

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Forging Connections through Queen's Bench

by Rebecca Hooley

As president of Queen's Bench, I am pleased to report that our programming this year has continued to promote women leaders in the legal community, and there are many more exciting events planned for 2012. At one recent event, a panel of in-house counsel discussed the key challenges women face as in-house counsel, as well as topics such as tactics for career growth and business development.¹

Whether or not you have considered an in-house counsel position, the panelists' thoughts and advice about their careers are worth reflecting upon. When the panelists were asked how they obtained their current positions, the majority of the panelists attributed glowing referrals and connections as the most significant factor. Almost all of the panelists recommended devoting time to developing strong professional relationships to increase opportunities. These relationships can be crucial in



¹ The panel consisted of Emily Flynn, counsel at McKesson; Angela Hilt, counsel at Clorox Corp.; Heather Reinschmidt, counsel at Electronic Arts; Priya Sanger, counsel at Google; and Leah Williams, counsel at WestEd, and was moderated by Donna Bedford of the Bedford Group. Sincere thanks to Donna Bedford and the panel members for providing us with a fascinating discussion, and also to the Business Development Committee for their excellent work planning and hosting this event.

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Queen's Bench Sponsored "Color of Justice" Program Receives National Award

By Kelly J. Robbins, QB Past President and CWL Affiliate Governor and Carol C. Copsey, CWL Past President

The National Conference of Women's Bar Associations ("NCWBA") awarded the Color of Justice Program, sponsored by the National Association of Women Judges ("NAWJ"), California Women Lawyers ("CWL") and Queen's Bench ("QB") the 2012 Public Service Award ("PSA"). The award was presented at the "NCWBA Women's Bar Leader Summit" on Friday, August 3, 2012 in Chicago, Illinois at the ABA annual meeting. Queen's Bench and the Queen's Bench Foundation are proud to be among the sponsors and extend their congratulations to NAWJ, CWL and the Color of Justice Program!

NCWBA is a national organization composed of representatives of women's bar associations, based in Portland, Oregon. It represents some 35,000 women lawyers, advocating for equality for women in the profession. NCWBA's PSA Award honors great projects of NCWBA's member organizations, in part as a way of showcasing ideas which might be suitable for adoption by other bar groups and providing inspiration to others. Queen's Bench is proud to also note that Barbara Harris Chiang, Past President in 2009, has recently been confirmed to serve on the board of NCWBA.

The Color of Justice program was initially developed by NAWJ to encourage girls and minority high school students to consider careers in the legal profession. This program was first



Queen's Bench representatives and CWL President/President Elect accept award: Eliza Rodrigues (QB Past President 2003 and current CWL President Elect), CWL President Pat Sturdevant, Barbara Harris Chiang (QB Past President 2009) and Ameer Mikacich (Past President 2010)

presented in our San Francisco community in 2004 and has been spearheaded by San Francisco Superior Court Judge Charlene Padovani Kiesselbach (Queen's Bench Past President 1986). The program's focus is on career preparation, and features panel discussions with judges and lawyers sharing personal and professional insights, and small group

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Color of Justice Program

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discussions. There is also a mock argument, typically between a district attorney and defense lawyer, so that the students experience the excitement of seeing lawyers in action. The 2011 program featured a mock argument as to a motion to suppress by a juvenile whose mother had given police officers permission to search the juvenile's room over his objections.

The students participating in the program experience that the lawyers and judges are both women and men, and are of a diverse racial and ethnic background. The judges and lawyers candidly share their personal stories and, in doing so, show that there are many paths to achievement as a legal professional and that one does not have to come from a particular type of family, have grown up in a certain kind of neighborhood, or attended a certain kind of school. The goal is for the students to be excited and inspired by the discussions, and to imagine themselves as a lawyer or judge one day. The program organizers believe that an awakened imagination, coupled with the realization of possibility, will encourage the students to set goals, study, and work to achieve success.

The program has been tremendously successful in San Francisco. Each year the students and their teachers enthusiastically praise the experience, and many students report that they now want to consider being a lawyer or judge someday. The program was held for several years in one of San Francisco Superior Court's courtrooms, which was the first time that most of the students had ever seen a courtroom. However, by last year the program has become so popular that the number of attending students doubled, and so the program moved to a beautiful auditorium in California's State Building.

In the 2011 program, after Judge Kiesselbach and San Francisco Superior Court Judge Suzanne Ramos Bolanos, along with Michael Yuen, Chief Executive Officer of the San Francisco Superior Court, welcomed the students, a panel of judges spoke of their experiences in law school and ascending to the bench. It was thrilling to present California's newest Supreme Court Justice, Goodwin Hon Liu. Also on the panel were Associate Justice Martin Jenkins, Court of Appeal for the First District, Honorable Brenda Harbin-Forte, Alameda County Superior Court, and Judge Bolanos. Addressing the students as moderator, Judge Kiesselbach said: "Decide what it is you want to be and go after it and just keep working." Judge Harbin-Forte noted that she defied the odds when she became a lawyer and a judge after having a baby when she was just a teenager.

