

Lunch with the Honorable Lina Rodriguez

by Margaret Maxwell

I had the distinct pleasure of sharing lunch recently with the Honorable Lina Rodriguez. Having worked non-stop since the age of eighteen, even while she was a student, Lina is having a little trouble with the “R” word. She explains, “First I was a full time student; then I was a teacher; next I was a lawyer; then I became a judge. Now I’m just in another phase, equally important, just not as structured.”



Hon. Lina Rodriguez

An Arizona native, Lina was born and raised in Oracle, Arizona and attended San Manuel High School. She characterizes herself as an “only” child in the middle of five children, with a brother and sister quite a bit older, and a brother and sister quite a bit younger than she. After attending the University of Arizona and majoring in English Education and minoring in Spanish, Lina took on the chaos of trying to teach at Apollo Middle School with classes of 50 or more students each. She next went to law school. After graduating in 1977, she and classmate Mary Grier (nee) Mangotitch were the first women hired by the (then) law firm of Bilby, Shoenhair, Warnock and Dolph, which until that time had been all male.

Lina was from the era when limited numbers of women were admitted to law school and few practiced law, although she recalls the numbers increased a little each year. Like many women from that period, at the beginning of her law practice, Lina went through a period of feeling it was necessary to prove herself in a male-dominant field. Those were the days when women attorneys often felt compelled to wear mannish suits and some sort of tie, in order to fit in.

Lina recalls with amusement a time when the firm held meetings on the 20th floor of the Old Pueblo (then simply known as the “OP”) Club, which was then a true bastion of men-only membership, and a place where a great deal of legal, financial and political business took place. She and Mary were relegated to a side room off the dining room used by their male colleagues, and they had to order from the menu because they were not allowed to go through the buffet in the dining room. Some time later, after Lina and Hal Warnock left Federal Court at the end of an important case, Warnock suggested they have a drink at the OP to celebrate. He overruled the OP waiter who tried to keep Lina out of the men-only bar, saying that if his partner couldn’t have a drink with him, then he’d resign. Not long after that, the OP changed its rules and admitted women to membership.

Judge Rodriguez was appointed to the bench by Governor Bruce Babbitt in 1983. She was one of the “kiddie corps” of young judges, among them Nanette Wagner, Leslie Miller and Larry Fleischman. At that time, with no judicial experience, and single with no children, naturally, her first appointment was to the family law bench. In 1986, she assumed responsibility for oversight of all arbitration cases, a job she continued doing until summer, 2003, with the exception of 18 months that were covered by Judge Donfeld.

Judge Rodriguez rotated through the family law, civil and criminal benches, and heard probate cases at Presiding Probate Judge Truman's request, nearly a complete tour of all the judicial assignments. Earning consistently high marks during Judicial Performance Reviews, Judge Rodriguez maintained a full trial calendar in addition to overseeing all arbitration cases. She used home computers, fax machines and cell phones to be at work, even when not physically at the Courthouse. This system enabled her to spend time with her son, Logan, now 12.

Affectionately recalling several judicial colleagues, including the Judges Royston, Judge Hawkins, and Judge Truman, to name a few, Judge Rodriguez notes that she took Judge Hannah and Judge Buchanan as mentors. For a while, Judge Rodriguez adopted Buchanan's rather terse "granted/denied" style of ruling, but later developed her own method of ruling. She found herself best able to understand a case with all of its facts and issues when she broke the case down and served as her own Court of Appeals. Coincidentally, this system led to a low rate of reversal by the Court of Appeals.

Seeking an alternative to retirement, Judge Rodriguez investigated the possibility of instituting a "drop" program for judges who faced her "twenty and out" dilemma, but who were not ready to leave the judiciary. The "drop" program unfortunately did not come to fruition in time to be of assistance to her.

As noted above, Judge Rodriguez faced leaving the bench with great misgivings, doing so only when it became apparent that it made no financial sense to continue past twenty years of service when additional years of service did nothing to improve one's retirement pay. "I held on to my resignation letter to the Governor until the last minute, not sure if I could send it or not". For the same reason, Judge Rodriguez did not plan a party, putting off self-recognition of impending r - - - - - t.

