



CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS  
NEWSLETTER

## Message from the CWL President

Mika Domingo



### Dear Members and Friends,

How are you spending your summer days? Some of us may be lucky enough to enjoy family vacations. Some may be entertaining guests in their backyards, attending outdoor concerts or sporting events, growing their gardens, while others are simply catching up on sleep. And there may be some who don't even notice it's summer.

Remember when we were young and looked forward to summer breaks? For those of us who have children, summer these days might be more focused on summer camps or activities for the children. Some of us might not even really think about summer as a break because we have a trial we're preparing for or a summary judgment we need to file. How can we embrace this season with all the professional and personal responsibilities we've committed to? In a society in which we are expected to stay productive, we may ultimately miss opportunities for self-care due to a lack of time. While many of us have a lot going on, it is imperative that we take time out every day for ourselves, even if minimally.

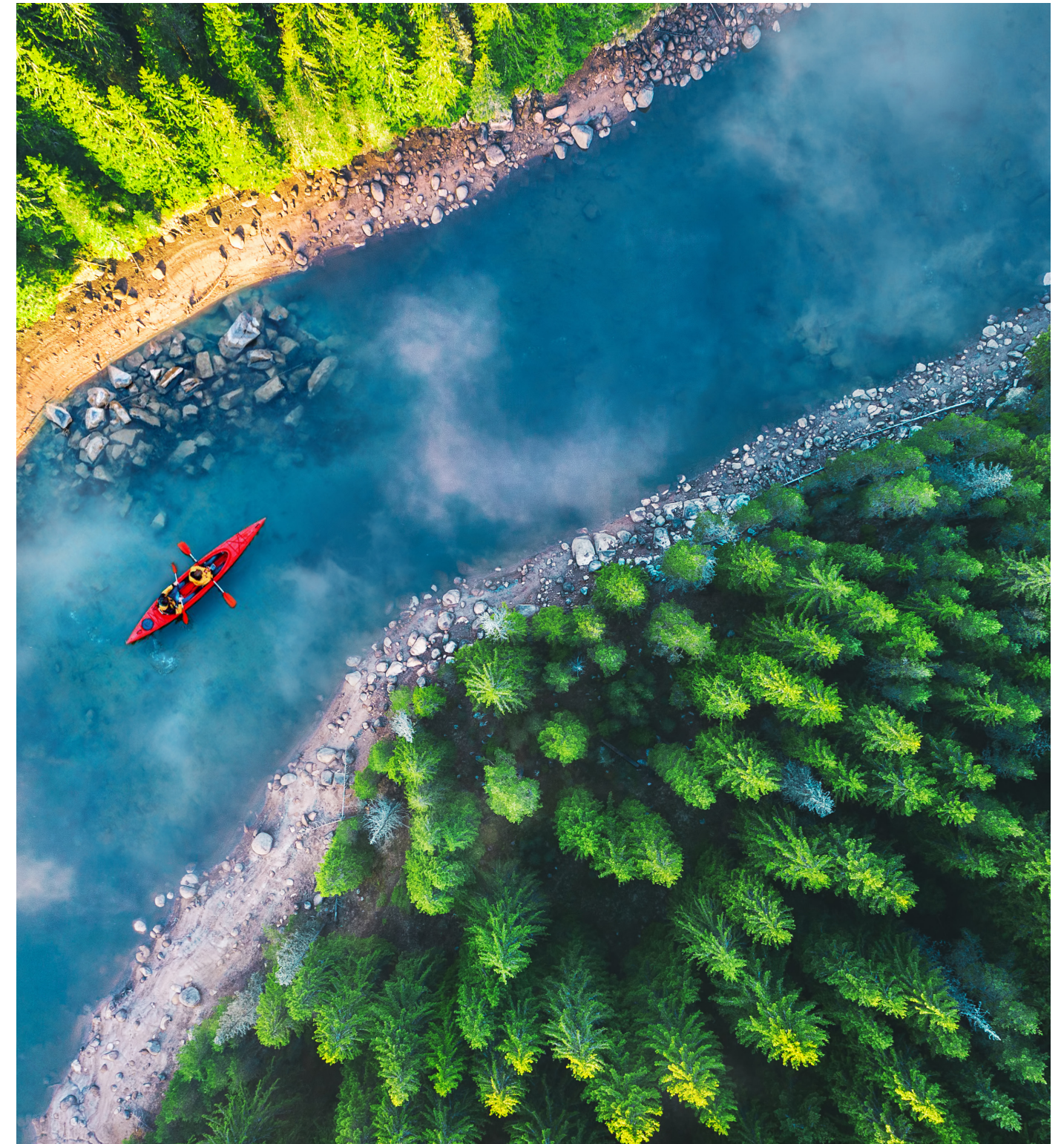
How about spending fifteen to twenty minutes outside to soak up the sun? Or visit a nearby garden? When was the last time you had a sno cone? Star gazed? Listened to music without doing anything else? These are just some ideas to remind you to take advantage of the long days of summer as they will be gone before we know it.

Of course, we look forward to seeing you at our virtual In Conversation event honoring Judge Erica R. Yew on August 28th and we are excited to see you in person at our Annual Dinner in San Diego on September 21, 2023.

### Mika Domingo, President

*Mika Domingo is Founder and Managing Attorney of Domingo Law Group and the President of CWL.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mika Domingo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



# CWL SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

## 2023 CWL Board Officers

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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).

## Editor's Note

BY TRISTAN E.H. HIGGINS



Summertime and the living is – not easy. The legal news continues to be hard, devastating even. How do we find our way? Justices like the Honorable Kelli Evans help.

