

RIVERSIDE LAWYER

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MAGAZINE



Giving Back

The official publication of the Riverside County Bar Association

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Photo taken by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson at the RCBA's "Adopt A School Reading Day" at Pachappa Elementary School in June 2006

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RIVERSIDE LAWYER

MAGAZINE

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MISSION STATEMENT

Established in 1894

The Riverside County Bar Association, established in 1894 to foster social interaction between the bench and bar, is a professional organization that provides continuing education and offers an arena to resolve various problems that face the justice system and attorneys practicing in Riverside County.

RCBA Mission Statement

The mission of the Riverside County Bar Association is to:

Serve its members, and indirectly their clients, by implementing programs that will enhance the professional capabilities and satisfaction of each of its members.

Serve its community by implementing programs that will provide opportunities for its members to contribute their unique talents to enhance the quality of life in the community.

Serve the legal system by implementing programs that will improve access to legal services and the judicial system, and will promote the fair and efficient administration of justice.

Membership Benefits

Involvement in a variety of legal entities: Lawyer Referral Service (LRS), Public Service Law Corporation (PSLC), Tel-Law, Fee Arbitration, Client Relations, Dispute Resolution Service (DRS), Barristers, Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court, Inland Empire Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, Mock Trial, State Bar Conference of Delegates, and Bridging the Gap.

Membership meetings monthly (except July and August) with keynote speakers, and participation in the many committees and sections.

Eleven issues of *Riverside Lawyer* published each year to update you on State Bar matters, ABA issues, local court rules, open forum for communication and timely business matters.

Social gatherings throughout the year: Installation of RCBA and Barristers Officers dinner, Annual Joint Barristers and Riverside Legal Secretaries dinner, Law Day activities, Good Citizenship Award ceremony for Riverside County high schools, and other special activities.

Continuing Legal Education brown bag lunches and section workshops. RCBA is a certified provider for MCLE programs.

MBNA Platinum Plus MasterCard, and optional insurance programs.

Discounted personal disability income and business overhead protection for the attorney and long-term care coverage for the attorney and his or her family.

Riverside Lawyer is published 11 times per year by the Riverside County Bar Association (RCBA) and is distributed to RCBA members, Riverside County judges and administrative officers of the court, community leaders and others interested in the advancement of law and justice. Advertising and announcements are due by the 6th day of the month preceding publications (e.g., October 6 for the November issue). Articles are due no later than 45 days preceding publication. All articles are subject to editing. RCBA members receive a subscription automatically. Annual subscriptions are \$25.00 and single copies are \$3.50.

Submission of articles and photographs to Riverside Lawyer will be deemed to be authorization and license by the author to publish the material in Riverside Lawyer.

The material printed in Riverside Lawyer does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the RCBA, the editorial staff, the Publication Committee, or other columnists. Legal issues are not discussed for the purpose of answering specific questions. Independent research of all issues is strongly encouraged.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

8 PSLC Board Meeting

RCBA Boardroom – Noon

RCBA Board Meeting

RCBA Boardroom – 3:00 p.m.

Landlord/Tenant Section

Cask 'Cleaver – Riverside – 6:00 p.m.

Speaker: Judge Mac Fisher

9 CLE Brown Bag

RCBA John Gabbert Gallery – 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

“Discovery Law & HIPPA”

Speaker: Michelle Ruston

Lunch will be provided

1.5 hrs MCLE

Federal Bar Association-IE Chapter

George E. Brown, Jr. Federal Courthouse-Noon

“May it Please the Court: Cooperation & Collaboration

Among Federal & County Prosecutors”

Speakers: Andre Birotte, Michael Ramos, Paul Zellerbach

Info: Contact Kim Connelly at (951) 686-4800

10 Child Rights & Advocacy

Presented in cooperation with the RCBA's

Human Rights Section

Speaker: DW Duke, Esq.

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Institute for Children's Aid

41745 Rider Way, Temecula

Information & RSVP: Pat @ 951-695-3336

11 Veterans' Day Holiday – RCBA Offices Closed

15 Family Law Section Meeting

RCBA John Gabbert Gallery – Noon

16 Estate Planning Probate & Elder Law Section Meeting

RCBA John Gabbert Gallery – Noon

“Tax & Estate Planning Issues for Registered Domestic Partners,

Married Same-Sex Partners & Others”

Speakers: Pamela Valencia and Maureen Lyons

MCLE

Mock Trial Steering Committee

RCBA Boardroom – Noon

CLE Committee

RCBA – Room 110 – Noon

17 Immigration Law Section

RCBA John Gabbert Gallery – Noon

“Detained: Representing Foreign Nationals in Immigration Custody”

Speaker: Joe Rosas, Senior Immigration Deportation Officer

MCLE

18 General Membership Meeting

Joint with the San Bernardino County Bar & the FBA

RCBA John Gabbert Gallery – 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

“Human Trafficking: Not in Our Backyard”

Speakers: Jennifer O'Farrell, Opal Singleton, Anna Park &

Deputy Aron Wolfe

MCLE

24-25 Thanksgiving Holidays – RCBA Offices Closed

DECEMBER

2 Appellate Law Section

Court of Appeal – Noon – 1:15 p.m.

“Do's & Don'ts at the Court of Appeal” followed by a brief update on the State of the Court by Justice Ramirez.

MCLE

7 Joint RCBA/SBCBA General Membership Meeting

Mission Inn, Spanish Art Gallery – Noon

“State of the State Bar”

Speaker: State Bar President Jon Streeter

RSVP to RCBA by December 2



President's Message

by Robyn A. Lewis

As I sit here writing this column, my mind is focused on Halloween and pumpkin carving. But since this column is not going to be published until November, I guess I will need to get into the holiday spirit instead!

Out of all of the issues that are published each year, I think that this Riverside Lawyer is my favorite. The holidays are the perfect time for each of us to reflect on all of our blessings and to recommit ourselves to giving back to our community in any way that we can. Marion Wright Edelman, the founder of the Children's Defense Fund, perhaps said it best when she remarked: "Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time." Imagine what this world would be like if everyone took time out of their lives and busy schedules and tried to do something for someone else!

There are so many opportunities to volunteer and get involved in the Riverside County Bar Association. For those who truly don't have the time to commit, donations can be made to the annual Elves Program, which provides presents and holiday dinners for local needy families. For those who have a few hours to donate, the Elves Program also offers the opportunity to wrap presents or to deliver the presents and food to the receiving families.

For those who have more time, I would urge you to consider looking into volunteering as a scoring attorney for Mock Trial or even giving your time as an attorney coach. I had the privilege of coaching Mock Trial for several years at Santiago High School in Corona, and it was one of the best experiences that I have had. The impact that you can make

on a student's life is amazing. I still keep in touch with many of my former students, who have gone on to law school and have even passed the bar – I have a great former student, by the way, who is looking for a job as an associate, so if anyone is hiring, please get in touch with me and I will be happy to put you in touch with him! My husband, Jonathan Lewis, was a former Mock Trial student at Arlington High School here in Riverside. His attorney coach was Steve Harmon. Steve made such an indelible mark on Jon that he was inspired by his experiences in the program to later become an attorney.

Project Graduate is also an amazing program to get involved in. I have mentioned it before, but it is a program designed to provide foster kids and other high-risk children with the support and encouragement of its volunteers in their school life. It is so important for children to have someone cheering them on during a soccer game or to see someone coming for them on Back to School Night. Every child deserves that kind of support, and Project Graduate is designed to do that.

You can also donate your time at the Public Service Law Corporation, which provides free legal services to those who can't afford an attorney. Or for those of you who are interested in giving back to the legal community, you can join one of the RCBA's many committees or volunteer your time as a mediator or arbitrator for its Dispute Resolution Services.

So many ways to volunteer your time! But whatever you decide to do, do something. As the Quaker saying has it, "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

I wish you and your families a wonderful and joyous holiday season and hope that 2012 brings each of you peace and happiness.

Robyn Lewis, president of the Riverside County Bar Association, is with the firm of J. Lewis & Associates.