Judge Rodriguez has few regrets regarding her judicial career. When asked about her pet peeves involving lawyers, Judge Rodriguez said she was frustrated with those who were not properly prepared or presented poor pleadings.

Like many in the legal profession, Judge Rodriguez laments the loss of collegiality among members of the bar, and is not sure to what it is attributable: the pressures of practice, the growing number of attorneys who are not familiar with each other, or other factors. She was pleased with the results of a Superior Court Delay Reduction Sub-Committee which she chaired, and which included defense attorneys, prosecutors and others, and believes that relations between those groups were improved as a result.

Having retired, however reluctantly, Lina now enjoys working out at a fitness center each week, and trying to improve her golf handicap of 22. She continues to hone her mom skills with son Logan, bracing for his upcoming teen years, facing the even tougher "mom performance reviews", in the years ahead. She and husband Lloyd are planning a trip to San Francisco with her 84- year- old mother, who last saw that city in 1942. Additionally, they would like to repeat a trip to New Zealand, which they enjoyed very much. A self-described loner, she may slowly add community activities, having just agreed to co-chair the Hispanic Advisory Council to President Likens at the University of Arizona. However, Lina noted that, even when on the bench, she wasn't much of one to meet, for meeting's sake.

Professionally, Judge Rodriguez has turned down some flattering job offers. She is accepting arbitration cases and is willing to conduct settlement conferences. She has already done some of each and has more scheduled.

As we left the restaurant Lina mused that she needs to contact the State Bar to find out when the required CLE hours may be due and notes that she will now be paying full bar dues once again. Ah, the joys of retirement!

MAY LUNCHEON

- DATE:** MONDAY, May 17, 2004
- TIME:** 12:00 o'clock, Noon
- PLACE:** The Arizona Inn, 2200 East Elm Street (The Tucson Room)
- COST:** \$15 Members * \$20 Non-Members * \$8 Students
- RSVP:** No later than **Friday, May 14**. Please RSVP via AWLA's new automated reservation system. If you are not on AWLA's email list-serv, call **Nancy Kroell** at 818-0429 or e-mail her at awlaadmin@theriver.com to make a reservation.
- MENU:** Grilled Chicken over Asian Noodles with Stir Fry Vegetables and Teriyaki Sauce
-OR-
Fruit and Cheese Plate
- SPEAKER:** MARGO TAMEZ

Our luncheon speaker in May will be Margo Tamez, who will read to us from her poetry. Margo received her M.F.A in Creative Writing, with an emphasis in Poetry, from ASU's Creative Writing Program in 1997, and her B.A. in Art History from the University of Texas at Austin in 1985. She also received a B.A. in Archaeological Studies from the University of Texas at Austin in 1984.

Margo's book of poetry, *Naked Wanting*, was published by the U of A Press in 2003. Her poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Missouri Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and *Hawaii Pacific Review*, among many others. Margo has read from her poetry at numerous locations around the country.

Margo is also a Senior Fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program, and founded De Las Manos Project for Peace & Environmental Studies in 1999. She has taught poetry at the Gila River Indian Community's 21st Century Project at ASU and at many workshops and conferences. Margo currently teaches undergraduate writing courses at Pima Community College and the U of A.

New Automated Lunch Reservation System

All members on AWLA's electronic list-serv now receive an email notice the week before each monthly luncheon. To make your or a guest's reservation, click the link shown in the email. This will take you to a page on our website where you will indicate guest names and menu choices. It's that simple!

SAVE THE DATE!

AWLA's 25th Annual Convention and 2nd Leadership Conference will take place on Friday, **October 22, 2004**, at the Omni Tucson National Resort. The keynote speaker will be **Sarah Weddington**, nationally known for her work on issues affecting women and who, in 1973, successfully argued *Roe v. Wade*. Her topic will be "Some Leaders are Born Women."

