

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Carol  
Salvagione



August 18, 1920 was the date the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified. That amendment afforded women the right to vote. On August 18, 2004 WIPP (Women Impacting Public Policy) held a national breakfast event commemorating the 84th anniversary of women's right to vote. I had the pleasure of attending the San Francisco "We Decide!" event. As I sat there and listened to the speakers (District Attorney Kamala Harris, The Hon. Lillian Sing (Ret.) and City Supervisor Jake McGoldrick) I kept thinking how shocking it is that women have only been allowed to vote for 84 years. It is a right that so many seem to take for granted and one that, unfortunately, so many fail to exercise. Women in this country outnumber men. Given that fact, we as women really do have the ability to elect the next President of the United States.

At the WIPP event I overheard a woman admit that she was not registered to vote. Another said that she was unable to make it to the polls on Election Day because of a work commitment. I was surprised to hear such admissions among a group of professional women. If professionals are not getting to the polls, how can we expect others to do so? To avoid the problem of not making it to the polls on Election Day, I always vote by absentee ballot. However, this year, in honor of the

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## A HISTORY RICH IN TRADITION, SERVICE, AND FUN

# Queen's Bench Founders and Past Presidents Share Special Memories

by Assistant Newsletter Editor Elizabeth D. "BX" Long

Write an article about Queen's Bench history: a daunting request. Since Queen's Bench Second Vice President and Membership Chair Joanna Frazier reports that Queen's Bench has over 60 new members this year, many of them law students, dedicating a Queen's Bench newsletter issue to the exploration of Queen's Bench history for the benefit of new (and continuing) members seems timely. But with over 80 years of complex events and a wealth of inspiring founders to cover, where to start?

I was able to speak with a few Past Presidents about their memories of Queen's Bench and about how conditions have changed for women practicing law over the past few decades. This article presents some of the things I learned from them. It does not by any means present a complete history, but for those like myself who are rather new to the practice of law, I hope it makes tangible the real progress women have made in the practice of law and the important role Queen's Bench played in that progress in San Francisco. A big thank you to Elvera Wollitz Smith, President in 1954, Tommy Angell, President in 1960, Hon. Isabella Horton Grant, President in 1964, and Hon. Ina Levin Gyemant, President in 1979, for taking the time to speak with me. Judge Grant and Judge Gyemant also generously let me borrow some printed historical materials from their own collections. Thank

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Cover from the Queen's Bench 75th Anniversary Gala Celebration Dinner, October 17, 1996, featuring Mary A. Wetmore, a Founding Member of Queen's Bench, its President in 1926, and the first woman judge in San Francisco.

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## QB Memories

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you also to Queen's Bench Administrator Maurine Killough for providing historical material.

### Elvera Wollitz Smith

Past President Elvera Wollitz Smith did not learn to type so that she wouldn't have to be a secretary. But she found, in 1934, that there were no law offices in San Francisco hiring women. She remembers being told that clients simply wouldn't understand having a female attorney. She was able to begin practicing law in the general practice of her family's attorney in Reno. Ms. Smith went on to spend most of her career in state jobs, including the Judicial Council. In this way she found a way around the hiring discrimination against women, but she still found strength in Queen's Bench. She has enjoyed the friendships she made through Queen's Bench, and the "sociability." She remembers that Queen's Bench was in a sense less serious then, in that it was not as formally politically active as it is now. It did not submit amicus briefs, for example. During her Presidency, Queen's Bench was incorporated, because the members felt that incorporation would allow them to be more effective in reaching out to women lawyers.

### Tommy Angell

Although her father and brother were lawyers and she was able to associate with them and be a partner in a law firm, Past President Tommy Angell was very aware of the difficulty women had in the legal profession. Ms. Angell remembers attending weekly Queen's Bench lunches where more experienced members would discuss their experiences with newer members and provide invaluable mentoring advice. As older members got to know the newer ones, the newer ones would find themselves drafted to serve on committees. Queen's Bench was the only place at the time for women to be recognized as leaders, because the Bar Association of San Francisco was dominated by men. The recognition and experience they gained in Queens' Bench made it possible for women to get onto men's committees and to become State Bar



Excerpt from the Queen's Bench 2002 Commemorative Calendar, featuring Mildred Woloski Levin.

delegates. (Queen's Bench was not yet itself a bar association and relied on its connections to the Bar Association of San Francisco to secure delegate positions.) Ms. Angell found that things weren't so bad in the legal profession once the men "got to know you." One of her most valuable experiences with Queen's Bench was doing the newsletter, because she had to go out and talk to people.

