

# first person

with Tamron Hall by Angie Kay Dillmore

*Texas native, Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist, and television host Tamron Hall will be the Keynote Speaker at this year's Women's Commission of SWLA Fall Conference, October 18, at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Hall is best known as a co-anchor on the Today Show from 2014 – 2017. Hall earned a BA in Broadcast Journalism from Temple University, where she now serves on the Board of Trustees. She worked at television stations in Fort Worth and Chicago before joining NBC News in 2007. She hosted NewsNation with Tamron Hall, and is currently filming the sixth season of Deadline: Crime with Tamron Hall on Investigation Discovery. At MSNBC, Hall served as a general reporter and fill-in anchor until scoring the co-anchor position on Today's Take, the Today Show's third hour. Hall was the first African-American woman to co-anchor the Today Show, and she was recognized in 2015 with the Edward R. Murrow Award for Reporting. In 2004, Hall's sister, Renate, was murdered following a history of suffering domestic violence abuse. In honor of her sister, Hall launched The Tamron ♥ Renate Fund with Safe Horizon to help victims and families affected by domestic violence. She is a dedicated spokesperson in the fight against domestic abuse. Thrive magazine recently caught up with Hall to learn more about her celebrated career in television, the lessons she's learned along the way, and what drives her to succeed.*

**Describe your character traits that have contributed to who and where you are today.**

I was raised in an environment where encouragement was a close second to unconditional love. I feel when it comes to my family and friends, or even strangers, I want to be the voice rooting them on the loudest. I'm not sure if that's a character trait but it's the spirit of encouragement that has formed the person I am today.

**Did you have mentors throughout your career and what wisdom did you glean from them?**

I've had many mentors at different points in my personal and professional life. What I learned from each is different but overall the theme was to pay it forward. As a result, I have dedicated myself to mentor many others.

**Of all the people you have interviewed during your career, which person made the greatest impression upon you and why?**

That's impossible to answer. Reporting for 25 years has allowed me to see people at their highest points and their darkest hour. I learned resilience and kindness from people who lost everything

after natural disasters and I learned the feeling of pure joy from families celebrating in communities who rally together. People often assume the answer to that question would include a celebrity, while many have impressed me, it's their life before fame that is inspiring.

**Because of your sister's death, you're a champion for domestic abuse victims. Though painful, you share her story in hopes of helping other victims. What would you say to someone who is currently in an abusive situation?**

We are here for you to listen and never judge. This love and support is without conditions.

**Could you give us a hint on what attendees might learn from you at the Women's Commission Conference?**

My authentic journey is what I have to offer those in attendance.

**Will this be your first visit to Lake Charles?**

Yes, my first visit. Being a Texas girl, I've visited many parts of Louisiana. I am thrilled to add Lake Charles to the list.

