

CWL[®] News

A Publication
of California
Women Lawyers

Building a Fulfilling Career: Lessons for Success

CWL Brings Annual Conference to Los Angeles



California Women Lawyers' 2011 Annual Conference will be held this year at the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens in downtown Los Angeles. Consistent with the theme of *Building a Fulfilling Career: Lessons for Success*, this one-day event promises to be an educational, inspiring and enjoyable day. Experienced and talented women litigators, in both public and private practice, prosecutors, corporate counsel and judges will share their strategies for success and satisfaction, while other panels will offer advice on topics such as work life balance, litigation tactics, and creative use of ADR.

The conference keynote speaker is Justice Joan Dempsey Klein, Presiding Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three. Justice Klein was a co-founder and first president of CWL and a co-founder and first president of the National Association of Women Judges. She is a champion of women's rights and a pioneer in the struggle to achieve equal opportunity for women in the law. She has spent considerable time giving support and positive reinforcement to women in the legal profession. Justice Klein achieved her many accomplishments while raising five children.

Joining Justice Klein and speaking at programs throughout the day will be a group of some of the State's top women in the law, including Therese M. Stewart, Chief Deputy San Francisco City Attorney, and lead counsel in the Marriage Cases and Proposition 8 litigation. She will be joined by, among others:

- Andrea Ordin, FIRST WOMAN TO BE Los Angeles County Counsel
- Pat Gillette, partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe and founder of the Opt-In Project, a nationwide initiative focused on changing the structure of law firms to increase the retention and advancement of women in the workplace.
- Holly Fujie, former State Bar President and shareholder at Buchalter Nemer
- Nancy O'Malley, FIRST WOMAN TO BE Alameda County District Attorney
- Louise Renne, former San Francisco City Attorney and CWL Founding Mother
- Gail Lees, partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and chair of the firm's Class Actions Practice Group
- Nanci Nishimura, partner at Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy
- Christine Spagnoli, partner at Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP and Past President of the Consumer Attorneys of California and the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles

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President's Message

Patricia Sturdevant

In the months since our last newsletter, we lost and mourn two beloved members of our CWL community. Judge Isabella Horton Grant, whose accomplishments led to her selection for the Rose Bird Memorial Award for Judicial Excellence, succumbed to cancer before the award could be presented. In February, long-time Board member Judith Soley of Fresno was murdered, along with her client, by the client's estranged husband. The article about her life and work makes clear what a loss that is to us.

Reminiscent of the tragic shooting that shortened Fay Stender's life, and the shootings that took lives and widowed Carol Kingsley, a past president of one of CWL's San Francisco affiliates, the latest tragedy makes us pause and consider that our occupation and the availability of weapons make us vulnerable to devastating injury or death at the hands of distraught litigants. Please support and follow the lead of the San Francisco legal community and Carol Kingsley, who came together and established the country's only public interest law center dedicated to preventing gun violence, Legal Community against Violence. Their website is www.lcav.org.

Each year, CWL honors Fay Stender's legacy by presenting an award named for her to outstanding women for work effectuating change and furthering the cause of social justice. The CWL Board and Fresno County Women Lawyers are now considering appropriate ways for CWL to preserve Judith Soley's memory and welcome suggestions from CWL members.

The past few months also brought opportunities for celebration. My swearing in as CWL President by newly appointed Judge Michele Flurer at the January 29th CWL Board meeting in Orange County was the first such happy occasion. Next, in February, I joined with 920 others, including a sizeable contingent from Women Lawyers of Sacramento, at a dinner in Sacramento honoring Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye's investiture, and celebrating the fact that she presides over a female majority on the California Supreme Court

March included the investiture of two CWL members as Judges, both followed by fabulous parties. Angela Bradstreet, a Past President of CWL and a driving force behind San Francisco's No Glass Ceiling and diversity initiatives, was sworn in as Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court. In Sacramento, Magistrate Kim Mueller became the first woman Article III judge appointed to the Eastern District of California since it was created in 1966. Both events were attended by overflow crowds of well wishers from the local legal communities.

My personal highlight was honoring Judge Grant with the Rose Bird Award in recognition of her professional excellence, dedication to public service, and inspiration to a generation of women. Judge Grant's posthumous award was accepted by her cousin, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elizabeth White. Although we were saddened that she did not live to receive the award personally, we were gratified that knowledge of the Award brought some measure of pleasure, joy and comfort to her during her last weeks. Judge Grant knew of the award in January, and in her last two months of life it was the subject of joyful discussion with her family, friends and visitors. The celebration, planned by a stellar committee chaired by Kelly Robbins, and supported by Queen's Bench and the San Francisco legal community, was warm, touching and a fitting tribute to our outstanding honoree. A beautiful video tribute was especially meaningful in capturing and conveying Judge's Grant's life, work, and spirit. We remember Judge Grant with love and affection and cherish her memory.

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In Memoriam

Judges Chittick and Nystrom-Geist Remember Judith Solely

By the Honorable Hilary A. Chittick and the Honorable Kimberly Nystrom-Geist, CWL Life Members

On February 16, 2011, CWL and the legal community at large suffered a tremendous loss when CWL lifetime member and former CWL Board member Judith Leslie Solely was killed by the opposing party during a lunchtime break in a family law matter.

Judy, who was born July 14, 1945, lived a multi-faceted life. She loved to travel, spoke Spanish fluently, and spoke Italian passably. Her travels took her to Mexico, Italy, Russia, China, and countless other destinations. Judy's life was a constant adventure, filled with gardening, entertaining, friends, family, symphonies, and outdoor activities. Those who were fortunate to be part of Judy's personal life knew that if Judy was around, there was never a dull moment.

Publically, Judy was best known as a pioneer in the legal community. She graduated from Boalt Hall in 1970, at a time when few women were practicing law. Judy often shared the story of her first interviews as a new attorney. One senior attorney, at best baffled by the young woman who was Judy Solely, told her that perhaps she could come to work at that firm as a legal secretary. A senior attorney at a different firm told her that the firm could not possibly hire her because "what would our wives think?" Judy, being Judy, never faltered in her determination.

In the years that followed, Judy earned more respect, honors and awards than any article could ever list. Indeed, she accomplished more than a single lifetime could reasonably be expected to contain. She founded a successful law firm with long-term employees who were as devoted to Judy as she was to them. In addition to being a lifetime member of CWL, Judy received the Fresno County Women Lawyers Justice Pauline Davis Hansen award, was recognized as one of Fresno County's Top 10 Business Women of the Year, chaired the Valley Small Business Association, and countless other awards. She mentored law students and young attorneys—both men and women—setting many on the course of rewarding and fulfilling careers.



Photograph courtesy of Howard Watkins

Never one to leave a door closed when she could open it, in the mid-1980's Judy was the first woman invited to join Fresno's Academy, a group of thirty members who were required to present and defend carefully researched papers on areas outside their professions. Judy thrived on the conviviality, the intense discussions, and the intellectual challenge it presented.

Privately, Judy was best known as Leslie's mom. Judy would no doubt be the first to tell anyone that all of her other accomplishments paled in comparison to the great pride and joy she took in being Leslie Alexandra Solely's mother. Judy, who was a single mom, often shared

that as soon as she knew she'd be raising Leslie alone, she committed that nothing would ever take precedence over Leslie. Judy kept that commitment with delight and enthusiasm every day of her life. Judy was a great friend, mentor, attorney, advocate, and trailblazer, but she was an even better mom. Leslie herself, in all she is and will become, is the greatest tribute to Judy.

Thomas Jefferson said of Meriwether Lewis that he had "undaunted courage." The same could be said of Judy. When one looks at her life and accomplishments, the things she stood for and fought for and lived for, she did it all with undaunted courage. To be undaunted means to be resolute, not discouraged, fearless. Judy was all that and more. I don't think it ever occurred to her that something was beyond her reach, even if no one like Judy had ever done it before. She was smart and tough enough to know that the prejudice that faced her was real, yet it never either stopped her or defined her. She was the first woman president of the Fresno County Bar Association. She was also the first, and thus far only, Bar Association President in a wheelchair. She clearly knew those facts existed, and knew how important it was for her to succeed, but those facts did not define her or curtail or appear to shape her efforts. She simply approached those tasks like she approached everything else she did: with passion and zest and an abandonment of constraints of convention or expectation. There are not many like her, and she will be missed.

CWL 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30 – 9:30 AM BREAKFAST WITH SPEAKER PROFESSOR LISA PRUITT

9:30 – 10:30 am

SUPERWOMAN – DO YOU WEAR THE CAPE?