### Hon. Isabella Horton Grant

Judge Grant, the third woman to be a Superior Court judge in San Francisco, and the first woman to be appointed, gives credit to Queen's Bench for her becoming a Superior Court judge. Not long before her appointment in 1982, Queen's Bench wrote a letter to then Governor George Deukmejian pointing out the qualifications of a few of its members. Judge Grant noted that many Past Presidents were also Judges, beginning with Hon. Mary A. Wetmore, third Queen's Bench President in 1923, who was sworn in as San Francisco's first woman judge on July 4, 1930. Hon. Ollie M. Marie-Victoire, Queen's Bench President in 1974, was the second woman to be on the San Francisco Superior Court bench.

Judge Grant was offered a job as an office manager when she was searching for work as an attorney after

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Former Queen's Bench Past Presidents gathered for this photo taken in September 1983. Pictured standing, from left back are: Evelyn Follett, 1956; Lee Stubbs Penland, 1955; Doris Anderson, 1973; Ruth Miller, 1976; Lois Fish, 1948; Renee Rubin, 1969; Jettie Pierce Selvig, 1975; Joyce Ferris Nedde, 1971; Marie Bertillion Collin, 1968; Tommy Angell, 1960; Ruth Church Gupta, 1953; Hon. Lee D. Baxter, 1981; Mary Wailes, 1961; Shirley Yawitz, 1977; Hon. Isabella Horton Grant, 1964; and Marjorie Childs, 1967. Seated from the left are: Elvera Wollitz Smith, 1954; Isabel Greiner, 1963; Hon. Ollie Marie-Victoire, 1974; Hon Ina Levin Gyemant, 1979; Mildred Woloski Levin, 1959; and Janet Aitken, 1966. Source: 2002 Commemorative Calendar.

## QB Memories

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she passed the California bar exam. She ended up working at a small firm, Livingston & Feldman, where she got an interview because of her Queen's Bench connections. She started by doing some research and stayed there for the next 25 years, becoming a partner in the meantime, until she was appointed to the Municipal Court bench in 1979. When she was getting started in her practice of law, there were very few women who were practicing attorneys. One attorney was known to hire women, but they did not get paid if they didn't win their case. And there was only one woman judge on the Superior Court bench then: Hon. Theresa Meikle, the first woman judge on the San Francisco Superior Court.

Judge Grant remembers that Queen's Bench offered guidance to any member in search of it, and was a valuable networking resource. Queen's Bench had monthly meetings, as well as committees, but also actively encouraged its members to join and be active in other male-dominated organizations such as Lawyer's Club and the Bar Association of San Francisco. The Queen's Bench did not go about its work of improving conditions and opportunities for women in a dour or angry way, and they were not always even serious. A trio, comprised of Charlotte Cohelan, Moira Ford and Mary Wailes "put Queen's Bench on the map" with humorous and musical performances at various events, such as the Bar Association of San Francisco's 80th Anniversary Celebration, with the assistance of lyrics by local attorney Forrest A. Cobb, Jr. (see lyrics in box on page 4). A fun and memorable event during Judge Grant's Presidency was a party for State Bar delegates at screen actor Edward Everett Horton's home. Mr. Horton was Judge Grant's maternal uncle.

