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RIVERSIDE LAWYER



IN THIS ISSUE

Café Stories

HBAIE at Seven

Confronting the Numbers, Building the Community

The Hispanic Bar Association Inland Empire

Attorney Mentorship Outreach

An Interview with Desirée Zamorano,

Author of Dispossessed

National Hispanic Heritage Month:

*Recognizing the Contributions of Hispanic and
Latino Professionals to California's Legal and
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RIVERSIDE LAWYER

MAGAZINE

Contents

Columns

2 **President's Message**
by Elisabeth A. Lord

5 **Barristers President's Message**
by Nolan B. Kistler

Cover Stories

7 **An Interview with Desirée Zamorano, Author of Dispossessed**
by Juanita E. Mantz

8 **Cafe Stories**
by William Medina

10 **HBAIE at Seven – Confronting the Numbers, Building the Community**
by Veronica J. Garcia

13 **The Hispanic Bar Association Inland Empire–Attorney Mentorship Outreach**
by Alberto D. Recalde

15 **National Hispanic Heritage Month: Recognizing the Contributions of Hispanic and Latino Professionals to California's Legal and Business Communities**
by Michelle McCoy Wolfe

Features

18 **Why Volunteering as a Temporary Judge Made Me a Better Lawyer**
by Commissioner Jeremiah Raxter

20 **Judicial Profile: Commissioner James F. Hodgkins**
by Mary E. Gilstrap

21 **Opposing Counsel: Luis Aguilar**
by Luis Lopez

Departments

23 **Membership**

23 **Classified Ads**

24 **Calendar**

PRESIDENT'S Message

by Elisabeth A. Lord



It is with great honor that I find myself writing my first article as RCBA president. I still recall the day that I received the call from Sophia Choi, now the Honorable Judge Choi, that I had been elected to be a director-at-large. I was elated, and quite surprised. I did not realize anybody knew who I was. I was grateful for the opportunity to serve our legal community through our bar association.

I am a firm believer that we, as attorneys, should strive to give back to the legal community that provides us the opportunity to practice. I believe our legal community is what we, as attorneys, make it. As your president, I would like to call upon all attorneys, whether members of RCBA, to consider how they can give back. When we involve ourselves in our legal community, it promotes civility in our practice of law, which promotes settlement and allows us to better serve our clients.

I would like acknowledge and thank Megan Demshki for her service this past year as RCBA president and for her many years of service to our legal community. I know that I have very big shoes to fill. The message I have for you today is very similar to the one Megan had for you in her first article last year. Like Megan, I want to inspire our members to participate and be involved.

For those of you who do not know me, I am a family law practitioner. My firm is Lord & Brooker, APC. After initially practicing juvenile and criminal defense, I began my transition to a family law practitioner when I moved my family and practice to Riverside County in 2005. I came from a small legal community in Central California. We had one courthouse with ten departments that housed all areas of practice. It was a significant transition to find myself in a such an expansive county. I chose to live in the San Geronimo Pass area because it put me within an hour drive of every courthouse in the county except Blythe.

Although Riverside County is a large county, I found the legal community here to be more akin to a small town. I was a young attorney and did not know anybody. I was welcomed quickly by my colleagues and joined the local bar association in San Jacinto where I had my practice and eventually served as president a few years later. I also joined RCBA. I took advantage of the many great opportunities offered by RCBA including section meetings, general meetings, continuing legal education opportunities, and joining the Leo Deegan Inn of Court. I made connections and friendships with attorneys both within and outside

the area of law I practiced. These connections proved invaluable as they offered mentorship, collegiality, and the opportunity to discuss cases outside of the adversarial process. It provided the opportunity to get to know the judges I appeared in front of every day.

My first year on the RCBA board as a director-at-large was in 2020. We all remember that this was the year the world changed. Courts closed and we stayed home appearing in court and attending meetings behind our cameras. Installation that year was virtual. All our board meetings were virtual. Section meetings were virtual, if they occurred at all. Inn of Court meetings were virtual, and even Mock trial was virtual. It would be this way through 2021. Over time, I believe we became accustomed to seeing our colleagues and opposing counsels over Zoom instead of in person, at court or at meetings and events. I believe something was lost during that time that has still not fully returned.

Although the opportunity to resume our in-person connections has now resumed, many of us remain comfortable behind our cameras. Today, I am asking all of you to make a different choice. RCBA offers so many great opportunities to "get out there." I encourage you to attend a section meeting, a general meeting, go elf shopping, join your local Inn of Court, become an education representative for Project Graduate, become a mentor or attend a Barristers mixer. There are so many ways to choose to be involved and present. Riverside is truly a very unique legal community in which to practice law. I am proud to serve our members and be a part of this great community.

With many of our courts, especially civil, being nearly all virtual, lost is the opportunity to run into an opposing counsel in the hallway to discuss a case. Lost is the opportunity to grab a cup of coffee with a colleague or mentor a young attorney who looks lost. RCBA offers many opportunities to fill-in this gap.

As your president, I encourage all of you to become involved. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your ideas and suggestions as to how we can improve and better serve our members. You will see me out there this year! I hope I see all of you too!

Elisabeth Lord is a family law practitioner and partner at Lord and Brooker, APC and president of the Riverside County Bar Association.



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BARRISTERS

President's Message

by Nolan B. Kistler



Thank you to RCBA and the Barristers

Hello RCBA! It is an honor and privilege to serve as President of the Barristers for the 2026-2027 term. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to lead an organization and community that has given so much to me, both personally and professionally.

My introduction to Barristers actually came before I ever stepped foot in law school. I heard about a Barristers event at Tio's Tacos in downtown Riverside and decided to attend. There, I met Megan Demshki, our immediate past RCBA President and the first Barrister I ever met. Although I was not even a law student, Megan and the other Barristers welcomed me. It was my first glimpse of what makes the Riverside legal community so special.

After graduating from Chapman University Fowler School of Law and passing the Bar Exam in November 2022, I participated in the RCBA New Attorney Academy. I was later welcomed by former Barristers President David Rivera and former Barrister and current RCBA Board Member Alejandro Barraza, who invited me to join them for a happy hour.

That same spirit has followed me throughout my young career. Attorneys throughout Riverside have taken the time to answer my questions, offer advice, make introductions, and encourage me to get involved. That includes Riverside legal legends Robyn Beilin Lewis and Greg Rizio, both of whom have received more texts and questions from me than I could possibly count.

