

## **Elizabeth Desloge Ellis Selected As a Finalist for the 2024 Leadership Tallahassee Distinguished Leadership Awards**

TALLAHASSEE, FL – August 19, 2024 – Stearns Weaver Miller announced that attorney [Liz Desloge Ellis](#) has been selected as a finalist for the [2024 Leadership Tallahassee Distinguished Leadership Awards](#) in the Leadership Pacesetter category. The award recognizes an individual who is blazing a trail for others to follow by engaging in community leadership activities, and achieving tangible results, at a relatively young age or as a relative newcomer to Tallahassee.

Leadership Tallahassee, a program of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, is a year-long program that prepares participants for community leadership through service. Liz is a graduate of Leadership Tallahassee Class 37. In January 2024, she co-chaired a “Justice and Media” program day for Class 41. She will co-chair the same program day later this month for Class 42.

Since 2021, Liz has served as President for the Refuge House Board of Directors. Refuge House provides direct services to domestic abuse and sexual assault survivors, and community education, in all eight counties of the Big Bend Area of North Florida. Liz works with staff to develop the strategic goals of the organization including coordinating community outreach events, developing new programs for survivors, securing funds for the organization and providing other pro bono legal services. Under her leadership, Refuge House created a successful new annual fundraiser, the Mardi Gras Ball, which raises thousands of dollars a year. Liz has been instrumental in making Refuge House more visible within the Tallahassee community. She authored an article in the *Tallahassee Democrat*, “[Refuge House sees mounting cases of domestic violence, needs support](#)” to educate the community on the services that Refuge House provides and how to help those in need.

In addition to Refuge House, Liz is a member of the Capital Tiger Bay Club, a non-partisan forum that discusses current political issues. In May 2024, she moderated a panel for the organization discussing the “State of Public Safety” with local Tallahassee leaders, including Sheriff Walt McNeil, State Attorney Jack Campbell, Public Defender Jessica Yearly, and Chief Lawrence Revell. Liz also serves on the Goodwood Museum and Gardens Board of Directors, has volunteered with the Village Square, and is a former Board Member of the Legal Aid Foundation and the Awesome Foundation of Tallahassee.

Liz also holds leadership roles in legal organizations, serving as Secretary on the Board of Directors for the Tallahassee Bar Association (“TBA”) and as JNC Monitoring Chair for Tallahassee Women Lawyers (“TWL”). She formerly served as President of the Young Lawyers Section of the Tallahassee Bar Association (“YLS”). During Liz’s tenure on the YLS Executive Committee, YLS implemented a new event called “Adulting 101,” where young lawyers teach high school students about important life skills such as finance, successful interviewing

techniques, and interacting with law enforcement. Liz's service with YLS resulted in her receiving TBA's Thomas M. Ervin, Jr. Distinguished Young Lawyer award in 2022.

Liz was appointed to serve on the Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism by the most recent Florida Bar President and is a member of the William H. Stafford American Inn of Court. Liz's Inn of Court team from the 2023-2024 year was selected as one of the Outstanding Program Award winners by the American Inns of Court and was recognized at the United States Supreme Court in July 2024.

Liz is a litigator who represents private and public sector clients in complex real estate development, land use and property rights matters. She is skilled in developing and implementing litigation strategy as it relates to obtaining, challenging and defending development approvals. Her experience also includes litigating eminent domain, inverse condemnation and Bert J. Harris issues. In addition to land development, Liz also maintains a broad litigation practice where she represents clients on a variety of matters, including public records, constitutional law and labor and employment disputes. Prior to joining the firm, she served as an Assistant State Attorney for the State Attorney's Office in the Second Judicial Circuit under both Willie Meggs and Jack Campbell, where she conducted over 50 jury trials as first chair, ranging in severity from traffic offenses to life felonies.



#### Contact Elizabeth Desloge Ellis

Phone: 850-329-4856

Email: [lellis@stearnsweaver.com](mailto:lellis@stearnsweaver.com)

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