### Hon. Ina Levin Gyemant

Judge Gyemant literally grew up with Queen's Bench, and has made some of her best friends there. Her mother was the late Mildred Woloski Levin, President in 1959. Ms. Levin started her practice of law at the same time as Elvera Wollitz Smith. When she passed the California bar exam, she won a bet that "no woman, especially a



The "Queen's Bench Chorus" of Charlotte Cohelan, Moira Ford and Mary Wailes perform at the Palace Hotel (circa 1952).

pretty one, could possibly answer the questions." After going to 30 law offices, and not even getting interviews from 90 others, she was only able to find a job as a telephone operator for a law firm, until a friend introduced her to Jake Erlich, a well-know criminal attorney who let Ms. Levin get started by practicing law in his reception area. Ms. Levin went on to have a long and very successful legal career, and also made some of her best friends along the way in Queen's Bench.

Judge Gyemant graduated from Hastings College of Law, her mother's alma mater, in 1968. She remembers that even at that time large law firms would typically have only one female associate. Men with worse law school records would get jobs before better qualified women. Things began to change dramatically in the 70's, so she became President at the end of very eventful decade for women in San Francisco. During her Presidency, Queen's Bench held a lunch in honor of Hon. Agnes O'Brien Smith, who was the first woman named to the American Board of Trial Advocates and served as Queen's Bench President in 1951. The proceeds, along with funds from Judge Smith's son Dr. Philip Smith, were used to establish a

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An early predecessor to the current LEAADD Dinner was featured in "The Brief Case" monthly magazine published by the Bar Association of San Francisco in June, 1952. The caption reads: "Miss Elvera Wollitz, Secretary of the Queen's Bench, modeling a blue shantung dress, to the visible edification of women lawyers, doctors, and dentists, who revived their annual joint gatherings for the first time since World War II, in the lounge of the Bar Association of San Francisco on April 17, 1952. The event was called a 'Fashion Show,' limited in invitation to women only."



Miss Elvera Wollitz, Secretary of the Queen's Bench, modeling a blue shantung dress, to the visible edification of women lawyers, doctors and dentists, who revived their annual joint gatherings for the first time since World War II, in the lounge of the Bar Association of San Francisco on April 17, 1952. The event was called a "Fashion Show," limited in invitation to women only.

## QB Memories

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scholarship her name at the University of San Francisco Law School.

During the 1970's, then Governor Jerry Brown began appointing more women to the bench. Also during the 1970's, Queen's Bench sponsored a rape victimization study that greatly improved the way rape victims are treated, including a private examination room at San Francisco General Hospital and investigation by a female, not a male, police officer. (Past Presidents Ms. Levin and Judge Smith, as well as Past President Jettie Pierce Selvig, were part of the driving force behind this study.) Also in the 1970's, Queen's Bench submitted an amicus brief in the case of *People of the State of California v. Rincon-Pineda* (1975) 14 Cal. 3d 864, that, along with Ms. Levin's oral argument on behalf of Queen's Bench, resulted in California being the first state to eliminate the judicial instruction that a rape victim's testimony should be viewed with caution. Statistics in the Queen's Bench brief showed that rapes were seriously under-reported because of the way victims were treated, and that rape had the second highest acquittal rate of any crime in the state.

Judge Gyemant has passed her enthusiasm for the law and Queen's Bench on to her daughter, Anne Gyemant Paris, who is now herself a graduate of Hastings and a member of Queen's Bench — making the Levin/Gyemant grandmother, mother and daughter a three generation Queen's Bench family!

Please enjoy the photos and other historical material these inspiring Queen's Bench founders have shared with us, included in this issue.



*From left to right: Janet Aitken, Marjorie Childs, Delia Edge, Hon. Isabella Horton Grant, and Dorothy Young at a 1967 event at the Palace Hotel. Source: 2002 Commemorative Calendar.*

## Queen's Bench Anthem (1953)

Words: Forrest A. Cobb, Jr.

