



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**"I Saw the Sign"**

by Holly A. Schaitberger

**"Hear Our Vote"**

**"A Woman's Place is in the Resistance"**

**"Girls Just Wanna Have Fundamental Human Rights"**

**"The Future is Female"**

These are our voices –the voices of the women of Queen's Bench who marched under our banner at the 2018 San Francisco Women's March. Voices were similarly raised in women's marches across the country, both in 2017 and 2018.

In recent weeks, children in Florida and across the country have used their voices in public demonstration against the plague of gun violence in our schools.

I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to serve as President of Queen's Bench in these invigorated times. Women (and children) are staking their place at the podium of public discourse in numbers and at a volume that are unprecedented in my lifetime and in ways I'd only read of in earlier periods in our history where voices combined with action to create substantial social change.

The origin story of Queen's Bench is familiar to most of us by now. The pioneering women of Queen's Bench formed this organization in 1921 to unify their voices in a time when their very participation in the legal profession was rejected and discour-

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**Meet Your 2018 Queen's Bench Board of Directors and Officers**

**Holly A. Schaitberger, President**

Holly 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.



**Sophia Maria Andritsakis, Second Vice President**

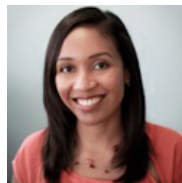
S o p h i a Andritsakis is Assistant General Counsel at Revel Systems, Inc., in San Francisco, California. Ms. Andritsakis earned her J.D from the Golden Gate University School of Law in 2009 and her B.A. in political science from the University of California at Davis in 2004. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Queen's Bench Bar Association since 2012 and previously was Co-Chair of the Queen's Bench Business Development Committee. During her free time, Ms. Andritsakis enjoys volunteering in her community, traveling, cooking and practicing yoga and resides with her family in the Oakland hills.



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**Hana Hardy, First Vice President**

Hana Hardy is a Deputy City Attorney in the Transactional Division at the Office of the City Attorney for the City of San José. Her practice areas include real estate 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.



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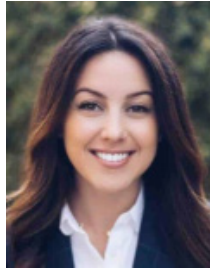
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## 2018 Board of Directors

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### Alice Purdy, Treasurer

Alice A. Purdy is an associate attorney with Flicker, Kerin, Kruger & Bissada, LLP. The enthusiasm Ms. Purdy brings to family law is based on a strong sense of justice and commitment to make a measurable difference and improvement in the lives of her clients. Ms. Purdy transitioned from environmental law and civil litigation practice to exclusively family law in 2013. Her practice includes all aspects of family law matters, including high-asset property division, child and spousal support, complex custody issues, paternity matters, domestic violence, prenuptial agreements, and post-judgment matters.



Ms. Purdy received her J.D. and Certificate of Specialization with Distinction in Environmental Law from Golden Gate University School of Law where she earned the CALI Award for promising student in Water Law and served on the Moot Court Board. She has a B.A. in English as well as a B.S. with honors in Conservation and Resource Studies from the University of California at Berkeley where she completed her thesis in the Environmental Science Honors Research Program.

Ms. Purdy is a volunteer attorney for Bay Area Legal Aid and the San Francisco Bar Association's Justice and Diversity Center, where she represents low-income victims of domestic violence in restraining order and child custody matters. She serves on the Color of Justice Committee, organized by the National Association of Women Judges and California Women Lawyers, that encourages young minority and women students to consider a career in law or the judiciary. In addition to serving on the Board of Queen's Bench, Ms. Purdy is a co-chair of

### Beverly Brand, Secretary

Ms. Brand's current emphasis is in the area of insurance regulatory advice and insurance coverage, bad faith and related litigation. She has extensive experience in most areas of insurance, including general liability, property and casualty, personal lines, entertainment, directors and officers, surety, workers compensation, professional liability, excess, umbrella and reinsurance. In addition, Ms. Brand represents and advises clients on life and disability coverages, both with respect to individual and group policies.