During the November 2011 attorney panel, Drucilla Stender Ramey, Dean of the Golden Gate University School of Law, Moderator, along with attorney panelists Bobbie Wilson of Perkins Coie LLP, Eugene Brown of Brown,



QB, CWL and NAWBA representatives with Color of Justice Award: Nancy O'Malley (CWL immediate past president), Barbara Harris Chiang (QB Past President 2009), Pat Sturdevant (Current CWL President), Andrea Carlise (QB Life Member), Eliza Rodrigues (QB Past President 2003 and current CWL President Elect), Ameer Mikacich (QB Past President 2010) and Karen Goodman (CWL President 2008)

Eassa & McLeod LLP, Arturo J. Gonzalez of Morrison & Foerster LLP, and Edwin Prather of Law Offices of Edwin Prather inspired the students by discussing why they chose a law career, and shared their experiences as minority attorneys.

The November 2011 Color of Justice program featured advocacy on the motion to suppress evidence by Chinhay Cadet, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California, and Phoenix Streets, Senior Trial Attorney at the San Francisco Public Defenders' office. The case involved a minor who lived in an apartment with his mother and older brother. Police came to the apartment to conduct a probation search related to the older brother. The mother consented to a search of the entire apartment, and when police searched the minor's room, they found goods stolen from a building resident. The question of the scope of the consent for the search generated much discussion among students.

After the panel discussions and mock argument presentation, the students are separated into small groups for lunch and discussion, which was facilitated by the Color of Justice Organizing Committee members and participants. San Francisco's Balboa High School's Michael Rosenberg (Social Studies Dept. Chair and Director/Teacher in the Law Academy) worked with the organizing committee to make the program a success. At the conclusion of the day, the students were presented with NAWJ Color of Justice Award certificates. Many of the students expressed how appreciative they were to have the opportunity to hear from judges and attorneys about their career paths.

Thanks are gratefully extended to the many volunteers, including the 2011 Color of Justice Organizing Committee

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Color of Justice Program

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who dedicated great efforts: Honorable Charlene Padovani Kiesselbach; Honorable Suzanne Ramos Bolanos; Dean Drucilla Stender Ramey, Golden Gate University School of Law; Visiting Assistant Professor of Law Eleanor Lumsden, Golden Gate University School of Law; Queen's Bench Past President Anee Mikacich (2010); Queen's Bench CWL Affiliate Governor and Queen's Bench Past President Kelly Robbins; CWL Past President Carol Copsey from Gordon & Rees LLP; CWL Governor Prudence Hutton and CWL President-Elect and Queen's Bench Past President (2003) Eliza Rodrigues from Sedgwick LLP (and special thanks to Eliza for spearheading the nomination of this program to NCWBA). Special thanks to the 2011 program sponsors: Golden Gate University School of Law, Queen's Bench Foundation, California Women Lawyers Foundation, Brown Eassa & McLeod LLP, Robbins Family Law and Sedgwick LLP.

Nominations for the NCWBA awards close in January each year, so please consider whether you know of a program to be nominated. For more information, please go to www.ncwba.org.

Eliza Rodrigues Named President of California Women Lawyers

Queen's Bench congratulates Eliza Rodrigues (2003 Queen's Bench Past President) as she begins her role as President of California Women Lawyers. Eliza's swearing in ceremony will take place on October 11, 2012 at the Portola Hotel in Monterey, as part of the CWL Annual Dinner. This dinner is held the first evening of the Annual State Bar Conference and the Keynote speaker is Jackie Speier. Eliza's nomination recognizes her extraordinary achievements in her many roles over the past several years that she has served on the Board of California Women Lawyers. California Women Lawyers is unique in that it has a statewide presence, with a focus on advancement of women. This advancement is done by submitting amicus briefs on women's issues, commenting on proposed legislation impacting women, addressing bias in the media, and providing education and evaluations for women (and men) who aspire to become judicial officers. Queen's Bench is very proud of Eliza's achievement, and looks forward to continuing to support her in her endeavors, as an affiliate of California Women Lawyers.

For information about the CWL annual dinner, please visit cwl.org. For information about sitting at a Queen's Bench table at the dinner, please contact Kelly Robbins at kelly@robbinsfamilylaw.com.

President's Message

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obtaining a desired position, as well as offering a source of support at a job.

We all have heard that developing professional relationships is important, but how do we create these relationships? Actively seeking out connections, whether through work or networking, is indispensable but it is only the first step. The panelists emphasized that cultivating a relationship, and preferably well before you need it, is just as important as making the connection. One of the panelists also offered this sage bit of advice—think of what you can offer someone else, rather than what that person can offer you, in developing your connections. By thinking of the other person first, you are developing a more sincere and two-sided relationship.

