## <u>TCWLA Mentoring Program – Perspective from a Mentee and on Committee Involvement:</u> By Theresa Golde, Associate Attorney, De Leon Washburn & Ward, P.C.

Being involved in the TCWLA Mentoring Program has been a wonderful experience. As a mentee, I was able to get perspective from very experienced attorneys as well as connect with attorneys at my level of practice. The program itself is a small, welcoming group of individuals. This gives mentees the opportunity not only to learn from their assigned mentor, but from various other mentors in the group. At each luncheon, you get to network and meet attorneys in all different realms of practice and get insight on important topics that might come up in the workplace and in our profession. Luncheons are held every other month, and during the off months, mentors and mentees are encouraged to have their own lunch to get to know each other better. What I have enjoyed most about this experience is seeing a group of female lawyers fostering the growth of one another.

Having enjoyed my experience so much as a mentee, I decided to volunteer for the TCWLA Mentoring Program committee the following year. On the committee, I enjoyed working closely with the attorneys to plan the program and being in a leadership role. It was great to see that the young attorneys are encouraged to take on a speaking role as a moderator, if they desired. Throughout each committee meeting, we collaborated on the topics and panels for the program, and actively contributed to helping the program run smoothly. We held committee meetings prior to the program luncheon to coordinate the plans for said lunch. Through this experience, I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the discussions that took place and work amongst a group of accomplished and collegial attorneys.

I highly encourage all attorneys to participate in the mentorship program. It is great to be in a realm where you have the ability to network, to grow in the profession, and to build strong relationships with those around you.