Music: O Tannenbaum

*Oh dear Queen's Bench, we pledge to thee  
Our everlasting loyalty  
Thy precious name we'll never mar  
At this or any other bar.  
We'll be as gracious as a queen  
We'll be refined and not obscene  
In other words, we'll keep it clean  
There is no R in August.  
In court we're always dignified  
We're often sober, seldom fried  
No legal duty do we shirk  
Except we don't seduce the clerk.  
We hardly ever come to grief  
Because we always seek relief  
On information and belief  
There is no R in August.  
We know of men who rant and foam  
That woman's place is in the home  
But any man's a dirty louse  
Who wants his woman in a house.  
Our lemonade we never spike  
No blow in anger do we strike  
We're all too goddamn ladylike  
There is no R in August.*

## Member News

- QB member **Nancy Lewellen** wishes to announce that she has joined the Palladian Law Group, a Professional Corporation, as a principal. Palladian specializes in reasonably priced legal services including Real Estate, Business, International, Wills and Trusts, Employment and Intellectual Property law. Nancy's new address is: 220 Montgomery, Suite 560, San Francisco, CA 94104 Nancy's new contact numbers are: telephone: (415) 399-0993; facsimile: (415) 399-0994 and email: nyl@palladianlawgroup.com. Please stop by and see her new office!
- Queen's Bench is happy to announce that **Elizab-  
beth D. "BX" Long** has been appointed Co-Chair of the QB Education Committee!

Know a QB member who has exciting personal or career news to celebrate? E-mail details to [felicia@vallerlaw.org](mailto:felicia@vallerlaw.org) for inclusion in future QB newsletters.

# Queen's Bench Past Presidents

2003	Eliza M. Rodrigues	1978	Suzie S. Thorn	1952	Lois McGovern O'Brien
2002	Lisa K. Rauch	1977	Shirley Yawitz	1951	Hon. Agnes O'Brien Smith
2001	Patricia G. Rosenberg	1976	Ruth Rymer	1950	Grace Berger Barbee
2000	Barbara Ann Caulfield	1975	Jettie Pierce Selvig	1949	Mary Hennessy
1999	Heidi Kohn Hugo	1974	Hon. Ollie M. Marie-Victoire	1948	Lois Fish
1998	Annette Nicki Skovronski	1973	Doris Anderson	1947	Elizabeth Craig
1997	Paula K. Bauer	1972	Elizabeth A. Truninger	1946	Harriett Haas
1996	Nancy J. Newman	1971	Joyce Ferris Metcalf	1945	Katherine Hanrahan
1995	Elizabeth A. Mohr	1970	Eugenia MacGowan	1944	Edith Wilson
1994	Mary Patricia Hough	1969	Renee Rubin	1943	Laurel Waller Streiff
1993	Jill Schlichtmann	1968	Hon. Marie Bertillion Collins	1942	Laurel Waller Streiff
1992	Maggie Murray Courtney	1967	Hon. Marjorie M. Childs	1941	Kathleen Barry
1991	Moira J. Buxbaum	1966	Hon. Janet Aitken	1940	Mathilde Lacau
1990	Betty C. Bullock	1965	Delia L. Edge	1939	Anne McDonald Chistensen
1989	Angela M. Bradstreet	1964	Hon. Isabella Horton Grant	1938	Bertha Ast
1988	Hon. Mary E. Wiss	1963	Isabella Greiner	1937	Marie M. Nelson
1987	Hon. Adrienne Jacobs Miller	1962	Charlotte Cohelan Danforth	1936	Rose M. Fanucchi
1986	Hon. Charlene Padovani Mitchell	1961	Mary Wailes	1935	Wanda Quinlan Lahanier
1985	Catherine Duggan	1960	Tommy F. Angell	1934	Fred D. Callaway
1984	Hon. Ruth S. Astle	1959	Mildred W. Levin	1933	Naomi Hammond Groshong
1983	Hon. Barbara J. R. Jones	1958	Lois Arnold Bergmans	1932	Eloise B. Cushing
1982	Hon. Wendy Nelder	1957	Anna White Garlund	1931	Margaret Torryson
1981	Hon. Lee D. Baxter	1956	Evelynn B. Follett	1930	Eloise B. Cushing
1980	Kathy S. Krohn	1955	Lee Penland French	1929	Esther B. Phillips
1979	Hon. Ina Levin Gyemant	1954	Elvera Wollitz Smith	1928	Henriette W. Steinegger
		1953	Ruth Church Gupta	1927	Julia M. Easley
				1926	Charlotte MacGregor Boggs
				1925	Geraldine McCown
				1924	Enid Childs Coate
				1923	Hon. Mary A. Wetmore
				1922	Gail Laughlin
				1921	Christine Turner

