



# Queen's Bench

Founded 1921

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

# NEWSLETTER

December 2007

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### And...it's a wrap!

by Felicia Vallera

So, we reach the end of the 2007 Queen's Bench year.

Whew! What a year. Service and outreach have been our themes, and service and



outreach are what we have delivered!

We've worked really hard to successfully rebuild bridges and alliances with other legal organizations that advance the interests of women in law and society, not just locally but also nationally and internationally. The special event highlight of our year was the opportunity to welcome women attorneys from all over the country to San Francisco with the huge "Art of San Francisco" special reception at The Chandler Gallery and SFMOMA during NCWBA/ABA Annual Meeting week in August. We've also hosted women attorneys and judges who came seeking Queen's Bench, to sit down with us and learn from us, from as far away as Santiago and Szechuan. Did you know that when you Google "Queen's Bench," our name now comes up in Chinese on the web site of a Beijing public interest law agency?

We've also worked very hard to serve and advance the interests of women in our community this year. We brought job interview clothing to homeless women in the Tenderloin, business law education to women microbusiness owners in the Mission,

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## 2007 Past Presidents' Dinner

The 2007 Past Presidents' Dinner on November 7, 2007 at the City Club of San Francisco was both an exciting and moving evening. Queen's Bench President Felicia Vallera introduced the many Queen's Bench Past Presidents in attendance. Patricia Bovan received a Merit Award for her dedicated work on the Juvenile Hall Project. California Supreme Court Associate Justice Joyce L. Kennard was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award, honoring her for her career achievements and for the inspiration she provides to women in the legal profession. The awards were presented by the mother/daughter team of Hon. Ina Levin Gyemant and Anne Gyemant Paris. Justice Kennard's acceptance speech was marked by her gratefulness for the opportunities that she has had and for those who have supported her in her achievements—many of whom were present at the dinner. The evening was capped by California Labor Commissioner Angela Bradstreet's artful live auction of an original drawing by Senator Dianne Feinstein. When two bidders tied at \$1,025, Ms. Bradstreet promised to get a second picture for Queen's Bench and sold both bidders a Feinstein original! The silent auction, raffle and live auction proceeds for the evening will go to the Queen's Bench Foundation. Judge Gyemant has graciously agreed to share her introduction to Justice Kennard, which is printed below:



Back row, left to right: Patricia Rosenberg (2001), Hon. Ruth S. Astle (1984), Carol Salvagione (2004), California Labor Commissioner Angela M. Bradstreet (1989), Betty C. Bullock (1990), Moira J. Buxbaum (1991), Maggie Murray Courtney (1992), Nancy J. Newman (1996), Jettie Pierce Selvig (1975), Joanna Frazier (2006). Front row, left to right: Hon. Mary E. Wiss (1988), Joyce Ferris Metcalf (1971), Hon. Ina Levin Gyemant (1979), Hon. Isabella Horton Grant (1964), Renee Rubin (1969), Hon. Barbara J. R. Jones (1983).

### Hon. Ina Levin Gyemant's Introduction

It is a real privilege for me to confer the Life Time Achievement Award on behalf of Queens Bench to Justice Joyce Kennard.

I first learned about Justice Kennard when she was a Deputy in the criminal division of the Attorney General's Office in Los Angeles be-

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## President's Message

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learned how to support battered women and the court system in domestic violence cases, and this year will forever be remembered as the year we brought the **San Francisco Opera** to the girls in our award-winning **Juvenile Hall Project**. And we're not finished yet... on January 23 Queen's Bench is proud to be co-sponsor of the **Reproductive Rights Film Festival** at Dolby Laboratories, an event that will benefit San Francisco's **Women's Community Clinic**.

