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NJWLA presents “Ending The Gauntlet - Removing Barriers to Women’s Success in the Law” in honor of Women’s History Month

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Newark – March 22, 2007 – The New Jersey Women Lawyer Association (NJWLA) presented the second in their Series of Programs, **ENDING THE GAUNTLET - Removing Barriers to Women’s Success in the Law**, in honor of Women’s History Month. The program focused on gender equity challenges and issues unique to women in the legal profession.



From left to right: Linda Bennett (Director of Programming NJWLA), Galit Kierkut (Director of Programming NJWLA), keynote speaker Lauren Stiller Rikleen, (Executive Director of the Bowditch Institute for Women’s Success, Senior Partner at Bowditch & Dewey, LLP and Author of Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women’s Success in the Law) and Kirsten S. Branigan (President NJWLA).



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The keynote speaker, Lauren Stiller Rikleen, lifted the inequality of women in the legal profession to a new level. She deployed insider knowledge to demonstrate how the recurring pattern of women entering and leaving law firms happen, why it is not inevitable, where the levers of change are located and what women can gain by acting on clearly focused goals.

LAUREN STILLER RIKLEEN is the Executive Director of the Bowditch Institute for Women's Success (www.bowditch.com/success), and a senior partner in the Real Estate and Environmental Law Group of Bowditch & Dewey, LLP. Through the Bowditch Institute, Attorney Rikleen combines her unique qualifications with her dedication to the advancement and retention of women to help law firms and other professional service organizations create an environment where women can succeed. Attorney Rikleen is the author of *Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women's Success in the Law*, a book about the institutional impediments to the retention and advancement of women in the legal profession. She is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Chambers USA America's Leading Business Lawyers* and among her many honors, she was also recognized as one of the "Top 50" woman attorneys in the Massachusetts Super Lawyers publication.



ABOVE: The Distinguished Panelists, Keynote Speaker and NJWLA Trustees.

From left to right, back row: Galit Kierkut - NJWLA Trustee, Paula T. Dow, Cathy Fleming, Lauren Stiller Rikleen - Keynote Speaker, Christine Cartwright Baker - NJWLA Trustee and Kirsten S. Branigan - NJWLA President.

From left to right, front row: Lynda Bennett - NJWLA Trustee and Suzanne M. Cerra,



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Moderator **CHRISTINE CARTWRIGHT BAKER** (Partner, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP) and the Distinguished Panelists, **PAULA T. DOW** (Essex County Prosecutor), **SUZANNE M. CERRA** (Principal, Nukk-Freeman & Cerra, P.C.), **CATHY FLEMING** (Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP) and **MICHELE C. MEYER-SHIPP** (Vice President and Counsel, Merrill Lynch), described the challenges they faced and shared their personal solutions on how to achieve success and work-life balance.

CHRISTINE A. AMALFE (Chair, Employment Law Department, Gibbons P.C.) made a powerful case that funding and sponsorships from Law Firms will ensure that the New Jersey Council on Gender Parity in Labor and Education can formulate and perpetuate a model that lawyers all over the country will adopt. This New Jersey-specific study on the advancement and retention of women in the legal profession will identify current and potential inequities, and recommend practical solutions to assist law firms in addressing and overcoming them. The Gender Parity Council seeks support from the Private Sector to assist with this Important Research.

NJWLA would like to give special thanks to the memorable featured speakers, its committee members, program sponsors, co-sponsors, and all of the program participants and attendees for making this program such a success.



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