It is people like Megan, David, Alejandro, Robyn, Greg, and so many others who make this community special. They invest in the next generation and make young attorneys feel that they belong. As president, I hope to continue that culture through Barristers. I want the attorney who walks into one of our events knowing nobody, to leave the same event having met five people and, over time, develop the same friendships and mentorships that have been so invaluable to me.

I also must thank my father, Harlan Kistler, who is the best mentor I could ever ask for. Throughout my life, I watched him balance his commitment to the practice of law with an equally strong commitment to his community, including decades of volunteering his time as a high school wrestling coach and mentor. His example taught me that practicing law is about more than winning cases and motions. It is also about the people we help and the impact we leave behind.

Thank you to the RCBA, the Barristers, and everyone who has encouraged me along the way. I am tremendously grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Why Barristers Exists

Barristers exists to promote collegiality, friendship, and professionalism among all members while maintaining the honor, dignity, and professionalism of the legal profession. In short, Barristers is here to help young attorneys grow. We provide opportunities for our members to connect with one another through social events, CLEs, and giving back through community events. The Barristers is a truly special community!

Your 2026-2027 Barristers Board

I am excited to introduce this year's Barristers Board and grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside this outstanding group of young attorneys:

Immediate Past President: Sharon P. Ramirez, President-Elect: Sara Truitt, Treasurer: Derek Diemer, Secretary: Elia Vazquez, Members-at-Large: Briana Heiting, Faran Imani, Edgar Lopez, Amanda Perez, and Erika Perez.

Thank you to Immediate Past President Sharon P. Ramirez!

I would be remiss if I did not give special recognition to our Immediate Past President Sharon P. Ramirez.

Sharon entered her presidency with ambitious goals for Barristers, and she accomplished what she set out to do. But what impressed me most was not simply the events she organized or the goals she accomplished. Sharon was intentional about making Barristers feel like a family. She made people feel welcome, encouraged new faces to get involved, and created an environment where everyone felt that there was a place for them.

As president-elect, I had the privilege of watching firsthand how much time, energy, and care Sharon put into this organization. She led the way and built an incredible foundation for our incoming board. My goal is not to start over, but to carry forward the momentum she created and continue building upon it.

Sharon, thank you for your leadership, your friendship, and everything you have done for Barristers. I am grateful that you will remain on our board as Immediate Past President, and I know I will continue looking to you for guidance throughout the year.

Join the Barristers Family

We have some exciting plans for the upcoming year, and we hope you will join us!

We will continue the traditions that make Barristers special, including our monthly happy hours, community service opportunities, educational CLEs, and signature events. Above all, we want Barristers to remain a place where young attorneys can meet colleagues, develop genuine friendships, and become part of the Riverside legal community.

Whether you just passed the Bar, recently moved to Riverside, have been practicing for several years, or simply have never attended a Barristers event, you are welcome.

If you are considering coming to an event but do not know anyone, come anyway. Someone in this community once took the time to welcome me, and I hope we can do the same for the next generation of Riverside attorneys.

I look forward to a great year together.

Stay up to date on everything Barristers!

For upcoming events and updates:

Website: RCBA Barristers

Facebook: RCBA Barristers

Instagram: @rcbabarristers

If you are interested in learning more about Barristers or attending one of our events, please reach out. I would be happy to introduce you to our Barristers family. Feel free to email me at nolan@hbklaw.net or text or call me at (951) 533-9536.

Nolan B. Kistler is an attorney with the Law Offices of Harlan B. Kistler in Riverside, California, where he practices personal injury law. A Riverside native, Nolan graduated from Chapman University Fowler School of Law and is actively involved in the Riverside County Bar Association and Barristers.



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An Interview with Désirée Zamorano, Author of *Dispossessed*

by Juanita E. Mantz

In early July, soon after our country's 250th anniversary, I interviewed one of my favorite writers, Désirée Zamorano. Désirée is an award winning writer with numerous books. We spoke at length about her book *Dispossessed* which was released in 2024 by Rize Press. *Dispossessed* is a fictional historical novel tracing the life of Manuel Galvan, a Mexican American boy separated from his family in the 1930s during the mass expulsion of Mexican Americans (and Mexican nationals). I thought her book was especially resonant to these times and to this issue of the magazine. You can find her books at <https://desireezamorano.com>.

Q: Tell us who you are.

I am Désirée Zamorano, a writer and educator and for the past 12 years, I have worked at Cal State Long Beach teaching linguistics and cultural diversity. I am also a writer and recently, I am fully embracing that title because if you write, you are a writer! Even though I have multiple books, I have had to embrace defining myself as such.

Q: Tell us how your beautiful novel *Dispossessed* came to fruition.

Every year, when I was teaching a class for teachers on history and diversity, I found that while most people knew about issues like Jim Crow, they did not know about issues such as Sundown Towns where in certain areas, they literally said to people of color, be out of town before sundown. This occurred in parts of California, including South Pasadena. And, most soon-to-be teachers did not know about the mass expulsion of Mexican nationals and Mexican Americans in the 1930s from Los Angeles. I would think to myself, where is the writer who will tell that story? Then, in 2018, I realized that writer was me.

I knew what I wanted to do. I could tell you that one million people were forced out of LA and 400,000 were US citizens, but what does that mean? It is just a statistic. I wanted to show the impact of this horrible inhumane fact on one person and who better than a kid?

I wanted to show how that historical fact impacted one child, Manuel, whose life we follow in the novel *Dispossessed*. I wanted to show his character and that he was a good man and to be a good man, he had to be surrounded by loving women. Manuel ends up being adopted by a lovely woman named Amparo and they lived in LA in Chavez Ravine. The book follows Manuel's journey after he is pushed out of high school and also focuses on Chavez Ravine and its ultimate destruction.

Within three months of starting to write the novel in 2018, the president started separating families en masse at the border and as a result, I was compelled to complete the book.

Q: How did you research the book?

I had taught this particular segment of history many semesters over and over, so I knew it well. I also did my research and the book that really covers it well is *Decade of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s* by Francisco E. Balderrama and Raymond Rodriguez.

Research is really important in historical fiction because while this stuff is unbelievable, it is true.

Q: How do you think law played a role in what happened?

It was legal or deemed legal. Citizenship is linked to whiteness. Remember, Native Americans were not able to vote until 1924. And for Mexican Americans, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo defined the peoples here in the US as white, but they were not treated as such.

Few people know about this history. I was at a prestigious writing conference prior to finding my publisher and when I pitched my book to an agent, the agent looked at me aghast and said, "Did that really happen?"

That is why I wrote this book, because nobody knows.

