

2007 Margaret Brent Awards

Angela M. Bradstreet



Angela M. Bradstreet left home in England for the United States at 24 years old, completely on her own but with a fierce determination to succeed. During the more than 25 years since she earned her masters in law degree

at the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, she has been an unwavering champion for the rights of women and young girls. As president of Queen's Bench in 1989 and of California Women Lawyers in 1992, she created the *Rainmakers Guide for Women Attorneys* to help women attorneys become successful rainmakers. Additionally, she launched a successful effort to have more women appointed to the bench and testified at the Senate confirmation hearing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Today, Ms. Bradstreet is Senator Feinstein's representative on the Northern District Federal Judicial Selection Committee.

In 1995, Ms. Bradstreet led the only city bar delegation in the United States to the World Women's Conference in Beijing, which made presentations on sexual harassment, women's health care equity, and reproductive choice. She also co-founded Womentoring, a program that provides womentors to help women and young girls in need of a helping hand.

As president of the San Francisco Bar Association in 2001, Ms. Bradstreet created a blue ribbon No Glass Ceiling Task Force, which developed an initiative with specific commitments designed to eradicate the glass ceiling. Over 60 signatory firms, corporate law departments, and public law departments pledged to have at least 25% women in partnership and management positions by 2005. The initiative has been updated recently to provide for a goal of 30% for signatories with a Bay Area presence by 2010. Today, there are almost 100 signatories to the initiative, which

has resulted in measurable, concrete progress in advancing women to partnership and other management/leadership positions. The initiative has served as a model nationwide, and Ms. Bradstreet has worked with other bar associations locally, nationally, and internationally to launch similar programs.

To help address the oppression of women in Afghanistan, Ms. Bradstreet created the Advancement of Afghan Women's Scholarship at Golden Gate University Law School. Today, the recipient, Nasrina Bargzie, is a civil rights lawyer working on national security issues.

Ms. Bradstreet also has been a leader in equality for gays and lesbians. In 2002, she spearheaded the unanimous adoption by the San Francisco Superior Court of the first policy of a United States trial court banning membership by judges in organizations that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. She then took the issue statewide, obtaining the support of the Los Angeles and Santa Clara County Bar Associations. Ultimately, the California Supreme Court unanimously voted to amend the Commentary in the Judicial Canons of Ethics to require judicial officers to disclose memberships in organizations that exclude gays and lesbians. She was awarded the State Bar Diversity Award in 2003 and is a member of the State Bar Council on Access & Fairness.

First elected as Carroll, Burdick & McDonough's managing partner in 1998, Ms. Bradstreet is an outstanding employment lawyer and has been recognized as one of the Top 75 Women Litigators in California. In June, 2007, Ms. Bradstreet was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger as Labor Commissioner for California.

"Women helping women" is not a catchphrase for Angela Bradstreet. It is the philosophy that infuses how she conducts her life and fuels her passion and commitment to the advancement of women.

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