



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A New Focus

by Rebecca Hooley

Every spring the board of Queen's Bench holds a retreat to identify and prioritize its goals for the coming year. Reviewing all of the superb programs and ideas coming from our committees, the board agreed at this year's retreat that it was time to focus on the media for publicizing Queen's Bench events by making the organization more visible to non-members and information about events and committees easier to find online.



One of our goals in this area is to update the Queen's Bench website to make it both easier to use and increase its content. For example, the History Committee hopes to add a webpage containing an overview of Queen's Bench's long history, photographs, and access to some of its historical documents. The Juvenile Hall Committee would like to add information highlighting its program and detailing its mission. We also plan to add a Facebook page and are exploring other options to reach out to our membership and increase our visibility. To implement these goals we have formed an ad hoc Technology Committee, and we are seeking committee members. If you have an interest in social media and in helping Queen's Bench improve its website, please email your interest to Maurine Killough, our program administrator, at admin@queensbench.org.

continued, page 3

Judges, New Admittees and Members Toast the Incoming QB Board

by Vanessa Hierbaum

Queen's Bench held its annual Induction Ceremony on Thursday, March 1, 2012, which honored the Queen's Bench incoming officers and board members, and the Bay Area's newest members to the Stare Bar. This sold out champagne reception was attended by new admittees, members of Queen's Bench and many Bay Area judges. The Honorable Kathryn M. Werdegar, Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court presided over the Induction Ceremony.

Second Vice President, Vanessa Hierbaum, made the welcoming remarks and introduced the incoming board. It was then her honor and privilege to introduce Justice Werdegar. Justice Werdegar is a third generation San Franciscan, who graduated from the University of California, Berkeley. Thereafter, she went on to study law at Boalt Hall School of Law, where she was the first woman to be elected editor-in-chief of the California Law Review, and then transferred to George Washington University School of Law where she graduated first in her class. Her early career highlights included service with the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. under Attorney General Robert Kennedy; Director of the criminal law division of California Continuing Education of the Bar; Professor and Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of San Francisco School



Justice Werdegar (left) with new admittees

of Law; and Senior Staff Attorney with the California Court of Appeal and the California Supreme Court; Justice Werdegar was appointed to the Court of Appeal in 1991, and the California Supreme Court in 1994. Before administering the oath and swearing in the 2012 Queen's Bench board, Justice Werdegar congratulated the new admittees, spoke of the challenges she and other women attorneys faced when she graduated

continued, page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Scholarship Committee	3
Support for Law Library.....	4
Employment & Work-Life Committee	4
Did You Know?	5
QB New Members.....	5
Sex Trafficking in Bay Area	6
Committees & Appointments.....	7
Calendar	8

Incoming QB Board

Continued from page 1

law school in 1962, and observed how far women have come as evidenced by the many female judges in attendance that evening.

First Vice President Lisa Freitas then introduced incoming President Rebecca Hooley. Ms. Hooley spoke of Queen's Bench's many recent achievements and highlighted what she called its "crown jewel", the Juvenile Hall Project (JHP). Instituted over 30 years ago, the JHP is an award winning outreach and mentoring program for girls who have become involved with the juvenile justice system. Rebecca encouraged new admittees to take advantage of the free first year Queen's Bench membership and participate in JHP or one of our many other active committees. Both Justice Werdegar and Ms. Hooley emphasized the importance of Queen's Bench for Bay Area women attorneys today. We welcome and congratulate the newest admittees to the California State Bar and congratulate the 2012 slate of Queen's Bench officers and directors.



Past presidents Carol Salvagione and Patricia Rosenberg



2012 Queen's Bench Scholarship Committee

by Hon. Adrienne Miller

The 2012 Queen's Bench Scholarship Committee is honored to announce that **TAJUANA GRAY** is the recipient of the 2012 Mildred Levin Scholarship at Hastings Law School. This year's award is \$1,245.

Ms. Gray is a second year law student from Oakland, California. Ms. Gray grew up in the inner city of Oakland, described by Ms. Gray as "an area impoverished, and infested with drugs and violence." She never met her father and her mother was a high school dropout, as well as, a teenage mother, and drug addict. Ms. Gray was forced to raise herself and was bounced around from family and neighborhood friends' homes during her childhood. She was never expected to be anything but a teenage mother herself, however, she found the inner strength to educate herself and succeed when all she faced was hardship and doubters. Rather than succumb to her environment, Ms. Gray found strength and motivation in both her disadvantaged background and her two children she had to raise on her own. With hard work and a tremendous belief in herself, she rose above her difficulties, graduated from high school, then worked her way through Saint Mary's College of California graduating in 2005, with a B.A. in Law Studies and Paralegal Certificate. Ms. Gray worked for the Oakland Attorney's Office as a civil litigation paralegal intern and for Walsworth, Franklin, Bevins and McCall in San Francisco as an asbestos litigation paralegal and accounts receivable clerk. Currently Ms. Gray supports herself and her two children while attending law school as a law student intern for East Bay Community Law Center in Berkeley, California.

