



BarNotes

A Publication of the
San Fernando Valley Bar Association

In This Issue

President's Message3

Message From LRIS Coordinator.....5

Mediation Settlement Agreements ..7

Notice to Attorneys.....8

Custody Resolutions.....9

Report from the Foundation11

New Members12

Classified Ads16

Membership Has Its Benefits

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association understands that its more than 2,100 members have many options when it comes to choosing which bar associations to join and participate in. SFVBA volunteers and staff take nothing for granted and work hard to ensure that Valley attorneys receive value for their membership.

One of the most popular member benefits is our free MCLE tape library, containing more than 300 titles in twenty practice areas and the required specialty credits. In the two months before the January 31 reporting deadline, SFVBA members borrowed more than 500 tapes from the library. The catalog of available tapes can be found on the SFVBA website at <http://www.sfvba.org/cle/mcle-tapes.htm>. Members can visit the Bar offices to borrow tapes during operating hours.

The new SFVBA website at www.sfvba.org was launched in September to rave reviews. In January alone, the site received 119,104 hits, with close to a half million hits since its launch. The most popular pages are the Event Calendar, Judicial Resources, Need a Lawyer and the E-Law Practice Center (containing practice area resources, including recent articles, cases, statutes, codes and links). In the coming weeks, members will also have access to members-only list serves and membership directory.



Through the new AT&T Wireless Association Program, SFVBA membership earns you a 5% discount on qualified wireless charges each and every month. That's an additional 5% off many of AT&T's nationally competitive rates and special wireless offers. The discount can now be applied to AT&T's Next Generation GSM/GPRS voice and data services. Visit <http://www.attwireless.com/specials/wap/> to buy online now. Or, stop by your local AT&T Wireless store or an authorized dealer of AT&T Wireless, contact your AT&T Account Representative, or call 1-866-4AWS-B2B. Whether you're an existing AT&T Wireless customer or thinking of signing up for new service, you'll want

continued on page 6

Calendar of Events Page 19

A mural commissioned by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association will be dedicated at the Van Nuys Courthouse East on March 10. The mural is prominently displayed above the juror assembly room on the ground floor of the courthouse.

The installation of the Van Nuys mural was scheduled to coincide with the completion of the seismic repairs to the courthouse.

"We wanted to not only provide inspiration for those who visit our courthouse," says SFVBA President James Felton, "but celebrate the

resiliency of the judicial system and the San Fernando Valley community ten years after the Northridge earthquake."

The Van Nuys mural is the last of four murals donated to the Valley courthouses to commemorate the SFVBAs 75th Anniversary. Murals at the Sylmar Juvenile Court and San Fernando Courthouse were unveiled in 2002 and at the Burbank Courthouse in 2003.

The Van Nuys and Burbank murals were painted by San Francisco artist Horace Washington. ♀



“At Your Service”

Business

(Transactions & Litigation)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Corporations/Partnerships/LLCs | Commercial Finance |
| Mergers/Acquisitions | Employment |
| Environment | Equipment Leasing |
| Franchising | Health Care |
| Intellectual Property | Land Use/Development |
| Real Estate Finance | Real Estate Leasing |
| Real Estate Sales & Acquisitions | Tax Planning/Litigation |

Consumer

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Family Law | Personal Injury |
| Tax & Estate Planning | Tax Litigation |

LEWITT HACKMAN

LEWITT, HACKMAN, SHAPIRO, MARSHALL & HARLAN
a law corporation

16633 Ventura Boulevard 11th Floor • Encino, California 91436
(818) 990-2120 • FAX (818) 981-4764
www.lewitthackman.com

BarNotes

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
BAR ASSOCIATION

21300 Oxnard Street, Suite 250
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Phone (818) 227-0490
Fax (818) 227-0499
www.sfvba.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President.....James R. Felton
President-ElectAlice A. Salvo
SecretaryRichard Lewis
TreasurerPatricia McCabe
Past PresidentSteven Holzer
Executive DirectorElizabeth Post

TRUSTEES

Seymour I. Amster Sue Bendavid-Arbiv
Caron Caines James E. Curry
Robert Flagg Gerald L. Fogelman
Cynthia Elkins Tamila Jensen
Donna Laurent Everett Meiners
Kevin Rex Myer J. Sankary
Alan J. Sedley Deborah S. Sweeney

STAFF

LRIS CoordinatorMichele Morley
LRIS CounselorGayle Linde
LRIS CounselorRosita Soto
Events CoordinatorLinda Temkin
Administrative AsstAileen Jimenez

