



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Swinging Into Summer

by Lisa A. Freitas

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through 2013. I am so proud of our committee chairs and board members for their wonderful efforts to create networking events and educational opportunities for our members. In August, Queen's Bench is co-sponsoring the NCWBA's (National Conference of Women's Bar Associations) 2013 Women's Bar Leadership Summit in San Francisco on August 9, 2013. Queen's Bench is a co-sponsor of this important event, which will focus on gender equality. I encourage Queen's Bench members to attend, as the Summit offers a good opportunity to learn about leading trends facing women and the law, and to share ideas, successes and innovative programs for service to the public and to the membership of women's bar associations.



Just a few weeks ago, our First Vice President, Vanessa Hierbaum – along with her dedicated committee members – planned an exceptional Judges' Dinner featuring Professor Catherine MacKinnon as the keynote speaker. Professor MacKinnon's speech focused on the topic of gender and equality. She spoke of spearheading an effort to reevaluate equality under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. It is Professor MacKinnon's belief that U.S. law permits women to be treated differently than men because their social and economic status is not the same as men's status in these areas. By denying

continued, page 10

Trailblazer Catherine MacKinnon Headlines 2013 Annual Judges' Dinner

by Lily Moallem

On June 13, 2013, Queen's Bench hosted its Annual Judges' Dinner, honoring members of the Bay Area judiciary and presenting Professor Catherine MacKinnon as keynote speaker. The dinner, held at Parc 55 in downtown San Francisco, was attended by numerous judges from both the state and federal bench. Queen's Bench First Vice President recognized the scores of judges present and honored that night. Adrienne Miller and the Honorable Ina Levin Gyemant presented the 2013 Queen's Bench scholarships. This year, the Margaret Levin scholarship went to law student Maggi Qerimi (UC Hastings 2L) and the Agnes O'Brien Smith scholarship went to law student Katherine Padilla (USF 2L).

Queen's Bench President Lisa Freitas then introduced keynote speaker, Professor Catherine MacKinnon. Professor MacKinnon is a distinguished scholar and sex equality advocate, whose accolades are as extensive as they are impressive. Upon taking the podium, Professor MacKinnon looked out upon the packed ballroom noting how pleased she was to speak to such an "inspiring and daunting" audience. She then proceeded to give a speech so powerful and momentous that it in fact proved to be the most inspiring and daunting part of the evening. After highlighting the historical underpinnings of what she described as an institutionalized bias against women, Professor MacKinnon called for "a new plot" – a substantive equality standard, the basis of which would be rooted in the assumption



that "the sexes are human equals". She encouraged the audience to restart the conversation about gender equality, urging that the time for sex equality is time present; that it is urgent, new, and necessary. Professor MacKinnon's words resonated throughout the audience, and the grace and gravitas with which she spoke made it all too clear how she has become such a powerful and important

continued, page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Scholarship Recipients	4
Film Screening: The Invisible War	5
Intimate Partner Violence Among Teen Girls	6
Developing Cultural Competence in the Field of LGBT Intimate Partner Violence	7
CWL 2013 Conference	9
Announcements.....	10
QB New Members	11
Calendar.....	12

2013 Annual Judges' Dinner

Continued from page 1

figure in the fight for gender equality. It was an honor to hear her speak, especially on such an important issue.

This year's Annual Judges' Dinner was a resounding success. First Vice President Vanessa Hierbaum and the Judges' Dinner Committee did a wonderful job putting together a Judges' Dinner that will no doubt be one for the ages. Thank you to everyone who attended and hope to see you all next year.



continued, page 3

2013 Annual Judges' Dinner

Continued from page 2



Queen's Bench Scholarship Committee Awards 2013 Agnes O'Brien Smith Scholarship to Kathryn Padilla

by Patricia G. Rosenberg, Queen's Bench Past President ('01), Current Board Member, and Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

The 2013 Queen's Bench Scholarship Committee recently announced that Kathryn Padilla is the recipient of the 2013 Agnes O'Brien Smith Scholarship at University of San Francisco School of Law. The scholarship awarded this year is over \$7,500.

