



# Queen's Bench

Founded 1921

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

# NEWSLETTER

April 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### I've Joined Queen's Bench—Now What?

by Sarah M. King

Just joined Queen's Bench? Recently renewed and wondering what to do? Here are some of my suggestions for making the most of your Queen's Bench membership:



- **Take advantage of the free Queen's Bench MCLE presentations.** Throughout the year, Queen's Bench organizes a number of substantive MCLE presentations, almost all of which are free to members. There were two opportunities for free MCLE credit in March alone—an ethics presentation on identifying, avoiding and managing conflicts of interest, and a panel presentation on recent developments in domestic violence asylum law. In January, Ida Abbott gave a sold-out presentation on managing life, work and leadership. Watch the Queen's Bench calendar and your email inbox for news about upcoming MCLE programs.
- **Learn About Leadership.** Queen's Bench is launching a leadership series for 2011, which will include a panel presentation by major women rainmakers, a workshop on running for elected office, and a panel presentation on starting your own law firm. Hoping to get guidance in another area? Just let me know and I'll do my best make it happen.

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## Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Queen's Bench: The First 25 Years

By Sarah M. King

2011 marks the 90th Anniversary of Queen's Bench. In celebration, we will present a series of articles chronicling the organization's history and accomplishments.

Although one of the original motivations for the formation of Queen's Bench was the hostility of certain male members of the bar towards women members, the 25 Charter members decided that they would not form a separate women's bar association, but would work within the existing structure.

Over the course of the next decade, Queen's Bench supported the Bar Association of San Francisco in a variety of ways. Beginning in 1927, undoubtedly in recognition of QB's contributions, BASF President Henry E. Monroe and his successors began specially inviting Queen's Bench members to BASF events and urged their active participation. In 1928, QB led a campaign to raise funds for the BASF library, which was moving to its new location in the Mills Tower. Queen's Bench succeeded in raising \$2,457 for the BASF library—a huge sum of money, considering that yearly dues for Queen's Bench membership was just 50 cents.

The closer association with BASF led to the nomination and election of QB President Esther B. Phillips to the BASF Board of Governors in 1929. Other QB Presidents continued in



Anne McDonald Christensen, 1939  
Queen's Bench  
President

that position for decades to come.

Throughout the 1930's Queen's Bench held regular dinners and luncheons. Some of these events were designed to entertain members of BASF or visiting international dignitaries. For example, in 1939, Queen's Bench played a major role in heading the BASF committee in charge of entertaining lawyers' wives and women lawyers visiting San Francisco for the ABA meeting. In 1945, QB played a prominent role in honoring notable visitors at the United Nations Conference, held in San Francisco that year.

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## QB: The First 25 Years

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Other Queen's Bench dinners and luncheons were designed to provide a forum for intellectual stimulation and discussion for members on topics such as the condition of life in various foreign countries, adoption and the work of children's agencies, the history of the California-Oregon Trail, the benefits of establishing a rapid transit system, the Federal Rules of Procedure, the Fair Labor Standards Act, legal aid programs, pending legislation, and contemporary literature.

The Queen's Bench tradition of holding annual dinners with other women professionals began in the 1930's. Minutes from the June 25, 1936 Queen's Bench Board meeting indicate that QB was to be the "hostess" of that year's dinner of Doctors, Dentists and Lawyers. This tradition expanded and evolved into what is now the annual Queen's Bench LEAADD Dinner, which brings together women from all professions.

Queen's Bench also endeavored to increase the number of women in the workplace in the late 1930's through a radio program providing lectures on vocations for women. The first such program was a skit entitled "So You Are Going To Be A Lawyer."

While it was very difficult for women to achieve prominence in the legal profession in the early decades, some Queen's Bench members made advancements. QB member Mary Wetmore became San Francisco's first woman judge in 1930. She died after a short term on the bench and was succeeded by QB Charter Member Theresa Meikle.

