



# Queen's Bench

Founded 1921

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

# NEWSLETTER

March 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Queen's Bench Wants You

by Kelly Robbins

There are dramatic things going on in the world these days, both good and bad, near and far. The California primary may actually matter this



election year, our Immediate Past President has secured Zoe Lofgren to speak at our annual Judges' Dinner (May 29) and the annual Induction Ceremony is scheduled for April 14. (These are the good). Further away, the legal system in Saudi Arabia has convicted a woman of being a witch and, as of this writing, she is subject to beheading. Our own Supreme Court (US) ruled that politicians know more than doctors when it comes to a woman's right to choose (Gonzales decision discussed at the January 23 panel/film festival). With such a highly charged climate around us, and me moving my office, I find myself focusing on the basics, and forced to take only one step at a time.

In the most basic sense, my role as President provides the opportunity to reach out to new Queen's Bench members, and to try to bring more new members into the organization. I keep thinking of ways to let those women know how to become involved in Queen's Bench. So, this message is for the newer members of Queen's Bench to ponder, and asks them to take a chance and consider an active role in our group.

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## QUEEN'S BENCH ANNOUNCES ANNUAL JUDGES' DINNER SPEAKER: United States Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren

Queen's Bench is delighted to announce that the keynote speaker at our Annual Judges' Dinner on May 29, 2008 will be United States Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. Congresswoman Lofgren represents the 16th Congressional District (Santa Clara County), serves as Chair of the 34 member California Democratic Congressional Delegation, and serves on the House Judiciary Committee, Committee on Homeland Security, and Committee on House Administration.



Congresswoman Lofgren is a powerful role model for Queen's Bench members because, in addition to her stellar track record in leadership of our country, she is a former practicing lawyer, former law professor, and a working mother. She was born on December 21, 1947 in San Mateo, California. She is married to John Marshall Collins, and is the mother of two children, Sheila and John Collins.

She attended K-12 public schools in Palo Alto, California. She then received her B.A. in Political Science from Stanford University in 1970, and her J.D., cum laude, from the University of Santa Clara School of Law in 1975.

In her early career, Congresswoman Lofgren served as Staff Assistant to her predecessor, Congressman Don Edwards in 1970-1978. She worked on impeachment proceedings, the Equal Rights Amendment, and creation of the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge in the South San Francisco

Bay. Congresswoman Lofgren also practiced immigration law as a partner in the firm of Webber & Lofgren in 1978-1980, and taught immigration law at University of Santa Clara School of Law from 1977-1980. She served on Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, 1981-1994

Congresswoman Lofgren was elected in to the House of Representatives in 1994 as only freshman Democrat from west of the Rocky Mountains. She currently serves on the Committee on the Judiciary in the role of Chair of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law, and on the Subcommittee on Administrative Law. On the Committee on Homeland Security, she serves on the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology, the Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism. On the

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## President's Message

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I tell my own story about becoming involved in Queen's Bench, in hopes of bringing others in. It goes like this: When I first decided to join Queen's Bench, it was because I moved with my then-employer to new office space as sub-tenants of a large law firm (which firm had a whole floor of a large building). Well, there were no women attorneys in the entire main-tenant law firm and I was the only female attorney on the entire floor. That changed over the next few months, but from the very start, I knew that I needed to check into the group of women attorneys known as Queen's Bench. I found the QB contact information and was perusing the committee titles and names of the co-chairs associated with them. Lo and behold, the name associated with the membership committee was Patricia Prince, a law school colleague. What better chance to call and say hello to Patricia – who was happy to tell me about the organization and the benefits of membership. Her poignant statement to me was this: you won't realize the full benefit of membership if you simply join the organization and attend the events. She said that the best way to benefit from membership is by joining a committee. That way, she went on, you will attend the regular committee meetings and get to know that group of women attorneys. You can thereby develop contacts and possibly friendships. Patricia specifically mentioned the Business Development committee, which organizes the yearly LEAADD dinner.

This fun dinner usually takes place in the fall, and brings together the Lawyers, Engineers, Accountants, Architects, Doctors and Dentists of the Bay Area (and later also financial advisors and realtors as well). The Business Development Committee secures a speaker and selects a location, and then publicizes the event. This all sounded good to me and so I figured that I would go to a meeting of the Business Development Committee, sit in the back of the group and observe. In this manner I could decide if I wanted to become more involved in the committee. The first publicized meeting of the Business Development Committee that year was announced and I went. Well, Carol Salvagione and I were the only two who showed up. So much for sitting in the back! Instead, I found an instant connection with a fellow female attorney, who happened to practice in family law, the practice area to which I was fairly new at the time. After chatting about family law practice for a bit, she and I talked about the process of planning the LEAADD event. (She had been on the committee the prior year and so was an expert). We set our next meeting and agreed to focus on gathering others to be on our committee. The plan worked. Our committee meetings built up steam and the representatives from the architects, doctors and we Queen's Bench members enjoyed our monthly meetings up to the LEAADD dinner. Also, the dinner was not only successful

