

Prop 8 - Marriage Is A Fundamental Civil Right For All

By Natasha S. Chee, Esq.

February 7, 2012, marks an important date in the history of civil rights. On that day, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held in *Perry v. Brown* that Proposition 8, a California ballot initiative that amended the state constitution to restrict marriage to opposite-sex couples, was unconstitutional. The Ninth Circuit upheld a district court decision that found that Proposition 8 violated the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Proposition 8 came about as a response to litigation over the City and County of San Francisco's decision in 2004 to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, at the direction of then-mayor Gavin Newsom. Shortly thereafter Attorney General Bill Lockyer and others petitioned the California Supreme Court to intervene. The Court did so, ruling that the City and County had to refrain from issuing marriage licenses not authorized by existing statutes. The Court later held in *Lockyer v. City and County of San Francisco*, 33 Cal.4th 1055 (2004), that the City and County had acted unlawfully, but could challenge the constitutionality of the marriage laws if they wished. The City and County filed a petition for a writ of mandate declaring that all California statutes restricting the definition of marriage to a union between a man and a woman violate the California constitution. All of these actions were consolidated into a single proceeding, *In re Marriage Cases*.

The California Supreme Court held in *In re Marriage Cases*, 48 Cal.4th 757 (2008), that California legislative and initiative measures limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples violate the state constitutional rights of same-sex couples and cannot be used to preclude same-sex couples from marrying.



Therese Stewart, Chief Deputy City Attorney of San Francisco

Proposition 8 was passed later in 2008 and overturned the ruling of *In re Marriage Cases*. It added a new section to Article I of the California Constitution stating: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

With Proposition 8 now determined to be unconstitutional, the fight for marriage rights for same-sex couples is not over. The judgment of *Perry v. Brown* is stayed pending appeal, either to an en banc review by the Ninth Circuit or to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Last year, I had the opportunity to meet Therese Stewart, Chief Deputy City Attorney of San Francisco, at the CWL Annual Conference in

Los Angeles. Ms. Stewart was heavily involved in *In re Marriage Cases* and the litigation that preceded it as counsel for the City. As a longtime advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights, I thanked Ms. Stewart for her work in that regard, which touched me in a personal way because my best friend is part of the LGBT community. She and countless others who are part of the LGBT community are unable to marry the person

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Editor's Note: This is the third edition of our electronic-only CWL News. If you know anyone who should be receiving an email link to the newsletter but is not, please email their details to the CWL office, putting Newsletter in the subject line. Happy Reading!

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President's Message

CWL is already seeing results from its work to increase the representation of women on top lawyer lists. One of our members, Cassie Springer-Sullivan, who was a stellar panelist at last year's annual conference, was nominated by CWL affiliate Women Lawyers of Alameda County, and selected as one of the Daily Journal's 2012 Top 20 Lawyers Under 40. CWL is proud to salute Cassie, and hopes that this example inspires members and affiliates to nominate other accomplished women for awards and recognition.



The other media issue, the ABA on line Journal article containing inflammatory and inaccurate coverage of a survey of legal secretaries, about which I wrote in the last issue, has not yet been resolved. Despite the ABA editor's concession that the headline, claiming not one legal secretary preferred working with women lawyers, was misleading in light of the fact that 47% of those surveyed expressed no preference about the gender of their boss, the ABA's handling of the issue was exceeding inept. It accepted no responsibility for misrepresenting the article, offered no changes in practices, and instead only "apologized" that some readers found the article "hurtful."

The issue is not whether women lawyers had our feelings hurt, but that there is pervasive gender inequity in the legal profession, which the ABA should understand and seek to remedy. Women comprise only 15% of the equity partners in the top 200 law firms, a percentage that has remained constant over 20 years, while the numbers of women graduating from law schools has increased substantially. And slanted, sexist articles exacerbate the problem and create the impression that women deserve no more.

CWL and Queen's Bench member Roni Pomerantz wrote an eloquent Op Ed piece, published by the Daily Journal, citing the article as illustrative of how far women are from equality, even though 33% of lawyers are now female. And a number of women's organizations issued a call to action in an open letter to the ABA President dated February 14th asking the ABA to eliminate gender bias and stereotyping in news articles, and to develop a code of best practices for reporting stories fairly and accurately. By agreeing, the ABA could take an important step toward furthering its third goal-- to eliminate bias and enhance diversity.

CWL is active, energized and anticipating a busy spring, including heightened involvement in legislative advocacy with Joanne Schulman and Rebecca Roberts Co-Chairs of our Legislative Committee. The committee

continued ...

President's Message continued ...

will be analyzing and recommending positions on bills which involve CWL's core issues, and will communicate those analyses and recommendations to affiliates, and invite their participation in legislative advocacy.

Continuing our tradition of celebrating judicial excellence, we will present the Rose Bird Memorial Award to the Honorable Diana Becton of the Contra Costa Superior Court at a reception on March 23rd. Judge Becton was elected as Presiding Judge for the 2011 – 2012 term, and served as Assistant Presiding Judge in 2009 – 2010. She was appointed to the bench in 1995 and has served in many leadership roles, including Supervising Civil Fast Track, Supervising Felony Criminal Calendar, Supervising Richmond Branch Court, and Presiding Judge of the former Richmond Municipal Court. Judge Becton serves on the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee (TCPJAC), and was elected to the TCPJAC Executive Committee in January 2011. She is a very worthy recipient of CWL's Northern California Award.

This year's CWL Annual Conference will be on April 20th in Silicon Valley, and will feature workshops and panel discussions providing concrete advice on how women can achieve positions of power. It will offer guidance from skilled and successful practitioners, including Catherine

Lacavera, Director of Litigation at Google, Inc., and other top women lawyers, on how to advance professionally in a broad variety of types of practices. CWL conferences are educational, career enhancing, participatory and celebratory, and seek to inspire attendees as well as provide them with tools to enable them to build successful and satisfying careers.

CWL will also hold another of its signature, award winning seminars *So, You Want To Be A Judge?* in the Spring in Northern California. This program will provide guidance on navigating the judicial application process by knowledgeable people from the JNE Commission and representing the Governor's Office as well as one of CWL's Judicial Liaisons, Justice Kathleen Butz of the Third District Court of Appeal. It will also include individualized attention from sitting judges in afternoon workshops and provide invaluable advice and insights.

Please look for CWL's constant contact e-mail messages for updates on events and activities, communicate with CWL leadership on Facebook and LinkedIn, and join with us in advancing and promoting the interests of women in the profession and its society.

Patricia Sturdevant

2012 Annual Conference comes to Silicon Valley: features keynote from top Google litigator

By Neda Mansoorian

CWL is in the exciting final planning stages of our April 20th Annual Conference in Palo Alto, **PRACTICING LAW IN THE 21ST CENTURY: ENABLING WOMEN TO ACHIEVE POWER POSITIONS**. This is the first year that the conference is being held in Silicon Valley, and it has generated a great buzz, on which we hope to build momentum as the event draws near.

The conference will feature a breakfast presentation, CLE-approved programs, keynote speaker luncheon, an incredible list of panelists and speakers, and a closing cocktail reception.

The day will start with an insightful and inspiring speech by Patricia Gillette, a partner in Orrick Herrington's San Francisco office. Ms. Gillette founded the Opt-In Project, a nationwide initiative that focuses on the changing structure of law firms to enhance the retention and progression of women in the workplace. She is also the co-chair of the San Francisco Bar Association's No Glass Ceiling Initiative, board member of the

National Association of Women Lawyers and Equal Rights Advocates, and member of the Austin Consortium - a national group of thought leaders on women's issues in the legal profession. Countless articles authored by Ms. Gillette, concerning women's issues in the legal industry, have been published on a state and national level.

The day also will include panels, such as *"Forming and Fortifying Diversity Initiatives/Women's Forums at Your Law Firm or Corporate Legal Department."* This workshop will address the importance of taking steps within your firm or practice to promote diversity, and to grow and increase the influence of that initiative or forum, once it is formed.

Another offered panel is *"Making Partner: The Climb Up the Firm Ladder."* Panelists will provide suggestions and examples on how to identify and act on opportunities to increase your power within your firm, by becoming a partner/decision maker. Panelists will share their experiences and offer practical advice.

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Judge Diana Becton Receives Rose Bird Memorial Award

By Denae Hildebrand Budde

California Women Lawyers takes great pleasure in announcing that on March 23, 2012, the Honorable Diana Becton will be awarded the 2012 Rose Bird Memorial Award. Judge Becton epitomizes the characteristics of excellence and exemplary judicial courage for which the Rose Bird Award is acclaimed. Judge Becton overcome great obstacles to obtain her position and establish herself as a role model to female attorneys and judges, and to be an asset to every committee, community, and service she works.

Judge Becton is a native Californian who embraces her roots in the Bay Area. She grew up in Oakland, and attended Oakland Public Schools, graduating from Castlemont High School, Oakland, California. She earned her B.A. degree in economics from San Francisco State University in 1974. Judge Becton went to law school at night while raising two young sons and working for the City of Richmond, supervising the Housing Finance Division. She graduated from Golden Gate University Law School in 1985.

