



# Wellington Women Lawyers' Association

## September 2010

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The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WWLA committee or any particular member of WWLA.

Contributions from members for this newsletter are welcome and can be sent to:

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or

PO Box 118 Wellington

## Convenor's Letter

Spring is in the air. The days are getting longer and bulbs are beginning to flower. While it would be nice to see more sun, warmth can be obtained in other ways. This was evidenced at our last WWLA drinks at Felix café in July. This event was very well attended, with more than 30 members and prospective members meeting up to reconnect with old friends and/or make new contacts.

We are holding another drinks evening on 23 September 2010 at Foxglove, down on the waterfront. Women candidates standing in the Local Government elections will be attending this event to mix and mingle. 19 September is Suffrage Day and marks the anniversary of women obtaining the vote in New Zealand. Did you know that women in Switzerland didn't get the vote until 1971?! As Local Body elections are plagued by apathy, I would encourage you all to come to drinks and of course to exercise your vote by October 9.

WWLA's database administrator has been chasing up old members to encourage them to renew their subscriptions and there has been a good response so that our membership is now over 100 which is already an improvement over last year.

The mentoring scheme for 2010 is well under way with match ups being made for most requests, see page 3. We are still short of women mentors with five or more year's experience. So if you would like to take a young practitioner under your wing please contact us.

And remember, if you have any suggestions for an event, any questions or comments to make, contact me at [nancy.watters@tpk.govt.nz](mailto:nancy.watters@tpk.govt.nz)

## Meet the Candidates drinks

Wellington Women Lawyers' Association is hosting an informal "Meet the Candidates" function as part of the regular WWLA drinks.

Come along for a spring chardonnay and a chance to meet some of the women standing in the local body elections.

**Thursday 23rd September 6-8 pm at Foxglove on Queen's Wharf.**

**Free event/no host bar**

**RSVP to:** [bridget.fenton@crownlaw.govt.nz](mailto:bridget.fenton@crownlaw.govt.nz) or [jennifer.devlin2@justice.govt.nz](mailto:jennifer.devlin2@justice.govt.nz) **by 16 September**



## Upcoming Events

- **WWLA Meet the Candidates drinks Thursday 23 September** –at Foxglove, Queens Wharf – 6 – 8 pm
- **NZLS Women in Law Victoria University session – 5 October**
- **NZLS Women in Law Women on Boards panel event – 13 October**
- **WWLA Trade Aid shopping night –1 December**
- **Shirley Smith Address -8 December**

## Friends rejoining the profession? Tell them about WWLA

Women returning to the New Zealand legal profession after time overseas or career breaks are encouraged to join WWLA. A current practising certificate is not required, membership is open to all with an interest in working for the equal opportunity and advancement of women in the study and practice of law.

Membership is only \$50 waged, \$20 unwaged.

Membership forms are available on our website <http://www.wwla.org.nz> or from [nancy.watters@tpk.govt.nz](mailto:nancy.watters@tpk.govt.nz)

## **10-year analysis of the appointment of women to the judiciary**

The Judicial Appointments Commission (UK) has published a report presenting analysis of judicial appointments before and after the inception of Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC).

It examines completed selection exercises conducted from 1998 to 2009.

Download the report from the Judicial Appointments Commission website:

<http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/about-jac/165.htm>

## **Elena Kagan confirmed as US Supreme Court justice**

Elena Kagan was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 112th Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court on August 5, 2010.

Replacing retired Justice John Paul Stevens, Kagan is just the fourth woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

Elena Kagan was previously Solicitor-General of the United States.

Read her biography [here](#).

## **WWLA Mentoring Programme**

The WWLA Mentoring Programme aims to link senior law students and new lawyers (those with up to five years experience) with more experienced women practitioners who are willing to share their wisdom and experience. We currently have several young practitioners looking for mentors, in particular members who are in senior government roles, employed in medium to large sized firms or at the independent bar.

If you are willing to offer your services as a mentor and have not already advised us of this on your membership renewal form, please contact the Co-ordinator of the scheme, WWLA Committee member Stephanie Edwards ([stephanie.edwards@crownlaw.govt.nz](mailto:stephanie.edwards@crownlaw.govt.nz)).

For more information about the programme, please refer to the Mentoring page on our website <http://www.wwla.org.nz/>

## **Equal pay by 2067--maybe**

Equal pay for women in the UK is not likely till 2067, says research from the Chartered Management Institute (CMI).

Forty years after the Equal Pay Act was passed, the study shows that the gender pay gap remains stubborn and that male and female managers will not be paid the same for another 57 years. Women have also been harder hit by the recession, with more female workers than men being made redundant in the past 12 months.

CMI has launched an "ambitious women toolkit" with practical advice on asking for pay rises, how to challenge unequal pay, and tips on returning to work from maternity leave.

Read the full story and check out the link to the toolkit on the Guardian website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/aug/19/equal-pay-women-2057>

## **Board members sought for YWCA, applications due 20 Sept**

The Greater Wellington YWCA is looking for two experienced women with business development, legal and finance skills – any age, any culture, any background. Any woman who is committed to making a difference in their community is welcome to apply.

This is an exciting opportunity to empower young women in your community and in New Zealand. You will meet other fantastic women, learn new skills and prepare for your future! You will be part of a globally linked organisation with a rich history. More importantly, you will join a team of dedicated volunteers in a positive learning environment, giving you experience in governance, networking and advocacy.

Applications close Monday 20 September, 2010

For further information and application information, see the [YWCA Board Recruitment Pack](#) or contact

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## **UN Women established**

On 2 July the United Nations General Assembly unanimously voted to establish the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Thankfully, it is to be known as "UN Women" rather than the somewhat less-inspirational acronym, "UNEGEEW".

Once it begins operation in January 2011 UN Women will supplement, rather than replace, the work of other UN entities working towards gender equality and women's empowerment. Its two key roles will be to support inter-governmental bodies in formulating policies, standards and norms and to assist countries to implement these standards when requested, through the provision of technical and financial support. Additionally, it will monitor progress towards meeting the UN's own commitments on gender equality.

The UN system has to this point lacked an effective driver on gender equality issues and this development is long over-due. UN Women is certainly a step in the right direction, but for it to succeed in achieving a more just world for women it will require sufficient political support and financial resourcing.

Helping UN Women to rise to the challenge of becoming the "dynamic and strong champion for women and girls" its creators envisage is something we can all contribute to in the coming years.

More information can be found at: <http://www.unwomen.org/>