Q: How does writing allow you to become a tool for social activism?

The most important thing is to rebrand my demographic that I am part of, namely Mexican Americans. I am often overwhelmed by the negative portrayals.

In my most recent book *Amarisa's Cooking Pot*, which is a collection of short stories, I portray Mexican Americans working as a dental hygienist all the way to a college professor. Definitely, the media portrays us in a very narrow way. They play a role in this. Everything I write is to represent the demographic of Mexican Americans. I am absolutely rebranding the narrative.

Juanita E. Mantz is a deputy public defender in Riverside County, practicing in PC Section 1368. She is the author of Tales of an Inland Empire Girl (Pelekinesis 2025, 2nd Ed.) and Portrait of a Deputy Public Defender or how I became a punk rock lawyer (Bamboo Dart Press 2021).

Cafe Stories

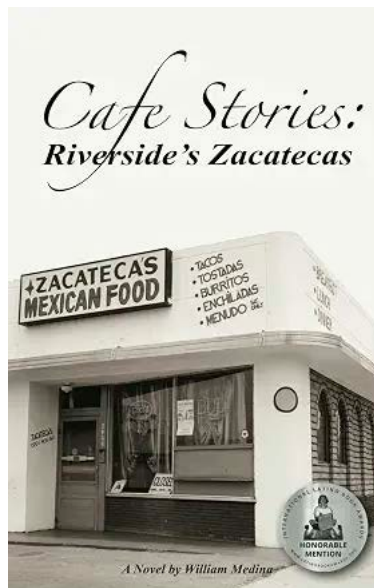
by William Medina

Cafe Stories, published in 2023 by Coyote Press, is a collection of short stories that spotlight my family's business, Zacatecas Cafe. Each story is inspired by true events that provide insightful glimpses into the cafe's past. Growing up in the restaurant business alongside my siblings, Suzie, Jon, and Max, I realized that Zacatecas Cafe stood out among Riverside's food places. It struggled to survive, coping with cultural shock and internal heat waves that could have shuttered it forever. Moreover, its diverse and intriguing clientele fostered a human dynamic that proved fertile soil for a writer.

My first story, *Charlie's Departure*, is about the cafe's transformation that occurred when Josefina and Oscar Medina opened Zacatecas Cafe in 1963 in Riverside's Eastside community. Prior to opening the cafe, it had been a "gringo" diner, serving "American" food such as meatloaf, burgers and apple pie. The clientele was mostly white, blue-collar workers whose conservative palates had never encountered "real" Mexican food – their idea of hot sauce was putting ketchup on a taco (Danish Taco).

Charlie Carr, an elderly Anglo man who stayed on as a janitor, couldn't acclimate to the cafe's new vibe. The constant babble of Mexican women in the kitchen, the overpowering smell of menudo, and the Spanish tunes that blared from the newly leased jukebox were intolerable for the elderly Midwesterner. Feeling utterly alienated, Charlie Carr eventually quit and never returned to the cafe. He died shortly after in his apartment not far from the cafe.

Other accounts in *Cafe Stories* illustrate real-life drama of the popular eatery. The Nopal story, for instance, focuses on Josefina's endless generosity; she never turned-away anyone, regardless of their ability to pay. In this story, an abusive policeman had cut-off the cafe's access to the neighborhood's "communal" nopales (cacti). He'd detained Josefina's son at gun point and threatened to arrest anyone who harvested the cactus without written permission from the property owner – a practice Eastside resident had enjoyed for generations, including the cafe. This posed an existential threat to the cafe's signature dish, chicharrones con nopales, mentioned in the *New Yorker Magazine* in the 1970s when writer Calvin Trillin visited Riverside. Upon hearing of Josefina's plight, neighbors didn't hesitate to rally behind the cafe, organizing a massive nopales drive. Cars, trucks and even people carting wheelbarrows filled with nopales appeared at the kitchen's rear door, eventually dropping off enough of the plant to save the celebrated lunch special. This fictional account demonstrated how Josefina's



kindness outflanked a rogue policeman, bent on imposing his will on Eastside residents.

Additional stories in *Cafe Stories* range from political intrigue to occasional violence, which took place inside the tiny eatery that consisted of three tables and a counter that seated twelve. In a story titled Political Boot Camp, Oscar had inadvertently endorsed two candidates running in the same race. To make matters worse, he'd promised to display their campaign posters inside the cafe. To resolve this quandary, the two opposing posters were glued back-to-back and reversed as needed. The scheme worked until one of the candidates showed up unexpectedly at the cafe. When he saw his opponent's campaign sign on the wall and realized the ruse, he laughed and praised

the cafe for its political acumen.

Yet another story involves a supposed curse that threatened Easter Sunday business, requiring the intervention of a curandera (a medicine woman who removes evil spirits). Along with her minions, the curandera held a series of prayer sessions inside the cafe. The gathered women, however, failed to expel the curse, which returned year after year. Forced to bow to the curse, the cafe had no alternative but to close on Easter Sundays, which had previously been one of the busiest days of the year. *Cafe Stories* also contains humor, reflected in the jukebox caper in which a clever thief managed to steal the cafe's cherished music machine with the help of the son's inattentive owner. These stories provide a front row seat to the human drama that unfolded at the cafe, accounts that don't appear in newspapers or magazines.

Overall, *Cafe Stories* is about a Mexican-owned business that thrived despite challenges. For instance, to maintain the cafe's white cliental, my parents put aside their preference for Mexican food and kept the existing gringo menu. Abrupt changes would have incited customer flight and bankruptcy. Instead, Josefina gradually introduced Mexican dishes, at times offering free samples to customers – then there was no separation between the counter and kitchen, giving Josefina unfettered access to customers. Armed with a warm smile, broken English, and the aroma of chile verde that came from a pot few feet away, in time, Josefina transformed the palettes of her Anglo customers. Shortly afterward the menu went through a metamorphosis. Enchiladas, menudo and tacos now reigned, except for the cafe's signature cheeseburger that managed to survive the purge.

Other challenges included Riverside's hot summer months, when the Eastside eatery became unbearable for

diners and kitchen staff alike. The cafe's aging swamp cooler was powerless against 100-degree weather, worsened by the oppressive kitchen heat that streamed into the dining area unobstructed. Despite its sauna like conditions, the cafe never lacked customers.

