



CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

Letter from the CWL President

Ana M. Storey



Dear Members and Friends:

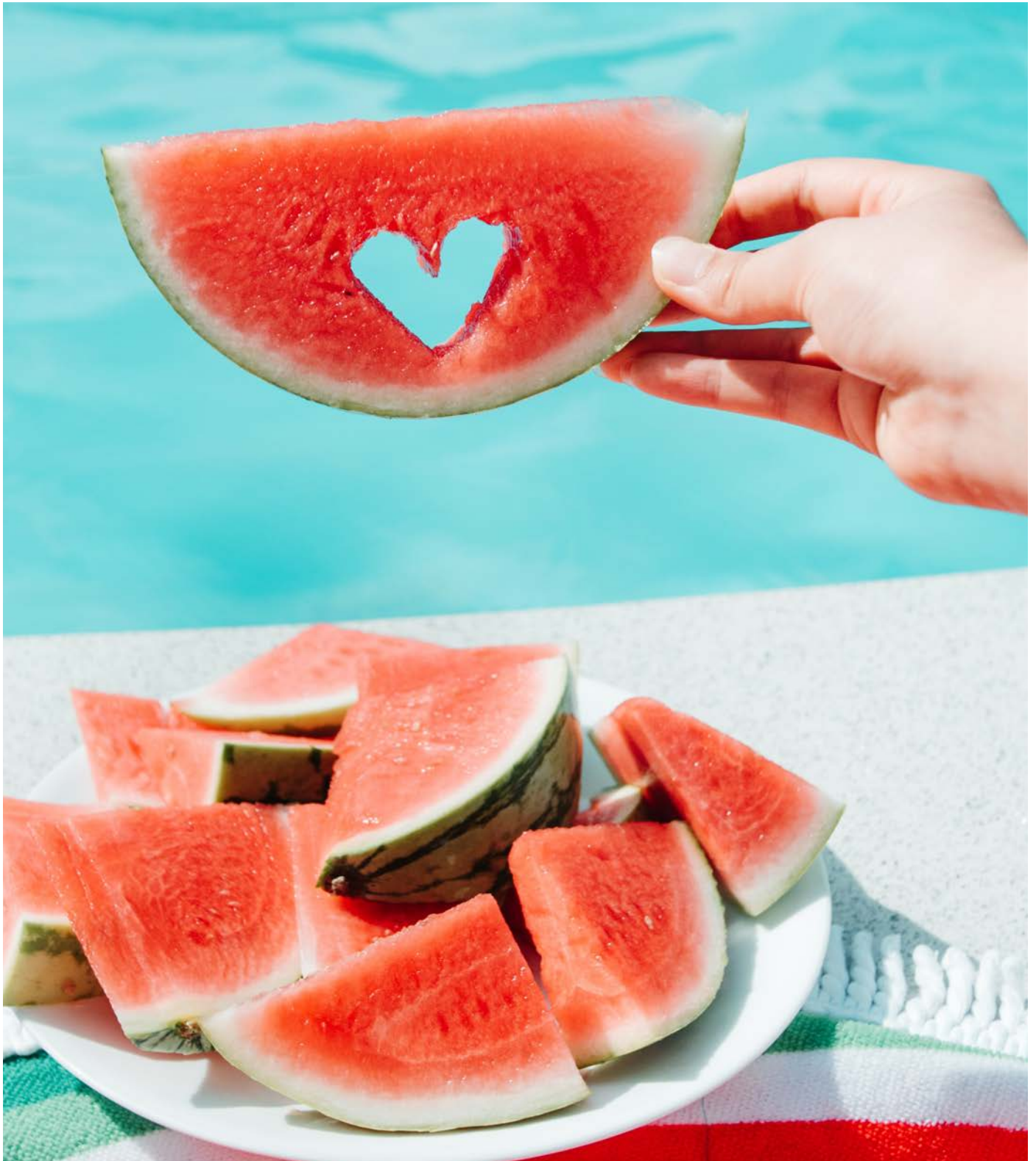
According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a trailblazer is “a person who is the first to do something that other people do later.”

Why do we celebrate the first person to do something? Bringing attention to a first can commemorate an achievement. It can also serve to inspire others to follow and may even encourage them to blaze their own trails.

Recently, we learned that California State Supreme Court Justice Tani Cantil Sakauye shared her decision not to seek reelection this year. Governor Newsom announced that he was nominating Justice Patricia Guerrero to serve as the new Chief Justice, and the Commission on Judicial Appointments unanimously confirmed her appointment. Justice Guerrero is the first Latina to serve as Chief Justice in the Court’s 173-year history. Chief Justice Cantil Sakauye was a first in her own right, being the first Asian-Filipina American, and only the second woman, to serve in that role. Governor Newsom also announced his nomination of Alameda County Superior Court Judge Kelli Evans to fill the associate justice position vacated by Justice Guerrero. If confirmed, Judge Evans would be the first openly lesbian justice to serve on our state’s high court.

This summer, the CWL board voted to elect a new slate of officers to lead CWL. President-Elect Mika Domingo will take over as president on January 1, 2023. We believe Mika will be the first Filipina to serve as president of CWL in our 49-year history. We are excited for Mika’s achievement. We hope that young Filipina-Americans who aspire to a career in the law will see someone like them ascend to the presidency of the only state-wide bar association for women lawyers in California and be inspired to blaze their own trails.

