



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**A Call to Action**

by Jaime G. Touchstone

There are many iterations of the old saying "what you give is what you get," but they all seem to have similar meaning. The more effort you dedicate to your job, your relationships and your passions, the more you receive in return. The same is true for community involvement and volunteerism. I have experienced this first hand thanks to Queen's Bench.

Most of you are familiar with the organization's rich history, founded in 1921 by a group of women lawyers frustrated with male resistance to female participation in the local bar association. You know that Queen's Bench continues as a group of Bay Area legal professionals dedicated to further reducing, and ideally eliminating, the gender gap. But what many of you may not have experienced is working with the intelligent, successful and diverse group of women who are actively involved in the organization today, and the myriad of interests each contributes to Queen's Bench's growing resume of programs, events and projects.

I am fortunate to have built a relationship with many of these women from whom I benefit on a daily basis – certainly professionally, but also personally. The organization is not only an avenue for business development, but is also the source of many of my mentors, advisors and friends. This reward would not have been possible without my consistent involvement in Queen's Bench over the past eight years.

My goal as Queen's Bench's 2015 President is to reach out to and encourage as many of you as

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**Meet Your 2015 Queen's Bench Board of Directors and Officers**

**Jaime G. Touchstone, President**

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 motion practice, client communication, case research and the writing of briefs. She also provides employment law advice and reviews and drafts employment handbooks and policies. 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 engaged in the legal community, including past involvement with the Bar Association of San Francisco's Barristers Club, which comprises members in their first 10 years of practice. In December 2009, Jaime was named Barrister of the Year by the San Francisco Bar Association. Jaime served on the Barristers Club Board of Directors in 2011 and 2012, 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 has been named as a Northern California "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers every year since 2009. Jaime graduated from the University of Colorado and earned her J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 2004.

**Pauline Farmer-Koppenol, First Vice President**

Pauline is a patent attorney and Associate General Counsel for Patents for the Clinical Diagnostics Group at Bio-Rad Laboratories in Hercules. 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. 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, Second Vice President**

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.



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## 2015 Board of Directors

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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 A. Schaitberger, Treasurer**

Holly A. Schaitberger is a family law attorney at Hersh Family Law 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, Secretary**

Hana Hardy is a real estate attorney in the Oakland office of Goldfarb & Lipman, LLP. Her practice areas include real estate law, nonprofit corporation law, and affordable housing. 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 as President of the San Francisco Community Land Trust.



### **Sophia Andritsakis, Assistant Secretary/Newsletter Editor**

Sophia Andritsakis is Assistant Corporate Counsel at Franklin Templeton Investments in San Mateo. Her practice areas include commercial technology transactions with a focus on software and data licensing agreements and other intellectual property matters. Sophia volunteers at the Bar Association of San Francisco's Justice & Diversity Center Family



Law Pro Bono Program and was recognized as an "Outstanding Volunteer" in 2010 and 2011 for her pro bono work. Sophia earned her J.D. from the Golden Gate University School of Law in 2009 and her B.A. in political science from the University of California at Davis in 2004. Sophia resides with her family in the Oakland hills. Sophia previously chaired and continues to be involved in the Business Development Committee.

## 2015 DIRECTORS-at-Large

### **Clarissa A. Kang**

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 litigation, 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.



### **Anoush Lancaster**

Anoush Lancaster litigates personal injury involving negligence, products liability, industrial accidents, and exceptions to the workers' compensation exclusive remedy doctrine. Ms. Lancaster also represents plaintiffs in mass actions and employment matters. In 2013 and 2014 Ms. Lancaster was selected to the Northern California Rising Stars and Top Women Attorneys in Northern California lists and was a finalist for San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association's Trial Lawyer 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.



Ms. Lancaster's articles appear in various legal publications and she frequently speaks at seminars regarding a wide-range of legal issues.

