



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LORI OKUN

NEW ATTACKS ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

The so-called Judicial Accountability Initiative Law, also known as J.A.I.L., may be picking up steam. J.A.I.L. 4 Judges is a nationwide organization seeking to kill the independent judiciary through constitutional amendments eliminating judicial immunity.

Ron Branson, J.A.I.L. 4 Judges' founder, is from California. He has tried and failed three times to get the J.A.I.L. initiative on the California ballot, and has now taken his show on the road in an effort to create a groundswell in small, conservative

states before bringing the initiative to larger states like California and New York. Branson believes he has "been called of God to lead in the cause of judicial accountability." Like many of his supporters, Branson is no stranger to the court system - he has unsuccessfully appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court 14 times, including one time for a parking ticket, and unsuccessfully sued the Los Angeles Police



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

WOMEN LAWYERS OF SACRAMENTO IS PLEASED TO HOST A NOVEMBER LUNCHEON FEATURING PROFESSOR CAROL S. BRUCH

DATE: November 16, 2006

The program is entitled: "To Save a Child -- Reconciling California Custody and Criminal Laws with International Law When a Child is Endangered"

U.C. Davis Research Professor of Law and Distinguished Professor Emerita, Carol S. Bruch will share her recent experience as pro-bono attorney in a fascinating child custody case that reaches half-way around the world.

Professor at U.C. Davis King Hall since 1973, Carol Bruch's courses included Family Law and Conflicts. In addition to teaching, Carol Bruch spent five years chairing a doctoral program in Human Development. Known worldwide for her prolific scholarship and advocacy on behalf of children, Professor Bruch has been honored both in this country and abroad. In her current role as Research Professor, she continues to publish on important topics, most recently critiquing the claims of fathers' rights advocates concerning children's post-separation needs (Family Law Quarterly- Summer 2006.)

Professor Bruch's public service includes consulting for the National Organization for Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund, drafting extensive legislative reform, and providing expert testimony concerning family law issues, child and spousal support, marital property, child custody, nonmarital cohabitation, and adoption matters.

An honors graduate of U.C. Berkley Boalt Hall, and Law Clerk to the late Associate Justice William O. Douglas of the United States Supreme Court, Carol Bruch made history as the 4th woman (and first mother) to clerk for the Court. Please join us in welcoming this engaging and popular speaker.

Pending .75 Hours MCLE Credit in Substantive Law.

WHERE: Firehouse Restaurant (Old Sacramento)

TIME: 12:00-1:15 p.m.

MENU: Sautéed Chicken Breast served over home-made pappardelle pasta, tossed with prosciutto, fava beans, asparagus, basil, garlic and parmesan cheese, Seafood Chowder baked in a puff pastry served with a petit salad, or Grilled Vegetable Sandwich, including portobello mushroom, eggplant, avocado, and zucchini, layered with two cheeses.

COST: \$20.00 for pre-paid WLS members, past presidents of WLS, and judges; \$25.00 for all others, except law students, whose cost is \$15.00. It may not be possible to get a first choice entree unless reserved in advance.

Please mail a check, payable to WLS, with menu choice to WLS, P.O. Box 936, Sacramento, CA 95812, Attn: Luncheon, by November 8, 2006. Please indicate if you are a pre-paid WLS member, past president, or judge on your check. WLS will be charged for cancellations, so payments must be received in advance and are thus non-refundable.

RSVPs or Questions? Contact WLS Member Amal Abu-Rahma at (916) 322-9726 or aaburahma@dmhc.ca.gov or WLS Member Jennifer Gore at (916) 716-9375 or jen.gore@yahoo.com.

Seating at the door is subject to availability. Please bring any unused toiletries and women's personal items to the luncheon. These items will be donated to Maryhouse, a non-profit organization helping homeless women and children.

JOIN CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS!

The twenty women who founded California Women Lawyers (CWL) in 1974 set out to mobilize the growing number of women in the law to ensure their full participation in the profession and, through their combined strength, to develop the political clout necessary to join the ranks of decision-makers on issues affecting women.

As a member of WLS, you receive a discount on your membership to CWL. Go to CWL.org and sign up online. CWL membership runs 12 months from last signup. Also, new admittees to the state bar receive a free one year membership.