Ana M. Storey, President



CWL

SUMMER 2022
NEWSLETTER

2021-22 CWL Board Officers

CWL President Ana M. Storey

CWL President-Elect Mika Domingo

Immediate Past President Naomi Dewey

First Vice-President Jodi Cleesattle

Second Vice-President Tracy Hughes

Secretary Pa'tanisha Davis Pierson

Treasurer Jennifer Hartman King

Editor Christine Monroe

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.



Christine Monroe
EDITOR

As we close out summer, this newsletter highlights the inspiring trailblazers in our CWL community. We are continuing to honor our 2022 CWL award recipients, as we open nominations for 2023 awards, which are due by November 18, 2022. We will honor Judge Koh at the Annual Dinner coming up on September 9. At the dinner, we will also swear in the 2023 board of governors, including Mika Domingo, who is believed to be CWL's first Filipina to serve in this role. The recognition of these achievements coincide with the celebration of Women's Equality Day.

On August 26, 2022, the nation celebrated Women's Equality Day as proclaimed by President Biden. Women's Equality Day celebrates the trailblazing women who have paved the way for the future of women and girls who will follow. The day of recognition originates from August 26, 1920, when women won the right to vote with the passing of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution. This right arose out of the resilience and advocacy of women during the women's suffrage movement. This fundamental right, still has disproportionate impacts on women, and women of color were effectively denied the right to vote until the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

The recent decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is a grim reminder of how fragile the rights we take for granted can be. Whatever your party affiliation or beliefs, Women's Equality Day is a strong reminder to exercise your right to vote as election day grows closer.

As always, please email us at newsletter@cw1.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



HISTORY, HERITAGE AND THE RISE OF WOMEN FROM THE AAPI COMMUNITY

BY PA'TANISHA DAVIS PIERSON

“History is inclusive of heritage and culture, but it’s also about the ways we have built and changed this nation...whereas heritage is more limited to what we pass down in terms of culture, tradition, and legacies.”

– Dr. Dawn Mabalon

ALL HAIL THE CHIEF!

In 2019, California Women Lawyers (CWL) honored California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil Sakauye as the Rose Bird Memorial Award Honoree. Chief Cantil-Sakauye, the first Filipina-American to serve as Chief Justice, is a game changer who advocated for access to justice for all people. As we reach the end of an era with the announcement that Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye will not seek reappointment for a twelfth term, we celebrate the amazing achievements of women from the AAPI Community.

INTRODUCING THE 2022 ROSE BIRD AWARD RECIPIENT

The 2022 Rose Bird Memorial Award Honoree is Judge Luch Koh. Judge Koh is the first Korean American woman to serve on a federal appellate court in the United States. Judge Koh began her legal career in public service. Directly after law school, she served as a Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellow for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. After the fellowship, she worked at the U.S. Department of Justice and assisted in the development, implementation, and enforcement of federal law. She first

served as Special Counsel for Legislative Affairs and next as a Special Assistant to the Deputy Attorney General.

Judge Koh moved to Los Angeles and served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division of the Central District of California. There, Judge Koh largely prosecuted fraud cases and earned the FBI Director Louis J. Freeh Award for her successful prosecution of a \$54 million securities fraud case. In addition, Judge Koh prosecuted intellectual property crimes including identity theft, hacking, and counterfeiting.

Judge Koh relocated to Northern California and developed expertise in technology and intellectual property law, first as a Senior Associate at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati and later as a partner at McDermott Will & Emery. At McDermott Will & Emery, she specialized in complex intellectual property litigation and represented both individuals and technology companies. As part of McDermott’s representation of Seagate Technology, Judge Koh was on the team that set a new standard for willful patent infringement for the first time in 24 years.

In 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Judge Koh to the California Superior Court, where she served for two years. In 2010, President Obama nominated Judge Koh to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, and the Senate confirmed her 90-0.

On February 25, 2016, President Obama nominated Judge Koh to the Ninth Circuit seat vacated by Judge Harry Pregerson, who took senior status on December



11, 2015. On September 15, 2016, the Senate Judiciary Committee reported her nomination to the full Senate by a bipartisan vote of 13-7. The full Senate never considered her nomination, and her nomination was returned to the White House with the expiration of the 114th Congress. Over the objections of both of California's home state senators, the Senate later confirmed President Trump's nominee, Daniel Collins, to fill Pregerson's seat. President Joe Biden renominated Judge Koh to the Ninth Circuit for the seat to be vacated by Judge Richard Paez. On December 9, 2021 the U.S. Senate voted 51-38 for cloture on Judge Koh's nomination. On December 13, 2021 the Senate confirmed Judge Koh to in a 50-45 vote. Judge Koh is a distinguished jurist and deserving honoree.

INTRODUCING THE NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE 2023 CWL BOARD YEAR

The year 2023 will be the year of many firsts for CWL. It will be the first time in our history that our board term is based on the calendar year. As of January 1, 2023, our board president will be Michelle "Mika" Domingo. Mika will be CWL's first known Filipina president. Mika is proud

of her Filipina heritage and the history she is making that will encourage other immigrants to reach for their goals. She has served in several roles with CWL.

