

VOLUME 74 | NUMBER 5

**MAY**  
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# RIVERSIDE LAWYER

IN THIS  
**ISSUE**

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*Veterans Court – Riverside County*

*Exploring the Divide:*

*Military Justice System vs. Civilian Court System*

*The State Bar Court*

*Shelter Court in San Bernardino County*



The Official Publication of the  
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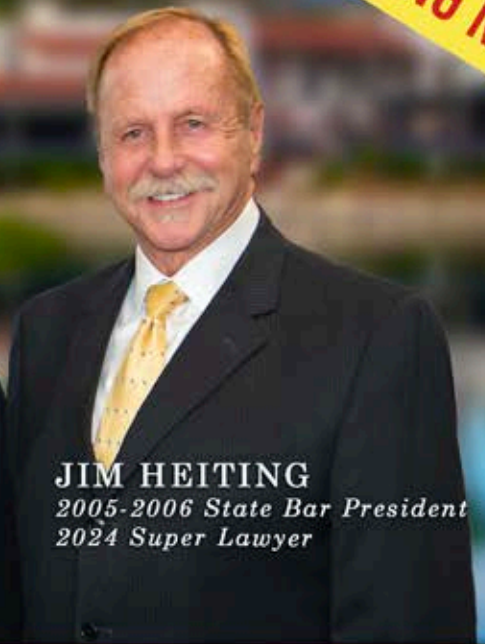
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# RIVERSIDE LAWYER

MAGAZINE

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# Krieger Award Nominations Sought

In 1974, the RCBA established a Meritorious Service Award to recognize those lawyers or judges who have, over their lifetimes, accumulated outstanding records of community service. The award, later named for James H. Krieger, has since been presented to James Wortz, Eugene Best, Arthur Swarner, Arthur Littleworth, Justice James Ward, Fred Ryneal, John Babbage, Patrick Maloy, Ray Sullivan, Justice John Gabbert, Jane Carney, Judge Victor Miceli, Justice Manuel Ramirez, Kathleen Gonzales, Terry Bridges, James Heiting, Jack Clarke, Jr., Virginia Blumenthal, Judge Virginia Phillips, Senator Richard Roth, and John Brown.

Obviously, with just 21 honorees in 50 years, the award is not presented every year. Instead, it is given only when the extraordinary accomplishments of particularly deserving individuals come to the attention of the award committee.

The award committee is now soliciting nominations for the award. Those eligible to be considered for the award must be (1) lawyers, inactive lawyers, judicial officers, or former judicial officers (2) who either are currently practicing or

sitting in Riverside County, or have in the past practiced or sat in Riverside County, and (3) who, over their lifetime, have accumulated an outstanding record of community service or community achievement. That service may be limited to the legal community, but must not be limited to the RCBA.

Current members of the RCBA board of directors are not eligible. Nor are the current members of the award committee: Judge Irma Asberry, Judge William Bailey (ret.), Virginia Blumenthal, Judge David Bristow (Chair), Judge Sophia Choi, Jack Clarke, Jr., Paul Grech, Jim Heiting and Robyn Lewis.

If you would like to have anyone considered for this most prestigious of RCBA awards, please submit a nomination to the RCBA office not later than July 1. The nomination should be in writing and should contain, at a minimum, the name of the nominee and a description of his or her record of community service or accomplishments. The identities of both the nominees and their nominators shall remain strictly confidential.



## Seeking Nominations for Attorney of the Year Awards

The **Attorney of the Year** award is given to RCBA attorney members who have demonstrated exceptional skills, accomplishments, and contributions to the legal profession. Common criteria that will be considered are as follows:

- Attorney must be a member of the RCBA for a minimum of one year.
- Nominees must be actively practicing or retired for less than one year.
- Legal Excellence – The attorney should have a track record of outstanding legal work, including successful cases and a high level of expertise in their field of law.
- Significant achievements – The attorney should have achieved significant outcomes for their clients or their community. This may include landmark cases, favorable settlements, or impactful legal advocacy.
- Professionalism and Ethics – The attorney should demonstrate a commitment to the highest standards of professionalism, ethics, and integrity in their legal practice.
- Legal Innovation – Attorneys who have developed innovative legal strategies, tools, or solutions that have had a positive impact in the legal field may receive recognition.
- Leadership and Service – Attorneys who have shown leadership within the legal community or have made substantial contributions through pro bono work, community service, or legal education may be considered more strongly.
- Client Testimonials – Positive feedback and testimonials from clients or colleagues can be influential in the selection process.
- Impact on the Legal Profession – The attorney's contributions to the advancement of the legal profession, such as mentoring or teaching may be considered.

- Case Complexity – The complexity and significance of the cases the attorney has handled may play a role in the selection process.

### Instructions for Submitting a Nomination for the Attorney of the Year Award

1. Review the eligibility criteria. Make sure the attorney you wish to nominate meets the requirements. Be specific in your nomination, highlighting the attorney's exceptional contributions.

2. Please submit supporting information that showcase the attorney's qualifications, accomplishments, and contributions to the legal profession. This may include:

- A resume or curriculum vitae of the nominated attorney.
- A written statement explaining why the attorney deserves the award.
- Testimonials or recommendation letters from colleagues and/or clients.
- Documentation of significant cases or legal achievements.
- Any relevant publications, articles, or presentations to which the attorney has contributed.
- Awards, recognitions or honors the attorney has received.

Please submit your contact information as the nominator and the contact information of your nominee to the Riverside County Bar Association at 4129 Main Street, Suite 100, Riverside, CA 92501 or by email to [charlene@riverside-countybar.com](mailto:charlene@riverside-countybar.com). All nominations must be submitted by June 14, 2024. Voting will be held in July and awards will be presented at the Installation of Officers Dinner on September 19, 2024.

RCBA Board members are ineligible for nomination.



# PRESIDENT'S Message

by Mark A. Easter



## “Ten Years Gained”

In my all-time favorite Led Zeppelin song, “Ten Years Gone,” Robert Plant laments about lost love. I thought quite a bit about whether or not to tell this story. But I am, in the hopes that it helps or encourages someone...because it's a story of Ten Years Gained....

In May of 2014, a hard-working attorney approaching 50 went drinking with a friend on a Friday night. From one bar to another. The brakes were completely off. Why? The disappointment of a recently failed relationship? The challenge of being a single dad to a teenager? The pressure of managing a heavy caseload and very large transportation project? The competitive pressure of law firm life? Any or all of those reasons most likely, but looking back, it probably didn't matter. He was going to get his drink on. Because that's what he was used to. That was his structure. His ace in the hole. His cave of comfort. Hammer it out. Worry about how you get home later. Worry about your hangover tomorrow. Worry about who you hurt...well come on, who are you hurting?

Most nights it turned out okay. Sure, maybe he was a little slow the next day. Sure, he'd cringe for a moment: “uh oh, I did it again...what if”? But he made it home. He was good. Onto the next day's battle. Only this night in May 2014 turned out different. This time he didn't wake up to an alarm clock. He awoke to the sound of a saw. A fireman's saw, removing him from the car he had totaled. He didn't spend this weekend at home watching sports and nursing a hangover or the “hair of the dog.” He spent this weekend in the County hospital.

But by Sunday he was home. Still had his driver's license. No arrest. Now what? What happens next? He calls his judge friend...a former deputy DA...seeking “insider knowledge.”

But this judge friend...a real friend...knows that sometimes things just have to be said. He'd seen the signs. The increasing abuse. The increasing dependence. The inability to have just one drink...ever. So rather than insider court intel, this friend offered the simple and direct, “Hey pal, I've known you many years, I think it's time for your drinking days to be over.”

And in that moment, I knew Larry was right. I had to stop. I had legal, moral, physical, financial, relational, and familial reasons compelling me to stop. But how? How do I overcome patterns, urges, habits, compulsions? Overnight? I didn't know. All I knew is that I just had to figure out how to live without alcohol. One day at a time. I initially felt the need to maintain the ritual...just without the alcohol. So that first 30-60 days there were lots of mixed NON-alcoholic drinks...Markaritas instead of margaritas, as one friend put it.

But soon came help. I found people to talk to. In a few weeks I crossed paths with Jim Heiting, as I tried to make a quick exit from a Civil Bench-Bar Meeting. He saw the cuts still visible on my forehead. He figured it out. And soon thereafter I was attending meetings of The Other Bar...and realizing that I wasn't unique, I wasn't alone, and my life wasn't over. I had a chance to meet and hear from amazing people like Jim, Greg Dorst, and Mike Razo. But I also knew that a new life of sobriety was going to take work, patience, and humility. An uphill battle lay before me. And it was not a question of “getting my life back” (because I didn't really want that life back), it was about growing to accept whatever life threw at me that day, week, or month.

Was it a challenge and was it sometimes frustrating? Yes. Were there consequences? Yes. And not all at once...some maestro behind the scenes composed a well-orchestrated chronology that would last almost 3 years...the summons from the DA, a fine, the loss of my driving privileges, an ankle bracelet, a “book and release” day in jail, endless DUI classes, countless taxis and UBERs, State Bar Prosecution, the blower ignition device, public reproof, restitution payments, court costs...on and on. And yet, experiencing those inconveniences, expenses, deprivations, and humiliations was absolutely vital to my progress and recovery. I needed the reminder of what I had done, how out of control I had lived, and that I could not..go back...ever.

