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NAWJ ONLINE

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Volume 5 Issue 2 - February 2007

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Save the Date! NAWJ Mid-Year and Regional Conference

**NAWJ Mid-Year Board Meeting
March 23-25, 2007 in New York City**

Education Program: The Bankruptcy Card and How To Play It

Location: New York City Bar

Date/Time: March 23, 2007 - 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

The Honorable Sarah Sharer Curley, bankruptcy judge and former chief bankruptcy judge from the District of Arizona, and the Honorable Cecelia G. Morris, bankruptcy judge from the Southern District of New York, will provide an up-to-date, entertaining, and informative program on bankruptcy issues that may be faced by non-bankruptcy state and federal judges.

The topics which may be considered:

- What is the automatic stay?
- Do you, or the bankruptcy court, determine the scope and applicability of the stay to your proceeding?
- How does the filing of a bankruptcy petition by one of the litigants affect your proceeding?
- What are the special concerns of federal district court judges in bankruptcy proceedings?
- How do the recent changes to the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act affect domestic relations proceedings?

NAWJ Reception

Location: Rubin Museum of Art (<http://www.rmanyc.org/>), 150 West 17th Street, New York, NY 10011

Date/Time: March 24, 2007 - 7 - 8:30 p.m.

The Rubin Museum of Art opened on October 4, 2004. It is the first museum in the Western World dedicated to the art of the Himalayas and surrounding regions.

**South Beach Getaway a Regional Conference
April 27-29, 2007**

**Hosted by:
NAWJ Districts 5 & 6**

**Have You Moved to A
New Court or A New
Home?**

If you're not getting e-mail, postal mail, or faxes from us, it could very well be that we don't know where you are. Don't miss out on anything. If you have recently moved to a new court or a new home, please take a minute and send us an e-mail at nawj@nawj.org to let us know so we can update our membership database.



NAWJ Latest News

**Welcome New
Landmark Sponsors**

[Boies, Schiller &
Flexner LLP](#)

[Sonnenschein Nath &
Rosenthal LLP](#)

**NAWJ Co-Sponsors
the American Bar
Association Summit**

Host Committee:
 Judge Mary Becnel
 Judge Diana Eagon, District Director

Co-Chairs
 Judge Margret Robb, *NAWJ Vice President - Districts*
 Judge Yvonne Evans
 Judge Ernestine Gray
 Judge Cindy Lederman
 Judge Barbara Levenson
 Judge Denise Owens

Programs to be presented:

- The Impact of technology on the courts and jurisprudence, including Fourth Amendment issues
- Disaster Planning and Response
- Healing babies and Toddlers in Court: The marriage of Law and Science

NAWJ Welcomes New Resource Board Members

Leslie Davis, Esq.
 Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP

Elizabeth Ferrell, Esq.
 Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP

Amy J. Mauser, Esq.
 Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP

Alanna C. Rutherford, Esq.
 Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP

COMING SOON! NAWJ Developing Web Members Only Section

NAWJ is developing a new *members only* section of its Web site. Soon members will be able to log in with a unique userid and password to access and update membership data, post district calendar events, register for events, and buy NAWJ logo items. **Keep an eye out for a personalized e-mail with details and your login information.**

For now, members can access *Counterbalance* and the *Monthly Update* using the current temporary userid of **member@** (this is the literal userid) and the password **nawj.org**.

Please take a minute to check out our [new site](#) and [let us know](#) what you think. And be sure to update your old bookmarks.

Women's Bar Association Judicial Reception

The Women's Bar Association invites you to its

Judicial Reception

in partnership with the
 National Association of Women Judges

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Panel
 Discussion:**

Judicial Independence

**on Unified Family
 Courts**

The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts was a co-sponsor for the 1998 ABA Summit on Unified Family Courts, in Philadelphia, PA.

This conference contributed significantly to the creation of unified family court pilot site and programs around the country. Many states have continued to refine and implement this model. There are significant needs that have yet to be met. With the direction of new ABA president, Karen Mathis, another Conference is being held for much-needed follow up. Get more [details](#).

**Fall 2006 Issue of
 Counterbalance**



The latest issue of Counterbalance was shipped in December 2006. If you haven't received your copy yet, please let us know.

