

# RIVERSIDE LAWYER

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MAGAZINE



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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 our members, our communities, and our legal system.

## Membership Benefits

Involvement in a variety of legal entities: Lawyer Referral Service (LRS), Public Service Law Corporation (PSLC), 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.

*The 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 the Riverside Lawyer.*

*The material printed in the 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

## December

### 10 CLE Event

Noon – RCBA Gabbert Gallery  
“What Every Non-Bankruptcy Lawyer Should Know About Bankruptcy”  
Speakers: Todd Frealy, Chapter 7 Trustee & Abram Feuerstein, Assistant U.S. Trustee  
RCBA members – Free; Non-Members – \$25  
RSVP to rcba@riversidecountybar.com

### 14 RCBA Shopping Elves – at Big Kmart

375 E. Alessandro Blvd., Riverside  
6:00 p.m.  
(Contact the RCBA for more information)

### 15 Family Law Section

Noon – 1:15 p.m.  
RCBA - Gabbert Gallery  
Topic: “How to Leverage Private Judging in Family Law Cases”  
Speakers: Hon. Sherrill Ellsworth (Ret.), Kelly Bennett, Esq.  
MCLE  
RCBA members – Free; Non-Members – \$25

### 16-17 RCBA Wrapping Elves

RCBA Boardroom – 4:00 p.m.  
(Contact RCBA for more info)

### 25 Christmas Holiday – RCBA Office Closed

## January

### 1 New Year Holiday – RCBA Office Closed

### 8 General Membership Meeting

Speaker: David Gehring, Guardian News & Media (UK)  
Topic: “Freedom of the Press”  
Noon - RCBA Gabbert Gallery  
MCLE  
Members – Free; Non-Members – \$40

### 15 MCLE Marathon

9:30 am to 3:00 pm  
RCBA Gabbert Gallery  
Members – \$25; Non-members – \$95



## ON THE COVER:

### RCBA Board

*Back row (l-r):* Nick Firetag, Jack Clarke, Jr., Jean-Simon Serrano, Brian Unitt

*Front row (l-r):* Kelly Moran, Sophia Choi, Kira Klatchko, L. Alexandra Fong, Christopher Marin  
(not pictured: Robyn Lewis, Jeff Van Wagenen)

*photo by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson*

### Barristers

*Back row (l-r):* Mona Amini, Scott Talkov, Kristopher Daams

*Front row (l-r):* Erica Alfaro, Shumika Sookdeo, Christopher Marin, Benjamin Heston

*photo by Michael J. Elderman*



by Kira L. Klatchko

On November 12, I attended a lecture given by Justice Stephen Breyer of the United States Supreme Court. Among other things, he asserted that the world is not divided among peoples of different races, creeds, or colors, but between those who believe in the rule of law, and those who do not. The very next day, Paris was roiled by horrific violence; violence perpetrated to engender terror and undermine the rule of law.

I do not write specifically to condemn these barbaric attacks—although I do condemn them and feel certain that anyone reading this does too—I write because when I learned about them I thought about the power and truth of Justice Breyer’s comment the day before. In fact, as the news from Paris broke, I was at a conference full of appellate lawyers and justices who were also openly commenting that they felt haunted by Justice Breyer’s words and what they seemingly foreshadowed. The discussions we had that day were focused on the victims and about confronting the situation within the context of law, whether French law, international law, or the law of war. It was apparent that we shared a belief in the ability of law to solve, or at least address, this heartbreaking situation. That belief does separate us, and our profession, from many in the world who do not believe in the ability of the law, or legal systems, to solve their toughest problems.

Most of us do not spend our days contemplating the rule of law or our role in perpetuating it. Our lives, both personal and professional, typically keep us busy with more mundane matters. But I write to suggest that we, as a profession, spend more time thinking about how our work and actions impact belief in the rule of law at a macro level. The

collective belief that problems should be solved through law, not violence, is the embodiment of the rule of law and what sustains it. And in our country many of us have the luxury of taking the rule of law for granted. If someone breaches their contract with me, I know I can sue and be made whole; I never think about whether I will have to bribe a government official to get a fair trial as would be the case in many other countries. When a police officer rang my doorbell recently, I felt no hesitation opening the door and chatting with him when he asked about how things were going in my neighborhood; I was not concerned about being wrongfully arrested or physically harmed. Not everyone has had similarly positive experiences. We, as a profession, should be mindful of that fact because belief in the rule of law is not a given and not unshakeable.

For example, I wonder what the public thinks when they read about cases like *Foster v. Chatman*, a recently argued Supreme Court case about racial bias in jury selection. The facts are egregious, and involve not so thinly veiled use of peremptory challenges to strike black jurors in a death penalty trial of a black defendant. In *Foster*, the prosecution used almost all of its peremptory strikes to remove black members of the jury pool, while arguing to an all white jury that “We have got to believe that if you send somebody to death, that you deter other people out there in the projects from doing the same again.” I do not know how the case will come out, but hearing those facts I question whether the prosecutors for the state of Georgia understood their role in our justice system went beyond obtaining a conviction. I certainly expect that cases like *Foster* make many people question the efficacy and basic fairness of our system, and make them question the rule of law.

Our justice system is not perfect. In fact, there is much to complain about, from small injustices to serious ones. In the past year alone, our country has been embroiled in ongoing debates about the interplay between race and the use of force by police, about corrupt FBI and NYPD investigations involving doctored evidence, and about serious misconduct by prosecutors relying on questionable jailhouse informants. While the ability to have these debates without resorting to violence reflects well on the strength of our democratic system, these issues permeate our collective consciousness and, for many people, undermine their belief in the rule of law. Put differently, when our justice system fails, people notice. When they notice, they begin to question whether our system is fair, impartial, and legitimate. They wonder whether they should believe in the system, and rely on it, or whether they should resolve their disputes some other way. That is a serious problem for lawyers and judges, because our daily work forms the fabric of the justice system. While that sounds rather grand, it is actually true. Every case we work on, litigated or not, reflects on the justice system as a whole and on the ability of law to resolve many of our most challenging problems. Lawyers and judges are not responsible for propping up the rule of law around the world, but we should do a better job of remembering, and communicating to others, that what we do, and how we do what we do, is important on both a micro and macro level.

*Kira L. Klatchko is a certified appellate law specialist, vice chair of the appellate group at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, where she is a partner, and co-contributing editor of Matthew Bender Practice Guide: California Civil Appeals and Writs.*



# BARRISTERS' MESSAGE

*by Shawtina Ferguson*



Service to others is an integral part of my mission statement. Throughout my tenure as a practicing attorney, I have found that membership in bar associations helps me to find balance between the rigors of practice and giving back to the legal community. As Chair of the State Bar of California Young Lawyer's Association, I am fortunate to work side by side with other young lawyers to advocate our interests to the State Bar's Board

of Trustees and assure that young lawyers are aware of the range of available resources. I am excited to share some of the initiatives that CYLA is looking forward to offering in the year ahead and hope to partner with more Young Lawyers' groups across the state as we work to achieve shared goals.

The California Young Lawyers Association, also known as CYLA, is part of the State Bar of California and is the nation's largest association of young lawyers with over 55,000 members. CYLA offers lawyers and new practitioners the best opportunity for involvement in the legal profession and participating in public service at the state and local levels. A California young lawyer is defined as a member in good standing of the Bar who is in his or her first five years of practice in California or who is age 36 or under.

Local bar associations across the state continue to lead the charge by embracing their roles as providers of additional training to young lawyers. CYLA, for instance, is pleased to host its second annual Practical Skills Symposium in May 2016. The One-Day Symposium

features leading practitioners who teach courses that support new lawyers transitioning into the profession. The 2016 Symposium will be held on May 17 and May 19 in San Francisco and Los Angeles respectively.

Mahatma Gandhi once said that "the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." In recognition of the immense value of service to others, CYLA established the Jack Berman Award of Achievement for Distinguished Service to the Profession and the Public in 1992 to recognize the substantial achievements of a young lawyer. Gandhi's words are no better exemplified than through the recipient of the 2015 Jack Berman Award of Achievement, Bryant Y. Yang. Yang is incredibly devoted to pro bono work and community service, both individually and through his practice at Irell & Manella LLP in Los Angeles. In 2014, in addition to his full time practice, Yang devoted more than 300 hours of pro bono work primarily in service to hundreds of low to moderate income California residents. Yang also enjoys active engagement in local bar associations and has spearheaded numerous efforts to increase diversity within the bar. Yang's myriad contributions have served as a source of inspiration and serve as but one example of the great work that many young lawyers are contributing to the profession. CYLA looks forward to recognizing another distinguished young lawyer at the State Bar's Annual Meeting in 2016.

In addition to providing more traditional resources, CYLA recognizes that young lawyers seeking employment face a struggling economy. Many such job seekers recently have struggled with the emotional fallout from unemployment and underemployment, and seek counsel-

ing to help cope. Given this demand, the State Bar's Lawyer Assistance Program has started to augment its more traditional personal and career counseling with a new program that will provide support groups—both in-person and online—to deal with the tough job market. While it's in the very early stages of development, LAP will focus on more recently admitted members who are grappling with the challenges of finding employment while also paying back student debt. CYLA is excited to promote this new slate of offerings to its constituents once they become available.

