Guitar Player

Holly Lance
Intellectual Property
Momma Strong

Indhira LaPuma
Intellectual Property
Curious Wanderer

Jennifer Lawson
Litigation
Mom to Bubbling Baby Boy

Morgan Manley
Litigation
Art Enthusiast

Dana Mark
Private Wealth Services
Outer Space Enthusiast

Erin McCallum
Corporate
Competitive Tennis Player

Jamey Medlin
ERISA
Mom of Boys

Kelly Meyers
ERISA
Peloton Enthusiast

Ansky Moyer
Bond and Public Finance
Wine and Chocolate Enthusiast

Amy Nicotra
Real Estate and Corporate
Ice Cream Enthusiast

Chloe Orta
Litigation

Anne Pitter
Corporate/Real Estate
Aspiring Photojournalist

Dexterrie Ramirez
Real Estate
Martha Stewart in Training

Dana Richens
Litigation
Training for Wimbledon

Angela Roberts
ERISA
Bargain Hunter

Kate Rowe
Intellectual Property - Entertainment
Butterfly and Bird Feeder

Vickie Rusek
Environmental Litigation
Road Tripper

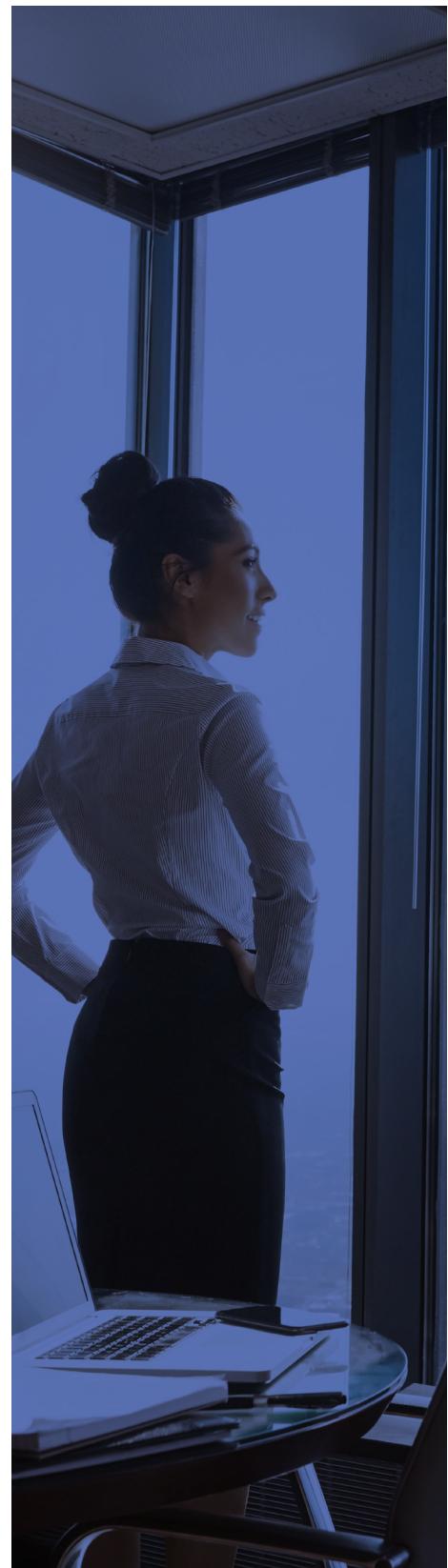
Terry Schwartz
Corporate
Low Country Girl

