



WOMEN LAWYERS OF SACRAMENTO

March 2016 Newsletter

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

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Join Us At This Month's Luncheon:

**A Conversation with
Elizabeth Rindskopf
Parker,
The New Executive
Director of the Cali-
fornia State Bar**

Thursday,

March 24, 2016

Lucca Restaurant

February Luncheon Highlights:

Celebrating Black History Month, Featuring the Hon. Alice Lytle, Ret. A discussion on Racism & Its Iterations

By: *Jessica Graves, Vice-Chair Programs Committee*

In honor of Black History month WLS and Wiley Manuel Bar Association co-hosted the Honorable Alice Lytle, retired Sacramento Superior Court Judge, at the February luncheon. Judge Lytle is a pioneer in the Sacramento legal community. She was the first African American woman appointed to the Sacramento Superior Court bench.

A courageous woman and role model, Judge Lytle spoke passionately and eloquently about racism and its iterations in our culture. She noted this is a serious subject of worry for African Americans and our society as a whole. Judge Lytle talked about our country's lack of understanding regarding both race and racism because it is not a "happy" subject. Myths in America make it hard to see what is happening to African Americans and the impact of racism and this needs to be highlighted and changed. The laws and perceptions in our country are race oriented to the detriment of African Americans. Judge Lytle spoke about how African Americans have not yet won the battle for Civil Rights in this country. It is an ongoing fight that continues to be fought.

A question Judge Lytle posed to the audience was what does the future hold if America does not start dealing with race and racism? She feared that more and more anger will continue to spill into our society. Police brutality is a serious problem and a harbinger of serious violence in this country. Judge Lytle warns that our nation is in trouble. Society as a whole needs to recognize that racism is still very real in America.

The constant vigilance and fear that African Americans live with was exemplified by a personal story shared by Judge Lytle. Her nephew was recently staying with her, in what is considered a "good neighborhood."

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President's Corner

By: Jennifer Hartman King

March is Women's History Month, and this year it seems timely to highlight two prominent female figures in our nation's history, each of whom had the honor of serving as First Lady to the United States. One of them is an important part of our country's past, and the other is very much "of-the-moment."

This month, we said goodbye to the widely beloved Former First Lady Nancy Reagan. In the many tributes I have read about her recently, something that has stood out to me is the consistent recognition of one of her predominant traits: loyalty. For her, this characteristic manifested as undying loyalty to her husband. This is an attribute that I greatly admire – whether it is loyalty to loved ones, friends, partners, colleagues, ideals, causes, or otherwise – yet, it can be difficult to find and is often even more difficult to give. Loyalty nevertheless is incredibly valuable. One of my favorite quotes comes to mind:

"Loyalty and friendship, which is to me the same, created all the wealth that I've ever thought I'd have."

-Ernie Banks

In honor of First Lady Nancy Reagan, I would like to challenge all of us to offer loyalty to the people or things in our lives worthy of it.

The other prominent female figure I find noteworthy this month is Former First Lady / Former Congresswoman / Former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton. During Women's History Month, I feel compelled to highlight the fact that we appear on brink of achieving a new milestone in women's history: the first female presidential candidate for a mainstream party. No matter your political persuasion, this historic moment is extraordinary – perhaps most notably for the fact that it has taken so long to arrive.

Women have long fought for opportunity and equality in our country, and Women Lawyers of Sac-

ramento's mission is to advocate for these interests in law and society. This month, our Legislative and Bar Delegation Committee – Chaired by Louinda Lacey and Lauren Foust Sorokolit – spearheaded our organization's effort to support AB 1561, the "No Tax on Tampons" bill. This bill shines a light on a sensitive, yet very important, area of women's rights.

Feminine hygiene products are essential and necessary health products for women. Each year, California women pay \$20 million in taxes on tampons and sanitary napkins. The monthly cost of these items is significant, especially to women on a tight budget who already struggle to pay for other basic necessities.

Californians already exempt items deemed the "necessities of life," such as food or medicine, from taxation. Any non-exempt item is deemed unnecessary or even a luxury for consumers and, therefore, taxable. California's tax code exempts health items like walkers, medical identification tags, and all prescription medications. Unlike these other essential health care products, tampons and sanitary napkins are not exempt, even though women have no option not to purchase these items. Eliminating the tax on tampons and sanitary napkins is an important first step in making them more affordable, and Women Lawyers of Sacramento is proud to support this effort.

