

RIVERSIDE LAWYER

December 2022 • Volume 72 Number 11

MAGAZINE



RCBA BOARD
2022-2023



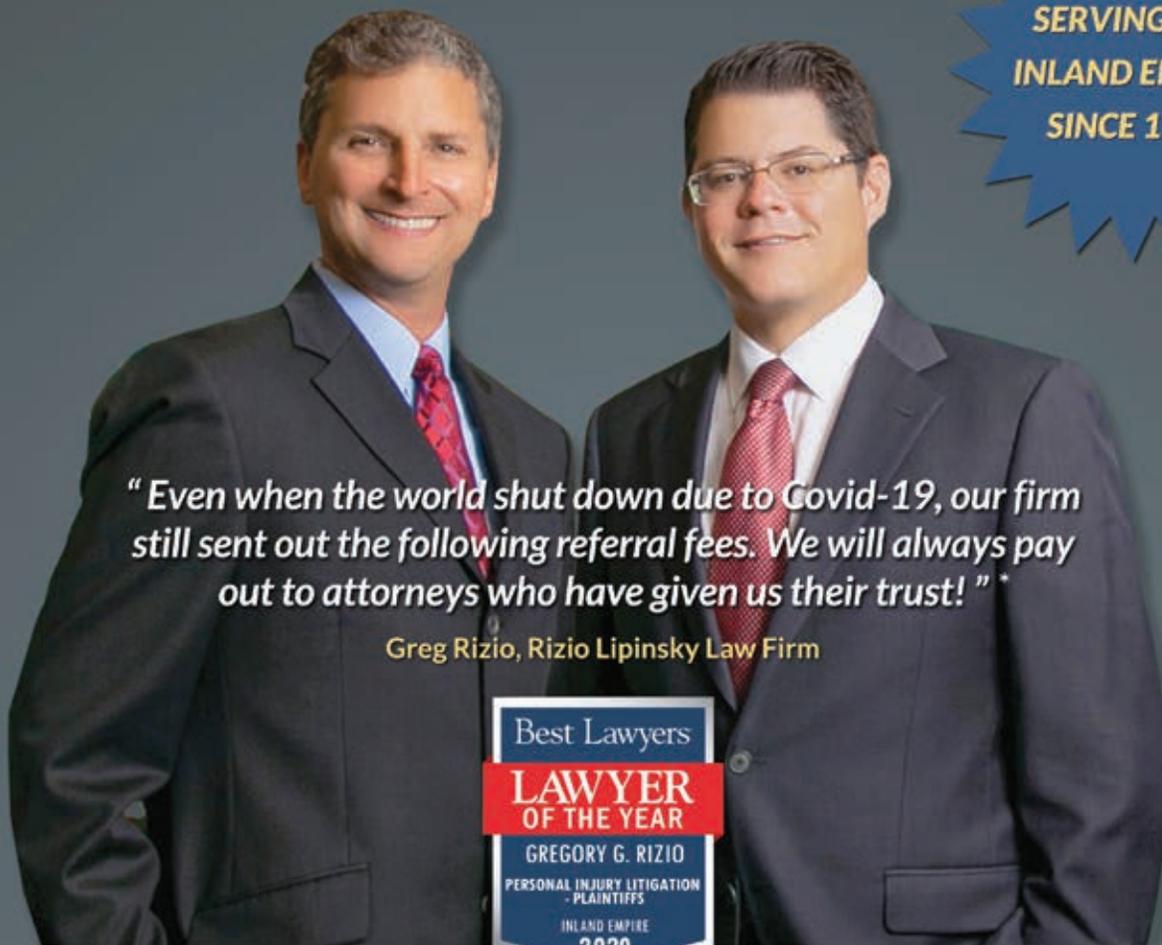
BARRISTERS BOARD
2022-2023





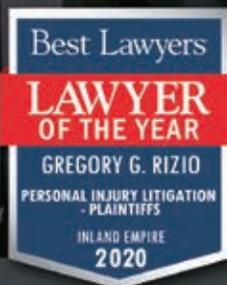
RIZIO LIPINSKY
PERSONAL INJURY & EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS

**SERVING THE
INLAND EMPIRE
SINCE 1995**



*“Even when the world shut down due to Covid-19, our firm still sent out the following referral fees. We will always pay out to attorneys who have given us their trust!”**

Greg Rizio, Rizio Lipinsky Law Firm



ACTUAL REFERRAL AMOUNTS PAID DURING COVID-19:**

\$246,667 PAID \$241,548 PAID

\$65,000 PAID \$56,250 PAID

\$41,667 PAID

888.292.8888

WITH OFFICES IN
SAN BERNARDINO, RIVERSIDE, AND ORANGE COUNTY

*All referrals consistent with California State Bar Rules of Professional Conduct.
**These results do not constitute a guarantee, warranty, or prediction regarding the outcome of future cases.

Publications Committee

Sophia Choi
Melissa Cushman
Megan Demshki
DW Duke
Abram Feuerstein
Stefanie Field
Allan Fong
Alexandra Fong
Betty Fracisco
Andrew Gilliland
Amy Guldner

Boyd Jensen
Megan Kilmer
Robyn Lewis
Juanita Mantz
Charlene Nelson
Wade Pyun
David Rivera
Nesa Targhibi
Gabriel White
Lisa Yang

Editor Jacqueline Carey-Wilson
Copy Editor Juanita Mantz
Design and Production PrintMyStuff.com (PIP Riverside)
Cover Design PrintMyStuff.com, Marian Semic

Officers of the Bar Association

President
Lori Myers
(949) 300-3596
loriamyers@me.com

President-Elect
Kelly Moran
(951) 955-6300
kmoran@rivco.org

Vice President
Mark A. Easter
(951) 686-1450
Mark.Easter@bbkllaw.com

Chief Financial Officer
Megan G. Demshki
(951) 534-4006
megan@aitkenlaw.com

Secretary
Elisabeth A. Lord
(951) 338-5344
elisabeth@lordfamilylaw.com

Past President
Neil Okazaki
(951) 739-4987
neil.okazaki@coronaca.com

Directors-at-Large

Erica Alfaro
(951) 656-8313
erialfaro@gmail.com

Heather Green
(951) 682-5110
hgreen@blumenthallawoffices.com

Goushia Farook
(951) 684-9000
goushia@brattonraza.com

Chris Johnson
(951) 695-8700
cjohnson@rhllaw.com

Executive Director
Charlene Nelson
(951) 682-1015
charlene@riversidecountybar.com

Officers of the Barristers Association

President
Lauren Vogt
(951) 781-6500
lvogt@riziolawfirm.com

Treasurer
Kevin Collins

President-Elect
David Rivera

Members-at-Large
Alejandro Barraza
Ankit Bhakta
Summer DeVore
Sandra Lattouf
Sharon Ramirez

Secretary
Priscilla George

Past President
Michael Ortiz

Riverside County Bar Association
4129 Main Street, Suite 100
Riverside, California 92501

Telephone
951-682-1015

Facsimile
951-682-0106

Internet
www.riversidecountybar.com

E-mail
rcba@riversidecountybar.com

RIVERSIDE LAWYER

MAGAZINE

C O N T E N T S

Columns:

- 3 **President's Message** by Lori Myers
5 **Barristers President's Message** by Lauren Vogt

COVER STORIES:

- 20 **Installation of Officers Dinner 2022**
11 **Jacqueline Carey-Wilson:
Recipient of the 2022 E. Aurora Hughes Meritorious Award for Service**
*Remarks delivered by Stephen G. Larson at the Annual Installation of
the RCBA on September 22, 2022*

Features:

- 3 **RCBA's Lawyer Referral Service**
by Jean-Simon Serrano
7 **Leo A. Deegan American Inn Of Court**
by Honorable Jennifer Gerard
8 **Project Graduate**
by L. Alexandra Fong
9 **Southwest Riverside County Bar Association:
Don't Underestimate the Value of Your Local Bar Association**
by Shalah Fisher
13 **RCBA-Riverside Superior Court-ABOTA New Attorney Academy**
by Robyn Lewis
14 **State Bar Update**
by James Heiting
17 **Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum**
by Michael Gouveia
18 **Why Don't We Have More Latina/o Lawyers?
A Personal Reflection & HBAIE's Call to Action**
by Albert J. Maldonado
19 **Diversity on the Bench: Our Role**
by Alejandro Barraza
22 **Opposing Counsel: Kiki Manti Engel**
by Chris Johnson
23 **Judicial Profile: The Honorable Jerry Yang**
by Betty Fracisco
24 **Luis E. Lopez and Judge Tara Reilly Honored at the
31st Annual Red Mass**
by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson

Departments:

Calendar 2
Membership 28

Classified Ads 28

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), Riverside Legal Aid, Fee Arbitration, Client Relations, Dispute Resolution Service (DRS), Barristers, Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court, Mock Trial, State Bar Conference of Delegates, Bridging the Gap, and the RCBA - Riverside Superior Court New Attorney Academy.

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, 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.

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 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 \$30.00 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

- 5 Civil Litigation Roundtable with Hon. Craig Riemer**
Noon - Zoom
MCLE
- 8 RCBA Holiday Mixer**
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Raincross Pub + Kitchen
3557 University Ave., Riverside
- 12 Elves Shopping Night**
4:00 P.M.
Walmart
6250 Valley Springs - Riverside
Contact RCBA for more information
- 13 Civil Litigation Section**
Noon - Zoom
Speaker: Amy Guldner, Esq.
Topic: “Is Being ‘Functional’ Enough? Science and Story on Reframing Alcohol”
MCLE – 1 hour Competence
- 14 Criminal Law Section Meeting**
Noon - Zoom
Speaker: Monica Nguyen
Topic: “Understanding Forensic Mental Health Evaluations”
MCLE
- 14-15 RCBA Wrapping Elves**
RCBA Boardroom – 4:00 p.m.
Contact RCBA for more information
- 26 Christmas Holiday**
RCBA Office Closed

January

- 13 MCLE MARATHON**
Please see information on page 22

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

For the latest calendar information please visit the RCBA's website at riversidecountybar.com.



ON THE COVER:

RCBA Board

Back row (l-r): – Chris Johnson, Elisabeth Lord, Goushia Farook, Lauren Vogt, Mark Easter
Front row (l-r): – Erica Alfaro, Megan Demshki, Lori Myers, Kelly Moran, Neil Okazaki
(not pictured – Heather Green)

Barristers

Back row (l-r): – Michael Ortiz, Lauren Vogt, Kevin Collins, Alejandro Barraza, Ankit Bhakta
Front row (l-r): – Priscilla George, Summer DeVore, Sandra Lattouf, Sharon Ramirez, David Rivera
Photos by Michael Elderman



President's Message

by *Lori Myers*

I wanted to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. I know this is a season filled with so many celebrations and with that I want to also celebrate the Riverside County Bar Association and the members that make up this great organization. We can only be as good as the people willing to participate and help the organization excel and thankfully we have an excellent group of lawyers at RCBA.

I have always loved this organization for the many ways it reaches out and helps network and connect fellow lawyers in the community but also reaches out to our local community members and gives back.

We are so grateful for Alexandra Fong and her exceptional fundraising skills who puts

out effort, each and every year to find ways to fundraise so that we can give back more. We are thankful for the long list of RCBA Past Presidents. Jack Clarke, Sophia Choi and Neil Okazaki are three of the recent past presidents who have kept this organization running strong and making improvements each and every year. Thanks to them we were able to facilitate the RCBA building having a complete upgrade. And I want to make sure we keep showing appreciation for the RCBA's diligent staff who keep the wheels of the organization going. I know myself, your current president, Kelly Moran your next president and of course Mark Easter who will follow Ms. Moran are here to do our part and enhance this organization to meet the needs of its members. As usual, I invite you to reach out to myself or Charlene Nelson if you have some suggestions of ways you would like to see RCBA get involved or host some type of event.

It is an honor and privilege to be a part of this organization. As your president I want to remind you- we need YOU to get involved. We look forward to seeing you at our local events. Please make a note— we are having an informal holiday celebration at Raincross Pub + Kitchen on Thursday, December 8 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. This will be a no host bar, everyone just meet at this location. Let's celebrate together as a community that we made it through 2022. We look forward to supporting each other and becoming more connected and closer throughout the upcoming year. All are welcome, just show up. See you there.