Moderator: Hon. Michele Flurer, Los Angeles County Superior Court

- Pat Gillette, Partner, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP
- Linda Marks, UC Hastings College of the Law Center for Work Life Law
- Tiffany Hedgpath, Partner, Bingham, McCutchen LLP

DOING JUSTICE AND FINDING FULFILLMENT IN THE LAW

Moderator: Nanci Nishimura, Partner, Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP

- Nanci Nishimura, Partner, Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP
- Louise Renne, Partner, Renne Sloan Holtzman & Sakai LLP, former San Francisco City Attorney

10:45 – 11:45 am

ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN YOUR CAREER - MAKING PARTNER

Moderator: Kim Arnal, Partner, Black, Compean, Hall & Eli LLP

- Gretchen Ramos, Partner, Carroll, Burdick & McDonough LLP
- Jessica Valenzuela, Partner, Cooley LLP
- Jennifer Lantz, Partner, Haynes and Boone, LLP
- Holly Fujie, Partner, Buchalter Nemer; Former State Bar President

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME: KEYS TO OPENING AND MAINTAINING YOUR OWN SUCCESSFUL LAW PRACTICE

Moderator: Tara M. Flanagan, Flanagan Law Offices

- Tanya Forsheit, Partner, InfoLawGroup LLP; President-Elect WLALA
- Cassie Springer-Sullivan, Partner, Springer-Sullivan & Roberts LLP
- Diane Goldman, Law Office of Diane Goldman

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM: LUNCH WITH SPEAKER HON. JOAN DEMPSEY KLEIN

1:00 – 2:00 pm

ACCESSING YOUR INNER RAINMAKER

Moderator: Kelly J. Robbins, Robbins Family Law

- Gail Lees, Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
- Margaret Stevens, Stevens Law
- Eliza Rodrigues, Special Ethics and Conflicts Counsel, Sedgwick LLP

REWARDING CAREERS IN CRIMINAL LAW

Moderator: Nancy O'Malley, Alameda County District Attorney

- Jacquelyn Lacey, Los Angeles County Assistant District Attorney
- Rebecca Walker, Partner, Kaplan & Walker LLP
- Mary Carter Andruess, Partner, Arent Fox LLP

2:00 – 3:00 pm

MEDIATION AND OTHER FORMS OF ADR: DOES GENDER PLAY A PART, AND IF SO, HOW?

Moderator: Neda Mansoorian, Partner, McManis Faulkner

- Hon. Catherine Gallagher (Ret.), JAMS
- Valerie Rojas, Special Counsel, Sedgwick LLP
- Kristen Law Sagafi, Partner, Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP

ATTAINING SUCCESS AND SATISFACTION IN GOVERNMENT WORK

Moderator: Patricia Sturdevant, Deputy Insurance Commissioner; CWL President

- Andrea Ordin, Los Angeles County Counsel
- Therese Stewart, Chief Deputy San Francisco City Attorney
- Wilma J. Pinder, Deputy Los Angeles City Attorney, Ret.

3:10 – 4:10 pm

GREAT FEMALE TRIAL LAWYERS: THE PATH TO ACHIEVEMENT

Moderator: Jacqueline Vitti Frederick, Law Office of Jacqueline Vitti Frederick

- Amy Solomon, Partner, Girardi Keese
- Christine Spagnoli, Partner, Green Broillett & Wheeler, LLP
- Lisa Maki, Law Offices of Lisa L. Maki
- Ruth Kahn, Partner, Steptoe & Johnson LLP

GOING IN-HOUSE: PRACTICAL CAREER LESSONS FROM IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

Moderator: Jodi Swick, Carroll, Burdick & McDonough LLP

- Sophie-Nicole Froelich, Senior Counsel, Roll Law GroupPC
- Rachel Kimbrough, Counsel, Summit Entertainment, LLC
- Karen Rigberg, Managing Counsel, Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc.

4:15 – 4:30 pm: Speed Mentoring: Quick Tips from Experienced Attorneys

4:30 – 5:30 pm: Networking through Service: Roundtable on Bar Activities and Best Practices Moderated by CWL President Patricia Sturdevant

5:30 – 7:00 pm RECEPTION HONORING LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT PRESIDING JUDGE LEE EDMOND

California Women Lawyers' 3rd Annual Conference



When & Where
April 29, 2011

**Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens
120 South Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

"BUILDING A FULFILLING CAREER: LESSONS FOR SUCCESS"

Keynote Luncheon Speaker, Presiding Justice Joan Dempsey Klein, Second District Court of Appeal, Division 3, one of CWL's founding mothers.

Learn from California's leading women lawyers how you can achieve both professional success and personal fulfillment in your career.

Experienced practitioners will provide essential tools for overcoming obstacles to advancement for women. Judges, law firm partners, prosecutors, government lawyers and corporate counsel will share their strategies for success.

Hear from prominent and powerful women: Andrea Ordin, Los Angeles County Counsel; Nancy O'Malley, Alameda County District Attorney; Louise Renne, former San Francisco City Attorney and CWL Founding Mother; Pat Gillette, Orrick Herrington, one of the Best Lawyers in America; Super Lawyers Gail Lees, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; Nanci Nishimura, Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy; Christine Spagnoli, Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP; and Kelly Robbins, Robbins Family Law; Rachel Kimbrough, Summit Entertainment LLC; Holly Fujie, Former State Bar President and Partner at Buchalter Nemer. and many other talented and capable women.

8:30 – 9:30 am The State of Gender in the Legal Profession: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. Professor Lisa Pruitt, Feminist Jurisprudence Scholar at UC Davis King Hall

9:30 – 5:00 pm Panel Discussions and Workshops:

- Doing Justice and Finding Fulfillment in the Law
- Achieving Success In Your Career/Making Partner
- Great Female Trial Lawyers: The Path to Achievement
- Attaining Success and Satisfaction in Government Work
- Speed Mentoring: Quick Tips from Experienced Attorneys
- Rewarding Careers In Criminal Law
- *If You Build It They Will Come*: Keys to Opening and Maintaining Your Own
- Successful Law Practice
- Accessing Your Inner Rainmaker
- Mediation and Other Forms of ADR: Does Gender Play a Part, and If So, How
- Going In-House: Practice and Career Lessons from In-House Counsel
- Networking through Service: Round Table on Bar Activities and Best Practices

5:30 – 7:00 pm General Session: Cocktail Reception Honoring Judge Lee Edmon, the First Woman Elected to be Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, Los Angeles County

Network with Judges and outstanding women leaders in all aspects of the profession

MCLE CREDITS OFFERED

Conference registration includes breakfast, lunch and cocktail reception.

Ticket Pricing Info:

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|----------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|
| • CWL Members | \$145 | • Non-Members | \$195 | • New Lawyers (5 years or less) | \$120 |
| • Affiliate Members | \$165 | • Law Students | \$100 | • Lunch Only | \$50 |
| | | | | • Cocktail Reception only | \$35 |

Learn more about CWL and register for "Building a Fulfilling Career: Lessons for Success" at www.cwl.org

Register Online at
WWW.CWL.ORG

CWL Annual Conference, continued from page 1

- Rachel Kimbrough, counsel for Summit Entertainment
- Karen Rickberg, counsel for Toyota Motor Sales USA
- Linda Marks of the Hastings Center for Work Life Law
- Professor Lisa Pruitt, feminist legal scholar at University of California, Davis, School of Law

The Conference is organized into panel presentations themed around the issues facing women lawyers today, ranging from gender equality in the legal profession to rainmaking. In addition, the conference will offer sessions geared towards building a fulfilling career in different types of practice —law firm practice, solo practice and government practice. The day will also include a “speed mentoring” session in which participants will be able to rotate through brief mentoring sessions with experienced lawyers and judges and a round table on bar activities and best practices.

The conference will culminate in a cocktail reception honoring the Honorable Lee Edmon, Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Judge Edmon is the first woman to hold the presiding judge position in the 121-year-history of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Judge Edmon is a former president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers, and the American Bar Association’s nonprofit affiliate, the American Bar Endowment. In 2006, Judge Edmon was named the Alfred J. McCourtney Trial Judge of the Year by the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles.

CWL would like to thank the following “early-bird” sponsors for the 2011 CWL Annual Conference, to be held April 29, 2011, at the Kyoto Grand Hotel in Los Angeles:

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Sponsorship is still available, and more details are available on our website, www.cwl.org, or from Neda Mansoorian at NMansoorian@mcmanislaw.com.

