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Volume 36, Number 6 | November 2023



Transgender | Issue

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INSIDE:

Transcending Transgender Language Barriers Sex vs. Gender

By Julie Woods, Esq.,
Guest Co-Editor



This issue of Contra Costa Lawyer Magazine seeks to enrich our understanding of transgender issues that transcend areas of law and affect the legal community. In so doing, Co-Editor, Marta Vanegas and I had the honor of working with many thoughtful and talented contributors. The articles walk us through transgender issues with respect to the past, the budding present, and the future generations. The beauty in this issue's cohesion is derived from a common theme that lends promise to the betterment of us all: the outlook of children.

We frame the issue with an article by stalwart trailblazer, Honorable Victoria Kolakowski, about her experience as a transgender judge, historical issues regarding transgender people, and her global outreach to educate communities about humanity overcoming controversy. Next, authors Sutter Selleck and Dana Weber describe their experiences with transgender name changes. Attorney Selleck describes moments of grace and adversity they encountered in our community, while Probate Examiner, Dana Weber, shows how the court system can appreciate and support transgender individuals, one case at a time. Oliver Greenwood notes issues affecting transgender minors and representation by minors' counsel in probate proceedings.

Nesta Johnson explains areas of family law wherein children are affected by transgender issues. We have much to learn from our many thoughtful contributors, whom we sincerely thank for their time and continued efforts to educate us all.

To give context to the articles, we must understand the meaning of "gender" and its relation to the terms, "sex" and "transgender." At the time I write this article, I am nearing the end of my pregnancy, throughout which, I have been asked, "Do you know if the baby will be a boy or a girl?" I answered, "The gender is," until my brother-in-law corrected me:

"It's sex, not gender."

"Oh. I didn't understand the difference. I'm sorry."

A gaffe, and one that I cannot be alone in having made. I have since learned that there is, in fact, a difference in the terms, and that it is time to put prudishness aside and say "sex" without reservation.

Sex and gender are often confused as synonymous in certain vernaculars, but are clearly defined by international scientific and health organizations:

- The World Health Organization: "Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviours and roles . . . gender varies from society to society and can change over time . . . Gender interacts with but is different from sex, which refers to the different biological and physiological characteristics of females, males and intersex persons, such as chromosomes, hormones and reproductive organs."¹
- National Institute of Health: "Although 'sex' is often incorrectly thought to have the same meaning as 'gender,' the terms describe different but connected constructs . . . Sex is a multidimensional biological construct based on anatomy, physiology, genetics, and hormones . . . Gender can be broadly defined as a multidimensional construct that encompasses gender identity and expression, as well as social and cultural expectations about status, characteristics, and behavior as they are associated with certain sex traits . . ."²
- Planned Parenthood: "It's common for people to confuse sex, gender, and gender identity . . . Sex is a label—male or

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Inside

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female—that you’re assigned by a doctor at birth based on the genitals you’re born with and the chromosomes you have... Gender is much more complex: It’s a social and legal status, and set of expectations from society, about behaviors, characteristics, and thoughts. Each culture has standards about the way that people should behave based on their gender... instead of being about body parts, it’s more about how you’re expected to act, because of your sex. Gender identity is how you feel inside and how you express your gender through clothing, behavior, and personal appearance.”³

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research: “Sex refers to a set of biological attributes in humans and animals... Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, expressions and identities of girls, women, boys, men, and gender diverse people. It influences how people perceive themselves and each other, how they act and interact, and the distribution of power and resources in society. Gender identity is not confined to a binary (girl/woman, boy/man) nor is it static; it exists along a continuum and can change over time.”⁴
- Council of Europe Portal: “Gender is an area that cuts across thinking about society, law, politics and culture, and it is frequently discussed in relation to other aspects of identity and social position, such as class, ethnicity, age and physical ability... to distinguish between sex and gender, different terms may be employed, for example ‘biological sex’ may be used to refer to ‘sex’, and ‘cultural and social sex’ may be used to refer to ‘gender.’”⁵

- Yale School of Medicine: “while an individual’s internal sense of gender can be female or male, some people identify as nonbinary—neither female nor male. Other individuals can identify as a gender that is the same as (cisgender) or different from (transgender) the one assigned at birth. These terms are separate from an individual’s sexual orientation, which describes a person’s emotional, romantic and/or physical attachments (such as straight, lesbian, gay, asexual, bisexual, and more). In science, as our understanding grows, so must the precision of our language in communicating what we know.”⁶

In discussing the subject, one of Contra Costa’s super-mom attorneys, Ariel Brownell Lee, recommended reading *My Shadow Is Purple*, by Scott Stuart. The book defines gender in an age-appropriate way for children and adults alike. The non-binary concept is described comprehensibly:

- “My Dad has a shadow that’s blue as a berry, and my Mum’s is as pink as a blossoming cherry. There’s only those choices, a 2 or a 1. But mine is quite different, it’s both and it’s none. If theirs are straight, then mine is a circle. For my shadow’s different . . . my shadow is purple!”
- “Some of my friends think I’m simply confused. But the thing I love most is not having to choose.”

The story tells how persons on the non-binary spectrum may have any color of shadow, i.e., the rainbow. Actions, feelings, and preferences are related to but not circumscribed by sex. A child’s concept of gender is not rigid, and thus, they may enjoy playing with toys, dressing up, and partaking in activities regardless of traditional conformity.

Epitomizing the freedom for innate, individualized preferences, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1084, whereby in 2024, large retailers must have non-gendered toy sections.⁷ The law was borne from a little girl who asked her parent why some toys were categorized for either boys or girls.⁸ The new law will break down barriers of STEM⁹ toys marketed to boys and domestic toys marketed to girls, and it will “tamp down on gender stereotypes that hurt children who play with toys marketed to a different gender.”¹⁰

The above concepts of sex and gender, as stated by scientists, adolescents, and allies, help transgender people to define their sometimes-undefined in a place of too-often misunderstood. As the ideas of sex and gender expound with time, the legal community must continue to inform itself to overcome explicit and implicit biases. Understanding and education are paramount to transcending barriers in transgender issues.

If if the scientific community can clearly define the line between social construct and biology, and if children can organically manifest non-genderized tendencies, when will the rest of us catch up?

Julie Woods is a Probate Attorney for the Superior Court of California. Ms. Woods is a Certified Legal Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law by the State Bar of California. Ms. Woods authors scholarly articles and practice guide chapters, teaches statewide, and enjoys active participation in the legal community. Ms. Woods strives to advance the administration of justice and to make the judicial system more accessible and understandable.

1. “Gender and health,” (2023) World Health Organization, available at https://www.who.int/health-topics/gender#tab=tab_1 (internal citations omitted).