In a 1971 letter to Queen's Bench, 1939 QB President Anne McDonald Christensen comments on Judge Meikle's role as a thought leader for her QB generation. Specifically, Judge Meikle and others urged that "in



*Mary A. Wetmore, 1923  
QB President and first  
woman judge in San  
Francisco*

women's traditional activities: entertaining, social responsibility, child welfare, etc., we should regard ourselves in the feminine sense, but that in professional activities we should forget that we are women and act as gentlemen." Professional recognition was to be "earned and voluntarily granted — and not demanded with self-defeating accusations of discrimination." Christensen comments that "1939 may have been the last year of the age of innocence. The war and its absorption of our energies made it impossible to return to the original format of a dinner-and-luncheon-club-with-speaker."

During World War II, QB members devoted their time and talents to the war cause. Queen's Bench held various parties and events to raise money to purchase seeing eye dogs for injured military men. Some QB members taught air raid warden and first aid classes. Others volunteered to serve three nights per week at the Fourth Fighter Command, served on the Draft Board or the Gas Rationing Board, or volunteered at USO clubs. Judge Meikle was a uniformed member of the Red Cross Motor Corps and a Director of the Red Cross Board. Others volunteered for the Interceptor Command or observation post duties. Twenty QB members made bandages for the Red Cross each week, while others collected books, mufflers, scarves and warm clothes for servicemen. Nearly 20 Queen's Bench members participated in BASF's "GI Legal Aid" radio program.

Just as the start of WWII ended an age of innocence for Queen's Bench, the end of the war marked the beginning of an era of greater independence and activism.



*December 10, 1945 photo from The San Francisco News. The caption notes that seven of the 73 attorneys admitted to practice law in California that day were women. Two of those pictured—Isabel Greiner (2nd from left) and Mary Hennessy (3rd from Left)—later became Queen's Bench presidents.*

# INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## Women in Leadership Visit Queen's Bench

By Sophia Andritsakis

On March 23, 2010, a panel of Queen's Bench Members met with a delegation of African women lawyers and leaders as part of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. The panel included: Sarah King, Queen's Bench President (2011); Honorable Ruth Astle, Queen's Bench Past President (1984); Honorable Lee Baxter, Queen's Bench Past President (1981); Nancy Newman, Queen's Bench Past President (1996); Eliza Rodrigues, Queen's Bench Past President (2003); Melissa Malone, Queen's Bench Legislative Issues Committee Chair; and Sophia Andritsakis, Queen's Bench Business Development Co-Chair

The International Visitor Leadership Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The goals of this program are to explore the role of women as agents of social and political change in America and to document how the concerns of women have increasingly been incorporated into American political discourse; to illustrate the essential role of non-governmental and grassroots organizations in supporting women leaders and empowering women both professionally and personally; and to provide opportunities for participants to share strategies with creative and influential individuals in the United States, such as business and community leaders, women legislators in federal, state, and local government, and women in all levels of decision-making promoting human and civil rights. Hansen Bridget LLP sponsored the venue and refreshments for the meeting with Queen's Bench.

The delegation of African women leaders had a broad range of questions for our members such as:

"What does the Reproductive Rights Committee do? What is their purpose?"

"Why does the Queen's Bench limit membership to lawyers?"

"Does Queen's Bench work with non-lawyers women's groups on issues?"

"In one participant's organization they do not have judges as members because they are a political position, how do our judges participate in our organizations?"

"Do we assist women with court matters who are unable to pay for lawyers and courts expenses?"

"What are the scholarships that Queen's Bench awards, and how are they setup and administered?"

The panelists did an excellent job answering the delegates' questions, which focused on gaining a better understanding of how Queen's Bench members advocate for women both here in the U.S. and abroad. They seemed



most interested in understanding how Queen's Bench members advocate for women with important legal issues like reproductive rights, as well as whether members help women by with providing access to much needed legal representation. Also, the delegates were interested in why Queen's Bench limited its membership to lawyers, and if there was an elitist motive behind that policy. Nancy Newman did an excellent job explaining the history and goals of Queen's Bench, as well as shedding light on the many notable achievements of Queen's Bench and its members.

I know I can speak for everyone present when I say this was a truly wonderful event. It was a pleasure to represent Queen's Bench while participating in such a lively discussion about both legal and non-legal issues affecting women worldwide.