## Jefferson Award

### Honorable Ina Gyemant Recognized for Innovative Success!

Queen's Bench past president Honorable Ina Gyemant (1979) has received the Jefferson Award for instituting a "Youth Treatment and Education Court" in the San Francisco juvenile court. According to the San Francisco Chronicle article of 2/24/08, the Jefferson Awards are administered by the American Institute for Public Service, a national foundation that honors community service. Judge Gyemant started the innovative program in 1997, and achieved success by having the district attorney, the public defender and others in her courtroom to remove their adversarial 'hats' and work together in deciding the best interest of the youth before the court. The program caught on and in 2000 Judge Gyemant, in conjunction with the SFUSD and other community partners, established the Youth Treatment and Education Center Academy. This alternative high school helps the teens aged 14-18 get into college and provides them vocational skills.

Hooray for innovation and continued success to this great program.

## Zoe Lofgren

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Committee on House Administration, she is Chair of the Subcommittee on Elections.

Among other accomplishments during her Congressional tenure, Congresswoman Lofgren has:

- Introduced legislation to accelerate the development of fusion as a long-term energy source, which was included in the comprehensive House energy bill (H.R. 4).
- Successfully fought to initiate the "e-rate" that provides affordable Internet access for schools, libraries, and rural health centers.
- Served as Democratic floor manager for the 21st Century Patent Improvement Act.
- Initiated the SAFE Act to ease export control on encryption.

Please see the enclosed flyer for further information on our May 29 Annual Judges' Dinner, and mark your calendars for a fun and exciting evening with Congresswoman Lofgren!

Source: <http://lofgren.house.gov>

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but also a lot of fun. I tell this story in hopes that I reach those newer members who wonder whether they should join a committee, and who wonder what might happen if they did. Well, look what happened to me!!

# 2007 LEAADD Dinner

by Annie O'Donnell, 2008 Co-chair, Business Development Committee

What do women want? On September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007, we not only heard about what many women want to balance their personal and professional lives, but how what women want can drive businesses to adapt, innovate, and allow both women and businesses to thrive.

The 2007 LEAADD Dinner featured Barbara Adachi, Regional Leader for Deloitte's Human Capital Advisory Practice, and the very successful Women's Initiative, a program dedicated to the retention and advancement of women. Ms. Adachi has also been named one of the Bay Area's 100 Most Influential Women in Business, repeatedly from 2003-2007.

Ms. Adachi offered insightful words on her experience with the Women's Initiative at Deloitte. The goal of the Women's Initiative is to challenge conventional wisdom, lead innovation, and make the workplace simply a better place to be. The program has been incredibly successful in its ability to advance and retain women, as well as in making customized careers the norm. Ms. Adachi referenced the book *Mass Career Customization*, by Cathy Benko and Anne Weisberg, which calls for corporate America to realize that the time is overdue for a shift in the workplace to better suit the increasingly diverse workforce.

Many women, and even men, have been able to take advantage of this program, and "dial down" their work responsibilities to balance their home life responsibilities, and then "dial back up" at the appropriate time. This program recognizes the value in facilitating a work-life balance, and has demonstrated that not only is it possible, but that it is beneficial for both the employees and businesses. Ms. Adachi's speech led to a lively question and answer session, demonstrating just how relevant this type of program is to women of all professions. In fact, one woman asked if Deloitte was accepting applications! Many thanks to Barbara Adachi for a wonderful discussion!

For those of you who are not familiar with the LEAADD Dinner, it is an annual networking and social event, bringing together women lawyers, engineers, architects, accountants, doctors, and dentists. In the past few years, we have expanded our numbers and professions represented at LEAADD events, which now include real estate brokers, members of the finance fields, graphic artists, and building industry professionals, to name a few.