This summer, we have lost the federal right to demand someone make a website for our lesbian wedding, and the hope that our Black, Indigenous, Latinx, AAPI children might have their families

considered in applying to get into Harvard or the University of North Carolina. The impact of 303 Creative v. Elenis, 143 S. Ct. 2298 (2023), and Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College, 143 S. Ct. 2141 (2023), is catastrophic. Indeed, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor said that the "devastating impact" of the later case "cannot be overstated."

In one session, we have lost 60 years of civil rights progress in making education less racially divided, and reversed 50 years of progress in legitimizing the relationships of LGBTQ+ folks. And yet... In California, we now have our first lesbian Supreme Court justice, the Honorable Kelli Evans. Justice Evans also happens to be the third Black justice appointed to the Supreme Court. For a student of the civil rights movements, it is an interesting counterbalance to this summer's losses. Of course, it may be a stretch, but it does provide reason for hope. There are plenty of other amazing and inspiring women to read about here.

In this issue our feature article is a preview of our Annual Dinner, which is set to happen September 21 in San Diego along the bay. We are beyond excited to feature a "fireside" chat between the Honorable Judith McConnell and the aforementioned Justice Evans, followed by the presentation of the Fay Stender Award to the dynamic legal powerhouse, Gloria Allred. Allred will address the audience.

Following that are articles about each of these amazing legal minds, and an amazing legal mind in the making: Anna Judson, the CWL Foundation scholarship winner.

You will read about the Honorable Erica Yew, who is the recipient of CWL's 2023 Rose Bird Memorial Award, which recognizes a Northern California judge whose judicial excellence and

longstanding or groundbreaking public service inspires women lawyers throughout the state. Judge Yew is also the incoming president of the California Judges Association.

You will read about the Honorable Michelle Williams Court, who is the recipient of CWL's 2023 Joan Dempsey Klein Award, which recognizes a Southern California judge for excellence as a jurist, longstanding vigorous service, and inspiration to the women lawyers of California.

If you know someone who is deserving of recognition like Judges Yew and Williams Court, please submit their name by our awards deadline of November 3. It is more important than ever to lift up those among us who continue to fight.

Importantly, 10 dedicated women who seek your vote are highlighted in the District Governor Candidates article. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these passionate advocates who are ready to give their time to this organization that does so much for us.

Speaking of dedicated women, you will also hear a message of self-care from our president, Mika Domingo, and be educated about the work of our amicus committee by our president-elect, Jodi Cleesattle.

Losing rights without losing our way... how do we go on? One way to do that is to stop, take a deep breath, and look to those among us who are continuing to fight. Those who light the way and beckon us to follow them. Those like the Honorable Justice Kelli Evans. Thank you, your honor.

Tristan E.H. Higgins  
Editor, CWL News

# CWL 2023 ANNUAL DINNER

# FIRED UP

## WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR?

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

SAN DIEGO MARRIOTT MARQUIS



## Fired Up – What Are You Fighting For? Justice Kelli Evans and Gloria Allred Featured at CWL’s 2023 Annual Dinner

BY JENNIFER HARTMAN KING

California Women Lawyers’ 2023 Annual Dinner seeks to meet the extraordinary moment we presently face, with the befitting theme “Fired Up – What Are You Fighting For?” We are calling on our members and friends to stand up and speak out about the issues that matter to them and to work for a better world for everyone.

The Annual Dinner is set for September 21 at the San Diego Marriot Marquis alongside the San Diego Bay. The dinner is being held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the California Lawyers Association and the California Judges Association. The evening will kick off at 5:30 p.m. with a no-host reception and silent auction. The dinner program, including an exciting live auction, begins at 6:30 p.m.

The keynote presentation will be an inspiring and informative fireside chat with California Supreme Court Associate Justice Kelli Evans, moderated by Fourth District Court of Appeal Presiding Justice Judith McConnell. CWL is thrilled to welcome these powerhouse lawyers.

Evans joined the California Supreme Court in January after many years in public service and a short stint on the Alameda County Superior Court bench. Prior to being appointed to the Superior Court in 2019, Evans was chief deputy legal affairs secretary for Governor Gavin Newsom, advising the governor and executive agencies on a range of legal, policy, and legislative

issues. Throughout her career, she worked as an assistant public defender, an ACLU attorney and associate director, a senior trial attorney in the U.S. Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, a senior director for the California State Bar, and a Special Assistant to the Attorney General at the California Department of Justice.

California Supreme Court Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero also will take the stage at CWL’s Annual Dinner to swear in the 2024 CWL Board of Governors.

CWL will present the 2023 Fay Stender Award to attorney Gloria Allred, a fierce and well-known advocate for victims’ rights, who also will give remarks. Allred exemplifies the qualities of the Fay Stender award – “the representation of women, disadvantaged persons and unpopular causes, with courage, zest for life and the demonstrated ability to effect change.” Her high-profile legal battles have led to many landmark, precedent-setting court decisions and significant monetary awards for her clients.

The CWL Foundation will present the 2023 Nancy E. O’Malley Scholarship at the Annual Dinner. The scholarship, named after CWL past president Nancy E. O’Malley, aims to support students whose activities and plans demonstrate a commitment to issues affecting women or children in the community.