Finally, I am pleased to share the news that Women Lawyers of Sacramento is fortunate to welcome Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker as the speaker at our next luncheon on Thursday, March 24, 2016, at Lucca Restaurant and Bar, 1615 J Street, from 12:00 - 1:15 p.m. Ms. Rindskopf Parker is the former Dean of McGeorge School of Law and the new Executive Director of the California State Bar. I hope you will join us!

Helping Us Help Ourselves

By: Amy O'Neill, *CAR Committee*

On March 3, 2016, Cami McClaren, life coach and author of the book *Coaching for Attorneys: Improving Productivity and Achieving Balance*, led a brown-bag lunch discussion focused on self-promotion and dealing with the internal struggles that too often hold us back. The event, held at Nossaman LLP, was well-attended and included women from various areas of legal practice, including private practice, government, and paralegals.

In her usual captivating way, Cami led the group in a pointed, honest, and enlightening dialogue about identifying what we want in our life or in our practice, determining what steps we would need to take to achieve those goals, and then identifying and addressing what holds us back from taking those steps and from engaging in self-promotion. A major focus of the discussion was learning how to recognize the voice of doubt in our mind, understanding the irrational fears that our voice of doubt instills, and making the conscious choice not to engage. The attendees were challenged to write down at least one goal that could be accomplished in the next week, and to step outside their comfort zone and make that goal a reality.

Brown-bag lunches occur on a quarterly basis and are organized by WLS's Career Advancement and Retention Committee. Brown-bag lunches focus on a variety of topics, mainly centering on helping women advance their careers, achieve their goals, and stay excited about and committed to the practice of law. The next brown-bag lunch will feature a panel of women lawyers who have achieved success—while also raising a family. Entitled "Motherhood and the Law: Can it be Done?" this brown-bag is sure to include candid discussion about the challenges and rewards of trying to balance a career and family. More details to follow.

WLS is Pleased to Announce its Annual Member Reception

Please join WLS Board at our annual Member Reception. There will be prizes, light appetizers, wine and new and old friends.

Date: April 12, 2016

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location: King Williams, LLP

520 Capitol Mall, Suite 750





Judicial Spotlight: Jennifer Rockwell, Sacramento Superior Court Judge

By: Maralee Eriksen, WLS Past President

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Jennifer Rockwell has been busy of late, working in a new collaborative court to reduce sexual exploitation and trafficking and working with community civics education effort Operation Protect and Defend, among other things. I caught up with her by e-mail and learned a good deal about her and her passion for public service. Our conversation is below.

What was your career path to judgeship?

I am a fourth generation public servant. One of my great-grandfathers was a local sheriff, my grandfather was on the city council, my grandmother was on the school board, my father is a teacher, and my mom worked in the capitol. With these examples, I have always been drawn to positions that permitted me to be of benefit to the community. I interned for Congressman Vic Fazio in college, and I interned for the U.S. Attorney's Office in law school. Between my family background and my own experiences, I was hooked on public service.

After law school, I participated in the Executive Fellowship Program with the Center for California Studies. After the completion of that program, I began working for the State Treasurer and then moved to the Attorney General's Office. During my time at the Attorney General's Office, I had the privilege of working with, and being mentored by, some great people. Justice Andrea Hoch, Justice Louis Mauro, Judge Pam Smith-Steward, and Judge Stacie Boulware Eurie were all in that office at that time, and they encouraged me to grow as a lawyer and to take on ever more difficult challenges. I sought out cases and assignments where I would continue to learn and develop my legal skills. Later, Andrea Hoch (then Legal Affairs Secretary) asked me to come to work for the Schwarzenegger administration in the capitol as Chief Counsel for the Department of Finance, and the Brown administration kept me on in that position and then appointed me to the Sacramento County Superior Court. While I truly enjoyed the challenges of working for both administrations, I missed the courtroom. In seeking judicial appointment, I sought a path that would permit me to serve the People of Sacramento for what I hope will be decades to come.

What special assignments or projects have you been working on?

