

## Table of Contents

Women and Children Trafficking in Haiti: Modern-day Slavery p. 1  
WLD Spotlight p. 2  
Letter from the Chair p. 2  
Letter from the Editor p. 2  
WLD Calendar of Events p. 3  
WLD News p. 4  
Directory Profile Form p. 5  
Sister to Sister Form p. 6

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## Women and Children Trafficking In Haiti: Modern-day Slavery

By: April E. Rolle, Esq.

In May 2007 at the Gertrude E. Rush Mid-Year Meeting, the WLD will sponsor a Symposium on "Human Trafficking." Human Trafficking is a crime that affects men, women and children in Cuba, Venezuela, Bosnia, China, Japan, and Thailand, to name a few. This article will focus on the trafficking of women and children in Haiti.

The UN defined "human trafficking" in 2000 as, "[T]he recruitment, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other

form of coercion."<sup>1</sup> "In 2000, the United State passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a measure designed to prosecute traffickers, protect victims, and provide yearly benchmarks on a given country's effort to minimize human trafficking."<sup>1</sup> "By statute, a victim of a 'severe form of trafficking in persons' is entitled to certain public programs and benefits. A severe form of trafficking must include the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for one of the three following purposes:

- Labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion; or
- A commercial sex act, through the use of force, fraud or coercion; or
- If the person is under 18 years of age, any commercial sex act, regardless of whether any form of coercion is involved."<sup>1</sup>

*Continued p. 3*

### WLD Spotlight: Lorraine C. Miller, New Clerk of the House



Lorraine C. Miller

News From Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
H-232, The Capitol, Washington  
D.C. 20515, [www.speaker.gov](http://www.speaker.gov)

**Tuesday, January 30, 2007**  
**Contact: Brendan Daly, 202-226-7616**

On January 30, 2007, Washington, D.C. – Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced today she will appoint Lorraine C. Miller as the new Clerk of the House of Representatives. Miller, who is currently serving as a senior advisor to Speaker Pelosi, has nearly two decades of experience working for the House. In addition to working for Speaker Pelosi, Miller has worked for two other Speakers, Jim Wright and Tom Foley, as well as Congressman John Lewis of Georgia.

Miller's government service includes work in the

Clinton Administration, where she served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs for the House. In the late 1990's, Miller served as Bureau Chief for Consumer Information at the Federal Communications Commission. Prior to the FCC, she was the director of Government Relations for the Federal Trade Commission for four years.

A life-long supporter and member of the NAACP, Miller was elected president of the Washington, D.C. Branch NAACP in 2004. As Clerk of the House, Lorraine Miller will become the first

*Continued p. 6*

## Letter from the Chair



E. Jean Johnson, Chair

Greetings Sisters in the Law, Happy New Year. I pray that this year finds you and your loved ones in the best of health and that God's Angels encamp themselves around you throughout the year.

It is with honor and gratitude that I bring our second newsletter of this bar year. I am thankful for each of you and am especially grateful to all of you who are working so hard to make this a great year for the Women Lawyers Division. We are not quite to the halfway mark and have made a lot of progress. We held planning meetings at both the Wiley Branton Conference in Birmingham, Alabama and the Judicial Counsel Conference in St. Kitts, West Indies.

We were honored to present suits to the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs in St. Kitts for their law students on behalf of the National Bar

Association Women Lawyers Division. The representative from the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs was very enthusiastic about getting the suits for their law students and said they were very much needed and appreciated. (St. Kitts does not have a law school. St. Kitts law students attend law school in Barbados.) Our National Bar Association President, Linnes Finney Jr., made the presentation which included both ladies and men suits and other accessories.

We are in the process of revamping our website and are on target for having our online directory up and running by the time of our annual conference. Remember, the purpose of our directory is to serve as a tool for others to locate African-American female attorneys in specific areas and with specific expertise for employment, board positions and for business

referrals. This is all about us helping each other. I need for each of you who have not yet completed your profile to complete it and email it with a picture to [DPS@kttlaw.com](mailto:DPS@kttlaw.com) or fax it back to us no later than March 10th. A copy of the profile is on page 5 of this newsletter. It is my goal to distribute a hard copy of the directory to each of you by our annual conference.

