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# *mwl* Minnesota Women Lawyers

## **Minnesota Minority Lawyers: Forging Ahead into the '90s**

*The following article was written at the invitation of Minnesota Women Lawyers in honor of National Black History Month. The author, Jarvis C. Jones, is 1991 President of the Minnesota Minority Lawyers Association.*

**F**irst, I would like to wholeheartedly thank Minnesota Women Lawyers for extending an invitation to the Minnesota Minority Lawyers Association (MMLA) to be featured in its newsletter. I strongly believe that the women of America and all people of color share a common destiny and should and must work together as **ONE** if we are to achieve *real* equality (as opposed to just legal equality) in every niche of this nation. Working together, we are the strongest!

With the above campaign speech delivered, let me share with you something about MMLA and its goals for 1991. MMLA is a non-profit association dedicated to promoting and fostering legal and real equality in the state of Minnesota. Its membership consists of judges, lawyers, academicians, law students, and friends. For 1991, MMLA has carved out an ambitious agenda. The association's plans are to 1) increase its participation in the legal community; 2) increase its participation in the minority community; 3) increase economic opportunities for its membership; 4) increase its members' active participation in the association; and 5) increase its membership.

Consistent with MMLA's above 1991 agenda, on the legal community front, MMLA will be working in close partnership with the judiciary, the state and county bar associations, large law firms, and the law schools to create opportunities for people of color. Specifically, MMLA will continue to have a viable presence and involvement in such issues as the

Racial Bias Task Force; the judiciary evaluations; the representation of people of color in large law firms, the judiciary and the bar associations; and, of course, the William Mitchell boycott. In addition, MMLA is moving ahead on schedule toward creating equal access to corporate America for its membership through MMLA's Minnesota Minority Corporate Counsel Program.

On the minority community front, MMLA is constantly grappling with some of the bread and butter issues facing the Minnesota community. For example, MMLA is involved in

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## **MWL Welcomes First Trustee Member**

Minnesota Women Lawyers' Membership Committee, co-chaired by Kathy Tatone and Bev Wolfe, is pleased to welcome the law firm of Popham, Haik, Schnobrich & Kaufman as its first "Trustee" member.

The Trustee category was added as part of the Membership Committee's 1990-91 action plan. Trustee firms contribute \$500 annually and, in addition to being prominently listed in the annual directory, will be listed in each issue of the MWL newsletter. Firms contributing at this level will also receive a plaque in recognition of their support.

MWL has two other categories for organization supporters interested in contributing beyond the regular membership dues. Individuals who support MWL at the \$100 Sustaining Level comprise approximately 10 percent of the entire membership. Patron Members contribute \$200 annually, and there are currently 19 individuals and law firms who support MWL in this category.

If you or your firm would like more information about any of these categories, please contact the MWL office at (612) 338-3205.

**MORE MENTORS ARE NEEDED!** MWL's 1990-91 Mentor Program is well underway, but there is still a need for several more attorneys to mentor both students and practicing attorneys. Everyone is welcome to participate! We have specific requests for a lesbian mentor and a woman practicing in international law. For more information or an application, call the MWL office at (612) 338-3205. Thanks!

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the St. Paul street strip search, the foster care issue, the Mall of America issue, the St. Paul mentor group called 100 African-American Men, and is involved in other vital issues facing the Minnesota community.

As MMLA forges ahead into the '90s, it looks forward to developing and cultivating working relationships with legal organizations such as state and local bar associations, Minnesota Women Lawyers, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and other groups committed to creating a place in Minnesota that we all can cheerfully call home.

*Jarvis Cedric Jones, MMLA President*