As a full time practitioner, I recognize (and I'm sure that you do too) that being involved with local organizations like the Riverside County Bar Association or CYLA is a service that we dedicate significant time to, away from our families, away from friends, away from Saturday afternoon sporting events, and away from our respective offices. I imagine that many of us make the commitment to serve because we find the work to be meaningful and because we recognize that we have a unique opportunity to work with the State Bar to help our peers navigate their careers. We do it because we recognize that the resources that we help to provide could be the difference between a young lawyer choosing to remain in the profession or seek opportunities elsewhere. This is why, despite my busy practice, I am thankful that I decided a few years ago that I wasn't too busy to get involved and why I encourage other young lawyers to do the same. Your involvement may just serve you well.

*Shawtina Ferguson is an Associate at The Rasmussen Law Firm in Los Angeles specializing in products liability defense and Chair of the State Bar of California Young Lawyer's Association. She can be reached at [sferguson@rwdmlaw.com](mailto:sferguson@rwdmlaw.com).*



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# THE THIRD ANNUAL CLE MARATHON

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*by L. Alexandra Fong*

Every January, the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Committee of the Riverside County Bar Association holds a MCLE marathon, which consists of four of the six specialty (hard-to-get) topics: two hours of Legal Ethics, one hour of Recognition and Elimination of Bias, and one hour of Competence Issues (formerly known as Prevention, Detection and Treatment of Substance Abuse or Mental Illness.)

The CLE marathon will be held on January 15, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the low cost of \$25 for members and \$95 for non-members. Lunch will be provided.

Robert Hawley, former Deputy Executive Director of the State Bar of California will present two hours on the issue of Legal Ethics. As Deputy Executive Director of the State Bar of California, Mr. Hawley oversaw the State Bar's Professional Competence Unit which administers the Ethics Hotline, the Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct, the State Bar's professional responsibility publications and other functions related to the development of California's Rules of Professional Conduct.

Mr. Hawley received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Hastings College of Law and his Masters in Law from New York University, School of Law.

Virginia Blumenthal will present one hour on the issue of Bias. Ms. Blumenthal was recently named one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in the United States by the National Trial Lawyers and her law firm, Blumenthal Law Offices, was listed as a Top Ranking Law Firm in the Nation. Ms. Blumenthal has

received numerous accolades in her distinguished career and most recently was recognized for her community service by the RCBA with the James H. Krieger Meritorious Service Award.

Ms. Blumenthal received her Juris Doctorate from California Southern Law School.

James O. Heiting and Michael Razo will present one hour on Competence Issues. Mr. Heiting is managing partner of Heiting and Irwin and is the only past president of the State Bar of California (2005-2006) elected from the Inland Empire. He is also a past president of the RCBA (1996-1997). In 2009, he received the James H. Krieger Meritorious Service Award. Mr. Heiting received his Juris Doctorate from Western State University College of Law.

Mr. Razo is a sole practitioner in Riverside. He received his Juris Doctorate from University of La Verne College of Law.

This marathon is co-sponsored by Regional Litigation Consultant Jamee Rashi of Esquire Deposition Solutions. Esquire Deposition Solutions is a full-service deposition firm, with multiple offices throughout California, with a convenient location at 1325 Spruce Street, Third Floor, Riverside, California 92507. Its Riverside office has eight deposition and mediation suites, document depository facilities and document viewing stations, a reprographics and imaging center, complimentary continental breakfast and hot lunch served daily, and ample free parking.

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*L. Alexandra Fong is a deputy county counsel for the County of Riverside, practicing in the field of juvenile dependency law. She is Vice President of the Riverside County Bar Association and co-chair of the CLE Committee.*

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# ADOPT-A-HIGH SCHOOL

by Kelly Moran

Last year the RCBA and Barristers partnered with local Arlington High School to launch an exciting new program. The Adopt-a-High School program is aimed at introducing high school students to the legal profession and all the opportunities that a career in the law has to offer. It is the RCBA's goal that the program will grow and be adopted by individual law firms or companies in the coming years so that ultimately a partnership will be established with each school in the Riverside County area.

With the support of the RCBA Board, Barristers, and Judge Bernie Schwartz, the Adopt-a-High School program's inaugural year included three featured events: (1) Legal Careers Day; (2) a mock preliminary hearing argued by a Deputy District Attorney and Deputy Public Defender before Judge Schwartz; and (3) a "teach the class" series where local attorneys were asked to help prepare students for the Advanced Placement Government exam by hosting in-class discussions on various Constitutional Law issues.

On Saturday, November 15, 2014, the RCBA and Arlington High School partnered for Legal Careers Day. Nearly 300 students were given a glimpse into what career paths are available within the legal profession thanks to the participation of 14 speakers, including judges, attorneys, a court reporter, a private investigator, a paralegal, and law enforcement officers. Several of the students dressed up for the occasion, taking the opportunity to meet with our speakers one-on-one to discuss career paths, education, and internship opportunities after the event.

In January 2015, Arlington High School was home to the second event in the Adopt-a-High School series, a mock trial in which a Deputy District Attorney and Deputy Public Defender argued a preliminary motion in front of over 200 students. The hearing was presided over by Judge Schwartz. After the "ruling" was handed down, students were given an opportunity to ask questions about the case itself, how the arguments were formulated, the differences between each party's position, and the path that each attorney took to obtain their chosen career.

In April 2015, Arlington High School teachers identified areas that Advanced Placement Government and Economics students would likely be tested on where they felt that students might need a little extra help. The RCBA in turn provided speakers with insight and real life experience in the areas requested. The goal was to make the topics come alive for students so that they would remember the information when taking the Advanced Placement exams a few weeks later. Judge Chad Firetag, a former Arlington High School student himself, spoke to over 200 seniors about

due process and the Fifth Amendment. The following week, Assistant County Counsel, Jeb Brown, spoke to students about civil rights. The speaker series was formatted like a college lecture and students actively participated in the discussions with both speakers. The RCBA is proud to state that Arlington High School reported an increase in their Advanced Placement scores last year following the speaker series event.

Going forward, we are eager to continue this program at Arlington High School and all schools within Riverside County. We are currently in the process of setting up new programs at both Notre Dame High School and Ramona High School in Riverside. The beauty of the Adopt-a-High School program is that it can be tailored to the individual needs of each school and the student population. Ultimately, our hope is that firms, groups of attorneys, and offices throughout the legal community will consider "adopting" local high schools and helping the RCBA to launch similar programs on each high school campus.

If you are interested in assisting with this year's program by speaking, or perhaps helping to start a new program at a local school, please contact the RCBA. The Adopt-a-High School program has the potential to impact the lives of students throughout Riverside County and to brighten the future of our legal community. We look forward to working with the amazing members of the RCBA as this program grows in the coming years.

*Kelly Moran is a deputy county counsel for the County of Riverside working in general litigation and currently serves as a Director-at-Large on the RCBA Board.*



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# STATE OF THE COURT

*by the Honorable Harold W. Hopp*

The Court continues to experience significant growth and unique challenges as we begin 2016. The budget, Governor Jerry Brown signed last summer, had good and not so good news for our Court. The good news: the budget included a further increase for trial court operations, as well as more funding for dependency counsel. The not so good news: the governor would not agree for funding for any additional judicial positions.

One of the highest priorities for Inland Empire courts has been to increase the number of judges on the bench. According to the Judicial Council's 2014 update of the Judicial Needs Assessment Report, the Riverside Superior Court has a verified need for 127 judges. With only 62 judges and 15 subordinate judicial officers, the court needs 50 additional judges to provide appropriate access to justice for Riverside County residents.

Senate Bill 229, introduced by Senator Richard Roth, was the latest in a series of bills to fund new judgeships in California. This bill would have appropriated \$5 million for the purpose of funding 12 superior court judgeships that were currently authorized by the Legislature but have never been funded. San Bernardino Superior Court would have received four judgeships through this bill and Riverside would have received three. The bill passed both houses of the Legislature without a dissenting vote; however the Governor vetoed the bill on October 8, acknowledging that there is an acute need for additional judges in certain courts, particularly Riverside and San Bernardino, but stating that before funding any new positions, he wanted to work with the Judicial Council to develop a more system-wide approach to balance the distribution of judges in the state. I urge members of the RCBA to encourage Governor Brown and the Judicial Council to develop a plan that will increase the number of funded positions in our Court and to do so in time for the new fiscal year next summer.

While we continue to work on obtaining additional judgeships, I am pleased to announce two new appointments to the bench. Chad W. Firetag, most recently from the Riverside County Public Defender's Office, fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Sherrill A. Ellsworth. Bambi J. Moyer, who has served as a commissioner for the Riverside County Superior Court since 1996, fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Elisabeth Sichel. Each position had been vacant for over a year.

Led by Assistant Presiding Judge Becky Dugan, a committee of judges is working to recommend to the entire bench candidates to fill the commissioner position that Judge Moyer filled for so long. In addition, our court has one current vacant judicial position, which I hope Governor Brown will fill soon. I should also point out that in 2016 alone there will be 31 judicial seats up for re-election. Judge Sarah Christian

has indicated that she expects to serve out the remainder of her term and will not run for reelection. For any attorneys interested in running for this position, please note that it has been and is very likely to continue to be in Blythe.

