



# LWV/LAC VOTER

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Inter-League Organization — Beach Cities ■ Beverly Hills ■ Claremont Area ■ Downey and Southeast Area ■ East San Gabriel Valley  
Glendale-Burbank ■ Long Beach Area ■ Los Angeles ■ Palos Verdes Peninsula ■ Pasadena Area ■ Santa Monica ■ Torrance ■ Whittier

ISSUE ONE

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JANUARY 2007



### Calendar

- Tues. Jan. 9 LWV/LAC board meeting @ LWVLA office
- Sat. Jan. 27 **Judicial Independence—Why You Should Care! at Loyola Law School, Downtown LA**
- Thurs. Feb. 8 Tri-League Tour of the AES Power Plant in Redondo Beach
- Tues. Feb. 14 LWV/LAC board meeting, place TBA
- Sat. Mar. 31 **LWV/LAC 45th Annual Convention with Geraldine Knatz, Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles, at So. Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula**
- Sat. July 28 Summer League Day, place TBA

### **A NEW YEAR AWAITS! —Lola Ungar, President**

As we ring in the New Year 2007, let us take time to think about what your goals will be in League during the next year. You will learn that any time you volunteer to take part in any committee and give something to the group; you will always take away something more. And, that something will be more knowledge along with great new friendships. Be proud and volunteer to take part in just one new study or issue this year (*How about Immigration?*) and you will find that you will respect yourself even more.

### **Judicial Independence**

An extraordinary Winter League Day has been planned for you by **Jean Thomson, LWVLA**, and her committee of Local Leaguers from Los Angeles, Los Angeles County ILO, Beach Cities, Glendale/Burbank, Pasadena Area, and Torrance. A Judicial Independence Forum titled, “**Judicial Independence—Why You Should Care!**” at **Loyola Law School in downtown LA will take place on January 27, 2007, 9:30 AM to 3 PM** that includes parking and lunch for \$30.00. The Keynote Speaker will be **California Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno** and a bevy of noted judges and attorneys (the list grows daily) is scheduled to be in attendance at this special event. The committee was also able to obtain the support of the Beverly Hills Bar Association and MCLE accreditation. We hope to sell many tickets to support this LWVUS Ed Foundation project and urge you to reserve by January 12, if you wish to attend. (See included flier for more details). **Happy New Year!**

### **LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson Promotes “Pro-Voter” Reform Before the U.S. Election Assistance Commission—from a LWVUS Press Release**

In early December 2006, League of Women Voters President Mary G. Wilson testified before an open meeting of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission in Washington, D.C. The meeting, titled “Assessing the 2006 Election”, brought together experts and elections officials in an effort to shed light on how the 2006 election administration went, what challenges voters faced at the polls, and what reforms to our election systems are needed in the future.

Mary said, “The question we ask today is, were the voters well served in 2006? And, whether you were

well served as a voter depended on three factors: where you live, who you are, and by what method you voted. Exit polling data showed that 87 percent of voters were confident their votes would be counted accurately. Yet, there were management problems such as long lines, poor ballot designs, paper ballot shortages, confusion about ID requirements and others.”

She stated, “Better election administration may not be the sexiest issue out there, but it is one on which we must focus. There are several critical questions that need to be addressed: How well does the election workforce -- from professional elections officials to volunteer poll workers -- do its job? How is the polling place organized and administered, and how is the election workforce recruited, trained and managed?

“The one issue that must be a priority for the EAC between now and 2008 is poll worker management...We need systems in place that are pro-voter; but they can’t be pro-voter if they are not pro-poll worker as well,” Wilson said. “The EAC can also play a powerful role in assessing why polling place administration problems happen, sharing best practices, and offering guidance to elections officials to make the system work better for the voter. “We need to apply the lessons of 2006 to make sure voters are well served in 2008 regardless of where they live, who they are, or by what method they voted. We need to make sure the answer to whether the system works in 2008 is not ‘It depends’ but a resounding ‘Yes,’” concluded Wilson.

### ***Better Mental Health Services Ordered for Los Angeles County Foster Children***

*—Mary Ellen Barnes, Social Policy Director*

In late November, a federal judge ordered Los Angeles County to improve its mental health services to children in foster care and to move faster to comply with a past federal agreement. The court finding validates the conclusions of an independent panel that determined in August 2005, that Los Angeles County was not offering adequate mental health services to foster children and did not have a comprehensive plan to help them.

