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Event to address changes in practice

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The upheaval law firms experienced during the economic downturn has rocked many lawyers' careers, especially those of women and minorities who were disproportionately hit with layoffs.

But the recession also presented opportunities, some lawyers say. You just need to know how to take advantage of them.

"I hope people will realize that we can't keep doing what has worked before," said Ruth Kahn, a partner at Steptoe & Johnson LLP. "We are going to have to adapt and change as well."

In Los Angeles, the county bar association and the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles are hosting an event on May 10 titled: "Law and Reorder: Opportunities and Challenges in a Changing Legal Landscape."

"Men will equally be interested in learning about ways in which the legal industry is changing, including adjustments that practitioners will need to make in order to continue thriving in an evolving profession," said Kahn, who is president-elected of WLALA.

Speaking at the event will be Katherine Adkins, vice-president and general counsel of Toyota Financial Services, Rachel F. Moran, dean of UCLA School of Law, Lucinda Starrett, a partner at Latham & Watkins, and Deborah Epstein Henry, author of "Law and Reorder: Legal Industry Solutions for Restructure, Retention, Promotion and Work/Life Balance."

"The idea is to send a message... to try to educate and engage leaders in how to be agents for change," said Henry, who runs a consulting business called Flex-Time Lawyers LLC.

The May 10 event begins at 5:30 at Latham & Watkins' downtown Los Angeles office. MCLE credit is available.

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