



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By THERESA LA VOIE

WOMEN LAWYERS OF SACRAMENTO'S AFFILIATION WITH THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

"It is only through the power of association that those of any calling exercise due influence in their communities"

(United States Senator and Secretary of State Elihu Root (1845-1937))

Women Lawyers of Sacramento is an affiliate bar association of the Sacramento County Bar Association. As such, a representative of WLS (usually the President), attends the SCBA Board of Director's monthly meetings as a voting member of the Board.

At the first meeting of the SCBA Board this year, the subject of the affiliates' voting rights was briefly addressed. The question was whether the affiliates should maintain voting rights on the SCBA Board given the concerns expressed by some affiliates regarding their fiduciary duties to the members of the SCBA, their potential liability for decisions made by the SCBA Board, and whether it was appropriate for the affiliates to vote on issues only tangentially related to their own members.

The then President of SCBA, Stacy Boulware-Eurie, asked each affiliate to present their association's position on the voting rights issue. Below is my response on behalf of WLS.

WLS POSITION STATEMENT

The Women Lawyers of Sacramento's Board of Directors voted unanimously to maintain the viability of their voting rights as an affiliate of the Sacramento County Bar Association.

WLS's voting rights on the SCBA Board are important safeguards for inclusion in the political process affecting the Sacramento Bar.

The collective voices of WLS's members that are enfranchised in the SCBA centralize the mutual goals, power, and impact of the SCBA and WLS in the legal community. And as such, WLS reflects the diversity on the SCBA Board. This has become more apparent over the past years, as SCBA and WLS have collaborated on such successful events as the Bench & Bar, the California Supreme Court Reception, and the Operation Protect & Defend and Law Day Dinner Celebrations.

This form of community engagement accomplishes benefits for both SCBA and WLS by working together. Over 50% of WLS's members belong to SCBA, and WLS promotes membership in the SCBA as a result of building this close working relationship. If WLS is structurally disenfranchised from SCBA, members of WLS will be discouraged from reinforcing their commitment to SCBA.



Community engagement is one of the goals of SCBA. As stated in the materials entitled Community Engagement by Hilda Gottlieb, presented at the first SCBA Board meeting of the year:

"When we interact with as many different people as possible, and with as many different portions of the community as possible, it does not take long to see that we all want the same thing - for our communities to be incredible places to live. Once that happens, and once you find way to deeply engage community members in the work your organization is doing, then you will find your organization's short time needs begin to fall into place almost on their own - money, volunteers, board members, legislative support, etc."

Ms. Gottlieb goes on to say:

"While community engagement will accomplish any and all of those smaller sub-goals, the larger goal of engaging the community is an engaged community - the antidote to the apathy we all hear so much about."

The act of engaging the bar affiliates, such as WLS in Sacramento, requires relationship building and the activities need to be interactive - "there is no passive absorbing of information in the act of "engagement." See Community Engagement, at p. 8. What does this mean: Building 2-way relationships between the causes that SCBA and WLS care about and also the attorneys in Sacramento care about. This requires real honest relationships with shared power and responsibilities; not WLS's role as simply the attendee, guest, silent partner, or donor when requested to sponsor SCBA events.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

By continuing to engage WLS through the voting process as an affiliate on the Board, the Sacramento County Bar Association's events will not only increase in attendance, but SCBA and WLS will collectively become more effective, prosperous, and have a growing membership base. By giving one vote to the representative of WLS on the Board, SCBA has actively engaged the support of over 250 WLS members to further SCBA's goals.

Finally, WLS's representative (i.e. President) has experience in being an effective Board member. Most likely the President was first an active WLS Board member for several years before moving up into a Executive Committee position as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President, and then President. The affiliates' Presidents already understand organizational structure, budgeting, strategic planning, setting goals, fund raising, and marketing. Some other positive characteristics of the affiliates' representatives are that they have a positive can-do attitude, contribute to the understanding of the Sacramento County attorneys' needs, and are passionate about community causes. They have already shown their commitment to be team players, are interested in leading and governing, and are willing to listen and thoughtfully consider SCBA's issues.

Serving as a voting board member is a commitment. It is one that WLS continues to be willing and prepared to make. Not only in the form of meeting attendance, but also in the traditional sense of becoming informed about decisions before the Board. It is the responsibility of the WLS representative to stay informed so she can effectively vote.

WLS is also committed to engage in internal orientation to make the transition between its Board representatives a smoother one.

SCBA should also, as a part of its internal governance and best practices, undertake a meaningful new Board member orientation and provide the voting affiliates with a concrete description of the role of, and expectations associated with, SCBA's Board members.

In summary, it is the desire of WLS to continue to be acknowledged, heard, and counted, and be fully recognized by the Sacramento County Bar Association as a voting member. To this end, WLS is willing and prepared to accept the fiduciary duties, responsibilities, and risks inherent in maintaining its voting rights in order to play a pivotal role in guiding the future of SCBA toward a mutually beneficial engagement.