The court order will require county officials to screen all 40,000 children in the foster care system, including those still living at home (about 17,000 foster children live at home).

### ***Health Care—Sheila Hoff, Director***

The Governor will be coming out with his own proposal on health care. Talking points will be developed to deal with his proposal vs SB840 being put back on the table. People will be interested in the comparisons. How will the Governor's proposal be affordable with the stated budget deficits? We look forward to working with the newly elected legislators and getting them educated.

This court settlement is the result of a lawsuit filed by lawyers for five children who said they received substandard care while in the county’s care. County officials say they are making progress. According to Marvin Southard, the Director of the Mental Health Department, “the major sticking point is the speed with which it’s reasonable to proceed with the expansion of services. We are trying to go as fast as we can.”

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is working with the Department of Mental Health to further improve its own mental health services to children. To that end, DCFS has established approximately 10 hubs throughout the county that medically and psychologically evaluate children entering the foster care system.

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Leagues and their members can make donations to the OneCareNow campaign. We just learned that the League of Women Voters of Long Beach suggested that their members could select the One Care Campaign when giving their holiday donations. Leagues can go to [onecarenow.org](http://onecarenow.org) and make a donation. We will be working toward the August rally, continuing to gather signatures which really need e-mails, and educating our communities on the failing health care system that can only be solved by adopting this plan.



Leagues of Women Voters of Los Angeles,  
 LA County ILO, Beach Cities, Glendale/Burbank,  
 Pasadena Area, Torrance  
 And the Beverly Hills Bar Association



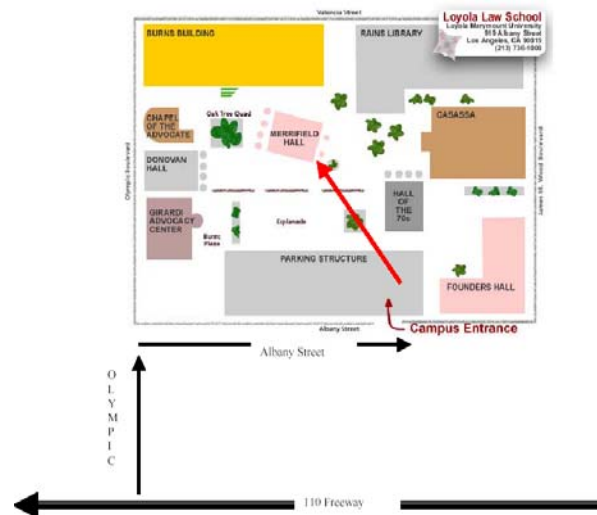
# JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE WHY YOU SHOULD CARE!

## AGENDA

- 9:30 — 9:45 Registration
- 9:45 — 10:00 Welcome
- 10:00 — 11:30 **“Challenges and Judicial Pressures”**  
Moderator: Judge Terry Smerling  
Panelists: Loyola Dean David Burcham, Justice Candace Cooper,  
 Loyola Professor Allan Ides, and Justice Joan Dempsey Klein
- 11:45 — 1:15 Lunch  
**“The View From the Supreme Court”**  
**California Supreme Court Justice**  
**Carlos Moreno**
- 1:30 — 3:00 **“Options and Potential Solutions”**  
Moderator: Justice Norman Epstein  
Panelists: Judge Harold Cherness; Metropolitan News, Jo-Ann Grace;  
 U.C. Davis Professor Cruz Reynoso; Attorney Stephen Rohde and  
 Attorney John Van de Kamp
- 3:00 Wrap-up

**Saturday, January 27, 2007**  
**Loyola Law School**  
**919 Albany Street**  
**Los Angeles**  
**9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

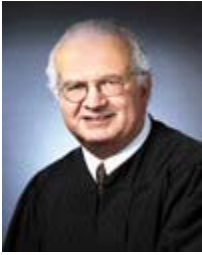
*Directions to Loyola Law School ( in downtown LA)*  
 110 Freeway, Olympic Blvd Exit (West), right on Albany  
 Street,  
 enter through parking structure. Cross plaza to  
 Merrifield Hall  
 Parking and buildings are wheelchair accessible.