Approximately 120 accomplished women from these many professions attended the 2007 LEAADD Dinner. This year's event took place in the Crystal Ballroom at the Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco. The night began with our usual cocktail hour, where attendees mingled with familiar faces and new. After cocktails and welcoming remarks from our 2006 Business Development Committee Co-chairs, Sophie-Nicole Froelich and Virginia

Sung, attendees enjoyed their dinner, meeting and chatting with their tablemates, and Ms. Adachi's inspiring speech. After, the Business Development Committee gave away door prizes that were generously donated by:

- Shanghai 1930
- Entourage Spa
- Weston Wear
- Kaye, Moser, Heirbaum LLP, and
- Man-U Imports

On behalf of our committee, and my 2008 co-chair, Sophie-Nicole Froelich, I would particularly like to thank our invaluable sponsors:

## Platinum Sponsors

- Howard, Rice, Nemerovski, Canady, Falk, & Rabkin
- Nossaman, Gunther, Knox, Elliot LLP
- Robert Half Legal

## Gold Sponsors

- Hemming Morse, Inc.
- Morgan Lewis & Bockius, LLP

## All of the Wine for the Event and Gift of Corkscrew to all Attendees

- Axiom Legal

We also offer our special thanks to Maurine Killough, Queen's Bench Administrator for her tireless work and assistance, the management and staff of the Marines' Memorial Club who took excellent care of our guests, and to our 2007 active committee members: Nadia Brannon, Diane Barry, Stephanie Coutu, Lisa Freitas, Vanessa Hierbaum, Eileen Manning-Villar, Jenny O'Brien, Virginia Sung, Dara Tang, and Celia Van Gorder. This committee was absolutely fantastic, and their hard-working spirit and contributions were directly responsible for this event's success.

We appreciate the continued support and participation in our events, and look forward to continued expansion in the future. Please join us, and invite the amazing professional women that you know to our first 2008 event for LEAADD and other professional women, the *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cocktails and Couture*, which will be held at Weston Wear located at 569 Valencia in San Francisco. The date and other details of the events will be announced in the near future. This event was an amazing success last year and we look forward to seeing you all there this year! Shopping, cocktails, and meeting new people—what could be more fun!

# The Queen's Bench Mentorship Program: Sharing Your Gifts

Recently, the National Association of Women Lawyers published its National Survey on Retention and Promotion of Women in Law Firms. In evaluating the responses from many of the country's 200 largest law firms, the survey found half of law firm associates are women, a number which approximates the law school population. However, at the highest level of law firm practice, only one out of six equity partners are women. The limited number of women in equity positions can have implications for newer attorneys who have fewer successful women role models, fewer opportunities to work with senior women lawyers and fewer prospects for mentoring from women attorneys.

In 2006, Queen's Bench relaunched its Mentorship Program in an effort to fill this void. Calling on the time and talent of its esteemed membership, Queen's Bench seeks to help women attorneys develop these valued relationships. Rather than focusing on new law school graduates, Queen's Bench has chosen to concentrate its resources on assisting women with three to nine years of experience in the legal profession – the biggest retention risk years for law firms. These attorneys have established themselves and can often used some “been there, done that” advice on career choices, client development and the quest for work-life balance.



The Program runs on a one-year cycle. The goal is for mentors and mentees to spend an hour a month together, perhaps meeting for lunch or even just a phone call to stay connected. Hopefully, mentors and mentees will develop a connection that will last well beyond the formal program.

In order for the Mentorship Program to fulfill its promise, we need mentors. Sage advice, constructive criticism, or a positive push can often have a profound impact on a young attorney. Mentors needn't have fulfilled any particular requirements other than having been in

practice eight years or more and having a desire to share your wisdom with those newer to the practice. Take the opportunity to share a career that you are passionate about and give your time in ways that remind you why you love what you do.

Individuals interested in becoming mentees will find an [application](#) included with this newsletter. The questions are designed to provide the Mentorship Committee with information about you so that you can be matched with a mentor that best matches your needs.

If you are interested in being a mentor, please contact either Alison Crane ([acrane@bledsoelaw.com](mailto:acrane@bledsoelaw.com)) or Joanna Frazier ([JFrazier@sheppardmullin.com](mailto:JFrazier@sheppardmullin.com)) and provide us with a brief description of your practice and any other information which may be helpful in pairing you with a mentee.

## Notice of Email Change:

The Queen's Bench email will change from [queensbench@rcn.com](mailto:queensbench@rcn.com) to [queensbench@astound.net](mailto:queensbench@astound.net).

Please update your address book!

# 'You can't get an abortion to save your life'

By Mary Catherine Wiederhold

I made this statement to another Queen's Bench member not long after seeing the program Queen's Bench hosted along with NARAL Pro-choice California Foundation and the California Women Lawyers on January 23, 2008. This program was presented to celebrate the 35th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. The groups presented a panel program entitled "Abortion Access in the Wake of *Gonzales*." It was hosted by the 2007 Queen's Bench Treasurer, Elizabeth Saviano, and featured speakers and two films about the current state of reproductive rights. There was also a short film about the Women's Community Clinic.

