

CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS
NEWSLETTER
SUMMER/FALL 2024

Message from the CWL President

Jodi Cleesattle



Dear Members and Friends,

As November approaches, there is excitement – and tension – in the air.

Election Day is November 5, and the nation stands poised to potentially elect America's first woman president. If Kamala Harris is elected, she will also be the first president of South Asian descent and the second Black president. She would be only the second Californian elected president, after Richard Nixon. (Ronald Reagan, although he served as governor of California, was born in Illinois.)

Harris is a product of the Bay Area. She was born in Oakland, graduated law school from the University of California, Hastings (now UC Law San Francisco), and served as San Francisco District Attorney before going on to serve as California Attorney General, U.S. Senator, and Vice President.

It seems fitting that, just days after the election, California Women Lawyers will meet in San Francisco to celebrate CWL's 50th Anniversary at our Annual Dinner and Annual Conference on November 8.

At the annual dinner, we will pay tribute to the trailblazers who created CWL and have contributed to its success, honor

two outstanding women attorneys for their service to the community and the profession, and throw our support behind the next generation of women lawyers with the presentation of our Nancy E. O'Malley Scholarship. We also will hear from keynote speaker Emma Rodriguez-Ayala, who has forged a path in the male-dominated investments industry and has taken time along the way to encourage and support investment within the Latino community.

At the annual conference, which precedes the dinner festivities, we will tackle big issues that are in the news, at issue in the election, and the subject of court cases. Panelists will discuss voting rights and fair elections, reproductive rights, and the future of diversity initiatives in colleges, law schools, and the legal profession. We also will hear remarks from Kimberly Ellis, Director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women.

Our 50th anniversary celebration promises to be inspiring, uplifting, and a reflection on the strength and power women can wield when we come together in a common cause.

Indeed, that was the motivation for the founding of CWL in 1974 – to join together to take collective action to advance women in the legal profession, improve the administration of justice, better the position of women in society, and end gender discrimination.

I hope that this election also will reflect the strength and power women can wield when we let our collective voices be heard – when we speak out, organize, run for office, and vote.

I hope the first week of November will be a joyous one from beginning to end, and I hope to see you at our 50th Anniversary Annual Dinner and Annual Conference in San Francisco.



Jodi Cleesattle, President



CWL

WINTER 2024
NEWSLETTER

2024 CWL Board Officers

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Additional Photography Gettyimages

CWL was chartered in 1974. It was organized "to advance women in the profession of law; to improve the administration of justice; to better the position of women in society; to eliminate all inequities based on gender; and to provide an organization for collective action and expression germane to the aforesaid purposes."

The purposes are limited to purposes meeting the requirements for exemption provided in Section 2370le of the Revenue and Taxation Code and Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code as the statutes may be amended from time to time.

Thank you to all the authors in this issue for sharing with us their time and expertise.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of CWL.

For more information on CWL or this newsletter, please contact the CWL office at 916.930.9020 or visit the website at www.cwl.org.

Editor's Note

BY CARMELA PAGAY



2024 is going so fast that here we are already transitioning from summer to fall. It felt like we just rang in the New Year not too long ago! Personally, I am not a fan of the extreme summer heat, but this summer was memorable in many ways, including witnessing another Summer Olympics. It is extremely thrilling to watch athletes who have been preparing for the past four years excel at their sport and display their pride of being able to represent their country before an audience of millions around the world.

As lawyers, we have to excel as well and are often tested, not every four years but sometimes every day, by our demanding professional and personal lives. I am honored to be a member of a group of women who continuously shine through their many accomplishments and who unwaveringly support numerous issues that impact us all.

This issue of the CWL Newsletter highlights several of the commendations received by our members and the projects that CWL is promoting this year.

This issue features the CWL Foundation's proud support of a memorial plaque dedicated to former California Chief Justice Rose Bird, one of CWL's founding mothers and the first woman to serve as California's Chief Justice.

The awardees of the 2024 CWL Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award, Rose Bird Memorial Award, Fay Stender Award, and Judith Soley Lawyer as Citizen Award are also highlighted. All four awardees are exceptional in their own way and very deserving of their recognition.

As for projects and events, CWL's Juneteenth celebration and In-House Counsel Network events were a resounding success. CWL will also be reestablishing its Legislative Delegation in the Conference of California Bar Associations, and a CWL team of delegates will be attending the Annual Conference in San Francisco in October.

San Francisco will also be the location for CWL's golden anniversary this year. This year's Annual Conference and Dinner will be held November 8 at the Hotel Nikko. We have come a long way the last 50 years, and through our collective efforts, we remain hopeful for the future. Come celebrate "Together Strong" with us!

CWL Member News

BY JODI CLEESATTLE

CWL is proud of the work its members do on behalf of our organization and the profession, and we believe in sharing your achievements. Please help us share your news. In this edition, we're thrilled to share the recognition given to several CWL members.

CONFIRMED

The U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment of Los Angeles Superior Court Judge **Michelle Williams Court** to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California Sept. 18. Court, who was honored by CWL with the 2023 Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award, was nominated by President Joe Biden in May. Court has been a judge on the Los Angeles Superior Court since 2012 and supervising judge in the Court's civil division since 2023. Previously, she worked as an attorney and later vice president and general counsel at Bet Tzedek Legal Services. Before that, she worked as a senior associate at Milberg, Weiss, Bershad, Hynes & Lerach; as a fellow and civil rights specialist at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; as a litigation associate at Litt & Marquez; as a project attorney at the ACLU of Southern California; and as an associate at Gilbert Kelly Crowley & Jennett. Court received her J.D. from Loyola Law School and her B.A. from Pomona College.



NOMINATED

President Joe Biden announced the nomination on June 12 of Alameda County Superior Court Judge **Noël Wise** to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Wise, who was honored by CWL with the 2024 Rose Bird Memorial Award, has been a judge on the Alameda County Superior Court since 2014 and a supervising judge since 2019. She previously was a partner at Wise Gleicher in Alameda, worked in-house at Pacific Gas & Electric, was of counsel at Stoel Rives LLP in San Francisco, and was a trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice's environmental and natural resources division. Wise also served as a law clerk for Justice Harry Lee Anstead on the Florida Fourth District Court of Appeals. She received her J.S.M. from Stanford Law School in 2002; her J.D., cum laude, from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1993; and her B.S. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in 1989. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved Wise's nomination Aug. 1.



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APPOINTED

Past CWL board member **Ahtossa Fullerton** was appointed May 3 to serve as a judge in the Marin County Superior Court. Fullerton has been a partner at Wasacz Hilley & Fullerton LLP in San Francisco since 2010. Previously, she was a solo practitioner and worked at the firms Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP and Lanahan & Reilly LLP. She earned her J.D. from the Santa Clara University School of Law, an M.B.A. from the Santa Clara University School of Business, and her B.A. from the University of California, Davis.



COURAGEOUS JUDGES AWARDS

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge **Marguerite Downing**, one of CWL's Judicial Liaisons, was named by the National Judicial College (NJC) to its list of 60 Courageous Judges at an event in December celebrating NJC's 60th anniversary. Downing was recognized for her work training attorneys and judges nationwide on the effects of parental incarceration on children in the child welfare system.



Alameda County Superior Court Judge **Noël Wise**, a CWL member and winner of CWL's 2024 Rose Bird Memorial Award, also was honored by the National Judicial College as one of 60 Courageous Judges. Judge Wise was recognized as the first California judge to write that all judges have an ethical obligation to speak out against racial injustice.