**Update:** The SCBA Board of Directors voted on July 19, 2007 to maintain the voting rights of the affiliates, including all the Unity Bar Associations (i.e., WLS, La Raza of Sacramento, Sacramento's Lawyers for the Equality of Gays and Lesbians, Asian Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento, and Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association). An affiliate, however, had the right to opt out and participate in the Board meetings without voting.

**Special Acknowledgment:** Past President Jean McEvoy and Publicity and Community Relations Committee Co-Chair, Maralee MacDonald, graciously contributed their thoughts and perspective to this position statement. They also presented their views on the subject at the SCBA Board meeting held on July 19, 2007.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S DIVERSITY RECEPTION

The District Attorney's Diversity Reception will be held on September 20, 2007, from 4:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m., in the John Price Conference room (4th Floor) of the Sacramento District Attorney's office.

Any law student or attorney interested in learning about employment opportunities at Sacramento District Attorney's office, or becoming a Deputy District Attorney or intern should attend. Refreshments will be provided.

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## QUEEN'S BENCH

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA PRESENTS

### *the Art of San Francisco*

August 9, 2007

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Chandler Gallery

170 Minna at 3rd, San Francisco

Honoring 2007 Margaret Brent Award Recipient  
Angela Bradstreet

\$30/person; price includes evening passes to SFMOMA  
Call 415-249-9280 or queensbench@rcn.com for more  
information.

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# Women Lawyers of Sacramento Hosts an August Luncheon Featuring California's Judicial Appointments Secretary Sharon Majors-Lewis



RSVP with menu choice by August 15th to WLS Member Angela Lai at (916) 442-8888 or [alai@nossaman.com](mailto:alai@nossaman.com).

**DATE: August 23, 2007**

**TOPIC: "Efforts to Diversify the Bench."**

Judicial Appointments Secretary, Ms. Sharon Majors-Lewis is very receptive to the idea of diversifying the judicial arena, consistent with the vision of the Governor's Office. Ms. Majors-Lewis will discuss the judicial appointments process conducted by her office, as well as the need lure qualified diverse applicants, including powerful women.

Before her appointment, Ms. Majors-Lewis was Chief Deputy District Attorney in San Diego, California, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Diego's Violent Crimes Division. Ms. Majors-Lewis received her law degree from National University School of Law, and her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from National University.

**WHERE:** Firehouse Restaurant (Old Sacramento)

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

**MENU:** **Caprese Steak Sandwich**, grilled bistro fillet, tomato concassee, fresh mozzarella and basil-garlic aioli, served with waffle fries; or **Mandarin Chicken Chop-Chop**, grilled chicken breast, Napa cabbage and baby greens, toasted almonds, wine-spiced pears and Mandarin oranges, fried won tons and orange-miso vinaigrette; or **Polenta w/ Pesto-Grilled Vegetables**, crispy fried Chevre and chive polenta, arugula and pistachio pesto-grilled beefsteak tomatoes, summer squash and artichoke hearts.

**COST:** \$20.00 for WLS prepaid 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 reservation is made before the deadline.

Please mail your check payable to WLS and menu choice by **August 15, 2007** to WLS, Attn: Luncheon, P.O. Box 936, Sacramento, CA 95812. *Please indicate if you are a pre-paid WLS member, past president, or judge on your check.* Since WLS will be charged for cancellations, payments must be received in advance and are non-refundable.

**RSVPs or Questions about the luncheon? Contact WLS Member Amal Abu-Rahma at (916) 322-9726 or [aaburahma@dmhc.ca.gov](mailto:aaburahma@dmhc.ca.gov) or WLS Member Angela Lai at (916) 442-8888 or [alai@nossaman.com](mailto:alai@nossaman.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 that helps homeless women and children.

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## FRIENDS OF THE WILEY B. MANUEL BAR ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISING EVENT

Sacramento's Friends of the Wiley B. Manuel Bar Association is holding its annual fundraising event for its legal scholarship fund. WLS members are invited to bridge the gap between minority law students and legal practitioners, enjoy live jazz, a silent auction and scholarship awards. The Mistress of Ceremonies will be News 10 Meteorologist Darla Givens and the keynote speaker is prominent civil rights attorney and national legal analyst, John Burris, Esq.

The dinner event is Friday, August 17, from 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm at the Hilton Arden West Grand Ballroom, individual tickets are \$65, and the RSVP deadline is August 1. For more information, please contact [legalfusion@yahoo.com](mailto:legalfusion@yahoo.com) or 704-4064.

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## WOMEN LAWYERS & PARALEGALS WANTED ON BASKETBALL COURT

Looking for a great way to network, workout, and have fun after work? Get In The Game Hoops, a national basketball non-profit organization of women lawyers and friends of lawyers, is looking for more basketball

players to add to its growing Sacramento league. Court is in session at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Ashton Park in Carmichael. For more information, contact [sacramentoladylawyers@gmail.com](mailto:sacramentoladylawyers@gmail.com).



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## UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF LAW CELEBRATING A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENTS

UC Davis School of Law cordially invites you to join your friends, colleagues, and students in celebrating the lifetime achievements of Cruz Reynoso, UC Davis Law Professor and former California Associate Supreme Court Justice.