Mika is an award-winning Managing Attorney of M.S. Domingo Law Group, P.C. She has a passion for helping others and represents people throughout California in matters involving Probate and Trust Litigation, Probate and Trust Administration, Estate Planning, and Conservatorships. Mika is a certified mediator and an extremely experienced litigator, having served as Deputy Attorney General with the U.S. Department of Justice. She is a strong and effective advocate for her clients in the courtroom as well as in negotiations. She has appeared at the state, appellate, and federal courts on various issues including constitutional law, tort, civil rights, and at the state level in trusts and estate matters.

Prior to becoming an attorney, Mika was a financial auditor, a trade she learned from her loving mother. She previously owned a publishing firm where she was also editor-in-chief. Her understanding of her clients' situations helps her relieve the emotional stress and anxiety that ac-

Continued from page 7

company legal proceedings. After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley with Honors, Mika earned a Juris Doctorate with Honors and Dean's List Distinctions from the John F. Kennedy University College of Law.

In addition to being named a Super Lawyer and having a perfect 10 rating from Avvo, Mika has received numerous awards throughout her career, including:

- California Young Woman of the Year
- San Francisco Young Woman of the Year
- California Bar Foundation Public Interest Award
- Robert G. McGarth American Inn of Court Justice Marchiano Scholarship
- Minority Bar Coalition Diversity Award
- Contra Costa County Bar Association Diversity Award, Platinum Level
- Contra Costa County Bar Association Diversity Award, Gold Level
- Contra Costa County Bar Association, Board Member Star Award
- The Honorable Patricia Herro and the Honorable Ellen James Scholarship
- The Margaret A. Gannon Scholarship
- Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Outstanding Community Service
- Witkin Award, Excellence in Constitutional Law
- Witkin Award, Excellence in Civil Procedure
- Witkin Award, Excellence in Criminal Law
- Roger J. Traynor Moot Court Witkin Award

One of Mika's passions is driving change within the legal community. She is an active member of the State Bar of California, where she served as a member of the Committee of Bar Examiner for four years. She is currently serving on her eighth year on the Board of California Women Lawyers, and will begin her term as President in January 2023. She is Past President of Contra Costa County Bar



Association Women's Section, and served on the Executive Board of Contra Costa County Bar Association, and previously as Director on the Board of the Women Lawyers of Alameda County. Mika is also passionate about increasing diversity within the legal community. She served as Chair of the Diversity Committee for Contra Costa County Bar Association for three years and as Co-Chair and Chair of the Judicial Evaluations Committee for California Women Lawyers for the past seven years.

THEY'VE DONE THEIR PART

CWL celebrates these formidable women leaders. They have demonstrated through their personal life, careers and leadership in social justice, their commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. They have and continue to make an impact on our legal community and the entire world. We honor these women who continue to make a difference, to make history, and to leave a legacy for others to follow.

Please join CWL on September 9 as we honor Judge Koh as the Rose Bird Award recipient, and swear-in Mika as the 2023 CWL President.



Pa'tanisha E. Davis Pierson is CWL Secretary, District 3 Governor, and Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. She is a partner with Key Counsel, P.C.



CWL 2022 ANNUAL DINNER

POWER IN PARTNERSHIPS: CONNECT, COLLABORATE, AND CONQUER

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022 | WATERFRONT HOTEL IN OAKLAND

TITLE SPONSOR:  **UnionBank**[®]



**CALIFORNIA
WOMEN LAWYERS**

CWL Continues Amicus Support for Statutes Requiring Women on Corporate Boards, Joins Supreme Court Briefs on LGBTQ+ Rights and Affirmative Action Admissions Policies

BY JODI CLEESATTLE

California Women Lawyers is considering filing a third amicus brief supporting a state law that requires publicly held corporations to include women on their boards of directors, this time in a state court challenge to SB 826.

CWL previously filed amicus briefs in federal district and appellate court in *Meland v. Weber*. In December 2021, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California denied a preliminary injunction in a challenge to SB 826, the statute signed into law in 2018 that requires all publicly held corporations headquartered in California to have a minimum number of women on their boards of directors. The plaintiffs in that case appealed, and the Ninth Circuit issued an order June 6, holding the appeal in abeyance until resolution of any appeal of the decision in a separate state court challenge, *Crest v. Padilla*.

In *Crest v. Padilla*, the Los Angeles Superior Court conducted a bench trial, entering a verdict May 13, in favor of the challengers to SB 826.

The Superior Court applied strict scrutiny to SB 826 and found that the State did not satisfy that burden. The Court held that there was “no compelling governmental interest in remedying generalized, non-specific allegations of discrimination,” and that the State “was unable to present specific evidence of actual, unlawful discrimination against any specific woman by any specific corporation subject to S.B. 826.” The Court determined that there was “no Compelling Governmental Interest in remedying discrimination in the

board selection process because neither the Legislature nor Defendant could identify any specific, purposeful, intentional and unlawful discrimination to be remedied.” The Court was likewise not persuaded that SB 826 was necessary. According to the Court, the State did not establish that “the use of a gender-based classification was necessary to boost California’s economy, improve opportunities for women in the workplace, and protect California taxpayers.” Finally, the Court determined that the State “did not carry the burden to show that the legislation was narrowly tailored.” In the Court’s view, the defendant failed to show that “the Legislature considered gender-neutral alternatives, that the statute was limited in scope and duration to that which is necessary to remedy specific, unlawful discrimination against women in the selection of board members.”