Several of the panelists noted that mentoring is another important benefit of intentionally cultivating professional connections. Mentoring can be a formal arrangement or may happen in various informal ways. One of the panelists noted that much of the mentoring that she had received was never outwardly labeled mentoring and, in fact, the obligations associated with it might have alarmed the "mentor" had she actually called it mentoring. But she nevertheless considered the person her mentor because of the personal interest that the person took in helping her develop her career. Panelists also noted that mentors outside of the place of employment can be just as important as those within it for reasons as varied as needing someone who can provide technical advice in an area unfamiliar to your colleagues, to seeking advice about career direction.

Professional organizations, such as Queen's Bench, were created in part, to carry out the function of developing professional connections in a supportive environment. By volunteering or simply attending Queen's Bench events, you are offered an opportunity to connect with other women who can provide you with a network of resources. For those who would like a more formal program, Queen's Bench also offers a mentorship program that seeks to encourage relationship building among women who share a common interest or career goal. So please come join us on a Queen's Bench committee or at some of the upcoming programs sponsored by Queen's Bench. We are looking forward to meeting you or, perhaps, connecting again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

SAVE THE DATE! Members' Meeting (Oct. 23)

Join the Queen's Bench Board at the Members' Meeting on the evening of **October 23, 2012**. Location TBD.

Stepping Toward the Cure (Sept. 16)

JOIN FELLOW QB MEMBERS, Black Women Lawyers of Northern California and California Women Lawyers for Stepping Toward the Cure's 5K Fun Run/Walk on September 16. California based non-profit organization Triple Step Toward the Cure(R) is gearing up for its Third Annual "Stepping Toward the Cure(R)" 5K Fun Run & Walk. The day of fitness, festivities and fundraising will begin at 7:00 am on September 16, 2012 at Lakeside Park in Oakland, CA. Triple Step's mission is to educate, encourage, and empower women and communities largely affected by a rare form of breast cancer known as triple negative breast cancer or tnbc.

Queen's Bench will also be co-sponsoring two events in September:

Women Referring Women (Sept. 19)

With the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association. This is an event designed to provide women in the law with

the opportunity to network and create a resource referral book. September 19 at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$55.

Diversity Mixer (Sept. 27)

QB is co-sponsoring a Diversity Mixer with the Minority Bar Coalition on September 27 at 5:30 pm at the Otis Lounge, 25 Maiden Lane. RSVP to Valerie@caoc.org.

Facebook

Did you know that Queen's Bench is now on Facebook? Please "like" our page to get updates on events and upcoming MCLEs too. You can find us at www.facebook.com/QueensBench.

Website

We know that the idea of creating a website scares a lot of lawyers, but then again, we also have a lot of web savvy members. We are beginning an update of the Queen's Bench website so that it better reflects our wonderful vibrant membership. If you are interested in contributing your ideas or web expertise, please contact Rebecca Hooley at rebecca.hooley@gmail.com or Anne Gyemant Paris at agyemant@yahoo.com. We look forward to unveiling the new and improved website to the community!

Professional Announcements:

QB Member, divorce attorney **Barbara Moser** was selected as one the Top 100 Northern California Super Lawyers, and Barbara Moser and **Susan Kaye** were both selected to the Top 50 Women Super Lawyers. In addition, Barbara Moser was selected as the Reader's Choice Favorite San Francisco Attorney by readers of the *Jewish News Weekly of Northern California*. **Kaye Moser Hierbaum LLP** has expanded and moved its offices to One Embarcadero Center.

If you have a professional announcement, please email it to Anne Gyemant Paris at anne@adoptsf.com and we will include it in our next newsletter.

Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined between June 12 and August 27, 2012:

- Natalya Attestatova
Law Offices of Natalya Attestatova
- Julie Loder
- Donielle Reynolds
U.S. District Court of California, Northern District
- Dierdre Roney
- Heather Sweeney
- The Dolan Law Firm
- Dannielle Vogl
- Yiran Zhang



QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 28 Business Development Committee**
6:30 p.m.
FTI Consulting, 16th Floor
Financial District Conference Room
1 Front Street, San Francisco
- 30 Life After Lawyering —
Alternative Career Panel**
Noon-1:00 p.m.
Brown Bag Lunch
Golden Gate University, Room 5208,
536 Mission Street, San Francisco
See flyer for more information. [Register here.](#)

September

- 4 Board of Directors Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
Fenwick and West LLP
- 5 Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center

- 16 Stepping Toward the Cure**
7:00 a.m. Registration, 8:00 a.m. race starts
Third Annual Fun Run and Walk for breast cancer
awareness. Lakeside Park, Lake Merritt, Oakland.
See flyer for details. [Register here.](#)
- 19 Women Referring Women Network**
5:00-7:30 p.m.
Sens Restaurant, 4 Embarcadero Center,
San Francisco. Tickets: \$55 / Firm Sponsor: \$250
See flyer for details. [Register here.](#)
- 19 Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center
- 25 Business Development Committee**
6:30 p.m.
FTI Consulting
- 27 Diversity Mixer**
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Otis Lounge, 25 Maiden Lane, San Francisco
RSVP to valerie@caoc.org.
See flyer for more information.



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Queen's Bench Newsletter

August-September 2012