

## 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 and an annual Awards Dinner.



**Contra Costa County  
Bar Association**

**Women's Section**

## 2022 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

*The Women's Section is thrilled to be able to offer in person events again.*

Thank you to those that joined us at the October 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner

### Scholarship Winners:



**Contra Costa County  
Bar Association**

#### Women's Section

The Contra Costa County Bar Association Women's Section is pleased to announce the **2022 recipients of the Hon. Patricia Herron and the Hon. Ellen James Scholarship** are **Hayden Rain Craig** and **Jessica Ward**. Both women are very deserving of the scholarship and the Women's Section appreciates the continued support from bar members.

**Hayden** is a student at Santa Clara University School of Law and is a 2023 juris doctor candidate. She grew up in Contra Costa County and worked in the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office the last two summers. Hayden also volunteers with Community Violence Solutions. She looks forward to continuing her career with the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office after law school.

**Jessica** is a student at John F. Kennedy College of Law, Northcentral University and is a 2023 juris doctor candidate. She moved to Contra Costa County at a very young age and grew up here. Jessica plans to open her own law firm in Contra Costa County after graduation. Her firm will focus on estate planning and probate law. She also hopes to start a non-profit to provide resources to single parents.

Please join us in congratulating these two amazing women!

For membership information, please contact Jennifer Comages, CCCBA Membership Director, via email at [jcomages@cccba.org](mailto:jcomages@cccba.org).

## 2022 Board

### Officers

#### Co-Presidents:

Ritzi K. Lam  
Morrill Law

Rachel H. Leonard  
Tate & Associates

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All for the Family Legal Clinic, Inc

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Brown, Gee & Wenger LLP

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Brittany Hendrix-Smith  
Law Offices of Brittany Hendrix-Smith

#### Ex: Officio

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J. Jasmine Jenkins  
Livingston Law Firm

Jennifer McGuire  
Morrill Law



Scholarship Winners Hayden Jain Craig and Jessica Ward with 2022 Co-President of the Women's Section, Ritzi Lam.

## OWL Award Winner:



Award Winner Renée Welze Livingston, with 2022 Women's Section Board Member Crystal L. Van Der Putten

Renée Welze Livingston is the Founding Member of Livingston Law Firm, a civil trial firm in Walnut Creek. She is an accomplished trial lawyer and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). She handles catastrophic injury, wrongful death and other high-exposure cases primarily in the areas of product liability, trucking and transportation, premises liability and aggravated sexual assault. Renée served as the President of the Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada and in 2020 and previously served on the Board of Directors for the Contra Costa County Bar Association from 2012-2018. She is an active member of the Women in the Law Committee of the Defense Research Institute, and in 2019 was invited to join the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC) and International Society of Barristers (ISOB). She is AV-rated (5.0) by Martindale-Hubbell and a multi-year Northern California Super Lawyer.



Ingrid P. Rodriguez  
Brown, Gee & Wenger LLP

Crystal L. Van Der Putten  
Livingston Law Firm



Speaker Sejal Thakker was a hit, speaking to the group about acts of exclusion and microaggressions



But that wasn't our only in person event this quarter, some of you also joined us for socials and Family Fun Day:







## Announcements:

In continuing with our tradition of making a donation during this holiday season, the Women Lawyers Section Board has made a donation in the amount of \$500 to the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Please visit <https://reproductiverights.org/> to learn more about this organization and its mission in advancing reproductive rights for everyone.

**Interested in owning a Women's Section Wine Glass – Contact us today. \$5 each.**

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## UPCOMING SECTION EVENTS

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, CCCBA Annual Holiday Party

Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, CCCBA Installation Luncheon & Diversity Awards

[HTTPS://WWW.CCCBA.ORG/ATTORNEY-EVENTS/](https://www.cccba.org/attorney-events/)

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## 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](mailto:cccbawomenssection@gmail.com).