

**Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles and Judicate West Join To Honor New
 Judicial Officers and Life Members At This Year's WLALA Holiday Reception**

by Tanya L. Forsheit

*promoting
 the full
 participation
 of women
 lawyers and
 judges in the
 legal profession
 advocating
 principles of
 fairness and
 equality
 improving
 the status of
 women
 in our society*

*-Excerpts from
 the WLALA
 Mission
 Statement*

It is one of WLALA's great traditions. This year, on December 10, 2009, from 6 to 9 pm, WLALA members will gather once again, at the beautiful City Club on Bunker Hill, to honor WLALA's life members and recently appointed and elected members of the Judiciary. Judicate West is generously sponsoring this year's event. WLALA is particularly pleased to offer free admission this year to all active sitting judges.

This year WLALA celebrates its newest life members, Christine W.S. Byrd, WLALA Immediate Past President Katherine Forster, and Janice Kamenir-Reznik, and the appointment/election of the following judicial officers over the past year:

Hon. Mark Borenstein, Hon. Stephanie Bowick, Hon. Lorna H. Brumfield, Hon. Huey P. Cotton, Hon. David S. Cunningham, Hon. Ronald F. Frazier, Hon. Victor H. Greenberg, Hon. Christian R. Gullon, Hon. Henry J. Hall, Hon. Howard L. Halm, Hon. Ralph C. Hofer, Hon. Renee F. Korn, Hon. John J. Kralik, Hon. John C. Lawson, Hon. Elaine Mandel (former WLALA Board member), Hon. Stephen Moloney, Hon. Maren E. Nelson, Hon. Randall F. Pacheco, Hon. Olivia Rosales, Hon. Bryan K. Stainfield, Hon. Gary Y. Tanaka, Hon. Michael Terrell, Hon. Geanene Yriarte.



Hon. Judith C. Chirlin

This year's celebration will feature opening remarks from WLALA Life Member, Board Member, and Judicial Officer, the Honorable Judith C. Chirlin. Judge Chirlin, who recently retired from the bench after 24 years of service as a judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, has worked tirelessly to improve the careers and lives of thousands of women lawyers around the world. Following her retirement from the bench, Judge Chirlin joined Judicate West as a Neutral.

Judge Chirlin has been a constant source of inspiration for women lawyers and judges in Los Angeles. She has boundless energy and enthusiasm for anything that might promote women in the law. If you are currently a WLALA Board member, or ever have been, you know her. She has served as a member of WLALA's Board of Governors form well in excess of 20 years, longer than any other member in the recent history of our Board. She almost never misses a meeting (if she is in the country), and has provided our organization with invaluable insight and wise consultation over the years.

Even more significantly, Judge Chirlin has impacted the lives of women across the globe. She has worked locally, nationally, and internationally to improve justice

systems, enhance the roles women play in them, and eliminate bias against women. She has applied her education in politics, law and judicial administration to help promote the rule of law in countries throughout the world, particularly Central Europe and the Middle East. For more than 25 years, Judge Chirlin has been a dedicated advocate for the rule of law, the benefits of an independent judiciary, and the rights of women. On a volunteer basis, she has taught judges, lawyers, and journalists the benefits of an independent judiciary in numerous troubled and emerging judicial systems. Specifically, Judge Chirlin has assisted the governments of Peru, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, Russia, Slovakia, Latvia, Bulgaria, The Czech Republic, Serbia, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, and the Republic of Georgia in improving their judicial systems.

Since 2003, Judge Chirlin has become progressively more involved with the legal system of Iraq. In 2003, she traveled to Baghdad as the representative of the American Bar Association on the International Legal Assistance Consortium's ("ILAC") delegation to assess the Iraqi court system and identify projects that ILAC's constituent members (bar associations and other non-governmental organizations) could do to help the Iraqi judicial system get back on its feet. As a partial result of that effort, three groups of Iraqi judges (140 judges in all) were brought to an institute in Prague, where Judge Chirlin was one of the faculty members teaching "Judging in a Democratic Society." In addition, Judge Chirlin has organized and served as the principal presenter or faculty leader at numerous educational programs for Iraqi legal professionals, including a program for the first group of women admitted to the Iraqi Judicial Training Institute since the 1970's.

Here in California, Judge Chirlin has for many years dedicated herself to obtaining more judicial appointments for women and minorities. Starting in the early 1980's,

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