Chief Judge Irma Gonzalez Receives CWL’s Joan Dempsey Klein Award

By Rebecca Roberts



Each year, CWL awards one jurist in Southern California, who is a champion of women’s rights and an inspiration to women attorneys, with the Joan Dempsey Klein “Distinguished Jurist” award. CWL proudly announces that Chief Judge Irma E. Gonzalez of the United States District Court of California for the Southern District is the 2011 recipient

of this award. Many firsts highlight Judge Gonzalez’s legal career. She is the first woman U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Southern District of California. She is the first Hispanic woman appointed to the San Diego Superior Court and first Latino judge appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. And, she is the first Mexican-American woman ever appointed to a federal district court in the United States.

Judge Gonzalez’s inspiration, however, goes well beyond what she has achieved on the bench. Judge Gonzalez is a leader in San Diego’s legal community and commits countless hours to public service. She personally mentors young minority and women lawyers and law students through the Lawyers Club of San Diego, “Latinas in the Law” and La Raza Lawyers Association and is actively involved in numerous other organizations. She serves with distinction on both circuit and national committees and effectively administrators one of the busiest district courts in the country. Known for her impartiality, thoughtfulness, and coolheaded decision making, Judge Gonzalez is one of the most respected jurists in San Diego.

The reception for Judge Gonzalez will be in San Diego, California, in August, 2011. Additional information regarding the date, price and location of the event will be forthcoming.

The Changing Face of the Bench in Santa Barbara County

By Naomi Dewey

In late 2008, when Judge Jean Dandona and Judge Kay Kuns took the bench in the Santa Barbara County Superior Court, they increased the number of women judges in the County by 66%: from one to three. For 14 years, Judge Denise DeBellefeuille, appointed in 1994 to the Municipal Court, had been the only woman judge among 18 on the Santa Barbara bench.

By January 2011, a panel of new bench officers speaking to the local bar association about the Changing Face of the Bench in Santa Barbara County was evidence of a shift in the status quo. Of eight new bench officers, all but one was female: the sole male, Judge Jed Beebe, a former court research attorney, was elected to the bench in 2008. Each of the women was appointed; either as judges or by their colleagues as commissioners, and each bring something to the bench that evidences the importance of equality in the Courtroom.

Joining Judge Dandona, Judge Kuns and Judge DeBellefeuille on the bench are Judge Donna Geck, a past director of Santa Barbara Women Lawyers and the first female president of the Central Coast Chapter of ABOTA; Commissioner Pauline Maxwell, also a past director of Santa Barbara Women Lawyers, with a background in civil litigation and as a court research attorney; Commissioner Denise Motter, a former family law facilitator; Judge Colleen Sterne, a former court commissioner and past director of Santa Barbara Women Lawyers; and Judge Patricia Kelly, a former deputy district attorney.

"It's nice to have company," Judge Dandona said, noting that she had seen subtle changes and a different way of doing things as more women joined her on the bench. Judge Geck agreed, noting that for a long time, Judge DeBellefeuille was the only woman on the bench and that a Court that reflected gender

in the general population brought a better perspective to all involved.

"We are balanced," said Commissioner Maxwell, "and there is strength in numbers." Both Commissioner Maxwell and Commissioner Motter worked with the Court before being named as commissioners, and each commented on the change



(Left to Right) – Comm. Pauline Maxwell, Hon. Donna Geck; Hon. Jean Dandona, Hon. Jed Beebe, Comm. Denise Motter, Hon. Kay Kuns and Hon. Colleen Sterne.

that they saw in the workplace. "It's wonderful going into a room and seeing other women," agreed Judge Sterne, who noted that she felt the change would produce a more favorable view of the Court amongst the general public.

Judge Kuns, who sits in the Santa Ynez Valley, commented that you find compassion and caring in both women and men, but that the population as a whole respects seeing balance – although more balance on the bench could come through increased diversity.

The panel, speaking at Santa Barbara's Historic Mission as part of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association's "Bench and Bar Conference," was one of the first occasions that all of the new judicial officers had spoken together in public. Only Judge Kelly was unable to attend.

Naomi Dewey is CWL Governor - District 6, and a past president of SBWL. She last wrote about the move to increase diversity on the bench in Santa Barbara County in the December 2009 edition of CWL News.

Rosemary T. McGuire Appointed to Fresno Superior Court

by Prudence Hutton



Rosemary T. McGuire of Clovis was appointed to a judgeship on the Fresno County Superior Court in December 2010 by the outgoing Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. "Rosie" McGuire had been a partner in the firm of Weakley, Ratliff, Arendt and McGuire from 2001 to 2008 where her practice consisted of handling complex civil rights and tort litigation for public and business entities and

their employees. The majority of the cases that she handled in recent years involved representing law enforcement officers and the agencies that employed them in Federal and State Court.

McGuire started as a paralegal, enrolled in San Joaquin College of Law in 1990 and graduated in 1994. While attending law school, she worked full time and was raising a family.

Judge McGuire has been active in several local bar associations including the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the Federal Bar Association serving on the Board from 2004 – 2010 and president in 2008 and 2009. She also was a Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative from 2003 – 2007 and on the Ninth Circuit Judicial Advisory Committee from 2005 – 2009. She also has been active in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) since 2006 and served on the board of the San Joaquin Valley Chapter. For nine years, she volunteered as a pro tem judge with the Fresno County Superior Court, Juvenile Delinquency Division

After being sworn in on December 28, 2010, Judge McGuire assumed duties on the Fresno Superior Bench in January. She had already won the praise of Federal District Court Judge Lawrence J. O'Neil who commented that she "already is an excellent judge and was a superlative lawyer. Rosie is the easiest person in the world to get to know because she's thoroughly genuine. She has no pretense and offers no nonsense."

Kimberly Mueller is First Woman on Eastern District Bench

CWL Congratulates and Celebrates Kimberly J. Mueller, Federal District Judge of the Sacramento Division of United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. Judge Mueller was formally invested (despite having started work late last year) before an overflow crowd on March 11, 2011 in Sacramento. Judge Mueller is the first female district judge to serve in the Eastern District, and to honor her achievements, we produce below remarks from that ground-breaking (and glass-ceiling shattering) ceremony.

Kimberly J. Mueller Remarks



March 11, 2011: Thank you Chief Judge Ishii and all Judges of the Eastern District Bench – a bench that long has been the hardest working, most productive, most humble court in the nation – that’s since way before me! It is a great privilege now to be counted as one of your district judges!

Thank you to Grantland Johnson and Senator Steinberg; Judge Snyder and Professor Babcock; Judge Drozd; Judge Damrell and

Former Judge and Dean Levi. Each of you has touched my lives in ways particularly meaningful to this day. I so appreciate your being here and gracing the program with your wit, and wisdom and insight.

Thank you also, of course, to the President of the United States, President Obama, and his tireless nominations staff – and in particular a young man named Michael Shenkman, for the appointment justifying this kind of ceremony. Thank you to Senator Boxer for her role in advising the White House. Thank you to Senator Feinstein for her support and guidance, as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, during the Senate process known as “consent.” Thank you also to Senator Boxer’s staff and her local Judicial Selection Committee, chaired by Donald Fischbach, with other members here today. And thank you to Congresswoman Matsui and her staff for advice and counsel.

Thank you to the American Bar Association for its role in advising the President, through a review spearheaded by attorney David Tang of Seattle. Thank you to all the bar associations represented here among you – including California Women Lawyers, Women Lawyers of Sacramento, the Sacramento County Bar, La Raza, Wiley Manuel, the Asian Pacific Bar, and SacLegal, among others I’m sure. And thank you to the Federal Bar Association for all it does to bring the Bench and the Bar together, and for the tremendous help in coordinating and staging today’s celebration.

If time allowed, I would read every one of your names into the record of this special occasion. Because I know I owe a debt of gratitude to each of you. At some point along one of the many switchbacks leading to this point in time, whether in the Midwest some forty or fifty years ago, at college in Claremont,

upon my arrival in Sacramento, on the city council, working with the firefighters – whether it was when I became a lawyer, or more recently -- I have learned something from you, and benefitted from your feedback or support. I appreciate that fact more than words can express.

I must also thank those forming that nucleus of family without which nothing could happen, and nothing would be worthwhile, and my husband, Bob Slobe, who thought this judgeship was a good idea before I did, who has provided untold moral and material support – of the right kind – who gamely tolerated many private displays of impatience, and who in ways unimaginable makes me a better person and a better judge.