The Court continues to work on constructing new courthouses to accommodate the considerable growth in the Inland Empire. The Banning Justice Center opened to the public on Monday, May 4, 2015. It houses four trial courtrooms, one large traffic/small claims courtroom, one large arraignment courtroom, in-custody holding cells, jury assembly space, a staff training room, clerks' offices, public service windows, judicial chambers, jury deliberation rooms, and judicial library/conference rooms. The new courthouse replaces the existing and severely over-crowded nearby two-courtroom facility that dated from the 1950s.

The State Public Works Board approved the acquisition of a site in Menifee for the new Riverside Mid-County Civil Courthouse. The new courthouse will be located on 3.8 acres in the Menifee Town Center and will be a part of the City's envisioned future government center. It will include nine courtrooms in over 89,000 square feet and will replace the aging Hemet Courthouse, improve public access, increase efficiencies, and provide greater security. The new courthouse will continue to handle civil, family law, probate, small claims, and traffic cases, providing a modern, secure civil courthouse for the residents of the mid-county region. Construction of the new courthouse is currently scheduled to begin in 2018, with an expected completion date in 2021.

The Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse is currently in the construction documents phase, with an expected completion date of fall 2019. The building will house five courtrooms in 53,255 square feet and will be located next to Juvenile Hall. We anticipate breaking ground on the project next summer or fall. Once we must vacate the current building, the juvenile cases now being heard there will be heard at the Larson Justice Center.

The Southwest Justice Center Juvenile Courthouse is a two-courtroom replacement facility that will be attached to Juvenile Hall in Murrieta. We hope to be able to move into the new facility by the spring of 2017.

The Court continues to review entry screening practices to ensure the utmost security for those entering courthouses, while balancing a smooth and efficient flow of entry into the facilities. Various modifications to current procedures are under consideration by the Court and the Riverside County Sheriff's Office. I plan to meet with representatives of our county's bar associations shortly to obtain input about security procedures before changes are implemented.

*Judge Harold Hopp is the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside.*



# THE RIVERSIDE LEGAL AID: HOPE AND HEROES

by Ruben Escalante and Lisa Cho

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes, and you can find them in all different kinds of places. Sometimes heroes are in the background planning, sometimes they are in the forefront leading, and sometimes they are in the trenches doing.

Lisa Cho is an attorney who decided to be a hero by “doing,” and she is doing it at the Riverside Legal Aid as a volunteer. Here is why she chooses to volunteer there, in her own words:

Mother Teresa once said, “Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you.”

Before I started volunteering at the Riverside Legal Aid Clinic, I imagined pro bono work involving long hours on cases that take months or even years. I imagined that a pro bono case involved fighting an uphill battle all in the hope of a just result that may never be achieved. And I thought that in order to make a substantial difference, the numbers matter.

I was wrong. It only takes me a few minutes to walk down to the Riverside County Bar Association building and give two hours on a weeknight to make a lasting difference. From 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., I meet with people living in our community who do not know how to navigate through the legal system and simply give them guidance on how to proceed with their issue.

These two hours can involve making sure that somebody has the right paperwork for a divorce, giving advice to someone who is struggling with a landlord, or even just explaining what happens next in the process so that they know what to expect. A little bit of information that I already have can give someone the hope they need.

When my dad came to this country as a young adult with nothing more than the change in his pocket and the few belongings in his handbag, I can only imagine the hope he had for a better life. Hope can turn somebody’s world around. And lawyers have the ability to give people who may be in tough situations hope that it can be

better. Not the kind of hope that everything will be perfect, but the kind of hope that makes things better than they were before.

What I have come to realize about clients at the legal aid clinic is that they do not think that remedying a tough situation will be easy. They are not under the illusion that a solution will be fast or simple. But like my dad, they only have the change in their pockets (my last client had \$20 to her name) and the hope that it can get better. Even 10 minutes of advice helps them tremendously. And at some point in life we all need help.

The legal system is a scary thing to navigate if you have never encountered it before. But once you are pointed in the right direction it becomes more manageable and less intimidating. Even advice on the best way to proceed can alleviate concern if someone is better able to understand the options available to them or the most likely outcome when taking a certain route.

The law has the power to shape people’s everyday lives. It is for this reason that many of us became lawyers. But we often forget about what we can give back or we mistakenly believe that it takes more than what we are able to contribute.

As those who consistently volunteer can attest, even a small amount of time can make a significant impact on somebody’s life. One of the most meaningful ways to do this is by donating a few hours of pro bono services. If you are looking for a place to serve, provide pro bono services, to be a hero, and to give hope, as demonstrated by Ms. Cho’s experience, the Riverside Legal Aid is an opportune place to find it.

*Lisa Cho is an Inland Empire native and estate planning attorney in Riverside. She can be reached at [lisacho@hotmail.com](mailto:lisacho@hotmail.com).*

*Ruben Escalante is also an Inland Empire native and continues to call it his home. He is a senior associate at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP, and is an Officer of the Federal Bar Association—Inland Empire Chapter.*



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# IMPROVING ACCESS TO APPELLATE JUSTICE IN CIVIL APPEALS INVOLVING SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS: NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR 2016

by Carmela Simoncini

## 1. Introduction: The Challenge

In criminal, juvenile, adoption, guardianship, and conservatorship appeals, indigent litigants are provided counsel at no cost. However, civil litigants must either retain counsel to handle their appeals, or represent themselves. Unfortunately, appellate review is both substantively and procedurally complicated, and self-represented litigants are not entitled to more lenient treatment. (*Rappleyea v. Campbell* (1994) 8 Cal.4th 975, 984-985; *Gamet v. Blanchard* (2001) 91 Cal.App.4th 1276, 1284.) Yet not everyone can afford to retain counsel for a civil appeal, and where the amount of property or damages is relatively small, it may be difficult to find an attorney willing to take on an appeal. Civil justice is not free. (*Jameson v. Desta* (2015) 241 Cal.App.4th 491, 495.) As a consequence, many appeals prosecuted by self-represented civil litigants are dismissed.

The recent recession left many more litigants without sufficient funds to hire counsel, even if they are not considered truly indigent. Because of the recession, budget constraints have reduced resources to the entire court system, leading to increases in filing fees in order to maintain basic operations. Few self-represented civil litigants arrange for reporters, whether due to unfamiliarity with the process, or the expense. As a result, non-wealthy litigants face a three-headed monster: lack of representation, inability to pay increased filing fees, and inability to pay for an appellate record.

Fee waivers, where appropriate, may alleviate the problem of lack of funds for filing fees (although fee waivers further reduce revenue for the courts affected), but they do not apply to the costs related to obtaining an appellate record, and courts cannot offer advice on how to navigate the swirling sea of appellate procedure. The confluence of these issues frequently leads to dismissal of the appeal, whether the case has merit or not.

## 2. Addressing the Problem

In 2006, at the urging and with support from Justice Laurie Zelon of the Second District Court of Appeal, a free Self-Help Clinic for Indigent Civil Litigants was established in Los Angeles through the auspices of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Appellate Court Section, Public Counsel, a public interest nonprofit law firm, and a few

prominent appellate lawyers in the county. Utilizing a California State Bar Partnership Grant, Public Counsel was able to create an appellate law program to identify meritorious cases and match them with pro bono lawyers. The Appellate Self-Help Clinic was formally launched in 2007, using the Court of Appeal's on-site Settlement and Mediation Center.<sup>1</sup> However, while anyone can attend the clinic to get information, pro bono representation is available only to indigent litigants who meet certain poverty guidelines.

Inspired by the Second District's model, in 2011 the San Diego County Bar Association Appellate Court Committee (now called the Appellate Practice Section) began the process of creating its own program. In 2014, it launched a program for self-represented litigants in the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division One. In San Diego, the focus is on educational workshops, rather than a clinic. The workshops are conducted monthly at the San Diego County Library, with presentations by members of the SDCBA Appellate Practice Section, with volunteer attorneys available to answer questions, but not give advice. A helpful Self-Help manual is posted online at the Court's website, and is available at the San Diego County Library and the San Diego County Bar Association's websites. The San Diego County Bar Association website also contains links to workshop materials, including a link to a video, the PowerPoint slides used during workshops, and sample documents.

## 3. Enter RCBA Appellate Law Section

As a longtime member of the SDCBA and its Appellate Practice Section, I have participated as a workshop presenter in San Diego on a regular basis. But I work in Riverside (where I am a member of the RCBA and currently chair the Appellate Law Section), and I am well aware that the Inland Empire has been affected far more acutely by the recession, which has perniciously impacted many citizens. If ever there were a region in need of a self-help program for self-represented civil litigants, this is it.

We are fortunate that the membership of the RCBA, and especially the Appellate Law Section, have embraced

<sup>1</sup> A requirement of the State Bar's Access to Justice Partnership Grant is that services must be delivered at or near the courthouse.

the concept, which has been in the planning for this entire past year. With the unselfish help of Erin Orzel, Jorge Chica and Jordan Ray, we have adapted the Self-Help Manual used in 4DCA1 to make it more user-friendly and tailored to the informational needs of litigants in 4DCA2. It includes sample documents, as well as references to relevant rules of the California Rules of Court and Judicial Council forms where appropriate.