In addition to her family responsibilities, schooling, and work Ms. Gray also finds time to volunteer in her community. She co-founded a non-profit organization called Youth Power, which provides youth with mentors and other valuable resources to help them succeed in high school and college. Ms. Gray feels that, through Youth Power, she made meaningful contributions to the lives of youth in Oakland and with this organization many young people were able to go to college and graduate. This experience among many others inspired her to pursue a career in law. Ms. Gray is still very active in volunteering and giving back to her community. She is currently volunteering for the General Assistance and Advocacy Project (GAAP), at Hastings, which provides public benefits assistance to homeless and marginally housed San Franciscans. She also volunteers at her church in Oakland, helping to feed the homeless twice a week and also assists in resolving legal issues for her church members. She is also involved in the Charles Houston Bar Association where she works in their legal clinics throughout the Bay Area. Ms. Gray

is also a proud law student member of Queen's Bench. Ms. Gray is looking forward to a career in public service and work for a plaintiff's side litigation firm. In the future she is interested in founding a non-profit organization, which would provide legal services to youth. Eventually, Ms. Gray wants to become a superior court judge where she believes "... it is the best way to interact with a lot of people in the community."

Members of the Queen's Bench Scholarship Committee, Co-Chair Adrienne J. Miller, and Elizabeth Stone, along with Hon. Ina Levin Gyemant, (daughter of Mildred Levin), Anne Gyemant Paris, (granddaughter of Mildred Levin), Irene Dietz (daughter of Mildred Levin) are proud to announce that Tajuana Gray is the 2012 recipient of the Mildred Levin, Hastings Law School Scholarship. Ms. Gray truly personifies all of the wonderful qualities of Mildred's wonderful legal career and devotion to her family, community and professional life.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

Another result of the retreat was the board's decision to create an ad hoc Diversity Committee. The purpose of the committee is to address issues specific to women who also fall within another minority bar group, such as women of color and women in the LBT community. In addition to identifying and implementing relevant programs, our goal is for the Diversity Committee to act as a liaison with other minority bar associations and partner with those organizations on events. We are looking for motivated individuals to help establish this new committee. As provided above, to join this committee or any Queen's Bench committee, simply email Maurine Killough at admin@queensbench.org to indicate your interest.

The board also decided to put the court funding resolution to a membership vote at the board's March meeting, which was held in conjunction with the retreat. Thanks to a change in last year's bylaws providing for electronic voting, this can be accomplished quickly and at no cost. The resolution passed with 95% of voting members voting in favor of the resolution. Thank you for everyone who participated. The result has been conveyed to the Open Courts Coalition.

Support for the Law Library

After serving our community for more than 140 years, the San Francisco County Law Library may soon have to close its doors. The Library needs your help to secure its future.

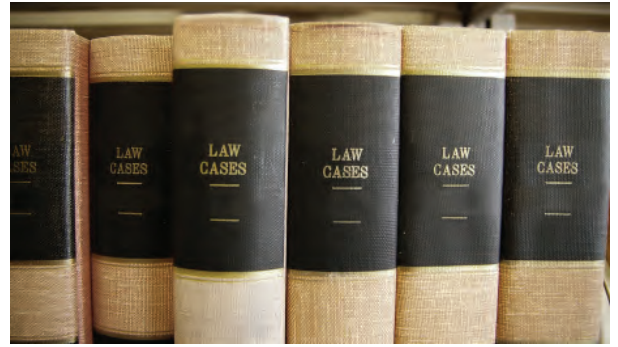
The Library has been housed at the Veterans War Memorial Building for 17 years. When the Library relocated there due to a seismic retrofit of City Hall, it had to severely reduce seating, staff and public areas, and to place two-thirds of its collection in inaccessible storage. The City not only did not restore the Library to City Hall as planned, but has not kept its promise to provide the Library another facility adequate to the needs of its users.

The City has not committed to finding and funding a permanent and sufficient space for the Library before the Veterans building closes in May 2013. If the City does not take prompt action, the Library will end its services to our community. These services have increased public access to legal information. They have also cumulatively saved law firm, agency, and legal services practices hundreds of thousands of dollars, including valuable and ongoing services to law firms, community organizations, individual lawyers, and members of the public. Because little more than a year remains, the City appears likely to propose saving space costs by further reducing the collection, seating, staffing and other resources. Worse still, some City officials question the need for a public law library, under the misguided perception that free Internet sources of legal information make law libraries obsolete.