Judge Becton currently serves as Superior Court Judge in Contra Costa County, elected as Presiding Judge for the 2011–12 term, and served as Assistant Presiding Judge for the 2009–10 term. At the time of her appointment as Assistant Presiding Judge, she was only the third African-American judge serving in Contra Costa County. Judge Becton was appointed to the bench in 1995 by Governor Pete Wilson, and has served in many leadership roles, including Supervising Civil Fast Track, Supervising Felony Criminal Calendar, Supervising Richmond Branch Court, and Presiding Judge of the former Richmond Municipal Court.

Prior to becoming a judge, she obtained her litigation experience in private civil practice, specializing in real estate, business and landlord tenant law. She first practiced with a law firm in Point Richmond where she became a partner, and thereafter starting her own solo law practice in Richmond. She additionally handled criminal cases through her work with the Contra Costa County Bar Association's Criminal Conflicts Panel.

As a judge working in Richmond, she resisted the lure of the Martinez courts and chose to stay in Richmond, stating: "I am the only African-American judge in Contra Costa County, and this area is where there's a large part of the African-American population. It's important for people to see someone who looks like them." Even attorneys observed that Judge Becton always had an eye toward the community's interest when she



was on the bench. Attorneys reported that her familiarity with Richmond's community enabled her with a deeper understanding the heart of many issues in her courtroom.

Judge Becton now serves on the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee (TCPJAC), and was elected to the TCPJAC Executive Committee in January 2011. In 2008 Judge Becton was appointed by the Chief Justice to the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions, and in 2007 to the Judicial Council Access and Fairness Advisory Committee. She was re-appointed to this committee in 2010 and serves as Co-Chair of the Women of Color Subcommittee. She was also appointed to serve on the California Community Corrections

Coordinating Committee in 2010. The Governing Committee of the California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) confirmed her appointment to the Judicial Branch Leadership Development Curriculum Committee for 2010 -2012, and she served on the New Judges Education Committee from 2007-2009. Judge Becton served as faculty for the Judicial College, and the California Judicial Studies Program. She served as Chair of the Civil Education Committee for CJER. Judge Becton served on the Executive Board of the California Judges Association.

Judge Becton has received the following honors: "Judicial Excellence Award" (April 2011) California Association of Black Lawyers, Judicial Section; "Judge of the Year" (2007) Alameda-Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association; "Award of Judicial Excellence" (2006) Charles Houston Bar Association; Honored in 2011 by Black Women Lawyers of Northern California. In 2007 she was inducted into the Castlemont High School Hall of Fame, receiving the highest honor, as a "Knight in Shining Armor"; she also received the "Dumlao Martial Arts Image Award" (2011) for leadership and character within the martial arts studio. Judge Becton is a member of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. She is the Co-Chair of Membership, and in 2011 was elected to serve on the Judicial Council Board. Judge Becton is also Co-Chair of the Judicial Section of the California Association of Black Lawyers. She is a member of the California Judges Association, Charles Houston Bar Association, and National Association of Women Judges. In 2011 she was elected as the District 14 Director for NAWJ covering California and Nevada.

Judge Becton is committed to mentoring lawyers and law students. She supported the UC Davis School of Law, King Hall,

Becton continued

2011 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Week, a weeklong tribute organized by the Black Law Students Association, and talked with law students on increasing diversity in the profession. In October, 2011, Judge Becton delivered a lecture to the Mt. Diablo Legal Professionals Association, as well as to the Women's Section of the Contra Costa County Bar Association, entitled "Social Media: Pushing the Limits of Legal Ethics." As Presiding Judge in Contra Costa County, she actively participates in the County Bar Association's meetings: she delivered the "State of the Court" speech at the Installation Luncheon for the CCCBA Board, and even wrote an article entitled "Presiding Judge's Perspective" for the monthly magazine. She is Co-Chair of the Court's Diversity Committee and co-chaired the efforts to develop a Judicial Mentoring Program for Contra Costa Superior Court. This program was established to provide attorneys contemplating a career on the bench with a structured method of obtaining guidance on how to reach the goal, and to increase diversity on the bench. Judge Becton is Co-chair of the Access and Fairness Women of Color sub-committee that has developed a Mentoring Pilot Program for court staff and managers.

Judge Becton's contributions to community extend beyond her work on the bench and in the legal community. She serves on the Board of Directors for Castlemont High School Alumni Association, and annually organizes a Career Day for the students. In the fall, in a series of community meetings, Judge Becton helped concerned citizens understand the local impacts of criminal realignment under AB109. This effort was led by the committee known as Community Corrections Partnership, which has been working on realignment issues since Governor

Jerry Brown signed legislation into law several months ago. Judge Becton is also instrumental in the committee's drafting of a plan of apportioning the county's share of realignment funds. She also participates in the Color of Justice program by the National Association of Women Judges, which encourages young people, especially girls, to pursue careers in the law.

As for Judge Becton's style on the bench, attorneys praise her mindful, sophisticated style, innate fairness, and that she is not afraid to face challenging, new arguments. Judge Becton was, for example, the second in the state to hear a second degree murder case based on a new statute that would allow murder prosecution when an illegal drug lab accident causes death. While attorneys on both side struggled with the extremely complex case, Judge Becton stayed on top of the issues for the entire trial. Judge Becton is known as a "no-nonsense, get-to-the-point judge" who does not allow attorneys in her court to veer away from the heart of a case, and is much respected by all parties, and their attorneys, in our county.

The Rose Bird Memorial Award was established 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. She was the first woman to serve in the California cabinet as the Secretary of Agriculture. Justice Bird stood strong for her convictions and continued to champion the underdog. Judge Becton is a jurist who has earned the respect of lawyers and judges throughout northern California. She is a role model not only for women lawyers, but for anyone aspiring to become an attorney or a judge. CWL is proud to honor Judge Becton as the 2012 Rose Bird Memorial Award recipient. Congratulations, Judge Becton.

Annual Conference continued ...

Our first round of panels will be followed by our keynote luncheon speaker, Catherine Lacavera, Director of Litigation at Google, Inc. Ms. Lacavera is an inspiring example of women lawyers who achieve independence, power, and authority in critical, high-stakes roles at globally-influential companies. We are honored to have her join us.

Our afternoon panels will include high-profile and well-respected women lawyers from throughout California, who will discuss such topics as "Going In-House: Practical Career Lessons From Women In-House Counsel," "Career Options in 2012 and Beyond: Public Entity Law, Starting Your Own Practice, ADR and other Consulting Practices," "The Business of You: Marketing Yourself and Developing Your Brand," and "Women Lawyers and Technology: Do You Speak JAVA? Do You Need To?"

The conference will close with a networking cocktail reception, to celebrate the day.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for this conference. Sponsorship levels start from "Friend" sponsor levels of \$250, up to a "Gold" sponsor level of \$1500. Every year, we are fortunate to be supported by firms and companies that generously contribute to this very important event.

The conference flyer, registration form and sponsorship form are included in this newsletter. Please spread the word to colleagues and friends.

We look forward to seeing you on April 20, 2012, in Palo Alto.

Neda Mansoorian is CWL Affiliate Conference Chair, CWL Second Vice-President and Chief Legal Officer, McManis Faulkner.

ALAMEDA COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNUAL “ONE” GALA

By: Nancy O'Malley

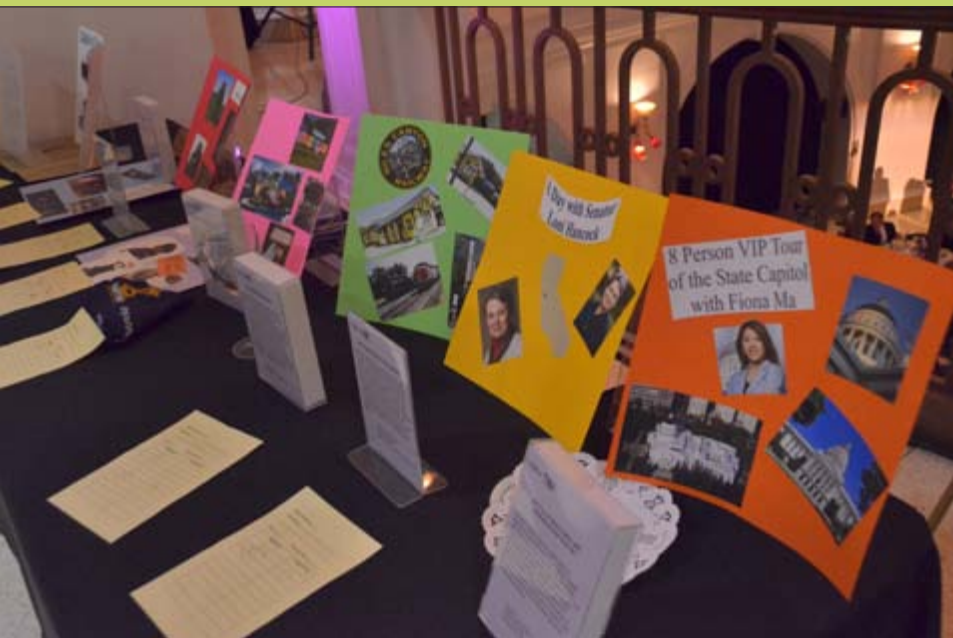


Cherri Allison and Nancy O'Malley accepting combined Senate and Assembly Resolution from Senator Loni Hancock and Assemblymember Nancy Skinner. The Resolution was signed by Sen. Ellen Corbett and Assemblymembers Bob Wieckowski, Sandre Swanson and Mary Hayashi.

