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NOMINATION FOR THE NCWBA PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD 2012

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

California Women Lawyers (CWL) nominates jointly CWL, Queen's Bench of the San Francisco Bay Area, and National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), all of whom are co-presenters and co-sponsors of "The San Francisco Color of Justice Program," for the NCWBA Public Service Award for 2012.

The San Francisco Color of Justice Program

The San Francisco Color of Justice Program co-presented and co-sponsored by CWL, Queen's Bench and NAWJ, encourages inner-city minority and underprivileged students at San Francisco high schools to consider careers in law as attorneys and judges. The program focuses on career preparation, panel discussions with judges and lawyers sharing personal and professional insights, a mock argument, and small group discussions during box luncheons, and concludes with the awarding of certificates of completion. The program provides an opportunity for minority and underprivileged students to listen to panels of distinguished judges from the California Supreme Court and Superior Courts, diverse and successful lawyers of color, and hear oral argument on a legal issue of interest to high school age students.

California Women Lawyers (CWL)

California Women Lawyers (CWL) was founded in 1974 as a grass roots organization "to advance women in the profession of law; to improve the administration of justice; to better the position of women in society; to eliminate all inequalities based on sex; and to provide an organization for collective action and expression germane to the aforesaid purposes." These important goals remain the focus of CWL today.

CWL is the only statewide bar association which serves as the voice for women lawyers in California. CWL members are ethnically, politically, and geographically diverse, with differing lifestyles, backgrounds, and areas of practice. These many voices, however, share common interests. It is these shared interests and resulting sense of purpose which connect the voices of CWL members in a common bond.

CWL, with a statewide focus and headquarters in Sacramento, the capital of

Affiliates: Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles · Fresno County Women Lawyers · Kern County Women Lawyers Association · Lawyers Club of San Diego · Monterey County Women Lawyers · Napa County Women Lawyers · Orange County Women Lawyers · Queen's Bench · Santa Barbara Women Lawyers · Ventura County Women Lawyers · Women Lawyers Section of Santa Clara Bar Association · Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles · Women Lawyers Association of San Luis Obispo County · Women Lawyers of Alameda County · Women Lawyers of Long Beach · Women Lawyers of Sacramento · Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz County · Contra Costa County Bar Association, Women's Section

California, has developed and implemented an advocacy agenda. CWL lobbies for and supports legislation, including resolutions to the State Bar of California, which support and raise the status of women and children in society. CWL's lobbying, coupled with CWL's joining with numerous other specialty bar groups throughout the state who are also committed to diversity in the judiciary, has resulted in increased diversity of the judicial applicant pool in California. CWL provides education and mentoring through its various programs, such as *So You Want to be a Judge?* © (recipient of the distinguished NCWBA Outstanding Member Program Award in 2009).

CWL celebrates the richness and diversity of our profession and holds annual events and awards to honor those pioneers in the judiciary and as lawyers in the profession and society. CWL continues its tradition of sponsoring events to help women gain the skills and knowledge to enable them to advance in the profession.

CWL represents over 10,000 women lawyers, judges and law students through its many affiliate women's bar associations, such as the Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara Women Lawyers, Women Lawyers of Sacramento and Napa County Women Lawyers, to name a few.

Queen's Bench

Queen's Bench Bar Association of the San Francisco Bay Area was formed in 1921 by a group of women lawyers frustrated by the resistance of male lawyers to their participation in the local bar association. Today, Queen's Bench continues to advance the interests of women in law and society, and plays an integral part in furthering the progress of women in the legal profession. We are a non-profit voluntary membership organization made up of attorneys, judges and law students. Queens Bench members gain inspiration from its long and proud tradition of women lawyers standing up for equal rights and equal opportunity, and working together to achieve its goals.

Queen's Bench achieves its objectives by coordinating multiple gatherings for its members and guests each year. The Queens Bench annual Judges' Dinner is attended by several hundred of the most active and committed members of the local legal community, members of the California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal, fifty to sixty trial court judges, as well as those holding political offices on the state and local level.