[Download the Latest Issue of Counterbalance \(PDF\)](#)

Upcoming Events

[American Bar Association 2007 Midyear Meeting](#)
 February 7 - 13, 2007
 Miami, FL

[National Association](#)

Moderator: Judge Delissa A. Ridgway
U.S. Court of International Trade

Panelists: Judge Leonie M. Brinkema
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia

Dean Frederic M. Lawrence
George Washington University Law School

John W. Nields, Esq.
Partner, Howrey LLP, and Chair,
DC Third Branch Project, Council for Court
Excellence

Senator Patrick J. Leahy (invited)
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Reception to follow

Reception

**The Dolley Madison House
1520 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005**

7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Tickets

Judges: Complimentary
WBA Members: \$75
Non-members: \$85
Patron: \$100

Register at

<http://www.wbadc.org/cde.cfm?event=154589>

WBA 1750 K Street, NW, Suite 350 Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202) 639-8880 Fax: (202) 639-8889

NAWJ Membership Reaches Five-Year High

An organization that began with only a handful of women bound by their common purpose to support each other and to support diversity and gender equity in the judiciary has reached a five year high in membership.

Jeff Groton, the Chief Operating Officer, reported that January 2007 brought NAWJ membership to 1204 members. This is the first time in five years that membership in the organization has topped 1200.

Judge Brenda Stith Loftin, President of the NAWJ, said, "This represents the recognition that the programs and services we provide to our members are meeting a special and unique need within the judiciary."

The signature programs of NAWJ like the Genome Justice Project, Women in Prisons project and Color of Justice are designed to promote the organization's mission, which includes promoting diversity on the bench as well as ensuring equal access to justice.

"Certainly, our membership committee members have worked very hard," added Dru Stender Ramey, the organization's Executive Director. "The efforts of our various specialty courts, in particular, have given new emphasis to making our programs and services available to judges who had previously perhaps been unaware of NAWJ's value to them in their jurisdiction."

This year a special outreach effort was made to judges in the federal and administrative judiciary. There has also been a concerted focus on attaching judges to their regions for some of the outstanding regional programs now being offered by the organization.

The next milestone is to achieve 1250, which represents a matching grant challenge established by one of NAWJ's Landmark Sponsors.

[of Women Lawyers
Mid-Year Meeting and
Luncheon](#)
February 8, 2007
Miami, FL

[Joint Reception with
Womens' Bar
Association](#)
February 21, 2007
Washington, DC

[Color of Justice](#)
February 24, 2007
Fairfax, VA

Save the Date!
**NAWJ 29th Annual
Conference**
November 7 - 11, 2007
Philadelphia, PA

Are you keeping up with all NAWJ events? If not, check out our NAWJ website at <http://www.nawj.org>

Announcements

NAWJ Member to Be Honored by ABA

Past NAWJ President Hon. Cara Lee Neville will receive the American Bar Foundation Fellows' Outstanding State Chair Award at its annual dinner at this ABA meeting, on Saturday, February 10, 2007.

Host Hotel for the 2007 Annual Conference

The 29th Annual NAWJ Conference is November 7 - 12, 2007 at the Four Season Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. Room rates are \$198.00 Single and \$228.00 Double. Register today to ensure you are able to take advantage of this great rate. The group Identifier is National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ)

Call today!

California Women Lawyers Reception

CWL's 7th Annual Northern California Judicial Reception Friday, March 23, 2007, in Oakland, CA– Rose Bird Memorial Award

On March 23, 2007, CWL will hold its 7th Annual Northern California Judicial Reception at Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean in Oakland, CA from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. This year we are proud to honor Alameda Superior Court **Judge Brenda Harbin-Forte** as the recipient of the Rose Bird Memorial Award. Judge Harbin-Forte is widely known throughout the state and the nation for her wisdom, courage and commitment to community service. As our sister organization, please join us in the opportunity to co-sponsor this wonderful event.

Thomson West Seeks State Trial Judge Opinions for Publication

NAWJ Resource Board member Thomson West is interested in publishing State trial judges' opinions and selected orders on Westlaw.com. They are primarily interested in opinions and substantive orders written in civil cases from 2000 to the present, but we will review and consider all opinions and orders that contain substantive legal reasoning on important issues for the court, the jurisdiction in question, or Westlaw customers. All published opinions and orders will be researchable and linked on Westlaw in a new trial opinions database.

Interested judges may submit their opinions electronically by e-mailing them to West.TrialOpinions@Thomson.com, or sending them to:

Thomson West Litigator
Attn: Dianne Selbitschka
Trial Opinion Receiver
610 Opperman Drive, D2-5158
Eagan, MN 55123

If you would prefer to mail the documents, you may send them via 2-day Federal Express, using account #137762358, or West will provide self-addressed, stamped envelopes or boxes (to request, please call Kristi Davis at 1-800-328-9378, ext. 78736).

If you have any questions or concerns, please call David I. Tevelin, Manager, Content Acquisition, at (202) 423-2986 or e-mail him at dtevelin@thomson.com.

MCSW Seeks 351 Community Unsung Heroines For 2007

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is seeking a few good women!

Contact: Paula Daddona, 617-626-6520

Nominations Due By March 1, 2007

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is seeking a few good women – 351 to be exact. The MCSW seeks to honor an Unsung Heroine from each of the 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth at a reception at the State House this May. Nominations are open to the public and are due by March 1.

