

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

# Ready, Set, Go

by Vanessa Hierbaum

I always love the beginning of the year and the promise it holds for reflection, resolution and renewed energy. As the 2014



President of Queen's Bench, I hope that I, along with the rest of the Board and Committee Chairs, can continue to harness some of that New Year vigor and energy and turn it into unstoppable momentum for the duration of 2014!

To that end, the Board held its annual retreat early this year to talk about some of our short and long term goals. We all agreed that a top priority for Queen's Bench in 2014 and beyond is getting ready for our 100 year anniversary in 2021. Seven years may seem like a long time away, yet the Board agreed there is much to do, and indeed, not a lot of time do it. We all have busy lives - managing cases, clients, offices and families - so there is no doubt Queen's Bench will need every one of those seven years to give this exciting anniversary and achievement its due. So thanks in advance to all who will help with our history project in 2014 and beyond, we are counting on you and appreciate your contributions! For example:

- The History Committee, co-chaired by Board member Clarissa Kang and Lily Moallem, have begun working on our digitization project.
- The History Committee will also be organizing a screening of our 75th Anniversary historical video, as they

# Meet Your 2014 Queen's Bench Board of Directors and Officers

# Vanessa Hierbaum, President vhierbaum@kayemoser.com

Vanessa has been a partner with KAYE•MOSER•HIERBAUM LLP since 2007, and has practiced with former KAYE•MOSER since 2000. Vanessa's practice includes all aspects of family law including marital dissolutions, support, complex asset characterization and division and high conflict custody disputes. She was named a Northern California Super Lawyer Rising Star in Family Law in 2009, 2010 and 2011, and a Super Lawyer in 2012 and 2013. Her practice also includes probate and trust litigation and estate planning. Vanessa previously chaired, and continues to be active in, the Domestic Violence committee. Vanessa obtained her J.D. cum laude from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1996.

## Jaime G. Touchstone, First Vice President jtouchstone@fddcm.com

Jaime is an associate with the San Francisco firm of Futterman Dupree Dodd Croley Maier LLP. She focuses her practice



on general civil, complex commercial and employment litigation, where she plays an important role in client communication, case research and brief writing. She also provides employment law advice and reviews and drafts employment handbooks. Jaime has appeared in state and federal courts on behalf of privately and publicly held businesses, partnerships, sole proprietorships, public

entities, receivers and individuals. In addition to Queen's Bench, Jaime is actively involved in the Bar Association of San Francisco Barristers Club, which comprises members in their first 10 years of practice. She previously served on the Board of Directors for the Barristers Club and assisted with creation of the Barristers Club's 2009, 2010 and 2011 editions of the Pro Bono Resource Guide, A Guide to San Francisco Bay Area Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers and Law Firms. Jaime graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree both in international affairs and political science. She earned her J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 2004.

### Pauline Farmer-Koppenol, Second Vice President pfarmer@fenwick.com

Pauline is a patent attorney in the San Francisco office of Fenwick & West. Her prac-



tice focuses on serving technology and

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# 2014 Board of Directors

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life sciences clients in prosecution of patent applications, providing intellectual property strategy and counseling, and negotiating joint research agreements and patent licenses. Additionally, she analyzes patent portfolios for life science clients and investors. She earned an M.S. in Chemistry and J.D. from the University of Michigan and a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Florida. Pauline is a volunteer attorney for VLSP's Housing Negotiations Project (eviction defense). Within Queen's Bench, Pauline has been involved with the Juvenile Hall Project and the Scholarship Committee. When not lawyering, Pauline can be found swimming in the Bay – even in the middle of winter.

# Anne Gyemant Paris, Treasurer anne@adoptsf.com

Anne is a sole practitioner specializing in adoption, surrogacy, reproductive technology and parentage issues at Gyemant Paris Law. She is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley and Hastings College of Law, where she earned a specialization in



public interest law. Anne began her career as a Presidential Management Fellow at the Immigration and Naturalization service working in the area of international adoption and family-based immigration. She went on to launch two successful legal services programs focused on the family, where she provided legal advice on various issues, including restraining orders, family law, immigration and employment law issues. Anne previously chaired the Domestic Violence committee and is co-chair of the History committee.