On another note, the Women Lawyer's Division is hosting a Human Trafficking Symposium with an emphasis on the exploitation of women at the National Bar Association's Gertrude Rush Conference in Hollywood, Florida. Our symposium will highlight the magnitude of the problem and lack of attention, manpower and legislation devoted to this issue.

*Continued p. 4*

## Letter from the Editor



April E. Rolle, Editor and Ashley E. Rolle

Happy New Year WLD! 2006 was a whirlwind of a year. The addition of a child and the subtraction of a firm, has led me to the wonderful life of motherhood and solo practice. It's great to be back.

Our fearless leader, E. Jean Johnson, has led us from 2006 into 2007 with several new and exciting projects that you should be proud to take back to your Chapters. One of said projects, which is near and dear to my heart, is the Sister to Sister Program. How many of us during law school would have given up shopping (not quite) to have

a successful black woman in our profession help and support us during those difficult years? There were many-a-night during law school that I yearned for a home-cooked meal or just someone to talk to who understood the plight of a 1L or 2L. The Sister to Sister Program is truly an opportunity to give back; not just your money, but your time and attention.

Our young ladies need your help. The WLD Sister to Sister Night can be the beginning of a yearly tradition that can lead to the formation of a lifelong relationship. I encourage

everyone who is able to participate. To get more information, please send an e-mail to [demonica.d.gladney@exxonmobil.com](mailto:demonica.d.gladney@exxonmobil.com) or [MDDula@legal-aid.org](mailto:MDDula@legal-aid.org).

Additionally, please join us May 2007, at the Gertrude E. Rush Conference in sunny Hollywood, Florida for the Human Trafficking Symposium sponsored by the WLD. It is guaranteed to be both informative and inspiring. Hope to see you there!

April E. Rolle, Esq.

## Women and Children Trafficking In Haiti cont.

“Victims, often women, are usually lured by promises of well-paying jobs. Once deprived of the opportunity to return home or communicate with their families, victims are generally held through force or threats in situations of sexual exploitation or forced labor.”<sup>1</sup>

“Haiti is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. The majority of trafficking in Haiti involves the internal movement of children for forced domestic labor . . .”<sup>1</sup>

“These children are known as restaveks, a Creole word meaning ‘stay with,’ and they are forced to perform all household chores without receiving any compensation. In 1998, a United Nations study estimated that 300,000 such children existed. The restavek system has thrived for more than 200 years, going unnoticed by the international community until 1998, when Jean-Robert Cadet, a former restavek, published his biography: Restavek: From Haitian Slave Child to Middle-Class American.”<sup>1</sup>

“There is also significant cross-border trafficking between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Notably, women and girls are trafficked into Haiti for prostitution; Haitians are trafficked to the Dominican Republic for forced labor. Observers estimate 2,500-3,000 Haitian children are trafficked annually into the Dominican Republic. On a smaller scale, Haiti is also a source and transit country for illegal migration, much of it bound for the U.S. and Canada, and some of these illegal migrants may be forced into labor to repay smuggling debts.”<sup>1</sup>

According to the 2006 U.S. Department of State “Trafficking In Persons Interim Assessment,” “Political instability in Haiti has inhibited significant progress in combating trafficking since the release of the 2005 TIP

Report. The overall focus on elections and the lack of a parliament continues to frustrate any concrete efforts to tackle trafficking in the country. Nonetheless, there were a few substantive efforts undertaken that are indicative of progress, including recent arrests for trafficking of Dominican women in Haiti and the participation of the government in an OAS-sponsored anti-trafficking seminar. The government also continues to cooperate with the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) to strengthen civil society so that it may better prevent and protect children from being trafficked into involuntary servitude situations.”<sup>1</sup>