RIVERSIDE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION ~ PROPOSED 2012 BUDGET
(Budget to be approved at the November 18, 2011, General Membership Meeting)

REVENUES	
Bar Magazine Advertising	\$ 50,000.00
Bridging the Gap Program	\$ 300.00
Committee/Section Meetings	\$ 1,000.00
Conf. Room Rental Fees	\$1,500.00
Credit Card Royalty	\$ 100.00
DRS Reimbursements	\$90,000.00
Fee Arbitrations	\$ 15,000.00
General Membership Meetings	\$12,000.00
Installation Dinner	\$ 13,000.00
Interest & Dividends	\$ 500.00
Labels & Rosters	\$ 1,000.00
Lease Income	\$ 260,000.00
LRS Panel Dues	\$ 14,000.00
LRS Percentage Fees	\$ 185,000.00
LRS Referral Fees	\$ 90,000.00
Mock Trial T-Shirts	\$ 1,500.00
Parking Space Fees	\$ 2,950.00
RCBA Membership Dues	\$ 120,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 857,850.00

EXPENSES	
ADP/Payroll Fees	\$ 3,500.00
Advertising - Yellow Pgs/Web	\$ 45,000.00
Bar Leaders Conference/NABE	\$ 1,000.00
Bar Magazine Production	\$ 55,000.00
Bldg Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 30,000.00
Bridging the Gap Program	\$ 2,200.00
Committee/Section Meetings	\$1,000.00
Comp Software/Maintenance	\$ 2,000.00
Conference of Delegates	\$ 2,500.00
CPA Services	\$ 2,500.00
Donations	\$1,000.00
Educ. Program Materials	\$ 200.00
Employee Benefits/Medical	\$ 48,000.00
Employee IRA	\$ 7,200.00
Employee Salaries	\$ 302,000.00

Exec Dir - Seminars/Mtgs	\$ 500.00
Exec Director's Fund	\$ 100.00
Federal Taxes	\$ 15,000.00
Florist	\$ 500.00
General Membership Meetings	\$ 10,000.00
Good Citizenship Awards	\$4,200.00
Installation Dinner	\$ 13,500.00
Insurance - Workers Comp	\$ 2,500.00
Insurance - Bldg	\$ 12,000.00
Insurance - E & O	\$ 2,200.00
Interest / Fees	\$ 4,500.00
Internet/Web Services	\$ 5,000.00
Janitorial Services	\$ 35,000.00
Janitorial Supplies	\$ 4,600.00
LRS Conference/Workshops	\$ 1,000.00
LRS Interpreters (ASL)	\$ 300.00
LRS Recertifications	\$3,500.00
Meeting Refreshments	\$ 1,200.00
Misc Exp/License/Dues	\$ 350.00
Mock Trial - State	\$ 1,000.00
Mock Trial T-Shirts	\$ 1,500.00
Mortgage - Interest	\$ 70,000.00
Office Equip - Maint/Lease	\$ 15,000.00
Office Supplies	\$ 6,000.00
Payroll Taxes	\$31,000.00
Phone Services	\$ 11,000.00
Postage - Bulk Mail	\$ 4,000.00
Postage - Meter Mail	\$ 13,000.00
President's Fund	\$ 300.00
Printing/Stationery Etc	\$2,500.00
Property Taxes	\$ 12,000.00
Public Bar/Law Day/ABA	\$ 500.00
Utilities	\$ 71,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 857,850.00

BARRISTERS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Scott H. Talkov & Arlene Cordoba



While it is nice that society focuses on giving back this time of year, the Barristers have pledged to make giving back a year-round commitment with our Associated Students of the University of California, Riverside (ASUCR) Legal Clinic. Reestablished in 2010 by Riverside County Barristers President Scott Talkov, who is also a former ASUCR Senator, the clinic connects UCR students with Barristers and RCBA members who provide free legal direction at no charge.

The clinic features attorneys in various practice areas, including civil litigation, family law, traffic citations and DUI's, personal injury, bankruptcy, landlord/tenant issues and immigration. Regularly, the clinic has found additional attorneys who can advise students on forming nonprofit corporations, registering patents and other issues not falling within our regular practice areas.

Unlike other clinics that feature paperwork, scheduling and constrained availability, the ASUCR legal clinic has a website that allows students to log on at any time of day or night. The online request form submits an email to the attorney of their choosing, allowing that attorney to contact the student to schedule an in-person meeting or to answer the student's questions by telephone, depending on the situation. The website also features attorney biographies, resources for the students, including links to government entities that offer valuable advice, and success stories.

The services are limited to consultations, with all students encouraged to contact the RCBA's Lawyer Referral Service, legal aid or other nonprofit services if representation is required. The clinic is proudly backed by the insurance of the RCBA. This connection between the Barristers, the RCBA and ASUCR is nothing new – this clinic has existed, though in different forms, for many decades, and the Barristers proudly carry on this tradition.

In the spirit of honoring those who give back to our community, we would like to thank the attorneys in the ASUCR Legal Clinic, including new Clinic Director Arlene M. Cordoba of the Legal Action Firm, Inc., who practices family law; Gilbert A. Diaz, also of the Legal Action Firm, Inc., who answers criminal law questions on such topics as DUI's, misdemeanors and traffic citations; Jean Simon Serrano of Heiting & Irwin, who provides legal aid on personal injury issues; Derek May of the Law Office of Stephen R. Wade, who provides advice on bankruptcy cases; David P. Brodie, who assists students with landlord/tenant matters; Joshua W. Centeno of the Law Offices of Joshua W. Centeno, who assists UCR students with their immigration affairs; and Scott Talkov of Reid & Hellyer, APC, who is the founder of the clinic and current Assistant Legal Clinic Assistant Director, who offers assistance with civil and real estate litigation matters.

We often hear back from students who receive a successful result in their cases, whether that means a small claims judgment paid in full or

simply the phone number for the right government agency to report a violation to. If you think you can offer a valuable service to the future leaders of our community, contact ASUCR Legal Clinic Director Arlene Cordoba at a.cordoba@thelegalactiongroup.com.

Next month, at our December meeting, social and fundraiser for the RCBA Elves program, the Barristers will be focusing on giving back – stay tuned for more information. Kudos to Sophia Choi, Barristers Director-at-Large and attorney at Riverside County Counsel, and Kelly Moran of Thompson & Colegate for organizing a fantastic event last month, where the 100 young attorneys in attendance learned from the wisdom of Michael Marlatt of Thompson & Colegate as well as Riverside Deputy D.A. John Aki about the secrets of jury selection. The Barristers could not be more appreciative of their time and generosity.

On Wednesday, November 9, the Barristers will be hosting a panel on redevelopment law at Lotus Garden in San Bernardino, located at 111 East Hospitality Lane, organized by Barristers Secretary Amanda Schneider of Gresham Savage, whose practice includes redevelopment law. The social will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m., with the redevelopment law panel, featuring attorneys from diverse perspectives, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

Scott Talkov is the 2011-12 President of Barristers as well as an attorney with Reid & Hellyer, where he practices real estate and business litigation.

Arlene Cordoba is the 2011-2012 treasurer of the Barristers. She practices with the Legal Action Group in Chino



HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

by Warren Chu

For some of us, the holidays can sometimes feel like a lonely time. This is especially true for the over 3,000 children in Riverside County who are currently in foster care and away from their families as a result of their parents' abuse or neglect. In previous years, to help bring some holiday cheer, the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) presented a toy to each child in foster care. In the month of December, as the social workers made their monthly visits, they would present each child with a generic holiday gift appropriate for his or her age group. However, with massive government budget cuts, DPSS will be unable to fund this annual event. Fortunately, this year DPSS has partnered with Temecula Valley People Helping People and Starbucks to provide more rewarding and personal Christmas gifts.

This year, each foster child will be able to fill out a wish list requesting three gifts. DPSS will provide the

wish lists to Temecula Valley People Helping People, which will then submit the wish lists to local businesses that support their cause. Hopefully, with the support of these businesses and of the community, these wishes will be fulfilled so that these foster children will not have to go without something special just because they are in out-of-home care.

Last year, Temecula Valley People Helping People supported over 16,000 children, seniors, and families during the holidays. If you would like to bring a smile to a child's face this holiday season by donating or volunteering, please visit tvphp.org or call them at (951) 757-5212.

Warren Chu is a deputy county counsel with the County of Riverside.



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS FOR THE PEOPLE: GOLF FORE KIDS

by Sophia Choi

There is no question that the Riverside County District Attorney's office seeks justice in the courtroom for the People. However, the commitment of the deputy district attorneys to protect the people in the community of Riverside is not limited to the courtroom.

The Riverside County District Attorney's office is exceedingly active in the community. For example, the deputy district attorneys have been active in promoting clothing drives for needy families and blood drives for charitable purposes.

The Riverside County Deputy District Attorneys Association (RCDDAA) took further active steps to help the community through its newly developed Community Outreach Program, which is aimed at helping the children of Riverside County through various efforts, including but not limited to donating school supplies and awarding scholarships. Deputy District Attorney Tara Urban further instituted the "Write of Your Life" mentoring program, a 10-week mentoring program designed to assist students to become their best future selves through the use of writing to help reach their goals.