The manual is in the proof-reading process at present, and will then be reviewed by Justice Manuel Ramirez, our Presiding Justice. Hopefully, the manual will be uploaded and available to members of the public from several web portals. Insofar as both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties are served by our division of the court, the manual will extend to our neighboring county.

The actual program concept will marry features of the Clinic model used in the Second District (under the aegis of Riverside Legal Aid), to those of the educational workshop model of 4DCA1. The intent is to present two workshops per month for self-represented litigants. One of the monthly workshops will provide an informational overview of appellate procedure and some of the important rules. The second monthly workshop will focus on the appellate record, explaining its importance and providing assistance with the forms by a Legal Aid representative (an attorney or parale-

gal, and eventually, a law student) on how to complete the Judicial Council forms.

The plan is big, but so is the need.

#### 4. Conclusion

As a judicial attorney, I am too well aware that many appeals are dismissed because a self-represented litigant simply lacked information about basic appellate process. As a bar association member, I know we cannot cure poverty and cannot provide free appellate representation to everyone. But, perhaps, by demystifying some aspects of appellate procedure, we can insure that cases warranting review on the merits are capable of having their merits reviewed.

This year, it is my hope to get the manual up and running on the various websites, organize workshops, and develop a clinical program utilizing the Legal Aid organizations of both Riverside and San Bernardino counties, and reach out to interested law schools.

*Carmela Simoncini is a research attorney for the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division Two. She is a member of the Riverside County Bar Association, serving as Chair of the Appellate Law Section. Living in San Diego, she is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association, participating in the Appellate Practice Section. She is an Adjunct Professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, where she has taught Legal Writing, Appellate Advocacy, and Juvenile Dependency Law.*



## LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

of the Riverside County Bar Association

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# INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS DINNER

The RCBA's Installation Dinner was held at the Mission Inn on Thursday, September 24. Presiding Justice Manuel Ramirez served as the master of ceremonies. Justice Thomas Hollenhorst administered the oath of office to the RCBA board members. Kira L. Klatchko was installed as the 2015-2016 President. The other officers who were installed were Jean-Simon Serrano (President-Elect), L. Alexandra Fong (Vice President), Jack Clarke, Jr. (Secretary), Sophia Choi, Nick Firetag, Kelly Moran and Brian Unitt (Directors-at-Large). Jeffrey Van Wagenen (Chief Financial Officer) was unable to attend.

Judge Jack Lucky gave the oath of office to the 2015-2016 officers of Barristers. Christopher B. Marin was installed as President. The other officers who were installed were Ben Heston (Vice-President), Erica Alfaro (Secretary), Kris Daams (Treasurer), Mona Amini and Shumika Sookdeo (Members-at-Large), and Scott Talkov (Past President).

Virginia Blumenthal presented the fifth E. Aurora Hughes Award to Steve Harmon. This award, which is given annually, was named in honor of E. Aurora Hughes, Past President of the RCBA, who passed away in 2011 from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). The award is to honor a distinguished member of the RCBA for his or her service to the RCBA and to the legal community.



*Justice Thomas Hollenhorst swears in the RCBA Board*



*Judge Jack Lucky swears in the Barristers Board*

Steve Harmon presented the James H. Krieger Meritorious Service Award to Virginia Blumenthal, the highest honor bestowed by the RCBA. The award was established in 1974 to recognize those lawyers or judges who have, over their lifetimes, accumulated outstanding records of community service. This award is not presented every year. Instead, it is given only when the extraordinary accomplishments of a particularly deserving individual come to the attention of the selection committee. The award has since been presented to James Wortz, Eugene Best, Arthur Swarner, Arthur Littleworth, Justice James Ward, Fred Ryneal, John Babbage, Patrick Maloy, Ray Sullivan, Justice John Gabbert, Jane Carney, Judge Victor Miceli, Justice Manuel Ramirez, Kathleen Gonzales, Terry Bridges, James Heiting and Jack Clarke, Jr.

In addition, David Moore was honored for his 50 years of membership in the State Bar of California.

*Photos by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson and Michael J. Elderman.*



*Kira and her family (dad and mom – Philip and Linda Klatchko and sister Jenna Klatchko)*



*Riverside County Public Defender Steve Harmon and Virginia Blumenthal*



*Justice Bart Gaut and Jacqueline Carey-Wilson*



*Judge David Bristow presents an award to David Moore for 50 years in the CA State Bar*



*Kira Klatchko presented 25-year RCBA member pins to Ted Stream, Susan Exon and Curtis Knudsen*



*Brian Percy, Marcia Gilman, and Dan Hantman*



*Dorothy McLaughlin, Cathy Holmes, Kira Klatchko*



*Riverside County DA Mike Hestrin, Public Defender Steve Harmon, Tori Firetag and Judge Chad Firetag*



*Presiding Justice Manuel Ramirez, Kira Klatchko and Judge Chad Firetag*



*Phil and Theresa Savage, Cindy and Jim Heiting*



*Aaron Hicks, Darren Pirozzi, Adam Dubin, Greg Rizio, Judge Steve Counselis*





*David and Barbara Moore*



*Lauren and Matthew Strickroth*



*Stephen & Karen Sloat, Kira Klatchko*



*Justice Carol Codrington and  
Commissioner Kenneth Fernandez*



*Peggy and Art Littleworth*



*Bill DeWolfe and Kira Klatchko*



*Heather Green & Bernadette Bogati*



*John and Julianna Tillquist*



*Jack Clarke and  
Jacqueline Carey-Wilson*



*Courtney Henson and Todd Turoci*



*Jackie Hoar and Kira Klatchko*



*Stefanie Field and Marlene Allen*

# ON THE RECORD WITH SAENZ

by Dawn Saenz

On a late Friday afternoon, I had the pleasure of sitting down with our newest judge, the Honorable Chad Firetag who currently sits in Department 201, Riverside Family Law Court. We sat in his chambers for about 40 minutes while he gave his answers On the Record...

Q: When did you first know you wanted to be in the legal field?

A: I was about 17. I was on the mock trial team for Arlington High School and we went to nationals that year. Steve Harmon was my coach and during this time I discovered my interest in law.

Q: What was the last book you read?

A: *The Martian*. I found that the movie was more believable than the book. In the book, the hero seems unaffected by what is happening. I thought Matt Damon was better because you could see his frustration and emotion. I also read anything Stephen King.

Q: What was your favorite class in high school?

A: Math, calculus.

Q: What is your favorite sports team?

A: Angels.

Q: What type of music do you listen to? Who is your favorite artist?

A: 90s alternative. My favorite band is the Smashing Pumpkins.

Q: What was the last live performance you saw?

A: I am not sure. It may have been Radio Head at the Bowl [Hollywood Bowl.]

Q: What is your pet peeve in court?

A: When people say, "Just one more thing...for the record." I don't know why that bothers me, but it does.

Q: Name something you love about the law.

A: It always makes you think, even if it seems like the simplest thing...it can make you think and think.

Q: Tell me about a Halloween costume that you remember from your childhood.

A: One year my mom made a costume out of cardboard and tin foil. I was a robot.

Q: Coke or Pepsi?

A: Water.

Q: What thought went through your head the moment you first walked into your chambers?

A: "This is pretty cool."

Q: What is the last thing you bought tickets for?

A: Airfare to San Francisco.

Q: Name something that is worth very little, but that you hold in great value.

A: [Picking up a small silver folding clock on his desk.] It's my Lexis Nexus clock. I think we got them from Lexis or as a promotional item. After my wife and I took the bar exam, we went through Europe backpacking. On this particular day we were in Vienna, I used my disposable camera and snapped this photo of my wife. When we had the photos developed, I really liked this shot. [He pointed to the small photo in the frame.] I like her expression and the way she is sitting in the photo. I took the photo and put it in my clock and it's been there ever since. It's something very special to me.

Q: It's Saturday morning. You're all alone. You discover a two-hour block of time that is completely free. What do you do?

A: I go for a run.

Q: What is something that you will always remember from your robing ceremony?

A: My whole family was there. My mom was there, watching. She became emotional... in a good way.

Q: What is something that surprises people when they find out?

A: I have played guitar for over 20 years and I used to play in church on Sunday mornings.

Q: How do you reduce stress?

A: Run, bike ride, swim. (I do triathlons.)

Q: What is your favorite item in your chambers?

A: The photos of my boys.

Q: If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?

A: In my personal life? I like everything. I wouldn't change a thing.

*Dawn Saenz is a sole practitioner in Riverside. She is a member of the Bar Publications Committee.*



# 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDING JUSTICE MANUEL A. RAMIREZ

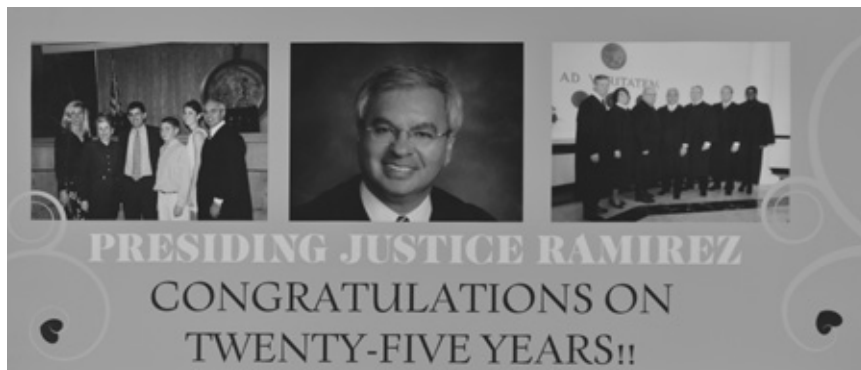
*by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson*

On December 27, 1990, Justice Ramirez was sworn in as the presiding justice of the California Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Two. He was the first Hispanic-American Presiding Justice of the California Court of Appeal and is the longest serving Presiding Justice in this division and the second longest serving Presiding Justice in California among those currently in office.

