

Mission & Goals

The Women's Section has been a strong presence in the CCCBA for over 25 years. We welcome members practicing in all areas of the law who work or live in Contra Costa County.

The goals of the Women's Section are:

- ◆ To further the interests of women in the legal profession and the judiciary;
- ◆ To stimulate interest in and encourage discussions regarding legal and social issues of concern to women;
- ◆ To promote a spirit of mutual support, cooperation, and service, and to foster social contacts among the members of the Women's Section;
- ◆ To offer scholarships and support to deserving law students who have shown leadership potential, achieved academic success, and helped to advance women's issues;
- ◆ To promote diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
- ◆ To extend our network of contacts and support of women's interests through affiliation with California Women Lawyers.

The Women's Section offers frequent networking opportunities for its members, such as "Power Lunches" and happy hours, MCLE classes with notable and relevant speakers, and fundraising and community events, such as the Honorable Patricia Herron and Honorable Ellen James Scholarship



Women's Section

Contra Costa County Bar Association

2021 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

*Welcome to the Women's Section
2021 Quarterly Newsletter!*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Introducing our *Member Spotlight* – **Natasha Chee!**

1. *For those of our members who haven't had a chance to meet you, tell us a little about yourself.*

I'm an entertainment, intellectual property (IP), videogame, and tech lawyer who loves working with creative and innovative people and companies. I grew up in an artistic family and my parents gave me room to pursue what interested me. As a result, I have a degree in Biochemistry from UCLA and worked in biotechnology prior to getting my law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law. After working in litigation, IP, and criminal defense, I gravitated to working with creatives in the entertainment space because it blended my love of art, tech, business, and law. I'm also passionate about writing screenplays and legal articles, as well as speaking on a variety of topics, including arts and entertainment, tech, diversity, wellness, and women's rights. I volunteer as much as possible because giving back to the community further fulfills my sense of purpose.

2. *What are some of your favorite hobbies?*

I'm a cinephile who loves all genres of film, especially those with great character development, philosophical themes, great scores, and high style. I'm also a knitter and painter. I recently created the CCCBA's

and an annual Awards Dinner.

For membership information, please contact Jennifer Comages, CCCBA Membership Director, via email at jcomages@cccba.org.

2021 Board

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Inaugural Art Show, where I, along with a few other artistic lawyers, presented our works of art for the community. It was really amazing to share and see everyone's artwork in a supportive setting. I'm a voracious reader of fiction and non-fiction, often going down the rabbit hole on a specific topic. I also love to hike, swim, practice yoga, and have run several 5K races.

3. *Who or what inspires you? Do you have a mantra you live by?*

As an adult, I'm realizing more and more how much our younger years shape us. I was fortunate to have traveled to Asia when I was a child with my family. I saw at a young age how other people lived in different cultures and countries. This experience cultivated a perspective and compassion that has guided me in my life. I find inspiration in stories of grit, perseverance against all odds, and hard work. My parents immigrated from Indonesia, and Trinidad and Tobago, to attend fashion school in New York, eventually starting a retail and clothing manufacturing business in America. I often accompanied them to trade shows and helped with the business. This country was built on people like my parents who sacrificed and took the leap to forge new lives.

4. *What type of law do you practice? Any specific areas or industries of expertise?*

I practice entertainment, IP, videogame, and tech law. I work with filmmakers, film and music producers, musicians, writers, talent, and video game developers in their pursuits, while protecting their legal rights. I'm a fierce negotiator and work hard to make sure that my clients get the best possible representation in their deals. I've worked on films, such as "Best F(r)iends Vols. 1 + 2" distributed by Lionsgate, starring Tommy Wiseau and Greg Sestero of "The Room" and "The Disaster Artist", as the sole Attorney of Business and Legal Affairs, Music Supervisor, and Post Production Supervisor. I was also the Music Supervisor for the film's Original Soundtrack composed and produced by Daniel Platzman of Imagine Dragons. I love the entertainment space because it's such a collaborative process and

	brings so much joy to those who make it, as well as experience it.
5. What do you find most rewarding about practicing law?	The law has allowed me to help people from all walks of life in a very meaningful way, from literally fighting for someone’s liberty to helping to make movies. Like a lot of endeavors in life, the rewards you reap are only limited by how much you’re willing to put in. I’ve been able to give back to my community in so many different ways, from pro bono legal services to teaching legal classes to lawyers. The law is a limitless field of possibilities and opportunities, it’s fast paced, and it is constantly evolving to meet societal needs. The law is one of the most fascinating and rewarding professions in the world.
6. As the founding attorney of your own law firm, what advice would you give someone considering opening their own practice?	Be bold! Listen to your heart, you’ll know when the time is right, then just go for it. Surrounding yourself with amazing mentors and colleagues who will be supportive of your journey is crucial. Embrace the opportunity to forge your own path, since you never know when something new may evolve into something joyful for years to come. I always tell my clients and law students who are starting out, “Don’t get caught up with negative self-talk”. It’s easy to talk yourself out of a good idea before it even starts, so be mindful of this. I also cannot emphasize the importance of integrity and doing high caliber work. Your reputation is key in this industry. As Warren Buffet says, “You can’t make a good deal with a bad person”.
7. Why did you join the Women’s Section? Are you a member of any other CCCBA section or committee? Are you involved in any non-CCCBA organizations?	I joined the Women’s Section board, eventually becoming President in 2010, because I wanted to be an advocate for women’s rights while addressing the needs of women lawyers in our community. This led to representing the Women’s Section as an Affiliate Governor for California Women Lawyers (CWL) for several years where I was the CWL Newsletter Editor and Chair of the Technology Committee. I’m currently on the CCCBA’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Communications; and Wellness Committees. I also Co-Chair the Northern California Ethics