The RCDDAA's efforts to help the children of Riverside County did not stop there. On September 19, 2011, the RCDDAA held its First Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Terra Lago Golf Course in Indio. This was an effort to help the children of Riverside County during these harsh economic times, in which school budgets have been cut, leaving many economically disadvantaged children deprived of even basic services. Prominent leaders throughout the community sponsored this event by playing in the tournament, including Riverside County District Attorney Paul Zellerbach himself. Other generous sponsors supported this cause by donating monetarily, sponsoring a hole, or donating items or services. The sponsors, including Riverside County Supervisors John Tavaglione, John J. Benoit, Jeff Stone, and Marion Ashley, were named in the tournament players' handbook. In a collaborative effort, the

deputy district attorneys brought greater awareness to this cause by individually seeking out more sponsors and asking for donations. These efforts were met with undeniable success. Deputy district attorneys and their friends and families also contributed their time as volunteers, from setting up and helping with registration to conducting the silent auction and being hole-in-one monitors. The tournament was completely booked, with 144 golfers. This golf tournament was a huge success, raising about \$45,000. The proceeds of this golf tournament will be used to help the children of Riverside County.

In the words of John Aki, President of the RCDDAA, "I am grateful to live in a time where, despite the dire economic times our county finds itself in, there are so many people willing to dig into their depleted reserves to help the less fortunate in our county. The generosity of those who supported RCDDAA's Charity Golf Tournament is inspiring."

Tournament Director Tara Urban added, "We would like to thank all of our generous sponsors, including numerous corporate businesses and Supervisors Benoit, Tavaglione, Stone, and Ashley for all of their support. We are looking forward to a bigger and better tournament next year at Golf FORE Kids."

Both in and out of the courtroom, the deputy district attorneys of Riverside County are community leaders "for the People."

The Second Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on October 6, 2012 at Terra Lago Golf Course in Indio. Please contribute to the RCDDAA's efforts to help the children of Riverside County by being a sponsor. For more information, please contact Tournament Director Tara Urban at Turban@rivcoda.org.

Sophia Choi, a member of the Bar Publications Committee, is a deputy county counsel for the County of Riverside.





PUBLIC SERVICE LAW CORPORATION

by Jennifer Loflin

This year has been a very challenging and busy year for PSLC; with federal and state funding being cut, we have had to learn to do more with less. Thankfully, our attorneys have carried us through this year with their countless hours of volunteer service to our clients. PSLC is on the brink of opening the Pro Se Clinic in early November, a project that has been in the works for the past 18 months. This clinic will be providing free assistance to pro se litigants in both the district court and the bankruptcy court and will be the first dual clinic in the Central District of California. PSLC would like to thank the Hon. Virginia Phillips, the Hon. David T. Bristow and the Hon. Catherine Bauer for all their assistance to and support for the clinic, as well as the Inland Empire chapter of the Federal Bar Association, the Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum, Public Counsel, and all those who have been working with us from both the district court and bankruptcy court to make this project a reality.

In the midst of change and new projects, there are many things that stay the same, such as the hearts and dedication of our volunteer attorneys. In particular, PSLC would like to honor several attorneys who will be receiving Wiley E. Manuel Pro Bono Service Awards from the State Bar. These attorneys have all donated 52 or more pro bono hours to PSLC and our clients over this past year. Many of these attorneys take cases on direct representation and spend countless hours advocating on behalf of our clients. Congratulations to the following attorneys, and the Board of Directors, our staff, and our clients thank you for your hours of service: Richard Ackerman, Michael Geller, Katie Greene, Ralph Hekman, Donald McKay, Chris Morosoff, Warren Snider, Richard Stewart, and Herbert Williams III. Our volunteers all help in so many different ways. Warren Snider is passionate about family law and volunteers for almost every family law clinic twice a week. Katie Greene goes above and beyond for our civil clients, writing motions, briefs, and spending seven to eight hours during each clinic seeing as many clients as she can. Many others, such as Richard Ackerman, Michael Geller, Ralph Hekman, Don McKay, Chris Morosoff, Richard Stewart and Herbert Williams III, donate time

not only during clinic, but also through direct representation in pro bono cases.

One such case is that of *Martinez v. Kia Motors America, Inc.*, in which Michael Geller and Richard Stewart have been representing Juanita Martinez pro bono since 2006 in what initially seemed to be a straightforward Lemon Law case regarding the car Ms. Martinez purchased from Kia. Since taking on the case in 2006, Mr. Geller and Mr. Stewart have donated a total of over 227 hours of time and have recruited other law firms, such as Anderson Law Group and Barnes & Farrell, which have also donated considerable time to a case that has gone all the way to the Supreme Court of California and is now awaiting trial in the superior court after the Fourth District Court of Appeal ruled in favor of Ms. Martinez, holding that a consumer does not have to retain a vehicle to pursue a violation of California's Lemon Law.

As the Program Director, I am honored to be able to bear witness to such service as that which has been given by all of our volunteers. I am excited about the new Pro Se Clinic, and it is my hope that this new project will provide much-needed services to the residents of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. PSLC is always looking for new volunteers in many different areas of law. We offer free training to our volunteers, including access to a CEB passport for MCLE conferences and coverage by our malpractice policy for all volunteer work that you donate. PSLC is a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and accepts monetary donations, which are 100% tax-deductible. Gifts can be sent to:

PSLC
4129 Main St., Suite 101
Riverside, CA 92501

For more information on volunteering, please email Jennifer Loflin at publaw@sbcglobal.net.

Jennifer Loflin is an attorney and the Program Director for the Public Service Law Corporation.



BE A SANTA TO A SENIOR

by *Alexandra Fong*

During the holidays, Home Instead Senior Care¹ collects and distributes gifts for the elderly as part of its “Be a Santa to a Senior” (BASTAS) program. Riverside County Adult Protective Services/Curtailing Abuse Related to Elderly (APS/CARE) participates in this program by providing a list of the elderly it assists to Home Instead Senior Care.

Gift requests are written on a Santa ornament tag and placed on Christmas trees, which are displayed in various businesses during the Thanksgiving season.² Members of the public then remove a tag, shop for their senior, and return the tag and associated gifts to the tree location. In Riverside County, trees will be displayed at the following locations, beginning on November 28:

Riverside Community Hospital
4445 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Riverside Medical Clinic
7117 Brockton Avenue
Riverside, CA 92506

The Soup Shoppe
6712 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, CA 92506

Valencia Terrace
2300 South Main Street
Corona, CA 92882

Mi Tortilla Mexican Grill
487 Magnolia Avenue
Corona, CA 92879

Mi Tortilla Mexican Grill
3203 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92507

José’s Mexican Food
11875 Pigeon Pass Road
Moreno Valley, CA 92557

Updated information can also be obtained on the website beasantatoasenior.com.

The focus of this program is on those truly in need – those without funds and/or relatives to share the holiday season. For APS/CARE, the hope is to provide each senior with a robe, pajamas, and slippers. Gift bags and cards are donated by children at local holiday events and at schools. In 2010, individuals and businesses from Riverside and San Bernardino Counties together donated over 5,500 gifts to give to seniors in need. In Riverside County, over 4,000 gifts were collected and distributed to over 780 seniors. In San Bernardino County, over 1,500 gifts were collected and distributed to 470 seniors.

“Most people aren’t aware that there are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of seniors in

every community who have no family and are alone,” said Kim Hicken, General Manager of the Home Instead Senior Care office serving Riverside County.

As Community Program Specialist Robin McMullen states, “The best days of the work year are those in which I deliver Santa bags – every client cries and expresses such raw emotion, it reminds me of why I work [for social services].”

Additional information about the BASTAS program may be obtained by contacting Kim Hicken by mail at Home Instead Senior Care, 6751 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506, by telephone at (951) 369-7051, by fax at (951) 369-7048, or by email at kim.hicken@homeinstead.com. If you would like to put a tree in your office or donate gifts to the elderly, please contact Ms. Hicken.

Alexandra Fong is a deputy county counsel for the County of Riverside and a member of the Bar Publications Committee.



¹ Each Home Instead Senior Care facility is independently owned and operated. In Riverside County, there are several facilities (in Riverside, Murrieta, Hemet, and Palm Desert).

² Dates vary by location, but BASTAS typically begins in mid-October, by obtaining lists of requested items, with gift collection occurring through mid-December.

A COMMITMENT TO SERVE: BEST BEST & KRIEGER GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

by Charity Schiller

As many readers may know, two of the nine offices of Best Best & Krieger LLP (BB&K) are located in Riverside County – one in downtown Riverside and a second in Indian Wells. The firm has maintained a strong presence in the region ever since it was founded by Raymond Best in 1891. What many readers may not know, however, is that the firm has long held a commitment to giving back to the communities that have given so much to the personal and professional lives of the firm’s attorneys. Whether it’s a natural disaster or the needs of people and the nonprofit organizations that serve them, BB&K attorneys can be counted on to respond.

Many BB&K attorneys are known for their community involvement due to the many hours they spend serving on boards and filling leadership positions on state, civic, nonprofit and professional organizations across California. What are, perhaps, less well-known are the charitable outreach efforts undertaken by the firm.