Ms. Padilla is a second year law student who has shown true dedication to children through her work with various organizations. She is currently a legal intern with both the National Center for Youth Law in Oakland and the East Bay Children's Law Offices also in Oakland. Ms. Padilla was recently a judicial extern with the Hon. Donald Sullivan of the San Francisco Superior Court. In addition, Ms. Padilla was a recent legal intern with Legal Services for Children in San Francisco and the Family Violence Law Center in Oakland. Ms. Padilla also conducted research and presented reports on comparative child rights issues focusing on the disparate treatment of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child with the Child Rights Trust in Bangalore, India.

Ms. Padilla's work with youth in the dependency system sparked her interest in law school. At the Children's Receiving Home in Sacramento, where children are taken after Child Protective Services intervenes to protect their interests, Ms. Padilla directly supervised a dorm of ten girls ages 11-17. It was her interaction with these young girls that prompted Ms. Padilla's desire to advocate for them. After graduation, Ms. Padilla intends to continue her commitment to children, as demonstrated by her various internships, by focusing on dependency law.



Although having an impressive resume, Ms. Padilla is extremely modest and unassuming about her many accomplishments. In addition, her eloquent writing style and passion for her work with, and on behalf of, children serve to make her a very worthy recipient of this scholarship. Ms. Padilla exemplifies the values we hold dear as members of Queen's Bench. The Queen's Bench Scholarship Committee is honored to award the 2013 Agnes O'Brien Smith Scholarship to Kathryn Padilla. The Scholarship Committee includes Adrienne Miller, Patricia G. Rosenberg, Hana A. Hardy, Lisa Freitas, Sarah King, Holly Schaitberger, Nicole Nellesen Coon, Sophia Andritsakis, Barbara O'Hearn, Anne Torkington, and Pauline Farmer-Koppenol. The Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs, Adrienne Miller and Patricia G. Rosenberg thank all of the Committee members for their time in reviewing the more than 40 applications for the Agnes O'Brien Smith Scholarship at USF School of Law.

Maggi Qerimi Awarded 2013 Mildred Levin/UC Hastings Scholarship

by Hon. Adrienne J. Miller (Ret.), Queen's Bench Past President ('87) and Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

Queen's Bench Scholarship Committee proudly announces the 2013 Mildred Levin/UC Hastings Scholarship Recipient: Ms. Maggi Qerimi. This year's scholarship award is \$2,450.

Maggi will be graduating from Hastings Law School in June 2014. Maggi completed her undergraduate degree in International Studies in 2009 from the University of Washington. Her senior thesis was "How the UN Failed Kosovo and the Role of the EU."

Maggi is originally from Gijilan, in the former Yugoslavia. As a 14-year old girl, with her younger siblings, she came to the United States after a forced walk to a refugee camp in Macedonia. During the war, the Serbs set fire to her hometown. As the realization set in that Maggi would be forced out of the only home she knew, she was at first paralyzed with fear and then she promised herself that if she ever made it to the West she would strive for better possibilities for her siblings and herself and work tirelessly toward



ensuring a better life for others. Once in the West, Maggi realized that her struggles would continue. She had to learn a new language and adjust to new customs. But, her continued struggles did not deter her. She dedicated herself to her community immediately and volunteered her time and

continued, page 5

The Invisible War – A Resounding Success

by Maria Yuen, Domestic Violence Committee Co-Chair

In April, the Domestic Violence Committee of hosted a screening of “The Invisible War,” a documentary film revealing one of America’s most disturbing secrets: the epidemic of rape within the US military. Shown at Delancey Street Theater, the movie was followed by a panel discussion of the subject with Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Professor Elizabeth L. Hillman of UC Hastings College of Law, moderated by Drucilla Stender Ramey, Dean Emerita of Golden Gate University School of Law.