## LEARNING FROM HISTORY:

### An Interview with Sheila Dolan, the Queen's Bench Historian

by Assistant Newsletter Editor Lisa LeJeune

Sheila Dolan, our long time Queen's Bench member and historian, graciously agreed to meet me so I could interview her and learn more about the extensive, colorful history of the Queen's Bench organization. Among other important services to Queen's Bench, Sheila has custody of the precious and unique Queen's Bench historical archives. We picked a day to meet when Sheila's adorable five year-old son, Raleigh, had a play date so that we could talk without boring her son to tears. We met on a cloudy, overcast typical San Francisco morning at a small cheery café near the Glen Park Bart Station and not far from Sheila's home. Time absolutely flew by while we talked and what I had intended to have as a one hour interview turned into an hour and a half. The play date was long over when we said goodbye.

I wanted to share with everyone my opportunity to meet the Queen's Bench Historian because I really learned about Sheila's history as an active member of Queens Bench. I learned that Sheila had attended U.C. Hastings School of Law later in life after she had already attained a master's degree in French. I learned that during her time at Hastings, she managed to carve out a place for herself and for other non-traditional students similarly situated. I learned that Sheila had worked in a variety of legal environments including: a boutique family law firm, a corporate bank, and the San Francisco Rent Board. I learned that although her jobs changed her dedication to her clients and to fairness never wavered. Many thanks to Sheila for her long history of service to Queen's Bench and for her valuable role in helping preserve our rich and unique history!

## Message from the President

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suffragists who fought long and hard so we women could share in the civic duty and privilege of voting, I have decided to walk my absentee ballot into City Hall with my three and a half year old daughter. It is never too early to empower the future of our country.

Queen's Bench was founded in 1921, one year after women attained the right to vote. Like the founding sisters of the 19th amendment, the founding sisters of Queen's Bench paved the way for the advancement of women. We honor the founding sisters of Queen's Bench for their dedication to give women a voice in the legal profession. I dedicate this issue of our newsletter to the founding sisters of Queen's Bench, for getting us this far, and to our current sisters, for their ongoing commitment to advance women in the law and society. Happy reading!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

## Lawyers Club of San Francisco – American Inn of Court Invites Queen’s Bench Members to Participate!

The Lawyers Club of San Francisco — American Inn of Court Organization has issued a special membership invitation to Queen’s Bench members. As an Inn of Court member, you will receive: membership to the National Chapter of the American Inns of Court; membership in The Lawyers’ Club of San Francisco; MCLE credit - up to 11-hours - dependent on participation; delicious full-course dinners at San Francisco restaurants following each monthly session; end-of-year gala; and opportunities to socialize with fellow members See enclosed flyers or contact Executive Director Kristen McDonnell (415) 485-1654, or [kmcdonnell@lawyersclubsf.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@lawyersclubsf.org).

## D.A. Kamala Harris Speaks at Annual QB Judges’ Dinner - September 7!

The elegant Intercontinental Mark Hopkins Hotel at the top of Nob Hill will once again be the setting for the annual Queens’ Bench Judges’ Dinner on Tuesday night, September 7, starting at 6:00 p.m. This year, in addition to welcoming dozens of highly distinguished mem-

bers of the bench, Queen’s Bench will present San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris as the keynote speaker. Please encourage your firm or company to sponsor a table, or individual attendees are very welcome too. For further info about table sponsorship please contact event organizers Maria Schopp ([maria\\_schopp@yahoo.com](mailto:maria_schopp@yahoo.com)) and Joanna Frazier ([jfrazier@sheppardmullin.com](mailto:jfrazier@sheppardmullin.com)). See enclosed flyer for details!