As one example, BB&K attorneys make concerted annual efforts to provide toys and gifts to children during the holidays – a time that is particularly difficult for needy families. For the last several years, Eric Garner, BB&K’s managing partner, and Grover Trask, the former Riverside County District Attorney who co-chairs BB&K’s Ethics practice, have spearheaded an effort to purchase dozens of holiday gifts for donation to the Olive Crest home for abused children. Likewise, partner Michelle Ouellette began an annual program through which the firm’s Natural Resources attorneys forego exchanging gifts and, instead, pool their funds and make holiday donations to organizations such as local food banks, the Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center and the Salvation Army. For the last several years, BB&K partner John Brown has organized a firm toy drive to collect gifts for needy children that are distributed through the March Joint Powers Authority. Similarly, BB&K partner Mark Easter organized a donation collection effort in 2010 that resulted in a substantial donation to the Riverside Elves Program to help with the cost of gifts for underprivileged children.

In addition to these seasonal efforts, BB&K attorneys assist with many year-round causes. As one example, attorney Mona Nemat is on the bar association’s steer-

ing committee that is charged with developing a pilot program to provide educational and professional support to high school-aged foster children who are at risk of not graduating. Known as Project Graduate, the program is a joint partnership among the bench, the bar and the county. For more information, see page 14. Similarly, BB&K attorneys and paralegals Melissa Cushman, Zakia Kator, Allison De Tal, Peggy Barnes, Paeter Garcia, and others volunteer for the North High School career mentorship program – a program which includes regular mentorship lunches, a job shadow day, and even a courthouse tour.

Going beyond these mentorship programs, attorney Kira Klatchko has served for the last six years on the Board of Directors for the Angel View Crippled Children Foundation – a 57-year-old charity that, among other things, provides care for disabled children at 19 different residential care facilities throughout the Coachella Valley. Attorney Charity Schiller serves on the homeless advisory committee for the Path of Life Ministries – an organization that runs a homeless program and shelters in the City of Riverside. BB&K attorneys Vic Wolf, Mark Easter, Scott Ditfurth, Lauren Fisher and others serve as coaches for the area’s high school Mock Trial teams. BB&K attorneys Steve Anderson, Jason Ackerman, Parissh Knox, Haviva Shane, and many others regularly volunteer for the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association and the Public Service Law Corporation – organizations that provide free legal advice to the indigent. Both Anderson and Ackerman have been selected as IELLA’s Attorney of the Year. Additionally, BB&K partner Dave Erwin has been instrumental in helping to raise money for local charities through his involvement with the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic golf tournament, a fundraiser for local nonprofits.

On a regional level, BB&K began an annual program in 2010 through which the firm partners with office supply companies to purchase backpacks and school supplies for homeless and at-risk children. Jamie Zamoff, the firm’s chief operating officer, said the effort is well worth the time: “Kids in these situations have it extra tough and we want to arm them with the essential tools, so they can start the school year with a sense of normalcy.”

Additionally, BB&K attorneys who attended law school at the University of Southern California pool their

personal donations each year to provide a scholarship in the firm's name to an undergraduate student from the Inland Empire. This summer, the \$3,000 scholarship went to Allison Aguirre, a pre-law student from Chino Hills. Last year, it went to Alexander Nothnagel, a Riverside student studying civil engineering.

Although BB&K's charitable efforts are often focused on the communities and regions that it serves, the firm also makes a real effort to reach out to those in need regardless of their location. For example, the firm organized a firm-wide volunteer effort to assemble gift and supply boxes for U.S. military stationed overseas. Earlier this year, the firm raised money for Riverside's sister city of Sendai, Japan, after it was rocked by an earthquake. Similarly, the firm held a chili cook-off in 2010 to benefit needy Chileans, after their South American country was rocked by a devastating earthquake.

During this time of economic hardship, when so many people and organizations are in need, we invite everyone reading this article to find some way – no matter how small – to give back to the communities and organizations that enrich their own personal and professional lives.

Charity Schiller, a member of the Bar Publications Committee, is a Senior Associate in the Environmental Law and Natural Resources practice group of Best Best & Krieger LLP.



PROJECT GRADUATE — A COMMITMENT TO OUR FUTURE

by Mona Nemat

Riverside Superior Court Presiding Judge Sherrill Ellsworth recently announced the court's desire to help foster youths throughout Riverside County graduate from high school and become productive community members. According to statistics, 45 percent of foster youths in Riverside County do not complete high school, and once they turn 18, they are forced out of the system with minimal resources, wholly unprepared for the challenges of adulthood. These kids deserve better. They deserve guidance from those of us who can make a tangible and lasting difference in their lives. It is our turn to give back. It is from this desire to help kids who want our guidance that a pilot program was born.

Project Graduate, a joint program of Riverside County, the Riverside Superior Court, and the Riverside County Bar Association, is designed to guide and assist willing foster youths as they navigate the complexities of the high school administrative process. The program targets youths who, with a little encouragement and guidance, can graduate from high school and stand on their own feet. While the county has other programs for at-risk foster youths, this program is different, because everyone involved – whether it's the child or the adult volunteers – is there because they want to be, not because they are under any obligation to be.

What Is Project Graduate?

Still in its infancy, Project Graduate has recently transitioned from the planning phase to the action phase. As envisioned, components of the program include:

- 1) Matching 15 to 20 11th and 12th-grade students in foster care with trained RCBA members or their staff as Educational Representatives. Educational Representatives are provided with educational rights to view transcripts, discuss progress with schools, and resolve any issues that arise.
- 2) An incentive program to reward the youths for their achievements. Incentives can be as small as gift cards for local stores or as big as an iPod. The rewards are dependent on the generosity of

the RCBA community and the support of local law firms.

- 3) A monthly Juvenile Court calendar devoted exclusively to tracking the students' progress and acknowledging their successes.

- 4) Special events such as career and college days to show the youths that they have options and are not alone.

- 5) Celebrations, such as holiday celebrations, and perhaps most importantly, graduation celebrations for successfully completing high school. Many of these youths may not even have someone in their lives to acknowledge such a momentous occasion, much less celebrate it.

Recently, the RCBA approved a steering committee to help guide the program. Members of the committee include Barrie Roberts, Brian Unitt, Connie Younger, Luis Lopez, Ashley Sedaghat, and Mona Nemat. The committee members are continuing to brainstorm ideas to guide these kids toward becoming successful and productive adults. Other ideas include guidance on life after high school, including options for work, continuing education and housing. Any input from RCBA members is always welcome.

All Hands on Deck

The County Office of Education, the Department of Public Social Services, the Riverside County Superior Court, and the Riverside County Bar Association all recognize the value of this amazing program. Each one has a specific role to ensure its success.

The County

The county is providing support services and conducting training sessions for participants. The training, which is normally ten hours, has been modified to be only four hours for Project Graduate participants, which can be split into two two-hour sessions instead of one four-hour session. Training sessions can be held wherever it is most convenient for potential volunteers or at a central location, such as the Best Best & Krieger Riverside office. Training sessions can be held in the evenings and on the weekends.

The county identifies youths who would benefit from this program, approaches them and connects them with volunteers. The county also conducts interviews for those volunteers who choose to become Educational Representatives to ensure that the Educational Representatives and the foster youths who will be assigned to them are compatible.

The Court

Normally, foster youths check in with the court about once every six months so the court can determine how they are doing. Everyone recognizes that that simply is not enough. Accordingly, Commissioners Matthew Perantoni and Gary Vincent have made a commitment to set aside one afternoon a month for these special youths. The youths, along with their Educational Representatives (or designee), will appear before the commissioners once a month and check in. The goal of these monthly meetings is to review their progress, encourage the youths to continue to succeed and to reward them for staying on track with their education. The point is that these youths should know that people care, and the court's role is to make sure the youths do know it.

The RCBA

Members of the bar association (although non-members and non-lawyers are also encouraged to participate) are the forces on the ground. They are the Educational Representatives and supporting volunteers who will hold special programs for the kids, raise money to reward the kids, and perhaps most importantly, interact with these kids and their schools to ensure that they stand a fighting chance.

Why You Should Join

You do not have to be a lawyer to participate. You do not even have to become an Educational Representative to participate. All you need is a desire to see foster youths, who have had more than their share of difficulties in life, succeed. The RCBA is looking for volunteers (lawyers and non-lawyers alike) to donate their time and/or money to ensure the success of this program. It cannot succeed without you.

Time Commitment for Educational Representatives

Time commitments for Educational Representatives will vary with their degree of involvement. They will have to go through the mandatory training, as discussed above. A mandatory background check and a brief interview are also required. Depending on the

needs of the child to whom they are assigned, an Educational Representative will spend an estimated 25-30 hours throughout the school year helping his or her foster youth. While some kids may require more time, they likely will not present some of the special challenges that are often associated with some foster youths, because the kids in this program signed up for it. They want to be in it and are asking for our help. Much of the time commitment can be met through the use of the Internet and teleconferencing instead of in-person meetings. The Educational Representatives will, however, need to be available for the monthly meetings at Juvenile Court, in which the youths' progress is discussed with the commissioners.

