



October 2011

P.O. Box 936 • Sacramento, California 95812
www.womenlawyers-sacramento.org

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September Luncheon Highlights

"Dispelling the Myths of Prostitution"

By: Bhavani G. Murugesan, Programs Committee Vice-Chair

One would not think that law enforcement officers, sex workers and college professors have much in common. But that is what happens when women from disparate backgrounds decide to come together for a common cause. On September 22, 2011, Sue Huffstutler and Cindy Stinson, two of the founders of Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH) spoke at the monthly WLS luncheon. The commercial sex industry in American is an annual \$20 billion industry where the starting age for a sex worker is 13. No one comes to this industry for the "easy money." Most have been sexually assaulted as children and are poor, homeless and drug addicted. They have severe mental troubles and use drugs as a means to dissociate from reality.

In 2002, five police officers and two Sacramento State officers decided to find a long term solution for the rampant sex trade business proliferating on the Stockton

Boulevard corridor. They knew that there was only one viable solution for reducing crime – arresting the offenders. But soon, the young officers realized that their plan was not working. The "Johns" – the name for men who frequented prostitutes – reduced in number but the women were back on the street the very next day.

Seeing this, the law enforcement officers decided to find out what the sex workers needed to stay off the street and leave this dangerous profession. They were inspired by STAGE, an organization in San Francisco that provides condoms, disposable needles and education for men as an alternative to sentencing. Inspired by this story, Ms. Stinson and her colleagues approached the Sacramento DA's office with the hope of creating a similar program but were told that the punishment was unequal with men receiving an alternative solution and women facing jail time. (Continued on page 6)

WLS October 2011 Luncheon

"Back to the Future – Recollections & Revelations by Past Presidents"

**Featuring:
Past Presidents
Joan Stone, Jeri Paik,
and Dawn Cole**

**October 27, 2011
Lucca Restaurant
(See page 3)**



From left, Rene Tanner, Cindy Stinson, and Sue Huffstutler

Please Join Us At The Women Lawyer's of Sacramento October Luncheon Featuring Past Presidents, Joan Stone, Jeri Paik, and Dawn Cole

DATE: October 27, 2011

TITLE: Back to the Future – Recollections & Revelations by Past Presidents

Each of our Past Presidents has had unique experiences that have shaped both their personal and professional lives. Please join us to hear from three of our wonderful and accomplished Past Presidents.

Joan Stone was President of WLS in 1996. Ms. Stone has worked for Sacramento County Superior Court since 1990. Currently, she researches, drafts rulings, orders and decisions, and advises judges on all aspects of civil trials. Ms. Stone is originally from the United Kingdom, and in addition to having a law degree from UC Davis, she also has a Scottish law degree from the University of Edinburgh. Over the years, Ms. Stone has been involved with various bar organizations, including, but not limited to, the SCBA, Feminist Legal Services, California Women Lawyers, and the Conference of California Bar Associations.

Jeri Paik was President of WLS in 1986 and the Past President Liaison in 2005 and 2011. Ms. Paik has spent the last 17 years as a solo practitioner. Her practice specializes in Estate Planning, Probate and Trust law, Mediation and Dispute/Litigation matters. For the last 8 years, Ms. Paik has been named a Northern California Super Lawyer. Ms. Paik currently volunteers her time with the ABAS Law Foundation, Executive Women's Golf Association, Asian Bar Association of Sacramento and the SCBA Diversity Hiring & Retention Committee. Ms. Paik received her J.D. from Loyola Law School.

Dawn H. Cole was the President of WLS in 1991. Ms. Cole was an attorney with McDonough Holland & Allen for 28 years and retired in 2009. She specialized in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate law, and Taxation law. She actively volunteers with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, American Red Cross, and the Sacramento Valley Women's Soccer League. Since retiring, Ms. Cole has been able to devote more time to playing soccer, weightlifting and cycling. Ms. Cole received her J.D. from McGeorge School of Law.

WHERE: Lucca Restaurant and Bar
1615 J Street, Sacramento, CA

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

MENU: *Roast Beef Sandwich, Chicken Risotto, Chicken Caesar Salad, or Gnocchi with Sweet Basil Marinara.* Each menu item comes with the choice of soda or iced tea.

COST: \$25.00 for current WLS members, past presidents of WLS, and judges; \$30.00 for all others, except law students, whose cost is \$20.00. Without advance reservation, it may not be possible to get the entrée of your choice.

