



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For further information contact:**  
**Dr. Stacie I. Strong**  
**[strongs@nawl.org](mailto:strongs@nawl.org)**  
**312-988-6186**

**National Association of Women Lawyers® Hosts  
Conference on Best Practices for Women Attorneys**

CHICAGO September 15, 2006 – Today, the National Association of Women Lawyers® (NAWL®) held its hallmark conference, “*Taking Charge of Your Career®: Best Practices for Women Lawyers*,” at The Colonnade Hotel in Boston. 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.”

Retention, promotion and compensation of women lawyers is of special interest to NAWL this year. In July, Lorraine Koc, the Immediate Past President of NAWL and General Counsel/Vice President of Deb Shops, Inc., issued the NAWL Challenge, which addresses gender disproportionality in the upper echelons of the legal profession. “It is amazing to me that, after all these years of struggle, there are so few women in senior positions in the law,” said Koc. “In order to find out the truth behind women’s retention and compensation rates, NAWL has conducted a nationwide survey on the status of women in private practice. The results will be released in October and will be very useful as we evaluate how far women have really come in the profession.”

The program’s keynote speaker, Lauren Stiller Rikleem, also focused on this theme in her address to the conference. Rikleem, a partner at Bowditch & Dewey, LLP, and Executive Director of the Bowditch Institute for Women’s Success, is also the author of *Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women’s Success in the Law*. Rikleem has garnered numerous honors in the course of her career and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Chambers USA - America’s Leading Business Lawyers*. She was also recognized as one of the “Top 50” women attorneys in *Massachusetts Super Lawyers*.

The program boasted many other distinguished speakers, including the following:

Meredith Beers	Partner, <i>Holland &amp; Knight</i>
Pamela E. Berman	Partner, <i>Adler Pollock &amp; Sheehan P.C.</i>
Sarah Camougis	Partner, <i>Edwards Angell Palmer &amp; Dodge LLP</i>
Susan M. Cooke, P.C.	Partner, <i>McDermott Will &amp; Emery LLP</i>
Leigh-Ann Durant	Partner, <i>Nixon Peabody LLP</i>
Ruth Ellen Fitch	President and Chief Executive Officer, <i>Dimock Community Health</i>
Pamela D. Harvey	Counsel to the Commissioner, <i>Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection</i>
Mary R. Jeka	Vice President, University Relations, <i>Tufts University</i>
Lauren Jennings	Partner, <i>Posternak, Blankstein &amp; Lund</i>
Sandra L. Jesse	Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, <i>Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts</i>
Renée M. Landers	Associate Professor of Law, <i>Suffolk University Law School</i>
Stephanie Lovell	First Assistant Attorney General, <i>Massachusetts Attorney General's Office</i>
Katherine O'Hara	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, <i>PerkinElmer, Inc.</i>
Evelynne L. Swagerty	Assistant General Counsel, <i>Bank of America</i>
Vivian S. Y. Tseng	Vice President Legal, General Counsel and Secretary, <i>Welch Foods Inc.</i>

NAWL was pleased to work with a number of co-sponsors on this program, including the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts; the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers; the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys; the North Shore Women Attorneys; The Boston Bar Association; The Asian-American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts; the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys; the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association; The Boston Lawyers Group; and The Partnership, Inc. Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP was the program's Host Sponsor, and NAWL received generous support for its programming from 2006 Premier Law Firm Sponsors Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP, Jenner & Block LLP and Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

The National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) is a national voluntary legal professional organization devoted to the interests of women lawyers and women's rights. Founded in 1899, NAWL has historically served as an educational forum and an active voice for the concerns of women in the legal profession. Among its activities are innovative conferences and seminars, publications, networking and leadership opportunities, and amicus support in the courts on issues of women's rights. NAWL welcomes men and women lawyers as members, and additional information can be found on the organization's website at [www.nawl.org](http://www.nawl.org).

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