The most recent efforts to address the Haitian trafficking issue has been U.S. Representative Alcee Hastings’ efforts to pass the Haitian Protection Act of 2007. “Citing an ongoing wave of violence and kidnappings in Haiti, U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings has filed a bill to temporarily protect thousands of undocumented Haitians from deportation. The South Florida Democrat said his proposed Haitian Protection Act of 2007 is designed to give ‘temporary protected status’ or TPS to an estimated 20,000 Haitians living illegally in the United States. That would give them residence and work papers for up to 18 months.”<sup>1</sup> Hastings is quoted saying, “The Haitian government and the Haitian people need to catch a break, . . . There is no questions violence is on the rise there, and tragically, kidnappings and more specifically child kidnappings are occurring in great numbers.”<sup>1</sup>

It is hard to believe such crimes as buying and selling women and children has to be regulated by the Federal government in 2007. Even harder still is the realization that Haitians are buying and selling their own. Unfortunately, the rise of poverty and crime due to political unrest and natural disasters has increased

Haitian desperation. As African-American women and mothers, we of all people should be able to empathize with their plight; historically and presently we have and continue to experience various forms of modern-day slavery. As individual women we may have soft voices in a crowd of well doers, but as members of an organization of women, we can do a great deal to raise awareness and become a part of the solution.

<sup>1</sup> “The State Department Human Trafficking Report: Raw Ideology Rather Than Bona Fide Research,” <http://www.coha.org/2006/06/28/the-state-department-human-trafficking-report-raw-ideology-rather-than-bona-fide-research/> (June 28, 2006) (last visited February 13, 2007).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Justice Report on Activities to Combat Human Trafficking 2001-2005, at 1; [http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking\\_report\\_2006.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking_report_2006.pdf) (last visited February 13, 2007).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report”, <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46614.htm> (last visited February 13, 2007).

<sup>1</sup> iAbolish, “Child Slavery in Haiti,” [http://iabolish.blogspot.com/2006\\_09\\_01\\_archive.html](http://iabolish.blogspot.com/2006_09_01_archive.html), (September 25, 2006) (last visited February 13, 2007).

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report”, <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46614.htm> (last visited February 13, 2007).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> Miami Herald, “Congress is asked to let Haitians stay: Rep. Alcee Hastings is seeking an 18-months reprieve for Haitians living in this country illegally, so they can stay and work legally,” <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/world/haiti/16494410.htm>, (January 19, 2007) (last visited February 13, 2007).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

### Calendar of Events

\* March 15-18, 2007 – NBA Small Firms/Solo Practitioner’s Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico

\* March 21-25, 2007 – National Black Law Student Association Conference, Atlanta, Georgia

\* May 9-13, 2007 – NBA Mid-Year Conference & Gertrude E. Rush Dinner, Hollywood, Florida

\* July 28-August 4, 2007 - NBA 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention, Atlanta, Georgia

## Letter from the Chair cont.

Finally, I need your help. The Women Lawyers Division is planning a Sister to Sister Night across the country during the month of April. The purpose of this night is to hold gatherings with female law students to provide advice on interviewing, career paths, and internships. In addition, I would like to pair female law students with Women Lawyer Division members to serve as informal mentors. It is our duty to ensure that we help our sisters in the law to succeed. As part of this night we will continue our initiative of presenting suits to these students to put them in the best position to make a good impression. Our

Sister to Sister Night will help to bring visibility to the National Bar Association and increase the potential of these students becoming active members of the National Bar Association upon graduation.

If you are willing to help coordinate a Sister to Sister Night in your community or serve as a mentor, please send an email to: [demonica.d.gladney@exxonmobil.com](mailto:demonica.d.gladney@exxonmobil.com) or [MDDula@legal-aid.org](mailto:MDDula@legal-aid.org). Also, if you can provide an internship opportunity for female law students, please send an email to [DPS@kttlaw.com](mailto:DPS@kttlaw.com).