Last year, we began a new collaborative court called RESET (REducing Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking). This court addresses those arrested for solicitation, prostitution, and related charges and is an outgrowth of a juvenile court that is overseen by Judge Boulware Eurie. RESET is a voluntary diversion program supported by both the District Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office. In order to join, the women plead guilty but have their sentences suspended while they receive therapy and counseling. Those services are provided free of charge by two local organizations: Another Choice Another Chance (ACAC) and Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH) RESET participants who successfully complete testing, counseling sessions, and monthly court attendance have their charges dismissed in the interest of justice. Additionally, both CASH and ACAC currently have funding to continue providing services to the graduates. The goal of RESET is to help participants gain the tools to find a way out of that life and onto a safer path. I find RESET very rewarding, because it is a place where the court can appropriately be proactive in effectuating positive change.

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WOMEN LAWYERS OF SACRAMENTO

March Luncheon:

A Conversation with Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker, The New Executive Director of the California State Bar

Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker, the former dean of McGeorge School of Law, was named executive director and chief executive officer of the California State Bar. She excitedly stepped into her new role starting January 2016. Come join us for a lively conversation with Ms. Parker about this new adventure.

WHEN: March 24, 2016

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

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



MENU: Roasted Beet and Farro Salad, Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Spaghetti & Meatballs or Salad with Grilled Salmon. Each menu item comes with choice of soda or iced tea.

COST: \$30.00 for current WLS members, past presidents of WLS, and judges; \$35.00 for all others, except law students, whose cost is \$25.00. Without advance reservation, it may not be possible to get the entrée of your choice.

RSVP with menu choice online at www.womenlawyers-sacramento.org (please use the Note function to identify name of attendee and menu choice) **or with email and confirmation of mailed check by March 23, 2016 to Kelly Babineau at kbabineau@klblawoffice.net.** This luncheon is expected to sellout, please reserve early. Walk-ins may be turned away for lack of space. Please mail your check, payable to WLS, with menu choice for receipt by **March 23, 2016** to WLS, Attn: Luncheon, P.O. Box 936, Sacramento, CA 95814. 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.

Judicial Spotlight: Jennifer Rockwell, *continued from page 4*

I participate in local court committees that assist in the administrative aspects of the court. I have also been appointed to an advisory committee of the Judicial Council that works on addressing critical repair needs of trial courts throughout the state.

I have also enjoyed being able to become more involved with the community. For example, I have joined the Executive Board of Operation Protect and Defend (OPD). OPD is an organization of local judges and lawyers who collectively seek to engage in a dialogue with high school students about how their rights and responsibilities under the Constitution invigorate our democracy. I also meet with high school students as part of court tours and judge high school moot courts. Further, I am participating in the Court Clergy Conference that works, in part, to explain the courts and the judicial system to local religious leaders.

What are your pet peeves in court?

I dislike it when parties are discourteous or uncivil in court. I have many self-represented litigants and it is sometimes difficult for them to understand that arguing their position is most effective when they keep to articulating their position as opposed to attacking the other party. As much as I may dislike it in the self-represented, I find such uncivil behavior even more disturbing in attorneys. Interrupting the other side, or being rude or snarky to them, does not provide good advocacy – it takes away from it.

It is also disrespectful for an attorney to be late without notice. I understand that conflicts can arise, but a failure to inform the court and the other side is nothing short of rude.

Have you ever received cherished advice from a mentor?

There are two pieces of advice that I was given that are equally important.

The first is to remember to advocate for yourself as well as you would advocate for a client or a friend. A few mentors gently advised me to do this over my career. Sometimes it can feel easier to be a team player and hope others will see your merit than it is to advocate for yourself. I recall one occasion where I was up for a promotion, and I needed to submit essays on why I should receive the promotion. My supervisor and mentor handed my essay back giving me this piece of advice. I revised the essays and received the promotion.

The second piece of advice that I have found invaluable is: Determine your goals, work towards those goals, and enjoy the effort. If you don't know what you want or how you want your life to be, then life just happens to you. So it is important to be an active person in reaching your goals. Waiting for a fairy godmother is not a sound career model. But because nothing is certain, make sure you are in a place where you enjoy what you are doing in life.

What would people be surprised to learn about you?

I am a huge fan of the Sacramento Republic and my family has had season tickets beginning with the club's first season.

Thank you, Judge Rockwell, for sharing with WLS members and letting us get to know you better!

