



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By THERESA LA VOIE

WANTED
WOMEN LAWYERS FOR THE JUDICIARY

While we still await our first female president, WLS is calling for women to ascend to the highest levels of our judicial and legislative branches. It's never too soon to think about being a judge. The California Legislature approved legislation that would create 50 new Superior Court judgeships throughout the state. Those positions will become officially available April 1, 2007, but California Chief Justice Ronald George does not expect those appointments to be made until at least June of 2007. In all, 150 judgeships are being created during the next three years. This is a tremendous opportunity for women to take a leadership role in the state's judiciary.

Unfortunately, women still face a glass ceiling in the legal profession, and are not represented in the judiciary. Women still need to have heightened awareness and be prepared to be proactive when faced with individual incidents of bias or institutionalized inequality. And there is bias within the courts. To be human is to have bias of many kinds, on many levels. The important thing is to be aware of the biases and address them appropriately.

Perhaps it is because our society does not associate females as synonymous with being powerful, ambitious, and authoritative and as being leaders. One way to deal with this misperception is for more women to be in leadership roles. As Susan Estrich, author and professor at the University of Southern California Law School, proclaimed:

"Raise your hands. Raise your voice. Be ambitious. Don't take no for an answer. The world would be a better place if more women were running it, and so long as that is true, the ambition in women should be celebrated as a gift to us all."

Though women were appointed as judges as early as 1884, it took two political developments to greatly increase the numbers of female judges, lawyers and legislators. The first was the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1920, which gave

women the right to vote and greatly increased their participation in all walks of life. The second was the women's liberation movement of the 1960s and early 1970s, whose major legislative legacy was Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Known as "Title IX" today, this law requires that educational institutions maintain policies, practices and programs that do not discriminate against anyone based on sex.



A couple of years ago, the American Bar Association's statistics showed that women received 51 percent of the 38,874 Juris Doctor degrees awarded, and they are 19 percent of the law school deans, 35 percent of the faculty and 33 percent of the members in the ABA itself. Two women have served as presidents of the ABA, two have served on the U.S. Supreme Court, and 28 percent of the judges on the highest level appeals courts in their states are female. California Senator Dianne Feinstein is the only woman serving on the powerful 17-member Senate Committee on the Judiciary. This committee oversees the federal court system and has jurisdiction over criminal justice, constitutional law, immigration and other law-related issues when they are addressed by the Senate.

Of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's 70 lower-court selections, 27 percent have been women, 2.9 percent have been Latino, 1.4 percent have been black and 8.6 percent have been of Asian descent. Although the percentage of women appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger is higher than other minority groups, it's lower than both the percentage tapped by former Governor Davis and the 32 percent of women in the State Bar. On the other hand, Governor Schwarzenegger states that he is committed to increasing the number of women members of the Bar, and claims he is not concerned with party affiliation, gender or race. The Governor also said that if a

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IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH, WOMEN LAWYERS OF SACRAMENTO AND WILEY MANUEL BAR ASSOCIATION ARE PLEASED TO CO-HOST A FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

FEBRUARY 22, 2007

PRESERVE BLACK HISTORY OR PROCESS CHEESE? THE ALLENSWORTH STATE PARK DILEMMA

Judge Morrison England will be providing a foreward and introducing **Tia Boatman Patterson**, Special Assistant to the Speaker of the California State Assembly, who will be delving into a dilemma facing California and specifically regarding preserving a piece of this State's Black History. Local officials are considering approval of a mega-dairy development adjacent to Allensworth State Park, historically the only California town to be founded, financed and governed exclusively by African-Americans (Est. 1908).

Ms. Boatman-Patterson provides policy expertise and advice to the Speaker, as well as Members of the Legislature on subject matters within the purview of Assembly Committees on Housing and Community Development, Insurance and Jobs, and Economic Development. **Ms. Boatman-Patterson's** assigned policy areas include housing, real estate transactional law, general municipal law, personal insurance, unemployment compensation, economic development, and international trade.

