

# BUSINESS SPOTLITE

## AFRICAN AMERICAN DERMATOLOGIST SPECIALIZES IN ETHNIC SKIN DISORDERS

By Victor S. Ingram

When asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, Jan McDonald, M.D. wasn't hesitant in replying she wanted to be a physician. Many children highlight this profession as their life-time goal, yet never actualize it as a reality. Dr. Jan McDonald, however, provided a spirited effort with an uncanny intellect to make her dream a reality. Coming from a family of doctors and engineers, success through education and hard work was virtually an innate trait. Her father, also a doctor, provided her with the guidance and stewardship to remain focused on medicine.

Educated in some of the nation's most prestigious institutions, such as Harvard Univer-



JAN McDONALD, M.D.

sity Medical School in Massachusetts and Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, Dr. McDonald was well on her way to success.

As a newly relocated resi-

dent, Dr. McDonald brings a myriad of talents to the Las Vegas Valley. She is the only Board certified African American (See Business Spotlite, Pg 21)

# BUSINESS

## LEGAL LINES

### ETHICS CODES SEEK TO BAR DISCRIMINATION

By Timothy C. Williams

A new commandment is being written into lawyer conduct codes: Thou shalt not discriminate in the practice of law.

Scores of recent studies documenting the problem of bias and prejudice within the legal profession are resulting in a spate of disciplinary rules making discrimination by lawyers and judges an ethical violation. Although such moves are drawing widespread support and praise as symbolic gestures, it is an open question whether anti-bias misconduct rules can force changes in the behavior of lawyers.

Since the summer, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan and Washington have joined the list of 14 states (including the District of Columbia) that have adopted various anti-bias ethics rules for lawyers during the last five years. And this winter the American Bar Association will debate whether to add such a provision to the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, which, although non-binding, is likely to encourage more states to follow suit.

But as disciplinary bodies and some courts appear poised to crack down on bigotry and incivility, concerns are being raised about how far anti-bias rules can or should go before they intrude on a lawyer's freedom of speech or non-professional behavior.

Judges have long exercised their inherent authority to discipline offensive behavior by litigators. But until recently, there hasn't been an explicit rule that governs such conduct or governs non-litigators. "The rules on bias are but one example of the impulse to merge procedural and ethical rules," says Prof. Judith Resnik of the University of Southern California Law Center. "In the 1990's, we are seeing a host of complaints, that lawyers are engaging in both unnecessary conduct related to litigation."

Prompted by a 1992 report

by the ABA task Force on Minorities in the Justice System, the bar's Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility is asking the policy-making House of Delegates in February to amend Model Rule 8.4 to expressly prohibit a broad spectrum of discrimination.

The proposed amendment would make it professional misconduct, subject to discipline, for a lawyer to "knowingly mani-

fest by words or conduct, in the course of representing a client, bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socio-economic status." The rule would not apply to "lawyer's confidential communications to a client or preclude legitimate advocacy with respect to the foregoing factors."

Hopefully, Nevada will adopt similar rules in the near future.

## Real Estate Perspective

By Loretta A. Hall



### WHY WE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE FAIR HOUSING MONTH? SIMPLY — WE'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY!

April 1994 has been proclaimed as Fair Housing Month in the State of Nevada, joining the nationwide recognition of the passage of this eminent legislation of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, popularly known as the Fair Housing Act.

As African-Americans, we especially should acknowledge and become fully aware of the significance this piece of legislation has had on housing discrimination. Can you imagine not being able to live where ever you choose to live? I know that housing discrimination still exists today, however, now there's a law prohibiting it, whereas, before 1968 there was no law and African Americans' civil rights were routinely violated. The Fair Housing Act has had a profound impact and we should do what ever we can to help ensure that deliberate discriminatory practices are eliminated and enforced, not only for us, but for all people.

Briefly, a history on the creation of the Fair Housing Act; In 1968, Congress voted that discrimination in housing based upon race, color, religion or national origin is against the law. In 1974, Congress prohibited

discrimination based on sex. Recognizing that the enforcement of Title VIII had not been adequate, Congress amended it in 1988 to prohibit discrimination against handicapped persons and families with children and to authorize the federal government to bring cases against people accused of discriminatory statutory protection to victims of AIDS.

The majority of realtors and builders are committed to complying with the Fair Housing law. They understand that there's no room in our industry for housing discrimination. Fair Housing isn't just a matter of good business. It's a matter of basic human rights. People have a right to live where ever they can afford to love, and Realtors have an obligation and commitment to protect that right. I feel it's more than a business commitment, it's a moral commitment. Just do what's right!

In the commitment to making the Fair Housing laws work for all residents, local agencies and entities across the community will join together and celebrate 25 years of Fair Housing at the Annual "Fair Housing Faire" on Friday, April 22, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Nucleus Plaza Shopping Center, located at 940 West Owens Avenue. I look forward to seeing you there!

As always, please contact a professional for all your Real Estate needs or write to me c/o REAL ESTATE PERSPECTIVE, Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice Newspaper, 1201 South Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104.

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