

## Using Our Media Voice

In these changing times in American media—as corporate interests increasingly shape the media landscape—CA NOW has found new ways to publicize and promote our issues.

Although we continue to work hard to get our messages out through the mainstream press, and with some success, we are also looking to alternative outlets. We have started a web-based radio show, *Her Side: Our Take on the News*, now airing on VoiceAmerica.com weekly until the end of November. Our thirteen-episode radio show features commentary on the top news stories, and rants and resolutions on the issues of our time, including on-air guests who help us go in-depth on the subjects that most affect women's safety, health and equal opportunity.

The CA NOW film, *A Passion for Justice: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Feminism* is now showing regularly on Free Speech TV, a progressive, independent television station included in many satellite packages (in the Bay Area it is channel 9415). We are thrilled to have our film featured along with so many other important programs on a station committed to using the airwaves to educate and empower people.

Almost daily, women come to CA NOW looking for help with their family law cases. In order to provide them with advice from experts—lawyers, judges, other moms who have been through the courts, and psychologists who know the issues—CA NOW will be working with freelance journalist, Jennifer Friedlin, in putting together an e-book (sold on our website as a pdf) with contributions from the leading voices on mothers' rights and custody issues. We hope to have the project completed by Mother's Day 2006.

Earlier this year, CA NOW held a legislative briefing in Sacramento focused on the crisis for women in the family law courts. That session was filmed for possible inclusion in a Mary Kay Ash Foundation commissioned documentary on children and domestic violence, which focuses heavily on the issue of child custody. The film, *Breaking the Silence: The Children's Stories*, will air on PBS stations throughout the country, starting in late October.

For information on all of the projects go to [www.canow.org](http://www.canow.org).

*Rachel Allen, PR Director*

## Book Review

### ***From Madness to Mutiny: Why Mothers Are Running From the Family Courts and What Can Be Done about It***

Authors Amy Neustein and Michael Lesher analyze family court documents and case studies in this groundbreaking study, and conclude that systematically, perfectly fit mothers are losing custody of their children, especially when abuse is alleged. The authors' examination of the courts highlights many common injustices, including biased judges and extra-judicial personnel, as well as the use of pseudo-scientific theories (like Parental Alienation Syndrome).

The reforms the book calls for should be demanded in every state, including opening up court proceedings to public review, prohibiting ex parte changes of custody, mandating review of abuse evidence, requiring judicial training and better regulation of lawyers, law guardians, evaluators and social service agencies when dealing with abuse allegations.

This book is a must read for every feminist, especially mothers.

*Helen Grieco, Executive Director*



## Legislative Update

Another California legislative session has come to an end. The legislature passed a number of CANOW's priority bills before the end-of-session deadline. As this newsletter goes to print many of our bills will be on the governor's desk. He has until October 9th to sign or veto bills. Visit [www.canow.org](http://www.canow.org) for an update on bills signed or vetoed by the Governor.

*Rosemary DaSilva, Political Affairs Director*