The state has filed an appeal in the Second District Court of Appeal, and CWL is considering filing an amicus brief in that appeal. CWL’s amicus briefs in the *Meland v. Weber* litigation were drafted by San Diego appellate specialists Johanna Schiavoni and Melanie Gold, with the Complex Appellate Litigation Group LLP. Those briefs provided context on the discriminatory structural barriers that lead corporations to exclude women from their boardrooms, explained the need for governmental action to halt this discrimination against women at the highest levels of business leadership, and highlighted the many experienced and well-qualified women who are willing and able to serve on public company boards.



Supreme Court Advocacy

CWL also recently joined two amicus briefs filed in the U.S. Supreme Court by the National Women’s Law Center (NWLC).

CWL joined an amicus brief filed Aug. 19 in *303 Creative v. Elenis*, an LGBTQ+ rights case in which the Supreme Court will address whether applying a public-accommodation law to compel an artist to speak or stay silent violates the free speech clause of the First Amendment. Amici filed the brief in support of the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, which protects LGBTQ+ individuals and others from discrimination. The case arose when a website designer brought a pre-enforcement challenge to the state law, arguing that it violates her free speech rights because she objects to creating websites for same-sex weddings. The district court and Tenth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals both ruled in favor of Colorado. The NWLC amicus brief focused on the harms women would face should such an exception be made to public accommodations laws. Amici highlighted the importance of public accommodations laws to the full participation of women and LGBTQ+ individuals in society. The brief also explained

why the First Amendment does not exempt businesses from compliance with these laws, and the harms that would be caused if the Court allowed such an exemption.

CWL also joined an amicus brief filed Aug. 1 in *Students for Fair Admission v. Harvard/UNC*, a case challenging affirmative action admissions policies of Harvard and the University of North Carolina. The brief was filed in support of Harvard and the University of North Carolina and their affirmative action policies, defending their interest in maintaining a diverse student body and ensuring that past discrimination and exclusion do not perpetuate ongoing exclusion. The brief specifically highlighted the ways that affirmative action policies are necessary for addressing race and sex discrimination based on stereotypes and the effects of historic and current discrimination that uniquely harm women of color. The brief highlighted how women of color continue to remain underrepresented in higher education and across various fields, focusing on the intersecting ways that racism and sexism create harms and the specific stereotypes tied to combined racial and sexual identities. By highlighting how vital it is for universities to combat these biases through affirmative action policies, amici hope to convince the Court

Continued from page 11

not to overrule or otherwise narrow decades of precedent upholding such policies.

Amicus Wins and Losses

In the most disappointing of CWL's amicus losses, the U.S. Supreme Court held that there is no constitutional right to abortion in its June 24 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. In a 5-4 opinion authored by Justice Samuel Alito, the Court overruled the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decisions, finding that abortion is not a constitutional right because the Constitution does not mention it and it is not "deeply rooted" in the country's history. The Court ruled 6-3 to uphold Mississippi's ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, the statute that was at issue in the case. CWL had joined the National Women's Law Center and 71 other organizations in filing an amicus brief in the case Sept. 20, 2021.

CWL received favorable rulings in two federal appeals court cases.

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, *en banc*, issued a favorable ruling June 14, following rehearing in *Peltier v. Charter Day School*, a case in which the plaintiffs challenged a school dress code policy that required girls to wear skirts based on the view that girls are "fragile vessels" deserving of "gentle" treatment by boys. The Fourth Circuit affirmed in part, vacated in part, and remanded. The Court affirmed the District Court's entry of summary judgment for the plaintiffs on their Equal Protection claim against Charter Day School, vacated the court's summary judgment award in favor of the defendants on the plaintiffs' Title IX claim, and remanded for further proceedings on the Title IX claim. CWL had joined an amicus brief filed by the National Women's Law Center July 13, 2020.

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals also issued a favorable ruling April 26, in *Caryn Strickland v. U.S. (formerly Roe v. U.S.)*, holding that the Fifth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause secures a federal judiciary employee's right to be free from sexual harassment in the workplace. The Court reversed in part and affirmed in part the District Court's ruling on the defendant's motion to dismiss. CWL had joined an amicus brief filed August 21, 2021 by the National Women's Law Center, Legal Momentum, and the Purple Campaign.

