



CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS  
NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

# Letter from the CWL President

Ana M. Storey



## Dear Members and Friends:

This is my last newsletter as CWL president, and I suppose I am feeling a bit reflective. In this summer's newsletter, I remarked on trailblazers and their importance in our society and for those coming behind them.

This October, we lost a major trailblazer. Hon. Frances Muñoz (Ret.) passed away at the age of 92. Back in 2012, I was sworn in as president of the Latina Lawyers Bar Association. That night, we honored then-retired Judge Muñoz with LLBA's Mary V. Orozco Abriendo Caminos Award. Mary Virginia Orozco, who died in 2019, was the first Latina to be sworn in as an attorney in California. The award in her name honors women lawyers and judicial officers who open doors for others while making indelible marks on the legal profession and in society. Gov. Jerry Brown appointed Judge Muñoz to the Orange County bench in 1978, making her the first Latina trial judge in California, and maybe in the U.S. Her lifetime of advocacy in law, education, and immigration reform, including co-founding organizations devoted to increasing diversity in law, made a difference in the lives of countless people and inspired others to blaze their own trails.

Throughout this past board year, CWL has connected and collaborated with resilient women lawyers from throughout California and across the country. We continue to impact diversity on the bench via our award-winning So, You Want to Be a Judge™ program and our highly respected judicial evaluation process. Our newest program, So, You Want to Be a Lawyer, gathers diverse and distinguished legal professionals to give virtual education and mentorship to hundreds of high school, college, and law students across California. We increased our reach and diversity by joining a coalition of more than 20 minority bar associations with an aggregated total membership of over 3,000 California attorneys, judges, and other legal professionals. The beauty of CWL, what our founders recognized, is that it is this network of relationships that makes us stronger, as individuals, as a profession, and as a society. Barely into its new term, the Supreme Court just heard oral arguments in a case that could end affirmative action as we know it. CWL

signed onto an amicus brief supporting affirmative action admissions policies.

Voting has already begun in the mid-term elections scheduled for November 8. Proposition 1, a legislative measure that would expressly include the right to reproductive freedom in the California Constitution, is on the ballot. Last month, CWL co-hosted an event with sister bar organizations to educate our respective members about Proposition 1. We all agreed that sharing stories about what reproductive freedom means for women, their families, and our society is a critical component of countering misinformation and bringing clarity to a contentious and deeply personal issue.

We all know we are living in challenging times. It seems now that every election and Supreme Court term is the "most important of our lives." I don't know if that is true, but I do know that lawyers and judges play an important role in a democracy and that diversity of lived experience and perspective in our legal profession is critical. Lawyers can and must, as defenders of the Constitution, play a leading role, including active civic engagement, countering disinformation, and even volunteering to teach the next generation about why democracy matters.

**Ana M. Storey, President**



# CWL

FALL 2022  
NEWSLETTER

## **2021-22 CWL Board Officers**

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## **Additional Photography** Pexels and Unsplash

**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](http://www.cwl.org).



Christine Monroe  
EDITOR

The fall newsletter reminds us that the holidays are just around the corner -- a time of celebration and giving. This year, Giving Tuesday is November 29. We hope that you will consider the CWL Foundation and its important work when you are making your annual donations.

November 8 is also election day and on the ballot is Proposition 1. Since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in May, CWL has reaffirmed its stance on reproductive freedom and commitment to assisting women. This edition of the CWL Newsletter includes an important discussion about Proposition 1 and other important legislation in California that CWL has supported.

November is also declared National American Indian Heritage Month. It is a time to celebrate the rich history, culture, and contribution of our nation's first people. Earlier this year, the Senate voted "to confirm Sunshine Suzanne Sykes to a lifetime seat on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, making her the state's first-ever Native American federal judge and just the fifth Indigenous woman in U.S. history to serve on a federal court."<sup>1</sup> CWL celebrates the accomplishments of our diverse population of women lawyers who continue to inspire future generations.

The Fall Newsletter also shares the continuing work of CWL and shares highlights from recent programs.

As always, please email us at [newsletter@cwlf.org](mailto:newsletter@cwlf.org) if you are interested in being featured in our member section, or when you or someone who inspires you has won an honor, award, achievement, or legal victory. We are also looking for members who are interested in publishing articles on topics relevant to CWL's mission. Please reach out to us if you have an idea or would like to author an article.