When Justice Ramirez was elevated to the Appellate Court, there was a very large backlog of cases. To help alleviate the backlog, Justice Ramirez collaborated with attorneys Ken Glube and Kurt Seidler to



*Rosemary Ramirez, Hon. Justice Manuel A. Ramirez, grandson, and Emily Ramirez Stout*



*Banner for Hon. Manuel A. Ramirez' 25th Anniversary as Presiding Justice*

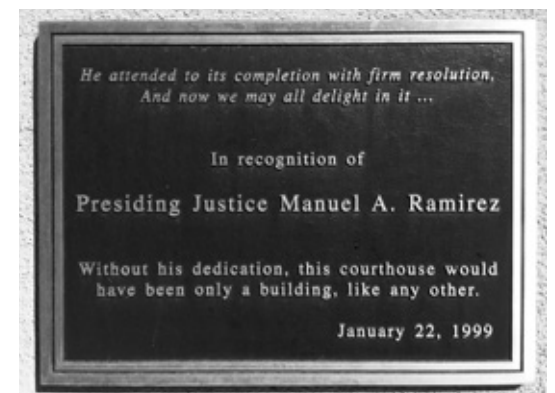


*Hon. Barton C. Gaut (Ret.), Hon. James D. Ward (Ret.),  
Hon. Douglas P. Miller, Hon. Thomas E. Hollenhorst,  
Hon. Manuel A. Ramirez, Hon. Art W. McKinster,  
Hon. Carol D. Codrington, Hon. Jeffrey King, Hon. Betty A. Richli (Ret.)*



*Don Davio presenting a gift from the staff at the Court of Appeal  
to Hon. Manuel Ramirez*

lay the foundation for a mandatory appellate settlement conference program. The keystone of the program in 1991 and today is a panel of volunteer attorneys that mediates the cases. Approximately 160 members from both Riverside and San Bernardino County Bar Associations have volunteered tens of thousands of hours to the program. Since the program was implemented in June of 1991, approximately 1500 cases have been settled worth hundreds of millions of dollars and saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs for courts and litigants. Justice Ramirez credits Jackie Hoar, the settlement coordinator, for her remarkable talent in running the program. In 1996, the program received the Ralph N. Kleps Award by the Judicial Council, which recognizes innovators committed to improving access to justice by creative administrative solutions.



Another way the backlog has been reduced is by early review of every civil notice of appeal to remove untimely and improper appeals from the court's docket. Don Davio, one of the longest serving Managing Attorneys in California's history, implemented the program now supervised by Assistant Managing Attorney Susan Streble. Along with Don and Susan, Justice Ramirez is also grateful for the outstanding clerks of the court who assist in every aspect of an appeal, including Henry Cisneros, who has retired from the court, and current clerk Paula Garcia.

The hallmark of the Fourth District, Division Two, is its tentative opinion program of the court. Justice Thomas Hollenhorst was the force behind this court's decision to provide the parties who requested oral argument with a copy of the court's tentative opinion prior to oral argument. This program was well-received by the attorneys who argued their cases before this court. After Justice Ramirez was elevated, he expanded the program by providing the tentative opinion to all litigants--not just those requesting oral argument. Having a copy of the tentative opinion is invaluable to the litigants as they prepare their cases for oral argument or choose to waive oral argument if the law is clearly against their position. This process allows cases to be finalized

much sooner and removed from the court's docket.

Since his appointment, Justice Ramirez has authored more than 5,000 opinions, averaging 200 per year. Justice Ramirez is very grateful for the invaluable work of the research attorneys who have assisted him throughout his tenure at the court, including Jean Landry, Patricia Cisneros, Carmela Simoncini, Donna Hecht, and Nancy Smoke, who recently retired after 30 years with the court. Justice Ramirez is also very appreciative of the invaluable service given to him by his current Judicial Assistant Lisa Long and retired Judicial Assistant Margaret Melanson.

When Justice Ramirez was first appointed, Division Two was located in downtown San Bernardino, a block from the Historic Courthouse. In 1998, the Appellate Court moved to downtown Riverside. The Justice monitored and was intimately involved in the design and building of California's first ever stand-alone appellate court. For the bare walls of the court, the Justice secured donations of artwork from various art foundations, museums, and artists.

In 2000, Justice Ramirez received the James H. Krieger Meritorious Service Award by the Riverside County Bar Association (RCBA). The Krieger award is presented to a select few RCBA members that have demonstrated a life-



*Kira Klatchco presenting a gift from the RCBA*



*Hon. John A. Arguelles (Ret.) speaking at Hon. Manuel A. Ramirez's 25th Anniversary as Presiding Justice of the Fourth District, Division Two*



*Hon. Manuel A. Ramirez and Don Davio*



*Patricia B. Cisneros and Hon. Steve Cunnison*



*Hon. Manuel Ramirez and his grandson*



*Hon. Douglas P. Miller and Hon. Jeffrey King*



*Hon. James D. Ward (Ret.) and Carole Ward*

time of service to the community beyond the RCBA. The award is not presented every year. Instead, it is given only when the extraordinary accomplishments of particularly deserving individuals come to the attention of the award committee.

Justice Ramirez was the driving force behind two new educational components of the court. The first is the “Outreach Plus” program in which oral argument is held on high school campuses. After oral argument, the justices stop by classrooms and engage the students in discussions about the law.

Justice Ramirez also created the John G. Gabbert Historical Oral Argument and Lecture Series in which distinguished attorneys reenact oral argument from landmark high court decisions. The series was inaugurated in August 2009, with *Korematsu v. United States* followed by *Brown v. Board of Education* on in August 2011, and *Westminster School District of Orange County v. Mendez*—California’s school desegregation case—in August 2015. Jackie Hoar has also been invaluable in organizing the reenactments.

In 2011, Justice Ramirez received the Kaufman-Campbell award by the San Bernardino County Bar Association (SBCBA). The Kaufman-Campbell award is named for former California State Supreme Court Justice Marcus Kaufman and former Fourth District Court of Appeal Justice B. Campbell, and honors jurists who have served on the bench with distinction and made substantial contributions to the community and the practice of law.

On November 5, 2015, the Justices, attorneys, and support staff at the Court of Appeal organized an event to celebrate Justice Ramirez’s 25 years as Presiding Justice. The event opened with

Barbara A. Keough singing “God Bless American” and “Amazing Grace.” Kira Klatchko, President of the RCBA and Victor J. Herrera, President of the SBCBA, presented gifts to Justice Ramirez in thanks for his years of support for the bar associations.

Reflections and remembrances were given by California Supreme Court Justice John A. Arguelles (Ret.), who fondly remembered their long friendship which began when a remarkable young man approached him who had aspirations of going to law school. California Court of Appeal Presiding Justice Kathleen E. O’Leary recalled Justice Ramirez’s modest upbringing and close family. Orange County Deputy District Attorney Don Johnson (Ret.) recalled the deep admiration and respect he holds for his dear friend. His daughter, Emily Ramirez Stout, spoke of her love for her father and their strong family. The current and retired justices from the court recalled some special and sometimes humorous memories of the past 25 years with Justice Ramirez. The last to speak was Don Davio who presented a gift from the staff at the court.

Justice Ramirez is so grateful to everyone who participated in the memorable event and who works at the court, “I consider myself to be a very fortunate and blessed to have been surrounded and to continue to be surrounded by really talented and hardworking professional men and women.”

*Jacqueline Carey-Wilson is a deputy county counsel with San Bernardino County, past president of the Riverside County Bar Association, and past president of the Inland Empire Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.*

*Photos by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson*



*Yoginee Braslaw and  
Hon. Manuel A. Ramirez*



*Barbara A. Keough and Victor J. Herrera*



*Theresa Savage, Mary Anne Forrest, and  
Lisa Visingardi*



*Jacqueline Carey-Wilson, Hon. Art W.  
McKinster, and Kira Klatchko*



*Nancy Smoke and  
Hon. Manuel A. Ramirez*

# RCBA-RIVERSIDE SUPERIOR COURT NEW ATTORNEY ACADEMY

*by Robyn A. Lewis*



The Riverside County Bar Association and the Riverside Superior Court's new training program for new attorneys, the New Attorney Academy, began its second year after a successful inaugural program in 2014-2015.

The purpose of the New Attorney Academy ("the Academy") is to provide professional guidance and counsel to assist newly admitted attorneys in acquiring the practical skills, judgment and professional values necessary to practice law in a highly competent manner and to encourage sensitivity to ethical and professional values that represent the traditions and standards of the Inland Empire legal community.