We've worked just as hard to improve the quality, variety, and frequency of services to our Queen's Bench members, including **29 major events this year!** Our activities ranged from hard-hitting substantive MCLE to fun and lively LEAADD banquets and networking parties to thought-provoking work/life balance workshops. We put lots of extra effort into recruiting and honoring guest speakers like California Supreme Court Associate Justice **Kathryn Mickel Werdegar**, former Stanford Law School Dean **Kathleen Sullivan**, California Labor Commissioner **Angela Bradstreet**, and California Supreme Court Associate Justice **Joyce Kennard**, among the dozens of highly successful role model women in the legal profession we introduced to our members at Queen's Bench events this year. It was a special delight that our Queen's Bench Past Presidents from as far back as the 1960's enthusiastically jumped on the bandwagon and turned out to support us in force at Queen's Bench events all year this year. And the appreciation of our members showed in the fact that every single program and event sponsored by Queen's Bench, Inc. all year this year **SOLD OUT**, and our members were begging for more!

As a result of all of this, our membership is up a cumulative approximately 40% in the last two years with considerable improvement in member diversity, our treasury is modest but solid, and Queen's Bench has been recognized for its creativity and energy in serving our members and our community in the **Recorder**, the **San Francisco Chronicle**, and the **San Francisco Examiner**. We're also proud of taking prudent measures internally to strengthen our infrastructure to support our growth, like upgrading our budgeting and fiscal control procedures, carefully putting some financial reserves away, upgrading our use of technology with web site improvements and a new **Queen's Bench Online Member Forum**, renewing our **MCLE Provider Certificate** for the next three years, and now successfully finalizing a new three year **Administrative Services Agreement** (see Document Lab article on page 5).

It took a village to accomplish all of this. Throughout the year I have been individually thanking and recognizing the hard-working officers and directors who have made positive contributions to our amazing 2007 Queen's Bench results, both in person and here in this newsletter in the Role Model Spotlights and other feature articles. My sincere thanks go out to each of them once again. It would take several pages to repeat all of the praise for deserving 2007 contributors here, but I must express my gratitude one last time to two officers in particular who have been, without question, among the most invaluable and indispensable members of the Queen's Bench leadership team this year. It's quite a blow to Queen's Bench that both **Elizabeth Saviano** and **BX Long** have chosen, for personal and professional reasons, to move on to other activities in 2008. They have both been a big part of the glue that has held Queen's Bench together and lifted us up to greater things for the last two years, and they will both be missed very much.

And at the risk of sounding like a broken record, I also have to mention one more time the truly outstanding work done by all of our **Queen's Bench Committees** this year (see Committee Roster on page 7 for the list of names). Our newly reorganized and re-energized committees were, without question, the stars of 2007! That's why I and the rest of the Queen's Bench officers and directors are looking forward so much to thanking and rewarding all of our 2007 Committee Chairs at a fun and relaxing little leadership team holiday dinner in December, our last official act of 2007.

In January of 2008 Queen's Bench starts fresh, with new leadership and a clean slate. We are handing over a vibrant and alive Queen's Bench with lots of exciting upward momentum going, a Queen's Bench that is poised to accomplish great things in 2008 and the future. Thanks to the hard work of so many, our organization truly is in terrific shape to continue reaching out to provide excellent service to women in law and society. Congratulations to all of the new 2008 Queen's Bench officers and directors. We're looking forward, with lots of hope and enthusiasm, to seeing you all in 2008!

## 2007 Presidents' Dinner

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cause I held the same position in the San Francisco office during the same time. She then became a senior research attorney on the Court of Appeal in Los Angeles. And I can recall 1986 when Justice Kennard was appointed to the trial court; then to the Court of Appeal and finally the Supreme Court in 1989.

My first introduction to the fact that she was going to be a stellar appointment to the court came the day after her appointment in an unlikely place ---the produce section of a market on West Portal Avenue in San Francisco. I ran into Justice Raymond Sullivan there. He asked if I had heard of the new appointment to the court and I clearly recall him telling me that Joyce Kennard was superbly qualified and would be an excellent justice. He was clearly very pleased and excited. I heard a similar comment a short time later from another great legal mind, Bernard Witkin. He said with a smile that on a certain issue he was waiting to see Justice Kennard's opinion because he knew it would be an independent insightful analysis, beautifully written. What these two giants of the law knew from the beginning the rest of us have been privileged to learn over the past 18 years.

