

CONTRA COSTA LAWYER

Volume 24, Number 1 | January 2011

Your Bar Association

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and Sections**

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**Presiding Judge Becton
with CCCBA Board President
Kathryn Schofield**

WHITING, FALLON, ROSS & ABEL, LLP

MATRIMONIAL ATTORNEYS

Announces

Laura R. Ramsey has joined the firm as an associate attorney. She has been practicing family law exclusively for three years in Southern California. Laura has returned to the Bay Area where she was born and raised.

Partners, William F. Whiting, Andrew Ross, R. Ann Fallon and Gregory C. Abel have been selected by their peers for inclusion in this year's *Northern California Super Lawyers*.

Ann Fallon was awarded the California Association of Certified Family Law Specialists 2009 Hall of Fame Award for her contributions to family law.

Messrs. Whiting and Ross were named "*Best Lawyers*" in the practice area of family law in the 2011 edition.

The firm received the highest ranking by *U. S. News & World Report*, the leading rankings publication in the United States.

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The Lawyer welcomes and encourages articles and letters from readers. Please send them to: Kerstin Firmin at kfirmin@cccba.org.

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CONTRA COSTA LAWYER

Volume 24 Number 1 | January 2011

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Contra Costa County
BAR ASSOCIATION

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Cover Image: Presiding Judge Diana Becton
and CCCBA Board President Kathy Schofield



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Presiding Judge Diana Becton

"State of the Court Update"

ANNUAL CCCBA OFFICER INSTALLATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011

Contra Costa Country Club
801 Golf Club Road - Pleasant Hill

\$35 CCCBA members

\$45 non CCCBA members

1 hour MCLE Credit

Menu choices:

Chicken Scaloppini
with Mushroom Marsala Sauce;
Poached Salmon Filet with Kettle One
and Green Olive Buerre Blanc;
- or - Vegetable Wellington

CCCBA Member Directory photos
may be taken from 11:00am to noon
-and - 1:30 to 2:00pm

To register, contact Michele Vasta at 925/370-2548,
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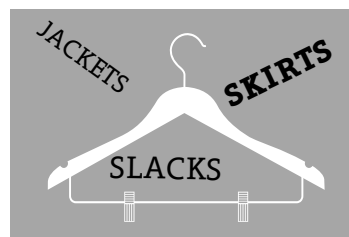
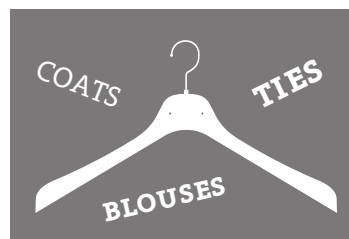
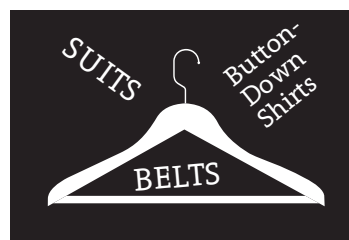
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MEET YOUR NEW

BOARD MEMBERS

Denae Hildebrand Budde



Denae is a partner in the law firm of Alborg Veiluva & Martin LLP in Walnut Creek. Currently her practice con-

sists of title and commercial insurance coverage as well as litigation in which she represents insurers, financial institutions, escrow companies and corporations. Denae has extensive civil and criminal litigation experience, having tried cases ranging from multi-million dollar insurance coverage to rape and carjacking cases. She is a certified mediator and has resolved several matters through mediation. Denae moved to Contra Costa County after spending the first ten years of her practice in Tulare County.

She is a member of the CCCBA's ADR section, Real Estate Section, and is the 2010 President of the Women's Section. In addition to her involvement with CCCBA, Denae is a member of the Contra Costa County Chapter of the Robert G. Mc-

Grath Inn of Court. She graduated from the University of Santa Clara in 1993 and was a Comments Editor of the Computer and High Technology Law Journal. After earning her Masters in Education, from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1986, she taught elementary school for four years prior to attending law school. Denae also received her Bachelor's degree from UCLA in 1985. Denae is licensed to practice in California, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States District Courts for the Northern, Southern and Eastern District's of California.

Denae lives in Moraga with her husband, a commercial airline pilot and Commander in the Navy Reserves, and their three daughters. With her husband being gone

half of every month, shuttling their three girls to their activities and social engagements consumes most of her free time. But when there is a little left, she enjoys traveling, skiing - water and snow - and baking.

Nick Casper



Nick received his undergraduate education from the University of California, Los Angeles, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 2001. He graduated from the University of San Francisco School of Law in May 2006, and was admitted to the California Bar on December 1, 2006.

Nick worked as a judicial extern for the Honorable Mark Simons on California's Court of Appeal, First District. He also worked at the Con-

tra Costa Public Defender's Office, both as a law clerk and as a clerk on a death penalty case with (now Judge) Christopher Bowen.

In March 2007, Nick joined the Plaintiffs' Civil Litigation firm of Casper, Meadows, Schwartz & Cook in Walnut Creek, reinforcing the adage that 'the apple never falls far from the tree'. As the firm's associate, Nick has been actively involved in litigating many of the firm's largest cases involving catastrophic injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, employment discrimination/harassment, civil rights violations, and child sexual abuse. In the last year, Nick has also taken several of the firm's cases to jury trial.

Nick is involved in a variety of legal organizations, both at the local level and state-wide. He has been serving as Chair of the CCCBA Barrister's Section since 2009, is a member of the Robert G. McGrath American Inn of Court, is on the Board of Governors of the Alameda-Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association (ACCTLA), and was active in the development of the fledgling New Lawyers Division of the Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC).

Nick currently lives in the Mission District in San Francisco, where he has resided since 2003. Although braving the reverse commute from the city to Walnut Creek may not be ideal, Nick loves being in the midst of the amazing restaurants, neighborhoods and happenings in San Francisco. Nick likes to stay fit and healthy and is an avid skier.

Elva Harding



Elva Harding began her career in real estate over 15 years ago with the purchase of her first investment property. After gaining experience in the field of rent controlled housing, she joined a national private-equity investment firm as asset manager of its Bay Area portfolio. Her experience managing budgets, litigation and negotiating her way through local and state agencies informs her legal advice with a practical perspective that her clients appreciate.

In 2008, Elva joined Shapiro Buchman Provine's Real Estate and Business practice. Elva provides real estate and business advice to investors, contractors, medical groups, on-line and bricks-and-mortar retail operators. She represents clients in

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the purchase, sale, financing and leasing of commercial real estate, business licensing and employment issues. She also advises clients regarding real estate and business disputes including fraud litigation, partnership disputes and collection matters. She is an active member of the Contra Costa County Bar Association, serving as an officer of the Women's Section, member of the fundraising committee for the Elder Law Center and member of the Real Estate Section. Additionally, she is a member of the San Francisco Bar, Queen's Bench and East Bay CREW.

Elva received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles. Through the University of California's Education Abroad Program, Elva spent a year at Trinity College, Dublin in Ireland, studying political and economic development. She is a graduate of Santa Clara University School of Law, where she received the Cali and Witkin awards for Insurance Law.

As a volunteer in the Amigos de las Americas program (www.amigoslink.org) in 1984, Elva served on a health and sanitation project in the Dominican Republic. Today, Elva believes in the power of youth leadership to improve communities at home and abroad. She continues her Amigos service as an officer of the East Bay Chapter of Amigos and occasional advisor to Amigos' International Board.

Elva and her husband, Seamus

Vanecko, are avid travelers. They met while attending Trinity College, Dublin and, after completing their undergraduate degrees, moved to Paris. Today, they are happily settled in Rockridge with their Irish Bulldog, Murphy. Seamus is a construction litigation consultant with Higuera Associates and a general contractor. Elva and Seamus enjoy scuba diving and hope to enjoy yet another good season of cross country skiing in the Sierra this winter.

Rashmi Nijagal

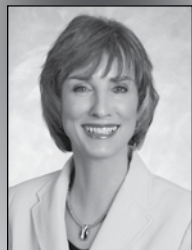


Rashmi lives in Pleasanton surrounded by her three boys: her husband, Satinder, her four-year-old son Sohan, and her two-year-old son Tejan. To

make up for the lack of estrogen in the house, she loves buying dresses and hair clips for her niece.

Rashmi has been practicing law for six years and has had the pleasure of practicing in a variety of fields including criminal defense at the Alameda County Public Defender's Office, medical malpractice defense in Walnut Creek and now as an appellate attorney on the Contra Costa County Appellate Panel. She also works in the health care law area representing hospital medical staffs. She has been on the Contra Costa County Bar Association's Conference of California Bar Associations since 2007 and has been the Chair of the county's delegation since 2009.