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## 2015 Board of Directors

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### Carol A. Salvagione

Carol Salvagione is a Family Law Specialist, certified by the State Bar of California, and has been licensed to practice law in California since December of 1994. A partner in the law firm of Hedani, Choy, Spalding & Salvagione, LLP, Ms. Salvagione's practice is limited to family law. She handles all aspects of family law cases including property division, child and spousal support, and child custody and visitation issues, as well as drafting and reviewing premarital agreements. Ms. Salvagione is a mediator and collaborative law attorney.



Ms. Salvagione is a member of the following professional organizations: Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; Family Law Section of the California State Bar Association; Family Law Section of the Bar Association of San Francisco where she served as the chairperson in 2010; California Women Lawyers; Queen's Bench; Collaborative Practice San Francisco; and the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. Ms. Salvagione was named a Northern California Super Lawyer every year from 2004 through 2014 by Law & Politics Publications. Martindale-Hubbell has awarded Ms. Salvagione an "AV" rating.

### Maria Schopp

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.



### April Sommer

April is a Staff Attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity. She practices public interest environmental law, specializing in challenging destructive energy infrastructure projects such as power plants and transmission lines. Prior to joining the Center in 2014, April ran Sommer Public Interest Law where she practiced environmental litigation, appeals, and public forum law. April has been a Co-Chair of the Juvenile Hall Project for the past five years and a Queen's Bench member since 2008.



April earned a B.S. in Natural Resources from Cornell University and J.D. from Emory University and was named a 2014 Super Lawyers Rising Star.

### Laura E. Vocke

Laura E. Vocke is an associate attorney at Schoenberg Family Law Group, P.C., emphasizing family law, and currently serves as a director-at-large of the 2015 Queen's Bench Board of Directors. She previously served as co-chair of the Queen's Bench Domestic Violence Committee in 2013. She is passionate about social justice and represents asylum applications pro bono as part of her legal practice. 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.



Outside of work, Ms. Vocke enjoys yoga, live music, travelling, and being outdoors.

### Vanessa Hierbaum

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 through 2014. Her practice also includes probate and trust litigation and estate planning. Vanessa previously chaired, and continues to be involved in the Domestic Violence committee. Vanessa obtained her J.D. cum laude from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1996.



## President's Message

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possible to work towards building a similar, enhanced relationship with Queen's Bench and its membership. And for those of you who have seen your Queen's Bench involvement trickle off, I encourage you to rejoin the fold, become reacquainted with old friends and meet new ones in the process.

To that end, I issue a call to action to all Queen's Bench's members and supporters. The organization needs your help. Of course, we are and will continue to be appreciative of your financial support and your attendance at our events and programs, but what we need most in 2015 is "womanpower." We need women who are willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work in the name of Queen's Bench. Whether it means joining one of Queen's Bench's many committees, offering to develop a program, or simply publicizing Queen's Bench events to friends and colleagues, the organization needs your efforts. Specifically, we have an immediate need for volunteers to assist with:

- **The Juvenile Hall Project:** This is Queen's Bench's flagship community outreach project that has been ongoing for over 40 years. Volunteers with the JHP meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at the San Francisco Juvenile Detention Center to spend time with girls who have become involved with the juvenile

justice system. This program is thought-provoking and rewarding. If each Queen's Bench member spent just one evening a year volunteering at the JHP, it would greatly reduce the burden on our committee chairs who often struggle to recruit a sufficient number of volunteers.

- **Committee Involvement:** Queen's Bench has thirteen committees that are looking for members to develop and help orchestrate programs and events. Specifically, our Business Development, Domestic Violence, Education, Diversity, Employment/Work Life Balance, History, Amicus and Legislative Issues and Reproductive Rights Committees all are in need of volunteers for 2015.
- **The Mentorship Pod Program:** Queen's Bench's structured pod program combines women in different stages in their careers, grouped in areas of interest such as practice area, judicial aspirations and working moms. Queen's Bench is in need of senior attorneys and judicial officers willing to join and contribute to our mentorship pods.

