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## Inaugural FCWL Newsletter

*By Rebecca M. Medina, FCWL Newsletter Editor*

Welcome to the first issue of the 2011 Fresno County Women Lawyers newsletter. As editor, I look forward to connecting with members by providing the latest FCWL happenings. Articles of interest will also be incorporated into the newsletter to provide insight, relay information, and connect FCWL members with the bigger world of women in the law.

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, please contact me at [rmedina@fresnofamilylaw.com](mailto:rmedina@fresnofamilylaw.com) or refer to the Contact Us page on [www.fcwl.org](http://www.fcwl.org). I want to hear what you have to say about the newsletter or topic ideas that you think should be addressed.

## In Memoriam: Judy Soley

By now, we all have heard of the tragic loss of Judy Soley. Judy was a cherished mother, friend, and colleague who will be dearly missed in the legal community and community at large. She was the former president of the Fresno County Bar Association and Fresno County Women Lawyers. She will be remembered as an inspiration to women in the Fresno legal community.

A memorial scholarship fund in honor of Judy has been set up by her family. If you would like to donate, please write the check to the Judith Leslie Soley Memorial Fund for Disabled Students; and write Boalt Hall School of Law in the memo line. Mail to: Boalt Hall Alumni Center, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, 2850 Telegraph Avenue, Ste. 500, Berkeley, CA 94705-7220.



Photo Courtesy of Howard K. Watkins

## FCWL 2011 OFFICERS

<b>President:</b>	Zeppy Attashian
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Jennifer Byers-Lawton
<b>Secretary:</b>	Heather Mardel Jones
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Margaret A. Fainer
<b>Members at Large:</b>	Lenore Schreiber Olivia M. Wright Dallas Neumann
<b>Past President:</b>	Christine J. Levin

## FCWL 2011 COMMITTEES

<b>FCWL Affiliate Governor, CWL:</b>	M. Prudence Hutton
<b>Website Coordinator:</b>	Rebecca Medina
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Rebecca Medina
<b>Membership:</b>	Maribel Hernandez
<b>Hanson Dinner Chair:</b>	Melissa White



February 23, 2011, Officiating of Officers at the Luncheon at the Downtown Club

Pictured Left to Right: Judge Sandra A. Snyder, Christine J. Levin, Margaret A. Fainer, Jennifer Byers-Lawton, Heather Mardel Jones, Zeppy Attashian, Dallas Neumann, Olivia M. Wright, Rebecca M. Medina, Lenore Schreiber

**Photo Courtesy of Howard K. Watkins**

## Justice Rawlinson's Speech Stresses Diversity in Decision Making at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Hanson Dinner

By M. Prudence Hutton

Justice Johnnie B. Rawlinson of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals was the keynote speaker at the Fresno County Women Lawyer's 21st Annual Justice Pauline Davis Hanson Dinner. The event was held Nov. 19, 2010, at the scenic Fort Washington County Club.

Justice Rawlinson's address provided insight into the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and highlighted the importance of diversity in judicial decision making. She shared her thoughts on how life experiences bring understanding, compassion, and heightened awareness to the judiciary and welcomes the increasing number of women in the legal profession.

In August 1997, Justice Rawlinson was nominated to become a U.S. District Judge by President Bill Clinton. Her nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in April 1998. Upon her appointment, Justice Rawlinson became the first woman and African-American to serve in the Nevada federal district court. On February 23, 2000, at the recommendation of Senator Harry Reid, President Clinton nominated Judge Rawlinson to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She took the oath of office on July 26, 2000. She is the first African-American woman to sit on the Ninth Circuit.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Rawlinson was employed in the office of the Clark County District Attorney for more than seventeen years with extensive civil and criminal experience. Justice Rawlinson graduated summa cum laude from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, with a B.S. Degree in Psychology. She graduated With Distinction from McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific, in Sacramento, California.

Justice Rawlinson is a member of the Just The Beginning Foundation, Federal Judges Association, State Bar of Nevada, California State Bar, National Bar Association, American Judicature Society, and an Honorary Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is married to her college sweetheart, Dwight. They have three grown children.

### Pro Bono Idea of the Month

Volunteer attorneys are needed to help with Project First Step, a coordinated effort to help domestic violence survivors obtain a permanent restraining order against the alleged abuser. Volunteers may represent the client at a single temporary restraining order hearing, or they may choose to represent the client at additional hearings.

Volunteers are needed every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the Fresno County Superior Court. If you are interested, please contact **Ugochi Anaebere** at

[ugochi@centralcallegal.org](mailto:ugochi@centralcallegal.org).

**SAVE THE DATE**

**FCWL MIXER**  
March 2011  
Date & Time TBD

**FCWL LUNCHEON**  
**CO-SPONSORED WITH THE FCBA**  
Justice James Ardaiz (Ret.)  
April 27, 2011  
12 - 1:15 P.M.  
The Downtown Club  
Contact:  
[jlawton@fresnofamilylaw.com](mailto:jlawton@fresnofamilylaw.com)

**JUDICIAL RECEPTION**  
May 19, 2011  
Location TBD

**RESTAURANT TAKEOVER WITH LA VISIONARIA GUILD**  
June 2011  
Time & Location TBD

**MAKING STRIDE FOR BREAST CANCER RUN/WALK**  
October 2, 2011

Did you know that FCWL offers a \$25 membership discount for FCWL members?

## *Thanks to All Who Attended the FCWL Hanson Dinner Reception*



Photos Courtesy of Howard K. Watkins

Keynote Speaker Johnnie B. Rawlinson



FCWL Members with Justice Rawlinson

### **Tani Cantil-Sakauye is Keynote Speaker for 2011 FCWL Hanson Dinner**

FCWL is honored to announce California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye will be the keynote speaker for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Justice Pauline Davis Hanson Dinner.

Justice Cantil-Sakauye's career spans 27 years. She has presided over both criminal and civil assignments.

The dinner will be held on Monday, October 17, 2011, at Fort Washington Country Club.

### **From the Newsroom**

#### *Selected Articles and Blogs*

- **Women Lawyers Argue About 15% of Supreme Court Cases; Do They dislike Verbal Jousting?**  
<http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/women-lawyers-argue-about-15-of-supreme-courts-cases-do-they-dislike-the-verbal-jousting/>
- **Ms. JD's online community provides a forum for dialogue and networking among women lawyers and law students.**  
<http://www.ms-jd.org>

### **FCWL Selects La Visionaria Guild Children's Hospital Central California Selected as Non-Profit of the Year**

Each year FCWL selects a local non-profit organization to sponsor and promote as a way to stay connected and give back to our community. This year's non-profit is La Visionaria Guild Children's Hospital Central California.

La Visionaria Guild was selected by FCWL President Zeppy Attashian because of its important role as a fundraiser for Children's Hospital. The Guild's mission is to engage in creative and innovate ways to raise funds, advocate for children, and promote goodwill for Children's Hospital Central California.

One innovative fundraiser is the restaurant takeover, which you will also find in this issue's Save the Date section on Pg. 2. A "restaurant takeover" is when La Visionaria commits to take over a locally owned restaurant and sell out the establishment. All of the proceeds from the night benefit Children's Hospital.

It is rare that any Valley resident has not been touched by Children's Hospital whether it was directly or through a friend or family member's experience. Visit [www.lavisionariaguild.org](http://www.lavisionariaguild.org) if you like to learn more about the Guild.