Rashmi obtained her Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her law degree from the University of California, Davis. Before law school, she worked as an editor for a children's art publishing company and as a HR manager at a small (and then large) start-up in Emeryville. Rashmi loves cooking with and for her kids and running half marathons. ♦



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The Contra Costa County Bar Association's mission is to represent its members and to advocate on their behalf; to educate its members and the public concerning the law, the legal profession and the judicial system; to provide a means of communication both among its members and between its members and the public; and to provide services that will support its members in their legal practice.



by **Lisa Reep**
Executive Director

A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

In keeping with its mission, the CCCBA is committed to assist its members in developing and improving their practice of law by providing information, services, networking opportunities, career development programs, community service opportunities and other resources. Most programs conducted or sponsored by CCCBA and its 21 Sections offer substantial discounts to members.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING

Membership in any of our 21 Sections provides opportunities to network with other practitioners who share common interests. To learn

more about our Sections, see pages 25 - 34. We also offer regular opportunities to interface with members of our local bench.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The CCCBA, with enthusiastic participation from our volunteer members, sponsors myriad community service opportunities. These include our seventeenth annual "Food From the Bar" Drive in the spring (over the past 18 years, our members have donated \$820,000 and 53 tons of food, making CCCBA one of the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano's largest supporters), our ongoing Education Outreach Program with local middle and high schools – including regular court tours during the academic year in both Martinez and Richmond, our regular consumer-focused free legal workshops offered at various public venues throughout the county, our

annual Court Scholarship Program and numerous pro bono opportunities in cooperation with local legal services agencies. If you are interested in participating in any of these programs, contact the CCCBA staff at 925/686-6900 or visit our website at www.cccba.org.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

CCCBA, together with its Sections and Committees, offers frequent seminars, courses and forums that fulfill the State Bar of California's MCLE requirements. These include our seventeenth annual MCLE Spectacular, our most popular and well-attended event, which will be held on November 18th at the Walnut Creek Marriott.

We are also pleased to continue our alliance with the State Bar of California. One component is an online

consortium comprised of a number of local bars throughout California who have been working together with the State Bar to develop and deliver quality and meaningful on-line MCLE. Through this alliance, we can deliver hundreds of hours of California State-specific content generated by the State Bar of California and other alliance members. To learn more about this member benefit, visit our website at www.cccba.org. Our state-of-the-art website offers on-line registration and payment for MCLE programs and events, an easy way to keep track of all CCCBA-sponsored MCLE programs you attend henceforth and the means to download our events calendar to Outlook and other standard computer calendaring programs.

LAWYER REFERRAL & INFORMATION SERVICE

The Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS) provides referrals to

attorneys who have met specific experience requirements for membership. Nearly 5,000 client consultations are scheduled with members of our LRIS each year through both our phone-based service and the Internet. Close to \$1.5 million in attorneys' fees were collected by our LRIS panelists during the 2010 calendar year. Special malpractice insurance rates are available for solo practitioners participating on our LRIS. For information on LRIS membership and malpractice insurance, call (925) 686-6900 or visit our website at www.cccba.org (Please refer clients to 925-825-5700). (See article entitled "Grow Your Business - LRIS Membership Makes Good Business Sense", page 23)

PUBLICATIONS

You will notice a lot of positive changes in the way we communicate with our members this year. In addition to receiving six print issues of our highly regarded magazine, *Contra Costa Lawyer*, which now

features a colorful and more professional-looking design, members will continue to receive our annual pictorial Membership Directory. With the environment in mind, and to cater to our entire membership (half of which prefer a hard copy magazine, the other half of which prefer to receive everything on-line), we offer the option of receiving *Contra Costa Lawyer* via US Mail or in a new html-based "real" online magazine format. In months we do not produce our magazine in print, it will be available online and will include timely information, articles and valuable resource links to enhance your practice. E-mailed "News & Upcoming Events" broadcasts are also sent to our members every Tuesday morning. Upcoming events are linked directly to our website and calendar - www.cccba.org - where you can register and pay for events online. We are confident you will consider these weekly broadcasts and our website extremely valuable resources. ♦

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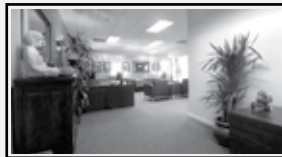
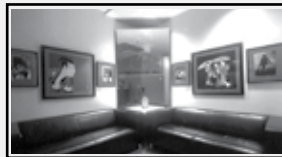
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Dental, Vision, Life and Disability insurance plans are available to you, your family and your employees through our broker/administrator, Myers-Stevens-Mello & Co., Inc.

Dental: CCCBA's Dental Plan, underwritten by Lincoln Financial Group, offers two different calendar year maximum options that are available to firms with two or more enrolled attorneys and/or employees. Both plans allow you to choose any dentist; however, you can maximize your benefits by utilizing PPO providers. Firms with at least five enrolled employees do not have a waiting period for Major work. In addition, there is an Indemnity (go to any dentist) plan with a higher calendar-year maximum for those firms with at least fifteen attorneys and/or employees enrolled.

Vision: CCCBA's Vision Plan, underwritten by MES/Blue Shield Life Insurance Company, provides for eye exams and eyewear (including contact lenses). Members may use any optometrist or ophthalmologist but will receive higher benefits when they use participating providers or vendors.

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Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment: CCCBA members may apply for up to \$2,000,000 with super-preferred rates on amounts of more than \$500,000 (Available at age 30 and up). Coverage is guaranteed renewable to age 75 and convertible to a permanent policy anytime before the policy terminates at age 75. This plan includes an accelerated life benefit payout for terminal illness. CCCBA members' spouses are able to apply for coverage if the member does not apply. A rider is also available to cover children. New members Age 49 and younger may apply for a guaranteed issue amount of \$50,000. Contact Myers-Stevens-Mello for details. ING/ReliaStar Life Insurance Company, one of the largest nation's insurers, underwrites this plan.

Disability Insurance: Underwritten by Standard Insurance Company, this plan offers two benefit options and you select from a 60 or 90-day waiting period. You can insure up to 60% of your pre-disability earnings to a monthly benefit maximum of \$5,000. This plan features a Return to Work Incentive, Survivor Benefit, Rehabilitation Benefit, Lifetime Security benefit and more. New members may apply for a guaranteed issue amount. Contact Myers-Stevens-Mello for details.

Health Insurance: CCCBA does not have a sponsored health plan at this time. However, through its long-term relationships with major healthcare providers, Myers-Stevens-Mello is able to research various health insurance plans and programs that are available to you, whether as an individual or a law firm with employees. They will review and analyze your current program, help you select a plan that meets your objectives and assist you through the enrollment process. Thereafter, they will continue to provide assistance with renewals and all other claims/customer service issues. You are invited to take advantage of Myers-Stevens-Mello's expertise and services to

get competitive rates and benefits for your health insurance needs. Group Life and Disability plans are also available for law firms.

These are brief summaries prepared for this publication. Complete descriptions of benefits and limitations of these plans will be found in the Insurance Policies. If you would like more information on any of these plans, call Myers-Stevens-Mello at 1(800) 862-4243 or email mailbox@myersstevens.com

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MEET YOUR NEW BOARD PRESIDENT



KATHRYN SCHOFIELD

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I grew up in Napa and then adventured off to The College of William and Mary in Virginia for a double major in psychology and fine arts. After coming back to California, getting a master's degree in child development and working for U.C. Davis School of Medicine doing research on aging, I decided to change course and attend U.C. Davis School of Law. I found my niche. I moved to Contra Costa in 1999 with my husband, started my own practice in 2006 and now I can't imagine raising my son anywhere else. I absolutely love practicing law and being part of this community.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE LAW AS YOUR PROFESSION?

I get charged up by the problem-solving and the intellectual challenge of my work. I like the diversity an elder law practice provides. One day I am dealing with long term care planning, on another day I am dealing with financial elder

abuse. The common denominator is that my work helps families – an incredibly satisfying way to spend my day.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE BAR ASSOCIATION?

When I moved to Contra Costa, the firm I worked for (Bramson, Plutzik, Mahler and Birkhaueser) encouraged me to get involved with the bar association. I immediately became involved with the Women's Section board, which led to being president of the Women's Section, which led to the CCCBA board of directors. I can't overstate the value of getting involved with a CCCBA section. The networking and skill-building opportunities available through the CCCBA are what made it possible to start my own practice. The people who practice law in this county are top-notch – not just professionally, but personally. I could not have done it if it weren't for my involvement with the CCCBA. I owe a lot to the attorneys who have given advice and help along the way and I would never have met them but for the CCCBA.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AND VISIONS FOR THE BAR ASSOCIATION?

Most of the attorneys practicing in

this county are solo or small firm attorneys and many are feeling the pressure of this economy.

The CCCBA is particularly well-situated to support the local small-firm lawyer. In the past year, the CCCBA has taken great strides in making itself more relevant to these local practitioners – people who are strapped for time, looking for ways to grow their business and looking for educational opportunities. These are the big issues for my practice and I know they are for others as well. To that end, my goals for 2011 will continue the trend by:

- Focusing on the sections to expand networking and educational opportunities
- Taking advantage of our ever-increasing web presence to promote the CCCBA and our individual members
- Evaluating exactly how we are generating and spending our revenue so our membership gets the biggest bang for its buck

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR CCCBA LEGACY TO BE?

I am realistic – I am privileged to be President for only a year. What I accomplish this year is a reflection of the amazing people who have done this job before me, will have it after me and all those who keep the sections humming along.