An added obstacle for the family business was the decision to rent a storefront on the "wrong" side of the tracks. Sensational news stories of rampant barrio gang violence, especially in the 1970s, gave the illusion that violent predators lurked on every Eastside corner. However, that didn't deter the countless Anglo customers who ventured to Zacatecas Cafe for a bite to eat. And last, my parents, lacking any business experience, somehow managed to churn out a profit despite the heavy odds against food establishments. Josefina, born in Zacatecas, Mexico, had no formal education, and Oscar, who'd worked at Norton Air Force Base before opening the cafe, knew nothing about running a business. With luck and a strong work ethic they persevered.

Riverside's legal community has been an important part of the cafe's history from the beginning and, at times, its staunchest defender. In 1984, when the cafe was unjustly evicted from its first location on University Avenue, Riverside attorney Elizabeth Hanna, then a staff attorney at Best Best & Krieger, quickly came to the cafe's defense. A customer and close friend of the Medina Family, she devised a legal strategy that halted the eviction. Over the years the following attorneys have enriched the cafe with their pres-

ence: Kathleen Gonzalez, Carlos Juarez, Richard Carnero, Luis Aguilar, Hon. Jorge Hernandez, Russell Jauregui, Jane Carney, Kevin Ruddy, Paul Grech, Steve Harmon, John Woodhead, Rene Pimentel, Hon. Joe Hernandez, Dan Hantman, Juliann Anderson, Irene Morales, Hon. Dennis McConaghy and countless others.

Both Oscar and Josefina have passed away. My brother Jon Medina and his children now manage the cafe, which has relocated to a former pizza parlor (Shakey's Pizza) on Iowa Avenue. Although the family restaurant continues to generate new and exciting stories, the captivating narratives from its formative years were uniquely profound and were the inspiration for *Cafe Stories*.

William Medina lives in Riverside. Over the years, he has written for various local newspapers and has been a guest columnist for the Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. A latecomer to academia, he completed his doctorate in American History at the University of California, Riverside, in 2008. His writings include an article in Riverside Historical Society Journal and an essay in a book about Sherman Institute, titled The Indian School on Magnolia Avenue: Voices and images from Sherman Institute. In 2023, he published Cafe Stories, a series of short stories based on his family's business, Zacatecas Cafe. Since 2008, he has taught history at Riverside City College and San Bernardino Valley College.

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HBAIE at Seven – Confronting the Numbers, Building the Community

by Veronica J. Garcia

The numbers are stark, and they have not moved much in years. Nationally, only 5.8% of the country's attorneys identify as Hispanic, even though Hispanics and Latinx make up more than 18% of the U.S. population.¹ In California, the gap is nearly as wide: Latinos are 37% of the state's population but only 6% of its licensed attorneys, per the State Bar of California's most recent Diversity Report Card. Black attorneys face a comparable disparity, representing just 3.5% of the profession against roughly 6% of the state's adult population.²

The pipeline feeding the profession is narrowing, not widening. At the nation's top 14 law schools, Black first-year enrollment fell 16%, and Hispanic/Latinx first-year enrollment fell 21% between 2023 and 2024, in the first admissions cycle after the U.S. Supreme Court ended race-conscious admissions. At Harvard Law School alone, Black and Hispanic/Latinx 1L enrollment dropped from 43 and 63 students in fall 2023 to just 19 and 32 in fall 2024.³ The legal profession cannot deliver equal justice from a courthouse that does not reflect the people who walk through its doors.

Here at home, there is a real reason for encouragement. In Riverside County, 53% of residents identify as Hispanic or Latino,^{4,5} and 10.4% of local attorneys do too, still far below our population share, but nearly double the state attorney average. San Bernardino County, where Hispanic/Latino residents make up roughly 56% of the population, shows a similar pattern of measurable, if incomplete, progress.⁶ Riverside and San Bernardino are not where they need to be, but they are trending in the right direction, in no small part because our region has organizations built to close that gap.

Where HBAIE Came From

That is exactly why the Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire (HBAIE) exists. In August 2019, three attor-

neys, Ruben Escalante, the Honorable Joseph Ortiz and Mario Alfaro, reached out to colleagues across the Inland Empire to gauge interest in a Hispanic bar association of our own. Within a year, HBAIE had grown to more than 40 members with a full calendar of events. COVID-19 slowed that momentum, as it did for most bar associations, but HBAIE has spent the last several years rebuilding.

Seven years later, all three founders remain involved in the organization they built, now serving as Advisory Members. We owe them a genuine debt of gratitude. HBAIE exists today because they were willing to build something from nothing, and everything that follows in this article stands on the foundation they laid.

Today, I have the pleasure and honor of serving as HBAIE President, alongside President-Elect Gabriela Rodriguez, Immediate Past President David Rivera, Vice President Ceciah Lucero, Treasurer Alejandro Barraza and Secretary Edna Ibarra, alongside a full slate of incredible individuals who serve as Directors-at-Large.

Growing Membership, Growing Reach

Membership has climbed steadily since our post-pandemic rebuild and so has the range of what HBAIE offers. This year we have strengthened ties beyond the Inland Empire, taking part in planning for the 2027 Latino Bench-Bar Leadership Summit after assisting in the execution of the 2025 revival of the event after a decades-long hiatus.

More Than a Network

HBAIE was never meant to be just a professional network or a referral pipeline, and we do not measure its success only in CLE credits or membership dues. We built it to be a community, in the fullest sense of the word. Our events are open to non-attorneys by design. Law students, paralegals, legal support staff, court personnel, and anyone drawn to what we are building are welcomed as full participants, not guests. Some of our closest friendships and strongest professional partnerships in the Inland Empire started at an HBAIE mixer, not a courtroom, and that is exactly the point.

Veronica J. Garcia, Esq. is the Housing Practice Group Director at Inland Counties Legal Services and 2026 President of the Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire (HBAIE).



¹ American Bar Association, *ABA Survey Finds 1.3 Million Lawyers in the U.S.*, Am. Bar Ass'n (June 20, 2022), <https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2022/06/aba-lawyers-survey>.
² The State Bar of California, *Despite Historic Highs for New Attorneys, Legal Profession Still Not Reflective of State's Diversity* (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/news/despite-historic-highs-new-attorneys-legal-profession-still-not-reflective-states-diversity>.
³ Meghan Dawe, *Examining SFFA's Impact on U.S. Law Schools*, Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy Blog (Apr. 17, 2025), <https://www.buffalo.edu/baldycenter/multimedia.host.html/content/shared/www/baldycenter/blog-2024-25/Meghan-Dawe.detail.html>.
⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/riversidecountycalifornia>.
⁵ The State Bar of California, <https://publications.calbar.ca.gov/2024-diversity-report-card/diversity-2024?overlay=Dig+Deeper+County>.
⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, *QuickFacts: San Bernardino County, California*, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/sanbernardinocountycalifornia>.