SECTION CHAIRS

ADRTodd Smith
Charles Parselle
Business LawStephen M. Levine
Alan J. Sedley
Criminal LawSteve Meister
Family LawCari Pines
Health LawAlan J. Sedley
Intellectual Property, Entertainment
and Internet LawTom Speiss
Deborah Sweeney
Mishawn Yarovesky
LitigationRobert Flagg
Maria Skinner
Darryl Graver
New LawyersMichael Attar
David Bobrosky
Probate & Estate
PlanningJudith Perez
Marlene Seltzer
Small Firm and
Sole PractitionerMyer Sankary
Lisa Lerner Miller
TaxationRichard Block
Jacob Stein
Workers' CompWilliam Kropach

Bar Notes is published 11 times a year. Articles, announcements, and advertisements are due by the first day of the month prior to the publication date. The articles in Bar Notes are written for general interest and are not meant to be relied upon as a substitute for independent research and independent verification of accuracy.

**Layout & Design
Pre-press & Printing,**

**Master Graphics Printing
(818) 343-0500**

© 2004 San Fernando Valley Bar Association



President's Message

James R. Felton

MARCH MADNESS

With March almost upon us, it seemed only right that my column discuss that time honored tradition - you know it - the NCAA Basketball office pool. You know the one. You get that big sheet with 32 separate matchups pitting 64 teams. You try to find that one sleeper team that will catapult you to the top of the office pool standings while retaining your old standards who will probably make the Final Four. You listen to all of the sports reporters and read the newspapers trying to get tips on who is down, and who is up, and which top seed is likely to fall.

Now, you may be asking yourself why a discussion of the office pool has anything to do with the practice of law in the San Fernando Valley. I pondered this question myself. However, one learned judge once told me that if you looked hard enough, you could probably find a case that would stand for almost any legal proposition that you could dream up. So, here it goes.

Picking the Final Four is much like picking a jury. You approach your case believing that if you get your point across, an intelligent juror will follow everything that you are saying and will decide the case in your favor. You have confidence in this juror. This juror will do the right thing and will follow your lead. Picking this juror is like picking the Duke Blue Devils. They listen, they do what you ask of them, and in the end, they will stand behind you. They are a confident and safe bet for the Final Four.

On the other end of the spectrum, we have the wild card juror. This is the juror that you think you have read perfectly but when the chips are down, this juror chops

continued on page 10



JACK TRIMARCO & ASSOCIATES POLYGRAPH/INVESTIGATIONS, INC.



Jack Trimarco, President
Former Polygraph Unit Chief
Los Angeles, F.B.I. (1990-1998)

CA. P.I. #20970

Member Society of Former Special Agents
Federal Bureau of Investigation

9454 Wilshire Blvd. 6th Floor
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
(310) 247-2637

1361 Avenida De Aprisa
Camarillo, CA 93010
(805) 383-8004

email: jtrimarco@aol.com

Former Inspector General Polygraph Program
Office of Counter Intelligence
U.S. Department of Energy

Incorporating your clients

just got easier and more affordable.



Document Filings... It's what we do!™

Corporations
Limited Liability Companies (LLCs)
Nonprofit Corporations
S-Corporation Elections
Foreign Qualifications
Amendments
Conversions
Dissolutions
Certificates of Good Standing
Document Retrieval Services
IRS Forms & Filings
Name Availability Checks
Name Reservations
Registered Agent Services
Corporate Kits & Supplies

**Incorporate a Business in
ANY STATE in 24 to 48 hours!**

For as
little as **\$99**
Plus state filing fees



\$25 Discount!

for San Fernando Valley Bar Association Members
Enter coupon code: **SBAR-25D** when ordering at our website.

- ◆ **FAST**
- ◆ **Reliable**
- ◆ **Affordable**
- ◆ **Guaranteed**

MyCorporation.com is a document filing service and does not offer legal or financial advice.

MyCorporation.com®

Call for more information: **1-888-692-3619**

Visit our website: www.mycorporation.com

Message From LRIS Coordinator

Michele C. Morley

As many as 80% of litigants in family law courts represent themselves. Many would like the assistance of an attorney for parts of their cases even if they cannot afford full representation. The Board of Governors of the State Bar has adopted recommendations made by the California Commission on Access to Justice aimed at encouraging attorneys to provide limited scope representation of pro per litigants. The Judicial Council also adopted new rules and forms to enable limited scope representation, effective July 1, 2003.

A list of "20 things judicial officers can do to encourage attorneys to provide limited scope representation" appears in the Summer 2003 edition of *The Bench*, the news journal of the California Judges Association. The fourth recommendation on the list is to encourage the bar association to set up a limited representation panel and have at least a listing of persons who will help with preparation and negotiating judgments, especially in low asset cases. Responding to this call, the LRIS is sending this open letter to current members of the LRIS Family

Law Panel and the members of the SFVBA Family Law Section:

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association Lawyer Referral & Information Service is starting a Limited Legal Representation Panel for family law matters. Initially we will limit membership on the panel to ten members. These attorneys must be members of LRIS and they must also be willing to attend quarterly meetings to discuss issues, evaluate the program and design improvements. Once we have operated the program for 6-9 months, we plan to open the panel up to membership to any qualified, LRIS family law panel member.