As you will notice, in this month's magazine, there is a plethora of organizations to get involved with - challenge yourself - what interests you? Try something new, try connecting with your local community members. We look forward to welcoming you.

Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season.

Lori Myers is a local private criminal defense attorney and founder of the Warrior Attorney Academy©.



RCBA's LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

by *Jean-Simon Serrano*

Did you know that the RCBA has something called the LRS? If so, do you know what it does?

For the uninitiated, the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) was established in 1968 as a non-profit public service to help individuals and businesses with legal matters in Riverside County find qualified legal assistance at a reasonable cost. The Riverside County Bar's LRS is certified by the California State Bar and meets American Bar Association Standards for a lawyer referral service.

Those looking for legal help can call LRS or initiate a consultation through LRS's website to request a referral to an attorney for a low-cost consultation.

For most cases, the consultation fee is \$40, which goes to LRS (not the attorney) to cover administrative expenses. Should the referral result

in the attorney being retained, LRS receives a percentage of any attorney fees. There is NO CONSULTATION FEE for personal injury, social security, or workers' compensation cases.

LRS maintains panels of attorneys in a variety of practice areas. We encourage our members to consider joining one or more panels. LRS can always use more attorneys, particularly in the following areas: landlord/tenant (tenant side), trademarks/copyright, military, immigration, tort/negligence, consumer contract and medical malpractice. LRS also needs attorneys who are bilingual in one or more languages. It's a great way to help the community, the bar association, and your own practice!

If you are interested in joining an LRS panel, you can find information and application forms on the LRS website (<https://riversidecountybar.com/public-services/lawyer-referral-service>) or call 951.682.7520.

Jean-Simon Serrano is with the firm of Heiting & Irwin in Riverside, a member of the LRS Committee and a past president of the RCBA.





Our family has been providing justice to Inland Empire residents for more than 50 years! It's in our DNA.

REFERRAL TO A TRUSTED INLAND EMPIRE INJURY FIRM IS JUST A CALL AWAY

We would be honored to serve you and your client. We are known for obtaining great results, as well as for our unmatched client care and satisfaction.

What's more, we painstakingly track all referrals to ensure prompt and reliable payments to all referring attorneys.*

CONTACT US AT:

(909) 297-5001

www.justinkinglaw.com

RECENT REFERRAL FEE PAYMENTS:*

\$270,562.70
paid Jan 2021

\$100,000.00
paid Jun 2022

\$30,000.00
paid Jul 2020

\$29,135.50
paid Oct 2021

\$26,400.00
paid Dec 2021



8301 Utica Ave, Suite 101
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

*All referrals consistent with California State Bar Rules of Professional Conduct. These results do not constitute a guarantee, warranty or prediction regarding the outcome of future cases.

BARRISTERS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lauren Vogt



Barrister's Wishing you a Happy and Safe Holiday!

Your Barrister's Board has continued to have a productive year. In the time since our last article we have held a successful MCLE and more happy hour socials!! We continue to work hard to bring our members fun and educational events to experience.

Ethics MCLE

For those of you who missed it, the RCBA Barristers teamed up with the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) to hold an Ethics MCLE. The event was hosted at the University of La Verne College of Law and was presented as a hybrid event to assist our local attorneys in getting those highly coveted specialty MCLE credits. We had an outstanding attendance of over 80 people and were happy to provide this event to our members.

For those who were able to make it, we are always open to feedback on your experience and invite our members to reach out to us with additional requests for MCLEs. Keep in mind there are many of you out there, like myself, who will need to be submitting MCLE compliance, which is February 2023, so mark your calendars.

Currently, we have received numerous requests for an MCLE that would meet the "competency" requirement and so we are working to try to get an event on the books by January. Please keep an eye out for updates on that!

Honoring One of Our Own

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to acknowledge one of our very own Inland Empire attorneys who received an exceptional honor this last weekend, Greg Rizio. On November 19, 2022, Greg Rizio was installed as the president of the Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC). The CAOC is a state-wide professional organization that represents the interests of 39 million Californians. Its member-attorneys stand for plaintiffs seeking accountability from those who do wrong, primarily through effectuating legislative change. This is a huge accomplishment and we on the Barrister's board



extend a heartfelt congratulations to Greg Rizio! We know that you will represent the Inland Empire well!

Wrapping Elves

We are calling on all attorneys to join us for our next major event: the Barristers are gathering to participate in the RCBA annual Elves wrapping program. For those who have been living under a rock, every year, through the gracious donations of its members, the RCBA holds a magical event where we are able to buy, wrap, and deliver holiday gifts to under privileged families.

This year, your Barristers will participate in the wrapping on December 14, 2022, and we could use all the help we can get. We encourage anyone who is available and interested to join us for the wrapping fun, which will, of course, be followed by one of our wonderful happy hour social events! So, please join us (NO professional wrapping experience required)!!

When it comes to social events, in addition to the multiple happy hours we have planned for Barristers to hang out and relax, we are looking forward to the return of our annual judicial reception, which always offers an amazing opportunity to network with Riverside's judicial bench. Also, we are looking forward to teaming up with Inland Counties Legal Services and logging some pro bono hours helping those in need. Anyone interested in joining us, is more than welcome and I encourage you to reach out to me at 951-781-6500, or shoot me an email, lvogt@riziolawfirm.com, I would love to chat with you

Follow us!

For upcoming events and updates:
Website: RiversideBarristers.org
Facebook: [Facebook.com/RCBABarristers/](https://www.facebook.com/RCBABarristers/)
Instagram: [@RCBABarristers](https://www.instagram.com/RCBABarristers)

Lauren M. Vogt is an associate with Rizio Lipinsky Law Firm.





STAY CONNECTED

Follow Our Courts is a publication built and refined for all legal professionals in the Inland Empire. Do you have a newsworthy case you'd like to share with other professionals? Send us the topics important to you.

San Bernardino and Riverside area attorneys can stay connected with reports on their cases and results by subscribing to Follow Our Courts for free. Our team of journalists covers all manner of local active cases in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, giving you the chance to shine.

WE HAVE YOU COVERED

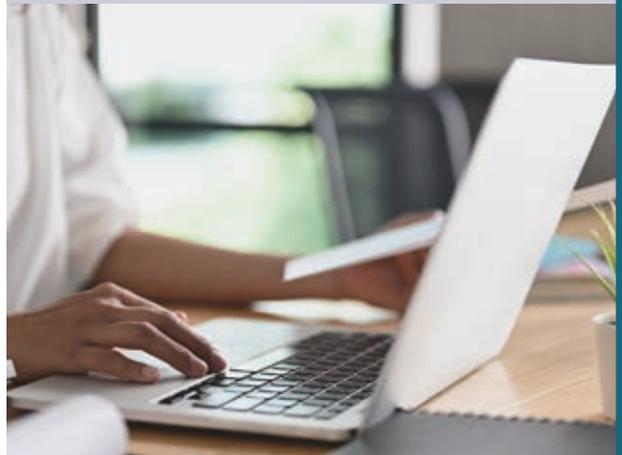
Follow Our Courts specializes in unbiased, local, legal news reporting so legal professionals like you can stay updated on the latest and most relevant happenings in your courts. Research opposing counsel and judges, prepare for your next hearing, look up precedent, and more from our free, searchable database of content.

When you subscribe to Follow Our Courts, you'll get access to:

- Industry news
- Event reporting
- Local cases
- Features
- Election updates
- And more

Follow Our Courts provides constant access and updates on local legal happenings to help you stay connected.

We welcome letters to the editor and commentary submissions from professionals across the Inland Empire. Email Executive Editor Toni Momberger at tcm@followourcourts.com.



To receive updates from Follow Our Courts as soon as they're available, join the discussion on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter today!



FollowOurCourts.com

This free resource for all Inland Empire attorneys is brought to you by McCune Law Group, McCune Wright Arevalo Vercoski Weck Brandt, APC.



LEO A. DEEGAN AMERICAN INN OF COURT

by Honorable Jennifer Gerard

The Leo A. Deegan American Inn of Court is one of the Riverside chapters of the American Inns of Courts. It was formally organized in 1985. The purpose of the American Inns of Courts is to improve the ethics, professionalism, and skills of members of the bench and the bar. All of the American Inns in the United States are dedicated to promoting and fostering excellence in the areas of civility, legal capability, ethics, and professionalism. The Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court is a professional organization comprised of attorneys and judicial officers. The organization was founded in 1992 by Honorable Sharon Waters, Honorable Robert J. Timlin, Stanley Orrock, James Heiting, and Terry Bridges.

The Leo A. Deegan Inn was named for the Honorable Leo A. Deegan, a man with enormous presence in the Riverside legal community. After having an impressive legal career as an attorney, he was appointed to the bench by Governor Edmund Brown in 1959. He served as a judge on the Riverside Superior Court until his retirement in 1975. Over the next ten years, he served as an assigned judge in various courts in northern California. During 1988-1989, he served for 14 months on the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, in Sacramento.

As part of the Achieving Excellence Program of the American Inns of Court, the Deegan Inn engages in professional outreach with other members of the legal community. During the year we invite attorneys and judicial officers to attend the meetings to engage with members and to experience the benefits being an inn of court member. Throughout the year the Leo A. Deegan Inn will honor alumni, emeritus, and honorary members. In addition, we will invite the heads of the local legal offices such as the district attorney, public defender and county counsel to a meeting.

We kicked off the Inn of Court year at the September orientation meeting. During the orientation, members were informed as to the theme for the presentation, what month they would present, what team they were on, and learned what Judicial Master was the leader of the team. The theme for this year is a song. Teams will choose a song and name their team after a musician or music group. Teams will then prepare a legal presentation. Traditionally in the orientation meeting, the winning team from the previous year is awarded the Inn of Court trophy. The 2021-2022 winning team was Team Jackie Robinson and the title of the presentation was

“Representing the Professional Athlete.” The team members were L. Alexander Fong, Richard Majchrzak, Mary Reyna, Jean-Simon Serrano, Gabriel White, Keith Fredric Willis, Erica Alfaro, and Dawn Saenz.

During the last meeting of the year, the Community Service team will present on their community service projects throughout the year. In past years, the community service projects have been donating to local charities, helping with victims of sex trafficking, and underserved families. In addition to the community service presentation, we honor judges and attorneys for their contributions to our community. The Outstanding Jurist award is given to a judicial officer for his or her professional accomplishments and contributions to the legal community. The 2021-2022 recipient was the Honorable Craig Riemer. Another award presented is the Terry Bridges award. This honor is given to an attorney for his or her professional accomplishments and contributions to the legal community. The recipient for the 2021-2022 year was Richard Quintino from the Riverside County Public Defender’s office. The last award given for the 2021-2022 year was the Biddle Book Award. This award is given to an outstanding attorney who exemplifies the goals of the Inn and for his or her professionalism and dedication to the legal community. This award was given to Matthew Forsse.

Applications for membership are accepted yearly and membership acceptance letters are sent out in August. Scholarships to assist covering the dues (but not meals) are also awarded. Applications will be posted on the website at <https://deeganinnofcourt.org>. Members are required to be active members of RCBA for the entirety of the Inn of court year. The Inn’s fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 of every year. Applications may be downloaded from the Inn’s website or obtained from Executive Director Sherri Gomez, who may be contacted at (951) 689-1910 or SherriGomez4@gmail.com. Applications may also be available at the Riverside County Bar Association office.

Judge Jennifer Gerard is the Supervising Judge of the Family Law Division for the Riverside County Superior Court.



PROJECT GRADUATE

by L. Alexandra Fong

Project Graduate, a joint program of Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Riverside Superior Court, and Riverside County Bar Association, began in 2011 when Riverside Superior Court Presiding Judge Sherrill Ellsworth announced the court's desire to help foster youths throughout Riverside County graduate from high school and become productive community members.¹ Honorable Matthew Perantoni, then a commissioner handling juvenile dependency matters in the Riverside branch of the Juvenile Courts, would ultimately hold the educational calendars in his courtroom.²

Brian Unitt, then a member of the Board of Directors of RCBA, volunteered to chair the Steering Committee for RCBA and chaired the program from 2011-2021. Additional volunteers included Barrie Roberts, Connie Younger, Luis Lopez, Ashley Sedaghat, and Honorable Mona Nemat, prior to her judicial appointment. Luis would eventually become one of the first educational representatives to work with foster students.

