

OCCMETRO

Business. Life.

JUNE 2009 OCCMETRO.COM

Women in Business
**ANNUAL
ISSUE**



what a
**Million
Looks
Like**

5 reasons for choosing
an **indie bank**

World of Warcraft: Is it
modern art?

Plus: Visit **ocmetro.com's** video
vault for a peek inside the lives of
O.C.'s most intriguing people!

These women turned their
ideas into golden enterprises.
Find out how they did it (and
how you can, too!) on page 38.

MOVERS & SHAKERS



GLENN ROQUEMORE

The Southern California Community Colleges Chief Executive Officers Association named Glenn Roquemore to serve as president of the organization. Roquemore is president of Irvine Valley College.



SUE PARK

Park was named among Law & Politics Media's Rising Stars List. Parks is an attorney with the Santa Ana-based law firm of Callahan & Blaine. The list was published in the Southern California edition of Super Lawyers.



GLEN SCHRANK

Schrank will take on the title of president and CEO at Orange County-based HireRight, following the retirement of Eric Boden, who held a leadership role with the employment screening company for the last 10 years.

Profile



All in the family

Attorney Nicole Whyte has negotiated emotional legal disputes into a successful niche practice. **by Jerry Hicks**

Who could blame Nicole Whyte if she had wanted to play the role of key executive? She and colleague Keith Bremer's Newport Beach civil law firm has grown to almost 80 lawyers. You could easily rest atop that mountain of success, choosing only the best cases for yourself.

Instead, she has dived back into family law, which covers adoptions, children's rights, custody issues, and prenuptial and postnuptial agreements. But the heart of family law is divorce.

Whyte, a mother of four, has found herself on both sides, representing the wife and the husband.

Sometimes, she says, you must give advice that a client doesn't want to hear: "You have to convince your client that he or she needs to have a more reasonable expectation of the outcome."

There's an old axiom that most marriages break up over money or sex. Whyte adds a third factor: the children. They're the

real victims in a divorce. More and more, she says, judges are appointing a third attorney to a case to represent the children's rights.

And be prepared, she says, because sometimes your client is the bad guy.

"In cases like that, you must see to it that your client gets the help he or she needs to become a better parent," she says.

Such cases are often inflammatory, because both sides harbor resentment. So you want to make sure the lawyers don't feed into that: "You have to set the tone."

Still, the rewards can be great when you see a client get justice in the courtroom. And Whyte is convinced that Orange County is a place where justice is well served in family law courts.

"We have the most dedicated judges on the family law panel that you could have," she says. "I'm never choosy about which court I want to be in."

What: Bremer, Whyte, Brown and O'Meara

Where: Newport Beach, with offices in Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, Las Vegas and Phoenix

Startup costs: Nicole Whyte borrowed \$50,000 from her father-in-law.

Light-bulb moment: "We expected success, because a lot of clients from the firms where Keith and I had worked wanted to come with us. We were able to pay back my father-in-law in just four months."