Leah Ward Sears
Litigation / Trials & Appeals
Fashionista

Julie Sebastian
Corporate
Sports Nut

Laleh Sharifi
Immigration
Avid Hiker

Tori Silas
Corporate
New Wife & Cool Stepmom





The Women of Smith, Gambrell & Russell

Robin Silberzweig

Real Estate
MacGyver-like Problem Solver

Ariane Smith

Litigation
Arts Enthusiast

Lisa Smith

Real Estate
Funny...sometimes

Amanda Stangle

Corporate

Darlene Tzou

Intellectual Property
Climbing Dragon Boater

Melanie Walker

Litigation
Jamaican Queen

Jenny Wang

Corporate
Lifelong Learner

Emily Ward

Litigation
Restauranteur and Dog Mom

Laura Wartner

Private Wealth Services
Delighted to be a Grandmother

Kristen Wenger

Litigation
Estate Sale Master

Svetlana Zagorina

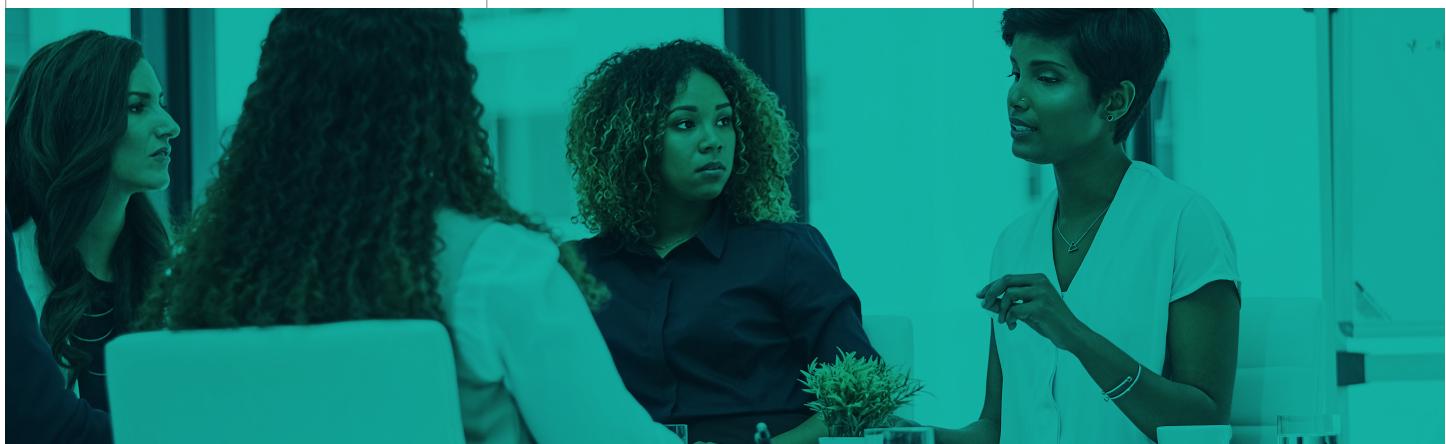
Tax
Artist at Heart

Mina Zhan

Corporate

Kathryn Zickert

Zoning
Flash Mob Dancer



Women's History Month Trivia

Take the quiz online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/JLFM2HL



1. Who was 1st Woman delegate (not ambassador) to the UN?

- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Dorothea Lange
- Billy Holiday

2. Who was the first woman to serve in the Presidential cabinet?

- Irna Phillips
- Frances Perkins
- Lucille Ball

3. Although not a head of state, this much loved woman has been idealized in pop-culture and was given a state funeral and the title “Spiritual Leader of the Nation” by Argentina’s Congress in recognition of her support of women’s suffrage, labor rights and social programs.

- Simone de Beauvoir
- Maria Eva Duarte de Peron
- Marilyn Monroe

4. Her memorable “Declaration of Conscience” speech to the US Senate in the McCarthy era defended each American’s “right to hold unpopular beliefs”?

- Margaret Chase Smith
- Lilly Ledbetter
- Oprah Winfrey

5. The longest reigning queen in history is:

- Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands
- Queen Elizabeth II of England
- Queen Victoria of England

6. This woman, born in Kiev Russia and raised in Milwaukee Wisconsin, served as foreign minister and then Prime Minister in her adopted homeland?

- Indira Gandhi
- Corazon Aquino
- Golda Meir

7. Who was the youngest First Lady of the United States?

- Jackie Kennedy
- Michele Obama
- Frances Cleveland

8. This drag queen became a LGBT rights politically engaged activist and is believed to have been a key figure in the 1969 Stonewall Inn riots in New York City. In 2019, the city decided to erect a statue in her honor.

- Marsha P. Johnson
- Ellen Degeneres
- Judith Heumann

9. This woman became synonymous with the women's movement in the 1970s.

- Angela Davis
- Gloria Steinem
- Aretha Franklin

10. This woman has the distinction of being the first woman of color and the first Asian American elected to the House of Representatives.

- Dolores Huerta
Patsy Mink
Florence Griffith Joyner

11. How many female Supreme Court justices have there been in the 230 year history of the Supreme Court and can you name them all?

- 3
- 4
- 5

12. This woman was the first woman Secretary of State.

- Hillary Clinton
- Madeleine Albright
- Condoleezza Rice

We recommend for your reading pleasure and education

[**Meet the all-female team working to create a COVID-19 vaccine in Maryland**](#)

Enjoy the read!