Don Saturday, January 28, 2012, the Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC) celebrated its fifth annual “One” Gala at the Rotunda in Oakland. More than 300 guests joined CWL Immediate Past President Nancy O'Malley and CWL Board member Cherri Allison to acknowledge the work of the ACFJC and to raise money for the children and youth programs, including the Saturday Girls Program, which works with teen girls who have been or are at risk for human trafficking and commercial, sexual exploitation AND for Kidszone, serving children who witness or experience domestic violence in their homes or have been victims of sexual abuse. Both programs are located at the ACFJC and are models for other communities. Cherri Allison is the Executive Director of the ACFJC; Nancy O'Malley is the Alameda County District Attorney who founded the ACFJC. O'Malley now serves as Chair of the ACFJC Foundation and Allison is the Legal Advisor to the Foundation.

CWL President Pat Sturdevant and CWL President-Elect Eliza Rodrigues, as well as CWL Board member Tara Flannigan, were in attendance, proudly representing CWL.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Michael Pritchard, a comedian and former Probation Officer in San Francisco. He has dedicated his life to empowering youth. He is a nationally acclaimed keynote speaker praised by the Wall Street Journal, CNN and Time for his ability to use humor to inspire and educate his audiences on communication skills. Michael Pritchard's foundation, Heartland Media Foundation, strives to “Open the Hearts and Minds of Today's Youth.” For more than 25 years, Mr. Pritchard has traveled the country, thrilling his youthful audiences while spreading his message of good choices, personal responsibility and respect for others. A survivor of domestic violence spoke following Michael Pritchard.



Just a few auction items (of the more than 200) for sale that helped raise money for youth and child programs.

From her heart, she shared how the ACFJC had saved her life. She recounted that as a professional woman in corporate America, she never thought she would be a victim of domestic violence. Through the partners at the ACFJC, she was able to get free from the batterer, to participate in the successful prosecution of him and through the services at the ACFJC, her life opened up. She came to the Gala to meet the founders of the ACFJC and to personally extend her eternal thanks.

The evening acknowledged the theme of our children – children in need, children witnessing violence and children taking charge. Four youth were awarded the ACFJC “Kids Taking Charge” awards for various activities that have made an enormous impact on their community. Fifteen-year-old Jake, a concert violinist who got several violins donated and now teaches children who live with their mothers in transitional housing, away from the domestic violence they experienced, how to express themselves through music; 16-year-old Natasha, who raised money, organized fellow students and made “survival packs” for victims of domestic violence fleeing from the danger. The survival packs contained essential articles, like toothbrushes, toothpaste, brush, deodorant, etc.; 15-year-old Emily from Modesto, who heard Nancy O’Malley talking about human trafficking of minors and decided to educate and inform her community. Emily raised money, made a video on human trafficking of kids, held a concert and in the end, donated the proceeds to the Saturday Girls’ Program, so the participants could have food as they worked through their issues and sessions; and lastly, 9-year-old Aidan, who began a “One Warm Coat” project in 2010 and collected 250 coats for kids. In 2011, Aidan repeated her project, and collected more than 350 coats for kids who came to the ACFJC without a warm coat. Aidan leaped in the air when O’Malley announced that she [Aidan] had collected more coats than the White House!

The ACFJC co-locates allied professionals who work collaboratively in order to provide a comprehensive response and delivery of services to victims of domestic violence and their children, to victims of sexual assault, to victims of elder abuse and to minor victims of human trafficking and commercial, sexual exploitation. The ACFJC is the result of the hard work and commitment of more than 100 professionals under the leadership of District Attorney Nancy E. O’Malley. The ACFJC is a national model for all communities and serves as the Northern California Family Initiative Justice Training Center and has assisted more than 20 communities working towards creating their own FJC. The ACFJC has been a leader in innovation by establishing many programs that can be replicated in other communities which will help communities serve victims more effectively, including HEAT Watch, a blueprint for combating human exploitation and trafficking of children, our Navigator

program which provides advocacy services for extended time as the needs of victims evolve and DVRR, which effectively links emergency rooms treating victims of interpersonal violence to the ACFJC for effective services and advocacy.

Our award winning Kidszone is a safe and fun place for children who have been traumatized and who have witnessed violence in their homes. At Kidszone, children begin their healing process and the cycle of violence is broken. Thanks to the support of the Golden State Warriors, Kidszone is now a Learning and Reading Center as well. The result is that more victims are served in an effective and efficient way. Families, women, children and men can heal from the violence and live a life free of violence, intimidation and exploitation. At the ACFJC, victims can have her or his needs addressed without having to travel to multiple locations and without having to navigate multiple systems. The ACFJC brings professionals together and put victims first.

Since opening in 2005, more than 70,000 individuals including more than 20,000 children, have walked through the doors of the ACFJC being served by more than 35 on-site partners and nearly 100 off-site partners.



Nancy O’Malley with colleague Sue’Alonzo

No Courts, No Justice - Stand Up for Justice Rally in Los Angeles

By Chris Chambers Goodman

The Open Courts Coalition sponsored a "Rally to Support Adequate Court Funding" on Wednesday, January 18th at lunchtime, just outside of the Disney Concert Hall. Over 150 people participated in this rally, including bar leaders, attorneys, courthouse personnel, local union members and other community members. Organized by Paul Kiesel, Trustee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, along with the Open Court Coalition and others, this Los Angeles rally energized the audience around the theme of access to justice.

Los Angeles County Bar Association President Eric Webber exhorted the crowd to respond to the alarm that has been sounded by the courts, after four years of "unprecedented budget cuts," and longer and longer delays in delivering justice. Bar President Webber concluded that millions of Californians will be denied justice, saying, "It's as simple as that: No courts, no justice."

Former Governor Gray Davis addressed the importance of open courts for citizen access, and retired California Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno, now at Irell and Manella, painted a visual picture of the closing of courthouse doors slamming on the vindication of rights. California State Bar President Jon Streeter discussed the bar's role as client advocates who uniquely protect freedoms. Other dignitaries addressed the lively crowd, continuing on the theme of "no courts, no justice".

The moving stories of the real lives disrupted, or worse, by the current judicial delays resonated strongly with the crowd. Sharis Peters, from Compton Family Court, told the story of a man who had been waiting months for a court order permitting him to visit his children, only to show up and find that the court date was postponed many months hence. No courts, no justice -- for a father who cannot see his children for over six months. Deborah Kelly, Directing Attorney of LACBA's Domestic Violence Project, brought some to tears with her recitation of a client forced to sleep in her car because diminished court access denied her the ability to obtain a temporary restraining order against her batterer. No courts, no justice, for a woman who simply wants to lay her head down at night in safety.

The important work continues. For more information, please see:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzhErnUBxyQ&feature=youtu.be>



CWL Affiliate Governor Chris Chambers Goodman at the rally.



CWL MEMBER SWORN IN AS U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

By: Nancy E. O'Malley, Immediate Past President, CWL

Don Thursday, February 16, 2012, Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers was sworn in by Presiding Judge James Ware as an Article Three, District Court Judge in the Northern District of California. Judge Gonzalez Rogers, formerly an Alameda County judge and former business lawyer, was nominated by President Obama. She now fills a seat vacated by now retired Federal District Court Judge Vaughn Walker, who presided over the Prop 8 trial. Judge Gonzalez Rogers is the first Latina on the court.



California Women Lawyers was well represented at Judge Gonzalez Rogers' induction. During her comments, Judge Gonzalez Rogers publically thanked California Women Lawyers, and Immediate Past President Nancy O'Malley, for our support and advocacy in helping her confirmation. Nancy O'Malley, along with CWL Board Member Tara Flanagan as well as Founding CWL Mother Louise Renne joined hundreds of supporters as Judge Gonzalez Rogers took her oath. It was a wonderful professional event, and also a warm and touching family event. Her husband and three children all took part in the ceremony. More than 30 members of her family were present, many traveling from Texas to be with Judge Gonzalez Rogers.

California Women Lawyers had submitted a written letter of support to the Senate urging Judge Gonzalez Rogers' confirmation. In part, CWL's letter stated *"Judge Gonzalez Rogers has a very broad range of experiences which make her the perfect candidate for the Northern District Court. From her humble beginnings to her very impressive college and law school careers, Judge Gonzalez Rogers has succeeded at each goal she set in attaining her position as a prominent attorney in a major law firm. When Judge Gonzalez Rogers took time away from the full-time practice of law to devote her primary attention to her family, she volunteered in her community, including working on school bond issues, serving on the Alameda County Grand Jury and assisting bar organizations, including the Women Lawyers of Alameda County, with strategic planning and membership development. Her commitment to the*

community and particularly to the advancement of women in the legal profession has been demonstrated repeatedly and consistently. She is a true role model for women, and for women of color as we all strive to achieve equal access and treatment in our chosen profession. Judge Gonzalez Rogers has also demonstrated an understanding of the enormous responsibility and power of the judiciary and sensitivity as to how her crucial decisions affect the safety, well-being and protection of our citizens." That letter was entered into the official Senate record.