For more information please contact: Jean Flournoy Korinke at [jfkorinke@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jfkorinke@ucdavis.edu) or call 530/752-1067.

**Date: Saturday, September 15, 2007**

**Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Place: Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center, University of California, Davis**

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## GENERAL COUNSEL FORUM: LOST IN TRANSLATION - DECODING WHAT CLIENTS (REALLY) WANT

**Sunday, August 12, 2007, 8:00-9:30 a.m.**  
**Moscone Center, San Francisco**

Corporate clients consolidate and “converge” outside counsel, lateral partners pursue free agency deals, while law firms merge, dissolve, and remake themselves. The “old boys’ network” is gone. Hear general counsel address their priorities from a diverse perspective. Learn how you and your firm can join a client’s “magic circle” in this new era.

**Speakers:** Art Chong, General Counsel, Safeco, Inc., Seattle, Washington  
Mary Ann Hynes, General Counsel, Vice President and Corporate Secretary, Corn Products International Chicago, Illinois  
Wally Martinez, Ex-General Counsel, Diageo N. A., Managing Partner, Hunton & Williams, LLP, New York City, New York  
James Potter, General Counsel, Del Monte Corporation, San Francisco, California

# SECURITY IN LAW OFFICES TODAY

By LOREAL SLOFKOSKY-FOLSOM TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Security, as well as data retention, has become absolutely essential to law offices in recent years. Since the inception of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in 1996, strict guidelines have been brought forth to legal and medical offices, as well as anyone acting as the custodian of record. This has raised the question of what is required in order to be consistently compliant with regards to a firm's computer systems and the data they store.

The answer is managed services. Managed services or Flat Rate IT Support is a new yet economical means to manage your office systems; it is shifting the old break / fix mentality to a maintenance based approach. Most managed services provide the following peace of mind, at one fee per month:

- Monitoring of servers and systems 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Providers correct issues often times before you even know there's a problem, minimizing lost billable time and decreased productivity
- Remotely updating system and security patches to insure your systems are protected and compliant, at all times. Patch updates are the most commonly unaddressed item in most business's IT systems
- Ability to provide reports of your system's health. You know if there have been attempts to breach your system by outside sources and providers alert you to corrective options
- Complete documentation on your systems. You are not at the mercy of a service provider, rather you own all documentation

More and more small and mid size companies are gravitating towards Flat Rate IT Support because it eliminates the salary, benefits, vacation time and workers' compensation fees of an employee and since most providers are more reliable than a sole contractor. Additionally, managed service providers have specific expertise in the areas they address; hence they absorb liability from the firm.

The second area of concern is data retention and recovery, which translates into two primary areas: offsite data storage, as well as back up and recovery planning, since no business is exempt from theft, fire or failure.

- Offsite Data Storage & Back up creates an offsite mirrored copy of your data, so in the event of an outage data is not lost and it can be restored within minutes, which again minimizes lost billable time and decreased productivity
- Recovery planning insures minimum downtime, in the event of a system failure, such that there are written step by step directions on what to do in order to regain operations. Secondly, a solid security plan in place provides peace of mind that data and proprietary and confidential information is secure and protected from malicious parties. Both recovery and security plans are essential for limiting the liability of a firm and insuring business continuity.

**Loreal Slofkosky** of Folsom Technology Group can be reached at 916-851-7330, x307 or [loreal@ftgroup.com](mailto:loreal@ftgroup.com).

The  
SACRAMENTO LAW FOUNDATION

is looking for a few good bottles of wine



to build our

INSTANT WINE CELLAR 2007

which will be raffled off at the  
Sacramento County Bar Association's Bench Bar Reception

September 19, 2007 5:30 p.m. at the Sterling Hotel

Wine donations are tax deductible and can be delivered to the SCBA office at 9<sup>th</sup> and H Streets or you can call Todd Vlaanderen at 296-9820 to schedule a pick-up.

Please sign the labels and/or attach a business card to your donated wine. (Requested minimum retail value is \$20)



**[www.saclawfoundation.org](http://www.saclawfoundation.org)**

The Sacramento Law Foundation is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation supporting programs that improve the administration of Justice, enhance public confidence in the legal profession, cultivate understanding of, and respect for, the rule of law and support law related public services.

**Raffle tickets will be available soon!**



# SCBA's ANNUAL BENCH BAR RECEPTION

## **WHEN:**

Wednesday, September 19, 2007  
5:30-7:00 p.m.

## **WHERE:**

Sterling Hotel

## **WHY:**

Honoring Judge of the Year  
U.S. District Court Judge Morrison England  
and Newly Appointed/Elevated Judges

## **GOLD CO-SPONSOR:**

Women Lawyers of Sacramento

## **SILVER CO-SPONSORS:**

ABAS, JAMS, LaRaza, SacLEGAL  
and WMBA

## **TICKETS:**

Prior to September 10 advance  
tickets sales \$30/ticket;  
After September 10 tickets  
for \$35/ticket subject to availability

Sacramento Law Foundation will draw for the  
Instant Wine Cellar during the event

For more information, please contact  
Michelle at 448-1087 ext. 200