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The Hispanic Bar Association Inland Empire—Attorney Mentorship Outreach

by Alberto D. Recalde

The headlines speak clearly. The statistics speak volumes. Diversity in the legal field is at best stalling and at worst, on a downward trend. The State Bar of California Diversity Report Card has examined diversity in the field since 2019. The findings are consistent: Hispanics make up 37% of the general state population, but only account for 6% of attorneys. Blacks are 6% of the general state population, but only account for 3% of attorneys. The California Association of Black Lawyers recently released a statement addressing some of the disparity. Their statement noted in part, “[b]lack first-year enrollment at the nation’s top-14 law schools fell 16% between 2023 and 2024. Hispanic/Latinx enrollment fell 21%.” The consequences? A generation of attorneys who increasingly look and speak less like the population they serve and a community that sees attorneys as strangers among them. The end result is that the community is reluctant to seek services and use laws that are designed to protect them.

The Inland Empire also faces a persistent shortage of practicing attorneys, regardless of race. The State Bar of California 2024 Justice Gap Study cited Riverside County and San Bernardino County as “at risk” for becoming an “Attorney Desert.” Los Angeles County and Orange County each have 159 residents per attorney. Riverside County has 577 residents per attorney while San Bernardino has 754 residents per attorney.

As you can see there is a multifaceted issue facing Inland Empire residents. Not only is the percentage of Black and Hispanic attorneys dismal, finding any attorney who is located in Inland Empire and willing to take a case is also challenging. Our community needs assistance on all fronts.

The Hispanic Bar Association Inland Empire (HBAIE) launched in 2019 and has been able to harness our collective efforts to address numerous concerns of our members and the community as a whole. This includes growth opportunities for our members such as networking events among attorneys and soon-to-be attorneys, hosted MCLE trainings, and financial planning. It also includes community outreach which benefit both the member and community such as providing legal clinics on college campuses on issues such as immigration, and presenting panels and mentorship to law students soon to enter our profession, and providing thousands of dollars in scholarships for law students.

However, more work is needed. As attorneys, we understand the power our bar license gives us. We

represent clients at some of the most consequential moments of their lives, advocate for meaningful change in our courts, and help shape the development of the law. Yet, the benefits of having a law license seems to have escaped those in college and high school settings.

One might conclude that with the power of the internet, online discussion platforms, the ability to connect to someone instantly, these would-be attorney should have an abundance of information at their fingertips, if only they tried. Surely, if these students were interested, the information that we as mentors could provide is already readily available for them, right?

The reality is more complicated. We have seen several factors at play that have lead to a chasm with potential future lawyers on one side and the right information on the other. Of course, a student can get information, but often times there is so much information with differing perspectives, students often freeze at the numerous differing opinions on how they should proceed. Thus, students are bombarded with information but lack a single point person they can trust to assist with the law school process. The issue is not an absence of information, but a trusted mentor who can provide meaningful guidance.

Then there are the communication styles of current students. HBAIE members have observed that many students are hesitant to reach out directly and prefer an email or direct message (DM) through a platform than a direct phone call or text. This is true even with established relationships such as an old professor or supervisor. As a result, opportunities for mentorship can be missed unless organizations intentionally create approachable and welcoming spaces for those conversations.

As such our mentorship mission is two folds:

1) Demonstrate to the student population the immense benefits of practicing law and how it can improve and fulfill their own personal lives; and

2) Show the multitude of pathways of applying to and entering a law school that fits their needs.

As a response to this mission, HBAIE will launch its Attorney Mentorship Outreach (AMO) Program this Fall. “AMO” Spanish for “I Love,” encapsulates the spirit and motivation for the program participants. A love and desire for community, advocacy, and activism. AMO pairs mentors in our program with students who sign up requesting to be mentored with attorney mentors willing to guide and direct students.

The AMO program will last between 12-18 months depending on the particular student/mentor situation.

Mentors and mentees will be encouraged to make contact at least once a quarter. HBAIE-AMO will highly encourage all interested mentees to take a "baseline" LSAT practice test. We believe it is the foundation for the entire relationship and sets the course for what type of preparations will be required to be a competitive law school applicant.

In addition to establishing this program, HBAIE is taking direct action to the local campuses touring colleges in the Inland Empire for over a year. Our members have presented at University of California, Riverside, California State University San Bernardino, University of Redlands, and La Sierra University. Students from across the discipline spectrum have attended these presentations in considerable numbers. HBAIE does not limit the presentations to "pre-law" students or students of color. In fact, our panel presentation is designed to reach students who may have never considered pursuing the law as a career path.

During these presentations, our members discuss the many advantages to pursuing legal education. We address common misconceptions about pursuing law school and being an attorney. We discuss required prerequisites versus recommended prerequisites. We answer every question from the best time to apply to law school, options to pay for it, and which school would be best suited for a particular situation.

You would be very surprised at the caliber of potential law school applicants that are all around you. We

have come across students who are sitting on a 160+ or 170+ LSAT and graduated with honors from a UC who were unsure if they would get into a law school or were unsure how they would pay for it. These students had no idea that law schools would fund not only their legal education but provide funds on top of room and board. They had no idea they could negotiate with the schools for better scholarship funds. They had no idea they could finish law school in 2 years at some schools. They are wondering what their options are and how they will start their schooling while they are sitting on an unused golden ticket.

We are calling on all attorneys to become mentors. Join HBAIE-AMO or to start a mentorship program within your law office or bar organization. Be the mentor you wish you had or pay forward the mentorship that helped shape your own career. We can strengthen the legal profession in the Inland Empire, expand access to justice, and inspire the next generation of attorneys to serve the communities that need them most. But it starts with you.

Alberto D. Recalde is a Deputy District Attorney with Riverside County District Attorney's Office. He serves as Hispanic Bar Association Inland Empire Board Member and Undergraduate Outreach Chair with the Attorney Mentorship Outreach (AMO) program. Alberto also teaches at Riverside City College where he has taught courses in Criminal Law and Procedure, Business Law, Ethics, and Bankruptcy.



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Before joining the bench, Judge Tanaka built a diverse legal career in both the private and public sectors. He began as a civil transactional attorney specializing in real estate, corporate transactions, finance, taxation, and estate planning, and later served Los Angeles County as a deputy public defender, deputy alternate public defender, and senior deputy county counsel.

