

# Arizona Women Lawyers Association

Southern Arizona Chapter

December 2004

## ***“Dinner with Sarah”***

### ***A Note from the New State Bar President***

By Kristine M. Fox

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She was “Mom.” That’s what went through my head as Sarah Weddington, one of the keynote speakers for AWLA’s 25th Annual Convention, directed me to sit down and eat something.

She had just flown into the airport, and into Tucson’s first winter storm, and asked if we couldn’t stop somewhere on the way to the hotel to get a quick bite. I inquired politely whether she was willing to join the pre-Convention reception, already in progress, at which there was both food and wine. She smiled, said she had thought about it en route, but was just too tired to be social. “Do you mind missing it?” she asked. “Of course not,” I replied, and added that I needed to get back to the office anyway to finish up a few loose ends before the next day’s events. She smiled knowingly and, with a charming Texan accent, said she’d “been there and done that” many times before.

I racked my brain trying to think where, between the airport and downtown, there was a place to eat that did not include a happy meal on the menu. I thought of a small Italian place that has been around for many years but recently relocated to make room for renovation and expansion of a downtown landmark–The Fox Theatre. The rain was coming down hard, and, as is par for the course, there was no place to park. I dropped Sarah off and said I’d circle a few times while she got something “to go.” After one pass, I spotted Sarah standing in the rain with another woman, looking and pointing at the Superior Court building. I pulled up and Sarah asked, again in her sweet Texan accent, whether I’d mind parking while she ordered pasta. She pointed out a few parking spots in front of the courthouse nearby that the owner assured her were available for public parking in the evenings. By the time I parked and returned, Sarah–the only customer–was seated at a table with bread and dipping oil and attended by no less than three individuals.

In a few brief moments, Sarah had befriended the owner and learned much about the lack of parking in downtown Tucson, the owner’s struggle to obtain the three “evening only” parking spots and the as-yet-unfulfilled promise of increased business from the nearby Theatre. Unfortunately, renovations are more than a year behind schedule, and the restaurant is struggling to survive its own remodel and relocation. I tell this story only to offer a glimpse of a remarkable woman.

Sarah Weddington is no idler. Within 30 minutes of arriving in Tucson, she had ingratiated herself with a local restaurant owner, offered constructive ideas for dealing with the difficult parking issue, and encouraged the owner to keep her chin up and meet the challenges head on. Turning to me, she reiterated that she knew I was in for a long evening and that I’d no doubt resort to a vending machine for dinner (which was only

partially correct—I have a considerable supply of microwave popcorn at the office). Opening her “to go” entree, she used the lid as a plate and pushed half of her pasta dinner across the table. Handing me a fork, she literally forced me to eat.

We talked about her *Roe v. Wade* argument, so many years before, in the Supreme Court—her nervousness, her excitement, her awe of the process and the court. We talked about her good friend Ann Richards; her book, *A Question of Choice* (which I confessed I had not read); and abortion access issues such as judicial bypass. Dinner was topped off with a decadent canoli, compliments of the owner, and I dropped Sarah at the hotel. At the convention the next morning, Sarah gave me an autographed copy of her book, as well as contact information for Ann Richards (I had mentioned that we were interested in inviting her to a future convention) and the group in Texas that organizes pro bono legal representation for young women seeking judicial bypasses. Sarah Weddington is clearly a woman of action.



It was really this aspect of dinner with Sarah that prompted this column. After becoming State Board president last month, I thought quite a bit about what, if any, theme I would have this year. This is, after all, our 25th year as a statewide women’s bar association. Significant milestones often lead to a little soul-searching, and, after making significant strides these past 25 years, it is not uncommon to hear women attorneys, especially young lawyers, question the continuing need for a women’s bar.

Unfortunately, gender inequality still exists. ABA statistics as recent as 2003 show women comprise only 16.3% of firm partners, 14.9% of general counsels at major corporations, and 32.8% of law college faculty. A woman lawyer’s median weekly salary remains at 76% of her male counterpart. Women (and minorities) are leaving the profession at a faster rate than men. As an organization, we stand a greater chance of improving this situation through our collective efforts than as individuals standing alone. And I truly believe the larger the group, the stronger the voice. So this year I am asking each of you to take action: to make it your personal goal to encourage just one person to join AWLA, to join a committee, to offer criticism and make suggestions (I am hopeful that by the time you read this you will have received and responded to our statewide membership survey), to plan an event, to get involved. Let’s all be women of action this year.