I want to give you a bit of Justice Kennard's background because I think it will help you understand why Queen's Bench is bestowing its highest honor on her tonight.

Justice Kennard was born on the island of Java then part of the Dutch Colonial Empire. She is of Dutch, Indonesian, and Chinese ancestry. English is not her native language. She grew up during the complex struggle for Indonesia in World War II and the subsequent decolonization. During the war, her father died in a Japanese concentration camp when she was only one year old. She and her mother lost their home and all of their belongings when they were taken to an internment camp, where they



*California Supreme Court Associate Justice Joyce L. Kennard*

remained until the end of the war. She was then 5. In 1951 they moved to Dutch New Guinea where they shared a Quonset hut on the edge of the jungle with four other families--no kitchen, no refrigeration, no indoor plumbing --in a racially segregated area. Justice Kennard attended a small missionary school and started to learn English, enhancing her vocabulary by listening to song lyrics broadcast from Radio Australia. Life was not easy so when they had the chance they moved to Holland when Justice Kennard was 14.

As you can imagine she was an excellent student and linguist and planned to attend college, but she was forced to end her schooling when a tumor on her leg lead to her leg being amputated above the knee. She enrolled in secretarial school instead and at the age of 20 had

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*QB Director Anne Gyemant Paris, California Supreme Court Associate Justice Joyce L. Kennard (2007 Lifetime Achievement Award winner), QB Past President Isabella Horton Grant, and QB Past President and Awards Committee Chair Hon. Ina Levin Gyemant*

## 2007 Presidents' Dinner

*Continued from page 1*

an opportunity to immigrate to the United States. She took that opportunity and settled in Southern California in 1961.

She worked as a secretary for six years, until her mother passed away and left her her entire life savings—\$5000. At age 27, Justice Kennard decided to give up full-time work and use the savings to get a university education.

She graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Southern California, earning her degree in just three years while she worked part time 20 hours a week. She then attended USC School of Law graduating in 1974 and simultaneously earning a Masters in Public Administration.

When Governor George Deukmejian nominated Joyce Kennard to the California Supreme Court he said in part:

Joyce Kennard is superbly qualified and she has had a remarkable life of achievement and triumph over adversity. She has proved that hard work, skill and intelligence, combined with the promise of the American dream, can lead one to great achievements.

When Justice Kennard was last up for retention in the Election of 2006 she stated that 2 of her 3 top priorities if elected were (1) "to approach each case with an open mind and to weigh the arguments of the parties carefully and objectively, without any personal bias or agenda" and (2) "not to favor the rich over the poor or the powerful over the weak, but to treat all parties before the court as equals." If you are familiar with any of her opinions you will



*Patricia Bovan and Joanne Frazier*

instantly know and agree with me that Justice Kennard is true to her word.

She has earned a reputation as an independent thinker who does not shirk from disagreeing with her colleagues. She has put her name to numerous dissenting opinions—giving us her reasons for her disagreement. Many of those dissents have had an impact on the California legislature and lead to changes in the law.

In the book *The Counselors*, Elizabeth Vrato quotes Justice Kennard in part as follows: "Have integrity, Temper your drive for success by fair play and fair dealing, which is a concept that has withstood the test of time...the ethical dimensions of life are not incompatible with success."

It is an extreme honor for me to present the Queen's Bench Life Time achievement award to Justice Joyce Kennard.



*Angel Bradstreet auctions a Feinstein original.*

# Queen's Bench Signs New Three-Year Contract With Document Lab

Have you ever wondered why Queen's Bench has an official address in San Mateo? No, we don't actually have an office there. We don't actually have an office, or any permanent staff, anywhere. Instead, we take advantage of economies of scale by outsourcing a lot of our association administration to third party contractors that also perform association administrative services for many other small low-budget nonprofits just like us.