Specifically, the Academy is made up of a series of classes, which take place once a month. The curriculum is taught by judges and noted attorneys in the community. Topics to be taught will include, but are not limited to, an introduction to the legal community, a practical and intensive primer on depositions and discovery, an introduction to practicing in court (court appearances, legal writing and research, pet peeves of the bench, etc.), transition into practice (dealing with clients, how to successfully participate in ADR, relations with other attorneys, case management, etc.) and an introduction to law practice management.

At every session, the class attends the monthly RCBA General Membership meeting for that month so as to promote membership in that organization and to allow for class members to participate in their legal community.

The first class of this year's New Attorney Academy was held in October and was an introduction to the courts. Students toured the family law court and the court of appeals as well as the civil court, including the clerk's office. Presentations were made by court research attor-

ney staff and "Do's and Don'ts" were revealed by judges and court staff. While at the Court of Appeal, the students received a personal tour of the courtroom by Presiding Justice Manuel Ramirez and enjoyed comments from Don Davio, the supervising attorney of the Court of Appeal, Justice Thomas Hollenhorst, Justice Carol Codrington and Justice Douglas Miller.

At the next session in November, students learned about the history of the Riverside County Bar Association, which was provided by Judge John Vineyard and were introduced to some of its most prominent members, both past and present. A welcome to the legal committee was extended by speakers, such as Jeb Brown of the Office of Riverside County Counsel, Judge David Bristow, and Presiding Judge Harold Hopp and Assistant Presiding Judge Becky Dugan. Public Defender Steve Harmon also welcomed the students and shared his thoughts on practicing in the Inland Empire after having enjoyed a 40+ year career. Jim Tierney, a member of ABOTA, gave a presentation on civility and professionalism. They were also provided with a tour of the Victor Miceli Law Library and learned of the resources and benefits that it offers.

The remainder of the curriculum will focus on substantive topics, such as how to take a deposition, trial practice and techniques, written discovery, and dealing with motions for summary judgment. Students will learn the ins and outs of these topics by esteemed attorneys and judges from our Inland Empire legal community.

*Robyn A. Lewis is the managing partner at J. Lewis & Associates, APLC, and Past President of the RCBA, Barristers, and the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court. She is the chair of the Organizing Committee for the New Attorney Academy.*



# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Traditionally, the Vice President of the Riverside County Bar Association is responsible for planning the General Membership meetings of the RCBA during his/her term, with the notable exception of the December joint meeting with the San Bernardino County Bar Association in which the current president of the State Bar of California is the featured speaker and the March meeting, which the Riverside Superior Court organizes as part of Mediation Appreciation Month.

For the remainder of the 2015 – 2016 program year, RCBA is pleased to present dynamic speakers from across the state of California. Unless otherwise specified, all General Membership meetings occur from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at the RCBA Building, located at 4129 Main Street, Riverside, California, in the John Gabbert Gallery on the 3rd floor.

On January 8, 2016, David Gehring of the Guardian News & Media (UK) will speak about “Freedom of the Press.”

On February 19, 2016, attorney Carl E. Douglas of Douglas Hicks Law will speak about current events involving African American individuals, in honor of African American History Month. Mr. Douglas handles personal injury and police misconduct (civil rights) cases and is well known for his representation of O.J. Simpson in his murder trial in what was dubbed by the media as the “Trial of the Century.” This meeting will be sponsored by Michael Teer, Broker and Certified Residential Specialist, of Teer One Properties, Inc. Mr. Teer may be contacted at ProbateSoCal@gmail.com or via cell phone at (951) 313-5168.

On March 18, 2016, Riverside Superior Court will present a program on mediation and thank its mediators.

On April 15, 2016, attorney Mark Geragos of Geragos & Geragos will speak about the role of an attorney in public affairs, with a focus on the Armenian Genocide. Mr. Geragos handles civil and criminal trials and his clients have included Whitewater figure Susan McDougal, actress Winona Ryder, the late King of Pop Michael Jackson and singer Chris Brown. He is only one of two attorneys who have been named “Lawyer of the Year” in both criminal and civil arenas.

On May 13, 2016, Professor Gabriel “Jack” Chin from UC Davis School of Law and Josh Meltzer of Munger, Tolles & Olson will speak about the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and Hong Yen Chang’s 125 Year Fight for Bar Admission. The quest to award Chang his California law license posthumously began in 2011. Professor Chin and his students first filed a petition with the State Bar of California, who was sympathetic but unable to grant the license. The law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson offered to represent the students for free. Jeffrey Bleich (former president of the State

Bar of California), Josh Meltzer, and another attorney from Munger, Tolles & Olson filed a motion with the California Supreme Court in late 2014.

On June 17, 2016, Presiding Judge of the Riverside Superior Court Harold Hopp will speak about the State of the Riverside Superior Court.

RCBA is looking for sponsors to provide luncheon (entrée, dessert, and drink) for the General Membership meetings. Costs can vary between \$600 and \$1500, depending on the number of attendees. Partial sponsorships are also available. If you are interested in sponsoring a General Membership meeting, please contact Executive Director Charlene Nelson at (951) 682-1015 or Charlene@riverside-countybar.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 December 30, 2015.

**Christian U. Anyiam** – Anyiam Law Firm, San Bernardino

**Mary N. Atalla** – Law Student, Riverside

**Jeanie Barber** – Law Student, Loma Linda

**Dana R. Cormey** – Law Student, Riverside

**Andrea Garcia** – Law Student, Capitola

**Michael J. Hanna** – Law Student, Hemet

**Gerard P. Harney** – Harney Law and Mediation Services, La Quinta

**Laura Hassan** – Law Student, Coachella

**Noor Kurdi** – Gallinger Law, Anaheim

**George Maricic** – Law Offices of George Maricic, Rancho Cucamonga

**Erik Odas Mills** – Law Student, Beaumont

**Ilene Aguilar Ruiz** – H Bui Law Firm, Pasadena

**Barry C. Vaughan** – IVAMS, Rancho Cucamonga

**Katherine Vander Veen (A)** – Soren McAdam Christenson LLP, Redlands

(A) – Designates Affiliate Member



# CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA BAR ASSOCIATIONS

by *Kenneth W. Minesinger*

The 2015 Conference of California Bar Associations (“CCBA”) took place during the State Bar’s Annual Meeting on October 8-11 in Anaheim. I enjoyed attending this year’s conference alongside fellow Riverside County Bar Association members Michael Bazzo and Everett Green.

CCBA exists to promote positive changes in the law. To that end, delegates from representative bar associations from around the state propose resolutions to the CCBA which are debated at the annual conference. Assuming a resolution is adopted, CCBA works to ensure it becomes law through an aggressive lobbying effort which includes legislative days in the state capital and a retained lobbyist. CCBA’s efforts in 2014 led to 14 of the adopted resolutions being signed into law.

In addition to debating and adopting resolutions, the CCBA elects a new Chair and Board of Directors at its annual conference. Serving as Chair for the 2015-2016 term is San Bernardino County lawyer Jack Osborn. The

Riverside County Delegation continues under the leadership of Michael Bazzo as its Chair.

Our goal for the 2015-2016 Riverside County Delegation is to grow our numbers and our influence within the conference. We are also looking for potential resolutions to propose so if you are interested in improving the law in your area of practice or in becoming a member of Riverside County’s delegation, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Next year’s conference will take place alongside the State Bar’s Annual Meeting on September 29-October 2, 2016 in San Diego. For more information about the CCBA and next year’s conference, go to [calconference.org](http://calconference.org).

*Kenneth Minesinger is a corporate and tax lawyer in Riverside and an Associate Professor of Law at California Baptist University. He also serves as an Associate Editor for the State Bar’s Business Law Section Business Law News.*



## RIVERSIDE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION ~ PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET (BUDGET TO BE APPROVED AT THE JANUARY 8, 2016, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING)

REVENUES	
Bar Magazine Advertising	\$ 35,000.00
Committee/Section Meetings	\$ 2,000.00
Conf. Room Rental Fees	\$3,200.00
DRS Reimbursements	\$90,000.00
Fee Arbitrations	\$ 5,000.00
General Membership Meetings	\$12,000.00
Installation Dinner	\$ 15,000.00
Interest & Dividends	\$ 500.00
Labels & Rosters	\$ 300.00
Lease Income	\$ 220,000.00
LRS Panel Dues	\$ 12,000.00
LRS Percentage Fees	\$175,000.00
LRS Referral Fees	\$ 80,000.00
Mock Trial T-Shirts	\$ 1,200.00
Parking Space Fees	\$ 3,600.00
RCBA Membership Dues	\$ 120,000.00
Transfer Building Reserve	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$784,800.00</b>

EXPENSES	
ADP/Payroll Fees	\$ 3,700.00
Advertising	\$ 6,000.00
Bank Service Charges	\$6,500.00
Bar Magazine Production/Mail	\$ 50,000.00
Bldg Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 10,000.00
Bldg Renovations	\$500.00
Bridging the Gap Program	\$ 360.00
Comp Software/Maintenance	\$ 5,400.00
Conference of Delegates	\$ 2,000.00
CPA Services	\$ 2,250.00
Donations	\$1,400.00
Employee Benefits/Medical	\$ 32,000.00
Employee IRA	\$ 5,400.00
Employee Salaries	\$ 305,500.00
Florist	\$500.00
General Membership Meetings	\$ 10,000.00
Good Citizenship Awards	\$3,000.00
Installation Dinner	\$ 15,000.00
Insurance - Workers Comp	\$ 2,500.00
Insurance - Building	\$ 20,475.00
Insurance - Bond	\$500.00
Insurance - E & O	\$ 800.00

