



NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
WOMEN LAWYERS DIVISION



**SEEKING
BALANCE**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NBA
WOMEN LAWYERS DIVISION

*We've Come A Long Way,
But We Have Not Yet Arrived*



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**WLD SCROLL OF
DISTINGUISHED
WOMEN**

*Please join the
WLD as it in-
ducts the newest
additions to the
WLD Scroll of
Distinguished
Women:*

Carolyn Howard, Esq.

Kim Keenan, Esq.

Kim Kendrick, Esq.

Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens

*The Induction Ceremony will
take place during the WLD
Breakfast on Tuesday, July 29,
2008 in the Westin Galleria
Houston. The Breakfast will
begin at 7:00 a.m. prompt.*



Hon. Cylentia LaToye Miller,

NBA WLD Chair, 2007-08

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Greetings! On the eve of the 83rd NBA Annual Convention & Exhibits, I am filled with excitement about the events, meetings, and seminars we have planned for the coming week in Houston, TX! All of the various events are detailed in this newsletter, so please review it carefully and plan to attend!

I would be remiss if I failed to apologize for not being in more constant communication with you during this bar year. As many of you know, I began the year with a series of health challenges that prevented me from traveling and otherwise being very active with this or anything else through early 2008.

However, the great news is what an awesome job the Executive Board members did while I was out of pocket! I am particularly grateful to the leadership provided by our 1st Vice-President, Gloria Johnson! She attended Board meetings and conducted Division meetings in my absence with zero complaints and with her usual class, style, and graciousness! She has also planned an awesome Retreat for us this year, which we will all enjoy on this coming Sunday at Nordstrom at the Galleria Mall! Thank you, Gloria!

I also want to acknowledge all of the hard work done by our 2nd Vice-President, April Rolle, in planning her very first WLD event — the Breakfast! On Tuesday morning, we will be privileged to hear from our fiery sistah from Texas, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. That's sure to be a wake up call for all of us! Thank you April! We will certainly miss you at the Convention!

Hearty thanks also goes out to Gere, Iris, Detra, Sharon, Jean, Chavon, Shari, DeMonica, Aimee, June, for their patience, support, counsel, and advice during this bar year. Let's make it even better in 2008-09, ladies!

Finally, I selected our theme for this year (see below) because I want us to look to the past with gratitude for how far we've come, but also to examine the present and look to the future without rose-colored glasses! Know this—the WLD is committed to doing all that is necessary to ensure that we keep striving until we have ARRIVED!!

Peace & blessings,

Cylentia



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YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED ON THE WLD RESOLUTION!!!!!!

For some time now, the Division has discussed the need for campaign spending reforms. Until the Gertrude Rush Conference this year, we really had not gotten very far with our position. However, in Chicago, after receiving some direction from our President, Vanita M. Banks, to work with Belinda Stith, Cylenthia promised the entire NBA Board that the WLD would have a specific action item for an up or down vote presented for the NBA Board meeting at the Annual Convention. That Resolution has been presented for action and will be addressed during the NBA Annual Convention in Houston. It is set forth below as it was presented to the Resolutions Chair. Please review it and talk to our national officers as well as your Region, Section, and other Division leaders to encourage their support for this very important Resolution!

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#### *PROPOSED RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE WLD*

#### **NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A CAMPAIGN SPENDING LIMIT AND A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE CAMPAIGN SPENDING LIMIT AND OTHER CAMPAIGN REFORMS**

**WHEREAS**, the National Bar Association (“NBA”) is the oldest and largest bar association of attorneys of color in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, the NBA does not limit the amount a candidate for an NBA office may spend on his/her campaign for election; and

**WHEREAS**, the amounts spent by candidates for NBA offices have been increasing steadily over the years; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of a limitation on campaign expenditures has resulted in an unequal “playing field” during elections and the discouragement of otherwise highly qualified candidates who are solo practitioners, or employed by non-profit or governmental entities and therefore, cannot afford to run the same type of campaign as other candidates from large firms or corporations; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the consensus of the NBA Women Lawyers Division members that campaign spending limits must be established and that this issue further warrants thorough consideration and study in order for the spending limits to be implemented properly and equitably; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Bar Association establish a maximum campaign spending limit of \$10,000 per elected position.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NBA shall establish a task force to develop guidelines for enforcing the campaign spending limit, including but not limited to the following: 1) What should be included in the limitation – cash, in-kind donations, or both? 2) Should the limitation include expenditures made by other persons on behalf of the candidate? 3) What types of receipts/evidence regarding the expenditures should be submitted and to whom – the Elections Committee, the Treasurer, the Task Force? 4) What limitations, if any, should be placed on the distribution of campaign literature? 5) Should there be a limitation on the duration of the campaigns? If so, what period of time would be appropriate? 6) Should campaigning be allowed at the section, division, and region meetings during the Annual Convention & Exhibits or should it be limited to the Candidates Forum and other meetings or events? 7) Should candidates be allowed to provide free gifts to members, e.g., pens, notepads, candy, water, etc.?