Queens Bench also holds an annual dinner bringing together women across professional disciplines. This dinner is known as the "LEAADD" dinner (LEAADD stands for Lawyers, Engineer, Accountants, Architects, Doctors and Dentists). Throughout the years, the LEAADD annual dinners have featured outstanding speakers who have addressed topics of current interest to women.

Additionally, Queen's Bench members have opportunities to join or lead our committees, plan and/or attend events and MCLE classes, join a mentorship group, network with other

women lawyers and professionals in the Bay Area, and increase their leadership and business development skills.

Queen's Bench has a current membership of 337.

National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ)

In 1979, two women judges in California decided that women on the bench needed a support system. They recognized how isolated women in this profession were. Justice Joan Dempsey Klein (also a founding member of CWL which annually presents the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award to a women judge of distinction in Southern California) and Justice Vaino Spencer invited all of the women judges in America to come meet in California and told them to bring their robes. Over 100 women came and while gathered, they posed together for a picture with their robes on. It was at this first meeting that the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) was formed. These women decided to continue meeting and to work together to improve the justice system, and have grown to a membership of 1,250 judicial officers.

NAWJ was dedicated to the following ideals: 1) Ensuring equal justice and access to the courts for all including women, youth, the elderly, minorities, the underprivileged, and people with disabilities; 2) providing judicial education on cutting-edge issues of importance; 3) developing judicial leaders; 4) increasing the number of women on the bench in order for the judiciary to more accurately reflect the role of women in a democratic society; and, 5) improving the administration of justice to provide gender-fair decisions for both male and female litigants.

NAWJ has taken public positions, where ethically permissible and appropriate, on matters of significance to women and other vulnerable groups in the justice system. NAWJ has expressed opposition to federal legislation to split the Ninth Circuit; engaged in successful efforts to nationally mobilize opposition by civil rights and legal services groups and specialty bars to proposed amendments in the Final Draft Report of the American Bar Association (ABA) Joint Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct that would have effectively precluded judicial participation in the events of such organizations; supported federal and state legislation relating to conditions of confinement and merit time eligibility for incarcerated domestic violence victims and others; and co-sponsored ABA Resolutions relating to expansion of pro bono service by attorneys and advancement of minorities in the legal profession.

NAWJ has a wide range of judicial education programs. These have included numerous presentations of the *Genome Justice* program, focusing on the legal implications for women and other vulnerable populations of new genetic advances and intensified scientific exploration of the human genome; programs on the collateral impact of criminal convictions and sentencing on the immigration status of criminal defendants; presentations on the application of international law in domestic American courts and on the impact of the recent federal decision invalidating New York's process for selection of Supreme Court justices; ongoing initiatives to maximize the chances for success of

incarcerated mothers as they traverse reentry into the community; and upcoming programs on issues of particular interest to federal district court judges and bankruptcy judges.

NAWJ is also a leader in efforts to foster the leadership of women judges across the world, and was instrumental in the formation of the International Association of Women Judges, of which all NAWJ participants are members. Additionally, in the context of the programs, NAWJ awards dozens of scholarships to law students with a demonstrated commitment to equality of access and opportunity in the justice system.

NAWJ has a current membership of 1,250.

NARRATIVE

History of The San Francisco Color of Justice Program

The San Francisco Color of Justice Program was founded by the Hon. Charlene Padovani Kiesselbach of the San Francisco Superior Court in 2004. When Judge Kiesselbach founded the program, it was the only one of its kind in California. Because of the success of the program, others have sought guidance from Judge Kiesselbach about presenting the program in their counties. Today, the program is presented as far south in California as San Diego County, and up north in Contra Costa County and San Francisco County. The San Francisco Color of Justice Program is its own unique program, and was originally and uniquely crafted out of the NAWJ “Color of Justice” program launched in 2001.

