

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**The Year in Review**

by Ameer A. Mikacich

As we all get into the holiday season full swing and prepare for a new year, it seems appropriate to look back at our accomplishments over the past year. In 2010, Queen's Bench had many fine events and programs for which we should be very proud. I apologize in advance that the space afforded by this column simply doesn't allow us to mention every committee, person or group that contributed to our successful year, but rest assured that it was, and always will be, a team effort.



In early 2010, thanks to the efforts of the Nominating Committee, we brought on a fantastic Board of Directors: First Vice President Sarah King; Second Vice President Rebecca Hooley; Treasurer Lisa Freitas; Secretary Vanessa Hierbaum; Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Annie O'Donnell; and Directors Lisa Rauch, Holly Schaitberger, Pauline Farmer-Koppenol, Mia Hernandez, Mary Catherine Wiederhold, Joanna Frazier, and Immediate Past President Barbara Harris Chiang. What a privilege it was to work with these women, who devoted unlimited personal time to the organization. We also had another successful Induction Ceremony and New Admittee Reception at the Civic Center Courthouse where we welcomed the newest bar admittees. California Supreme Court Associate Justice Kathryn M. Werdegard administered

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## Queen's Bench Nominations for 2011 Officers and Directors

Pursuant to Article IV, section C (2) of the Queen's Bench Bylaws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate the following members of the 2011 Queen's Bench Board of Directors:

**Officers:**

- Sarah King .....President
- Rebecca Hooley.....First Vice President
- Lisa Freitas.....Second Vice President
- Vanessa Hierbaum .....Treasurer
- Annie O'Donnell.....Secretary
- Pauline Farmer-Koppenol.....Asst. Secretary/Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

**Directors:**

- Hon. Barbara J. R. Jones .....Director 15 + years (term ends 2011)
- Kelly Robbins.....Director 7-15 years (term ends 2012)
- Holly Schaitberger .....Director 2-7 years (term ends 2013)
- Mia Ottilia Hernandez .....Director at Large
- Jamie G. Touchstone .....Director at Large
- Mary Catherine Wiederhold .....Director at Large
- Ameer Mikacich .....Immediate Past President

The nominating committee this year consisted of: Barbara Harris Chiang, Chair (Immediate Past President 2009), Heidi Hugo (Past President 1999), Lisa Rauch (Past President 2002), Eliza Rodrigues (Past President 2003), and Joanna Frazier (Past President 2006).

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# Past President's Dinner

By April Rose Sommer

This year's Past President's Dinner was a rousing success! Sixteen Past Presidents attended, all adorned in a delightful array of hats. This QB tradition honors the long history of the organization including a time when QB attorneys engaged in a spirited debate over whether or not they should wear hats to court! The Honorable Adrienne Jacobs Miller was the worthy recipient of the 2010 Merit Award. Adrienne has been a long time Queen's Bench leader. Over her years of service she has been a committed Board member, has mentored many QB leaders, and was the 1987 QB President. Adrienne gave the hat tradition her own twist, donning a fancy feathered barrette!

The evening's raffle, silent auction, and live action raised \$4,655 for the Queen's Bench Foundation! The Foundation serves many QB programs including the Juvenile Hall Project. The Juvenile Hall Project has been an important recipient of Foundation funds since it was founded. Through the Project, QB attorneys visit with girls at the San Francisco Juvenile Detention Center and provide opportunities for healthy creative expression and positive interaction with strong female role models. The evening's 61 attendees were inspired to open up their checkbooks by the table displays of cards and artwork made by the girls.



The Honorable Lee D. Baxter, QB President 1981 and the Honorable Ina Levin Gyemant, QB President 1979 led a spirited live auction. The hot ticket item was an original drawing by Senator Dianne Feinstein. As she has for many years, the Honorable Angela Bradstreet, QB President 1989 and freshly appointed San Francisco Superior Court judge, coordinated Senator Feinstein's donation of the drawing. The silver-tongued auctioneers pushed the limit up and up until the high stakes bidding came down to two committed competitors both calling out "it's for the girls!" At this point, Patricia Bovan, one of the competing bidders, inquired in the most innocent of voices, if perhaps another auction item could be obtained. Angela made a show of considering this unique proposal but answered very quickly, that yes, of course she could procure another original Feinstein drawing! And with that, the Foundation coffers were boosted with not one but the two highest bids! Patricia, a successful past bidder on four Feinstein drawings, graciously ceded the daffodil drawing to bidder Kelly Robbins, QB President 2008, a proclaimed daffodil lover. While the audience was left wondering if there had been a little behind the scenes maneuvering, everyone was delighted with the outcome!



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# Past Presidents Dinner

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# The Past and Future of Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage

By: Melissa Malone

*\*\*Please note that this article was intended to be published prior to the November election.*

Delaware Republican Senate nominee Christine O'Donnell espouses abstinence-only-until-marriage and she even has lashed out against masturbation.