If the above-detailed suggestions do not pique your interest, but you remain committed to increasing your involvement, please contact me directly. I welcome the opportunity to sit down with you over coffee or lunch to discuss the organization and your place within.

For those of you who are like me and are barely able to find the time — between work, family and social commitments — to read a magazine, believe me, I understand. Your involvement can be as much or as little as you are looking to contribute. Queen's Bench will be grateful for your help and also grateful for the opportunity to meet yet one more amazing woman. I submit that by helping Queen's Bench, you will not only be adding value to our organization, you will be enriching your own life through the creation of lasting professional and personal relationships and through giving back to the community.

I look forward to getting to know all of you a little bit better in 2015, as we work together to build on Queen's Bench's strong tradition of women's leadership in the community.



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# Welcomes

**HON. CHARLOTTE WALTER WOOLARD**  
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- Appellate Division - Presiding Judge
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- Honored by the Family Law Section of the Bar Association of San Francisco
- Honored by The Lawyers' Club of San Francisco

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at [Joanna@adrservices.org](mailto:Joanna@adrservices.org) or (415) 772-0900

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## National Adoption Day Celebration

by Maria Schopp, Director, Past President

On November 14, 2014, the San Francisco Unified Family Court held its annual Adoption Day Celebration. In attendance were Queen's Bench members Anne Gyemant Paris (2015 Director) and Maria Schopp (2004 Past President and 2015 Director). National Adoption Day is held annually by the Unified Superior Court in order to celebrate the creation of new families through the adoption process and to call attention to the estimated 68,000 children in California who are in the foster care system who are looking for permanent homes. California law requires that all children who are adopted appear personally before a bench officer in order for the adoption process to be completed. It is a tradition at the San Francisco Superior Court and other courts around the Bay Area for the bench officer conducting the hearing to present to the adoptee a stuffed bear to reduce court room jitters and commemorate this special day. The task of collecting these bears has been performed by a private individual, Dorothy Hourican. Dorothy was honored at the Adoption Day Celebration for her hard work and efforts at make the adoption day a special day for every child adopted in San Francisco. Dorothy reported that the supply of bears in San Francisco is running low. She further reported that the supply in Contra Costa has been almost depleted and the prospect of replenishment in Contra Costa is slim due to the donation source in that county running dry. The Queen's Bench Bar Association will be conducting a teddy bear donation drive. Look for more details of the drive in the coming weeks.



Left to right: Dorothy Hourican, Maria Schopp, Anne Gyemant Paris

## Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined between November 23 and February 4, 2015:

- Julie Alcaron
- Anne Cherry Barnette  
*Polsinelli LLP*
- Jana Buresova  
*VMware, Inc*
- Jennifer Carr  
*Jewell & Associates, PC*
- Lauren Gruber  
*Room to Read*
- Leslie Gutierrez
- Mercy Hall  
*Myers Urbatsch, P.C.*
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*Kaufhold Gaskin LLP*
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*Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe LLP*
- Catherine Kauffelt
- Shabnam Malek  
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- Stephanie Malla  
*Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith*
- Kemi Mustapha  
*Bay Area Legal Aid*
- Alyssa Ohanian  
*Trucker Huss, APC*
- Elyse Park  
*Myers Urbatsch, P.C.*
- Katherine Stockton
- Jennifer Truong  
*Trucker Huss*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

## The Queen's Bench Business Development Committee

The Queen's Bench Business Development Committee holds monthly meetings on the last Thursday of every month, except for our next meeting, which will be held on **Tuesday, February 24, 2015**. Please join the Committee to plan this year's amazing events, including Cocktails and Couture and the LEAADD Networking Cocktail Evening. Cocktails and Couture will be in March this year and we are looking for a new location. Last year the LEAADD Cocktail event was held in a hip SOMA gallery and attendees enjoyed small batch wine and great conversation. Tickets for this event sold out in just a few days, and this year we are looking to expand our event with your participation.