RSVP with menu choice and confirmation of mailed check by October 24, to Julia Reeves at (916) 781-2550 or jreeves@hansenkohls.com. Please mail your check, payable to WLS, with menu choice **for receipt by October 24**, to WLS, Attn: Luncheon, P.O. Box 936, Sacramento, CA 95812. **Please indicate if you are a current WLS member, past president, or judge on the check.** WLS is charged for cancellations. Payments must be received in advance and are not refundable. Seating at the door is subject to availability. Please bring any unused toiletries and women's personal items to the luncheon for donation to Maryhouse, a non-profit organization that helps homeless women and children.

Eighteenth Annual Artfest a Success Thanks to Members, Artists and Sacramento Business Community

By: Kim Lucia, Development Committee Co-Chair

WLS held its 18th Annual Artfest event at the Vizcaya on September 22, 2011. Guests enjoyed food and wine while interacting with local artists displaying their work. Jazz musicians "Martini Crush" provided the music. The proceeds of the event, including those from the silent auction, support the community grants and law school scholarships to deserving and financially needy law students. This year's grant recipients included My Sister's House, Loaves and Fishes Maryhouse, California Coalition for Youth, River City Food Bank, Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH), Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Stay tuned for announcements of WLS' scholarships at this year's Bench Bar Reception and Unity Bar Dinner.

The following artists each donated an item to the silent auction and displayed their works during Artfest and were available to talk with guests: **Bobbi Powell**, an acrylic painter of Zaga's Original Art; **David Borlongan and Sunnie Skiles** of Art Obsessions Galleries; **Miles Hermann**, a painter; **Patris**, from Patris Studio and Art Center; **Garleane Mason**, a landscape and portrait watercolor painter; **Laura McClean**, a jewelry maker and designer of Eye Candy jewelry; **Victor Gabriel**, a creator of contemporary and traditional Indian jewelry; **Dale Walton**, a landscape photographer; **Deb Johansen-Cook**, legal secretary, painter and rescuer of animals; **Rosemarie Kelleher**, of Roisin Knitware; **Patricia Borum**, a painter and sculptor of horses from Equestrian Sculpture and Fountains; **Sam Liberman**, a painter of landscapes in oil and acrylic; and **Laura Morton**, creator of multi-media etching collages.

WLS would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to all those who supported the event. We especially want to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and our silent auction donors. Without you, the event would not have been a success.

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(Continued on page 4)

Artfest Recap (continued from page 4)

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WLS 18th ANNUAL ARTFEST SILENT AUCTION DONORS

WLS wishes to thank the following silent auction donors. WLS had over 100 items up for auction this year and we could not have done it without our generous donors. We hope that you, our readers, will also express your appreciation next time you visit them.

American Legacy * Ellen Arabian-Lee * Bare Escentuals * BeautiControl * Jeff Bedell * Biba *
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Samantha Walton, Salon Paisley * Lylah Watwood, Luxe Studio * Erin Weber * Yoga Shala *
Zen Spa * Women Lawyers of Sacramento, Board of Directors, Executive Committee

Women Lawyers of Sacramento also specially thanks Marj Walker and her fantastic team from Sarnoff Court Reporters for all of their hard work and dedication in making this year's Artfest possible. Thank you also to the fabulous students from McGeorge Law School who assisted WLS with the silent auction!

See you all at next year's Artfest!



At the 2011 Conference of Delegates, WLS was presented with an award for Assembly Bill 454 regarding early termination of protective orders. WLS received a framed copy of the assembly bill, autographed by Assemblyman Jim Silva of the 67th Assembly District.

A special congratulations goes out to Amber Pearce, who was originally responsible for the resolution that led to the bill.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month: *Reflecting on the Life of Celestial Cassman*

By: Jamie Errecart, WLS President

Did you know that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month? Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) evolved from the "Day of Unity" in October 1981 conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to varied and diverse activities with common themes: mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.

In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year marks the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989 the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Such legislation has passed every year since with NCADV providing key leadership in this effort. Each year, the Day of Unity is celebrated the first Monday of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

For 2011, President Obama proclaimed "During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we recognize the significant achievements we have made in reducing domestic violence in America, and we recommit ourselves to the important work still before us. Despite tremendous progress, an average of three women in America die as a result of domestic violence each day. One in four women and one in thirteen men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. These statistics are even more sobering when we consider that domestic violence often goes unreported."