### Special Thanks to Our Supporters:

Los Angeles County Bar Association, Culver-Marina Bar Association, Mexican-American Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association (LA & USC), Brennan Center, Justice at Stake, Common Cause, California Voter Empowerment Circle, UCLA School of Law—Programs in Public Interest Law and Policy, USC Gould School of Law, Pepperdine School of Law, Pasadena City College, and Pierce College.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### **Associate Justice Carlos R. Moreno, California Supreme Court**

Justice Carlos R. Moreno earned a B.A. degree from Yale University in 1970 and a J.D. degree from Stanford Law School in 1975. He joined the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, then went into private practice in 1979. He was appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court in 1986, and was elevated to Superior Court Judge in 1993. In 1998, he was confirmed to the US District Court for the Central District of California. He became an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California in 2001.

## PANEL I



**Moderator, Judge Terry Smerling, California Superior Court, LA County.** Judge Smerling earned a B.A. degree from U.C. Berkeley in 1967 and a J.D. degree from Columbia Law School in 1970. He became a staff/directing attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Long Beach and then became Assistant Legal Director of the ACLU of Southern California. Judge Smerling has been a Judge since 1982 when he joined the Los Angeles Judicial District Municipal Court, and has been with the Superior Court since 1989 where he handles felony criminal matters.



**Dean David Burcham, Loyola School of Law, Sr. Vice President, Loyola Marymount University Law School.** Earned a BA from Occidental College. J.D. from Loyola Law School.. Served as law clerk to the Honorable Ruggero J. Aldisert, Chief Judge of the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and then as law clerk to Justice Byron R. White of the US Supreme Court. Prior to joining the faculty in 1991, Burcham practiced in the areas of labor and employment law with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Los Angeles. Burcham was appointed the 15th dean of Loyola Law School in 2000.



**Presiding Justice Candace D. Cooper, Division Eight.** Active in judicial education, Justice Cooper has served as a faculty member for the Continuing Judicial Studies Program, the Judicial College, and the New Judges Orientation. Since the fall of 2004 she has been a member of the California Judicial Council, the policymaking body of the California Courts. She served on the LA Municipal Court, Presiding Judge of the Santa Monica Municipal Court, and served as President of the California Judges Association. Justice Cooper now serves as Presiding Justice of Division Eight of the Second Appellate District.



**Allan Ides, Professor of Law and William M. Rains Fellow, Loyola School of Law.** Earning a B.A. from UCLA, MA from Loyola Marymount Univ., and J.D.summa cum laude from Loyola Law School, Allan Ides served as a law clerk to the Honorable Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr., chief judge of the US Court of Appeals, clerked for the Hon. Byron R. White, Assoc. Justice of the US Supreme Court. Ides was an associate with Hufstedler, Miller, Carlson & Beardsley, joining the Loyola Law School faculty shortly thereafter, joined the law school faculty at Washington & Lee in Virginia, returning to LA and to Loyola.



**Presiding Justice Joan Dempsey Klein, California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three.** Graduated from San Diego State with a B.A., and UCLA Law School with an LL.B. Served as a state deputy attorney general, appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court becoming the Presiding Judge. Justice Klein was co-founder and first president of the National Assoc. of Women Judges and founding president of California Women. Elected to LA Superior Court and appointed to state Court of Appeal as a Presiding Justice in April 1978.

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## Panel II



**Moderator, Justice Norman Epstein, Presiding Justice Court of Appeal; Second Appellate District, Division Four.** Earning undergraduate and law degrees at UCLA, he became a Deputy Attorney General of California, trial counsel for several state agencies, first chief counsel and Vice Chancellor of state university system. He has been a member of the California Judicial Council and Executive Board of CA Judges Assoc. Justice Epstein served in the LA Municipal Court, LA Superior Court, Court of Appeal prior to his present position as Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal.



**Judge Harold I. Cherness (retired).**

An alumni of UCLA for undergraduate degrees, and USC Gould School of Law for graduate degree. Judge Cherness served in the U.S. Army. Subsequently he was appointed to the Municipal Court, then Superior Court in Culver City handling long-term civil cases. He received “Judge of the Year” awards from both the Lawyers Club of Los Angeles and the Criminal Courts Bar Association. Judge Cherness retired from the Superior Court in Culver City in 1994. Since 1995 he has been sitting on assignment in various courts throughout the region.



