



# queen's bench

Founded 1921

Queen's Bench Bar Association  
of the San Francisco Bay Area

# NEWSLETTER

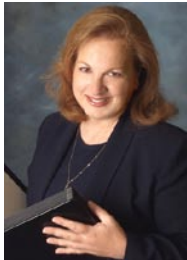
February-March 2007

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### The Big Picture

by Felicia Vallera

While other bar associations all over the country are reporting grim news about significant declines in their membership numbers, **Queen's Bench membership INCREASED a whopping 24% in 2006!**



That's why it was a delight to kick off our annual Board of Directors Retreat, held in the Wilsey Conference Center at Grace Cathedral on Saturday, January 20, with an upbeat question: what is Queen's Bench doing RIGHT? The answer: lots of stuff, and we're going to have fun continuing and enhancing it all in 2007.

We noshed on our potluck brunch, sipped a little champagne, shared some of our own legal career experiences and our reasons for being actively involved in Queen's Bench. Then we participated in a quick ice-breaker called "THE BIG PICTURE." The board was broken down into three teams and each team was asked to complete a task. Each group was to draw only an assigned one third of a Picasso print, in isolation without being allowed to speak to or watch any of the other groups. After five minutes our results were taped together into a single picture up on the bulletin board – and we had a good laugh over our collective artwork. There were some pretty humorous disconnects among the

*continued, page 2*

## Role Model Spotlight: Elizabeth Saviano

*This article is the first in an ongoing series profiling Queen's Bench members who serve as positive and inspiring role models for women in the legal profession.*



This month's featured role model is Elizabeth Saviano, who, in addition to running a busy law practice, currently serves as Treasurer of Queen's Bench and as District 4 (San Francisco) Governor for California Women Lawyers. Although Elizabeth's time is constantly in demand because of her unique blend of professional skills and experience, she always makes time for service to the community and for positive support to her peers in the legal profession in countless ways.



Elizabeth is a health care attorney in independent practice representing institutional providers in the public and nonprofit sector. She assists clients with corporate and health care regulatory compliance including licensing and certification, provider enrollment, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, professional staffing and scope of practice, and contracts and business transactions. Elizabeth also works with clients on health policy initiatives and legislation. As an appointee of Governor Gray Davis, Elizabeth served as Chief of the California Department of Health Services, Office of Women's Health from May 2001-2003, and she remains active in several women's health policy and advocacy organizations.

She obtained her J.D. degree from the University of San Francisco, School of Law in 1995. Elizabeth is also a licensed registered nurse and a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.

She received her B.S.N. in 1977 from the University of Michigan, School of Nursing, and her M.S.N. from the University of California, San Francisco, School of Nursing in 1982.

In all her spare time, Elizabeth and her husband, John Toker, enjoy visits from their adult daughters, the arts, hiking, biking, and other fitness activities. Elizabeth is a jazz music enthusiast and an amateur painter, and the entire Queen's Bench board can attest that she is also quite the healthy gourmet chef! Thank you, Elizabeth, for giving so much of yourself to Queen's Bench members and other women in the legal profession.

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## President's Message

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groups when we tried to make one unified picture out of the pieces. Lesson learned: it helps us avoid disconnects, repetition, and misunderstandings if we all have a common understanding of the big picture, and communicate well to coordinate all of the pieces that need to unfold from different teams concurrently.

So, the remainder of our retreat was roll-up-the-sleeves hard work to reach consensus on **THE BIG PICTURE** for Queen's Bench for 2007. We're very proud of our result, the Queen's Bench Mission and Vision Statement for 2007, which is included in this issue for everyone to see. This statement will now guide all of our major board decisions for 2007. It will also guide the efforts of Queen's Bench's many hard-working volunteers who contribute so much through our various committees. I am delighted to announce the Queen's Bench Committee Chairs for 2007 in this issue, and congratulate and thank all of the new appointees.

How do you get more involved in Queen's Bench, to contribute to **THE BIG PICTURE** in a fun, collegial environment that helps you learn how to network and form professional friendships that will last for many years? Join a committee! You may now contact any of the committee chairs on the list to learn about opportunities to actively participate in Queen's Bench. Or, please join us at the annual Induction Ceremony and Champagne Reception on the evening of March 15 (flyer enclosed), to meet the 2007 leadership team, mingle with local judges, and sign up as a volunteer for one of our committees.

Cheers!



## Queen's Bench Is Accepting Applications for Its Mentorship Program

The lead article in the current edition of *California Lawyer* magazine is dedicated to a crisis in the law — namely, the exodus of female attorneys from law firms. One of the key reasons cited by the author is the “myth of mentoring.” In 2006, Queens Bench launched a Mentorship Program to help fill this void. Drawing on the talents and experience of its esteemed membership, Queen's Bench matched ten mentors and mentees for a year and provided a unique opportunity for younger lawyers to bend the ear of women who have navigated the challenges of the legal profession. Rather than formally mentoring women brand new to the legal profession, Queen's Bench has chosen to focus its resources on assisting women in the range of three to nine years of experience in the legal profession — the biggest retention risk years — along law firm lines.

This year we are again seeking mentors and mentees. If you are interested in being a mentor please contact Catherine Duggan ([cdugganlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:cdugganlaw@yahoo.com)) or Alison Crane ([arcane@bledsoelaw.com](mailto:arcane@bledsoelaw.com)).

If you are interested in being a mentee, please fill out the application which is enclosed with this newsletter and return it as indicated by March 16<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to take advantage of this incredible and unique opportunity





# 2007 Mission and Vision

## Mission Statement

*The Mission of Queen's Bench is to foster professional and social relationships among women lawyers and to promote equality and opportunity for all women through education, programs, and community outreach.*

This Mission Statement can be expanded and clarified with further detail extracted from our Bylaws and other historical documents in appropriate situations.