2. "What are Sex & Gender? And why do they matter in health research?" (2023) National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health, available at <https://orwh.od.nih.gov/sex-gender> (internal citations omitted).

3. "Sex and Gender Identity," (2023) Planned Parenthood, available at <https://www.planned-parenthood.org/learn/gender-identity/sex-gender-identity> (internal citations omitted).

4. "What is gender? What is sex?" (May 8, 2023) Canadian Institutes of Health Research, available at <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48642.html> (internal citations omitted).

5. "Sex and gender," (2023) Council of Europe Portal, available at <https://www.coe.int/en/web/gender-matters/sex-and-gender#17> (internal citations omitted).

6. Mazure, Carolyn M. "What Do We Mean By Sex and Gender?" (September 19, 2021) Yale School of Medicine, available at <https://medicine.yale.edu/news-article/what-do-we-mean-by-sex-and-gender/> (internal citations omitted).

7. Gender Neutral Retail Departments, Assem. Bill No. 1084 (2021).

8. Edwards, Jonathan. "New California law will force retailers to have 'gender neutral' toy sections," (October 11, 2021) The Washington Post, available at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/10/11/california-law-gender-neutral-children-toy-section/>

9. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

10. See note 8, ante.



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On the Cover

The graphic on the cover of this issue shows a group of people working together to put the pieces of the puzzle together. It was designed to reflect the idea that the color of a person's shadow indicates their gender identity, from the book, **My Shadow is Purple**, by Scott Stuart mentioned here in the Inside column.



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by Marta R. Vanegas



"The word 'gender' has acquired the new and useful connotation of cultural or attitudinal characteristics (as opposed to physical characteristics) distinctive to the sexes. That is to say, gender is to sex as feminine is to female and masculine to male. The present case does not involve peremptory strikes exercised on the basis of femininity or masculinity (as far as it

*appears, effeminate men did not survive the prosecution's peremptories). The case involves, therefore, sex discrimination plain and simple."*⁵

As several state legislatures came to understand that discrimination based on biological sex is just as insidious and worthy of scorn as discrimination based on sex-stereotypical or "gendered" expectations, the terms "sexual orientation," "gender identity," and "gender expression" are now being added to the bases of protected classifications in state antidiscrimination statutes.⁶ Nevertheless, the blurring of terms carrying different legal meaning at the highest court may hinder our collective understanding of the nuanced difference between sex assigned at birth, and gender (i.e., as individuals understand themselves). The most recent skirmishes in the gender politics trench war regarding transwomen's bathroom use and some collegiate sports teams' exclusions of transwomen from women's teams shows the shortcomings in the public's grasp of this nuance.⁷

In 1974, *Geduldig* failed to see the nature of sex-based discrimination in pregnancy discrimination when it held that pregnancy discrimination is discrimination between "pregnant women" and nonpregnant ones, when it infamously glossed over the issue by naming the second category "nonpregnant persons."⁸ In 1978, *Geduldig's* holding was superseded by legislation;⁹ its problematic analysis, however, remains on the law books¹⁰ and continues to exert a cost on women's equal rights and liberty.¹¹ Similarly, today, the definitional lack of clarity of the interrelationship between "sex" and "gender" may come to fatally blend the issues exposed in bathroom use and athletic team restrictions, let alone in future legal issues we can't conceive as of yet.¹² We can conceive of a case holding, in *Geduldig's* vein, that restricting women's bathrooms only to females who were assigned

female at birth ("AFABs") does not discriminate between females and males, therefore it is not sex-based discrimination. So far, we have narrowly escaped this fate. In *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, the Supreme Court held that firing individuals because of their sexual orientation or transgender status violates Title VII's prohibition on discrimination because of sex.¹³ Justice Gorsuch based this decision on a seemingly "strict textualist" argument concluding that the prohibition of discrimination "because of ...sex" includes discrimination "intrinsically related to sex," such as sexual orientation. In his dissent, Justice Alito pointed out that "until 2017, every single Court of Appeals to consider the question interpreted Title VII's prohibition against sex discrimination to mean discrimination on the basis of *biological sex*."¹⁴ Thus, Justice Alito argues, convincingly, the decision is not based on a "strict textualist" analysis.¹⁵ However, Justice Alito would find that discrimination based on the homosexuality of an employee has nothing to do with the employee's sex: "In cases involving discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, the grounds for the employer's decision—that individuals should be sexually attracted only to persons of the opposite biological sex or should identify with their biological sex—apply equally to men and women." This last sentence reads perilously close to *Geduldig*.

The *Bostock* majority understood, however, that the term "sex" in Title VII at its enactment in 1964 meant both the individual's biological sex as well as their gender. Homosexuality and transgender status does not stand wholly apart from "sex" to form just another basis of discrimination, like, for example, religion or race. The precise untangling of the two terms is not doctrinally possible, no matter how much we would like to see more doctrinal clarity at our highest court.

It is easy to see that discriminating in public bathroom use against transwomen based on their assigned sex at birth (and potentially saddling them with a misdemeanor conviction for trespass) would be antithetical to the spirit of federal antidiscrimination laws. Even without being alarmist about the likelihood of the above-described outcome, one can clearly see that assigning bathroom use based not on "sex" but on "gender" would greatly benefit the trans community's right to self-identify in one of the most private matters of daily life.

The varsity and collegiate athletic teams sorting of student athletes based on their sex assigned at birth is a thornier issue, mainly because many "inherently biological" traits are involved in one's athletic performance. Nevertheless, just as women admirably acquitted themselves in becoming astronauts, deep sea excavators, and in a myriad other previously unthinkable capabilities, we could perhaps trust that women's athletics would not collapse into a "transwomen's free-for-all" for allowing trans participation in women's sports. Telling a transwoman that she must compete with men—or not at all—is, again, antithetical to Title IX's original mission of allowing women to compete on equal footing with men in student sports teams. This is especially so because trans men are, apparently, not asked to make the same sacrifice. Additionally, continuing to identify a transwoman as a man because of the composition of her chromosomes discriminates further and now on a cellular/genetic level, not far from the genetic discrimination forbidden by the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act ("GINA").¹⁶

One can only hope that future decisions of the federal judiciary will continue assigning a broad meaning to the term "based on sex" in anti-

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On the Basis of Sex, Gender or Both

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discrimination statutes, in alignment with the public policy of their enactment. One must also be cautious in the use of interrelated, but not entirely interchangeable, terms such as “sex” and “gender.” After all, almost 60 years passed since the enactment of the word “sex” in Title VII: we no longer need to be squeamish or prudish, especially when we have admirable reasons for both linguistic clarity and that of purpose.

Marta R. Vanegas practices labor and employment law, business law, and civil rights law as shareholder of Vanegas Law Group, APC in Walnut Creek.