This is the fourth year that the MCSW has sponsored its Unsung Heroines initiative and sought the assistance of all residents of the Commonwealth in identifying the extraordinary women from every community who perform unheralded acts on a daily basis that make our neighborhoods, cities and towns better places to live. Last year 280 Community Unsung heroines were celebrated.

The Commission hopes that women who are nominated will truly be "unsung" – women who quietly, without fanfare, recognition and usually behind the scenes, use their time, talent, spirit and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others. They are mentors, volunteers and innovators. These women are the glue that keeps a community together and the spark that gets things started and gets things done. Most importantly, they care about others and it evident in their everyday actions. They don't make the news, they make the difference!

Any Massachusetts resident may nominate a woman for this honor. The MCSW

1-866-516-1100
215-963-1500

2006 Annual Report

The National Office still has copies of NAWJ's 2006 Annual Report. If you would like to distribute some to your colleagues, please contact Jeff at (202) 393-0222 or jgroton@nawj.org.

hopes to select an Unsung Heroine to represent each community in Massachusetts. The 351 women designated as Community Unsung Heroines of 2007 will be honored at a State House Reception on May 16, 2007.

Nomination forms may be requested from the Commission or can be easily downloaded from the Commission website, www.mass.gov/women. Completed Nomination forms should be mailed to: The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, Unsung Heroines of 2007, Charles Hurley Building, 19 Staniford Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02114-2502. For more information about the Massachusetts Unsung Heroines of 2007 call the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women at 617-626-6520.

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is an independent state agency that was legislatively created in 1998 to advance women of the Commonwealth to full equality in all areas of life and to promote their rights and opportunities. The Commission consists of 19 volunteer commissioners who are drawn from diverse, professional, ethnic and geographical backgrounds.

Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women
Tel: 617-626-6520
Fax: 617-626-6530
E-Mail: mcsw@state.ma.us
Web: www.mass.gov/women

Counterbalance Call for Submissions

Call for Submissions – Counterbalance Spring 2007

The deadline for the next issue of *Counterbalance* is **April 10, 2007**. If you have articles, announcements, or events that you'd like included, please pass them along to us at nawj@nawj.org. When submitting articles for review, please refer to the following guidelines:

- E-mail documents are preferred. You may attach either a Word or WordPerfect document, or include the text in the body of your e-mail. You may attach photos along with the document to ensure I receive your entire submission package. See guidance on photos below.
- When sending submissions, please include "For Counterbalance" in the subject line. If you have an idea where you'd like your submission placed (District News, Awards & Recognition, etc.), please feel free to let us know.
- Please submit a complete article. If you have information from some other source (article, newsletter, Web site, etc.) that you want included, please place that information in your article rather than making reference to it.
- If you have photos you would like to accompany your submission, please attach the photo file (.JPG, .GIF, .BMP, etc.) and include a caption alongside the filename (e.g., image1.jpg – Judge Jane Doe presents award to John Doe). If you must send a PDF document from which you would like me to extract a photo(s), please indicate which photo(s). **Please remember that the higher the quality of the image (directly from a camera or scanner), the better the print quality.**
- Copyright restrictions do apply even though we are a non-profit organization. Unfortunately, NAWJ cannot reproduce articles from newspapers or Web sites unless you own the rights or have been granted reprint permission. If you just want to include a summary from the source, please write and submit it as you would an article you had written yourself.

These procedures will help us keep track of everything and make sure nothing gets lost or overlooked. If you have any questions or problems getting something to us, please don't hesitate to call (202/393-0222) or e-mail (nawj@nawj.org).

Submitting Events for the NAWJ Web Calendar

Keep NAWJ Up-to-Date on your local activities!

If you would like to post events on the NAWJ Web calendar or in *Counterbalance*, please send an e-mail with "NAWJ Calendar Submission" in the subject line to nawj@nawj.org and include the following information (in this format) in the body of

that e-mail—

Event date:
Event time:
Event title:
Event description:
Contact:
Location:

E-mails without the above information may cause a delay or error in posting. You may attach flyers or registration forms to be posted along with your event, but it is most helpful if you can extract the required information and present it in the above format. Events are automatically included in the most current issue of *Counterbalance* if submitted by the deadline. Thank you for your help.

About NAWJ

The National Association of Women Judges is a non-profit organization which has for 27 years served as the nation's leading voice for jurists dedicated to preserving judicial independence; ensuring equal justice and access to the courts for women, minorities and other historically disfavored groups; providing judicial education on cutting-edge issues; and increasing the numbers and advancement of women judges at all levels to more accurately reflect their full participation in a democratic society. For more information, visit www.nawj.org or call 202.393.0222.