HONORED

CWL board member **Vaani Chawla** was honored by the San Diego County Bar Association with its 2024 Service to Diversity Award. The award, which was presented during an awards luncheon May 14, recognizes outstanding service by a legal professional who has taken intentional and identifiable steps to advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in a legal workplace or the legal profession; has improved access to justice for individuals from demographic groups with historical challenges to access in numerous aspects of the legal profession and community; or has sought to eradicate barriers for historically excluded or disadvantaged legal professionals. Chawla is one of CWL's District 9 governors representing San Diego and Imperial counties. She is an immigration lawyer and co-founder of Berner Chawla PLLC in San Diego.



PUBLISHED

The American Bar Association published *Her Story: The Resilient Woman Lawyer's Guide to Conquering Obstacles, Book 2* in January, a collection of essays edited by CWL member **Teresa Beck**, Alicia Menendez, and Shayna Michele Steinfeld. Beck, a shareholder for Klinedinst, PC in San Diego who serves as the managing shareholder for the firm's Nevada and Arizona offices, is the immediate past president of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations. The book, a sequel to *Her Story: Lessons in Success from Lawyers Who Live It*, includes statistics on women in the profession and addresses topics including overcoming bias and promoting diversity, developing business, creating a brand, mentorships, mapping a career path and retirement plan, authenticity and resiliency, and overcoming obstacles. Each chapter ends with questions to facilitate discussions for book clubs or for personal reflection. It is available [online](#).



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CWL board member **Abby Putzulu** co-authored an article published in the Daily Journal in May, *No summer break for employers: How to comply with CA's Workplace Violence Prevention Program*, addressing requirements that were to go into effect for employers July 1. Putzulu, the CWL affiliate governor representing the Women Lawyers of Alameda County, is an associate at Fisher Phillips in San Francisco, where she represents employers in all aspects of labor and employment law.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

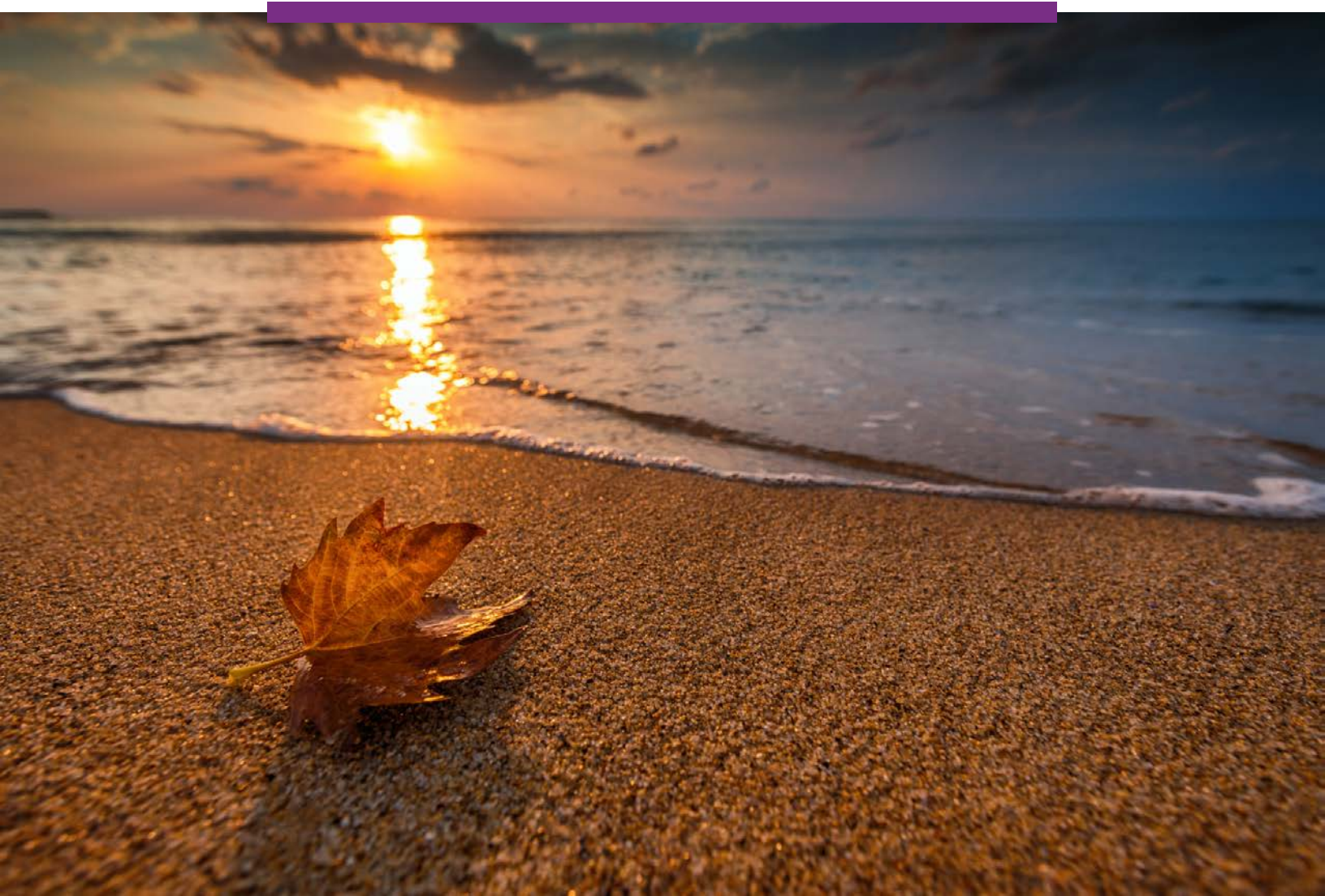
CWL Immediate Past President **Mika Domingo** was featured on KTVU-TV in March, discussing Women's History Month and her efforts to uplift and empower underrepresented communities. Domingo is the founder of M.S. Domingo Law Group, P.C. in Walnut Creek. Her interview is available online [here](#).



Let us lift you up. Tell us when you've won an honor or award or attained a special achievement. Contact us at newsletter@cw.org.



Jodi Cleesattle is president of CWL and a Supervising Deputy Attorney General in the San Diego office of the Department of Justice, where she works in the Employment Law Section.



Hon. Rose Bird Honored with Plaque at the Capital

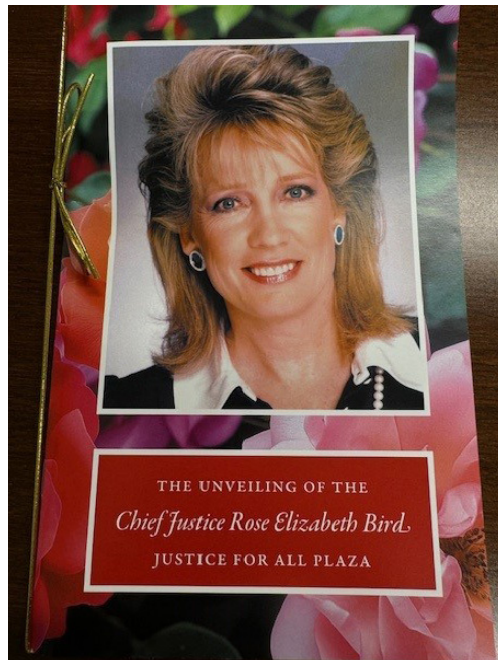
BY JESSICA RAMEY STENDER

The CWL Foundation contributed to the installation in May of a memorial plaque honoring former California Chief Justice Rose Bird, one of CWL's founding mothers and the first woman to serve as California's Chief Justice.