# Holly Schaitberger, Secretary hschaitberger@hershfamlaw.com

Holly A. Schaitberger is a family law attorney at Hersh FamilyLaw Practice, P.C. in San Francisco. She assists clients in all manner of family law matters, including complex property division, child and spousal support, and child custody and visitation matters in dissolution, parentage, and post-judgment matters



throughout the Bay Area. Holly obtained her law degree cum laude from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 2005. As a law student, Holly served as a full-time extern law clerk to the Honorable Carlos T. Bea on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and interned as an investigator with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the San Francisco Public Defender.

## Hana Hardy, Assistant Secretary/Newsletter Editor hananhardy@gmail.com

Hana is both a general practitioner and the managing broker of Oakland-based real estate investment company, Infinity Investments. Her firm's practice areas include real estate law, probate, trusts and estates, business law, and litigation.



She received her Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law with a concentration in Public Interest Law and Social Justice. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and German Studies from Stanford University. Her other board experience includes serving on the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Community Land Trust where she currently serves as Treasurer. Hana is an active member of the Business Development committee which she also chaired in 2012.

## 2014 DIRECTORS-at-Large Sophia Andritsakis, Director sandrit@frk.com

Sophia is an intellectual property attorney at Franklin Templeton Investments in San Mateo. Her practice focuses on technology transactions and other licensing and intellectual property matters. Sophia also volunteers at the Volunteer Legal Services Program Family Law Project and was rec-



ognized as an "Outstanding Volunteer" in 2010 and 2011 for her pro bono work. Sophia earned her J.D at Golden Gate University School of Law and her B.A. in Political Science at the University of California at Davis. She served as a Co-Chair of the Business Development Committee in 2011 and 2012. Sophia enjoys travelling and spending time with her seven year old daughter, Jasmina.

## Clarissa A. Kang, Director ckang@ truckerhuss.com

Clarissa is a director at the employee benefits law firm of Trucker Huss in San Francisco. She specializes in the area of employee benefits and ERISA litigation, appearing before federal and state courts at trial and appeals levels. In addition to serving as an advocate in active litiga-



tion, Clarissa represents retirement plans, health and welfare plans, and plan fiduciaries in investigations commenced by the Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service. Clarissa earned her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1999 and her undergraduate degree cum laude from Harvard College. Clarissa is serving again as a Director this year and is also serving as a co-chair of the History Committee.

# 2014 Board of Directors

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# S. Anoush Lancaster, Director alancaster@kbsslaw.com

Anoush Lancaster is an attorney with Khorrami Boucher Sumner Sanguinetti, LLP in Oakland. She litigates personal injury cases involving negligence, wrongful death, complex catastrophic injuries, products liability, industrial accidents and exceptions to the workers'



compensation exclusive remedy doctrine. In 2013, Anoush was selected to the Northern California Rising Stars list and was a finalist for San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association's Trial Lawyer of the Year and Consumer Advocates of California Women's Caucus Advocate of the Year. She has co-tried cases in Solano, Monterey, Sacramento, and Fresno counties to successful plaintiffs' verdicts. Her Fresno verdict was the largest wrongful death verdict in Fresno County in the last decade. In addition to being on Queen's Bench's Board of Directors, Anoush also co-chairs Queen's Bench's Employment/Work-Life Balance Committee.

# Patricia G. Rosenberg, Director and Past President 2001 prosenberg@hnattorneys.com

Patricia is a partner with Haas Najarian, LLP in San Francisco. Her practice focuses on litigation in the areas of construction and real estate including mechanic's lien law, public works, construction defects, and leasing disputes.



She also is experienced in general business litigation and probate litigation. She obtained her J.D. from the University of San Francisco and her B.A. from Brandeis University. She is a Past President of Queen's Bench (2001) and was previously on the Board of and Second Vice President of California Women Lawyers. Patricia is a co-chair of the Scholarship committee. She also holds directorships in various non-profit organizations. When not working, Patricia enjoys traveling with her husband.