Before joining the Lesser Group, Ms. Brand was in house counsel at Fireman's Fund Insurance Company where she practiced general litigation. Her practice covered a broad range of civil litigation across the country, including contract, business and employment disputes as well as insurance bad faith. Prior to that,

Ms. Brand was in the San Francisco office of Barger & Wolen. While there, she concentrated on civil and business litigation, including of breach of contract, unfair competition and life and disability insurance disputes.

Ms. Brand is a graduate of Hasting College of the Law and the George Washington University.

### Michelle Dylan, Assistant Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Michelle (Thomson) Dylan has 19 years of criminal defense experience successfully representing clients in state and federal court. During her career, she has consistently obtained favorable results in complex and challenging cases, winning before or at trial on such charges as DUI, domestic violence, marijuana cultivation, and vehicular manslaughter.



Michelle has drafted numerous significant motions and appeals, including an Appeal in the California Supreme Court and a Petition for Certiorari in the United States Supreme Court. Over the years, Michelle has worked to improve the justice system and bring about systemic change, taking on such projects as challenging the use of juvenile adjudications as strikes under California Three Strikes law, aiding in the creation of a diversion program for minors in traffic cases, and objecting to the scientific foundation related to the automated red light system in San Francisco. Michelle graduated from Boston College with a dual major in Philosophy and Economics. She received her JD from the University of San Francisco School of Law, where she served as a member of the school's Law Review and a Tutor in USF's Student Bar Association Program. Michelle previously served as the Co-Chair of the Education Committee of Queen's Bench and a Queen's Bench Mentor. She has judged moot court competitions and has presented in various venues, including at USF and SFLN and at local bar associations.

### Sara Craig

A Bay Area native, Sara Craig is an associate at Levin Simes LLP. Her practice focuses on plaintiffs' personal injury and products liability litigation. She is active in several MDLs in federal courts around the country, as well as the JCCPs for Pradaxa and California North Bay Fire Cases, both in San Francisco Superior Court. In her spare time, Sara enjoys reading, traveling on the Pacific Coast, baking, and spending time with her pets and other animals.



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## 2018 DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

### Hon. Ruth S. Astle, Ret.

Dr. Ruth Astle is an Administrative Law Judge. She received her S.J.D. in International Legal Studies from Golden Gate University in May 2008. Her research dissertation concentrated on Integrity and Ethics in Western Adjudicatory Systems: Toward a Standard with an emphasis on fair practices. She received her J.D. from Golden Gate University School of Law in 1974. She was an administrative law judge from 1985 to 2015, hearing cases for the California central panel agency. The Office of Administrative Hearings conducts due process hearings for over 100 state and local agencies including the Medical Board, Department of Real Estate, Department of Social Services – Community Care Licensing, the Board of Registered Nursing, Contractors' State License Board and the Public Employees' Retirement Board. She was a member of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel for over 15 years. Dr. Astle has been teaching in the Ageno School of Business EMPA program since 2009 and is now a senior adjunct professor. Dr. Astle also teaches as an adjunct professor at the Law School, teaching practical legal writing. She was selected by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars to be a Fulbright Specialists Candidate. She received a senior Fulbright grant to teach international law in Ukraine in 2009. She is active in Queen's Bench Bar Association, acting as president in 1984.



### Kimberly Wong

Kimberly Wong is a trial attorney at The Veen Firm, P.C. in San Francisco. She litigates complex catastrophic personal injury cases involving negligence, premises liability, wrongful death, products liability, and workplace injuries. She has had several settlements featured in The Recorder's annual report of "California's Million-Dollar Settlements." Ms. Wong has also been selected by her peers to the Northern California Super Lawyers Rising Star list each year from 2012 to 2017. In addition to serving on Queen's Bench's Board of Directors, she is co-chair of the Employment/Work-Life Balance Committee.



## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

aged, and when some of the most talented legal minds of the time were being told to treat their legal education as a mere dalliance and either "return home" or accept a job as the legal secretary to their male colleagues. Those were unacceptable alternatives to our early members, just as accepting the status quo remains unacceptable to the women of Queen's Bench today. We continue to strive for equality for all women, and we look forward to 2018 as another opportunity to create timely and engaging programming, direct outreach, and volunteer opportunities for our members in furtherance of the mission of Queen's Bench.