*Kristine Fox can be reached at (520) 205-4263 or [kristine\\_fox@azd.uscourts.gov](mailto:kristine_fox@azd.uscourts.gov).*



## **2004 Alice Truman Award Recipient U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Fiora**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Fiora completed undergraduate and post-graduate studies at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and received her J.D. in 1978 from the University of Arizona College of Law. Before law school, she taught in public schools in Philadelphia and Tucson for 10 years. While she taught in Philadelphia, she attended night classes at Temple University for post-graduate studies in Education. During the same years, she ran a business designing "Nancy Belts," which sold in department stores and specialty boutiques in New York City. Prior to teaching, her work history included employment as a salesgirl, switchboard operator ("yes, like Lily Tomlin's 'Ernestine'"), clerk typist, and secretary.

In 1978, while a law student, Judge Fiora published "Battered Wives Who Kill: Double Standard Out of Court, Single Standard In?" (Law and Human Behavior), described in 1989 as "among the best of the early articles which essentially laid the groundwork for a feminist analysis of self-defense law." (Justifiable Homicide, Cynthia K. Gillespie) Upon graduation from law school, she served as law clerk to The Honorable Mary Ann Richey, U. S. District Court Judge, and thereafter as an Assistant U. S. Attorney in Tucson. Since her law school years, Judge Fiora raised her son Josh as a single mom and enjoyed "mom" activities such as being PTA President, a Boy Scout Den Mother, and a Soccer Team Mother.

In 1985, Judge Fiora became the first woman appointed as a U. S. Magistrate Judge in the District of Arizona. She was the only woman on the federal bench in Tucson from 1985 to 1998. When she retires on her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, on March 25, 2005, Judge Fiora will have served on the federal bench about 100 days short of 20 years.

Judge Fiora was a founding member of AWLA. She chaired AWLA's original Articles and Bylaws Committee, she has served on the Steering Committee for Southern Arizona AWLA, and she served on AWLA's State Board of Directors. Her commitment to AWLA and its goals have never wavered. She has opened her home for AWLA functions and shared her insight and advice as a speaker at AWLA conferences. She has stepped up when needed to show grace and encouragement, humor and tenacity, support and inspiration. Judge Fiora has given generously of her time and talent to defeat the obstacles that women face in the legal profession. She has been a consistently tough advocate for women's rights and women's progress.

Judge Fiora has also served as a member of the Ninth Circuit Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, the Arizona State-Federal Judicial Council, the National Association of Women Judges and the Federal Magistrate Judges Association.

Judge Fiora was elected by her peers to serve as chair of the Ninth Circuit Magistrate Judges Executive Board Liaison Committee. Under her leadership, the Committee established a mentor program for new magistrate judges throughout the Ninth Circuit and revised the magistrate judge application form to promote fairness to women applicants.

Additionally, Judge Fiora chaired the Gender Equality Task Force ("GETF") for the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona. Under her able leadership, the GETF drafted a Local Rule prohibiting bias "inside and outside the courtroom" in federal litigation. See Local Rule 1.20, Rules of Practice of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona. The rule was the first of its kind in the nation. It gained national attention and served as a model rule for other courts. The National Association of Women Judges published the rule and recommended it as a model for courts throughout the country. The rule was also an inspiration for a Resolution passed at the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. Judge Fiora's efforts also resulted in selection of the Arizona federal court for participation in the Washington-based Federal Judicial Center's seminar on gender bias.

Judge Fiora has also chaired the National Association of Women Judges ("NAWJ") Legislative Watch Committee and served as a member of the NAWJ's national Gender Bias Task Force.

Judge Fiora received the 1994 YWCA "Women on the Move Award." In 1999, Judge Fiora was named in Arizona's Pioneering Women in the Law, published by the Women Law Students' Association of Arizona State University College of Law. In 2000, Judge Fiora was selected as one of the "100 outstanding women or minority lawyers in the history of the legal profession in Arizona."

After she served as Special Master for a dispute among several lawyers representing thousands of plaintiffs in a toxic tort case in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Washington, that Chief Judge wrote the following to the District of Arizona's then-Chief Judge Broomfield about this "remarkable judicial officer's" work ethic: "In short, I needed Solomon and Wyatt Earp in Dodge City at high noon, and out before dark! Your Magistrate Judge from Tucson did it all with an energy that left my staff exhausted."