## Maria Schopp, Director and Past President 2005 maria\_schopp@yahoo.com

Maria Schopp is a sole practitioner whose practice includes family law and criminal law in San Francisco, Marin, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Maria received her Bachelor



of Arts in Legal Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and her J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law in 1995. Maria then worked as an Assistant Public Defender for the next eight years prior to opening her own family law practice. Maria lives in Lafayette with her young son.

## Laura Vocke, Director LVocke@sflg.com

Laura E. Vocke is an Associate Attorney at Schoenberg Family Law Group, P.C. She practices family law, including dissolutions, prenuptial agreements, parentage actions, child custody matters, and support matters. She finds personal satisfaction in assisting her clients through



personal challenges and guiding them through complex legal issues. She contributes regularly to the Bar Association of San Francisco's blog regarding contemporary family law issues. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of San Francisco School of Law, where she received a CALI award for outstanding performance in community property law. She completed her undergraduate degree in literature from University of California, Santa Cruz with highest honors in her major, and was on the Dean's List. Prior to joining the Board, she served as the co-chair for the Queen's Bench Domestic Violence Committee in 2012 and 2013. Outside of work, she enjoys cooking, yoga, and collecting antique books.

## Lisa Freitas, Immediate Past President Ifreitas@sefton.com

Lisa is a family law attorney at Sefton Family Law Group. She focuses her practice on all family law matters, with a special interest in mediation. Lisa handles all aspects of dissolutions, in-



cluding support, parenting and custody matters, as well as premarital and post-marital agreements. Lisa is also a mediator and mediates dissolutions and custody disputes. Prior to practicing family law, Lisa was a litigator at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius and Fenwick & West. In 2008, she began practicing law exclusively at Hanson Crawford Crum and in 2012, at Sideman & Bancroft until leaving with Raquel Sefton to join Sefton Family Law Group. Lisa earned her J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, her B.A. in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and most recently her Masters in Psychology, with a Marriage and Family Therapy concentration, from Golden Gate University.

# President's Message

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gear up to begin working on a new video project.

- Our newsletter editor and Board member, Hana Hardy, will be exploring a newsletter project to celebrate our past leaders and current membership, our older and younger members. As we try to locate, organize and process the long history of Queen's Bench, we realize that we do not want to lose sight of our history in the making.
- We are looking for motivated members, including our many Past Presidents, to join the History Committee and help us get Queen's Bench ready for this momentous event. To join this committee or any Queen's Bench committee, simply email us at admin@queensbench.org to indicate your interest, or email the History Chairs directly (contact information can be found at www.queensBench.org/ committees.html).
- Based on overwhelmingly positive questionnaire feedback, one of our shorter term goals is to revitalize our Mentorship Committee's pod program. This program moved away from traditional one-on-one mentoring assignments by creating small "pods" of women who share a common interest or career goal. There were pods for family law, public interest law and judicial careers to name a few. We look forward to kick starting this program again with some tweaks and tips for the long term success of our pods. To join this committee or any Queen's Bench committee, simply email us at admin@queensbench. org to indicate your interest, or email the Mentorship Chairs directly (contact information can be found at www.queensBench.org/committees.html).

We look forward to these and other exciting plans for Queen's Bench in 2014, and I especially look forward to getting to know all of you at the many events to come.



# Popular Speed Networking Event Hits the Mark Again

By Alice Purdy

The Business Development Committee put on a wonderfully successful Speed Networking event on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. The beautiful conference room of Nixon Peabody International LLP's One Embarcadero San Francisco office was perfect for the event. Many thanks to Nixon Peabody for their hospitality. Queen's Bench member, Alison Torbitt, of Nixon Peabody and Kelli Fiore of Fillmore Search Group did a great job putting on a fast moving event and ringing the bells every two minutes to signal discussion of seven general questions. The questions resulted in lively discussion, not necessarily on the subject of law, such as: "If you could pick a super power, what would it be?" The time passed quickly, leaving us all wishing we had more time to connect after the bells had all been rung! Fifty-three attended, from very experienced practitioners to law students and recent law school grads. Speed Networking was a sell out with many on a waiting list! The food and wine/beverages were enjoyed by all. 'The event went past 8 pm with many lingering afterwards. This is definitely a popular event which we look forward doing again next year!

