



# Queen's Bench

Founded 1921

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

# NEWSLETTER

June 2007

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### In Praise Of Pioneers

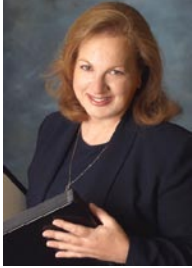
by Felicia Vallera

I've had good reason to be grateful to pioneering women this last month.

Can you imagine a legal profession without Queen's Bench, or any other similar women's organizations to provide community service focused on women's issues, and specialized member services like mentoring and education and non-threatening business development opportunities that help retain women attorneys in the legal profession? That's the world we might be in without the vision, creativity, courage and hard work of the founding mothers of Queen's Bench. These incredible women didn't buy into the status quo or just blindly follow accepted traditions. Instead, they put a lot of time and hard work into **changing** the legal profession around them by founding and nurturing a new nonprofit organization, with the goal of serving women in the legal profession through generations.

The magnitude of the gifts our Queen's Bench founding mothers have given us became evident in a very dramatic way when I was recently contacted out of the blue by a diplomat affiliated with the United States Department of State, asking if the President of Queen's Bench would please meet with a Chilean trade delegation led by a female attorney, Gabriela Paiva of Paiva & Cia, Abogados y Consultores en Propiedad

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## 2007 Judges' Dinner

The 2007 Queen's Bench Judges' Dinner was held on May 24, 2007 at the InterContinental Mark Hopkins on Nob Hill. Attendees, including judges from several different courts, Queen's Bench past Presidents and other luminaries sat down for dinner after meeting and greeting one another at the pre-dinner reception. Kelly Robbins, Queen's Bench First Vice President, welcomed everyone to the dinner and recognized each attending judge. Queen's Bench President Felicia Vallera then introduced the evening's speaker, Kathleen M. Sullivan—Constitutional Law Scholar, Prior Dean of Stanford Law School and Of Counsel with Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Oliver & Hedges, LLP.

With much humor and a number of anecdotes illustrating the inner workings of the United States Supreme Court, Ms. Sullivan urged attendees to honor and defend those who participate in the most independent judiciary in the world. She began by acknowledging some demographic statistics: With the addition of Justice Roberts and Justice Alito, we now have one fewer women (and only one left), 2 fewer westerners and 5 Catholics on the Supreme Court. But, Ms. Sullivan continued, the justices cannot be captured with labels such as "liberal" or "conservative." The facts of a given case, as well as a particular justice's penchant for either creating clear rules or allowing consideration of various factors, may lead to a result that might seem surprising in light of that justice's demographic statistics. The work of the judiciary, Ms. Sullivan emphasized, leads to a humility before the law. It also fosters



Annual Judges' Dinner at the InterContinental Mark Hopkins

an understanding that the results of trying to influence the law because of politics or personal views are extremely uncertain.

As an example, Ms. Sullivan pointed out that states' rights, which have increased through Supreme Court decisions in recent history, tend to be associated with the political right. However, the left, for example in California and Massachusetts, has also been making use of states' rights to further its own causes. Liberals should be cheering for blue states' rights, not singing the states' rights

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## 2007 Judges' Dinner

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blues, Ms. Sullivan quipped.

The doctrine of free speech has gone in the other direction. Free speech is traditionally been associated with dissident speech, province of the political left. Lately, however, Ms. Sullivan explained, free speech has also been associated with commercial corporate speech, political electioneering and fundamentalist students. In an about-face, the red states are championing the cause of the "reds" their predecessors so vigorously attacked a few decades ago.

Thus, Ms. Sullivan concluded, law is not the province of any political party. Our judges are all performing an invaluable public service and uphold the honor in "Your Honor." She received a standing ovation.