It is no secret I was one of several judicial nominees for whom some time lapsed last year between nomination and confirmation. Once the President signed my commission on December 21st, however, virtually not an instant lapsed between the time Judge Damrell swore me in that same day! This ceremonial investiture is an important public celebration, but I have begun the job over the last several weeks and months. I’ve held calendars, issued decisions, imposed sentences, and even been baptized with my first felony trial. In so doing, I’ve appreciated the lawyering skills of our Eastern District Bar. And I’ve had the help of an incredible staff – law clerks Sandra Gillies, Jennifer Lerman, Judicial Assistant Patti Andrews, Courtroom Deputy Casey Schultz and Court Reporter Cathie Bodene – thank you all. Based on what I’ve seen so far, I truly can say, it was worth the wait. But I would be less than candid if I said I never had my doubts. As I mentioned, and as Bob knows all too well, there were plenty of times I had a hard time with the waiting. I would try to put the waiting in perspective by reminding myself of another woman nominated more than a decade ago, who waited longer and in vain. I thought about how long women in this district generally have been waiting for a woman to become a District Judge. This way I knew I was not waiting alone. Now that the wait is over,

I fully appreciate that I am not the only woman who could be standing here today. But that events have transpired so that I am the one here before you on this occasion is a deep and indescribable honor. Most importantly, I am the first of many more to come!

I pledge never to take this important position of responsibility lightly, or for granted. I will strive to fulfill the ideals of the oath I have just taken – “administering justice without respect to persons” and “faithfully and impartially” discharging my duties under the constitution and the laws of these, our united states. For the lawyers and judges in the room, I promise to do my best to uphold the highest standards of my new profession in order to maintain the judicial independence our founders so carefully conceived of. I will endeavor to constrain my decisions to the issues placed before me, to respect legal precedent, to wrestle when needed with the proper application of the law to the facts of a given case, and to make myself clear in rendering a decision. And I’ll try to keep up with my caseload – starting next week!

For those of you who are not lawyers and judges, I make all the same promises. In doing so, I’m fairly certain it’s just a matter of time before you read or hear a report of a decision I’ve made and think, “that can’t be right” – or something worse! When that day comes, my decision will need to speak for itself. But please know that I will have reached it not by imposing my personal views of what the outcome should be, but through the most careful deliberation I could muster and by a process designed to effectuate the oath you’ve just witnessed. Your witnessing this oath transforms it from mere words on a piece of paper, or spoken by one judge to another, to words that fill this room, resonating with the ancient and enduring principles that are the very reasons our third branch of government exists.

Thank you for being my witnesses. And thank you again, from the bottom of my heart.

A First Woman— A Meditation by Barbara Babcock on the investiture of Kim Mueller

It is a privilege and special pleasure to have a part in honoring Kim Mueller today. She was my research assistant almost twenty years ago, and I’m sure I told her as I do all my students, that a magistrate judgeship is a great path to the federal district court, and that a federal district court judge is the closest thing to a god in our legal system--with absolute authority in her courtroom and appellate review only a remote possibility for huge individual decisions made in the course of a case.

I said these things to generations of Stanford students--but only Kimberly Mueller took them to heart! It is striking to consider her career and the directness of her path to the high position she formally assumes today. Her success results mainly from her personal and professional qualities – wouldn’t you, if you had an important matter before the courts, want her for a judge – so intelligent and insightful, so hardworking and thoughtful, so fair and balanced? She is manifestly and supremely well qualified for the job.

But in most of our country’s previous history, Kim Mueller’s personal qualifications would not have been enough to take her to what most lawyers consider the crowning accomplishment of a legal career – a federal judgeship. Simple sex discrimination would have stood in her way. Until recently (speaking in legal time) very few women have been chosen to fill these high places. When I served in the Carter administration in the late seventies, I was asked to identify qualified women for appointment to the federal courts. They turned out to be easy to find but hard to appoint. Democrats had been out of office a long time, and for every federal district court judgeship, an identifiable, distinguished male candidate was in line. Appointing a woman meant disappointing a specific man – it was hard work, but Carter was willing to do it, appointing more women to the federal bench than all previous Presidents combined!

President Carter’s appointment of women was in turn a reflection of a major change in the demographics of the legal profession, as the women’s movement brought a huge influx of women into law school in the early seventies. Almost overnight, the percentage of women law students went from 4 percent to 20 percent, and today it is close to fifty percent. Once they became a significant force in the profession, women lawyers reached out for positions that were simply not available to them before.

WE – that is, the legal profession, women lawyers, the country – have come far. Yet women are only about a third of all federal judges and there are still courts that have yet to welcome their first women. The number of these is fast decreasing, however, and today is an example as Kim Mueller becomes the first woman judge on the Eastern district of California. She holds a unique position--there will never be another first woman. And in that sense, as I always like to say – being first is success itself!

Kim has other firsts as well – she was the first member of her family to be a lawyer, for instance, and the first member of the Sacramento City council to attend Stanford Law School, for another example. And in law school she was a first rate assistant to me, the first woman on the Stanford faculty, researching the life of California’s first woman lawyer, Clara Foltz. The book Kim Mueller helped me with – *Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz* has just been published.

Foltz became a lawyer in 1878 and went on to practice for fifty years. She had great successes, but ultimately sex discrimination barred her highest aspirations. For her, a federal judgeship was an impossible dream – the first woman was appointed in 1934, the year that Foltz died. I see this occasion through Clara Foltz’s eyes – she would be so glad to be remembered here as the first, and so proud to claim Kim Mueller as her daughter-in-the-law, and so am I on this great occasion.

*Barbara Babcock was the first woman appointed to the regular faculty at Stanford Law School, as well as the first to hold an endowed chair and the first emerita. She is also the author of **Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz**, published in 2011 by the Stanford Press. The book has notes and indexes online with extensive materials on early women lawyers at the Women’s Legal History website: <http://wlh.law.stanford.edu/>.*

2011 Rose Bird Award: Northern

California Women Lawyers Posthumously Honor Judge Isabella Horton Grant

by **Tara M. Flanagan,**
Affiliate Governor, WLAC

The mood on Friday, March 25th in the majestic fifth floor conference room of the law firm of Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold, LLP in San Francisco was both celebratory and bittersweet, as CWL, its members and guests gathered to honor legendary Judge Isabella Horton Grant with CWL's Rose Bird Award.

The evening and the tribute to this year's recipient, Judge Grant, was wonderful in every way but one: Judge Grant, who had been in declining health over recent months, passed away just weeks before the March 25 Rose Bird Award Reception. CWL, friends, colleagues, and especially Judge Grant's family members found great comfort, however, in the fact that the announcement of Judge Grant's receiving the Rose Bird Award had been made in January 2011. Judge Grant was aware and enormously proud that she had been named the Rose Bird Award recipient and had been looking forward to the Judicial Reception and Award prior to her passing.

The evening began with opening remarks and a warm welcome from Pat Sturdevant, CWL President, and CWL Foundation President Nancy O'Malley.

Ms Sturdevant noted in her welcoming remarks: "Not only do we honor this respected and admired woman tonight, but will do so again at our annual dinner on September 15th, the first night of the state bar convention, in Long Beach. Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, the second woman to hold that position, will be the keynote speaker at CWL's Annual Dinner, and we will recognize Judge Grant, among others, for notable achievement during the year."



*Hon. Barbara J.R. Jones,
Presiding Justice, California
Court of Appeal, First
District*

The Mistress of Ceremonies, the Honorable Barbara J.R. Jones, Presiding Justice of the California Court of Appeal, First District, engaged the attendees with her warm and often entertaining insights about who Judge Grant was as a person, a judge, and a friend.

Reception attendees learned that Judge Grant graduated from Swarthmore College with high honors, and went on to earn a masters degree in economics from U.C.L.A. Afterward, she earned her law degree from Columbia University. In 1964, she served as president of Queen's Bench, the Women's Bar Association of San Francisco. In 1979 she was appointed

to the Municipal Court by (then) Governor Jerry Brown, and to the Superior Court in 1982, where she went on to serve as the Presiding Judge of the Family Law Department, and later, the Probate Department. After retiring from the bench in 1996, Judge Grant went on to work with the American Arbitration Association and as a volunteer mediator in the appellate Mediation Program.

Judge Grant was known then, and will forever be remembered for her sensitivity and forward thinking on legal issues and systems involving families, battered women, and children. Judge Grant was instrumental in authoring the Family Law Act in 1970, which became the 'model' for other states to follow- including a groundbreaking concept of the day: "No Fault" divorce. She created, for the first time, a specialized court calendar where similar cases – those of domestic violence survivors- could be heard in the family law court with sensitivity and perhaps more time. The specialized domestic violence calendar was the first of its time, and afforded the litigants with a level of dignity such cases had never received. She also served for many years as an honorary committee member for Kids Turn, a San Francisco agency that offers assistance for children impacted by divorce. She helped rewrite the Probate Department rules for the San Francisco Superior Court. Seemingly, whatever project she touched, she improved with her intellect, creative problem solving, and her compassion.