EXPENSES	
Internet/Web Services	\$ 6,600.00
Interpreter Service	\$500.00
Janitorial Services	\$ 32,000.00
Janitorial Supplies	\$ 3,600.00
Leadership Summit	\$800.00
Licenses, Dues	\$200.00
Loan Interest - Provident	\$19,374.00
LRS Google Ad Campaign	\$27,600.00
LRS Recertification	\$2,500.00
Meeting Refreshments	\$ 600.00
Mock Trial - State	\$ 1,000.00
Mock Trial T-Shirts	\$ 800.00
Mortgage Principal	\$58,717.10
Office Equip - Maint/Lease	\$ 9,000.00
Office Supplies	\$ 3,600.00
Payroll Taxes	\$34,000.00
Phone Services	\$ 12,000.00
Postage - Meter Mail	\$ 10,000.00
President’s Fund	\$ 600.00
Printing/Stationery Etc	\$2,500.00
Property Taxes	\$ 12,500.00
Utilities	\$ 60,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 782,276.10</b>



# THE LEO A. DEEGAN INN OF COURT

The Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court is a professional organization comprised of attorneys and judicial officers and organized under the American Inns of Court. It was founded in 1993 by Sharon Waters, Honorable Robert J. Timlin, Stanley Orrock, James Heiting, and Terry Bridges. The organization focuses on improving the skills and professionalism of the bench and the bar. Each month, the Leo A. Deegan Inn holds a dinner meeting, during which a team of members presents a program that focuses on matters of ethics, skills and professionalism.

The Inn was named for the Honorable Leo A. Deegan, a legend of the Riverside legal community. Judge Deegan first began practicing in Riverside in 1946 as a member of the district attorney's office. After also serving in the county counsel's office, he became the city attorney for the City of Riverside in 1958. He was appointed to the bench by Governor Edmund Brown in 1959. He served on the superior court until his retirement in 1975. In the late 1980s, he served for 14 months on the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, in Sacramento.

Each year, the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court recognizes both an attorney and a judicial officer for their outstanding contributions to the legal community, as well as for their professional accomplishments. The Terry A. Bridges Award honors an outstanding attorney, while the Elwood Rich Award honors an outstanding jurist. Additionally, the inn's membership votes on its favorite presentation, and an award is given to that team.

For the 2013-2014 program year, Team Cahraman (comprised of Judge Thomas Cahraman, Attorney Master Ed Fernandez, Attorney Master Paul Grech, Attorney Master Tera Harden, Attorney Master John Porter, Barrister Nicholas Firetag, Barrister L. Alexandra Fong, Associate Chris Marin, Associate Gareit Newstrom, and Chapman University School of Law Student Chad Elwell) won the award for best team presentation. Team Cahraman's presentation focused on local bar activities and was presented in the form of America's Favorite Quiz Show® Jeopardy!

For the 2014-2015 program year, Team Counselis (comprised of Judge Steve Counselis, Attorney Master Marlene Allen-Hammarlund, Attorney Master John



Trophy for best Inn of Court team

Michels, Attorney Master Robert Rancourt, Attorney Master Gregory Rizio, Barrister Melissa Cushman, Associate Chris Marin, Associate Jenese Pritchard, Associate Jennifer Gerard, and Law Student David DerSarkissian) won the award for best team presentation. Team Counselis' presentation focused on the Trial of George Zimmerman (Trayvon Martin case) and guest speakers Carl Douglas, Daryl Exum, and Public Defender Steve Harmon

spoke about the effects of race in their trials.

On May 27, 2015, at the final meeting of the 2014-2015 program year, three awards were presented. The Honorable Carol Codrington, Associate Justice of the California Courts of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Two, presented the Honorable Betty Ann Richli, Associate Justice of the California Courts of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Two (Retired) with the Elwood Rich Outstanding Jurist Award.

John Michels presented Greg Rizio with the Terry A. Bridges Award, which honors an outstanding attorney for his or her contributions to the legal community. Mr. Michels also presented K. Fredric Willis with the Louise Biddle Book Award. The award is given to an outstanding younger attorney for professionalism and dedication to the legal community and who exemplifies the goals of the Inn. The award is in memory of Louise Biddle, former executive director of the Inn and the Riverside County Bar Association.

Incoming President Justice Codrington presented outgoing president John Michels with a plaque to thank him for his service to the Inn.

For the 2015-2016 program year, the Inn's theme is "Real vs. Reel" and is focused on television shows featuring attorneys and their law firms. The television shows chosen by the Board are *Ally McBeal*, *The Good Wife*, *L.A. Law*, *Perry Mason*, *The Practice*, and *The Simpsons*.

At the first meeting of the Inn of Court, Judge Richard T. Fields and Jeffrey Van Wagenen, Jr. were presented with The Honorable Douglas E. Weathers Distinguished Honoree Award.

The Inn accepts applications every summer. Membership is by invitation only, and decisions are made



*Terry Bridges and Greg Rizio*



*John Michels and Justice Carol Codrington*



*Judge Richard T. Fields and Jeffrey A. Van Wagenen*

in August. If you have questions, contact an Inn member or an Inn officer. This year's officers are President Justice Carol Codrington, President-Elect Jeremy Hanson, Vice-President Judge Jacqueline Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer L. Alexandra Fong, Financial Secretary Sophia Choi, Board Member Ben Eilenberg, Board Member Dorothy McLaughlin, Board Member Gerald Fineman, and Immediate Past President John Michels. Executive Director Sherri Gomez may also be contacted at (951) 689-1910 or SherriGomez4@gmail.com.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

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Halfway between SB Central & Downtown Riverside. 565 to 1130 sq ft., \$1.10/sq ft. No cams, ready to move in. Ask for Barry, (951) 689-9644

### **Office Space – Downtown Riverside**

Riverside Legal & Professional Center. Downtown Riverside walking distance to Courthouse. Private Executive Suite offices, virtual offices and conference rooms rental available. We offer a state of the art phone system, professional receptionist and free parking for tenants and clients. Accessible from the 91, 60 and 215 freeways. (951) 782-8089.

### **Office Space For Rent – Riverside**

Convenient Market Street location. One or more offices, and secretarial bay available for immediate move in. Please contact Kathy at (951) 684-2520.

### **Cloud Based Bookkeeping – IOLTA365**

IOLTA365 is a cloud based bookkeeping service specifically for IOLTA accounts. We handle the bookkeeping and keep your IOLTA account records in compliance with CA Rule 4-100. The lawyer provides electronic copies of all banking records and we create: (1) the main account register, (2) an individual ledger for each client matter, and (3) a three-way reconciliation showing the main register balance, total of all individual ledgers, and the adjusted bank statement balance. Please contact us via message on Twitter @IOLTA365 or via email IOLTA365@gmail.com.

### **Complete Resource Center – Marathon-records.com**

Marathon-records.com is a complete resource center for the solo and small firm lawyer. IOLTA One is an online bookkeeping application designed specifically for IOLTA accounts that reduces the task of keeping compliant records to a simple data entry function. IOLTA One prevents the most common IOLTA account errors and automatically produces a chronological account register, individual client ledgers, and a three-way reconciliation report in compliance with the rules of professional conduct and ALTA best practices. Visit online at [www.marathon-records.com](http://www.marathon-records.com) and sign up for a free trial.

### **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](mailto:rcba@riversidecountybar.com).



# COMMITTEES AND SECTIONS OF THE RCBA

To join one or more of the committees and/or sections describe below, simply contact the Riverside County Bar Association (“RCBA”) office. All members are eligible — attorneys, judges, students, retired members, and affiliates.

## COMMITTEES

Listed below are some of the committees established by the RCBA:

- Bar Publications – This committee is chaired by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson. It establishes editorial policy for the *Riverside Lawyer* magazine and assists in article development and web site content.
- Conference of Delegates – Reviews and develops resolutions for the annual Conference of Delegates meeting. If you would like to be a delegate or help with resolutions, please contact the chair, Michael Bazzo, at mbazzo@ljdfa.com.
- Continuing Legal Education (See updated description of this committee below.)
- Emergency/Disaster – This committee does not meet except in a disaster or upon call of the chair. It has the expertise and means to mobilize a group of attorneys to help the citizens of Riverside County in the event of a major emergency such as an earthquake, flood, fire or other disaster.
- Fee Arbitration – The committee members serve as hearing officers arbitrating fee disputes between clients and lawyers as needed. The committee meets upon call of the chair.
- Membership – Recruits new members, researches new membership services and promotes RCBA activities within the firms. The committee is chaired by the RCBA secretary.
- Mock Trial Steering – It is responsible for activities relating to the annual Mock Trial competitions. The committee meets monthly from September to March at the bar association or at the Riverside County Office of Education.