What makes the CCCBA one of the



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- Serving on Kaiser Medical Malpractice Neutral Arbitrators Panel
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best local bar associations in the country – and it really is – is the generosity of the membership.

We give to fellow practitioners and our local community in astonishing amounts. Our membership continues to grow and thrive through opportunities to channel that generosity. Whether it is writing an article, participating in sections, attending social events or volunteering, when we give our time to the CCCBA, it comes back to us all in spades. I know it has for me and I wish everyone could get as much from the CCCBA as I have gotten from it.

On that note, a new opportunity the CCCBA has to offer in 2011 is our new Elder Law Center (ELC) and companion elder law training program – ideas generated by community needs, fueled by volunteers and ultimately a way for members to grow their practices and professional networks. Programs like these are what will keep the CCCBA a vibrant and vital organization for many years to come. I can't take credit for the ELC, but I am glad to have a part in it.

I encourage you to participate in the ELC or any other CCCBA program that strikes your fancy - there are plenty to choose from. If I could pick one thing to be my legacy, it would be that every single member participated in some meaningful way in the CCCBA this year. I know from personal experience that you will get far more out of it than you put in. If you can't think of something to do or you have an idea you want to toss around, give me a call! It's the least I can do for a fellow Contra Costa practitioner and the CCCBA. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to be CCCBA President this year. It truly is an honor. ♦

- Kathy Schofield, owner of the Schofield Law Group, focuses her practice on Elder Law, Conservatorships, Estate Planning and Probate/ Trust Administration - www.schofieldlawgroup.com

Elder Law is



Alzheimer's Planning

The average survival rate is eight years after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's — some live as few as three years after diagnosis, while others live as long as 20. Most people with Alzheimer's don't die from the disease itself, but from pneumonia, a urinary tract infection or complications from a fall.

Until there's a cure, people with the disease will need caregiving and legal advice. According to the Alzheimer's Association, approximately one in ten families has a relative with this disease.

Of the four million people living in the U.S. with Alzheimer's disease, the majority live at home — often receiving care from family members.

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What steps are you planning to take in 2011 to improve your practice?

1. Continue establishing mutually beneficial relationships with opposing counsels in certain areas of law so that we can settle cases quickly for the benefit of all involved.
2. Set trial dates sooner to resolve matters sooner.
3. Update website

Andrew W. Shalaby
East Bay Law



Jordan J. "Jody" Yudien
Yudien Law Firm

In 2011, I plan to stay on top of my billing and collections. And no longer work for free for clients who can't pay.



Wayne V.R. Smith
Attorney - Mediator

Organize my office to simplify approaches to issues, and use a newsletter that highlights humor in the law.



1. I'm going to stop working for people who don't pay.
2. I'm going to start every morning with Lexapro.
3. We're moving closer to a Starbucks.
4. I'm buying ear muffs.
5. I'm getting less comfortable chairs for my office.

Merrit Weisinger
Walnut Creek Family Law Center

I signed up for the Rutter Group pass and I am taking courses way outside my normal areas of interest. It's just a way of broadening my perspective(s). It turns out there is a lot of cross over.

Daniel Horowitz
Law Offices of Daniel Horowitz



the right balance but important strive for it.

Magany Abbass, JD, LLM
Law Offices of Magany Abbass

I plan to spend more time with my family. I believe a well rounded lawyer is much more effective than a workaholic lawyer. It's hard to strike



that we just are so grateful to them all. Happy new year!

Marc Bouret
The Bouret Mediation & ADR firm

I will be using the CCCBA services throughout 2011, they do so much good and their office staff have been the best, as I am sure there is agreement

I will be participating in more public speaking engagements, incl. university presentations and CLE panels. I have also formed a small network group of 6-8 attorneys, all from different legal fields, to maximize referral potential and build lasting professional relationships.

Jennifer Smythe
Law Office of Gali Schaham Gordon

I plan to reach out more to the legal and other "communities" for marketing purposes and also for social and personal connections. I intend to be more involved with the Bar this year, including joining the solo-practice group! In these tough economic times, as I tell my clients, you have to appreciate (and be involved with) what you have and a big and important piece of that is your friends and family!

Peter Sproul
Mullen & Sproul LLP

Holiday Party & Open House

at the Contra Costa County Bar Association



CCCBA Board Members
**Elva Harding, Rashmi
Nijagal** & President-
Elect **Audrey Gee**

CCCBA Board Member
Richard Alexander with
Judge Christopher Bowen
and **Presiding Judge
Diana Becton**



CCCBA Board Member
Nick Casper & former
Board President
Stan Casper

Thank you for joining
us at our holiday party
on December 16, 2010.

Happy New Year!

**Judge Thomas Maddock
& Dick Frankel**



**Dan Pocklington &
Jon Thompson**

Board Member
**Leigh Johnson
& Richard Jenny**



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Wendy Graves,
CCCBA Executive
Director **Lisa Reep**,
Suzanne Boucher &
Court Executive Officer
Kiri Torre



Ex-officio
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Ron Mullin &
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Candice Stoddard





THE OPENING OF THE

by **Mimi Lyster**

Director, Court Planning, Information & Programs

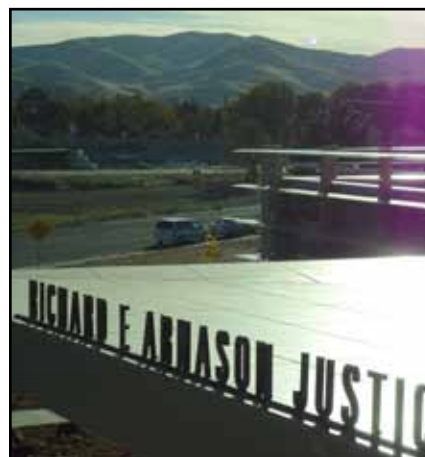
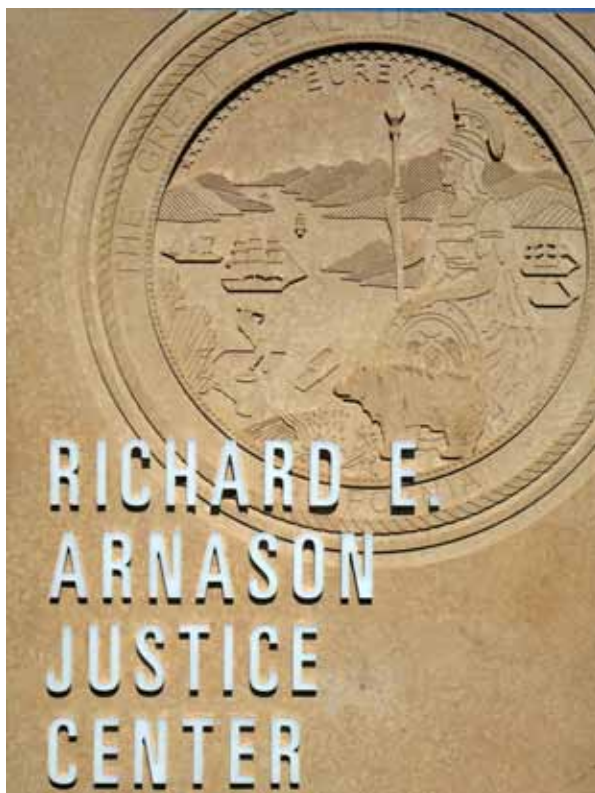
With the dedication ceremony on November 12, 2010, the "Dean" of Contra Costa's bench, the Honorable Richard E. Arnason, has added new gravitas to his presence in our legal community. The Arnason Justice Center, spanning the tenures of Presiding Judges Maddock, Bruiniers and O'Malley, has received the highest ratings as a Silver LEED green building and provides dignified frames through which to observe the area's hills. The stately courtrooms, wide hallways, accessible self help center, electronic calendar displays, queuing system for the clerk's windows and welcoming child care facility (scheduled to open in March 2011) are a fitting tribute to the dignity of the judicial branch and the nobility of its purpose.

Each of the afternoon's speakers, including keynote speaker Chief Justice Ronald George and Administrative Director of the Courts William Vickrey, spoke eloquently of both Judge Arnason's accomplishments and contributions to the law and jurisprudence and to the importance of providing adequate space to handle both current and future caseloads in the East County. By vacating the cramped and dilapidated building in the Arnason Jus-

tice Center's shadow, the Contra Costa Superior Court will now be able to transfer in-custody defendants in secure corridors, provide adequate space for parties and their attorneys to confer and move some family law and juvenile proceedings closer to the communities we serve. Jurors summoned to this facility will be treated to a welcoming assembly room, readily available refreshments and spacious deliberation rooms.

Among those who spoke at the event, Supervisor Federal Glover commented on the importance of the court's presence in the East County Civic Center and hailed the boost its construction gave to the local economy. Pittsburg Mayor Salvatore Evola spoke highly of the project and its impact on the City, and in an extraordinary gesture to Judge Arnason, the Chief and the court, presented albums with a shovel-to-ribbon-cutting photographic record of the building's construction.

