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Summer 1998 SBWL Newsletter

President's Message - Renee J. Nordstrand

As many of you may be aware, Janet Vining Mitchell was involved in a troubling incident in January of this year whereby she was injured as a result of a violent attack. The attack took place in the Nordstrom's parking lot on Cannon Perdido at 5:45 p.m. Janet is recovering remarkably well and thanks everyone for the support and assistance extended during this difficult time. We wish her a speedy recovery and send our best wishes.

In reflecting on this recent attack against Janet I am reminded of the recurrent violence against even the most able bodied, strong women in our society. This event reaffirms the importance of SBWL's commitment to Shelter Services for Women and SBWL's continued support of the ongoing legislative and educational efforts by California Women Lawyers to protect and empower women. Let this incident remind all of us to take safety precautions and always be aware of our environment, even in a seemingly safe situation.

On a lighter note, I want to provide an update of some the Board's recent activities and programs.

The results of the Santa Barbara - Ventura County Compensation Survey have been tabulated and a report of the results should be completed shortly. Professor William Bielby, the statistician who conducted the survey, presented the results of his analysis at our March dinner program. The results are posted on SBWL's website. As a benefit of membership, SBWL will be offering websites to our members for a fee of \$275 per year.

This year's programs committee has been hard at work. They have resumed noon-time lunch meetings. If lunch meetings are well attended SBWL will continue to provide them at that time. With regard to dinner meetings, I have often heard many of our members mention that they are unable to attend due to childcare problems. In an effort to better accommodate our membership we are currently looking at options to provide childcare at our meeting.

Reflecting on the work of the Board of Directors in the last 5 months, I am very proud of the cohesiveness, enthusiasm, and dedication of each and every board member in effectively carrying forward the ideals and goals of SBWL.

If you have any comments or questions please feel free to contact me directly by phone at 962-2022, by Email at nordlaw@silcom.com or by mail at SBWL PO Box 20276 Santa Barbara, CA 93120.

Renee Nordstrand

SUSAN TRESCHER RECEIVES SECOND ANNUAL SBWL ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD

By Sydney Minnerly, Chair, SBWL Professional Advancement Committee

On March 25, Santa Barbara Women Lawyers conferred its Second Annual Attorney of the Year Award upon Susan Trescher for her perseverance in blazing the trail for women law students and attorneys, her persistence in the face of continuing challenges to be an active participant and leader in the legal community, her dedication to public and community service, and her achievement of professional excellence. Susan, a 1955 graduate of Harvard Law School, has practiced law in Santa Barbara since 1964.

SBWL President Renee Nordstrand noted, in presenting the award, that upon graduation, Sue had no problem getting job interviews. In fact, out of 150 applications, she had 125 interviews. During the interviews Sue observed that as a woman lawyer, she was an anomaly. In the 1950s there were no laws against discrimination, so the interviewers were frank about their reasons for not hiring her.

The reasons they gave would add up to an employment lawyer's dream case today. The State Attorney General told Sue, "We already have two females and that's enough." She also was told, "We don't employ female attorneys because our clients would not accept women as competent," and "We don't want to waste time training you because you will get married and leave."

In 1956, she clerked for a federal judge, who was hesitant to hire her because he had never worked with a female law clerk before. She later worked at Columbia Pictures. When she saw an opportunity for advancement there, she applied for another position but was told they wouldn't hire her because it wasn't right to expose her to the "foul language" used in production.

She tried private practice before taking a job in 1964 with the Santa Barbara County Counsel's Office, becoming, at that time, its only woman lawyer. There had previously been only two other female attorneys employed by the county, when many of the men were away in World War II. Sue remained with that office for eighteen years and became one of its most prominent attorneys. In 1982, she resumed private practice. Her areas of specialty include environmental, real property and government law.

Congratulations, Susan!

REPORT BY CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS DISTRICT SIX GOVERNOR

By Sydney A. Minnerly, SBWL Board Member and CWL District 6 Governor

Since my last report, CWL has been busy with its usual agenda of lobbying, supporting qualified women for the bench, developing and conducting seminars, and coordinating with its affiliates. If that weren't enough, the organization has also embarked upon an extensive fund-raising campaign to ensure its continued vitality. Following are highlights:

Legislative Issues - Anita Miller, Executive Director and Lobbyist for CWL, continues her tireless efforts in the corridors of the Capitol Building.

CWL-Affiliate Connections: As I mentioned in my October 1997 report, CWL President Grace Emery announced her goal of visiting each of the CWL affiliates during her one-year presidential term. Those of you who read the CWL Spring Newsletter saw that she has covered a lot of ground in pursuing that goal. Plans are in the works for Grace to visit SBWL in July or September.

Special Events - CWL has for several months been planning a Business Development Seminar, which will provide us information and skill-building workshops on marketing our law practices. The first seminar will take place in San Francisco on October 23, 1998; the second will take place in Los Angeles on November 6, 1998. From the report that I heard from the organizing committee at the Board of Governor's meeting in May, the seminar will be extremely valuable to all of us. A brochure detailing the program will be available in the next month or so. In the meantime, mark your calendars now!