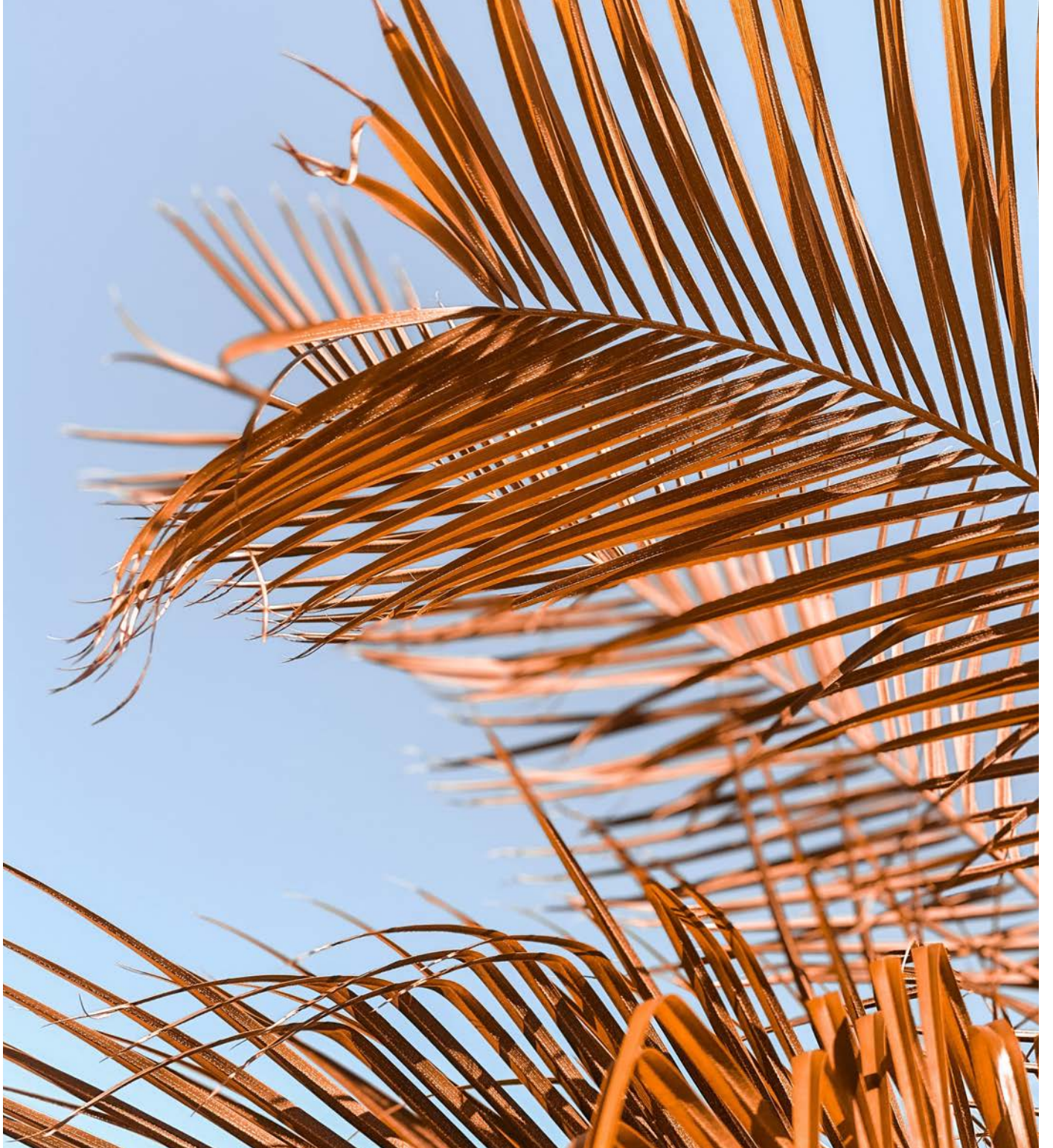
Copies of all amici briefs that CWL joins or files can be found on the CWL [website](#) shortly after they have been filed.

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'd like CWL to consider drafting or signing onto an amicus brief, please contact us at amicus@cwl.org.



Jodi Cleesattle is CWL's incoming 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.



CWL Seeks Nominations for 2023 Awards

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 Southern California Judicial Reception Honoring the Honorable Samantha P. Jessner

On July 8, CWL gathered in Los Angeles to present the Honorable Samantha P. Jessner with the 2022 Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award. The event was co-hosted by Women Lawyers of Los Angeles. The evening was a warm celebration of the many accomplishments of Judge Jessner.











In Honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, CWL Highlights the First Latina to Serve on the California Supreme Court: Justice Patricia Guerrero

BY LORRINA DUFFY

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15 for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.



On February 15, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom nominated Justice Guerrero to be an Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court. Governor Newsom, in nominating Justice Guerrero for the California Supreme Court, said: "A keen legal mind and well-regarded jurist, Justice Guerrero's wide-ranging experience, integrity, deep respect for the rule of law and lifelong commitment to public service make her a phenomenal candidate to serve as our next California Supreme Court Justice." Justice Guerrero was confirmed in March 2022.

Justice Guerrero is the daughter of Mexican immigrants. Originally from the Imperial Valley, Justice Guerrero went on to graduate from the University of California, Berkeley in 1994 and Stanford Law School in 1997. After law school, Justice Guerrero went from being an associate to an equity partner at Latham and Watkins LLP, where she worked for the majority of 1997 to 2013. Justice Guerrero also served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of California from 2002 to 2003.

In 2013, Justice Guerrero was appointed to be a judge on the San Diego County Superior Court and she was the Supervising Judge of the Family Law Division in 2017. Justice Patricia Guerrero was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve as an Associate Justice on the Court of Appeal, Fourth Ap-

pellate District, Division One on November 2, 2017, and was confirmed on December 14, 2017.

Additionally, Justice Guerrero has worked on a pro bono basis as a member of the Advisory Board of the Immigration Justice Project where she assisted clients in immigration matters.