	<p>& Wellness program for the California Judges Association, where judges and lawyers provide an interactive presentation to law students and lawyers. I'm also active with the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley, the Bar Association of San Francisco, the Beverly Hills Bar Association, and Stowe Story Labs.</p>
<p>8. <i>What are some events you would like to see organized or hosted by the Women's Section?</i></p>	<p>It would be great to have events that celebrate the strength and perseverance of women in the law, judiciary, and beyond. I find a lot of inspiration in hearing from those who have come before us and in listening to their journeys of overcoming great barriers. Lawyering is one of the most demanding professions where the burnout rate is high. It is invaluable to hear from female trailblazers who have managed meaningful legal careers while keeping their sanity intact.</p>
<p>9. <i>The Women's Section is working to provide more programming relating to mindfulness, mental health, and well-being. What helps you relieve stress?</i></p>	<p>As a lawyer, carving out time for self-care is absolutely critical. I've curated a wellness toolkit that I can use depending on what's going on in my life. I make time to meditate and use breathing, noting, and visualization techniques to help me be more mindful of my body, mental state, and to stay in the present moment. I also use acupuncture, baths, yoga, knitting, and exercise to help me quell anxiety and stress. I recently wrote an article for the Contra Costa Lawyer, "Lawyers Find Wellness Through, Art, Craft, and Creativity", that explores how creating and viewing art provides an immense mental benefit for lawyers. I'm also really grateful because my husband, Jeff Thayer, a litigation partner at Hawkins, Parnell & Young LLP, is really into wellness and we often do these activities together.</p>
<p>10. <i>Last question: tell us something unique or quirky about yourself!</i></p>	<p>I'm fluent in French, having studied since I was 12 years old and eventually minoring in French Studies at UCLA. I interned at a French law firm in Marseille, France, that handled business, IP, and real estate cases. It was a unique experience to view another</p>

legal system first-hand. France's legal system is based on the Napoleonic Code, which places an emphasis on statutes found in various codes, instead of case law. I was able to attend trials, eviction proceedings, and give some input on some IP cases involving American internet companies. The attorneys wore robes and the judges at the "employment courts" wore medals. If you "parles français," come say "bonjour"!

More About Natasha:



Natasha S. Chee is the principal at the Law Offices of Natasha S. Chee. Her practice focuses on Entertainment, Intellectual Property, Videogame, and Tech Law. She works with producers, filmmakers, musicians, content creators, and tech companies. She graduated from Santa Clara University School of Law and UCLA. To learn more, visit: www.natashachee.com.

UPCOMING SECTION EVENTS

Women's Section November Book Club

Our next book club meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 2, 2021, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm**. We will be discussing Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi. Attendance is FREE and open to all members and non-members.

About the Book:

Ghana, eighteenth century: two half-sisters are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery.

One of Oprah's Best Books of the Year and a PEN/Hemingway award winner, Homegoing follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations

of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed — and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.

A New York Times Notable Book

About the Author:



Yaa Gyasi was born in Ghana and raised in Huntsville, Alabama. She holds a BA in English from Stanford University and an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she held a Dean's Graduate Research Fellowship. She lives in Brooklyn.

Zoom link to be provided upon sign up on www.cccba.org.

UpDate! UpLevel! UpLift!
Online with CCCBA – The 27th Annual MCLE Spectacular
November 17, 18, & 19, 2021 | 9:00am to 1:00pm

Please join CCCBA for more than 9 hours of MCLE. Pricing is \$150 for members (only \$16.67 per MCLE credit for 9 hours of MCLE) and \$200 for non-members.

The Women's Section has put together the following wonderful session:

“Why Are You So Emotional? How To Respond To Gender Bias And High-Conflict Situations”

When practicing law, how do you respond to individuals with high-conflict personalities – individuals who use tactics such as yelling, blaming, humiliating, harassing, and other unbecoming adversarial behaviors? How do you prevent yourself from becoming mentally and emotionally taxed when facing high-conflict situations caused by high-conflict personalities? How do you prevent yourself from taking home to your family, especially your children, this baggage? This seminar will discuss high-conflict situations faced by many attorneys, in particular female attorneys, and will offer effective tools used to respond to high-conflict personalities along with tools to prevent yourself from wishing you could quit practicing law and instead, become a yoga instructor.

(1 hour Elimination of Bias MCLE Credit)

For detailed program and speaker information, please visit CCCBA's MCLE SPEC website: <https://cccba.org/for-attorneys/mcle-overview/mcle-spectacular/>.

We hope to see you there!



*Thank you to the attendees of our
October Women's Section Social Hour!*

ODDS & ENDS



Wine glasses for sale!

The Women's Section is selling our signature stemless wine glasses for the low price of \$5 each. All proceeds go towards the Women's Section scholarship fund.

Contact us at cccbawomenssection@gmail.com to place your order today!

FEEDBACK

- Do you have event ideas you would like the Women's Section to host?
- Would you like to submit an article for publication or share a community service opportunity with your fellow members?
- Have any information and/or general feedback about the Women's Section you would like to share?

Please email us at cccbawomenssection@gmail.com.

*We hope you have enjoyed the Women's Section 2021 Quarterly
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