## The Delectable Day of Play — September 12!

Learn how to help children in need. Come play at the Delectable Day of Play, Sunday September 12, 2004, from noon to 5:00 p.m. at the Civic Center Plaza. The Delectable Day of Play benefits the San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocate Program and is fiscally sponsored by the Every Child Can Learn Foundation. The Delectable Day of Play seeks to help underprivileged and foster care children in need. DDOP is a day of fun for kids, offering free services, resources, and community to children of all ages. The fun for ALL children at DDOP includes two stages of musicians, dancers, poets, aerial trapeze artists, acrobat stilt-walkers, a puppet show, clowns, hula-hoopers, face-painting, food, prizes, and more. For further information call (415) 297-2837 or see [www.ddop.org](http://www.ddop.org).

## The Grand Finale of the Glass Ceiling Breakers — September 14!

**Program IV — GENDER BIAS ACROSS THE NEGOTIATING TABLE**, our last Queen’s Bench Glass Ceiling Breaker MCLE program, will feature the following role model guest speakers: **Angela M. Bradstreet**, Past President of QB, CWL and BASF, Practice Group Vice Chair and former Managing Partner of Carroll, Burdick & McDonough, LLP; **Marci Rubin**, SVP and Deputy General Counsel, Wells Fargo Bank; **Rachel Krevans**, Managing Partner, Morrison & Foerster LLP San Francisco Office; and **Eliza M. Rodrigues**, Stoel Rives LLP, Past President of Queen’s Bench, Panel Moderator. This event will be hosted by Morrison & Foerster, LLP at 425 Market Street. Registration and networking reception from 5:45-6:30, program 6:30-8:00 (1.5 units MCLE). Flyer and registration form enclosed. **THIS EVENT IS CURRENTLY SOLD OUT. IF YOU HAVE REGISTERED BUT DO NOT PLAN TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT MAURINE KILLOUGH (415) 249-9280 TO CANCEL SO THAT SOMEONE ON THE WAITING LIST MAY TAKE YOUR SEAT.**

### QUEEN’S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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## Announcements

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### **NAWBO Presents: Equal Opportunity For Women — It Affects All Of Us — September 23!**

The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) San Francisco Chapter presents its monthly dinner on September 23, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., featuring keynote speaker Irma D. Herrera. Irma D. Herrera is Executive Director of Equal Rights Advocates, a San Francisco based civil rights organization dedicated to advancing equal opportunity for women and girls ([www.equalrights.org](http://www.equalrights.org)), leading the fight for women's equality for almost 30 years. Irma's organization is leading the team that has engaged Wal-Mart in a class action suit concerning jobs, pay, and promotions for 1.6 million current and former women employees and managers. It is widely believed that this suit will force employers to address unequal pay for women, which right now is an average of 77% of what men are paid. Experts say, "Because Wal-Mart is so big, so enormous, so powerful . . . where there is a large lawsuit, people pay attention—if Wal-Mart starts promoting women and allowing them to go where many men have gone, it's going to open a lot of doors." As a leader of this landmark effort, Irma will share with us the background and the progress of the case, which has implications for all women, including women business owners. Irma will also be receiving the NAWBO-SF President's Award for Community Advocate of the Month. World Trade Club (behind The Ferry Building at the foot of Market Street), San Francisco. Pre-registration \$40/members; \$50/guests, or pay at the door \$45/members; \$55/guests. For more info, or to register via phone, contact: Rhoda Singer, Chapter Administrator, (415)333-2130, email: [register@nawbo-sf.org](mailto:register@nawbo-sf.org).

### **CWL Presents: So, You Want to Be a Judge? — October 2!**

California Women Lawyers is pleased to announce plans for its popular "So, You Want to Be a Judge?" seminar to be held in Oakland, Saturday, October 2, 2004, at the Waterfront Plaza Hotel, Oakland. John Davies, Judicial Appointments Advisor to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, has graciously agreed to participate along with Mark Schickman, Chair of the Judicial Nominations Evaluation Commission according to Program Chair Judge Brenda Harbin-Forte of the Alameda County Superior Court. For information contact Glenda Haggemaker at [cwlsac@cwo.com](mailto:cwlsac@cwo.com).