Queen's Bench has signed on to a letter supporting the library, which will be sent to the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and the City Administrator. If you would like to add your name to the letter separately, email Marcia Bell to authorize her to add your name and your professional affiliation, or, as member of Queen's Bench. If you wish, you may also send any separate letter to Marcia Bell at Marcia.Bell@sfgov.org or at the Library's address (401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 400, San Francisco, CA 94102). Marcia and her colleagues will include it in their submission to the Board of Supervisors.

The loss or diminution of the San Francisco Law Library and its services to the community and to this firm would have a serious impact. The Law Library has always been a source for materials outside the collection of any one individual library, and its reference staff consistently perseveres in helping to track down difficult requirements that are important to legal research of all kinds, and to collaborate in many other supportive ways critical to the practice of law, to all of our clients, and to the entire legal and citizen community in San Francisco.

The San Francisco Law Library was born out of the Gold Rush. In 1870, members of the San Francisco Bar



Association petitioned the state legislature to establish the state's first public law library, and, in 1870, the legislature enacted the County Law Library Act. That petition follows. Here is your opportunity to build upon the legacy of your predecessors, California's legal pioneers. Of course, in our digital era, use of the Library has changed. But the Library's services remain no less essential to our Firm and the San Francisco legal community, especially at a time of budget cutbacks and growing gaps in access to legal information.

Employment & Work-Life Committee

LinkedIn:

Join the Employment & Work-Life Committee's group on LinkedIn for the latest job postings, interesting discussions and another chance to network with your fellow Queen's Bench members. The group is open to all members—just log on to LinkedIn and search the LinkedIn Groups for "Queen's Bench Employment & Work-Life Committee" and request to join!

Workshop:

On Wednesday, May 16, the Employment/Work-Life Committee will be offering a brown-bag workshop titled "Get That Job! Successful Interviewing Skills." Co-Chair Tammy Dawson will offer tips for interview preparation and strategies to calm your nerves and address any holes in your resume. Whether you are applying for your first or fifteenth legal job, this workshop is for you. The workshop is free to Queen's Bench members and \$25 for non-members and will be held in the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association Conference Room, 311 California Street, #620, San Francisco, CA 94104. Space is limited, so please RSVP early to admin@queensbench.org.

Did You Know...?

- **Women are still in the red.** April 17, 2012 was National Pay Equity Day — that date symbolized how far into 2012 women will have to work, nationally, to earn what men earned the year prior. Although it's been 49 years after passage of the Equal Pay Act, on average women receive only 77% of what men make, across all occupations. In California, the budget crisis has compounded an already grim outlook for women. A new study by the National Women's Law Center shows that women in California have lower earnings than men, are more likely to live in poverty, and have been disproportionately affected by California cuts to education, health care, and CalWORKS. You can do your part. Contact the Queen's Bench Legislative Issues Committee and join us in urging our representatives to support Fair Pay. Find out more about this issue by checking out the National Women's Law Center's website and its factsheet on Fair Pay, available at: www.nwlc.org/our-issues/employment/equal-pay.
- **Domestic violence victims need protection in the workplace.** Existing California law doesn't expressly prohibit employment discrimination based on a victim's status as a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Nor does it provide the right to reasonable accommodations (such as a new office extension number). AB 1740, introduced by California Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez, seeks to change this in California (Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, New York, and Oregon already have similar statutes). Do you support this bill? Let us know. Contact the Queen's Bench Legislative Issues Committee and tell us your thoughts. Find factsheets and sample letters of support at Assemblymember Perez's website at <http://asmdc.org/members/a80>.
- **The ABA is hosting Gender Equality Town Halls.** The ABA announced a series of town hall meetings on gender equality last November amidst controversy stemming from its coverage of a study of legal secretaries. The first session took place on February 5th, at the ABA 2012 Midyear Meeting in New Orleans. A second will take place on May 4th in Nashville as part of the ABA Young Lawyers Division Spring Meeting, and we're told the ABA is finalizing details for a third session at its annual meeting in August in Chicago. Have you been able to attend? Let us know. Contact the Queen's Bench Legislative Issues Committee and tell us what you think.

This **Did You Know...?** was brought to you by the Queen's Bench Legislative Issues & Reproductive Rights Committee. To learn more about these issues and to get involved, contact Roni Pomerantz at rpomerantz@sflaw.com or Mary-Catherine Wiederhold at mcw@mcwrealestatelaw.com.

Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined between March 24 and April 30, 2012:

- Andrea Brizuela
- Kate Buccieri
Markun Zusman & Compton, LLP
- Dana Cohn
- Jessica Combs
Gill and Combs LLP
- Mary Ann Ellison
- Judith Marian Garvey
San Francisco District Attorney's Office
- Basim Humeid
- Jaime Kitano
Morrison & Foerster
- Catherine McKee
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
- Kristin Messer
- Alexandra Pavlidakis
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
- Amy Reed
Weil, Gotshal, & Manges
- Aroma Sharma
- Lilah Sutphen



Human Sex Trafficking in the Bay Area

by Sharon E. Alkire, JD Candidate May 2012, Golden Gate University School of Law

The average age of a child entering the commercial sex industry in the United States is 13 years old. It is estimated that 100,000 American children are coerced into commercial sexual exploitation every year. The Bay Area is one of the largest hubs of human sexual trafficking in the country according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Traffickers (including recruiters, abductors, and pimps) lure vulnerable women, girls and boys with false promises of legitimate jobs and a place to sleep away from the streets. Traffickers then use physical and sexual assault, psychological control, drugs and isolation to create a world of terror and dependency thereby keeping the victims enslaved in the sex industry.

Human sex trafficking is a form of modern day slavery, in which “a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, coercion” or when the person performing a sex act for value is under 18 years old. (Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S.C. § 7102 (8)(A)) It is important to understand that human trafficking does not require any form of transportation of the victim. The act of recruiting a person of any age or gender into the sex trade is defined as trafficking. While many sexually exploited adults and

children are brought into the U.S. from other countries, many more grew up in the Bay Area. According to Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, 70% of sexually trafficked victims encountered by Oakland police are from Alameda County, and of those, 25% are children.

California's laws regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) received “F” in 2011 from the Protected Innocence Initiative, a yearly analysis of each state's anti-trafficking laws performed by Shared Hope International. Shared Hope found that California's laws require evidence that a minor was forced or coerced into a commercial sex act in order to prosecute a trafficker, as opposed to federal law which classifies mere recruitment of a minor as a form of human trafficking. The stricter legal requirements for a human trafficking charge under California law means that

Most traffickers (pimps) and the men who buy sex with minors are prosecuted under the more general solicitation and prostitution laws. Prosecution under these laws does not carry enhanced penalties for child sexual exploitation such as larger fines, longer sentences and being required to register as a sex offender. Even when people are convicted under the trafficking laws in California, they face a sentence of only 3 – 8 years as opposed to 15 years to life under federal law.

Fremont-based California Against Slavery (CAS) is hoping to raise the state's grade by sponsoring the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act (C.A.S.E. Act). If passed, the act would increase prison sentences and fines for convicted traffickers to five, eight or twelve years and not more than \$500,000 (up from \$100,000) for any person who “causes, induces or persuades, or attempts to cause, induce, or persuade” a minor to engage in a commercial sex act. If the act of persuasion involves force, fear, deceit, coercion or threat of injury to the victim or a family member the sentence jumps to 15 years to life and a fine of not more than \$1.5 million. The fines will then be used to fund victim services. The CASE Act would also remove the need to prove physical force to prosecute sex trafficking of a minor and mandate human trafficking training for law enforcement

“Human sex trafficking involves deeper issues of women's discrimination, such as blaming the victim,” says Antonia Balkanska Lavine, Vice President of Standing Against Global Exploitation (SAGE). “It's so easy to say that's someone else's problem, I'm smart, I'm different. But it's our issue, it's a local issue, it is a human issue. To overcome the skepticism, we need first to overcome the ignorance.”

QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

Published monthly by the Queen's Bench
Bar Association of the San Francisco Bay Area,
a California nonprofit corporation

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

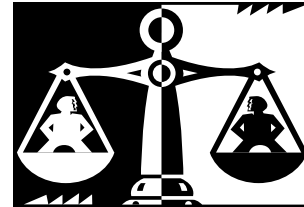
- 1** **Board of Directors Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
Fenwick and West LLP
- 2** **Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center
- 3** **6th Annual Cocktails & Couture**
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Heritage Row, San Francisco
See flyer for information.
- 16** **"Get That Job!
Successful Interviewing Skills"**
QB Employment/Work-Life Committee
11:45 a.m. registration
12:00-1:00 p.m. program
Presenter: Tammy Dawson
311 California Street, #620, San Francisco
See [flyer](#) for information.

16 **Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center

29 **Business Development Committee**
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Ropers, Majeski, Kohn & Bentley, PC

Mark Your Calendar for June

1 **CWL Presents "You Want To Be A Judge?"**
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Hastings College of the Law



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Queen's Bench Newsletter

May 2012