And yet, there were many blessings. Absence of regret in the morning. Absence of worry about how I'll get home. Way better

*continued on page 6*



## IT'S A TEAM EFFORT AT OUR FIRM

★★★★★ *"King Law picked up my medical malpractice case and we found our self in trial at the San Bernardino Superior Court. During our 3 weeks of trial, I found the King brothers to be amazing trial lawyers. They clearly laid out the chronology of events and where the physician did not meet standards of care. I especially appreciated their strong, moral approach. These are not typical lawyers. They are the ones you hope to have on your side."*



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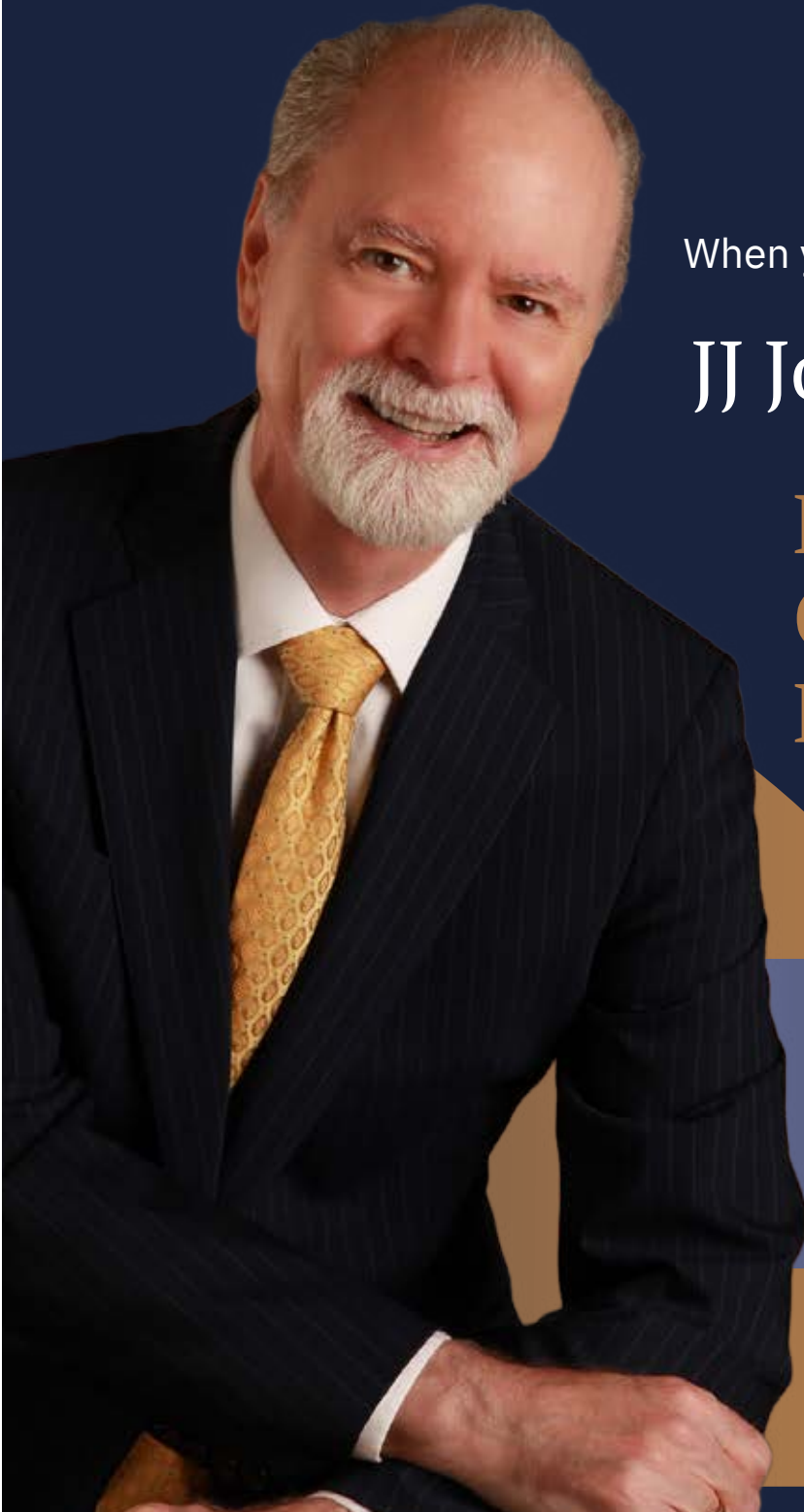
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President's Column-continued from page 3

health and fitness. Complete support and mercy from my family and my firm. Meeting other people who struggled like I did. The relief of conceding where I am powerless. Learning humility from depending on others for rides, references, or just a listening ear. Being able to focus on others at social settings; alcoholism is like this high maintenance plus-one you have to bring with you everywhere: "What is he/she going to do tonight? Who is he/she going to offend? Does he/she need another drink? Is he/she hungry? Has he/she had enough? How is he/she getting home?" Freaking exhausting. Good riddance. I don't miss him/her.

And taking stock in those blessings and being able to talk about them in places like The Other Bar, was huge. Treating each of those events that went better sober as monument stones to the blessings of sobriety. To the miracle. I know

who I was and how I lived before. I know that I didn't want to keep living like that. And yet, I was. Until God blessed me with the miracle of sobriety. Ten years gained, not ten more years gone. Yes, I had to put in the time, and have the commitment, and "stick to it." But the fact that I did that was a miracle, and so were the countless people put in my life who helped me get there.

So...if any of this story resonates with someone out there, and they are struggling, let me just say that you can start getting help today. Your Day One new beginning could be today. It doesn't have to come after getting pulled from your wrecked Infiniti at 2 a.m., and getting ambulated to the hospital for a weekend of blood tests, X-Rays, and visits from police officers and scared and sad family members. And it certainly doesn't have to come from even WORSE. If you are interested in more

information about The Other Bar and its meeting schedule, feel free to contact me at [mark.easter@bbklaw.com](mailto:mark.easter@bbklaw.com).

*Mark A. Easter is the president of the RCBA, a partner at Best Best & Krieger LLC, and has been residing and practicing law in Riverside since 1989.*

### **Need Confidential Help?**

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*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.*



## **Proudly Features**

### **Hon. John G. Evans, Ret.**

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# BARRISTERS

## President's Message

by David P. Rivera



### How a Beagle Danced His Way onto Cal. License Plates

He's clever, funny, loyal, exceedingly imaginative, down-to-earth, yet brazen. At times he's frustrating and impertinent—but always beloved. Just ask Woodstock, his master Charlie Brown, or the 6-in-every-10 people who are self-proclaimed Peanuts fans.<sup>1</sup> Snoopy is a cultural icon.



*Barristers take in Knott's Boysenberry Festival with Snoopy! While Barristers has seen a very noticeable uptick in member participation throughout the term, the stars seem to have misaligned for this particular event.*

Even so, it took more than admiration and popularity to land Snoopy on California license plates. This article reviews the California Vehicle Code sections that allow for special interest license plates, provides examples of special interest license plate programs, and—on the eve of National Pet Month (May)—explains how Snoopy became an ambassador and

fundraising beacon for California museums.

### I. Legislative Authority for Special Interest License Plates

#### A. Basic Structure

The California Vehicle Code establishes the authority to launch special interest license plate programs. These programs amount to sponsorship mechanisms that enable vehicle registrants to subsidize specific state agencies, public institutions, and charitable causes by purchasing specialized license plates. Registrants pay an increased fee knowing they are contributing to public programs that are tied to a particular plate. To incentivize purchases, specialized plates are embellished with distinctive designs and decorative images that convey DMV-sanctioned messages.<sup>2</sup>

1 Darren K. Carlson, *More Than Six in Ten Am. Are Fans of Peanuts Comic Strip*, Gallup (Feb. 11, 2000), <https://news.gallup.com/poll/3244/more-than-six-ten-americans-fans-peanuts-comic-strip.aspx#:~:text=Snoopy%20seen%20as%20favorite%20character&text=A%20recent%20Gallup%20poll%20shows,the%20widely%20syndicated%20comic%20strip>.  
2 *Thinking of a Special Interest License Plate? Here's What You Should Know*, Sticker Quicker DMV Express Services (Nov. 20, 2019), <https://blog.stickerquicker.com/thinking-of-a-special-interest-license-plate-heres-what-you-should-know/uncategorized/>.

Special interest license plates have been around for decades, but the statutory framework has evolved over time. Today, an amended legacy program coexists with a modern program.<sup>3</sup> The legacy program is the Special Interest License Plate (SILP) program, which once allowed private organizations to participate in the sponsorship mechanism.<sup>4</sup> Since 2007, the DMV has been prohibited from accepting new SILP program applications, but it continues to issue license plates produced under preexisting SILP programs.<sup>5</sup>

The modern program is the Specialized License Plate (SLP) program, which is now only open to "state agencies"; private organizations cannot participate.<sup>6</sup> This change prevents the DMV from inadvertently venturing into content-based restrictions of private speech whenever it rejects a privately proposed specialized license plate on the basis of its design (i.e., message).<sup>7</sup> It does not prevent private organizations and individuals from lobbying state agencies to directly sponsor novel plates in their own right. Regardless, specialized plates issued under SLP must now publicize or promote a state agency, its mission, work, or official policy.<sup>8</sup>

#### B. Threshold Level of Public Interest; Prepaid Fees

A minimum level of interest must be demonstrated in the proposed license plate program before the DMV will begin plate production. The original SILP program established a low threshold that invited a rash of applications. It was a bit of a free-for-all, resulting in inconsistent and sometimes controversial messaging. The State Legislature stepped in.

Today, 7,500 unique vehicle registrants must enroll in a program within 12 months of the DMV approving the sponsoring agency's initial application. A 12-month extension is available upon request, extending the enrollment period to 24 months total.<sup>9</sup> Moreover, if the number of valid and outstanding specialized plates in any greenlit program ever falls below 7,500, the DMV may no longer issue or replace those plates, subject to certain contingencies.<sup>10</sup>

Vehicle registrants must prepay the required SLP fee to complete their program enrollment. The prepaid fee can vary, but for most specialized plates the cost of initial issuance and renewal is \$50.00 and \$40.00, respectively.<sup>11</sup> Requests for personalized registration numbers generally double these fee amounts.<sup>12</sup>

The fees generated from 7,500 plates ensure that there are sufficient funds to reimburse the DMV for producing a new plate. Computer programming, not plate production, accounts for most of the DMV's costs. Plate

3 Cal. Veh. Code §§ 5060, 5101, 5156 (West 2024).

4 *Id.* § 5060.

5 *Id.* § 5060.1.

6 *Id.* §§ 5151–52.