Judge Gonzalez Rogers is a Texas native. Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers received a bachelors from Princeton University in 1987 and a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 1991. She spent 12 years as a real estate and business litigator in San Francisco before Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed her to the Superior Court in Alameda County in 2008. Judge Gonzalez Rogers served as an advisor to the Women Lawyers of Alameda County before joining the Alameda County bench.



Nancy O'Malley, Judge Gonzalez Rogers & CWL Board Member Tara Flanagan

Legislature Hears Report Detailing the Impacts of Recession and Budget Cuts on Women

A new report *Falling Behind: The Impact of the Great Recession and the Budget Crisis on California's Women and Their Families*, prepared jointly by the California Budget Project and the California's Women's Foundation was the foundation for the testimony provided to a joint oversight hearing at the California Legislature on Feb. 1, 2012. The hearing was chaired by Senator Carol Liu (chair of the Senate Human Services Committee), Assembly Member Holly Mitchell (chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Service), and Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal (chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus.)

According to this study, the "Great Recession" plus California's ongoing budget crisis have fallen especially hard on the state's women, especially single mothers. The study says that recent budget shortfalls have led to deep cuts to key support for California families as well as to programs that help women, especially low-income women, to prepare for and find employment. In recent years, state lawmakers have cut spending on the CalWORKs Program, child care and preschool, Medi-Cal, in-home care, and postsecondary education. These cuts have come during an economic downturn that has taken a major toll on California's women and their families. Single women supporting families were particularly hard-hit, it says. This group as a whole experienced a sharp decrease in employment, higher incidence of poverty, and -- among those who were employed -- the largest decline in the average workweek in at least two decades.

Report highlights include:

- Single mothers were hardest hit by the recession and recent budget cuts contributed to sharp increases in poverty. The employment rate for California's single mothers dropped by 10.4 percent from 2007 to 2010.
- Older women (over age 65) also experienced an increase in poverty.
- Both groups of women bore the brunt of repeated budget cuts – to Medi-Cal, to child care, and to income supports (SSI/SSP, CalWORKs grants).
- Budget cuts have reduced access to higher education for women seeking to gain skills needed to obtain higher wage jobs. Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, enrollment in community colleges declined by 129,612 students with 81.6 percent of this decline being women.

"California's women have faced an imperfect storm," says Jean Ross, executive director of the California Budget Project. "On the one hand, the struggling economy means that their job

prospects are discouraging, especially for single women with children. On the other hand, the state's budget crisis has tattered the safety net that women and their families depend on and has limited pathways to opportunity." Judy Patrick, president and CEO of the Women's Foundation of California, says state lawmakers have targeted cuts to the very programs that break the cycle of poverty.

The Women's Foundation of California and the California Budget Project will be using the report to begin grassroots organizing and to engage policy makers about how pending budget cuts will affect women.



The full report "*Falling Behind: The Impact of the Great Recession and the Budget Crisis on California's Women and Their Families*" is available online

http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2012/120201_Falling_Behind.pdf

AND

http://www.womensfoundca.org/sites/default/files/falling_behind_report.pdf

The Executive Summary is available at

<http://abqt.assembly.ca.gov/sites/abqt.assembly.ca.gov/files/Falling%20Behind%20Executive%20Summary.pdf> (large file)

Listen to the joint oversight hearing online at

<http://www.calchannel.com/channel/viewvideo/3297>

AND

<http://www.calchannel.com/channel/viewVideo/3298>

CWL MEMBER CASSIE SPRINGER-SULLIVAN RECOGNIZED AS A DAILY JOURNAL "TOP 20 UNDER 40" LAWYER

By Tara M. Flanagan, CWL Board of Governors



Congratulations to CWL Member Cassie Springer-Sullivan, who was named one of the Daily Journal's "Top 20 Under 40" Lawyers for 2012!

Ms. Springer-Sullivan, who is also a member of Women Lawyers of Alameda County, was selected out of thousands of attorneys across the state,

because she has distinguished herself in her first nine years of practice as an acknowledged expert in the field of ERISA. She has a particular focus and skill set in the area of disability benefit plan litigation. Cassie is a partner in her Oakland law firm, Springer-Sullivan and Roberts, and is recognized as the "go-to" appellate specialist for Ninth Circuit ERISA cases.

Cassie has been involved in numerous favorable landmark decisions, perhaps most significantly for her appellate representation in *Abatie v. Alta Health & Life Ins. Co.*, 458

F.3d 955 (9th Cir. 2006) (en banc.) This case is one of the most significant Ninth Circuit ERISA disability decisions of the decade, as the Court overruled previous Ninth Circuit precedent to determine that where a plan administrator operates under a financial conflict of interest, courts must review the administrator's benefits decisions with "skepticism."

Cassie also garnered a tremendous district court victory for her client in *Carstens v. U.S. Shoe Corporation's Long-Term Benefits Disability Plan*, 520 F. Supp. 2d 1165 (N.D. Cal. 2007), wherein the court adopted a new legal theory, holding that a disability plan administrator could not offset the participant's disability benefits by the amount of her son's Social Security benefit, since that money belonged to the child, not to the disabled adult.

Outside of the courtroom, Ms. Springer-Sullivan a frequent speaker on ERISA litigation, and has also been chosen for several leadership positions within the ABA. In addition to such commitments and accomplishments, Cassie also takes a leadership role in her community. She is the immediate-past Bay Area Ambassador Family for the March of Dimes, and also sits on the Kaiser Permanente Oakland NICU Parents Advisory Committee.

Cassie Springer-Sullivan, a young attorney on a meteoric rise...

CWL Forms Gender Equity Committee

As the next step in our campaign for gender equity, CWL is forming a new committee to address instances of women's exclusion from roundtables or panels of speakers on important continuing legal education topics. We have all seen advertisements for panels of all (white) males, such as a recent class action roundtable notice in the *California Lawyer*. We know perfectly well that there are women who are outstanding class action lawyers and are qualified to speak, both for the plaintiffs and for the defense.

Teresa Beck, Vice President of the San Diego Lawyer's Club, will chair the committee seeking to remedy this problem. Its focus will be to identify instances where women are overlooked or

excluded, send letters to the offenders offering to suggest women as panelists for future programs, ask for commitments to gender equity and diversity for future speakers, and keep the membership informed of progress. If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact Pat Sturdevant at patstur@sbcglobal.net.

Please also send us your suggestions for publication under future "What is Wrong With This Picture" captions in the CWL newsletter. Let's work together to eliminate this discriminatory practice and ensure that women lawyers are properly recognized for our expertise and accomplishments.

FAY STENDER WINNERS: THEN AND NOW

We are beginning a new feature in this issue: a spotlight on the women who have won CWL's Fay Stender Award. It will describe the important work for which we honored them, and provide an update on their careers since then. Here are two of these remarkable women:



Kate Yavenditti, long-time Staff Attorney with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, won the Fay Stender Award in 2003 for her tireless efforts on behalf of women and children, particularly in the fight against domestic violence. Kate founded the first domestic violence restraining order clinic in Los Angeles in the 1970s; co-founded the

first such clinic in San Diego; co-founded what is now the San Diego Domestic Violence Council; and in many additional ways has assisted the legal system in recognizing and responding to the needs of women and children.

At the time CWL presented Kate Yavenditti with the Fay Stender Award, she was an attorney with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyers Program. In July 2006, after twenty years with SDVLP, Yavenditti decided to leave the agency and open her own private practice. In her practice, she continues to focus on Family Law and still represents victims of domestic violence on a pro bono basis. She also mentors new attorneys who are representing or assisting victims of domestic violence and has served as a consultant on domestic violence issues.

Not only was Yavenditti recognized by CWL for all of her work on domestic violence issues, she has also been recognized as one of San Diego's Super Lawyers every year from 2007 to 2011.

In March 2009, she was inducted into the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame as a "Lawyer Pioneer in the Field of Domestic Violence; Co-Founder of the San Diego County Task Force on Domestic Violence." In addition to all of her work on behalf of domestic violence victims, Yavenditti finds time to serve on CWL affiliate Lawyers Club of San Diego's Reproductive Rights Committee and granting committee of the Fund for Justice, LCSD's charitable giving arm. She is also on the steering committee of the San Diego Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

Donna Bashaw of Orange County was selected for the Fay Stender Award in 1997 for her public interest advocacy as an ABA-certified elder law specialist operating a Center which arranges conservatorships for the disabled elderly as well as guardianships of vulnerable minors, and for her creation of the Orange County Bar Association's Grandparent Guardianship



Committee, which assists indigent grandparents in pursuit of guardianships.