Christine Monroe

Editor, CWL Newsletter

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<sup>1</sup> Defender Services Office of Training Division, U.S. Courts, Senate Confirms First-Ever Native American Federal Judge In California. <https://www.fd.org/news/senate-confirms-first-ever-native-american-federal-judge-california>



# Roe, Roe, Roe Your Vote!

BY JAIMI GROOTHUIS

On November 8, Californians will decide the outcome of Proposition 1 – the proposed amendment to the California Constitution to explicitly protect the right to abortion and the right to choose or refuse contraceptives. If approved, Proposition 1 will ensure the fundamental right to reproductive freedom.

Opponents argue that Proposition 1 is unnecessary to protect reproductive rights because California already has a robust set of laws in place. Current protections, however, flow from the privacy provision in Article 1 of the California Constitution. “The fundamental right of the woman to choose whether to bear children follows from the Supreme Court’s and this court’s repeated acknowledgment of a “right of privacy” or “liberty” in matters related to marriage, family, and sex.” *People v. Belous*, 458 P.2d 194, 199 (Cal. 1969). But current legislation and case law are no guarantee of future protection.

According to Cary Franklin, a professor of law at UCLA and the faculty director of UCLA’s Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy, Americans have long recognized that the list of rights in the Constitution is not exhaustive. Such rights include those related to family planning and sexual intimacy, which the Court has upheld in the past under the basis of privacy. The recent Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Or-*

*ganization*, upends that framework and leaves the Court free to overturn other rulings protecting rights not specifically mentioned in the Constitution but safeguarded via privacy.<sup>1</sup>

For over 50 years, women have relied on the legal principles set forth in *Roe v. Wade* – that they can control and privately make their own reproductive health decisions. With a single decision, access to abortion is no longer federally protected and under attack across the country. Following the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs*, thirteen states currently ban most abortions. According to the Center for Reproductive Justice, another 14 states are “hostile” to abortion rights and actively seeking to revive old legislation banning abortions or enact new ones.

Although California continues to lead the fight to protect women’s reproductive rights with science, equity and medically based policies and legislation, *Dobbs* has taught us that case precedent is too easily overturned, and laws can be changed. The California Constitution currently guarantees everyone the right to privacy but does not define what this right includes. In amending Article 1 of the Constitution, Proposition 1 secures the right to abortion and contraception and makes reproductive health a personal, medical decision, regardless of which political party or leaders are in power.



Fearmongering about the Proposition’s potential fiscal and ethical costs, opponents have also promoted the ideas that, if Proposition 1 passes, the state will see a huge influx of abortion seekers and cost California tax-payers millions of dollars. It would also override state regulations that now limit abortions after the point when a fetus is viable on its own outside of the womb, at about 24 weeks of pregnancy. These late-term abortions are currently only legal if the health or life of the mother is threatened.

When fact checking these claims, California-Healthline.org found them mostly false. According to Jessica Pinckney, executive director of Oakland-based Access Reproductive Justice, the organization had already experienced an increase in out-of-state calls even before the high court ruled

in June. Pinckney anticipates handling more cases as more states restrict abortion — regardless of Proposition 1’s outcome.

Regarding fear over removing current restrictions on late-term abortions, UCLA Professor Cary Franklin explains that just because Proposition 1 establishes a general right to abortion doesn’t mean all abortion would become legal. Constitutional language is always broad, and laws and regulations can add restrictions to those rights. For example, the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution grants the right to bear arms, but laws and regulations restrict children from purchasing guns. Proposition 1 does not displace any of the laws currently in place.<sup>2</sup>

The importance of the Proposition 1 constitutional amendment is underscored by the ACLU follow-

ing the decision in *Dobbs*. “Everyone deserves the right to decide when and whether to start a family, no matter where they live. But across half the states, 36 million people are in danger of losing that right after the Supreme Court’s shameful decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Forcing women and other people to carry a pregnancy against their will has life-altering consequences, including enduring serious health risks from continued pregnancy and childbirth, making it harder to escape poverty, and derailing their education and career plans. These are just some of the factors that may impact a person’s decision to seek an abortion, and why abortion access is essential.”<sup>3</sup>

CWL stands in solidarity with our sister bar organizations in states where women’s rights are under attack and remains fiercely committed to protecting a woman’s ability to make independent and informed decisions about her reproductive health.

While Proposition 1 is on the ballot, CWL continues its legislative efforts to protect and advocate for women’s reproductive rights. Several of CWL’s priority bills have now been signed into law.