Is abstinence our educational model for combatting STDs and teen pregnancies?

## Three Decades of the Abstinence Agenda

For over thirty years, our Federal government has dedicated substantial resources to promote abstinence-only-until-marriage ("Abstinence"). Beginning in 1981, under Ronald Reagan's administration, our Federal government poured millions of dollars annually into its Abstinence agenda. By the year 2000, three different programs funded Abstinence education: the Adolescent Life Act ("AFLA"); the Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program ("Title V"); and the Community-Based Abstinence Education grant program ("CBAE"). Funding grew through 2008, particularly during the administration of George W. Bush. As of today, past administrations have spent over \$1.5 billion of our tax dollars on Abstinence.

Over time, Abstinence became less a matter of health care and more a matter of morality, as the W. Bush administration took CBAE funding out of the hands of public health professionals and placed it in the hands of the new Administration for Children and Families ("ACF"). ACF created funding guidelines to dictate the subject matter that funded state programs could teach with federal dollars. First, ACF expanded the definition of "abstinence" as "voluntarily choosing not to engage in sexual activity until marriage. Sexual activity refers to any type of genital contact or sexual stimulation between two persons including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse." All grantees under the new funding announcement were required to instruct consistently with ACF's new guidelines.

Second, the funding guidelines provided new specificity for the mandated curricula, which relied on scare tactics to compel compliance, including:<sup>1</sup>

- Predicting negative consequences of premarital sexual activity including, for example, psychological suffering and unlikelihood of a happy marriage.
- Discouraging contraception by teaching that contraception may fail to prevent pregnancy, and that contraceptives suffer from product defects, have side effects, and fail to prevent STDs.
- Alienating single, divorced, widowed, and homosexual parents by promoting heterosexual, two-parent families as the happiest and most successful.

<sup>1</sup> Special Report: It Gets Worse: A Revamped Federal Abstinence-Only Program Goes Extreme, SIECUS, 2006.

- Failing to account for rape and sexual abuse victims forced into sex.

Third, ACF denied funding to programs teaching sex education as a public health issue. The new guidelines thereby excluded any instruction on risk reduction, such as subject matter shown to reduce the number of pregnancies, abortions, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV infection.

That the restrictive federal policy for promoting Abstinence was ill conceived is substantiated by numerous studies of the Abstinence fall-out in different states. The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States ("SIECUS") has investigated and written extensively about states' Abstinence programs and their outcomes. Their studies and others' investigations reveal that Abstinence is a failed policy that "is harmful to young people, uses federal dollars to spread misinformation, fear, and shame, and is a colossal waste of taxpayer dollars."<sup>2</sup> For example, SIECUS documented:

- Florida has the third highest rate in the U.S. of AIDS diagnoses, and the fifth highest rate of new HIV infections. Teen pregnancies are the sixth highest.
- Mississippi has the highest teen birth rate in the U.S. and the highest rate among young people of risky sexual behavior, unintended pregnancy, and STDs/HIV/AIDS.

## Sexuality Education Under Obama

The age of Abstinence policy appears to be nearing its end. The Obama administration is promoting new initiatives on sexuality information. It has established the Office of Adolescent Health ("OAH"), under the US Dept. of Health and Human Services. Also, the March 2010 health care reform legislation included the Personal Responsibility Education Program ("PREP") fund of \$75 million per year for five years, in state grants for more comprehensive sex education. The new programs funded by PREP are to provide instruction on medically accurate, age-appropriate programs concerning both abstinence and contraception to prevent unintended pregnancies and STDs, including HIV/AIDS. A separate funding stream, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention ("TPP") funds, administered by the OAH, will be available for programs that use innovative strategies for preventing teen pregnancy. Even with these reforms in place, states also have the option of receiving Title V funds, but they must match funding with \$3 for every \$4 of federal money.

The current funding applications reflect that more states are opting for comprehensive sexuality education

<sup>2</sup> Latest Version of Health Care Bill Includes Money for Failed Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs, SIECUS, March 18, 2010 press release.

## Abstinence Only Until Marriage

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to decrease STDs and unintended pregnancies. Notably, 84% have applied for PREP, while only 60% applied for Title V funding. Fifteen of the states that sought PREP funds did not apply at all for Title V funds.

The Obama administration also has adopted a proactive national approach to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The new program will seek to increase access to health care, as well as to reduce incidence of HIV/AIDS by re-distributing funding to populations at greatest risk of disease. Prevention also likely will involve sex education—and will include the risk reduction topics avoided by the Abstinence programs.

While Abstinence has enjoyed a recent moment in the sun because of the Christine O'Donnell spectacle, the Abstinence agenda is an established failure. Funding sex education and risk reduction is viewed as a wiser use of valuable resources to decrease incidence of STDs and unplanned pregnancies.