*Kathleen M. Sullivan, Kelly Robbins, Justice Werdegar*



*Hon. Dorothy McMath, Joanna Frazier, Hon. Adrienne Jacobs Miller*



*Angela Bradstreet, Hon. Brenda Harbin-Forte, Hon. Donna Hitchens*



*Pre-dinner reception at the InterContinental Mark Hopkins*



*Kathleen M. Sullivan speaking to attendees.*

## A Big Thank You

to Kelly Robbins, the 2007 Judges' Dinner Committee—Diana Maier, Mary Catherine Wiederhold, Pamela Markert, Catherine Johnson, Cara Meredith, Nicole Zappala, Patrice Truman, Rebecca Hooley and Diane Barry—and Queen's Bench Administrator Maureen Killough for all your hard work!



*Cara Meredith, Mary Catherine Wiederhold, Nicole Zappala, Maurine Killough and Diana Maier*

## President's Message

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Intellectual, from Santiago. Why were they interested in Queen's Bench? Simply stated, Chile has no women's bar associations, and Gabriela Paiva wants to start one, using Queen's Bench and other women's bar associations in the United States as a model. In Chile, the statistics about the retention of women in the legal profession are far worse than those we lament in the United States. Gabriela herself was forced out of the traditional law firm environment upon the birth of her sons, and went on to found her own highly successful international intellectual property law boutique. Our new friend Gabriela is a delightful, very creative and determined pioneer who is starting from scratch, uniting women attorneys in Chile to focus on a common vision of positive change in the Chilean legal profession, and she is looking to Queen's Bench to provide helpful information about the organizational structure, tools and methods for doing so.

That's why, when we recently reviewed the original Queen's Bench Articles of Incorporation from the 1950's, I stopped for a few minutes to give thanks to Elvera Wollitz Smith, the original incorporator of Queen's Bench, Inc. Building on the work of our original founding mothers in the 1920's, Elvera saw a bigger and better future for Queen's Bench and wisely realized that fulfilling this vision required some practical upgrades to improve the stability and capacity of this organization, and she and her leadership team unselfishly rolled up their sleeves and made the sacrifice of time and energy to get it done. Likewise, when we found and reviewed the original Queen's Bench Foundation organizing documents that launched Queen's Bench down new pathways of community service in the 1970's, I was amazed at and grateful for the creative vision and unselfish commitment of time contributed by the group of founding mothers of the Queen's Bench Foundation. The Queen's Bench organization as we know it today didn't just happen. Women with pioneering visions

of change *made* Queen's Bench happen, and then served as the guardians who made sure that the Queen's Bench organization constantly grew and evolved in response to changes in its surrounding environment so that it would survive for over 86 years.

Parts of our work in Queen's Bench are fun, lively, and immediately rewarding activities. I am enormously grateful to all of the Queen's Bench leadership team members and committees who work so hard to organize events and services that are highly visible to our members and community, and next month's newsletter is going to thank and highlight these leaders and committees in some special ways. This month, though, I'm also celebrating, and appreciating just as much, the many hours of volunteer work that happen behind the scenes of Queen's Bench. In June and July our Board of Directors, with a little help from our friends, is turning a great deal of its time and attention to Queen's Bench infrastructure. It's now our generation's turn to be the guardians who assure that we continue to have a solid organizational foundation to run the business side of Queen's Bench prudently, so that Queen's Bench can continue to pioneer change in the legal profession while we find creative new ways to support our rapidly growing membership. This month I want to give special thanks to the unsung heroes of Queen's Bench who work incredibly hard, with true dedication and commitment, at critical but low-visibility tasks that make sure our corporate legal infrastructure stays solid, our financial position remains sound, our organization is wisely protected with insurance and with carefully-drafted service contracts, our creative and hard-working committees have the tools and resources they need to make fun professional events happen, and that we are making the best use of technology that we possibly can.

As Elvera Wollitz Smith and many of our other founding mothers knew, successful pioneers are the ones who have the bold and creative visions of change, but then also roll up their sleeves to build and sustain smoothly running organizations to support implementing those visions.

So let's hear it for pioneers!

## Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined between May 1 and May 29, 2007:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| ■ Beth O. Arnese<br><i>Drinker Biddle &amp; Reath LLP</i>               | ■ Laura Craig<br><i>Merrill Legal Solutions</i>       | ■ Dena Wurman<br><i>Law Office of Dena Wurman</i> |
| ■ June Bashant<br><i>Rouda Feder Tietjen &amp; Zanobini</i>             | ■ Judith A. Graziano<br><i>The Veen Firm</i>          |   |
| ■ Brenda Buonaiuto<br><i>Drinker Biddle &amp; Reath LLP</i>             | ■ Aimee G. Hamoy-Perera<br><i>Burnham Brown</i>       |   |
| ■ Scott Campbell<br><i>Zelle Hofmann Voelbel Mason &amp; Gette, LLP</i> | ■ Casey Hatton<br><i>Hinshaw &amp; Culbertson LLP</i> |   |
| ■ Yanessa Candelaria  | ■ Holly Kershell<br><i>Burnham Brown</i>              |   |
| ■ Michelle Childers<br><i>Drinker Biddle &amp; Reath LLP</i>            | ■ Jessica K. Lo<br><i>Kirkland &amp; Ellis LLP</i>    |   |

### QB Member News

- **Sharon Anolik** gave birth to her second son Aviv in March. With her first son, Ari, she now has two boys under two!



## Report From The Employment Committee

### Save the Date for Work/Life Balance Roundtable/Networking Event: October 18, 2007, 5:30 pm.

by Mary L. Topliff, Esq., and Leslie Hom, Esq.,  
Co-Chairs of Employment/Work-Life Balance Committee

Have you ever asked yourself:

- How do attorneys find balance?
- How can I have children and make partner?
- Is it possible to take time off without losing business/clients?
- How do I negotiate a flexible schedule?
- What best practices address work-life balance needs of attorneys?
- What time management strategies work?
- Now that I'm a partner, what programs can I push that will help associates?

This year, the Employment Committee has reinvented itself to become the Employment/Work-Life Balance Committee. This change reflects the growing demand by members to find strategies to help balance their lives within the legal profession.

The Committee takes an expansive view of the topic by defining work-life balance as the discovery of what is personally important, acceptance that the legal profession is demanding on many levels and exploration of how we can achieve our life goals that reflect a balanced life

(with law on the one side and whatever personal issue is on the other — family care, volunteer work, travel, rejuvenation time, whatever).

The Committee's goal is to provide ideas, strategies, information, best practices and resources to members on avoiding burn-out by balancing your work life with your personal, non-work, life. On October 18, 2007, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., you are invited to participate in a unique information exchange and networking experience based on a model called, World Café. World Café is an internationally used method to create a living network of collaborative dialogue around questions that matter (see [www.theworldcafe.com](http://www.theworldcafe.com)). Participants engage in a facilitated dialogue, exchange ideas and challenges in small groups that cross-pollinate and build upon the collective knowledge. The Committee will later publish the results as a resource for all members.

Any members who are interested in helping the Committee are encouraged to contact Mary Topliff, at [Topliff@joblaw.com](mailto:Topliff@joblaw.com), or Leslie Hom, at [leslie@lesliehom.com](mailto:leslie@lesliehom.com).

## Queen's Bench Members Support Small Business Week in San Francisco

On Tuesday, May 8, Queen's Bench members supported Small Business Week in San Francisco by participating in a "Start Your Own Small Business" panel for current and prospective women business owners at the Women's Center in San Francisco's Mission District. Small businesses are now the dominant portion of the U.S. economy, and the City and County of San Francisco celebrates and actively encourages small business growth in the city through this week-long celebration every year.

Women now own and operate over 50% of the new small business startups in the United States, so various kinds of special assistance for women entrepreneurs was offered at The Women's Center all week. Organized by the United States Small Business Administration and the Legal Services for Entrepreneurs (LSE) program of the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights, Tuesday's "Start Your Own Small Business" workshop at The Women's Center covered a myriad of information that small business own-



Celia Van Gorder (center) and Felicia Vallera (right) share business law advice with women small business owners at The Women's Center during Small Business week in San Francisco. Photo Credit: Jason Steinberg, Steinberg Imagery

ers need for a successful small business launch, including how to deal with City and County of San Francisco business licensing, how to find and structure financing, and typical business law issues. Queen's Bench attorney panelists covered the business law portion of the agenda.