Donna is one of the preeminent Elder Law attorneys in the country. She basically wrote the book on the subject, co-authoring the CEB guides on Special Needs Trusts and California Durable Powers of

Attorney as well as the Matthew Bender California Guide to Tax, Estate & Financial Planning For the Elderly. She is a Past President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. The Fay Stender Award was the first of her many awards, including the Teresa Foundation Award in 1998, the Hall of Fame at Western State University in 1999, the Orange County Bar Association's Harmon Scoville Award in 2000, and the State Bar Appreciation Award for exceptional service and contributions in 2005. In 12/05 she served as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging (held every 10 years). And finally, in 2008, with Betty Frasciso's strong support, she was the Orange County Women Lawyers' Attorney of the Year. Until last fall, Donna practiced in a three-attorney elder law firm in Laguna Hills, which she founded.

Last October Donna sold her practice to two of her proteges, Christina McGonigle and Melinda Hunsaker. They were both of her students in law school, interned with her and worked as her associates. They will carry on Donna's philosophy in serving seniors and people with disabilities.

In the meantime, Donna still works three days a week for the Elder Law Center and spends the rest of her time writing a novel and competing in ballroom dance. Life is good.

Lieff

Cabraser

Heimann &

Bernstein

Attorneys at Law

The One Year Anniversary of the Start of Expedited Jury Trials

By Hon. Michele E. Flurer, Los Angeles County Superior Court

As EJT celebrates its first birthday, up and down the state more and more attorneys are opting for Expedited Jury Trials. Informal results from 2011 show that the shortened format has no bias favoring either side. In Los Angeles, an equal number of verdicts were recorded for plaintiffs and defendants. The only real difference has been cost savings to the parties, to the courts and juror time. One satisfied juror in an EJT case, quoted in the LA Times, said he had spent more time trying to get out of jury duty than the whole case took!



Except for the above required elements, the parties can agree to modify the rules and procedures that will apply to their trial, such as timelines for pretrial submissions, limitations on the number of witnesses per party, exchange of expert witness information and presentation of testimony by expert witnesses, and any other evidentiary matters agreed to by the parties. (See, Cal Rule of Crt.3.1547(b).)

The parties can also agree to a high/low agreement, which can guarantee a plaintiff a minimum recovery and a defendant a maximum liability, regardless of the jury verdict. The high/low agreement is not disclosed to the jury. (CCP § 630.01(b); Rule 3.1547(a)(2).)

Judge Mary Thornton House, the “Godmother of EJT” and also the chair of the AOC working group which developed the EJT program and rules, states that not one judge presiding over an expedited jury case “has gotten the sense that the jury has taken the case less seriously because it was an expedited trial. In fact, the opposite has been sensed – that the juries appreciated the lawyers getting to the heart of the matter and not wasting their time.”

Given EJT’s one year anniversary, Courts are evaluating the progress of EJT. The upward trend is due to the efforts of many stakeholders getting the word out to trial attorneys. EJT was modeled after similar programs in South Carolina and New York. As Judge Thornton House notes: “In those jurisdictions, the use of their ‘summary jury trial’ started slowly with the ‘smaller value’ cases predominately in play during the first few years. However, with the dwindling resources in both States, the bulk of their civil trials are now done on a summary basis.”

Participation in an expedited jury trial is entirely voluntary. The parties consent to: (1) waive their rights to appeal and make any post-trial motions except in limited circumstances; (2) limit their case to three hours; (3) have a jury composed of eight or fewer jurors with no alternates; (4) use only three peremptory challenges per side, except as provided in the statute; and (5) proceed under the rules set forth in the act unless the parties expressly agree otherwise. (CCP § 630.03(e).) A judicial council form consent order is currently being finalized for optional use as well as a form juror questionnaire.

EJT is celebrating its birthday and we have been given some pretty good gifts: quicker trials, reduced costs and juror approval. Predictions are that by its second anniversary EJT will be on the tip of every litigator’s tongue and EJT consent orders on the bench of every civil judge.

EJT in a Nutshell

Goal: one-day trial completion, but depending on when a jury panel arrives, many EJT’s go into Day 2 for closing and deliberations.
Presentation: Limited to 3 hours and includes direct, cross and closing.
Rules/Statutes: California Rules of Court 3.1545-3.1557; Code of Civil Procedure sections 630.01- 630.12.
Limitations: Voluntary and binding. All parties waive their right to appeal and post-trial relief except in limited circumstances.
Jury: 8 jurors instead of 12. Each side has three preemptory challenges. Use of form juror questionnaire may assist expedited time frame.
Termination: Possible if both sides agree or the Court determines that good reasons exist to not use EJT.
Other Components: Possible use of High/Low agreements, agreements regarding use and presentation of evidence.
Available Forms: Information sheet EJT-010. Proposed Consent Order form – will be for optional use—waiting approval by the judicial council. Jury Questionnaire waiting approval by judicial council.
Benefits: Lower costs, easier trial setting, quicker results, higher juror satisfaction.



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Long Beach Women Lawyers

An Open Letter To the President of the ABA

William Robinson III, President
 American Bar Association
 Office of the President
 321 North Clark Street
 Chicago, IL 60610

VIA United States mail and E-Mail to: larnetta.buck@americanbar.org

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Women leaders in the profession and in bar associations are deeply concerned about an ABA on line Journal article posted October 24, 2011, and the inadequacy of the ABA's response. The article was originally titled "Not One Legal Secretary Preferred Working with Women Lawyers." We find the article and the ABA's reaction to our expressions of concern sexist and inconsistent with the goal of eliminating bias which the ABA professes to embrace. Both the headline and the article itself were sensationalized and contained factual inaccuracies about the results of a survey of legal secretaries, falsely reporting that no secretary preferred to work for a woman. In fact, this was just one question out of a lengthy survey of the working conditions of legal secretaries. Furthermore, 47% of the secretaries who responded to that question stated no opinion when it came to the gender of the attorney they worked with.

This kind of coverage is not harmless; it perpetuates unfair stereotypes of women in the legal profession – those who work as legal secretaries and those who are attorneys, falsely implying an inability to work together in a professional setting because of their gender. Despite the correction of the headline and a follow up article that included an interview with the researcher who conducted the survey, the story had already caused damage, detracting from the serious issues facing legal secretaries that were revealed in the survey and validating the sexist views of females as being unsuited for leadership roles in the workplace and in the profession.

The ABA Journal initially took a defensive posture and refused to apologize despite acknowledging that the headline was sensationalized and the text inadequately pointed out that nearly half of the respondents expressed no opinion. We received no response to our assertions that the Journal would not have published such an article expressing preferences based on ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. A subsequent "apology" from the head of the

Affiliates: Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles · Fresno County Women Lawyers · Kern County Women Lawyers Association · Lawyers Club of San Diego · Monterey County Women Lawyers · Napa County Women Lawyers · Orange County Women Lawyers · Queen's Bench · Santa Barbara Women Lawyers · Ventura County Women Lawyers · Women Lawyers Section of Santa Clara Bar Association · Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles · Women Lawyers Association of San Luis Obispo County · Women Lawyers of Alameda County · Women Lawyers of Long Beach · Women Lawyers of Sacramento · Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz County · Contra Costa County Bar Association, Women's Section

Journal's Editorial Board because some readers found the article "hurtful" again missed the mark, by focusing on the subjective feelings of female readers rather than the Journal's conduct in publishing an article in such a sensationalized and objectionable way and contributing to the problem of gender inequity that is now pervasive in the legal profession.

A recently published study of the top 200 law firms in the United States conducted by the National Association for Women Lawyers (NAWL) found that while recent women law school graduates are hired in roughly the same numbers as men, they comprise only 15% of the equity partners in those firms, a percentage that has not changed in 20 years. Sexist coverage detracts from women's chances at achieving leadership roles in law firms -- where women's representation is already too low.

This kind of inaccurate and sexist reporting is contrary to the third Goal of the ABA, which is to "Eliminate Bias and Enhance Diversity." The ABA's commitment to this goal has been an incentive for women lawyers to join the ABA and to support the work of the ABA's Commission on Women. Women attorneys look to the ABA to speak out against stereotyping and the unfair barriers to achieving equality in the profession -- not to perpetuate those wrongs.

We call on you to commit to eliminating gender bias and stereotyping in your news articles, and to develop a code of best practices for reporting stories fairly and accurately, instead of looking for the sensationalistic angle. When it comes to women in the profession, the ABA should be part of the solution rather than the problem.

Patricia Sturdevant, President
California Women Lawyers

Lindsay Verity, President
Georgia Association for Women Lawyers

Ann Smisek, President
Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys

Terra K. Atkinson, President
North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys

Lily Stroud, President
El Paso Women's Bar Association

Kellie Hogan, President
Wichita Women Attorneys Association

BLACK WOMEN LAWYERS OF LOS ANGELES, INC.

MCLE Networking Panel. Portraying its 2012 theme of “Opening a Door to Opportunity = Building a Bridge to Success,” CWL Affiliate Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles, Inc., presented a dynamic MCLE panel discussion and networking reception entitled “Branding yourself and Marketing your Practice for Women.” More than 70 people attended this event on January 20, 2012 at the Capital Grille in Beverly Hills, including attorneys,



LLBA Board member Ann Story with BWL Board member & CWL Board member Chris Goodman

judicial officers, law students, recent graduates, and board members from all three sponsoring organizations: BWL, CWL and the Latina Lawyers Bar Association of Los Angeles (LLBA).



Panelists and Samantha Grant, BWL President.