The details for meetings are as follows: Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.; Location: Hyatt Embarcadero Center in the Eclipse Lounge, located at 5 Embarcadero, San Francisco. If you would like to be added to our email circulation list or have any questions about the Committee please email: [Alice@Familyfirstlegal.com](mailto:Alice@Familyfirstlegal.com). The Committee Co-Chairs, Alice Purdy and Lisa Villasenor, look forward to seeing you at the Business Development Committee Meetings.

## Queen's Bench History Committee

Calling all History Committee members and prospective members! Please join the History Committee for refreshments, planning, and a walk through Queen's Bench's rich history on **February 19, 2015** at 5:30 at Trucker Huss, 1 Embarcadero Center, 12th Floor, San Francisco. RSVP to [ckang@truckerhuss.com](mailto:ckang@truckerhuss.com).

## Save the Date: Sunday February 22nd at 5:00 p.m.

### Author Catherine Duggan on Brehon Laws.

Catherine Duggan, attorney and historian of Irish law will discuss her book *The Lost Laws of Ireland: How the Brehon Laws Shaped Early Irish Society*. Brehon Law was the legal system that governed Irish society for over 1000 years. Since there was no central authority, the Brehon Laws were enforced by the community. They reflect a culture that sought to insure fairness and harmony in a hierarchical warrior society.

This event will be held in the Saint Francis Room at United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Ave, San Francisco ILHS members free, visitors \$5.

## 2015 Induction Ceremony and Champagne Reception

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Induction Ceremony honors incoming officers and directors of Queen's Bench and welcomes new admittees to the California State Bar. Associate Justice Kathryn M. Werdegar, California Supreme Court, will conduct the Induction Ceremony. Civic Center Courthouse, 4th Floor Rotunda, 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Judges and new admittees to the California Bar are guests of Queen's Bench. Email [admin@queensbench.org](mailto:admin@queensbench.org) to **RSVP by February 7, 2015**. Additional tickets are \$25. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

If you prefer to pay by check, send payment with names of attending to Queen's Bench, 816 E. 4th Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94401.



## QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Sophia Andritsakis

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

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

E-mail: [admin@queensbench.org](mailto:admin@queensbench.org)

Internet: [www.queensbench.org](http://www.queensbench.org)

ADMINISTRATOR: Maurine Killough

### 2015 OFFICERS

JAIME G. TOUCHSTONE . . . . . President  
PAULINE FARMER-KOPPENOL . . First Vice President  
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ANOUSH LANCASTER  
CAROL A. SALVAGIONE  
MARIA SCHOPP  
APRIL ROSE SOMMER  
LAURA E. VOCKE

# 2015 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

## Amicus Briefs

Simona Agnolucci  
Keker & Van Nest  
633 Battery St  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 391-5400 (T)  
[sagnolucci@kvn.com](mailto:sagnolucci@kvn.com)

Nicole Coon  
Schneider Wallace Cottrell Konecky  
Wotkyns LLP  
180 Montgomery Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
(415) 421-7100 (T)  
[ncoon@schneiderwallace.com](mailto:ncoon@schneiderwallace.com)

Guinevere L. Jobson  
Fenwick & West LLP  
555 California Street, 12th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
(415) 875-2388 (T)  
[gjobson@fenwick.com](mailto:gjobson@fenwick.com)

## Awards

Barbara L. Harris Chiang  
Dillingham & Murphy, LLP  
601 California Street, Suite 1900  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
(415) 397-2700 (T) / (415) 397-3300 (F)  
[bhc@dillinghammurphy.com](mailto:bhc@dillinghammurphy.com)

Lisa Rauch  
Howard Rome Martin & Ridley LLP  
1775 Woodside Road, Suite 200  
Redwood City, CA 94061  
(650) 365-7715 ext 234 (T) /  
(650) 364-5297 (F)  
[lrauch@hmrllaw.com](mailto:lrauch@hmrllaw.com)