1 See article by then-attorney Mona Nemat in the November 2011 issue of *Riverside Lawyer*.

2 Hon. Jacqueline Jackson and Hon. Cheryl Murphy also oversaw the educational calendars during their assignments to Juvenile Court. The educational calendar is now being handled by Hon. Mona Nemat.

Project Graduate eventually became one of the core programs of Riverside County Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of RCBA.

Project Graduate assists foster youth to graduate from high school. Foster youth volunteer to be part of the program and are appointed an educational representative from RCBA's group of volunteers who have undergone an extensive background check. Project Graduate continues to seek volunteers who are willing to commit approximately two to four days per month in assisting foster youth.

In the 2022-2023 program year, we have approximately thirteen students participating. With each passing month, some students withdraw from the program and are replaced with new students. At this time, it is unknown how many students will graduate from high school at the end of the program year. Since its inception, fifty-two foster students have graduated from high school with the assistance of Project Graduate.

L. Alexandra Fong is a deputy county counsel for the County of Riverside, practicing juvenile dependency in its Child Welfare Division. She is a past-president of RCBA (2017-2018) and the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court (2018-2019). She is chair of the Project Graduate Steering Committee and co-chair of the Juvenile Law Section of RCBA. She is a member of the Bar Publications Committee and CLE Committee.



RUN YOUR PRACTICE NOT YOUR I.T.

Make your technology work for you and not the other way around by letting Inland Premier I.T. Solutions manage it for you - so you can get back to the business of running your business!

Inland Premier specializes in: Networks | Email & Exchange | Network Security | Data Recovery | Support | Archiving

Quote: RCBA when you call for a free consultation and IT review.



On-Site
Services



Help Desk
Support



Consulting



INLANDPREMIER
IT SOLUTIONS

CALL US TODAY: (951) 530-9609

WWW.INLANDPREMIER.COM

SOUTHWEST RIVERSIDE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION: DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF YOUR LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATION

by Shalah Fisher

Like many of the members of the Southwest Riverside County Bar Association (“SWRCBA”), I am a proud local who grew up in the small town of Wildomar in Riverside County. Although I attended undergraduate school in San Diego and law school in Eugene, Oregon, I eventually made my way back home to settle down and practice law. As those of us who practice law in Southwest Riverside County know, we have a small legal community where most practitioners are familiar with one another. Joining the board of directors of the SWRCBA this past year has given me the opportunity to connect on a deeper level with other local attorneys, their support staff, and even judges.

Although modest in member size and financial resources, our local bar association offers relationship building that many find more difficult in larger associations. Our monthly luncheons have an intimate atmosphere that naturally comes when you have a smaller group that meets regularly. We enjoy lunch, learn something new about the law (while of course getting that MCLE credit), and build on the camaraderie that comes from practicing in a smaller legal community. Monthly speakers address myriad topics ranging from “Tax 101 for Non-Tax Lawyers” to “Recent Employment Law Developments.” The SWRCBA also makes sure to secure speakers to fulfill MCLE requirements for legal ethics, competence issues, and the recognition and elimination of bias in the legal profession and society.

The mission of the SWRCBA is “to promote honesty, integrity, and professionalism in the service of our community.” Our members and those who serve on the board of directors exemplify just that. Most of those who currently serve on the SWRCBA board are attorneys who have been involved in some way in the association for many years and have strong reputations among our colleagues. Despite the challenges that accompany balancing legal practice with personal life and community involvement, our board members can always be counted on to jump in when their efforts are needed.

The current board serving for 2022 is as follows: Michael Bender, president; Selina Steel, vice president;

Allison Tilton, Secretary; Neda Aguirre, treasurer; Kiki Manti Engel, immediate past president; and Shalah Fisher, Deborah Fujiwara, Jameson Adame, and Daniel Ratajczak, board members-at-large. Many of our board members, including myself, are proudly running for re-election in 2023, with the desire to continue to serve our local legal community.

Our board members also participate in various committees dedicated to giving back to our community. Current committees focus on coaching and awarding local high school mock trial programs, providing law student scholarship opportunities, giving back to our active membership, and offering special events such as the SWRCBA’s annual holiday party where members vote to honor a “Judicial Officer of the Year” and a “Local Attorney of the Year.”

Our local association celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, as it was formed in 1982 as a nonprofit 501(c) (6) corporation. Originally, our geographical area within Southwest Riverside County was known as the “Three Lakes Judicial District” referring to Lake Elsinore, Lake Skinner, and Vail Lake. Currently, our membership spans as far east as Hemet and San Jacinto, as far north as Corona, and south to Temecula. Our members practice in varied areas of law, including criminal, bankruptcy, family, immigration, intellectual property, personal injury and workers compensation, employment, estate planning, and many others. All members are listed by their practice area on the SWRCBA’s website: <https://swrbar.org/>

We are always excited to grow our membership. If you are interested in becoming a member of the SWRCBA, you can apply online on the SWRCBA’s website listed above. If you have any questions about the SWRCBA, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at shalah@newtomorrowlaw.com.

Shalah Fisher is one of the newest additions to the Southwest Riverside County Bar Association as a board member-at-large and is an attorney with the firm New Tomorrow Law, APC, where she practices bankruptcy law.





California Desert Trial Academy College of Law

Top Ten Reasons to Attend CDTA College of Law

1. **Our Distance Learning Option** allows you to obtain your J.D. while completing most of your studies from the convenience of home. "Attend" CDTA in real time, enjoy 24/7 access to all classes online and solidify the week's learning in person with our Saturday writing classes.
2. **LexisNexis is included in your tuition.** Learn how to research and apply case authority with the same tools you will use in your law practice.
3. **ExamSoft is included in your tuition.** All practice, midterm and final exams are given on the same software program the State Bar uses for your bar exams. Repeated exposure to ExamSoft means you will tackle the bar with confidence!
4. **AdaptiBar is included in your tuition.** Practice thousands of actual bar multiple choice questions on the premier MBE program designed to prepare you to conquer 50% of the bar exam.
5. **Fleming's Fundamentals of Law** course reviews are included in your tuition. Substantive video reviews and outlines condense every bar tested subject into a straightforward and understandable format you will find invaluable as you prepare for exams.
6. **Snacks and Drinks** are provided at all CDTA classes and events at no charge to you. Never underestimate the power of a little sustenance to get you through a long day!
7. **Saturday Enrichment Program.** Legal essay writing is unlike any other form of writing. Practicing essays and MBE questions under simulated exam conditions means you walk into the bar exam with the confidence you need to pass.
8. **Student Support** is invaluable to your success. Our students have found that together they can accomplish what might be impossible alone. You will thrive as you establish lifelong bonds with your classmates.
9. **Weekly "Barrister" Luncheons** are provided by CDTA. This allows students, attorneys and judicial officers the opportunity to network and connect while enjoying a meal during the Saturday Classes noon break.
10. **We Commit to Keeping You in School!** It often feels as if law school is an exercise in exclusion, not inclusion. Not at CDTA. We will help you overcome any obstacle.

And...**all of your Casebooks** are included with your tuition!!!

"Educating, Training and Developing Extraordinary Legal Advocates"

California Desert Trial Academy, College of Law

45-290 Fargo Street • Indio, CA 92201 • CDTALaw.com • (760) 342-0900

Classes commence the first Tuesday after Labor Day

Apply Now!

"The method of instruction at this law school for the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree program is principally in physical classroom facilities."

"Students enrolled in the J.D. Degree program at this law school who successfully complete the first year of law study must pass the First-Year Law Students' Examination required by business and Professions Code Sec. 6060(h) and Rule VIII of the Rules Regulating Admission to Practice Law in California as part of the requirements to qualify to take the California Bar Examination. A student who passes the First-Year Law Students' Examination within three (3) administrations of the examination after first becoming eligible to take it will receive credit for all legal studies completed to the time the examination is passed. A student who does not pass the examination within three (3) administrations of the examination after first becoming eligible to take it must be promptly disqualified from the law school's J.D. Degree program. If the dismissed student subsequently passes the examination, the student is eligible for re-enrollment in this law school's J.D. Degree program but will receive credit for only one year of legal study."

"Study at, or graduation from, this law school may not qualify a student to take the bar examination or to satisfy the requirements for admission to practice in jurisdictions other than California. A student intending to seek admission to practice law in a jurisdiction other than California should contact the admitting authority in that jurisdiction for information regarding the legal education requirements in that jurisdiction for admission to the practice of law."

JACQUELINE CAREY-WILSON: RECIPIENT OF THE 2022 E. AURORA HUGHES MERITORIOUS AWARD FOR SERVICE

Remarks delivered by Stephen G. Larson at the Annual Installation of the RCBA on September 22, 2022.



*Stephen G. Larson and
Jacqueline Carey-Wilson*

Good evening. It is my pleasure this evening to introduce, Jackie Carey-Wilson, as she is awarded one of the highest honors that our legal community here in Riverside bestows on lawyers and judges, The E. Aurora Hughes Meritorious Award for Service.

There are many awards that circulate in our profession – “Top Lawyer” this and “Best Lawyer” that. Some are deserved, while some, not so much. But this award is very special. It recognizes what all of us should aspire to do as lawyers and judges, and that is to serve others.

This award is bestowed in memory of the late Aurora Hughes, a past president of the Riverside County Bar Association and a longtime supporter and participant in many of its activities. The award recognizes a lawyer or judge who has accumulated an outstanding record of service or achievement to the Riverside County Bar Association. The significance of this award to this legal community is reflected in the names of those who have received it. The first recipient, posthumously, was Aurora Hughes herself, followed by Daniel Hantman, Justice Thomas Hollenhorst, Brian Percy, Steve Harmon, Terry Bridges, Judge Gloria Trask, Robyn Lewis, Judge Becky Dugan, Gregory Rizio, and Christopher Jensen, all esteemed members of our legal community. Now the list is only enhanced by the addition of Jackie Carey-Wilson, an extraordinarily graceful, accomplished, intelligent, and compassionate woman. Someone who is also, as we well know, tenacious, determined, and uncompromising in principle.

The youngest of eight children born to two Irish-Catholic parents—both of whom she has deeply loved and who have had an extraordinary influence on her life. Anyone of that singular culture and certain background knows very well why Jacqueline—“Jackie” to all who know her—received her name. She has, admirably, been true to her Democratic

roots. I am sure many of you are familiar with the story of Jackie while she was at Cal State University of Fullerton. She was with her sister, Becky, here tonight, when she was involved in a very serious car accident. It could have been far more tragic than it was. It resulted in numerous internal injuries and a closed-head injury. She was in a coma for two weeks and in the hospital for two months, where she had to re-learn basic skills like walking and talking. Character, of course, is defined by how we respond to challenges and, certainly, Jackie responded.

I tracked down a newspaper article from the Cal State University Fullerton *Titan* that came out the week after Jackie returned to college. She was engaged, as is no surprise, in an anti-apartheid rally. She was, as she often is, leading the cause of social justice. When interviewed by the *Titan* about how she was feeling and whether she was feeling depressed having gone through this extraordinary experience, her response struck me. I remember reading this years ago; I wanted to find it again so that I would have it exactly right and I did, and it reads as follows: “I knew I couldn’t be depressed. If I was depressed my family would have been worried and I couldn’t have that.” That last turn of the phrase—“And I couldn’t have that”—defines Jackie Carey-Wilson. It not only defines her relationship with her family, but also her relationship with her community and her relationship with the world. When she looks out and she sees injustice, when she sees wrongdoing, when she sees things that aren’t the way they should be, her ready response is: “I couldn’t have that. I can’t have that.” That line defines and underscores her commitment to service.