CWL has supported various legislative efforts in the past to recognize and honor the late Chief Justice Bird. In 2023, CWL supported California Senate Concurrent Resolution 47, sponsored by State Sen. Steve Glazer, which designated the plaza at the center of the California State Capitol World Peace Rose Garden in Sacramento as the Chief Justice Rose Elizabeth Bird Justice For All Plaza.

CWL participated in a May 7 ceremony featuring the unveiling of the memorial plaque in the Chief Justice Rose Elizabeth Bird Justice for All Plaza.

Kathryn Meola, president of Sacramento Women Lawyers, made remarks on behalf of CWL. She noted that Bird was one of the pioneers who founded California Women Lawyers in 1974 and highlighted her incredible contributions to the law. In 1966, Bird became the first female deputy public defender in Santa Clara County, where she rose to become chief of the appellate division. During this time, she also taught at Stanford Law School. And she was the first woman to serve in the California cabinet as the Secretary of Agriculture, appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 1975.



Just 12 years after graduating law school, Bird was appointed Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court in 1977, again by Governor Brown. Bird stood strong for her convictions and continued to champion the underdog throughout her career. Even after leaving the Supreme Court in 1986 – when voters angry at her opposition to the death penalty declined to re-elect her and two other justices – she volunteered for the East Palo Alto Community Law Project, a program designed to meet the legal needs of the community while also providing legal training to law students.

CWL is proud of our support in this effort to honor Chief Justice Rose Bird. We hope that those who visit this plaza will remember her contributions to the law and honor her legacy for many years to come.



Jessica Ramey Stender serves on the CWL Board of Governors as District 4 Governor and co-chairs CWL's Legislative Committee. She is also Policy Director & Deputy Legal Director of Equal Rights Advocates, a gender justice organization.

CWL to Celebrate 50 Years of “Together Strong” at Annual Conference & Dinner

BY JODI CLEESATTLE

California Women Lawyers is celebrating its 50th anniversary of being “Together Strong,” with its Annual Conference and Annual Dinner set for Nov. 8 at Hotel Nikko in San Francisco.



The daylong conference will feature programs on voting rights, reproductive rights, the power of choice, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts in the legal community, as well as opportunities for professional headshots and make-up sessions. The annual dinner follows the conference, beginning with a reception and silent auction at 6 p.m.

The annual dinner’s keynote speaker is **Emma Rodriguez-Ayala**, a trailblazer in the investments industry, with career spanning roles in the investment management practice of major law firms to general counsel positions with multi-billion dollar asset managers. As Chief Administrative Officer



and General Counsel for Ariel Investments, Rodriguez-Ayala oversees legal, compliance, governance, investment operations, technology, and risk oversight. She is a founder and board member of Angeles Investors, a Latino-focused angel investing group, and is a member of the Latino Corporate Directors Association.

CWL will present two of its prestigious awards at the annual dinner, honoring San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan with the Fay Stender Award and Klinedinst CEO and president Heather Rosing with the Judith Soley Lawyer as Citizen Award. CWL also will present the Nancy E. O’Malley Scholarship to this year’s winner, and California Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero will swear in the 2025 CWL Board of Governors.



Kimberly Ellis, the director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women and former executive director of Emerge California, will give the lunch keynote remarks during the annual conference.

Ellis is the founder of Unbought – Unbossed, an incubator for the next generation of political disruptors. She has appeared on syndicated television and radio and is frequently interviewed by leading political media outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, and Associated Press. She is a frequent contributor to a number of online and print dailies, including the San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, and Huffington Post.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, who has been representing California’s 12th District (formerly 13th) since 1998, also will be honored during the conference luncheon for her long service in Congress.

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The conference panels and confirmed speakers include:

Protecting Voting Rights and Fair Elections in Perilous Times

- Laura Brill, *Founder & CEO, The Civics Center*
- Ian Kelley, *Associate Professor, John F. Kennedy College of Law*
- Brittany Stonesifer, *ACLU of Northern California*
- MODERATOR: Alice Shaw, *CWL Affiliate Governor; Partner, Flicker Kerin Kruger & Bissada LLP*

My Body, My Choice: The Continuing Battle Over Reproductive Rights

- Tracy Skaddan, *General Counsel, Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest*
- Christy Holstege, *Of Counsel, Beaman Jacinto Law*
- Radhika Rao, *Professor of Law, UC San Francisco Law School*
- MODERATOR: Monique Fierro, *CWL Affiliate Governor; Associate, Myers Widders Gibson Jones & Feingold LLP*

The Power of Choice & Reducing Microaggressions

- Sylvia High, *CEO, Aiming High, Inc.*
- MODERATOR: Pa'tanisha Davis Pierson, *CWL President-Elect; Key Counsel PC*

DEI: Where Do We Go From Here

- Terrance Evans, *Partner, Duane Morris, LLP*
- Jamie Dolkas, *Senior Vice President of Strategy and Research, Equality Action Center, UC San Francisco Law School*
- Quiana Washington, *Valient Law Firm*
- Radhika Rao, *Professor of Law, UC San Francisco Law School*
- MODERATOR: Michele Anderson, *CWL First Vice President; Los Angeles City Attorney's Office*

Tickets are on sale now at <https://bit.ly/CWL50th>, with a discounted rate for combined tickets to both the annual conference and annual dinner.

Ticket prices are:

2024 Annual Conference Only:

CWL Member: \$300
Non-Member: \$325
Student/Government/Non-Profit Member: \$275

2024 Annual Dinner Only:

CWL Member: \$275
Non-Member: \$300
Student/Government/Non-Profit Member: \$250

2024 Annual Conference & Dinner Combined Ticket:

CWL Member: \$550
Non-Member: \$600
Student/Government/Non-Profit Member: \$500

CWL seeks sponsors for the annual conference and annual dinner, and information about sponsorship levels and benefits are online at <https://www.cwl.org/>.

CWL thanks our sponsors so far: Klinedinst PC; Corey Luzaich de Ghetaldi & Riddle LLP; Flicker Krin Kruger & Bissada LLP; ADR Services, Inc.; Accident Research & Biomechanics, Inc.; Hartman King PC; Philo Law Firm PC; Turner Boyd Seraphine; ARC; and billables.ai.



Jodi Cleesattle is president of CWL and a Supervising Deputy Attorney General in the San Diego office of the Department of Justice, where she works in the Employment Law Section.



TOGETHER STRONG



CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS

50TH ANNIVERSARY

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & DINNER
11.8.24 HOTEL NIKKO, SAN FRANCISCO



Kimberly Ellis

**KEYNOTE
SPEAKERS**



Emma Rodriguez-Ayala

CWL Thanks the Sponsors of our 50th Anniversary Annual Dinner and Annual Conference

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Join us as a sponsor of the 50th Anniversary Annual Dinner & Conference! Visit <https://www.cwl.org/> for more information.





CWL Announces Winners of Annual Awards

BY HON. MARGUERITE DOWNING

Each year, California Women Lawyers honors exceptional lawyers and judges who illustrate CWL's mission of empowering women and breaking glass ceilings for women in the profession with four awards – the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award and the Rose Bird Memorial Award for judges, and the Fay Stender Award and the Judith Soley Lawyer as Citizen Award for attorneys.