The Arnason Justice Center is now open to the public and will be an exemplar for court construction projects for many decades to come. ♦





MEET KERSTIN

CCCBA'S COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

I started working for the Contra Costa County Bar Association this past summer. As a newcomer to the legal field it has been a steep learning curve for me but a very rewarding experience as well. In the past few months, we have made great strides laying the foundation for some exciting changes to our Bar Association publications and communications: We conducted a communications audit and membership survey. Together with the Communications Committee and the Editorial Board, we evaluated our members' feedback and fleshed out new approaches: Our print publications, including the Contra Costa Lawyer magazine received a face-lift and new features. Next month, we will also publish the inaugural issue of the brand-new online companion to our magazine. The Bar Association also went social with a Facebook page, LinkedIn Groups, and a Twitter feed.

Moving forward, I will continue to work towards positioning the Contra Costa County Bar Association as the most relevant and rewarding organization for our members and a resource for our community. My goal for the Contra Costa Lawyer, both online and in print, is to provide an attractive platform for members to publish and enjoy

timely, interesting articles, columns and much more. Our online presence will be a place to engage and network with other members and those we serve in the community through our Lawyer Referral and Information Service and Moderate Means Programs. Our new, expanded publications also allow our advertisers to get more exposure – we now offer advertising opportunities both in print and online. It's an exciting time for our Bar Association and a great time to get involved:

If you have an article you want to publish, a story idea to discuss or an advertisement to place, contact me! We are also always interested in highlighting the accomplishments and pro bono work of our members – if you know someone you think should be featured in one of our columns, please let me know! **You can reach me at kfirmin@cccba.org or at (925) 370-2542**

Finally, a bit about myself:

I grew up in Germany, near Bamberg where I went to school. After graduating (Fine Arts and German), I took the opportunity of a year abroad and fell in love with the San Francisco Bay Area. After a brief stint back home, I decided I wanted to live in California.

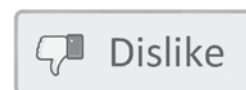
That was more than 10 years ago and I have lived and worked most of this time in Contra Costa County. The nonprofit field was a natural fit for me, as I have been involved in community outreach and youth programs since I was 12. At Shelter, Inc. here in Martinez, I started managing publications and it eventually became my full-time job. While taking part in two re-branding processes, at Shelter, Inc.

and as a graphic design volunteer with the Taproot Foundation, I became increasingly intrigued by strategic communication, branding and marketing. About two years ago, I decided to pursue a degree in that field and chose a communications program with a technology focus.

In my free time, I:



Punk Rock & live music
Mini-vacations & urban hiking
Theater (Shotgun Players!)
Roller Derby
Books & magazines
Environmental science
Outdoors: Running & hiking
Politics



Alarm Clocks
Shopping Malls
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Politics

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CLIENT REFERRALS
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GROW YOUR BUSINESS

with our Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS)

LRIS MEMBERSHIP MAKES GOOD BUSINESS SENSE

Our Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS) staff handles over 12,000 calls and online requests each year from members of the public who contact us with legal-relat-

MODERATE MEANS PROGRAM

Help make quality legal support a reality for moderate income clients

*"I am very pleased with the service you offer! The lawyer I saw spent more than enough time answering all of my questions. I would definitely recommend this attorney, as well as your service in general, to anyone I know that needs legal advice for a reasonable fee. Thank you."*¹

ed problems; nearly 4,000 of those calls result in client consultations with members of our LRIS each year. Clients are carefully screened to determine whether a consultation with an attorney or a referral to another agency is the most appropriate course of action. When it is clear that the caller would benefit from consulting with an attorney, a 30-minute consultation is scheduled with an LRIS panelist who has met specific experience requirements, maintains malpractice insurance coverage² and who practices in the geographic and subject matter areas that match the client's needs. The LRIS is a public service of the Contra Costa County Bar Association, a non-profit organization. Our Lawyer Referral & Information Service is certified by the State Bar of California (Certification #0018) and meets American Bar Association Standards.

by joining the Moderate Means Program! As an adjunct to the Lawyer Referral & Information Service, this program offers reduced-fee representation in family law and immigration matters. The program is designed to make legal services available for those who do not qualify for pro bono services but who still do not have the means to retain attorneys at their usual rates. Moderate Means clients pay participating attorneys a modest retainer and hourly rate that fit within the program guidelines. Panel attorneys come from all different legal backgrounds and experience levels.

FAMILY LAW ALTERNATIVE RESOLUTION (FLARe) PROGRAM

Also an adjunct to LRIS, the FLARe program provides a mediation alter-

native for parties with a family law situation who agree to attempt resolution of their dispute using this process. A 90-minute session at a much-reduced rate is offered to give clients the opportunity to determine if mediation would be useful in attempting to resolve their entire family case. The FLARe program is never offered where domestic violence is a factor.

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THE LAWYER REFERRAL & INFORMATION SERVICE

We do the marketing for you: We get over 12,000 calls each year from people who are looking for legal representation. Rather than place expensive ads in the yellow pages, magazines or other publications hoping that prospective clients might need your services some day, your LRIS membership gives you access to the people who really need your help today.

LRIS referrals are paying clients: Over \$1.3 million in attorney fees are collected annually from clients referred by our LRIS. Although not every case leads to a paying client, there are rewards realized even from prospective clients who only come in for a consultation. An initial consultation can lead to a long

and profitable attorney-client relationship, as well as future referrals to colleagues, friends and family.

Better clients as a result of the LRIS: There is a growing distrust of what are often perceived as self-serving yellow page ads and TV infomercials. The public is looking for a referral source that can be trusted. Your LRIS is certified by the State Bar of California and approved by the ABA as an independent provider of competent and reliable legal representation.

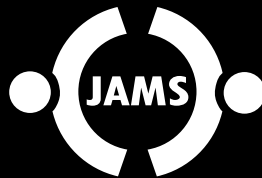
Join the LRIS now by contacting the Contra Costa County Bar Association at 925.686-6900 or by visiting our website at www.ccba.org. ♦

¹ The quote used in this article was taken directly from our regular client surveys.

² Affordable LRIS malpractice insurance coverage is available to solo practitioners through Lawyers' Mutual Insurance Company. Please call 1800.252-2045 for rates and details.

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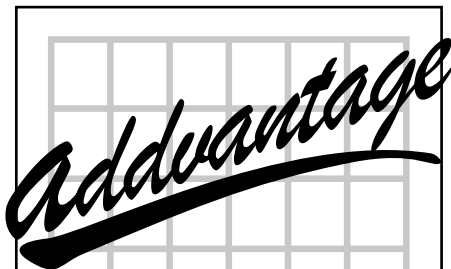


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MEET YOUR SECTIONS

ADR

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) continues to expand as an attractive alternative to litigation. Private litigants increasingly turn to ADR to resolve their disputes. In many cases, parties obtain better results through ADR than through conventional litigation. With ADR, the parties may avoid the delay and expense of litigation, maintain confidentiality, control the process and achieve a better outcome through agreements reached as a result of their direct participation.

The ADR Section's activities include: presenting educational programs for the continued professional development of its members; analyzing and commenting on proposals (including local court rules) related to ADR; drafting proposals for consideration by the court and the board of directors and identifying issues impacting ADR as an accessible, efficient and effective means of dispute resolution. Section members are lawyers who also serve as mediators, arbitrators, neutral case evaluators and special masters.

CHAIR

John S. Warnlof
2033 North Main Street., Suite 750
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925.937.9200
jwarnlof@aol.com



John S. Warnlof is an attorney and ADR neutral with offices in Walnut Creek. His practice emphasizes construction,

real property, common interest developments, commercial litigation and business counseling to corporations, partnerships and individuals. John arbitrates and mediates real estate, construction, personal injury, employment and commercial disputes. He also serves as the hearing officer for the San Francisco Employees Retirement System. John is a frequent lecturer on various ADR topics. He is the Vice-Chair of the State Bar ADR Committee and serves on the Contra Costa Superior Court ADR Advisory Committee.

APPELLATE

The Appellate Section - formed in 1991 - focuses on continuing education and the improvement of appellate advocacy. Members include attorneys whose practice is devoted to appeals and writs as well as trial lawyers interested in enriching their understanding of the appellate process and issues.

The section hosts periodic MCLE seminars. Seminar speakers have included appellate court justices, appellate and supreme court research attorneys and attorneys with special expertise in appeals, writs and post-trial motions.

The Appellate Section welcomes all lawyers and law students to join and attend programs. Many programs have broad appeal to litigators and are presented in partnership with the Litigation Section.

The section has been approved as a provider of appellate specialty MCLE credits, an extra benefit for attorneys who are, or are seeking to become, certified appellate specialists.

CHAIR

Gary A. Watt
ARCHER NORRIS
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Gary Watts is a member of the Archer Norris appellate practice section. He handles appeals in all the state appellate courts, including the

Supreme Court, as well as the Ninth Circuit. Gary is director of the Hastings Appellate Project, Hastings College of the Law's Ninth Circuit clinical program. Gary is also an adjunct professor of appellate advocacy at Hastings and faculty coach of Hastings's National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition and Moot Court National Championship teams. His law practice articles are frequently published in the Daily Journal and his appellate musings can be found at www.caappellatelaw.com. He is a graduate of California State University, Hayward (economics) and received his J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

John T. Schreiber, 925.832.1882
Bryce C. Anderson, 925.757.7020

BARRISTERS

The Barristers/Young Lawyers Section seeks to provide attorneys in practice for six years or less with networking, education and mentor-

ing opportunities. This section provides a great way for newer members to become involved in our local bar association. Membership is free to all CCCBA attorney members in practice for six years or less.