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National Hispanic Heritage Month: Recognizing the Contributions of Hispanic and Latino Professionals to California's Legal and Business Communities

by Michelle McCoy Wolfe

Each year, from September 15 through October 15, National Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the history, culture, and achievements of Hispanic and Latino Americans. In California, where Hispanic and Latino communities have long played a vital role in the state's history and continue to shape its future, the observance provides an opportunity to acknowledge the many individuals whose leadership, innovation, and dedication have strengthened our legal profession, businesses, and local communities.

Whether serving as attorneys, judges, business owners, educators, healthcare professionals, engineers, or public officials, Hispanic and Latino professionals have made lasting contributions that continue to influence California's economic success and civic life. Their accomplishments remind us that diverse perspectives and experiences enrich every profession and strengthen the communities we serve.

Leadership That Makes a Difference

California's legal community has benefited greatly from the service of Hispanic and Latino attorneys and judges who have advanced the rule of law, expanded access to justice, and devoted countless hours to mentoring young lawyers and serving their communities. Many have gone on to lead bar associations, nonprofit organizations, civic groups, and public agencies, leaving a lasting impact well beyond the courtroom.

The business community tells a similar story. Hispanic and Latino entrepreneurs continue to launch and grow successful businesses across virtually every industry. From family-owned companies that have served their communities for generations to emerging technology firms and professional service providers, these businesses create jobs, fuel innovation, and contribute significantly to California's economy.

Creating Workplaces Where Employees Can Succeed

An inclusive workplace is not simply about meeting legal requirements. It is about creating an environment where employees are respected, valued, and given a fair opportunity to contribute and advance.

Organizations that invest in their people often see tangible benefits, including stronger employee engagement, lower turnover, improved morale, and better collaboration. Employees who believe their contributions are valued are

more likely to remain committed to the organization's success.

Simple practices can make a meaningful difference:

- Apply employment policies consistently.
- Provide equal access to training and advancement opportunities.
- Encourage mentorship and professional development.
- Recognize employee accomplishments.
- Address workplace concerns promptly and respectfully.

These are not only sound management practices—they also help reduce legal risk and promote a healthier workplace culture.

Language Diversity Is an Asset

California's workforce reflects the extraordinary diversity of our state, and many employers benefit from employees who are bilingual or multilingual. The ability to communicate with customers and coworkers in more than one language often enhances customer service, strengthens community relationships, and creates business opportunities.

Employers should also be mindful that California law protects employees from overly restrictive language policies. Under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, employers generally may not require employees to speak only English unless there is a legitimate business necessity for doing so. Even then, any restriction should be limited to the circumstances in which it is actually needed, such as addressing safety concerns, responding to emergencies, or ensuring effective communication during specific work assignments.

Equally important, employees generally should remain free to converse in the language of their choice during meal periods, rest breaks, and other non-working time. Thoughtful language policies respect employees' cultural backgrounds while allowing employers to address legitimate operational needs.

Equal Opportunity Benefits Everyone

California employers are prohibited from discriminating against employees based on protected characteristics, including race, ancestry, national origin, and other classifications protected by the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (Gov. Code §§ 12900 et seq.). Beyond legal compliance, employers should strive to make employment

decisions based on qualifications, performance, and business needs.

Workplaces that encourage respect and professionalism are often better equipped to attract talented employees, retain experienced staff, and build trust within the communities they serve.

Looking Forward

National Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the many contributions Hispanic and Latino professionals have made—and continue to make—to California. It is also an appropriate time for employers to reflect on their own workplace practices and consider how they can continue building organizations where every employee has the opportunity to succeed.

For attorneys advising California employers, the conversation extends beyond legal compliance. Good counseling includes helping clients create practical workplace policies, train supervisors effectively, respond appropriately to employee concerns, and foster a culture built on professionalism, fairness, and mutual respect.

As California's workforce continues to evolve, organizations that embrace diverse perspectives and invest in their employees will be well positioned for continued success. By recognizing the accomplishments of Hispanic and Latino professionals and maintaining workplaces

grounded in respect and equal opportunity, employers strengthen not only their organizations but also the communities in which they operate.

Michelle McCoy Wolfe is a Partner at the Sloat Law Group, APC in Palm Desert. Her practice focuses on representing employers and management on labor and employment matters in litigation and in providing workplace solutions.



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Why Volunteering as a Temporary Judge Made Me a Better Lawyer

by Commissioner Jeremiah Raxter

Before being appointed as a court commissioner, I was the principal attorney of a small law firm with a few lawyers. One day, a judge (now retired) approached me to ask whether I had any interest in applying to serve as a temporary judge. I was flattered by the request and thought it might be enjoyable to sit as a judge pro tem from time to time. At that point, I had no interest in becoming a judicial officer, but I was curious about stepping out of the office occasionally and seeing cases from a different angle.

I completed the judicial demeanor course and the other required training, then began serving periodically as a temporary judge in small claims, unlawful detainer, and probate matters. After about a year, I expanded into criminal and other areas of law.

What surprised me were the many unexpected benefits that came with serving in this role. First, I gained a deeper understanding of how different judges approach cases. Sitting in the role myself helped me observe and appreciate a wide range of judicial decision-making styles, which, in turn, made me more effective in anticipating issues, tailoring arguments, and recognizing what truly matters to the bench.

Another important benefit was the development of stronger communication and decision-making skills. As a judge (and attorney), you must explain rulings clearly, think on your feet, and manage a courtroom efficiently. In addition, especially while sitting in unlawful detainer and small claims you deal with self-represented parties which you sometimes have to explain legal concepts and wade through a complex story to find the legal issue. Those abilities translated directly into clearer writing, stronger oral advocacy, and more thoughtful case strategy in my everyday role as counsel.

The role further exposed me to a wide range of cases and legal issues—often beyond the areas I typically practiced in. That exposure broadened my legal knowledge and strengthened my ability to spot issues, a skill that carries over into every area of law.

Finally, serving as a temporary judge gave me greater confidence in the courtroom. Once you have sat in the judge's seat, you gain a deeper sense of what the bench needs, how judges think, and what helps a calendar run smoothly. That perspective naturally makes courtroom appearances less intimidating and more productive.

All of this reinforced what became clear early on: serving as a temporary judge—especially in areas outside my typical practice—significantly improved my analytical abilities and strengthened my overall skills as a lawyer. It pushed me out of the advocate role and required me to analyze cases from the judge's point of view, which changed how I prepared and argued matters.