This year’s scholarship winner is Anna Judson, who will be a second-year student at the University of California, Berkeley



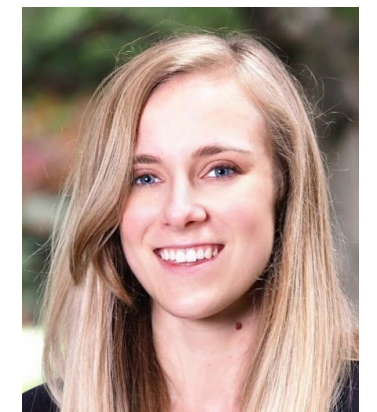
KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
Hon. Kelli M. Evans



2023 FAY STENDER  
AWARD HONOREE  
Gloria Allred



MODERATED BY  
Justice Judith McConnell



2023 SCHOLARSHIP  
WINNER  
Anna Judson

Continues on page 7

School of Law this fall. Judson is a Human Rights Fellow at Berkeley School of Law and holds a bachelor's degree in legal studies, with minors in public policy and human rights. She has worked in various public policy arenas and has provided volunteer legal services through multiple organizations that benefit women and children.

Proceeds from the silent and live auctions benefit the CWL Foundation, which funds the annual scholarships. During the live auction, attendees can bid on a beautiful, original painting of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (acrylic on canvas, 24" x 30"), painted by David Majchrzak, Immediate Past President of the San Diego County Bar Association. Attendees will also have an opportunity to bid on a wine refrigerator stocked with wine. Please bring your generosity and your credit cards to support this worthy cause.

Past silent auction items have included vacation stays in Cancun and Lake Tahoe, spa packages, excursions, sports memorabilia, paintings, jewelry, and wine.

CWL thanks the sponsors of CWL's 2023 Annual Dinner, including Silver Sponsor Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld LLP, and Bronze Sponsors Alternative Resolution Centers, Hanna, Brophy, MacLean, McAleer & Jensen LLP, Hartman King PC, and Judicate West.

Sponsors receive recognition on CWL's website, promotional materials, and emails, and in advertising in the Annual Dinner Program. Don't miss this opportunity to distinguish yourself as a sponsor of women lawyers throughout California. Program ads are also available.

For information about sponsorship and advertising opportunities, please contact us at [sponsorship@cw.org](mailto:sponsorship@cw.org) or visit [www.cw.org/sponsorship-opportunities](http://www.cw.org/sponsorship-opportunities).

To get your tickets to the Annual Dinner, visit [www.cw.org/annual-dinner](http://www.cw.org/annual-dinner).



*Jennifer Hartman King is CWL District 2 Governor, Member-At-Large of the CWL Executive Committee, Co-Chair of the Sponsorship Committee, and a proud Lifetime Member of CWL. She owns the environmental/regulatory boutique law firm Hartman King PC, located in Sacramento.*



# California Supreme Court Justice Kelli Evans to Keynote CWL Annual Conference

BY JODI CLEESATTLE



California Women Lawyers is pleased to welcome California Supreme Court Associate Justice Kelli Evans as the keynote speaker for CWL's 2023 Annual Dinner, set for Sept. 21 in San Diego.

Evans will engage in a fireside chat with California Fourth District Court of Appeal Administrative Presiding Justice Judith McConnell, discussing her long and varied career in public service, her

path to the bench, and life as the newest member of California's highest court.

Evans was sworn in to the Supreme Court in January, less than two years after being appointed to the Alameda County Superior Court in June 2021. She is the first openly lesbian justice on the Supreme Court and the third Black justice on the current Court.

A few months prior to her confirmation, Evans told the Los Angeles Times in an interview that she agrees representation on the bench is important.

"Diversity and representation helps improve decision-making," she said.

Evans said she hopes her appointment sends a message to LGBTQ+ kids and families who may fear the increase in hate crimes and legislation that is hostile to the LGBTQ+ community.

"You can be out, you can live your authentic life and thrive personally and professionally at the highest levels," she said.

Evans grew up in Denver, raised by her grandmother in public housing. She came to California for college and stayed, receiving her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and her law degree from the University of California at Davis.

In the early years of her legal career, Evans worked as an assistant public defender in Sacramento County, an attorney for the ACLU, a senior trial attorney in the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, and then an associate at a law firm. She also served several years as a member of federal court-appointed monitoring teams for the Oakland and Cleveland Police Departments.

She served as associate director of the ACLU of Northern California from 2010 to 2013, then worked for the State Bar of California as senior director for the administration of justice from 2014 to 2017, before joining the California Department of Justice as Special Assistant to the Attorney General, focusing on criminal justice, public safety, and civil rights law and policy from 2017 to 2019.

Evans joined Governor Gavin Newsom's office in 2019 as chief deputy legal affairs secretary, advising the governor and executive agencies on a variety of legal, policy, and legislative issues.

Appointed to the Alameda County Superior Court in June 2021, Evans presided over criminal and civil cases. When she was appointed to the Supreme Court, she took the seat left vacant when Justice Patricia Guerrero was elevated to Chief Justice.

Evans serves on the California Commission on Access to Justice, and she has previously served on governing boards of a number of non-profit organizations. She has received numerous awards and recognition including the King Hall Distinguished Alumna Award, the Stanford Trailblazer Award, Judge of the Year Award, Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service, State Bar President's Award, and a Medal of Achievement from the Washington Metropolitan Police Department.



*Jodi Cleesattle is CWL's 2023 President-Elect and chair of CWL's Annual Dinner Committee and Amicus Committee. She is Senior Assistant Attorney General for the California Department of Justice, leading the statewide Tort and Condemnation Section.*

# Support The CWL Foundation



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.