Eliza M. Rodrigues  
Sedgwick LLP  
333 Bush Street, 30th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
(415) 537-3019 (T) / (415) 781-2635 (F)  
[eliza.rodrigues@sdma.com](mailto:eliza.rodrigues@sdma.com)

## Business Development

Alice A. Purdy  
Family First Legal  
870 Market Street, Suite 1046  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(510) 461-8955 (T)  
[alice@familyfirstlegal.com](mailto:alice@familyfirstlegal.com)

Lisa A. Villaseñor  
The Hassell Law Group  
4079 19th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
(415) 518-8479 (T) / (415) 788-1598 (F)  
[lavillaseñor744@aol.com](mailto:lavillaseñor744@aol.com)

## Conference Of Delegates

Andrea Carlise  
Patton Wolan Carlise LLP  
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1350  
Oakland, CA 94612-3582  
(510) 987-7500 (T) / (510) 987-7575 (F)  
[acarlise@pwc-law.com](mailto:acarlise@pwc-law.com)

## CWL Liaison

Sarah M. King  
Tufts, Stephenson & Kasper, LLP  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 1035  
San Francisco, CA 94104-3008  
415-835-2207 (T)  
[sking@tsklaw.com](mailto:sking@tsklaw.com)

## Diversity

Sharon Alkire  
The Law Office of Sharon Alkire  
6985 Exeter Drive  
Oakland, CA 94611  
(510) 402-8649 (T)  
[sharon.alkire@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.alkire@gmail.com)

## Domestic Violence

Katie Burke  
The Wald Group PC  
88 Kearny, Suite 1475  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
(415) 648-3097 (T)  
[katie@waldlaw.net](mailto:katie@waldlaw.net)

Kemi Mustapha  
Bay Area Legal Aid  
1735 Telegraph Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 663-4744 (T)  
[kmustapha@baylegal.org](mailto:kmustapha@baylegal.org)

## Education

Michelle Dylan  
Law Office of Michelle Dylan  
311 Garces Drive  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
(415) 819-7294 (T) / (415) 989-7950 (F)  
[md@michelledylanlaw.com](mailto:md@michelledylanlaw.com)

Clare Lakewood  
1010 Fell Street  
San Francisco, CA 94117  
(415) 316-8615 (T)  
[darelakewood@gmail.com](mailto:darelakewood@gmail.com)

## Employment/Work-Life Balance

Julie A. Stockton  
King & Spalding LLP  
601 S. California Avenue, Suite 100  
Palo Alto, CA 94304  
(650) 422-6818 (T)  
[jstockton@kslaw.com](mailto:jstockton@kslaw.com)

Karman Guadagni  
Stebner and Associates  
870 Market Street, Suite 1212  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 362-9800 (T) / (415) 362-9801 (F)  
[karman@stebnerassociates.com](http://karman@stebnerassociates.com)

## History Committee

Clarissa Kang  
Trucker Huss  
One Embarcadero Center, 12th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 788-3111 (T) / (415) 421-2017 (F)  
[ckang@truckerhuss.com](mailto:ckang@truckerhuss.com)

Hon. Charlotte Walter Woolard  
ADR Services  
100 First Street, 27th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 772-0900 (T)  
[judgewoolard@adrservices.org](mailto:judgewoolard@adrservices.org)

## Juvenile Hall Project

Beverly Brand  
1517 Anza Street  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
(415) 613-6450 (T)  
[chris-bev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chris-bev@sbcglobal.net)

Christine MacDonald  
1000 Union Street #309  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
(512) 577-3993 (T)  
[christine.r.macd@gmail.com](mailto:christine.r.macd@gmail.com)

## Legislative Issues & Reproductive Rights

Laura Cronin Ford  
Kaye\*Moser\*Hierbaum LLP  
1One Embarcadero Center, Suite 1650  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 296-8868 (T)  
[lcford@kayemoser.com](mailto:lcford@kayemoser.com)