CHAIR

Nick Casper
Casper, Meadows, Schwartz & Cook
2121 N. California Blvd. Suite 1020
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Nick Casper is an associate with the Plaintiffs' Civil Litigation firm of Casper, Meadows, Schwartz & Cook in Walnut Creek,. (See Nick's full bio under

"Meet Your New Board Members", page 7)

BUSINESS LAW & CORPORATE COUNSEL

Corporate Counsel are among the most important members of a business team. They work with all key members of the enterprise to provide a wide range of strategic and legal insights to address and resolve routine as well as thorny matters facing entrepreneurs and developed businesses. The Business Law & Corporate Counsel (BLCC) Section's mission is to provide up-to-date information on issues facing Corporate Counsel in our competitive climate, to provide continuing legal education to attorneys in California and to provide opportunities for networking in our growing East Bay legal community.

The BLCC supports regular meetings, with experts in the wide variety of issues facing Corporate Counsel to support new ventures, to

promote business development and to provide a basis for corporations taking advantage of the many new initiatives for business growth and development. Because Contra Cost County is in an ideal position to be a corporate growth center in Northern California, the BLCC strives to bring strategic and legal expertise to you.

During 2011, we plan to present programs addressing Corporate Formation, Corporate Reporting, Due Diligence, public offerings, compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley, protection of intangible Corporate Property (trade secrets, patents, copyrights, and trademarks) and other issues of topical importance. As incoming Chair of the Section, I hope to engage members of the Section in a series of interactive, enjoyable meetings to develop and support your practice in business and corporation law. As we develop our programming for the next year, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you about

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Tracey McDonald, Paralegal

*Certified Specialist, Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law, The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization

specific areas that are important to you and your clients.

CHAIR

D. Benjamin Borson, MA., J.D., Ph.D.
Borson Law Group, PC
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Lafayette, California 93449-4760
925.310.2060
bborson@borsonlaw.com



Dr. Benjamin Borson is the founder and president of Borson Law Group, PC, a Lafayette-based law firm specializing in assisting companies

in business strategies developing and exploiting intangible assets, including patents, trade secrets, trademarks and copyrights. Dr. Borson has over 15 years of experience in the law and is counsel to numerous small and mid-sized companies in the life sciences and high-technology industries. Dr. Borson holds a Ph.D. in Physiology from the University of California, San Francisco, and a J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Dr. Borson is active in public service as Chair of the Legislation Committee of the State Bar of California Intellectual Property Law Section, is a frequent author and lecturer and is Adjunct Professor of Law at Golden Gate University School of Law. Prior to entering the law, he was on the faculty of the University of California, San Francisco, where he trained students and post-doctoral fellows in scientific methodology, Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing and Physical Therapy, and ran a research program in basic medical science. He is the recipient of numerous grant awards, has published numerous scientific and legal articles and has worked with clients to obtain many patents and trademark registrations. He has authored numerous legal opinions relating to patent infringement,

validity and licensing. Dr. Borson is also a member of the Patent Public Advisory Committee, where he advises the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the President and Congress on matters relating to the patent system.

BANKRUPTCY LAW

The Bankruptcy Law Section is primarily comprised of attorneys who represent debtors and/or creditors in bankruptcy cases. The section has also had non-attorney members, including accountants and bankruptcy trustees. The purpose of the section is to provide a forum of fellowship and learning concerning topics of interest to attorneys who practice in bankruptcy court and non-attorneys who provide support to the bankruptcy bar. Formerly known as the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section, the section includes commercial law as well as bankruptcy law issues within its scope. There are approximately forty members.

The section typically meets three to five times each year, usually for continuing education programs held at lunchtime at the JFKU School of Law in Pleasant Hill. At these luncheons, speakers discuss topics of interest to the bankruptcy bar. The programs are usually approved for one hour of MCLE credit. Past speakers have included bankruptcy judges and trustees, private practice attorneys in the area and other professionals.

If you would like more information regarding the section, please contact the chair.

CHAIR

David A. Schuricht
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925.279.3080
Schuricht@ksfirm.com



David Schuricht graduated from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley in 1974 and then served as a law clerk for the California State Court of Appeal. After

several years with federally-funded legal services organizations, Mr. Schuricht moved into private practice in 1983. Before co-founding Katzen & Schuricht in 1996 (where he focuses his practice on bankruptcy matters), Mr. Schuricht spent more than 13 years handling real estate, business litigation, bankruptcy, and debtor-creditor problems. Mr. Schuricht has served as Chairman of the CCCBA Bankruptcy Law Section for the past several years. He is a member of the Bay Area Bankruptcy Forum and the American Bankruptcy Institute and also serves on the Board of Directors of The Law Center, a non-profit organization devoted to helping persons of limited means secure assistance with civil legal problems.

CONSERVATORSHIP, GUARDIANSHIP, PROBATE & TRUST

The Conservatorship, Guardianship, Probate & Trust Section was established in 1993. Membership is open to practicing attorneys, private professional fiduciaries, accounting practitioners and law students. Section members and non-members are invited to attend our programs.

Our programs begin in January each year at the Contra Costa Country Club with the annual Probate Bench Luncheon. This year the program will be of particular interest as we will learn of significant changes in the Probate Department and we will have opportunity to welcome, and become acquainted with, the Hon. John H. Sugiyama who comes to Dept. 61 in January.

Ever since 1994 our section, with co-sponsorship of The Mechanics Bank's Trust Department, has presented an Annual Estate Planning Symposium. The symposium is held at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek each year in March. The event draws counsel, educators and professionals to present topics of current interest to the Bar, tax professionals and students. We are pleased to present this program with availability of specialization credit.

Board members and section liaisons continue to provide volunteer service, each devoting time and energy to insure that our events provide broad continuing education opportunity for our members at a competitive cost. Our newest board member, Mark W. Frisbie, heads the Guardianship Clinic established to assist Pro Per petitioners complete the guardianship procedures. Counsel interested in providing such volunteer service should contact Mark.

The section continues its practice of donating to local legal service organizations through the Contra Costa County Bar Association's "The Bar Fund". In 2010 our \$5,000.00 donation provided support to the reconstituted Elder Law Center (ELC).

Our section is broadly based among probate, estate planning, conservatorship, guardianship, and trust practitioners. We strive to present opportunities for members to obtain MCLE credits at programs that address these areas of practice and welcome suggestions from our membership.

CHAIR

Janice Crosetti Titmus
Law Offices of Crosetti & Titmus
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jct@ctattorneys.com

Janice Crosetti Titmus is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley, with honors in English. She graduated from JF KU

Law School in 1981. Before entering the practice of law, Janice acquired 14 years combined experience as a legal assistant for a probate attorney and as manager of the claims department for an insurance brokerage firm. She has been practicing in Contra Costa County since December of 1981, beginning in general practice and over time with emphasis in estate planning, probate, conservatorship and guardianship. In addition to serving as chair of this section, Janice is a past president of Soroptimist International Lamorinda; Lafayette Historical Society and former President of the Lafayette Senior Housing Association, Chateau Lafayette.

CO-CHAIRS

David J. Elefant, 925.943.1991
Ira L. Hillyer, 925.256.3033
Barbara L. Lanier, 510.527.7070
Oliver W. Bray, 925.228.2550
Norman Lundberg, 925.228.5354
Mark W. Frisbie, 925.947.1714

Court Liaison:

Maurice E. Huguet, Jr. 925.228-3433

Probate Court Investigations Liaison:

Kathleen U. Poling, 925.256-9217

CRIMINAL

The Criminal Law Section holds regular meetings at various locations in the county and features a wide variety of speakers with emphasis on education and training. Speakers include judges, attorneys, expert witnesses and county administrators. Additionally, our programs provide information specific to practicing law in our county courts. Our programs offer MCLE credit and are generally held as luncheons.

The goal of this section is to provide information that can be of practical assistance to criminal defense attorneys in motions and trial practice and case management. Officers and all members of the section are eligible to run for vice chair and chair. If you have any questions, please contact Peter Johnson.

PRESIDENT

Peter Johnson
Law Office of Johnson & Johnson
801 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Ste. 101
Walnut Creek CA 94596
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Peter Johnson begins his fourth term this year as president of the Criminal Law Section. He has practiced criminal defense in Contra Costa County

since 1993. Peter is partners with his wife, Carin Johnson, at the Law Office of Johnson & Johnson, with offices in Pittsburg and Walnut Creek. Peter is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, California Public Defenders Association, National College of DUI Defense, and the California Association of DUI Lawyers. He graduated from St. Mary's College in 1987 and received his J.D. from Golden Gate University in 1993.