You can support the important work of The CWL Foundation, including the Nancy E. O' Malley Scholarship, through a monetary donation. Checks can be made payable to "The 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 certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and your contribution may be tax-deductible as provided by law. Contact Teresa Excinia at (916) 930-9020 or via email at [texcinia@cwl.org](mailto:texcinia@cwl.org) for more information.

## CWL to Honor Gloria Allred with Fay Stender Award at Annual Dinner

BY MIKHAK GHORBAN



California Women Lawyers will honor renowned attorney, feminist, and civil rights attorney Gloria Allred with the Fay Stender Award at the CWL Annual Dinner September 21 in San Diego.

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. This annual award is given to a feminist attorney, who, like 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.

With a career spanning many decades, Allred has become not only a legal icon but also an inspirational role model for lawyers and activists around the world.

Allred was born in Philadelphia and raised in a working-class family. Her pursuit of education led her to study English at the University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated with honors. She continued her studies, earning a masters from New York University and a J.D. cum laude from Loyola University School of Law in Los Angeles.

In 1976 and shortly after passing the California bar, Allred co-founded the law firm Allred, Maroko & Goldberg in Los Angeles and began taking on cases involving sexual harassment, workplace discrimination, and domestic violence. Her legal victories in these cases not only provided justice for her clients but also set important legal precedents that have shaped the field of employment and gender discrimination law.

Later in her legal career, Allred's involvement in cases against powerful public figures, including celebrities and politicians accused of sexual misconduct, helped her become a voice for survivors, highlighting issues that are often ignored or hidden. Her media presence has helped raise awareness about such topics often considered off-limits.

One of Allred's more significant contributions to legal activism is her relentless pursuit of gender equality. She fights for the rights of women in the workplace and represents victims of sexual assault and harassment. Allred's dedication to reproductive rights and bodily autonomy has also made her a leading figure in the ongoing battle for women's equality.

Over the span of her legal career, Allred has received numerous awards and recognitions, such as the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Trial Lawyers for her role in combating injustices and winning new rights, especially for women and minorities. In 2018, she was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Organization for Women for her long-standing commitment to fighting injustices against women. That same year, Netflix launched "Seeing Allred," an original documentary about Allred and her battles for justice, which is still streaming on the platform.

Allred's other notable accolades include being inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York in 2019 and receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from American Lawyer Magazine in 2020. Allred was honored with the Praeses Elit Award from Trinity College Dublin Law Society in 2021 in recognition of the advancements she has made for women's rights and civil rights throughout her career.

The LGBTQ+ Lawyers Association of Los Angeles honored Allred with its 2022 Co-President's Award, which is given to an individual who exemplifies and advances the values and goals of the association and who has made outstanding contributions to the LGBTQ+ legal and broader community.

Allred's trailblazing efforts have not only paved the way for gender equality and civil rights but have also inspired countless individuals to stand up for justice in their own lives. A feminist and civil rights activist, Allred has spent her remarkable career fighting for justice, equality, and empowerment. As a role model and legal icon, Gloria Allred continues to remind us to fight for a more just and equitable society.



*Mikhak Ghorban is an Affiliate Governor of CWL representing Lawyers Club of San Diego and is the founder and principal of Ghorban Law, APC*



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## CWL Foundation Awards 2023 Nancy E. O'Malley Scholarship to Berkeley 2L

BY ANA M. STOREY



The CWL Foundation will award the 2023 Nancy E. O'Malley Scholarship to Anna Judson, a rising second-year student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.

Judson will receive the scholarship, named after CWL past president Nancy E. O'Malley, at the CWL Annual Dinner in San Diego on September 21.

Judson is a Human Rights Fellow at Berkeley School of Law and holds a bachelor's degree in legal studies, with a minor in public policy and human rights from Berkeley. She has worked in various public policy arenas and has provided volunteer legal services through multiple organizations that benefit women and children.

Judson's lived experience is the fuel for her passion to pursue a legal practice that will allow her to advocate for foster youth. She experienced multiple foster placements in her infancy, suffered a "failed adoption," and lived in multiple group homes from the ages of 13 to 18.

She interned at the National Foster Youth Institute, where she advocated for federal policies to increase college access for foster youth and advised members of Congress on the negative impacts of the foster care system. Her work as a pro bono law clerk for a national law firm representing Oregon foster youth contributed to a favorable federal court ruling for the youth.

Judson seeks to lift others as she rises. She serves as an Educational Rights Holder (ERH) for three youth in Alameda County foster care, working directly with children and families to ensure that the children receive appropriate school placements, representation in disciplinary proceedings, necessary services for disabilities or special needs, and the support they need to thrive.

She has mentored current and former foster youth to develop their team building, community outreach, leadership, and policy skills. In addition, Judson will begin a new role this fall as a co-leader of the Foster Education Project at Berkeley Law, where she will have the opportunity to expand that pro bono project to serve more vulnerable Alameda youth.

"When I picture myself as an attorney, I know that I will be able to use my education and my identity as a former foster youth and to advocate and provide legal services for women and children," Judson wrote in her scholarship application essay. "I have worked as a children's rights activist for six years and am committed to using my education to advocate for women and children. As a former foster youth, I know firsthand the challenges that these populations face, and I plan to do my part in advocating, fighting for change, and doing what I can to reduce the injustices and hardships faced by these demographics."

The CWL Foundation is proud to support Judson as she pursues her legal career.

The CWL Foundation created the scholarship in 2016 to honor CWL past president Nancy E. O'Malley, former Alameda County District Attorney, for her dedication and commitment to supporting the mission of California Women Lawyers and protecting vulnerable women and children in our society.