Deborah Rodney, Regional Director of Development of ProVisors, moderated the panel, which focused on the “how-to’s” of collaboration and building relationships for future mutual benefit and marketing techniques for promoting your individual “brand.” The panel of high-powered women included Charlene Usher, of the Usher Law Group, Andi Groomes, Strategic Business Development Coach and Principal of Threshold Advisors, Katessa Charles Davis, BWL Past President and partner at Steptoe & Johnson, LLP, and Robin Finch, of counsel at Greenberg Glusker. Presenting “power stories” and “reasons to be remembered” are crucial components of effective networking and marketing.

The panelists reminded the audience to follow up and close the loop on networking inquiries and introductions, but also acknowledged the long range payoff for any marketing plan. Cautioning against giving up too soon, they provided clear strategies for even the most shy or self-deprecating among us, and supplied their own stories to illustrate the effectiveness of their suggested approaches. Women from every practice area and segment of the profession absorbed spot-on advice to further their careers.



CWL Board member Prudence Hutton and CWL President-Elect Eliza Rodrigues

The panelist entertained questions from the audience, to further illustrate the practicalities of effective branding. Afterwards, the audience enjoyed a variety of gourmet appetizers, courtesy of the sponsors Greenberg Glusker, ProVisors, Mitchell, Silberberg & Knupp LLP, and Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP.

Education Committee Outreach to Law Students. The BWL Education Committee hosted a panel discussion entitled “Interviewing Images: Presenting your Best Self” at Loyola Law School on February 2, 2012. Education Committee Co-Chair and CWL member Chris Goodman introduced the panelists (Capri Maddox, Esq., LA City Attorneys’ Office, Michelle Williams Court, Esq. formerly General Counsel, Bet Tzedek and recently appointed to the Superior Court, Dianne Baquet Smith, BWLF Board member and Hiring Partner at Sheppard Mullin, and Andi Groomes, Principal of Threshold Advisors), which was expertly moderated by Education Committee Co-Chair Professor Cindy Archer. Afterwards, law students practiced their new-found skills in a small networking reception with attorneys.

Upcoming Event: BWLF Scholarship Luncheon May 19, 2012. Save the date for the Black Women Lawyers Foundation 37th Annual Scholarship and Awards Luncheon entitled “The Law and Beyond.” BWLF invites you to join us in recognizing and honoring women who have used their law degrees to reach the heights of their professions while demonstrating a strong commitment to public service. BWLF also will award scholarships to upper year law students and encourages law students, both male and female, to submit applications. BWLF is pleased to honor:

- Major General Marcia Anderson, the first African-American female two-star general in the United States Army Reserve
- Kaye Lindsey, former Senior Vice President of Operations for State Farm Insurance Companies - California Zone
- Zola Mashariki, Senior Vice President of Production at Fox Searchlight Pictures, and
- Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, Senior Vice President and Chief Tax Officer for Wal-Mart Stores

The event is from 11am to 2pm at the Sheraton Delfina in Santa



Panelists

Monica. Sponsorship and ticket information, as well as application materials are available at www.bwlfoundation.org.

WOMEN LAWYERS OF LONG BEACH HOST A GREAT TURNOUT
AT THEIR JUDGES NIGHT HOLIDAY PARTY

The Women Lawyers of Long Beach (WLLB) hosted a party in which Long Beach lawyers and most of the South District bench mingled. Everyone had a fabulous time!



Guest, Judge Arthur Jean and his guest Marybeth; Stephanie Loftin



Cheryl Feinberg, Hon. Claire Vermillion and Reba Birmingham



Judge Roy Paul and Judge Tracy Grant (ret.)



JoAnn Fitzpatrick, Judge Judy VanderLans, Judge JD Lord and guest.

SANTA BARBARA WOMEN LAWYERS:

Barbara Babcock is Santa Barbara Women Lawyers Keynote Speaker and Finishes Book Tour

By Laura Dewey

The SBWL Annual Dinner is always one of the nicest social functions in the Santa Barbara legal community, and the 2011 event was no exception. The Canary Hotel was the scene as numerous judges from both North County and South County gathered to honor Judge Donna D. Geck, recipient of the 2011 Deborah Talmage Attorney of the Year Award. They were joined by current and former members of the County Board of Supervisors and several dozen attorneys.

The dinner program began with a message from 2011 SBWL President Angela Roach, who reviewed the organization's wonderful accomplishments in 2011, including MCLE programs, increased membership, and the inaugural year for the Santa Barbara version of CWL's "Food From The Bar" program, which raised over \$7,000.

Shortly after the organization was founded, SBWL instituted an annual award for a legal professional who is dedicated to the success of women, mentors her colleagues and other women, excels in service to the Santa Barbara community, is committed to the highest level of ethics, and has achieved professional excellence. The award was later named after SBWL's "founding mother," retired Commissioner Deborah Talmage, the first female bench officer in Santa Barbara.

Judge Donna D. Geck was appointed to the bench in 2010 after an impressive career in private practice which included jury trials, court trials, arbitrations, and mediations. She was board-certified in civil trials by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and was the first female President of the local California Coast Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). In addition to the grace and humility which she displays on a daily basis, she raised her three children as a single mother and regularly mentored other women lawyers.

Further presentations were made to Judge Geck from the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors, the California State Assembly, and the United States Congress from local dignitaries.

The evening was capped off with an inspiring keynote address by Barbara Babcock, who was the first woman faculty member hired and tenured at Stanford Law School, who researched and wrote the only book written about Clara Foltz, California's first woman lawyer.

The following day, Professor Babcock, her husband, and a carton of her books made their final appearance on her nationwide book tour at a café close to the courthouse, autographing and selling out her entire stock of her book, "Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz." She expressed her gratitude for the warm welcome that she received in Santa Barbara, then spent the afternoon enjoying the beautiful town and weather before heading back home.



The WLAC Annual Judges' Dinner

More than 150 lawyers, law students and judges gathered at the Claremont Hotel on Wednesday, October 12 to celebrate the Women Lawyers of Alameda County. The Annual Judges' Dinner occasioned the recognition of the accomplishments of women in the legal community while reminding all in attendance of the strides taken and the journey still left ahead. The evening featured a Silent Auction and Cocktail Hour where judges mingled with attorneys and law students over cocktails as they perused the unique items available for bid. Auction items included trips to Las Vegas, artwork by local artists and tickets to sporting events.

After the auction, the event continued in the main dining area where the attendees were treated to a delicious chicken, salmon or vegetarian meal. Attendees were welcomed to the event by Dinner Committee Chair Gail Mitchell who introduced the Mistress of Ceremonies, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley. WLAC President Toni Mims-Cochran gave the year end remarks and recapped the many activities, programs and gatherings that the WLAC participated in throughout the busy year. Diners were informed of the Spring Reception, Mentor-Mentee Program with UC Hastings, Volunteer programs with Girls Inc. of Alameda County and various MCLE programs offered

by the WLAC. Nancy O'Malley was also presented with a new award, "the Velvet Hammer Award" for her tireless efforts in promoting women in the legal profession and her unwavering support for the WLAC.

The awards and honors portion of the program began with the recognition of newly sworn women judges Honorable Ioana Petrou and Honorable Victoria Kolakowski. Jurist of Distinction Awards were given to the Honorable Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers and the Honorable Trina Thompson. All of these outstanding jurists were given what has become affectionately known as the "Hockey Puck" - a crystal paperweight with the WLAC inscription.

The highlight of the evening came when the keynote speaker shared her comments. California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye gave an enthusiastic and compelling keynote address. Rousing the audience to life with tales of her struggle as a woman of color rising through the legal ranks, the Chief Justice was at times humorous, serious and inspirational.

Finally, the evening concluded with the swearing in of the 2012 Board of Directors. The Honorable Stuart Hing swore the new Board in for the upcoming year. We all look forward to an exciting new year with the Women Lawyers of Alameda County!



FCWL ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Fresno County Superior Court Judge Denise Whitehead opened her home and hosted the Fresno Women Lawyers annual Holiday Party on December 13, 2011. Members of FCWL and guests, Bar leaders, Judicial Officers, and community leaders joined for an evening of celebration and conversation.



Three past presidents of FCWL enjoy the FCWL Annual Holiday Party (left to right): Victoria Allard Bernhart, Deborah Coe Hood, and Kathleen McKenna.

Women Lawyers of Sacramento: Chief Justice Swears in new ABAS board at California Supreme Court

DOn January 11, 2012, Chief Justice of California Tani Cantil-Sakauye swore in the boards of the Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento (ABAS) and the ABAS Law Foundation at the California Supreme Court Courtroom in San Francisco. Also present at the swearing-in ceremony included: California Women Lawyers President Patricia Sturdevant, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) Past President Phillip F. Shinn, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley (APABA-SV) President Chester Te, and ABAS Past President Mark Morodomi.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, ABAS met with the Chief Justice and Associate Justice Ming Chin in their chambers. ABAS is grateful that Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and Justice Chin were so gracious and generous with their time, and for their interest in furthering diversity in the judiciary and the profession, an important goal that CWL and ABAS share and support.