The evening began with a short, light-hearted reception where attorneys, judges, law students, and professionals who work with victims of rape and/or domestic abuse mingled and networked. The reception was followed by the screening of the film, which many attendees found brilliant, powerful, and heartbreaking. The trauma and injustice suffered by the soldiers featured in the film so moved the audience that some found it hard to watch the film to its end.

The evening concluded with an informative discussion with the panelists, Congresswoman Speier and Professor Hillman, facilitated by Dean Emerita Ramey. The audience learned about the legislation Congresswoman Speier has worked on, and continues to work on, that is aimed at addressing the reporting and adjudication of sexual assaults in the military. Professor Hillman provided the audience with a brief history of how the military has traditionally dealt with the issues, and the progress we will see in the future as Congress has taken notice of the issues. “The Invisible War” and the discussion session inspired many in the audience to ask the panelists what they can do to support the efforts being made to change the way rape is reported and adjudicated in our military.



Maggi Qerimi

Continued from page 4

resources for the US military by distributing goods to other Kosovar refugees. In Seattle, where she eventually settled, she volunteered her time with the Seattle Police Department, Seattle public schools and local faith-based organizations.

Maggi graduated from the University of Washington in 2009, and became an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer and dedicated a year of her time to the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Through the IRC, Maggi raised awareness of the refugee struggle by speaking to various groups of students. She also started a new program called Refugee Adolescent Empowerment; a support group intended to

aid refugee women in becoming acquainted with their new community. Through this program, Maggi developed her voice as an advocate and knew that law school would help her continue to grow.

Intimate Partner Violence Among Teen Girls

by Kenda McIntosh

By now most people are familiar with the staggering prevalence of violence against women, particularly intimate partner violence (“IPV”). Recently the debates surrounding the extension of the Violence Against Women Act brought the plight of marginalized communities to the spotlight, generating much dialogue about how the judicial system and service providers are failing to reach large groups of women who are victims of IPV and other forms of violence. Much of these failings are due to a lack of services that target the specific needs of women in underserved communities. While strides are being made to improve this, a majority of research and outreach focuses on adult women and their children. However many studies have shown that teens and young women under 20 years of age suffer IPV at extremely high rates, and may be more likely to suffer IPV than women 20 and older. By virtue of their age, social pressure, and an overall lack of services targeted to their needs, adolescent girls and young women may be one of the most overlooked groups of women suffering from violence in our communities.

The Epidemic of IPV Against Young Women

A 2001 study on teen dating violence released by the Journal of the American Medical Association found that adolescent girls are at a higher risk of IPV than adults.¹ As many as 1 in 3 teen girls reports experiencing some kind of violence at the hand of an intimate partner.² And this statistic may be underreported. Nearly 60 percent of adolescent girls report knowing a fellow teen who has experienced IPV, and over 85 percent of teen girls say that they would most likely confide in a friend rather than an authority figure or parent if abused by a partner.³ Studies also show that less than one-third of abused teens tell anyone about their abuse,⁴ making it very difficult to know for certain how many teens are actually victims of IPV.

Family income and history of abuse are not significant

factors in the prevalence of IPV in this age group. Teens living in stable homes are just as likely to suffer IPV as those who are not.⁵ These young women are suffering abuse during a time of intense social pressure to fit in with their peers. Teen dating relationships are often characterized by possessive and controlling behavior that is mistaken for love and caring. Surveyed teens (both male and female) consistently exhibit acceptance and endorsement of abusive dating behaviors, and male teens in particular openly accept peers who are abusive toward their partners.⁶ During their teen years, young women are reluctant to reach out to adults who can provide help to them, and often lack the education and resources to find assistance in their communities. Unfortunately, parents are woefully unaware of the danger their teen daughters are facing. Few parents are familiar with the prevalence of violence against teen girls in adolescent dating relationships and even fewer discuss the issue with their children.⁷