Since then, the CWL Foundation has awarded one scholarship each year to a law student whose activities and plans demonstrate a commitment to issues affecting women or children. Past winners have gone on to clerk for state and federal judges, hold elected office, serve as a deputy district attorney, and work in legal aid representing survivors of intimate partner abuse who are low-income.

You can support inspiring students like Judson with a monetary donation to the CWL Foundation in support of the Nancy E. O'Malley Scholarship. No amount is too small, and each gift goes to make a difference in the life of a deserving law student, making it possible for them to have an impact on the lives of so many others. Donations are tax-deductible, where permitted by law. Checks can be made payable to "The CWL Foundation" and sent to California Women Lawyers, 2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95833, or you can donate online at <https://www.cwl.org/donate>.



*Ana M. Storey is president of the CWL Foundation and serves on the CWL Board of Governors as Immediate Past President. She is the executive director of LevittQuinn Family Law Center, a private nonprofit law firm providing comprehensive family law services for financially vulnerable folks throughout Los Angeles County and beyond.*



# CWL will host "In Conversation with Judge Michelle Williams Court"



MODERATED BY  
**Judge Samantha P. Jessner**

Honoring the winner of CWL's 2023 Joan Dempsey Klein Award, which recognizes a Southern California judge for excellence as a jurist, longstanding vigorous service, and inspiration to the women lawyers of California.



# October 17<sup>th</sup>

## Join the Conversation with CWL Judicial Award Winners

BY **ABBY PUTZULU**

CWL will celebrate the winners of its annual judicial awards – Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Erica Yew and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michelle Williams Court – during two virtual "In Conversation With" programs coming soon.

CWL will host "In Conversation with Judge Erica R. Yew" Aug. 28, from 12:15-1:15 p.m. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Holly Fujie will moderate a discussion with Judge Yew, the winner of CWL's 2023 Rose Bird Memorial Award, which recognizes a Northern California judge whose judicial excellence and longstanding or groundbreaking public service inspires women lawyers throughout the state.

CWL will host "In Conversation with Judge Michelle Williams Court" Oct. 17, honoring the winner of CWL's 2023 Joan Dempsey Klein Award, which recognizes a Southern California judge for excellence as a jurist, longstanding vigorous service, and inspiration to the women lawyers of California. Los Angeles Superior Court Presiding Judge Samantha Jessner will moderate the conversation with Judge Court.

"We're excited to present these conversations with Judge Yew and Judge Court," said CWL First Vice President Tracy Hughes, who chairs CWL's awards committee. "Their careers and paths to the bench were different, but they are both amazing trailblazers. We look forward to hearing them share their inspirational stories."

Judge Yew made history as the Santa Clara County Superior Court's first female Asian American Pacific Islander judge when she was appointed to the bench in 2001. Her judicial assignments have included a variety of court settings, such as presiding over a dependency drug treatment court and other collaborative problem-solving courts.

She currently serves as president of the California Judges Association, and she has held leadership roles in the Judicial Council of California, the California Commission on Judicial Performance, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Judicial Council, and the California Asian Pacific American Judges Association. She serves on the California Supreme Court's Committee on Judicial Ethics Opinions and co-chairs the California Judicial Mentor Program, as well as serving on the California Access to Justice Commission and the board of the National Center for State Courts.

Before joining the bench, Judge Yew worked in private practice in San Jose at Robinson & Wood and McManis Faulkner & Morgan.

She has received a number of awards for her community service

and work as a judge, including Outstanding Jurist of the Year in 2016 from the Santa Clara County Bar Association and the 2017 Distinguished Service Award from the Judicial Council.

Judge Court began her judicial career in 2012 with her appointment to the Los Angeles County Superior Court, where she serves as a Supervising Judge of the Civil Division. She has served on the court's Executive Committee, as the chair of its Technology Committee, and on several administrative committees. She serves on the California Supreme Court's Committee on Judicial Ethics Opinions, and she has served on various statewide judicial branch committees.

Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Court was vice president and general counsel at Bet Tzedek, an LA-based organization committed to providing legal services to the disadvantaged. Her other previous roles include senior associate at Milberg LLP; community builder fellow and civil rights specialist of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; litigation associate at Litt and Marquez; project attorney at the ACLU; and associate at Gilbert Kelly Crowley and Jennett.

Judge Court has been recognized for her service with, among other awards, the California Association of Black Lawyers Judicial Award of Excellence and the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles Distinguished Service Award.

"CWL is proud to honor Judge Yew and Judge Williams Court with our Rose Bird and Joan Dempsey Klein judicial awards," CWL President Mika Domingo said. "We're grateful for all they've given to the legal community, and for the time they're sharing with us. We're also thankful for the terrific moderators who are helping us get to know our award winners better."

The In Conversation With programs will each offer .75 hours of MCLE credit. Registration is \$20 for CWL members, and \$35 for non-members. Register online at [registration link].



*Abby Putzulu is the Affiliate Governor representing Women Lawyers of Alameda County on the CWL Board. She is an associate with Fisher Phillips in San Francisco.*



## Nominate a Woman Lawyer or Judge for a 2024 CWL Award

You can help to advance the mission of California Women Lawyers and support other women by nominating an exceptional lawyer or jurist for a 2024 CWL award.

Nominations are now open online at [www.cwl.org/awards](http://www.cwl.org/awards), and the deadline to submit nominations is November 3, 2023 by 5 p.m.

CWL recognizes outstanding lawyers and judges each year with four awards.