Some benefits of being a member of CWL:

- CWL, as an independent bar association, conducts a dynamic grassroots legislative program on behalf of women's rights
- CWL has actively and successfully applied itself to increasing judicial diversity through judicial evaluations and seminars about applying for judicial positions
- CWL has devoted significant energy to an active Amicus Program in which CWL prepares or joins others in presenting amicus briefs in cases relevant to CWL's goals
- CWL professional network directory
- Discounts at CWL events
- Mentoring network
- CWL newsletter
- Seminars and conferences

LAW STUDENT MIXER, SEPTEMBER 25, 2006



Membership Vice Chair, Paula Hui, Judge Shelleyanne Chang, Justice Kathleen Butz, President Lori Okun.

SUBMISSIONS WELCOME FOR THE NEWSLETTER

We invite all members to submit articles, editorials, and event announcements for publication in the newsletter. They can be about your areas of practice, legislation, or other subjects of interest to our members. Job announcements are also welcome. Please send any submissions to Newsletter Committee Co-chairs: Jennifer Corey at jennifercorey@hotmail.com or Gayle M. Kono at gayle_kono@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE

VALENTINE RUN 2007

February 10, 2007

Behind Country Club Plaza

For more information, please call 916-551-2164
or visit www.LSNC.info

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM DAY 2007

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Sacramento Convention Center

9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

For more information, please call 415-346-0563
or visit www.ccrf.eventbrite.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLAY AWARDS NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Daily Journal is currently seeking nominations for the 11th annual CLAY (California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year) Awards.

The nominees must be California attorneys whose achievements during 2006 have had a significant impact on:

- the law
- the profession
- a particular industry, or
- the general good of the public.

More than 20 categories are listed in the online nomination form, which you will find at www.californialawyerjournal.com. Please visit this page and click on the yellow banner ad

“California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year Awards Nomination Form” on the lower left side of the page and fill out the form. The nomination form also includes a link to last year’s winners.

Note: Please provide specific details about the attorney’s achievement and explain the significant impact the work made in 2006.

The deadline for nominations is **DECEMBER 1, 2006**. However, you are strongly encouraged to send in your nominations earlier. You may submit more than one nomination.

For more information, please contact **Senior Editor Chuleenan Svetvilas** at **415-296-2450** or chuleenan_svetvilas@dailyjournal.com

WLS ENDORSES THIRD DCA JUSTICES

WLS has endorsed the Justices Kathleen Butz, Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Fred K. Morrison and Coleman Blease, who are running to retain their seats on the Third District Court of Appeal. Appellate justices must run in a retention election every twelve years. Mid-term appointees must run based on the remaining time for the seat to which they were appointed, even if less than twelve years. Voters who are unfamiliar with the candidates or the judicial system frequently vote “no.” The result can be that a justice inadvertently loses his or her seat on the bench. Justices Butz and Cantil-Sakauye are the only women on the Third DCA. Based on the excellent reputation of all four justices, WLS urges you to vote “yes” on their retention on November 7.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

Department and the City of Los Angeles after a burglary arrest.

Although the South Dakota proponents have distanced themselves from Branson, their initiative remains the same as the one proposed for California and other states. The South Dakota initiative creates a 13-person grand jury. Members are selected by lottery. Lawyers, judges, public officials and law enforcement personnel are ineligible to serve. Any person that is dissatisfied with the outcome of a civil or criminal matter may file a complaint, which must be construed liberally in favor of the complainant. The initiative requires that the “Jurors shall keep in mind, in making their decisions, that they are entrusted by the People of this State with the duty of restoring judicial accountability and a perception of justice, and are not to be swayed by artful presentation by the judge.” By a simple majority vote, the grand jury can strip the judge of judicial immunity allowing, for example, a convicted felon who believes his sentence was slightly too stiff to sue for damages. The grand jury can also indict the judge on criminal charges. Trial jurors and public officials, including school board members, would be subject to the grand jury’s jurisdiction as well. The initiative purports not to be subject to state court review. Indeed, a

mere attempt to consider the matter subjects the reviewing judge to liability: “No judge under the jurisdiction of the Special Grand Jury, or potentially affected by the outcome of a challenge hereto, shall have any jurisdiction to sit in judgment of such challenge. Such pretended adjudication [sic] shall be null and void for all purposes and a complaint for such misconduct may be brought at any time, without charge, before the Special Grand Jury by class action, or by any adversely affected person.” Ironically, the initiative provides complete immunity to the grand jurors.

WLS supports an independent judiciary. We spoke out against a recent attempt to recall Superior Court Judge Loren McMaster based on a decision he issued. The citizenry is already protected against judicial impropriety through the Commission on Judicial Performance, judicial elections, and appellate review of decisions. An independent judiciary has been a pillar of our society since this country was founded. The judicial branch should continue to serve as a check on the will of the majority. We should not allow the judiciary to become a rubber stamp for politically powerful special interest groups through misguided recall efforts, constitutional amendments or other means.