AWLA Lunch Site Moving Back Downtown

After much thought and discussion, the AWLA Southern Arizona Steering Committee has elected to change the site for our monthly luncheons. Luncheons will be held at the Manning House, 450 W. Paseo Redondo, beginning in August 2004. This was not a decision that was made lightly. We elicited input from members and had an overwhelmingly positive response for Manning House.

The prevailing comments from our membership indicated that, although the ambience may be nicer at the Arizona Inn, it is easier for government attorneys and judges to make the luncheon if it is located in the downtown area. The Arizona Inn has few parking spaces designated for people with disabilities, and some of our members who use wheelchairs have been unable to re-enter their vehicles because some else had parked too close. In addition, the price for lunches is going up at the Arizona Inn, and the Manning House is less expensive. The Manning House also serves a buffet lunch offering more choices for everyone, especially for our vegetarian members. Finally, AWLA was incurring an unreasonable amount of additional hidden costs for microphones, screens, and even the podium at the Arizona Inn.

Although Manning House will be our regular luncheon site starting in August, we will continue to have our Holiday Luncheon (in December) at the Arizona Inn. We appreciate your understanding as we make this transition.

Chandler Appointed to Superior Court

Juvenile Court Commissioner Vacancy Announced

Governor Janet Napolitano has appointed long-time AWLA member **Terry L. Chandler** to the Pima County Superior Court bench. Terry's resume includes 23 years of experience as a prosecutor and defense attorney. Prior to her appointment as a Juvenile Court Commissioner, Terry was an assistant U.S. Attorney and a deputy prosecutor for both Gila and Pima Counties.

Terry's elevation to the superior court bench has created a vacancy for a full-time Juvenile Court Commissioner to preside over all juvenile hearings. The annual salary is \$108,515 and comes with excellent benefits. The application deadline is **May 21** at 4:45 p.m. Interviews for the position will be conducted on June 1, 2004.

For additional information and to obtain an application, contact Al Price in the Juvenile Court's Human Resources department at 740-5021.



Hon. Terry L. Chandler

Atwood to Receive Sorin Award

by Paula Nailon, Southern AZ Chapter

At this year's AWLA Mary Anne Richey Scholarship Breakfast, held during the State Bar Convention, Professor Barbara Atwood will be awarded AWLA's highest honor – the Sarah Herring Sorin Award.

Barbara Atwood is not interested in the limelight and, indeed, is often embarrassed by public recognition. Although she herself may not even realize how great an influence she has had on so many people in her own quiet way, she embodies what the Sarah Herring Sorin award celebrates.

Barbara graduated from the UA College of Law in 1976 with the Highest Distinction and started teaching there in 1986 (current courses include Family Law and past courses include Community Property and Gender and the Law). An incredible teacher over the past 17 years, Barbara's former students still speak of her with tremendous admiration and respect, not only about her ability to teach the subject matter but, perhaps more importantly, about the wonderful way she taught and interacted with them.

As Commissioner Karen Adam recently observed, Barbara's magic in the classroom continues to this day and "her students adore her. They speak of her humanity, compassion, intelligence and humor, and also about her warmth and approachability."

Remembering her first year, 3L Monica Bellapralu said, "As a first year, first semester law student I was frequently frustrated, scared, and often asked the question 'why am I here'. Fortunately, for me, Professor Atwood was my Small Section Professor. For the hour or so that the class spent with her each day, I felt no anxiety and never questioned if I had made the right decision in coming to law school. She provided a safe place during the storm of first year and made me realize that, while the mark of a great lawyer is knowledge of the law, equally important is the compassion that draws people to you. Professor Atwood has an abundance of both qualities. I know that my transition to law school was easier because I was fortunate enough to have a class with her."

Barbara's colleagues at the law school also recognize and appreciate her unique blend of intelligence and humanity. Associate Dean Kay Kavanagh said, "Barbara is modest and self-deprecating, yet hilarious (she could still have a career as a stand-up comic). She is brilliant and astute, and knows how to ask the precise question that cuts to the heart of the issue...whether it makes anyone uncomfortable or not."