In her remarks, Mary Joy Quinn, Director of the Probate Department of the San Francisco Superior Court shared stories of Judge Grant's leadership in the Probate Department, and her kindness and humor as a manager. She also spoke about Judge Grant receiving the prestigious Treat Award for Excellence in 2000, awarded by the National College of Probate Judges.

Further remarks and tributes were made by the Hon. Ina Levin Gyemant (Ret.) of the San Francisco Superior Court, who, Justice Jones reported, attended Queens Bench meetings as a little girl with her mother Mildred Levin, one of the early women lawyers in San Francisco, along with Judge Grant.



*Judge Ina Levin
Gyemant, San
Francisco Superior
Court (Ret.)*

One of the most poignant aspects of the evening was a beautiful video tribute created by Gilbert Leung and including the oral history recorded by Sophie Taggart, R.N./N.P. The video included prior interviews with Judge Grant where she shared stories of her elevation to the bench and her judicial experiences. The video included many historical photos of Judge Grant's amazing life, from young girl to judge, and afterwards. This video tribute was especially meaningful in capturing and conveying Judge's Grant's life, work, and spirit.

2011 Northern California Judicial Reception

Elizabeth Horton Grant of the San Francisco Superior Court

Additional accolades and remembrances were provided in the form of a short four page typed memoir, with photos, written by the author Danielle Steele, a former client of, and long-time friend of Judge Grant.

When the time came to present the award itself, the Hon. Elizabeth A. White, Los Angeles Superior Court, who is Judge Grant's niece rose and accepted the award on behalf of Judge Grant's family. In making the presentation, CWL President Ms. Sturdevant stated:

"This is a unique and special evening—both sad and celebratory--and I'm certain you all now understand why we selected Judge Grant for this Award. We are saddened that she is not here to receive it, but gratified that knowledge of the Award brought some measure of comfort in her last weeks. Choosing her was not difficult because she embodies all of the criteria for selection—excellence as a jurist, longstanding and groundbreaking public service, and inspiration to women lawyers in California."

Judge White graciously accepted the Rose Bird Memorial Award, and spoke about how meaningful the Rose Bird Award was to Judge Grant and her family. The award plaque, Judge White informed the crowd, will be hung in the family vacation home in upstate New York, a special place for Judge Grant.

On behalf of Judge Grant, Judge White was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers by the National Association of Women Judges by the Hon. Charlene P. Kiesselbach of the San Francisco Superior Court.

The 2011 Northern California Judicial Reception and Rose Bird Award will long be remembered. CWL is grateful for the support of our sponsors and donors for this wonderful 2011 event: Leiff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP; Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold LLP; Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy LLP; Kecker & Van Nest LLP; Blacker, Sammis & Blacker; Napa County Women Lawyers; Women Lawyers of Alameda County; and Queens Bench

Special recognition and thanks to Kelly J. Robbins, Queens Bench Affiliate Governor to CWL who served as Chairperson of the Rose Bird Award Reception Planning Committee; the Event Reception Committee Members; the Queens Bench, Renée Calta of CWL, and the Executive Committee of California Women Lawyers, all for their time, enthusiasm, and commitment to excellence.



CWL Affiliate Governor from Queens Bench, Kelly Robbins



CWL Board Members and Distinguished Guests, the Women Judges in attendance at the Judicial Reception.



CWL President Pat Sturdevant and CWL Board Members Gemma Daggs, Pat Sturdevant, Megan Lewis & Neda Mansoorian



CWL Foundation President and Alameda Co. District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, surrounded by Alameda Co. Deputy D.A.'s



CWL Second Vice President Nanci Nishimura, CWL President Pat Sturdevant and the Hon. Elizabeth A. White, Los Angeles Superior Court, Judge Grant's niece, who accepted the Rose Bird Award on behalf of Judge Grant's family.



The Hon Brenda Harbin-Forte, Alameda Co. Superior Court and 2007 Rose Bird Award winner, CWL President Pat Sturdevant, and the Hon. Charlene Kiesselbach, San Francisco Superior Court

The Rose Bird Memorial Award was established in 2000 in honor of the first woman to serve as Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, Rose Bird. Chief Justice Bird was one of the pioneers who founded CWL in 1974. Justice Bird stood strong for her convictions and after leaving her position as Chief Justice, volunteering at the East Palo Alto Community Law Project. She died on December 4, 1999 after a long battle with breast cancer.

Each year CWL awards the Rose Bird Memorial Award to one northern California female jurist who has demonstrated excellence and longstanding and/or groundbreaking public service and inspiration to women lawyers in California.

CWL Affiliate Governor Michele Flurer appointed to Los Angeles Superior Court



CWL is pleased to announce that on December 6, 2010, Board Member, Michele E. Flurer, was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to the Los Angeles Superior Court. Judge Flurer will be formally enrobed by the Los Angeles Superior Court on April 29, 2011, at the Mosk Courthouse location in downtown Los Angeles. Prior to her appointment, Judge Flurer sat as a Commissioner for the Los

Angeles Superior Court. She is assigned San Pedro Courthouse and her assignment includes, Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Civil Harassment Restraining Orders, Small Claims, Infraction trials and arraignments as well as Unlawful Detainer actions.

Judge Flurer runs a busy courtroom, but makes time to do many educational programs for the State Bar, her fellow bench officers and local bar associations. Recently she put on a Webinar for the State Bar Litigation Section on Expedited Jury Trials with colleague Judge, Mary Thornton House. Last month she spoke on small claims security deposits, training fellow bench officers. April 29th, Judge Flurer will be moderating a panel on work-life balance at the CWL Affiliate conference in

downtown Los Angeles. In April and May, she will be doing presentations for fellow bench officers in Sacramento and Burbank on commercial truck drivers.

In her Courtroom in San Pedro, you will find stacks of brochure, flyers and pamphlets sitting on the counsel table. Judge Flurer has massed her own library of self help materials that are restocked to provide self represented litigants with resources to handle their cases and other issues they may have. You can find information ranging from parenting plans to emergency housing funds as well as flyers for free legal services. Judge Flurer enlists the help of law school interns to help update the materials and locate new resources. Judge Flurer also allows law students to act as mediators in her Court and you may find 2nd and 3rd year lawsuits mediating civil harassment, small claims and unlawful detainer matters that are assigned to her Courtroom.

In addition to self-help materials, Judge Flurer gives away children's books in her courtroom. She first started giving free books away in Court after her own kids, ages 12 and 16, outgrew their books. Other bench officers and friends now help to replenish the supply. Parents that come to our Court are thankful. The kids are occupied while in court and they get to take the book with them when they leave, hopefully making the court experience even more positive.

Before taking the bench, Judge Flurer was General Counsel for AmericanTours International, LLC an internationally owned private company, working in the company's corporate headquarters located in Los Angeles. Before going in-house, Judge Flurer was an attorney with Baker & McKenzie, working in their former Los Angeles office and with the firm of Knapp, Petersen & Clarke. The key to success, Judge Flurer states, is seeking support, both personally and professionally from those around you, but knowing that you are responsible for your own destiny.

CWL Legislative Update: Marriage Equality, Family Justice and an End to Inhumane Treatment of Pregnant Inmates

By *Rebecca Dietzen, Co-Chair Legislation Committee*

With the federal and state legislatures in full swing, CWL has had several opportunities to review proposed legislation and speak out on bills affecting CWL's mission. Below is a summary of the bills for which CWL has issued letters of support.

Federal-The Respect for Marriage Act:

The Respect for Marriage Act seeks to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, or "DOMA." DOMA excuses states from having to recognize same sex marriages, which are legal in other states, under the Full Faith & Credit Clause, and defines marriage as between a man and woman. This denies same sex couples numerous federal benefits, including the right to file taxes jointly, take unpaid leave for a sick or injured spouse, receive benefits under Social Security, receive equal family health

and benefits as federal employees, etc. We believe that that DOMA is unconstitutional because it denies same sex couples the same rights as married couples.

The Respect for Marriage Act would entitle legally married same sex couples to federal benefits, returning traditional principles of comity and Full Faith and Credit. Thus, the bill would entitle legally married same sex couples and their families to federal benefits, even if they move to another state. CWL believes that the Respect for Marriage Act is an important step towards marriage equality.

California-Family Justice Centers:

Senate Bill 557 seeks to enhance existing victim services and programs for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and human trafficking, by authorizing cities and counties to establish multi-disciplinary and multi-agency family justice centers. The family justice centers will help ensure that victims of abuse are able to access services in one location, which will in turn enhance victim safety, increase offender accountability and improve access to services for victims of crimes. Additionally, SB 557 would permit family justice centers to share information on an informed consent basis. Family justice

center staffers would be given immunity from civil liability for information shared as a result of the informed consent process, and SB 557 would also authorize the National Family Justice Center Alliance to maintain certain statistical information. CWL believes these efforts will enhance services to victims.

