

THE VOICE

OF

KING COUNTY WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYERS

SPECIAL EDITION: PRO BONO

SUMMER EDITION, JULY/AUGUST 2007

VOLUNTEERING MADE EASY THROUGH THE KING COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

The work is practically done for you. Cathie Caldwell with the King County Bar Association's Neighborhood Legal Services provides the backbone for one of our communities most important legal pro bono programs. Cathie, with the help of only one assistant and a volunteer paralegal, recruits, trains, retains and recognizes the nearly 600 volunteers working in the 27 neighborhood legal clinics in King County. Cathie has been the program manager for the last seven years and handles all the logistical and administrative responsibilities with running the clinic and ensuring they are staffed. She also organizes volunteer training sessions and CLEs. The Neighborhood Legal Clinics were founded in 1974 by the Young Lawyers Division.

It takes a volunteer to organize a volunteer. Cathie's success in running the program stems from years of advocacy and volunteerism. She has volunteered with domestic violence survivors through The Salvation Army's Catherine Booth

House and New Beginnings. She has also taken advantage of opportunities through Catholic Community Services and its program assisting the elderly. Cathie runs the program knowing how meaningful legal advocacy is to our community and how to best operationalize it. While there has been some expansion in the program – the Civil Rights Legal Clinic was the most recent one added – she is dedicated to finding ways to continually improve existing clinics and their quality. One focus has been on better preparing clients for their visits and providing additional training and CLEs for the volunteer attorneys.

What can you do? Volunteer. In the clinics, the biggest needs in the community currently can be met by experienced family law attorneys and bankruptcy practitioners. The clinics are invaluable and provide clients with 30 minutes of free legal advice and referrals. But often their legal issues need further representation and more attorneys are needed to take on cases. Cathie stresses

that while “the clinics are a tremendous resource to the community and are a great gateway to accessing other legal services, the need for attorneys to take on cases is on the rise.” The continual erosion in funding for traditional legal services has created a need for more volunteers. Often taking a case involves a small amount of time but

makes a huge impact on the clients who need help. For example, housing cases and wage disputes often involve letter writing, negotiations, or a brief court appearance.

Next Steps. The King County Bar Association's website will help you navigate the various opportunities available and you

(Continued on page 6)

INSIDE THIS SPECIAL EDITION:

ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS THROUGH PRO BONO	2
LETTER FROM THE EDITORS	3
WHY WOMEN LAWYERS VOLUNTEER	4
2007 JUDICIAL APPRECIATION AND HONORS LUNCHEON	5
WOMEN AND THE WAR IN IRAQ CLE AND SYMPOSIUM	6
U.S. JUSTICE SYSTEM FAILS TO PROTECT NATIVE AND ALASKAN WOMEN	8
ASSISTING SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	9
PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE WSBA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION	10
KCWWL CALENDAR	12

ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS THROUGH PRO BONO

"Can I get a show of hands of how many of you are breast cancer survivors?" one of the presenters asked at the June 28, 2007, Breast Cancer Legal Issues Continuing Legal Education and Training seminar. Instantaneously, a scattered sea of hands went up amidst a supportive crowd of fellow attorneys and colleagues. Though not all of the attendees were survivors, it was clear that everyone was unified in the common cause of helping victims of breast cancer on a pro bono basis and were eager to learn about the various issues affecting breast cancer victims. To enable these attorneys, the Legal Rights of Breast Cancer Patients continuing legal education program contains a series of presentations designed to give attorneys the education and information necessary to assist women diagnosed with breast cancer protect their legal rights.

The catalyst and the primary organizer behind the training is Carla Lee, a local Seattle attorney, who collaborated with the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession to create the unique series. The Breast Cancer Legal Issues Training was the "part two" to the previous Breast Cancer Legal Advocacy Training which focused on legal advocacy with important sections such as breast cancer 101, financing and delivering health care, benefits coverage 101, and employment issues after diagnosis, among other substantive legal issues. The first training was designed as a

primer and basic foundation to the second training which explored in depth a myriad of substantive legal issues. According to Lee, "These are extremely important legal issues and a woman suffering from breast cancer needs our assistance in protecting her rights as she struggles to fight the illness."

Presenters at the Breast Cancer Training included attorneys from the King County Bar Association, Solid Ground, Seattle University School of Law, the Seattle Community Law Center, and the Swedish Medical Center, among others. Each presenter covered a host of important legal issues including housing, public benefits, estate planning and guardianships, and counseling for end of life issues.

The presentations spanned across a lengthy legal spectrum, but the presenter's goal was the same: to educate the audience in order to prepare them to become effective legal advocates on behalf of survivors of indigent means or those struggling with cancer. According to Lee, women diagnosed with breast cancer face substantial medical and legal issues, that is why "a lawyer trained to understand the legal issues can help a person receive much needed treatment after a premature denial; they can help a woman adequately plan for the well being of her children upon her death; and while living, an attorney can assist her with debt-defense."

Lee's next step is to hold the

Breast Cancer Litigation CLE and Training in Spokane and she is currently in negotiations with an Oregon attorney interested in starting a similar series of CLEs in Portland. "Our goal is to start legal clinics on the subject and provide pro bono services to lower-income women with the illness," said Lee.

This unique and cutting edge program is currently the only litigation opportunity where pro bono attorneys can get the training and educational background necessary to go into court and advocate on behalf of women battling cancer. And although the program is still in its infancy in Washington State, Lee believes that with the help of dedicated attorneys, "we can come together as a legal community to assist women diagnosed with breast cancer to focus on what is important: time with her family and friends."

In order to assure this pro bono project is a success, it is necessary for law firms and attorneys state-wide to support the program and train their attorneys in the unique area of breast cancer litigation law. Unlike some new projects that can initially be intimidating for attorneys to pursue, the various issues women suffering from breast cancer face are usually familiar and entail litigation skills that many attorneys have experience in already—such as employment law, estate planning, and housing discrimination law. The program also gives volunteers the opportunity to work di-

rectly with some of the King County Bar Association's established pro bono programs, such as the Housing Justice Project, and to go to court and argue on behalf of a client suffering from cancer and feeling the negative effects of discrimination due to a disability. Merf Ehman, Managing Attorney at the Housing Justice Project, spoke at the training about various housing issues affecting women, including eviction and show cause hearings, and she invited the audience members to become involved. "You can make a difference," she told the crowd, as they applauded her informative and engaging presentation.

Merf Ehman is right about all of us making a difference—the success of the program will depend on the support it receives from the local legal community. In an effort to promote and support the Breast Cancer litigation program, Foster Pepper's Pro Bono Department is currently working on procuring pro bono opportunities for not only senior partners who have expressed interest in this type of public service work, but also for young associates who are searching for skill set development opportunities. Also, in order to disseminate information about the program, at the firm's next bi-monthly All-Women Attorney's meeting, a presentation will be given on how to get involved and materials will be distributed.

Other local law firms are en-

(Continued on page 6)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This special edition of The Voice, dedicated to the subject of Pro Bono legal work, was compiled and edited by an exceptional editorial committee led by Tahmina Watson. The committee chose to spotlight this issue in an effort to connect our members with those in need of volunteer legal help. We often think of the term Pro Bono as meaning free legal help. But Pro Bono is actually short for Pro Bono Publico which means "for the public good." When we donate our time and legal skills we make a socially significant contribution to our entire community. The members of King County Washington Women Lawyers have powerful knowledge. We are uniquely equipped to help a diverse range of people overcome life altering obstacles. We hope that this edition of the newsletter will inspire you.

—Alisa Brodkowitz, KCWWL President

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Pro bono work is close to the hearts of many of us and although we often struggle to find the time to meet our own needs, we have found inspiration in our work on this issue of "The Voice" and we hope to inspire many of you as well.

We feel privileged to have both the knowledge and skills that are powerful tools when used to help those who are often unable to help themselves. It is more than just a sense of responsibility that motivates us to give back to the community. There is a feeling of immense satisfaction that comes with helping some-

one who truly needs you. We cannot think of a better way to contribute to the goodness of society.

Depending on how much spare time you have (or don't have), there is always something you can do to help at least **one** person. There is no doubt the reward is more than worth the effort! Whether you volunteer in your area of expertise, learn a new area of law, or take advantage of the countless volunteer opportunities outside the legal field, find a cause or a group of people that means something to you. There is no easier way to dedicate yourself

and maintain your efforts than to find meaning in your work.

This issue highlights potential clients like victims of domestic violence, victims of human rights violations, breast cancer patients, and low income individuals, but there is just not enough room to cover the vast realm of possibilities when it comes to pro bono work. Find your own path and encourage your colleagues to either join you or blaze a trail of their own. We hope the articles we have brought you will help you find the motivation to give your own precious time to those who can benefit the most

from your assistance.

There is so much you can do to assist those around you, all you need is the will (and maybe an idea or two from our list of resources on page 11). Whatever happens to pull on your heart strings, we are sure that you will find something in our Pro Bono edition of "The Voice" that will catch your eye!

—Tahmina Watson, KCWWL
VP-Minority Affairs

Theresa Torgesen, KCWWL VP-
Membership

**Tousley
Brain
Stephens
PLLC**

S | K | W | C

STRITMATTER KESSLER WHELAN COLUCCIO

Special thanks to our 2007 KCWWL ANNUAL SPONSORS **Stritmatter Kessler** and **Tousley Brain Stephens PLLC** for their generous support throughout the year.

KCWWL ANNUAL SPONSORS are law firms and other businesses who provide support on an ongoing, annual basis through monetary support, meeting spaces, teleconferencing services, printing, and administrative support. ANNUAL SPONSORS receive recognition in our quarterly newsletter, THE VOICE, on our website, and at KCWWL events throughout the year. If you would like more information about becoming a KCWWL ANNUAL SPONSOR, please contact Tracy Sarich at tsarich@tousley.com.

WHY WOMEN LAWYERS VOLUNTEER

During the women's movement of the 1970's, one internal debate involved whether women should stop volunteering. After all, so much of their work was unpaid anyway.

It still is. Women never stopped volunteering: at home, through their religious institutions, in their neighborhoods, and for a range of causes at the community and national levels. A 2001 study showed that women are more likely to participate in civic organizations than men, and far more likely in programs for the poor, elderly, or homeless, and for educational programs.¹

Some things have changed: some men took on more of the family and caregiving role²; women entered the paid workforce, including the professions, in increasing numbers. Today, women receive 47% of law degrees nation-

wide.³ Women accounted for 51% of all workers in management, professional, and related occupations in 2006.⁴ As a result, women now can bring specialized skills and increased "clout" to their volunteer work.

A recent Canadian study found that both paid and unpaid work for public sector and non-profit social services workers has expanded significantly following funding cuts for human services. The report lists seven areas where women's work hours have expanded, only one of these is paid. The unpaid areas are:

1) unpaid overtime – staff typically provided services beyond work hours because they felt their communities had a right to these services; 2) volunteering - in some cases to replace providers of core professional services; 3) more time-consuming and intense policy and service-building work; 4) informal social service care to neighbors, extended families, and more distant contacts; 5) increasing involvement in unions to maintain work quality and relationships rather than wages; and 6) increased childcare for family members.

⁵ I see parallels here with women lawyers in Washington State. Like most lawyers, they work long hours, sometimes because it's expected, but also because they believe the work they do is important and everyone deserves access to justice. They provide direct pro bono legal services in a

variety of ways to alleviate the severe shortage of these services for low and middle-income people. They use the law to make systemic change through litigation and legislative advocacy. Their extended families and communities rely on them to lend their expertise whenever legal issues arise. They advocate for family-friendly workplaces. They often do all this while fulfilling more traditional roles as caregivers and community-builders.

Women lawyers volunteer for the same reasons other people do: to help others and make a difference; to develop new skills and further their careers; to be involved in their communities; to meet people and make friends. But, like the Canadian social workers, they have special awareness and expertise that often drives them to do more and makes their contributions especially important.

"Engaging more women in civic and political participation may be a crucial tool for advancing their status more generally – and improving women's status may be important to improving the overall civic health of the country."⁶ Of course it is, and here's to all the women lawyers who are helping make it happen.

--June Krumpotick manages the *Self Help Program* at the *Northwest Women's Law Center* in Seattle. *KCWWL* awarded her the *Special Contribution to the Judi-*

ciary Award at the 2006 JAL for the significant contribution she makes to the local community.

1 "Women's Community Involvement," by Amy Caiazza, Ph.D., Institute for Women's Policy Research, September 2001, p. 1.

2 "American men are doing about 16 hours of housework a week, up from 12 hours in 1965, according to a study by the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (ISR), Ann Arbor. The weekly housework hours of American women have declined sharply since 1965. Yet, they are still doing much more housework than men – about 27 hours a week." "Men doing more; women doing less – Housework", USA Today (Society for the Advancement of Education), 2002, .

3 *The Many Faces of 21st Century Working Women*, a Report to the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, by Deborah Perry Piscione, September 2004, p. 3.

4 "Quick Stats 2006," U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau,

5 "Seven Kinds of Work – Only One Paid: Raced, Gendered and Restructured Work in Social Services," by Donna Baines, presented at the Institute for Women's Policy Research Conference, June 2003.

6 "Women's Status and Social Capital Across the States," by Amy Caiazza, Ph. D. and Robert D. Putnam, Ph. D., Institute for Women's Policy Research, July 2002, p. 6.

WOMEN LAWYERS VOLUNTEER FOR THE SAME REASONS OTHER PEOPLE DO: TO HELP OTHERS AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE; TO DEVELOP NEW SKILLS AND FURTHER THEIR CAREERS; TO BE INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES; TO MEET PEOPLE AND MAKE FRIENDS.

2007 JUDICIAL APPRECIATION AND HONORS LUNCHEON A SUCCESS!!

On June 13, 2007, nearly 300 members of the King County legal community gathered in the Spanish Ballroom of the Fairmont Olympic Hotel to celebrate Washington's judiciary and honor four amazing individuals. The luncheon was a memorable event for all who attended and a wonderful opportunity for KCWWL to celebrate its legacy of supporting women judges and look towards a bright future.

The Honorable Monica J. Benton, Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, received this year's Vanguard Award. Judge Benton was honored for her long legacy of "firsts," her dedicated mentoring of young women and minority attorneys, and her work with the Loren Miller Bar Association and the Washington Minority and Justice Commission. Bonnie Glenn's opening remarks introducing Judge Benton recognized these amazing qualities and celebrated Judge Benton's long list of accomplishments.

The Honorable Ronald E. Cox, Presiding Chief Judge, Washington Court of Appeals, received the Judge of the Year award. In his remarks, Judge Cox reminded us all of the contributions that women have made, and are making, to this country through a poignant remembrance of Second Lieutenant Emily Perez, the first female West Point graduate to die in Iraq. Judge Cox's words touched many in the audience and reminded us of the sacrifices that women have made in support of our country and in support of the advancement of women in the legal profession.

Attorney General Rob McKenna received this year's Special Contribution to the Judiciary Award for his commitment to the eradication of domestic violence. Attorney General McKenna was recognized by Barbara Hope, director of the Eastside Domestic Violence Program, for his years of leadership in supporting that organization.

Alice Paine received this year's President's Award. Ms. Paine

was recognized for over 18 years of service to the King County Bar Association (KCBA) and its members as the KCBA's executive director. As Eileen Concannon said when she presented the award, Alice exemplifies the qualities of hard work and determination that are the spirit of the

President's Award.

KCWWL thanks everyone who attended this year's Judicial Appreciation and Honors Luncheon and we hope you will join us next year!

—Rebecca Andrews, KCWWL
Judicial Appreciation Luncheon
Chair

KCWWL WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SPONSORS OF THIS YEAR'S JUDICIAL APPRECIATION LUNCHEON:

Premier Sponsor

Riddell Williams P.S.

Vanguard Sponsors

Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Perkins Coie

Stafford Frey Cooper

Stella L. Pitts & Associates, PLLC

The Links, Incorporated

Partner Sponsors

Betts, Patterson & Mines, P.S.

Christensen O'Connor

Johnson Kindness PLLC

Keller Rohrback

Lane Powell (2)

Mills Meyers Swartling

Ryan, Swanson & Cleveland, PLLC

Washington Law & Politics

Associate Sponsors

Carey & Lillevik, PLLC

Foster Pepper PLLC

Loren Miller Bar Association

Luvera Law Firm

Stritmatter Kessler Whelan Coluccio

Tousley Brain Stephens PLLC

Washington Women Lawyers

Friend Sponsors

Legal Career Management

Smyth & Mason



Members of the KCWWL Board with the Honorable Betty Fletcher at the 2007 Judicial Appreciation and Honors Luncheon.

WOMEN AND THE WAR IN IRAQ CLE AND SYMPOSIUM

Our CLE "Representing Military Personnel: Hot Topics in Employment Law, Family Law and Benefits" includes presenter Thomas Quinlan, who practices in Pierce County with the law firm Miller, Quinlan & Auter. He is a WSTLA Eagle with a general civil trial practice, and also a Judge Advocate with the rank of Major in the United States Army Reserve. The other presenter Kimberly Cox is an attorney for Safeco and is a Captain in the JAGC. She was also on active duty at Ft. Lewis.

Our Public Forum will include the debut of a short documen-

tary film "Female Faces of War." Panelists include nationally recognized speakers Dr. Bridget Cantrell author of "Down Range to Iraq and Back;" Sara Rich, M.S.W. and mother of soldier Suzanne Swift; Stacy Bannerman, author of "When the War Came Home," founder/director of 'The Sanctuary for Veterans and Families' and spouse of deployed National Guard member; Dr. Tracy Simpson, Co-Director of the Women's Trauma and Recovery Center at Seattle VA, Lourdes E. Alvarado-Ramos, Deputy Director of Washington State's Department of Veterans Affairs; Julia Villalobos, Port Security

Specialist 2, Coast Guard (served in Iraq and Kuwait Feb-Aug. 2003); and special appearance by video, Senator Patty Murray (member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Com-

mittee).

—Moni T. Law, KCWWL board member, and chair of KCWWL Women and the War in Iraq



KCWWL Board Member Moni T. Law and four soldiers taken on July 12th at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport as they awaited deployment back to Iraq after a two week break.

VOLUNTEERING MADE EASY, CONT'D.

(Continued from page 1)

can apply online. For opportunities no matter what your skill level go to:

<http://www.kcba.org/ScriptContent/KCBA/volunteer/volunteer.cfm>

If you can take on a case and are an experienced attorney, the link for "Volunteer Legal Services" will be of particular interest. If you would like to take on a case, check out the various training sessions scheduled at:

<http://www.kcba.org/scriptcontent/KCBA/volunteer/training.cfm>

In July, August, and September, the bar will provide training for handling housing cases, custody disputes, Social Security overpayment claims, and

representing victims of domestic violence.

In the words of one volunteer. Vanessa Vanderbrug, an associate at Lawrence & Versnel PLLC and volunteer at the Country Doctor Clinic on Capitol Hill, states, "The legal clinic offers lawyers an opportunity to provide a little guidance to our community members to enable them to navigate their way through the complexities of the legal system. I love the clinic because it allows me to provide assistance to a broad segment of the community and, in so doing, utilize my legal skills in a proactive way."

--Kristin Peterson, KCWWL Board Member and Neighborhood Legal Clinic Volunteer

ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS, CONT'D

(Continued from page 2)

couraged to promote the program. Women diagnosed with breast cancer not only face a myriad of complicated medical decisions, but also devastating legal issues, and it is up to us, as legal advocates, friends, colleagues, and fellow attorneys, to assist them in accessing justice.

Maybe then the next time we are sitting in a room where someone asks "who here is a cancer survivor?" we can look around at the proudly raised hands and smile, knowing we played an important role in providing not only access to justice, but also, access to survival.

—Joanna Plichta is Pro Bono Counsel at Foster Pepper. She manages the firm's pro bono cases,

advises the firm on pro bono policy, serves as a liaison to local public interest organizations, and serves as the Chair of the Seattle Area Pro Bono Coordinators and Counsels

King County Washington Women Lawyers presents



WOMEN AND THE WAR IN IRAQ

CLE and Symposium

2 CLE (INCLUDING .5 ETHICS) CREDITS PENDING

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2007
VENUE: THE SEATTLE ART MUSEUM
CLE: 3P.M.- 5:15 P.M. (ONLY \$75.00*)
PUBLIC FORUM: 6P.M.- 9:00 P.M. (FREE ADMISSION)

SPACE IN CLE IS LIMITED SO SIGN UP EARLY!!

***INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING CLE AND BEFORE PUBLIC FORUM**

Contact for questions: Moni T. Law, 206-915-8138, moniesq@aol.com

To become a sponsor: Tracy Sarich at tsarich@tousley.com

To register for the CLE: Jill Pugh at jill@employmentlawwa.com

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION: U.S. JUSTICE SYSTEM FAILS TO PROTECT NATIVE AND ALASKAN WOMEN FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Freedom from sexual violence including rape is a basic human right codified in paragraph 18 of the Vienna Declaration. However, according to the recently released Amnesty International report, "A Maze of Injustice," Native and Alaskan women are being denied this human right in alarming numbers. The study found that Native and Alaska n women are over 2.5 times more likely to get raped or sexually assaulted than women of other ethnicities, and that over 1 out of 3 Native women will be raped or molested in their lifetime. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, these women are denied access to justice or prosecution of the crime by the federal government's complex maze of state, tribal and federal jurisdiction over these cases, chronically underfunded tribal health problems, and understaffed law enforcement.

Confusion about whether state, federal or tribal police should respond means victims might not see a police officer or a nurse for hours or days, if at all. Even if a rape victim is taken to an Indian Health Service clinic, almost half lack staff trained to provide emergency services to victims of sexual violence, researchers said. At least 86 percent of the rapes are by non-Indian, mainly Caucasian men, according to the report. Some speculate that this statistic is in part due to the 1978 ruling by the Supreme Court in Oliphant v. the Suquamish Indian

Tribe which held that tribal governments have no criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians. This may add to the sense of impunity felt by non-Indian perpetrators.

On June 23, 2007, approximately two dozen people including children in strollers gathered in the sunshine at Greenlake in Seattle for a "Stop Violence Against Women" fundraiser walk. KCWWL board member, Jaime Hawk, coordinator of Amnesty International's Women's Human Rights Action Team for the past four years, announced that the walk was intended to serve as a kick off event to introduce Amnesty's recent report on this critical problem. The speakers included Katrin Wilde, a longtime human rights activist, who stated: "I'm glad that Amnesty International is putting its powerful media spotlight and global credibility to an issue that needs attention and funding for services and prevention efforts. This is the first time that the issue has been presented clearly as a human rights issue, not a private shame issue."

The full report is available on Amnesty's website. The report is based upon research and surveys from survivors, law enforcement, tribes, advocates and health officials from 2005 and 2006 primarily in Alaska, South Dakota and Oklahoma, but is considered an accurate depiction of a problem throughout Indian country. Many tribal members

reside on reservations which are often in rural and poor areas plagued by drugs and alcohol. Lately, the introduction of methamphetamines has exacerbated the violence perpetuated against women.

Ms. Hawk also pointed to the need to fund Title IX (the Tribal Title) of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to specifically earmark and expand funds to address the safety and legal needs of Native women. At this time, a loose coalition is forming to comprehensively address these issues in the state of Washington. Speaker Crystal Tetrick, Associate Director of Health Care Operations with the Seattle Health Board (SIHB), spoke emotionally about the need to continue to work in a difficult field, stating, "It's not easy, but just as important is my desire for my daughter to have a future of hope and change." She described the programs of the SIHB including counseling and an advocacy program and a survivor's group for women. Alma Goddard, Program Coordinator with United Indians of All Tribes Foundation (UIATF), has worked on domestic violence issues for twenty years. She opened her remarks by honoring the first people of the land we stood upon, the Duwamish people. Ms. Goddard called for the need to heal from historic trauma to her people and to attend to the violence occurring now. Brutal physical and emotional violence against Native women

often results in depression, self-medication by alcohol or drugs, and an alarming rate of suicides. A number of Native women have committed suicide on the Yakima and other reservations. This human rights violation has dire consequences in our own backyard. The work of these organizations, the distribution of this report, and congressional hearings presenting the findings, will broadcast the voices and cries of thousands of Native women who are suffering. They are in need of an effective response from the legal system, a response that is lacking.

—Moni T. Law, KCWWL board member, and chair of KCWWL *Women and the War in Iraq*
Jaime Hawk, KCWWL VP-*Legislative Affairs*.

UIATF is organizing a day long summit to be held at Daybreak Star on August 22, 2007 to address the high rate of violence against Native women and children. For more information please contact Rose Rapoza (rrapoza@unitedindians.org)

For more information on Amnesty International's report, "The Maze of Injustice," and how you can take action to fund Title IX of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), please visit: www.amnestyusa.org/women/maze

ASSISTING SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Nationally one in four women will be a victim of domestic violence in their lifetime. In a recent study of 3500 Group Health of Washington members 44% self reported being victims of emotional, physical or sexual abuse by their intimate partners. That is almost one in every two women who participated in the study.

When I graduated from law school and entered the world of courtrooms, motions and juries, I never thought that these would be statistics that I would banter around in everyday communications. Nor did I believe that these types of issues affected educated and confident women like those that sat across the table from me in depositions and mediations. Unfortunately, I was wrong. Domestic violence is the leading cause of emergency room visits for women and the leading cause of death to pregnant women. It knows no social or economic bounds, it is prevalent and unfortunately, it is on the rise.

Four years ago, I was asked to come to work for the Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN). At the time, I was working in the area of land-use and environmental litigation and did not believe that my skills could translate to the non-profit human service arena. I was passionate about issues that affected women, dutifully attended fundraisers and thought that someday I would leave private practice and work in the non-profit sector, I just never thought about domestic violence. But

after a few meetings with the Executive Director and armed with some of the statistics listed above, I felt that this was an area in which I could help make a difference.

DAWN provides services and programming to survivors of domestic violence and their children. Founded in 1980 DAWN has served South King County for more than 27

and more difficult. Many of us believe that we don't have the time, qualifications or energy that it takes to make a difference in the lives of so many seeking civil legal assistance. The truth is, that three hours a month in a legal clinic, or 10 hours assisting a client obtain a revision to a protection order might be all that someone needs to make the difference in the life of a domestic vio-

lunteer. Consider volunteering to work on a crisis line. Many calls in the area can be routed directly to your home phone so you don't have to leave the comfort of your couch or bunny slippers. Other opportunities include: helping with an annual auction or dinner planning committee, gathering your friends for a day of yard work or painting at DAWN's House or another local shelter, babysitting during a survivor support group or just about anything else you can think of. Whether you have one hour, one day a year or are able to donate a couple of hours a week, give us a call and we will figure out how to put your time, energy and skills to great use.

—Melissa Arias, Director of Development, Domestic Abuse Women's Network

THE NUMBER ONE REQUESTED SERVICE BY SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THAT COME TO DAWN IS CIVIL LEGAL AID.

years. Every year our agency grows to meet the needs of those who seek out its services, but there is always more demand than space and resources. The number one requested service by survivors of domestic violence that come to DAWN is civil legal aid. This comes in a variety of forms, needing help connecting with the right jurisdiction, assistance with filing out the appropriate forms, referrals to an experienced attorney and often direct representation. Unfortunately, for the more than 800 clients that utilize our legal advocacy services annually, only 2% are able to connect with an attorney.

There are many wonderful pro bono legal service providers in King County. However, perpetual funding cuts and the ever increasing demand makes access to these services more

lence survivor. There are great programs to offer assistance, mentoring and in-depth training to ensure you are equipped with the necessary resources to help a pro se mother of two children effectively seek a revision to her parenting plan that better allows for her safety.

If you have ever thought that you wanted to give back a few discreet hours a month or every other month, I encourage you to contact a domestic violence service provider in your area or the King County Bar Association Community Legal Programs section. You might be surprised how big an impact your relatively small donation of time will make.

And if you are looking for a way to give back to the community but not necessarily through your legal expertise, there are numerous ways to

If you are interested in learning more about domestic violence or are in need of services, please visit

**www.dawnonline.org
or the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence website at www.kccadv.org
for information and resources.**

PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND WITH THE WSBA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

The Washington State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division (WYLD) provides numerous public service opportunities for lawyers around the state. Throughout the year, the WYLD organizes multiple programs to benefit youth and to address other access to justice needs and delivery deficiencies around Washington State. A few of these programs are highlighted below, as well as more information on how to get involved.

Volunteers are needed on an ongoing basis and the opportunities to get connected and give back to the community are endless!

WYLD Public Service Programs

The WYLD is proud to sponsor several initiatives which support the commitment of its membership to public service and broad access to the justice system:

Greater Access and Assistance Program (GAAP)

GAAP is an innovative program that allows young lawyers to gain valuable experience by providing low-bono services, and also allows low income community members access to legal services. The GAAP was originally envisioned by the Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD) in 1996 as low fee panels throughout the state that would be supported by the WYLD in coordination with local legal services programs. In furtherance of that

mission, the WYLD joined with the Access to Justice Board (ATJ) in the development of an expanded concept to add a low-cost telephone advice component, and to seek the endorsement of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA).

The GAAP provides civil legal assistance to people who are not financially eligible for pro bono legal assistance or staffed legal aid programs but cannot afford to hire a private attorney for representation. The program is overseen by a joint committee consisting of members of the WYLD and liaisons from the Access to Justice Board. GAAP was started in Spokane County but the committee is working with people from around the state to expand the GAAP program to other counties such as Whatcom, Snohomish, Kitsap and King County.

FEMA Disaster Legal Assistance Program

The WYLD Pro Bono/Public Service Committee coordinates the FEMA disaster legal assistance panel. A permanent training program has been created, and an all volunteer panel of attorneys has been created to render legal advice to victims of any natural disaster that may befall citizens of our state. The committee has been active continuing to recruit volunteer attorneys to provide legal advice and/or representation to disaster victims and maintaining ties with and coordinating services with

the ABA and FEMA.

The WYLD is also seeking new members for its diversity, membership, and public service committees. The events and programs organized by these committees provide additional opportunities for leadership and public service

WYLD Committee for Diversity

The Committee for Diversity promotes diversity within the membership and leadership of the WYLD and supports and encourages opportunities for minority attorneys and raises awareness of the benefits of diversity.

WYLD Public Service/Pro Bono Committee

This committee collaborates with other law-related educational organizations to coordinate free legal clinics within local communities, speak to youth organizations, and coordinate special public service projects.

The WYLD provides programs and services of special interest to young lawyers, to the public, and to those denied access to the justice system. For more information about the above programs and how to get involved, please visit the WYLD website: or contact Amy O'Donnell at:

--Jaime M. Hawk, *KCWWL Board Member and WSBA Young Lawyers Division President-Elect* (jaimehawk@abanet.org)



We are thrilled to announce that our very own KCWWL board member JAIME HAWK has been unanimously elected president-elect for the 2007-2008 term. Jaime will become president of the WYLD for the 2008-2009 term. She currently serves as an assistant federal public defender for the Eastern District of Washington.

MAMAS PROVIDES MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT TO ATTORNEY MOTHERS

Here at KCWWL, we're excited to team up with other organizations that work to address issues that affect our members. For those who haven't already heard of MAMAS, check out the article below and visit their website at www.mamaseattle.org.

If you know of an organization or event that you would like us to highlight in a future issue of *The Voice*, please let us know.

The Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association of Seattle ("MAMAS") was started in 2006 as an informal group in an effort to empower attorney mothers and encourage them to succeed while celebrating their role as attorneys and mothers. Its founders, Rachel Black and Lorraine Lewis Phillips, recognized that attorney mothers face unique challenges in light of the demands of the profession, such as longer work hours, pressure to generate business and network, and difficult travel schedules. MAMAS is intended to be a source of support for attorney mothers - a place where they can network, share experiences, learn from each other, problem solve, and talk about issues they face in a safe environment.

MAMAS aims to enhance the recognition of mother attorneys in the profession and community; promote the advancement of mother attorneys within the profession; facilitate the achievement of work-life balance; provide a forum for informing members and the legal profession about issues of particular concern to mother attorneys; facilitate the transition for attorney mothers who have taken time off and wish to re-enter the profession; and increase the interaction between mother attorneys of diverse backgrounds and practices.

MAMAS members meet the first Saturday of every month, with their children, which sets it apart from any other attorney organization in Seattle. The meetings take place at KidsQuest in Factoria Mall from 8 to 10:00 am. During August and September the meetings will take place at differing times in local public parks the second weekend of the month.

MAMAS also holds brown bag lunches on the third Wednesday of every month. These meetings include panel discussions addressing topics of particular interest to attorney mothers. If you are interested in joining MAMAS please email Mary Knack at mknack@williamskastner.com.

—Mary Re Knack, Williams Kastner.

PRO BONO RESOURCES

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFO
Access to Justice Project	www.wsba.org/atj
Columbia Legal Services	www.columbialegal.org
Consumer Education and Training Services	www.centsprogram.com
Eastside Domestic Violence Program	www.edvp.org
Eastside Legal Assistance Program	www.elap.org
King County Bar Foundation	www.kcbf.org
Legal Action Center	206-324-6890
Newbeginnings (Domestic Violence)	www.newbegin.org
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals - Pro Bono Program	Julie M. Ronken 415-355-8049
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project	www.nwirp.org
Northwest Justice Project	www.nwjustice.org
Northwest Women's Law Center	www.nwwlc.org
Unemployment Law Project	www.unemploymentlawproject.org
United Way (King County)	www.unitedwayofkingcounty.org
US Dist. Ct.—Western Dist. of WA—Pro Bono Panel	www.fba-wdwash.org
Volunteer Advocates for Immigration Justice	www.vaij.org
Washington Advocate Resource Center	www.advocateresourcenter.org
Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations	www.waaco.org

MAMAS/KCWWL BROWN BAG

MAMAS and King County Washington Women Lawyers would like to invite you to a special joint event: a seminar on saving for education. Our guest speaker is Michael Heath, a Financial Advisor with UBS Financial Services, Inc. Prior to joining UBS, Michael practiced securities and technology law with Dorsey & Whitney LLP and Cairncross & Hempelmann PS. He is also co-

founder and Immediate Past President of QLaw: the GLBT Bar Association of Washington.

<http://www.ubs.com/fa/michaelheath>

See the KCWWL Calendar on Page 12 for more info!

**KING COUNTY
WASHINGTON
Women Lawyers**



**KING COUNTY WASHINGTON WOMEN
LAWYERS**

c/o Alisa R. Brodkowitz
Stritmatter Kessler Whelan and Coluccio
200 Second Avenue West
Seattle, WA 98119
Phone: 206-448-1777, Fax: 206-728-2131
For information about THE VOICE please contact Tracy Sarich
at tsarich@yahoo.com

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE

WWW.KCWWL.ORG

Furthering the full integration of women in the legal profession, promoting equal rights and opportunities for women, and preventing discrimination.

Enhancing the recognition and effectiveness of women lawyers and judges in the profession and community.

Providing a forum for informing members and the community about issues of social and legal concern to women.

Increasing interaction between women lawyers of diverse backgrounds and practices.

KCWWL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2007

Summer Dinner and Legal Workshop at the Jubilee House. Stay tuned for details or contact Kristin Peterson, V.P. Civic Events, kristisp@wsha.org.

September 8, 2007

MAMAS Networking and Family Fun at Magnuson Park. 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. RSVP by September 6, to Melissa Shaw at melissa.shaw@barbrigroup.com.

September 18, 2007

Brown Bag Lunch - Saving for Education. MAMAS and KCWWL. 12:00 p.m., K&L Gates Conference Room, 925 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2900, Seattle, Washington 98104-1158 RSVP: tbritt@gslaw.com (See page 11 inside).

September 19, 2007

KCWWL Annual Wine Tasting Event (See information at right).

September 20, 2007

WWL Annual Awards Dinner; Grand Hyatt Seattle.

October 2, 2007

KCWWL presents Women and the War in Iraq, CLE and Symposium at the Seattle Art Museum. (See pages 6 and 7 inside.)

Editorial committee August Pro Bono edition of THE VOICE

Editorial leads: Tahmina Watson and Theresa Torgesen.

Committee Members: Tracy Sarich, Kristin Peterson, Annie Vithayathil, Jaime Hawk, Rebecca Andrews, Beth Terrell, Kristen Larson

FEATURED EVENT: KCWWL ANNUAL WINE TASTING EVENT SEPTEMBER 19, 2007



This year's wine-tasting event will again be held at the Tasting Room in Post Alley. Last year our silent auction and wine tasting event at the Tasting Room raised nearly \$4,000 for the YWCA Girls First Program. More information about this great fall gathering will be sent to all members via email in August and September.