**Jo-Ann Grace, President and General Counsel, Metropolitan News Company.** Attorney Grace earned an AB in political science from USC, JD from University of Texas School of Law. Practiced law in Texas and California. Served as attorney for the IRS. Attorney Grace is a life member of both the LA County Bar Foundation, CA Women Lawyers Assn of LA, has served as President of the Italian American Lawyers Association and Commissioner of the State Bar Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation.



**Professor Cruz Reynoso, Professor of Law U C Davis.** Graduated with an AB from Pomona College in Claremont, an LLB from UC Berkeley. Beginning as a Director of CA Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, he then alternated between Prof. of Law at Univ of New Mexico and UCLA School of Law and Associate Justice of the Third District Court of Appeal and the CA Supreme Court, currently the Boochever and Bird Chair for the Study and Teaching of Freedom and Equality at UC Davis.. In 2000 he earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom



**Stephen F. Rohde, Esq.** Attorney Rohde received his B.A. in Political Science from Northwestern University in 1966 and his J.D. degree from Columbia Law School in 1969. He is a constitutional lawyer, lecturer and writer, a senior partner with the law firm of Rohde & Victoroff in Century City. He is a past President of the Beverly Hills Bar Association and the ACLU of Southern California. He has written numerous articles and book reviews, and received the 2004 First Amendment Award from the ACLU Foundation of Southern California.



**Attorney John Van de Kamp.** Graduated from Dartmouth College and Stanford Law School. He served as assistant U.S. Attorney, federal public defender, District Attorney in LA County, and California’s Attorney General. After retiring from public office, attorney Van de Kamp entered private law practice and recently served as California State Bar President.

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## **Registration Forms**

### **Reservation Deadline January 12, 2007**

If there is space available, there will be an additional charge of \$25  
for those registering at the door.

### **GENERAL ATTENDANCE (includes lunch and parking)**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Reservations (lunch & parking incl) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 Total \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to LWVLA and send with form to  
LWVLA, 3250 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1005, Los Angeles CA 90010

### **REGISTRATION FORM FOR THOSE WISHING TO RECEIVE MCLE CREDIT ONLY (includes lunch and parking)**

*This activity has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of California in the amount of 5 Hours and the Beverly Hills Bar Association certifies that this activity conforms to the standards for approved education activities prescribed by the rules and regulations of the State Bar of California governing minimum continuing legal education.*

The charge for those applying for the 5 Hours of MCLE Credit will be \$150 (which includes lunch and parking). Call the Beverly Hills Bar Association for MCLE reservations at (310) 601-2422 and further instructions.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ State Bar Number \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. We do not support or oppose any candidates or parties. Membership is open to all men and women of voting age.*

3250 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1005, Los Angeles CA 90010 • Tel. (213) 368-1616; Fax: (213) 368-1615  
Email: [info@lwvlosangeles.org](mailto:info@lwvlosangeles.org) Website: [www.lwvlosangeles.org](http://www.lwvlosangeles.org)

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Lola Ungar, LWV/LAC President  
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 Torrance, CA 90505

## LWV/LAC VOTER JANUARY 2007

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The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County in both its values and practices affirms its belief and commitment to diversity, pluralism and affirmative action.

The League of Women Voters welcomes new members, both men and women, who are citizens of voting age. Associate membership is open to all others.

### **SUBSCRIBE** to the LWV/LAC VOTER

Send the information below to be notified of the latest VOTER posted on our website at [lwvlacounty@msn.com](mailto:lwvlacounty@msn.com) or for a hard copy subscription send \$10 to LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Avenue, Burbank, CA 91501. Sign Up Today!!

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City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Local League \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### Internet Election Resources

- Smart Voter**      [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)  
 Statewide propositions plus local candidates & issues on your ballot, with extensive Background materials and media links—from LWV California Ed Fund
- LA County Registrar-Recorder**      [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net)  
 Election calendar, polling place look-up, absentee voting info, multilingual voting materials, Locations for Touchscreen early voting
- Easy Voter Guide**      [www.easyvoter.org](http://www.easyvoter.org)  
 Concise facts on statewide propositions; Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, a
- Secretary of State**      [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov)  
 Official text of ballot measures
- CA Legislative Analyst**      [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov)  
 Analysis of all ballot measures
- CA Voter Foundation**      [www.calvoter.org](http://www.calvoter.org)  
 Data on campaign contributions to candidates and measures
- CA Budget Project**      [www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org)  
 Analyzes the fiscal effects of statewide ballot measures

The January VOTER is ready for viewing on our website.

<http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org>