

## **VISION STATEMENT 2006**

The Fresno County Women Lawyers hereby dedicate this courthouse floor for the "Women's Hall of Fame." The "vision" for such recognition is simple and came about in 1998. A local woman attorney noticed that sometimes the community and women new to the workforce did not appreciate, did not know, or had forgotten that there were no women in the California State Senate, sitting on the Fresno County Bench, or that the San Joaquin River Parkway existed only because of the efforts of individual women. Without a sense of history and role models, women cannot lead and will take for granted those accomplishments of the women who came before us in Fresno County. Using biographical and art displays, the Fresno County Courthouse is the perfect venue to honor women who have made a significant contribution to Fresno County. At the same time, these displays will educate the public and have a positive impact on the community, all of which will reflect on the good works of community participants as well.

A large number of people visit the Courthouse daily, by serving as jurors, participating as parents with the local high schools in the mock trials held at the Courthouse, as litigants, as employees, etc. It is a building that reflects not only the legal community but also the Valley's history and sense of community issues. The original woman attorney who envisioned the "Women's Hall of Fame" actually put her plan into action by reaching out to a number of groups so that this project and creation of the displays became a collaborative process. It has been the combined efforts of members of several women-based groups that made the Fresno County Women Lawyers "Women's Hall of Fame" successful both now and as an on-going project.

Women, living or deceased, who have made a significant contribution in Fresno County in one or more of the areas of Agriculture, Athletics, Art, Business, Cultural, Charity, Educational, Entertainment, Environment, Legal, Medical, and Political, will be honored. A local graphic artist designed the logo and a local metal artist created a metal sculpture of the logo for the Fresno County Women Lawyers "Women's Hall of Fame." The border of two torches with flames symbolizes eternal honor, the olive branches represent caring and hope, the connecting ribbon reflect the relationship between all humanity. The Latin phrase "Possunt quia posse videntur" means "they can because they think they can" or, in other words, the power of positive thinking - all things representative of the Fresno County Women Lawyers.