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Women Lawyers of Sacramento 2007 Membership Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please do not include my information in the membership directory

Name _____ CA Bar Number _____ Year Admitted _____

Firm/Office _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Announcements and newsletters are sent to e-mail addresses only, unless you indicate a preference for paper mailings.

My mail from WLS should be addressed to: The same as above The following address:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

APPLICANT STATUS " Renewal " New

Active Member: (Member of the CA/Other State Bar, including retired attorneys and law school faculty)

\$45 - 0 - 5 years in practice/gross income under \$50,000

\$55 - 5 to 10 years in practice

\$65 - Over 10 years in practice

Associate Member:

\$25 - Law school graduate not yet admitted to Bar

\$25 - Law school student (Specify year: _____)

Honorary Member: (Justices, Judges, WLS Past Presidents)

Dues waived

Sponsorship Levels:

Sustaining Donor: (\$100 or more, includes dues) \$ _____.

Foundation Donor: (for grants and scholarships) \$ _____.

(100% tax deductible)

WLS General Donor: \$ _____.

PRACTICE AREAS

Up to two areas of practice will be listed in the directory. To list additional areas of practice, please include \$10 each with your dues.

Administrative

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Appellate

Bankruptcy

Business/Corporate

Civil Litigation

Civil Rights

Criminal Law

Education

Elder Law

Environmental/Natural Resources/

Land Use

Family

General Practice

Government Affairs/Legislation

Health Care

Intellectual Property

Labor & Employment

Legal Research

Personal Injury

Probate / Estate Planning

Professional Liability

Public Interest

Real Estate

Taxation

Other: _____

COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Check those WLS committees in which you are interested in participating or receiving more information:

Judicial & Other Appointments Evaluations

Development (WLS Foundation)

Grants & Awards

Legislation & Bar Delegation

Membership

Newsletter

Publicity / Community Relations

Programs

WLS Mentor/Mentor Circle Leader

Please return completed application with check payable to: WLS Membership, P.O. Box 936, Sacramento, CA 95812

Questions? Please contact a Membership Committee Co-Chair Ann Fleenor, afleenor@lsnc.net, (916) 551-2145; Kathleen Harris Kelly, kathleenharriskelly@comcast.net, 916-551-2145, or visit our website at www.womenlawyers-sacramento.org



2007 Ballot

INSTRUCTIONS: You may only vote if you are a dues-paying member of WLS and you are: admitted to practice law in California or another state, a law school professor in Yolo or Sacramento counties, or an attorney retired from active practice. Law student members and honorary members (non-dues-paying past presidents and judges) are not eligible to vote.

Please provide your name so we can verify eligibility. You may write your name at the top of the ballot or place the ballot in a sealed envelope with your name on the outside. You may also scan and email your ballot to loriokun@comcast.net. Return mailed ballots to WLS Election, PO Box 936, Sacramento CA 95812.

WLS must receive ballots from at least 21 active members to establish a quorum. Ballots received before Sunday, November 26, 2006 will be counted.

To vote for the entire slate, check here: ____

To vote for or against individual candidates, circle Yes or No next to the candidates' names.

To write in one or more candidates, cross out the name(s) listed below for the position(s), and write in the candidate's name(s).

OFFICERS

President:	Theresa LaVoie	Yes	No
Vice President:	June Coleman	Yes	No
Secretary:	Pat Sturdevant	Yes	No
Treasurer:	Anissa Knox Stelle	Yes	No

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		2. Michele Z. Stevenson	Yes	No
	Vice-Chair:	3.		
Grants and Awards:	Co-Chairs:	1. Christine Jacobs	Yes	No
		2. Joy Rosenquist	Yes	No
Judicial & Other Appointments:	Co-Chairs:	1. Tamara Dahn	Yes	No
		2. Jennifer Rouse	Yes	No
Legislation and Bar Delegations:	Co-Chairs:	1. Andrea Ritigstein	Yes	No
		2. Megan Lewis	Yes	No
	Vice-Chair:	3. Erin Webber	Yes	No
Membership:	Co-Chairs:	1. Jennifer Horst	Yes	No
		2. Livia Stoica	Yes	No
	Vice-Chair:	3. Mary Dougherty	Yes	No
Newsletter:	Co-Chairs:	1. Kristi Fetting	Yes	No
		2. Gayle Kono	Yes	No
Programs:	Co-Chairs:	1. Amal Abu-Rahma	Yes	No
		2. Angela Lai	Yes	No
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		2. Wendy York	Yes	No
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