



## Message from Outgoing President Margaret Gannon

MARGARET GANNON, PRESIDENT WLAC 2007 – 2009



This is my goodbye letter to the membership and board of WLAC. I became a member of the board in 2005 and served as president for the last three years. It has been both a pleasure and a satisfaction to have been part of the organization leadership. I have had the opportunity to serve with a fine group of women and men working on the issues that are very close to our hearts. We

are all very proud of the Children's Waiting Room in the Hayward Courthouse and the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse. Many of our members were instrumental in fundraising and organizing for that project. We have participated actively with the bench/bar effort to revise local court rules to include a process to examine complaints of discrimination and to make corrections where needed. This ongoing project has our full support. Last year we initiated the plan for a

stipend program for graduating law students taking the bar exam. Money is being raised and several members, both lawyers and judges, have offered to be on the working committee for that project. The new year and the new board will be bringing the membership new projects which I hope to work on. In particular, we have discussed establishing a Past President's Counsel to assist the board in projects and policy recommendations. Some members have asked that I include my official biography, so for their benefit, here it is.

*Margaret Gannon, inventor of the Steam Dulcimer, was raised by timber wolves on a tiny Caribbean islet, which she left when she realized it wasn't spelled 'eyelet.' A wanderer in the far places of the earth, keen as a rapier and gentle as a dove, she now limits her practice to representing clients who can sing 'We're in the Money' in Pig Latin.*

Best wishes to you all.

*Margaret*

## WLAC Vice President Nancy O'Malley Named Interim District Attorney for Alameda County

In what is starting to be a statistically significant pattern for WLAC Members achieving great heights....

(see, e.g., Judge Julie Conger, California Women Lawyers Faye Stender Award Winner, 2008; Judge Peggy Hora, California Women Lawyers Rose Bird Award Winner, 2009; Monica F. Wiley, Superior Court Judicial Appointment, September 2009, and so on....)

After a surprise retirement announcement by Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff in early September 2009, Orloff asked the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to appoint the 'number two' person in his office, Chief Assistant D.A. and WLAC Board Member Nancy O'Malley, to take over the D.A. position in the interim.

After a lengthy public hearing held by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on September 16, 2009,

where the Board considered public comments from all sides, the Board voted 3-0, with two members abstaining, to appoint O'Malley as the Interim District Attorney, the first female district attorney in Alameda County history.



At that hearing, O'Malley advocated for herself, highlighting her many credentials and describing herself and Mr. Orloff as "hard-working, committed professionals," and "exactly what you need in a district attorney."

The District Attorney position will be on the ballot in the Fall of 2010. Ms. O'Malley has already stated her intention to run for election.

Congratulations Nancy, on your well-deserved appointment and we wish you continued success in serving Alameda County!



## JUDICIAL SPOTLIGHT:

### WLAC Board Member Monica F. Wiley Appointed to S.F. Superior Court Bench by Gov. Schwarzenegger

In early September 2009, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed five new judges, to the San Francisco County Superior Court bench. One appointment went to our own Monica F. Wiley, a member of the Board of Directors for Women Lawyers of Alameda County.

Ms. Wiley, a resident of Oakland, has served as a senior associate at the law firm Carlson Calladine and Peterson since 2007. She worked from 1996 to 2007 as a deputy city attorney for the San Francisco City Attorney's Office and also worked as a legal research attorney for the San Francisco County Superior Court in 1996. Ms. Wiley, a Democrat, earned her law degree from the Howard University School of Law and her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

She fills a vacancy created by Judge Robert Dondero's elevation to the District Court of Appeal.

Judge Wiley was sworn in the week of October 9, 2009 by S.F. Superior Court Presiding Judge James J. McBride. In speaking about the Court's five new appointees, Judge

McBride remarked: "The Court is pleased to welcome our five new members of the Bench, who bring with them a



wealth of legal expertise that will serve our Court and the public well; We would like to thank Governor Schwarzenegger for giving us people equal to the talented jurists who left our Bench in the past year."