VICE CHAIR

Joseph Tully, 925.229.9700

DIVERSITY

With the encouragement and enthusiastic support from the CCCBA leadership, general membership, and the county judiciary, Diversity is the newest section. This section works to further the goals and interests of attorneys, law students, legal professionals, and residents of color and other under-represented groups within our county.

We welcome all bar members to our section and look forward to your participation and input.

CHAIR

Mary Grace Guzman
Guzman Legal
925.822.6030
mguzman@guzmanlegal.com

Mary Grace Guzman graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a B.A. in Anthropology. She attended Santa Clara Law where she received a certificate in Social Justice and was awarded two Cali Awards for her research and writing. She completed a graduate fellowship at Santa Clara Law's Center for Social Justice and Public Interest, assisting professors with their legal research for a book and co-creating a companion website to Women and Law Stories. She is now a solo practitioner specializing in small business law in Contra Costa County.

ELDER LAW

The purposes of the Elder Law Section are to present programs that help keep attorneys informed about elder law, create a forum for attorneys who are dealing with elder law issues and provide members with information personally helpful for retirement. Elder law issues will become increasingly important as our population ages.

We are delighted to be joining the CCCBA and The Elder Law Center (ELC) in presenting a comprehensive 6-week elder law training series to recruit panelists for the ELC and the CCCBA's new Elder Financial Abuse Moderate Means Panel. See the calendar insert for details. If you have other suggestions for programs, please contact the president.

PRESIDENT

Arlene Segal
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arlene_segal2000@yahoo.com



Arlene Segal, who has practiced in Contra Costa County since 1985, is a sole practitioner working in the areas of both litigation and mediation. Much of her practice involves the resolution of real property, trust and estate disputes and the financial abuse of elders.

gation and mediation. Much of her practice involves the resolution of real property, trust and estate disputes and the financial abuse of elders.

EMPLOYMENT

The Employment Section is comprised of a mixture of plaintiff and defense bar attorneys. It holds monthly meetings which provide a forum for practitioners to gather and discuss current issues affecting labor law, employment law and workers' compensation. The monthly meetings typically feature presentations by judges, arbitrators, representatives of state and federal enforcement agencies, and experienced practitioners.

Benefits of membership include high quality, local educational programs and access to a solid network of skilled attorneys who are willing to share not only their knowledge and expertise, but also their questions and dilemmas.

Annual dues are \$25. Affiliate membership is not permitted at this time. However, non-members are welcome to attend section programs. If you would like to become a member or learn more about this section, please contact the president.

PRESIDENT

Michelle Ferber
Frankel & Goldware, LLP
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mferber@danvillelaw.com



Michelle Ferber is a partner with the law firm of Frankel & Goldware and specializes in employment law. Her 20-year practice covers a wide range of employment litigation, including discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination and wage and hour disputes. Her clients include non-profit organizations and private employers and employees.

ment, wrongful termination and wage and hour disputes. Her clients include non-profit organizations and private employers and employees.

Ms. Ferber is a former officer and board member of the CCCBA Women's Section and has served as an officer and/or board member of other organizations including the Contra Costa County Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay, Beth Chaim Congregation and the Diablo Vista Middle School P.T.A.

She is the current Vice President of the Dougherty Valley High School Athletic Boosters, the attorney coach for the Dougherty Valley High School mock trial team and a current board member of a non-profit organization, Chelsea's Hope.

FAMILY LAW

Membership in the Family Law Section is indispensable for anyone who practices family law in Contra Costa County. The most visible benefits of membership are:

- Dynamic monthly education seminars and periodic extended seminars led by experienced faculty
- Early notification of changes in rules
- Practice requirements in the family law departments
- Annual meeting and other programs with local family law judges. The bench often uses these meetings as an opportunity to make announcements. MCLE and specialization credits are provided for attending.

Also important is the monthly section newsletter, In Chancery, which keeps members abreast of section activities, news from the bench and educational opportunities. Section members receive exclusive use of the section website at www.familylawsectioncontracosta.org.

The section maintains ongoing liaison

son with the bench, Family Court Services, the Facilitator's Office, the Department of Child Support Services, the Advisory Council Against Domestic Violence (ACAD) and the various legal aid providers in the county. Through its liaison with the court, the section is actively involved in reviewing court rules or policies and providing input and assistance in drafting new rules and changes to existing rules.

The section has been active in developing creative and innovative services for family law litigants through a variety of mediation and unbundled legal services programs. It has also worked closely with the bench and professionals in other fields to develop top quality services in such as Custody / Visitation Special Masters, the CPA Pro Bono Program, and minor's counsel.

Affiliate memberships are limited to professionals in fields with significant family law related activities, e.g. accountants, therapists, appraisers.

PRESIDENT

Daniel S. Harkins
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Daniel Harkins exclusively practices family law. He was admitted to the Bar in 1981 and is an AV rated attorney. Dan's practice emphasis is dissolution of

marriage resolutions through negotiation and litigation and contested child custody matters. He also serves as a special master and is appointed by the court as counsel for minors. His office is located in San Ramon. Dan dislikes writing long bio's about himself and longs for a return to the days when he will be excited to be a 49er fan again.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

This CCCBA section is a resource for attorneys and others to learn, share, network, and strengthen their expertise in intellectual property. The goals for the section are to: 1) Keep abreast of new legal developments; 2) Share written resources through an online brief bank; 3) Develop industry contacts and interaction between the members and the local business community; 4) Pool resources in order to obtain discounts on continuing education programs; 5) Develop contacts and interaction with local in-house counsel; 6) Develop programs for law schools to further the practical training of future IP attorneys and 7) Learn about the members' own practice areas for the purpose of assisting in client referrals. For further information, contact the section president.

PRESIDENT

Stuart J. West
West & Associates
2815 Mitchell Drive, Suite 209
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
925.262.2220
swest@west-associates.net



Stuart J. West formed West & Associates in February 2004. As managing attorney, he is responsible for coordinating prosecution, transactional and

litigation matters.

In addition to counseling clients in matters relating to litigation and licensing of intellectual property rights, his practice also includes counseling clients in obtaining, protecting and enforcing rights associated with patents, trademarks, service marks, trade names, trade secrets and copyrights.

JUVENILE LAW

Juvenile Law Section members are lawyers who represent parties who are before the court due to the abuse or neglect of a child, including children, parents, guardians, foster parents, relatives and others involved in juvenile dependency proceedings. Membership in our section provides beneficial continuing legal education and opportunities for professional development.

Brown bag lunch MCLE programs are held monthly on such topics as case law and statutory reviews, techniques on interviewing children, the Indian Child Welfare Act, immigration laws and their effect on dependent children, and recognizing and treating substance abuse in our clients. Speakers include experienced attorneys, therapists, and other professionals. Besides fulfilling state bar requirements, these programs go towards meeting the local court rules for mandatory competence of counsel. Members are admitted to these programs for free, while non-members are charged only \$5. During the holiday season, we also sponsor an annual toy drive for foster children and teens in need in our county.

We participate in meetings between the bench, Social Services and the Legal Aid Society Dependency Program through representation at the "Judges' Meeting." We also participate in the Social Worker-Attorney Training Committee (SWATT), as well as planning and evaluation of the county-wide Annual Cross Training for attorneys and social workers. If you would like further information, please contact the president.

PRESIDENT

Rhonda Wilson-Rice
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VICE-PRESIDENT

Jeanne Olin, 925.376.6690



Rhonda Wilson-Rice grew up in Los Angeles. She received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from UC Berkeley and her J.D. from George

Washington University in Washington, D.C. After law school, she returned to the Bay Area and started her Pittsburg practice in 1991. Her practice has evolved over the years from criminal, civil, juvenile delinquency and juvenile dependency to being primarily focused on juvenile dependency law, an area that has become quite specialized.

LITIGATION

The Litigation Section provides a forum for civil trial attorneys to hone their advocacy skills, network and socialize. It presents seminars on trial practice featuring the county's fast track judges and its most senior practitioners in live demonstrations on the art and science of trial practice.

The section sponsors programs for civil practitioners of all experience levels and abilities. In past years, the Litigation Section has sponsored presentations regarding use of technology in the courtroom, jury trials, complex issues in breach of contract cases, taking and defending depositions, ADR, making the record for appeal, and litigating in federal court. The section also facilitates dialogue with the local Superior Court bench to keep pace with changing court procedures (including e-filing and related administrative developments) and ensures the efficient and fair administration of justice.

Members receive discounts to Litigation Section programs. For more information or if you have an interest in joining the board of directors,

please contact Josh Cohen or Geoffrey Steele.

CO-CHAIRS

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Morgan Miller Blair
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Geoffrey Steele
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Josh Cohen represents business, technology and real estate clients in litigation prevention, mediation, arbitration and trial. He is Vice-Chair

of Morgan Miller Blair's Business & Technology Practice and is on the Board of Trustees of the California Shakespeare Theater. Josh obtained his J.D. from UC Davis School of Law in 1996.



Geoffrey Steele is a partner in the Walnut Creek firm of Nevin, Ramos & Steele and represents business, technology and individual clients in civil

litigation, commercial and residential real property issues, litigation avoidance, mediation, arbitration and trial.

He is an Associate Professor at California State University as well as the President of the Board of Directors of The Law Center (TLC).