Why We Should Be Targeting IPV Services and Outreach to Adolescent Girls

Abuse can have devastating long-term effects on the lives of teen victims. Over 50 percent of homeless women in the United States, are homeless because of some form of abuse. While this is not attributable solely to IPV, teens who experience IPV are much more likely to be involved in abusive relationships later in life, and are at a higher risk of homelessness than those who do not. Young women who experience IPV are also at risk of suffering from continuously escalating levels of abuse in their adult relationships.⁸ One Department of Justice study found that as many as 94% of all women who reported being victims of IPV, had been abused by a current or former partner between the ages of 16 and 19.⁹ This suggests that experiencing IPV as an adolescent may play a major role in a woman’s ability to recognize and avoid abusive relationships as an adult. These young victims are also much more likely to suffer from substance abuse and eating disorders, engage in risky sexual behavior, and attempt suicide.¹⁰ They are also six times as

continued, page 7

¹Jay G. Silverman et al, *Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality*, Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 286, 572, 576-577, (Nov. 5, 2001).

²Silverman et. al (2001); see also Schaub, Jeffrey, *Bay Area Schools Raise Awareness of Teen Dating Violence*, (December 2012) <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2012/12/13/kcbs-cover-story-bay-area-schools-raise-awareness-of-teen-dating-violence/>.

³Tiffany J. Zwicker, Education Policy Brief, *The Imperative of Developing Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs in Secondary Schools*, 12 Southern California Review of Law and Women’s Studies, 131, (2002); see also American Bar Association, *Teen Dating Violence Facts*, The National Teen Dating Violence Prevention Initiative, American Bar Association (2006)

⁴American Bar Association (2006).

⁵American Bar Association (2006).

⁶Id.

⁷Id.

⁸American Bar Association (2006); see also S.L. Feld & M.A. Strauss, *Criminology*, 27, 141-161, (1989); and V.A. Forshee et al, *Health Education Research*, 11(3), 275-286, (1996).

⁹U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 7, (2001).

¹⁰Silverman et. al. (2001).

Intimate Partner Violence Among Teen Girls

Continued from page 6

likely as their non-abused peers to become pregnant during adolescence.¹¹ In addition to being at increased risk for abuse as adults, numerous studies have shown that children who suffer abuse are much more likely to abuse future partners and children of their own.¹²

Getting Involved

By focusing most of our efforts on adult women who are victims of IPV, service providers are missing out on a valuable opportunity to stop the cycle of violence before it begins. There are three ways that service providers can make meaningful outreach to this underserved group of women:

(1) Directly educating teens, both male and female, about healthy relationships. San Francisco is one of the few counties in California that requires schools to educate teens about dating violence. Efforts to enact legislation mandating this in all schools in the state have been repeatedly shut-down. Countless teens in California are not being provided with the education and resources they need to avoid being trapped in abusive relationships. There are a number of resources available that provide education materials and useful statistics on teen dating violence: loveisrespect.org, breakthecycle.com, and whitehouse.gov/1is2many are all great places to get started.

¹¹Id.

¹²Relationship Abuse, Intimate Partner Violence, & Domestic Violence Threaten Individuals and Society, Planned Parenthood Federation (2005).

Developing Cultural Competence in the Field of LGBT Intimate Partner Violence

by Sharon Alkire, Diversity Committee Chair

While many aspects of intimate partner violence (IPV) are similar within LGBT and heterosexual relationships, key differences exist that should influence an attorney's approach to working with LGBT survivors of domestic abuse. In addition to the myriad forms of abuse used in heterosexual IPV, there are many issues faced by LGBT survivors that create additional barriers to accessing help and services. Attorneys can offer culturally appropriate and effective representation to LGBT clients by developing an awareness of these issues.

Outing: For survivors who have not disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity to family and friends, one of the greatest tools their abuser has is the threat to disclose the survivor's sexual orientation. This could lead to rejection by family and friends, job loss, housing issues and threats to child custody.¹ Discuss with your client the potential ramifications of "coming out" in court, and become familiar with state laws protecting the rights of LGBT people.

