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## The Supreme Court: A 2019 Preview

**January 19, 2019 - 10:15 AM**  
**Tryon Library, 1200 Langley Ave.**

**D**r David Ramsey, Associate Professor, will be the featured speaker at the January 19 monthly League meeting. He teaches constitutional law and political philosophy in the

UWF Reubin O’D. Askew Department of Government. He received his doctorate degree in political science from Baylor University.

Ramsey’s first book, “Antitrust and the Supreme Court,” examines the Supreme Court’s role in balancing the contentions of the political branches, business community, enforcement agencies and advocates of various schools of economic thought. He is currently working on preparing a digital edition of the papers of Roger B. Taney, fifth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1836 to 1864, who authored several consequential opinions that played an important role in developing American law. This will be the first scholarly edition of Taney’s papers to be published in print or digital format. Dr. Ramsey serves as Faculty Senate president and faculty representative on the Board of Trustees.

Come prepared to ask questions on constitutional issues.



## Hot Topic: Know More about Domestic Violence

**January 12, 10:15 am**  
**Downtown Pensacola Library**  
**239 N Spring Street**

**S**ue Hand, Executive Director of Favor House, and Marsha Davis, Program Director, will lead the discussion on domestic violence at the Hot Topic meeting. Favor House is a certified Domestic Violence Center that serves Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Hand has promoted programs to address domestic violence since 1984, while Travis is a veteran counselor, speaker and educator in this field.

In Escambia County: 2,978 Reported incidents & 3 domestic violence homicides. In Santa Rosa County: 722 reported incidents & 5 domestic violence homicides. Nearly 1 in 4 women is battered by an intimate partner. In 50% of these cases, the children are beaten, as well.



## President's Message

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and/or the beginning of a new year, I want to wish you the best and hope you will be able to enjoy time with family and friends. Also after this bruising election and the busy holiday season, you can find time to refresh both your body and spirit.

For those committed to the principles of democracy and the importance of voting, the elections brought signs of both. There will be an opportunity for checks and balances to work. The U.S. House will be more representative of the country and will have more than 100 women members some from both parties.

More states allowed early voting than before and the people who voted for the first time in midterms was greatly up. The youth vote was at its highest level; nationally 31%; 35% in Florida. Voting totals were increased in both Escambia County (61%) Santa Rosa (58%). At least thirty-five candidates backed by the NRA lost their seats and more representatives supporting gun safety were elected. Several gubernatorial candidates who made education a major issue won. As a result of elections in many state houses, there is a greater chance of less gerrymandering in the future.

In Florida the passage of Amendment Four will restore voting rights to an estimated 1.4 M individuals finally getting rid of a purposefully racist section of the State Constitution. Voters also adopted Amendment Nine which will protect our state waters from offshore drilling.

Voter turnout was up in 61 of 67 counties indicating that people are becoming more aware the importance of their vote. Just look how close the U.S. Senate and Gubernatorial races were.

In Escambia County the electorate finally agreed with the League's position supporting the appointment of the Superintendent of Schools.

There are many things the League can do to make democracy work better in the future. *Locally*, we can get early voting expanded through the second Sunday as is the case in several other counties.

*At the state level*, we can lobby for an open primary since that position has been adopted by the Florida League. This nomination process would give all registered voters a voice in the nomination process.

We can work toward the adoption of uniform election rules and ballots in all Florida counties. More long range we can join the effort toward the adoption of the National Popular Voting Compact and lobby to make Election Day a holiday. We can always be alert for attempts at voter suppression and call them out.

Remember both the Serenity Prayer and the words to "Image" and be ready to go to work to make our world a better place.

There's still work to be done!

Elizabeth



## Holiday Social Memories

Special thanks to Don and Jane Spruill, who graciously opened their lovely home for the League Holiday Party on Sunday, December 9. More than thirty League members and friends enjoyed food and wine, as well as interesting conversation in the informal and relaxing setting.



## GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

FROM THE BRADY CENTER/CDC,  
CDC DATA BY THE NUMBERS:  
From 2010 to 2015

On an average day:

- 47 children and teens were shot.
- 342 people of all ages were shot.

In an average year

- 17,207 children and teens were victims of gun violence.
- 124,760 people of all ages were victims of gun violence.

From 2011 to 2015

- 497 women were killed by husbands or male partners. (Violence Policy Center's analysis of FBI Homicide data, 2011-2015)

In 2014

- More people died from gun violence than automobile accidents in 21 states.
- So far this year (as of November 2018)
- There have been 307 people killed in mass shootings (defined as 4 or more victims) yet mass shootings comprise only 2% of gun deaths. (CDC)

### CARNAGE AND COST

Recently the National Rifle Association (NRA) tweeted that the medical profession should stay out of the gun debate, "stay in their own lane." The medical profession responded with "gruesome fury" claiming not only a lane in dealing with gun violence but declaring it a freeway of devastated limbs, veins, lungs, guts, and lives, families, communities.

*Mother Jones* reported that the true cost of gun violence in America is unknown. Why? The NRA and other gun lobbyists have managed to keep funding needed to study the issue by the CDC at a minimum. For an example, the magazine studied the costs of two victims of a random shooting event in Arizona. The woman and her partner were shot in their vehicle; the shooter never identified. The man suffered a head wound and will need care for the rest of his life. The woman is paralyzed from the waist down. Her costs of care for the last ten years is estimated to be over \$5 million, paid for by Medicare and Medicaid. Her income before the event was \$80,000 but neither will ever work again. Firearms are the only consumer product the federal government doesn't regulate.

The CDC reports that gun deaths reached a 20 year high in 2017. Also new data tell us that 2018 has been the worst year on record for gun violence in schools. **Simply put, gun violence is a public health issue.**

### SOME RECENT SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

- *Reduce number of large-capacity magazines.* Mass shootings produce a relatively small numbers of deaths but if this reduces that number just 1% that would be 650 fewer deaths.
- *Keep guns away from kids.* Increase the age that kids can own guns. A gun company, Crickett, named to appeal to children, designs and markets guns for children as young as 5 years old; has pink ones for little girls.



- *Require safe storage for firearms.* As estimated 20 million kids live in homes with easily accessible guns.
- *Buyback.* Australia paid out \$500 million for 600,000 guns
- *Do not allow gun sellers to sell more than one gun at a time.*
- *Strengthen background checks.*

## Happy New Year Calendar let's do it!

### January 2019

- 8 **Tuesday, 5:30 pm , Board Meeting,** Downtown Library 239 N. Spring St. Members always welcome!
- 12 **Saturday, 10:15 am, Hot Topic: Domestic Violence,** Downtown Library, 239 N. Spring Street, Sue Hand, Executive Director of FavorHouse. Contact Holly Picardi, hkopicardi at gmail dot com for information.
- 15 **Tuesday, 10:00 am, International Relations, Great Decisions** discussion at Azalea Trace. Leader to be announced. For information: 607-7114
- 19 **Saturday, 10:15 am, General League Meeting,** Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave, Speaker: *Dr. David Ramsey*, University of West Florida, "The Supreme Court: a 2019 Review".
- 28 **Tuesday, 6 pm, Women's Issues Committee** Downtown Library, 239 N. Spring St.. Contact Holly Picardi at hkpicardi at gmail dot com.

### February 2019

- 16 **Saturday, 10:15 General Meeting,** Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave, **Achieve Escambia** ,Speaker: *Donna Harper*.

## School to Prison Pipeline Review “Prison Kids”

November 12, 2018

Andrea Walker, 850 723-2112

Escambia County has large numbers of students with mental health issues. Escambia also leads the state in direct file (sending juveniles directly into the adult system for trial). As an ongoing effort to address the situation, our local League Education committee working with the NAACP, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Campaign for Youth Justice presented the seventh in a series of School to Prison Pipeline programs at the Bowden Building, Monday, November 12th. The program began with the documentary *Prison Kids*, a disturbing look at the large numbers of kids in American prisons which includes a high percentage of children of color.