The importance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month was emphasized this year for me when I learned that one of my former colleagues and friends, Celestial Cassman, was recently killed by an ex-boyfriend on a

trip to Maui. Celestial's death occurred on September 1, 2011. Gerald Galaway Jr., Celestial's ex-boyfriend, is charged with second-degree murder, kidnapping and attempted first-degree sexual assault of 35-year-old Celestial Cassman. Celestial's body was found near Nakalele Point. Police were sent to the area shortly before 6:30 p.m. after reports of a domestic dispute, with one caller reporting that a man was seen dragging a woman down cliffs on Kahekili Highway. The autopsy revealed that Celestial died of asphyxiation.

I have spent quite a lot of time reading newspaper articles and reflecting on my relationship with Celestial. Although I have not seen Celestial since she moved to Santa Cruz, Celestial was a friend when we worked together at McDonough Holland & Allen PC. I never would have expected this to happen to anyone I know, let alone a strong female attorney that was full of life and happiness. Celestial worked for McDonough Holland & Allen PC prior to moving to Santa Cruz. Celestial went on to work for Atchison, Barisone, Condotti & Kovacevich, a well-known private law practice in Santa Cruz. She served as deputy city attorney for Santa Cruz and two other coastal California towns. Celestial is a well-respected attorney who had a great life ahead of her. She also was involved with charity work, working for the Watsonville nonprofit Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) which provides support to children in the legal system. Ironically, one of Celestial's close friends was killed by her boyfriend in high school. Celestial testified at the trial where he was found guilty. Her father has "some belief the seeds of her future career were planted as a result of this experience."

Frankly, it makes me sick to my stomach to know that her life was cut short because of someone she once loved and trusted. Although I don't know for sure, it is unlikely that this was the first time Galaway was abusive. *(continued from page 5)*

President's Corner



Celestial Cassman

June 15, 1976-September 1, 2011

was too late by the time they arrived.

I write about this incident to help educate women around us. If you are in any kind of abusive relationship, please get out before it is too late. I doubt that any person ever expects the abuse to escalate to death, but clearly you can never predict the ending of such a relationship. That is very clear to me now. I would never expect someone like Celestial to be in an abusive rela-

I doubt she ever expected that her life would end because of him. But the fear in her voice as she was searching for help those last few minutes of her life must have been horrid. At that point, it was too late. The witnesses were threatened by him and concerned for their own lives so all they could do at that point was call the police for help. Although the police were called, it

tionship which shows me even more that I need to be aware of what is going on and encourage people around me to get out of abusive relationships, even if only at the beginning stages. Because I know now that the abuse will escalate and eventually could end in the death of the victim.

Celestial's story has me reflecting on Domestic Awareness Month. As noted by Stacey Moiz, executive director of Women Helping Women, "She does not fit what people think is the typical victim. She was a professional. I do think it speaks to the reality, that domestic violence could happen to anyone. That's what I think is very powerful about the situation."

Please reflect on this important month and think about the gravity of the situation. Domestic violence can happen to anyone. If you or anyone you know is suffering from any kind of domestic abuse, please get help before the situation escalates, before it is too late. Because it is too late now for Celestial. And for that, I am truly sorry. I know you will be missed by many, Celestial. I am glad that I had the opportunity to know you.

September Luncheon Highlights (continued from page 1)

Needing assessment on the issue, Ms. Stinson and Ms. Huffstutler approached Sacramento State professors for help. They created a survey for the sex workers. Some surprising facts came to life from polling the women. Recovery shelters were not a safe place for prostitutes as they were judged and ostracized once discovered. What they needed was a safe haven led by a peer group.

CASH was born of this survey as a peer led center where sex workers can get food, clothing, peer counseling, health information and assistance with housing and other basic needs. It is open three days a week from 6:00-8 :00 pm. Sex workers who have been to CASH are now bachelor degree holders and have their own cars and apartments. They have recovered from their drug habits after seeing other recovered former sex workers. What CASH needs is your support. On November 19, 2011, CASH is holding a Storytime Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 - 11:00 am at the All Saints Episcopal Church. You can find more information about CASH and this upcoming event at <http://cashesac.org/home>. Please attend and give your support to this worthy cause.