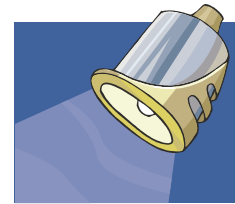
Workshop attendees asked a myriad of rapid-fire questions, including: "Should I incorporate?" "How do I take the first steps to legally protect my intellectual property?" "How do I minimize the risk of employee grievances?" "What

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## Role Model Spotlight

# BX Long

This article is the fourth 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 BX Long, who currently serves as the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer of Queen's Bench, and also produces and edits our Queen's Bench newsletter. This is BX's second year on the Queen's Bench Board. She previously served as a Co-Chair of the Queen's Bench Education Committee for two very successful years, and was a newsletter article contributor and heavily involved in helping out with Queen's Bench events and other committee work before she became a committee chair. BX is a family law attorney who is quite a tiger in the courtroom, but she has the amazing ability to leave the adversarial contention of divorce court behind and become the consummate supportive team player when she walks out the courtroom door. She is highly respected throughout the Queen's Bench leadership team for her affable good humor, professional demeanor, constructive service-oriented approach to working with Queen's Bench members and others in the legal profession, and well-balanced perspective on life and the law.



BX is currently a sole practitioner handling exclusively family law matters, mostly dissolution of marriage or

domestic partnership and child custody matters. She was admitted to the California Bar in 1997. She has been successfully running her own family law practice since 2001, and frequently shares her "going solo" experience to advise and counsel new solo practitioners about how to get started.

While BX loves to tell people that her last job before moving to San Francisco was as a bus driver for the Metropolitan Transit Commission in Minneapolis/St. Paul, she often downplays the enormously valuable community and professional service role she played while at the Lawyer Referral Service at the Bar Association of San Francisco from 1997-2001. Service to others continues to be a high priority for BX, and this is constantly reflected in her Queen's Bench and other community contributions. In 2001 and 2002 BX received the Award of Merit from the Bar Association of San Francisco for her work with the Volunteer Legal Services Program, and in 2002 she was a nominee for the State Bar of California President's Pro Bono Service Award.

BX received a B.A. in Theater and Film (no wonder she's a great lawyer!) from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School in Minneapolis in 1997. She is past Chair of the Barristers Club Solo and Small Firm Practitioner Section and past Chair of the Barristers Club Family Law Section. She is an active participant in the alternative families brain trust group at the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Family Law Section of the Bar Association of San Francisco. She is also a member of the Family Law Section of the California State Bar, the Family Law section of the American Bar Association, and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom. She was a member of the 2002 Family Law Local Rule Revision Commission of the San Francisco Superior Court, and is a contributing author to *California Domestic Partnerships*, published by Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB). She has completed the Intensive Mediation Training Program with Gary Friedman at the Center for Mediation in the Law and the American Bar Association's Family Law Trial Advocacy Institute.

BX's non-legal interests include cooking and kettlebells. Thank you, BX, for giving so much of yourself to Queen's Bench members and other women in the legal profession.

## Small Business Week

Continued from page 4

should I watch out for when I sign my first office lease?" Panelists Celia Van Gorder of the business transactional practice of Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin LLP, and Felicia Vallera of the entrepreneurial business law boutique Law Office of Felicia Vallera, alternated topics and dealt with inquiries from many angles. The workshop was covered by the press, and our Queen's Bench panelists received a mention on the front page of the business section of the San Francisco Examiner!

This event provided both a networking opportunity for Queen's Bench business attorneys to work with each other, and an opportunity for Queen's Bench members to serve women small business owners in the San Francisco community. If you are a corporate, commercial, IP, employment or real estate transactional attorney interested in participating in similar opportunities in the future, please contact Felicia Vallera at (415) 309-4999 or [felicia@vallerelaw.org](mailto:felicia@vallerelaw.org). There is more good Queen's Bench teamwork in support of the women-owned small business community to come!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

## August Events

**Thursday evening, August 9:** Queen's Bench will host a fun and lively reception for local QB members to welcome and mingle with out-of-town ABA/NCWBA women attorneys visiting San Francisco. All will enjoy California wines, California cuisine, and evening passes to SFMOMA! (See enclosed flyer.)

