

Nancy Fraser steps up to the plate

Last year, when CAALA began recognizing a "Member of the Month, one of the purposes was described as an opportunity to tell the stories of typical members who might not otherwise be known to other CAALA members.

"Each month, we want to recognize one of our association's unsung heroes,"



Nancy Fraser

said John Torjesen, currently CAALA's president-elect. "We are looking to honor members who represent the best attributes of CAALA in both their personal and professional lives."

Nearly a dozen CAALA members have been honored with one of the monthly Presidential Citations. All of the honorees to date have been attorney members of the association.

But CAALA's membership roster also includes a number of non-attorney members who provide services to attorneys. These are affiliate members of CAALA, and many of them work tirelessly to support CAALA and its mission to educate the public about the civil justice system.

One such affiliate member is Nancy Fraser, founder and CEO of Med Legal Consulting Source, a legal nurse-consulting firm headquartered in Los Angeles.

Well-known to many CAALA members for her continuing support of CAALA's events and activities and because of her hard work in support of our association, Nancy Fraser is being recognized as CAALA's Member of the Month. With this honor, Nancy achieves two significant "firsts." She becomes the first affiliate member to receive the honor, and also the first woman.

Career choices

As a registered nurse, Nancy's career spans 20 years with experience in both clinical and administrative nursing. She has assisted in more than 10,000 surgeries and co-founded one of California's first multi-specialty surgical centers.

Med Legal Consulting Source is a national leader in medical record review. Nancy started the company in 1999 to fill a need in the legal profession that wasn't being met. Her goal was to create a system to provide efficient, accurate service enabling firms to control and reduce costs, outlining the relevant medical information and making medical case preparation easier.

Activism

Passionate about political issues facing the legal community, Nancy Fraser has actively taken up those causes and supports the legal organizations that do so.

She's a member of Trial Lawyers for Public Justice and ATLA, and is a supporter of numerous state trial lawyer associations across the country. She's been a CAALA affiliate member since 1999, but does much more than most affiliates and many attorney members do for the association.

Fraser has played a significant role in two events that CAALA presents in association with the Civil Justice Program at Loyola Law School. The two are the annual Access to Justice Symposium and the Champions of Justice Tribute and Dinner.

The symposium was first held in October, 2004, and again in 2005. The inaugural Champions of Justice event was held in conjunction with the symposium in 2005.

In addition, she was a charter member of the Symposium Planning/Steering Committee and played a significant role in developing the sponsor platform that helped make the event so successful.

When Prof. John Nockleby, Director of Loyola's Civil Justice Program, brought the idea of an annual tribute and dinner to CAALA, Nancy Fraser also volunteered her services. Shortly before CAALA's Las Vegas Convention last year, Nockleby realized that he needed help securing table sales for the event. With no fanfare, Fraser jumped in and secured a substantial amount of support from exhibitors at CAALA's convention.

"It was amazing how quickly Nancy was able to round up exhibitor support from the convention for the tribute and dinner," said Nockleby. "She was a real dynamo and helped make the inaugural tribute and dinner a success.

The CAALA connection

Fraser is also supportive of CAALA in other areas. She is an active member of CAALA's Grassroots Legislative Committee and is a member of the CAOC Advocates Club, attending Lobby Day every year.

When Mark Wirth, CAALA's Grassroots Legislative Manager, asked for members to volunteer to meet with elected officials about CAALA's issues, Fraser stepped up.

"She made it a point to understand our issues and was very articulate in communicating them to the elected officials," said Wirth.

For her continuing support of CAALA and its issues, Nancy Fraser is recognized as Member of the Month.

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