After graduating from Cal State Fullerton, she attended and graduated from Southwestern School of Law. She was admitted to the California State Bar in 1995, the D.C. Bar in 1996, the Colorado State Bar in 1997, and finally the Bar of the United States Supreme Court in 2005. She serves, as you know, as a deputy county counsel for the County of San Bernardino representing the Department of Aging and Adult Services, the Public Guardian, and In-Home Support Services Public Authority. She has accumulated, over the course of the last 20 years, a record of service that is in my experience second-to-none. She has been an active member of the Riverside County Bar Association since 1996. In 1997, she joined the Publications Committee of the RCBA, as a



Douglas Wilson and Jacqueline Carey-Wilson



Patricia Cisneros and Jacqueline Carey-Wilson

writer, a photographer, and she has served as an editor of the magazine since 2005. She was first elected to serve on the RCBA Board of Directors in 2008, and then served as president from 2013 to 2014, remaining on the Board through 2015. During her seven-year tenure the Board established the RCBA Foundation and the Mentor Program, renewed the Reading Day with elementary school students, and revamped the RCBA website.

From 2005 to 2013, Jackie served as director of the Inland Empire Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, serving as its president on the Board of Directors from 2008 to 2010. In January 2009, Jackie served as coordinator for a delegation of women judges and lawyers from Afghanistan who came to Riverside to learn about the U.S. legal system. Since 2014, she's



Ramona Verduzco, Melissa Ladenson, Jacqueline Carey-Wilson, and Mary Jo Carlos

been an active member on the Bench Bar Coalition. In November 2020, she was selected to serve on the San Bernardino County Superior Court Elimination of Bias Committee. From 2012 through 2019, she represented the RCBA on the Board of Directors of Inland Counties Legal Services, serving as Vice President from 2018 to 2019. From October of 2005 to 2009, Jackie served on the State Bar's Public Law Section Executive Committee. Since 2003, she has served on as co-chair on the Red Mass Steering Committee, which sponsors an ecumenical religious service each year in honor and in support of the legal community.

In the community at large, Jackie served on the Board of Directors of the Volunteer Center of Riverside County from 2001 to 2007. She helped establish the 211 Call Center for Riverside County, which still operates today and assists with connecting thousands of individuals to needed services throughout Riverside County. From 2002 to 2017, Jackie served on the Institutional Advancement Board for St. Joseph High School in Lakewood, her alma mater, and in 2008, she was chosen as St. Joseph's Distinguished Alumna of the Year. In 2005, she was presented with the Good Neighbor Award by the United Way, and in 2006, the Volunteer of the Year Award by the Volunteer Center of Riverside County. In 2010, she received the Attorney of the Year Award by the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court. So, Doug, now you know where she's been all these years (laughter).

It's just an extraordinary legacy, and I take the time to go through this list because when we talk about that continued service, this is someone who has responded every time in every way. And all of you know the depth which with she has responded because all of you in this room, I suspect, in one way or in the another, have interacted with Jackie Carey-Wilson. She's not the person at the front of the room or at the head of the table during a community event. Rather, she's the person making the event happen. She's making the connections. She's bringing service to the people.

And finally, of course, and most importantly in her life, Jackie and her husband, Douglas, have lived here in Riverside for over thirty-four years and have raised their three beautiful daughters, one of whom is with us tonight, Katie, Julia, and Grace. Jackie and Doug have been members of St. Andrews Newman Center for over thirty-four years. Jackie has served there as a lecture, Eucharistic Minister, and also teaches a baptismal class. This is someone who simply and singularly epitomizes service.

In having the privilege to bestow this award to Jackie tonight on behalf of the Riverside County Bar Association, I wanted to find something which captured who I think and believe Jackie to be, both as a tribute to Jackie but



Tom and Becky Kieran, Douglas Wilson, Jacqueline Carey-Wilson, Wanda Gray, and Grace Wilson

also a benediction for us all. In doing so, I stumbled across a piece entitled “A Prayer of Oscar Romero.” I really think it captures who Jackie is, and reads as follows:

*It helps now and then to step back and take a long view.
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even
beyond our vision.*

*We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the
magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.*

Nothing we do is complete.

*Which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies
beyond us.*

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the church’s mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

This is what Jackie is about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

*We water seeds already planted knowing that they hold
future promise.*

We lay foundations that will need further development.

*We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our
capabilities.*

*We cannot do everything and there is a sense of libera-
tion in realizing that.*

This enables us to do something and to do it very well.

*It may be incomplete but it is a beginning, a step along
the way.*

*An opportunity for the Lord’s Grace to enter and do the
rest.*

*We may never see the end results, but that is the differ-
ence between the master builder and the worker.*

We are workers, not master builders.

Ministers, not Messiahs.

We are prophets of a future that is not our own.

That, for me, encapsulates who Jackie is, and on behalf of the Riverside County Bar Association and this entire Community, all I can say is thank you for being you!

Stephen G. Larson is a former federal prosecutor and federal judge who currently practices at Larson LLP, a litigation firm with offices in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and London.



Jacqueline Carey-Wilson and Theresa Savage

RCBA-RIVERSIDE SUPERIOR COURT-ABOTA NEW ATTORNEY ACADEMY

by Robyn Lewis

The Riverside County Bar Association, the Riverside Superior Court and the American Board of Trial Advocates of the Inland Empire (ABOTA) are pleased to announce that its eighth year of the New Attorney Academy has commenced with the largest class so far.

The purpose of the New Attorney Academy (hereafter “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, many of whom are ABOTA members. Topics to be taught include, but are not limited to, an introduction to the legal community, a practical and intensive primer on depositions and discovery, including expert depositions, 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.), an introduction to appellate law and an introduction to law practice management. The emphasis of these classes are for a civil practitioner although anyone who has an interest in participating in the program is invited to apply.

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 only cost for attending the Academy is for the lunches provided at the RCBA General Membership meetings. Applicants must be under five years of practice or awaiting their bar results and must be a member of the RCBA.

If you are interested in applying for the 2023-2024 program, please contact Charlene Nelson at the Riverside County Bar Association at 951.682.1015 or contact Robyn Lewis at robyn-lewis@jlewislaw.com for further information.

Robyn Lewis is with the firm of J. Lewis and Associates, APLC, chair of the New Attorney Academy and a past president of the RCBA.



STATE BAR UPDATE

by James Heiting

The State Bar is a beehive of activity as they continue to try to reinvent themselves in the face of continuing failures to meet their stated mission of protecting the public in regard to the practice of law.

In the past, each time the State Bar sought a new fee bill, the bill was required to allow the State Bar to set fees as related to their budget, which resulted in a light that shined on their practices, almost always resulted in much criticism, and additional requirements by the state legislators to investigate and report on the State Bar practices that the legislators have found to be ineffective or worse.

Last year's fee bill examination resulted in SB211 was no different than the past fees bills. SB211 requires the State Bar to examine, investigate, and report on apparent failures and delays in the discipline program and in the protection of the public. Thomas Umberg, a senator from Santa Ana and chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has indicated that he plans to keep the pressure on the State Bar to protect California consumers, even if that means "changing the agency's structure, personnel, or both." He mentioned the 205 disciplinary matters revealed against attorney Thomas Girardi, with no discipline, whatsoever, instituted until a Chicago federal judge sanctioned Girardi in late 2020 for his theft of (lots of) money that was owed to his clients.

In response to SB211, the State Bar submitted a report that proposes "new discipline case processing standards," with shorter time lines, separating cases by complexity, and giving priority to those cases/attorneys that seem to pose the greatest risk to the public. In addition, because of Girardi, the State Bar reports that it is "reinterpreting" Business and Professions Code section 6086(1)(b)(2), to permit the disclosure of information regarding closed complaints, as well as pending and active cases. However, just going through the attorney listings in the State Bar website, we find that old closed cases (involving discipline) are reported for years, and the announcement of "reinterpretation" is really little more than a response to the embarrassment brought about by the Girardi case. Robert Hillman, UC Davis School of Law professor, remarked, "[The State Bar] should be fully transparent as a first step in acknowledging its own lapses and accountability."

Instead, though, the State Bar diverts the attention to "bad actors" in announcing that they will be "more transparent" in allowing the public to see/access these old, closed complaints, the vast majority of which were closed after thorough investigation and lack of ability to prove any misconduct. The additional disclosure, however, will

subject lawyers who do have closed complaints to biased and misleading information that may affect their hiring, their careers, their client relations, and their reputations. (By the way, investigation into the State Bar's handling of discipline complaints against Girardi and whether it was affected by his connections with judges and the State Bar staff, is ongoing.)

The reality is, the State Bar is just restating the same thing that they always say in response to criticisms about the backlog and about lack of timely prosecution: we are going to do in-depth analyses and investigation; we will provide shorter time lines and priorities to protect the public; we will review staffing requirements and funding; and we will need additional resources and fees in order to accomplish these things.

What is actually very interesting is that the State Bar is actually reinventing itself to have a rebirth of what it was supposed to be before legislator and public criticism compelled it to split off functions in SB36, forming the California Lawyers Association (a volunteer association, taking over functions of support and making attorneys better at their profession). The State Bar seems to be acknowledging, finally, that, as we have stated in previous columns, making lawyers better lawyers, training and supporting lawyers in their profession, and providing them the tools that they need, and attention to their "wellness" and health, serves to protect the public.

The State Bar has now implemented a "Strategic Plan for the Next 5 Years (2022-2027)." The State Bar publishes that they will continue to assess their programs and impacts (something new?); that they will implement a 5-year plan for preventative education, e-learning and self-assessment modules for lawyers; they will "position the State Bar as a trusted resource and increase interactions with licensees beyond admitting attorneys into the profession, collecting fees, and monitoring MCLE compliance;" they will provide effective support for attorneys; they will create a license fee resource page on the State Bar website; they will collaborate with the California Lawyers Association in continuing education efforts. These are all things that the State Bar was actually charged to do before the split and the statement they adopted, that they exist "solely to protect the public." In other words, the State Bar is moving into the future by retreating to the past.

The 5 Year Strategic Plan does have nice marketing. First, it explains the mission of the State Bar: "[T]o protect the public and includes the primary functions of licensing, regulation, and discipline of attorneys; the advancement

of the ethical and competence practice of law; and support of efforts for greater access to, and inclusion in, the legal system.” Its first stated goal is to protect the public by strengthening the attorney discipline system. That is described, at least in part, above.

The second stated goal is to protect the public by enhancing access to and inclusion in the legal system. This appears to some readers to have nothing to do with licensing, regulation, or discipline of attorneys, but rather to address what is seen by some as a need for increased minority participation and trust in the law and the courts. Whether part of the Bar’s role or not, it is a laudable goal.

The third goal is to “protect the public by regulating the legal profession.” They described that they will promote ethical and competent practices in the law, and prevent misconduct by providing education, resources and support for the legal profession. I hope they take hold of this and really give it support, as it will make a difference.

The fourth, and final stated goal is to protect the public by “engaging partners.” They state that this is to “restore the State Bar’s credibility, reputation, and impact.” Good luck. Our readers may remember an article that I wrote in 2017 about the history of the State Bar. In it, I described the evolution of the mission statements and gave descriptions of the State Bar’s work and how those descriptions have changed. You will remember, or you will be able to research, that:

1927: State Bar formed as a public corporation involved in “the advancement of the science of jurisprudence or to the improvement of the administration of justice, including, but not by way of limitation, all matters that may advance the professional interests of the members . . . and such matters as concern the relations of the State Bar with the public.” (Business and Professions Code section 6031(a).)

1960: State Bar added to the State Constitution. All lawyers must be members.

1991: State Bar exists to “preserve and improve our justice system in order to assure a free and just society under law,” with goals of equal access to the legal system and assuring that every lawyer would be ethical, competent and professional, protecting the public by regulation of lawyer conduct and providing information to the public about lawyers and the legal system. They assured full and equal opportunity for all who get into, and advance in, the legal profession to reflect full diversity. They also promise to provide benefits and programs “to promote professional growth and enhance the quality of life of the members, assuring effective management of the State Bar.” This was reaffirmed in 1997.

2001: A vision statement was published: the public will have greater respect for the lawyers, the profession, and the State Bar; there will be better access to legal services; lawyers will be better prepared; and the discipline system “will protect the public in a fair and even-handed way and through a comprehensive system of malpractice insurance.” They promised that the legal system would reflect the diversity of the state and that the State Bar will demonstrate “high levels of credibility” and “will enjoy excellent and productive working relationships with the Supreme Court, the Judicial Council of California, the Legislature, the Governor and all members of the State Bar family.”