1. 490 U.S. 228 (1989)
2. Marta Vanegas, *Women in the Workforce*, CONTRA COSTA LAWYER (Aug. 1, 2013) pp. 19-20 & fn. 15 (“The court held that the requirement that an employee conform to sex stereotypes is gender discrimination, while using the terms sex and gender interchangeably in the opinion.”)
3. See discussion *infra*, at note
4. 511 U.S. 127
5. [J.E.B. v. Alabama ex rel. T.B., 511 U.S. 127, 157 n.1, 114 S. Ct. 1419, 128 L. Ed. 2d 89 (1994).]
6. See, e.g., Cal. Gov. Code § 12940 (a); Col. Rev. Stat. § 24-34-402(1)(a); Conn. Gen. Stat. §46a-51 (2012).
7. Notably, both situations appeared in the media to be restrictions against transwomen in spaces assigned to women, and not against trans-men in men’s spaces.
8. *Geduldig v. Aiello* (1974) 417 U.S. 484, 496, fn. 20 [94 S.Ct. 2485, 41 L.Ed.2d 256].
9. Congress overturned *Geduldig*’s holding with the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 (Pub. L. No. 95-555, §1, 92 Stat. 2076 (1978) (codified at 42 U.S.C. §2000e)).
10. Shannon E. Liss, *The Constitutionality of Pregnancy Discrimination: The Lingering Effects of Geduldig and Suggestions for Forcing Its Reversal* (1997) 23 REVIEW OF LAW & SOCIAL CHANGE 59, 62 (“This anomalous doctrine not only has practical detrimental implications in a variety of legal settings, but it also creates a conceptual barrier to the development of a more progressive feminist approach in the Supreme Court’s jurisprudence.”); Maya Manian, Griswold, Geduldig, and Hobby Lobby: *The Sex Gap Continues* (2015) 69 U. Miami L. Rev. Caveat 17, at n. 6 (2015) available at <https://lawreview.law.miami.edu/the-sex-gap-continues/> (“The Court’s disassociation of sexual liberty, reproductive liberty, and gender equality from one another has impoverished all three interrelated aspects of a woman’s right to equal citizenship.”)
11. Maya Manian, *Commentary on Geduldig v. Aiello* (2016) Contributions to Books, 330 (available at https://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/facsch_bk_contributions/330/) (in FEMINIST JUDGMENTS: REWRITTEN OPINIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT (Linda Berger, Bridget Crawford & Kathy Stanchi, eds., Cambridge University Press 2016)).
12. As lawyers, we understand prophylactic use of certain provisions to prevent future adverse outcomes.
13. (*Bostock v. Clayton Cnty.* (June 15, 2020) __ U.S. __; 140 S.Ct. 1731.)
14. *Ibid.* (emphasis added).
15. Justice Alito argues that the term “sex” in Title VII does not include sexual orientation (and, presumably, doesn’t include gender identity or gender expression). He would also declare that *Price Waterhouse*, *supra* note 1, does not hold that Title VII forbids all sex-stereotyping, only certain ones: “Plaintiffs who allege that they were treated unfavorably because of their sexual orientation or gender identity are not in the same position as the plaintiff in *Price Waterhouse*.”
16. Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, P.L. 110-233, 122 Stat. 881 (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment).

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Our Common HUMANITY

by Hon. Victoria Kolakowski



Judge Victoria Kolakowski became the first openly transgender trial court judge of general jurisdiction when she was elected in Alameda County, California in 2010.

Before becoming a trial court judge, she was an attorney for twenty-one years in Louisiana and California, serving as a sole practitioner, attorney in a small patent boutique firm, patent and licensing counsel for a publicly-traded company, patent and general counsel of a second publicly-traded company, a senior government utility regulatory attorney, and an administrative law judge (ALJ) for two different California agencies.

She is passionate about ensuring and expanding access to justice, particularly for those with limited resources. She serves on the Judicial Council of California's Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness, and is the California Council of Churches' appointee to the California Access to Justice Commission.

Judge Kolakowski is a former president of the International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges (2015-2017), and she has spoken widely on LGBT issues, especially transgender legal issues, to audiences around the world. She is a leading educator for the judiciary on transgender issues, and is an adjunct professor of law at the University of San Francisco School of Law.

She is especially proud to have been honored as a Pioneer in the Law by the California Women Lawyers in 2014 and to have been named the 2019 California Legislative Women's Caucus' Woman of the Year - 18th Assembly District.

When I received an invitation to submit a piece about my work on transgender legal issues for this edition, some familiar questions crossed my mind. What should I say? What could I say?

I'm a transgender person and a superior court judge. The Canons of Judicial Ethics constrain and guide what I can discuss publicly. Nothing about pending cases or controversies. I can discuss my own life story. I can't discuss political matters.

Sadly, my life story, and my very existence, has become controversial and political in some places, and only growing more so over the years. My health care, my presence in public facilities, and so many other matters are the subject of legislative debate in a majority of states this year.

Not all of this is new. I transitioned in my last semester at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in the spring of 1989. I was prohibited from using both the men's and women's restrooms - I was given a key to the dean's bathroom. I was shunned and ridiculed.

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Our Common Humanity

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When I applied to take the Louisiana bar exam, my application was denied by the state bar because they said I was not of sound mind because I disclosed that I was transgender. I appealed this to the Louisiana Supreme Court pro se, and I was granted the right to take the bar exam. In re Kolakowski, 546 So.2d 184 (La. 1989). My first appellate victory was to gain the right to prove myself professionally qualified to represent others. Many of us in this profession forget the great privilege we have to stand at the bar.

Coming from an often-excluded community, I am very sensitive to the ways in which people are restricted from access to the very system in which I serve. Therefore, I have served on numerous bodies

aimed at increasing access to the legal system for all people, including the Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness and the California Access to Justice Commission.

The notion that being transgender is a mental illness has permeated the discussion of transgender rights for many years. This is one reason that the faith of the people of Alameda County who elected me matters so much to me - they entrusted me, knowing who I am, in a contested election, with exercising judicial authority in our county. It was unprecedented.

It is also why it is important to me to remain visible. One of my goals has been to be a role model for transgender people and a successful public official to break stereotypes for others. It is hard to do that if I am hidden from the world.

As a result, I have taken advantage of many opportunities to educate

the public, attorneys, and other judges about my personal transgender experience. I have created podcasts and served on educational panels for judges and attorneys. I have spoken at several ABA conventions, the National Association of Women Judges annual conference, was honored by California Women Lawyers, and spoken to LGBT legal groups in multiple states.

The biggest surprise, and a great honor, began in February 2017, when I was approached by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India. They wanted someone to speak to audiences in four cities in India over a two-week period. I agreed, and prepared to travel in March 2017. The Indian government did not approve my trip, and we eventually had to scrap it. Not to be thwarted, the embassy and I set up four virtual appearances in different Indian cities in June 2017 for Pride month.