## Marketing & Communications

Jaime G. Touchstone  
Futterman Dupree Dodd Croley Maier, LLP  
180 Sansome Street, 17th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 941104  
(415) 399-3906 (T) / (415) 399-3838 (F)  
[jtouchstone@fddcm.com](mailto:jtouchstone@fddcm.com)

Tiffany Hufford  
154 Lisbon Street  
San Francisco, CA 94112  
(209) 969-8433 (T)  
[tiffanyhufford@gmail.com](mailto:tiffanyhufford@gmail.com)

## Membership

Anne Gyemant Paris  
Gyemant Paris Law  
1330 Castro Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
(415) 513-5502 (T) / (415) 282-4884 (F)  
[anne@adoptsf.com](mailto:anne@adoptsf.com)

## Mentorship

Michelle Schuller Lewis  
Trucker Huss, APC  
One Embarcadero Center, 12th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 788-3111 (T) / (415) 277-8038 (F)  
[mlewis@truckerhuss.com](mailto:mlewis@truckerhuss.com)

Kimberly Wong  
The Veen Firm, P.C.  
711 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 673-4800 (T) / (415) 771-5845 (F)  
[k.wong@veenfirm.com](mailto:k.wong@veenfirm.com)

Angel L. Garrett  
Trucker Huss  
One Embarcadero Center, 12th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 788-3111 (T)  
(415) 421-2017 (F)  
[agarrett@truckerhuss.com](mailto:agarrett@truckerhuss.com)

## Newsletter Editor

Sophia Andritsakis  
Franklin Templeton Investments  
One Franklin Parkway  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
(415) 312-2436 (T)  
[sophia.andritsakis@franklintempleton.com](mailto:sophia.andritsakis@franklintempleton.com)

## Programs

Pauline Farmer-Koppenol  
Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.  
1000 Alfred Nobel Drive  
Hercules, CA 94547  
(510) 741-6054(T)  
[pauline.farmer@gmail.com](mailto:pauline.farmer@gmail.com)

## Scholarships

Hon. Adrienne Jacobs Miller  
523 Grizzly Peak Blvd.  
Berkeley, CA 94708  
(510) 506-9723 (T)  
[adriennemiller@gmail.com](mailto:adriennemiller@gmail.com)

Kendra L. Tanacea  
Law Offices of K. Tanacea  
198 Corbett Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
(415) 934-8844 (T) / (415) 934-8840 (F)  
[kendra.tanacea@gmail.com](mailto:kendra.tanacea@gmail.com)

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## Contact Your President...

Jaime G. Touchstone  
Futterman Dupree Dodd Croley Maier, LLP  
180 Sansome Street, 17th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Tel: (415) 399-3906  
Fax: (415) 399-3838  
[jtouchstone@fddcm.com](mailto:jtouchstone@fddcm.com)

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## February

- 4** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center  
375 Woodside Avenue
- 18** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center
- 19** **History Committee**  
5:30 p.m.  
Trucker Huss  
1 Embarcadero, San Francisco
- 24** **Business Development Committee:  
Network Cocktail Evening**  
6:00 p.m.  
Eclipse Lounge, Hyatt Embarcadero  
5 Embarcadero Center, San  
Francisco
- 26** **2015 Induction Ceremony and  
Champagne Reception**  
5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Civic Center Courthouse  
400 McAllister Street, San Francisco

## March

- 3** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Nixon Peabody  
One Embarcadero, 18th Floor
- 4** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center
- 18** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center
- 26** **Business Development Committee**  
6:00 p.m.  
Eclipse Lounge, Hyatt Embarcadero  
5 Embarcadero Center, San  
Francisco

## April

- 1** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Nixon Peabody  
One Embarcadero, 18th Floor
- 8** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center
- 22** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center
- 30** **Business Development Committee**  
6:00 p.m.  
Eclipse Lounge, Hyatt Embarcadero  
5 Embarcadero Center, San  
Francisco



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816 E. Fourth Avenue

San Mateo, CA 94401-3317

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