2008: The Bar no longer mentions high level of credibility or excellent working relationships. Instead the goal is that of a “productive working relationship” and focus on public protection.

2017: The State Bar president spoke, confirming, “we are no longer the leading advocate of the legal profession in California. We are no longer a professional association, or as is typically called in Sacramento, a trade association. . . . We are a public agency that exists to regulate the legal services industry for the benefit of the people of California. We are a public protection agency.” This was codified with the split of the State Bar in the fall of 2017 through SB36.

Apparently, the State Bar is retreating back to 1991. Each 5-year goal is described by six topics: vision; 5-year plan strategies; effectiveness; consumer focus; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and policy and systems change. But if you read between the lines, and you are familiar with the history of the State Bar, you will see that there is nothing new in these platitudes, except, perhaps, that the emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion is repeated in each goal.

Even so, the State Bar is working to allow paralegals or certified practitioners to accomplish things that are currently part of the “practice of law.” With the number of attorneys that we have in this state, it is hard to imagine that we do not have enough attorneys to address the issues these certified practitioners would be addressing. Somehow, though, it appears the public is better protected to have less educated, less qualified “professionals” take over these activities.

In addition, the State Bar currently allows the “provisional licensing” of lawyers. Since 2020, by order of our Supreme Court, a law school graduate can practice law (supposedly with the supervision of a lawyer) before passing the bar exam. At the recent “Public Hearing on Procedures for Discipline, Attorney Competency and Admissions,” one such provisionally licensed lawyer announced that he was a family law practitioner, representing clients within the full

scope of this area of practice - his own clients. He felt that the program should be extended and expanded with a path to licensure through only the provisionally licensed lawyer program. He proudly exclaimed that he had failed two bar examinations so far, and does not feel he could take time off to study because of the money he makes. He did not describe any supervision over his practice. (Passing scores have been reduced from a required 1440 to 1390.)

Another caller indicated that he took the bar examination three times and failed to pass; and the admissions staff made it clear to him that “he is not alone.” Do you feel that this is a “best practice” in protecting the public? Do you think that, when a client complains, and disclosures such as this are made, that the State Bar will not be backpedaling one more time to explain it to the complaints of the legislators?

As I stated in previous columns, the State Bar is also testing the waters to see if they will allow non-lawyer participation in law firms and the elimination of the bar exam altogether. Apprenticeship may be the design of the future. This, I suppose, supports the practices of the 1800’s (bar exams came into existence more recently to test the knowledge and education of the examinees).

Finally, the case against now-disbarred attorney, Thomas Girardi, has resulted in a lot of attention and scrambling by the State Bar to address their failures. One

policy that has been adopted is the “Client Trust Account Protection Program” (CTAPP), which is a program to assist attorneys in complying with client trust account requirements and to provide detection of violations. There are several phases of the implementation of the CTAPP. At first, the reporting requirements are not too onerous and are pretty basic. However, in future phases, there will be much more involvement, including “risk-based compliance audits.”

The State Bar continues to try to find ways to change and to affect society; yet the basic and underlying responsibility remains that of a public protection agency governing the admission and practice of law. Protect the public by making sure lawyers are up to the task in their education and ability to think and analyze, by making lawyers better practitioners, by supporting lawyers in their education, practice, and efforts to be better in their profession; and discipline lawyers who are bad actors promptly, and always with an eye toward making them better lawyers, thereby protecting the public in the best and most efficient way possible. If they just do that, they can’t go wrong.

Let’s go out and do some good today.

James O. Heiting of Heiting & Irwin was president of the State Bar of California in 2005-2006 and president of the RCBA in 1996.



ONE FOCUS.
ONE PRACTICE.
IMMIGRATION LAW.

OFFICES IN ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, UTAH AND IDAHO

*In Immigration Law, the stakes are always high. It's your business. It's your family. Results matter and you deserve a firm that can deliver. **We are that firm.***



KELLY S. O'REILLY

Founding Partner - Former District Adjudications Officer for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in Los Angeles and Orange County



WILNER & O'REILLY
IMMIGRATION LAWYERS
WWW.WILNEROREILLY.COM

(951)787-0010

3550 VINE STREET, STE 208 RIVERSIDE, CA 92507

INLAND EMPIRE BANKRUPTCY FORUM

by Michael Gouveia

The Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum (IEBF) is a forum of lawyers and others dedicated to the study of bankruptcy and insolvency. The local bankruptcy bar association just celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. The IEBF meets every other month and has 80 members which include bankruptcy attorneys, staff, bankruptcy trustees, and other professionals.

Founded in 1992, the IEBF is part of the California Bankruptcy Forum (CBF). Norman Hanover, the IEBF's first president, remembered that the statewide CBF developed chapters across California. Mr. Hanover was active in the CBF which met in Northern California and the organization tapped him as the first president. The original members included Franklin Adams, Stephen Wade, Mark Schnitzer, and the then practicing attorney, the Hon. Meredith Jury (Ret.).

Long time San Bernardino County bankruptcy lawyer, Stephen Wade, recalled that "The impetus for forming the IEBF was that none of the Bankruptcy Forums paid any attention to the small practitioner or the consumer cases. Los Angeles and Orange Counties were dominated by the large firms and dealt with chapter 11 issues. Norm Hanover and I were the only active participants in the LA/OC Forums from the Inland Empire and we wanted to have an Inland Empire Chapter which would serve the Inland Empire practitioners."

The Honorable Meredith Jury (Ret.) recounted, "The IEBF was always a consumer-focused organization, unlike the fledgling forums in L.A. and Orange Counties that were all about bankruptcy chapter 11's and trustee bankruptcy cases with money."

"From the IEBF's founding the emphasis was on the local practitioner that did chapter 7 and chapter 13 bankruptcy work," now retired former Bankruptcy Trustee Norman Hanover said recently. As such the monthly educational programs focused on what the local bankruptcy practitioner needed to know. Then as now the subject of California exemptions was a popular topic. Mr. Hanover also enlisted the local bankruptcy judges and during courtroom breaks, the judges would urge the attorneys in the audience to attend the programs.

In the early days, the programs were held at Best, Best and Krieger's conference room, but soon moved to the Arrowhead Country Club in San Bernardino due to the popularity of the events. (As a new bankruptcy attorney, I remember driving to that country club in the late 1990s and sitting in a room full of bankruptcy practitioners. I had no idea what they were talking about, but kept quiet so as to not show my ignorance.)

Now retired former Best, Best and Krieger partner, Franklin Adams said, "Norm Hanover convinced us in the

beginning that we needed to do this as we had many people that did chapter 7 cases and chapter 13 bankruptcy cases who needed the education." Adams recalled "that these programs helped the local bankruptcy system run smoother. Soon the organization enlisted the bankruptcy trustees to give presentations as to what they were looking for in reviewing petitions and to help avoid bonehead mistakes."

(In the mid 2000's, I was elected to the IEBF's Board and remember that my fellow board members were bankruptcy trustees and top-notch lawyers who I met and was able to get to know as regular people away from their official duties. Then practicing attorney, the Honorable Wayne Johnson, U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge, would coax us to go to the board meetings by bringing ice cream.)

Today, the IEBF continues its traditions of educating the local bankruptcy bar with an emphasis on consumer bankruptcy practice. On November 12, 2022, the IEBF presented the Twenty-Eighth Annual Survey of Recent Consumer Bankruptcy cases which was started by the Hon. David Naugle (Ret.). The speakers at this year's event were the Honorable Wayne Johnson, the Honorable Scott Yun, the Honorable Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux, and the Assistant U.S. Trustee Abram Feuerstein.

The current IEBF president is Brandon Iskander of Goe Forsythe & Hodges who will continue as the chair of the Annual Survey committee. The incoming president for 2022-2023 is Larry Simons, who is a Bankruptcy Trustee in the Riverside Division of the Central District of California and the principle at the Law Offices of Larry D. Simons.

When asked, Mr. Simons said, "I believe the IEBF's biggest strength is presenting programs that are actually useful to the members. My goal is to have a mix of live and Zoom type MCLE events, so that we can make participation as easy as possible. I am committed to keeping the dues as low as possible and relying on sponsorships to subsidize the dues/programs. The organization will continue its relationship with the local judiciary and ensure they are supported in any way possible."

The founding members in 1992 would find the IEBF of 2023 to have the same direction and goals as they envisioned thirty years ago. The laws have changed, the bankruptcy world has changed, and the faces have changed, but the IEBF's spirit remains to educate the local consumer bankruptcy practitioner.

For more information about the Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum and on joining the organization visit IEBF.org.

Michael Gouveia is a local bankruptcy practitioner helping families cope with consumer debt. Contact him at mgo29@att.net.



WHY DON'T WE HAVE MORE LATINA/O LAWYERS? A PERSONAL REFLECTION & HBAIE'S CALL TO ACTION.

by Albert J. Maldonado

I have pondered this question for several years now: why are there more Latino doctors than lawyers? Latinos comprise approximately 19% of the national population in the United States. We are 7% nationally of the physician and surgeon workforce according to a recent Pew Research Center analysis. We are only 5.8% of lawyers nationally according to the 2022 ABA National Lawyer Population Survey. Maybe the numbers don't seem that disparate to others, but I have always had the feeling throughout my upbringing and education that the medical profession seems to be encouraged more than the legal profession among the Latino community. Why is that? I have theorized several reasons over the years.

First, and perhaps the dominant theory, is that doctors are rarely thought of as "crooked." In contrast, there are plenty of examples of "crooked" attorneys; those that stole from their clients or committed other crimes. Look no further than the example of Tom Girardi. A doctor's white coat is symbolic for the general view that doctors are good and honest people. Doctors heal and save. They don't steal and lie. They don't say just anything in order to get their way. A few bad apples in our profession tends to lead to painting the whole profession with a broad brush of negativity, distrust, and contempt.

And unfortunately, a job well-done in our profession can also sometimes lead to negative perceptions. The defense attorney was able to obtain a homicide criminal defendant a not guilty verdict; a prosecutor's ability to get a guilty verdict for what some would consider a crime not worthy of punishment; a family law attorney who was responsible for the high child support payments or the subjectively unequal divorce settlement; and lastly, the estate attorney who is responsible for the stealing of the terrenos (land). Sometimes people wrongly blame the attorney for their disagreements with the law without knowing it.

Latinos come from a culture that cares deeply about social perception and image. ¿Qué dirá la gente? (What will people say?) With that in mind, parents tend to encourage their kids to enter the medical profession, which, to them, is a foolproof sign of success, honor, and orgullo (pride). It matters not what kind of doctor. If a parent's child becomes an attorney, there could be some initial skepticism, and the question asked, what kind of attorney did they become?

Second, attorneys play in the gray area, not in absolutes. Science and medicine have their professions' roots in mathematics. Except at the highest levels, mathematics is black and white. One can learn how to solve a problem and can learn why a problem is right or wrong. Attorneys do not deal in absolutes. We are trained in the gray area, in being able to argue both sides of an issue. Some people may not feel comfortable in an environment where there may not necessarily be a correct answer.

Third, attorneys are "sellouts" because they are part of the "system." Given that the majority of Latino communities come from countries where there is rampant corruption, there is a distrust of government and of institutions, including the legal system. This inherent distrust of institutions is stronger among those that are immigrants or closer to the immigrant generation than second and third generation Latinos who are more removed from experiences of corruption.

Let me be clear that I have nothing against doctors or against encouraging Latinos to become doctors. We need increased representation at every level, and in every profession, to achieve greater social change and equity. I am simply focusing on the legal profession. With that in mind, the Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire (HBAIE) and I have a call to action for all of you reading this article.

First, please continue to act ethically and with integrity. Treat other attorneys with respect and civility. Your actions by themselves can contribute to a more positive view of our profession.

Second, please consider doing something to encourage others to enter our noble profession. You can speak at career days, become a mentor, write an article or participate in a podcast, review application and scholarship materials, conduct mock interviews, etc. Talk about the good you do. You can both spark motivation in others and help them get to and through school.