A reception in conjunction with the California Judges' Association conference will take place on September 10 at the Grand Hyatt Union Square in San Francisco. The theme will be Independence of the Judiciary. CWL is co-sponsoring the reception with the National Association of Women Judges (California-Nevada Section). CWL's incoming officers and directors will be installed at the reception. Anyone who is interested in carpooling to this event should contact me.

CWL Executive Director, Anita Miller, attended the ABA mid-year meeting in Nashville in early 1998. All three of the national women attorney's groups were represented there. Those groups are the National Association of Women Lawyers, whose membership includes organizations such as CWL, and individual women lawyers; the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations; and the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession. Women lawyers participated in all aspects of the ABA conference; the presence of the three national women attorney's groups also served as an onsite "women's caucus" to respond as necessary to issues that arose during the ABA conference.

CWL sponsored another of its periodic workshops entitled "So, You Want To Be A Judge" in San Rafael in February. I am hopeful that a workshop will be held somewhere in Southern California in the near future. (SBWL has submitted a formal request to CWL to schedule a similar workshop in Santa Barbara.) The primary difficulty in arranging such workshops is coordination with the schedule of John Davies, the Governor's Appointments Secretary. I will keep you informed.

Judicial Candidates - On February 11, the United States Senate confirmed Margaret Morrow as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Central District of California. Judge Morrow's confirmation process extended more than six hundred days after President Clinton nominated her. The confirmation lagged, in part, due to opposition from the conservative right. CWL along with thirty-eight organizations from the Judicial Selection Coalition signed a letter to the Senate Majority Leader supporting the Morrow confirmation. SBWL was one of a dozen affiliates that officially endorsed the letter.

Fund Raising - CWL's fundraising activities are occurring on several fronts including (1) a membership drive, (2) soliciting sponsors for and advertisements in the quarterly newsletter,

and (3) solicitation of underwriters for CWL events such as the "So, You Want To Be A Judge" program, the newly-developed domestic violence seminar, and the upcoming business development seminars discussed above.

CWL plays a unique role as the only statewide women's organization that promotes the interests of women attorneys. This is especially the case now that the State Bar has lost so much funding. Here is what you can do:

Join CWL if you have not yet done so. (Members of affiliates receive a 33% discount on CWL dues. Your CWL membership benefits SBWL too; if 20% of SBWL's members join CWL, SBWL can send a voting representative to CWL's Board.) If you are a member, send an extra contribution or recruit a new member: Attend CWL's seminars and events. Advertise in CWL's newsletter.

Contact me for details at (805) 962-7988 (voice) or (805) 962- 6748 (facsimile).
LET'S ALL DO WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP CWL THRIVING!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

[The following summary draws largely from the "Legis-Letter," which Anita Miller, CWL's lobbyist, issues monthly. SBWL thanks Anita for permission to use her informative and thorough reports.]

CWL's 1998 legislative program continues its focus on choice, domestic violence, gender discrimination, sexual harassment, abuse, battered women's syndrome, and health-care access. CWL's recent lobbying efforts have targeted choice issues, given that eleven anti-choice bills have been heard in committee. As of April 30, 1998, each bill has failed. According to Anita Miller, however, the battle has not ended on this front. Anti-choice advocates will very likely insert anti-choice riders onto other legislation, e.g. budget bills.

1998 is an election year. (Eighty members of the assembly, twenty state senators, fifty-two California members of the House of Representatives, and one California U.S. Senator are up for election.) Thus, all political activity on legislation will be driven by the candidates' election agendas.

Noteworthy proposed federal legislation: A bill making it a federal crime to transport a minor across state lines for an abortion is pending in the Senate. CWL wrote to Sen. Dianne Feinstein requesting that she raise particular issues at the informational (i.e., non-voting) hearing held on May 20.

A bill that would amend the Bankruptcy Code to make non-dischargeable credit card debt incurred within ninety days of the filing of a Chapter 7 proceeding is scheduled for mark-up in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill would also expand non-dischargeable debts in Chapter 13 proceedings. CWL has voiced its opposition to the bill to Sen. Feinstein, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. CWL's primary concern is that, if enacted, the new provisions would make it more difficult for single parents (largely women) to collect

child support arrearage because they would be competing with credit card issuers for the former spouse's earnings and assets.

CWL continues to solicit each affiliate's legislative priority issues. Please let me know if you would like to take part in CWL's legislative network. It is an excellent opportunity to keep up-to-date on legislation of interest to SBWL, and on CWL's lobbying efforts.

By Sydney A. Minnerly, SBWL Board Member and CWL District 6 Governor, 962-7988 (voice); 962-6748 (facsimile).

NOMINATION OF NEW DIRECTORS

SBWL is in the process of nominating and electing new directors for the SBWL Board. A nominating committee has been selected. The committee would invite all members to submit to the nominating committee the names of any candidates. The nominations should be submitted to any committee member by June 15th.