An original founder of the Law School's Law Women's Association, Barbara remains its faculty advisor. Her qualifications and accomplishments are stellar but, as the highlights indicate, her career is dedicated to advancing issues important to women, children and families. This year, she will be honored by the University of Arizona as one of two to receive the 2004 Graduate College Graduate & Professional Education Teaching and Mentoring Award, and has also received the Law College's Distinguished Alumnus Award and Leslie F. and Patricia Bell Faculty Award, the YWCA Women on the Move Award, Soroptomists' Women Helping Women Award and Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona's Sarah Weddington Award. Her CV lists over three pages of "selected" conference presentations and all but a handful concern women's and children's issues. She recently co-chaired the "Youth, Voice and Power" Conference for the Law School and is a frequent speaker for the Arizona Women's Political Caucus, most recently concerning the 30th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. She serves on numerous committees and task forces for the law school, university and legal community, including the Arizona Supreme Court's Disciplinary Commission; chairs AWLA's Mary Anne Richey Scholarship Committee and PCBA's John

Hawkins Professionalism Award Committee; has chaired the Ninth Circuit's Subcommittee on Indian Law, its Gender Bias Task Force and the American Association of Law School's Family and Juvenile Law Section; and is active with the Arizona Women's Faculty, both on its Executive Committee and the Committee on Parenting Policies.

Barbara is a prolific writer and poet, authored more than 17 legal articles (all but four dealing with women's and children's issues), wrote a biography of the late Hon. Mary Anne Richey (for whom she worked as a law clerk), a book chapter on feminist discord in family law and is currently working on a book about conflicts of law and policy in disputes over American Indian Children, as well as a law review article about the use of therapeutic jurisprudence in family law.

Barbara Atwood has modeled the successful integration of all aspects of a woman's life – work, scholarship, motherhood, community and professional involvement – and the list of women she has inspired continues to grow. She is truly deserving to be recognized with AWLA's Sarah Herring Sorin Award.

We hope you can join us in honoring Barbara. The Mary Anne Richey Scholarship Breakfast will take place during the State Bar Convention at the Phoenician Resort on **Friday, June 11 at 7:30 a.m.** Tickets must be purchased in advance through the State Bar by **May 28**, either by sending in the Convention Registration Form or on-line at www.myazbar.org/Convention/index.cfm (if not attending the convention, select "Event Tickets only"). If you attend, we also hope you will be considering making a tax-deductible contribution to the Mary Anne Richey Scholarship Fund, which funds a \$1,000 scholarship each year for a student at the U of A and ASU (see below).

Women Law Student News



Barbara Atwood and scholarship winner Ginette Chapman

At AWLA's April luncheon, Barbara Atwood presented the Mary Anne Richey Scholarship for community service to James E. Rogers College of the Law first-year student Ginette Chapman. Ms. Chapman was awarded a check in the amount of \$1,000 plus a copy of Richey's biography, *A Courtroom of Her Own*.

U of A Law Women's Association Co-Chair Roopali Desai recently presented a \$2,500 donation to Professor Zelda Harris for the law school's Domestic Violence Clinic and \$1,000 to Professor Paul Bennett for the Child Advocacy Clinic. The donations were made possible due to the success of LWA's auction in February.



Zelda Harris, Roopali Desai and Paul Bennett

AWLA welcomes new law student member Hester Miller, who is a second year. Hester enjoys biking and hiking and hopes to stay in Tucson after graduation. Her areas of career interest include energy and natural resources.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Members,

What would you say to the statement that there has never been a woman Superior Court Judge, either pro tem, appointed or elected, in Cochise County? Impossible, shocking? Unfortunately, it's the sad truth. The good news is that we have an opportunity to make history this year by supporting Ann Littrell in her bid to become the first woman Superior Court Judge in Cochise County.