Governor Newsom nominated Justice Guerrero to be the next Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court on August 10, 2022. Justice Guerrero will be the first Latina to serve as the Chief Justice, the top judicial position in California.

Justice Guerrero is the embodiment of the American dream realized. Justice Guerrero, as the daughter of Mexican immigrants, is a first generation Californian who first started working at 16 at a grocery store and continued working as she attended Berkeley and later Stanford Law. Her schooling, legal journey, and pro bono work, evidence her academic achievement, work ethic, professional accomplishments and commitment to give back to the community. The appointment of Justice Guerrero to the state's highest court is a step in the right direction to ensure our judiciary reflects the diversity of California.

Justice Guerrero will be honored by our sister bar association, the Latina Lawyers Bar Association, at its 25th Anniversary Annual Awards & Scholarship Dinner on October 14, 2022.



Lorrina M. Duffy is CWL's incoming Secretary, and a District 7 Governor. She is the Chief Operating Officer for QDRO Counsel, a legal services technology company for the division of retirement benefits in a divorce.

Legislative Update

BY MELISSA GARDNER

CWL continues its legislative efforts to improve the lives of women throughout the state, advocating on behalf of our members for issues including choice, privacy, freedom from intimidation in reproductive matters, and access to justice for victims of intimate partner and sexual violence.

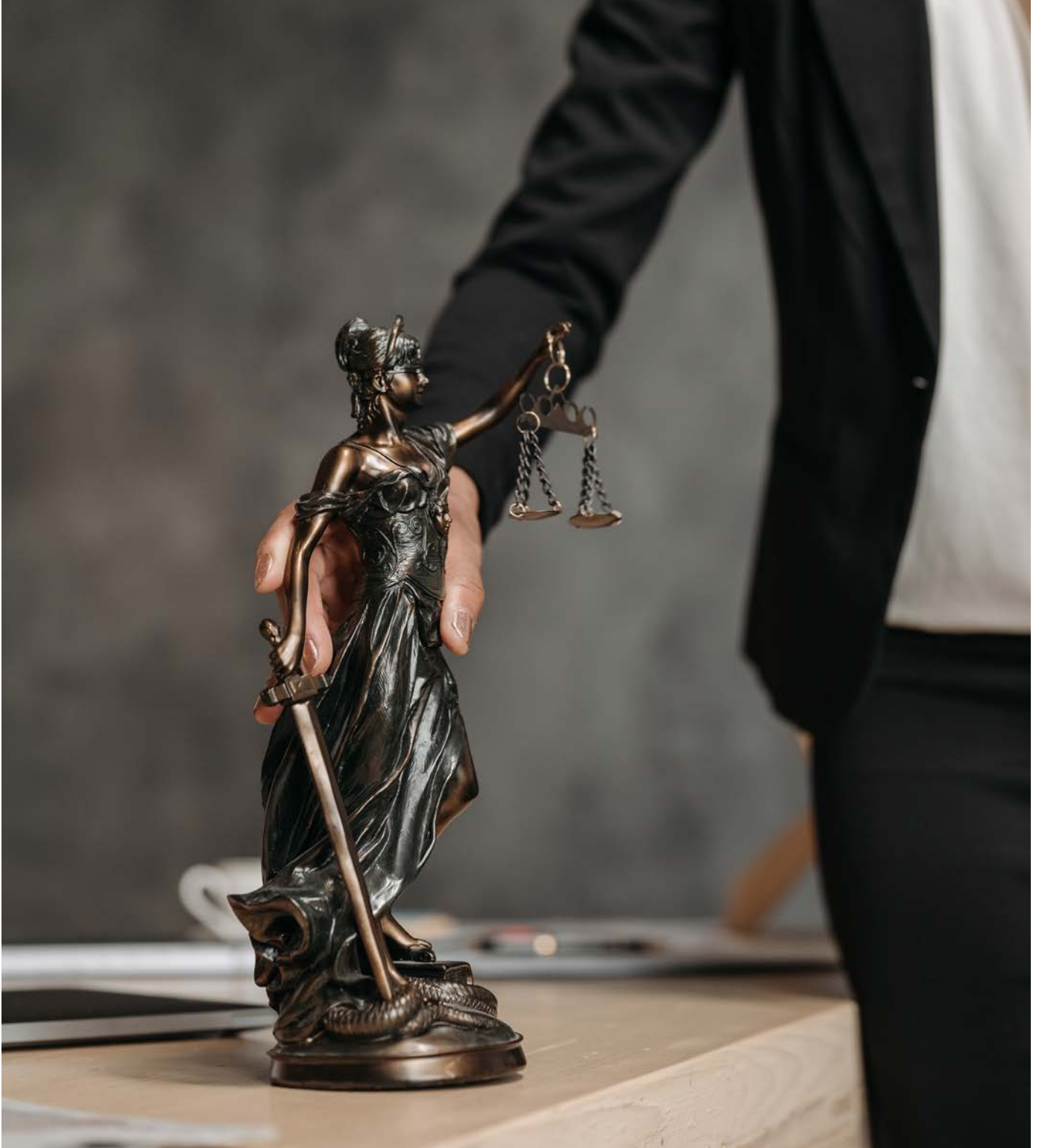
After CWL's 2022 priority agenda was announced in the spring, the United States Supreme Court issued *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning the constitutional rights of women recognized in *Roe v. Wade*. The same day *Dobbs* issued on June 24, Governor Newsom signed one of CWL's priority bills into law: AB 1666. Now Section 123467.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, this new law responds to uniquely aggressive laws in Texas and other states by declaring that another state's law authorizing a civil action against those who provide, aid, or receive abortion care is contrary to the public policy of California. This codification of California's public policy represents a proactive step to protect access to and provision of abortion in California.