This began a long and ongoing relationship with the U.S. Department of State, through its U.S. Speaker's program. I do all of this without compensation, for the benefit of those who want to learn more about my own experiences, and as a way of enriching my own understanding of our common humanity.

In June 2019, I was contacted by the U.S. consulate in Bordeaux, France to arrange a series of appearances and events to honor Stonewall 50. We had in-person programs in Bourdeaux, Toulouse, and Paris.

The consulate in Sao Paulo, Brazil arranged for me to participate in a virtual program with the local bar association (OAB Sao Paulo) in June 2021 as part of the 4th International Congress on Diversity Law. I shared the program with a Brazilian Supreme Court Justice, and we had a great discussion.

This was followed six months later with another virtual program for

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Mumbai in December 2021. I did two virtual programs with Israel in March 2022.

Then I was invited to Colombia for in-person sessions in Cartagena, Barranquilla, and Bogota in June 2022. This led to my invitation as a keynote speaker at the 23rd Constitutional Rights Conference of the Universidad Externado de Colombia in October 2022 that focused on the legal rights of women and transgender people.

Most recently, I had a video appearance organized in Warsaw, Poland for "Queer Week" this past June.

In my appearances, I often discuss the similarities and differences between the legal systems in the countries and how law gets translated into action. Some countries, like Brazil and India, have federal systems somewhat like our own. Others, like Columbia and Israel, have much more unitary legal

systems. Gender and sexuality are socially constructed differently in other countries. For example, India has long had a concept of a third gender. Yet in each of these countries, the lived experiences of LGBTQI+ people have so much in common.

One of the common challenges we all face is how to reconcile religious faith and transgender inclusion. This is my central area of research and teaching. I wrote an essay for the ABA's Human Rights Magazine's June 2022 issue: *The Role of Religious Objections to Transgender and Nonbinary Inclusion and Equality and/or Gender Identity Protection*.¹ (Americanbar.org)

I have the great fortune to serve as adjunct faculty at the University of San Francisco School of Law, where I teach a class that I created, "Equality and Religious Freedom," which investigates the complex intersection of religious freedom rights under the

first amendment and equal protection rights, and examines whether there can be common ground, or at least an uneasy peace. I am currently scheduled to teach it again this coming spring semester.

One of my greatest joys has been helping others to move past the stereotypes and see the full humanity of transgender people. I believe that promotes the development of the law and it should not be controversial, so I will continue to speak, teach, and write with the belief that this is something which our bench and bar should be proud.

¹https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/intersection-of-lgbtq-rights-and-religious-freedom/the-role-of-religious-objections-to-transgender-and-nonbinary-inclusion-and-equality/

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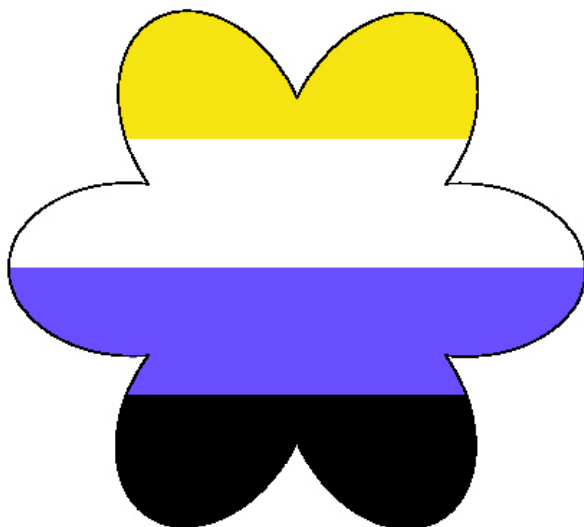


Mr. Garrison has more than three decades of legal and managerial experience, including 18 years as a senior executive and attorney for large companies. Since 2008, he has focused primarily on ADR, helping parties negotiate multi-million-dollar settlements in complex disputes. He is available as a mediator, arbitrator and neutral evaluator in **business/commercial, employment and estate/probate/trust** matters. Visit jamsadr.com/garrison or scan the QR code to learn more.



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What's in a Name?

by Sutter Selleck, Attorney at Law

My name is Sutter Selleck. My name was Summer Selleck. I began my gender transition quietly in May 2019. My preferred pronouns are "they/them," no longer "she/her," and, despite my wonderfully-full beard, not "he/him." I identify as gender non-conforming; quite simply, I don't feel any more related to one gender or the other. I would rather be referred to as Attorney Selleck rather than any pronoun, as any other counsel who should be so identified as just that, and not as gendered.

I legally changed my name to Sutter and my gender to X on June 25, 2021. In recent years, name changes associated with gender confirmation have been "streamlined" by the courts. Specifically, a person no longer needs to publish their request for a name and gender change in a newspaper, and a hearing is not required. The process of achieving an order from the court to change my name and gender was not very difficult to navigate.

There is an unstreamlined process, however, of obtaining the rest of a person's identification documents thereafter. It took almost two years

from start to finish to finally receive an updated social security card, driver's license, passport, and birth certificate. The mere fact it took me---as a lawyer---that long to change my name and gender on legal documentation should signify that a simple name change is not, in fact, so simple.

Changing my name on paper, however, was far easier than changing my name among people. Although the process of legally changing my name on documentation took time to accomplish, adapting to the changes in my practice and in my relationships with colleagues, client and the court is ongoing.

There were positives. I have had colleagues reach out to me to ask how they can best support me. Others have reached out to understand the protocol for including me in gendered projects, even though I identify as nonconforming.

There were challenges. I have had clients not want to work with me

because of my gender identity. I was systematically removed from leadership in a women's organization because I no longer presented as female. I have clarified my gender in open court, yet still had an opposing party try to upset me by referring to me as "she" throughout the proceedings. Worse yet, I have been called "it," "tranny," "disgusting," and other derogatory names to which no one should be denigrated.

There were moments of grace. An opposing counsel with whom I have not had a seamless professional relationship came to my defense in a deposition when I was repeatedly referred to by his client as she, Mrs., and Miss; right as I was going to stand up for myself, he took the initiative. It made me feel seen. Many people, including members of our legal community, have opened up to me about loved ones that are trans. Clients have had me speak to their family members about trans issues.

I have been pleasantly surprised by many of the responses from our legal community. I have had some trying responses, too. Reactions wildly vary. At its core, however, I believed when I started this process, and I continue to believe, that my gender is not relevant to my work as a lawyer. I identify, simply, as a person who is an attorney.



Sutter Selleck is estate planning and probate lawyer in Contra Costa County. They have served on the CCCBA Board since 2015, and were just elected President Elect for the upcoming year. They are a Contra Costa native and have one super awesome kid.

