



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR A SECURE RETIREMENT

## WISER Hero Honorees - 2004

### **Phyllis Borzi**

*Research Professor of Health Policy at The George Washington University Medical Center and Counsel to O'Donoghue and O'Donoghue*

Phyllis Borzi, Esq. has been a leading voice for the cause of economic security for all Americans for a quarter century. She has also championed the cause for women by helping to launch both WISER and the Older Women's League as a founding member and Director of both Boards. Professor Borzi is a nationally known expert in ERISA and employee benefit issues and she is also a well-known Washington, DC "insider". She served as Pension and Employee Benefits Counsel for the Subcommittee on Labor-Management Relations of the House Committee on Education and Labor from 1979-1995. As a long-time staffer she is a technical advisor to current congressional staff on a bipartisan basis. She is a Research Professor in the Department of Health Policy at The George Washington University Medical Center. She is also Counsel to the Washington, D.C., law firm O'Donoghue and O'Donoghue. Professor Borzi is a member of the Advisory Board of the BNA Pension & Benefits Reporter. In 1994 she was awarded the Public Service Award by the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

### **Diane Browning**

*President, Appalachian by Design*

Diane Browning is the President of Appalachian by Design (ABD), a nationally recognized nonprofit economic development company that provides training and finds markets for a network of self-employed skilled knitters, weavers and hand finishers who work in their homes throughout the rural areas of West Virginia. The company was created by and for rural women, and since its inception in 1994, has reinvented the cottage industry, providing knitters with training and opportunities to earn a decent wage while continuing to live the rural, family-centered lifestyle they cherish. Under the leadership of Ms. Browning, ABD, and the women affiliated with it, has flourished and the program has become a nationally recognized model for microenterprise development. One of ABD's most recent projects was to create a retirement savings vehicle for the women of ABD, providing rural women of modest means with their first opportunity to build assets for retirement.

### **Judy Chapa**

*Senior Advisor for Financial Education Outreach to Hispanic Populations and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Money Smart Team*

Judy Chapa is a long-time leader in the financial world. Ms. Chapa was appointed by President George W. Bush in 2001 as the first Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Financial Education. She was responsible for establishing the office and developing the Treasury's financial education policy to help promote financial democracy. Ms. Chapa was tapped by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in 2003 to plan and promote a major financial education campaign with Hispanic business and community leaders across the country, using the

FDIC's Money Smart Program. Ms. Chapa's mission with Money Smart is to educate low and middle-income Hispanic individuals about financial issues and to implement programs to bring Hispanics into the economic mainstream. Ms. Chapa has over 15 years of leadership and experience developing and managing marketing, public relations, and community relations programs.

**Vickie Elisa**

*President, Board of Directors, Mothers' Voices of Georgia; Health Care Expert and Consultant*

Vickie Elisa is a community and civic activist, who has implemented a host of innovative programs to improve the health and economic well being of women in the rural South. As the Volunteer Board President of Mothers' Voices Georgia, a non-profit organization working to improve the lives of low-income women and their families in the deep South, she has developed a partnership with the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement to offer financial literacy and retirement programs to women in the rural South who would not otherwise have access to this information. The Mothers' Voices/WISER economic empowerment model has reached more than 45,000 women and their families since 1996 through churches, civic organizations, non-profit groups and multi-ethnic communities. Ms. Elisa has more than 25 years consulting experience in the field of health care communication and social marketing of programs impacting women and children. Ms. Elisa was a 2001 White House delegate to the National Retirement Saver Summit. She was also the Georgia producer for the 2000 White House Teleconference on "What Every Woman Needs to Know about Retirement." She has worked with the Pew Charitable Trust on Social Security education for low-income women. She was the HIV/economic women's health conference planner and coordinator for the World Conference of Mayors, Inc. International Conferences held in Nigeria and Ghana.

**Dr. Mary Murphree**

*Regional Administrator, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, Region II*

Dr. Mary Murphree has been a tireless advocate for women over the course of her distinguished career and an innovator in education and outreach programs serving average women. She has served as a Regional Administrator of the Department of Labor Women's Bureau since 1985, representing the interests of approximately 6 million working women in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Among her many signature programs are her efforts in partnering with WISER to bring financial literacy skills to average women. An internationally known speaker and expert on women's employment issues, Dr. Murphree has directed a national initiative on the impact of office technology on women's employment. She has also authored various scholarly articles on women and work that include writing a landmark publication entitled Office Automation and Working Women: Issues for the Decade Ahead. In April 2002, Dr. Murphree received the Department of Labor Secretary's Distinguished Career Service and in 2003, she was honored with a Leadership Award from the Center for Women & Work, Rutgers College.

**Camille Failla Murphy**

*Director and Founder Westchester County Office for Women*

Camille Failla Murphy is a nationally recognized leader and award-winning director of New York State's first county government agency serving women and families. Under her direction, the Office for Women in West Chester County has launched a number of innovative services and outreach campaigns to women, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, displaced workers, childcare and financial training programs. Through her relentless efforts to bring women into the economic mainstream, through myriad job and financial training programs, she has touched the lives of many thousands of

women in New York State. She is a past president of the National Association of Commissions for Women and has received numerous awards, including Women's Wall of Fame, Headliner Award, Women in Communications and Academy of Women Achievers of the YWCA of New York City.