# **On the Move**

SAN FRANCISCO, January 20, 2014 — Kaye • Moser • Hierbaum LLP brings on Queen's Bench member, Andrea Goldman, as Of Counsel to their nationally known boutique Family law, Estate Planning and Trusts and Estates practice serving high net worth individuals. Andrea will continue her family law and mediation practice with the firm. Andrea formerly was an associate at the Law Offices of Carol Amyx in Berkeley, and most recently at her own firm. Prior to practicing family law, Andrea was a criminal defense attorney for ten years at the trial and appellate levels, including working as a Deputy Public Defender in Solano County. Andrea's addition to the firm marks the beginning of an expansion of the nationally known boutique Family Law and Estate Planning practice.

Founded in 1995 by two former Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison associates, Barbara W. Moser and Susan E. Kaye, who practiced in the Family Law, Estate Planning and Probate sections of the Tax Department, the firm welcomes Ms. Goldman. Partner, Vanessa Hierbaum is our Queen's Bench President.

# Past Presidents' Dinner, 2013

By Vanessa Hierbaum

Queen's Bench held its Annual Past Presidents' Dinner at the Concordia Argonaut on November 19, 2013. It was a successful event by any measure. There were 22 Past Presidents in attendance, all wearing stylish hats, a long held tradition for this event. The Honorable Justice Katharine Werdegar was the worthy recipient of the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award. Our Past Presidents were pleasantly surprised to see Justice Werdegar sporting her own hat when she went to the podium to accept her award, expressing delight in this tradition. Justice Werdegar was appointed to the Court of Appeal in 1991, and the California Supreme Court in 1994, among many other achievements. Justice Werdegar has been a great supporter of Queen's Bench, most notably by presiding over our annual Induction Ceremony, a service she has graciously provided for many years.

The evening's raffle, silent auction, and live action raised over \$6,000 for the Queen's Bench Foundation. The Foundation serves many Queen's Bench programs including the award winning Juvenile Hall Project and Color of Justice Programs. The Juvenile Hall Project has been an important recipient of Foundation funds since it was founded. Through the Project, Queen's Bench attorneys visit with girls at the San Francisco Juvenile Detention Center and provide opportunities for healthy creative expression and positive interaction with strong female role models. The Honorable Ina Levin Gyemant, Queen's Bench President 1979, and Kelly Robbins, Queen's Bench President 2008, with some spirited assistance from the Honorable Angela Bradstreet, Queen's



Bench President 1989, presided over the live auction. Judge Bradstreet had coordinated two original drawings by Senator Dianne Feinstein. The competitive bidding over the second drawing resulted in two bidders deciding to join together and timeshare their drawing. The next day, Judge Bradstreet procured another drawing from Senator Feinstein so each co-bidder could enjoy her own drawing. A happy ending for all, and the family law attorneys in our group are now breathing a sigh of relief that there will be no custody battles over the drawing!



# Affiliate Re-Certification: Why Should Queen's Bench Members Join CWL?

By Kelly Robbins

Queen's Bench is currently going through the process of re-certifying as an affiliate organization of California Women Lawyers (CWL). What does this mean for you, as a member of Queen's Bench?

To be a voting affiliate and have an Affiliate Governor on CWL's Board of Governors, Queen's Bench needs to have 20% concurrent membership with CWL (or 100 CWL members, whichever is less). Affiliates are absolutely essential, not just to CWL's strength and growth, but to the strength and growth of a statewide network of women lawyers. Sacramento and Washington listen to this network.