Our strategy for the upcoming year is multi-dimensional. We are planning educational opportunities to provide legal, professional, personal, and financial trainings. We are planning forums to hear from those seeking local elected office. The year will contain formal and informal gatherings for discourse, idea generation, action planning, networking, and public engagement. We will continue to apply direct action through our Juvenile Hall Project and other community outreach opportunities that are in development through our Domestic Violence Committee and other committees. Please continue to monitor the Queen's Bench website ([queensbench.org](http://queensbench.org)) and regular Queen's Bench email blasts for what is to come and details for how you can get involved.

And it really comes down to you! Queen's Bench is only as effective as our members are active in the programming that the Board and committees develop, and our programming is only as robust, broad, and deep as the contributions of our members to idea generation, planning, and outreach.

For that reason, I encourage every one of you to make a commitment to volunteer in the planning of at least one event this year and join at least one committee. Share your ideas. Share your concerns. Share your knowledge. When you do, tell me about your experience, what you contributed, what you learned, where the project could go next, or how you see a future event can be improved by how the current event unfolded. We will provide updates about member engagement in future newsletters so that all of our contributions go acknowledged.

Raise your voice. To each other. To the Board. To the committees. To the community. To the branches of government. To wherever your voice should be heard. Just as our founding members were "better together," so are we, and we can do things, large and small, to impact the legal, professional, social, and personal lives of each other, ourselves, and all women.

Pull up a seat at the table with us in 2018. Let's talk.

## 2018 Board of Directors

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### Pamela Markert

Pamela is a partner at Cera LLP in San Francisco. Pamela specializes in securities class action and complex multidistrict antitrust class action litigation. She also has experience in business, consumer, and general liability matters representing clients ranging from individuals, partnerships and closely-held corporations to multinational companies. She received her J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law. She previously served on the Queen's Bench board in 2008-2009 and chaired the Bylaws Committee from 2008 through 2011. She has been a member since 2000.



### Jodie Smith

Jodie Smith practices public law & civil dispute resolution. She represents public and private entities, individuals, and nonprofit organizations in civil actions and writs, administrative proceedings, and problem solving outside of litigation. Jodie's practice is informed by thirteen years of state-level public policy experience prior to law school. She was the Public Policy Director for Texans Care for Children, a statewide policy organization, where she developed and implemented a legislative policy agenda in collaboration with local, state, and national partners. Her experience managing regulatory rulemakings and working as a registered lobbyist give her significant familiarity with regulatory governance and legislative policymaking. Jodie was also a Litigation Fellow in the California Attorney General's Civil Law Division, a clerk in the Oakland City Attorney's Office, and an extern for the Honorable Joseph C. Spero, United States District Court, Northern District of California.



Jodie is dedicated to public service and pro bono work. She serves as an appointed Commissioner on the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission. Additionally, she co-chairs the Civic & Judicial Appointments Committee of Queen's Bench and is a Tony Patiño Fellow in public service. Jodie is a long-time youth advocate, and represents young people in school discipline matters with Legal Services for Children of San Francisco, whose Pro Bono Leadership Award she received in 2016. She has volunteered as a CASA and court-appointed education surrogate, and helped found the Hastings Association of Youth Advocacy. Jodie also serves on the Board of the Harvard Club of San Francisco.

Jodie graduated from University of California, Hastings College of the Law, J.D. cum laude, 2014. She earned a Master in Public Policy degree from Harvard University in 1998 and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in political science from Texas Christian University in 1995.

### Lisa Villasenor-Volosing

Lisa is an experienced litigator and personal injury trial attorney for both defendants and plaintiffs. Her 100 percent success rate in 12 trials to verdict includes a wrongful death case, toxic-mold case on behalf of a homeowner and several auto accident cases.



Lisa was admitted to the Bar in California in 1988.