The committee members are:

Chair: Jill Friedman 569-0927; Fax 569-1185
Erin Parks 899-7717; Fax 899-7721
Janean Acevedo Daniels 963-1202; Fax 564-2081
Colleen K. Sterne 963-0484; Fax 962-7223
Barbara Olsen 899-1556; Fax 899-1558
James Herman 963-9721; Fax 966-3715
Sue Trescher 569-3707; Fax 687-4653
Vicki Johnson 568-2331; Fax 568-2867
Kathryn Eden Smith 899-1234; Fax 882-9195

DIRECTOR PROFILE: CATHERINE SWYSEN

Catherine Swysen brings intelligence, energy and a passion for women's issues to the Board of SBWL. Originally from Belgium, where she taught history for a short time, Catherine came to the United States in 1986. She became interested in pursuing a legal career while working on a project sponsored by the ACLU representing Cubans in immigration hearings at the federal prison in Lompoc. It was after this experience that Catherine decided to go to law school attending the Santa Barbara College of Law.

Practicing, since 1994, in the areas of criminal law, civil rights litigation, police misconduct cases, and various types of discrimination, Catherine shows passion, excitement and commitment to her practice that is infectious when you speak to her. She is especially passionate when she talks about her commitment to abolishing the death penalty. She was formerly on the board of an organization called Death Penalty Focus. This is a statewide group dedicated to educating people about this issue. Catherine hopes to see the death penalty abolished in her lifetime.

Catherine, who maintains a busy law practice with her husband Robert Sanger, still manages to find time to be an active participant in many organizations. She is a member of the ACLU and California Attorneys for Criminal Justice and a past member of the Santa Barbara Inns of Court. She is currently on the Board of the Women's Political Committee, where she serves as treasure and is co-chair of the local Criminal Defense Bar.

Catherine and has two children, a daughter Sarah, age 4 1/2 and a son Paul age 14, a freshman at San Marcos High School. Should she have any free time, she enjoys, in addition to spending time with her children, gardening cooking and baking pastries.

SBWL TO LAUNCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

At its May meeting, the Board of Directors of SBWL approved the final details necessary to institute a scholarship program. The scholarship, will be awarded to a woman law student, based on consideration of the following guidelines: financial need, academic achievement, career goals, leadership potential, extracurricular activities, ethnic and cultural diversity, residence in Santa Barbara County at the time of application, and special circumstances (for example, re-entry into the work force or single parenthood).

The Professional Advancement Committee will do the legwork to set up the scholarship program. Required tasks include fund raising, designing the application package and evaluating applications. Should you wish to become involved in developing this exciting new program, please contact Sydney Minnerly, Chair of the Professional Advancement Committee, at 962-7988 (voice) or 962-6748 (facsimile).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1998 Conference on Business Development for Women Lawyers

On October 23, 1998 in San Francisco and November 6, 1998 in Los Angeles, California Women Lawyers presents the 1998 Conference on Business Development for Women Lawyers. The Conference begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. The titles of the workshops are as follows: Women to Women Marketing-Does it Matter?, Getting Ready to Market, Developing Your Own Marketing Plan, What Works and What Doesn't-The Top 10 Do's and Don'ts of Client Development, and The Effectiveness of Women as Marketers-the In-House Perspective. For detailed information and/or a registration form, contact CWL at (916) 441-3703.

Seminar: Enforcing Intellectual Property Rights at the Border

On Wednesday, October 28, 1998, Debra Peterson, and International Trade Specialist from the Los Angeles Strategic Trade Center, and private practitioner William Rooklidge will be presenting a lunch seminar at Baccio's in Santa Barbara on "Enforcing Intellectual Property Rights at the Border." For detailed information and/or a registration form, contact Darla R. Anderson at (805) 962-0083.

CLASSIFIED SECTION - For the Legal Community

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

UC Davis Tenure Track / Junior Track Positions (Posted 10/16/98)

The University of California Davis School of Law is seeking applications for three or more tenure-track or junior-tenure positions. UC Davis is an affirmative action/ equal opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity among its faculty and staff. For one position, applicants should have a special interest in intellectual property, law and technology, health law, and law and computers. For two positions, applicants should have a special interest in teaching first year courses, such as lawyering skills and clinical programs, commercial law, law and economics, family law, marital property, and remedies. To apply: send a resume to Floyd Feeney, Chair, Faculty Appointments Committee, School of Law, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

Intake Attorney \$4,587 - \$5,574 (posted 10/21/98)

The California Commission on Judicial Performance in San Francisco, an independent state agency responsible for investigating complaints of judicial misconduct, is accepting applications for an intake attorney. The intake attorney reviews and evaluates incoming complaints against California judges and performs legal and factual research if necessary. Requirements: California State Bar membership, two years post-bar experience, analytical & writing skills, and mature and sound judgment. Desired Qualifications: courtroom experience in civil or criminal practice and judicial clerkship To apply: submit application with cover letter and resume to: Commission on Judicial Performance, 101 Howard Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105.

To post announcements and classifieds, contact Darla Anderson at drae@silcom.com.