If you have a suggestion for a Judicial Spotlight topic or interviewee, please contact Maralee Eriksen eriksen@meriksen.com or (916) 778-6221.



February Luncheon Highlights, *continued from page 1*

One evening, her strapping, young, good-looking nephew was going to go for a walk in her neighborhood. However, Judge Lytle explained, her nephew cannot just “go for a walk” in the neighborhood. He must be prepared for possible confrontations that may occur with the police. She explained that had to warn him of what he should do, not if, but when, he is stopped by the police. She urged that he should always carry his license to identify himself. She explained how the perception of evil and dangerousness between African Americans and police is what is killing African American men. This is the reality of life for African Americans in this society.

Judge Lytle urged all of us to summon the will to help change this reality. She shared her personal admiration for the late Thurgood Marshall, and that it was his life that inspired her to enter the law and seek social change. She encouraged us to follow his lead and in our personal and professional lives to help put forward real change in America.

WLS is immensely grateful to Judge Alice Lytle for being so generous with her time and sharing her thoughts and experiences with the organization. It was an inspiring and thoughtful discussion on a very difficult topic. Her speech inspired the luncheon participants to grapple with a difficult subject and strive to help make our society a better place.

Please join WLS for our March 2016 Mixer!

March 31, 2016

5:30-7:30 p.m.

400 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814

Event is no-host. Complimentary light appetizers will be served. No RSVP is required.

Please contact Katherine Underwood (keunderwood235@gmail.com) or Christina Cortino (ccortino@kingwilliamslaw.com) with any questions.



Announcements & Other News



SAVE THE DATE!

WLS is pleased to announce that the
23rd Annual ArtFest & Silent Auction
will be held at the
Verge Center for the Arts, 625 S Street, Sacramento,
on September 22, 2016 from 6:00-8:30pm.



California Women Lawyers' Fay Stender Award: Due April 22

The Fay Stender Award recognizes a feminist attorney who is committed to the representation of women, disadvantaged groups and unpopular causes, and whose courage, zest for life and demonstrated ability to effect change as a single individual make her a role model for women attorneys.

The award is presented annually at CWL's Dinner, which is held in conjunction with the California State Bar Annual Meeting. This year, the Dinner will be held at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, on September 29.

More information is available at <http://www.cwl.org/events/Last-day-to-submit-nominations-for-Fay-Stender-Award-81/details>

WLS Accepts & Publishes Readers' Announcements

If you have an announcement to share with the WLS members, please email the Newsletter Co-Chairs, Meghan Covert Russell at mrussell@parkercovert.com and Latika Sharma at Latika.Sharma@DMHC.CA.GOV. We will endeavor to publish your announcement in an upcoming edition of the WLS Newsletter (space permitting).

The submission deadline for each issue is the 1st of that month.

Please attach any digital photos or art that you would like to accompany your post.

Announcements Continued...

California Women Lawyers

2016 Annual Conference

"Equality, Opportunity, and Advocacy: The Empowerment Summit"

Friday, May 6, 2016
 Conference 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
 Reception 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Hilton Concord
 1970 Diamond Blvd.
 Concord, CA 94520



This all day event features:

- ◆ A morning networking opportunity
- ◆ MCLE presentations throughout the day
- ◆ Immediately followed by a cocktail reception honoring Pauline A. Weaver with the Judith Soley Lawyer as Citizen Award

Just a few of our panels will include:

- ◆ Pathways to Partnership
- ◆ Closing the Gender Wage Gap
- ◆ The GRIT Project: Using Grit and Growth Mindset to Advance Women Lawyers

Register at: <http://www.cwl.org/events/2016-CWL-Annual-Conference-77/details>

State Bar Diversity Award

The California State Bar's Council on Access & Fairness is now accepting nominations for the 2016 Diversity Awards. The award will be presented during the State Bar 2016 Annual Meeting in Anaheim on October 1, 2016. If you would like to request that WLS support a nomination for either of these awards, please contact Elizabeth Dietzen Olsen at Elizabeth.DietzenOlsen@sen.ca.gov, Tara Rojas at tara@goyette-assoc.com, Amy Halloran at amy@williamslawassociates.com, or Vanessa Hunter at vh@pollara-law.com.

