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

October was another active month! We began with SABAC's "**Rainbow Children in Kolkata**" photography exhibit and presentation to raise money for the Loreto Day School in Kolkata, India (Oct 5). The exhibit was amazing and the presentation by Lena Stein, art teacher, photographer and volunteer at the school, was both moving and informative.

Crawford members then participated in the **Second Annual Balancing the Scales Pre-Law Workshop for People of Color** at the University of Connecticut School of Law (Oct 14). Hartford State's Attorney **Gail Hardy** was the guest speaker for the program luncheon and a number of other members served as panelists for the "Practicing Law in Connecticut" segment. We were delighted to be a part of this very successful and invaluable educational program.

A few days later, we co-hosted, with SABAC, CHBA and CAPABA, a magnificent reception with our Connecticut Supreme Court **Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers** at the Hartford Club, 46 Prospect Street, Hartford (Oct. 17). Chief Justice Rogers outlined her goals and objectives for the Judicial Branch, including plans for increasing diversity throughout the branch. She also introduced key members of the **Public Service and Trust Commission**, chaired by Appellate Court **Judge Alexandra D. DiPentima**, which is charged with creating a strategic plan to guide the Judicial Branch in the upcoming years. Proposed topics include improving public perceptions of the Judicial Branch and eliminating barriers to access to the legal system. Several judges, attorneys and law students were in attendance. Photographs from this event have been posted on the Crawford website: <http://www.georgecrawford.net/>.

Crawford members also attended the "**Guilty . . . Until Proven Innocent**" forum at Quinnipiac University School of Law (Oct 24). The featured speaker was **James Calvin Tillman** of East Hartford who spent 18.5 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, before being released in June 2006 when DNA evidence proved his innocence. The lecture hall was filled to capacity as Mr. Tillman shared his story of faith and courage. He was joined on the panel by his attorney, Karen Goodrow of the Connecticut Innocence Project, and a number of others. Stan Simpson, Hartford Courant columnist and Professional in Residence at the Quinnipiac University School of Communications, organized and moderated the inspiring and thought-provoking event.

## **Upcoming Events**

Our next **Quarterly Membership Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, November 14, 2007**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Quinnipiac University School of Law, Faculty Commons Room. The Solo Practitioners Committee will host a panel discussion at the meeting on "**The Ins and Outs of Solo Practice**" with practitioners in the areas of personal injury, real estate, estate planning, civil rights, employment litigation, and others. We encourage all members to attend, whether you are actively planning to start your own practice or just curious about how you might one day make the



transition. A flyer with additional details will follow shortly. Please rsvp to Jude Francois at [jfrancois@rc.com](mailto:jfrancois@rc.com). We look forward to seeing each of you there.

Also, we have been invited to attend **UConn BLSA's Kickoff Alumni Event**, which is being held on **Sunday, November 18, 2007**, from 1:30 -4:00 pm at Wood-n-Tap, 99 Sisson Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes a selection of hors d'oeuvres and drinks. To RSVP or for more information, please contact [blsa@law.uconn.edu](mailto:blsa@law.uconn.edu).

Additionally, the **Public Service and Trust Commission** of the Connecticut Judicial Department invites Crawford, CAPABA, CHBA and SABAC members to participate in a **focus group on Tuesday, November 27, 2007**, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The focus group is an integral part of the strategic plan being developed by the Judicial Branch. Attorneys of color will have an opportunity to identify issues of concern within the judicial system, as well as to suggest strategies for addressing those issues. The focus group will be held at 225 Spring Street in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Please contact Attorney **Toni Smith-Rosario** by Friday, November 16, 2007 at [toni.smith-rosario@po.state.ct.us](mailto:toni.smith-rosario@po.state.ct.us) or (860) 258-5964 to notify her that you plan to attend. We encourage everyone to participate and ensure that Crawford's voice is heard.

Finally, our very own Crawford Secretary, **Jude Francois**, will be presenting a paper next month entitled "**All in the Family - Additional Insured Issues**" at the Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium being held on December 13-14, 2007 in New York City. For more information, go to [www.dri.org](http://www.dri.org).

I hope to see you all at the Quarterly Membership Meeting on November 14th!

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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."*