CWL is pleased to announce that it will present its 2024 awards to Orange County Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Macias, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Noël Wise, San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan, and Klinedinst CEO and president Heather Rosing.

The judicial award winners are being recognized at local award receptions, and the attorney award winners will be honored at CWL's 50th Annual Dinner Nov. 8 in San Francisco.

JOAN DEMPSEY KLEIN DISTINGUISHED JURIST AWARD HON. ELIZABETH MACIAS

The Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award is named for the Hon. Joan Dempsey Klein (dec.), former Presiding Justice of the Second District Court of Appeal, Division Three, who served as CWL's first provisional president and who, in 1994, was the first recipient of the award that was later named in her honor.

The award recognizes a Southern California judge for excellence as a jurist, longstanding vigorous service, and inspiration to the women lawyers of California.

This year's winner, **Hon. Elizabeth Macias**, received the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award at a reception hosted by Orange County Women Lawyers Association Aug. 29 at Boardwalk Courtyard in Irvine.

Macias was appointed to the Orange County Superior Court bench in December 2012 and is assigned to the Central



Justice Center in Santa Ana. In 2018, she was the first Latina appointed to serve on the court's felony trial panel. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was a deputy federal public defender from 1999 to 2012.

A first-generation Mexican-American and the first in her

family to obtain a high school diploma, Macias was born in Los Angeles and raised in Santa Ana. She received her J.D. from California Western School of Law and her B.A. in psychology and Chicano & Chicana studies from California State University, Fullerton.

Macias serves on the governor's Judicial Selection Advisory Committee in Orange County, and she is active with the California Judges Association, the California Latino Judges Association, and the Judicial Council. She also helped form the Orange County Association of Affinity Judicial Officers and served as its first vice president.

She has been named 2017 Latina Judge of the Year by the Hispanic National Bar Association, 2017 Judge of the Year by the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County, 2019 Judge of the Year by the Orange County Women Lawyers Association, and 2021 Judge of the Year by the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County.

She also received the 2019 Vision of Visionaries Award from Cal State Fullerton and a 2020 Judge James O. Perez Trailblazer Award from the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County.

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ROSE BIRD MEMORIAL AWARD HON. NOËL WISE

The Rose Bird Memorial Award is given in memory of Justice Rose Bird, one of CWL's founding mothers who became the first woman to serve as Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court and the first woman to serve in the California State Cabinet.

The award, established in 2000, recognizes a Northern California judge whose judicial excellence and longstanding or groundbreaking public service inspires women lawyers throughout the state.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge **Noël Wise** is this year's winner, and she received the award at a reception hosted by Women Lawyers of Alameda County April 18.



Wise, appointed to the Superior Court in 2014, was nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California by President Joe Biden on June 13.

She participated in hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee in July, and the Senate Judiciary Committee approved her nomination Aug. 1.

Prior to joining the Superior Court bench, Wise was a principal and founding member of employment law boutique WG&R Law Group (formerly Wise Gleicher) from 2006 to 2014. Before that, she had worked as a federal trial attorney in the Environmental and Natural Resources Division, as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California, as of counsel for Stoel Rives LLP in San Francisco, as an adjunct professor at University of California, Berkeley School of Law, and as an in-house counsel for Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

She received her B.S. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; her J.D., cum laude, from Nova Southeastern University Law School; and her J.S.M. from Stanford Law School, where she also served as a teaching fellow. After

graduating law school, Wise clerked for Justice Harry L. Anstead of the Florida Fourth District Court of Appeals.

Wise has been active in the Alameda County Bar Association, serving on the board of the bar's Legal Access board of directors. She also has served on the boards of Girls Inc. of Alameda, which works to uplift girls from disadvantaged communities, and the Alameda Food Bank.

FAY STENDER AWARD SUMMER STEPHAN

The Fay Stender Award recognizes attorneys who have demonstrated a feminist perspective, a commitment to under-represented and disadvantaged groups, ability to effect change as a single individual, and vigorous advocacy on behalf of women litigants, and who exhibit zest, humanity, personal courage, forceful presence and non-conformity.

CWL established the award in 1982 in honor of Fay Stender, a Bay Area attorney who spent much of her professional life fighting for prisoners' rights.



This year's award goes to San Diego County District Attorney **Summer Stephan**, who has spent her legal career as a prosecutor and has tried more than 100 jury trials. She served as Chief of the DA's North County Branch and as Chief of the Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking Division, then as Chief Deputy District Attorney before being appointed

interim District Attorney in 2017. She was elected to the position in 2018 and again in 2022.

Stephan is a national leader in the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation. She co-chairs the National Association of Women Judges Human Trafficking Committee, has served on the Governor's Task Force for High-Risk Sex Offenders and Sexually Violent Predators,

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and has led projects aimed at reducing sexual assaults on campuses, raising awareness of human trafficking, and reducing opioid and fentanyl overdoses. She serves as president-elect of the National District Attorneys Association.

She has received awards including the 2022 Bernard Witkin Award for Excellence in the Practice of Law and the 2017 Southern California District Attorney of the Year Award by Crime Victims United.

Stephan received her B.A. from the University of California, Davis and her J.D. from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law.

JUDITH SOLEY LAWYER AS CITIZEN AWARD HEATHER ROSING

The Judith Soley Lawyer as Citizen Award was established in 2013 following the murder of CWL longtime member Judith Soley, who was killed along with her client by the client's husband, during a break in divorce proceedings in 2011.

The award honors attorneys who, like Soley, demonstrate a commitment and passion regarding civic and charitable engagement; embody the elements of being excellent, civil and honorable lawyers; value compassion and empathy along with advocacy when addressing clients' individual needs; work to improve the legal system through education and involvement in bar associations; participate in the public life of their community, state and nation; are leaders, role models and mentors; and demonstrate a commitment to the mission of California Women Lawyers.

CWL has named San Diego attorney **Heather Rosing** as the 2024 Judith Soley Award winner. Rosing is CEO and president of Klinedinst PC, chair of the firm's Complex Litigation and Professional Liability Department, and a certified specialist in Legal Malpractice Law.



She served four years on the State Bar of California's Board of Trustees as vice president, treasurer, and board member, and later served in 2018 and 2019 as the inaugural president of the California Lawyers Association, the largest statewide voluntary bar association in the United States. She also served as the inaugural president of the California Lawyers Foundation, the philanthropic sister organization of CLA.

She previously served as president of the San Diego County Bar Association, and during her tenure, launched a Diversity Fellowship Program, spearheaded a civility initiative, and founded a pro bono program to assist active duty service members.

Rosing is active in promoting legal ethics and civility, and she chairs the ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers Professional Liability. She has served as an advisor to the State Bar's Rules Revision Commission, served as co-vice chair of the Civility Task Force project of the State Bar, CLA and the California Judges Association, and is a member of the CJA's Judicial Fairness Coalition.

She has received numerous awards, including the National Conference of Bar Presidents' 2022 Fellows Award, the 2022 David H. Bartick Award for Civility and Professionalism from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California, and the 2021 Daniel T. Broderick III Award for civility and professionalism.

Rosing received her bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois and her J.D. from Northwestern School of Law.

Through its annual awards, California Women Lawyers strives to recognize exceptional women lawyers and jurists and to congratulate and celebrate women moving forward to make a difference in society and breaking glass ceilings.