## Vision for 2007

These policies and priorities will guide our Queen's Bench leadership team decisions and detailed planning in 2007:

### **1. Service to Queen's Bench Members.**

- ▶ We will strive for continued moderate upward growth in our membership numbers.
- ▶ Continued and improved quality of our services to members (i.e., camaraderie, networking, mentorship, programming) is a higher priority than expanding the quantity of our member base or the services we offer to members.
- ▶ We will focus on recruiting new members, and retaining existing members, with the following priorities:
  - To recruit diversity candidates and improve the diversity mix of our membership on a broadly defined basis; i.e., race, sexual orientation, type of practice, economic profile.
  - To improve our process of bridging the gap from initial recruitment of new members by actively welcoming them and encouraging their immediate assimilation into committees.

### **2. Service to and Role in the Legal Profession.**

- ▶ We will focus our resources on supporting the interests of women in the following major issues currently facing the legal profession at large:
  - Retention of women in the profession;
  - Work/life balance;
  - Upgrading/modernizing the business and marketing management sophistication of law firms and other legal service organizations;
  - Sustaining high ethical standards in the practice of law; and
  - Continued elimination of bias in the legal profession.

- ▶ Our tools for accomplishing this will include a combination of committee work, MCLE and other programming, and building alliances with other bar associations.
- ▶ Our alliance-building efforts will primarily focus on the following organizations (with point persons for each relationship indicated parenthetically):
  - California Women Lawyers (Lisa, Elizabeth);
  - Minority Bar Coalition (Felicia, BX, Sophie);
  - Bar Association of San Francisco, including Bar-risters (Felicia, Rebecca)
  - National Conference of Women's Bar Associations (Elizabeth, Felicia)

### **3. Services to and Role in the San Francisco Bay Area Community.**

- ▶ We will continue to offer our members the opportunity to perform public/community service through Queen's Bench in the areas of domestic violence, support to the girls' unit of Juvenile Hall, and scholarships.
- ▶ We will promote a positive profile for Queen's Bench in the San Francisco Bay Area community at large by:
  - Disseminating information about the collective strength and connections of our member network (especially our Past Presidents);
  - Emphasizing our wealth of mentoring and positive role modeling opportunities; and
  - Highlighting the many and varied professional accomplishments of our members.
- ▶ We will periodically assess and discuss public perceptions of Queen's Bench to decide if such feedback indicates a need to revise our plans.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS ♦♦

## Programs Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, March 13, 2007, 5:30–6:30 p.m.**, at Robbins Family Law, 601 California Street, 18th Floor, San Francisco. RSVP to Kelly Robbins; [Kelly@robbinsfamilylaw.com](mailto:Kelly@robbinsfamilylaw.com) or 415.788.5400. The Programs Committee has the honor of coordinating Queen's Bench's Annual Judges' dinner and, later in the year, will present the Past President's Dinner. We have recently confirmed a dynamic speaker for our Judge's Dinner, and confirmed a date (May 24). Now it's time to put all the remaining pieces together! If you are interested in participating, please come to the meeting — we'd love to have you.

## Queen's Bench Annual Judge's Dinner

**Save the date: Thursday, May 24, 2007** for Queen's Bench Annual Judge's Dinner, with guest speaker Kathleen Sullivan, constitutional scholar and prior dean of Stanford Law School. Details to follow.



## QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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REBECCA HOOLEY  
HON. ADRIENNE JACOBS MILLER  
ANNE GYEMANT PARIS  
LISA K. RAUCH  
HON. ANNE TORKINGTON

## Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined between January 10 and February 26, 2007:

- Diane E. Barry  
*LECG LLC*
- Stephanie Coutu  
*Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin*
- Corey Friedman  
*The Veen Firm*
- Eve Hershcopf  
*Child Care Law Center*
- Kara S. Holtz
- Amy Lillian Hwan
- Catherine Johnson  
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- Rowena P. Joseph  
*Filice Brown Eassa & McLeod LLP*
- Megan Kelly
- Goli Mahdavi
- Elizabeth Kelly Meyers  
*Phillips Spallas & Angstadt*
- Veronica A. Rios Reddick
- Mia Ottilia Solvesson  
*Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP*
- Suzanne Sporri  
*Immigration Counsel*
- Karen Stromeyer  
*The Veen Firm*
- Gabrielle V. Thorpe  
*Thorpe Law*
- Nancy Sullivan Walter  
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# 2007 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

## Amicus Briefs

TBA

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TBA

## Conference Of Delegates

TBA

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## MARCH

- 6** **QB Board of Directors Meeting**  
Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.  
Nossaman Guthner Knox Elliott LLP
- 7** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Beaded bracelets
- 8** **QB Business Development Committee**  
Thursday, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Nossaman Guthner Knox Elliot LLP  
50 California St., 34th Floor, San Francisco
- 13** **QB Programs Committee**  
Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Robbins Family Law  
601 California Street, 18th Floor, San Francisco
- 15** **QB Induction Ceremony  
Champagne Reception**  
Thursday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Civic Center Courthouse, 4th Floor Rotunda  
San Francisco  
See enclosed flyer for details.

- 21** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Saint Patrick's Day theme



- 23** **CWL 7th Annual Northern California  
Judicial reception**  
Friday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
David I. Wendell Conference Center, Oakland  
See enclosed flyer for details.

## APRIL

- 3** **QB Board of Directors Meeting**  
Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.  
Nossaman Guthner Knox Elliott LLP
- 4** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Make decoupage boxes
- 18** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Drawings with spring party theme



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

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Queen's Bench Newsletter

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