Judge Fiora has been an inspiration to other women lawyers long before women were welcome in the legal community. Because of her outstanding legal ability and professionalism, she helped to open the doors to an acceptance of women as an integral part of the legal profession. Women lawyers at all stages of their careers have sought Judge Fiora's guidance, insight and support, and Judge Fiora has welcomed these women with her professional counsel and her tremendous compassion.

The daughter of Italian immigrants who lacked education, money, contacts and a knowledge of English, Judge Fiora has deep appreciation for the enormous sacrifice, struggle, pride, and drive that abide in the soul of the immigrant and any person who wants a better life. At every step of her legal career, Judge Fiora not only strived for personal excellence and rose above the barriers that she faced, but she successfully made that extra effort to bring down those same barriers for the women who follow her. Judge Fiora's long-standing commitment to supporting and encouraging the advancement of women in the legal profession—and in our culture—embodies the ideals of this distinguished award.

AWLA congratulates Judge Fiora on being selected as the 2004 recipient of the Alice Truman Leadership Award, and AWLA celebrates the career, the legacy, and the commitment to the advancement of women in the legal profession and in our society that Judge Truman and Judge Fiora share.



## ***AWLA Needs Your Opinion and Your Vote!***

If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to take our **AWLA survey**. Your thoughtful responses to this short survey will help AWLA tailor its services and benefits to better address your interests and needs. Please be candid; all individual information will remain private and confidential. Even better, survey participants will gain the satisfaction of knowing they helped AWLA remain strong and relevant, and **one lucky member chosen at random will win a \$200 DILLARD'S gift certificate!**

Also, on November 6, 2004, AWLA's State Board of Directors unanimously approved several amendments to our **Bylaws**. The Bylaws have not been amended since 1997, and numerous changes such as lack of quorums at Board meetings, lack of statewide committees, and the advent of electronic mail were addressed.

Finally, you can also vote for AWLA—Southern Arizona Chapter's 2005 officers.

**Instructions:** To take the survey and to vote on the Bylaws amendments, log onto [www.awla-southeraz.org](http://www.awla-southeraz.org) **by December 17, 2004**; to vote for the 2005 officers, please log on **by December 13, 2004**. Click on "Members," and then enter your user ID and password, which was e-mailed to you in October and again this week. (If you've misplaced it or didn't receive it, you can contact Nancy Kroell at 818-0429 or [awlaadmin@theriver.com](mailto:awlaadmin@theriver.com)). There, you will see links for Bylaw Vote, 2005 Officer Vote and Member Survey.

***AWLA's Annual Holiday Luncheon  
and Presentation of the  
Alice Truman Award  
To Honorable Nancy F. Fiora***



Tuesday, December 14, 2004  
11:30 a.m.  
The Arizona Inn  
2200 East Elm Street

*Menu*

- Appetizer: Cream of Wild Mushroom Soup with Fine Herbs
- Entrée Choice: Medallions of Chicken served on a Bed of Fresh Spinach with Stoneground Mustard Sauce
- or
- Hot Linguini Primavera crowned with an Assortment of Fresh Vegetables to Include Artichoke Hearts & Sundried Tomatoes in a Light Lemon Garlic Sauce
- Dessert: Pecan Pie with Fresh Whipped Cream

\* \* \*

**NOTE: Seating limited to First 180 Responses**

Due to the size of this popular event we cannot accept RSVPs made via e-mail. Your check together with the below RSVP form must be received no later than **December 7<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!

✂ \_\_\_\_\_ ✂

**RSVP for:**

***AWLA's Annual Holiday Luncheon and Presentation of the Alice Truman Award***

December 14, 2004 at 11:30 a.m.  
Arizona Inn, 2200 East Elm Street, Tucson

**\$15 Students      \*      \$20 AWLA Members      \*      \$35 Non-members**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chicken Medallions**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Linguini Primavera**

Mail this form and a check in the correct amount to: AWLA, PO Box 8448, Tucson, AZ 85738. **Your RSVP must be received by December 7, 2004.**



# AWLA NEWS



## Mark Your Calendars

- Dec 11.....Mothers' Forum at Paint Yourself Silly (see below)
- Dec 14.....Holiday Luncheon at the Arizona Inn
- Dec 28..... Swearing In of Ann Littrell at Cochise County Courthouse, Bisbee
- Jan 21 .....Planned Parenthood Award to Hon. Feldman

### ***Honorable Stanley Feldman to Receive Award***

Hon. Stanley Feldman, a long time friend of AWLA, will receive the Sarah Weddington Warrior Award at the third annual Roe v. Wade luncheon hosted by the Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona Action Fund. Governor Napolitano is also planning to attend. The luncheon will be held at the Sheraton Tucson, 5151 E. Grant Road, Tucson, AZ 85712, on January 21, 2005, at noon. Tickets may be obtained from Molly Dunn at Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona, 520-784-5805 or on our website [www.ppsaz.org](http://www.ppsaz.org). The cost is \$50.