Hon. Marguerite Downing is a judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court and a judicial liaison on the Board of Governors of California Women Lawyers. She co-chairs CWL's Awards Committee.

Judge Elizabeth Macias Honored at Reception in Irvine

BY BETTY FRACISCO

Orange County Women Lawyers Association (OCWLA) was privileged to recognize **Hon. Elizabeth Guerrero Macias** as the winner of California Women Lawyers' Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award at OCWLA's annual Women Judges Reception Aug. 29.

CWL president Jodi Cleesattle presented the award at the reception, which was held at the Boardwalk Courtyard in Irvine.

"Through her work and her volunteer activities, Judge Macias demonstrates her passion, intelligence, service, leadership, and commitment to inclusivity," Cleesattle said. "CWL is honored to recognize Judge Macias's exemplary service and leadership in the Southern California community."



Hon. Elizabeth Guerrero Macias

to educating and inspiring youth to pursue higher education and a career in the law.

Macias was born in Los Angeles to teenage factory workers, both with less than a sixth-grade education, but an extraordinary work ethic. They were present at the reception to see their daughter win this exceptional award.

Macias' family moved to Santa Ana, where her mother stayed home to care for her children due to the tough neighborhood in which they lived, and her father became a gardener. Young Macias spent weekend hours passing out his business cards. She was the firstborn,

everything was secondhand, and English was her second language. Once in elementary school, Macias asked her parents to find her a suit for career day. She told them she wanted to be the school receptionist, who was kind, looked so professional, and was someone she could relate to – a woman of color she saw as a role model.

Macias was the first in her family to get a high school diploma and graduate from college. Although her father is now retired, Macias proudly calls herself the daughter of a gardener because it demonstrates what is possible with hard work, support and opportunities.

After graduating from law school, Macias served more than 12 years as a deputy federal public defender in the Central District of California, before Governor Jerry Brown appointed her to the Orange County Superior Court in 2012.

Within three years, Macias was assigned as supervising judge of the Misdemeanor Criminal Panel. In 2018, she was the first Latina appointed to serve on the Court's felony trial panel where she sits today. She is also the founder and chair of the California Superior Court, County of Orange's Judicial Outreach Committee.

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Macias serves on the Orange County Superior Court bench and is assigned to the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana. Her commitment to service, leadership, and the advancement of women serves as a model for the very best in all of us. In the past few years, Macias has served on the executive boards of both the California Judges Association and the California Latino Judges Association. She has worked on numerous projects, programs, and initiatives – from building a judiciary that is representative of California's rich diversity

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In addition to her responsibilities as a trial judge, Macias has served as president of the California Latino Judges Association and vice president of the California Judges Association (CJA). She previously served as chair of the CJA Diversity and Inclusivity Committee and as chair of CJA's Task Force for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. She also serves on the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness.

She was a founder and first vice president of the Orange County Association of Affinity Judicial Officers, which brings together local judicial members of five statewide affinity associations to promote public trust and confidence in the courts through diversity and inclusivity, in addition to educating students about the legal system and diversifying the legal profession and the bench.

Macias has distinguished herself in giving back to her community in many ways throughout her career, and she has been a role model and mentor for youth in the community. She is committed to expanding the number of Latinos in higher education and the legal profession, and she spearheaded efforts to build Orange County's first legal studies academy at her alma mater, Santa Ana High School. The program was later named in her honor as the Elizabeth G. Macias Legal Studies Academy.

In addition to outreach efforts at the youth level, Macias has made it her mission to awaken a sense of community in a

number of sitting judges and members of various boards who would not be in those positions but for Macias' sage advice and guidance.

Macias' success as a judge and an active member of the Orange County and California legal community has been recognized with numerous awards.

She was honored as 2017 Latina Judge of the Year by the Hispanic National Bar Association, 2017 Judge of the Year by the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County, and 2019 Judge of the Year by the Orange County Women Lawyers Association. She has received the Affinity Bar Association's Be the Change Award and California State University, Fullerton's Vision and Visionaries Award, the university's highest alumni honor. In 2019, the Mexican Government presented Macias with the Ohtli (Camino) Award in recognition of her work for the advancement of Mexican citizens in the United States.

Macias scores the highest marks on each of the criteria for the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award –excellence as a jurist, longstanding vigorous service, and inspiration to the women lawyers of California.



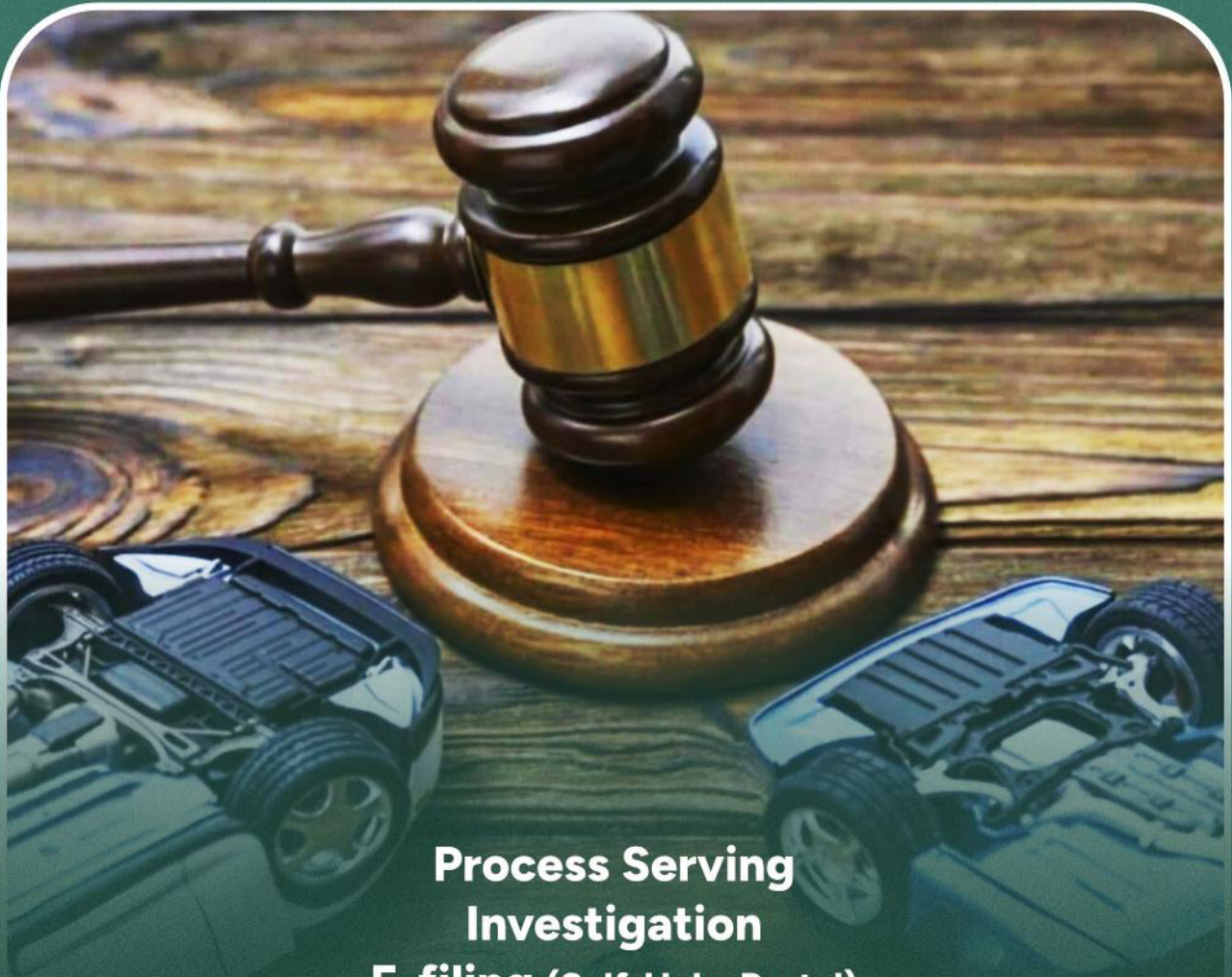
Betty Fracisco is CWL District Governor representing District 8, and she is an attorney with Garrett & Jensen in Riverside.