The WLAC Board will miss Monica and the vast array of skills she brought to our board of directors. Perhaps what we will miss most of all is her investigative reporting and many 'scoops' she achieved, resulting in great newsletter articles as a member of WLAC's Newsletter Committee!

Congratulations Judge Wiley, and good luck. We are honored to have you as a member!

## WLAC Judge's Dinner November 5, 2009 Welcomes Senator Ellen Corbett as Our Keynote Speaker

The WLAC Annual Judges Dinner is right around the corner, and the WLAC Board of Directors is proud to welcome Senator Ellen M. Corbett, state senator for the 10th Senate District (stretching from the San Leandro/Oakland area in the north, south to San Jose and east to Pleasanton) as our keynote speaker.

Ms. Corbett was elected to the Senate in 2006. A lawyer and civic activist, she is dedicated to protecting the rights of consumers, encouraging education opportunities for all and protecting the environment. She chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, only the second freshman senator to head this important committee. Prior to that she also chaired the Assembly Judiciary Committee and chaired the Revenue and Taxation Committee.

During her six years in the Assembly and term in the Senate, Senator Corbett has enacted landmark legislation, including creating a cash back for gift cards program, giving consumers more information about bottled water, increasing compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and currently is leading the fight with legislation to restore the \$16 million of Domestic Violence funding vetoed by the Governor.

A native Californian, Sen. Corbett attended local schools

in the East Bay, including Chabot Community College and California State University, Hayward. She graduated from the University of California, Davis and McGeorge Law School.

Senator Corbett has a long history of public service in Alameda County. She served as a city councilmember and was the first woman elected mayor of San Leandro. She started practicing law in Alameda County at her family's law firm and continues to be an active member of the State Bar.

Senator Corbett has received numerous awards during her legislative career including being named one of the Top 100 Attorneys in California and an Outstanding Legislator by the California State Sheriffs' Association.

Recently, in an effort to support California's judicial system she authored SB 377, which would authorize 50 new superior court judgeships in California. She is also the author of SB 510, which would help consumers by providing clarity and consistency in the court approval of transfers of structured settlements.

We look forward to her address at the November 5, 2009 WLAC Annual Judges Dinner and invite you to join us.



# WOMEN LAWYERS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

A VOICE FOR WOMEN IN THE LAW SINCE 1980

## ANNUAL JUDGES' DINNER

Co-sponsored by:

Alameda County Bar Association, Asian American Bar Association, Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, California Association of Black Lawyers, Charles Houston Bar Association, La Raza Lawyers Association/East Bay, Korean American Bar Association, and South Asian Bar Association of Northern California



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

California State Senator **Ellen Corbett**

### HONORING:

- Recently appointed to the Superior Court: **Hon. Kimberly M. Briggs** in Alameda County, and **Hon. Monica F. Wiley** in San Francisco (and former WLAC Board Member)
- Recently elevated to the First District Court of Appeal: **Hon. Kathleen M. Banke** from Alameda County Superior Court
- Special recognition: **Hon. Barbara Miller** and **Hon. Yolanda Northridge** for having served as Presiding Judges in the Alameda County Superior Court

### MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES:

**Nancy E. O'Malley**, District Attorney, Alameda County and newly installed President of California Women Lawyers

**Thursday, November 5, 2009**

**Oakland Marriott City Center, 11th and Broadway**

**No Host Bar 6:00 p.m.**

**Dinner 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

WLAC is an unincorporated association - TIN #94-3241007. Visit our website at [www.wlaconline.org](http://www.wlaconline.org)

*WLAC and Wardrobe for Opportunity invite dinner guests to donate quality women's business clothes at the event.*

*Bring clean coats, suits, dresses, slacks, and blouses in good condition, covered and on hangers. Handbags and jewelry accessories are especially needed.*

To make an individual or group reservation send this form and your check **postmarked by Friday, October 30, 2009** to Patricia Delgado, 3045 - 23rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Direct dinner inquiries to Ms. Delgado at [WLAC@sbcglobal.net](mailto:WLAC@sbcglobal.net). Individual Sponsors and all Tables will be acknowledged in the printed program.