Please join me on Sunday, May 16 from 3-6 in the afternoon at my home, 708 E. University Blvd., and meet Ann Littrell. You'll find that Ann possesses the skill and background to make an effective judge. She has 24 years of legal experience and is currently a Deputy Cochise County Attorney. Her extensive legal career includes being the Douglas City Attorney as well as the Cochise County Public Fiduciary.

Ann is an Arizona native, born and raised in Douglas. She graduated from Douglas High School and was in the top of her class at the University of Arizona law school. She is a Fulbright Scholar and speaks three languages: English, Spanish and Swedish. In addition to her impressive credentials, she is committed to providing justice, fairness and honesty for all Cochise County residents.

Ann faces a tough challenge this November from incumbent judge Charles Irwin, a Republican. Ann is a Democrat and because judicial elections are treated as partisan elections, must overcome a significant Republican voter registration advantage. She needs our help and support, particularly financial support, to win this election. Even if you cannot attend our get together, please consider making a donation to Ann's campaign. No donation is too small, although the maximum that can be contributed is \$350 per person. Additional information about Ann can be found on her website: voteforann.com.

We hope to see you on May 16 and know you'll enjoy meeting Ann Littrell. Please give me (Anne) a call at 884-1618 if you have questions.

Sincerely, Anne Graham-Bergin & Megan Miller

Paid for by the Ann Littrell for Cochise County Superior Court Judge, Division IV Campaign Committee
Contributions may be made directly to: Ann Littrell Campaign Committee, P.O. Box 3971, Douglas, AZ 85608

SUMMER BREAK REMINDER! AWLA Southern Arizona does not hold luncheons or publish newsletters during the months of June and July. Any important news or announcements will be sent to members via email. If you are not currently on AWLA's email list-serv, please contact Nancy Kroell at awlaadmin@theriver.com or 818-0429.

April Speaker a Marketing Dynamo



At April's luncheon, M.J. Jennings offered key advice: "Marketing is a 24/7 opportunity."

"Marketing yourself is an opportunity that you should engage in every day, all day. It is a way of honoring yourself and your clients." M.J. Jennings began her dynamic presentation with these thoughts. She went on to say that marketing is a proactive activity which focuses on the broad "You."

It is important that you value what you bring to your job. You must make a daily assessment of what you bring to your job; be honest and authentic. Don't engage in bragging, just be honest and forthright. It is important to understand your weaknesses to be able to make the situation different.

M.J. asked good questions that generated a lively discussion. She also presented her own golden rules:

1. Organization is the key to productivity: It is your reputation and the best marketing tool you have. It is imperative that you put systems in place that work for you.

2. Your office space is your domain. It is important that clutter be kept to a minimum and that any "clutter alert" be corrected immediately. In addition, home office space needs to be kept separate from the rest of your living area.

3. Return phone calls within a reasonable amount of time. "Reasonable" is subjective, while "return" is objective. Remember to keep in mind that your client also has a "reasonable" standard, and the worst form of negative marketing is failure to meet your client's expectations as to what is "reasonable." Also, keep in mind that you want the client to be happy with the person who returns the call, even if the message is disappointing, such as reporting that you are in trial and cannot get back to the caller for a couple of days. Anyone who returns your calls needs to understand this concept.

4. One major challenge in your work life is looking like a strong, professional, and competent person, while having fun and making enough money from your clients.

M.J. left us with important parting thoughts: Deselect the "energy leaks." Learn how to say, "No," and concentrate on the question of, "What's in it for me?" Solve some of your problems yourself instead of waiting for someone to solve them for you.

AWLA Salutes this Month's New Sustaining Members:

**Hector C. Estrada
Deborah Oseran
Edina A. Strum
Cyndy A. Valdez**

Membership questions? Email awlaadmin@theriver.com

Arizona Women Lawyers Association
Southern Arizona Chapter
presents

Who Wants To Be An Ethical Lawyer?

