

## 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. Ogielvie  
Evelyn Williams

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

Dear Crawford Members:

July was another eventful month. On July 11, 2007, we witnessed the appointment of the **first Black State's Attorney in Connecticut history, veteran prosecutor, Gail P. Hardy**, who began her term as State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Hartford on August 1, 2007!!! We were honored to endorse Gail to the Criminal Justice Commission based on her extensive experience in the criminal justice field, her leadership as a Senior Assistant State's Attorney's and her leadership in the community. Gail has already made significant contributions to the advancement of criminal justice and we anticipate many additional contributions in the future. Please join us at Gail's public swearing-in ceremony at the Appellate Court on August 10, 2007 and at the happy hour reception that Crawford will hold in her honor on August 22, 2007 to formally congratulate her on reaching this professional milestone (see Upcoming Events, below, for details).

In the midst of vacation season, we also held a public school diversity panel presentation on the United States Supreme Court school diversity decision, **Parents Involved In Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1** (the "Seattle decision"), and its companion case (July 18). For the first time, in the 5-4 Seattle decision, the U.S. Supreme Court held that race could not be considered as a factor to remedy *de facto* segregation, such as the type that was found to exist under Sheff v. O'Neill in Connecticut. Fortunately, our distinguished panel, which included Attorney John C. Brittain, Chief Counsel, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law; Attorney Wesley Horton, Horton Shields and Knox; Attorney Thomas B. Mooney, Shipman & Goodwin LLP; Dr. Betty Sternberg, Greenwich Superintendent of Schools and former Commissioner of the State Department of Education; and Dean Jeremy Paul, University of Connecticut School of Law, agreed that the Seattle decision should have a minimal impact on our school diversity efforts in Connecticut. The program was held at the University of Connecticut School of Law. Approximately 75 attendees, including educators, parents, law students, attorneys and representatives from numerous organizations such as the ACLU, NAACP and ConnCAN, attended and participated.

We also held our **Second Annual Golf Outing** at Blue Fox Run (July 28). Despite the rain, Crawford members and guests enjoyed a very informative golf clinic, followed by a few holes of golf and lunch. We have scheduled a rain date for those who attended, to complete our nine hole tournament. I anticipate another fun outing. To those of you who were unable to attend, we hope to see you next year!

Additionally, we were well represented at the **82nd Annual National Bar Association Convention and Exhibits** (Atlanta, GA - July 28-Aug 4). Our region, Region 2, was awarded Outstanding Region of the Year and our Regional Director for the past five years, Taa Grays, was elected to a new position as Board Member-at-Large. Our new Regional Director, elected at the convention, is Monica Dula. Our new National Bar Association President for 2007-08 is Vanita Banks. The new President-Elect is Rodney G. Moore. For more information and updates on national programs and conferences, go to [www.nationalbar.org](http://www.nationalbar.org).



## Upcoming Events

The next Crawford event is the **Swearing-In Ceremony for Hartford State's Attorney Gail Hardy** on **August 10, 2007**, at 10:00 a.m. at the Connecticut Appellate Court, 75 Elm Street, Hartford. Appellate Court Judge Lubbie Harper, Jr., will preside over the program. This ceremony is open to the public, so please spread the word to all who may be interested in participating in this historical occasion. I hope to see you there!

We will also hold a **Happy Hour Reception Honoring Hartford State's Attorney Gail Hardy** on **August 22, 2007**, from 5:30-7:30, at Sally's Fish Camp, 201 Ann Street, Hartford. This will be a celebration to remember! Please RSVP to Donna Wilkerson at [donnawilkerson@comcast.net](mailto:donnawilkerson@comcast.net).

Additionally, we will hold our first **Quarterly Membership Meeting** 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, including government practice, the non-profit setting, solo practice, and in-house corporate practice. 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 Jude Francois at [jfrancois@rc.com](mailto:jfrancois@rc.com).

Finally, please plan to attend the **Charting Your Own Course Career Development Conference** (Leesburg, VA - Sept 28-30). Go to [www.cyoc.org](http://www.cyoc.org) for more information. Space is limited, so register early! Please let me know if you plan to attend by emailing me at [vroberts@mccarter.com](mailto:vroberts@mccarter.com).

**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."*