- The [Fay Stender Award](#) recognizes a demonstrated commitment to under-represented or disadvantaged groups or unpopular causes, a feminist perspective, and a demonstrated ability to effect change.
- The [Judith Soley Lawyer as Citizen Award](#) recognizes an accomplished attorney who has demonstrated leadership and significant ongoing community involvement.
- The [Joan Dempsey Klein Award](#) is presented each year to an outstanding jurist in Southern California with a record of longstanding and/or groundbreaking public service.
- The [Rose Bird Memorial Award](#) is presented each year to an exceptional jurist in Northern California who has a record of longstanding and/or groundbreaking public service.

Nomination packages, which must be submitted online, may not exceed 30 pages total. Nomination packages must include:

1. the nominee's resume, bio or CV;
2. a high-resolution color photo of the nominee;
3. a letter of support describing how the nominee meets the award criteria (5 pages maximum);
4. a statement from the nominating organization acknowledging the ability to assign one to two members who will actively participate with the CWL Award Committee in planning and marketing the award ceremony; and
5. a statement affirming the nominating organization will work with CWL to determine the nominee's availability for the award ceremony or In Conversation With webinar.

Nomination packages also may include up to five additional letters of support (maximum of 2 pages each) and up to three news articles written by or about the nominee.

## CWL Hosts Power Lunch for In-House Counsel, Plans Data Privacy Program

BY LATRICE BYRDSONG AND NATALIE LASHINSKY



Clockwise, from bottom left: IHCN co-chair Natalie Garcia Lashinsky, Evangelina Almirantearena, Linda Kinney, and Tracy Leong enjoy CWL's IHCN Power Lunch July 11.



From left: Ruth Glick, Lillian Stenfeldt, and Tina Singh attend CWL's IHCN Power Lunch.



*Natalie Garcia Lashinsky serves on the CWL Board of Governors as a Board Member at Large, and is co-chair of CWL's In-House Counsel Network. She is a partner at Husch Blackwell LLP in the San Francisco Bay area, where her practice focuses in commercial litigation in the areas of product liability, real estate, and business.*



*Latrice Byrdsong is in-house benefits counsel for Toyota Motor North America, Inc. through Axiom Law. She serves on the CWL Board of Governors as District 7 Governor, representing Los Angeles County, and is co-chair of CWL's In-House Counsel Network.*

CWL's In-House Counsel Network (IHCN) gathered for a Power Lunch July 11 in the San Francisco Bay Area, bringing together attorneys from various companies and organizations for an intimate and informal lunch.

The lunch, held at Blind Tasting in San Carlos, served as a networking and brainstorming session where attendees discussed the type of programming members of IHCN would like, IHCN co-chair Natalie Garcia Lashinsky, a partner at Husch Blackwell, LLP in Oakland, said.

Power Lunch attendees included Tracy Leong, commercial counsel at Google; Evangelina Almirantearena, Vice President and Associate General Counsel, Antitrust and Commercial Litigation at Intel Corporation; Tina Singh, founder and CEO of Singh Law Corporation); Linda Kinney, Chief Legal Counsel at Civica Consultants; Yvonne Ho, Senior Counsel, Technology Transactions & Product at Walmart; Eleanor Ignacio, Senior Assistant City Attorney for Redwood City; Ruth V. Glick, a mediator and arbitrator with Glick Dispute Resolution; and Lillian Stenfeldt, a partner with Rimon Law.

Lashinsky said the key takeaway was members have an overwhelming desire to gather more often to network and collaborate. To continue the conversation, IHCN Power Lunches will be held throughout the State.

IHCN also is planning a statewide panel and networking event September 7 from 4:30-7 p.m. The virtual and in-person event will feature a panel of experts who will discuss data privacy and cybersecurity issues facing in-house legal teams today. The virtual panel will be followed by in-person networking events in San Francisco and Los Angeles. More information will be available on CWL's website.

If you are interested in joining IHCN or organizing an IHCN Power Lunch, please contact committee co-chairs Natalie Garcia Lashinsky ([natalie.lashinsky@huschblackwell.com](mailto:natalie.lashinsky@huschblackwell.com)) or Latrice Byrdsong ([latricebyrdsong@gmail.com](mailto:latricebyrdsong@gmail.com)).

# Voting for CWL District Governor Elections Closes September 14

BY LATRICE BYRDSONG , JULIE WOODS AND JODI CLEESATTLE

Don't forget to vote for your CWL District Governor! Voting for the election for CWL Board of Governors closes September 14 at 5 p.m.

Eligible CWL members should have received an email with a link to vote in their districts – either place of residence or principal business office.

Ten candidates are running for eight District Governor seats. The newly elected District Governors, who serve two-year terms and may serve for up to three consecutive terms, will be sworn in at the CWL Annual Dinner September 21 in San Diego, and will take office in January 2024.

The candidates for District Governor are:

## District 2 (one seat):

*Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Napa, Sacramento, Solano, Sonoma, Tuolumne and Yolo Counties*



**Jennifer Hartman King** is seeking a third term as District 2 Governor. She is the founder and President of Hartman King PC in Sacramento, where she represents clients in environmental and regulatory matters, including providing regulatory advice, developing and implementing

compliance programs, litigating disputes in state and federal court, defending government enforcement actions, advising on site investigation and remediation, handling environmental due diligence in mergers and acquisitions, and representing clients in real estate matters involving contaminated property. She currently co-chairs CWL's Sponsorship Committee and has served on various other committees.