Understanding how the court's case management system works also made a significant difference. Seeing the process from behind the scenes helped me realize how important it is to name motions and responses correctly. Document titles affect how filings are linked to moving papers in the system, making it much easier for judges and research attorneys to review complete pleadings. I also began to appreciate what the court experiences when a long-pending case must be continued because a party files a response late and then requests a continuance due to their own delay. Attorneys often forget how many steps occur after clicking "submit"—filing, imaging, quality checks, and linking documents—which can take days or even weeks depending on the current court workload. Witnessing that process firsthand gave me a deeper appreciation for timely, accurate filing.

Another unexpected benefit was gaining insight into courtroom efficiency and case flow management. As attorneys, we often focus solely on our individual matters. Serving as a temporary judge forced me to see how each hearing fits into a larger calendar—and how a single late filing, unprepared appearance, or missing document can disrupt the entire day. That broader perspective motivated my office to become more organized, more realistic with time estimates, and more mindful of how my firm's actions affect the court, opposing counsel, and the litigants.

I served as a temporary judge with the Riverside County Superior Court and I cannot recommend the experience highly enough. Although it is a volunteer position, the knowledge I gained—and the fact that it ultimately sparked my interest in becoming a judicial officer, eventually leading to my appointment as a Court Commissioner—far outweighed the fact that the work is unpaid.

I now sit on the Temporary Judge Committee, and I encourage any attorney with at least ten years of experience, along with the flexibility to volunteer, to seriously consider applying. You can request assignments in the

area of the county that is most convenient for you, and you can choose to serve in a variety of case types or limit your service to one area.

The court staff you work with as a Temporary Judge are friendly, welcoming, and very understanding of the fact that you are a volunteer with a "regular" job. The support they provide makes the experience not only manageable but genuinely rewarding.

Temporary judges are used at the discretion of the presiding judge when the court needs judicial assis-

tance that it cannot provide using its full-time judicial officers. Please visit the Riverside County Superior Court website for more information on applying to serve as a Temporary Judge. (Visit riverside.courts.ca.gov and click: General Info then Attorneys and Litigants then Temporary Judge information.)

Commissioner Jeremiah Raxter is with the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside.



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Judicial Profile: Commissioner James F. Hodgkins

by Mary E. Gilstrap

For Commissioner James F. Hodgkins, joining the Riverside County Superior Court in 2022 was not simply another step in a long successful legal career, it was the realization of a goal that he had been working toward for years.

Today, he sits at the Larson Justice Center in Department 2K, where he presides over a misdemeanor vertical calendar and handles arraignments and other pretrial matters. Before his current assignment, he served as a commissioner in Palm Springs and Murrieta. His path to the bench, however, began hundreds of miles north of Riverside County and included more than three decades as a litigator, municipal attorney, mediator, temporary judge, professor and, for a time, interior designer.

Commissioner Hodgkins grew up in the Bay Area and earned his undergraduate degree from University of California, Santa Barbara, before receiving his J.D. from McGeorge School of Law. Much of the first part of his legal career was spent in litigation. After practicing with private firms in Oakland, Commissioner Hodgkins joined the Oakland City Attorney's Office in 2001, eventually becoming a senior deputy city attorney. His work there ranged from civil rights and governmental tort litigation to code enforcement and other public-interest matters. He supervised attorneys, worked with outside counsel and advised city officials on municipal litigation and risk-management issues. He also acted as an associate professor in the political science department of California State University East Bay.

Utilizing that experience, Commissioner Hodgkins also began serving as a court-appointed mediator for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Years later, after relocating to Southern California, he also served on the mediation panel for the Central District of California. He mediated a broad variety of matters, included civil rights, police misconduct, employment, disability-access and contract disputes. His engaging personality as well as legal acumen and litigation experience served him well as a mediator.

Commissioner Hodgkins and his husband, who have been together for more than three decades, had a vacation home in the Coachella Valley they visited regularly. When his husband began developing a concierge vacation rental business in the desert, the couple initially tried splitting their lives between Northern and Southern California. Commissioner Hodgkins remained in the Bay Area for work while traveling back and forth to the desert and helping his husband with his new business. But the commute eventually became too much.

In 2016, he took a leap of faith and he and his husband moved to the desert. He needed to establish relationships in the Coachella Valley with both bench officers and attorneys if he were to pursue a court commissioner position. He opened his own law firm as well as a mediation practice called Desert Mediation Group. He also began doing work for Winet Patrick



Commissioner
James F. Hodgkins

Gayer Creighton & Hanes, handling civil litigation. However, he was very open about his ambition to become a court commissioner. To that end, he became active in the Riverside County Superior Court's Temporary Judge Program, serving as a judge pro tem throughout the county.

His dream of becoming a court commissioner finally came true. In 2022, Commissioner Hodgkins remembers being at a doctor's office and was actually on the examination table when his cell phone rang. He knew the court was nearing a decision on commissioner selection, and the Riverside-area code on his phone immediately caught his attention. His heart began pounding. The news was what he had been hoping for: he had been selected as a Riverside County Superior Court commis-

sioner.

Besides his long experience in mediation and litigation, Commissioner Hodgkins had another passion – interior design. While working as a city attorney for the City of Oakland, he began attending interior design courses at night through UC Berkeley Extension. He eventually opened a residential interior design business in Oakland, all while working full-time as a city attorney.

Even after moving to the desert full-time, his interest in design stayed with him. He and his husband bought a historic home in Palm Springs that provided the perfect background for his design talents. This iconic desert estate built in 1935 had been owned by Bob and Dolores Hope. Built in a classic California ranch-style, with expansive grounds and one of the largest private pools in the area, it lent itself well for entertaining. However, Commissioner Hodgkins and his husband eventually concluded that it was “too much house” for two people and they sold the estate.

As for challenges facing him now that he is a bench officer living in the advent of artificial intelligence, he has a lot of thoughts about AI and its role in the law. He is skeptical of lawyers who rely too much on AI-generated legal writing. He believes that AI-generated polished language -- too smooth, use of big words and lack of substance -- can be readily spotted. Commissioner Hodgkins thinks it is a mistake for lawyers to use AI to substitute for their own thinking and writing and believes that it certainly does not aid an attorney who has to advocate contemporaneously in the courtroom.

Besides his love for interior design, gardening, landscaping, and the law, Commissioner Hodgkins is also a reader of historical fiction, with a particular fondness for Gore Vidal's novels.

While sitting at the Larson Justice Center, Commissioner Hodgkins is aided by his courtroom assistants, Rochelle LeBlanc and Bruce Gabbard and by Deputy Robert Luna.