### **AB 1666 (Bauer-Kahan)**

AB1666 was signed into law by Governor Newsom in June. AB1666 guarantees protection from civil liability for abortion providers, patients and people who assist people with access to abortions.

### **AB 2091 (Bonta) and AB 2223 (Wicks)**

Both AB 2091 and AB 2223 were signed by Governor Newsom in September. AB2091 provides enhanced privacy protections for medical records related to abortion and pregnancy and authorizes the Insurance Commissioner to assess a civil penalty against an insurer that discloses an insured’s confidential medical information. AB 2223 prohibits civil and criminal penalties for people’s actual, potential, or alleged pregnancy outcomes.

As always, if you are interested in making your voice heard on important issues affecting women and families in California, contact Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Jaimi Groothuis and Melissa Gardner at [legislative@cwl.org](mailto:legislative@cwl.org).



Jaimi Groothuis serves on the CWL Board of Governors as a District 7 Governor, representing Los Angeles County. She is a partner at the law firm Bentley & More, LLP representing plaintiffs in personal injury matters.

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1 Abigail Siatkowski, June 27, 2022, Experts Gather for UCLA Law Talk on the Future of Reproductive Rights, Accessed October 28, 2022, <https://www.lamag.com/citythinkblog/experts-gather-for-ucla-law-talk-on-the-future-of-reproductive-rights/>

2 Rachel Bluth, September 21, 2022, Opponents of California’s Abortion Rights Measure Mislead on Expense to Taxpayers, Accessed October 28, 2022, <https://californiahealthline.org/news/article/california-abortion-constitution-influx-fact-check/>

3 ACLU, July 7, 2022, Your Abortions. Your Voices. Your Stories. Accessed October 28, 2022, <https://www.aclu.org/news/reproductive-freedom/your-abortions-your-voices-your-stories>.





# CWL Seeks Nominations for 2023 Awards

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Please visit <https://www.cwl.org/awards> for more information about the requirements, procedure, and deadlines.

## Fay Stender

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

Fay Abrahams Stender was born in Berkeley in 1932, the third generation of her mother's family to be born in the Bay Area. She attended Reed College and graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a major in English Literature, going on to receive a law degree from the University of Chicago in 1956.

After clerking for Associate Justice John W. Shenk, California Supreme Court, Ms. Stender associated with criminal defense attorney Charles Garry, where, over the next ten years, she founded the Prison Law Project and represented a number of prisoners, including George Jackson, whose prison letters were published in 1970 as *Soledad Brother*. She was also active in professional organizations on the national, state and local levels. She was a member of CWL's first elected board, and even after leaving the board remained actively involved in the organization's work. Fay chaired CWL's Joint Custody Project, and served on the advisory Committee of the Women's Litigation Unit. She also chaired the San Francisco Bar Association's Employment of Women Committee, and served on the charter board of Equal Rights Advocates' Lesbian Rights Project.

In the early morning hours of Memorial Day, 1979, Fay was shot five times by an intruder who falsely accused her of betraying George Jackson. Gravely injured and seriously disabled, she took her life one year later. She was survived by her mother, sister, husband, two children, and by numerous friends and colleagues.

Throughout her life, Fay undertook unpopular causes and worked with under-represented groups and individuals. Her tenacity, creativity, and compelling sense of justice were legendary, and her commitment, energy and integrity enriched all who were privileged to work with her.

The annual award is given to a feminist attorney, who, like Fay Stender, 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 makes her a role model for women attorneys.

## Judith Soley

Judith Soley was a lifelong member of California Women Lawyers and Fresno County Women Lawyers, and was a board member of both organizations. She served as the first woman president of the Fresno County Bar Association. She was a member of the Conference of Delegates, Chairperson of the Fresno Attorney Referral Service, a member of, and chaired committees for the State Bar, California Trial Lawyer's Association, and Fresno County Barristers. She was a member of the Federal Judicial Selection Commission, and the 9th Circuit Federal Nominating Commission. She was an instructor and a member of the advisory board of the Hastings College of Advocacy. She also served as Judge Pro Tempore for Fresno County Superior Court. Governor Brown appointed her to the California Transportation Commission, where she was elected chair. Judith led and volunteered for a host of other Fresno organizations. She was a member of Fresno Rotary, National Women's Political Caucus, and the Fresno Academy. As a result of a birth injury, Judith was wheelchair bound. Judith and a client were gunned down at a Bass Lake restaurant by the client's husband during a break in divorce proceedings.