### **Jackie Speier at the Annual LEAADD Dinner — October 7!**

Mark your calendars for the evening of October 7, 2004, for the Annual LEAADD (for women Lawyers, Engineers, Architects, Accountants, Doctors and Dentists) networking dinner, to be held at the Atrium Restaurant in the 101 California Building starting at 6:00 p.m. We are excited to announce that this year's honored guest speaker will be Senator Jackie Speier. This event has been organized by the Queen's Bench Business Development Committee in conjunction with the LEAADD affiliate organizations from other professions. See enclosed flyer for details!

### **California Women Lawyers 30th Annual Dinner — October 7 in Monterey**

Headed to the California Bar Association Annual Meeting? Be sure to include the California Women Lawyers 30th Annual Dinner, co-sponsored by the State Bar of California, and featuring keynote speaker Faye Wattelton, at 7:00 p.m. at the Portola Plaza Hotel in Monterey. See enclosed flyer for details!

### **QB Education Committee Meeting — October 12**

The Queen's Bench Education Committee will have a meeting of all interested volunteers on the evening of Tuesday night, October 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Law Office of Felicia Vallera, 550 California Street, Sacramento Tower Suite 700. The Queen's Bench Education Committee supports the retention and advancement of women in the legal profession by providing: affordable MCLE programs on a variety of topics to help women overcome barriers to diversity; access to role model women leaders in all types of legal work environments; and a continuously evolving Queen's Bench Education Curriculum carefully designed to address the unique training needs of women in the legal profession. We will discuss 2005 MCLE program planning, based on the results of the recent QB Member Survey. Refreshments will be provided. Please contact co-chairs Kathryn Schmidt at (408) 828-2618 or [kschmidt@cal.berkeley.edu](mailto:kschmidt@cal.berkeley.edu), or BX Long (415) 693-9315 or [bxlong@bxlonglaw.com](mailto:bxlong@bxlonglaw.com) for further information.

### **QB Annual Members Meeting — October 28**

Time for democratic process at its finest! All Queen's Bench members are invited to attend our Annual Members Meeting on Thursday, October 28 at 6:00 p.m. at First Republic Bank, 111 Pine Street in San Francisco. Appetizers and wine will be served courtesy of First Republic Bank. For further information see enclosed flyer or contact Queen's Bench Second Vice President and Membership Chair Joanna Frazier at (415) 774-3258 or [jfrazier@sheppardmullin.com](mailto:jfrazier@sheppardmullin.com). **QUEEN'S BENCH MEMBERS ONLY PLEASE. THERE IS NO COST FOR THIS EVENT.**

# The History of the Queen's Bench Foundation

by QB Foundation President Eliza M. Rodrigues

Queen's Bench Bar Association of the San Francisco Bay Area's sister organization is the Queen's Bench Foundation. The Foundation was incorporated on March 25, 1974. The Foundation, a charitable organization, was founded in order to receive funds from the Mayor's Criminal Justice Council to conduct a research study on rape (the Rape Victimization Study.) The founding members are: Hon. Ollie Marie-Victoire, ret. (QBBA Pres.1974), Carol M. Hehmeyer, Jettie Pierce Selvig (QBBA Pres.1975), Shirley C. Yawitz (QBBA Pres. 1977), Hon. Agnes O'Brien Smith (QBBA Pres. 1951), Suzie S. Thorn (QBBA Pres. 1978), Marie Burke Lia and Ruth Miller. The Articles of Incorporation state that the primary purpose for which the Foundation was formed is education, research and dissemination of information regarding the defense of human and civil rights secured by law.

The Rape Victimization Study, a year long study, began in 1974 and focused on the victims of rape and the systems which respond to them. The first six months of the project concentrated on studying the psychological and social impact of rape and victim's needs, health and criminal justice procedures in handling rape cases, community services available to victims, and why women do not report rape to the police. The latter six months of the project focused on improving services for victims and upgrading health and law enforcement response to victims. The Foundation worked with the police and hospitals to increase their sensitivity and initiated a series of professional training and community education programs. The project terminated on June 30, 1975.

