

**STATE BAR OF NEW MEXICO  
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION  
REPORT FOR PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2008**

During the period covered by this Report, the Committee on Women and the Legal Profession (the "Committee") held regular meetings on January 16, March 19, May 21, July 16 and August 17. An average of thirteen (13) people attended the meetings, and approximately thirteen (13) members actively participated in one or more projects of the Committee.

During the period covered by this Report, the Committee engaged in the following projects and activities:

1. **Ask Pat Column:** This is a column that appears as a regular feature in the *Bar Bulletin*. It is a question-and-answer format that responds to issues of particular concern to women attorneys. Committee members, including a law student member, drafted three Ask Pat columns during 2008. Two of the columns were published in 2008 and the third column was submitted for publication on December 15, 2008, but publication is not expected until the first or second issue of January 2009. This year's column topics included nontraditional law students, law as a second career and preparing for maternity leave. The Committee also received positive feedback in 2008 from a member of the Bar who read the 2007 Ask Pat column on breastfeeding and found it very helpful.
2. **Gender Neutral Language Legislation:** The Committee continued in its efforts to propose changes to New Mexico's gender neutral statute, NMSA 1978, § 12-2A-5. With the support of Representative Gail Chasey, the Committee intends to introduce the gender neutral legislation in the upcoming 2009 legislative session. The legislation is in substantially the same form as previously prepared by the Committee and approved by the Board of Bar Commissioners. The foregoing actions are being pursued at no cost to the State Bar.
3. **Support Group Meetings for Lawyers Who Are Parents:** During 2008, the Committee held three meetings of its support group for lawyers who are parents. The format of each meeting has been a luncheon with speaker(s). In June 2008, Katie Thompson, a financial planner with Merrill Lynch, spoke about financial planning for professional women. In September 2008, Kristi Olson, the Marketing Manager of Lewis and Roca LLP, spoke about marketing and business development. In November 2008, attorneys Lisa Ortega and Monica Garcia spoke about maternity leave and balancing the demands of working for a law firm and parenthood. The Committee intends to continue with a regular series of lunch meetings with speakers on topics relating to managing a legal career and successful parenting.

The Committee also coordinated its second annual family event for members of the Bar and their children at the Rio Grande Zoo on Saturday, September 27, 2008. Twenty-two (22) children attended the event with their parents. The Committee, the State Bar and Legal FACS also used the event as a public outreach opportunity. The Committee intends to host its third annual family event in 2009.

4. **Happy Hour Mixers to Generate Interest in Committee:** In June 2008 and August 2008 the Committee hosted happy hour mixers at Season's Rotisserie Grill to generate interest in the Committee. Each mixer was attended by approximately twenty-five (25) members of the Bar, law students and recent law school graduates. The mixers were a way for the members of the Committee to publicize the purpose of the Committee by discussing what the Committee does within the New Mexico State Bar and what services the Committee provides for its members and for the New Mexico State Bar at large. Several non-Committee members who attended the mixer events have subsequently attended our Committee meetings and our support group luncheon meetings for lawyers who are parents.

5. **Outstanding Advocacy for Women Award:** The Board of Bar Commissioners approved the re-naming of the Outstanding Advocacy for Women Award to honor Justice Pamela Minzner. The award recognizes a New Mexico practitioner for outstanding legal assistance to women who are underrepresented or underserved or advocating for causes that will ultimately benefit and/or further the rights of women. Anne Badway, an attorney with the New Mexico Attorney General's Office, was the recipient of the 2008 award. The Committee sponsored Ms. Badway's airfare and hotel accommodations for the State Bar's Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, where she accepted the award.

6. **2008 Outstanding Committee Award:** The Committee was honored to be selected by the Board of Bar Commissioners as the recipient of the Outstanding Committee Award for 2008. The current Co-Chairs, as well as the past Co-Chairs, Elizabeth Garcia and Patty Galindo, accepted the award on behalf of the Committee at the State Bar's Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona in July, 2008. During the State Bar's Annual Meeting, the current and past Co-Chairs took the opportunity to educate other members of the State Bar on what the Committee does for New Mexico State Bar, as well generate new interest in the Committee.

7. **Annual Retreat:** The Committee held its annual retreat on November 8, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya. Ten (10) Committee members attended the retreat. During the retreat, the attendees reflected on the Committee's 2008 efforts. Additionally, the Committee brainstormed about new services we can provide to the State Bar membership in 2009 along with continuing those projects and activities that have proven successful in the past for the Committee. The Committee members are excited for the upcoming year and are looking forward to the services, events and projects that the Committee will be carrying out in 2009.

  
Jocelyn R. Castillo, Co-Chair

  
Katherine A. Lockamy, Co-Chair