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## **Women in Leadership Visit QB**

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The Delegation included the following participants:

### **Burkina Faso**

#### **Mrs. Haoua DIALLO-NAMONO**

Of Regional Coordinator, Union pour la Renaissance/Parti Sankariste (UNIR/PS) Women

### **Burundi**

#### **Mrs. Godeberthe NDUWIMANA**

Member of Parliament

### **Cameroon**

#### **Ms. Simone Ekanga NKOUANJIO**

Delegate, Community Initiative Group

### **Chad**

#### **Mrs. Ep Adoum OYAL NGARASSAL**

Technical Assistant to the Secretary General of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

### **Cote d'Ivoire**

#### **Mrs. Marguerite Klintio KONE EPSE YOLI BI**

National Coordinator, West African Network for Peacebuilding Cote d'Ivoire (WANEP-CI)

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

#### **Mrs. Rebeca Ebale NGUMA**

Provincial Minister of Gender and Communication

### **Gabon**

#### **Mrs. Seraphine ADA MVE EPOUSE MEMINE ME ZUE**

National Coordinator, Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program

### **Ghana**

#### **Ms. Emma Ekuu Akyineba MORRISON**

General Manager, News Production, TV 3 Network Limited

### **Mali**

#### **Ms. Assitan COULIBALY**

Director of Studies, Centre Awa Keita

### **Mauritania**

#### **Dr. Maimouna Bent Bah OULD MOHAMED CHEIKHOUNA**

Professor, University of Nouakchott

### **Niger**

#### **Mrs. Fatouma Zara ALI ZEINE**

Former Member of Parliament

### **Rwanda**

#### **Mrs. Jeannette UWICYEZA**

Executive Secretary, Gitega Sector

### **Sierra Leone**

#### **Ms. Melrose Jane Abosede DURING**

Councilor, Ward 379

### **Sudan**

#### **Ms. Aisha Hamad Mohammed HUMAD**

Project Officer and Team Leader, Oxfam GB, Port Sudan

### **Swaziland**

#### **Ms. Bahlelsiwe Ngeti LUHLANGA**

Gender Desk Officer, Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organizations (CANGO)

### **Tanzania**

#### **Ms. Susan Anselm Jerome LYIMO**

Member of Parliament and Shadow Minister of Education and Vocational Training

### **Togo**

#### **Ms. Clementine Akoueba Kafui Ryssala MABOUDOU-TCHAO**

Independent Consultant

### **Uganda**

#### **Ms. Florence Achom TUKEI**

Slum and Abused Women Empowerment Coordinator, Come Let's Dance

### **U.S. Mission to the African Union**

#### **Ms. Gloriana IZAKS**

Special Assistant, Office of the Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union Commission

### **Zimbabwe**

#### **Ms. Grace Ruvimbo CHIRENJE**

Executive Director, Zimbabwe Young Women's Network for Peace Building (ZYWNP)



## Queen's Bench New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined between March 7 and April 4, 2011:

- Ellen Bass
- Sharmin Bock  
*DA Alameda County*
- Beverly Brand
- Natalie Chu  
*Law Office of Robert T. Kawamoto*
- Sara Clark  
*Shute Mihaly & Weinberger LLP*
- Georgia Bates Creel
- Jessica Curiale  
*Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy LLP*
- Denise Grab  
*Bingham McCutchen LLP*
- Mikaela Habib  
*Trucker Huss*
- Gwendolyn B. Harre  
*Fiduciary Law Attorneys*
- Danielle Hinton  
*Hanson Bridgett*
- Tina Hsiao
- Mitra Jalali  
*Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights*
- Hon. Kathleen A. Kelly  
*San Francisco Superior Court*
- Emmie Lam
- Colette M. LeBon  
*Morrison & Foerster*
- Vanessa Lichtenberger
- Jubilee Menzies
- Catherine Mongeon
- Jean Roche
- Anna M. Rossi  
*The Law Offices of Anna M. Rossi*
- Emily Schmidt
- Erica M. Schroeder  
*Keys & Fox LLP*
- Michelle Schuller  
*Trucker Huss, APC*
- Priya Palvia Shah  
*Phacil, Inc.*
- Sarah Shekhter
- Stephanie Smeekens
- Alexis A. Sohrakoff  
*Littler Mendelson*
- Lisa Villaseñor  
*Harowitz & Tigerman LLP*
- Emily Wick



## Bay Area premiere of CRIME AFTER CRIME at the San Francisco International Film Festival

A little over a year ago, Queen's Bench hosted a work-in-progress screening of the documentary film *CRIME AFTER CRIME*, about the legal battle waged by two Bay Area attorneys to free Deborah Peagler from prison. Now the film is about to have its Bay Area film festival premiere at the San Francisco International Film Festival.