For the last 11 years, the primary administrative services independent contractor for Queen's Bench has been Document Lab in San Mateo, owned and operated by Maurine Killough (see insert box). In addition to serving Queen's Bench, Document Lab also provides association management services to several food and wine-focused groups including the San Francisco Professional Food Society, Bakers Dozen and the Wine Market Council. Document Lab also provides notary public services. Because we value our quality long-term relationship with Document Lab while at the same time we need to strengthen our infrastructure to support our growth, Queen's Bench recently negotiated and signed a brand new three year Association Management Agreement with Document Lab.

Our agreement provides for services to Queen's Bench that are less than a full-scope executive director would provide in a larger nonprofit, but much more than the simple online member registry services that are used by organizations smaller than Queen's Bench. Our new agreement calls for Document Lab to support us with member registry and database management, our annual Members' Directory, registration and certain other support for four major events and seven minor events per year, and provides Queen's Bench with a home base for our official published phone lines, e-mail addresses, and mail correspondence. Other service providers take care of our newsletter layout and our accounting, and all of the rest of the work that holds Queen's Bench together (like our newsletter content management, web site, advertising, budgeting, calendaring, and most of our program development and event management) is performed by dedicated Queen's Bench volunteers.

Queen's Bench is absolutely delighted to renew and strengthen our contract relationship with Document Lab. Since Queen's Bench is a volunteer organization with a leadership team that changes annually, having an administrative service like Document Lab to serve



Maurine Killough and Dinah

As many long-time Queen's Bench members know, the primary face behind Document Lab is its delightful, unflappable, indefatigable owner, Maurine Killough. When Maurine is not helping Queen's Bench and Document Lab's other clients in a beautifully organized and professional manner, her passions are singing and preparing live food. She sings with the Peninsula Musical Arts Association and her choir has been invited to perform at New York's Carnegie Hall this summer. She just completed a summer blog entitled "**Crudo Summer**" where she documented the completion of 52 gourmet live food recipes from Roxanne Klein and Charlie Trotter's book *Raw* in just twelve weeks.

Working out of her home office, Maurine is assisted by her two faithful companion sub-sub-contractors, Dinah and Boomer, who have been instrumental in re-organizing phone cords, chewing through power strips and interrupting important conference calls with their barking.

as a stable business "home base" helps us a great deal. Document Lab's service levels to Queen's Bench have been outstanding, and we consider ourselves very fortunate to continue our future growth with such a strong contractual alliance in place.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

## Membership Discount

Renew your QB membership by December 31, 2007 to receive a membership discount!

## QB Online Forum

In last week's *Wall Street Journal*, career columnist Carol Hymowitz wrote about how women have gotten better at forming networks to help them succeed at having powerful jobs and fulfilling personal lives. Every member of the Queen's Bench knows this is true. And now we have a new online forum to instantly connect with one another: the Queen's Bench Yahoo! Group at [thequeensbench@yahoo.com](mailto:thequeensbench@yahoo.com).

The online forum allows us to post messages, questions, files and photos. We can use the calendar and database to coordinate projects. We can let each other know about events for business development or share resources from accountants to technology consultants. These are the informal networks that support each others' careers and lives.

## QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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Join if you have not already at:

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## Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined between September 20 and November 28, 2007:



- Mikal J. Condon  
*Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP*
- Gargi Dave
- Jennifer Dunn  
*UCSF*
- Marina Sarmiento Feehan  
*USF School of Law*
- Milda U. Goeriz
- Janice Jentz
- Kate Kalstein  
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## December

- 3** Queens Bench Holiday Dinner for Officers
- 5** Juvenile Hall Project  
7:00 p.m.  
Holiday cards and ornaments
- 6** Queens Bench Business Development Committee  
6:00 p.m.  
at Nossaman
- 19** Juvenile Hall Project  
7:00 p.m.  
Christmas ornaments and holiday party



## January

- 23** Queen's Bench Reproductive Rights Film Festival  
6:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
Dolby Laboratories  
100 Portero Avenue, San Francisco  
See attached flyer



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

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Queen's Bench Newsletter

December 2007