## California Women Lawyers Thrive — But Need You!

*By Kelly Robbins*

The California Women Lawyers held their Annual Dinner at the State Bar Conference in late September, with both Chief Justice Ronald George and Chief Justice Nominee Tani Cantil Sakauye in attendance. Nancy O'Malley honored Chief Justice George with a video tribute to his truly dynamic and distinguished career. Did you know that Chief Justice George holds the record for the longest sitting judge in the State of California, with an extraordinary 37 years on the bench? Ms. O'Malley has maintained her own distinguished career, and was elected this year as the first female District Attorney in Alameda County. She has been a dynamic leader throughout her term as CWL President and this author is grateful to have served on her board for the 2009-2010 year. During the annual dinner, Chief Justice George swore in the new CWL President Jennifer Webber, as well as her board. Another great year of CWL activities is being planned.

As your Queen's Bench liaison to the California Women Lawyers, I urge you to visit the website at [www.cwl.org](http://www.cwl.org) to learn of some ways that CWL shares and furthers the mission of Queen's Bench. I also encourage you to renew your membership to CWL so that the statewide women's association can continue its important role in advancing women in the profession of law and in society.

## President's Message

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the oath of office to the new Board. We also participated in the "Meet the Bar Associations" event at Golden Gate University School of Law, where we talked one-on-one with students interested in joining a legal organization.

As always, our Juvenile Hall Project Committee, chaired this year by Nancy Walter and April Rose Sommer, continued their twice monthly visits to the San Francisco Juvenile Hall girls' unit where they lead crafts projects and mentored the City's youth. The Work-Life Balance Committee presented its "Juggling vs. Balancing" program, one of many terrific continuing education events this year. In February, thanks to the efforts of Hon. Anne Torkington, we presented the film "Crime After Crime", which chronicled the California Habeas Project's efforts to free Deborah Peagler, imprisoned as the result of domestic violence. The Business Development Committee hosted "Cocktails & Couture", a fun evening of shopping to benefit Queen's Bench activities, as well as the ever popular LEAADD Dinner, where we were honored to have Rebecca Macieira-Kaufman, President of Citibank California, as our keynote speaker.

In June, Dean Drucilla Stender Ramey of Golden Gate University School of Law served as the keynote speaker of the 2010 Judges' Dinner where we annually pay tribute to our Bay Area members of the judiciary.

This fall, we capped off the year with another wonderful Past Presidents' Dinner at The City Club, where we spent an evening laughing and catching up with our loyal members and past presidents. We also partnered with California Women Lawyers, La Raza Bar Association and the San Francisco Superior Court to bring Balboa High School students to the courthouse for "The Color of Justice". This program is geared to enhance diversity in the legal profession and motivate students to choose a career in law. Led by Queen's Bench Past President, the Honorable Charlene Padovani Kiesselbach, as well as by the Honorable Suzanne Ramos Bolanos, the program was wildly successful community based effort to enhance education in San Francisco.

Words cannot adequately express my appreciation for the many people who contributed to these successful events and programs, nor can I fully articulate my thanks to the Board and our committee chairs for their tireless efforts. It has truly been a year I will not soon forget. Fortunately, Queen's Bench will be in the very capable hands of another fabulous Board of Directors in 2011. Happy Holidays!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

**January 13, 2011:  
QB Work-Life Balance Committee Presentation  
"Women on Top: Managing Life, Work, and Leadership  
in Your Legal Career" by Ida Abbott**

Queen's Bench Work-Life Balance Committee invites you to a presentation "Women on Top: Managing Life, Work, and Leadership in Your Legal Career" by Ida Abbott on January 13, 2011. Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Location: TBA. No charge to Queen's Bench members; \$25 for non-members. See accompanying flyer for details.



## QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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HOLLY SCHAIBERGER  
MARY CATHERINE WIEDERHOLD

## ABA Initiative on Diversity Dynamics in the Legal Profession

The ABA Commission on Women in the Profession is launching the third phase of its groundbreaking research initiative on diversity dynamics in the legal profession and is seeking female and male lawyers who are currently employed or have been employed as an attorney within a Fortune 500 company at any point since January 1, 2005. To learn more about this study go to [www.abanet.org/women/woc/wocinitiative.html](http://www.abanet.org/women/woc/wocinitiative.html).

## Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined between October 1 and December 1, 2010:

- Alex Frischer
- Lindsay Alexandra Jester  
Buchalter, Nemer PC
- Jessica L. Kelly  
Clyde & Co US LLP
- Brianna Mannion
- Jill O'Sullivan
- Johnna Sack
- Michelle Thomsun  
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## December

### No Board of Directors Meeting

- 1**      **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center
- 15**     **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center



## January

- 4**      **Board of Directors Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Fenwick and West  
555 California Street, 12th Floor
- 5**      **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center
- 13**     **QB Work Life Balance Committee**  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Location TBD  
"Women on Top: Managing Life, Work, and  
Leadership in Your Legal Career"  
Presenter: Ida Abbott  
See [flyer](#) for information.
- 19**     **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center



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