¹Lynn, Morgan, *Tools for Attorneys Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Survivors of Domestic Violence*, The National LGBT Bar Association, p. 2.

(2) Making parents and other authority figures aware of the prevalence of dating violence among teens. Educators and parents need to take active roles in looking out for signs of abuse in teens, and keeping an open dialogue with them about their relationships.

(3) Increasing services and support in our communities targeted specifically at teen victims of IPV, and making sure teens are aware of their legal options, and where to find anonymous help, if they are abused. San Francisco is home to the first teen violence hotline in the country, but the work here is not finished. The few service providers in the Bay Area that focus specifically on teens, are overwhelmed with young people seeking safety, advice and support, and most of them are in desperate need of volunteers and supplies to keep their programs running.

This year the Queen's Bench Domestic Violence Committee is focusing a portion of our domestic violence outreach on adolescent girls. We have a number of exciting projects planned during the next few months ranging from education and awareness programs, to supply drives for shelters that provide services to teens, to teaming up with other bar associations in the community to provide direct services to victims of IPV. On July 17, 2013, we will be doing a program on healthy dating relationships with the Juvenile Hall Project. Anyone interested in more information on teen dating violence or getting involved with this or any of our teen IPV projects, should contact Domestic Violence Committee member, Kenda McIntosh at kendamcintosh@gmail.com.

California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) prohibits harassment and discrimination in employment or housing based on sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation. (Govt. Code § 12940(a), 12955(a)).

For case law on the use of sexual orientation in child custody disputes, see *Nadler v. Superior Court*, 255 Cal. App. 2d 523 (1967).

Limited Awareness of IPV: Many LGBT survivors, especially those new to same-sex or transgender relationships, do not even recognize that they are experiencing intimate partner violence. Their partner may tell them that all LGBT relationships are this way, or that "domestic" violence does not apply to the gay community. Lack of societal validation of LGBT relationships, combined with the belief that IPV can only happen in heterosexual relationships, can add to a survivor's uncertainty about what they are experiencing.²

continued, page 8

²Quinn, Mary-Elizabeth, *Open Minds Open Doors: Transforming domestic violence programs to include LGBTQ survivors*, The Network/la Red, p. 27 (2010).

Developing Cultural Competence

Continued from page 7

Small Communities: Because LGBT communities are often insular, it can be difficult for a survivor to find safe places away from their abuser. There may be few social groups, bars and religious organizations that are LGBT-friendly, and often there is a sense that “everybody knows everyone else’s business.” Survivors can also face unwillingness in the community to acknowledge the prevalence of IPV based on the fear that negative attributes in a marginalized group will be magnified and exploited by the dominant heterosexual community. With the recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions on Prop. 8 and The Defense of Marriage Act, there may be increased pressure within the community to hide any negative aspects of LGBT relationships, regardless of the fact that IPV is prevalent in heterosexual communities.

Societal Homo/Bi/Transphobia: LGBT people have traditionally experienced discrimination, harassment, and violence at the hands of government agents, including incarceration and institutionalization. Because of this, many LGBT people do not feel it is safe to contact police, shelters or emergency services when they are being abused. Rather, many believe they will be harassed, ridiculed or rejected by the very people offering assistance.

Research has shown that same-sex IPV is perceived by crisis center staff and mental health counselors as “less serious, less likely to occur, and less likely to become worse over time compared with opposite-sex domestic violence.”³ They may downplay actual injuries to men in same-sex relationships and discount a female abuser’s ability to harm.⁴

³Banks, Jamye and Fedewa, Alicia, *Counselors’ Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence in Same-Sex Versus Opposite-Sex Relationships*, *Jnl Multicult Counseling & Dev*, 40: 194-205, p. 198 (2012).

⁴Seelau, Sheila and Seelau, Eric, *Gender-Role Stereotypes and Perceptions of Heterosexual, Gay and Lesbian Domestic Violence*, *Journal of Family Violence*; Dec 2005, Vol. 20 Issue 6, p. 363-371, p. 369.