The other bills on CWL's priority agenda (AB 2091, AB 2223, SB 1162, SB 1115, SB 951, AB 1947, AB 1041, AB 2182, SB 1017, SB 975 and AB 92) are advancing through the Legislature thanks to the fierce advocacy and the partnership CWL's members and

others across the state. If successful, they will be presented to the Governor for decision on or before September 30. If you are interested in making your voice heard on important issues affecting women and families in California, contact Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Melissa Gardner and Jaimi Groothuis at legislative@cw.org.



Melissa Gardner serves on the CWL Board of Governors as a District 4 Governor, representing San Francisco and Marin Counties. She is a partner at the law firm Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP, representing plaintiffs in complex litigation.





Meet CWL Member, Tracy Hughes

Which living person do you most admire?

This was a college essay question the year I applied to college, and my answer is the same as it was then: my older sister Christine. She was ten years older than I and was my friend, cheerleader, and rock growing up. In the year 2000, she was killed in a pedestrian accident. She was an incredible mother and sister, and was always available to those who needed her, in good times and in bad. She had a special way of lifting people up and embodied the Dalai Lama's quote, "My religion is kindness."

What is your greatest extravagance or indulgence? Binge watching a streaming show for a whole weekend.

What is your current state of mind? Concerned. The world seems very divided at a time when we need to come together more than ever before.

What is the quality you most admire in a person? Integrity.

Which talent would you most like to have? A particular talent for making people laugh. There have been a few people I have known over the years with this talent, and it is truly wonderful.

What do you consider your greatest achievement? As for so many women, juggling working and having children without a family network nearby. Professionally, working on the first filed opioid case in the country and seeing it through to trial. There has been a sea change in opioid prescribing and distribution as a result of the now over 3,500 filed opioid cases.

If you were to die and come back as a



Tracy Hughes is the district 8 Governor, representing Orange County. She specializes in product liability and mass tort cases at Robinson Calcagnie in Newport Beach. She previously served as a Senior Deputy County Counsel for the Office of the Los Angeles County Counsel and spent two decades as a prosecutor at the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

Tracy is on the CWL Executive Committee and was recently elected First Vice President for 2023. She also serves on the Judicial Committee and is Chair of the Membership Committee.

person or a thing, what would it be? An otter. They always make me smile.

Where would you most like to live? Tailloires, France in the French Alps.

What brings you joy? Sitting in the early morning with a cup of coffee and my pug. (Shown on the right)

What do you most value in your friends? Honesty, perspective, and humor.

What is it that you most dislike? Exclusion and condescension. The best solutions come from a wide variety of views and perspectives.

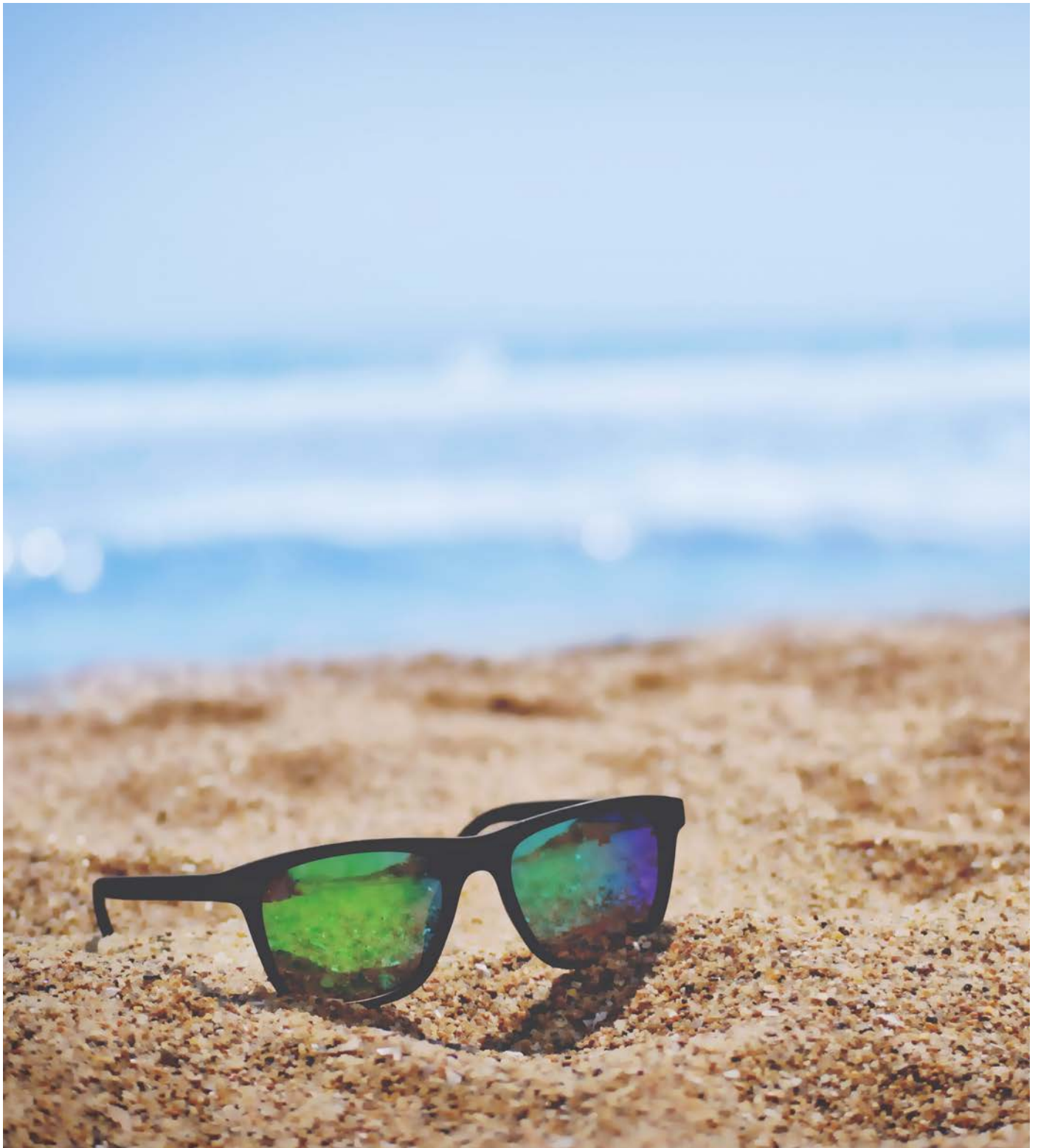
What is your greatest regret? Before law school I was offered a job in Nyon, Switzerland. I was newly married, and we decided not to go. I still think about what an adventure that would have been.