Time Commitment for Non-Educational Representatives Volunteers

For those volunteers who choose not be Educational Representatives but still want to be involved, the time commitment will vary, depending on what support services they choose to provide. These can include fund-raising, event planning, reward shopping, or supporting an Educational Representative with some of his or her tasks.

Financial Assistance

The RCBA recognizes that not everyone can make a time commitment. People are encouraged to make monetary contributions or to donate items that can be used as rewards for the youths or at special events. This is a wholly voluntary program with no independent source of funding (no state funding and no grant money). Project Graduate cannot succeed without the financial support of the members of the bar association. Any assistance will go a long way to ensuring that these youths will receive the encouragement they need and the rewards they deserve. We ask the members of the RCBA to help ensure the success of this program any way they can.

Contact Us

For more information about this amazing program, which is being closely watched by Presiding Judge Ellsworth, to become a volunteer, or to make a financial contribution, please contact Mona Nemat at (951) 826-8215 or Mona.Nemat@bbklaw.com.

Mona Nemat is a senior associate at Best Best & Krieger, and belongs to the firm's Eminent Domain and Business Litigation practice groups.



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGNS

by Alexandra Fong

Each year, the Riverside County Department of Mental Health coordinates opportunities to help those less fortunate.

The "Fill a Backpack" campaign occurs during the summer and is organized by the Riverside County Stand for Children Committee. The Riverside County Department of Mental Health provides a list of school supplies (paper, pencils, pens, crayons, backpacks, glue, lunch boxes, dictionaries, scientific calculators, etc.) needed to fill multiple backpacks for disadvantaged children (from kindergarten through high school) in the community. Any county department may participate, as well as any other individuals or businesses.

The Thanksgiving Basket campaign occurs during the fall. In October of each year, county departments receive a list of items to go in a Thanksgiving basket for a needy family. Items requested include rice, potatoes, assorted vegetables, stuffing, beans, bread, cereal, a family board game and a gift certificate for a ham or turkey.

The Snowman Banner Project begins in November and continues until early December. The Riverside County Department of Mental Health distributes a snowman banner to those county departments that are interested in providing holiday gifts to children who are receiving, or whose family members are receiving, services from the Department of Mental Health.

A snowman banner, filled with snowflake requests from the children, is delivered to each participating department in early November. Employees select a snowflake from the banner and fulfill the

wish of that child. Requests have included art supplies, make-up, jewelry, clothes, gift cards, sneakers, sporting goods, portable music players, movie tickets, and books. Many children request items for their siblings, rather than themselves. The snowflake is then attached to the unwrapped gift and arrangements are made with the Department of Mental Health to collect the holiday gifts.

All three campaigns are open to individuals and companies not affiliated with the County of Riverside. For additional information about these opportunities, please contact Lorie Lacey-Payne or Luz Negron by phone at (951) 358-6858, by email at llacey@co.riverside.ca.us or lnegron@co.riverside.ca.us, or by mail at Riverside County Department of Mental Health, Parent Support & Training Program, 9707 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503.

Alexandra Fong is a deputy county counsel for the County of Riverside and a member of the Bar Publications Committee.



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THE RCBA ELVES PROGRAM — SEASON X

by Brian Percy

As lawyers and judges, you are painfully aware of the tough times that plague our local economy. Since Christmas 2002, the RCBA Elves Program has assisted needy local families that have had a difficult time providing anything more than the bare essentials to their children for Christmas. This year will be the tenth opportunity for you, your family, your colleagues, and your staff to experience the true joy of holiday giving by helping out a local family in need and to demonstrate to the community that we, the local legal professionals, do care about and give back to the community that supports us.

Once again, the RCBA Elves Program's goal is to give local families a Christmas they could only dream of. Depending on your time, talents, and interests, we have four Elf categories for your family, colleagues and staff to participate in for this milestone year.

Shopping Elves: On our designated and appointed shopping day and time, the RCBA Shopping Elves will meet at the Big Kmart on Alessandro Boulevard in Riverside's Orange Crest Shopping Center. As a Shopping Elf, you will receive a Christmas "wish list" from the children of your adopted families. Your job is simple – shop and fill your basket with as many gifts as possible within the dollar amount allotted. This is a real opportunity to test or show off your value-shopping skills. Many of our Shopping Elves have made this a family affair, using younger members to assist in selecting the "cool" gifts for the kids while learning about the value of charity. This is a great way to experience and teach the joy of giving to the less fortunate.

Wrapping Elves: After the Shopping Elves finish their job, the Wrapping Elves will meet in the RCBA boardroom (on two evenings to be announced) and wrap the gifts purchased. Excellent wrapping and organizational skills are welcomed, but not required. Wrapping Elves must ensure that all the gifts are tagged and assembled by family for easy pickup and distribution by the Delivery Elves. Experience has shown that even the biggest Grinch will get into the holiday spirit by becoming a member of the wrapping team. Their motto is: "The more the merrier!"

Delivery Elves: If you are referred to in your office as a cold-hearted Scrooge and need a way to kick-start the warm holiday glow inside and out, this is it! Depending on the total number of families we are able to adopt, teams of two to four Delivery Elves are needed to personally deliver the wrapped gifts to each of our families. The deliveries will be made between the 17th and the 24th of December. To

accommodate the Delivery Elves' personal schedules while efficiently distributing the gifts to the various household locations, you may be assigned to deliver to more than one family in the same geographic area.

While delivering gifts to the families is potentially time-consuming, many members have expressed that it was by far one of the most rewarding experiences. When signing up, please inform us if you will be willing to drive and the type of vehicle you have. This will allow us to match the number and size of gifts to the storage area available in your vehicle.

Money Elves: We need you! The Money Elves provide the means necessary for the other Elves to shop, wrap and deliver to the families we adopt. You can really help us by sending in your donation check early (by December 12) so we can determine our budget and the number of families we can help. However, donations will be accepted through December 20. The donated funds allow for the purchase of gifts from Kmart, as well as the purchase of gift cards from Stater Brothers so the families can buy the ingredients for a nice holiday dinner. Obviously, the more money raised, the greater the number of families we can help and the greater the number of wishes our Shopping Elves can fill. (We will still accept money after the 20th; it will be applied to any last-minute add-on families or saved for next year.)

Please make your checks payable to the RCBA and write "The Elves Program" in the memo section of the check. The RCBA is a section 501(c)(6) nonprofit corporation, with Tax I.D. No. 952561338. We thank you for your holiday generosity in advance.

To become a Shopping, Wrapping, Delivery or Money Elf, please phone your pledge to the RCBA at (951) 682-1015 or email your name and desired Elf designation(s) to one of the following: Charlene Nelson (charlene@riversidecountybar.com), Lisa Yang (lisa@riversidecountybar.com), Brian Percy (bpercy@bpearcyllaw.com) or Veronica Reynoso (vreynoso@bpearcyllaw.com). By contacting us via email, you will assist us by enabling us to update each of you via email in a timely manner.

To those who have participated in the past, thank you, and to those who join us for the first time this year, we look forward to meeting you. Don't forget to "Tell a friend!"

Brian C. Percy, president of the RCBA in 2002, is the Chair of the Giving-Back Elves Program.



by Warren Chu

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is a national association of 955 local community programs in 49 states that recruit, train, and support volunteers to represent the best interests of children who were removed from their families because of abuse and neglect. CASA volunteers (also called CASAs) are appointed and sworn in by judges to watch over and advocate on behalf of these children in the courtroom. They play a special role in juvenile dependency cases, especially for children whose permanent plan is long-term foster care, in providing a voice to advocate for the children's needs. Oftentimes, foster children get to meet with their attorneys only once every six months. CASAs bridge this gap and attend to the daily needs of the children to ensure that, despite their difficult circumstances, their best interests are looked after.

CASA began as a pilot program in Seattle by Judge David Soukup in 1977 to address his concerns about making important decisions about children with insufficient information. Riverside County implemented this program in 1990. Since then, CASA of Riverside County has provided thousands of advocates to dependent children. Currently, there are approximately 151 CASAs in Riverside County and another 70 on the waiting list. CASA volunteers come from all different age groups, educational backgrounds, and ethnicities. Many of the volunteers have been successful in their own careers and have decided to give back through CASA.

In order to be accepted into CASA, volunteers are subjected to a vigorous vetting process that includes a thorough background check, an interview with staff, and over 30 hours of training. This training covers mental health, educational rights, and navigating through the judicial system. This training process is very important to ensure that the person is fully committed, not just to the CASA program, but more importantly to the child, who oftentimes has already been victimized by a turbulent life of instability. Once a volunteer is assigned to a foster child, he or she donates 15-18 hours a month in working that case.