The Soley Award is presented to a worthy recipient who has made a significant contribution to her community, extending beyond the practice of law, to devote time and effort to the public good and values through the tradition of public service and involvement, and who exemplifies the values and missions of California Women Lawyers.

### **Rose Bird**

The Rose Bird Memorial Award was established in 2000 in honor of the first woman to serve as Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, Rose Bird. Chief Justice Bird was one of the pioneers who founded CWL in 1974. She was a teacher and the first woman to serve in the California cabinet (Secretary of Agriculture). Justice Bird stood strong for her convictions and continued to champion the underdog throughout her career. After leaving her position as Chief Justice, Rose Bird volunteered for the East Palo Alto Community Law Project. She passed away on December 4, 1999 after a long battle with breast cancer.

The Rose Bird Award is presented to a worthy recipient with the following attributes which are characteristic of Rose Bird: excellence as a jurist; longstanding and/or groundbreaking public service; inspiration to women lawyers in California; and from the northern portion of California.

### **Joan Dempsey Klein**

The Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award was first presented in 1994. At the time, it was the "Distinguished Jurist" Award and its first recipient was Joan Dempsey Klein, a Justice on the Second District Court of Appeal in California. Justice Klein is a champion of women's rights and a pioneer in the struggle to achieve equal opportunity for women in the law. She was a founder and provisional president of CWL and the first president of the National Association of Women Judges, and she has spent considerable time giving support and positive reinforcement to women in the legal profession. She is well known as an excellent judge who listens, encourages dialogue and fosters consensus. She accomplished all of this while raising five children.

The Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award is presented to a worthy recipient with the following attributes which are characteristic of Joan Dempsey Klein: excellence as a jurist; longstanding vigorous service; inspiration to the women lawyers of California; and from the southern portion of the California.



# CWL's 2022 Annual Dinner: A Resounding Celebration

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On September 9, 2022, CWL gathered in Oakland, California for its 48th Annual Dinner. The theme was Power in Partnerships: Connect, Collaborate & Conquer. For those who did not get a ticket to the sold-out dinner, it was an evening filled with resounding celebration.

While enjoying signature drinks "All Hail the Chief" and "Notorious", attendees connected with fellow women lawyers and bid on themed silent auction items, including an art piece of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, and Notorious RBG swag. The proceeds of the silent auction benefit the work of the CWL Foundation in supporting various projects to help the advancement of women, children and the legal profession.

The program welcomed a musical performance by Mike & Dee- We the People. CWL President, Ana M. Storey, gave opening remarks before she was joined by Connie Chan, partner at Altshuler Berzon LLP, to present the 2022 Rose Bird Memorial Award to the Honorable Lucy H. Koh, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Next, CWL Foundation President, Naomi Dewey, presented the 2022 Nancy E. O'Malley Scholarship to Corina Yetter, 2022 graduate of the University of California, Davis School of Law.

Administrative Law Judge Barbara O'Hearn administered the oath to the 2023 CWL Board of Governors, and the gavel was passed to incoming CWL President, Mika Domingo. Domingo shared her goals and aspirations for the 2023 board year and introduced the keynote speaker, D'Lonra C. Ellis, Chief Legal Officer of the Oakland Athletics and San Jose Earthquakes, who gave an inspiring address.

After Mika's closing remarks, attendees left the evening with partnerships and connection to take CWL and our members into next year with strength and collaboration.

A special thank you to our sponsors, donors, and speakers. Photography by Grant Terzkis Photography.



















# CWL Joins Amicus Brief Supporting Pay Equity

BY JODI CLEESATTLE

California Women Lawyers recently joined an amicus brief in a case supporting pay equity for federal government employees, arguing that allowing salary history to be the determining factor in setting an employee's pay perpetuates the gender wage gap.

CWL joined the brief filed Sept. 30 in *Boyer v. Wilkie* in the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals by the National Women's Law Center and the Federal Practice Group. Amici filed the brief in support of a female federal government employee who was paid less than her male colleagues for substantially similar work. The pay discrimination was due to the government's reliance on prior salary history to determine her pay, without regard to experience or other job-related skills.

The amicus brief argued that using prior salary history to determine pay rates for federal workers perpetuates sex discrimination and is prohibited under the Equal Pay Act. The brief urged the Federal Circuit to decide, as courts across the country have, that salary history should not be considered alone when determining an applicant's pay rate because it maintains gender-based inequality.

