

# DIVERSITY THE BAR<sup>®</sup>

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## Lawyers Shine in MCCA's Broadway-Style Revue

plus

- Rainmakers Reflect on Mentoring
- 2010 or Bust: MCCA's New Capital Campaign
- Scholarship Program Enters Third Year



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MINORITY CORPORATE COUNSEL ASSOCIATION

By Patrick Folliard

**vo-ca-tion** /vo-ke-shun/  
[voh-kay-shuhn] noun—  
a particular occupation,  
business, or profession;  
calling.

*The goal of this column is to enlighten our readers about the private endeavors of attorneys with whom we come in contact in the profession.*

*By examining lawyers and their work practices by day in contrast to the personal interests that they pursue outside of the office, it is our hope that this series of articles allows our readers to see the other side of lawyers who manage to pursue unique interests despite their demanding careers.*

### MCCA on Broadway

It's no secret that many attorneys are frustrated performers. Still, encouraging gainfully employed legal professionals to unleash their inner hams and strut and belt out musical standards onstage in front of hundreds of people seems a shaky proposition at best. Nonetheless, that's exactly what MCCA did. The results, we are relieved to say, were pleasantly surprising.

When MCCA executive director Veta Richardson first began to think about the association's 10th Anniversary Dinner Series (which took place throughout 2007), she knew she wanted to do something different to make the evenings memorable. Asking around, she got a tip from MCCA Board Chair Cathy Lambolely about a Houston-based production team that specialized in putting lawyers on the boards. Richardson's meeting with them



Photo by John Abbott Photography

eventually resulted in “MCCA on Broadway,” an all-attorney mini-musical with a poignant message that charmed audiences at anniversary dinners in San Francisco in October and in New York in November.

The day before the New York performance, the cast gathered in a rehearsal studio in Manhattan’s Chelsea neighborhood to go over the show. Despite being well-rehearsed and having met with a warm reception when they performed the show in California, the 10-member cast of musically inclined attorneys had reservations about providing the evening’s entertainment at the final anniversary dinner at the Marriott Marquis Times Square.

Traveling mostly from Texas and Arkansas, the attorneys had been warned that New York audiences could be pretty tough and that it’s never easy to hold the attention of a roomful of schmoozing Big Apple attorneys. But when the cast took the stage just moments after dessert had been served and faced a sea of more than 1,100 revelers in the cavernous Broadway Ballroom, nary a nerve was on display. The audience of their peers responded positively to their tuneful efforts and rewarded them with appreciative applause throughout the show. It was evident not only that the cast had triumphed individually and as a group, but that they reflected the camaraderie and supportive spirit of the evening and of MCCA in general.

Performed by attorneys from corporations and firms as well as three solo practitioners, “MCCA on Broadway” is a persuasive musical journey that succinctly and entertainingly outlines the progress of diversity in the legal profession over the past 15 years. The 20-minute show was produced and co-written by Judy Frow (rhymes with “show”) and her husband Gene Smith, who own and operate FrowBiz, a theater company in the special events industry. It featured monologues adapted from MCCA member testimonials and pop and R&B classics with lyrics tailored to the production.

The show began with Marty Thompson (Haynes and Boone LLP), Patricia Lin (Chevron), Heather Kubiak (Fulbright & Jaworski LLP) and Trina Perkins-Moutin (solo practitioner aka “The Queen of Justice”) bounding onstage as four young law school graduates eager to make their way in the profession. Soon they are joined by their equally enthusiastic male counterparts, played by Mark Robertson (Fulbright & Jaworski LLP), Antonio Ocasio (Wal-Mart Stores Inc.) and Howard Speight (Law Office of Howard Speight). The idealistic lawyers sing of their aspirations and legal ambitions in “MCCA on Broadway,” a legal take on “On Broadway,” a tune made popular by singer George



*From left to right: Patricia Lin, Mark Robertson, and Marty Thompson perform the “Diversity Drag.”*

◀ **Top row** (from L to R): Mark Robertson, Marty Thompson, Howard Speight, Jim Benton, music director and accompanist.

**Middle row:** Mary Allen, backup vocalist and production assistant, Trina “The Queen of Justice” Perkins, Paul Shanklin, Debra Baker, Patricia Lin, Heather Kubiak, Gene Smith, co-writer and stage manager.

**Front row:** Tony Ocasio, Judy Frow, co-writer and director, Mary Kendall, Camilla Smith, production assistant, and Gene and Judy’s daughter.