BOARD MEMBERS:

Philip Anderson, 415.267.3600
Theresa Baumgartner, 925.602.2727
Jay Chafetz, 925.933.5890
Stephen Fowler, 925.935.9000
Justin King, 925.718.1040
Justin Schnitzler, 925.937.3600
Adam Star, 925.935.9000

PRO BONO

The Pro Bono Section brings together the legal services agencies, who serve thousands of poor individuals and families in Contra Costa County, and members of the private bar who want to use their valuable legal skills to help their community and promote access to justice.

Pro Bono Section members include newly admitted attorneys and those with many years of experience, solo practitioners, public interest attorneys, retirees, associates and partners in small and large local firms. The Section members and allies share a common passion for social justice and the desire to make a difference.

There is a broad range of pro bono opportunities available in Contra Costa County including extended representation, limited scope representation or assistance [limited issue(s) or hearing(s)], mentorship of volunteers or legal services advocates with an area of expertise, co-counsel, community education and training and participation in a legal clinic or workshop.

There are opportunities for everyone in a range of legal subjects. For most opportunities, the Legal Services Agency provides training and ongoing mentorship throughout the pro bono assistance.

Make a difference this year!

Get involved!

CHAIR

Temporarily vacant

Questions please contact prior chair:
Genevieve Richardson, Esq
Director of Pro Bono Activities
Bay Area Legal Aid
510.250.5218
probono@baylegal.org

REAL ESTATE

The Real Estate Section offers monthly breakfast MCLE programs free to section members and open to other members of the Contra Costa County Bar Association and other guests, as well as networking and other activities related to the practice of real estate law. Our section is also proud to make annual charitable contributions to various groups and interests, including the bar's Pro Bono Section.

This section meets the third Friday of most months, except July, August, November and December. Annual dues are \$55, which cover the MCLE courses and related meals. The Contra Costa Lawyer solicits articles from members of the section on a regular basis. (Look for contributions from our section throughout the year, particularly in February and May)

PRESIDENT

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pbrehler@energy.state.ca.us



Pippin Brehler addresses all manner of sustainability concerns by providing legal counsel on energy, climate change, environmental, building

and appliance energy and water efficiency, land use, eminent domain and real estate law. Pippin has practiced in California since 2005, after graduating from Michigan Law School and having the privilege of completing a two-year clerkship with the Michigan Supreme Court. Besides being an attorney, Pippin also loves spending time with his two little girls and wife, sailing the Bay, and playing hockey.

SOLO PRACTICE & SMALL FIRM

The Solo Practice & Small Firm Section - launched in 1996 - evolved from the recognition that many solo and small firm practitioners desired and at times needed the camaraderie, intellectual stimulation and informational exchange that attorneys generally find in larger law firms. By having consistent networking and fellowship opportunities, the Section has evolved into a collegial organization resembling a "firm," with specialists in various fields both willing and able to offer assistance to other Section members.

A partnership with JFKU Law School allows members to have cost-effective and convenient access to legal resources through full use of the JFKU Law Library and we admit JFKU Law School students to the Section.

Solo Practice & Small Firm Section members also receive an email newsletter, The Maverick, informing them of upcoming events and providing topical articles and a forum for comment and commentary. Members also have access to an email listserv.

The Section hosts after-work mixers and breakfasts in alternating months, as well as a quarterly MCLE luncheon and we participate in the Bar's MCLE Spectacular each November. Our monthly meetings are open to both members and non-members.

Solo Practice & Small Firm Section programs highlight issues of interest to solo and small firm attorneys, such as a roundtable discussion of fee agreements, a presentation on QuickBooks and Timeslips, and tips and tricks in billing. Our MCLE Spectacular programs have included panel discussions on how to open a law firm and how to prepare a small firm for death, disability, and disaster.

CHAIR

William A. Hickey
Law Offices of William A. Hickey
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Martinez CA 94553
925.957.1133
wahickey@att.net

BOARD MEMBERS

David Pearson, 925.287.0051
Ann M. Dalsin, 925.933.9009
Heidi Coad-Hermelin, 925.228.6500

Bill Hickey has a general litigation practice, with a sub-specialty in the area of insurance coverage and related litigation. He was previously counsel to Hanson Bridgett in San Francisco and prior to that, he was a principal at Trucker Huss in San Francisco, specializing in insurance coverage and employee benefits issues. Bill was also an Assistant District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco. In his free time, he enjoys remodeling his home and home office, originally built in 1923 on a lot purchased that year for a \$10 gold piece.

LAW STUDENT

CCCBA provides networking and internship opportunities for students through its Student Section. Of the 20+ sections of the bar association, the Student Section is active in many of the sections providing volunteer support and as-needed assistance for CCCBA programs and events.

The Student Section seeks student membership primarily from JFKU, Hastings, Boalt, Davis, and Golden Gate University School of Law. Student members of this section have access to information about internship opportunities, as well as some of the benefits offered to attorney members, such as group insurance and membership discounts.

This section provides students with the chance to practice honing networking and interviewing skills through volunteer opportunities at many of the bar-hosted events.

These events, such as the annual MCLE Spectacular, provide students with exposure to current issues in the field of law. CCCBA-sponsored "Free Legal Workshops" provide hands-on experience for students by working directly with an attorney in a consumer-oriented client setting. This is particularly helpful given that in law school, students generally have access only to practice seminars that approximate real-life lawyering.

The Student Section offers its members opportunities to expand the law school experience in significant and germane ways. As future attorneys, this section provides students and their future clients a unique opportunity to acquire real-world experience that will be invaluable at graduation. Affiliate membership is not allowed. Suggestions for presentation topics or student-related activities are welcomed and encouraged. Please contact your co-chairs.

CO-CHAIRS

Harpreet Sandhu
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Happie2074@yahoo.com

Shannon Webster-White
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Harpreet Sandhu is a second-year law student at John F. Kennedy University, School of Law. She is interested in pursuing a career in the fields of Property and Family Law. She graduated from the University of California, Davis with a Bachelor of Science degree in Managerial Economics. She was employed by the Department of Labor prior to deciding to make the leap to law school. She has lived in Punjab and Brazil and is fluent in Punjabi, Hindi, and Urdu. Her passions include running, traveling and enjoying life to the fullest.

Shannon Webster-White is a second-year law student at John F.

Kennedy University. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from San Francisco State University. Shannon is the legal billing administrator at Stevens, Drummond & Gifford in Walnut Creek, where she has worked for three years. She sang professionally in the San Francisco Girls Chorus, has done kickboxing for over a decade and has lived abroad in both France and Mexico. She is fluent in French and Spanish. Her primary legal interests are immigration and civil rights.

TAXATION

The Taxation Section is one of the longest running sections of CCCBA. Its members meet regularly with tax agency leaders, skilled practitioners and legal scholars to discuss changes in tax laws and administration. The Taxation Section also holds regular joint meetings with a number of different sections, such as the Real Estate, Family Law, Bankruptcy, and Conservatorship, Guardianship, Probate and Trust Sections, to educate them on tax issues relevant to each section's members. Speakers at events have included ranking members of the IRS, the Franchise Tax Board, and legal scholars and practitioners. Legal ethics, recent tax acts, and "practice pointers" are among the topics covered during the year.

The section invites all interested attorneys, accountants, financial advisors and others to join us for one of our luncheon meetings. Affiliate membership is open to accounting practitioners only.

CHAIR

Michael N. Gendelman
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BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Ericsson, 925.930.6000
Michael J. Low, 925.930.6000
Nancy Gibbons, 925.279.3415
G. Scott Haislet, 925.283.1031
J. Virginia Peiser, 925.930.6600
Edward T. Perry, 925.472.6800

Michael N. Gendelman is a former IRS Senior Trial Attorney with a "Tax Audit and Collection Defense Boutique Firm." He has over twenty five-years of experience including seven years as a trial lawyer with the Internal Revenue Service, fifteen years with Fortune 100 Company Pacific Bell/SBC Communications and over eight years in private practice, including three years as partner with a trial attorney from the United States Department of Justice, Tax Division. Mr. Gendelman is also a member of the Washington State Bar Association.

He describes his practice as "a small but mighty firm" that listens to clients and cares about their individual needs. He works with his clients and the taxing agencies to develop customized solutions to meet his clients' personal and business tax problems. He has a strong passion that drives him to succeed in providing his clients with the best customer service "one client at a time."

WEST COUNTY

The West County Section reestablished the connection between West County lawyers that had been missing since the West County Bar Association was consolidated with the Central and East County Bar Associations. It is the only regional section, tasked with ensuring that the interests of lawyers practicing in the West Contra Costa area are represented within and considered by CCCBA. Meetings, which are generally held on a quarterly basis, are scheduled with a variety of continuing education presentations on topics including juveniles, family, real property, trust and estate matters, and other issues of general le-

gal interest. Attorneys from West County are invited and encouraged to contact the co-chairs with questions, suggestions, or comments.