- Public Bar Relations – Responsible for activities relating to Law Day and Good Citizenship Awards for high school juniors.
- Special Events – Responsible for coordinating events such as the Wortz Distinguished Speaker Series, all fundraising activities and social gatherings throughout the year.
- Committees with Restricted Memberships – Membership in the following committees is determined by either RCBA Board of Directors, Bylaws or both: Judicial Evaluation, Judicial Liaison, Krieger Meritorious Service Award, Law and Media, Nominations, Role of the Judiciary.

## CLE Committee

The Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Committee is responsible for overseeing the RCBA’s Minimum Continuing Legal Education program. The RCBA is a State Bar-approved MCLE provider. The committee meets monthly to discuss ideas for upcoming programs that will be interesting for RCBA members and will help them comply with State Bar educational requirements. The current committee consists of six active members: Melissa Cushman, DW Duke, Susan Exon, Abram Feuerstein (Co-Chair), L. Alexandra Fong (Co-Chair), and Brandon Mercer.

Beginning in February 2016, the CLE Committee will present a series of CLE seminars focused on Motion Practice: Winning Strategies and Pitfalls. This series will be comprised of six seminars:

1. Demurrers, Motions to Strike & Motions for Judgment on the Pleadings;
2. Anti-SLAPP motions;
3. Motions to Compel;
4. Motions for Summary Judgment;
5. Pre-Trial Motions;
6. Post-Judgment Motions.

If you are interested in learning about other topics, please contact the CLE Committee. If you are interested in joining the CLE Committee, monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month. The committee is always looking for new members and ideas for future MCLE programs that RCBA members will enjoy.

The CLE Committee is also looking for sponsors to provide lunch at the CLE seminars. Lunch is typically simple in nature (sandwiches, salads, etc.) and the cost

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of sponsorship is dependent upon the number of attendees at each seminar. It is preferred if the sponsor caters the lunch so that the sponsor can control his or her costs. Partial sponsorships are also available. If you are interested in sponsoring a CLE seminar, please contact Executive Director Charlene Nelson at (951) 682-1015 or via email at [charlene@riversidecountybar.com](mailto:charlene@riversidecountybar.com).

## SECTIONS

The sections listed below are semi-autonomous from the RCBA, and are empowered to establish their own procedures subject only to compliance with the RCBA Bylaws and review by the Board of Directors. The activities of most of the sections are largely devoted to the presentation, discussion and study of matters pertaining to the practice of a substantive area of the law. Most sections use monthly meetings as a means to acquire MCLE credit.

### Appellate Law Section

The Appellate Law Section is gearing up for monthly meetings in 2016. Most of the meetings will be held in the John Gabbert Gallery at the RCBA on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We hold a minimum of four MCLE presentations per year, which provide specialization credit. We are also currently working on a project to provide informational workshops and materials about civil appellate procedure to help self-represented civil appellate litigants navigate the treacherous waters of civil appeals. In addition, there will be regular meetings where we will discuss various matters of interest to the appellate bar, including proposed rule changes, trends in the Supreme Courts (both California's and the United States), appellate procedures, and other matters of interest to local practitioners. Suggestions for meeting and MCLE topics in 2016 are most welcome. RCBA members are encouraged to contact the section chair, Carmela Simoncini, Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division Two, at (951) 782-2603, or [camela.simoncini@jud.ca.gov](mailto:camela.simoncini@jud.ca.gov) with input on possible topics and/or speakers.

### Business Law Section

The Business Law Section is back, but it can use your help. We envision the section as providing valuable information regarding the practice of both transactional business law and business law litigation. In the past, we presented programs on issues such as e-discovery, state government aid available for businesses, business valuation, business formation, and liability insurance. But we would like your input on topics about which you would like to hear. Upcoming programs we are considering include marketing (the business side of law), managing an on-line reputation, and employment law for the small to mid-size business. Because we seek to serve the

interests of our members, we would welcome any input you have regarding topics for future presentations and presenters. Please contact the section chair, Stefanie Field, at [stefanie.field@greshamsavage.com](mailto:stefanie.field@greshamsavage.com) with any suggestions that you have. We look forward to hearing from you and providing you with informative presentations and forums for discussion.

### Civil Litigation Section

The Civil Litigation Section meets at Noon in the John Gabbert Gallery of the RCBA Building. Programs will feature a bench-and-bar format, aimed at providing our local practitioners with helpful tips and guidance regarding everyday litigation topics. We solicit your input and suggestions. It is our goal to make the Civil Litigation Section an invaluable resource for educational programs, networking opportunities, and the enjoyment of our wonderful profession. The Civil Litigation section chair is Dorothy McLaughlin; she can be reached at (951) 686-1450 or [dorothy.mclaughlin@bbklaw.com](mailto:dorothy.mclaughlin@bbklaw.com).

### Criminal Law Section

The Criminal Law Section sponsors meetings with speakers relevant to criminal law practitioners. Topics relevant to both prosecutors and defense attorneys are discussed at each meeting, featuring noted speakers of distinction in an area touching upon criminal law. Past speakers include Superior Court Judges, Justices of the Court of Appeals, experts in various disciplines, District Attorneys and others with interesting information on exciting topic to RCBA members. The section chairs are Paul Grech (he can be reached at 951-682-9311) and Lori Myers (she can be reached at [loriamyers@me.com](mailto:loriamyers@me.com)).

### Environmental & Land Use Law Section

The joint Environmental & Land Use Law Sections of the Riverside and San Bernardino County Bar Associations provide local-area attorneys with both MCLE and a forum for discussion of topical issues related to the environment. Whether these issues relate to CEQA, CERCLA or natural resources, clean air or water, the sections strive to provide a place where environmental issues that are of local as well as state and national interest can be discussed. Guest speakers are often used to present a talk on areas of interest to all environmental attorneys, and we are always open to suggestions on how the section can grow and be more responsive to the needs of practicing environmental attorneys in the local area. The section meets during the lunch hour, alternating between Riverside and San Bernardino County. The section chair is Garry Brown who can be reached at (909) 890-4499 or [garry.brown@greshamsavage.com](mailto:garry.brown@greshamsavage.com).

## Estate Planning, Probate and Elder Law Section

The Estate Planning, Probate and Elder Law Section is co-chaired by Lauren Strickroth and Richard Egger. The section provides topical presentations, usually at Noon on the third Wednesday of each month (excepting summer months). In the upcoming year we are looking forward to providing speakers on estate planning issues, both transactional and litigation-related, as well as on elder law issues. Please contact Lauren Strickroth at (951) 826-8346 or lauren.strickroth@bbklaw.com if you have any questions or suggestions on what topics you would like to hear.

## Family Law Section

The Family Law Section usually meets at Noon on the third Tuesday of the month. Attorneys who practice family law and the judicial officers from the Riverside Family Law Court are often guest speakers, discussing the latest developments in family law, evidence, civil procedure, and how family law interrelates with criminal law, bankruptcy, and probate issues. Suggestions for topics are always welcome. It is the goal of the Family Law Section to provide educational programs, encourage thoughtful discussion, and create civility and camaraderie among its members. The Family Law Section Chairs are David Ruegg (david@qdrodivision.com) and NaKessa Ruegg (sr@swansonandruegg.com).

## Human Rights Section

The Human Rights Section focuses on issues pertaining to human rights in our modern society. The goal of the Human Rights Section is to educate lawyers and others about such matters as human trafficking, child slavery, civil rights, political incarceration and related topics, and to provide an opportunity for attorneys to become involved. DW Duke is the section chair and he can be reached at dwduke@spile-siegal.com.

## Immigration Law Section

The Immigration Law Section is chaired by Kelly O'Reilly, formerly an immigration officer and now a partner in the boutique immigration firm of Wilner & O'Reilly. As a result of Mr. O'Reilly's former employment with the INS, the section is able to book current administrative supervisors and front-line officers to address real-world problems and to give best-practice advice to immigration attorneys and attorneys who have come across immigration issues. The goal of the section is to supply practical information and to develop agency contacts so that the practitioner will not only know how to solve a client's problem, but have the contacts to make it happen quickly. The section meets bimonthly at Noon

in the John Gabbert Gallery of the RCBA Building. For more information about the section, please contact Kelly O'Reilly at (714) 919-8880 or kelly@wilneroreilly.com.

## Landlord & Tenant Law Section

The Landlord & Tenant Law Section of the RCBA meets eight times a year as a joint section with the San Bernardino County Bar Association. The meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month, January through May and September through November. About 25 members attend each meeting, with an equal amount from the tenant side and the landlord side. Meetings start at 6:00 p.m., alternating between the Cask 'n Cleaver in Riverside and Napoli's in Loma Linda. Speakers have included various federal judges, state court judges and commissioners. There are various topics that cross over into landlord-tenant issues, and new experts come to the meetings to speak. Contact the section chair, Barry O'Connor, at 951-689-9644 or udlaw2@aol.com for further information and to be added to the section's email list.

## Solo & Small Firm Section

The Solo Practitioner/Small Firm Section is co-chaired by Chris Johnson and Dwight Kealy. The section focuses on topics and speakers that cater to the unique needs and interests of the solo practitioner and those in small firms. The section meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Chris and Dwight welcome all suggestions and ideas for section topics and speakers. Please contact Chris at (951) 676-3345 or cjohnson@singleoaklaw.com, or Dwight at (877) 877-4056 or dwight-kealy@gmail.com.



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