This interactive, game-show format allows you to get that last hour of ETHICS credit just before the June 30th deadline. Come respond to multiple choice ethics questions drawn from real practice and case scenarios through an anonymous key-pad system. Compare your answers with those of your colleagues instantly and see if YOU have noticed the ARPC changes.

DATE: Friday, June 18, 2004

TIME: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Jury Assembly Room
U.S. District Court, 405 West Congress

PLUS!! 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Happy Hour with FREE Appetizers/Taco Bar and no-host bar
Garcia's Mexican Restaurant, 419 West Congress

EXCLUSIVE: Seminar limited to 50 Participants

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2004

REGISTER: Complete this form and mail with your payment to AWLA,
P.O. Box 8448, Tucson AZ 85738.

COST: AWLA Member \$20.00
Non-AWLA Member \$30.00

Name: _____

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Angela C. Moore, Esq.	(520) 318-0001	Angela.Moore@azbar.org	Secretary
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 13	Steering Comm Mtg, Gust Rosenfeld (Noon)
May 17	Monthly Lunch Mtg, the Arizona Inn (Noon)
June 11	Mary Anne Richey Breakfast - State Bar Convention
Oct 22	25th Annual AWLA Convention - Omni Tucson National Resort

ARIZONA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
2004 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL
(January - December)

Name: _____

Firm or Agency: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Work Phone: () _____ Work Fax: () _____

Email: _____ Year Admitted to Arizona Practice: _____

Political Party affiliation (optional—for internal use only; i.e., recruitment/nominations): _____

AWLA's newsletter will be sent electronically to e-mail listed above. Check here if you require paper delivery:

Areas of Practice: (Select up to 5):

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Administrative | <input type="radio"/> Employment / Labor (Both) | <input type="radio"/> Products Liability (Plaintiff) |
| <input type="radio"/> Anti-Trust | <input type="radio"/> Environmental Law | <input type="radio"/> Products Liability (Defendant) |
| <input type="radio"/> Arts and Entertainment | <input type="radio"/> Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Probate | <input type="radio"/> Products Liability (Both) |
| <input type="radio"/> Banking and Finance | <input type="radio"/> Guardianship / Conservatorship | <input type="radio"/> Professional Liability (Plaintiff) |
| <input type="radio"/> Bankruptcy | <input type="radio"/> Immigration | <input type="radio"/> Professional Liability (Defendant) |
| <input type="radio"/> Business Transactions | <input type="radio"/> Indian Law | <input type="radio"/> Professional Liability (Both) |
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| <input type="radio"/> Copyright, Patent and Trademark | <input type="radio"/> Landlord Tenant | <input type="radio"/> Sports Law |
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| <input type="radio"/> Criminal Law (Prosecution) | <input type="radio"/> Mediation / Arbitration | <input type="radio"/> Tort Liability |
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| <input type="radio"/> Commercial Litigation | <input type="radio"/> Natural Resources | <input type="radio"/> Victim's Rights |
| <input type="radio"/> Domestic Relations | <input type="radio"/> Personal Injury (Plaintiff) | <input type="radio"/> Worker's Compensation (Applicant) |
| <input type="radio"/> Education, School Law | <input type="radio"/> Personal Injury (Defendant) | <input type="radio"/> Worker's Compensation (Defendant) |
| <input type="radio"/> Elder Law | <input type="radio"/> Personal Injury (Both) | <input type="radio"/> Worker's Compensation (Both) |
| <input type="radio"/> Employment / Labor (Plaintiff) | <input type="radio"/> Planning & Zoning | |
| <input type="radio"/> Employment / Labor (Defendant) | | Other: _____ |

Other State Bar Admissions: _____

Please return this application and a check made payable to AWLA for 2004 dues in the amount of

\$100 - Sustaining Member* \$75 - Regular Member \$50 - Public Atty OR Private Earning <50K \$10 - Student

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

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

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| <input type="radio"/> Judicial Appointments | <input type="radio"/> Mother's Forum | <input type="radio"/> Social |
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* Sustaining Members receive special recognition in the directory and at AWLA events.

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