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...students detained in many of the juvenile facilities spend a great amount of time in isolation, but solitary confinement pushes them over the edge.

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The mindset has been that when children don't behave, isolation will teach them a lesson. According to statistics cited in the film, a large percentage of students detained in many of the juvenile facilities spend a great amount of time in isolation, but solitary confinement pushes them over the edge. However, many children in detention facilities suffer from mental issues and/or traumatic backgrounds, and psychotropic drugs are often used at the maximum dosage to treat problems.

After the film, *Lisa Nellessen Savage* of the Pensacola News Journal moderated a panel discussion. Experts on the panel included *Rodney Jones*, President of the local chapter of the NAACP; *Paul Wallis*, Chief Probation Officer at the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), 1st Circuit; and *Dr. Bradley Lord*, Director of In Home and On Site Services at Lakeview Center. The following is a summary of the panel discussion.

Once children have been arrested and processed into the juvenile justice system, they can be returned to detention centers for violations that do not break the law, such as skipping school. In fact, 48 percent of youths incarcerated will reoffend. Because of the circumstances of incarceration of children, changes must occur.

In Escambia County, the DJJ, Lakeview Center, and the local NAACP work together, but the system is difficult to navigate. Lakeview partners with the Escambia School District to identify problems. Early intervention is needed, and diversionary tactics such as civil citations and teen court are preferred. When students' strengths and weaknesses are assessed on day one, an effort is made to work with available resources, to keep them based in community in the least restrictive environment. The DJJ's assessment makes referrals to Lakeview Center. There is renewed focus on transition with schools and services offered.

Subtle changes must be relevant. Although probation officers manage large numbers of cases, they now provide stability. Doors are not locked any more. We need to make sure what we're doing works. Students need skill sets.

However, money is always an issue, and money that offenders pay to go to teen court is not accessible. Programs from grants intended as seed money have fallen by the wayside. Programs like 100 Black Men and Neighborhood Accountability Board need to be revived.

Once youth complete the program, treatment continues. Lakeview follows children up to a year, to understand the whole family dynamics, and build relationship with family, but that is strictly voluntary. Mental health issues must be considered, and services are still accessible through Lakeview. Working with the DJJ can keep students out of the system. Meridian is a treatment center for juveniles at Lakeview. Also, Lakeview has therapists in all the elementary schools.

Jerry McIntosh of Movement for Change recommends a Citizen Advisory Board to hold a workshop to understand the matrix. We must demand social psychologists in schools. We have social workers but not enough.

To continue improvement, training on implicit racism in officers needs to be addressed by upper level staff because police officers have complete authority within schools. Teachers should also be trained in implicit racism. Schools are trying to incorporate kindness in treatment, including Trauma-Informed Care and Capturing Kids' Hearts. Our school system is improved, but statistics show we're still not doing the best job.

Our community needs good people to run for office. Changes on the school board and with the superintendent will be an opportunity to change. People with background in juvenile delinquency can now go through the process to help troubled youth. Paul Wallis looks forward to taking creative action.

For additional information, you may call Paul Wallis or go to the website. Check out the *"Roadmap to System Success"* with an introduction from Secretary Wansley Waters and interactive data under research. [www.djj.state.fl.us](http://www.djj.state.fl.us)

View the video of this panel discussion and Q & A by James Scaminaci III [here](#).

**Condolences to Marilyn Badessa  
on the recent death of her  
daughter, Jacqueline.**

## Welcome New member Elizabeth Hewey

Members' contact information is contained in the *Membership Roster*. If you have not received the latest one or have a correction, contact Cathy Scott, basketbabe at mchsi.com or 396-5727.