Filmmaker Yoav Potash and the Bay Area attorneys in the film will participate in a Q&A session after each of the following screenings:

- **Sunday, April 24, 2011** at 6:00 PM — Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, San Francisco
- **Wednesday, April 27, 2011** at 7 PM — Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley
- **Monday, May 2, 2011** at 9 PM — Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, San Francisco

The *Los Angeles Times* calls *CRIME AFTER CRIME* "a must-see film," while The Hollywood Reporter describes it as "a tremendously moving story, strong in social commitment and deftly woven from years of footage." 2011 Sundance

Film Festival premiere; Winner, Council on Foundations Film Award; Winner, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival Audience Award. Official website at: [www.CrimeAfterCrime.com](http://www.CrimeAfterCrime.com), tickets at <http://fest11.sffs.org/index.php>



# Queen's Bench 2011 Board and Officers and New Admittees Honored at Induction Ceremony and Champagne Reception

By Hana Hardy

On March 16, 2011, Queen's Bench hosted a reception and officer and director induction ceremony honoring the State Bar's newest members and the 2011 leadership slate of Queen's Bench. New admittees, Queen's Bench members and judges mingled in the San Francisco Superior Court Rotunda for this evening reception enjoying champagne and other refreshments.

Opening remarks and the welcome address were given by Queen's Bench 2011 2nd Vice President and Ceremony Chair, Lisa Freitas. Following Lisa's introduction, the Honorable Kathryn M. Werdegar, Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court, addressed the group and congratulated the new admittees on their entrance into the practice of law. Justice Werdegar is a third generation San Franciscan, who attended college at the University of California, Berkeley. Thereafter, she went on to study law at Boalt Hall School of Law, where she was the first woman to be elected editor-in-chief of the California Law Review. Following her marriage to husband David Werdegar, Justice Werdegar went on to complete her law degree at George Washington University, where she graduated first in her class. Prior to her elevation to the California Supreme Court from the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco, her career highlights included service with the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. under Attorney General Robert Kennedy where she wrote an amicus brief urging for the release of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Director of the criminal law division of California Continuing Education of the Bar; Senior Staff Attorney with the California Court of Appeal and the California Supreme Court; and Professor and Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Justice Werdegar administered the oath and swore in the incoming slate of 2011 Queen's Bench officers and directors. Following the oath of office, newly-inducted



First Vice President Rebecca Hooley introduced the 2011 Queen's Bench President, Sarah M. King. Sarah took the floor to welcome and congratulate the new admittees and slate of officers and directors. Sarah offered inspiring messages to the group on the practice of law - emphasizing the value and relevance of Queen's Bench

for women in law and the importance of building networks as female attorneys. She further announced that new admittees to the California Bar will receive a complimentary first year Queen's Bench membership. The members of the incoming board were each thanked for their valued leadership.

We welcome and congratulate the newest admittees to the California State Bar and thank the 2011 slate of Queen's Bench leaders for their service to this organization!



## QB Induction Ceremony/Champagne Reception

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## President's Message

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- **Practice Leadership.** Queen's Bench works through various committees to accomplish its mission of promoting the interests of women and children in law and society. The success of these committees is completely dependent upon the leadership and creativity of the members who participate in them. Whether you are interested in legislative issues, business development, work-life balance, domestic violence, or amicus advocacy, the Queen's Bench committees provide a community of like-minded women and a vehicle to develop your leadership skills. Get involved by contacting me or one of the committee chairs—our contact information is listed at the end of every newsletter and on the Queen's Bench web site at [www.queensbench.org](http://www.queensbench.org).
- **Practice Community Service.** Hoping to make a difference in your community? Join the Queen's Bench Juvenile Hall Committee the first and third Wednesday of every month to provide companionship, enrichment activities and mentoring to pre-teen and teenage girls in "lock up." Or join the Scholarship Committee as they review applications and interview potential recipients of the Mildred W. Levin and Agnes O'Brien Smith scholarships for outstanding law students at Hastings College of the Law and University of San Francisco School of Law. Contact me or the Committee Co-Chairs for more information on either of these programs.
- **Find a Mentor, Be a Mentor.** With a 90-year history, Queen's Bench is a unique, multi-generational community of women lawyers. QB's longevity and success is largely attributable to the active presence, support and guidance of its past presidents and leaders. If you'd like to either find a mentor or be a mentor, sign up with the Mentorship Committee, and they will pair you with a member with similar interests. Alternatively, find your own mentors/mentees by attending our Queen's Bench dinners and events.
- **Have Fun, Make Friends.** In the course of attending various Queen's Bench events over the past month, I've had the privilege of speaking with a number of women who join Queen's Bench 30 or more years ago. Strikingly, in separate conversations at different events, each and every one of them discussed the importance of their long-standing Queen's Bench friendships and the fun they've had over the years. Undoubtedly, this is the secret ingredient that has kept Queen's Bench relevant for 90 years.