The State Bar of California Diversity Awards were established in 2001 by the Board of Trustees to recognize outstanding efforts to promote diversity in the legal profession, in particular, to recognize efforts that ensure the full and equal opportunity of all persons for entry and advancement in California's legal profession.

Nominations must be e-mailed, faxed or postmarked on or before, **March 31, 2015**

For information concerning these awards, please visit: http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Portals/0/documents/awards/2016_DiversityAwardGuidelines-r.pdf

Announcements Continued...

The Constitutional Rights Foundation is looking for attorney and judge volunteers for CRF's 35th annual California Mock Trial Finals for high school students. Attorney and Judge volunteers are needed to score and preside over the state final mock trials.

The state finals will be held March 18–20 at the Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse. Over 700 students from 35 California counties (including Elk Grove HS from Sacramento) will compete, and the champion will represent the State of California at the National High School Mock Trial competition. We need help from attorneys and judges to make this educational program possible for these bright high school students!

Round 1 - March 18th at 5:30 pm (39 Volunteers Needed)

Round 2 - March 19th at 8:30 am (43 Volunteers Needed)

Round 3 - March 19th at 12:30 pm (37 Volunteers Needed)

Round 4 - March 19th at 4:30 pm (45 Volunteers Needed)

Attorneys and Judges can volunteer at: <http://www.crf-usa.org/mock-trial-program/mock-trial-volunteers.html>

If you have questions, please contact:

Lourdes Morales

lourdes@crf-usa.org

California Mock Trial Coordinator

Laura Wesley

Laura@crf-usa.org



2016 Luncheon Schedule

Lucca Restaurant and Bar

1615 J Street, Sacramento



◇ March 24

◇ April 28

◇ May 26

◇ June 23

◇ July 28

◇ August 25

◇ September 22

◇ October 27

◇ November 17

◇ December 15

Announcements Continued...



SAVE THE DATE: MAY 20, 2016

California Women Lawyers'

SO YOU WANT TO BE A JUDGE?

Insights and Advice on the Judicial Appointments Process

Milton Marks Conference Center

455 Golden Gate Ave.

San Francisco, CA

Featuring: Josh Groban,

Governor Brown's Senior Advisor for Judicial Appointments



If you are not currently a member of Women Lawyers of Sacramento, please consider joining this incredible organization. WLS is premised on the belief that women deserve equal rights, respect and opportunities in the workplace and society at large. Founded in 1962, WLS reaches beyond the practice of law by promoting the interest of women in the community. Membership is open to all judges, lawyers and law students.

If you are a current member, please visit our website to review all of the wonderful resources available to you.

Please contact one of our co-chairs, Carmen-Nicole Cox (carmeniclecox@gmail.com) or Heather Johnston (hjohnston@trainorfairbrook.com) for more information or visit our website at <http://womenlawyers-sacramento.org/>.

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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Judicial Liaison:

Justice Andrea Hoch,
Third District Court of Appeals

Past-President Liaison:

Jamie Errecart
Office of Administrative Hearings



WOMEN LAWYERS
OF
SACRAMENTO

2016 Membership Application

January 1, 2016- December 31, 2016

(If you join on or after October 1, 2015, you will get the remainder of 2015 FREE)

APPLICANT INFORMATION

? Please do not include my information in the membership directory

? New Member (Referred by: _____)

? Renewal

Name _____ CA Bar Number _____ Year Admitted _____

Firm/Office _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

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

? \$1500 or more: lifetime membership

Associate Member:

? \$25: Law school graduate not yet admitted to Bar

? FREE Law school student (Specify year: _____)

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

? Dues Waived

Add-ons:

? \$85 : California Women Lawyers dues (WLS Affiliate price)

? CWL Law School Student Complimentary

? \$____ : Foundation donor (tax deductible)

\$____ TOTAL enclosed by check payable to WLS. Please return to

**WLS Membership, P.O. Box 936,
Sacramento, CA 95812**

COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

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

? Career Advancement & Retention

? Legislation & Bar Delegation

? Publicity/Community Relations

? Grants & Awards

? Membership

? Programs

? Development (WLS Foundation)

? Newsletter

? Judicial & Other Appointments

Questions? Please contact Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Heather Johnston at hjohnston@trainorfairbrook.com or Carmen Nicole-Cox at carmennicolecox@gmail.com