Introduction of Patricia Tenoso Sturdevant

By Judge Kimberly J. Mueller

California Women Lawyers hosted its 37th Annual Dinner on September 15, 2011 in Long Beach during the California State Bar Annual Meeting. CWL's new President — and Chairwoman of the event — Patricia Sturdevant, was installed at the dinner. Ms. Sturdevant was introduced by Kimberly J. Mueller, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, in a wonderful speech that highlighted so many of Ms. Sturdevant's accomplishments. Judge Mueller has graciously allowed WLS to share that speech with its members and friends:

“It is my distinct pleasure to share a few insights regarding a very special person, Patricia Sturdevant.

To know Pat is to marvel at all she has done, in so many ways, to make the world a better place.

For nearly four decades – and yes, she had to have started very young – Pat has engaged in the legal profession in myriad, meaningful roles, as a trial lawyer, consumer advocate, and community activist. Time and time again, she has made contributions that are important and groundbreaking, with lasting impact. As a public interest lawyer in San Francisco, she pioneered the use of cy pres remedies, using unclaimed damages to fund consumer education and advocacy projects. She founded the D.C.-based National Association of Consumer Advocates. And then as its Executive Director and General Counsel, she spearheaded an advocacy campaign against predatory mortgage lending disproportionately targeting elderly African American women. More recently, as Assistant Chief and Staff Counsel to the Enforcement Division of the California Department of Managed Health Care, Pat negotiated a creatively constructive consent agreement in an enforcement action against a large HMO. The Agreement had the plan not only pay a hefty penalty but also contribute \$3 million to Donate Life, the state's organ and tissue registry.

It came as no surprise then when she was tapped earlier this year by California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones to serve as his Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Planning. In that position, according to the commissioner himself, Pat has been a “fantastic force for good and justice.” He describes her as an extraordinarily talented lawyer who cares deeply about consumers and making sure they are protected. The commissioner credits Pat with “Almost single-handedly” bringing to the forefront the important health protection initiative of ensuring coverage for families with autistic children. He notes that Pat brings to this effort the unique ability to work quietly behind the scenes in the enforcement context while also providing the legislature with the information and legal analysis it needs to consider changes to the law. *(continued on page 8)*

Judge Mueller's Introduction of Patricia Sturdevant (*continued from page 7*)

No wonder Pat has received a string of prestigious awards, including the Ronald M. George Public Lawyer of the Year in 2009, among many, many others.

But Pat's best qualifications for the job of CWL's President are the testimonials of other women, and in particular younger women, with whom she has established personal and caring relationships and for whom she provides inspiration and encouragement. As one of the young woman attorneys she has worked with – Angela Lai -- puts it, “As a true leader, Pat impresses upon others how important they are to her. Pat is passionate about building successes for others. . . . she challenges and stretches us, and provides inspiration for us to take on [even] greater challenges.” another young woman attorney – Sonia Fernandes – has this to say: “Pat is a visionary who has helped me reach above and beyond what I believed to be my own potential. And she leads by example. . . continuing to inspire me each and every day.”

The future will be a better place because of what these young women are doing with their lives, lifted up by pat and following in her footsteps.

Incredibly, Pat also seems to have figured some things out about that whole work-life balance thing: she does all of her professional, political and community work while tending her beautiful garden – which was a stunner on Sacramento's annual Land Park tour, I understand – , collecting Balinese art, and playing a central role in her large extended family!

I stand in awe of this record of accomplishment. And as someone who also has received Pat's quiet encouragement and support to reach for something I wasn't sure was in my grasp, it gives me great pleasure to formally introduce CWL's new president, **Patricia Tenoso Sturdevant** . . . “



Announcements & Other News

WLS 2011 Luncheon Schedule

ONLY THREE LUNCHEONS LEFT IN 2011!

Please join us at the following luncheons:

October 27

November 17

December 15 (Swearing-in of 2012 Board)



All Luncheons will be held at Lucca Restaurant and Bar, located at 1615 J Street in Sacramento.

Job Opportunity:

Robert Half Legal is looking for a 4+ year litigation associate for its insurance defense and commercial litigation law firm in Sacramento. The pertinent practice areas are construction law, high-end catastrophic injury, and general liability. The ideal candidate (whether for the plaintiff or the defense) will have had significant litigation experience, including taking and defending depositions, prepared and/or opposed MSJs, and made plenty law and motion appearances. They need someone very detail-oriented and able to meet task deadlines. Salary is circa \$90K, DOE. For confidential consideration, please email your resume and salary requirements to Jon Lucchese, Recruiting Manager for Permanent Placement, at jon.lucchese@roberthalflegal.com.