California Women Lawyers is the only statewide organization with the mission of advancing women in the legal profession and in society. Since its formation, CWL has exercised a leadership role in promoting the advancement of women and eliminating bias in our profession and throughout society. In recent years, CWL has organized face-to-face meetings with leaders of women's bar associations across the state and with the Judicial Appointments Secretaries in administrations across the political spectrum; spear-headed legislation focused on issues vital to women and children; and initiated a statewide mentoring network enabling women lawyers from throughout California to connect with one another and gain insights into career advancement, balancing work and private life, and resolving other challenges of practice in today's world. In 2012, CWL launched its In-House Counsel Network so that CWL and women in-house counsel from across the state and from across industries can partner to work on common issues, such as breaking the glass ceiling and promoting women in the law, gender pay equity, and bringing diversity to corporate legal departments and law firms. CWL additionally writes or joins amicus briefs in cases that affect women's rights, at both the state and national level, and it hosts an annual conference to present cutting edge programs specifically directed to the advancement of women in the law.

CWL's statewide legislative work distinguishes it from other women's bar associations because it provides a cohesive, singular statewide voice supporting legislation that seeks to advance women in the law and society. CWL's office is located directly across from the State Capitol building in Sacramento, where, for many years, it has had an active and visible presence. CWL is known and respected, and is often asked its opinion, both by legislators and by the Governor's staff. Together, CWL and its affiliates are able to make our voices heard in a way that would be impossible for a single local bar association.

With the help of its affiliates, CWL will continue its vital and effective work to promote diversity on the bench, through a combination of judicial evaluations, its signature award-winning "So, You Want To Be A Judge?"<sup>TM</sup> seminars, and communications with the Governor's Judicial Appointments Secretary and United States Senators. CWL is also continuing to expand its pipeline programs to help girls think about law as a career and women lawyers plan their careers to maximize the possibility of being appointed to the judiciary.

CWL additionally serves as a liaison to national organizations, such as the National Association of Women Judges, and is a member of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations. As a strategic ally with the National Association of Women Lawyers, CWL shares ideas on national and statewide platforms and is currently working on bringing some of NAWL's programs to California. Through activities with these organizations, CWL is able to have a voice on a national, and sometimes international, level.

Being a member of both Queen's Bench and CWL is not duplicative—the organizations work in a complementary way. Queen's Bench provides tremendous support for women locally, and CWL is an effective advocate for women lawyers (and women generally) throughout the state and nationally. By being a member of Queen's Bench and CWL, and by facilitating Queen's Bench's status as a CWL affiliate, you can ensure that women's voices are heard—both near and far.

# Queen's Bench New Members

**P**lease welcome the following new members who joined between October 24, 2013 and March 3, 2014:

- Lori Andrus Andrus Anderson LLP
- Angie Ayar
- Arian Barr
- Sara Bartel Morrison & Foerster
- Lisa Battista
- Jeanette Bernard
- Kristin Chambers The Permanente Medical Group
- Quynh Chen
- Sophia Cizmarik
- Sheli DeNola
- Maya Dillard
- Hon. Rochelle C. East San Francisco Superior Court
- Gillian Marie Emmerich
- Emily Erdman
- Jennifer Foldvary
- Sally Fox Broderick Saleen
- Rebecca Freed
- Amanda Gau
- Cassandra T. Glanville Sefton Family Law Group, P.C.
- Jen Goldberg
- Andrea Goldman Kaye Moser Hierbaum LLP
- Julia Graeser
- Maureen Green
- Felicia Gross
- Amber Hager Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP
- Kristen Head
- Gabrielle A. Hollingsworth
- Angie Hua
- Farrah Hussein
- Kelly Kristal

- Natassia Kwan Sedgwick LLP
- Sabrina Larson *Morrison & Foerster*
- Kendra Lavelle
- Lisa Lockwood
- Lauren Lofton
- Irina Lyapis
- Sarah McCracken
- Olivia Mendoza
- Lily Moallem Myers Urbatsch, P.C.
- Mary Nguyen
- Megan Nottingham Crosby & Rowell LLP
- Heidi Quan Murchison & Cumming
  - Julieclaire Sheppard *Tides*
- Roxanne Strohmeier
- Laura Swanson
- Jennifer Burke Sylva Sylva Law
- Erin Tanimura
- Sarah Hoffman Trela O'Melveny & Myers
- Jasna Veledar
- Abigail Wolf
- Alice Wong
- Lauren E. Wood Glynn & Finley LLP
- Mabel Yee
- Julia Young Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco

# ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

# **2014 Induction Ceremony and Champagne Reception** March 13, 2014

At Civic Center Courthouse, San Francisco. In honor of incoming officers and directors of Queen's Bench and to welcome new admittees to the California State Bar. Associate Justice Kathryn M. Werdegar, California Supreme Court,



will conduct the induction ceremony. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Judges and New Admittees to the California Bar are guests of Queen's Bench. Additional Tickets are \$25 each. EVENT IS SOLD OUT. Email admin@ queensbench.org to get on wait list.

## **Financial Planning for Savvy Attorneys**

## March 18 and March 26, 2014

The Queen's Bench Business Development Committee, and Dave Parks, Certified Financial Planner with Pacific Advisors brings you a detailed and substantive look at financial planning strategies in two sessions. *Location:* James Flood Building, 870 Market Street, Suite 1185, San Francisco. A detailed agenda and registration link are at: www.queensbench. org/events/financial-planning03-2014.html

# QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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# Eyes on the Prize: Equity in the Legal Profession

By Sharon Alkire and Crystal Cole Matson

Diversity is a topic we often broach in the legal community. Companies and law firms alike have realized the need for diversity among the ranks of their organizations. We are all aware that diversity brings about unique perspectives to problem-solving and assists in building relationships as we embrace a global economy.

As a Queen's Bench member, you understand the importance of diversity and particularly the role it plays in our legal community. But, in addition to being an example of what women can achieve, what have we done? How have we supported more forms of diversity in our law firms, companies, or government offices?

Queen's Bench has recognized that there is always more to be done. Though the number of women in legal careers is growing, there are still great strides to be made in advancing women in minority communities, whether based on ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, age or physical ability. Embracing the practice of creating diverse and inclusive workplaces is about recognizing and accepting who we are, and giving due recognition and value to those around us. It's about understanding how our identities relate to and affect others. And, most importantly, it's about opening doors for others who are not afforded the same privileges each of us may enjoy.

Let's be clear. Each of us is privileged in some way. So, there is no reason to be ashamed of your privilege. Rather than feeling ashamed, it is useful to discuss privilege and question assumptions that do not hold true for other women. From there, we can build strategies to invite a wider range of experiences into our promotion of women in the law. This is how we will build a diverse and more inclusive legal community.

If you are interested in working to understand and improve diversity in legal practice, we welcome you to join Queen's Bench Diversity Committee. Please email Sharon Alkire at sharon.alkire@gmail.com to get on our listserv.

We look forward to meeting you. Stay tuned for a great year ahead!

## Sincerely,

Sharon Alkire and Crystal Cole Matson Your 2014 Diversity Committee Co-chairs

# **2014 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Amicus Briefs**

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# March 2014

# **4** Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 p.m.

One Embarcadero Center, 18th Floor San Francisco

# **5** Juvenile Hall Project 7:00 p.m.

Youth Guidance Center 375 Woodside Avenue

# 13 Induction Ceremony and

Champagne Reception 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Civic Center Courthouse 4th Floor Rotunda, 400 McAllister Street Info and registration at: www.queensbench.org/induction-register.html

## 18 Financial Planning for Savvy Attorneys

Session 1 6:30-8:30 p.m. James Flood Building, 870 Market Street, Suite 1185 San Francisco Contact: admin@queensbench.org More information at: www.queensbench.org/events/financial-planning03-2014.html

## **19** Juvenile Hall Project

7:00 p.m. Youth Guidance Center

# 26 Financial Planning for Savvy Attorneys

Session 2 6:30-8:30 p.m. James Flood Building, 870 Market Street, Suite 1185 San Francisco Contact: admin@queensbench.org More information at: www.queensbench.org/events/financial-planning03-2014.html



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