A Clerk's Perspective

by Dana Weber, Probate Examiner

One of the best days I ever had working in the clerk's office involved a Petition for Change of Name and Gender.

The petitioner was a lovely young lady, around 20 years old. Her mother was with her, after accompanying her to the hearing. They approached my filing window. I filed the petition in which the petitioner was asking to legally be designated female. I was thrilled when I also had the opportunity to file the decree. They were both all smiles as I processed the documentation. When I congratulated her and asked how they planned to celebrate, she said that they were going to get pedicures.

We completed our business and they went to a side counter to get organized while I called the next customer to my window. As I was helping the next customer, I kept hearing what was either laughter or crying coming from the direction of the mother and daughter. I glanced in their direction several times, and sometimes the mother would be looking back at me.

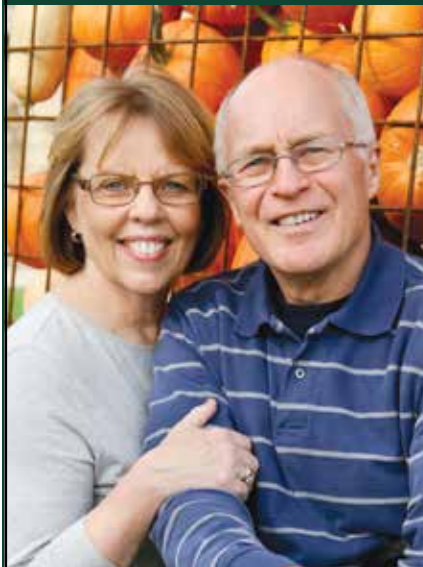
When I completed helping my customer, the mother came walking back to my window and said that her daughter would like to take her picture with me. I got permission from the court, and we stepped outside to take the picture. The young lady was grinning ear to ear, proudly holding her filed decree in one hand and hugging my shoulder with the other.

There are very few things that we process as clerks in which everyone involved is happy. Seeing her joy, and the support and total acceptance that she had from her mother, is one of those moments that I keep in my back pocket. I take it out and contemplate that moment when I need a reminder that my purpose here exceeds what can be specified in a job description.



Dana Weber began her career with the Superior Court in Contra Costa County on May 20, 1996. In 2000 she transferred to the Martinez Court location where, as a legal processing clerk, she fell in love with Probate. In August of 2021, she accepted a position as Probate Examiner. When not at work, she enjoys working with animal rescue groups, and tending to her chickens.

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Comedy Night Kickoff for Food from the Bar 2023



Johnny Steele, a native of Pittsburg California was the headliner.



Sue Alfieri gave a hilarious performance!

The CCCBA came out for Comedy Night on September 23 at Back 40 Texas BBQ in Pleasant Hill. The evening started out with conversation over drinks and a silent auction, highlighted by art pieces donated by CCCBA members. After a delicious barbecue buffet, Hon. Barry Baskin (Ret.) welcomed the crowd and introduced Dan Birkhaeuser who chaired the Food From the Bar Committee this year. Then comedians Sue Alfieri and Johnny Steele took the stage for some hilarious comedy.

Food From the Bar benefits the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. For more information or to make a donation visit <https://give.foodbankccs.org/campaign/food-from-the-bar-2023/c284991>



CCCBA members and their guests were treated to another amazing show.



Guests were encouraged to bring donations of canned foods. In turn, they were entered into a raffle for a door prize.



Thank you to Hon Barry Baskin (Ret.), left, who was the emcee for the evening. Dan Birkhaeuser, chair of the Food from the Bar Committee, shared the importance of our support of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano this year.



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PHOTOS

The Judicial Induction of Hon. Frank Riebli



Judge Riebli with his arm in a sling.



Judge Wade Rhyne was the master of ceremonies for Judge Riebli's induction.



Judge Riebli took the oath of office from Judge Jennifer Lee.



Judge Riebli's family helped him don the robe.



Judge Riebli accepts the gavel from CCCBA President David Erb.



Hon. Rita F. Lin of San Francisco Superior Court spoke at the induction.



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Advocating for Transgender Minors in Probate Guardianships

by Oliver Greenwood

Oliver: Hi, my name is Oliver Greenwood, I'm your attorney and my pronouns are he/him/they. How would you like to be addressed?

Minor client: Ok, boomer.

Oliver: Wait, what?

Minor client: Why are you being so weird?

Oliver: I thought it would be appropriate to introduce myself and see how you would like to be addressed.

Minor client: I get it. Why not just say your name and ask me what my name is? I guess saying your pronouns is fine.

Oliver: Oh, but I thought...Thanks. I'll try this again. Hi, I'm Oliver. What's your name?

Representing minors pursuant to Probate Code §1470(a) in probate guardianships is amazingly fulfilling and educational. It is an ever-evolving landscape of legal representation which demands particular attention and sensitivity, especially when representing transgender minors. A transgender minor is an individual whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. A transgender person may or may not decide to alter their bodies hormonally and/or surgically to match their gender identity.

Probate guardianships in California are established pursuant to Probate Code §1514 to ensure the well-being and safety of minors when their parents or legal guardians are unable

or unwilling to provide proper care. These situations can arise due to a variety of factors, including parental neglect, abuse, or the passing of a parent. When representing transgender minors in these guardianships, attorneys must not only navigate the legal complexities but also provide a supportive and inclusive environment where these individuals can express their needs and preferences.

It is crucial to become educated and stay up-to-date. In addition to the requirements required in the California Probate Code and the California Rules of Court, Counsel is advised to look into the requirements for court-appointed counsel in juvenile dependency proceedings. In particular, California Rules of Court, rule 7.1102(c)-(d) requires that counsel representing minors in a probate guardianship proceedings complete three hours of education covering one of the following subjects:

1. Statutes, rules of court, and case law governing probate guardianship proceedings and the legal rights of parents and children;
2. Child development, including techniques for communicating with a child client; and
3. Risk factors for child abuse, neglect, and family violence.

In comparison to the probate rules, the requirements for attorneys appointed in juvenile dependency



Continued on page 25 ►



Beth Mora Wins Joe Posner Award from California Employment Lawyers Association

by Carole Lucido

Beth Mora has been a very good friend of Contra Costa Lawyer magazine over many years. She has served as an author (of 12 articles), guest editor of two issues and was a past member of the Contra Costa Lawyer Editorial Board. In September of this year she was honored by California Employment Lawyers Association with its highest award, the Joe Posner Lawyer of the Year Award. The press release stated, "This recognition is a testament to Beth's unwavering dedication to advancing worker's rights, her exceptional legal advocacy, and her timeless efforts in bettering the employee rights' community."

