



(l-r) D. J. Ward, Chris Searcy, Barack Obama, Darryl Lewis and Chris Pilato

SDSBS members attend special reception honoring Barack Obama

On June 20, 2008, **Chris Searcy** attended a special reception honoring Senator Barack Obama. The reception was held at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center in Jacksonville, Florida as a fundraiser for Senator Obama's Victory Fund. Other SDSBS attendees included Darryl Lewis, Chris Pilato, and D. J. Ward. ■



(l-r) Charleen Szabo, VA Medical Director, Sia Baker-Barnes, and Kathy McGrath-Burger, Ph.D., Federal Women's Program Manager

Sia Baker-Barnes guest speaker at "Women's Equality Day" for the National Women's History Project

In August 2008, **Sia Baker-Barnes** was the guest speaker at "Women's Equality Day" held at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. The event was held in conjunction with the National Women's History Project. Her subject was "The History of Women's Right to Vote." ■



Laurie Briggs



John Hopkins



Vince Leonard

Laurie Briggs, John Hopkins and Vince Leonard conduct seminar on litigation skills for support staff

On June 18, 2008, **Laurie Briggs, John Hopkins, and Vince Leonard** conducted a full-day seminar for Lorman Publications on "Litigation Skills for Legal Professionals." With over 70 years of combined experience to offer, the panel directed their presentation toward the responsibilities of support staff personnel. Topics included mediation preparation and strategy, electronic discovery, file organization, depositions, and witness and trial preparations. ■



John Hopkins



Debbie Knapp



Kathie Simon



Bonnie Stark

Four SDSBS Paralegals become registered through Florida Bar for specific legal work

John Hopkins, Debbie Knapp, Kathie Simon and Bonnie Stark have become Florida Registered Paralegals upon completion of The Florida Bar Association's Registered Paralegal program's educational, training, and work experience requirements. Under the direction and supervision of a member of the Florida Bar, they perform specifically-delegated, substantive legal work for which the Bar Association member is responsible. There are currently 2,469 Florida Registered Paralegals. ■