7 See *The Women's Resource Network v. Gourley*, 305 F.Supp.2d 1145 (E.D. Cal. 2004)

(permanently enjoining the DMV from approving or rejecting SLPs in the absence of criteria that promote neutral consideration of the content or viewpoint of the speech being considered, and thereby prompting California to add Section 5060.1 and Article 8.6 (beginning with Section 5151) to Chapter 1 of Division 1 of the Vehicle Code). But see *Walker v. Tex. Div., Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc.*, 576 U.S. 200 (2015) (holding that SLPs are government speech, not private speech, with the effect that a Texas law similar to California's previous process for establishing SLPs is innocuous.)

8 Veh. §§ 5151, 5154.

9 *Id.* §§ 5004.3(g), 5060(d)(1), 5156(b).

10 *Id.* §§ 5060(d)(2)(a), 5156(c)(1).

11 *Id.* § 5157(a)(1)–(2).

12 *Id.* §§ 5103, 5106; Vehicle Industry Registration Proc. Manual § 36 Appendix 1F—Fees, State of Cal. DMV, <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/handbook/vehicle-industry-registration-procedures-manual-2/appendix-1f-fees/> (last visited Apr. 22, 2024).

proposals that fall short of the 7,500 threshold would be a cost burden to the DMV and would fail to raise additional revenue for the state.<sup>13</sup>

### C. Design Criteria

Initially, specialized plates under the legacy program permitted full-plate graphic designs. In other words, the entire plate was once an art canvas. This is no longer the case for newer plates designs. An SLP design, decal, or descriptive message must be situated to the left of, or underneath, the plate registration number, not to exceed two inches by three inches on the left, or five-eighths of an inch underneath.<sup>14</sup>

## II. Example Programs

### A. Current Production Plates

There are 15 special interest license plates available for purchase. The two most successful programs are the Legacy plate and the Kids' plate.<sup>15</sup>

The "California 1960s Legacy" special interest license plate went into production in 2015.<sup>16</sup> It replicates the black background and yellow lettering found on standard plates issued by the DMV from 1965 through 1968.<sup>17</sup> Plate revenue benefits state environmental projects, including the acquisition, preservation, and restoration of natural areas or ecological reserves.<sup>18</sup> In fiscal year 2020–2021, this program generated an additional \$39.4 million for the California Environmental Protection Program.<sup>19</sup>

The "Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help Our Kids" special interest license plate dates to 1992.<sup>20</sup> Revenue from these Kids' plates—which contain an embossed heart, hand, star, or plus sign—is deposited into the Child Health and Safety Fund (CHSF) to address unintentional childhood injuries, child abuse, and childcare licensing and inspection.<sup>21</sup> In fiscal year 2020–2021, this program brought in \$3.5 million for the CHSF.<sup>22</sup>

### B. Unsuccessful Plate Proposals

Not all special interest license plate proposals are successful. One such proposed program is the legislatively-sponsored Salton Sea program.<sup>23</sup> Upon production, plate revenue was to have been deposited in the Salton Sea Restoration Account for the restoration of the Salton Sea. However, even after a 12-month extension, the program received a mere 151 enrollments of the required 7,500. The Salton Sea program is now defunct.<sup>24</sup>

### C. Outstanding Plate Proposals

In 2022, the California National Resource Agency (CNRA) marketed SLP programs to several professional sports organizations.<sup>25</sup> That effort yielded a promising license plate deal with

the San Francisco 49ers. If the 49ers plate is ever produced, revenue will help CNRA manage California's natural resources and expand access to outdoor recreational spaces across the state. The 49ers program was introduced in May 2022.<sup>26</sup> As of January 9, 2024, only 2,700 people had enrolled over an extended 20-month period. With the deadline one month away, the program's fate looms.<sup>27</sup>

## III. California Museums (Snoopy) Plate

### A. Why Snoopy?

Snoopy isn't just famous, he's world famous—a world famous author, astronaut, attorney, painter, surgeon, chef, and tennis player. He's a World War I flying ace and even lounges about as "Joe Cool," the college student. These are just a handful of the personas that this introspective pup has adopted.<sup>28</sup> Snoopy's affinity for new experiences and learning is mirrored in the very purpose of museums.

Museums are repositories of knowledge. They preserve and advance the arts, humanities, culture, education, leadership, science, literature, and more. They broaden horizons. And Snoopy blazes a trail in this regard. Hello there Snoopy, fitting museum representative and fundraiser!

Jeanne Schulz, widow of Peanuts and Snoopy creator Charles Schulz, was no passive party in promoting Snoopy as an ambassador for learning, specifically in the context of museums. In 2003, she and fellow copyright holder, Peanuts Worldwide, granted the California Association of Museums (CAM) (a private organization) a royalty-free license to use Snoopy's image (*doing his happy dance!*) in an SLP program for the benefit of museums. The grant stemmed from Mrs. Schulz' experiences while founding the Charles M. Schulz Museum a year prior. During that process, she realized that all museums need increased funding.<sup>29</sup>

### B. (Joe) Cool! That Seemed Easy Enough

Even Snoopy couldn't dance onto license plates easily. Mrs. Schulz' generous offer coincided with several aforementioned material changes to the special interest license plate program. Private organizations could no longer be the sole program sponsor; that entitlement was now limited to state entities. Plate designs could no longer feature full-plate graphics, leading to less distinctive designs and decreased public interest. And at least 7,500 unique vehicle registrants were required to enroll within 12 months, a challenging hurdle. Because of these deterrents, the DMV issued no specialized license plates under programs originating during the period 2003 through 2010.<sup>30</sup>

Still, the potential of a Snoopy-adorned license plate was not to be ignored. CAM got to work, securing a donation from a local foundation to fund early planning and development. Next, a San Francisco advertising agency assisted with pro bono

13 Cal. Legacy License Plate Program, Assembly Comm. on Transp. (Mar. 13, 2023), <https://trackbill.com/s3/bills/CA/2023/AB/378/analyses/assembly-transportation.pdf>.

14 Veh. § 5155(a).

15 Assembly Comm. on Transp., *supra* note 13.

16 Mike McPhate, "Cal. Today: A 1960s License Plate Revival," *The New York Times* (Mar. 21, 2017), <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/21/us/california-today-a-1960s-license-plate-revival.html#:~:text=Introduced%20in%202015%2C%20the%20%20California,the%20heyday%20of%20muscle%20cars.>

17 Veh. § 5004.3(b)(2).

18 *Id.* § 5004.3(h)(2).

19 Assembly Comm. on Transp., *supra* note 13.

20 Child Health & Safety: "Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help Our Kids" License Plate Program, Senate Comm. on Human Serv. (Mar. 20, 2023), <https://trackbill.com/s3/bills/CA/2023/SB/608/analyses/senate-human-services.pdf>.

21 Veh. § 5072(a)–(b).

22 Assembly Comm. on Transp., *supra* note 13.

23 Veh. § 5163.

24 Jesse Marx, "The Salton Sea License Plate Program Has Been Put Out of Its Misery," *Palm Springs Desert Sun* (May 17, 2017), <https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/politics/2017/05/17/salton-sea-license-plate-program-has-been-put-out-its-misery/328044001/#>.

25 Sports License Plate Program, Outdoors for All, Cal. Nat. Resources

Agency, <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Access-for-All> (last visited Apr. 22, 2024); Cal. Sports Team-Branded License Plates, Cal. Nat. Resources Agency (last visited Apr. 22, 2024).

26 49ers Found. Launches Team-Branded Cal. License Plates, SF 49ers (May 2, 2022), <https://www.49ers.com/news/49ers-foundation-launches-team-branded-california-license-plates>.

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28 "List of Snoopy's Alter Egos," *Peanuts Wiki*, [https://peanuts.fandom.com/wiki/List\\_of\\_Snoopy%27s\\_alter\\_egos](https://peanuts.fandom.com/wiki/List_of_Snoopy%27s_alter_egos) (last visited Apr. 22, 2024).

29 Phil Kohlmetz, "A Snoopy License Plate Delivers More than Mere Peanuts to Cal. Museums," *Am. Alliance of Museums* (Feb. 13, 2019), <https://www.aam-us.org/2019/02/13/a-snoopy-license-plate-delivers-more-than-mere-peanuts-to-california-museums/#:~:text=The%20idea%20for%20the%20Snoopy,for%20a%20specialty%20license%20plate.>

30 *Id.*

messaging and the identification of marketing channels. CAM then compiled an email list 11,000 people strong, drawn from museum friends and Snoopy fans. The pitch: support the cause, display your fandom. CAM also sought out the necessary state agency relationship. Eventually, CAM found a partner in the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) that had been established within the California State Library.<sup>31</sup>

Together, CCHE/CAM solicited the backing of Assemblymember Toni Atkins, a Snoopy-lover who represented the San Diego-based 78th District. Assemblymember Atkins sponsored Assembly Bill (A.B.) 482, which became effective on January 1, 2014.<sup>32</sup> A.B. 482 amended the California Education Code to authorize CCHE to create a grant program, the Museum Grant Program (MGP), and to then compel CCHE's sponsorship of an SLP program for the purpose of using enrollment fees to fund MGP.<sup>33</sup>

In January 2014, pursuant to A.B. 482, CCHE/CAM sponsored the Snoopy SLP program. Enrollments leapt to 3,000 out of the gate, buoyed by a press conference attended by all major news networks. Thereafter, enrollments slowed, settling in at 5,000 after 1 year. CCHE/CAM requested a one-year extension from the DMV.<sup>34</sup>

### C. Happiness Is a Warm Puppy

To generate fresh publicity and interest in the Snoopy program, CCHE/CAM created the "Beagle Backer" marketing program. More than 60 California museums offered the first 7,500 enrollees free or discounted admission for a year, but only if 7,500 enrollments were actually reached. Additionally, CCHE/CAM wrangled free ad space from major theater chains to run short public service announcements immediately prior to showings of a new movie arrival—*The Peanuts Movie*.<sup>35</sup>

On December 1, 2015, with 1 month remaining in the enrollment period, the Snoopy SLP program was 600 enrollments shy of success. An anonymous angel underwrote the cost of those 600 enrollments, which all became registered within 6 hours. Then, even more enrollees joined the bandwagon. On the final day of the enrollment period, CCHE/CAM handed the DMV more than 9,000 enrollments.<sup>36</sup>

The world's most charming beagle began appearing on California license plates in 2016.<sup>37</sup>

## IV. Summary

The Snoopy license plate exists because some wonderful people forced the stars to align. Jeanne Schulz granted the California Association of Museums (CAM) a license to use Snoopy in a Specialized License Plate (SLP) program. CAM partnered with a state agency in the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) to sponsor the program (as is now legally required of a private organization). Not only did CCHE/CAM require a 12-month extension, they (seemingly) needed an angel donor to push enrollments past the 7,500 threshold. They did it. With the Snoopy license plate now in production, program revenue will be deposited in the CCHE Fund to fund MGP, to the benefit of California museums.