Most of the CASA's time is spent on gathering as much information as possible about the child and the child's circumstances. Most importantly, this involves visiting with the child to observe and get to know him or her in his or her own living environment. It also includes interviewing the child's social worker, teachers, school officials, foster parents, group home staff, therapists and any other relevant people. However, the CASA does not interact with parents. The CASA also ensures that all court orders are carried out and reports any violations of the court's orders. The CASA then prepares a written report, filed with the court, provid-

ing recommendations as to what he or she believes is the best for the child's future. The CASA goes to court with the child and attends the dependency hearings. At the hearings, the judge will often afford time to the CASA, to garner his or her input. This is the time for the CASA to advocate for the child, asking the court to order things the child needs or that would otherwise benefit the child, such as glasses, orthodontic care, class trips, etc. According to Christopher J. Sheldon, a former dependency judge and current member of the CASA for Riverside County Board, judges generally welcome CASA volunteers in their courtroom, because if Child Protective Services is not paying sufficient attention to the child, the CASA will report it and fill in the holes. Retired Judge Sheldon also finds the reports made by the CASA more personal and gripping.

In an effort to continually provide the best service and advocacy to foster children, Executive Director Deborah Sutton recently implemented a new initiative to develop services for foster youths who identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ). According to Ms. Sutton, 100% of foster children who fall under this category report abuse while in foster care. Many of these children end up homeless or running away because they do not feel safe in their group or foster homes. LGBTQ training is now part of the CASA program.

The CASA volunteer's commitment lasts for the duration of the child's dependency case, or about 18-24 months. For many, this was such a rewarding experience that they volunteered again. In fact, Riverside County has one of the highest retention rates in California, at 71%, for volunteers who decide to be a CASA for another child.

CASA receives the majority of its funding through private donations. Like most charities, CASA has seen its donations decrease in recent years due to the economy. Therefore, despite over 200 foster children waiting for a CASA volunteer and a waiting list of 70 volunteers ready to serve these children, they cannot be matched up due to regulations that require one CASA staff member for every 40 volunteers. CASA of Riverside County has several events each year to raise awareness and to collect donations for the program. The next upcoming event is a poker tournament at Soboba Casino with the 2007 World Series of Poker champion Jerry Yang. If you wish to attend, donate, volunteer, or see the list of events, please visit casariversidecounty.org.

Warren Chu is a deputy county counsel with the County of Riverside.



by Karen Feld

The Inland Empire Legal Association of Women (IE LAW) was founded in 2009. A few women wondered if there was an interest in forming an organization similar to California Women Lawyers, the Queen's Bench in San Francisco, Orange County Women Lawyers, or WLALA in Los Angeles. 50 women showed up at the first meeting, from all practice areas – district attorneys, public defenders, public interest lawyers, attorneys from large, medium and small firms, solo practitioners, and government attorneys. The focus of the group quickly changed from networking to community service. This focus on service became part of IE LAW's mission statement: to promote women lawyers and judges in the Inland Empire and to advocate for the concerns of all women in our community.

IE LAW has stayed true to that mission. Every year, we sponsor a holiday party at Operation Safehouse, a teen run-away shelter in Riverside. IE LAW collects toiletries, snack packs of food and drinks, socks, fuzzy throws, disposable cameras, notebooks and pens, and gift cards to local restaurants. The items have to be small enough to carry because we have to anticipate that the teens will be on the move. IE LAW members bring pizza, drinks, and ice cream to the shelter. After the pizza party and after the gifts are opened, the members have an opportunity to talk to the residents in a more personal setting. This has always been the best part of the evening.

One year, all of the shelter residents happened to be teenage girls. The girls were stunned to find out that all of the IE LAW attorneys that evening financially supported their families, including stay-at-home husbands and husbands finishing their education. It was as if a light bulb went off in a few of their heads: they realized that they could do this, too; they did not have to rely on someone supporting them. The next year, the residents were a mix of teen boys and girls. Several told us that this would be the only holiday party they would have that year. One of the older boys had been living in a car for the last five years. One girl was there because her father was in prison, her mother had just been sent to jail, and she had nowhere else to go. Many children go to the shelter because of difficult family situations. Despite the issues they are dealing with, every single one of the teenagers was polite, respectful, and appreciative that a powerful group of professionals chose to be with them that evening. This year, IE LAW is collecting new stuffed animals, socks, pajamas (S, M, L, XL, 2X), slippers, and movie DVDs for the holiday party.

IE LAW has held three major events. State Bar President Holly Fujie was the guest speaker at the Formation Party, where we collected toiletries for Operation Safehouse. United States District Court Judge Virginia Phillips of Riverside was the speaker at the First Anniversary Dinner and talked about the history of women in the law. California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye was the speaker at the Second Anniversary Dinner, held at the Mission Inn in Riverside. This event was attended by almost 150 members of the Inland Empire legal community, including leaders of the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians. At the event, IE LAW collected gently used suits, pants, skirts, shoes, briefcases and purses for donation to local charitable organizations. We try to incorporate our mission of service into even our formal events.

Food from the Bar (FFTB) is a national program in which bar associations collect food and money and donate time to a local food bank. IE LAW initiated the FFTB program in the Inland Empire. We challenged bar associations to compete with each other, including the Riverside County Bar Association, the San Bernardino County Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Southwest Bar Association, the Inns of Court and the Inland Counties Association of Paralegals. Even though IE LAW was by far the newest and the smallest of the bar associations, it was responsible for the most volunteer hours and it donated the most food. IE LAW members and their kids spent an entire day organizing bins of donated canned food, health products and even pet supplies. This joint effort raised \$1,640 and 1258 pounds of food and provided 240 volunteer hours to Second Harvest, the only food bank serving San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. IE LAW hopes to make this an annual competition, with the support of the other bar associations.

We are in the process of establishing two annual scholarships for high school students, with one reserved for a student who is homeless or in foster care.

IE LAW is as dedicated to the goal of community service as it was when the first group of women met in 2009. We may not have a huge membership or a huge bank account, but our spirit has succeeded in helping the community, one step at a time.

Karen Feld is an attorney with Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard and Smith in San Bernardino, and represents public entities. She was born in San Bernardino, went to high school and college in Riverside and received her JD from USC Law School. Ms. Feld is a founding member and the Vice President of IE LAW.



LAW FIRMS GIVE BACK BY SUPPORTING WHW, A SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT DEDICATED TO EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

by Laurie Rowen



Laurie Rowen

In June of this year, over 30 law firms and legal businesses in Southern California joined together for the first annual “Suits for a Cause” clothing drive in support of WHW (Women Helping Women/Men2Work). WHW is a nonprofit with a simple but incredibly important mission – to help men and women get and keep their jobs. WHW provides business attire to low-income individuals and is dedicated to empowering job seekers by helping them develop the skills they need to become economically self-sufficient.


WHW was started in 1993 by two paralegals who were victims of domestic abuse. They faced the daunting task of rebuilding their professional wardrobes so they could return to the workforce to support themselves and their children. Over the past two decades, WHW has grown by adding a men’s division and by expanding its focus to providing a full array of employment services focusing on job placement, including résumé assistance, interview skills training, computer train-

ing, and networking workshops. With referrals from over 200 nonprofit organizations, schools, and government agencies, WHW has become one of the largest nonprofits of its kind in Southern California.

The first annual Suits for a Cause was sponsored by Montage Legal Group, LLC, Hewitt Wolensky, LLP, Albrecht & Barney, and Snell & Wilmer, LLP, all of which have attorneys on WHW’s board of directors. Suits for a Cause was an overwhelming success. It included law firms of all sizes – from solo practitioners to some of the largest law firms in the nation – and brought in hundreds of bags of donated clothing, which provided over 100 individuals with professional attire. Casual and non-business attire was sold in WHW’s upscale resale boutique, Déjà New, and the proceeds went to support WHW’s job placement programs.

The second annual Suits for a Cause will be held in June 2012. WHW is currently seeking solo practitioners, small law firms, and large law firms in Riverside and Orange County to sponsor the event and/or hold clothing drives. “It is amazing what hundreds of lawyers at dozens of law firms can do when they join together to support a charity like WHW. We expect the second annual Suits for a Cause to be an even greater success, as more law firms in Riverside and Orange County learn about WHW and its incredibly important mission,” says Janie Wolicki, WHW’s Executive Director.

Laurie Rowen co-founded Montage Legal Group, LLC, a network of former large law firm associates and partners who now work on a freelance basis for other law firms. Laurie was President of WHW’s Board of Directors from July 2010 through July 2011 and led the effort of organizing the first annual Suits for a Cause for WHW.



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GIVING BACK IS GOOD FOR EVERYONE

by Stefanie G. Field

As we approach the season of “giving” and the reflection in which we often engage upon the close of the year, it behooves us to remember and consider that giving should not be a once-a-year event, nor should it be limited to just financial contributions. The impact of giving extends beyond the momentary feeling of having done good. Giving impacts the recipient, indirect beneficiaries and society as a whole. Your kind words and actions can make those who feel that society has forgotten them feel important and recognized and can give hope and encouragement to those who do not understand or believe that life and their circumstances can improve. Considering the benefit that giving confers on the community, it is something that should be fostered and encouraged by law firms and attorneys. After all, a healthy community grows and thrives.