California- Ending the Use of Shackles on Pregnant Women:

AB 568 seeks to put an end to the unnecessary and dangerous shackling of pregnant women during transport to and from juvenile and adult correctional facilities. This bill, formerly known as AB 1900, was proposed last year and passed through both houses unanimously. It was then vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The bill requires the Corrections Standards Authority to develop standards for state and county facilities that limit the use of shackles on pregnant women during transport.

Because current state law does not address or pay close attention to the use of shackles prior to labor, pregnant women in California are frequently shackled by the ankles, wrists and/or belly, and to another person, while being transported to and from a correctional facility. Although the vast majority of incarcerated women are non-violent, non-serious offenders, women as far along as 8 ½ months pregnant have been shackled in the most restrictive ways.

Excessive shackling poses undue health risks to a pregnant woman by increasing the woman's risk of falling and rendering her unable to break potential falls, putting her at risk for major trauma and even death.

If you would like CWL to review and take a position on a piece of legislation, please contact CWL's legislation co-chairs, Rebecca Dietzen rdietzen@murphyaustin.com and Rebecca Roberts rroberts@sheppardmullin.com

CWL's Amicus Curiae Committee At Work in the U.S. Supreme Court: Wal-Mart v. Dukes

By Lara M. Krieger, CWL Amicus Chair

In March 2011, CWL joined a U.S. Supreme Court amici curiae brief in the huge Wal-Mart v. Dukes class action winding its way through the federal courts. The basics of the Dukes case are well-known: the plaintiff class is made up of over a million women challenging Wal-Mart's systemic discriminatory pay and promotion practices. In some ways, the precise legal issue presented to the Supreme Court is one that only a civil procedure law professor could love: whether the lower courts properly certified the class under the federal rule governing class actions.

But CWL didn't join an amici brief confined to that narrow legal issue because the parties' own briefs would undoubtedly cover it. Instead, CWL joined an amici brief addressing the public policy nuances relevant to combatting the discriminatory practices underlying the lawsuit.

The amici brief that CWL joined was spearheaded by the Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization National Partnership for Women & Families. Sarah Crawford, the director of Workplace Fairness at the Partnership, co-authored the brief and consulted closely with CWL. The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce also signed onto this brief.

Ms. Crawford explained that the amici brief initially took shape through coordination among the many amici groups intending to file briefs in support of the plaintiff class. That coordination is essential for many reasons, including that the Supreme Court's own rules expressly caution against repetitive amici briefs that do nothing more than replot old ground. But, at the same time, the Supreme Court's guidance on the content of amici briefs is scant. The rule says only that "an amicus curiae brief that brings to the attention of the Court relevant matter not already brought to its attention by the parties may be of considerable help to the Court." By exchanging ideas early on, the amici groups attempted to ensure that each brief would focus on a discrete issue and that, when read together, the briefs would dovetail to provide

the Supreme Court with a full panoply of viewpoints to enrich its consideration and ultimate disposition of the case.

Given that context, our amici brief presented the Supreme Court with a novel perspective backed up by voluminous social science and public policy data: the interests of employers and employees need not be diametrically opposed. This argument responded directly to many of the amici briefs filed in support of Wal-Mart arguing that employer and employee interests cannot be harmonized. The brief's focus on the tangible, practical business benefits of curtailing (and ultimately eliminating) discrimination demonstrated that discrimination is bad for the bottom line. That theme was strategically intended to catch the ear of the conservative justices who might be more amenable to pro-business arguments. Conversely, the "elimination-of-discrimination-helps-the-bottom-line" theme was also intended to give the more liberal justices some cover against the virtually inevitable criticism that class actions are inimical to a robust business climate.

The brief also took a longer, historical perspective by pointing to earlier large-scale class action lawsuits, including *Brown v. Board of Education*, that facilitated successful, systemic, and institutional changes in many different contexts. This argument countered the claim that the evolution of business practices must be internally driven and is not amenable to external pressures.

Ms. Crawford from the Partnership has cheekily referred to this case as a "Betty v. Goliath" situation (Betty Dukes is the named plaintiff), and Wal-Mart no doubt would like to keep it that way. It is much more difficult for a single employee to take on a behemoth like Wal-Mart, and it is almost impossible to conceive of a single-plaintiff lawsuit engendering the type of widespread reform necessary to erase the pay inequity that women face at every turn.

We are proud to have weighed in on this ground-breaking case by providing the Supreme Court with a brief that furthers CWL's core mission of advancing the interests of women and universal equal rights and eliminating bias. We believe that our amici brief is a helpful voice in the sea of competing briefs scrambling for the justices' attention. We invite you to read the amici brief, which is posted on the CWL website.

President's Message - continued from page 2

The first week of March, Women's History Month, brought little cause for rejoicing. Women in America: Indicators of Social and Economic Well-Being, the first comprehensive federal study on the status of American women since 1963, found that women are more likely to live in poverty, and that women, including women lawyers, earned only 75 percent as much as their male counterparts in 2009, with Black women earning 71 percent and Hispanic women earning 62 percent as much as men.

Bringing the issue closer to home, the American Bar Association's report A Current Glance at Women in the Law 2011 found women lawyers' salaries in 2009 to have fallen to 74.9 percent of their male counterparts, from a high of 80.5 percent in 2008. We had been inching toward parity at a half cent a year; the most recent statistics show us losing ground. Please join me in wearing RED on Equal Pay Day, April 12, 2011, to show that women, especially women of color are "in the red" with their pay. This date symbolizes how far into 2011 women must work to earn what men earned in 2010. If we were in the black, it would do a great deal to alleviate poverty in America, since families living below the poverty line are disproportionately headed by women. You will be hearing more from CWL on this in the coming months as we work to remedy this inequitable and unfair situation.

Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP challenge law firms to support CWL membership

On March 25, 2011, District 3 Governor and 2nd Vice President Nanci Nishimura presented a check to President Pat Sturdevant from Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP for Life Memberships for partner Nancy Fineman, and senior associates Niki Ocku and Anne Marie Murphy, as well as New Memberships for associates Jordanna Thigpen, Jessica Curiale, and Mary Mock. The firm has long-supported CWL memberships for all of its women lawyers.

It was also announced that new CWL Life Members include Managing Partner Joseph Cotchett, as well as Frank Pitre and Niall McCarthy.

In addressing guests at the close of the Northern California Annual Reception, Nishimura asked other law firms to join Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP in supporting their women lawyers' memberships in CWL. Nishimura reminded everyone present that, "the influence of California Women Lawyers to empower and encourage women to become the best they can be to serve justice and the community reaches far beyond the legal profession in California, but women in all endeavors throughout the nation and beyond. . . . CWL exemplifies what we can do collectively to create a legacy of justice and service for the future."

Please join the challenge and support California Women Lawyers.

CWL Governors Meet in OC

photos courtesy of Eliza Rodrigues



CWL President Pat Sturdevant, Karen Feld of IE LAW, Jill Friedman of Ventura County Women Lawyers, and Betty Fracisco, District 8 Governor - Orange County.



Eliza Rodrigues, CWL Treasurer, with Jodi Swick, First Vice-President, Meehan Rasch, District 7 Governor - Los Angeles, and Natasha Chee, Affiliate Governor, Contra Costa County Bar Association Women's Section



Michele Flurer swears in CWL President Pat Sturdevant



CWL President Pat Sturdevant toasts Judge Michele Flurer at a champagne and cupcake celebration

Nomination Period Open for CWL Fay Stender Award

In 1982, CWL established the Fay Stender Award to honor Fay Stender, a Bay Area attorney who spent much of her professional life fighting for under-represented groups and individuals. She was a member of CWL's first elected board. She chaired the San Francisco Bar Association's employment of Women committee, and served on the charter board of Equal Rights Advocates; Lesbian Rights Project.

Throughout her life, Fay worked with her tenacity, creativity, and compelling sense of justice were legendary, and her commitment, energy and integrity enriched all who were privileged to work with her.

The annual award is given to a feminist attorney who, like Fay Stender, is committed to the representation of women, disadvantaged groups and unpopular causes, and whose courage, zest for life and demonstrated ability to effect change as a single individual make her a role model for women attorneys.

Candidates for the award are judged on the basis of the following attributes:

- Zest, humanity, personal courage, forceful presence and non-conformity;
- Demonstrated commitment to under-represented or disadvantaged groups or unpopular causes.
- Demonstrated feminist perspective;
- Vigorous advocacy on behalf of women litigants which serves as a role model for women attorneys;
- Demonstrated ability to affect change as a single individual;
- Lack of public recognition that the candidate possesses these attributes.