<sup>31</sup> *Id.*

<sup>32</sup> *Id.*

<sup>33</sup> Cal. Educ. Code § 20092 (West 2024); The Snoopy Plate, Cal. Ass'n of Museums, <https://www.calmuseums.org/Snoopy/Snoopy/FAQ.aspx?hkey=04487a7f-b0fd-45f3-a305-d7d2ed20dc65> (last visited Apr. 22, 2024).

<sup>34</sup> The Snoopy Plate, *supra* note 36.

<sup>35</sup> Phil Kohlmetz, *supra* note 32.

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

<sup>37</sup> Joshua Stewart, "Snoopy License Plates to Debut," *San Diego Union Tribune* (Dec. 16, 2015), <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-snoopy-license-plates-to-debut-next-year-2015dec16-story.html>.

None of this would have taken shape if Snoopy wasn't such a great ambassador for California museums. He is! He personifies a broadening of horizons, new experiences, and lifelong learning. He has left his pawprints on popular culture. Now, even California license plates know his touch.

Time for a happy dance!

### Upcoming Events

**The Ruck Challenge 5K.** May 4, 8:00 a.m.—noon (check-in begins at 6:30 a.m.). Join us as we tackle The Ruck Challenge 5K in aid of veterans. The Ruck Challenge, operated by Reaching New Heights Foundation, was born out of Riverside County Veteran's Court to increase awareness about rehabilitative services for veterans and to raise funds in support of veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of war. See <https://RCBABarristersRuck5K.eventbrite.com> for registration instructions.

**5th Annual Judicial Reception.** May 16, 5:00–7:30 p.m. at Riverside City Hall Grier Pavilion. Barristers welcomes Barristers members, non-Barristers, seasoned attorneys, legal support staff, students, bench members, and others to a social reception as we honor our Attorney and Judge of the Year. Register at <https://RCBABarristersJR.eventbrite.com>.

**New Attorney Academy (NAA) Graduation Celebration.** May 17, 2:15 p.m. at Lake Alice Trading Co. Join us for happy hour as we congratulate this year's NAA class on its successful completion of the program immediately after the conclusion of its last day. If you can't make the early start time, pop on over whenever you wrap up your Friday. We'll be there through the evening.

**Wine Tasting in Temecula Valley through Grapeline Wine Tours.** June 8, 10:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m. That's right! We're hitting Temecula for wine tasting to mark the near-end of our 2023–2024 term. The idea for this event began at least three years ago and it's finally here! Enjoy pick-up and drop-off in downtown Riverside via chartered bus, with a possible stop in Old Town Temecula for those who would like to join the party from there. Register at <https://RCBABarristersWineTour.eventbrite.com>.

**ELECTIONS!** June 20, 5:30 p.m. at the Mission Inn's Presidential Lounge. Active Barristers members are encouraged to run for office! The success of Barristers is dependent not only on our members' active participation, but on the leadership of our board. Your vote counts! Would you like to serve on the Barristers Board 2024–2025, or do you know someone who would be a great fit? Contact us at [barristers@riversidecountybar.com](mailto:barristers@riversidecountybar.com) for nominations information. Nominations are due on or before May 17.

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*David P. Rivera is a solo practitioner of business law in Highland, treasurer of the Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire, and a member of the RCBA Bar Publications Committee.*



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# Practicing Responsibly and Ethically The State Bar Court: An Introduction

by David Cantrell and Cole Heggi

The State Bar Court is an administrative agency affiliated with the State Bar of California whose primary role is to hear and decide professional discipline cases involving lawyers in California. It is considered to be an “administrative arm” of the California Supreme Court. (*Lebbos v. State Bar* (1991) 53 Cal.3d 37, 47.) The Bar Court is empowered to recommend discipline for attorneys who have violated the California Rules of Professional Conduct, committed a crime involving moral turpitude, violated a court order, or committed other statutory infractions.

The Bar Court has eight regular judges—consisting of a presiding judge, two review judges, and five hearing judges—who serve six-year terms. All Bar Court judges are appointed by the California Supreme Court, except for three hearing judges whose appointments are divided between the governor and the legislature. Additional judges may be appointed on a *pro tempore* basis.

The Bar Court process for handling attorney discipline begins when a complaint against an attorney is filed with the State Bar of California’s Office of Chief Trial Counsel (OCTC). Complaints can be filed by virtually anyone, but are usually filed by clients. Upon receiving a complaint, the OCTC conducts a preliminary investigation to determine if there is enough evidence to support the allegations of misconduct. The OCTC has broad subpoena powers—including taking depositions—to aid its investigation. The attorney respondent has a duty to cooperate with the investigation, although certain privileges and objections may be asserted.

If the investigation finds substantial evidence of misconduct, the OCTC will file formal charges. These charges are detailed in a Notice of Disciplinary

Proceedings, which must be served on the attorney and must contain enough information—including certain required elements—to put the attorney on fair, adequate, and reasonable notice of the alleged violations and the disciplinary measures sought. (Bus. & Prof. C. § 6085; State Bar Rules Proc. 5.41.) Similar to civil litigation, the accused attorney must file a timely response to avoid default.

The pretrial stage operates similarly to criminal court, including a discovery stage wherein the OCTC must divulge all exculpatory evidence and the opportunity for the parties to file motions to dismiss the case, limit or allow discovery, or for evidentiary rulings. This stage often involves formal and informal settlement discussions and conferences.

Trials in the Hearing Department operate much like state court trials; they are formal hearings where both sides can present evidence, call witnesses, and make arguments. There are evidentiary rules and procedures, but they are generally looser and less technical than those for civil and criminal proceedings. The State Bar must prove culpability by clear and convincing evidence. (State Bar Rules Proc. 5.103.) The hearing is conducted by a judge of the State Bar Court, who will then issue findings of fact, conclusions of law, and, if warranted, a recommended disciplinary action.

Any party may request review of the hearing judge’s final decision (or certain interlocutory orders) by the Review Department. The review is typically *de novo*. After review by the Review Department, a State Bar Court decision becomes final and enforceable once the time within which a petition for review may be filed with the Supreme Court elapses or the petition has been denied. (Bus. & Prof.C. § 6084(a); Cal.

Rules of Court, 9.16(b).) If a petition for review is granted by the Supreme Court, its review is *de novo*; it can make any order it deems appropriate, including changing the severity or type of discipline imposed.

After becoming final, a disciplinary recommendation is implemented by the State Bar. The discipline can range from private reproof all the way to suspension or disbarment.

Of course, each step in this process involves a specialized body of rules and precedent, and presents its own sets of potential pitfalls and opportunities for clever lawyering. If you receive notice that a disciplinary complaint is filed against you, it is advisable to seek the advice of counsel. In most cases, the counsel should come from someone other than yourself.

*David Cantrell is a partner with the firm Lester, Cantrell & Kraus, LLP. His practice focuses on legal malpractice and professional responsibility issues. David is certified by the California State Bar’s Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in legal malpractice law.*

*Cole Heggi is senior counsel at Lester, Cantrell & Kraus, LLP, where he also represents and advises clients on legal malpractice and professional responsibility issues.*



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# Shelter Court in San Bernardino County

by Laura Martinez

**San Bernardino County** is the largest county (geographically) in the greater United States of America. As seen in the media, there has been a significant increase in the unsheltered population based out of Southern California. Some believe it to be because of the weather, the cost of living in comparison to other parts of the state, or because of the nexus between substance abuse, mental health, and incarceration rates in the county. Nonetheless, there is a continued focus on a lack of resources to account for this significant increase in this population.

In 2017, the Superior Court of California, San Bernardino County, revamped a specialty program previously known as Homeless Court. The first step in looking at how to bridge the gap between this vulnerable population, law enforcement, and the court was to change the name and take away the stigma of being "homeless." Thus, the name was changed to Shelter Court.

This specialty court is considered a Collaborative Justice Court, which plays a significant role in the nationwide commitment to restorative justice. The following is a description of this specialty court as described by the Judicial Council of California's website:

Homeless courts are designed to help participants address outstanding criminal cases, including infractions, misdemeanors, and low-level felony cases that can keep them from being able to secure employment and housing. Sessions are usually held in a local shelter or similar community site where assistance for those experiencing homelessness or who are housing insecure is available.

Some homeless courts may also help participants address some civil issues, including child support.

Resolution of outstanding warrants not only meets a fundamental need of homeless people but also eases court case-processing backlogs and reduces vagrancy. Homeless people tend to be fearful of attending court, yet their outstanding warrants limit their reintegration into society, deterring them from using social services and impeding their access to employment. They are effectively blocked from obtaining driver's licenses, job applications, and rental agreements. The benefits of homeless court programs was recognized by the Chief Justice's Workgroup on Homelessness in their final report to the Judicial Council.

Under the continued support and leadership of Presiding Judge Lisa M. Rogan, Assistant Presiding Judge Rod Cortez, Court Executive Officer Anabel Z. Romero, and other judicial officers with the driving force of Judge Ingrid Uhler (ret.) and Treatment Court Coordinator Laura Martinez, this specialty court has become one of the most successful in terms of community outreach and awareness. Like its sister programs such as Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts, and Veterans Treatment Courts, Shelter Court is collaborative in all efforts.