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Rose Bird Award Celebration

Judge Noël Wise Honored at Reception in Alameda County

BY ABBY PUTZULU

California Women Lawyers presented the Rose Bird Memorial Award to Alameda County Superior Court Judge **Noël Wise** at the Spring Reception hosted by Women Lawyers of Alameda County April 18.

The well-attended event, which was held at the home of Judge Tara DeSautels in Alameda County, highlighted Wise's remarkable career and significant contributions to the legal profession.

In accepting the award, Wise underscored the importance of community support in empowering legal professionals, urging attendees to physically raise a glass to all those who have supported them thus far.

CWL president-elect Pa'tanisha Davis Pierson presented the award to Wise at the reception, noting that CWL was impressed with Judge Wise's dedication to her community and to the bench and the bar.



Hon. Noël Wise

underserved communities is unparalleled," Pierson said.

Wise's journey in law began with a clerkship with Florida Supreme Court Justice Harry Anstead, followed by distinguished roles at the U.S. Department of Justice and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Southern California. Her career highlights include receiving the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award and teaching at prominent law schools such as Stanford and UC Berkeley.

Appointed to the California Superior Court in 2014 by Governor Jerry Brown, Wise has held pivotal roles in family law, appellate division, and civil law, where she has handled a wide range of cases including antitrust and product liability.

Wise is also deeply involved in judicial education and serves on various statewide committees, emphasizing ethical standards and fairness in the legal system. Her influential articles in publications like *Time* and *The Atlantic* reflect her advocacy for legal reform and gender equality within the judiciary.

The Rose Bird Memorial Award, established in honor of former California Chief Justice Rose Bird, recognizes judges who embody excellence in jurisprudence, demonstrate exceptional public service, inspire women in law, and hail from Northern California. The selection of Wise as the recipient of this award acknowledges her outstanding achievements and dedication to advancing justice.



"From volunteering at mock trial competitions at all grade levels, to mentoring women interested in joining the bench, to assisting Afghan judge refugees and their families re-build their lives in the Bay Area, her compassion and dedication to the sponsorship and advancement of all people, women, and

Continues on page 23

Continued from page 22

In addition to honoring Wise, the Women Lawyers of Alameda County awarded four bar exam stipends to aspiring women lawyers at the Spring Reception.

Recently nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as a life-tenured federal district court judge in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, Wise continues to make a profound impact on the legal community through her leadership, scholarly contributions, and advocacy.



Abby Putzulu is CWL's Affiliate Governor for Women Lawyers of Alameda County and an associate with Fisher & Phillips LLP in San Francisco.



Nominations for CWL Awards Due Nov. 1

BY HON. MARGUERITE DOWNING

Each year, California Women Lawyers honors exceptional lawyers and judges who illustrate CWL's mission of empowering women and helping to break glass ceilings for women in the profession. CWL is now seeking nominations for its four awards given annually – the Fay Stender Award, the Judith Soley Lawyer as Citizen Award, the Rose Bird Memorial Award, the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award.

Nominations for the 2025 awards are due Nov. 1.

The Fay Stender Award honors feminist and courageous women committed to underrepresented communities and advocating for women lawyers. This award, established in 1982, is named for Fay Stender, a CWL member and Bay Area attorney who spent much of her professional life fighting for prisoners' rights. The award recognizes attorneys who have demonstrated a feminist perspective, a commitment to underrepresented and disadvantaged groups, ability to effect change as a single individual, and vigorous advocacy on behalf of women litigants, and who exhibit zest, humanity, personal courage, forceful presence and non-conformity. Past recipients have included Summer Stephan, Gloria Allred, Kimberly La Salle, and Brenda Star Adams.

The Judith Soley Lawyer as Citizen Award honors women whose labor helps improve the nation's legal system and the community through charitable engagements and compassion for clients. This award, established in 2013, is given in memory of Judith Soley, who was an active member of CWL and the Fresno County Bar Association at the time she was murdered by a client's husband during a break in divorce proceedings. Soley, who was wheelchair-bound her entire life birth, did not let her disability prevent her from becoming an accomplished lawyer.

The award honors attorneys who, like Soley, demonstrate a commitment and passion regarding civic and charitable engagement; embody the elements of being excellent, civil and honorable lawyers; value compassion and empathy along with advocacy when addressing clients' individual needs; work to improve the legal system through education and involvement in bar associations; participate in the public life of their community, state and nation; are leaders, role models and mentors; and demonstrate a commitment to the mission of CWL.

CWL has honored Heather Rosing, Ashleigh Aiken, U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier, and Laura Brill with this award.

The Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award, established in 1994, is named after Justice Dempsey Klein, who was a founder and the first provisional president of CWL. The award recognizes a Southern California judge for excellence as a jurist, longstanding vigorous service, and inspiration to the women lawyers of California. Past honorees of this award have included Judge Elizabeth Macias, Judge Samantha Jessner, Justice Judith Haller, and Judge Marguerite D. Downing.

The Rose Bird Memorial Award is named for a CWL founding mother, Rose Bird, the first woman to become Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. The award, established in 2000, recognizes a Northern California judge whose judicial excellence and longstanding or groundbreaking public service inspires women lawyers throughout the state. Past honorees have included Judge Noël Weiss, Judge Erica Yew, Judge Anita Santos (ret.) Judge LaDoris Cordell (ret.), and Judge Diana Becton (ret.).

Please submit nominations online at <https://www.cwl.org/> awards by Nov. 1. Nominations must include a nominating letter (5-page maximum); copy of the nominee's resume, bio or curriculum vitae; and photo of the nominee (for promotional purposes). Nominations may also include up to five letters of support (2-page maximum each) and up to three news/magazine articles written by or about the nominee. The nomination package should describe the ways the nominee meets the award criteria, and letters of support should cite specific examples of the nominee's work on behalf of women.



Hon. Marguerite Downing, a judge on the Los Angeles Superior Court, serves on CWL's Board of Governors as a Judicial Liaison.

CWL In-House Counsel Network Mixes and Migles at Bingo Night

BY UCHE ANENE

The CWL In-House Counsel Network (IHCN) hosted a lively Networking Mixer and Bingo Night in Los Angeles Sept. 10.

The sold-out event, held at The Line Hotel in LA, featured fun and games – and met the goal of cultivating meaningful connections with and among in-house counsel attorneys. Guests mingled as they played meet-and-greet bingo, finding friends who matched traits listed on the bingo cards – like someone whose first legal job is their only legal job, someone who scuba dives, someone who has never watched “Law & Order,” and other fun facts.