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the task force shall determine whether the implementation of the spending limitation will require an amendment to the NBA By-Laws and if so, that the task force shall draft the necessary language to ensure that the By-Laws are amended to effectuate the implementation correctly.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the task force shall meet and prepare a written report on the recommended timing and guidelines for implementation of the campaign spending limit and other campaign reforms no later than two weeks in advance of the fall 2008 Wiley A. Branton Issues Symposium & Awards Luncheon and that the Chair of the task force shall be prepared to present and discuss the recommendations at the Board Meeting during the fall 2008 Wiley A. Branton conference in fall 2008. Thereafter, at the NBA Board meeting during the fall 2008 Wiley A. Branton conference, the entire Board shall vote on the recommended guidelines and finalize them for implementation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall consist of a representative from the Elections Committee, the Women Lawyers Division, and up to three other NBA members who volunteer to serve on the Task Force at the Board Meeting at which this resolution is adopted.

**IT IS SO RESOLVED.**



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**WLD RETREAT**  
**GLORIA JOHNSON, ESQ.,**  
**CHAIR**

*Navigating Through the Plexiglas Ceiling —  
An Afternoon of Stimulating Discussion,  
Dazzling Fashions, & Personal Pampering!!!*

The WLD Retreat will begin at 12 noon and end at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 27, 2008. This year, it will be held at Nordstrom in the Galleria Shopping Center, which is adjacent to the Westin Galleria Houston.

**Here are the scheduled events at the Retreat:**

1:00 to 1:30 p.m. — Yoga Instructor — Exercises to “De-Stress” and Relieve Tension at Your Desk

1:30 to 2:00 p.m. — Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens, 3rd Judicial District Court, Detroit, MI — “Breaking Through the Plexiglas Ceiling”

2:00 to 2:45 p.m. — Fashion Presentation — Informal Modeling brought to us by Nordstrom

3:00 to 4:30 p.m. — Networking and Personal Spa Treatments (Make your appointment for your choice of three available treatments, which can be done at the Nordstrom Spa AT ANY TIME BETWEEN SUNDAY & FRIDAY!!!) The treatment is included in the ticket price.

Tickets are \$85.00 and may be purchased at the door, so don't worry if you get into town and have to come directly to the Retreat!

**WLD BREAKFAST**  
**APRIL E. ROLLE, ESQ.,**  
**CHAIR**

*We've Come A Long Way,  
But We Have Not Yet Arrived!!!*

The Annual Networking And Awards Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, July 29, 2008 at the Westin Galleria Houston. (Please check the final Agenda for the exact location in the hotel.) It will begin at 7:00 a.m. and end at 9:00 a.m.

This year's speaker will be U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Congresswoman Jackson Lee has been hailed by *Ebony* magazine as one of the “100 Most Fascinating Black Women of the 20th Century.” *Congressional Quarterly* named Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee as one of the 50 most effective Members of Congress. *U.S. News and World Report* named her as one of the 10 most influential legislators in the House of Representatives. And the *Houston Chronicle* named Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee as one of the most influential and prolific legislators on Capitol Hill.

Believe us! You owe it to yourself to rise early on Tuesday and secure your seat at the Breakfast! Tickets are \$45.00 and may be purchased in advance or at the door. We look forward to seeing you there!



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**WLD Division Meeting**

The Division Meeting will be held on Monday, July 28, 2008 at the Westin Galleria Hotel. The exact location of the meeting will be posted in the hotel. Please watch for signs and plan to attend! We will discuss WLD business, elect new Officers and Board members, and select our slate for the national officers and board members.

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SEMINARS!!!!!!

Please support the WLD by planning to attend the following seminars:

**Seminar 14: 10th Annual ABA-NBA Joint Technology Program:
Using Technology to Attract & Retain Clients
Wednesday, July 30, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**Seminar 31: An Introduction to the Strategic Alliance Between The
American Arbitration Association and the National Bar Association
Thursday, July 31, 2008, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Seminar 38: Human Trafficking: Another Perspective in Civil
Rights Violations
Thursday, July 31, 2008, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Check the Final Agenda for the exact locations!



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**NBA Women Lawyers Division
2007-08 Officers & Board**

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April E. Rolle, Esq.	2 nd Vice President
Geraldine Simmons, Esq.	Treasurer
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Hearty thanks goes out to our 2007-08 Event Sponsors! We could not have done it without your support!

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