

## *Honoring Amazing Women*

*by Heather B. Quick, Esq.*



As we celebrated Women's History Month in March, it is important to look at what women we admire and why. I am often in awe of amazing women for their accomplishments and authenticity. In my experience, women can be the worst critics of one another. The homemakers criticize the working women for not caring enough for their children. The career

women criticize the homemakers for not being ambitious enough and why? Mostly because we are not being true to ourselves and we are displaying our own insecurities about who we are and the choices we are making.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to experience both sides, a stay at home mother with my children, working for someone else and now a business owner. During each stage, I have had to deal with my own feelings of insecurity regarding my children and relationships. Do I still fit in with the stay at home moms, now that I have a busy firm? When I was at home, did I still have anything to talk about with my law school friends? And of course, the worst of all is, am I doing the best for my children? I think all women deal with those thoughts at some time or another, but in the end, what really matters and how do we influence others?

When I look at the influential women during my lifetime, I am fascinated by the ones that resonate with me. Princess Diana was an amazing person and her story was so sad in many ways. She suffered from so much self-doubt and criticism, but yet, she had an amazing

influence on the world and was able to give back to the sick and poor. Madonna is a woman who broke through so many boundaries and she continues to make music and look great in her fifties. I admire her for making music on her own terms and not apologizing for doing it differently.

In my mind, the most influential woman of the past twenty five years is Oprah Winfrey. She broke through so many gender and racial barriers with her first television show and was the most successful woman on TV. During her reign on TV, she was authentic about her struggles with abuse, weight and her love life. Her authenticity allowed the viewers to identify with her on a personal level. There have been articles written on the Oprah Effect, as she has a 'make or break' effect on products. I still find myself reading her magazine and buying her recommended products and I usually agree with her suggestions. She has incredible power and influence over the purchasing decisions of Americans, and that is admirable.

As women in the workplace, we so often follow rules made by men for jobs when they were done by men. But as women, we have the right to rewrite the rules and do it our own way. And if we do the job in a pretty dress and high heels, all the better, because we are in fact women and we should not have to hide our femininity as if it weakens us. Because we all know that it strengthens us.

As we end the month, I aspire to influence women in a positive way through their divorce struggles and in their business triumphs.



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