### ***Mothers' Forum Event***

Bring your kids (ideally ages 3 or so & up) to Paint Yourself Silly to paint a wonderful pottery piece for the holidays! Join us at 6546 East Tanque Verde Road on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3 p.m! Cost is \$2.50 admission per person, plus the cost of the ceramic, which starts at \$9 for a 6 inch tile and up. We must have a minimum of eight people for this event. Please RSVP by December 1 to Deanna Conn at 770-8715 or [dconn@quarles.com](mailto:dconn@quarles.com).



## ***Members on the Move*** **(and other important moments!)**

Congratulations to Ann Littrell of Bisbee, who defeated incumbent Republican Charles A. Irwin of Sierra Vista in November to become the first elected female judge on the Cochise County Superior Court! Ann will be sworn in December 28, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. at the Cochise County Courthouse in Bisbee. All are welcome, and there will be a reception following the ceremony.



Michele Thompson has also made a move by joining Gust Rosenfeld P.L.C. as an associate. Best of luck with your new endeavor, Michele!



Do you have news of a job change, a wedding, a new baby or anything else your friends in AWLA would enjoy reading? Please share your news with us by e-mailing it to [kpage@lrlaw.com](mailto:kpage@lrlaw.com) or [cjhall@webmail.azbar.org](mailto:cjhall@webmail.azbar.org)!



## **New Online Directory**

In addition to providing a hard-copy version of our 2004-2005 Membership Directory, AWLA is pleased to announce that a searchable version is now available online at our websites. For your convenience, you can search by first or last name, firm or organization, or practice area. To access the online directory:

1. Go to our website on the Internet: [www.awla-southeraz.org](http://www.awla-southeraz.org).
2. Click on "Members."
3. Enter your User ID and password at the log-in screen, and then click on "Next."

**Note:** User IDs and initial passwords were e-mailed to members in late October. If you did not receive this information or have lost it, contact Nancy Kroell at 818-0429 or [awlaadmin@theriver.com](mailto:awlaadmin@theriver.com).

Click on "Search the online directory."



AWLA-SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER
P.O. Box 8448
Tucson, Arizona 85738
awlaadmin@theriver.com
Federal Tax ID Number 86-0396999

2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL
(January 2005 – December 2005)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm or Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Admitted to Arizona Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

AWLA's newsletter will be sent electronically. Check here if you require paper delivery: [ ]

Areas of Practice: (Circle up to 5):

- Academic/Law Professor
Administrative
Antitrust
Appellate
Arbitration/Mediation
Banking & Finance
Bankruptcy
Business/Corporations/Partnerships
Civil Rights
Construction
Corporate Counsel
Criminal
Education & School
Elder Law
Employment/Labor
Environment/Natural Resources
Estate Planning, Probate and Trust
Family
General
Government/Legislative
Guardianship/Conservatorship
Health/Social Security/Disability
Immigration
Indian
Injury & Wrongful Death
Insurance
Intellectual Property
Judiciary
Juvenile
Law Clerk
Law Student
Legal Malpractice/Ethics
Litigation - Civil
Litigation - Commercial
Medical Malpractice
Planning/Zoning/Land Use
Real Estate
Securities & Regulation
Tax
Technology
Tort
Utilities
Worker's Compensation
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other State Bar Admissions: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this application and a check made payable to AWLA for 2005 dues in the amount of

- [ ] \$100 (Sustaining Member\*) [ ] \$75 (Attorney earning > \$50,000/yr)
[ ] \$50 (Attorney earning < \$50,000/yr) [ ] \$10 (Law Student)

Send to: AWLA
P.O. Box 8448
Tucson, Arizona 85738

We need your help and involvement on committees. Please check those that interest you.

