

The Maverick

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

January 18, 2012

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
– Anonymous

January

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

Date: Thursday January 19, 2012
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Maria Maria
1470 North Broadway
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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

February Solo & Small Firm Practitioner's Breakfast Meeting:

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2012
Time: 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Location: Sunrise Café
1559 Botelho Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Free breakfast for Solo & Small Firm Section members. \$20 charge for others. Please email Bill Hickey at bill@wahickeylaw.com to RSVP.

INTERVIEW WITH A MEMBER

Mary Grace Guzmán
Guzmán Legal
215 Plaza Professional Building
El Cerrito, CA 94530
925-822-6030
925-476-5532 (fax)
mguzman@guzmanlegal.com
www.guzmanlegal.com



Areas of Practice: Mary Grace's practice includes two areas of law, business law and immigration law. She works on business entities, drafting and reviewing contracts, dissolution of businesses, and the purchase and sale of businesses. She specializes in the unique business needs of minority and women owned certified businesses. Because many minority owned businesses require immigration services, Mary Grace also practices immigration and naturalization law.

Back Story: Mary Grace Guzmán is the daughter of a Mexican immigrant and a first generation college graduate and attorney. She attended UC Berkeley where she earned a BA in Anthropology and minored in Chicano/a Studies. Prior to becoming an attorney, Mary Grace worked for 10 years with nonprofit agencies and private companies. Her 10 years of experience gives her a unique understanding of small business and nonprofit organizational and legal needs. After having her daughter, she decided to pursue her legal education and graduated from Santa Clara Law with a certificate in Social Justice and earning two Cali Awards for her research in Race and the Law and Social Justice and the Law. Throughout law school, she helped her father with his small business. Her father's entrepreneurial endeavors and immigrant success story inspired her to practice both small business and immigration law and help other business owners, like him.

On working in a small firm: For Mary Grace, the best part about being a solo is probably the most difficult part for her too, is that she gets to call all of the shots and is only accountable to herself. Because she is a parent, she loves being able to work from home or organizing her time so that she can meet all of her responsibilities. She tells friends, "I can work long hours, but I can't always work them in a row." Being a solo enables her to work as many hours as she needs with lots of flexibility.

Legal Organization Activities: Co-Chair of the Diversity Section of the Contra Costa Bar Association

Helpful Hints about Starting a Small Firm: As a new attorney, Mary Grace found that writing a business plan was extremely helpful. Her business plan has kept her on track with her business and professional goals. She also cannot stress the importance of finding good mentors. Her mentors guide her through both legal issues that she is working on but also help her make decisions about her career.

The Personal Side of Mary Grace: Mary Grace is dedicated to volunteer and leadership activities in her community. She works with K-12 classes to promote college and legal education. In her free time, Mary Grace cheers her daughter, Solimar, who swims for the Pleasant Hill Dolphins. Go PHD!! She loves cooking, Dodger baseball, Raider football and spending time with her family and two dogs, Kona and Polar.

Possible Referrals: Mary Grace is interested in referrals in the area of Immigration, Small business, and Contracts. She also accepts referrals for freelance work with solo practitioners and small law firms.

By: Heidi Coad-Hermelin

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

Hail to the Chief !!!! The Board welcomes Heidi Coad-Hermelin as the new Section President. Anina Dalsin, Dorianne Romero Plihon and David Pearson and will continue their service and Bill Hickey will return as a board member.

Monthly After Work Meeting (Odd Months – 3d Thursday) & Breakfast Meeting (Even Months – 3d Thursday): Again in 2012, we are holding after work meetings and breakfast meetings in alternate months. In odd months, on the third Thursday of the month, we plan to meet from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Maria Maria in Walnut Creek for drinks, appetizers and networking. In even months, on the third Thursday of the month, we plan 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café, also in Walnut Creek.

After Work Meetings (Odd Months – 3d Thursday):

1/19	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Maria Maria
3/15	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Maria Maria
5/17	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Maria Maria
7/19	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Maria Maria
9/20	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Maria Maria

11/15 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Maria Maria

Breakfast Meeting (Even Months – 3d Thursday):

2/16 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café

4/19 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café

6/21 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café

8/16 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café

10/18 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café

12/20 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Sunrise Café

How do the Section members feel about these meetings? Any thoughts on making the meetings more attractive to you? Please let the Section hear from you by email to bill@wahickeylaw.com.

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 submit a comment of up to about 750 words, please contact bill@wahickeylaw.com.

SUGGESTION BOX

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

Heidi Coad-Hermelin: hch@hermelinlaw.com

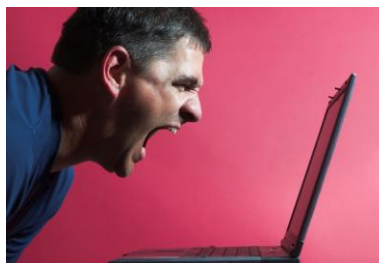
Ann M. Dalsin: Ann.Dalsin@DalsinLaw.com

William A. Hickey: bill@wahickeylaw.com

David Pearson: attorney@mac.com

Dorianne Romero Plihon: drp@rplawpc.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.

Attorneys on the Move

Martin Sproul announces that after eleven years in Lafayette, Sproul Law Offices is moving to Walnut Creek. As of February 1, the new location will be: 675 Ygnacio Valley Road, Suite B-202, Walnut Creek, CA. 94596

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