Beth Parker, a civil litigator and partner with the San Francisco office of Bingham McCutchen, spoke about her involvement to the first federal attempt to criminalize an abortion procedure. After a three-week trial, the federal abortion ban was held unconstitutional on three separate grounds. The decision was unanimously affirmed by the Ninth Circuit but reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Gonzales v. Carhart*. In the 5-4 decision, the Court held the most common and simplest form of second trimester abortion was illegal. Parker eloquently spoke about the manner in which Justice Kennedy, in the majority opinion, condescendingly wrote about women and how they need to be protected from themselves in attempting to obtain a certain type of second trimester abortion. The mere fact that women might be dying from medical complications of the pregnancy appeared to have been lost on the all male majority. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, on the other hand, took the majority to task for not allowing an exception based on a woman's health. Justice Ginsberg surmised "When safe abortion procedures cease to be an option, many women seek other means to end unwanted or coerced pregnancies."

"The Power of Choice" by Dorothy Fadiman began with the filmmaker stating she had almost died from an illegal abortion. The film described the history of abortion rights and how it was not until the 1860's that abortion began to be illegal because of lobbying from religious groups and the medical profession who wanted to get rid of midwives and other so-called non-medical professionals. Slowly, in the late 1960's, states began to legalize abortion. The Supreme Court legalized the procedure nationwide in

1973. Since that time, anti-choice opponents have chiselled away the right and, in 2007, *Gonzales v. Carhart* was decided.

"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" by Tiffany Shlain presented the current state of reproductive rights in the context of three fictional stories of a conservative politician, a young couple and a fundamentalist activist. This film began in a humorous and light-hearted manner with elementary questions such as "What is a woman?" and then built step by step to show how women's reproductive rights have been eroded since *Roe v. Wade*. The filmmaker also wove in how human overpopulation hurts the world's ecosystem.

The bright spot of the evening was a short film about the Women's Community Clinic, a clinic which I did not know about. This clinic, with the aid of a predominantly volunteer staff of over 100 clinicians, health educators, and lay volunteers, is the only free clinic for women in San Francisco. It provides outreach workers who go into the San Francisco jail and also work with homeless women. Their mission is anchored in beliefs that preventive, educational care is essential to lifelong health and that all women deserve excellent care regardless of their ability to pay.

The other bright spot was the beautiful theater for watching the program which was kindly donated by Dagmar and Ray Dolby of Dolby Laboratories. Naturally, the sound for the event was first rate.

Overall, the program was a learning experience for me. I was vaguely aware of the *Gonzales* decision but had no idea that reproductive rights for women in the United States were so close to being eliminated. This elimination process begins with certain procedures being banned and then women start to return to back alley abortions. Every woman should be aware how close we are to having the Supreme Court or Congress manage our reproductive rights whether women agree with the idea of elective or medical necessity abortions or not.

Mary Catherine Wiederhold is the chair of the Queen's Bench Legislative Issues & Reproductive Right committee.

# SAVE THE DATE ...

## April 14 2008 Induction Ceremony and Champagne Reception

On Monday, April 14, 2008 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Queen's Bench will host the 2008 Induction Ceremony and Champagne Reception at the Civic Center Courthouse, 4th Floor Rotunda, located at 400 McAllister Street in San Francisco, California. This exciting event honors the incoming Queen's Bench officers and directors and welcomes the new California State Bar Admittees. All judges of the Bay Area Courts and new admittees to the California Bar are the complimentary guests of Queen's Bench. Admission for the general membership is \$25 per person. We are thrilled to announce that California Supreme Court Associate Justice Kathryn M. Werdegar will preside over the induction ceremony. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Please save the date and plan to join us! (See attached flyer.)



### QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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## Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined between January 18 and March 7, 2008:

- Diane M. Barker  
*Bingham McCutchen*
- Jayme Burns
- Rica Cruz  
*Furtado Jaspovice & Simons*
- Meredith Gittings  
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## March

- 4**     **Board of Directors Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Nossaman Guthner Knox Elliot LLP  
50 California St., 34th Floor, San Francisco
- 5**     **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.
- 6**     **QB Business Development Committee**  
6:00 p.m.  
at Nossaman Guthner Knox Elliot LLP
- 6**     **13th Power of Choice Luncheon**  
12:00 noon  
Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco  
(contact Jennifer Milley 415 890-1020 ext 250)
- 19**    **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.

## April

- 1**     **Board of Directors Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
At Nossaman Guthner Knox Elliot LLP  
Judge Lillian Sing and Foundation Board to attend.
- 2**     **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.
- 14**    **Induction Ceremony/Champagne Reception**  
5:30 -7:30 p.m.  
Civic Center Courthouse, San Francisco.  
See enclosed [flyer](#).
- 16**    **CWL April Showers – JAMS event**  
5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 16**    **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.
- 30**    **Work Life Balance Options**  
Details to follow.



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Queen's Bench Newsletter

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