The commitment of Justice Partners such as the Public Defender's Office and District Attorney's Office to eliminate bias, provide court and legal services, and increase the quality of life for this vulnerable population has made an impact in the community like no other. Similarly, what is most unique about this court is the ability to provide services to the community by creating a "mobile court" that is fully functional anywhere in the community.

The process is also remarkable in that the Probation Department Homeless Outreach Unit and local law enforcement agencies with a homeless/transient resource unit are directly involved.

These justice partners work with local shelters that want to host a Shelter Court event and coordinate the event based on a resource fair model. The goal is to have one event per month. Litigants, at the assistance of the host agency and Probation Department Homeless Outreach Unit led by Supervising Probation Officer Rodney Sermons, place themselves on the court calendar for the day of the event and work directly with the officers to be transported to and from the event location. On the day of the event, litigants are greeted by hosting agency staff and Probation Officers assigned to the Homeless Outreach Unit. As litigants check in and wait to be seen by one of the attorneys, they have the opportunity to get food, meet our community resource partners, and get linked to various resources such as medical services, substance use disorder, Narcan awareness, and mental health linkage to services in addition to housing resources, food banks, clothing closets, mobile showers, haircuts, and hygiene products.

Over the last four years, we have served over 3000 litigants and dismissed over \$30,000 in fines and fees. In addition to the monthly events, we also participate in the yearly Veterans Stand-Down and Homeless Resource Event. It is a countywide collaboration led by Sgt. Major Coker from Reaching New Heights Foundation, who is also a Veteran Mentor Coordinator of San Bernardino Veterans Treatment Court and Riverside Veterans Treatment Court. This event welcomes over 300 individuals in one of the county's largest resource fairs.

In 2022, one example of those served was a young lady who had been "couch surfing" with her two daughters for over five years due to an outstanding warrant from an open case that was ten years old. Due to the changes in the law, the case had changed from a felony to a misdemeanor. However, the litigant did not know and never showed up in court for fear of getting arrested. This resulted in a warrant and eventually a hold on her license, preventing her from getting transportation and stable employment. During this event, a Deputy Sheriff assigned to Shelter Court greeted her and helped her through the process. After the case was heard, her warrant was recalled, her charges were reduced and then dismissed, and her fines and fees were dismissed. This litigant walked out crying, stating to the court that she was so thankful for the opportunity and that she had been given a new chance at life. She was immediately linked to resources for housing and job placement. The most impactful thing to her was that a law enforcement officer had the empathy to help her and walk her through the process. This is what Shelter Court is all about. It focuses on the relationships built between justice and community partners and between the community and law enforcement.

In the future, San Bernardino would love to coordinate with Riverside and other surrounding courts and justice partners to expand these services to litigants that cross county lines and often have dual jurisdictions.

*Laura Martinez M.A., is the Treatment Court Coordinator with the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino.*



# Veterans Court—Riverside County Hall of Justice, Department 35

by Honorable Randall Stamen

I have the honor of presiding over Riverside County's Veterans Court, located in the Hall of Justice. The Court was established to carry out Penal Code section 1001.80 pretrial military diversion and section 1170.9 post-conviction alternative sentencing of U.S. military veterans. The mission of the Court is to help veterans address the root causes of their criminal behavior, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and military sexual trauma, while maintaining the safety of the public and victims. Although I use the term "veterans," the individuals who appear before the Court are U.S. military veterans, active duty, guard, and reserve of all ages, ethnicities, and genders.

Public sentiment about collaborative courts is "diverse." When I share that I am a Veterans Court judge, the feedback I get ranges from "veterans deserve all of the help we can give them" to that which I recently received from a retired general. He expressed his disapproval of the Veterans Court and disdain for judges who go easy on criminals (in language not appropriate for *Riverside Lawyer*). I hope this article gives you a basic understanding of Riverside County's Veterans Court, the incredible resources veterans utilize while in the Court, the accountability and rigors of the Court's, and the measures the Court takes to maintain public and victim safety.

When a defendant first appears in a criminal case in any Riverside County courtroom, the defendant is advised that if they are a current or former member of the U.S. Military, they may be entitled to certain rights under California law. (Penal Code sections 858.) A veteran may verbally advise the court of their service (through counsel if represented) or by completing Judicial Council form MIL-100. Once advised, the court will transfer the case to the Veterans Court (Department RVC) for a Referral Hearing.

Hearings in misdemeanor cases, including Referral Hearings, occur on the first three Tuesdays of the month in the Veterans Court's Military Diversion program. Hearings in felony cases, including Referral Hearings, occur every Friday in the Veterans Treatment Court program.

Before or at the Referral Hearing, a veteran completes a Veterans Court Program Referral (Riverside Superior Court form RI-CR012). Ideally, a veteran also provides a DD-214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty to document their military service for the Veterans Court team. The team consists of: Riverside University Health System-Behavior Health ("RUHS-BH") therapists

and specialists; Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinators from the Department of Veterans Affairs: Loma Linda; a probation officer; a deputy district attorney; a deputy public defender or VMB Attorney (available to indigent Veterans) or private defense attorney; a dedicated volunteer from Inland Empire veterans' organization, the Reaching New Heights Foundation; and a judge. Traditionally, a deputy sheriff who is a veteran has been assigned to Department RVC.

At the Referral Hearing, the Court orders that a veteran be assessed by RUHS-BH. Veterans applying for the Veterans Treatment Court program (for felonies) are also assessed by the VA and the Probation Department. The Court schedules a future Eligibility Hearing. Often, the Court orders that a constant alcohol monitor be applied to the veteran. A veteran may also be ordered to wear a GPS and to regularly check in with the Probation Department. Veterans are advised that they will not be admitted into Veterans Court if they have negative interaction with law enforcement between the Referral Hearing and Eligibility Hearing. The Court follows through on that advisement.

At the Eligibility Hearing, the entire team, including private defense counsel, collaboratively discuss the eligibility and suitability of a veteran for the Court. Discussions are memorialized on the record in open court. Victims may make impact statements in the courtroom. The Veterans Court judge has the final say on whether a veteran is admitted or denied admission into the Court.

When admitted into the Military Diversion program (for misdemeanors), criminal proceedings are suspended and adjourned. No plea is taken. In the Veterans Treatment Court program (for felonies), a veteran must plead guilty to the alleged offenses. Once admitted into either program, the real work begins for a veteran. The Veteran must follow the treatment plan ordered by the Court. It regularly consists of daily individual and group therapy sessions and DUI, domestic violence, and anger management classes. Attendance, participation, and attitude at all therapy sessions is reported to the team. Veterans must call the Probation Department daily to learn whether they must report to a Probation Department office that day for urinalysis for alcohol and drugs. Progressive sanctions are imposed for positive tests, missed tests, failure to attend therapy, etc. The Probation Department conducts random home visits. Veterans must perform community service before they graduate from the Court. Veterans are performing community service throughout



the County at animal shelters, veterans' organizations, a wildlife rehabilitation center, foodbanks, an equine therapy ranch, a service dog organization, an air museum, and planting and watering oak trees with an environmental organization.

During the first phase of the Veterans Treatment Court program, veterans appear as a group from 1:30 to 4:00 every Friday. The Veterans Court Judge speaks with each veteran for three to five minutes (the time proven effective by multiple collaborative court studies). I pose questions to each Veteran which correspond to their program phase, ongoing treatment, offense, victim impact, goals after graduation, etc. Friday appearances decrease as a Veteran successfully progresses through the program. When a Veteran phases up, they give a speech to the team and their fellow Veterans.

Upon graduating from the Military Diversion program (in approximately twelve months), a Veteran gives a graduation speech and the Court dismisses a Veteran's misdemeanor case and seals all arrest and court records. When graduating from the Veterans Treatment Court program (in approximately eighteen months), Veterans give graduation speeches. Veterans' family members and friends are often in attendance. Members of the team speak about the Veteran's journey. With the approval of the deputy sheriff in the courtroom, I get off the bench,

shake the Veteran's hand, and present the Veteran with a Veterans Court challenge coin. A Veteran then begins their "cooling off" period of at least six months, during which they may not pick up a new criminal case. When a Veteran successfully completes the cooling off period, the Court may order the Veteran's plea of guilty withdrawn, reduce their eligible felony to a misdemeanor, dismiss the case, and seal all police and court records, pursuant to Penal Code sections 17(b), 1170.9, and 1203.4.

A formal ceremony is held yearly in Department 1 of the Riverside Historic Courthouse to recognize Veterans who graduated from the Court during the past year. It is attended by Veterans' families and friends and community leaders and law enforcement from throughout the County. The team invites you to this year's ceremony in November to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating veterans and accomplishment of the Court's mission: to help veterans address the root causes of veterans' criminal behavior, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and military sexual trauma, while maintaining the safety of the public and victims.

*Honorable Randall Stamen is a judge with the California Superior Court, Riverside County and is assigned to preside over Veterans Court.*



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# Exploring the Divide: Military Justice System vs. Civilian Court System

by Nolan Chandler

I served as an active-duty judge advocate (attorney) in the United States Marine Corps from early-2020 to late-2023. When I left active duty, I transitioned into the reserves, and into small business ownership with Griswold Home Care in the Greater Temecula area. Although my time on active duty is over, it is still very fresh in my mind.

Of my four years on active duty, about one year was spent in initial training. Nine months were spent in Quantico, Virginia, which focused on basic infantry tactics. Following my time in Quantico, Virginia, I spent about three months in Newport, Rhode Island at Naval Justice School for a crash course on different facets of military law. After this cumulative year of training, I was sent to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for a three-year tour as a judge advocate. I will focus on the military court system, or the “military justice” piece of my tour, which was actually only about half of my time at Camp Lejeune.

Whether in the military or civilian jurisdictions, the maintenance of order and the administration of justice are paramount. Two distinct frameworks exist for this purpose: the military justice system and the civilian court system. While both jurisdictions have many similarities, there are very distinct differences, in some respects.