Misarrest and Dual Arrest: Perhaps the most striking data concerning the differences between LGBT and heterosexual IPV is found in the prevalence of dual arrests in same-sex IPV incidents. According to a study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Justice, in which researchers examined all assault and intimidation cases (577,862) recorded in the 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), the dual arrest rates for same-sex couples “. . . are almost *ten* times the rate for cases with male victims and female offenders and over *30 times the rate* found in cases with female victims and male offenders.” Dual arrests with male offenders and female victims occurred in 0.8% of cases and in 3.0% of cases with female offenders and male victims. Both parties were arrested in 26.1% of cases involving female same-sex partners, and in 27.3% of cases with male same-sex partners.⁵ As the authors of the study conclude, “[T] here would appear to be a need to train officers more intensively to recognize the special circumstances that exist in same sex incidents.”⁶

In order to provide services to LGBT survivors that are appropriate and effective, legal advocates must be equipped with knowledge of the dynamics at play when sexual orientation and gender identity fall beyond heteronormative⁷ boundaries. To address this issue the Queen’s Bench Domestic Violence and Diversity Committees will be presenting an Elimination of Bias MCLE in October, regarding domestic violence in African-American and LGBT communities. Stay tuned for further information!

⁵Hirschel, David, et al., *Explaining the Prevalence, Context, and Consequences of Dual Arrest in Intimate Partner Cases*, Final Report submitted to The U.S. Department of Justice, April 2007, pp. 87, 91-92.

⁶*Id.* at 173.

⁷Heteronormative is defined in the urban dictionary as, “A viewpoint that expresses heterosexuality as a given instead of being one of many possibilities . . . The subtle assumption of heterosexuality can be very harmful to those who do not entirely fit within its bounds.”

Announcing the 2013 Women’s Bar Leadership Summit – Gender Equity-Moving the Bar Forward on August 9, 2013 at the Bar Association of San Francisco. Presented by the National Conference of Women’s Bar Associations and Co-Sponsored by Queen’s Bench. See flyers for more information on the [Summit Awards Luncheon and Summit Agenda](#). Or visit <http://ncwba.org/programs/summit/> for more details and registration.

California Women Lawyers' 2013 Annual Conference a Great Success in SF, with Luncheon Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic Leader

By Kelly Robbins, CWL 2nd Vice President and Queen's Bench Past President ('08)

Nancy Pelosi gave a rousing luncheon address to the hundreds of women attending the CWL Annual Conference at the Renaissance San Francisco Stanford Court Hotel on May 4.

Themed “Lifting Voices, Launching Leaders”, the Conference began with welcoming remarks by CWL President Eliza Rodrigues, of Sedgwick LLP, followed by Immediate Past President Patricia Sturdevant’s introduction of the breakfast speaker Nancy O’Malley. Nancy O’Malley, District Attorney of Alameda County, was the ideal breakfast speaker as she embodies leadership, and inspires all who know her. She encouraged conference attendees to have faith in themselves, to reach for their goals, and not to let anything detract from their pursuits. She provided statistical information about how women still need progress to reach equality in society, yet also noted how far we have come. She talked of progress on prevention of human trafficking, and the further efforts that need to be made. She relayed how she observed a need for coordination of services for victims of domestic violence in her county, and how she then worked to form the Family Justice Center. The Family Justice Center in Alameda County brings into one building services for victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, rape victims, and many other vital services which can be delivered in many languages to those in need. The Family Justice Center has become a model, and similar centers are being created in several cities in the United States.

Following breakfast, attendees selected panels on Political Aspirations, where elected officials shared insights into successful campaigns, or Women Lawyers Leading in ADR.

