

# DIANA RICHMOND: ACFLS 2007 HALL OF FAME AWARD WINNER

by Ron Granberg, CFLS

Another compelling reason to attend this year's Holiday Party is to help honor 2007 ACFLS Hall of Fame Award winner, Diana Richmond, CFLS.

Diana has chaired the State Bar Family Law Section Executive Committee, and co-authors Matthew Bender's comprehensive *California Family Law Practice and Procedure 2d*. Her professional accomplishments have included extensive trial and appellate advocacy, mediation, collaborative practice and private judging.

Diana's appellate work has made significant contributions to family law, as evidenced by her published cases: *K.M. v. E.G.* (2005) 37 Cal.4th 130; *In re Marriage of Ousterman* (1996) 46 Cal.App.4th 1090, *In re Marriage of Reuling* (1994) 23 Cal.App.4th 1428, *In re Marriage of Joseph* (1990) 217 Cal.App.3d 1277, *In re Marriage of Smith* (1989) 209 Cal.App.3d 196, *In re Marriage of Wellman* (1980) 104 Cal.App.3d 992, and *In re Marriage of Richmond* (1980) 105 Cal.App.3d 352.

An ardent proponent of civil rights for same-sex partners, Diana co-presented our 2004 Fall Seminar, entitled "Gay Marriage, Domestic Partnership, DOMA And Other Issues Affecting Same-Sex Partners: What You Need To Know For 2006." This presentation turned out to be one of the most influential and best-attended programs (measured both by physical attendance and by subsequent DVD sales) that ACFLS has ever sponsored. Diana has just finished writing the amicus brief in *The Marriage Cases* on behalf of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the California District of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

I, like you, know Diana as a competent lawyer, dynamic lecturer, meticulous scholar, astute judge and great friend. But I recently discovered that we are about to meet yet another Diana – groundbreaking novelist. While Diana and I shared some wine at a social event last week, I asked her what had been occupying her time. I was surprised to hear that she just completed her first novel, *Dangers Passed*. Here is a plot synopsis:

In 1964, during the heat of the civil rights movement, Gretchen Reinhardt develops a relationship with Sunday Morgan, the first Negro to enter her all-white high school in Milwaukee. Their brief relationship leaves an unexpected legacy in each of their lives. At age fifty, Sunday is a respected professor of African-American history, long-married and the father of three children. He is also a compulsive philanderer. Gretchen (now Greta), a psychotherapist and single mother of a teenaged boy, has never had a long-term relationship with another man. When a nasty racial incident interrupts Sunday's otherwise complacent life and an apparent coincidence brings him and Greta together again, it is for each of them the beginning of a reconciliation with the failures of their pasts and an opportunity to make amends. Their story explores the influences that affect our capacity to love – our parents, our children, and an intimate other.

Diana now begins the process of finding a publisher for her book and I certainly hope she does because I, for one, can't wait to read it.

Help us honor 2007 Hall of Famer Diana Richmond at our Holiday Party. I'll see you there!