### The League in Action

- The League of Women Voters of Florida announced Katia Saint Fleur has accepted the position of lobbyist for the upcoming 2019 legislative session. Katia Saint Fleur has over a decade of experience in Florida government and politics and is currently the principal of the governmental affairs firm KSF & Associates.
  - LWV Florida sent a letter to the State Board of Education reminding them it is they who make appointments to the post of Commissioner of Education, according to the Constitution.
  - Learn about how we can align the popular vote with the electoral system to elect the President — and our education, advocacy and legislative goals to achieve this. [Here](#).
  - Our work on Civil Citations is reflected in the following Naples news articles [here](#) and [here](#).
  - Enid Sisskin has spoken on the *issue of plastics* at the LWV meeting, Carpenter's Creek Town Hall and at Plaza de Luna along with a number of speakers on offshore drilling. She will be speaking to Sierra, Audubon and Earth Ethics. If an organization in which you are involved would like a presentation, contact [Ellen Roston](#).
  - A bipartisan letter is being sent by members of Congress to the Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross urging them not to issue the Atlantic seismic airgun blasting permits. Learn more about seismic airgun blasting [here](#) and contact your Congress person asking them to sign on to the Rutherford/Lobiondo letter.
- Opportunity to support 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Memorial - The memorial is in Occoquan Regional Park in Virginia, part of the historic prison grounds where scores of suffragists were jailed, kept in inhumane conditions and tortured for picketing the Wilson WhiteHouse. The central statue is Carrie Chapman Catt, highlighting her and the League's work in securing passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Detailed information can [be found here](#).
  - Objective information about policy matters on which LWVF focuses [here](#).
  - The League is a grassroots organization, and as such, we focus on the issues that our members care the most about. Each year, our membership is polled to see which issues are most important to them. Every local league submits priorities to LWVF. After tabulating each local league's submissions, the top five areas become priorities for the Legislative Session. *Submit your suggestions to Elizabeth King at [lwvpba@gmail.com](mailto:lwvpba@gmail.com)*. The 2018 priorities were Education, Election Law, Natural Resources, Gun Safety and Health Care.
  - It's time to stop the violence. Legislation with common sense solutions to prevent gun violence will protect our children, our citizens and help restore our public confidence. Tell Congress to move forward with common sense gun legislation. [Take Action here](#).
  - [Tell Congress to support Automatic Voter Registration](#). Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Robert Brady (D-PA) introduced the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017. This bill will improve the accuracy of voter records, cut down on costs, modernize outdated registration systems while supporting implementation in states across the country.

### Local League News

*Michelle Salzman*, local League member, has been selected to chair the Education portfolio as a member of Mayor Grover Robinson's transition team. Salzman's task will encompass an examination of critical aspects of the local education system.

In 1949 the League of Women Voters Pensacola Bay Area was formed as a non-partisan political organization of men and women who encourage informed and active participation in government. The League conducts studies and following consensus, takes positions on major public policy issues. Through education and advocacy, the League works to inform the electorate and impact legislation.

The League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate for office. However, individual members are urged to be as active in the political process.

Join the League of Women Voters Today!

Empowering voters. Defending democracy

It's easy! Just send your check to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ♦ P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513 or PayPal [here](#).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ New Mbr? Yes/No

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Other ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Add Family Member(s): \_\_\_\_\_

DUES: \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Mbrs @ \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are FREE for a student enrolled in a certificate or degree program.

I'm renewing my membership.

I am interested in the following areas (Circle all interests)

- |                |                    |                  |                  |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Education      | Natural Resources  | Juvenile Justice | Speaker's Bureau |
| Voter Service  | Growth Management  | Website          | Observer Corps   |
| Membership     | Legislative Action | Hospitality      | Naturalization   |
| Newsletter     | Voter Registration | Publicity        | Social Media     |
| Women's Issues | Gun Safety         | Communications   |                  |

Membership dues and gifts to the League of Women Voters are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes. (Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to the LWV Florida Education Fund and should be sent to our local treasurer.)



League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area PO. Box 2023 Pensacola, FL 32513