## District 3 (one of two seats):

*Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties*



**Pa'tanisha Davis Pierson** is seeking a second term as a District 3 Governor. She is a partner with Key Counsel, P.C. in Antioch, where her primary practice areas are in probate, guardianships, conservatorships, civil litigation, and adoption. She also serves on the Brentwood City Council. She

currently serves as CWL's Second Vice President and co-chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

## District 4 (one of two seats):

*San Francisco and Marin Counties*



**Jessica Stender** is seeking a second term as a District 4 Governor. She is Policy Director and Deputy Legal Director for Equal Rights Advocates in San Francisco, where she leads ERA's policy advocacy with a focus on sexual harassment, pay, and pregnancy discrimination and

represents workers in employment discrimination cases. She currently chairs CWL's Legislative Committee.

## District 6 (one seat):

*Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties*



**Terri Hilliard Olson** is seeking a second term as District 6 Governor. She is the principal of Terri Hilliard, P.C. in Westlake Village. Her practice centers on advanced estate and business succession planning, asset protection, special needs trusts, and family protection planning for seniors. She

serves on CWL's Judicial and Membership Committees.

## District 7 (three of five seats):

*Los Angeles County*



**Michele Anderson** is seeking a third term as one of CWL's five District 7 Governors. She is a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles, where she has focused on prosecuting domestic violence, child pornography, real estate mortgage fraud, OSHA violations, and consumer fraud. She is an at-large member of CWL's

executive committee and co-chairs CWL's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She also serves as chair-elect of the California Conference of Bar Associations.

*Continues on page 19*



**Uche Anene** is seeking election as a District 7 Governor. She is Legal Counsel at AT&T in Los Angeles. She serves on the board of the Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Inc. (BWL) and has served in various roles since 2018, including as co-chair of the BWL Young

Lawyers Committee and as a member of the BWL Scholarship Selection Committee. She has also served on the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles' Young Lawyers Committee, and she participated in the 2021 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) Pathfinders Program, designed for diverse, high-potential, early-career attorneys.



**Camille Townsend Granville** is seeking election as a District 7 Governor. She is Lead Counsel with Airbnb, where she advises business operations regarding employment matters, personnel, and employee relations issues. She has served as a board member and past president

of the Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Inc., and has served as a board member and past president of the California Association of Black Lawyers. She has served on the State Bar of California's Council on Access and Fairness and as a commissioner on the Los Angeles County Human Rights Commission.



**Carmela Pagay** is seeking election as a District 7 Governor. She is a partner with Levene, Neale, Bender, Yoo & Golubchik, LLP in Los Angeles, where she represents trustees, chapter 11 debtors, creditors' committees, and other parties in the contexts of bankruptcy cases, adversary

proceedings, and mediations. She is a member of Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, has served on its Foundation Board, and has co-chaired its Scholarships Committee. She also has chaired the Editorial Board of Los Angeles Lawyer Magazine for the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) and is a member of LACBA's President's Advisory Committee on Women in the Legal Profession.



**Julie Woods** is a District 3 Governor of California Women Lawyers, representing Los Angeles County, and a Probate Attorney for the Los Angeles County Superior Court.



**Patricia Phillips** is seeking election as a District 7 Governor. She is a partner with Phillips Jessner in Los Angeles, where she practices family law as well as handling business, employment, trust, and probate mediation. She was the first woman elected

president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and she received LACBA's Shattuck Price Award for Excellence in 1991. She has served as a vice president and member of the Board of Governors of the California State Bar, has served on the Judicial Council of the State of California, and was a member and former Chair of the Los Angeles County Commission on Judicial Procedures. She also has chaired the State Bar Committee of Bar Examiners and the Commission on the Future of the Legal Profession and the State Bar.

**District 9 (one of two seats):  
San Diego and Imperial Counties**



**Vaani Chawla** is seeking election as a District 9 Governor. She is the founder of Chawla Law Group APC in San Diego, where she has practiced immigration law for more than 20 years. She is a past president of the South Asian Bar Association of San Diego and past board member of Lawyers Club of San Diego, for

which she has co-chaired the Equality and Action Committee and has served on various other committees.

CWL's Board of Governors is comprised of district governors from nine geographic districts, plus up to two at-large governors appointed by the president, affiliate governors representing each of CWL's affiliate organizations, up to two judicial liaisons, and the immediate past president.

For questions, contact the CWL office at [info@cwl.org](mailto:info@cwl.org).



**Latrice Byrdsong** is in-house benefits counsel for Toyota Motor North America, Inc. through Axiom Law. She serves on the CWL Board of Governors as District 7 Governor, representing Los Angeles County, and is co-chair of CWL's In-House Counsel Network.



**Jodi Cleesattle** is CWL's 2023 President-Elect and chair of CWL's Annual Dinner Committee and Amicus Committee. She is Senior Assistant Attorney General for the California Department of Justice, leading the statewide Tort and Condemnation Section.

# CWL Joins Amicus Brief in Sexual Harassment Case

BY JODI CLEESATTLE

California Women Lawyers joined an amicus brief in a Washington state sexual harassment case in June, while the U.S. Supreme Court ended the 2023 term with unfavorable rulings in two cases in which CWL had joined amicus briefs.

## LaRose v. King County

CWL joined a [brief](#) filed June 22 in the Washington Court of Appeal in *LaRose v. King County*, Case No. 56455-6-II. The brief, filed by the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) and the Washington Employment Lawyers Association, was filed in support of Sheila LaRose, a former public defender who experienced sexual harassment, including stalking, by a former client. Her employer had no sex harassment policy and took no action for months after she reported the harassment. LaRose won a multi-million-dollar judgment against King County, and the County appealed.

