

## Executive Board

Vanessa D. Roberts,  
**President**

Mychal S. Boyd,  
**Vice President**

KirkAndré D. Durrant,  
**Treasurer**

Jude Francois,  
**Secretary**

**Board of Directors:**  
Leander A. Dolphin  
Luretha R. McClendon  
Ndidi N. Moses  
Moyahoena N. Ogilvie  
Evelyn Williams

## **President's Report – September 2007**

Dear Crawford Members:

August was fantastic! We began the month by attending the **CAPABA 7th Annual Dinner and Auction** in West Hartford (Aug 8). The distinguished keynote speaker, Dr. Henry Lee, gave a very informative and entertaining presentation on forensic science to a sold-out audience of diverse attorneys, other professionals and friends. Crawford was well represented at the event.

We then participated in the public swearing-in ceremony for **Connecticut's first African-American State's Attorney -- Gail Petteway Hardy** at the Connecticut Appellate Court, where she was sworn-in by **Appellate Judge Lubbie Harper, Jr.** (August 10). A packed courthouse of approximately 275 people attended the empowering, historic ceremony, which was televised on CT-N. Crawford also co-hosted a **Happy Hour Reception** in Gail's honor, along with the National Black Prosecutors Association, at Sally's Fish Camp in Hartford (Aug 22). Special thanks are due to Attorney **Donna Marie Wilkerson**, who planned and coordinated the wonderful reception!!! A good time was had by all.

In addition, Crawford participated in the **BLSA Orientation Program at the University of Connecticut School of Law** (Aug 25). We plan to participate in similar events on the campuses of Quinnipiac, Yale and WNEC and have already forwarded Crawford membership materials to some of our campus contacts. We are delighted to welcome our new and returning law student members to Crawford and we invite you to participate in our Mentoring Program. Any attorney who is interested in serving as a mentor should contact one of the Mentoring Program Co-Chairs, **Evelyn V. Williams** ([ewilliams@hcc-global.com](mailto:ewilliams@hcc-global.com)) or **Peter Wilson, Jr.** ([pwilson@daypitney.com](mailto:pwilson@daypitney.com)).

Finally, a major accomplishment in August was the official launch of our Crawford website (<http://www.georgecrawford.net/>)!!! The website includes photographs from our July and August events and provides a wealth of useful information on Crawford's history, programs, committees and upcoming events. Special thanks to our Immediate Past President, Robert Harrison III, as well as Jude Francois and Leander Dolphin, for their tremendous contributions to the creation of the website!!! We are also especially indebted to S. Valeria McCall, our website designer, consultant and "all around technical expert"! Val, we cannot thank you enough - thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

## **Upcoming Events**

I am proud to announce that three of our members were selected this year by the **Hartford Business Journal** for their prestigious "**40 Under Forty**" award: **Vanessa D. Roberts, Peter Wilson, Jr. and Shawn T. Wooden**. Each year, forty of "the region's most promising young business people" are selected for this honor. An award celebration will be held for the honorees on **September 26, 2007** at Maneeley's in South Windsor. For ticket information, please contact any one of the honorees directly or [jpoitras@hartfordbusiness.com](mailto:jpoitras@hartfordbusiness.com).



## Upcoming Events (continued)

Our "kick-off" **Quarterly Membership Meeting** will be held on **September 20, 2007** at the offices of Shipman & Goodwin LLP, 1 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103. A panel discussion entitled "**What are My Options?**" will explore the many options to legal practice outside of the large firm setting. Panelists will include representatives from government practice, the non-profit setting, a solo practitioner, and an in-house corporate attorney. All members and prospective members are invited to join us and we especially encourage our new attorney and law student members to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to [jfrancois@rc.com](mailto:jfrancois@rc.com).

Also, if you plan to attend the **Charting Your Own Course Career Development Conference** (Leesburg, VA - Sept 28-30) and have not already contacted me, please do so by September 21st ([vroberts@mccarter.com](mailto:vroberts@mccarter.com)). I am planning an informal gathering at the conference and want to include all Crawford members who will be in attendance.

Finally, there are a number of "**Members Only**" events that will be offered throughout the year for active Crawford members (i.e. those who have paid 2007 dues, judges and law students). The first event is scheduled for **October 17, 2007** when Crawford, CHBA, CAPABA and SABAC will co-host a reception with our Connecticut Supreme Court **Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers** at the Hartford Club, 46 Prospect Street, Hartford. This is a unique and invaluable opportunity to speak directly with our Chief Justice about programs and issues of importance to attorneys of color and the communities we serve. There is no cost for active members. More information will follow. Please save the date!

If you have not renewed your membership for 2007, or if you would like to join Crawford for the first time, our membership form is available on-line. Please go to <http://www.georgecrawford.net/> and become an active member today!!!

**Vanessa D. Roberts**, President

George W. Crawford Black Bar Association  
P.O Box 2715  
Hartford, CT 06146-2715  
Tel 860.275.6752  
Fax 860.560.5956  
[vroberts@mccarter.com](mailto:vroberts@mccarter.com)

*"Crawford is a volunteer, non-profit, active state-wide affiliate of the National Bar Association. Join us as we strengthen Crawford's legacy and ensure its vitality for future generations."*