- [ ] CLE [ ] Membership [ ] Scholarship
[ ] Judicial Appointments [ ] Mother's Forum [ ] Social
[ ] Law Students [ ] Newsletter [ ] Steering
[ ] Leadership Conference [ ] Program/Speakers [ ] Technology
[ ] Lunch Support

\* Sustaining Members receive special recognition in the directory and at AWLA events

# 2004 AWLA Southern Arizona Leaders

| <u>Chapter Officers:</u>     | <u>Work Phone:</u>           | <u>E-mail Address:</u>        | <u>Position:</u>  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ronna Fickbohm, Esq.         | (520) 320-1300               | fickbohm@gabroylaw.com        | President         |
| Darlene Chavira Chavez, Esq. | (520) 791-4104               | chavez@qwest.net              | Co-Vice President |
| Lori L. Pierce, Esq.         | (520) 791-4104               | LPierce1@ci.tucson.az.us      | Co-Vice President |
| Angela C. Moore, Esq.        | (520) 318-0001               | Angela.Moore@azbar.org        | Secretary         |
| Katherine M. Brauer, Esq.    | (520) 740-4222               | kbrauer@sc.co.pima.az.us      | Treasurer         |
| <br>                         |                              |                               |                   |
| <u>Steering Member:</u>      | <u>Work Phone:</u>           | <u>E-mail Address:</u>        | <u>Committee:</u> |
| Leigh H. Bernstein, Esq.     | (520) 622-0400               | bernstein@elder-law.com       | Luncheon Support  |
| Nikki A. Chayet, Esq.        | (520) 791-3260               | nchayet1@ci.tucson.az.us      | Website           |
| Julia K. Connors, Esq.       | (520) 740-2726               | jconnors@sc.co.pima.az.us     | Past President    |
| Amelia Craig Cramer, Esq.    | (520) 740-5750               | acramer@pcao.co.pima.az.us    | Newsletter        |
| Kristine M. Fox, Esq.        | (520) 205-4263               | kristine_fox@azd.uscourts.gov | Newsletter        |
| Anne C. Graham-Bergin, Esq.  | (520) 577-1544,<br>ext. 5013 | agraham@bass-associates.com   | Judicial Appts    |
| C. Jane Hall, Esq.           | (520) 955-2925               | CJHall@webmail.azbar.org      | Newsletter        |
| Wanda E. Hofmann, Esq.       | (520) 388-7137               | wanda.hofmann@ag.state.az.us  | Law Students      |
| Marie Martinez, Esq.         | (520) 375-7780               | marie.martinez@azbar.org      | Membership/Social |
| Patricia Ann Mehrhoff, Esq.  | (520) 791-4104               | pmehrho1@ci.tucson.az.us      | Luncheon Support  |
| Megan E. Miller, Esq.        | (520) 490-8346               | megan.miller@azbar.org        | Judicial Appts    |
| Paula C. Nailon, Esq.        | (520) 626-6107               | nailon@law.arizona.edu        | Law Students      |
| Kris Page-Iverson, Esq.      | (520) 629-4421               | kpage@lrlaw.com               | Newsletter        |
| Veronique Pardee, Esq.       | (520) 292-4056               | vpardee@scfaz.com             | Community Service |
| Caroline Pinkney-Baird, Esq. | (520) 318-9376               | caroline@pinkneybaird.com     | Mother's Forum    |
| Carrie L. Rednour, Esq.      | (520) 790-4061               | carrierednour@earthlink.net   | Mother's Forum    |
| Terri A. Roberts, Esq.       | (520) 740-5750               | terri.roberts@azbar.org       | President Elect   |
| Merle Joy Turchik, Esq.      | (520) 490-3976               | merle.turchik@azbar.org       | Social            |
| Susan C. Villarreal, Esq.    | (520) 784-0604               | scv@villarrealaw.com          | CLE               |
| Jill D. Winans, Esq.         | (520) 628-7070               | jdwinans@gustlaw.com          | Community Service |

It is the policy of the Southern Chapter of AWLA to publish in our newsletter articles and announcements submitted that are about our members or that concern events and issues of general interest to our membership. We reserve the right to limit publications due to space or editorial discretion. We also remain adamant that our sole mission is advancement of women in our profession: our publication of items submitted that may be perceived by some as supporting a mission other than this should not be considered an endorsement by our chapter. We simply hope to inform, educate, or perhaps even entertain some or all of you.

# **AWLA**

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