Prior to her Assembly position, **Ms. Boatman-Patterson** was a senior associate at Best Best & Krieger LLP. Additionally, **Ms. Boatman-Patterson** has served as Agency Counsel to the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency and as Chief Consultant to the California State Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee. **Ms. Boatman-Patterson** received her B.A. from San Diego State University, and her J.D. from the University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Pending .75 Hours MCLE Credit in the area of Substantive Law _WHERE: Firehouse Restaurant (Old Sacramento) _TIME: 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. _MENU: **Cajun Grilled Giant Prawns** rubbed with Cajun spices served with an avocado-black bean salsa; or **Marinated**

Asian Grilled Steak served under avocado and Asian slaw with a soy-lime vinaigrette; or **Grilled Portobello Mushroom Tower** (marinated portobello mushroom, layered mozzarella, roasted peppers, grilled tomatoes, eggplant and pesto sauce).

COST: \$20.00 for WLS and WMBA prepaid members, past presidents of WLS and WMBA, 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 reservation is made in advance.

Please mail your check payable to WLS and menu choice to WLS, P.O. Box 936, Sacramento, CA 95812, Attn: Luncheon, by **February 14, 2006. Please indicate if you are a pre-paid WLS or WMBA member, past president, or judge on your check.** Since WLS and WMBA will be charged for cancellations, payments and RSVPs must be received in advance and are non-refundable.

Please direct all RSVPs inquiries to: WLS Member Amal Abu-Rahma at (916) 322-9726 or aaburahma@dmhc.ca.gov or WLS Member Angela Lai at (916) 442-8888 or alai@nossaman.com. Tickets sold at the door are subject to availability.

WMBA members may contact the following for questions only, **no RSVPs please:** WMBA President Jean-Pierre Francillette at (916) 440-7817 or jfrancil@dhs.ca.gov or WMBA Vice-President Jorja Jackson at (916) 830-7200 or jjackson@littler.com.

Please bring any unused toiletries and women's personal items to the luncheon. These items will be donated to Maryhouse, a non-profit organization that helps homeless women and children.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

candidate had run for an open position and lost, she should not be discouraged from applying for an appointment because the Governor has appointed at least two "unsuccessful candidates" to the bench.

It takes 10 years of legal experience for an attorney to be elevated to judge; through either election or appointment (the vast majority of judges are appointed). The salary of a Superior Court judge is \$151,000, and an appellate judge earns \$172,000. There is a 50% cut at every step in the process. First, the initial application is reviewed and about 50% of the applicants are sent to the JNE Commission for reviews. About 50% of those rated by the JNE Commission are moved into the interview process, and then about 50% of those interviewed are sent to the Governor as positive recommendations. The Governor makes the final decision.

Governor Schwarzenegger has been relying on John Davies, a former aide to Republican Gov. Pete Wilson as the Governor's judicial appointments advisor. Mr. Davies' last day on the job was January 18, 2007, according to Governor Schwarzenegger's appointments secretary, Timothy Simon. The Governor's office is searching for someone to fill the position. The judicial appointments advisor reviews candidates but recommends the top contenders to Governor Schwarzenegger's legal secretary, Peter Siggins, and chief of staff, Patricia Clarey. They in turn bring their top choices to Governor Schwarzenegger.

John Davies has made it clear that the "ideal" candidate was someone who had substantial trial litigation experience, preferably in both criminal and civil. Also, the favored candidate would be active in community and Bar organizations, and have attended a "good" law school and received "good" grades. When asked whether a family law attorney would qualify as a viable candidate, Mr. Davies replied that having only family law experience is not a positive, but recommended that the family law attorney act as a pro temp or a court commissioner to expand his or her experience.