We certainly agree. Beth has been a member of the CCCBA Pro Bono

Honor Roll regularly, clocking over 500 hours of pro bono service each year. She won the CCCBA's highest pro bono honor last year with the 2022 Justice James J. Marchiano Distinguished Service Award. The award's namesake, Justice James J. Marchiano wrote, "Beth Mora epitomizes a lawyer's dedication of legal skills to pro bono publico work and brings luster to the award."

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Bar Association and all of us at Contra Costa Lawyer magazine, we congratulate Beth on this most recent honor. Beyond that, we appreciate all that she brings to the Employment Law Section and to the CCCBA.

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CCCBA Executive Director Jody Iorns launched a new monthly email publication, Bar Buzz to provide more details about the happenings at the CCCBA.

In the first issue published in August, Jody wrote, "We are all facing a changed landscape in terms of programming, business development, and social events. My goal with the Bar Buzz is to expand and highlight the successes and challenges that the Bar is managing so that we can ensure great service to our incredible community."

CCCBA Launches New Publication: **BarBuzz**

In recent editions, the Bar Buzz has explained the new approach to the MCLE Spectacular, changes in the membership dues with special rates for paralegal/legal assistants; CCP and Family law minor's counsel panelists and waived LRIS membership fees for new LRIS panel members.

If you have not seen a copy yet, please contact Carole Lucido, CCCBA Communications Director and she will make sure you're on the list!

Advocating for Transgender Minors

Continued from page 23

matters are much more descriptive. Specifically, under California Rules of Court, rule 5.664(b)(2), counsel is required to learn about “cultural competency and sensitivity relating to, and best practices for, providing adequate care to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth.” Arguably, the requirement of learning “...techniques for communicating with a child client” in the probate guardianship rule would cover this, but the clarity in the juvenile rules is far more extensive and new court-appointed counsel may not be familiar with the intricacies of the appointment.

While counsel represents their client in the probate guardianship, it is helpful to understand and become aware of many of the unique legal challenges transgender minors often face. A significant consideration is the individual’s chosen name and gender identity, which might differ from their legal documentation. Attorneys must be well-versed in California laws that allow for the updating of name and gender markers on identification documents, ensuring that the minor’s chosen identity is respected and reflected accurately.

Use the right pronouns

Why focus on pronouns? Because people matter. According to GLSEN.org, “[i]ncluding pronouns is a first step toward respecting people’s identity and creating a more welcoming space for people of all genders.” Once you are aware of an individual’s preferred pronouns, use them. This takes practice and mistakes happen.

Another crucial legal aspect is medical care. Some transgender minors may require gender-affirming medical treatments, such as hormone therapy or, rarely, surgeries. Court-appointed counsel should understand the legal framework surrounding medical decision-making for minors which unfortunately exceeds the scope of this article.

Beyond the legal intricacies, the emotional well-being of transgender minors is paramount. Many transgender individuals experience discrimination, bullying and mental health challenges. In the context of probate guardianships, attorneys should be attuned to the emotional needs of these minors, offering a safe space for them to express their fears, hopes and concerns.

Court-appointed counsel serves as a bridge between the legal system, the minor and their families. They

have a responsibility to ensure that the minor’s voice is heard and their best interests are upheld. This often involves fostering communication between the minor, the family and the court. In cases where the family might not fully understand or support the minor’s gender identity, attorneys can play a pivotal role in educating families about transgender issues and advocating for the minor’s rights.

For transgender minors, accessing a safe and supportive educational environment can be a significant concern. Attorneys representing these minors must be prepared to advocate for their educational rights, ensuring that schools provide an environment free from discrimination and harassment based on gender identity.

Representing transgender minors in probate guardianships is a complex and rewarding endeavor. It requires a deep understanding of both the legal landscape and the unique challenges faced by transgender individuals. This might seem like a lot. And it is—for these young clients. Take the time, put in the effort and ensure that each minor is receiving the best possible advocacy they deserve.

I mess up in many of my conversations throughout the day. I want to get the conversations right with everyone I meet, but especially with my minor clients. It helps when I try to be a better listener than a talker, recognizing I have two ears and one mouth. I am continuously researching and reviewing information to ensure that I am up to date in representing my minor clients. Some websites I recommend:

- The Human Rights Campaign (hrc.org)
- PFLAG (pflag.org)

MCLE Self Study

Earn one hour of General MCLE credit by answering the questions on the Self Study MCLE test available online at www.cccbba.org/cclawyer-magazine/

Send your answers along with a check (\$30 per credit hour for CCCBA members/ \$45 per credit hour for non-members), to the address on the test form. Certificates are processed within two weeks of receipt. If you prefer to receive the test form via email, contact Anne K. Wolf at awolf@cccba.org or (925) 370-2540.

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Advocating for Transgender Minors

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- Gender Spectrum (genderspectrum.org) No site is one-stop shopping when it comes to information but this site has many useful resources that I frequently refer back to.
- Trans Youth Handbook, co-authored by Harvard Law School's LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (<https://hlslgbtq.org/trans-youth-handbook>)
- Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (glsen.org; has great information on pronouns)



Practice, practice, practice. These small changes may mean much more to your clients.

Oliver A. Greenwood has lots of titles but his favorite is dad and husband, next, that he is a past CCCBA President. His practice in Pleasant Hill focuses on estate planning, probate litigation, guardianships and conservatorships

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Youth in Transition:

Legal Issues for Transgender Youth

by Nesta N. Johnson, Esq.
(she/her/hers),
Family Law Staff Attorney,
National Center for Lesbian
Rights

Photo by Ted Eytan - 2018.06.09 Capital Pride Parade, Washington, DC USA 03177, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=70076838>

Transgender youth (and adults) have been subject to an unprecedented level of scrutiny as many states have moved to restrict their access to health care, bathrooms, and sports. Prohibitions on health care for transgender minors purport to protect youth, despite long-standing consensus among medical and mental health professionals that acceptance and support are crucial for the well-being of transgender youth¹. In a recent Trevor Project poll, 86% of transgender and nonbinary youth reported that debates around anti-trans bill negatively impacted their mental health; nearly one in three youth reported not feeling safe to seek ordinary medical care when they were sick or injured.² Other states, including California, have enacted laws protecting transgender youth and their parents:

- Effective January 1, 2023, SB 107³ prohibits out-of-state agencies from removing transgender youth from the custody of fit parents, protects families from out-of-state subpoenas seeking children's private medical information, and bans California law enforcement from cooperating with out-of-state efforts to arrest or extradite a person

who provides or receives transgender health care. SB 107 also clarified that denial or lack of access to health care can constitute an emergency allowing California courts to take jurisdiction, analogous to long-standing domestic violence exceptions.