How to Submit a Nomination

The Fay Stender award is presented annually at CWL's dinner at the California State Bar Annual Meeting.

Please submit written nominations describing the nominee and the ways in which she meets the above criteria. The nomination shall not exceed five (5) pages. In addition, please submit the nominee's resume and up to five (5) letters of support.

Nominations must be received at the CWL office **NO LATER THAN 5:00 p.m. on FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2011.**

Nominations can be submitted via email to info@cwl.org, by fax to (916) 646-6469, or by mail to CWL, 650 Howe Avenue, Suite 1050, Sacramento, CA 95825. If you have any questions, please contact Renée Calta, CWL Executive Administrator at (916) 646-3114 or info@cwl.org.

CWL Calendar

April 29 – Annual Conference, Los Angeles

April 30 – Board of Governors Meeting, Los Angeles

July 15 – Deadline for Nominations for Fay Stender Award

June 25 – Board of Governors Meeting, Oakland

August 5 – National Conference of Women Bar Association's Summit, Toronto

August 6 – Board of Governors Meeting, San Diego

August 7 – Margaret Brent Awards Luncheon, Toronto

September 15 – CWL 37th Annual Dinner, Long Beach

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Attorneys at Law



Queens Bench invites CWL members and friends to their upcoming 90th Anniversary Womens' Legal History Luncheon

The Women's Bar Association of the San Francisco Bay Area Since 1921, Queen's Bench invites you to celebrate its 90th Anniversary:



Join Stanford Law School Professor Barbara Babcock for a discussion of her new book, *Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz*. "Barbara Babcock conjures and brings to life a nearly-forgotten feminist hero. This account of Clara Foltz's rise from an under-educated farmer's wife to an icon of the California women's movement and a national public

intellectual is both riveting and strangely familiar. That a single mother of five could have exploded into the hurly-burly world of California in the 1870s and through mastery of the media, manipulation of her public image, and dogged hard work become a national force for early progressive jurisprudence is astonishing. That women in 2011 could have no collective memory of Foltz is tragic. Babcock brings Foltz back to us with great tenderness and subtlety, reclaiming a place in American legal history for a working mother and national thinker who has much to teach us still." Dahlia Lithwick, senior editor at *Slate*.

Followed by a presentation on Queen's Bench History by 1983 QB President, the Hon. Barbara J.R. Jones, Presiding Justice, California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, and 1981 QB President, the Hon. Lee D. Baxter (Ret.), of the San Francisco Superior Court.

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011
 Location: Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold, LLP
 One Market Plaza, Steuart Tower, 8th Floor,
 San Francisco
 Time: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., lunch will be provided
 Cost: \$25 Queen's Bench members
 \$30 for non-members
 Free to Queen's Bench Emeritus Members

To Register:

Online: Go to www.queensbench.org/calendar.html
Check: Mail your check payable to Queen's Bench, Inc. to: Queen's Bench, 816 E 4th Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94401

Join WLS in a Fun-Filled Networking Event Supporting Equal Pay for Men and Women

WLS is hosting an Pay Inequity Awareness Reception, April 12, 2011, at Lucca Restaurant & Bar, 1615 J Street, Sacramento, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Enjoy appetizers and a no-host bar at this unique networking opportunity.

On Tuesday, April 12, 2011, thousands of women and men from across the United States will join in a national day of action against unfair pay called Equal Pay Day. April is symbolic of the point into the new year that a woman must work in order to earn the wages paid to a man in the previous year. The National Committee on Pay Equity reports that census statistics show, on a national level, women are paid only 77 cents for every dollar a man is paid, based on the median earnings of full-time, year-round workers in 2009. In California, women on average made 82.7 percent of what men earned. Because women earn less, women must work longer for the same pay.

At a time when America's economy is facing a downturn, every penny counts! Economist Evelyn Murphy, president and founder of The WAGE Project, estimates that the wage gap costs the average American full-time woman worker between \$700,000 and \$2 million over the course of her lifetime. WLS encourages the business community to review their pay practices to ensure that women are not discriminated against in Sacramento, by performing an Equal Pay Self-Audit provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau. WLS applauds those businesses that already employ equal pay! More information about the wage gap can be found at: <http://www.pay-equity.org/info.html>.

Attendees are asked to wear red to the event to visually demonstrate that women's wages are still "in the red" compared with men, who are "in the black," for performance of equal work. Wear your red "loudly and proudly" to show your support of equal pay.

Advance ticket price is \$23.00 per person or \$25.00 at the door.

To purchase tickets in advance, mail a check before April 5th, 2011, to: WLS, Attn: Pay Inequity Awareness Reception, P.O. Box 936, Sacramento, CA 95812.

For additional information about the event, contact Dena Bez (916-643-9624) or Susan Hill (916-568-0212).

We hope you can join us to make this networking event a spectacular statement in support of equal pay.

“Girl Talk” – Meet The Rainmakers

On March 3, 2011, Santa Clara County Bar Association Women Lawyers Committee hosted a panel of three experienced women lawyers in a Rainmaking program centered on marketing and mentoring (with some mingling, too). Speakers included Janette Leonidou, Managing Director of Leonidou & Rosin and a Northern California Super Lawyer for 2009 and 2010, Neda Mansoorian, CWL Governor and Chief Legal Officer at McManis Faulker, 2010 Silicon Valley Business Journal Woman of Influence Award and YWCA Tribute to Women Award winner, and Wendy Lazerson, co-chair of the Labor and Employment Group at Bingham McCutchen, named 2010 Top Employment Defense Attorney by the San Francisco/Los Angeles Daily Journal, and one of Northern California’s Super Lawyers.



Panelists (From right to left): Wendy M. Lazerson (Partner, Bingham McCutchen), Neda Mansoorian (Partner and Chief Legal Officer, McManis Faulker; CWL Board of Governors), Janette Leonidou (Partner, Leonidou & Rosin)

This year OCWLA celebrated Mardi Gras on Fat Tuesday March 8, 2011, at Original Mike’s in Santa Ana. Coincidentally, the event appropriately occurred on International Women’s Day. The agenda for this event was nothing but pure fun. The party began with a complimentary adult beverage and Mardi Gras beads for the attendees, personally delivered by CWL Past President Pearl Mann, who had just flown in from New Orleans.

Some adventurous attendees donned Mardi Gras masks and traded beads. President Melinda Bell recognized our distinguished guests and everyone mingled and networked while enjoying delicious appetizers prepared by Original Mike’s. A big thank you goes to past president Solange Ritchie who donated the wine for this event. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to making this a fun filled evening.

by: Cari S. Baum, LL.M. - Treasurer, OCWLA



Orange County Women Lawyers Association Celebrates 35 Years

Thirty-five years ago, a group of dynamic women and men joined to form the Orange County Women Lawyers Association, dedicated to advancing the rights and status of women lawyers in the legal community. To mark this momentous occasion, it is celebrating with a 35th Anniversary Dinner, “Celebrating Our Stars,” on May 19, 2011 at the Newport Marriott in Fashion Island, featuring:

Chief Justice, Honorable Tani Cantil-Sakauye - Keynote Speaker*
Honorable Jamoa Moberly of the Orange County Superior Court



- receiving the “Judge of the Year” award
Wylie A. Aitken
- receiving the “Attorney of the Year” award



OCWLA traditionally supports several worthwhile charities

as part of its mission. In the past, its events have supported the Community Courts Foundation, or “problem-solving” courts that address underlying issues that may be present in the lives of persons who come before the Drug, Homeless, or Domestic Violence Court on criminal, juvenile, or dependency matters; El Viento, a children’s mentoring program; OCWLA’s bar stipend and diversity stipend, two programs which support recent Orange County law graduates; and the Public Law Center. A portion of the proceeds of this event will benefit many worthy causes through the Orange County Women Lawyers Foundation. For further information, please go to www.ocwla.org.

*The Chief Justice is not soliciting funds for the OCWLA Foundation. Canon 4C(3)(d)(iv) of the Code of Judicial Ethics states that a judge “shall not permit the use of the prestige of his or her judicial office for fundraising.”

New Women's Bar Group in Inland Empire a Huge Success

By Karen Feld

The Inland Empire Legal Association of Women was established in 2009 with the assistance of Betty Fracisco, Affiliate Co-Chair of the CWL. IE LAW's missions are to promote women lawyers and judges in the Inland Empire and to advocate for the concerns of all women in our community. It was a much different mission than another San



Bernardino's previous women's legal group, Lawyers Wives of the San Bernardino Bar Association.

