



NAWL NEWS

National Association of Women Lawyers®
The voice of women in the law.™

September, 2006

Welcome to NAWL News! This is a free newsletter, and we encourage you to pass it on to others who would be interested. To unsubscribe, please hit “reply” and put “unsubscribe” in the subject box.

NAWL News – First Anniversary

The NAWL News is now a year old, and it’s been a strong year for the organization. Here are just a few of our accomplishments since last September:

- We participated in the Wal-Mart Diversity Conference in September of 2005, supporting the company’s directive to their law firms that both women and minorities become part of the team serving the account.
- In November of 2005, we held our first ever General Counsel Institute, focusing on career development skills for senior in-house counsel seeking to attain the rank of general counsel – an intensely popular program that we will be holding again in October of this year.
- We have filed several amicus briefs supporting women’s reproductive rights, their rights to participate in school sports, and to avoid sexual discrimination.
- NAWL sent letters to President Bush and Condoleeza Rice commending the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.
- The NAWL International Committee sent letters to a number of United Nations Security Council representatives, urging the nomination of a woman as the next Secretary General of the United Nations.
- Glass ceiling issues came to the forefront in March of 2006, when the *New York Times* published an article entitled "Why Do So Few Women Reach the Top of Big Law Firms?" NAWL is aware of these issues, and has responded by steadily taking steps to train and empower women through our programs. We also incorporated these issues into our Annual Meeting in July.
- We have issued the NAWL Challenge at this year’s Annual Awards Luncheon, addressing gender disproportionality in the upper echelons of the legal profession. Recent research indicates that women comprise nearly 50% of incoming law school students, but only 15% of equity partners at law firms, and 15% of chief legal partners.

Not Banned in Boston – NAWL held its first educational program at The Colonnade Hotel in Boston on September 15, the stellar “*Taking Charge of Your Career®: Best Practices for Women Lawyers*”. The program, which was attended by over 100 people, was designed to provide women lawyers with the information needed to achieve career success and advance to leadership roles within the profession while also fostering a sense of personal achievement.

“Women lawyers still face obstacles that their male counterparts do not,” said NAWL President Cathy Fleming, herself a partner at Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP. “Our ‘Taking Charge’ program addresses the special issues that confront women in the workplace and provides them with the tools they need to move forward in their chosen profession.”

Lauren Stiller Rikleen, a partner at Bowditch & Dewey, LLP, and author of *Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women’s Success in the Law* was keynote speaker at the conference. Panelists at the conference were all partners at Boston law firms and corporations.

Back by Popular Demand – The Women Lawyers General Counsel Institute

October 26-27, 2006

Sofitel Hotel

45 West 44th Street, New York City

Please join NAWL for its second annual *Women Lawyers General Counsel Institute*, targeted to senior corporate counsel who have the goal of advancing to the role of chief legal officer. The Institute faculty counts a broad array of directors, CEOs and general counsels of major public corporations, professional consultants and search consultants who assist corporations in filling top legal positions. The Institute provides a unique opportunity for corporate lawyers to build top-tier professional and management skills in a supportive and interactive learning environment; and to learn from experienced officers and directors about the points of pressure and success for general counsels. Plenary and workshop sessions foster frank discussions about what it takes to be promoted and provide the means to improve skills and knowledge in a collegial atmosphere. Open to both male and female attorneys, the NAWL *Women Lawyers General Counsel Institute* promises to be an engaging and innovative CLE program with opportunities to learn and network with other senior legal and business professionals. Click [HERE](#) for more information on this exciting new program. Click [HERE](#) for General Counsel Institute lodging suggestions. Click [HERE](#) to register for the General Counsel Institute. Please note that registration for this event is limited to those who are currently acting as in-house counsel.

New Additions –NAWL is pleased to welcome two new employees to the NAWL team! First is Erin Shanahan, NAWL’s new Publications Manager. Erin is an Illinois-qualified lawyer who is also an experienced editor of legal texts. She will be applying her talents to all of NAWL’s publications, including the popular *Women Lawyers Journal*. Keep an eye out for the *Journal*’s new look and for other exciting changes! Second is Kelly Reese, NAWL’s new Project Specialist. Kelly is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Ohio University and has been accepted to the University of Chicago’s Harris School of Public Policy for 2008. NAWL is very excited to have these two highly qualified employees on its staff.

Interesting Links:

Not So Much A Glass Ceiling As A Glass Cliff –

http://www.management-issues.com/display_page.asp?section=research&id=1501

An Interesting Timeline of Women's Rights –

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenstimeline1.html>

Working Mother Survey –

<http://www.workingwoman.com/best-practices-survey/index.html>

Upcoming Events – Check the NAWL Website for Details

September 28, 2006

Her Place at the Table: Negotiating Skills for Women Lawyers, Accountants & Business Executives

Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis-Cohen LLP

1650 Arch Street, 22nd Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Effective negotiation skills are essential to high level legal, accounting and business transactions. This seminar will help participants evaluate the context for negotiations, identify needs and interests, and learn effective bargaining techniques. The program will also draw on the latest research about women as negotiators to enable women professionals to negotiate more confidently and competently.

October 17, 2006

The Women's Summit: Creating a Shared Vision

Inter-Continental Hotel

Chicago, Illinois

Click [HERE](#) to see the agenda for The Women's Summit, which is presented by The University of Chicago Women's Business Group. Former NAWL President Stephanie Scharf appears as a panelist, and Cherie Booth, QC, a leading human rights barrister and wife of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, gives the keynote presentation. Visit www.ucwbg.org for detailed pricing information and registration.

NAWL Online Career Center

The NAWL Career Center offers its members—and the legal profession at large—an easy-to-use and highly targeted resource for online employment connections.

Both members and non-members can use NAWL Career Center to reach qualified candidates. Employers can post jobs online, search for qualified candidates based on specific job criteria, and create an online resume agent to email qualified candidates daily. They also benefit from online reporting that provides job activity statistics.

For job seekers, NAWL Career Center is a free service that provides access to employers and jobs in the legal profession. In addition to posting their resumes, job seekers can browse and view available jobs based

on their criteria and save those jobs for later review if they choose. Job seekers can also create a search agent to provide email notifications of jobs that match their criteria.

Visit the NAWL Career Center at www.nawl.org.

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