# Family Law Professionals as Casualties of Their Profession

By Maria A. Yuen, Esq.; Stein Law Group

The remote occurrence of violence against a legal professional occasionally catches our attention, but as we tend to the daily activities our legal practices entail, such violence is not likely on the forefront of our minds.

Judith Soley was a family law attorney in Fresno, California. On February 6, 2011, Soley and her client were gunned down by her client's husband during a recess in the couple's divorce proceeding.<sup>1</sup> Soley's tragic death reminds members of the legal community of the potential dangers inherent in our profession.

Simply type the phrase "violence against attorneys or lawyers" into your Google search engine, and the yield is abundant. Below is a summary of a few cases:

On January 14, 2011, Marin Stroia of Broward County, Florida, walked into a county courthouse through an exit door with a gun pointed at his own chest, ranting about the court's rulings in his divorce and child support case. At the time, Stroia also had a pending domestic violence case for violating a restraining order.<sup>2</sup>

On December 20, 2010, family law attorney Harold F. Johnson of Jackson, Tennessee was notified by police that his client's former husband, Patrick McCollum, had attempted to hire an assault against Johnson. McCollum had solicited an undercover agent with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to break Johnson's wrist, kneecaps, arms, and ribs with a baseball bat.<sup>3</sup>

On July 1, 2008, attorney Xia Zhao of Santa Clara County, California was shot to death by Jason Cai, the defendant in a wrongful death action. In 2003, Santa Clara County prosecutors had charged Cai with murder after his wife, Ying Deng, was found dead in their swimming pool. After a jury acquitted Cai of murder, but hung on whether to convict him of voluntary manslaughter, the Deng family brought a wrongful death action against Cai. Ms. Zhao was one of the attorneys who had represented the Deng family.<sup>4</sup>

On June 12, 2006, a man using a sniper's rifle shot Nevada Family Court Judge Chuck Weller in the chest.

The shooter was upset over Judge Weller's ruling in his divorce case.<sup>5</sup>

On June 15, 2005, Michael L. Bochicchio shot his estranged wife, and wounded her lawyer in the parking lot, next to a state courthouse in Middletown, Connecticut, before a court hearing in their divorce case.<sup>6</sup>

Many legal professionals deem the family law practice more volatile than even criminal practice. Since family law cases often involve domestic violence issues, perhaps this should not be entirely surprising. Generally speaking, domestic violence victims can more readily obtain restraining orders in family courts than through the criminal courts; thus, they often seek help from the family law system first, or instead of the criminal system.

However, cases with documented domestic violence are not the only ones of concern. Parties in marital disputes have highly charged emotional issues at stake (child custody and visitation, personal assets and debts, and money, to name a few), which can push some historically non-violent parties beyond their breaking point.

"Take an ordinary, seemingly grounded person and take his or her children away, and that person may be tempted to hurt the judge or lawyer who made it happen."<sup>7</sup> In an interview regarding threats and violence towards the judiciary, Circuit Court Judge Dana M. Levitz of Baltimore, Maryland, said, "If I had to pick between having security in a criminal case or a domestic case, I'd rather have the sheriff's deputies there in the domestic case."