Governor Schwarzenegger's aides insist there is no litmus test for judges, but some familiar with the process say any candidate has to pledge loyalty to the death penalty and the "three strikes" law. In November 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger played a leading role in defeating Proposition 66, a ballot measure that would have loosened the tough sentencing law, helping to defeat it with a last-minute TV ad blitz.

Mr. Davies has also emphasized that the most helpful support that local bar organizations can give candidates is to provide a rating for each aspirant using the scale developed by the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation

("JNE"). Five to ten letters of support for a candidate are sufficient. Letters from Judges, particularly those appointed by Governor Wilson (Davies served as Wilson's Judicial Appointment Advisor), letters from law enforcement, the District Attorneys' Office and rated endorsements from local bar association are also important.

If women are not applying to be judges, it will be difficult for women to be appointed. I encourage anyone who is thinking about the possibility of a Judgeship in the future to start planning now. Keep records of trials (names of Judges, opposing and co-counsel, verdicts, and so forth. Become active in Bar associations (like WLS) and community organizations, pro temp when the opportunity arises, and develop your trial experience.

Learn not only about the judicial application process but the political process that underlies the appointment of judges. Your path to a judgeship can be aided by judges you meet through Women Lawyer Bar associations (WLS and CWL). Develop mentors among the women judges. Attend the events where judges or justices are present, such as the California Supreme Court Reception and the Judicial Bench and Bar Reception.

WLS hopes to assist women lawyers become judges by offering training programs and letters of support. The Judicial and Other Appointments Committee solicits comments from the legal community and evaluates judicial candidates, but only upon request from the candidates. WLS's evaluation process is thorough and based on the scale developed by the JNE Commission. The results of the evaluation are kept confidential, but if the candidate receives a favorable review, WLS writes a letter of support endorsing the candidate.

The Judicial and Other Appointments Committee co-chairs, Tamara Dahn and Jennifer Rouse are also forming a Judicial Appointments Task Force with other local attorneys in Sacramento, to further educate and mentor women for judicial office. The Task Force will present a series of seminars to provide substantive training in the judicial application process for both federal and state, and address the political overtones affecting the selection. The first seminar will take place on February 22, 2007 at the Law Offices of Wilke Fleury Hoffelt Gould & Birney, 400 Capitol Mall, 22nd Floor, Sacramento, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and the presenter is Judge Morrison England. If you are interested in participating on the Task Force, contact Tamara Dahn at tdahn@dhs.ca.gov or t.dahn@att.net; or Jennifer Rouse at jsr@drobnylaw.com.



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WOMEN LAWYERS OF SACRAMENTO IS PLEASED TO OFFER A PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS YOU TO GARNER YOUR OWN PERSONAL POWER THROUGH SOUND FINANCIAL SECURITY

You are cordially invited to attend a luncheon hosted by Lighthouse Strategic Advisors, LLC, gratis to all who RSVP by February 8, 2007 to aaburahma@dmhc.ca.gov.

Beverly Tobocman is a Chartered Financial Consultant, Chartered Life Underwriter, and Founder/Senior Partner with JBT Financial LLC, a financial advisory firm partnering with Lighthouse Strategic Advisors. She is currently publishing her own book about successful women and investing.

Ms. Tobocman has initiated several women investment clubs and will tailor her presentation toward women in the workforce, who have a lot of competing interests with respect to their finances. **Ms. Tobocman** will also be discussing women-friendly investments, exploring risk, understanding how to hedge against it, including risk's pros and cons.

Also present will be **Scott A. Van Epps**, Certified Financial Planner and Senior Financial Advisor at Lighthouse Strategic

Advisors, as well as the company's Portfolio Manager and Chartered Financial Analyst, **Jeremy Olen**.

DATE: February 16, 2007 **PLACE:** Firehouse Restaurant (Old Sacramento) **TIME:** 11:45 a.m.--1:15 p.m. **MENU:** **Caesar Salad** (soup may be provided for those choosing the salad option), and **Chinese Chicken Salad** with Mizuna and a Honey Sesame-Soy Emulsion, **Roasted Strip Loin Sandwich** Served on House-Made Bread with Grilled Onions, Topped with Cheddar Cheese, or **Grilled Portobello Mushroom Tower**, Including Portobello Mushroom, Layered with Mozzarella, Roasted Red Peppers and Grilled Tomatoes, Garnished with Eggplant.