In 2004, Judge Kiesselbach approached the President of the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF), Jeff Bleich, asking for BASF to get involved. Originally, the program was co-sponsored by BASF and local law firms, with assistance of staff at the bar association and the law firms. Each year, Judge Kiesselbach restarted and refined the program. In some years, Judge Kiesselbach presented the program all on her own. In 2010 and 2011, the Hon. Suzanne Ramos Bolanos of the San Francisco Superior Court, assisted Judge Kiesselbach with the presentation of The San Francisco Color of Justice Program. Because of its huge success and the increasing number of high school students participating in the program, Judge Kiesselbach formed an “organizing committee” in 2011. The Organizing Committee today includes Judges Kiesselbach and Bolanos, Golden Gate University School of Law Dean Drucilla Stender Ramey (former Executive Director of the NAWJ and a founding member of CWL), CWL Past President Carol Copsey, CWL 2011-2012 President-Elect Eliza Rodrigues, Queen’s Bench CWL Affiliate Governor and Queen’s Bench Past President Kelly Robbins, and Queen’s Bench Past President Ameer Mikacich.

Judge Kiesselbach expanded and enriched the NAWJ program by adding a mock argument and case study. Judge Kiesselbach felt that the mock argument and case study would add a realistic dimension to the program and make it more exciting for the high school age students. Prior to the program in 2011, Judge Kiesselbach held the programs in a courtroom at the San Francisco Superior Court, which is different from other programs. Because of the increased number of high school students participating in the program in 2011, the program was held in a very large auditorium at a State of California building in San Francisco. Also, Judge Kiesselbach determined to present the program to third year inner city high school students – other programs select students differently.

The Organizing Committee seeks judges and lawyers to participate on the panels and mock argument, communicates and coordinates with the high school teachers, prepares case summaries, program agendas, press releases and news articles, seeks monetary contributions from CWL, Queen’s Bench and local law firms, organizes box luncheons for the students and presenters, participates as panel moderators and leads box luncheon discussions.

Overview

The San Francisco Color of Justice Program begins with the creation of an organizing committee. The organizing committee consists of two local women judges, and members of CWL, Queen's Bench and NAWJ. The committee first chooses a date for the half-day program and checks availability of the courtroom or other large auditorium. The committee creates two panels of presenters:

- 1) Judges' panel: the Judges' panel consists of four diverse members of the California Supreme Court and Superior Court, some of which are members of NAWJ; and a judge serves as the moderator.
- 2) Attorneys' panel: the Attorney's panel consists of four diverse attorneys from large and small firms, with an attorney serving as the moderator.

Each of the moderators organizes a conference call with all of the participants to prepare for the presentation. The moderator serves as the lead organizer for the panels.

The committee communicates with the high school teacher in charge of the program at the local inner-city high school to confirm availability for the date selected.

The Presiding Judge of San Francisco Superior Court is invited to give welcome remarks and talk about the workings of the Superior Court.

The organizing committee invites a prosecutor and defense attorney to present a mock argument. The San Francisco Color of Justice Program uses *In re D.C.*, First Appellate District of CA, Alameda County Superior Court No. SJ08010703-02, as the topic of the mock argument. In *In re D.C.*, the issues involve search and seizure when a police probation search of an apartment relating to the older brother who is suspected of being involved in local crimes, results in the police finding stolen goods in the younger brother's room. The mother gave her consent to the police to search the apartment. The mock argument is a Motion to Suppress Evidence. The organizing committee determined that the facts in this case would be interesting to high school students.

The organizing committee recruits other attorneys and law students to attend the program, and participate as box luncheon discussion leaders.

The organizing committee prepares the following handouts: Program Agenda, Case Summary with proposed Discussion Questions, copies of the *In re D.C.* opinion, gift bags (items may include notebooks, pens, hats) and NAWJ Certificates of Completion for each participating student. The organizing committee arranges for box lunches to be provided.

The organizing committee invites members of the press and prepares a Press Release. The high school obtains consent from the parents of the students to take photographs and video of the program in advance.

The San Francisco Color of Justice Program begins at 9 am with the Introduction and Welcoming Remarks from Judge Kiesselbach and the Presiding Judge of San Francisco Superior Court.

The Attorney Panel – A Career in Law begins at 9:15 am. The panelists discuss their career path, law school experience, how they overcame diversity, and encourage students to choose a career in law. The panel concludes at 10 am and then there is a fifteen minute break.

The Judges Panel – A View from the Bench begins at 10:15. The panelists discuss their career path, law school experience, how they became a judge, how they overcame diversity, and encourage students to choose a career on the bench. The panel concludes at 11 am.

The Enactment of Legal Proceeding (mock argument) begins at 11 a.m. The defense attorney argues in favor of the Motion to Suppress Evidence based on the allegedly illegal search and seizure. The prosecuting attorney opposes the Motion. The mock argument is presented for thirty minutes and is held before lunch as it provides for great discussion and debate by the luncheon discussion leaders and participating students.

Leveling with the Bench and Bar - Box Luncheon Discussion begins at 11:30 a.m. The students are divided into small groups of approximately 10 students. Each group has a discussion leader who is an attorney from the organizing committee or another participating attorney or a law student. The small groups are all guided into separate rooms for lunch and discussion. The small groups discuss what they have learned from the judges and attorneys, the search and seizure issues from the mock argument, and careers in law.

Awarding of the Certificate of Completion and gift bags begin begins at noon. All of the small groups gather together again in the courtroom or large auditorium. Judge Kiesselbach welcomes everyone back and thanks them for their attendance and participation. Judges Kiesselbach and Bolanos, members of the organizing committee and the high school teacher call the students by name to the front of the room and distribute personalized NAWJ Certificates of Completion and gift bags.

The San Francisco Color of Justice Program concludes at noon. The high school students return to their classrooms for further discussion.

Through the generous support of CWL, Queen's Bench, NAWJ, attorney members of the organizing committee and their law firms, the cost of the substitute teachers for the San Francisco Unified School District, the box lunches, gift bags, and copies of the Program Agenda, and other handouts are covered.

Following the program, a member of the organizing committee prepares an article for the bar associations' newsletters and other publications, along with photos.

Members of the organizing committee communicate the committee's appreciation to all of the judges, lawyers, law students and supporting law firms for their support in making The San Francisco Color of Justice Program a huge success.

Lastly, the high school teacher provides feedback from the students. The San Francisco Color of Justice Program has consistently received extremely positive feedback and appreciation from the high school teachers and students. The program is an all-around positive experience for everyone involved.

Number of women attorneys involved

Each year, there are approximately fifteen women attorneys involved in the organizing committee, panel presentations, mock argument and leading box luncheon discussions.

Project Impact

The San Francisco Color of Justice Program has been well received by the inner-city high school students and teachers. As The Recorder and law.com video and news article indicate, the program impacts the way students think about the law and causes them to think about careers they may not have thought were ever attainable for them. Many of the students are immigrants and English is a second language for them. With Judge Kiesselbach's brilliant addition of the case study and mock argument, the high school students learn more about the legal process and judiciary branch of the government, all of which is discussed further in their high school classroom following their day in court. Not only does the program have an amazing impact on the inner-city high school students and teachers, but it also provides an opportunity for lawyers and judges to give back to the community.

CWL, Queen's Bench and NAWJ have worked together for years to ensure that the high school students will be touched and encouraged at the end of the day. CWL, Queen's Bench and NAWJ not only provide monetary or in-kind support, but also provide support through the work of its members who serve on the Organizing Committee each year volunteering their time and other resources. The joint efforts of each of these women bar associations continue to make The San Francisco Color of Justice Program a unique and rewarding public service to the inner-city high school students in San Francisco.

We thank you for your consideration for the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations' Public Service Award for 2012.