How did you get involved in CWL? Women prosecutors I know were forced to go back and redo their trial assignments following part-time status after having children. Male prosecutors that took time off for travel or military service were not subject to those requirements. Frustrated by these and other policies, I became more involved in women's organizations. I volunteered to work on the Annual Educational Conference during my first year as a CWL member and was hooked. CWL has been a part of my life ever since.

What is your favorite thing about CWL? The community of talented, diligent women who are open to growth. I love the shared commitment to a larger mission.

What have you learned from CWL? Apart from the varied content of CWL programming, I have learned so much about leadership. I have watched my CWL peers build consensus among disparate voices, resolve conflict, and move mountains to get things done. I have learned how to better support other women and how to engage others in a common mission.





CWL Upcoming Events

September 9

Annual Dinner
Oakland, California

September 12

Coffee & Connect
A Virtual Program

October 1

So, You Want to Be a Lawyer?
A Virtual Program

November 2

Fay Stender Award Reception
Honoring Kimberly La Salle
Orange County, California

November 18

CWL Award Nomination Deadline



SO, YOU WANT TO BE A LAWYER?

October 1, 2022
1:00pm - 3:00pm | Virtual

**INVITING
HIGH SCHOOL,
COLLEGE, AND
LAW SCHOOL
STUDENTS**

WORKSHOP ABOUT BECOMING A LAWYER

TITLE SPONSOR:
 **UnionBank®**

BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER



**CALIFORNIA
WOMEN LAWYERS**

Join Now

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.

\$175

**REGULAR/SUPPORTING
MEMBERSHIP (ANNUAL)**

\$95

DISCOUNTED ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Judges

Government Employees

Public Interest | Non-Profit Lawyers

In-House Counsel

Members of the following Affiliates:

Black Women Lawyers Associates of Los Angeles

Contra Costa County Bar Association- Women's Section

Fresno County Women Lawyers Association

Lawyers Club of San Diego

Long Beach Women Lawyers

Marin County Women Lawyers

Orange County Women Lawyers

San Mateo Women Lawyers

Santa Barbara Women Lawyers

Santa Clara County Bar Association

Women Lawyers of Alameda County

Women Lawyers of Los Angeles

Women Lawyers of Sacramento

Women Lawyers of Ventura County

\$2,500

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

\$0

LAW STUDENT | NEWLY ADMITTED (1st year)

[Click Here To Join](#)

2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95833
916.930.9020 | info@cwll.org | www.cwll.org



ADVERTISE IN THE CWL NEWSLETTER!

Each digital issue of the California Women Lawyer’s newsletter is shared with over 4,000 people across the U.S. This digital publication connects industry experts to relative legislation news, valuable events for networking and professional development as well as opinion editorials from CWL leaders and members. Space is limited, ad space is determined first come, first serve. All ads subject to approval by CWL.



Full Page Ad \$500

8.5"W x 11"H

Full Color

Interactive Links To Your Website

Half Page Ad \$375

4.25"W x 11"H

Full Color

Interactive Links To Your Website

Quarter Page Ad \$250

4.25"W x 5.5"H

Full Color

Interactive Links To Your Website

GENERAL AD & LOGO SPECIFICATIONS

PDF or JPG/300dpi Art Only

All ad displays must be vertical.

Logos must be sent in an eps or vector file format.

Contact CWL for more information and to advertise

Call or Email Teresa Excinia: 916.930.9020 | texcinia@cwll.org



CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS
NEWSLETTER