During the luncheon, Leader Pelosi further energized and inspired the attendees. Leader Pelosi, considered by some to be the most important woman in the United States government, addressed the issue of whether there is a “war against women”. While it may not be a war, she said, there certainly has been an initiation of hostilities. She used as an example how the Republican Party threatened to shut down federal government rather than fund Planned Parenthood. She noted that activism by people such as those in the audience forced a stop to these tactics. Leader Pelosi also addressed the very significant issues of pay disparity, gun control, and the crucial need for campaign finance reform. Her speech was a motivational call to continued action of conference attendees and all women.

Afternoon panel sessions included a Guide to the Legislative Process, Increasing Visibility through Rainmaking, and the Path to Leadership as In-House Counsel. The Judicial Council Access and Fairness Advisory Committee also led a focus group on the Progress of Women and Women of Color in the California Courts.



Notable panelists include Senator Ellen Corbett, Honorable Tara Flanagan, Judge of the Alameda County Superior Court, Justice Maria Rivera of the First District Court of Appeal and Laura Stein, General Counsel of Clorox Company. Sedgwick LLP Women’s Forum hosted an elegant cocktail reception for panelists to get to know each other the evening prior, and Keker Van Nest LLP sponsored the cocktail reception for all attendees following the Conference. Many Queen’s Bench members attended the CWL conference and left feeling motivated to continue the mission of Queen’s Bench: to promote the interest of women in law and society.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

Prop 8 Amicus Brief Update

Queen's Bench celebrates the recent Supreme Court decisions on Proposition 8 and Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Queen's Bench proudly joined in an amicus brief on the Proposition 8 case. These landmark rulings are a tremendous advancement in LGBT rights, reopening the door for same-sex marriage in California and providing a myriad of federal rights and benefits to couples living in states that recognize same-sex marriage. Here's to another step forward for civil rights!

Congratulations Anoush!

Queen's Bench congratulates Queen's Bench Employment/Work-Life Balance committee chair S. Anoush Lancaster of The Veen Firm for her whirlwind of successes these past few months. Ms. Lancaster was nominated for Trial Lawyer of the Year by the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association in April and in June, along with her colleague Craig M. Peters, obtained the largest wrongful death verdict out of Fresno County in the past decade.

Ms. Lancaster was honored by SFTLA as a 2013 Trial Lawyer of the Year nominee, along with lead counsel, Craig M. Peters, for their cases *Will v. Caterpillar, Inc.* and

Duncan v. Velazquez Sons & Trucking. For more information on the cases that Ms. Lancaster was nominated for, head over to www.VeenFirm.com.

Ms. Lancaster and Mr. Peters's recent case victory in Fresno County involved a father, husband and son Francisco Martinez Moreno who was electrocuted and killed at the age of 27 in 2009 when he was instructed by his employer to perform electrical work outside of his scope of employment. After three years of litigation and a two month trial, the jury returned a \$13.3 million verdict on behalf of the plaintiffs after only half a day's deliberation, placing 100% of responsibility for Mr. Martinez's death on Herndon Partners, LLC. Fresno Superior Court entered judgment, including interest, bringing the verdict to \$14.3 million: the largest wrongful death verdict from Fresno County.

Ms. Lancaster is proud to represent Queen's Bench and is looking forward to spending more time with her Employment/Work-Life Balance committee and meeting with her Queen's Bench pod group.



QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Clarissa A. Kang

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

816 E. Fourth Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94401-3317
Telephone: 415-249-9280
Facsimile: 650-344-1588

E-mail: admin@queensbench.org

Internet: www.queensbench.org

ADMINISTRATOR: Maurine Killough

2013 OFFICERS

LISA FREITAS President
VANESSA HIERBAUM First Vice President
ANNIE O'DONNELL Second Vice President
JAIME G. TOUCHSTONE Treasurer
ANNE GYEMANT PARIS Secretary
CLARISSA A. KANG Assistant Secretary
REBECCA HOOLEY Immediate Past President

2013 DIRECTORS

SOPHIA ANDRITSAKIS
PAULINE FARMER-KOPPENOL
HANA HARDY
PATRICIA G. ROSENBERG
HOLLY SCHAITBERGER
MARIA SCHOPP

President's Message

Continued from page 1

women equal treatment, the law ensures that women cannot achieve social and economic "sameness", thus creating a self-perpetuating feedback loop, which permanently denies women equality.

