



MARIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION *NEWSLETTER*

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ANNUAL BENCH/BAR LUNCHEON

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to attend the MCBA's Annual Bench/Bar Luncheon this year to be co-sponsored with the Marin County Women Lawyers on Wednesday, November 17th, 12 noon at Joe LoCoco's Ristorante.

This luncheon is to honor the Judges for their constant focused efforts to the matters that come before them and for their ongoing efforts to be independent and fair in their interpretation and application of the laws that govern us, and for their effort to enhance and maintain confidence in our legal system.

The Judges will provide us with an overview of court unification and the new challenges that face the court and administration of court business.

This is your opportunity to have lunch with the local members of the Marin County bench on an informal basis. Last year's event was a huge success and the most popular event of the year. We urge you to make your reservations early.

The November general membership luncheon will also serve as the General Meeting of the membership to elect Officers and Directors for the year 2000, so plan on attending.

Reservation form is found on page 2.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR 2000

The Nominating Committee chaired by president-elect Royda Crosland and comprised of Wanden Treanor, Clay Greene, Terrel Mason, Matthew White, Renee Marcelle, and Deborah Breiner announced its recommendation for officers and directors for 2000 following its meeting in September. The slate is as follows: Lawrence A. Baskin, President-Elect, David Feingold, Secretary, Mary McLain, Treasurer. The five directors are: Jill Berryman, Richard Franceschini, Jared W. Huffman, Leonard A. Rifkind and James Hepburn Sutton.

The slate was announced at the October 20th General Membership dinner meeting and the election shall take place at the regular General Membership meeting in November.

INCOMING! ALL ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM PRESIDENT

When Royda Crosland takes office in January 2000, as the "new millennium" president of the Marin County Bar Association, she will adopt a symbol for her presidency — the equal sign. Royda promises to use her presidency to promote her philosophy that "whether people are hippies, Generation X'ers, women, men, black, white... everyone should be on an equal footing." The equal symbol is representative of one goal Royda will concentrate on: The expansion of women attorneys' MCBA participation. Royda is very concerned that women attorneys are not as active in the MCBA as they have been in the Marin County Women Lawyers. Although the existence of a "glass ceiling" and other inequality issues still exist for female attorneys, Royda notes that women are truly welcome in the MCBA and are encouraged to participate at the same level as men. As MCBA President, Royda will explore the issues that have kept many women in a separate organization rather than as active, participating members of the MCBA.

Royda's MCBA year 2000 agenda also includes increasing communication among the MCBA and its committees, its sections, and the general membership. She plans to ask for monthly reports from each committee liaison at Board meetings. She also wants to build on the programs of past presidents, including Terry Mason's push to increase civility among our MCBA members and the efforts of Peter Flaxman and this year's president, Myron Greenberg, to create greater accessibility to MCBA functions and to encourage more participation by holding general membership meetings in the evenings and at different locations in Marin. Royda would also like to see the MCBA become more active in the Conference of Delegates, so that our members' views are represented at the State Bar level (the next meeting will be in San Diego, September 14-17).

By all accounts, she will be successful. Myron Greenberg doesn't hesitate to make a prediction: "Profes-

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Incoming!

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sionally, Royda is an incredibly competent attorney, highly intelligent and very good with people. These skills will make her an excellent MCBA president."

Terry Mason agrees. "She is bringing a very professional attitude to the position of president and she will be an excellent leader. Royda is a very capable attorney and I certainly expect good things from her."

Royda thinks that the legal profession must guard against the current tendency to see the law as a profit business and not a profession, and thinks that Myron's October 1999 President's Message was a good reminder about the issues facing the profession in this regard. One huge issue he spoke to, and one that is being discussed across the country, is that of the "multi-disciplinary practice." At the State Bar Convention in the early part of this month, Royda represented the MCBA at the 65th Conference of Delegates, along with Ken Drexler (the hard-working MCBA delegate chair), Greg Wolff, John Fallat, and Edmund Duggan, and listened to a debate on a resolution about the "multi-disciplinary practices." The resolution passed, after very heated debate, to "request the State Bar to establish a Statewide commission with representation from [various constituents] to prepare a report and recommendation regarding Multi-disciplinary practice that would be consistent with the core values of the profession, including preserving client confidences, avoiding conflicts of interest and maintaining the independence of the profession." We will be hearing a lot more about this issue, and Royda hopes that MCBA members will pay attention and contribute their viewpoints on this matter, since it truly concerns the future of the profession.

Royda does believe that lawyers provide a valuable service to society and thinks that it is important for the profession to focus on the positive aspects of what lawyers do — especially the representation of clients. "I was in court yesterday, and there was a woman being evicted from her room in a hotel. The woman had with her a daughter in a wheelchair, but had no lawyer to represent them. It just about broke my heart. She and her daughter needed legal representation." Being a lawyer, Royda says, "should not just be about the bottom line. We are important to our clients. We are serving the public by representing those clients well, and we should keep reminding ourselves and others about the good that we do."

Royda currently practices in Mill Valley with Parker & Crosland LLP, handling a wide variety of employment law matters. Following eight years representing manage-

ment at large firms in San Francisco and Oakland, she now represents both management and employees, and enjoys the mix. "I like fighting for the little guy/person," she says. "It reminds me of why I went to law school." On the management side, she helps employers follow the jumble of new laws and rules, working to keep them out of legal trouble.

A Mill Valley resident for over 20 years, Royda lives with her husband and law partner, David Parker, and their 16-year old mutt, Seamus, "a real sweetie-pie." For recreation, Royda travels, scuba dives, skis, goes to movies, listens to jazz and reads mystery novels — and especially likes those by Walter Mosley, James Lee Burke, Kathy Reich and Carol O'Connell.

Of course, Royda doesn't think it should matter that the new MCBA president is a woman. "My whole life, I've been encouraged to do what I want to do. Some women use their gender to aggressively go after a goal, or worse, as an excuse not to go for it. I truly believe that all people should do what they want to do, regardless of their gender or age or race or religion. I want the MCBA to help its members do just that."

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STANFORD J.D.

REPORTED CASES:

Doe v. Petaluma City School Dist., et al.,
830 F.Supp. 1560 (N.D.Cal. 1993)

(set legal precedent for student-to-student sexual
harassment claims under federal law);

Doe By and Through Doe v. Petaluma City School Dist.,
54 F.3d 1447 (9th Cir. 1995)

(reversed denial of qualified immunity);

Wasson v. Sonoma County Junior College Dist.,
4 F.Supp.2d 893 (N.D.Cal 1997)

(dismissal of First Amendment, contract and
defamation lawsuit);

Oona R.S. v. Santa Rosa City Schools, et al.,
143 F.3d 473 (9th Cir. 1998)

(appellate brief and oral argument focused on statutory
construction of federal civil rights law)