Before joining The Hassell Law Group's plaintiff's personal injury practice in 2014, Lisa's emphasis was on plaintiff's side asbestos and pharmaceutical litigation at Harowitz & Tigerman, LLP. Prior to that her emphasis was insurance defense – including auto, construction defect, complex litigation, wrongful death, and various types of premises liability matters for hotels, restaurants and retail clients with the San Francisco office of Manning, Marder, et al.; and as a partner in the insurance defense firm of Ramsey, Prestholt, Kleeger, Fidone & Villasenor in Los Angeles and San Francisco office (managing partner). At the Prestholt firm, Lisa's practice also included government entity liability and insurance bad faith claims arising out of the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Lisa is a California native. After attending the University of Idaho she ultimately graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Cal State University, Long Beach. After working several years before, during and after college in her father's insurance brokerage firm, Lisa's path took her to law school where she graduated from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Lisa's father has been her life-long mentor, including his example of volunteering. Lisa has been a member of Queen's Bench since 2011 and on the Board as a Director since 2016. She has co-chaired the Business Development Committee with fellow Board member, Alice Purdy, since 2013. Lisa is a member of the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association and Walk SF (a pedestrian safety advocacy organization). Lisa also serves on the Board (Secretary) of the San Francisco Mayor's Women's Golf Council; Board (Secretary) of the San Francisco Public Golf Alliance; and has served on the City of Pacifica's Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee. Lisa and her husband, Jeff Volosing, are longtime residents of Pacifica.

### Anne Gyemant, Immediate Past 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.



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.

# The Race is On!

By Kara Wild

Usually California superior court judges face no competition for their seats. That changed in a big way this year, as several newcomers have arisen to challenge appointed incumbents. On June 5, their names will all appear on the ballot for voters to choose. Below is more information about those races.

## San Francisco Superior Court Races

Four public defenders and one private attorney have chosen to take on four incumbent judges. The four public defenders have publicly announced that they are challenging these four judges because they were appointed by Republican governors. Though the judges' individual decisions have not received criticism, the public defenders have generally criticized "conservative" judges and expressed the need for new perspective on the bench.

### The Incumbents

#### Andrew Y.S. Cheng

Judge Andrew Cheng currently oversees Department 606, Civil Trials, in the Civil Division. He was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2009, following six years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and six years as a San Francisco Deputy City Attorney. The cases he has overseen as judge include one involving a record jury verdict for tenants who faced a pattern of harassment and wrongful eviction by their landlord.

Judge Cheng currently chairs the Foreign Judges Committee, working with international judges to spread the rule of law throughout the world, and also works with veterans. He sees his role as bringing impartiality and fairness to court proceedings, so no party feels it has the advantage.

#### Curtis E. A. Karnow

Judge Curtis Karnow currently oversees Department 304, Complex Litigation, in the Civil Division. He was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2005. Born in Munich to parents who were diplomats, he grew up in numerous locations around the world, including Vietnam, France, and Hong Kong, before coming to the United States at age 14. Before serving as a judge, he worked for private law firms and as an assistant United States Attorney.

Judge Karnow may be best known for the 2015 City College of San Francisco case, where he ruled

that a private commission had violated the law by revoking City College's accreditation without giving it a fair hearing. He has also authored the book *Litigation in Practice*, which contains practical tips for new lawyers and gives insights into the way judges think.

#### Cynthia M. Lee

Judge Cynthia Lee currently oversees Department 503, Asbestos Case Management and CEQA in the Civil Division. Appointed in 1998 by Governor Pete Wilson, she was the first Asian American woman to serve as presiding judge in San Francisco history.

As presiding judge, she created a Veterans Justice Court within the Community Justice Center, and also reopened the Dependency Court to serve dependent youth, and hired a Probate Examiner to reduce the Probate Court backlog and serve the elderly. In addition, she created the Truancy Action Partnership in collaboration with the San Francisco Unified School District and child welfare agencies. The Partnership involves going into elementary schools in the southeast part of the city to address issues of homelessness among elementary school children.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Lee was a veteran prosecutor in the San Francisco District Attorney's office from 1977 to 1998.

#### Jeffrey S. Ross

Judge Jeffrey Ross currently serves as Presiding Judge in the Appellate Division. Appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2009, he had previously worked for Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman since 1999, where he co-led the Corporate Investigations and White Collar Defense and Health Care practice groups.

He has a long history with the Bar Association of San Francisco, including serving as president. He also founded the San Francisco Law Academy, a partnership between the Bar Association and the San Francisco Unified School District that allowed high school students to be paired with mentors and serve legal internships. As a judge, he has overseen the Veterans Justice Court, which involves helping veterans accused of crimes receive the housing and treatment they need. In his current role, he has overseen a wide variety of cases, including criminal. He believes that he tries to be fair and thoughtful, and to treat parties with respect.