The ABAS 2012 board includes fellow members of CWL and Women Lawyers of Sacramento (WLS): Angela Lai, President; Kara Ueda, President-Elect; Sophia Kwan, Treasurer; Colleen Howard, Secretary and Foundation member Jerilyn Paik. Angela is also a board member of WLS, one of CWL's affiliate organizations.



The Lawyers Club of San Diego Celebrates 40 Years of Making Dreams A Reality at Upcoming Annual Dinner

“Years of Making Dreams a Reality.” Formed in 1972, the Lawyers Club of SD is a speciality bar association, comprised of female and male attorneys, judges, law students and other individuals in San Diego, which seeks to advance the status of women in the law and in society.

The dinner will feature California Supreme Court Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye as the keynote speaker, and will honor Hon. Judith McConnell and Hon. Lynn Schenk as Icon Award recipients. Additionally, the Belva Lockwood Award will be awarded to Hugh Friedman and the Center for Community Solutions will be recognized with the Community Service Award.

The dinner will take place at the U.S. Grant in downtown San Diego, with a VIP reception at 5:00 p.m., no-host cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m., and dinner and program to follow at 6:30 p.m. The price of tickets is \$125, including VIP reception, or \$100 for an individual seat. Information about the dinner and sponsorship opportunities can be found at www.lawyersclubsandiego.com, under “Events & Calendar.”



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012

March 23, 2012	Northern California Judicial Reception, Contra Costa County
March 24, 2012	Board of Governors Meeting, San Francisco
April 20, 2012	CWL Annual Conference, San Jose
April 21, 2012	Board of Governors Meeting, San Jose
April 30, 2012	District Governor candidate applications due
May 14, 2012	Article Submission Deadline - CWL News
May 17, 2012	Nomination Deadline - Fay Stender Award
May 18, 2012	Southern California Judicial Reception, location TBD
May 19, 2012	Board of Governors Meeting, Southern California
July 28, 2012	Board of Governors Meeting, Sacramento
August 3, 2012	NCWBA Summit, Chicago, Illinois
August 13, 2012	Article Submission Deadline, CWL News
September 1, 2012	Board of Governors Meeting, San Diego
October 11, 2012	CWL 38th Annual Dinner, Monterey

NOTICE OF DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

DEADLINE: April 30, 2012

Election of several CWL District Governors, for two-year terms from October 2012 through September 2014, will take place in May 2012. CWL is accepting applications of candidates for election to vacant District Governor seats in the following districts.

DISTRICT 1:

One position open. (Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba Counties)

DISTRICT 2:

One position open. (Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Napa, Sacramento, Solano, Sonoma, Tuolumne and Yolo Counties)

DISTRICT 3:

One position open. (Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties)

DISTRICT 4:

One position open. (San Francisco and Marin Counties)

DISTRICT 5:

One position open. (Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Monterey, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus and Tulare Counties)

DISTRICT 6:

One position open. (Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties)

DISTRICT 7:

Three positions open. (Los Angeles County)

DISTRICT 8:

One position open. (Orange County)

DISTRICT 9:

One position open. (Imperial and San Diego Counties)

District Governors attend six Board meetings per year at locations throughout the state. They also participate in committees, help plan events, recruit new CWL members, and assist in running the organization.

Why should you run:

- Because CWL's clout and effectiveness grow with every smart, energetic woman who gets involved;
- Because you will get to know nice, smart, committed women from all over the state;
- Because you will learn a lot about California – its government, its geography, and how to get things done;
- Because it is important that every district have a representative on the Board of Governors.
- If you don't run, who will? Don't sit back and wait for other women to run. If you are committed to CWL's future and the future of women lawyers in California, send in your application.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates should submit a current resume and a candidate's statement of no more than one-half typewritten page in length via email to: info@cw.org or mailed to the:

Nominating Committee,
CWL Executive Office,
650 Howe Avenue, Suite 1050,
Sacramento, CA 95825,
no later than April 30, 2012.

For further information, or sample candidates' statements, please contact Renée Calta at (916) 646-3114 or info@cw.org



California Women Lawyers 2012 Annual Conference Silicon Valley

**PRACTICING LAW IN THE 21ST CENTURY:
ENABLING WOMEN TO ACHIEVE POWER POSITIONS**

April 20, 2012

9:00 a.m.-5:00p.m.
(Cocktail Reception to Follow)

Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel
4290 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, California 94306



Morning Speaker,

Patricia K. Gillette, Esq.

*Partner, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP;
Opt-In Project; ABA Commission for Women in
the Profession; San Francisco Bar Association's
No Glass Ceiling Initiative*

Keynote Luncheon Speaker,

Catherine Lacavera, Esq.

Director of Litigation, Google, Inc.

The day will focus on professional skills and unique challenges faced by women lawyers in the 21st Century, including practicing law in a new cutting edge micro-culture, with issues involving social networking, the Internet, and e-discovery, while still facing traditional legal and social issues to which law and society have not yet caught up. Discussions by prominent women lawyers will center on the skills and abilities that ensure career success, with a focus on building networking skills, identifying new areas of the law that will open doors for women, and the advancement of women lawyers to modern-day “power spots” (reflecting on the paths and experiences of successful women lawyers in law firms and as CEO’s, GC’s, Heads of In-House Litigation, and CLO’s).

TICKET PRICING*:

- | | | | |
|---|-------|----------------|-------|
| • CWL Members | \$145 | • Non-Members | \$195 |
| • Affiliate/Women’s Bar Organization Member | \$165 | • Law Students | \$100 |
| | | • Lunch Only | \$50 |

* Conference registration includes MCLE credits, breakfast, lunch and cocktail reception.

Learn more about CWL and register for this conference at www.cwl.org.



REGISTRATION FORM

CWL ANNUAL CONFERENCE, APRIL 20, 2012

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. (COCKTAIL RECEPTION TO FOLLOW)

CROWNE PLAZA CABANA HOTEL, PALO ALTO

PRACTICING LAW IN THE 21ST CENTURY: ENABLING WOMEN TO ACHIEVE POWER POSITIONS

Conference registration includes CLE programs, breakfast, luncheon, & cocktail reception.

- \$ 145 CWL Member
- \$ 165 CWL Affiliate or Other Women's Bar Organization Member
(Please Indicate Organization: _____.)
- \$ 195 Non-Member
- \$ 100 Law Student (Please Indicate School: _____.)
- \$ 50 Lunch Only

TO REGISTER, PLEASE GO TO WWW.CWL.ORG OR FILL OUT & RETURN THIS FORM BY MARCH 26, 2012 TO :

CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS
650 HOWE AVE., SUITE 1050
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825

EMAIL: INFO@CWL.ORG; TELEPHONE: (916) 646-3114; FAX: (916) 646-6469

I WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE CWL ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON APRIL 20, 2012.

NAME: _____

FIRM/ORGANIZATION/EMPLOYER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

PAYMENT:

_____ Check is enclosed.

_____ Payment by credit card.

MC/VISA #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

CIN Code: _____ (Three digits on back of card.)

Billing Address of Credit Card: _____

Zip code: _____

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF CWL!



2012 CWL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

April 20, 2012

CROWNE PLAZA CABANA HOTEL IN PALO ALTO

PRACTICING LAW IN THE 21ST CENTURY:
ENABLING WOMEN TO ACHIEVE POWER POSITIONS

Sponsorship Opportunities

Please return completed form and your Annual Conference sponsorship fee by March 9, 2012, to California Women Lawyers, 650 Howe Avenue., Suite 1050, Sacramento, CA 95825 (phone: (916) 646-3114; facsimile (916) 646-6469); e-mail: info@cwl.org.

Please provide your organization's electronic logo to Neda Mansoorian by April 2, at nmansoorian@mcmanslaw.com. Sponsors may include their specialization or practice area, with their firm/company name, as part of their logo graphic for signage and promotions (e.g., Law Offices of Jane Smith - Family Law Specialists).

Company/Firm Name:
Practice Area/Specialization (Optional):
Address:
Email Address:
Phone Number: Fax Number:
Contact Person:
Title of Contact Person:

PLEASE SELECT FROM THE FOLLOWING SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

FRIEND: \$250 (1 ticket to conference, verbal mention in the welcome and introductions, signage thanking sponsors, recognition in all publicity, at event and on website.)

BRONZE: \$500 (2 tickets to conference, verbal mention in the welcome and introductions, signage thanking sponsors, recognition in all publicity, at event and on website)

SILVER: \$1,000 (4 tickets to conference, verbal mention in the welcome and introductions and at the cocktail reception, prominent signage thanking sponsors, recognition in all publicity, at event and on website)

GOLD: \$1,500 (6 tickets to conference, priority verbal mention in the welcome and introductions and at the cocktail reception, prominent signage thanking sponsors, priority recognition, as the highest level sponsor, in all publicity, at event and on website.)

PAYMENT:

Check is enclosed.

Payment by credit card.

MC/VISA #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

CIN Code: _____ (Three digits on back of card.)

Billing Address of Credit Card: _____

Zip code: _____

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF CWL!

Neda Mansoorian, CWL Annual Conference Chair, nmansoorian@mcmanslaw.com

State Bar 2012 Awards—Call for Nominations!

