

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2006

Contact: Mary Beth M. Clary

239-593-2959

**COLLIER COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION
HONORS
JEANNE SEEWALD
2006 WOMAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR
AND
GERRI MOLL
2006 DISTINGUISHED EXECUTIVE**

NAPLES, Florida - Jeanne L. Seewald will be honored as the 2006 Woman Lawyer of the Year and Gerri Moll will be honored as the 2006 Distinguished Executive by the Collier County Women's Bar Association at its Holiday Reception on December 11, 2006.

Seewald, the managing shareholder of the Naples office of Fowler White Boggs Banker, concentrates her practice in the areas of general business and corporate transactions, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property, and technology. She is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell (its highest rating) and was selected by her peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in 2006. Seewald currently serves on the Executive Council of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar and Chairs its Intellectual Property Law Committee. She also serves on the Boards of Directors of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, the Collier County Women's Bar Association, and the Collier County Bar Association, as well as the Editorial Board of *Gulfshore Business* magazine.

"The Woman Lawyer of the Year is awarded to a female lawyer who has excelled in her career; overcome traditional stereotypes associated with women; promoted the status of women within the profession; and/or promoted the status of women in the State of Florida," said Mary Beth Clary, President of the Collier County Woman's Bar Association. "Jeanne epitomized the criteria for the award. Among other things, she has overcome the traditional stereotypes associated with women when she was named the office managing shareholder of Fowler White's Naples office. Even though women have practiced side-by-side with male lawyers in large firms for years, it is still unusual for them to be placed in such a leadership position. Jeanne had to have gained the confidence of both her male and female partners to be asked to take on this role." Past recipients of the Woman Lawyer of the Year award include: Kathleen Passidomo (2005), Tara Miller Dane (2004), Carolyn Coukos (2003), Amira Dajani Swett (2002), Christine Greider (2001), Melinda Riddle (2000), Sharon Hanlon (1999), Jill Burzynski (1998), Jean Rawson (1997), and Helen Sundgren (1996).

Moll currently serves as President of Bank of America Southwest Florida. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of NCH Healthcare Systems, Board of Directors of the Forum Club of Southwest Florida, and member of the Community Foundation of Collier County's Chairman's Circle. Previously, she served on the Florida Department of Education Board of Governors, Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees, Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation Board, the Leadership Florida Board of Regents, and the Collier County Economic Development Council.

“Although Gerri’s career and community accomplishments are nothing short of extraordinary, the Collier County Women’s Bar is honoring Gerri for her commitment to her colleagues and to the balance of work and family,” Clary continued. “The Distinguished Executive is awarded to a woman or man who leads in the workplace with vision, determination, and compassion, and who has created productive working environments. Balancing work and family remains one of the greatest challenges for women in general and women lawyers in particular. We hope that honoring leaders who go above and beyond to create woman friendly working environments will raise awareness and encourage others to become more sensitive to the importance of retaining women in the work place and the legal profession.” The first Distinguished Executive Award was presented to Martha Marland, Senior Vice President at Northern Trust, N.A., in 2005.

The Collier County Women’s Bar Association, with over 100 female and male lawyer members, is a chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers. The purposes of the Association are the promotion, recognition, and encouragement of the contributions of women within the legal profession and judiciary, improvement of the administration of justice and the elevation of judicial standards, promotion of the study of law particularly among women, dissemination of legal knowledge to all members of the community, and improvement of relations between members of the Bar, judiciary, and public.

###