### Individual Ticket Reservations

WLAC Member (*)	\$ 100	_____
Non-Member	\$ 125	_____
Individual Sponsor	\$ 200	_____

### Table Reservations (Table of 10)

Supreme	\$3,000	_____
Appellate	\$2,000	_____
Superior	\$1,500	_____

(\*) Non-members may qualify for the member price by including an additional \$75 for 2010 dues.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check Entree Choice (check one)    Chicken \_\_\_\_\_    Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

*(If reservation is for more than one person, please attach list with additional names and entree options.)*

## It's More Than Just a Business Suit:

**Women Lawyers of Alameda County Teams Up Again With "Wardrobe for Opportunity" at November 5, 2009 Annual Judges Dinner:**

*Bring those Gently Worn Business Suits Hiding In Your Closet to Donate!*



In these tough economic times, job seekers need every advantage possible to distinguish themselves. Imagine if you had fallen upon hard times, were a victim of violence or homelessness, living in a shelter, or relying on public benefits to get by, and didn't have professional attire to wear to a job interview?

Studies show that employers make hiring decisions in the first five minutes of an interview. Seventy-five percent of the first impression is visual<sup>1</sup> and confidence during the interview is one of the main traits employers measure. Regardless of their motivation, training and technical skills, many low-income women and men receiving public benefits cannot find work or stop working shortly after being hired.<sup>2</sup>

Founded in 1995 to address often overlooked, yet critical barriers to finding and retaining employment, **Wardrobe for Opportunity** ("WFO"), provides professional business attire to low-income job seekers, helps clients project the positive image, self-confidence, and self-esteem necessary to find and maintain employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

In 2008, WFO provided professional attire to over 2,000 men and women.<sup>3</sup>

WLAC is proud to team up again this year with Wardrobe for Opportunity in its mission of providing professional clothing and career support to low-income jobseekers in the Bay Area.

The WLAC Board will be collecting donations of mens' and womens' business attire at the November 5, 2009 Annual Judges Dinner.

Please bring something you no longer have use for to donate to this worthwhile project.

1. Seitz, Victoris, Ph.D. "Image Making," *BeautyWalk.com*, 3/11/2003.
2. See *Wardrobe for Opportunity Website* at: <http://www.wardrobe.org/about.html>
3. *Id.*

## WLAC Announces Slate for 2009-2010 Board of Directors

At the September 2009 Board of Directors Meeting, the WLAC Board voted on the following leadership slate for the coming year:

### Officers:

President: Toni Mims  
Vice President: Nancy O'Malley  
Treasurer: Tara M. Flanagan  
Secretary: Gail Mitchell

### Members at Large:

Candace Goldman  
Autumn HajMohammad  
LaJoyce Porter  
Mala Sahai  
Cosette Sun  
Maretta Ward

Judicial Liaison: The Hon. Stuart Hing

Please join us at the Annual Judges Dinner on November 5, 2009 where this Board will be voted upon and sworn in for the coming year.

## Partner Bar Assoc. Announcement:

### The Charles Houston Bar Association



&

### Alameda County Bar Association/Volunteer Legal Service Corporation

Host

**FREE**

### DEBT COLLECTION LAW CLINIC

#### Oakland Public Library Main Branch

125 14th Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Saturday, November 14, 2009

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Volunteer attorneys will be on hand to answer your questions relating to debt collection law issues such as fair collection practices.

Space is limited so please come early to sign up.

For further information please contact Sharron Gelobter at (866) 712-7974 by email at [sgelobter@yurumeinlaw.com](mailto:sgelobter@yurumeinlaw.com).

Please be advised that the Charles Houston Bar Association and ACBA/VLSC are not liable for advice received at this session. The session is for a limited period and referrals for further counseling will be available.