## The Challengers

### **Maria Elena Lopez Evangelista**

Ms. Lopez Evangelista is challenging Judge Curtis Karnow for his seat. She currently works at the San Francisco Public Defender's office as a felony litigation and trial attorney. Born and raised in San Francisco, her parents came to the United States as migrant farm workers. She was one of the first Mexican American women to graduate from Vanderbilt. She now seeks to reform the "broken" criminal justice system, where she believes judges make blanket decisions without viewing defendants as individuals.

### **Kwixuan Hart Maloof**

Mr. Maloof is also a public defender, seeking to unseat Judge Cynthia Lee. Raised in Diamond Heights, he attended San Jose State University and New College of California School of Law. He has spent all 17 years as an attorney in the Public Defender's office, and now serves as lead attorney in the homicide unit. Mr. Maloof hopes to become a judge in order to correct what he perceives as an imbalance in the system with regard to courts' treatment of people of color. He has seen judges treat defendants much more lightly when they were white. He also believes that being African American, he would bring needed diversity to the bench.

### **Nicole Judith Solis**

Ms. Solis is a deputy public defender seeking to unseat Judge Jeffrey Ross. If elected, she would be the first Latina on the bench in San Francisco. Ms. Solis has sat on the City's pretrial diversion committee, and sat on former mayor Gavin Newsom's criminal justice steering committee when the Community Justice Center was being formulated. She was also president of the San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association. She hopes to bring a fresh perspective and reform to the criminal justice system.

### **Phoenix Streets**

Mr. Streets is a public defender seeking to unseat Judge Andrew Cheng. He grew up in Beebee, Arkansas, where experiences with racism motivated him to pursue his current occupation. Following four years in the Navy, Mr. Streets attended University of California at Berkeley on the G.I. Bill and obtained his law degree at University of California at Hastings. Like the other public defenders in the race, he wants to be a judge in order to change the system so that there is more focus on the individual with regard to solving problems.

### **Elizabeth Zareh**

Ms. Zareh is challenging Judge Cynthia Lee for her seat. In addition to her private practice, she has served as a Judge Pro Tem since 2016 and as a Commissioner for the City of San Francisco Assessment Appeals Board since 2017. As a Judge Pro Tem, Ms. Zareh has presided over Small Claims and Unlawful Detainer Settlements. As a Commissioner, she hears all disputes involving residential property of four units or less.

She was born in Tehran, Iran and moved to the United States at the age of 16. She has lived and worked in San Francisco for 23 years. Since passing the bar in 1996, she has practiced real estate, complex business litigation, and employment. Ms. Zareh also works as a real estate broker.

## **San Mateo Superior Court Race**

Initially this race appeared to be for an open seat. Michael Wendler, a San Mateo County deputy district attorney, was set to challenge Richard Wilson, former senior counsel for the University of California system. Then the incumbent, Judge Gerald Buchwald, indicated that he would be running again, leading Michael Wendler to withdraw. Now the race is one incumbent and one challenger.

### **The Incumbent**

#### **Judge Gerald J. Buchwald**

Judge Gerald Buchwald currently serves as a trial judge in Department 10. He was appointed in 2005 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and ran unopposed in 2012. Prior to his appointment, he worked for the firms Ropers, Majeski, Kohn, and Bentley, and Severson and Werson.

As a judge, he encountered criticism for a decision in 2013 in which he permitted a billionaire landowner to legally block public access to a beach at Half Moon Bay. The ruling was later overturned on appeal.

### **The Challenger**

#### **Richard Wilson**

Richard Wilson is a former senior counsel for the University of California system, overseeing claims and lawsuits from the U.C. hospitals and medical departments. He chose to challenge Judge Buchwald in part because he is among the longest-serving judges and had not been previously challenged.

## **Alameda County Superior Court Race**

Though 24 judges are up for election, only one

judge has drawn an opponent. Judge Tara Flanagan faces a challenge from Karen Katz, a former public defender. Ms. Katz claims that she is challenging Judge Flanagan due to the latter incurring a campaign finance violation during her first campaign. Regardless of her intent, some have expressed dismay that Ms. Katz targeted the only lesbian judge up for reelection.