If enacted, AB 957⁴ would clarify that when California family law courts make determinations about the best interests of a child, they must consider the importance of acceptance and support of a child's gender identity or expression upon their overall health and well-being. Practitioners should be aware that some school districts have moved to enact policies requiring school staff to immediately "out" youth seeking to use a different name, pronouns, or bathroom to their parents.⁵ Such policies put youth at risk by not allowing educators to use their discretion when students disclose sensitive information that may put them at risk of parental rejection or abuse. There is well-documented evidence that transgender children and teens experience higher rates of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.

Myth Busting

Practitioners should be prepared to address common misconceptions, such as that a child is "too young" to know their gender identity. Children, whether they are transgender or not, typically develop a sense of gender identity – a deep-seated aspect of who they are – in early childhood. Evidence shows that youth who continue to identify as transgender after the onset of puberty are highly likely to be transgender as adults. Transgender identity remains uncommon and is not a "phase" or a "trend." **Transgender health care (also known as gender-affirming care) is safe, effective, evidence-based, and conservative.**

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health first promulgated a standard of care in 1979. Its standards have been adopted by every major U.S. professional association of medical and mental health providers. **Gender-affirming care is the only safe and effective treatment for gender dysphoria.** The harms of denying or delaying care are equally well-documented. Practitioners should be prepared

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Youth in Transition – Legal Issues for Transgender Youth

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to explain that denial of care results in irreversible bodily changes that can cause lifelong distress and puts youth at risk of other serious harms. Attempts to change a young person's gender identity or expression are harmful and have been condemned by every major medical and mental health organization in the country.

Parents who support a transgender or gender nonconforming child may be accused of “pushing” the child to be transgender. They may also be accused of alienation or factitious disorder. There is no evidence that parents can “make a child transgender.” Parents often support a child's social transition – using a name, pronouns, hairstyle, clothing, and mannerisms that feel comfortable – out of appropriate concern for their mental health. Transgender youth typically undergo a lengthy course of individual and, in some

cases, family therapy with experienced providers who determine the best course of treatment for an individual child. Youth, parents, and providers work together to make decisions in each individual child's best interest. When deemed medically appropriate for an individual youth, medications that “pause” bodily changes and, for older adolescents, hormone therapy are effective and safe for use in minors with appropriate monitoring. **Surgeries are rarely performed on minors, and never on young children.** Genital surgeries are not performed on minors. Rarely, minors in their mid-to-late teens with longstanding and severe dysphoria may receive chest reduction surgery if they, their parents, and their providers believe it is appropriate.⁶

Custody and Visitation Proceedings

As with all youth who are the subject of custody/visitation proceedings, high-conflict parental dynamics and protracted litigation are harmful to LGBTQ+ youth. Youth whose identity represents a significant point of parental contention are particularly at risk of emotional harm, and delays in case resolution may cause

them irreparable harm due to the time-sensitive nature of some treatments. Practitioners involved in matters involving transgender youth should strive to reach an amicable and speedy resolution if remotely possible, and toward that end should avoid labeling parents as “affirming” or “non-affirming.” Support is a spectrum; parents may engage in a mix of affirming and non-affirming behaviors, and views and behaviors may evolve. It is important to leave room for nuance and growth.

Parents love their children, and they may fear that transitioning will subject their child to bullying, discrimination, or harassment. Practitioners should compassionately guide clients to recognize that not supporting their child and refusing access to medical care will be far more harmful. Parents whose beliefs preclude their agreement to or involvement in their child's medical care may be willing to allow the more supportive parent to take responsibility for managing treatment. If litigation is unavoidable, practitioners should emphasize that parents frequently disagree regarding how best to address a child's mental health. While parents who fear labeling, stigmatizing, or “locking into” a diagnosis should not be demonized or dismissed, more proactive parents who seek evidence-based care are better able to meet their child's medical needs.

NCLR

The National Center for Lesbian Rights⁸ is a national legal organization committed to advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through litigation, legislation, policy, and public education. NCLR provides training and technical support on a wide range of LGBTQ+ issues, including working with transgender youth, parents of transgender youth, and transgender adults. NCLR's legal helpline provides general information to callers and technical assistance for practitioners.

NCLR Helpline Telephone: 800.528.6257;
Helpline Email:
info@nclrights.org;
Web Form: <https://www.nclrights.org/contact-us/>

Child Welfare Proceedings

LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system. Many LGBTQ+ youth experience family rejection due to their sexual orientation or gender identity (“SOGIE”). Again, it is crucial for practitioners to be aware and to ensure parents of LGBTQ+ youth are aware that the research data is clear: **the level of family acceptance or rejection is the single most determinative factor of a transgender child's short-term and long-term mental health and overall well-being.** Evidence-based, culture-based, and

faith-based resources for families are available at the Family Acceptance Project website.⁷ Youth placed in foster and group homes have the right to be placed according to their gender identity. Outcomes for youth “aging out” of foster care are extremely poor: 50 percent experience homelessness within 18 months of exit. If youth cannot reunite with their parents or relatives, practitioners should prioritize identifying other trusted and affirming adults who can serve as legal guardians or social supports for youth into their adulthood.

Juvenile Justice Proceedings

LGBTQ+ youth also are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system. Homeless and runaway youth may engage in “survival crimes” such as shoplifting, selling drugs, or prostitution to obtain shelter, food, or other basic necessities. Practitioners representing youth in juvenile justice proceedings should create a safe and welcoming environment, avoid making assumptions about their clients’ SOGIE, and consider how their clients’ identities and family relationships may have impacted their situation. Practitioners representing detained or incarcerated youth should be aware that youth have the right to be safe and free from discrimination and harassment. Staff may not isolate youth in order to protect their safety, and facilities must provide appropriate accommodations such as private showers. Practitioners should clarify whether and when they may share information about their clients’ SOGIE, should ensure that their clients’ preferred names and pronouns are used consistently, and should keep in mind that clients’ SOGIE is only one aspect of their identities and experiences.

1. Medical Organization Statements on Transgender Health Care - Trans Health Project <https://transhealthproject.org/resources/medical-organization-statements/>

2. New Poll Emphasizes Negative Impacts of Anti-LGBTQ Policies on LGBTQ Youth | The Trevor Project. <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/new-poll-emphasizes-negative-impacts-of-anti-lgbtq-policies-on-lgbtq-youth/>

3. Bill Text: CA SB107 | 2021-2022 | Regular Session | Chaptered | LegiScan. <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB107/2021>

4. Bill Text: CA AB957 | 2023-2024 | Regular Session | Enrolled | LegiScan. <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB957/2023>

5. Several of these policies have been challenged and enjoined.

6. PolitiFact | Transition-related surgery limited to teens, not ‘young kids.’ Even then, it’s rare <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2022/aug/10/ron-desantis/transition-related-surgery-limited-teens-not-young/>

7. LGBTQ Family Acceptance <https://lgbtqfamilyacceptance.org/>

8. National Center for Lesbian Rights <https://www.nclrights.org/>



Nesta N. Johnson, Esq. (she/her/hers), joined NCLR in 2020, continuing a career focused on advocating for the rights of children and families. Nesta believes that every child deserves to grow up in a safe, supportive, and accepting home and that every family is entitled to recognition, respect and equal treatment. Nesta is admitted to practice law in New York State and Pennsylvania.

