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President's Report – December 2007

Dear Crawford Members,

Happy Holidays!!! It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our November events. Some attended the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity seminar, "**The Art of Successful Marketing for Associates**" (Nov. 1). Others were present as Crawford co-hosted the Connecticut Council of Bar Presidents **Bar Admission Reception** for new attorneys at the Connecticut Supreme Court (Nov. 5). Many more were present as we co-hosted the **Justices of Color Reception** with Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity at Wiggin and Dana LLP in New Haven (Nov. 5). Additionally, Crawford was well represented at the **Minority Corporate Counsel Association Tenth Anniversary Dinner** at the Marriott Marquis in New York City (Nov. 7).

The following week, we held our **Quarterly Membership Meeting** at Quinnipiac University School of Law (Nov. 14). Those assembled were educated about "**The Ins and Outs of Solo Practice**" from practitioners with a variety of specialties, including real estate, personal injury, estate planning, civil rights, criminal law, and employment litigation. Special thanks are due to **Luretha McClendon**, Chair of the Solo Practitioners Committee, **Dawne Westbrook**, **Marilyn Toland**, **Kevin Joiner**, **Erskine McIntosh**, and **Moy Ogilvie**, our Meeting Programming Committee Chair, for volunteering their time and energy to the success of this event.

We were subsequently acknowledged as special guests at the **Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association Annual Dinner** at the Hartford Club (Nov. 16). Several Crawford members were in attendance for this entertaining and informative function. Congratulations to the CHBA on another successful year!

Also, special thanks are due to those who participated in the **Judicial Branch's Public Service and Trust Commission Focus Group** (Nov. 27). The focus group provided an intimate forum for Crawford members and other attorneys of color to raise issues of importance for consideration as part of the Judicial Branch's development of its strategic plan. By all accounts, the focus group was very informative and successful.

Finally, we ended the month by coordinating and conducting two **Exam Preparation Sessions** for first year law students in conjunction with the Black Law Students Association at the University of Connecticut School of Law (Nov. 28 and 30). A special thank you is due to **Professor Richard Litvin** for conducting our second session and **Evelyn Williams**, Co-Chair of the Crawford Mentoring Program, for coordinating the logistics with the BLSA representatives! We hope that all students who participated learned valuable strategies and tips for success on their exams.



Upcoming Events

Preparation has begun toward the completion of our **2007-2008 Membership Directory** which we hope to distribute in early 2008. Don't be left out! Please pay your 2008 dues on or before **January 15, 2008** (dues are effective January through December of each year). Go to the Crawford website (www.georgecrawford.net) and renew your membership today!!

On Thursday, **January 10, 2008**, the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity will again host its mock interview and resume review program for law students, "**Your Résumé...Your Interview...Your Future.**" All student and attorney members are encouraged to participate in this rewarding and invaluable training session. The program takes place from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Day Pitney LLP, 242 Trumbull Street in Hartford. For more information and to sign up, please contact Dawn Gezelman by Friday, January 4, 2008, at (860) 275-0507 or degezelman@daypitney.com.

On Tuesday, **January 15, 2008**, Crawford, in collaboration with CAPABA, CHBA and SABAC, will co-host a panel on the **Judicial Selection Process**, designed to explain the process and requirements for becoming a judge in Connecticut. You won't want to miss this event, which will be held from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Shipman & Goodwin LLP, One Constitution Plaza in Hartford. More information will follow under separate cover.

The next **Quarterly Membership Meeting** will be held on Thursday, **February 21, 2008** at 5:30 p.m. at the U.S. District Court in Hartford. Please plan to arrive by 5:30 p.m. as the courthouse doors will lock at 6:00 p.m. sharp. We are honored that **Judge Vanessa L. Bryant**, 2007 Crawford Award recipient, will be our featured speaker and program moderator. Additional details will follow. Please plan to attend this very informative meeting.

Also, please save the date for Crawford's **Annual Dinner Meeting: Thursday, April 24, 2008!!!** We look forward to seeing you there!

Vanessa D. Roberts, President
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"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."