In closing, I am truly thankful for your membership and want this to be a

division that you are enthusiastic about being a member. It is your division, and I want to make sure we address your needs and concerns. Please let us know if there is anything that you feel we should be addressing that is important to women lawyers in general and African-American women lawyers in specific.

May God Bless You,

E. Jean Johnson

## WLD News



Monica Dula, Gloria Johnson, E. Jean Johnson, Linnes Finney, Jr., Ryllis Vasquez, and Mavis Thompson

At the NBA Judicial Council Mid-Winter meeting in St. Kitts, the WLD had the honor of presenting men's and women's suits to the St. Kitts Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs for their law students.

Ryllis Vasquez, the representative from the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, was very grateful for the clothing, and said they were very much needed and appreciated. (St. Kitts does not have a law school; the law students attend law school in Barbados.)



E. Jean Johnson, Linnes Finney Jr., and Ryllis Vasquez

Linnes Finney, Jr., President of the National Bar Association, presented the suits and other accessories to Ms. Vasquez.

The WLD will host a Human Trafficking Symposium in May at the Gertrude E. Rush Conference in Hollywood, Florida. The Symposium will emphasize the exploitation of women and children. We look forward to your attendance and support.

**WOMEN LAWYERS DIVISION  
DIRECTORY QUESTIONNAIRE**

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Work address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Where were you raised? \_\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years married \_\_\_\_\_

Children (Names and Ages) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Law School \_\_\_\_\_

\*What is your area of practice and/or service do you provide?

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\*In which states are you qualified or licensed to conduct business?

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What other job choice, if any, would you make if you had the opportunity?

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\*List any personal and/or professional achievements, awards and recognitions

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**\* Denotes information for on-line directory**

Please e-mail completed questionnaire to [renee@legalwatch.com](mailto:renee@legalwatch.com) or fax to 713.864.9981.

## WLD Spotlight cont.

African American to serve as an official of the House of Representatives.

“Lorraine Miller has dedicated her career to the noble calling of public service, with her vast experience in both the House of Representatives and White House preparing her for this vital role. With the management and leadership skills she has gained at the highest levels of government, Miller will ensure, as Clerk, that the House has the support necessary to effectively carry out our legislative responsibilities,” Pelosi said. “Diversity has long

been one of the greatest strengths of our nation, and as the first African American official of the House, Lorraine will bring that strength to the Office of the Clerk.”

“After more than a decade of serving individual Members of the House, I look forward to the opportunity to work on the behalf of the entire body,” Miller said. “Having proudly served the leaders of this nation, alongside some of the brightest and hard-working staff, I am proud to undertake this new challenge to serve Congress and the American people.”

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Miller holds an executive master’s degree from the Georgetown School of Business and lives in Washington, D.C. with her sister. She is a member of the historic Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, where she sings in its Senior Choir and a member of Shiloh’s Henry C. Gregory Family Life Center Foundation Board of Directors.

***If you would like to nominate a distinguished woman for the Chair’s Award, please e-mail your nomination and a description of the nominee’s accomplishments to [jeanjohnson@legalwatch.com](mailto:jeanjohnson@legalwatch.com).***

### Sister to Sister Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Affiliate Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Affiliate Chapter Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator

Mentor

Internship

If interested in becoming a coordinator or mentor, please e-mail form by March 10, 2007 to: [demonica.d.gladney@exxonmobil.com](mailto:demonica.d.gladney@exxonmobil.com) or [MDDula@legal-aid.org](mailto:MDDula@legal-aid.org)

If you know of an internship opportunity, please e-mail for to: [DPS@kttlaw.com](mailto:DPS@kttlaw.com)

#### WOMEN LAWYERS DIVISION

National Bar Association  
c/o Jean Johnson, Chair  
9800 Northwest Freeway, Suite 600  
Houston, Texas 77092

COMPANY NAME  
STREET ADDRESS  
CITY, ST 22134