## Distinctions

Each service member of the armed forces is subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice—promulgated by our legislature. The Military Rules of Evidence and Federal Rules of Evidence are extremely similar, as well as elements of a crime between the military and civilian jurisdictions. One distinction of military justice jurisdiction is that it applies exclusively to active-duty service members and, in some cases, reservists and military retirees for criminal misconduct. Civilian courts handle both criminal and civil cases involving civilians, addressing issues ranging from minor infractions to serious felonies.

In the military, felonies are tried in a general court-martial. Its nomenclature includes “general” because a general officer (O-7 to O-10) must convene the court. Unlike in civilian jurisdictions, there are no standing courts in the military. These courts are convened by commanding, or general, officers. If the allegations are not felonious, the commanding officer of the accused’s unit may convene a special court-martial or summary court-martial. Special courts-martial are for misdemeanors, and summary courts-martial are for serious matters, but not serious enough to rise to the level of a special court-martial. It is important to note that a summary court-martial is not convened in front of a military judge. Summary courts-martial are very limited in available punishment and often result

in minor disciplinary action such as reduction in rank and forfeiture of pay.

If all of that is a lot to keep track of and compartmentalize in this very brief, and summary explanation, do not worry. Law school could not possibly prepare you for these intricacies within the military justice system. Those attorneys that practiced law before joining the military may have an advantage in experience that can transfer to the military, but it still takes a while to understand the distinct intricacies within military justice. Even though there are some distinctions between military and civilian courts, there are many more similarities. However, what is more important than the distinctions and similarities is discussions of potential conflicts of interest.

## Potential Conflicts of Interest

A unique feature about the military justice system is that it is tied with the chain of command. Commanding officers have authority over disciplinary matters and may convene courts-martial to adjudicate offenses. These courts consist of military personnel serving as judges, members (jurors), and legal counsel. And notably, prosecutorial discretion sits with the command, which is dissimilar to civilian jurisdiction’s district attorney’s function. Very recently, there has been a movement to give military prosecuting attorneys—not part of the chain of command—prosecutorial discretion for some offenses. Some military attorneys have raised conflict of interest issues if the chain of command not only has administrative control over the accused, but the prosecuting counsel and defense counsel as well! You can see how this could raise a serious issue, especially for defense counsel.

Imagine if the district attorney’s office had administrative control over the prosecutor, the accused, and the defense counsel in a contested trial. That would certainly be bizarre. Well, not in the military. Another example of a potential conflict is member composition. In civilian jury panels, no one juror is necessarily superior to another juror. However, in the military, members are selected and pay grades (e.g. E-1, E-5, O-4, etc.) are diverse amongst the member pool. In essence, there may be junior service members mixed in with senior service members. Of course, on paper, all votes are to be considered equal and senior members are not to influence votes based on “rank.” However, one must think, “are there ever instances where junior service members feel pressured to vote a in a particular manner solely based on rank?” This is just another layer of potential conflict to the process in deliberations. There may be dozens, or hundreds, of questions after reading this brief article. These topics would need to be discussed in far more detail than here to provide a deeper understanding.

Hopefully, this at least provides enough interest to explore outside of this article to gain a better understanding of the military justice system.

In summary, these systems both have unique aspects while also having some stark differences. Neither system is perfect, and the law is constantly evolving. However, noticing differences and questioning whether certain aspects make sense will help ensure that we are always striving to improve each justice system. Understanding the differences between these systems is essential for safeguarding the

rights of individuals and maintaining the rule of law within each society.

*Nolan Chandler is a dedicated father, husband, attorney, and business owner. Nolan has recently expanded to small business ownership with Griswold Home Care of Greater Temecula, and will also continue to practice law in the local area in order to continue serving the community to the maximum extent possible.*



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# Past President: Chauncey L. McFarland

by Bruce Todd

As part of this magazine's goal to provide our readers with individual biographies about all of the past presidents of the Riverside County Bar Association, this article features one of the earlier past presidents.

Chauncey Leavenworth McFarland, who served as the RCBA president back in 1928, was born in Galesburg, Illinois to John McFarland and Mary Leavenworth McFarland on September 22, 1870. This author could not find any information about when he moved to Riverside nor where he attended law school. In an article from the *Los Angeles Herald* dated June 4, 1905, however, it was announced that his marriage to Jean Henderson, age 23 and originally from New York, had taken place at "the bride's parent's (Robert and Jennet Henderson) beautiful home on Hawarden Drive." Thus, he was clearly living in Riverside by this date.

It is also apparent from various newspaper articles circa 1905 that, by the date of his marriage, he was also the mayor of Riverside. Interestingly, his title as "mayor" was not the typical one. This is because Riverside was not incorporated until September 25, 1883 and, until the city ultimately adopted its charter, the city was run by a board of trustees. The president of the board was unofficially referred to as the "mayor" and McFarland served as the board's president. Technically, Riverside did not have an official "mayor" until 1909 when Samuel Cary Evans, Jr., the son of a prominent Riverside family (think of Lake Evans in Fairmount Park and the Evans Sports Complex), was elected as mayor.

There is evidence that McFarland was also an intelligent student as a youngster. Various newspaper articles describe him as achieving the honor roll on several occasions while "at Arlington school."

McFarland was evidently very lucky to have eventually become the mayor because, in a later column dated August 11, 1916, from the *Riverside Daily Press* entitled "In Earlier Days," it was noted that McFarland "almost drown in Laguna Beach 28 years ago." Unfortunately, no other details are included in the column about this event.

Besides his duties as mayor, he also participated in numerous other political activities. He served as president of the Riverside County Republican Central Committee. In an article from the *Riverside Daily Enterprise* dated May 4, 1906, it was noted that in his capacity as mayor, he had traveled to Berkeley to provide relief funds from Riverside to that city. This was presumably related to the devas-



Chauncey L. McFarland

tating San Francisco earthquake, which occurred on April 18, 1906.

His reputation was such that he was appointed to a committee to evaluate whether Riverside should prosecute Howard Thomas Hays on the charge of embezzling funds from the Orange Growers Bank. According to an article in the *Riverside Enterprise* dated June 10, 1905, Hays had previously been acquitted of this charge in Federal court in Los Angeles. McFarland's committee ultimately opined that no further action should be pursued in Riverside court against Hays since the evidence against him was "flimsy."

McFarland was subsequently on a committee to help solve what was referred to in the press as the "orange situation." According to an edition of the *Riverside Daily Press* dated November 14, 1914, this committee was formed to devise plans for the distribution of 100,000-150,000 boxes of oranges to various commission houses. There had been a bumper crop that year.

McFarland's name is also associated with another criminal matter in Riverside. Per the *Riverside Enterprise* edition of May 19, 1918, W. W. Phelps was sentenced to 7 ½ years in federal prison for embezzling \$16,500 from the National Bank of Riverside. Phelps was the former president of the bank and, evidently, a very popular citizen. The newspaper reported that McFarland, along with many other prominent citizens, had attended the sentencing hearing to request that the court show leniency toward the defendant.

According to records from the State Bar of California, McFarland was admitted to the bar in October of 1897. He was assigned bar number 9119. Subsequent newspaper articles describe him as an authority on water law. He served as counsel for the Riverside County Water District. Other articles describe his legal work in domestic and criminal defense matters. He also represented the Riverside Cement Co. in a labor dispute which the company had with its employees.

His name also crosses paths with Frank Augustus Miller—the legendary founder of Riverside's Mission Inn. In an article in the *Riverside Enterprise* dated May 2, 1905, there is mention that a celebration was held in Riverside to greet the new Salt Lake Overland train which was arriving in the city. It was heralded that it would now take only 33 hours to travel from Riverside to Salt Lake City. Miller secured the services of the band from the Sherman Indian Institute to play for the attendees. Oranges were

handed out to the passengers on the train. McFarland was described as one of the members of the Chamber of Commerce who greeted the train.

McFarland was also present with Miller when, according to the *Riverside Enterprise* dated April 8, 1916, the city's prominent Japanese citizens gathered for a luncheon at the Mission Inn. As part of the festivities, Miller presented to Ujiro Oyama, the Japanese consul in Los Angeles, a peace flag which contained the emblem of the Riverside Peace Society.

Like Frank Miller, McFarland was also an entrepreneur. In an article in the *Riverside Enterprise* dated December 4, 1907, it was noted that he was one of the directors of the Riverside Development Co. and that the company had purchased 1,000 acres of the "old Patton Ranch" in west Riverside. The company planned to grow oranges and lemons on the property and develop much of the land for subsequent sale.

Speaking of development, McFarland's name again made the news on September 10, 1908, when the *Riverside Enterprise* reported that he had taken out a building permit for the construction of a "handsome two-story home" on West 11th Street at a cost of \$3,500. The home was further described as containing eight rooms and being "one of the most modern in the city."

In later years, it was noted that he lived in the Woods Streets area of Riverside at 3621 Castle Reagh Place.

In an edition of the *Riverside Enterprise* dated December 19, 1912, it was reported that McFarland's mother, Mary Leavenworth McFarland, age 65, had passed away. He subsequently followed her in death many years later when he died in Los Angeles County on July 19, 1949. McFarland is buried in Riverside's Olivewood Cemetery.

*Bruce Todd is a member of the RCBA History Committee, a former member of the RCBA Publications Committee, and is now happily enjoying the life of retirement..*



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# Nominees for the 2024-2025 RCBA Board of Directors

The Riverside County Bar Association's Nominating Committee has nominated the following members for the 2024-2025 RCBA Board of Directors. The term of each office begins on September 1, 2024. Below are the biographies submitted by each candidate. The election will be conducted by a web based electronic voting system. Please watch your email for voting information. Election results will be announced in June.

## **Mark A. Easter** President

Mark Easter is currently serving as president to complete the term of Com. Kelly Moran. He will continue to serve as president for 2024-2025.



## **Megan Demshki** President-Elect

Megan G. Demshki is a partner at Aitken Aitken Cohn in Riverside where she specializes in traumatic personal injury, wrongful death, and medical malpractice matters.

Megan has been active in the Riverside County Bar Association for many years and currently serves as the vice president on the RCBA Board of Directors and RCB Foundation Board of Directors. She is a past president of the Barristers, the new and young attorney organization of the RCBA. Megan also served as the chair for the RCBA Civil Litigation Section for several years. Megan currently sits on the Steering Committee for the Riverside County Bar Foundation. Megan is a proud graduate of the RCBA's New Attorney Academy, where she now also serves as a member of the Steering Committee.

