



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Save the Date for the Judges' Dinner

by Anee A. Mikacich

It is with great excitement that we announce the date for the 2010 Annual Judges' Dinner. This year's event will take place on June 15, 2010 at a location to be determined. Save the date!! This event has long been a Queen's Bench Bar Association favorite, both for our newer members, as well as for our tried and true supporters. The Annual Judges' Dinner is held in tribute to the many committed members of the bench in the San Francisco Bay Area as a demonstration of our appreciation and admiration.



Now, more than ever, when the economy is suffering and the state budget is stretched thin, we are lucky to have the dedicated men and women of the Northern California court system, who continue to maintain the highest level of jurisprudence despite these tough times. With the recent advent of court furlough days, judges and their staff are working doubly hard to get the job done with one less day per week. Even in the best of times, there are never enough hours in the work day to complete all the jobs to be done. The state budget crisis has only made a tough task more difficult. When you add to the mix fewer employees because of layoffs, and more cases, you have a recipe for disaster. Our Bay Area courts, like many in the state, are facing a dwindling number

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There Has Got to be a Morning After: How the Insurance Companies Will Impact Your Reproductive Rights

by Mary Catherine Wiederhold, Co-Chair Reproductive Rights and Legislative Issues Committee

On March 23, President Obama signed the 'Affordable Health Care for America' bill into law. On March 30, he signed an executive order that does not allow any of the subsidy payments from the federal government to be used to pay for abortions. The executive order was in exchange for Representative Bart Stupak's vote on the healthcare bill.

The history behind his executive order goes back more than 30 years to the passage of the Hyde Amendment. Named after then Illinois Representative Henry Hyde, the amendment bars the use of federal funds, primarily Medicaid, to pay for medically indicated abortions. It is not a permanent law; rather it is a "rider" that, in various forms, has been routinely attached to annual appropriations bills since 1976. The Hyde Amendment only affects the Department of Health and Human Services. Language in the Hyde Amendment, which changes from year to year, allows for abortions in cases of rape, incest, or where women suffer from a life-endangering physical condition.

Right now, the Center for Reproductive Rights estimates that 87 percent of all insurance plans provide some type of coverage for medically indicated abortion procedures. However, starting in 2014,

subsidy dollars for women purchasing insurance plans in the health care exchanges may not be used to pay for abortion coverage in most cases. There are concerns insurance companies will not design programs for a small select group, such as women in their reproductive years seeking a supplemental insurance plan to cover medically indicated abortions.

The concerns stem from experience. Most insurance plans did not cover contraceptives until laws were enacted to require it. Without state or federal regulations mandating that insurance companies must offer a specific insurance plan that covers abortions, many companies simply may not offer them. This result may be caused less from political pressures about abortion than from the marketplace. Insurance companies will design

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President's Message

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of available trial departments due to the inability to fund them. In some cases, trial courtrooms are closing or sharing staff with the courtroom next door. Court reporters have been eliminated from some of our courtrooms. The economy has introduced these and many more challenges to the practice of law.

So, it is with great pride that we honor our judges for the job they do in the face of ever shrinking resources. The Annual Judges' Dinner is open to all members of the Queen's Bench, and to their friends and colleagues. We also encourage all of the Alternative Dispute Resolution professionals, mediators, court reporters, videographers, legal vendors, and their friends to join us. And last, but certainly not least, we reach out to the many Bay Area law firms, whether small, medium, or large, to participate in this worthwhile event. Tickets are available for individual seats or full tables. We encourage everyone to come and enjoy a night of camaraderie in honor of the Courts. Save the date—June 15, 2010 and join us!!

Job Announcement

4th to 7th Year Labor & Employment Associate

Seyfarth Shaw LLP's San Francisco office has an immediate need for an entrepreneurial, creative, independent 4th to 7th year Labor & Employment associate with significant "first chair" litigation and class action experience. Ideal candidates will have experience with employment matters including wage and hour, wrongful termination, harassment, discrimination and workplace violence. Excellent academic credentials and written communication skills, analytical skills, and verbal communication skills required. We offer a collegial environment and an excellent opportunity to continue to develop strong skills and grow with a nationally renowned labor & employment practice. Candidates should submit their resumes to: Anny Tavit, Legal Recruiting Manager – West Coast at: atavit@seyfarth.com.

