



October 23, 2015

Re: Resilience

Dear SCWLA Members:

Women lawyers are, in general, planners. We plan for our education; we plan for our careers; we plan for the future. But, sometimes, life gets in the way, and our plans change.

Today would have been SCWLA's 21<sup>st</sup> Convention. We were planning to gather at the USC Law School, to plan for the future of young lawyers. But then, the rains came, and everything changed.

In the face of unprecedented disaster, we made other plans. So, today, instead of earning CLE credits, we are making "Blessing Bags" for those who lost so much. We did the right thing, for the right reason. We were, in the face of loss and tragedy, resilient.

Many experts have studied the subject of resilience. Some people think resilience is like a rubber ball -- when you drop it, it bounces back. I think of resilience as a young tree which, when the sunshine is blocked, bends to face the light. Either way, having resilience helps one cope with adversity, learn from failure, and face the future with confidence.

Next year, SCWLA will study resilience in women lawyers. We had planned to begin that study at the Convention today with a series of mini-lectures, or resilience "moments." Instead, we got a real life lesson in what it means to be resilient.

I will be thinking of each of you today, especially those who have suffered through the recent storms. May God bless you all.

With best personal wishes, and more to come.

Marguerite Willis  
President

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