There was good news out of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in a gender discrimination case in which CWL previously joined an amicus brief in 2021. In August, the Fifth Circuit had affirmed the dismissal of *Hamilton v. Dallas County*, a sex discrimination lawsuit filed by female detention service officers who worked at the Dallas County Jail, but invited *en banc* review. On Oct. 12, the Fifth Circuit granted rehearing *en banc*.

In *Hamilton*, the plaintiffs alleged that a scheduling policy that allowed male officers to take full weekends off but allowed female officers to take only one weekend day off was discriminatory. In an opinion issued Aug. 3, the Fifth Circuit, acknowledging that the policy was overtly gender-based, affirmed the dismissal because the plaintiffs had not suffered an adverse employment action within the meaning of binding Fifth Circuit precedent, which held that only ultimate em-

ployment decisions such as hiring and firing constitute adverse employment actions.

The Fifth Circuit explained that the "rule of orderliness" prohibited it from "overrul[ing] a prior panel decision absent an intervening change in the law, such as a statutory amendment or a decision from either the Supreme Court or our *en banc* court." The Court invited *en banc* review: "The strength of the allegations here – direct evidence of a workforce-wide policy denying full weekends off to women in favor of men – ... make this case an ideal vehicle for the *en banc* court to reexamine our ultimate-employment-decision requirement and harmonize our case law with our sister circuits' to achieve fidelity to the text of Title VII."

The Fifth Circuit will rehear the case *en banc* in January 2023.

Copies of all amici briefs that CWL joins or files can be found on the CWL [website](#) shortly after they have been filed.

CWL considers opportunities to file or join amicus briefs in cases that support CWL's mission of bettering the position of women in society, eliminating gender inequality, advancing women in the law, and improving the administration of justice. CWL also supports intersectionality and is committed to eliminating discrimination against people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals. CWL partners with organizations such as the National Women's Law Center to evaluate opportunities to join amicus briefs.

If you would like to join CWL's Amicus Committee, or you would like CWL to consider drafting or signing onto an amicus brief, please contact us at [amicus@cw1.org](mailto:amicus@cw1.org).



Jodi Cleesattle is CWL's 2023 President-Elect, District 9 Governor, and chair of CWL's Amicus Committee. She is a Supervising Deputy Attorney General for the California Department of Justice, where she works in the Employment and Administrative Mandate Section in San Diego.







# Corina Yetter Receives the 2022 Nancy E. O'Malley Scholarship

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CWL and the CWL Foundation are pleased to award the 2022 Nancy E. O'Malley Scholarship to Corina Yetter, who graduated in May 2022 from the UC Davis School of Law.

The scholarship, named after CWL past president Nancy E. O'Malley, is awarded each year to a law student whose activities and future plans demonstrate a commitment to issues affecting women and children.

For this year's recipient, Corina Yetter, giving back is central to her life as a soon-to-be lawyer. She has lived through seemingly insurmountable challenges – and yet, as she said in her scholarship application, "I believed she could, so I did."

Yetter received her first associate's degree nearly 30 years ago from Yuba Community College, where she majored in Business Administration and obtained a Legal Secretary certificate. She started her legal career working at Child Protective Services and went on to the Sutter County Public Defender's office. Time spent on a death penalty case involving a nine-year-old boy's molestation and murder cemented her dream of a career as an attorney, driven by a desire to protect society's most vulnerable.

A complicated pregnancy and then the 2008 financial recession forced her to put her dream on hold, and it was not until 2014 that she was able to return to college. She obtained a second associate's degree in 2015, and then, in May 2019, weeks after her husband suffered a massive heart attack, she became the first woman in her family to graduate with



a bachelor's degree. She received her B.S. from California State University, Chico in Business Administration and Marketing.

Despite maintaining excellent grades, law school was not easy for Yetter. COVID-19 and family illness dominated her life outside Davis, but despite the pandemic, she was still able to find time to take on clerkships at the District Attorney's offices in Butte County, Sacramento County and Yuba County, as well as with the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of California Criminal Division. She has also volunteered at community legal aid clinics.

Yetter is currently awaiting her bar results, and is back at the Butte County District Attorney's office as a law clerk, where, she said, "Everything you went through is worth it when you can use your experience to help someone."