State Bar Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services (SCDLS)

The State Bar of California is seeking nominations for the President's Pro Bono Awards and the Loren Miller Legal Services Award. Both awards recognize extraordinary service to California's poor. Please consider any colleagues or peers who you believe may qualify for these awards.

President's Pro Bono Service Awards

Bar members and law students who performed extraordinary pro bono service during 2011 are eligible for the 2012 President's Pro Bono Service Awards.

- Up to nine awards may be given each year
- Eligible nominees are California individual attorneys, California law firms or the California offices of national and international law firms, associations of California lawyers, law schools accredited by the ABA or the State Bar, and law students (provided the student did not receive compensation or academic credit for the work).
- The work must be legal work, not civic or public service (i.e., building houses or serving meals in a soup kitchen would not qualify.)

Many worthy nominations are received each year but only a few can be recognized. If a previous nomination was not recognized, please consider nominating that individual, firm, team, association or law school again if their pro bono service in 2011 was significant. If you have questions about re-submitting a prior nomination, feel free to contact either of the SCDLS representatives named below.

Loren Miller Legal Services Award

The Loren Miller Legal Services Award:

- Recognizes a lifetime commitment to legal services and extending legal services to the poor. Past recipients of this prestigious award include dedicated senior staff attorneys, Executive Directors and Directors of Litigation of legal services programs as well as private bar attorneys;
- Honors long-standing of dedication to legal services and breadth of service.

Each year nominations are submitted for the Loren Miller Award, but only one person is recognized. If you know someone who was previously nominated, but did not receive the award, please consider nominating that person again. There are many dedicated lawyers toiling day in and day out for their entire careers in legal services to California's poor, but the only way they are eligible for recognition is if they are nominated. If you have questions about re-submitting a prior nomination, feel free to contact either of the SCDLS representatives named below.

The nomination deadline for both awards is March 15, 2012. Guidelines, nomination process and instructions for the [Loren Miller Award](#) and [Pro Bono Awards](#) are provided on the State Bar's website and on the nomination form for each award. The nomination forms have been revised for simplified electronic submission.

The 2012 awards will be presented at a reception in October 2012 during the State Bar Annual Meeting in Monterey. If you have any questions about the awards, please contact Joilene Wood Grove, Awards Chair, at jgrove@wsgr.com or 415-305-4651, or the SCDLS Staff Liaison, Sharon Ngim, at sharon.ngim@calbar.ca.gov or 415-538-2267.

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. A list of past years' recipients can be found on the CWL website under News and Events at: www.cwl.org.

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, which is scheduled this year for October 11, 2012, in Monterey.

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. As well, please be sure that your nominee is available to receive the award personally on October 11th.

**Nominations must be received at the CWL office NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT on
THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012.**

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.

You are cordially invited

To the

CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS®

Twelfth Annual

Northern California Judicial Reception

**The Honorable Diana Becton
Judge, Superior Court of California, Contra Costa County**

Will be presented

The 2012 Rose Bird Memorial Award

Friday, March 23, 2012

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Whiting, Fallon, Ross & Abel

101 Ygnacio Valley Road

Walnut Creek, CA

\$45 Current CWL Member • \$50 Co-Sponsor Member • \$55 Non-Member
Judicial Officers are invited to attend at CWL Member rate

CWL Judicial Reception Reservation Form Return by March 16, 2012

Name: _____ Phone No. _____

Firm: _____

YES, I WILL ATTEND Spouse or guest's name: _____

\$45 CWL Member \$50 Co-Sponsor Member \$55 Non-Member

Check enclosed payable to California Women Lawyers

Charge my credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover Card)

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Billing address for card: _____

Zip code: _____

Registration and payment can also be made online at: www.cwl.org

SECURITY REQUIRES ADVANCE RESERVATIONS

Return to: CWL, 650 Howe Ave., Ste. 1050 • Sacramento, CA 95825 • (916) 646-3114

• Fax (916) 646-6469 • E-mail: info@cwl.org

Prop 8 continued from page 1

they love merely because they are of the same sex. I recently had a chance to discuss with Ms. Stewart her thoughts on *Perry v. Brown* and its potential future, amongst other things.

Natasha Chee: You have discussed a “universal understanding” of marriage. Do you think that this universal understanding was instrumental in the Ninth Circuit’s recent decision? And how do you think that universal understanding will play in the next round of appeals, whether en banc at the Ninth Circuit or with the Supreme Court?

Therese Stewart: I discussed that issue during a debate and have in some court proceedings where the issue was why the name “marriage” matters, as opposed simply to the legal rights and incidents that go along with it (which for the most part are now provided to domestic partnerships). In other words, the fact that people broadly or universally understand what marriage is and that it has a clear and very positive social meaning is relevant to whether it is constitutional to deny the title and stature of marriage to one group of people while the state confers it on all others.

This idea played an important role in the Ninth Circuit ruling, which affirmed the District Court’s finding that “[d]omestic partnerships lack the social meaning associated with marriage,” noting that the Proposition 8 Proponents had essentially conceded that point. Slip Opinion at 32. Notably, the Court quoted the California Supreme Court’s decision in the Marriage Cases, stating that “Restricting access to the designation of ‘marriage’ did, however, ‘work[] a real and appreciable harm upon same-sex couples and their children, ‘because ‘providing only a novel, alternative institution for same-sex couples’ constituted ‘an official statement that the family relationship of same-sex couples is not of comparable stature or equal dignity to the family relationship of opposite-sex couples.’” p. 13.

In evaluating the effect that Proposition 8 had on same-sex couples, the Court noted that while (as the California Supreme Court had held in *Strauss v. Horton* [46 Cal.4th 364 (2009)]) it denied only the title of marriage and not its incidents to same-sex couples, nonetheless this effect was far from minimal: “By emphasizing Proposition 8’s limited effect, we do not mean to minimize the harm that this change in the law caused to same-sex couples and their families. To the contrary, we emphasize the extraordinary significance of the official designation of ‘marriage.’ That designation is important because ‘marriage’ is the name that society gives to the relationship that matters the most between two adults.” The Court expounds on the importance of the name at pp. 37-40 of the Slip Opinion. The Court considered this effect in evaluating the purpose of and rationale for the measure. It’s analogy of this case to the *Romer* [v. Evans, 517 U.S. 620 (1996)] decision, in which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a measure that repealed and prohibited laws protecting gay people from discrimination in Colorado, was based in part on the “meaningful harm”

Proposition 8 imposes on gay men and lesbians “by denying to their committed lifelong relationships the societal status conveyed by the designation of ‘marriage’” and the “surgical precision with which it excises a right belonging to gay and lesbian couples”, which the court found to be (like Colorado’s Amendment 2) “unprecedented” and “unusual.”

NC: In what ways can CWL members support the cause for gay marriage and rights? How can women attorneys in general become involved in and support the cause even if they don’t have a direct “personal interest” in the matter?

TS: There are many ways they can get involved. They can serve as pro-bono counsel on LGBT cases under the auspices of LGBT groups like [Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders] GLAD, [National Center for Lesbian Rights] NCLR, Lambda and the [American Civil Liberties Union] ACLU. They can participate preparing amicus briefs in significant LGBT cases. They can educate themselves and others at their firms about the issues and encourage and support their involvement in LGBT causes. They can donate and get their firms to donate money to such causes. They can be involved in the Gay-Straight Alliance at their children’s schools. They can refuse to patronize or support organizations that discriminate (e.g., the Boy Scouts). They can advocate in their churches, including those whose hierarchies advocate anti-gay dogmas. The list goes on . . .

NC: You are a strong advocate for the need to educate people about gay rights issues and the judiciary’s role in protecting equal rights, and how those rights can be taken away if subjected to majority vote. What are some ways in which women attorneys can be effective in educating people on these issues?

TS: First, let me say that I think women have been involved already in these matters, but there is always more room and opportunity. Op Ed pieces, letters to the Editor, talking to school children and youth, supporting civics education, participating in the ABA’s Law Day, serving on the ABA’s Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Commission, getting involved or building coalitions with gay bar associations like [Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom] BALIF. The judiciary in California has strong anti-discrimination policies and is reasonably well educated, but in smaller and more conservative areas there is always room for more. [B]ar association panel discussions that include judges or participating in judicial education efforts sponsored by other organizations are valuable actions women lawyers can take.

NC: What are your thoughts in general on the recent Proposition 8 decision and what do think the future holds for this litigation?

TS: This decision is on the right side of history. I am guardedly optimistic that it will hold up. Moreover, in the longer run, the right to marry for lesbians and gay men will become the law of this Country, as it has in 7 states, the District of Columbia and many countries around the world. Just as interracial marriage and inter-religious marriages eventually became accepted in this country, so too will intra-gender marriage (so to speak).



Editor: Naomi Dewey, CWL
Graphic Design: Philippa Ratcliff, QCWS

CWL News

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650 Howe Avenue, Suite 1050
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 646-3114 · (916) 646-6469
www.cwl.org

CWL Membership/Renewal Form

Name: _____ State Bar Number: _____
Firm/Agency Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
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
(5% of dues non-deductible as business expense – Federal Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993)
Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____
CID Code #: ____ ____ ____ (the last three digits on the back of your card in the signature area)
Billing Address: _____ Zip Code _____
Signature as it appears on card _____
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 ★