This concept is well understood by Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden, PC. The firm has implemented a number of strategies that any attorney or firm can adopt to help our community thrive. Of course, the most obvious strategy is the donation. Rather than focusing solely on the legal community, Gresham Savage donates to a variety of organizations that seek to improve our society as a whole. For example, the firm has given financial support to a diverse array of organizations such as the Greater Riverside Chamber

of Commerce, the YWCA, Olive Crest, and a variety of organizations that promote the arts and education.

But Gresham Savage does not limit itself to financial giving; it asks that its attorneys become active members of the community, and it supports its attorneys in making the commitment to become involved. To that end, many Gresham Savage attorneys actively participate in the community. The firm’s attorneys sit on the boards of many organizations that are geared towards helping the community – Habitat for Humanity, the YWCA, the Riverside Art Museum, the Unforgettables Foundation, the American Cancer Society Leadership Council and the Junior League of Riverside, to name just a few. Likewise, a number of attorneys are involved in programs to help youth, such as mentorships for at-risk youth and young ladies seeking to enter the work force, nonprofit children’s theater, and international youth camps. For those of you who feel you or your firm cannot donate funds, these types of commitments are ones that allow you to give back to the community without expending financial resources.

As a final method of giving back, Gresham Savage engages in pro bono work – something any attorney in private practice can do. Our attorneys have helped Buddhist temples obtain land use permits and have helped

set up nonprofit corporations, such as Rim of the World Comfort Pets, an organization that provides pet therapy in hospitals, schools and elder care facilities. If you are not sure how to go about doing pro bono work, contact the Public Service Law Corporation. They will gladly help you with that.

In sum, giving is something that can and should be done year-round. The Jews use the word “mitzvah” to describe an act of human kindness or a good and praiseworthy deed. The concept is universal and laudable. Consider taking it to heart and asking yourself, what mitzvah have you done lately? What more could you do? Like the ripples flowing from a pebble thrown into a lake, even small acts of kindness can have monumental effects.

Stefanie G. Field, a member of the Bar Publications Committee, is a Senior Counsel with the law firm of Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden.



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RIVERSIDE: "AS TIME GOES BY"

by Yoginee Braslaw

The Junior League of Riverside, Inc. (JLR) is a vibrant, dynamic group of women committed to working together to better our community. We began in 1928 as Junior Aid, and in 1962, we became JLR, one of around 300 leagues under the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), which provides continuity, support, guidance, and leadership development opportunities for Junior Leagues in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and United Kingdom.

AJLI and JLR are organizations of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. JLR members, from all ages to all types of professions, work directly on hands-on community projects. We are solely responsible for our fundraising efforts, which provide financial support for our various projects.

Many of you may not be aware of this, but JLR has been instrumental in directly and indirectly shaping the legal community, as well. We have established or collaborated on the development of numerous organizations and projects in our community, some of which are still thriving. Some of the programs and/or organizations founded by the JLR that impact the legal community include: the Family Services Association, the Volunteer Center, the Riverside County Juvenile Hall Auxiliary Master Calendar Telephone Service, the Juvenile Hall Project, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Since 1928, JLR has made an incredible impact on our community, leaving a legacy of projects that continue to change the lives of individuals in our community. Currently, JLR actively supports projects in the area of youth, partnership and mentoring. Our programs target children,

especially children in need, between the ages of 2 and 14, primarily in the City of Riverside and its surrounding communities. Beginning in September 2010, JLR embarked on a series of projects, entitled fitRiverside, to combat childhood obesity and to educate children and their parents or guardians on making healthy lifestyle choices.

To fund these projects, JLR holds a signature fundraiser every year on the first Friday or Saturday in December: the Annual Charity Ball, a fun-filled black-tie event with fine dining, wine, live music, dancing, and a silent and live auction. This year, the Annual Charity Ball will be held at the Victoria Club on Friday, December 2. Our projects are also funded through the generous support of the local community and grants from national organizations.

We are always actively seeking new members. JLR is a great way to increase your networking potential, as well as to meet life-long friends. If you're interested in becoming a member, attending the charity ball, or donating, please contact the League office at (951) 683-0622.

Yoginee Braslaw, a member of the RCBA Publications Committee, is a Senior Research Attorney for the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, in Riverside.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Family Law and
Criminal Law Attorneys
are needed to volunteer their services
as arbitrators on the
RCBA Fee Arbitration Program.**

**If you are a member of the RCBA and
can help, or for more info,
please contact Lisa
at (951) 682-1015
or fearb@riversidecountybar.com.**

JUDICIAL PROFILE: JUDGE JACQUELINE C. JACKSON

Judge Jacqueline C. Jackson was appointed to the Riverside County Superior Court in December 2010 by then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. She had been a deputy district attorney in Riverside since 2006 and was previously a prosecutor in Los Angeles County for a decade. She graduated from San Francisco's UC Hastings College of the Law and earned her undergraduate degree from UCLA. She comes to her judicial position with a strong sense of the need to always support the local community. Her parents gave her a legacy of community service. She is one of five children born into an Air Force family. Although money was tight growing up, approximately twice a year, her mother would have all of them sort through their clothes and belongings. Unused toys, clothes, and shoes that couldn't fit anyone in the family were donated.

That sharing mindset remained ingrained in her. As deputy district attorney in Los Angeles, she regularly participated in Project Lead – a semester-long program that took attorneys into impoverished school classrooms to explain the court process and encourage kids to stay out of legal trouble. She also volunteered at a local library to teach adults how to read. For years, she coordinated food baskets through her church for those in need of holiday meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Additionally, she buys and fills backpacks with school supplies for needy children in her local city.

When she took a job with the Riverside County District Attorney's office, her service continued. She was a mentor in J.W. North High's Law Academy. Her transfer to the Southwest Courthouse ended her participation in that program; however, since returning to the downtown courthouse earlier this year, she has donated her time to judge Mock Trial and to preside over Youth Court. She sentenced a DUI defendant at North High School as part of a DUI prevention program. She tries to lead by example and believes that giving back through community service is a part of what makes us human and connected. She believes that many Americans are incredibly blessed and that there is a duty to reach back and do what we can to help others. It's a smaller world that it may seem; we



Judge Jacqueline C. Jackson with her parents, Yvette and Donald Jackson

are all woven together and touch each other's lives somehow. Just a little service from each of us will make a huge difference for the whole community.



ATTENTION RCBA MEMBERS

If you are not getting email updates/ notices from the RCBA and would like to be on our mailing list, visit our website at www.riversidecountybar.com to submit your email address.

The website includes bar events calendar, legal research, office tools, and law links. You can register for events, make payments and donations, and much more.



OPPOSING COUNSEL: KIRA KLATCHKO

by Alexandra Fong

Riverside County's Only Appellate Specialist Follows in Parents' Footsteps

Kira Klatchko was born and raised in Palm Springs, California. Her mother and father practice law together as Klatchko & Klatchko, a broad-based civil practice involving transactional and litigation matters with a focus on family law, real estate, business, and estate planning. Her younger sister works in the entertainment industry in Hollywood.

She attended Palm Springs High School, where she was a member of the Mock Trial team. She then attended the University of California, Berkeley and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, with distinction. When she was a little girl, she decided to follow in her parents' footsteps and become an attorney. Following that dream, she attended the University of California, Davis School of Law (King Hall), graduating in 2004. After passing the bar exam, she returned to Palm Springs. She began practicing at the family firm, working on a variety of matters, including appeals, then moved to Best Best & Krieger at its Indian Wells office to start an appellate practice group.

As the only certified appellate law specialist in Riverside County,¹ Kira has worked on approximately 75 appeals in her seven years of practice. She frequently consults with trial counsel during litigation and trial, advising them on how to make a proper record for the appeal, assisting with motion work or drafting writ petitions.

¹ She is certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization.

In order to be identified as a "certified" specialist in California, an attorney must be certified by either the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization or an organization whose certification program has been accredited by the State Bar of California. (Such an organization must have requirements for certification that are at least equal to those of the State Bar of California's program.)

California attorneys certified as specialists must:

- ¹ Pass a written examination in the specialty field (the 2011 exam date is October 25).
- ² Demonstrate a high level of experience in the specialty field.
- ³ Fulfill ongoing education requirements.
- ⁴ Be favorably evaluated by other attorneys and judges familiar with their work.

See ls.calbar.ca.gov/LegalSpecialization.aspx.



Kira Klatchko

She is currently studying for her Master's in Business Administration at the Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management (part of Claremont Graduate University) in its Executive Management program. She has attended night classes for the past two years and anticipates completing her studies in 2012. Kira hopes the degree will give her better insight into her clients' business needs. She has also taught legal writing at the University of La Verne School of Law.