The Nancy E. O'Malley scholarship was founded in 2016 and honors its namesake, who served as CWL's 2009- 2010 president and is retiring as Alameda County District Attorney at the end of the year. O'Malley, who joined the DA's Office in September 1984, became the first woman elected to the position of District Attorney in Alameda County, taking on the role in 2009. She is known for her dedication and commitment in promoting CWL, and she is a celebrated advocate for women, particularly in the areas of domestic violence and human trafficking.



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# GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday, which falls this year on November 29, is a movement that unleashes the power of radical generosity. It is intended to reimagine a world built upon a shared humanity and generosity. "Radical Generosity" is "the concept that the suffering of others should be as intolerable to us as our own suffering." ([givingtuesday.org](http://givingtuesday.org))

You can support the important work of the CWL Foundation, including the Nancy E. O' Malley Scholarship, through a monetary donation. Donations are tax-deductible, where permitted by law. Checks can be made payable to "CWL Foundation" and sent to: California Women Lawyers, 2520 Venture Oaks Drive, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95833 or you can [donate online here](#).

The CWL Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that educates lawyers and the general public regarding women in the legal profession and legal issues pertaining to women. The Foundation works in collaboration with Affiliate Women Bar Associations and Women Sections of local Bar Associations to identify law students who have demonstrated a commitment to issues affecting women and/children in the community. In collaboration with the Affiliate Associations, students are identified for a scholarship to help meet the educational and financial needs of those who share CWL's goals and ideals. It also undertakes projects to determine and publicize ways in which CWL has helped the advancement of women, children and the legal profession over the past 40-plus years.

# CWL Speaks to the Next Generation of Lawyers: So, You Want to Be a Lawyer?

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On October 1, 2022, CWL brought together judges, lawyers, and other mentors with expertise to help students navigate their academic careers with a focused pathway to becoming a lawyer. The “So, You Want To Be A Lawyer?” program is designed after CWL’s award-winning “So, You Want To Be A Judge?™” program, which gives students an opportunity to seek advice and guidance from practicing judges, lawyers, and those in the legal and academic fields. The program, which was emceed by program chair, Christine Monroe, aims to demystify the law school process and a career as a lawyer. For the second year, CWL has hosted the next generation of lawyers in furtherance of its commitment to increase diversity in the legal profession by motivating students to go to law school, and to show them that a career in law is attainable.



The event opened with welcoming remarks by CWL President, Ana M. Storey. Justice Patricia Guerrero, incoming Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, followed with an inspiring keynote address to student.

These remarks were followed with two breakout panels covering the fundamentals and mentoring. Students had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss areas of preparing for their next steps in their academic career and also learned more about a legal career from practicing professionals.



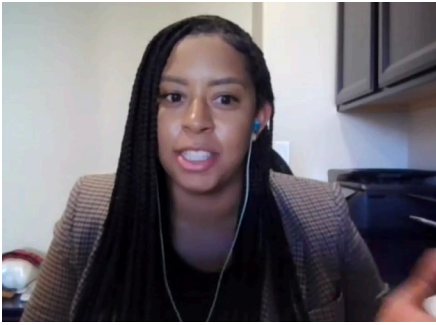
The program also offered practical discussions about financial security and resume writing. Teryl Murabayashi of Union Bank, the program’s title sponsor, gave financial advice and tips that every student should know when planning for their financial success while endeavoring on a large investment - education.

DeJuana Golden of Golden Touch Resumes, presented the fundamentals of a resume as well as tips on being a standout candidate. Students also left with coverletter and resume templates from Golden Touch Resumes.



Participating students were also eligible to receive a CWL gift pack, which included a copy of “Surviving Law School and Beyond” written and donated by author and lawyer, W. Adam Hunt.

If you would like to support these efforts, volunteer, or provide other resources for next year’s program, please contact Teresa Excinia at [texcinia@cwll.org](mailto:texcinia@cwll.org).



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## fundamentals panels

### Moderators

Pa'tanisha Davis Pierson, Tracy Hughes, and Nicole Cabalette

### Speakers

Ruthe Ashley, CalPathways

Erin Bernstein, Bradley Bernstein LLP

Christine Chambers Goodman, Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law

Danielle De Smeth, Bamieh & De Smeth PLC

Mika Domingo, M.S. Domingo Law Group P.C.