## The Incumbent

### Judge Tara Flanagan

Judge Tara Flanagan currently serves in Department 106 at the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse. She is one of only two openly lesbian judges currently serving on the bench in Alameda County. Unlike the previous incumbent judges listed, she was elected to office in 2012 rather than appointed. Prior to being a judge, she practiced law at a private firm before becoming a prosecutor in Los Angeles. She later migrated to the Bay Area to work as a legal assistance attorney for a non-profit that represented domestic violence victims. She then opened her own law office geared toward family law. One interesting fact: she was once a member of the United States women's rugby team.

Judge Flanagan has received significant criticism for a campaign finance violation related to personal loans that she has publicly acknowledged as a mistake.

## The Challenger

### Karen Katz

Ms. Katz describes herself as a bisexual mother of a gay son. After moving to San Francisco in 1982, she earned her law degree at University of California at Hastings. She currently lives in Oakland with her husband and twin sons. Since retiring as a public defender in 2016, she has been volunteering as a reading tutor for East Oakland children and coached high school mock trials. She criticized Judge Flanagan for being disrespectful and rude to prospective jurors and lawyers, and questioned her ability to be fair.

With so many races for judicial positions, the lead up to the June 5 primary promises to be exciting.

## Judicial Candidates Forum



## The Current Status of Women in Public Office

By Andrea L. Russi

Civic & Judicial Appointments Committee

Many have hailed 2018 as the Year of the Woman (again). As we look toward the primary and general election in 2018, it is helpful to consider the current status of women in public office. The numbers are never encouraging. The number of women in the California legislature has dipped to a twenty-year low with only 22.5 percent of the seats being held by women. California ranks 32nd in the nation for percentage of women in the state legislature. And California has never had a woman governor.

As of the end of 2017, 34 percent of superior court judges in California were women, 36 percent of court of appeal justices were women but half of our state supreme court is female. The percentages in the Bay Area generally reflect the state averages: the San Francisco courts are 38 percent women, Alameda is 36 percent, Marin is 46 percent and the bright spot is Contra Costa County where 52 percent of the judges are women.

The California judiciary has grown increasingly diverse over the past decade. More than half of Governor Brown's appointments have been women. However, over the last decade only 37 percent of the applicants have been women.

Electing and appointing women to public office will likely increase time spent on topics that are often called "women's issues" like sexual harassment, reproductive rights, and family leave, but women also are more likely to collaborate and cross party lines across a range of issues. Electing women is not just good for women, but good for our democracy. Women make up 51 percent of the voting population in this country and it is time we achieved gender representation in government as well as the judiciary. Or more. . . as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has repeatedly said: "There will be enough women on the Supreme Court when there are nine."

*Queen's Bench partnered with SFTLA, CELA, NLG's Bay Area chapter and BASF to present a San Francisco Judicial Candidates' Forum with all candidates for the San Francisco Superior Court in the June 5, 2018 election. Following the Judicial Candidates' Forum, the members of Queen's Bench have voted to endorse the four incumbents, Judge Andrew Y.S. Cheng, Judge Curtis E.A. Karnow, Judge Cynthia M. Lee, and Judge Jeffrey S. Ross.*

## LEAADD Cocktail Reception A Success Once Again

By Lisa A. Villasenor and Alice Purdy, Co-Chairs, Business Development Committee

Queen's Bench's LEAADD networking event is one of our popular annual gatherings of women (men invited too) across professional lines in a social atmosphere. LEAADD stands for "Lawyers, Engineers, Accountants, Architects, Dentists and Doctors" and the LEAADD tradition began with a business savvy group of lawyers, engineers, accountants, dentist and doctors gathering for lunch. Each year, the Queen's Bench Business Development Committee strives to continue this tradition to empower women by hosting the annual LEAADD networking event to connect women. The event has evolved over time and has taken different forms, but the fun atmosphere and opportunities for professional growth remain a constant mission.