Mary E. Gilstrap is a partner of the law firm of Roemer & Harnik LLP and a past president of the Desert Bar Association.



Opposing Counsel: Luis Aguilar

by Luis Lopez

I have been granted the privilege of writing about my friend, my brother, and my incredible colleague, Luis Aguilar — my Tocayo. Luis is, without question, one of the kindest, most even-tempered, gracious, and polite members of our legal community.

I have known Luis since 1990. In all those years, I have never heard a member of the bar or the bench say a negative word about him. A member of the bench for more than twenty years recently told me this about Luis: "Luis has always been a quiet, strong but persistent advocate." I could not agree more.

To understand Luis's legal career, we must begin with his roots. He is the proud son of Mexican father and a Chicana mother born in Wyoming. Luis was actually born in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. His parents traveled all over working the fields and picking crops. Luis and his family eventually set roots in Wapato, Washington within the Yakama Reservation. Before arriving in Riverside to practice law, he graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in social welfare and went on to get a master's in social work. Luis then moved to Minnesota after accepting a job as Director of Chicano/Latino Programs at the University of Minnesota.

I asked Luis, "What made you decide to go to law school?" He said, "I always thought of becoming a lawyer, since I was a kid, but I ended up in social work, got married, had children, and time passed." Then while working at the University of Minnesota, he revisited his dream, with the support of his dear wife, he enrolled. After graduation, he ended up in Riverside when he was given an offer as an associate by Best, Best & Krieger. Then he went on to work for Paramount Pictures on a legal project involving licensing and ownership rights. In 1991, he ventured into private practice where he practiced primarily in family law and criminal defense. Today he is a happy father of three and grandfather of nine.

One may ask, what moves and drives Luis? That is not difficult to see. He is grounded in his deep religious



Luis Aguilar



Luis & Tules Aguilar

faith. His family — his wife, Tules, his children, and his grandchildren — is at the very core of who he is. Just as central is his love for his Chicano roots and for the community that has benefited so greatly from his presence, generosity, and service.

Together with his closest friends, known as "Los Cinco" Luis has helped sponsor and support many meaningful community events, including foundational financial support for The Cheech and the annual posadas held at the Riverside Art Museum every December and January. Also, for many years, Luis was a volunteer attorney, and board member of the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association. These efforts reflect the same qualities that define him, not only as a lawyer, but also as a person: humility, loyalty, generosity, and a deep commitment to lifting others.

Luis's professional life has been marked by service and advocacy. Luis gave himself fully to the difficult work of helping clients and being the ultimate advocate. Over time, as the daily stress and grind of that work took its toll, he quietly and slowly retired and closed his practice.

But Luis cannot be admired solely for his legal acumen or his advocacy in the courtroom.

That is the Luis Aguilar I have been blessed to know: a man of faith, family, humility, and service; a lawyer respected by colleagues and judges alike; a friend whose character speaks louder than any title; and a brother whose legacy in our legal community and in Riverside will endure for years to come.

Luis E. Lopez has been a member of the Riverside County Bar Association since 1990. He currently serves on the RCBA Dispute Resolution Service Board of Directors. He represents clients in family law, estate planning and real estate litigation.



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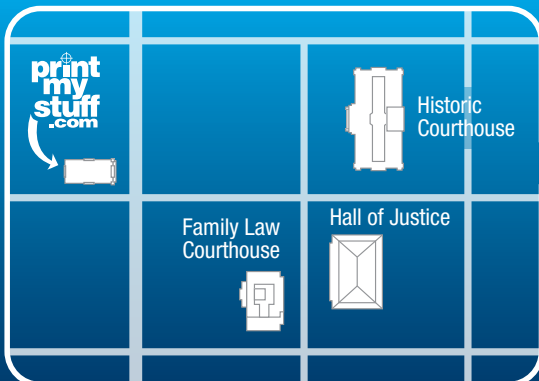
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Position – Associate Attorney

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Conference Rooms Available – RCBA Building

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. send resume to: hiring@harperandmccoy.com.



The following persons have applied for membership in the Riverside County Bar Association. If there are no objections, they will become members effective September 30, 2026.

Marce Einstein (A) – Probate LLC, Riverside

Faten W. Jubran – Law Office of Kyle A. Patrick, Riverside

Germaine Ma – Solo Practitioner, Chino

William H. W. Pote (A) – eTop Technology Inc, Redlands

Christian F. Thierbach, IV – Law Office of Christian Thierbach IV, Riverside

Kaitlyn Townsend (A) – Brown White & Osborn, Redlands

(A) – Designates Affiliate Member



LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE of the Riverside County Bar Association

Attorneys Needed:

The Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) is looking for panel attorneys that practice in the following fields: Administrative Law (School), Auto Contracts, Civil Harassment Restraining Orders, Construction Defects, Consumer Contract, Family Law, Criminal (Felonies), Guardianship/Conservatorship, Immigration Law, Landlord/Tenant (Tenant), Medical Malpractice, Tax, Workers Compensation



If you would like to be a panel member on the LRS, please call (951) 682-1015 for an application packet, or download it from our website, riversidecountybar.com (under Members, click on All Applications).

State Bar of California Certification # 0038

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 14** Civil Litigation Roundtable with Judge Harold Hopp (ret.) and Guest Speaker Judge Kenneth Fernandez
12:15 PM, Zoom
MCLE
- 16** Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law Section
Noon, Zoom
Speaker: Carrie Williams, MCC, ACTC
Topic: "The Spectrum of Willingness"
MCLE
- 24** RCBA Annual Installation of Officers Dinner
5:30 pm Social Hour, 6:30 pm Dinner
Mission Inn
3649 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside
- 30** New Attorney Academy – Orientation
Noon and 5:00 PM
RCBA Gabbert Gallery

Events Subject To Change

For the latest calendar information please visit the RCBA's website at 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 6th day of the month preceding publications (e.g., October 6 for the November issue). Articles are due no later than 45 days preceding publication. All articles are subject to editing. RCBA members receive a subscription automatically. Annual subscriptions are \$30.00 and single copies are \$3.50.

Submission of articles and photographs to *Riverside Lawyer* will be deemed to be authorization and license by the author to publish the material in the *Riverside Lawyer*. The material printed in the *Riverside Lawyer* does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the RCBA, the editorial staff, the Publication Committee, or other columnists. Legal issues are not discussed for the purpose of answering specific questions. Independent research of all issues is strongly encouraged.



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