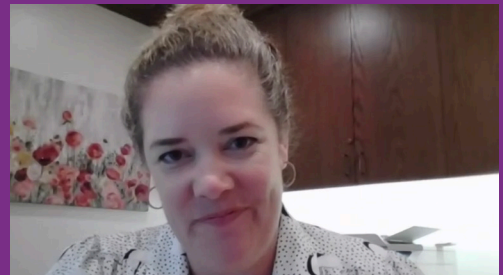
W. Adam Hunt, Author of *Surviving Law School*

Shauna Madison, Medina Orthwein

Phyra McCandless, University of San Francisco School of Law.

Ann I. Park, Foley Mansfield

Michael Pierson, Key Counsel P.C.



## mentoring panels

### Moderators

Michele Anderson, Trina Saunders, and Mika Domingo

### Speakers

Honorable Elena Duarte, Justice of the California 3rd District Court of Appeal

Honorable Debra A. Cole, Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court

Honorable Maria Puente-Porras, Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court

Honorable Palvir Shoker, Commissioner of the Contra Costa Superior Court

Monique Fierro, Bamieh & De Smeth PLC

Diana P. Lytel, Lytel & Lytel, LLP

Lis Mak, Minami Tamakii LLP

Christine Monroe, Greben | Monroe APC

Erika Romo, Butte County District Attorney's Office

Ana M. Storey, Levitt Quinn Family Law Center



## Meet CWL Member, Mikhak Ghorban

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### Which living person do you most admire?

I have come across some amazing women and men in my life, but I consistently come back to the most inspirational person I know and that person is my mother. At 87 years young, she continually sees the good in the world. She was raised in Iran and had to marry at an early age and have children. Despite being dissuaded from seeking a higher education, she fought for her right to go to school and become a surgical nurse. Our family was forced to leave Iran during the Islamic Revolution and move to the U.S. without knowing the language or culture. Here again, my mother requalified to practice as a nurse. Tragically, she has lived through the deaths of two of her children and has fought and overcome breast cancer. Despite the challenges she has faced in her life, she has always advocated for women's rights and continues to fight for freedom of the people of Iran. I love that through all the hardship she has had to endure, she is still smiling and fighting the good fight.

**What is your greatest extravagance or indulgence?** Sleeping in on a Sunday morning and being able to watch football with a cup of coffee.

### What is your current state of mind?

Concerned. This past month has been quiet stressful watching what has been happening in Iran. As an Iranian woman, it breaks my heart to see Iranian school aged girls and young women fighting for their fundamental rights. They are being physically harmed and killed for daring to stand up for these rights. Although I am thankful for having the freedoms I have living in the U.S., I feel guilty that my sisters are fighting for the most basic human rights. They are brave and truly inspirational.

**What is the quality you most admire in a person?** Having compassion and empathy for others are admirable qualities I appreciate.

### Which talent would you most like to have?

I would very much like to be able to draw or paint skillfully.



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Mikhak Ghorban is the principal attorney at Ghorban Law, APC, where the firm specializes in family and immigration laws.

She serves as a Director on the Board of Lawyers Club of San Diego and is the Affiliate Governor for Lawyers Club on the CWL Board.

Mikhak is a longtime member of the Iranian American Bar Association. She is currently serving on the board of Women of Color in Law. Having school-age children, she is on the Palomar Council for Poway Unified School District PTAs.

Thankfully my daughter has that gift. Artistic creation is a talent I admire.

**What do you consider your greatest achievement?** Early in my professional life, I would have said graduating from law school and passing the California Bar as my greatest achievement. Recently, I would say starting a solo practice is my greatest professional achievement to date. In my personal life, having two teenagers who are happy, kind, smart, and relatively helpful around the house is a huge win.

**If you were to die and come back as a person or a thing, what would it be?** I would come back as a dolphin. I would love to be able to swim freely in the ocean and hang out with my “dolphin friends” in a pod.

**Where would you most like to live?** I live in San Diego so I am already living in an amazing place. As an immigrant, I understand how quickly a home can be taken away, so really a home is where you are safe and surrounded by family and friends. However, if I had an opportunity to move, I would choose to live in southern Spain.

**What brings you joy?** During the Covid lockdown, my husband and I would take our kids out for long drives along the Southern California Coast. The sun, the beach and the music brought us all such joy. It was and still is the best time together. I call it my “happy place.”

**What do you most value in your friends?** I value my friends’ honesty, dependability, and loyalty. I



have a select group who are friends for life. Sharing time and few laughs with friends will always help one get through the tough times.