This year, the event was held in the evening of January 30th at "The Office," an event space (above "Churchill") in the Upper Market area of Church Street. The atmosphere was lively, including unique specialty cocktails and delicious appetizers catered by Above and Beyond. The approximately 75 attorneys, law students, judges and other professional attendees covered a broad range of practice and business areas. If you have not attended a LEAADD event yet, there are a variety of reasons you should not miss out next year! Here are a few of the highlights:

- The attendees are diverse, and you may need a great court reporter, CPA, jury consultant or records/copy service for your next case. All of those professions were represented at this year's event.
- Each year this event is a new opportunity to meet women who share similar goals and ambitions. Attendees could be overheard sharing professional success stories as well as challenges. It is easy to become stuck in our routines, resisting leaving our comfort zones.
- The annual LEAADD event is one of those rare opportunities where it's easy to listen to others talk about their work and lives. Perhaps you will think of trying something new while meeting new professionals and having a great time.

The Business Development Committee encourages you to become involved in Queen's Bench events that promote women and encourage enjoyment in our profession.





# 2018 Induction Ceremony And Champagne Reception

by Sophia Andritsakis

On Tuesday, February 20, 2018, Queen's Bench held its annual Induction Ceremony honoring the incoming officers and directors of Queen's Bench as well as the new admittees to the California Bar at the rotunda at the Civic Center Courthouse in San Francisco. The new admittees, members of the local judiciary and members of Queen's Bench had a great time enjoying refreshments and getting to know each other at the champagne reception.

Second Vice President, Sophia Andritsakis, made the welcoming remarks and introduced all of the judges in attendance. It was then her honor and privilege to introduce Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, who presided over the Induction Ceremony. The Chief Justice then administered the oath of office to the incoming officers and directors of Queen's Bench.

Following the swearing in ceremony, Queen's Bench President, Holly Schaitberger, congratulated the new admittees and spoke about the history and mission of Queen's Bench. She also provided an introduction to the various committees of Queen's Bench, announced their upcoming events and highlighted their many achievements. She then thanked Queen's Bench Immediate Past President, Anne Gyemant-Paris for her tireless work leading Queen's Bench in 2017.

We welcome and congratulate the newest admittees to the California State Bar and congratulate the 2018 slate Of Queen's Bench officers and directors. We are looking forward to another great year!





## Judges Dinner, 2017

By Holly A. Schaitberger, President

On October 30, 2017, Queen's Bench hosted its annual Judges' Dinner at Marines Memorial Club. At this event, Queen's Bench honors members of the Bay Area judiciary. This year's keynote address was presented by Congresswoman Jackie Speier, the U.S. Representative for California's 14th congressional district. Congresswoman Speier's riveting remarks came just days after her revelation of her own #metoo moment and included a discussion of the current reporting procedure for sexual harassment in Congress and her efforts to update those procedures. At the end of her presentation, a lively discussion followed during the Q&A period.

The recipients of Queen's Bench's two scholarships were also announced at the dinner. - the Agnes O'Brien Scholarship winner Zulma Munoz and the Mildred W. Levin Scholarship recipient Chantal Ortiz.



## Past Presidents' Dinner, 2017

By Holly A. Schaitberger, President

Queen's Bench held its Past President's Dinner 2017 on December 4, 2017 at Il Fornaio Restaurant near the San Francisco waterfront. The enclosed patio setting created a festive environment for conversations with friends old and new, as we enjoyed a nice meal together in the company of 16 of our Past Presidents, all adorned in stylish hats for the occasion.

It was also an evening to honor the Hon. Adrienne Miller, the deserving recipient of the 2017 Lifetime Achievement award. We also recognized the many contributions of the 2017 "Rookie" award recipient, Kimiko Akiya, who was a tremendous help throughout 2017 and key to the success of many of our successful events. We thank both of you for your continued service and unwavering support of Queen's Bench and its mission.

In accord with tradition, the evening also included a silent auction and live auction to raise funds for the Queen's Bench Foundation and its philanthropic activities. Queen's Bench was honored to receive not one, but two, original watercolor paintings from Dianne Feinstein – the second added as a "bonus" when the bidding for the original work donated was especially robust. Thank you to the Hon. Angela Bradstreet for her contribution to the live auction and to all those who bid in both the silent and live auctions. The proceeds will allow the Foundation to fund the award winning Juvenile Hall Project and Color of Justice programs, in addition to other meaningful programs in the year ahead.



## Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined since January 1, 2018.