Santa Monica attorney Matt Neco and Seyfarth Shaw partner Shardé Skahan won first and second place at bingo, winning a free 6-month LinkedIn Premium subscription and football tickets.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Commissioner Latrice Byrdsong, a former CWL board member, was the lucky

winner of the opportunity drawing prize – a professional headshot photo shoot.

The IHCN is co-chaired by Uche Anene, Legal Counsel at AT&T, and Camille Townsend Granville, Lead Counsel at AirBNB.

The IHCN thanks all those who sponsored, supported, and attended the Networking Mixer & Bingo Night and helped make the event a success.



Uche Anene is a CWL District 7 Governor and co-chair of the In-House Counsel Network. She is Legal Counsel for AT&T.





CWL Juneteenth Celebration Educates and Inspires

BY LORRINA DUFFY

California Women Lawyers celebrated Juneteenth with an online event June 15, featuring educational information, music, poetry, and dialogue.

Participants were encouraged to wear a statement outfit and enjoy delicious food during the virtual celebration, as those are some of the ways the holiday is celebrated. The first 15 registrants were treated to brunch gift cards.

The program, organized by CWL's Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion (DEBI) Committee, began with attendees standing for a recorded performance of "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The hymn, often referred to as the "Black National Anthem," was written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson in 1900.

DEBI Committee co-chair Michele Anderson, who also serves as CWL's First Vice President, shared the history of Juneteenth, which became a national holiday in 2021, and how Juneteenth has been traditionally celebrated since 1866.

Bernie Brown, a retired Los Angeles Assistant City Attorney, gave a reading of his poem, "Grandma's Food Feast From Africa," and panelists talked about foods associated with Juneteenth celebrations. Written materials included popular Juneteenth recipes, along with information about the history of the celebration, the symbolic meaning of the traditional flag, and information about why red foods and drink are part of the celebration.

The event continued with a moving video clip of Isabel Wilkerson, author of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, in which she discussed the history and meaning of caste, explaining that caste predates the notion of race, and defining "caste" as "the granting or withholding of respect, status, honor, attention, privileges, resources, benefit of the doubt, and human kindness to someone on the basis of their perceived rank or standing in the hierarchy."

In the film, Wilkerson explained that "race does not matter for the system to work," and "we have to consider oppression in a way that does not centralize race." She explained that

the United States has unaddressed history and that we will not know how to address our history if we do not know and understand it.

CWL board member Vaani Chawla, a member of the DEBI Committee, then shared a presentation in which she masterfully interwove key points from the book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* and the movie *Origin*, written and directed by Ava DuVernay. Chawla noted that, as Wilkerson points out, we all play a role in the problem of caste, and we all must be part of the solution.

Program attendees then engaged in an open discussion in which they shared their experiences, reflected on what they have learned, and shared their ideas on how to move forward.

Anderson gave closing remarks, thanking the participants for attending, and noting that Juneteenth is not an African-American holiday but an important day in U.S. history for all Americans.

"Juneteenth is a holiday for all Americans, as we are a nation of diverse people, and we all need to love and treat each other as brothers and sisters," Anderson said. "We all need to speak up and not sit back. We need to participate in good trouble."

CWL thanks DEBI Committee co-chairs Michelle Anderson and Trina Saunders and members Vaani Chawla, Lorrina Duffy, Monique Fierro, and Alexandria Hopson for organizing the Juneteenth program. CWL also thanks program sponsor Taufiki Joshua.



Lorrina Duffy is CWL's Second Vice President and serves on the CWL Board as District 7 Governor. She is co-founder and executive vice president for legal services for QDRO Counsel LLC.

CWL Relaunches Legislative Delegation for CCBA

BY JULIE WOODS

California Women Lawyers is reestablishing its Legislative Delegation in the Conference of California Bar Associations.

This fall, CWL will have a team of delegates attend the Annual Conference in San Francisco Oct. 17-20. CWL representatives will meet with delegates from bar associations around the state to engage in lively pro-con debates and vote on resolutions authored by their peers. Resolutions that pass the Conference may be included in next year's legislative program.

Marked by their unofficial motto, "There Ought to Be a Law!" CCBA encourages attorneys from all practice areas to materialize their ideas for change in the law. CCBA hosts resolution-drafting workshops and new delegate orientations. Attorneys may draft resolutions for new laws or amendments to existing laws for the benefit of the public and the legal profession. Delegates may submit resolutions for review by the Resolutions Committee and for debate at the Annual Conference.

CCBA not only embodies the American principle that anyone can effectuate change in the law, it brings energy to the California Supreme Court's initiative on accessibility to justice. As explained on its website, CCBA "serves justice in California by bringing together attorney volunteers from around the State to seek, debate, and promote creative, non-partisan changes to the law for the benefit of Californians."

CCBA was founded in 2002 as the successor entity of the State Bar's Conference of Delegates and has been a driving

force in the Legislature, serving as the source for more than 100 bills that have been signed into law, more than any other organization.

CWL First Vice President Michele Anderson serves as this year's chair of CCBA, inspiring the community as a leader who is committed to philanthropy, inclusion, and justice.

"CCBA is the grassroots organization that has the reputation for solving problems in the legal system by thoroughly vetting and debating all sides of an issue to make sure reason prevails, and therefore achieve justice through laws," Anderson said.

CWL's Legislative Delegation will vote on resolutions in accordance with CWL's mission "to advance women in the profession of law; to improve the administration of justice; to better the position of women in society; to eliminate all inequities based on gender, and to provide an organization for collective action and expression germane to the aforesaid purposes."

If you would like to become involved in CWL's new Legislative Delegation for CCBA, please reach out to Committee Chair Julie Woods at JulieWoodsLaw@gmail.com.

Julie Woods is a District 3 Governor representing Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. She is a Probate Attorney for the Los Angeles County Superior Court.



Conference of California Bar Associations

Justice Through Laws

CWL 2024 Legislative Priorities Update

BY JESSICA RAMEY STENDER

Every year, CWL supports priority bills in California that are aligned with CWL's mission and legislative priority areas, which include: ensuring reproductive justice, including reproductive choice, maternity care, access to reproductive care, and protecting privacy; preventing violence against women and children, including domestic violence, human trafficking, gun violence and sex crimes; supporting human rights and equality; providing court funding and access to justice; and addressing economic issues.

This year, the CWL Board approved a slate of priority bills and budget proposals that are critical to advancing the rights and economic security of women, families, and communities throughout California. Since then, CWL Legislative Committee members have met with legislative offices, submitted letters of support, and expressed support in legislative committee hearings for our 2024 priorities. We are pleased to report that all of our budget priorities were included in the final budget signed by the Governor in June. Additionally, eight of our nine priority bills have been signed into law.

CWL legislative wins, along with the status of our remaining priority bills, are outlined below. We look forward to continuing to advocate for these important measures throughout the rest of the session.

2024 LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

SB 233 (Skinner): Standing Strong for Arizonans

and Their Doctors: SB 233 was announced by the Governor and Legislative Women's Caucus in response to the Arizona Supreme Court decision placing extreme restrictions on abortion care. Gov. Newsom signed it into law in May 2024. The new law allows Arizona abortion providers in good standing to temporarily provide abortion care to patients from Arizona who travel to California for that care.