CO-CHAIRS

Jeanne N. Mirante
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jeannenmirante@earthlink.net

Adriana Quintero
Lyon & Quintero
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Jeanne Mirante was born in San Francisco and has lived in West Contra Costa County for more than 25 years. She practices Family Law, Civil Litigation,

Estate Planning, Probate Litigation and Trust Litigation. She received her law degree from John F. Kennedy University School of Law and was admitted to the California Bar in 1995. She is also on the Board of Directors of Soroptimist International of Richmond.

Adriana Quintero was admitted to the Bar in 1992. She served as a legal aid attorney and attorney to the Public Administrator, Public Guardian and Public Conservator for both San Francisco and Yolo Counties. In 2006, Ms. Quintero went into private practice with Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Law, Beverly Lyon. The El Cerrito firm Lyon & Quintero serves clients in West Contra Costa, Alameda, Solano and San Francisco Counties in estate planning, trust administration, probate, will contest and trust litigation matters. Ms. Quintero was born and raised in Martinez, California and likes to scuba dive in her spare time.

WOMEN'S

The Women's Section has been a strong presence in the Contra Costa County Bar Association for over 25 years. Its membership includes attorneys practicing in all areas of the law who live or work in Contra Costa County. The goal of the section is to further the advancement of women in the legal profession and the judiciary. Men are always welcome to join. This section is an affiliate of California Women Lawyers, whose goal is to promote the rights and laws concerning women, children and diversity.

The section provides networking opportunities for its members to meet other attorneys and professionals. The section hosts informational programs and lunches, some offering MCLE credit and others focusing on matters of more personal interest, such as job opportunities and rainmaking. The Women's Section annually awards the Hon. Patricia Herron and Hon. Ellen James Scholarship to deserving law students who have shown leadership potential, have achieved success academically and who have helped to advance women's issues. The section hosts a scholarship fundraiser each year, usually in the form of a silent auction and wine-tasting. We gratefully accept donations to the Scholarship Fund any time and would like to thank all who have donated and supported this great scholarship.

All members are invited to attend the board meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of each month. If you'd like to serve on the board, or want further information, please contact the President.

PRESIDENT

Denae Hildebrand Budde
Alborg, Veiluva & Martin LLP
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925.939.9880
dbudde@avmllp.com

VICE PRESIDENT

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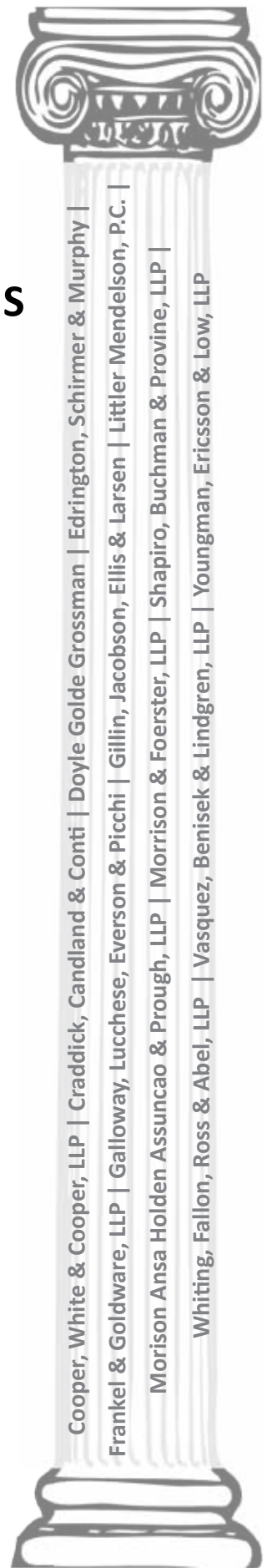
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Kelly Balamuth
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Karyne Ghantous
Grace Lee
Lonnie Yu
Marta Vanegas
Katherine Wenger



Denae Hildebrand Budde has litigated a variety of civil and criminal cases throughout her career representing financial institutions, corporations,

commercial insurers, title insurers and the People of the State of California. She is a partner with the law firm of Alborg Veiluva & Martin LLP in Walnut Creek. She has an affinity for women's issue having three daughters of her own. While a senior deputy district attorney in Tulare County, she handled the domestic violence cases in the county and the sexual assault cases. She provided training and presentation on domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse to law enforcement, the community at large and rape crisis. ♦



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Thank you for your support and commitment!
For additional information, contact Membership Coordinator
Jenny Comages at 925.370.2543 or e-mail jcomages@cccba.org.

2010 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

(Based on projections as of mid-December. Staff and overhead expenses are not reflected under individual categories. Does not include capital expenditures)

	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET PROFIT / (LOSS)
MEMBERSHIP	285,709.00	3,2633.00	282,446.00
Dues, mailings, committee meetings, applications, State Bar swearing-in ceremonies, recruitment campaigns, database modifications, holiday party, printing costs.			
LAWYER REFERRAL & INFORMATION SERVICE	355,890.00	47,449.00	308,441.00
Consultation fees, membership fees, percentage fees, advertising, brochures & marketing, phone system, postage, supplies, client surveys, committee meetings, staff education, Moderate Means Program, FLARe (Family Law Mediation program), Limited Representation program, marketing & panel recruitment, State Bar re-certification fees, free community legal workshops.			
FEE ARBITRATION/MEDIATION & CLIENT RELATIONS PROGRAMS	17,080.00	3,274.00	13,806.00
Filing fees, State Bar reimbursements, refunds, postage, committee meetings, supplies.			
BAR-SPONSORED PROGRAMS & EVENTS	39,926.00	29,006.00	10,920.00
MCLE Spectacular, State-of-the-Court Address, committee meetings, State Bar provider status renewal.			
PUBLICATIONS			
Printing, postage, production, mailing house, MCLE self-study tests, committee meetings, photography, Directory practice area listings, advertising revenue, etc.			
Contra Costa Lawyer & Calendar	57,054.00	66,254.00	(9,200.00)
Membership Directory	42,178.00	32,540.00	9,638.00
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION			
Staff (does not include Criminal Conflicts Program)		435,236.00	(435,236.00)
Payroll, payroll taxes, payroll service, pension disbursements, medical, dental & vision benefits, workers' comp insurance, staff education.			
Executive Director		4,684.00	(4,684.00)
Education & travel, dues/membership fees, expenses, etc.			
Office Equipment	357.00	37,429.00	(37,072.00)
Computers, computer consulting services, database, photocopier, fax machine, printers, postage machine & meter, etc.			
General	18,689.00	141,632.00	(122,943.00)
Conference room rental income, interest & dividend income (including replenishing reserves used for website development), office rent and overhead, utilities, office supplies, credit card processing fees, phone system, security system, parking permits, staff meetings, accounting, miscellaneous taxes, etc.			
OFFICERS & BOARD of DIRECTORS	5,350.00	17,576.00	(12,226.00)
Installation luncheon, Board meetings, bar leader conferences, strategic planning meetings, gavels & plaques, miscellaneous committee meetings, Errors & Omissions Insurance, past presidents' meeting.			
SECTION SUPPORT	4,828.00	1,323.00	3,505.00
E-mail broadcasts, section leaders' meetings, program registration, handbooks, postage & mailings.			
CONFERENCE of DELEGATES		3,990.00	(3,990.00)
Planning meetings, registration & hotel, materials, etc.			
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		2,688.00	(2,688.00)
Committee meetings, website updates, SPAM filter, DSL line & Internet use.			
EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM		225.00	(225.00)
Planning meetings, postage & mailings, Acalanes HS Appellate oral argument reception, materials, etc.			
DIVERSITY		120.00	(120.00)
Committee meetings			
COURT SUPPORT		372.00	(372.00)
Bench/Bar meetings, Fast Track Bench/Bar roundtables, etc.			
TOTAL INCOME & EXPENSES	827,061.00	827,061.00	(0.00)
TOTAL RESERVES AS OF 12/31/10: \$303,967.00			

2011 JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Diana Becton

Presiding Judge

Barry P. Goode

Assistant Presiding Judge

MARTINEZ

CRIMINAL TRIALS

Judge John W. Kennedy
- *Supervising*

Judge Susanne
Fenstermacher

Judge David B. Flinn

Judge John T. Laettner

Judge Leslie G. Landau

Judge Thomas M. Maddock

Judge Mary Ann O'Malley

Judge Barbara Zúñiga

CRIMINAL CALENDARS

Judge Brian Haynes
- *Felony*

Judge Clare Maier - *Bray*

Judge Nancy Davis Stark
- *Annex*

Judge Richard E. Arnason
- *Probation*

CIVIL

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- *Supervising*

Judge Steve K. Austin

Judge Laurel S. Brady

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- *Complex Litigation*

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Commissioner Judith A.
Sanders

PROBATE

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- *Supervising/ Family &
Probate*

Judge Charles 'Ben' Burch
- *Family & Probate Trials*

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Judge Steve Treat

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Berkow

Commissioner Jeffrey D.
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JUVENILE

Judge Lois Haight
- *Supervising*

Judge Barry Baskin

Judge Barbara Hinton
(*Juvenile Hall*)

Judge Joni T. Hiramoto
(*Richmond*)

Judge Stephen F. Houghton
(*Pittsburg*)

WALNUT CREEK

Judge William M. Kolin
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