FOUND:

Pair of reading glasses with case found at WLS' 18th Annual Artfest on September 22, 2011. Please contact Kim Lucia at klucia@boutinjones.com to claim.

Calling All Appellate Attorneys:

The State Bar Board of Legal Specialization invites you to apply to become a certified appellate specialist. Take the first step and sign up for the Appellate – Civil or Appellate – Criminal single day examination to be held on **October 25, 2011** in Oakland or Pasadena. For more information, see <http://ls.calbar.ca.gov/LegalSpecialization/LegalSpecialtyAreas/AppellateLaw.aspx>.

WLS Is Accepting & Publishing Readers' Announcements

Do you have an announcement that you would like to share with the WLS members? If so, please email Ellen Arabian-Lee at ellen@gurneelaw.com and Erika Pickles at picklese@jacksonlewis.com. We will make an effort to print your announcement in a future edition of the WLS Newsletter (depending upon available space). The deadline to submit announcements is the 20th of each month. Please attach any digital photos or other art that you would like to share with your email.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF WLS? HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR WLS MEMBERSHIP?

Please remember to return the attached membership application or renewal form and your check to WLS. There is a form conveniently located near the end of this newsletter.

WOMEN LAWYERS OF SACRAMENTO

Mission Statement: Women Lawyers of Sacramento supports and encourages every woman lawyer in her career aspirations and helps promote a society that places no limits on where a woman's skills and talent can take her. Women Lawyers of Sacramento dedicates itself to (1) promoting the full and equal participation of women lawyers and judges in the legal profession, (2) maintaining the integrity of our legal system by advocating principles of fairness and equal access to justice, (3) improving the status of women in our society and (4) advocating for equal rights, reproductive choice, equal opportunity and pay for women, and current social, political, economic, or legal issues of concern to the members of Women Lawyers of Sacramento.

Foundation Mission Statement: Women Lawyers of Sacramento Foundation is the charitable arm of Women Lawyers of Sacramento. This charitable organization seeks to address the unmet needs of women and children and raises funds to support legal educational opportunities and community programs that satisfy these needs.

Principles: Women Lawyers of Sacramento is premised on the belief that women deserve equal rights, respect and opportunities in the workplace and in society at large. Women Lawyers of Sacramento endeavors to support and enhance the participation and representation of women in significant leadership and management positions in the legal profession. Women Lawyers of Sacramento also strives to eliminate all forms of bias, discrimination, and harassment, including all forms of violence against women and children, and supports diversity in the legal profession, in legal education, and in society in general. We work toward these goals through mentoring, legislative and administrative advocacy, community service, networking, educational seminars, and open forums of discussion focused on advancing and supporting women.

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klucia@boutinjones.com

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Jackson Lewis
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WOMEN LAWYERS OF SACRAMENTO

ATTORNEY MENTORING FORM

Be a legal leader by providing guidance to another attorney who is very interested in your practice and your experience in the legal profession.

By filling out this form you agree to have this information placed in a file of mentor attorneys available to other WLS members for 2011.

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Women Lawyers of Sacramento 2011 Membership Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

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- New Member (Referred by: _____)

Name _____ CA Bar Number _____ Year Admitted _____
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 Area(s) of Practice _____

APPLICANT STATUS

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

- \$55: 0-5 years in practice/gross income under \$50,000
- \$65: 6-10 years in practice
- \$75: Over 10 years in practice
- \$100 or more: sustaining donor

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

- Dues Waived

Associate Member:

- \$25: Law school graduate not yet admitted to Bar
- \$25: Law school student (Specify year: _____)

Add-ons:

- \$100 : California Women Lawyers dues
(WLS members receive \$50 discount off the \$150 annual dues)
- \$ ____ : Foundation donor (tax deductible)

\$ ____ TOTAL enclosed by check payable to WLS.

Please return to WLS Membership, P.O. Box 936,
Sacramento, CA 95812

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Questions? Please contact a Membership Committee Co-Chair at sacwomenlawyers@gmail.com.

Save the Date

A Tribute to Presiding Justice Vance W. Raye
Of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Reception: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Radisson Hotel
500 Leisure Lane
Sacramento, CA 95815



HOSTED BY:

Sacramento County Bar
Association