The Foundation research and evaluation indicated an urgent need for on-going development of services for victims and for continued improvements in the city's response to the rape problem. Because there were many improvements needed and more work to be done, the Foundation applied to the U.S. Justice Department, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration for second year funding. The Mayor's Criminal Justice Council voted that

the project be a priority for San Francisco. The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration awarded the grant on November 1, 1975, for a duration of one year. The Foundation's overall goal for the second year project was to improve the city's response to the crime of rape, both in terms of treatment of victims and in terms of effective prevention, law enforcement and crime control. The study consisted of confidential interviews with rape victims, victims of attempted rape, and women who have never been sexually assaulted. One notable point from the study showed that of the 112 cases reviewed, 70% of the attacks had been initiated with a casual conversation. The attackers were "testing" to see how compliant or accommodating these women were. The results of this study, entitled Project Rape Response, was published in 1976, by the U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

Continuing with its primary purpose of education, research and dissemination of information regarding the defense of human and civil rights secured by law, the Foundation, in 1977, published a 69 page report, entitled, Sexual Abuse of Children. This report is still available at local bookstores. Even today, all three Foundation projects (Rape Victimization Study, Project Rape Response and Sexual Abuse of Children) are still referred to in college textbooks and on online websites dealing with domestic violence.

Today, the Foundation provides the sole funding for the Juvenile Hall Project and makes funds available for the retention of speakers at major QBBA events. The 2004 Foundation Board members are: President Eliza M. Rodrigues; Secretary Patricia Rosenberg, Treasurer Nikki S. McKennedy and Director Anne Gyemant Paris. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Charitable donations to the Foundation can be made by sending your check to Queen's Bench, 816 E. 4th Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94491. All donations are tax-deductible.

## Career Corner — For QB Members Only!

The Queen's Bench "Career Corner" will resume next month. "Career Corner" is an opportunity for QB members in career transition to connect with other QB members who may be able to assist. If you are a 2004 dues-paid QB member admitted to the California bar who is seeking full time, part-time or contract legal work, or just some legal career transition advice from experienced practitioners in your specialty, send an e-mail to [felicia@vallerlaw.org](mailto:felicia@vallerlaw.org) with the following BRIEF info: name, law school and year of degree, practice area(s), contact info (phone number, e-mail or both), and a goal statement of 10 words or less. Employers: Please also send job postings!



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★Please call Carol Salvagione at (415) 788-2600, if you are interested in working on or chairing this committee.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## SEPTEMBER

- 1**     **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center, San Francisco  
Coupons from the Heart
- 7**     **Queen's Bench Annual Judges' Dinner**  
6:00 p.m. Reception; 7:00 p.m. Dinner  
Featuring District Attorney Kamala Harris  
The Intercontinental Mark Hopkins, Number One  
Nob Hill. *See enclosed flyer for details.*
- 14**    **QB Glass Ceiling Breakers – Putting  
Women on Leadership Track**  
*Gender Bias Across the Negotiating Table*  
5:45 p.m. Networking Reception;  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. MCLE Program  
Morrison & Foerster, LLP, 425 Market Street  
*See enclosed flyer for details.*  
THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT
- 15**    **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center, San Francisco  
Beaded Bracelets

## October – Save the Dates!

- Oct. 5**    **QB Board of Directors Meeting**  
6:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. Hedani, Choy, Spalding &  
Salvagione, 595 Market Street Suite 1100
- Oct. 6**    **Juvenile Hall Project – Ghost Windssock**
- Oct. 7**    **Annual LEAADD Dinner**  
6:00 p.m. Reception 7:00 p.m. Dinner  
Featuring Senator Jackie Speier. Atrium  
Restaurant, 101 California Building, San  
Francisco. *See enclosed flyer for details*
- Oct. 12**   **Queen's Bench Education Committee Meeting**  
6:00 p.m., The Law Office of Felicia Valleria, 550  
California Street, Sacramento Tower Suite 700
- Oct. 20**   **Juvenile Hall Project — Face Mask Decoration**
- Oct. 28**   **Annual Queen's Bench Members Meeting**  
6:00 p.m., First Republic Bank, 111 Pine Street,  
San Francisco. *See enclosed flyer for details –  
members only please*



[www.queensbench.org](http://www.queensbench.org)

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Queen's Bench Newsletter

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