CCCBA Diversity Award Checklists Are Due December 1!



Get the recognition
your firm deserves for
your diversity efforts.

Completed forms are due December 1, 2023.



The CCCBA Women's Section celebrated its awards dinner on October 12. In addition to presenting the Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award to Alice P. Cheng (pictured front row, second from left), the section also presented the Honorable Patricia Herron and the Honorable Ellen James Scholarship to three deserving law students: Arvonne De Marco – John F. Kennedy School of Law at National University; Thao “Annie” Le – USF School of Law; and Madeline Banks McHenry – McGeorge School of Law.

Annual Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation

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* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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PHOTOS

Judicial Induction of Hon. Gina Dashman



Judge Glenn Kim was the master of ceremonies for Judge Dashman's induction on October 20.



Judge Dashman donned her judicial robe.



Judge Jill Fannin administered the oath of office.



Judge Dashman accepts the gavel from CCCBA Board President-Elect David Pearson.

The audience welcomed Judge Dashman to the bench.



CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS | OVERVIEW

The Contra Costa County Bar Association certifies that the MCLE activities listed on page 32 have been approved for the specific MCLE credit indicated, by the State Bar of California, Provider #393.

October 18 | Solo/Small Firm Section

Breakfast with the Solo/Small Firm Section in Brentwood

(In Person)

7:30 am – 9:00 am | MJ's Cafe and Bakery, 655 First St., Brentwood | Free for members of the Solo/Small Firm Section, \$20 others

December 7 | Bankruptcy Section

Bankruptcy Section

Holiday Party (In Person)

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm | Details TBA

December 14 | CCCBA

Happy Hour at Kendra Scott

Benefitting CCJ4A (In Person)

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Kendra Scott, 91 Broadway Lane, Walnut Creek | 20% of your purchase will give back to Contra Costa Justice for All

December 14 | CCCBA

CCCBA Annual Holiday Party

(In Person)

4:30 pm - 7:30 pm | Industrious, 1212 Broadway Plaza, Suite 2100, Walnut Creek | FREE for CCCBA members, \$20 non members

December 19 | Solo/Small Firm Section

Solo Section Holiday Party

(In Person)

5:00 pm - 7:30 pm | Details TBA

January 10 | Senior Section

Senior Section

General Meeting (In Person)

Noon – 1:30 pm | Online on Zoom

January 19 | CCCBA

2024 Officer Installation & Diversity Awards Luncheon

(In Person with a Virtual Option)

Speakers: Hon. Ed Weil | David Pearson

Please join the leadership of the Contra Costa County Bar Association and many of our local current and retired Judges for this annual luncheon which celebrates all CCCBA members!

We will welcome the 2024 Board President David Pearson and Contra Costa County Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Weil will give a State of the Judiciary address before swearing in the 2024 CCCBA Board of Directors and Section Leaders.

We will also be presenting the 7th Annual CCCBA Diversity Award to qualifying law firms. Don't miss this very special annual CCCBA event!

11:45 am - 1:15 pm | Contra Costa Country Club, 801 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill | Details TBA

January 25 | Estate Planning & Probate Section

2024 Annual

Probate Luncheon

(In-Person with a Virtual Option)

Speakers:

Hon. Shara Elizabeth Beltramo
Hon. Susanne Fensettermacher
Hon. Virginia George

11:30 am - 1:15 pm | Contra Costa Country Club, 801 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill | 1 hour Estate Planning & Probate Specialization MCLE credit | Details TBA



Natasha Chee at the Bar Fund Benefit on September 28. Natasha displayed her knitting projects at the event.

For more information on these programs, please contact Anne Wolf,

CCCBA Education & Events Director at awolf@cccba.org or (925) 370-2540 or check the calendar www.cccbba.org/attorney-events

Out And About with the Bar



At **Bits & Bites with the Bench - Judges Night** was well attended on October 5 at Lemongrass Bistro in Martinez.

Left, Judge Jill Fannin with Judge Palvir Shoker and CCCBA Executive Director Jody Iorns.

Right, Commissioner Andrew Verriere with David Erb and Judge Ayana Young.



At the **Bar Fund Benefit** on September 28, Mika Domingo was presented with the CCCBA's Justice James J. Marchiano Distinguished Service Award. Mika is pictured above left with Justice James Marchiano and her husband Tony Spagna.

The chair of the CCCBA Pro Bono Committee, Ray Robinson and his son Rob shared the MC duties at the Bar Fund Benefit.

Rhonda James, Chief Executive Officer of STAND! For Families Free of Violence, addressed the crowd and explained some of the important work her organization is doing to support and strengthen families in Contra Costa County and the Bay Area. The CCCBA raised approximately \$45,000 for STAND! at this event.



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Did you know that you can run classified ads in Contra Costa Lawyer and also on the CCCBA website? Classified ads run on the CCCBA website for 30 days. Members pay just \$75 per month for online classified ads that can include photos or graphics. For information, please contact Carole Lucido, CCCBA Communications Director at (925) 370-2542 or clucido@cccba.org.

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Print and Online

The Contra Costa Lawyer is the official publication of the Contra Costa County Bar Association. It is published every other month for an audience of more than 1,500 attorneys, judges and court officials, law libraries and public officials involved with the administration of justice in Contra Costa County and has a readership of approximately 4,500 online.

Both the print and online editions of Contra Costa Lawyer have won awards of excellence from the National Association of Bar Executives.

Cost effective display and classified advertising opportunities are available in the print magazine. Online ads are available on the CCCBA's website: www.cccba.org.

View and download the complete media kit at www.cccba.org/flyer/2024/ccba-adkit-2024.pdf

Contact CCCBA Communications Director Carole Lucido if you have questions, clucido@cccba.org or (925) 370-2542.



**Contra Costa County
Bar Association**

**ANNUAL OFFICER
INSTALLATION & DIVERSITY
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

State of the Judiciary Address

by Presiding Judge Edward Weil

Passing the Gavel,

Outgoing CCCBA Board President David Erb welcomes Incoming Board President David Pearson

Oath of Office

and Installation of CCCBA Board Officers & Section Leaders

7th Annual CCCBA Diversity Awards

Presented to Qualifying Law Firms

**Friday,
January 19, 2024
11:45 am - 1:15 pm
Hybrid**

**Contra Costa
Country Club
801 Golf Club Road
Pleasant Hill**

REGISTER TODAY!

www.cccba.org/attorney-events/

Questions?
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