As Professor MacKinnon spoke, I looked around the room at all of the lawyers, judges, and professional women surrounding me and felt a strong sense of purpose. Our organization offers a platform to help women achieve equality in the legal profession, and a much needed voice in our community for enabling an open dialog about gender issues. Events and programs like the ones offered by Queen's Bench enable and support women to compete with their male counterparts in the legal profession.

While Professor MacKinnon may be correct that women have not achieved the level of equality we thought we had, Queen's Bench is doing its part to narrow the gap of inequality. I feel privileged to be the President of an organization whose mission includes promoting equality and opportunity for all women through education, programs, and community outreach. I look forward to many more years of membership and involvement in Queen's Bench to work on carrying out its mission.

Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined between March 29 and July 10, 2013:



- Haley Albertine
Bryan Cave LLP
- Darlene A. Bagley
Ridley, McGreery & Winocur, PC
- Alla Barkan
- Wendi Berkowitz
Schiff Hardin LLP
- Rachel Bravo
Valle Makoff LLP
- Andrea Casalett
McKenna Long & Aldridge
- Nancy M. Conway
Law Offices of Nancy M. Conway
- Christine Dafforn
- Katherine Dick
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
- Maria D. Dominguez
- Jamie Dupree
Futterman Dupree Dodd Croley Maier, LLP
- Anne Fokstuen
Law Office of Anne Fokstuen
- Alexandra Frick
- Nancy Hersh
Hersh & Hersh
- Kate Hersh-Boyle
Hersh & Hersh
- Sabrina Johnson
- Erika Kalbermatter
- Anna Kastner
- Sasha Lankarani
Bley and Bley
- Joanna Weil LiCalsi
Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP
- Nancy Ly
- Jill Manning
Steyer Lowenthal LLP
- Crystal Cole Matson
- Meghan E. McCormick
Levin Simes LLP
- Meghan R. McMeel
Schiff Hardin LLP
- Alison Mohanan
The Girl's Guide to Law School
- Katie Musich
- Cam-Van Nguyen
- Lauren Pietsch
- Maggi Qerimi
- Jennifer Riso
Ericksen Arbuthnot
- Deborah Rosenthal
Simmons Browder Gianaris Angelides & Barnerd LLC
- Kristian Ross-Patchin
CWL
- Jamie Rudman
Sanchez & Amador, LLP
- Louise Sackley
Leland Parachini Steinberg Matzger & Melnick LLP
- Jodie Smith
- Caitlin Stevens
Persuasive Presentations
- Margot Stevens
- Tahiya Sultan
- Holli Their
Holli P. Thier & Associates
- Kristen Verrastro
- Stephanie Vo
- Tiffany Yee
Law Office of Moss & Hough
- Diana Yoel
- Masumi Yoshida

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 17 Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center
- 23 Business Development Committee**
6:30 p.m.
Ernst & Young
560 Mission Street, Suite 1500

August

- 6 Board of Directors Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
Sideman & Bancroft
- 7 Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center
- 9 National Conference of Women Bar Associations (NCWBA) Summit**
8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
BASF, 301 Battery St., San Francisco

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

- 27 Business Development Committee**
6:30 p.m.
Ernst & Young, Suite 1500

September

- 3 Board of Directors Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
Sideman & Bancroft
- 4 Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center
- 18 Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center
- 24 Business Development Committee**
6:30 p.m.
Ernst & Young, Suite 1500

- 26 LEAADD Dinner**
6:00 p.m.
Location to be announced.

October

- 1 Board of Directors Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
Sideman & Bancroft
- 2 Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center
- 16 Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center
- 22 Business Development Committee**
6:30 p.m.
Ernst & Young, Suite 1500



www.queensbench.org

816 E. Fourth Avenue

San Mateo, CA 94401-3317

Queen's Bench Newsletter

July 2013