

The Maverick

The SOLO & SMALL FIRM SECTION Newsletter
Contra Costa County Bar Association, California

December 17, 2010

In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it 'Christmas' and went to church; the Jews called it 'Hanukka' and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say 'Merry Christmas!' or 'Happy Hanukka!' or (to the atheists) 'Look out for the wall!' – Dave Barry

December MCLE Lunch

The December MCLE Lunch is off calendar due to Holiday schedules.

The MCLE Lunches have been excellent presentations and the MCLE credits have been helpful, but attendance has been sporadic and the private room price of the Pyramid has gone up. As the year rolls over, we are taking the opportunity to reexamine the venue. One possibility is to continue monthly at the Pyramid in the hope that attendance increases.

Another possibility is to continue at the Pyramid, but quarterly instead of monthly. Still another is to continue monthly, but move to a conference room, make it a “brown bag” affair, and charge less. **How do the Section members feel about these alternatives? Do any other possibilities occur to you? Please let the Section hear from you by email to bill@wahickeylaw.com.**

January

January Solo & Small Firm Practitioner’s After Work Meeting:

Date: Wednesday January 19, 2010
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Pyramid Alehouse
1410 Locust Street, Walnut Creek

Free appetizers; attendees to pay for their own beverages. Please email Anina Dalsin at Ann.Dalsin@DalsinLaw.com to RSVP.

Guests and non-section members welcome

February

December Solo & Small Firm Practitioner’s Breakfast Meeting:

Date: Thursday, December 16, 2010
Time: 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Location: Sunrise Café
1559 Botelho Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Free breakfast to Solo & Small Firm Section members. Please email Bill Hickey at bill@wahickeylaw.com to RSVP.

Guests and non-section members welcome

INTERVIEW WITH A MEMBER

Heidi Coad-Hermelin will be joining the Solo & Small Firm Board in 2011, and we reprint an earlier interview for those who might not know her.

Heidi Coad-Hermelin

Hermelin Law Firm
 706 Main Street, Suite C
 Martinez, CA 94553
 (925) 228-6500 phone
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 hch@hermelinlaw.com
 www.hermelinlaw.com

Areas of practice: She practices real estate, business, bankruptcy, and probate litigation. Most of her practice is in Contra Costa, but also has cases in Alameda and Solano.

Languages Spoken: Their office serves Spanish clients for all areas of law.

Extracurricular: Her family consists of her husband, two daughters, who are 7 and 5 who attend Christ the King, and Sierra, a golden retriever.

Back story: She graduated from UC Davis and has a BA in Economics. She graduated from McGeorge School of Law in 1992. January 1 of 2008 she joined her husband at Hermelin Law. Prior to that, she had a partnership at Sternberg & Coad-Hermelin for eight years. This firm, located in Walnut Creek, had two partners, two associates, an of counsel, and 4 legal assistants.

On being a solo/small firm: On being a small firm, it is very important to watch your overhead and contain costs, using staff on an as needed basis rather than full time is one way to contain costs. One of the best things of being solo is the freedom you have, if you take on too many extras, it cuts into your ability to be flexible and enjoy all the benefits of being a solo.

Favorite reference/resource: The best resource is other attorneys, so that you have a network and resource to bounce ideas off of. This network can be built up by office location (being near other attorneys or also bar activities and being in practice over time).

For fun: She plays bocce, which is similar to lawn bowling and is played on a dirt court. She plays in

Pleasant Hill on the Conciglieri Bocce Team, with 11 fellow team members. She also plays softball in a mixed co-ed team.

By: William A. Hickey

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

Changes: There will be a change in the Board for 2011. The Board welcomes Heidi Coad-Hermelin as a new board member. Anina Dalsin, Dorianne Romero Plihon and David Pearson and will continue their service along with Bill Hickey.

Articles: Want to highlight your practice area (and yourself)? The Maverick is always looking for comments on issues of general interest. If you would like to suggest and submit a comment of up to about 750 words, please contact bill@wahickeylaw.com.

Monthly Pyramid Meeting (Odd Months – 3d Wednesday) & Sunrise Meeting (Even Months – 3d Thursday): Again in 2011, we are looking at after work meetings and breakfast meetings in alternate months. In odd months, on the third Wednesday of the month, we plan to meet from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Pyramid in Walnut Creek for drinks, appetizers and networking. In even months, on the third Thursday of the month, we plan for 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café, also in Walnut Creek.

Monthly Pyramid After Work Meeting (Odd Months – 3d Wednesday):

1/19	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Pyramid
3/16	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Pyramid
5/18	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Pyramid
7/20	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Pyramid
9/21	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Pyramid
11/16	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Pyramid

Sunrise Breakfast Meeting (Even Months – 3d Thursday):

2/17 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café
4/21 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café
6/16 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café
8/18 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café
10/20 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café
12/15 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café

How do the Section members feel about these meetings? Do the dates, times and locations meet your needs? Any thoughts on making the meetings more attractive to you? Please let the Section hear from you by email to bill@wahickeylaw.com.

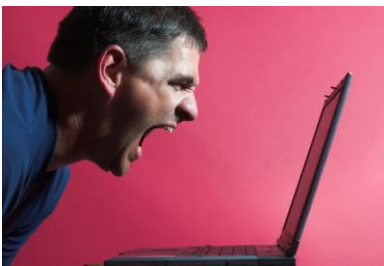
By: William A. Hickey

SUGGESTION BOX

Suggestions for developing The Maverick, and the Solo & Small Firm Section generally, are welcome. Please contact:

William A. Hickey: bill@wahickeylaw.com
Ann M. Dalsin: Ann.Dalsin@DalsinLaw.com
David Pearson: attorney@mac.com
Dorianne Romero Plihon: drp@rplawpc.com
Heidi Coad-Hermelin: hch@hermelinlaw.com

CONTRIBUTIONS



Please send questions, comments, corrections, jeers, personal and professional members' news and contribution submissions to The Maverick at: bill@wahickeylaw.com

Information for submission or publication must be in my hands 5 days before publication goal of the 1st of the month.

CLASSIFIEDS

Section member ads run free of charge. We run ads for three consecutive months. Advertisers then need to take ads off for three months before re-submitting them for a new three month period. Submit ads to William A. Hickey at bill@wahickeylaw.com.