The amicus brief highlighted that employers are required to protect workers from workplace-related harassment by third parties, even if the harassment occurs outside the bounds of a physical place of employment. The brief emphasized that limiting protections solely to a physical place of employment ignores both the types of harassment workers face as well as the parameters of today's work environments. The brief also underscored that requiring a more burdensome approach than informing a direct supervisor of workplace discrimination, such as informing top or "upper" management, would create even more barriers to reporting discrimination and frustrate the purpose of workplace civil rights laws.

## Amicus Losses in Both 303 Creative and Students for Fair Admissions

The U.S. Supreme Court issued unfavorable rulings in June in two cases in which CWL had joined amicus briefs.

In *303 Creative v. Elenis*, 143 S. Ct. 2298 (2023), the Supreme Court held that a graphic designer, who sought to begin creating wedding websites, may deny service to same-sex couples who seek to create websites for their weddings. The 6-3 majority opinion issued June 30, held that, because 303 Creative offers services that are customized and expressive, the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment shields the business from a generally applicable law that prohibits discrimination in the sale of publicly available goods and services.

As the dissent authored by Justice Sonia Sotomayor observed, "Today, the Court, for the first time in its history, grants a business open to the public a constitutional right to refuse to serve members of a protected class. ... The law in question targets conduct, not speech, for regulation, and the act of discrimination has never constituted protected expression under the First Amendment. Our Constitution contains no right to refuse service to a disfavored group."

CWL had joined an amicus [brief](#) filed in the Supreme Court in the *303 Creative* case in August 2022. That brief, filed by the National Women's Law Center on behalf of 35 organizations committed to civil rights for women and LGBTQ+ people, had argued, among other things, that the First Amendment does not exempt businesses from compliance with public accommodation laws and highlighted the harms that would be caused if the Court allowed such an exemption.

In *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*, 143 S. Ct. 2141 (2023), the Supreme Court held that the admissions programs at Harvard College and the University of North Carolina violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. The 6-3 majority opinion overruled 45 years of precedent established in prior Supreme Court decisions, including *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, *Grutter v. Bollinger*, and *Fisher v. University of Texas*.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor read her dissent from the bench, stating, "At bottom, the six unelected members of today's majority upend the status quo based on their policy preferences about what race in America should be like, but is not, and their preferences for a veneer of colorblindness in a society where race has always mattered and continues to matter in fact and in law."

CWL had joined an amicus [brief](#) filed in the Supreme Court in *Students for Fair Admissions* in August 2022 by the National Women's Law Center. In the brief, amici argued 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, noting the intersecting ways that racism and sexism create harms, and the specific stereotypes tied to combined racial and sexual identities.

Continued from page 20

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@cw.org](mailto:amicus@cw.org).



*Jodi Cleesattle is CWL's 2023 President-Elect and chair of CWL's Annual Dinner Committee and Amicus Committee. She is Senior Assistant Attorney General for the California Department of Justice, leading the statewide Tort and Condemnation Section.*

## CWL Upcoming Events

- 
- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| September 11<br>10:00am - 10:30pm | <b>Coffee and Connect</b><br><i>A CWL at Home Virtual Program</i>                   |
| September 21                      | <b>Annual Dinner</b><br><i>San Diego Marriott Marquis</i>                           |
| October 7<br>1:00pm - 3:00pm      | <b>So, You Want To Be A Lawyer?™</b><br><i>A Virtual Program</i>                    |
| October 9<br>10:00am - 10:30am    | <b>Coffee and Connect</b><br><i>A CWL at Home Virtual Program</i>                   |
| October 17                        | <b>In Conversation with Judge Michelle Williams Court</b><br><i>Virtual Program</i> |
| November 13<br>10:00am - 10:30am  | <b>Coffee and Connect</b><br><i>A CWL at Home Virtual Program</i>                   |
| December 11<br>10:00am - 10:30am  | <b>Coffee and Connect</b><br><i>A CWL at Home Virtual Program</i>                   |



# BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER



*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.

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- Contra Costa County Bar Association- Women's Section
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- Lawyers Club of San Diego
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- San Mateo Women Lawyers
- Santa Barbara Women Lawyers
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## 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.

### MEET LOUINDA LACEY, CWL'S LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR



*Anda Barrett*  
Louinda Lacey, legislative committee chair of the California Women Lawyers Association, is a member of the California State Bar and the California State Bar Association. She is also a member of the California State Bar Association's Legislative Committee. She has been a member of the California State Bar Association since 1998. She is currently a partner in the law firm of Lacey & Associates, LLP, where she is the managing partner. She is also a past president of the California State Bar Association and a past president of the California Women Lawyers Association. She is a frequent speaker at various events and is active in the legal community. She is also a member of the California State Bar Association's Legislative Committee and the California Women Lawyers Association's Legislative Committee. She is a frequent speaker at various events and is active in the legal community. She is also a member of the California State Bar Association's Legislative Committee and the California Women Lawyers Association's Legislative Committee.

CWL NEWSLETTER



### Dru Ramey Takes a Seat at the Table

This month, CWL's podcast is an interview with the remarkable Dru Ramey, Dru's Director Ramey. Ms. Ramey is the former executive director of the National Association of Women Judges, the former executive director and general counsel of the Association of San Francisco, and a former board member of the Golden Gate University School of Law. She is a frequent speaker at various events and is active in the legal community. She is also a member of the California State Bar Association's Legislative Committee and the California Women Lawyers Association's Legislative Committee. She is a frequent speaker at various events and is active in the legal community. She is also a member of the California State Bar Association's Legislative Committee and the California Women Lawyers Association's Legislative Committee.



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