RSVPs or Questions? Contact WLS Member Amal Abu-Rahma at (916) 322-9726 or aaburahma@dmhc.ca.gov or WLS Member Angela Lai at (916) 442-8888 or alai@nossaman.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PATHS TO SUCCESS

WLS SEMINAR ON JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS: FEDERAL AND STATE

Date: February 22, 2007 and March 15, 2007
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Wilke Fleury Hoffelt Gould & Birney LLP
400 Capitol Mall, 22nd Floor, Sacramento
RSVP: Tamara Dahn at t.dahn@att.net or Jennifer Rouse
at jsr@drobnylaw.com

Judge Morrison England will speak at the February seminar. Judges Emily Vasquez, Shelleyanne Chang and Jim Mize will speak at the March seminar.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Judicial Evaluations Committee for the Eastern District of California is seeking applicants for the position of Federal District Court Judge in anticipation of the vacancy that will occur when Chief Judge David Levi leaves his position to become Dean of Duke Law School.

Preliminary Deadline: February 15, 2007

Application forms are available for pick up at the Sacramento County Bar Association office, 901 H Street, Suite 101, or can be obtained from Charles H. Bell, Jr., Chairman of the Committee for the Eastern District of California. For more information, please contact Charles Bell at Bell, McAndrews & Hiltachk, LLP, 455 Capitol Mall, Suite 801, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-442-7757 or cbell@bmhlaw.com.

MCLE CREDITS

WLS is pleased to announce that the MCLE credits offered at the 2006 monthly luncheons have been approved.

4TH ANNUAL LSNC VALENTINE'S RUN

Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC), the parent corporation and co-sponsor of the Voluntary Legal Services Program, with the Sacramento County Bar Association, presents the 4th Annual Valentine Run (or walk). Please join in and support the LSNC programs that challenge teens and families to take charge of their lives.

Date: February 10, 2007
Time: 8:40 a.m. First Race
Location: Fourth Power Fitness, behind Country Club Plaza on Butano and El Camino

For more information, please contact the Race Hotline at 916-551-2164 or visit www.lsnrun.info.

CHARITY NITE GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY MCGEORGE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

WHEN: March 10 at 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: Forest Lake Golf Course, 2450 E. Woodson Road, Acampo, Ca.
WHAT: Dinner & Putting Contest (\$5 entry fee for putting contest)
4 person scramble format with shotgun start after dark
COST: \$50 for Pacific McGeorge Alumni and Students,
\$60 All Other Guests
(includes dinner, green fees, cart, night equipment, dessert, and prizes)
WHO: 72 Player Maximum—Sign Up Early!

This 9 hole event features glow-in-the-dark golf balls, glow sticks, and tiki torches. Players arrive at dusk for a delicious chicken and ribs dinner and a challenging putting contest. The fun begins after dark when players proceed to their respective starting holes and tee up a glow-in-the-dark ball. After the round, players return to the clubhouse for dessert, prizes, and a raffle.

For more information, contact Jennifer Williams at 916-494-3737 or email golfndnu@hotmail.com.

McGEORGE WOMEN'S CAUCUS 2007 NITE GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Sign Up as an Individual or a Team!

Player No. 1 _____ Phone/Email _____
Player No. 2 _____ Phone/Email _____
Player No. 3 _____ Phone/Email _____
Player No. 4 _____ Phone/Email _____

Entry Fee: Member Women's Caucus \$40 * McGeorge Student/ Alumni \$50 * Other Guests \$60
Return Completed Form & Entry Fee to: Jennifer Williams, 2D * P.O. Box 234, Galt, CA 95632