- Adrienne Rogers
- Alexandra Ritschard
- Alexis Lazzeri
- Alicia Ginsberg
- Allyson Cox
- Allyson McCain
- Andrea Swanson
- Andrea Visveshwara
- Anjali Srinivasan
- Ariana Flynn
- Ariella Kattler Kupetz
- Breana Burgos
- Bushra Samimi
- Byron Cordoba
- Caitlin Kauffman
- Cora Monce
- Cynthia Haueter
- Dana Marquez
- Elisa Vari
- Emily Garcia
- Erum Choudhry
- Gina Cortese
- Gregory Gerson
- Heather Caughron
- Jacquelynn Olivarez
- Jane Aceituno
- Jaskiran Samra
- Jennifer Bentley
- Jessica Cook
- Jessica Dabiri
- Jessilyn Chwa
- Jill Shun
- Joanna Sheridan
- Jordan Kelley
- Josephine K. Mason
- Josephine Kim
- Kasturi Sengupta
- Kyle Matarrese
- Laurel O'Connor
- Lauren Tate
- Lisa Widup
- Lorelei English
- Madison DiZinno
- Mallory Barr
- Mariah Ogden
- Marina Amendola
- Mary Breffle
- Nicole Wise
- Raena Ferrer Calubaquib
- Robin Sheehan
- Roni Pomerantz
- Samantha Gatton
- Sara Henderson
- Sara Uz
- Serena Aisenman
- Shari Goldman
- Shima Vasseghi
- Shireen Leung
- Temitayo Peters
- Valerie Lopez
- Wendy Hernandez
- Zoey Surdis



# ANNOUNCEMENTS...

## Congratulations to Kimiko Akiya and Yuki Cruse

Queen's Bench would like to congratulate Yuki Cruse on her new position as an Associate Attorney with the Oakland office of the law firm of Meyers Nave and also congratulate Kimiko Akiya, Chair of the Queen's Bench Education Committee, on her new position as an Associate Attorney with the San Francisco law firm of Bledsoe, Diestel, Treppa & Crane LLP. Best of luck!

## Juvenile Hall Project Needs Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers for most dates in 2018, so if you have not yet volunteered this year, or even if you have, we'd love for you to come spend part of an evening with the girls in Juvenile Hall.

The project is just an hour and a half commitment of your time on one Wednesday (the

first and third Wednesday of each month). Not only will volunteering provide benefits to the girls and support to one of Queen's Bench's signature projects, but in our experience volunteers find it personally rewarding and enjoyable.

The project meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the lobby of Juvenile Hall (375 Woodside Ave, San Francisco). Volunteers must sign up in advance, either with one of the Committee's Co-chairs or on the Queen's Bench website. Remaining, available dates in 2018 are: May 16, June 6 and 20, July 4 and 18, August 1 and 15, September 5 and 19, October 3 and 17, November 7 and 21, and December 5.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has come out so far this year. We could not do it without you.

### QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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"Hear our Vote! Queen's Bench members, friends, & friends joined thousands of our closest colleagues at the 2018 San Francisco Women's March."

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## April

- 12** SF Judicial and Mayoral Candidates Forum  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
Golden Gate University
- 17** Color of Justice  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
San Francisco
- 22** April Happy Hour at Press Club and SFMOMA Night  
6:00 PM  
Press Club
- 28** 50/50 Day for Gender Equality and Equal Pay  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
Hanson Bridget LLP

## May

- 2** Juvenile Hall Project  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Juvenile Hall  
375 Woodside Ave, San Francisco, CA 94127
- 17** Cocktails & Couture  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Balm Cosmetics

## June

- 12** Spa Happy Hour and DV Toiletry Drive  
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Atelier Emmanuel Spa

## July

- 12** MBC Summer BBQ Mixer  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Everett & Jones Barbeque

## August

- TBA** Bar Association Mixer
- 27** CJACTraining

## September

- TBA** Happy Hour at Santana Row
- TBA** Judges Dinner

## October

- TBA** Association Mixer
- 12** Happy Hour Near 12th Street Station
- 16** DV CLE in Co-sponsorship with BASF
- 23** Legal Careers College Service Day at Apple and Networking Reception

## November

- 30** Cuyana Members Holiday Soiree

## December

- TBA** Past Presidents' Dinner
- TBA** Board and Committee Chairs Holiday Party



Queen's Bench  
Bar Association

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