Holly Fujie, the 2009 State Bar President, was the guest speaker at our Formation Party which was attended by 100 guests in beautiful Redlands. We used the opportunity to collect toiletries for Operation SafeHouse, a shelter for run-away and abandoned teens in Riverside. The Honorable Virginia Phillips, US District Court Judge, was the speaker

for our First Anniversary Party in May 2010. We were so proud to read of her landmark DADT decision a few months later.

IE LAW has had extremely successful community service events in our two year history. We hosted two holiday parties at Operation SafeHouse. The members and their families and brought pizza, ice cream and gifts, including toiletries and basic necessities. For some of them, this was the only holiday celebration they have had in years. When we hugged one girl good bye, she said that was the first "mommy" hug she had received in two years.

We held two Thanksgiving food drives for a food bank in Rancho Cucamonga and hosted a presentation about the law at a disadvantages school in San Bernardino. Our members judged

SBWLF Supporters Celebrate Mardi Gras

On "Fat Tuesday," March 8th, a nice crowd gathered to celebrate the day before the beginning of Lent, when Christians everywhere deprive themselves of various methods of having fun for forty days, in observance of their faith. But you don't have to observe that faith to have fun on Mardi Gras. And plenty of fun was had by those attending this event, the first of a series of Happy Hour fundraisers that the Santa Barbara Women Lawyers Foundation will be putting on this year.

Due to special prices given to SBWLF by the Canary Hotel, we are able to offer two drinks and a lot of appetizers for only \$25 per person, which is an inexpensive way to spend an enjoyable evening with those who wish to support the goals of the Foundation and pay for law school scholarships, assistance to Legal Aid, and other donations. If you haven't attended one of these events before, be sure to attend the next one and find out why SBWL and SBWLF have the deserved reputation as "the fun Bar organization."

By Laura Dewey, SBWL Affiliate Governor.

the Western Regional Moot Court Competition for National Black Law Students Association in 2010 and 2011. This year, we are looking forward to starting the Inland Empire's first Food from the Bar program, a food and money drive for the Riverside Food Bank, which serves both Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

IE LAW meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at Lewis Brisbois in San Bernardino and welcome any CWL member to join us.

Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz County – Immigration and Domestic Violence

Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz County is hosting a luncheon program on the impact of immigration laws on victims of domestic violence and their families on April 8, 2011, at noon.

Vilma Guerrero will speak at the event, which takes place at Mei Garden, 533 Ocean Street

Santa Cruz, and is \$20 for WLSCC Members and \$25 for Non-Members. RSVP by April 5 to info@WLSCC.

WLAC Board Members Meet Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno



WLAC Board President Toni Mims-Cochran (right) and Treasurer Tara M. Flanagan (left) enjoyed meeting California Supreme

Court Justice Carlos Moreno at Pride Law Fund's Annual Art Auction on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at the San Francisco office of Fenwick & West LLP.

Justice Moreno was recognized and honored by the non-profit group Pride Law Fund for his service to the people of California and his notable dissent in the Ca. Supreme Court's Proposition 8 decision.

In his remarks, Justice Moreno spoke about the evolution of law, the rule of stare decisis, his time on the California Supreme Court, and his observation that while majority opinions are often reached by consensus, sometimes, a well reasoned dissent can lay the foundation for future evolution of the law. He also spoke admiringly of Ca. Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, who is confirmed as our keynote speaker at WLAC's Annual Judge's Dinner this coming October. Justice Moreno congratulated WLAC on confirming such a dynamic keynote speaker!

WLAC
Save the Date

Spring Members Reception
at the poolside garden of
Judges Northridge and McGuiness
May 19, 2011

WLAC Annual Judges' Dinner
Keynote Speaker:
California Supreme Court Chief Justice
Tani Cantil-Sakauye
Wednesday, October 12, 2011

WLALA Where Legal Meets Social: Why Every Company Needs to Be Social Media Savvy

Amid the flurry of friending, tweeting and linking in, the corporate world is grappling with the legal issues concerning social media. A panel of in-house counsel and a social media attorney and blogger will address key

considerations in managing a company's use of social media and discuss the issues they, and their clients, routinely face in navigating their on-line marketing and communication. The Panel will take place at Sidley Austin, Downtown Los Angeles, on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at noon.

Panelists include: Sierra Brandis, Senior Corporate Counsel at Taylor Made-Adidas Golf Co.; Brandy Carrillo, Vice President, Legal and Business Affairs at Atari, Inc.; Lisa Hatton Harrington, Vice President & Associate General Counsel at NBCUniversal/Comcast, Digital Networks and Integrated Media Division; and Michelle Sherman, Special Counsel at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP.

To register for Where Legal Meets Social, please go to www.wlala.org

Splitting the Team

by Maria Rivas Hamar

The Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles Family Law Section and the Domestic Violence Committee are heading a seminar on April 28, 2011, called Splitting the Team: Current Issues in Family Law, Lessons from the McCourt Case Plus the Impact of Domestic Violence in Family Law.

The McCourt dissolution of marriage case (as in the owners of the LA Dodgers), which involved a highly contested post nuptial agreement, brought up a cornucopia of issues related to family law as well as contractual law and ethical considerations. The parties in McCourt had family law as well as civil litigators on their respective teams. The seminar will include an attorney from the McCourt case, Michael Kump, and a family law specialist providing important information on post nuptial agreements and related issues.

The second part of the seminar will apply to the impact that domestic violence allegations as well as restraining orders can have on a family law case (custody, support,

WLALA - Splitting the Team - continued

visitation, etc.). Family law attorneys, as well as volunteers in legal clinics, often deal with questions related to the consequences of domestic violence allegations or restraining orders for each party in a family law case. During this seminar a Judge Frederick Shaller and Ana M. Storey will provide information about this area of the law, as well as practical considerations.

The seminar will provide 2 hours of general MCLE credit. It will be held at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, 2029 Century Park East, Ste. 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90067. April 28, 2011, 6 p.m. light dinner hosted by Crowell & Moring and program from 6:30-8:30 p.m. To register, please go to www.wlala.org

Maria Rivas Hamar is Chair of the Family Law Section. Ms. Hamar is a Certified Family Law Specialist. Ms. Hamar is a partner at her husband-wife law firm Hamar & Hamar.

Long Beach Women Lawyers learn about Managing Client Trust Accounts

Sindee Smolowitz regaled attorneys February 28th when she presented an educational program for the Women Lawyers of Long Beach on attorney-client trust accounts. The event, held at the Peking Wok, was very well attended and audience members were greeted with much food for thought along with a sumptuous 6 course feast which greeted attendees following the educational program. Those in attendance learned of their ethical responsibilities and their accounting obligations while enjoying a fabulous meal with the Women Lawyers of Long Beach.

New CWL Affiliate Governor For Women Lawyers of Long Beach

Referee Claire Vermillion will be sworn in as the new representative to the CWL Board from the Women Lawyers of Long Beach. Claire Vermillion has been a judicial officer for nearly 18 years in the Juvenile Court.



She is currently assigned to the south district of Los Angeles and sits in Long Beach. Ms. Vermillion is also President-Elect of the California Court Commissioners Association, an organization that represents Commissioners and Referees statewide. She is looking forward to working with the California Women Lawyers and will be replacing the seat to be vacated by Judge Flurer, who will be swearing Ms. Vermillion in as a

CWL board member, April 30th at CWL's Board meeting in Los Angeles.

CWL News

A Publication of California Women Lawyers

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CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS

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SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, September 15, 2011

California Women Lawyers presents its **37th Annual Dinner**

6:00 p.m. No-Host Reception ~ 7:00 p.m. Dinner ~ Long Beach~ California

Keynote Speaker:

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, California Supreme Court

Come help us celebrate California's female majority supreme court and the achievements of other notable female judges and lawyers. For more information or for registration information, please contact Renée Calta at the CWL Executive Office at: info@cwl.org or (916) 646-3114

CWL Membership/Renewal Form

Name: _____ State Bar Number: _____

Firm/Agency Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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Telephone: Work: _____ Fax: _____ Home: _____

Email: _____ Field of Practice: _____

\$2,500 Life Membership \$500 Patron \$250 Sponsor \$150 Regular \$25 Law Student

Member of CWL affiliate ____ \$100 FREE New Admittee, admitted ____/____/____ \$150 Non-Attorney Member

Hardship allowance of 20% discount for annual income less than \$30,000 with certification (certify with signature below)

Signature verifying hardship _____

Visa MasterCard Check – Payable to California Women Lawyers

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I am enclosing an additional contribution of \$ _____ to CWL. Voluntary tax-deductible donation to The CWL Foundation _____.

Donations to The CWL Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Contributions to CWL are not tax deductible. CWL engages in legislative advocacy to advance women's rights.

★ RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW ★