

THE VOICE OF KING COUNTY WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYERS

SUMMER/FALL 2009

Honoring the Judiciary: A Sold-Out Success!



CALENDAR:

- ◆ Dec. 5: MAMAS Moms & Kids Networking, 9am
- ◆ Dec. 8: KCWWL Holiday Party, FareStart, 6-8pm
- ◆ Dec. 15: MAMAS Holiday Dessert Social
- ◆ January 10, 2010: Visioning a Practice You'll Love, 9:30-5pm

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-By Rebecca Andrews, KCWWL

On June 20, 2009, three hundred judges, lawyers, law students and supporters gathered at the beautifully restored Dome Room at the Arctic Hotel to celebrate Washington's judiciary and honor four special award recipients at KCWWL's Annual Judicial Appreciation Luncheon.

This year KCWWL hosted over sixty Judges from all levels of both the federal and state judiciary in Washington. The JAL is one of the few events when so many judges gather together to mingle with the attorneys who regularly appear before them. It is always a delightful afternoon, and this year was no exception.

KCWWL traditionally honors four individuals with awards at the JAL, and this year's group was an extraordinary one.

The Honorable Mary Fairhurst, Justice of the Washington Supreme Court, was awarded this year's Judge Betty B. Fletcher Judge of the year award for her work on the Supreme Court as well as her dedication to mentoring young women, law

students, and job seekers. Judge Fletcher was on hand to introduce Justice Fairhurst and noted "Mary doesn't just voice concerns, but she's a 'doer', and gets things done", "fighting for justice to all Washingtonians."



-Photo by Martina Machackova.
KCWWL members, members of the judiciary, and guests gather during the 2009 Judicial Appreciation Luncheon, held at the Arctic Hotel in Seattle.

Don't Miss Inside!

- **Vanguard Award** Honorable Steven C. González, page 3.
- **Friend of the Judiciary Award** Ann Benson, Washington Defenders Association, page 8.

JAL 2009: Introducing Our Awardees



Judge Betty Fletcher
Judge of the Year Award:
Justice Mary Fairhurst

In 2003, Mary Fairhurst began serving as a Justice on the Washington State Supreme Court. She began her legal career in 1984

as a judicial clerk for Chief Justice William Williams, and then Justice William Goodloe. For the intervening 16 years, Justice Fairhurst served in the Washington Attorney General's Office, specializing in criminal justice, transportation, revenue, and labor. When elected, she headed the Revenue, Bankruptcy, and Collections Division. She received the Attorney General's Steward of Justice Award. Justice Fairhurst served -see Fairhurst, cont'd pg. 2.



President's Award:
Honorable Anne Levinson (ret.)

A former public official, Anne led the effort in 2007 to form a local ownership group—Force 10 Hoops L.L.C.—and negotiate

the purchase of the Seattle Storm to save women's professional basketball in the Pacific Northwest. Anne began her career in public service at the City of Seattle, starting in the City's budget office, then serving variously as a special assistant to the Mayor, Chief of Staff, Legal Counsel, and Deputy Mayor. She was then appointed by Governor Locke as Chair of Washington State's Utilities & Transportation Commission, where she -see Levinson, cont'd pg. 3.



MESSAGE FROM BETH TERRELL, KCWWL PRESIDENT

I am honored and thrilled to serve as KCWWL President. This year, we will build on KCWWL's past successes and will focus on several new initiatives.

First, through the hard work of board members Kris Costello, Lisa Leone, and Erin Ehlert, KCWWL founded the new Criminal Law Section, which already boasts a mailing list of hundreds of female criminal attorneys and judges. The section has successfully organized a long list of social, civic, and

professional development events in the first six months alone! This year KCWWL also hosted its first-ever members meeting to seek the input of our members and plan for the upcoming year.

As we continue to focus on civic events, our members continue to sponsor and staff trainings with the YWCA GirlsFirst! program and Jubilee House and organize clothing drives for Dress for Success and Jubilee House. Reaching out to the next wave of female attorneys, KCWWL

organized a speed mentoring program matching 20 local law students with attorneys and judges for a fun and worthwhile networking event. The 2009 Judicial Appreciation Luncheon will be held on June 17. KCWWL will honor two attorneys and two judges whose dedication to civil rights and access to justice inspires us all, and highlights the need for gender equality, legal aid, and immigrants' rights advocacy. Please join us at one of our upcoming events!

- VOICE Contributors***
- Kristen J. Larson, Editor**
 - Andrea Scheele**
 - Beth Terrell**
 - Joanna Hess**
 - Tahmina Watson**
 - Rebecca Andrews**
 - Ronnie Spiegel**
 - Betsy Gutting**

FAIRHURST, CONTINUED FROM PG.1

as President of the WSBA and on the WSBA Board of Governors. She also served as President of WWL and on the Supreme Court Gender and

Justice Commission. She currently chairs the Judicial Information Systems Committee and chairs the Board for Judicial Administration's (BJA) Public Trust and Confidence Committee. Justice Fairhurst also serves on the Court's Rules Committee and Personnel Committee and is a member of the Council on Public Legal Education and BJA's Court Security Committee. Justice Fairhurst earned her law degree magna cum laude and her undergraduate degree cum laude from Gonzaga University. Gonzaga awarded her the Myra Bradwell award. In 2006 she received an honorary Doctor of Laws

Degree from Gonzaga University School of Law. She serves as president of the Gonzaga Law School Board of Advisors and the Gonzaga Law School Alumni Association. Justice Fairhurst also serves on Gonzaga University's Board of Regents. In September 2004, Justice Fairhurst delivered the 33rd annual William O. Douglas lecture at Gonzaga University School of Law.

Justice Fairhurst comes from a large, loving family which places great value on fairness, service, and the dignity of every man, woman, and child. She is dedicated to ensuring that our legal system treats people fairly, equally, and protects everyone's basic rights.

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KCWWL Board member and JAL organizer Mary Reiten introduces Justice Fairhurst at the 2009 Judicial Appreciation Luncheon.
-Photo by Martina Machackova

KEYS TO SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATING CHANGE : THE POWER OF REFLECTION

- By Betsy Gutting, JD, Featured Columnist

On a warm, sunny Saturday morning last May, twenty-three women lawyers gathered in a circle to reflect on a vision for their careers and lives. "What makes you come alive?" I asked them in our opening circle. "Caffeine!" one of the women replied, half-jokingly, and everyone erupted into laughter of recognition.

What made these women lawyers feel passionate and purposeful varied wildly. What they all shared was their willingness to look deeper into their own happiness and fulfillment. They examined their true values, their purpose for practicing law, their frustrations and desires. What did they *really* want? The joy and relief on their faces when they connected to their own unique truth was palpable.

The only thing in life that is permanent is change. We are always growing and evolving into more of our potential. Successfully navigating change means taking charge of our lives.

The stress of our profession makes feeling in control challenging in the best of times, much less during periods of angst or uncertainty. Gathering the courage to be the captain of our own ship empowers us to move forward confidently to become our greatest selves.

To take the helm and steer our own ship, we need to create breathing space to pause, center, and drop anchor when a storm blows in. In my experience coaching women lawyers, feeling overly burdened with work and family responsibilities often means they put their own needs last. If this sounds familiar, I encourage you to see your life in a new light. You are the foundation of your practice – your most valuable resource. Time for centering, reflection, and self-care is as essential to your well being as food and water.

Do you believe you deserve satisfaction and fulfillment in your work? If you find yourself working hard to please others and gain their approval, you probably

aren't hearing the quiet voice inside that has deep wisdom and guidance for you. Are you ready to listen?

The first step is engaging your wise self, which acts as your inner compass and knows your truth. This part of you knows where you are and where you want to be, how you're feeling, and what needs adjusting. In this moment, stop and take a breath. Now move your focus to your heart. Reflect for a moment. What do you *really* want?

Recently I ran into one of the women lawyers from our Visioning seminar. "Your workshop gave me the courage to do what I've been wanting to do for a while," she relayed, her eyes shining with enthusiasm. "I just went out on my own—I have my own practice now!"

Another participant had said yes to her dream of writing a novel. She's not quitting her day job yet, but she has a new fire in her belly and excitement for life. As Eleanor Roosevelt so aptly put it, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."



Introducing **Betsy Gutting**

Featured Columnist

Betsy Gutting is a past practicing lawyer and career and personal coach specializing in empowering women lawyers to stay true to themselves, while balancing competing priorities. She is dedicated to helping lawyers find more fulfillment, with a focus on work-life balance, life purpose, and career transitions. A motivational speaker and author, Betsy leads life-changing seminars and CLEs for women lawyers. You can reach Betsy at 206-605.2900 or betsy@betsygutting.com. For more information, visit www.betsygutting.com.

SUCCESS, CONT'D FROM PG.1

This year's Vanguard Award, for a Judge at the forefront of an issue, was awarded to The Honorable Steven C. González for his work in addressing the Civil Legal Aid Crisis in Washington. As we all know by now, the funding for civil legal aid in Washington is at dire levels and fixing it requires all of our participation. In his remarks, Judge Gonzalez urged us all to be involved in ending this crisis: "We need your dedication, your grace, and your compassion."

The Honorable Anne Levinson (ret.) received this year's President's Award. Judge Levinson, co-owner and managing member of the Seattle Storm, has served the public interest throughout her career, including as an undergraduate field hockey player when she filed a Title IX action against her university demanding equal access to the university's facilities for women athletes. As the Honorable Bobbe Bridge, who introduced Judge Levinson, noted, Judge Levinson stands for "collaboration, social justice, and increased opportunities for women."

LEVINSON, FROM PG.1

helped lead the state's fight against energy deregulation. After that she served as a judge, helping create and then presiding over one of the nation's first mental health courts, to ensure that persons with mental illness get appropriately diverted out of jail and connected with treatment, shelter and case management. Upon retiring from the bench she served as an advisor to governments and non-profits, leading several projects directed toward systemic

Her work as a judge and with the Storm embodies these values and KCWWL is proud to honor her.

Ann Benson, the Directing Attorney for the Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project, was honored with this year's Friend of the Judiciary Award. Through her work on behalf of immigrant defendants, she has provided training and assistance to countless attorneys, judges, and prosecutors working to help them understand the severe immigration consequences of criminal convictions facing non-citizen defendants. Kim Abrose, who introduced Ms. Benson, noted "She makes us better lawyers, judges, and human beings."

The luncheon ended with an announcement of WWL's statewide legacy program, headed up by Tracy Sarich, that aims to reconnect with past WWL leaders to document and celebrate our achievements. If you would like to become involved with the WWL legacy project, please visit www.wwl.org for more information.

improvements for the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. She had her entrée into the world of mega transportation projects when she was brought in to help design a new single-purpose government the voters had approved to build a citywide monorail system.

She has founded or been on the board of directors for dozens of Seattle charitable organizations, and currently serves on a national advisory panel for the MacArthur



Vanguard Award: Honorable Steven C. González

Judge Steven C. González was appointed to Superior Court by Governor Locke in March 2002. He won election the same year. He was re-elected in 2004 and in 2008. He is assigned to the Civil Department and has also served in the Criminal and Family Law Departments.

Prior to his appointment, he was an Assistant United States Attorney, Western District of Washington, a Domestic Violence Prosecutor for the City of Seattle and an Associate at Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson. He earned his B.A. with Honors in East Asian Studies from Pitzer College and his J.D. from U.C. Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) where he was Technical Editor of *La Raza Law Journal*.

Among many other activities, Judge González is an Executive Committee Member and Chair-Elect of the Washington State Access to Justice Board. He has received the following recognition: 2001 Director's Award for Superior Performance from the Department of Justice; Latina/o Bar Association of Washington 2001 Outstanding Lawyer of the Year; and 2002 U.S. Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service.

Judge González speaks Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish.

Foundation, and advisory boards for the Women's Funding Alliance and NEW (National Education for Women's) Leadership Puget Sound.

In 2006, she chaired the statewide campaign to defeat the attempted repeal of the State's anti-discrimination law, protecting gay men and lesbians from job and housing discrimination, and is currently chairing the campaign to keep Referendum 71 off of the

ballot.

Anne played field hockey in college and as an athlete led a multi-year effort to secure equal funding for the women's teams, ultimately filing one of the country's first Title IX complaints, resulting in more equitable treatment for female athletes. As Deputy Mayor, Anne was instrumental in Seattle acquiring its first professional women's basketball team, the Seattle Reign.

MEMORIALIZING THE WORK AND LIVES OF WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS IN THE LAW

— Reprinted from *The Voice of Experience: A Publication of the American Bar Association Senior Lawyers Division*, Vol. 21 No. 1, 2009.

Senior women lawyers today have not forgotten the challenges they faced in law schools, law firms, corporate America, and academia decades ago. Some women who graduated at the top of their classes from the nation's premier law schools were offered positions in some of the country's preeminent law firms – not as associates but as legal librarians or legal secretaries. Others were never granted an interview. Still others were harassed in their law school classes and on the job for taking positions that were thought rightfully to belong to men. Others were barred by institutional policies from even applying to

some of the nation's top law schools or from seeking prestigious clerkships because of their gender.

Stories like these appear in many of the oral histories recorded for the Women Trailblazers Project (WTP), a unique initiative that is designed to make the life stories of outstanding women in the legal profession readily available to lawyers and non-lawyers alike. The heroes of these tales are women, now in their 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s, who not only persevered against great odds in law school classes and legal positions in all parts of the country, but who succeeded in a profession that was often hostile and rejecting.

The stories of this generation of women who entered the profession at a time when only 3 percent of lawyers were female are important and

compelling. These women met unique challenges and overt discrimination and not only succeeded, but also opened the doors to younger generations of women in the profession. Many of them were also instrumental in developing and implementing legal strategies that were an essential part of the social revolution of the last forty years, opening economic opportunities to women in our society.

The WTP is designed to memorialize the stories of these women, as recounted in their own voices, to ensure that they are not lost to history. The goal of the effort has been to record the stories the women tell about what they experienced and how they saw the world as young children, adolescents, young adults, and mature members of society; what people and

forces impacted them as they grew, how and why they chose to enter the legal profession; how they developed the determination to try to break into, and then succeed in, a profession that for many years shut many more doors than it opened; and what they have accomplished. Their words will remind future generations of their courage and the many contributions they have made.

The project, which we conceived and developed in 2003, actually began in earnest in late 2004 when the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession agreed to sponsor the effort. The WTP was the first, and remains the only, nationwide program to take the complete oral histories of outstanding women in the law, selected for their —*cont'd*, pg. 5.



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TRAILBLAZERS IN THE LAW, CONT'D FROM P.4

accomplishments and contributions to the law, highlighting the role of women in the profession. The interviewees, who thus far number eighty-nine from twenty-four states and the District of Columbia, are from all areas of the legal profession: the judiciary, academia, government, law firms, corporations, and public interest organizations.

The WTP has selected as interviewees a number of the Commission on Women's Margaret Brent honorees and nominees, federal and state court judges, and attorneys recommended by ABA members and others involved or interested in the project. Whenever possible, older women have been selected with diversity of race, ethnicity, geography, and professional backgrounds being key considerations.

All project interviewers are women volunteers who are practicing lawyers. Interviewers are teamed up with interviewees who, in almost every case, live in the same or neighboring communities. Each interviewer is instructed in the art of taking an oral history. At the beginning of the project, we looked to Donald A. Ritchie, associate historian of the U.S. Senate, author of *Doing Oral History: A Practical Guide*, and a highly skilled and experienced trainer of oral historians to run the WTP's first four training sessions. The sessions were held at ABA meetings over a two-year period when large numbers of women from different parts of the country were gathered together. Trainees were provided with a training manual that includes detailed program procedures on pre-interview preparation; a

practical article on how to schedule, conduct, audiotape, transcribe, and edit oral history interviews; information about donation instruments; and sample questions relating to gender, among other things. More recently, when on-site training for large numbers of women has not been feasible, we have conducted telephonic training sessions for new project interviewers, who also were provided with copies of the project's training manual and other background materials.

Preparatory to conducting an oral history, each interviewer is asked to engage in extensive pre-interview research on her interviewee. Then follows a series of interviews that are audiotaped and transcribed. Each interview session is typically 1 1/2 - 2 hours, and while there is not a "typical" oral history, many of the histories are taken in five, six, seven, or more sessions. A supplemental videotaped interview has been conducted with seventeen of the WTP's interviewees thus far; additional interviewees will be videotaped as resources permit.


In September 2008, the WTP was transferred from the Commission on Women in the Profession to the Senior Lawyers Division (SLP) of the ABA, which, unlike the omission, sponsors long-term projects. A committee was appointed to oversee the project and includes Carol Dinkins, Lizabeth A. Moody, Bettina Plevan, and Estelle Rogers. Brooksley Born serves as committee chair. Most committee members have been involved with the WTP as interviewees or interviewers.

Linda Ferren has served as

the project director of the WTP since the project's inception, handling day-to-day activities, which include program planning, arranging training sessions, developing program reports and materials, assisting interviewers and interviewees, tracking the progress of each oral history, researching potential interviewees and interviewers, reviewing oral histories, and communicating with repositories. In addition to chairing the SLD Committee, Born has served as a key advisor to the project, a role she has played since the project began. Born has helped to plan and develop the project and has been solely responsible for all

of its fundraising to date. The historical importance of the WTP was underscored when the Library of Congress agreed to become a repository in American women's lives and issues, has also expressed a strong interest in housing the WTP collection, and the project is currently involved in negotiations with the Schlesinger Library to make this a reality.

At the time of this writing, 32 oral histories have been completed, with most sent to the Library of Congress where they are available to the public. Many of them are posted in their entirety on the SLD website at www.abanet.org/srlawyers/oralhistory. --Brooksley Born and Linda Ferren.



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Don't Miss Out on this Year's Sponsorship Opportunities!

This year will be a year to remember and KCWWL has created three sponsorship opportunities for law firms, individuals, and community businesses to participate in throughout the year. **Bronze Sponsors (\$1,000)**, are recognized in all four issues of the VOICE, on the King County Chapter listserv, at all Chapter social events, lunchtime CLEs, at the Chapter Holiday Party, on the Chapter website, and in Chapter advertisements in the KCBA Bar Bulletin, WSBA Bar News, and the statewide Washington Women Lawyers Newsletter. **Silver Sponsors (\$2,500)** receive all recognition available to Bronze Sponsors, plus special recognition at the Chapter Annual Holiday Party. **Gold Sponsors (\$5,000)** receive recognition at Seattle Storm events, an opportunity to speak at the Chapter Annual Holiday Party, and recognition at and eight (8) complimentary tickets to the Chapter Annual Judicial Appreciation Luncheon. For more information about KCWWL Sponsorship Opportunities, please contact Beth Terrell at bterrell@tmdlegal.com.

WHAT'S NEW WITH MAMAS?

- by *Ronnie Seidel Spiegel*

On October 8, 2009, The Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association of Seattle ("MAMAS") hosted its Third Annual Banquet at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel. It was great to see so many MAMAS members in attendance, and equally striking to see so many non-members attend to show their

support: members of the federal, state, and municipal judiciary, and many leaders of local firms. At the banquet, MAMAS proudly presented its "2009 Leadership and Justice Award" to the Honorable Debra L. Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court. Justice Stephens gave a moving speech about her own experience as a

mother attorney, and explained her path to raising a family while juggling the demands of the legal profession. Justice Stephens received a well-deserved standing ovation for sharing her story and words of wisdom, which will likely stick with those in attendance for a long time to come. While MAMAS hosts many events



during the year, the Annual Banquet is a special chance to show successfully building a family and a career are not mutually exclusive.

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GIVING BACK: KING COUNTY WWL SPEED MENTORING PROGRAM

-by Joanna Hess, KCWWL University of Washington Law School Representative

This spring, KCWWL members donated their Friday night to participate in an unconventional “Speed-Mentoring” event, which was not only highly successful and much appreciated, but also great fun. The event joined established members of King County women’s legal community with local law students, in a format that allowed for individual connections between KCWWL members and future attorneys.

Organized by the KCWWL Mentoring subcommittee led by Hilary Mohr of Riddell

Williams, the event invited women law students from Seattle University and the University of Washington to talk one-on-one with women lawyers from diverse practice areas.

The format of the event allowed each student to move from mentor to mentor, giving everyone an opportunity to speak with the range of attorneys in a meaningful way. The structured but friendly environment also made for lively conversation and left room for individual questions

FRIEND OF THE JUDICIARY AWARD: ANN BENSON



ANN BENSON is the Directing Attorney for the Washington Defender Association’s Immigration Project. She provides training and technical assistance to defense attorneys, judges and prosecutors to understand the severe immigration consequences of criminal convictions facing noncitizen defendants and their families.

Additionally, Ann works collaboratively with organizations in Washington and the United States to

defend the due process rights of immigrant defendants and to reverse the increasing trend of criminalizing immigrant communities. Along the way Ann has worked as the Legal Director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, taught immigration law at the University of Washington School of Law and served on the Board of Directors for the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, One America (formerly Hate Free Zone) and the National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women. In 2005 Ann received the Lexis Nexis Daniel Levy Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Immigration Law. When not working, she enjoys the quiet life from her home in the seaside town of Port Townsend, WA.

(and was also appreciated by shy law students!)

Being able to hear from so many successful women practicing in such different areas in one evening proved useful for students in many ways. Many students commented on the benefit of hearing ‘how I got to where I am’ stories, and enjoyed listening to how different choices (personal and professional) affected each mentor’s career path.

The event also provided students with a venue to gather advice and input on

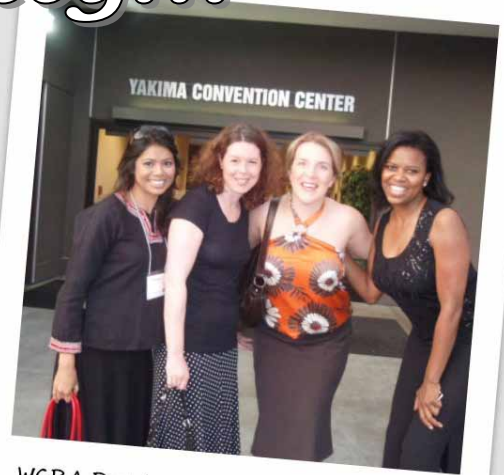
their own choices, which is particularly helpful for those in the process of applying to varying externships, internship, and jobs. Finally, students were also able to make individual connections with established attorneys, and hope to be able to use them as a resource now, and in the future.

From a student perspective, the event was an incredible chance to engage with the community of women lawyers working in King County, and we are very grateful to the women of KCWWL for putting on such a great event!

In Our Community...



May Monthly Happy Hour



WSBA Bar Leaders/Access to Justice
Yakima, WA



Chaya Auction 2009



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For more about the facilitator, Betsy Gutting, JD, past practicing attorney and career and personal coach, please visit www.betsygutting.com. Betsy can be reached at 206.605.2900 or betsy@betsygutting.com. Register early! Limited to 30 participants.

When: Saturday, January 30, 2010, 9:30 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.

Location: Good Shepard Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., Seattle 98103.