While there is no established system of reporting violence against the legal profession, a few studies show that substantial violence against the legal community occurs, and family law practitioners are most at risk. In 1997, the American Bar Association conducted an informal survey of its Family Law Section, and found that 60% of the 253 responding attorneys had been threatened by opposing parties, and that 17% had been threatened by their own clients. Moreover, 12% of the responding attorneys were victims of violent acts perpetrated by either a client or an opposing party at least once.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Women Shot To Death At Ducey's Bass Lake Resort," *The Fresno Bee*, February 16, 2011, Marc Benjamin.

<sup>2</sup>"Armed and Distraught Man Gets Into Broward County Courthouse," *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, January 14, 2011, Tonya Alanez and Linda Trischitta.

<sup>3</sup>"Man Hired Assault on Jackson Attorney," *Jackson Crime & Justice Examiner*, January 3, 2011, Robin Stanfill.

<sup>4</sup>"Suspect Held In Connection With Fatal Shooting of Calif. Lawyer," *The Recorder*, July 3, 2008, Evan Hill.

<sup>5</sup>"Nevada Family Court Judge Allegedly Shot Over Divorce Ruling," *abcnews.com*, June 16, 2006, Nancy Weiner.

<sup>6</sup>"Divorce Court Shooting Kills Couple and Wounds Lawyer," *The New York Times*, June 16, 2005, William Yardley and Avi Salzman.

<sup>7</sup>"On Guard: Law As a High-Risk Profession," *Maryland Daily Journal*, Vol. 5, No. 415, November 10, 2005, Carlyn Tamber.

<sup>8</sup>"Violence Against the Utah Legal Profession — a Statewide Survey," *Utah Bar Journal*, August 9, 2006, Stephen D. Kelson.

## Family Law Professionals

Continued from page 8

In 2006, the Utah State Bar conducted a statewide survey of violence against the legal profession. The results show that by percentage, family law attorneys suffer the greatest number of threats and/or violent acts. Of the family law attorneys participating in the survey, 68.7% have received threats and/or were victims of acts of violence committed by clients, opposing parties, interested parties, and even opposing counsel.

In the past decade, efforts have been made across the country to design and construct safer courthouses. For example, many courts have added cameras and metal detectors, and in some, the family law division and the main court are housed separately. However, increased courthouse security protects neither the attorney nor the judge in the parking lot, on the street, in the office, or at home. David Z. Kaufman of Fairfax, Virginia, an attorney and security expert, suggests the following ways to minimize the threat of violence:

- Keep your home address and other personal information private.
- Do not tell your clients when you work from home. Meet clients at a public place, such as a café, library, or rented conference room. Use a mail drop or executive suite, rather than your home address, as your mailing address.
- Use different routes to get to and from work and other regular activities.
- Establish code words with your office mates and

receptionist, to be used to let someone know you are in trouble. For example, if your receptionist calls you and says, "There is someone very important here to see you," this will alert you that someone dangerous is in the office.

Other ways you can protect yourself, your staff, and your family include:

- Have an "escape hatch." Plan a route you can use for a quick exit from your office undetected.
- Restrict access to your office. Give the building security guard the name and physical description of any person you do not want coming to your office.
- Ask a secretary or associate to chaperone meetings with questionable clients.
- Install a panic button in your office.
- Install a home security system.
- If you sense that the opposing party may be volatile, call the court before the hearing, and request that extra bailiffs are present during the hearing. Ask the bailiffs to hold the opposing party in the courtroom for five to ten minutes after the hearing, so that you have time to leave the building.
- Be alert in the courtroom. Pay attention to the personalities in the courtroom. Often, when a person plans to harm, her/his body language reveals such intent.
- If you suspect you are in danger, tell someone. Don't ignore your instincts.

## Past President Kelly Robbins Receives Honor

Kelly J. Robbins, 2008 Queen's Bench Past President, will receive the Alumni of the Year Award from San Francisco State Political Science Department. She is the first woman to receive this honor, and follows Dr. Daniel Mazmanian, Pulitzer prize winner Jose Antonio Vargas, and Jim Wunderman of the Bay Area council. The reception will be on April 20, 2011 from 5:30 to 7:30 at Hanson Bridgett Law Firm. There will be a panel discussion of the "Agony and Ecstasy of a Legal Career" with panelists Hon. Daniel Hanlon (ret.) of the California