Third, we need to do a better job at being connected to other non-lawyers and not being so insular. I was having dinner recently with a friend who is very well-educated and connected in state government. During our conversation about some recent family legal troubles, he asked me, "How do I find a lawyer if I need one?" I didn't tell him that I thought to myself that I was ashamed and embarrassed by the fact that he felt he needed to ask such a question. But this is so common. If you are not an attorney, and don't have any attorney family or friends, you don't even know where to begin looking. We must do better.

The HBAIE has focused on nurturing future lawyers in both San Bernardino and Riverside counties. We have established student and administrative relationships with law students at the University of La Verne College of Law, undergraduate students at California State University, San Bernardino and University of California, Riverside, and even elementary students. We have collaborated on holding several panels to speak directly with students about law school, the various career paths, and the law school application process. We have awarded scholarships to law students and to recent law school graduates. We have also contributed to organizations who give scholarships for higher education, such as the Ontario-Montclair Schools Foundation.

We have promoted connectivity with other local legal organizations in order to facilitate the nurturing and development of current attorneys in the Inland Empire, especially newer attorneys. We have hosted joint happy hours the past two Octobers with the Asian Pacific American Lawyers of the Inland Empire and the Riverside County Barristers.

We have also held events that serve to uplift the broader local Latino community. We partnered with the Riverside Art Museum to raise funds for the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture, which highlights the subset of American art that is Chicano art. We have also held an event with a local artist, Juan Navarro, to educate our members about the HBAIE-commissioned art piece "La Justicia."

I leave you all with this stirring statistic. The State Bar of California's 2022 Report Card on the Diversity of California's Legal Profession, using 2019 data, found that in California, while Latinos comprise 36% of the population, we only comprise 7% of California attorneys. That is to say, in as diverse a state as California, our statewide representation among attorneys is almost twice as bad as on the national level. We must do more. If after reading this article, you would like to do something, but don't know where to begin, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Albert J. Maldonado is a municipal attorney at Best Best & Krieger LLP and is the president of the Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire.



DIVERSITY ON THE BENCH: OUR ROLE

by Alejandro Barraza

A community has confidence in a bench that reflects the appearance of the community itself.

In a moment in history that seems especially divisive, distrustful, and where every one of our syllables is passionately scrutinized and then itemized on social media, it is easy to overlook how small, alone, and scared many of us feel when we are under the microscope. A fear that may not be soothed by the attorney who is there to serve us. And, after looking to our counsel, we look up, see our judge, and wonder how we will be perceived.

Asian Pacific American Lawyers of the Inland Empire (APALIE) understands that judicial diversity promotes trust and confidence among the public, it enhances interrelationships within the bench, it facilitates better court governance, and it improves the quality of decision making. Our bench should look like America, a country populated by various races, sexes, genders, religions, sexual orientations, an honest representation of what makes us a perfect union. Although there have been an historic number of demographically diverse set of candidates at the local, state, and federal levels, there continue to be voices missing from the room. And, the cost of these unheard voices is real, tangible, and visible to any person who walks into our courtrooms.

This past year, APALIE has, as in years before, sought to remedy this real cost by endorsing multiple candidates, in both local, state, and federal courts. APALIE, and our affinity bar associations groups, are uniquely positioned to endorse candidates for judge-ships to promote the appointment of qualified judges to local, state, and federal courts. When evaluating candidates, APALIE seeks candidates who embody the ideals and values that are strongly aligned with APALIE's mission to advance equal access to, and opportunities in, the legal profession for all people.

At the beginning of the year, APALIE provided enthusiastic and wholehearted support for Judge Kenly Kiya Kato's confirmation as District Judge of the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Judge Kato's parents and grandparents were imprisoned during World War II, alongside 130,000 other persons of Japanese ancestry. Her focus on constitutional protections, equal opportunity to justice, and longstanding commitment to provide positive change in our society was influenced by her family's incarceration experience. And, from the time that she clerked for Judge Robert Takasugi in the Central District (the first Japanese American federal judge in the Central District) to her time presiding as a magistrate judge in the Central District of California, her dedication to defending the constitution and commitment to the underserved remains unbreakable.

Why is a diverse background like Judge Kato's important? It is important because judges bring their life experiences to every ruling. On March 25, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives held a hearing regarding the Importance of a Diverse Federal Judiciary. The Honorable Edward M. Chen, District Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, posed a question: what would have happened had there been a Japanese-

American Justice on the Supreme Court when it upheld the imposition of race-based curfews and the internment of 130,000 American of Japanese descent in *United States v. Hirabayashi* and *United States v. Korematsu*. Honorable Chen explained that said justice would have fought the Supreme Court's assumption that Japanese people "have intensified their solidarity and have in large measure prevented their assimilation as an integral part of the white population." Said justice would have pointed out how Japanese-Americans were active in the community and enlisted in the army. Many joined the famed 442 Regimental Combat Team.

More recently, APALIE provided enthusiastic and wholehearted support to Judge Jerry Chen Wei Yang, Judge Mona Maria Nemat, and Judge Gary Polk. Each was a distinguished attorney and leader within the community and we have no doubt they will continue to improve the legal profession and the Riverside community.

I'd like to end this article with a quote by Charles Hamilton Houston that describes the endorsed judges mentioned above. This past year, I had the opportunity to attend the Richard T. Field Bar Association Installation and Awards Ceremony. In the installation's program, the following quote by Charles Hamilton Houston is emblazoned on the last page:

[A] lawyer's either a social engineer or ... a parasite on society ... a social engineer [is] a highly skilled, perceptive, sensitive lawyer who [understands] the Constitution of the United States and [knows] how to explore its uses in the solving of problems of local communities and in bettering conditions of the underprivileged citizens.

Each of the judges described above embodies Charles Hamilton Houston's social engineer, who seeks to help our local community and better conditions of the underprivileged citizens. Charles Hamilton Houston prayed for us to understand that whatever the social engineer's contribution—large or small, public or private—it is heroic if it in some way promotes positive change in our society. What are you doing to move the needle?

Shout out to our amazing board for the 2022-2023 term:

President: Alejandro Barraza; President-Elect: Tavia T. Nguyen; Secretary: Andrea D. Kershaw; Treasurer: David P. Rivera; Members-at-Large: Julius J. Nam, Kristine M. Santos; Immediate Past-President, Wade Pyun; Judicial Liaisons: Hon. Jackson Lucky (ret.) and Hon. Winston S. Keh; Past Presidents: Sophia Choi, Rosemary Koo, Eugene Kim, Ricky Shah, Cathy Ta, Lloyd Costales, Paul Lin, Judy I. Beck, and Dave K. Kim

APALIE members that won't leave us alone: Paul Lin and Hon. Jackson Lucky.

Alejandro Barraza, Esq., is the founder and managing partner at Barraza Law, APC, and the 2022-23 president of the Asian Pacific American Lawyers of the Inland Empire (APALIE).



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS DINNER 2022

The RCBA's Installation Dinner was back at the Mission Inn on September 22. Over 200 people attended. Riverside Public Defender Steve Harmon served as the master of ceremonies. Judge Emma Smith administered the oath of office to the RCBA board members. Lori Myers was installed as the 2022-2023 president. The other officers who were installed were Kelly Moran (president-elect), Mark Easter (vice president), Megan Demshki (chief financial officer), Elisabeth Lord (secretary), Erica Alfaro, Goushia Farook and Chris Johnson (directors-at-large), Neil Okazaki (past president) and Lauren Vogt (as Barristers president she sits on the RCBA Board). Heather Green will serve as a director-at-large, but was unable to attend.

Darren Pirozzi gave the oath of office to the 2022-2023 officers of Barristers. Lauren Vogt was installed as president. The other officers installed were David Rivera (president-elect), Priscilla George (secretary), Kevin Collins (treasurer), Alejandro Barraza, Ankit Bhakta, Summer DeVore, Sandra Lattouf, Sharon Ramirez (members-at-large), and Michael Ortiz (past president).

Stephen Larson presented the 2022 E. Aurora Hughes Award to Jacqueline Carey-Wilson. The award is to honor a distinguished member of the RCBA for his or her service to the RCBA and to the legal community. Please see Stephen's full presentation to Jacqueline on page 11.

RCBA lapel pins were presented by Lori Myers to Richard Kennedy, Richard Marca and Judge Jeffrey Prevost (ret.) for their 25-year or more membership in the RCBA.

Chris Jensen presented plaques to Judge Stephen Cunnison (ret.), Riverside County Public Defender Steve Harmon, and Judge Jeffrey Prevost (ret.) for their 50 years of membership in the State Bar of California.

President Lori Myers introduced the first annual Attorney of the Year Awards. RCBA Section chairs nominated attorneys who have demonstrated their legal ability, commitment, and passion to their field of law and dedication to their colleagues and the legal community.

The awards were presented to the following:

Appellate Law – **Brian Unitt**

Civil Litigation – **Greg Rizio**

Criminal – **Steve Harmon**

Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law – **Herb Chavers**

Family Law – **Michael Razo**

Juvenile Law – **Jessica Munoz**

Labor & Employment Law – **Darren Lipinsky**

Landlord & Tenant – **Barry Swan**

The RCBA would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions:

- **Platinum Sponsors** – Aitken Aitken Cohn; Bratton & Razo; David D.L. Horton & Associates; Maryann Gallagher; Daniel Hantman; Inland Counties Legal Services; JAMS; Larson LLP; Malcolm Cisneros; RCBA Dispute Resolution Service; Rizio Lipinsky PC.
- **Gold Sponsors** – Law Office of Harlan Kistler.
- **Silver Sponsors** – Chapman University, Fowler School of Law; Dolan Law Offices; Immigration Law Offices of Hadley Bajramovic; Law Office of Elisabeth Lord; Lenita Skoretz, Attorney at Law; Markarian Law Group; Sullivan Group of Court Reporters; Judge Gloria and Gordon Trask; Trust Properties USA; Varner & Brandt, LLP.
- **Bronze Sponsors** – Canyon Children's Legal Services; Judge Stephen Cunnison; Knez Law Group, LLP; Law Office of Jennifer N.K. Venable; Judge Wilfred J. Schneider; Thompson & Colegate; Brian Unitt.
- **Print Sponsor** – PIP Printing (printmystuff.com).

Please visit the RCBA YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWC3bJdrKck> to see highlights of the evening.

Photos by Michael Elderman.



Paul Lin, Shumika Sookdeo, Alex Barraza, Goushia Farook, Maria Pezer and Lauren Vogt.



Swearing in of the 2022-2023 RCBA Board of Directors



*RCBA Past Presidents – Front row l-r – Theresa Han Savage, Michelle Ouellette, Lori Myers, Jacqueline Carey-Wilson, Harlan Kistler, Robyn Lewis, Jean-Simon Serrano
Back row 1-r – Neil Okazaki, Judge Chris Harmon, Steve Harmon, Judge Craig Riemer, Brian Pearcy, Judge Stephen Cunnison (ret.), Judge Chad Firetag*



Craig Pyatt and Lori Myers



Lori Myers, Meghan Blanco, Judge Emma Smith, Paulette Sandler



Jorge Alvarado, Kenny Ramirez, Sharon Ramirez



Lori Myers, Jessica Muñoz, Greg Rizio, Steve Harmon and Michael Razo



Judge William Bailey (ret.)



Theresa Savage, Judge Chad Firetag, Judge Jack Lucky (ret.) and Phil Savage



Elisabeth Lord, Solomon Droge, Judge Jack Lucky (ret.)



Erica Alfaro and Alex Barraza



Neil Okazaki and Lori Myers



Gordon and Judge Gloria Trask (ret.)