Kira is active in Riverside County's legal community and the community at large. She served three terms as

chair of the Appellate Section of the Riverside County Bar Association, and was named to the 2009 and 2010 list of Super Lawyers – Rising Stars for Southern California. In 2009, she was appointed to a three-year term on the State Bar of California's Standing Committee on Appellate Courts. In 2010, she was elected as a member at large of the board of the RCBA, and in 2011, she was elected as Secretary of the RCBA. She served as the attorney-coach for the Mock Trial team at Palm Springs High School for four years.

For the past five years, she has handled mediations for the Court of Appeals, the Riverside Superior Court, and private parties. She enjoys helping people work out their differences amicably.

In December 2010, she was chosen to be the recipient of the ATHENA International Young Professional Award. Although she is on the board of the Indian Wells chapter of ATHENA International, it was the Palm Springs chapter that selected her for this honor. ATHENA International is an organization that promotes women in the community and in business. Kira is the first recipient of the ATHENA International Young Professional Award from Palm Springs. Additional information about ATHENA International may be found on its website at athenainternational.org/

She is also a board member of Angel View Crippled Children's Foundation, Inc., which is an "amazing organization" that provides residential care and other services for the disabled population. It is one of the oldest charities in the desert region, having been established in 1954. It is the longest established organization in the Coachella Valley that operates immediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled. Angel View also operates 24-hour nursing services

in group homes, a congregate living health facility, and a home for infants and toddlers who have been removed from their homes by the court system due to abuse or neglect. Additional information about Angel View may be found on its website at angelview.org.

When Kira is not practicing law, she enjoys traveling, cooking, reading and playing tennis. She has traveled to Italy, England, Hungary, the Czech Republic, France, Belgium and elsewhere. She takes pleasure in traveling to different locales to sample their cuisine and usually brings home cookbooks and ingredients she can use to recreate her favorite dishes. She recently returned from a trip to Spain, where she visited Barcelona, Madrid, Seville, Cordoba, Granada, Toledo, and the Basque country. She enjoyed more great meals than she can count and loved learning about Spain's complex cultural history.

Alexandra Fong, a member of the Bar Publications Committee, is a deputy county counsel for the County of Riverside.



COMMUNITY CONNECT

by Roberta Neff

Many of our Riverside County neighbors are facing serious problems that are often greatly increased during the holidays. Many have little to be thankful for this Thanksgiving and little to be hopeful for this Christmas.

If you are a young father facing eviction because you lost your job, where can you turn? How do you provide a home for your kids, let alone a Santa Claus?

If you are elderly, frail, and alone, confined to your bed in a long-term care facility, and you aren't being fed or cared for properly, where can you turn? Will anybody visit you at Christmas?

If you are a young teenager or a vet returning from the war in Iraq who is facing the deepest despair and contemplating suicide, where can you turn? Do thoughts of the holidays sink you deeper into despair?

All of these people and many others turn to Community Connect, formerly the Volunteer Center of Riverside County. And you can help brighten their holidays by calling Community Connect.

Community Connect has been in operation for 45 years, serving all people throughout Riverside County. The programs administered through Community Connect include:

- **HELPLine**, an around-the-clock suicide prevention hotline for people in dire situations who need someone to reach out to for counseling and guidance, or just to reassure them that they are not alone.
- The **Housing Assistance Program**, which can provide financial assistance and counseling to those in danger of being evicted.
- The **Volunteer Connection**, which connects volunteers with organizations in need of them.
- The **Nonprofit Resource Center**, which provides education and assistance in governance, grant writing, and much more to hundreds of nonprofit organizations and their boards.
- The **Alternative Sentencing** program, which provides behavior-modifying education to people who have committed crimes – intense, meaningful courses that prevent jail service and help reduce pressure on the overcrowded jail system.

- The **Long-Term Care Ombudsman** program, which sends trained representatives to every skilled nursing facility in the entire county on a regular basis to monitor the quality of care of the residents and to investigate complaints or abuse.

- **Call 2-1-1**, a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week hotline that people can call to find resources for health and human services needs such as food, housing and utility payment help.

Some of Community Connect's most significant accomplishments during the past year include:

- HELPLine provided counseling to over 8,000 hotline callers who were facing the depths of despair, either contemplating suicide or confronting other challenging crises.
- The Housing Assistance Program provided over \$149,618 in financial assistance to families facing eviction or foreclosure and assisted 290 people in finding housing by matching them with people who had housing to share.
- The Volunteer Connection matched over 1,083 volunteers with volunteer opportunities throughout Riverside County. We also hosted the annual Riverside County Volunteer Recognition Banquet, honoring over 100 volunteers from different agencies.
- The Nonprofit Resource Center hosted more than 5,000 people, representing more than 1,500 other nonprofit agencies, at educational conferences, workshops, and funders' forums.
- The Alternative Sentencing Program helped more than 12,000 individuals learn to manage anger and provided other positive approaches to difficult problems. This includes more than 600 youth who had been court-ordered to complete our special TEMPO and AWARE programs about the perils and consequences of drunk driving and substance abuse.
- Call 2-1-1 specialists assisted over 80,000 people in finding resources for things such as housing, food, and help with paying utility bills.

- The 2-1-1 staff is 75% bilingual and has access to an interpreter call bank representing up to 140 languages. During an emergency, 2-1-1 is the go-to number for emergency information, such as information about road closures, relocation centers, and evacuation, in Riverside County.
- The Long-Term Care Ombudsman program helped over 11,136 frail and elderly people living in long-term care facilities by monitoring their quality of care and investigating allegations of abuse. Staff members of Community Connect are often the only visitors the residents see.

The ombudsmen are extensively trained for 45 hours in how to work with the facilities and determine the needs of the residents. So far this year, they have opened 611 complaints, of which 25 were for abuse.

A critical point is that residents are often unable to help themselves or speak for themselves, and 85% of them do not have contact with any people other than facility staff, unless visited by the ombudsmen. The ombudsmen are their voice. The Ombudsman program's purpose is to advocate for residents and to

resolve complaints to their satisfaction. The goal is to ensure that all residents have dignity and a good quality of life while living in these facilities.

Community Connect has been able to maintain its programs, providing all of its services at the same high quality, despite the severe economic situation of the past couple of years. Its mission statement says it all – “Connecting People in Need with Those Who Can Help.”

To find out how you can help during this holiday season, dial 211 or call Michele at (951) 328-8284. There are many ways to help, including participating in holiday feeding programs, donating toys for children or gifts for the elderly, adopting families or facilities, or sharing your talents, such as by playing music at a residential care facility or a teen group home. You really can brighten the lives of your neighbors this holiday season. Please volunteer!

Roberta Neff is the Chief Financial Officer for Community Connect.



Annual Joint RCBA/SBCBA General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2011 • 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Mission Inn (in the Spanish Art Gallery)
3649 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, 92501

“State of the State Bar”

Speaker:

Jon Streeter

President, State Bar of California

RSVP by Dec. 1st to RCBA: (951) 682-1015 or rcba@riversidecountybar.com

Cost:

RCBA & SBCBA members \$40, Non-members \$50

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Office Space – RCBA Building

4129 Main Street, Riverside. Next to Family Law Court, across the street from Hall of Justice and Historic Courthouse. Office suites available. Contact Sue Burns at the RCBA, (951) 682-1015.

Conference Rooms available

Conference rooms, small offices and the third floor meeting room at the RCBA building are available for rent on a half-day or full-day basis. Please call for pricing information, and reserve rooms in advance, by contacting Charlene or Lisa at the RCBA office, (951) 682-1015 or rcba@riversidecountybar.com.



MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have applied for membership in the Riverside County Bar Association. If there are no objections, they will become members effective November 30, 2011.

Ronda Baldwin-Kennedy – Law Student, Canyon Lake

Adam Bills – Law Student, Corona

David B. Carroll – Carroll & Werner LLP, Orange

John Paul Fickes – Law Student, Ontario

Amanda M. Francuz – Empire Legal Group, Redlands

Brian T. Gravdal – Berman Berman & Berman LLP, Riverside

Ghassan O. Hasan – Hasan & Associates, Irvine

Corey C. Higgins – Hanna & Scott, Rancho Cucamonga

Steven G. Martin – Best Best & Krieger, Riverside

Edward J. McCue – Riverside County Dept. of Child Support Services, Riverside

Andrew McManus (A) – The Bail Depot Bail Bonds, Riverside

Jesse T. Morrison – Varner & Brandt LLP, Riverside

Ian H. Rodriguez – High Light Electric Inc, Riverside

Paula S. Salcido – Inland Counties Legal Services, Riverside

Dennis H. Sapire – Sole Practitioner, Rancho Mirage

N. Stephen Vokshori – Vokshori Law Group, Los Angeles

(A) = Affiliate Member



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