Disclaimer: At this time, Seyfarth Shaw LLP will not be accepting applicants submitted through search firms. All qualified candidates must submit their own applications to be considered for this position. Seyfarth Shaw is committed to working with and providing reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities. If, because of a medical condition or disability, you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the employment process, please send an e-mail to atavit@seyfarth.com or call (310) 201-1513 and let us know the nature of your request and your contact information.

If you would like to submit a job posting for our newsletter, please contact: admin@queensbench.org.

Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined between March 30 and April 30, 2009:

- Lara Cullinane-Smith
Tenax Law Group PC
- Netta Grutman
- Jessica Monde Hartzell
- Alice Lin
- Melissa Malone
Borson Law Group
- Trina D. McAlister
Crowell & Moring LLP
- Sarah Monroy
- Alyssa Soares Parsons
Crowell & Moring LLP
- Katherine Robison
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
- Suzanne E. Rode
Crowell & Moring LLP
- Heather E. Shallenberger
- Anne Yarovoy
Law Office of Terry A. Szucsko, Inc.



Insurance Companies' Impact on Repro Rights

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policies to cover the largest number of people with the smallest amount of administrative cost. In order to pay for a medically indicated abortion under a supplemental or additional coverage plan, the insurance companies need to make decisions regarding the abortion. However, since medically indicated abortions are usually filled with complications, it is unlikely that insurance companies will make an effort to serve this market. As Sara Rosenbaum of The George Washington University Medical Center School of Public Health and Health Services noted, the "risks inherent in offering a supplement in a market that legally prohibits the commingling of plan administration duties can be expected to drive the industry away from the sale of a plan supplement."

Spotlight on Queen's Bench Committee Chairs

Education Committee Co-Chairs: Molly Mrowka and Holly A. Schaitberger



Many Queen's Bench members volunteer their time to lead our many different committees. They dedicate their precious time, talent and resources to serve our members and our community. In the next several months, we will be featuring various committees and their co-chairs.

The Education Committee is tasked with organizing programs on legal subjects with significant current professional and practical content, and which provide Queen's Bench members with Continuing Education of the Bar credits.

Molly Mrowka is the Co-Chair of the Queen's Bench Education Committee. She is of counsel at the law firm of Hartman, Blackstock & Moore, and has spent the past 10+ years defending Products Liability/Toxic Tort cases (including Asbestos, Silica, Semiconductor "Clean Room" Chemicals, and Herbal Supplements). In addition to Products Liability, her other practice areas include Commercial Litigation, Premises Liability, Restaurant & Retailer Liability, and Governmental Entity Defense. She has been a member of the faculty at Harris Martin and ADC conferences, presenting on the topic of Silica Litigation in California. She has also co-authored a chapter on the admissibility of expert testimony in the ABA Scientific Evidence Review: Admissibility And Use Of Expert Evidence In The Courtroom, Monograph No. 6. In addition to her law practice, she serves as a Court-Appointed Temporary Judge for Alameda County Unified Court.



Molly graduated from the University of California at Davis with a degree in Political Science, and graduated with honors from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, where she was a Third-Year Class Representative,

Comment Editor of the *Pacific Law Journal*, and served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Garland E. Burrell, Jr. of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California.

In addition to the Queen's Bench, Molly is actively involved in the Bar Association of San Francisco, the U.C. Davis Cal Aggie Alumni Association, and the Defense Research Institute (DRI). Outside of the office and her community activities, she trained for and completed the Nike Women's Half Marathon to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and is an active equestrian who trains in the Hunter/Jumper discipline in Woodside, California.

Holly A. Schaitberger is a member of the Queen's Bench board of directors and serves as Co-Chair of the Queen's Bench Education Committee.



Holly currently practices with the family law firm Maple, DeLacey & Mussallem LLP. With offices in San Francisco and Marin, Maple, DeLacey & Mussallem assists clients in all manner of family law matters throughout the Bay Area.