Kristi & James Perry



Judge Stephen Cunnison (ret.), Judge Jeffrey Prevost (ret.), Steve Harmon



Tules & Luis Aguilar



Mark Easter, Brian Pearcy, Ted Stream, Robert Hicks and Karl Leonard Hicks



Judge Craig Riemer and Jean-Simon Serrano

OPPOSING COUNSEL: KIKI MANTI ENGEL

by Chris Johnson

When I think of my co-worker, I think of a hard-working competitive trial lawyer who has a pension for good cooking, a beautiful young family, and a fluency in the Greek language. This describes Kiki Manti Engel, born and raised in the Greek community of Chicago, primarily on the north side. She spent some of her formative years in southern Florida. She moved to Southern California in 2005, graduating from Vista Murrieta High School two years later. After graduating from the University of the Pacific in Stockton with a major in English and a minor in pre-law studies in 3.5 years, she returned to Temecula, found employment with the Law Offices of Dennis Fabozzi as a receptionist, then became a legal assistant, paralegal, and then a law clerk.

In these early law years, she worked full time and attended classes at night eventually finishing law school ahead of the usual schedule at Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. She joined Reid & Hellyer in February of 2018 with a practice in real estate and business litigation. Her civil practice includes among other things, litigating leasehold rights on local Indian tribal lands and advising non-profits on the risks involved in a business development plan.

When not practicing law, Kiki carves out time for her husband, their two-year-old daughter, and their two



Kiki Manti Engel

dogs (Chief, a poodle terrier, and Sadie, a schnoodle). Despite her busy workload, she finds time to participate in local leadership, such as serving as a past-president of the Southwest Riverside County Bar Association (SWRCBA). She currently serves as the chair of the Civil Litigation Section of the Riverside County Bar Association. In addition, she mentors young people through Project Graduate and serves on the board of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court.

One of her roles during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic involved working as a communication liaison with the civil trial judges and the bar associations, coordinating Zoom conferences or other informational webinars. When she's getting away from it all, you'll most likely find her cooking an extravagant meal or traveling to an out of the way destination in Europe, Mexico, or the Caribbean. If you're lucky enough to be in a meeting or on a call with her, make sure to introduce yourself to this dynamic young lawyer who practices with us here in Riverside County.

Chris Johnson is a senior attorney at Reid & Hellyer in Riverside and a current member of the RCBA Board of Directors.



Save the Date

Riverside County Bar Association MCLE MARATHON

In-person at RCBA building

Friday, January 13, 2023

MCLE Credit: 4 Hours Total

(1 hour Competence Issues,
2 Hours Legal Ethics, 1 Hour Bias)

*You may attend all or only the session(s) in which
you need credits.*

More info will be forthcoming.

Compliance Group 3 (N-Z)

Compliance Period: 2/1/20 – 1/31/23
Deadline to Report: February 1, 2023

*For compliance groups who must report for the period ending
on January 31, 2023, and thereafter.*

➤ Special Requirements:

- At least four hours of Legal Ethics
- At least one hour on Competence Issues
- At least two hours dealing with Elimination of Bias.
Of the two hours, *at least one hour must focus on
implicit bias and the promotion of bias-reducing strategies.*

Compliance information is available on the
State Bar's website.

JUDICIAL PROFILE: THE HONORABLE JERRY YANG

by Betty Fracisco

It doesn't happen often, but this month we celebrate a graduation within the pages of *Riverside Lawyer*: Jerry Yang has graduated from "Opposing Counsel" (six years ago) to "Judicial Profile", and we congratulate this new member of Riverside County's bench.

Born in Taiwan, Judge Yang came to the United States in 1983 at the age of three. Judge Yang, along with his younger brother and his parents, initially moved in with relatives in Rowland Heights, then spent two years in Monterey Park before his parents bought a house in Rowland Heights. They lived there for about five years before their final resting place in Hacienda Heights, where the judge has spent much of his life. Although he was a journalist in Taiwan, his Dad went into construction, eventually starting his own business. His mother continued with bookkeeping.

Although he spent kindergarten as an ESL student, Judge Yang did well in school, though it paled in comparison to his love of basketball. Unfortunately, he reached his full height in eighth grade, so when basketball started interfering with his academics in ninth grade, giving it up wasn't a huge sacrifice. By that time the notion of becoming a lawyer had already entered his mind, after finding and reading a copy of John Grisham's *The Firm* while still in middle school. High school at AH Wilson High School found a self-motivated, disciplined, competitive student taking honors classes, but not stressing about college and the future. He did well on both the PSAT and SAT (without prep classes) and decided to apply for early acceptance at Pomona College.

Judge Yang lived on campus at Pomona (a requirement) and majored in Politics. He had the opportunity of studying abroad at Oxford. He already knew what he wanted to do after college and was somewhat disappointed he didn't get into Boalt, but UCLA Law School was a great experience. He had the good fortune after his first year to extern for U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips, which he calls "the best thing in his career." Judge Phillips treated her clerks and externs well, providing an abundance of direction and advice, and even treating them to lunch occasionally. The next summer he was a summer associate at Best Best & Krieger and was offered a job once he passed the State Bar. This made for a more enjoyable third year of law school during which he actually learned to play golf.

After passing the Bar Exam in 2005, Judge Yang began his first "adult job" practicing business litigation at Best Best & Krieger. He was in the litigation group with Mark Easter and Vic Wolf and remembered doing a three-four day arbitration with Vic and an unlawful detainer trial. After 2 ½ years he applied to the U.S. Attorney's Office after Judge



Hon. Jerry Yang

Phillips had asked if he'd be interested. Since he hadn't yet been offered the job, he went to work with Buchalter Nemer for eight-nine months. Then he entered the 18-month U.S. Attorney's training program in L.A., taking the train from his home in West Covina. He had just married his wife Helen, whom he'd been dating since his Pomona days (she had attended UCLA, then Cornell Law School). Other than a short stint as county counsel in Riverside, she has been a litigator at the same firm all these years.

Entering the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Yang felt he'd found his calling. He would say "You can find joy in any job," but this opened

up his world. Responsibility was dumped on him from day one as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, because about 80% of the cases have but one U.S. Attorney to take a position on behalf of the United States. So from 2008 to 2016, he served as a "line" Assistant U.S. Attorney, moving to the Riverside office in December 2008 after a year in L.A. working with Sherry Pim (now a Magistrate Judge) as his boss. In 2016, he became Deputy Chief of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Riverside. This was a job that provided unexpected challenges when the pandemic hit and he was faced with all the problems we all faced during that time: personnel issues, scheduling, continuances, health issues, etc. In 2020, the Chief of the U.S. Attorney's office in Riverside was moved to the San Bernardino office and he became Chief. This was a high-pressure position, but Jerry Yang was up to the challenge. He says this was a job he could have done forever. But he was encouraged to apply for the judiciary, and after going through the JNE process, he was named to the Riverside County Superior Court by Governor Gavin Newsom on July 1, 2022. Until January 1, he is sitting in Department 22 handling misdemeanor arraignments and other criminal matters. In January 2023, he will begin his first assignment in his own courtroom.

Outside of his legal responsibilities, Judge Yang has a very full life. He and his wife, and their two children, a daughter, eight, and a son 1 ½, live in Hacienda Heights, not far from his parents. They have travelled all over the world, from Europe to Belize to the Cook Islands. He has an ocean-going fishing boat and the family has a Class A motorhome that has taken them all over the country. Right now, they are planning a trip to Thailand and then to Taiwan to visit his grandparents, who lived in California from 1988 to 2016, but returned home to Taiwan as they got older. Once again Riverside County has the good fortune of securing a competent and caring judge. Belated welcome, Judge Yang.

Betty Fracisco is an attorney at Garrett & Jensen in Riverside and a member of the RCBA Publications Committee.



LUIS E. LOPEZ AND JUDGE TARA REILLY HONORED AT THE 31ST ANNUAL RED MASS

by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson

Judges, lawyers, and public officials of many faiths and their families participated in the 31st Annual Red Mass of the Inland Empire, which was held on October 20, 2022, at Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Riverside. The Red Mass is celebrated each year to invoke God's blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. The Mass is held in October to coincide with the opening of the annual term of the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

During the opening procession of the Mass, Mitchell Norton carried a banner depicting the Holy Spirit, the Scales of Justice, and the Ten Commandments, symbolizing the impartiality of justice and how all must work toward the fair and equal administration of the law, without corruption, avarice, prejudice, or favor. Patricia Byars Cisneros carried a vase of 48 red roses in memory of those members of the Inland Empire legal community family who had passed away in the last year and three additional red roses for Linda Maynes, Helen Rodriguez, and Louise Biddle, members of the Red Mass Steering Committee who had passed away in previous years.

The chief celebrant was the Most Reverend Alberto Rojas, Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino. Rabbi Hillel Cohn, Rabbi Emeritus of the Congregation Emanu El in San Bernardino, read a passage from the Old Testament in Hebrew and English. Theresa Han Savage read a passage from the New Testament. Deacon Donald Hitzeman, serving as Deacon of the Word, read the Gospel, and Bishop Rojas gave the homily. Sophia Choi and Jacqueline Carey-Wilson offered the Prayers of the Faithful, which included remembrances of members from the legal community family who had passed away during the last year. Deacon Steven Serembe served as Deacon of the Alter and Barbara Keough led the music during the Mass. At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Rojas, Rabbi Cohn, and Filip Milosavljevic, associate pastor for young adults at Loma Linda University, gave final blessings to those in the legal community.

Immediately following the Mass, the Red Mass Steering Committee hosted a dinner. During the dinner, the Saint Thomas More and the Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta awards were presented. The Saint Thomas More Award is given to a lawyer or judge who gives hope to those in need, is kind and generous in spirit, and is an overall exemplary human being. The Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta Award is given to anyone with those attributes who is a member of the legal community or who has made contributions to the legal community.



Jamie and Luis E. Lopez, and their son, Samuel E. Lopez

The Saint Thomas More Award Luis E. Lopez

Presented by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson

Luis E. Lopez was born in Jalisco, Mexico to Consuelo and Eligio Lopez. Luis is the oldest of eight children, with four sisters and three brothers. Their parents raised the family in the Catholic faith, all were baptized as infants and received the Sacraments of first Holy Communion and Confirmation. Luis was thirteen when his parents moved the family to the United States, settling in the San Gabriel Valley. Luis learned English in school, in the night classes he attended with his mother, and from his friends.

Luis attended California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) and majored in political science. During his undergraduate studies, he was an activist and fought to prevent Tom Metzger, a leader and former grand dragon of the Klu Klux Klan, from using the equipment at CSUF to film a television show entitled, Race and Reason, which was then syndicated across the nation. Luis' work in fighting racism resulted in ousting Metzger from the campus at CSUF and led him to consider a career in the law. He wanted to help others.

Luis attended University of the Pacific McGeorge Law School in Sacramento and upon graduation in 1990, decided to settle in the Inland Empire to practice law. Luis has devoted his life in the Inland Empire to serving others through his legal practice and in his volunteer activities. Luis worked with various civil firms until he opened his own law practice in 1996. Luis handles civil litigation, family law, estate planning, Chapter 7 Bankruptcies, and some transactional matters.

Since putting down roots, Luis has been active in giving back to the Inland Empire community. From 1994 to the present, Luis has donated his time and talents as a direc-

tor on the Youth Accountability Board of San Bernardino, a member on the OPAL Commission for the San Bernardino Police Department, served as a commissioner with the San Bernardino Police Department, and was a director and vice president of the Boys & Girls Club of San Bernardino, where he worked to provide kids a safe environment and access to computers after school. Additionally, Luis was a trustee for the City of San Bernardino Public Libraries, where he advocated to bring bilingual education materials to the public. He also served as a member of the Red Mass Steering Committee for six years. Moreover, Luis volunteered with Libreria del Pueblo Legal Clinic and assisted over 3000 pro se litigants in navigating the legal system.

Currently, Luis is a mediator with the Riverside County Superior Court Family Law Voluntary Settlement Conference Program; a board member and mediator with the Riverside County Bar Association Dispute Resolution Service, Inc.; and a board member and educational advocate for the Riverside County Bar Foundation's Project Graduate, which mentors, guides, and encourages foster youth to graduate from high school.

Luis has been recognized statewide and locally for his service.

- In 2000, Luis was awarded the Wiley W. Manuel Award for pro bono legal services by the California State Bar.
- In 2006, Luis was awarded the Local Minority Advocate of the Year by the Minority Business Development Center.
- Since 2010, Luis has been awarded the Jane Addams and Soloman awards three times for participating in more than 200 family law voluntary mediations.