Appellate Court (now with JAMS), Hon. John True, of the Alameda County Superior Court, and Eliza Rodrigues, Special Ethics Counsel with Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold, LLP, as well as Kelly Robbins. For further information, please contact Andrea Rouah, Director of Development, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences or Dr. James Martel, Chair, Political Science Department of San Francisco State University, at phone number 415 338-1668

# ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

## Queen's Bench Director Receives Award From Bar Association Of San Francisco

Mary Catherine Wiederhold, a Director on the Queen's Bench Board of Directors and Co-Chair of the Legislative Issues and Reproductive Rights Committee, received the 2010 Housing Justice Award from the Bar Association of San Francisco. A real estate litigator who specializes in residential tenant representation, Mary Catherine received the award from the Presiding Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court, Katherine Feinstein, on March 22.

"She showed exceptional legal acumen and would not give up in seeking justice for her clients," said Cary Gold, head of the BASF's Volunteer Legal Services Program. "I only refer her the exceptionally tough cases and she usually comes through with excellent results for her clients." "I am honored by the Bar Association's award," said Mary Catherine Wiederhold. "I believe in giving back to the community by taking pro bono cases."



## Queen's Bench Is Gearing Up for Its 90th Anniversary!

In anticipation of Queen's Bench turning 90 this year, the History Committee is asking members to look through their files and find any historical Queen's Bench documents they may have. We are particularly looking for pictures, amicus briefs, newsletters from before 1996, meeting minutes, corporate records, and event programs. Documents may be submitted to Annie O'Donnell at Hedani, Choy, Spalding & Salvagione, LLP, 595 Market Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco, CA 94105, or any electronic documents to [aodonnell@hedanichoy.com](mailto:aodonnell@hedanichoy.com). Thank you so much for your assistance!

## Join the Queen's Bench Employment/Work-Life Committee's LinkedIn Group!

We will be posting employment opportunities as well as information on a variety of work-life and glass ceiling issues. This forum is a great place to share questions, concerns, and ideas on successfully integrating work and life, pursuing leadership and career opportunities, managing stress, and other topics. Add your voice to the discussion and become a group member. To join, please click on the following link and indicate that you are an active QB member.

[www.linkedin.com/groupRegistration?gid=3792878&csrfToken=ajax%3A3023360612080268119](http://www.linkedin.com/groupRegistration?gid=3792878&csrfToken=ajax%3A3023360612080268119)

## April 11, 2011: Celebration of the Life of Judge Isabella Horton Grant

Queen's Bench members are invited to a Celebration of the Life of Judge Isabella Horton Grant.

**WHEN:** 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., Monday April 11

**WHERE:** Green Room of the War Memorial Veteran's Building, San Francisco

**GETTING THERE:** [http://sfwmpac.org/greenroom/gr\\_index.html](http://sfwmpac.org/greenroom/gr_index.html). Click on "Directions and Parking" in upper right-hand corner of page.

## April 28, 2011: Cocktails and Couture

The Fifth Annual "Cocktails And Couture" is taking place on April 28, 2011 at Heritage Row, a great little boutique located at 2176 Chestnut Street at 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! Drinks and appetizers will be served. A \$10 donation at the door is suggested to support Queen's Bench 2011 activities. See [flyer](#) for details.

## QUEEN'S BENCH NEWSLETTER

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# 2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## April

- 5** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Fenwick and West LLP
- 6** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center
- 7** **Presentation on Clara Foltz**  
12:00 p.m.  
Sedgwick LLP, One Market Plaza, Steuart Tower  
*See flyer.*
- 11** **Celebration of the Life of Judge Isabella Horton Grant**  
5:30-8:00 p.m.  
Green Room of the War Memorial Veteran's Building, San Francisco
- 9** **QB Board Retreat**  
9:00 a.m.  
Tiburon
- 20** **Juvenile Hall Project**  
7:00 p.m.  
Youth Guidance Center

- 26** **Business Development Committee**  
6:00 p.m.  
Mergis Group  
475 Sansome St., Ste. 520

- 28** **Cocktails & Couture**  
6:00 p.m.  
Heritage Row, 2176 Chestnut Street  
*See flyer.*

## May

- 3** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Fenwick and West LLP

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

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

- 31** **Business Development Committee**  
6:00 p.m.  
Mergis Group



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