**Friday, August 10:** The Annual NCWBA Summit is held in San Francisco! See flyer enclosed for this important best practices forum for women's bar association leaders from all over the country. Queen's Bench is proud to serve as the MCLE provider for this event.

**Friday Luncheon, August 10:** NCWBA Luncheon — can be attended as part of the all-day NCWBA Summit or separately. The Queen's Bench Juvenile Hall Project will receive the NCWBA Public Service Award at the Luncheon, with current Juvenile Hall Project Chair Patricia Bovan and Juvenile Hall Project founder the Hon. Lee D. Baxter officially accepting on our behalf! See enclosed flyer for details.

**Friday evening, August 10:** NCWBA 25th Anniversary Reception hosted by Hanson Bridgett. Can be attended as part of the all-day NCWBA Summit or separately. See enclosed flyer for details.

**Sunday Luncheon, August 12:** Queen's Bench Past President Angela Bradstreet will receive a Margaret Brent Award at the Annual Margaret Brent Awards Luncheon. Felicia Vallera (415-309-4999) is coordinating tables for Queen's Bench leadership team members and past presidents.

## Work/Life Balance Roundtable/Networking Event

**October 18, 5:30 pm:** Save the Date for Work/Life Balance Roundtable/Networking Event: See article on page 4.

## A Meeting With Sharon Majors-Lewis

On the evening of Friday, May 11, representatives from the Queen's Bench leadership team were invited to participate in a very special and informative meeting and question/answer session with Sharon Majors-Lewis, recently appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger as the new Judicial Appointments Secretary for the State of California. In a lively and well-attended meeting arranged and hosted by Queen's Bench Past President Angela Bradstreet, participants were given opportunity to listen to the Secretary's hopes for improving the diversity mix on the California bench, and learn about the various ways in which local and minority bar associations can participate in this process if they choose to do so.

Secretary Majors-Lewis is herself an amazing role model and diversity success story. A woman of color, she advanced to the position of Deputy District Attorney for San Diego County after many years of service as a public prosecutor. Queen's Bench meeting attendees Felicia Vallera, Kelly Robbins, BX Long, Kathryn Schmidt and Susan Reed Jerich, were very fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with this dynamic and inspirational woman in person.

Queen's Bench has a long and successful history of actively supporting women candidates for the bench, but ceased formal involvement in the judicial appointment process three years ago. This year, Kathryn Schmidt and Susan Reed Jerich, Queen's Bench Judicial Appointments Committee Co-Chairs, will gather information about the process and objectively re-evaluate the situation. They will be making recommendations to the Queen's Bench Board of Directors later this year about if or how Queen's Bench might effectively support women candidates for the bench in the future.

## QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## June

**14** **QB Education Committee**  
6:30 p.m.  
MCLE program: "Managing Work/Life Balance: Time Norms In Law Firms, Effective Part Time Programs and Advice from Women Attorneys." Bingham McCutchen (*see enclosed flyer*).

**20** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
*Decorate canvas tote bags*

**21** **QB Legislative Committee**  
6:00 pm  
MCLE program: "Influencing The Legislative Process: You Do Want To Know How Laws Are Made" Carroll Burdick & McDonough (*see enclosed flyer*).

## July

**4** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
*Worry dolls and Fourth of July theme party*

**5** **QB Business Development Committee**  
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Nossaman Guthner Knox & Elliott, LLP,  
50 California St., 34th Floor, San Francisco

**10** **Regular Board of Directors Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Nossaman Guthner Knox Elliot LLP

**18** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
*Dream catchers*

## August

**1** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
*Writing story with illustrations*

**August 9-12:** *Queen's Bench reception, NCWBA Summit, and Margaret Brent Awards Luncheon. See page 6 for more information.*



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

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Queen's Bench Newsletter

June 2007