Luis resides in Riverside with Jamie, his wife of 38 years and who was his high school sweetheart. They are members of Saint Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church in Riverside. Luis and Jamie have two children, William and Samuel. Luis spent many years coaching for little league and soccer, along with raising his children in the Catholic faith.

Luis exemplifies the highest ideals of the legal profession and serves as an inspiration to those around him. Accordingly, the Red Mass Steering Committee was honored to present Luis E. Lopez with the Saint Thomas More Award for his extraordinary service and devotion to church, community, and justice.

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta Awards **Judge Tara Reilly**

Presented by The Honorable John Pacheco

Judge Tara Reilly was baptized in January 1958 at a Catholic Church in Karlsruhe, Germany. Her father, Edward Reilly, was in the United States Army at the time. Her mother, Patricia (Creighton) Reilly, was a special education teacher and licensed psychologist. Both sides of her family came from Irish immigrants, third generation on her father's side. Judge Reilly was raised in the Catholic faith and primarily attended parochial schools in her youth. Her father was in the oil industry, so they moved quite a bit and



Judge Tara Reilly and her father, Edward Reilly

there was not always a Catholic school close by, so occasionally she attended public schools.

Judge Reilly grew up all over the country. Her family was originally from Connecticut and moved eleven times between second grade and her senior year in high school. They lived mostly along the eastern seaboard with one stop in the mid-west (Indiana) and finally arriving in California in August 1974. The Dominican sisters at Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy (FSHA) welcomed Judge Reilly as a new senior in 1974. She has remained relatively active with FSHA since that time and is especially supportive of the Dominican sisters because all are strong and loving women in religious life.

Judge Reilly was appointed to the San Bernardino County Superior Court 26 years ago and has sat in every possible assignment throughout the court system. Judge Reilly currently serves as a bench officer in the probate department, hearing matters concerning probate, trusts, conservatorships, guardianships, and elder abuse petitions. Judge Reilly was previously supervising judge of the probate department and in that capacity worked to develop programs that provided greater access to courtrooms and streamlined caseloads. She also worked with the probate clerk's office, the probate examiners, the court investigator's office, and the managing probate attorney to manage the flow of case work throughout the probate department from filing to hearing. Judge Reilly wanted to ensure that litigants received the information, access, and services they needed. On the bench, Judge Reilly listens respectfully and compassionately and seeks to give each litigant appearing before her a fair and full hearing.

The San Bernardino County Bar Association honored Judge Reilly with the 2012 Kaufman-Campbell Award. The Kaufman-Campbell Award is given to judges who have served the bench with distinction while making significant contributions to the community. Recipients typically display the highest standards of judicial excellence while showing integrity, wisdom, and impartiality.

Judge Reilly is a member of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Redlands. Her children attended Sacred Heart Academy in Redlands from kindergarten to eighth grade. When her children were in school, she sat on the school board and was an active parent in the school. Judge Reilly firmly believes that a strong faith and strong family are the



Bishop Alberto Rojas, Rabbi Hillel Cohn, and Associate Pastor Filip Milosavljevic

foundation for a successful life. According to Judge Reilly, “I have struggled at times with both, but always found myself strengthened in my love for both. A corollary of my upbringing is the requirement that ‘to whom much is given, much is expected.’”

Judge Reilly’s greatest joys are her two children, J.P. and Catherine. At 34 and 31, they are both successful, bright, thoughtful, and delightful adults. She is also very fortunate to have an intelligent, happy, and kind stepdaughter, Miriam, who is 25. All three are highly successful and an absolute blessing in her life.

Judge Reilly considers herself to be among the most fortunate of people as she has a supportive and loving family; a profession that has been more of calling than a job; good friends; and the most powerful guardian angel because there have been moments her life that could have gone quite differently, but for the Grace of God.

Judge Reilly has lived her faith in word and deed. Accordingly, the Red Mass Steering Committee was honored to present Judge Tara Reilly with the Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta Award for her extraordinary service and devotion to church, community, and justice.



Sophia Choi and Judge Eric Keen with the Mock Trial students from Notre Dame High School in Riverside.

The 2023 Red Mass

The 32nd Annual Red Mass will take place the first week of October 2023. The Red Mass Committee is accepting nominations for the 2023 Saint Thomas More and Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta awards. If you have a nominee for the awards or would like to be involved in the planning of the Red Mass, please call Jacqueline Carey-Wilson at (909) 387-4334 or Mitchell Norton at (909) 387-5444.

Photos by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson.

Jacqueline Carey-Wilson is a deputy county counsel with San Bernardino County, co-chair of the Red Mass Steering Committee, and past president of the Riverside County Bar Association and the Inland Empire Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.



We Remember Them

During the Red Mass, we remembered the following members of the Inland Empire Legal Community Family who passed away during the last year:

- Margaret Helen Arter
- Donald J. Bartell
- Louise Biddle*
- David Blaisdell
- Brian Boles
- Gene Bristoll
- Paul W. Carey
- Dominic Carlos
- Rosalva Carlos
- Christopher Carpenter
- James B. Church
- Elizabeth Cunnison
- Greg Espinosa
- Judge Charles D. Field (ret.)
- Judge Douglas A. Fettel (ret.)
- Judge Mac Fisher
- Ronald Freeman
- John Walter Furness
- Christine Ann Greer
- Timothy Guhin
- Norma Kay Hanks
- Harry Histen
- Jack Dunaway Holt
- Deacon Scott Hunsicker
- William Roger Kampf
- Justice Jeffrey King (ret.)
- Stacey Koncelik
- Arthur Littleworth
- James Liu
- Dale Mann
- Donald Matejka
- Linda Maynes*
- Doris Morton
- Maria Niciforos
- Victor J. Norcia
- Rama Naresh Patel
- Margaret Marie Pearce
- Richard Renner
- Helen Rodriguez*
- Rob Rossi
- Sharon Sanchez
- Richard Scott
- Jean Smith
- George Thompson
- Max Stanford Tomlinson
- Judge John P. Wade (ret.)
- David A. Williams



**Members of the Red Mass Steering Committee who passed away in previous years.*

PRINTING & MARKETING SUPPORT

for Legal Firms



Local. Award-Winning. Trusted.

Serving the Riverside County legal community since 1968.

STATIONERY

- Letterhead
- Business Cards
- Envelopes
- Mailing Labels
- Notary Stamps

ORGANIZATION

- Binders
- Custom Folders
- Forms
- Labels & Seals
- Rubber Stamps

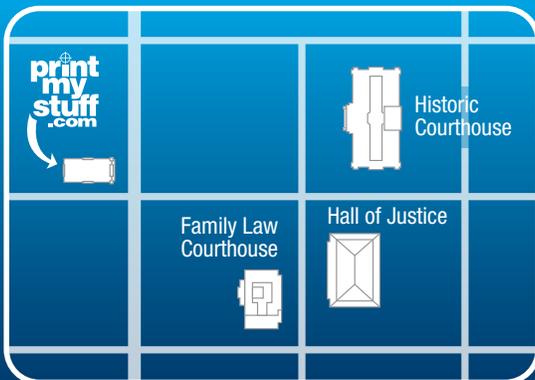
PROMO ITEMS

- Pens
- Notepads
- Sticky Notes
- Thumb Drives
- Tote Bags

SECURE DOCUMENT SERVICES

- Shredding
- Scanning
- Exhibits

...and so much more!



Located in the heart of Riverside's Legal District

Riverside 4093 Market St
951.682.2005

Corona 501 E. Sixth St
951.737.1820

CLASSIFIEDS

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.

Legal Malpractice

Certified Specialist by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. Referral Fees Paid. California and Nevada. 760-479-1515, Joel@SelikLaw.com.

Judgment Collections

California and Nevada. Referral Fees Paid. 760-479-1515, Joel@SelikLaw.com.

Nevada

Referrals or Pro Hac Vice. Nevada since 1985. 702-244-1930, Joel@SelikLaw.com.

Contract Attorney Available for Legal Research/Writing

Freelance attorney available to provide legal research and writing services to other attorneys on a project-by-project basis. Former judicial law clerk to federal judge in San Diego for three years. Licensed in California. For more information, please visit www.meghandohoney.com.

Palm Desert Law Firm Seeks Attorney and Paralegal

The Law Office of Karen J. Sloat in Palm Desert seeks a senior paralegal and an attorney with 2+ years experience in labor law for our premier law practice. Please submit resumes to Brittany@KarenSloatLaw.com.

Sale of Law Practice

Sale of existing Personal Injury and Workers' Compensation law practice with staff and lease. Terms negotiable. Turnkey operation of 32-year old practice. Will train. Please contact Owen L. McIntosh at lomac5@yahoo.com.

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 Charlene Nelson at the RCBA, (951) 682-1015 or rcba@riversidecountybar.com.

Conference Rooms Available

Conference rooms, small offices and the Gabbert Gallery 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 December 30, 2022.

Harold R. Anderson – Office of the District Attorney, Riverside

Derek Michael Diemer – David D.L. Horton, Esq. & Associates, Riverside

Joelle Foxwell – Solo Practitioner, Temecula

Alisha Maline – Varner & Brandt, Riverside

Edward M. Ramirez – Law Office of Edward Ramirez, Palm Springs

David R. Simmes – Simmes Law Group, Bermuda Dunes

Jayson B. Swigart – Swigart Law Group, San Diego



Don Crisp

ARBITRATOR/REFEREE/SPECIAL MASTER



FORMALLY TRAINED - 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE -
JUDICIAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE -
EXPERIENCED IN ONLINE PROCESSES

AFFORDABLE FEES

DONCRIPE@CAMSMEDIATION.COM

(909) 864-5156

OR (951) 267-1776

WWW.CAMSMEDIATION.COM

Need Confidential Help?

Contact Us: The Other Bar
24 hours • (800) 222-0767

The Other Bar is a network of recovering lawyers, law students and judges throughout the state, dedicated to assisting others within the legal profession who are suffering from alcohol and substance abuse problems.

We are a private, non-profit corporation founded on the principle of anonymity providing services in strict confidentiality.

Barry Lee O'Connor & Associates
A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

REPRESENTING LANDLORDS EXCLUSIVELY
UNLAWFUL DETAINERS/
BANKRUPTCY MATTERS

951-689-9644

951-352-2325 FAX

3691 Adams Street
Riverside, CA 92504
Udlaw2@AOL.Com



BUILT WITH YOU IN MIND, INTRODUCING OUR LAWYERS' INSURANCE DEFENSE PROGRAM

Lawyers' Mutual is excited to share our values, services and member benefits with an ever expanding pool of California attorneys.

Built with you in mind, Lawyers' Mutual has redesigned our Lawyers' Insurance Defense Program for firms of six attorneys or more who practice 90% insurance defense work or greater.

Key program features:

- Limits from \$1,000,000 per claim / \$3,000,000 in the aggregate to \$10,000,000 per claim / \$12,000,000 in the aggregate.
- \$50,000 Claims Expense Allowance outside limits included.
- Expert in-house California claims examiners.
- Multi-attorney discount factor.

Our Lawyers' Insurance Defense Program delivers on our commitment to enhance, revolutionize and challenge the status quo of how the traditional insurance industry operates.



**LAWYERS'
MUTUAL**
INSURANCE COMPANY

Our strength is your insurance

www.lawyersmutual.com



Riverside
County

LAWYER

Riverside County Bar Association
4129 Main St., Ste. 100, Riverside, CA 92501
RCBA 951-682-1015 LRS 951-682-7520
www.riversidecountybar.com rcbars@riversidecountybar.com

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1054
RIVERSIDE, CA

ARBITRATION & MEDIATION SERVICE PROVIDER

RCBA Dispute Resolution Service, Inc.

You be the Judge.

Over 100 experienced Riverside County Bar Association mediators

2 out of 3 private mediations reach full settlement

3 out of 4 Family Law cases referred to our Court program reach full settlement

No administrative fees! Competitive hourly rates!

DRS is a nonprofit public benefit corporation proudly serving Riverside County since 1995.
DRS is the approved mediation service for the Riverside County Superior Court.
Located across from the Riverside County Historic Courthouse at 4129 Main Street, Suite 100.

(951) 682-2132
www.rcbadrs.org