SB 729 (Menjivar): Equitable Fertility Coverage:

Senate Bill 729 advances reproductive freedom in California by requiring large group health plans to provide coverage for fertility and infertility care, including IVF. The bill will also update the definition of "infertility" to be inclusive of LGBTQ+ family planning experiences and

help to ensure that anyone seeking to build a family has equitable access to infertility treatment and care. Gov. Newsom signed the bill into law in September.

SB 1090 (Durazo): Early Application for Paid Family Leave and Disability Insurance Benefits:

California's Paid Family Leave (PFL) and State Disability Insurance (SDI) programs provide critical support to working families and directly address many social determinants of health. However, California workers are not currently permitted to apply for PFL and SDI until they have already experienced a qualifying life event and are on unpaid leave from work. Senate Bill 1090 will allow workers to apply for these programs up to 30 days in advance of an anticipated leave, which will reduce barriers for California workers – especially lower-to middle-income workers – who rely on PFL and SDI to heal and care for their families. Gov. Newsom signed the bill into law in September.

SB 1356 (Wahab): Gender Perspective Judging:

This bill expands the scope of existing judicial training programs to more broadly cover gender bias. Judges should receive training related to the role of gender in court proceedings, including the elimination of stereotypes, assessing inequities in power, and meeting the needs of groups in unique situations of vulnerability. While existing law requires the Judicial Council to develop judicial training programs on domestic violence including the detrimental impacts to children residing with a perpetrator of such violence, there are a number of other ways in which gender bias may impact a case unrelated to domestic violence or intimate partner violence. SB 1356 ensures that judicial trainings more broadly cover gender bias, and create greater equity in our judicial system. Gov. Newsom signed it into law in August.

SB 1386 (Caballero): The Rape Shield Preservation

Act: Senate Bill 1386 will protect survivors of sexual assault, rape, and sexual battery from further victimization by clarifying civil rape shield law, a law that protects

Continued from page 29

the privacy of the survivors by prohibiting unnecessary and intrusive inquiries into their unrelated sexual history. Specifically, this bill will clarify that evidence of a victim's sexual conduct unrelated to the case is not admissible to impeach their testimony as to consent or damages. Gov. Newsom signed the bill into law in September.

AB 518 (Wicks): Paid Family Leave for Chosen Family:

Assembly Bill 518 will allow workers to access Paid Family Leave to care for a seriously ill "designated person" who can be a member of their chosen or extended family. Paid Family Leave is entirely funded by worker contributions, but not all workers' families are recognized. AB 518 is vital to ensure equity and access to the existing program, especially for LGBTQ+ families and individuals. "Chosen" family members are recognized under state law providing the right to job-protected unpaid leave, but workers remain unable to take leave and provide care because they cannot afford to do so. Gov. Newsom signed the bill into law in September.

AB 2085 (Bauer-Kahan): Streamlining Clinic

Licensure: Assembly Bill 2085 will prohibit local interference with the delivery of constitutionally protected health care by establishing a streamlined approval process for development of community health clinics in California. One key barrier to health care is access to a clinic, and in a post-Dobbs world, access to abortion is more limited than ever. This bill ensures that local jurisdictions cannot interfere, without justification, in the establishment of comprehensive health care clinics. Gov. Newsom signed the bill into law in September.

AB 2843 (Petrie-Norris): Eliminating Medical Cost Sharing for Rape Survivors:

Assembly Bill 2843 removes the issue of cost-sharing as a barrier to a rape survivor seeking care and forensic testing. While forensic exams and rape kits are free, other costs associated with an emergency room visit are not, for those with private insurance. AB 2843 ensures rape survivors will have the benefit of a rape kit test and forensic exam, without financial barriers associated with an ER visit. Moreover, they can receive the health care that they need following a traumatic sexual assault. Gov. Newsom signed the bill into law in September.

BUDGET WINS

In a very difficult budget year, critical funding was preserved in the final budget signed in June, including CWL priorities

related to domestic violence and other crime survivor services, CalWORKs, and affordable childcare:

\$103 million in ongoing funding for crime victims' services programs to prevent potentially devastating cuts and provide stability for funding in future years. This will prevent almost 20,000 Californians from having to choose between staying in an abusive environment and homelessness because of the unmet need for shelter, and will support access to the mental health and legal advocacy services that survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, and human trafficking need to heal in the wake of harm;

Restoring several life-saving core services across the spectrum of the CalWORKs program;

Restoring funding for childcare spaces to ensure increased access to affordable child care for working families.

STATUS OF REMAINING PRIORITY BILLS

AB 2901 (Aguiar-Curry): Parental Leave for Teachers:

Assembly Bill 2901 would require public schools and community college districts to provide educators with up to 14 weeks of a leave of absence with full pay for an employee who is required to be absent from duty because of pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from those conditions. The bill passed the Assembly May 21, but was ordered to the inactive file at the request of State Sen. Lena Gonzalez Aug. 28.

The Legislative Committee welcomes CWL members to join this committee and encourages member input on the CWL legislative agenda. If you are interested in working with the Legislative Committee, please contact the Legislative Committee co-chairs at jstender@equalrights.org or claire@mclellanlawgroup.com.



Jessica Ramey Stender serves on the CWL Board of Governors as District 4 Governor and co-chairs CWL's Legislative Committee. She is also Policy Director & Deputy Legal Director of Equal Rights Advocates, a gender justice organization.



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THE CWL NETWORK

CWL's membership includes lawyers, judges, in-house counsel, professors and law students, providing mentorship on a statewide basis. CWL provides various networking and speaker opportunities.



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Your membership supports CWL's state and national efforts to further legislation that makes life better for women.



AMICUS ACTIVITY

CWL prepares or joins in amicus briefs at the appellate level on matters relevant to CWL's core issues, including equal justice.



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MEET LOUNDA LACEY, CWL'S LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Annika Koenig

Lounda Lacey, the California Women Lawyer's (CWL) Legislative Committee Chair, is a former state legislator who served in the California State Assembly from 2002 to 2010. She served as the Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Governmental Organization and the Assembly's Committee on the Judiciary. She is currently a partner at the law firm of Lacey & Associates, LLP, where she focuses on corporate law and governance. She is also a frequent speaker at industry events and a past president of the California Women Lawyers Association.

Ms. Lacey credits her experience of policy making as her motivation as a board member for CWL. In 2016, she served as the chair of the CWL's Legislative Committee. She is currently serving as the chair of the CWL's Legislative Committee. She is also a frequent speaker at industry events and a past president of the California Women Lawyers Association.

Ms. Lacey's vision for the committee is to identify a handful of bills that represent CWL's interests in the legislative process. She focuses on bills that are important to the profession and the public. She is currently serving as the chair of the CWL's Legislative Committee. She is also a frequent speaker at industry events and a past president of the California Women Lawyers Association.

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Dru Ramey Takes a Seat at the Table

This month, CWL published an interview with the incredible Druella (Dru) Druella Ramey. Ms. Ramey is the former executive director of the National Association of Women Judges, the former executive director and general counsel of the Bar Association of San Francisco, and a former board member of the National Judicial Institute. She is currently a partner at the law firm of Ramey & Associates, LLP, where she focuses on corporate law and governance. She is also a frequent speaker at industry events and a past president of the California Women Lawyers Association.

Ms. Ramey is also a recipient of the ABA Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award and the American Judicial Committee's National Award. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College and a graduate of Yale Law School.

Listen to Druella Ramey's and Mike Durrig's interview with Ms. Ramey in the latest installment of "Seat at the Table," CWL's podcast with California's legal luminaries. www.cwl.org/podcast



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