Megan currently serves as a past president of the Consumer Attorneys of the Inland Empire (CAOIE). Megan was awarded the 2018 CAOIE Presidential Award for Distinguished Service.

In 2023, Megan was recognized as Attorney of the Year by the RCBA Barristers, a Top Women Lawyer by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, and a Top 40 Under 40 Lawyers in California by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.

Outside of her involvement with the legal community, Megan serves as past chair of the Janet Goeske Foundation and vice president of Community Development for the Magnolia Center Business Council. She is a graduate of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Leadership Riverside program



## **Elisabeth A. Lord** Vice President

I have been honored to serve our legal community for the past four years as a director-at-large, secretary, and chief financial officer. I am asking for your support to elect me as vice president. I love being able to participate with my fellow bar members in supporting our legal community and community at large.

I have been part of the Riverside County legal community since 2005. I am a family law practitioner and partner of the law firm Lord & Brooker, APC. I received my B.A. from the University of California, Santa Cruz, in language studies. I received my J.D. from Santa Clara University and was admitted to the California Bar in December 1999. Prior to moving to Riverside County, I practiced juvenile dependency, criminal law, and family law in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. In 2005, I relocated my family and practice to Riverside County.

Since that time, I have been involved in the local legal community serving as president and vice-president of the Mt. San Jacinto Bar Association and as a volunteer mediator to assist the court with resolving family law cases involving self-represented litigants. I have been an active member of the Riverside County Bar Association for many years. I am a regular participant in the Elves Program having served as a money, wrapping, and shopping elf. I participate yearly in

our excellent mock trial program by serving as a scorer. I have been a member of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court for nine years and currently serve as an Attorney Master.

Since being elected, I have been an active member on our board. I served in organizing our 2021 Reading Day at Anna House Elementary School. I served as a participant to mentor UCR students interested in entering the practice of law. I currently serve as a member of the steering committee for the New Attorney Academy and participate in our mentor program by mentoring a new attorney each year. I look forward to having the opportunity to further serve our community as vice president and would consider it a privilege.

I thank you for your consideration to allow me to continue to serve our great legal community and our community at large as vice president of the Riverside County Bar Association.



## **Goushia Farook** Chief Financial Officer

It is an honor to have been nominated to continue representing our community with a position for the Riverside County Bar Association Board of Directors. I have had the privilege of serving as director-at-large for two terms and secretary for the past year. Prior to that, I joined the board as the president of Barristers.

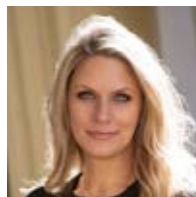
In my past year as Secretary, I have gained valuable insight into the inner workings of the board and how to handle challenges the board may face. I would be honored to remain on the board.

I presently have the continued privilege of being the chair for Family Law section of the RCBA with my esteemed co-chair, Michaelanne Hrubic. I am also the Financial Director for the board of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court. This position has given me valuable skills and experience in stepping into the role of Chief Financial Officer for the RCBA.

I am currently an attorney at Bratton & Razo in downtown Riverside where I practice exclusively in the area of family law. I have been with Bratton & Razo for four years and could not be happier! To say I have found both my family and my happy place is an understatement! I started practicing in Riverside in 2015 after relocating from San Diego and I immediately fell in love with the Riverside legal community and Bar Association. I knew the RCBA was special when I reached out for help in navigating the area of family law in a new city. The feedback and overall support I received was outstanding. I was amazed by how many attorneys were willing to take time from their hectic schedules to help me. I knew immediately this was going to be my home and I wanted to give back to my community of professional colleagues.

I am a past president of the RCBA Barristers and through it have developed lifelong friendships that I cherish immensely. I am a past board member for Inland Counties Legal Services. I have participated in the Elves Program since 2016, a tradition I carry on with my firm family.

I have an immense amount of love and respect for our Bar Association and would be delighted to serve in its growth and efforts to continue making our legal community a place we all call home.



## **Heather Green** Secretary

Heather A. Green is a criminal defense attorney at Blumenthal & Moore. She handles all types of criminal defense cases, with a strength in mental health. Beyond private practice, Mrs. Green also accepts indigent defense cases through the Riverside conflict panel, believing in equitable access to legal representation. Prior to her work as an attorney, Mrs. Green has a rich legal background, including an internship with the

4th District Court of Appeals and worked as a clerk and courtroom assistant in the Riverside County Superior Court.

As a Riverside native, Mrs. Green earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside followed by her law degree from California Southern Law School. Mrs. Green has been involved in the Riverside County Mock Trial program for many years, starting from participating as a team member in her high school years to serving as an attorney scorer today.

Mrs. Green's dedication to her profession extends beyond the courtroom as she actively engages with various legal organizations. Currently, she proudly serves on the Board of Directors for the Riverside County Bar Association and on the Board of Governors for the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice. Despite her demanding career, she also prioritizes her family, with her husband and two children.

She is a long time member of the Riverside County Bar Association, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, California Public Defenders Association, amongst others.

Mrs. Green is truly honored to have been nominated for the secretary position on the Riverside County Bar Association Board of Directors and looks forward to an opportunity to continue to give back to her community, especially the legal community.



**Lauren M. Vogt**  
*Secretary*

Lauren M. Vogt is a trial lawyer at Rizio Lipinsky Heiting Law Firm in Riverside where she specializes in traumatic personal injury, wrongful death, and employment matters. Lauren has been active in the Riverside County Bar Association for many years. She is currently the immediate past-president of the Barristers, the new and young attorney organization of the RCBA. She also currently sits on the RCBA Board of Directors, as well as the Riverside County Bar Foundation Board, as a director-at-large. Lauren is a proud attendee of the RCBA's New Attorney Academy and currently volunteers her time teaching at the Academy. Lauren also currently serves as President-Elect of the Consumer Attorneys of the Inland Empire (CAOIE) and will serve as president of the organization in 2024-2025. Lauren also serves on the board of directors for the statewide organization, Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC) and as director-at-large on the Western San Bernardino County Bar Association board, where she is slated to serve as president of the organization in 2025-2026. Additionally, she is currently a member of Deegan Inns of Court. Lauren is eager to continue her involvement with the RCBA as secretary.



**Erica Alfaro**  
*Director-at-Large*

Erica Alfaro is a dedicated individual with a strong commitment to serving the legal community. She is a native of Riverside, California. Erica obtained her undergraduate and legal education at University of California, Davis.

Erica serves as Corporate Legal Counsel at State Compensation Insurance Fund. She is a member of the State Fund Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and a graduate of the State Fund Emerging Leaders Program which develops future leaders within the organization.

Erica has been active in the RCBA since 2015. She previously served as director-at-large on the RCBA Board. Erica is past president of the Barristers, the new and young attorney organization of the RCBA and was successful in reviving the organization.

Committed to the community at large, Erica has served as a Board Member for Inland Counties Legal Services (ICLS) for the past 8 years and currently serves as president of the ICLS Board. ICLS serves the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino by advocating for and providing free legal services to residents that are low-income, seniors, or

disabled. She is a founding member of the Hispanic Bar Association. Erica is an active member of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court.

Erica is enthusiastic about contributing to the Riverside legal community and finds fulfillment in supporting and giving back to others. She is excited about the prospect of serving on the RCBA board as director-at-large and would appreciate your vote to help her make a positive impact.



**Alejandro Barraza**  
*Director-at-Large*

Alejandro Barraza is a criminal defense and immigration attorney at Empire Law Inc. He handles all types of criminal defense cases, with a specialty in defending those with mental health diagnoses, veterans, and non-citizens. With respect to immigration, he helps individuals navigate through our complex and ever-changing immigration system. He represents individuals seeking lawful status through family petitions, u-visa, special immigrant juvenile status, post-conviction relief, and other avenues. Additionally, Alejandro defends non-citizens seeking asylum and/or other statutory relief in removal proceedings.

Alejandro grew up in Anaheim, California. He is an avid Angels fan. Alejandro earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in criminology, law, and society from the University of California, Irvine. He earned his law degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 2016.

Alejandro has been an active member in the RCBA since his first days as a young attorney. He is a current member of the Barristers Board, treasurer of the of the Hispanic Bar of the Inland Empire (HBAIE), and a past board member of the Asian Pacific American Lawyers of the Inland Empire (APALIE).

Alejandro is wrapping up his first year in Riverside County Project Graduate Program. Riverside County Project Graduate works in collaboration with the Riverside Superior Court and Riverside County's Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to assist foster youth to graduate high school, to continue their education beyond high school, and to plan for a successful future.

On April 18, 2024, he was a panelist at the Riverside County Law Library National Day Panel. The panelists included Nolan Kistler, Daniela Tovar, the keynote speaker was Honorable Jackson Lucky (Ret.), the moderator Andrea Valencia, and it was organized by Sharon Ramirez. The discussion consisted of attorney's speaking about democracy in our community. The recorded will be posted on youtube. com at @rclawlib. Go follow and like.

Finally, this past September, Alejandro was a part of a group of amazing attorneys and judges, the San Bernardino/Riverside Chapter of ABOTA, Riverside County Law Library, and Riverside County Museum, that set up a reenactment of the California Supreme Court case *California v. Harada* (1916).

Alejandro would be honored to use his talents on the RCBA Board of Directors.



**Michael Razo**  
*Director-at-Large*

It is an honor to be nominated to serve the RCBA as a director-at-large. It would be a privilege to contribute to our community in this position.

I am a certified family law specialist and partner at Bratton & Razo. I am very blessed to be able to work with amazing people who push each other to be the best versions of ourselves.

I have been a member of the RCBA since attending law school at the University of La Verne College of Law. I completed my undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley. During law school, I worked as a law clerk in downtown Riverside and began volunteering with Riverside Legal Aid where I assisted self-represented litigants with family law forms. I continued to volunteer with Riverside Legal Aid after becoming licensed and found Riverside's legal community, especially at RCBA events, to have a unique spirit of collegiality.