**What is it that you most dislike?** The ability to vote as a citizen is tremendously important to me and for those who waste that freedom and ability when millions have died for such a right is very hard for me to understand.

**What is your greatest regret?** I lived through the 80’s so basically, I regret my clothes, hair and not buying stock in Apple. But on a serious note, I wish I had more memories of my brother and sister who died in a car accident when I was very young. I have few cherished memories with them. I would have like to have more time with them.

**How did you get involved in CWL?** I first learned about CWL when I became a member of Lawyers Club of San Diego. CWL was always talked about as the sister organization as their missions aligned. Shortly thereafter, I became a member of CWL. Last year, I became the Affiliate governor of this amazing organization.

**What is your favorite thing about CWL?** It is the one organization that unifies women lawyers across California. As members, we are stronger together, when we speak with one voice on issues that affect us all.

**What have you learned from CWL?** I have learned so much from working with my board members this past year. I have found that you are never alone as you navigate through your legal career as there is always a CWL member who is willing to provide guidance and mentorship.





## CWL Upcoming Events

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November 8

**Election Day**

November 14

**Coffee & Connect**

*A Virtual Program*

November 18

**CWL Award Nomination Deadline**

December 12

**Coffee & Connect**

*A Virtual Program*

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## CWL

was chartered in 1974 and is the only statewide organization dedicated to lifting up women in the law and in society. CWL's mission is "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."

### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



#### ONE-OF-A KIND PROGRAMMING

**So You Want To Be A Judge:** An insider guide demystifying – and preparing you for – the judicial application process.

**Elect To Run:** Encourages women to run for public office and provides tips on what it takes to run.

**CWL At Home:** Online series bringing resources, community and connection with opportunities for complimentary MCLE credits.



#### 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.



#### THE IN-HOUSE COUNSEL NETWORK

In-house lawyers from across the state and industries may connect through exclusive events, listserv, and programs designed specifically for women in house-counsel.



#### LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN

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.



#### DIVERSITY ON THE BENCH

CWL works closely with the Governor's office to promote diversity in the judiciary, and endorses judges nationwide.



#### LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CWL has leadership opportunities available to enhance your network. Members are encouraged to join one of CWL's committees.



#### A NATIONAL VOICE

CWL is a conduit to national organizations, affiliates and sister bar organizations throughout the country.

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## MEET LOUNDA LACEY, CWL's LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR



**Annals Barnhart**

Lounda Lacey is the California Women Lawyer's (CWL) Legislative Committee Chair. She joined the California Chapter of Commerce (CWC) in January to provide business and legal services to its members. She has provided regulatory compliance advice and assistance to various businesses and organizations in the state and federal government. She has also worked with various state and federal agencies, including the California State Board of Equalization, the California State Board of Pesticide Regulation, the California State Board of Professional Accountants, and the California State Board of Accountancy. She has also worked with various state and federal agencies, including the California State Board of Pesticide Regulation, the California State Board of Professional Accountants, and the California State Board of Accountancy.

Ms. Lacey holds her registration of public authority as a board member of CWL. In 2016, she was elected to the Legislative Committee. She is currently serving as the Legislative Committee Chair. She is also a member of the California State Board of Pesticide Regulation, the California State Board of Professional Accountants, and the California State Board of Accountancy.

Ms. Lacey is also a member of the California State Board of Pesticide Regulation, the California State Board of Professional Accountants, and the California State Board of Accountancy. She is also a member of the California State Board of Pesticide Regulation, the California State Board of Professional Accountants, and the California State Board of Accountancy.

CWL NEWSLETTER



## Dru Ramey Takes a Seat at the Table

This month, CWL published an interview with the incredible Dr. Dru Ramey. Dr. Ramey is the former executive director of the National Association of Women Judges, the former associate director and general counsel of the American Bar Association, and a former board member of the Golden State University School of Law faculty, where she continues to teach today. She is a State member, chair-elect, and former president of CWL. She has also served as CWL's first female chair. She has also chaired the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and was the first female chair of the ACU of Northern California. Ms. Ramey is also a recipient of the ABA Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award and the American Jewish Committee's National Hero Award. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College and a graduate of Yale Law School.

Listen to Summer Saldaña's and Milla Durango's interview with Ms. Ramey in the latest installment of "Seat at the Table," CWL's podcast with California's legal luminaries: [www.seatthetable.blogspot.com](http://www.seatthetable.blogspot.com).



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