Holly obtained her law degree cum laude from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 2005. As a law student, Holly served as a full-time extern law clerk to the Honorable Carlos T. Bea on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and interned as an investigator with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the San Francisco Public Defender.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

Queen's Bench New Email Address

Please note that Queen's Bench has a new email address:
admin@queensbench.org.

May 4, 2010: "Cocktails and Couture" Networking Event

by Michelle Seifert,
Co-chair Business Development Committee

The Fourth Annual "Cocktails And Couture" is taking place on May 4, 2010 at Beyond the Alley, a great little boutique located at 2176 Chestnut Street @ Pierce, in San Francisco, from 6-8 p.m. This is a fantastic event for shopping, networking with fellow Queen's Bench members and other women LEADD professionals and sipping wine! A \$10 donation at the door is suggested to support Queen's Bench 2010 activities. (See [flyer](#).)



QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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May 21, 2010: California Women Lawyers' Northern California Judicial Reception

by Kelly Robbins, CWL Liason

Judge Ramona Garrett, Solano County Superior Court Judge is the 2010 recipient of the California Women Lawyers' Rose Bird Memorial Award. Judge Garrett will be presented with the award at the Reception on May 21, 2010 in Fairfield, Solano County. For details, please visit www.cwl.org

June 9, 2010: San Francisco Bar Association's No Glass Ceiling Task Force Conference

by Tammy Dawson, Co-chair, Work-Life Balance Committee
On June 9, 2010 BASF will be sponsoring the second conference in their "Pathways to Power" series, intended to increase the pipeline of skilled women attorneys ready for partnership and leadership. The conference: "Starting Out Strong: Tools for Economic Success," is for entry level associates, recent graduates, and third year law students. There will be presentations on networking, gender bias, taking credit, and practical advice on finding mentors, billing, getting good work, building your reputation, and client development. The cost is \$40, \$20 for students, and includes lunch. For more information, go to www.sfbar.org/calendar/eventdetail.aspx?id=D107401B/D107401B. A future conference for mid-level associates is planned for the fall.

June 15, 2010: Queen's Bench Annual Judges' Dinner

by Sarah King, Queen's Bench First Vice President

The Annual Judges' Dinner will be on June 15, 2010, location to be announced. Keynote Speaker is Golden Gate School of Law Dean Drucilla Ramey. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sponsor Tables (10 seats including a hosted judge) are \$1,250 if purchased by June 1, 2010 and \$1,500 thereafter. Individual tickets are \$90 for Queen's Bench members and \$125 for non-members and guests. (See [flyer](#).)

August 6, 2010: NCWBA Women's Bar Summit

by Andrea Carlise, Conference of Delegates

"Transforming Law, Transforming Lives" is the theme of the 2010 Women's Bar Summit, to be held in San Francisco on Friday, August 6, 2010 at Golden Gate University School of Law. Plan to spend the full day networking with other women's bar leaders as you share best practices and learn about trends in our rapidly-changing profession. After the Summit, we'll gather in the offices of our Diamond Sponsor, Perkins Coie, where we'll have a chance to continue our conversations with one another while admiring the views of the San Francisco Bay over hors d'oeuvres. For more information go to:

www.ncwba.org/ourprograms-summit.shtml.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 4** **Cocktails and Couture**
6:00–8:00 p.m.
Beyond the Alley, 2176 Chestnut Street
[See flyer](#)
- 5** **Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center
375 Woodside Ave.
- 11** **Board of Directors Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
Dillingham & Murphy, LLP
- 19** **Juvenile Hall Project**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center
- 25** **Business Development Committee Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
Mergis Group, 475 Sansome Street, Ste. 520

June

- 1** **Board of Directors Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
- 2** **Juvenile Hall**
7:00 p.m.
Youth Guidance Center, 375 Woodside Ave.
- 15** **Judges' Dinner**
5:00 p.m.
Location TBD.
[See flyer](#) for information and table reservations.
- 16** **Juvenile Hall**
Youth Guidance Center
- 29** **Business Development Committee Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
Mergis Group, 475 Sansome St., Ste. 520



www.queensbench.org

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Queen's Bench Newsletter

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