I have been fortunate to present on the topics of competence and professional responsibility for MCLE to various bar associations, including at RCBA's annual MCLE Marathon. I enjoy scoring mock trial and look forward to participating in the Elves program with my family and law firm every winter. I was humbled to receive RCBA's Attorney of the Year award in the area of family law in 2022.

I am grateful to have served as a former president, executive officer, and director-at-large of the board of directors of the Other Bar.

The RCBA is an incredible organization which works to improve both our legal and local communities. I am hopeful to serve the RCBA and work for our community.



### **David P. Rivera**

*Director-at-Large*

After earning his JD from Notre Dame Law School, David first practiced law in Arizona before returning to his home state of California. He is now a solo practitioner of transactional business law at the Law Office of David P. Rivera. He has been active in RCBA since he became a member in 2018.

David learned about RCBA by attending its 2018 Bridging the Gap (BTG) program, which helped new admittees to the California Bar transition to the practice of law in Riverside County. BTG was David's springboard for active participation in our bar association. Through BTG, he learned of, enrolled in, and graduated from RCBA's New Attorney Academy.

David is the president of Barristers, RCBA's new and young lawyers' division, having served on its board since 2019. By virtue of his current Barristers office, David also serves in an ex officio capacity on RCBA's Board of Directors.

David is a proud member of RCBA's Bar Publications Committee, which produces our bar association's near-monthly periodical, the *Riverside Lawyer*. Of the many articles he's authored, David is particularly partial to one published in January 2020—"The Fair Pay to Play Act: California Is Changing College Amateurism Rules"—because it was born from his enthusiastic interest in college football.

David is the president-elect and a founding member of the Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire (HBAIE), an affinity bar association established in 2019.

In June 2023, David was a guest speaker at a joint RCBA/HBAIE general membership meeting and CLE on the "State of Diversity in the Legal Profession."

David is incredibly fond of RCBA. Not only has RCBA contributed to his development as a lawyer, but it has also helped him form valuable professional and personal relationships with member attorneys. David now seeks to pay those benefits forward as a director-at-large in 2024–2025.

### **Jeremy Roark**

*Director-at-Large*

Jeremy N. Roark, a Certified Family Law Specialist, has dedicated almost 15 years exclusively to the practice of family law. Currently serving as senior attorney at Holstrom, Block & Parke, APLC, Jeremy earned his undergraduate degree from UCLA and a law degree from UC Hastings (or

now known as UC Law SF).

With family as his priority, Jeremy and his family embarked on a 14-month journey of fostering a newborn baby boy while navigating the complexities of raising a son on the Autism spectrum. Concurrently, Jeremy has spent years doing presentations and writing articles working to assist attorneys and courts better understand and to normalize special needs children in family law litigation.

In addition to his practice as a family lawyer, Jeremy currently volunteers with Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association Legal Aid (IELLA) as pro-bono attorney volunteer assisting pro-per litigants prepare for their family law individual cases. Jeremy is also developing a program with the Inland Counties Legal Services working to create curriculum, videos, and recruit volunteers to assist pro-per litigants prepare for family law matters at various stages of litigation.

His contributions extend beyond legal practice; Jeremy serves as a board member for the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court working to promote

civility and professionalism amongst the bench and bar. Jeremy earned recognition with the prestigious "Terry D. Bridges Outstanding Attorney Award."

Jeremy also is very involved in Project Graduate, a program in collaboration with RCBA and Riverside County Superior Court, where he represents foster youth and their educational rights to assist them to graduate high school and for life beyond high school.

Jeremy has been a part of the RCBA mentorship program, Asian Pacific American Lawyers of the Inland Empire (APALIE) and Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) student mentor program and enjoys helping young attorneys or aspiring attorneys better prepare for the practice of law.

Jeremy coaches mock trial for Santiago High School in Corona and has scored the RCBA mock trial in prior years. Jeremy also currently regularly sits as a judge pro-tem in all family law courts in Riverside County.

During Jeremy's tenure as co-chair of the RCBA Family Law Section from 2020 to 2023, he focused on enhancing access to information and the court system, all aimed at better meeting the needs of both family law litigants and practitioners.

Jeremy extends his service to the greater Riverside area through his role on the Deans Community Advisory Council for the College of Behavior Sciences and Social Work at California Baptist University. Here, he collaborates with the college, introducing diverse legal perspectives and providing invaluable support to undergraduate, master, and PhD students as they navigate their college experience and transition into life beyond CBU.

Jeremy feels honored and humbled to be even considered for a position in the RCBA as director-at-large. If given the opportunity, he would be excited to give back to the legal community through increased involvement in the RCBA.



### **Bryan Owens Sahagun**

*Director-at-Large*

Bryan Owens Sahagun is a Riverside County native, born in Corona, California, and living nearly all of his life in the city of Riverside. Bryan's passion for Riverside, its businesses, and its residents runs strong, as evidenced by his involvement in many organizations in Riverside and San

Bernardino counties.

Bryan primarily handles litigated matters, whether in court, arbitration, administratively, or on appeal, emphasizing in disputes pertaining to civil litigation, employment, breach of contract, corporate law and ownership, personal injury, and malpractice for both plaintiffs and defendants. Bryan has represented parties not only before state and federal courts, but also before federal and state regulatory boards and commissions, including the Employment Development Department, the Franchise Tax Board, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the Department Industrial Relations, the California Labor Commissioner, the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, the Department of Labor, and the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Bryan has also taught future generations of law students at Western State University, College of Law wherein he served as an adjunct professor teaching business associations and taxation. Bryan was also an adjunct professor at University of California, Riverside Extension teaching paralegals and has served as a guest lecturer for the Riverside Chambers of Commerce and the California Desert Trial Academy College of Law in Indio, California.

Bryan holds director and officer positions on several nonprofit organizations, including the Hispanic Coalition of Small Businesses and the Hispanic Coalition of Small Businesses Foundation, both business advocacy organizations, and Fundacion Sin Fronteras, an organization organized by Bryan to help the farmworkers in the Eastern Coachella Valley. Bryan also volunteers with the Riverside Youth Court program and has served several years as a fee arbitrator for the Riverside County Bar Association.

When not working or volunteering, Bryan enjoys sailing and holds a license as a keelboat skipper.



# PRINTING & MARKETING SUPPORT

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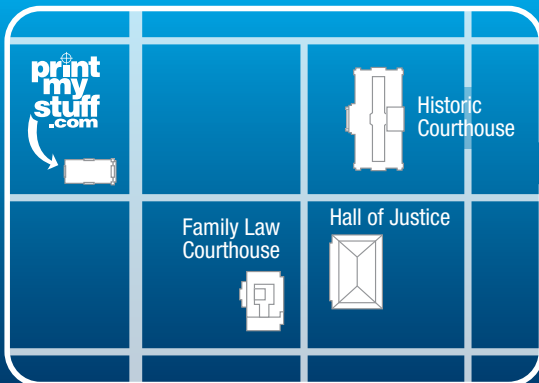
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### Part-Time Bookkeeper Position

RCBA is looking for a part-time bookkeeper. Contact Charlene at 951-682-1015 or [charlene@riversidecountybar.com](mailto:charlene@riversidecountybar.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](mailto: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](mailto:rcba@riversidecountybar.com).



The following persons have applied for membership in the Riverside County Bar Association. If there are no objections, they will become members effective May 30, 2024.

**Celeste M. Blake (A)** – Elder Law Center, Riverside

**Summer N. Carbullido (A)** – Law Office of Kyle A. Patrick, Riverside

**Mackenzi N. Christenson** – Walker Law Group, Rancho Cucamonga

**Orit Gadish (A)** – Geffen Real Estate, Beverly Hills

**Jeremy L. Holm** – Best Best & Krieger, Ontario

**Kurt E. Kuhn (A)** – Forensic Consulting Service, Fullerton

**Andre La Madrid (A)** – Law Offices of Karen J. La Madrid, Riverside

**Joey R. Mendoza** – Law Offices of Priscilla C. Solario, Rancho Cucamonga

**Janelle B. Price** – Price Legal Practice, Orange

**Autumn E. Ramirez (A)** – Pitruzzello Legal Document Services, Riverside

**Jovanna Ruiz (A)** – Law Offices of Karen J. La Madrid, Riverside

**Carmen J. Santos (A)** – Law Office of Kyle A. Patrick, Riverside

**Jacob Seil (A)** – Law Offices of Karen J. La Madrid, Riverside

**Madeline Stanek (A)** – Abuzeid Law, Temecula

**Robert T. Wolfe** – Cal-Lawyer PLC, Riverside

(A) – Designates Affiliate Member



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# CALENDAR

## MAY

- 2** Good Citizenship Awards Ceremony  
1:00 PM  
Department 1, Riverside Historic Courthouse
- 3** Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law Section  
Probate Marathon  
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM  
RCBA Gabbert Gallery  
MCLE
- 6** Roundtable with Judge Hopp  
12:15, Zoom  
MCLE
- 16** Barristers – Judicial Reception  
City Hall Grier Pavillion  
5:00 PM – 7:30 PM
- 17** General Membership Meeting  
Noon, RCBA Gabbert Gallery  
Topic: "REFRAMING WELL-BEING: Using positive psychology to help prevent substance misuse, addiction and mental health problems"  
Speaker: Amy Guldner  
MCLE - Competence
- 21** Family Law Section Meeting  
Noon, RCBA Gabbert Gallery  
Program TBA
- 22** Criminal Law Section Meeting  
**THIS SESSION FOR DEFENSE ATTORNEYS ONLY**  
Noon, Zoom  
Speaker: Monica Nguyen  
Topic: PC 1368 Trials  
MCLE

### Events Subject To Change

For the latest calendar information please visit the RCBA's website at [riversidecountybar.com](http://riversidecountybar.com)

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

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, Reading Day 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding publications (e.g., October 6 for the November issue). Articles are due no later than 45 days preceding publication. All articles are subject to editing. RCBA members receive a subscription automatically. Annual subscriptions are \$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.



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