Attorneys who contact me will be sent a two-page application for the Limited Representation Panel and an application for the LRIS if they are currently not members. Applications may also be found on the SFVBA website at <http://www.sfvba.org/memberresources/lrs.htm>. The first ten qualified attorneys who return the application(s) will be placed on the LRIS Limited Representation Pilot Program Panel.

One of the requirements for participation is attending three hours of Limited Legal Representation training. In December, we had a three-hour training seminar that qualifies those who attended. A videotape of that training is available to meet this requirement.

I look forward to hearing from you and beginning is new opportunity to serve the public and our membership. ↗

HON. MARVIN D. ROWEN

Los Angeles Superior Court, Ret.

Private Dispute Resolution

Arbitration
Mediation
Discovery
Settlement Conference

Certified Civil Mediator
(National Judicial College)



1993 Judge of the Year
San Fernando Valley
Bar Association

Commercial, employment, insurance, entertainment, real estate,
construction defect and tort law

Please call Judicate West
for further information or
to schedule a hearing

818-708-1529
310-407-5333

**JUDICATE
WEST** 

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Century City • Pasadena • Santa Barbara • Santa Ana
and other convenient locations throughout California
www.adjudicateinc.com



Is Proud to Welcome Our Newest Exclusive Panelist:

Hon. Alan B. Haber



Respected by both sides of the Bar and by his peers for fairness and well known for his intellectual skills and his ability to analyze and resolve difficult and complex cases, his experience in many areas of substantive and procedural law and his mediation skills, Judge Haber is one of those unique rare neutrals with the ability to manage virtually any kind of case. He received the Los Angeles chapter of ABOTA's annual 'Judicial Civility' award in 2003. He has had a wide variety of assignments over his twenty-one year career on the Los Angeles Superior Court. With extensive voluntary and mandatory settlement conference and trial experience, he will readily make the transition from the public sector, as a mediator, arbitrator, and discovery referee.

For more information, please contact:

Lucie Barron, President

1900 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 250

Los Angeles, CA 90067

(310) 201-0010 • (310) 201-0016 - Fax

www.adrservices.org

continued from pg 1

to take advantage of this opportunity. Mention account number 50001405 to receive your member benefit.

The SFVBA has discount coupons and membership cards to Southern California's most popular attractions, including nearby Universal Studios and Magic Mountain. Now through May 31, SFVBA members, their families and guests can enjoy Universal Studios Hollywood for just \$25 weekdays and \$30 weekends! That is a substantial savings off general one-day admission price of \$49. Throughout the year, members can use their Fan Club card to receive discounts on merchandise and restaurants at Universal CityWalk®, including Gladstone's, Sketchers and the UCLA Spirit store, and savings for stays at the Sheraton Universal, Universal City Hilton and the Sportsmen's Lodge. Call Aileen at the Bar Office at (818) 227-0490 ext. 100 to request a Fan Club card and other discount coupons.

To learn more about the unique benefits SFVBA membership has to offer, such as free library privileges at the Woodland Hills campus of the University of West LA and conference room rentals for mediations and depositions, visit <http://www.sfvba.org/memberresources/memberbenefits.htm>. ♠

IMMIGRATION LAW AND EMPLOYER SANCTIONS

Tasoff and Tasoff

Founded 1949

Certified Immigration
Law Specialist

California Board of
Legal Specialization

Former Immigration
Judge and
Law Professor

(818) 788-8900

16255 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1000

Encino, California 91436-2302

Fax: (818) 788-5900

E-Mail mail@Tasoff.com

Is Your Mediation Settlement Agreement Admissible? Enforceable?

BY DAVID I. KARP

With alternative dispute resolution now in vogue, many of us struggle to get our clients to accept mediation. In mediation, we urge them toward resolution, tantalizing them with privacy, self-determination, hope and the reward of a managed end to the struggle. We strive for a written settlement agreement that will end the case. We suggest that the parties, in doing the things they are supposed to do (i.e. paying), are more likely to respond to a written agreement they controlled than a judgment they did not.

For our own benefit, and our clients', we also want to build in protections in the event of breach. We want to be able to return to court if the agreement is unfulfilled. Under the current governing statute, we have to anticipate inadmissibility and perhaps unenforceability unless we add protective language to the agreement.

Here are two Evidence Code Sections to consider.

Evidence Code section 1119 [Written or oral communications during mediation process; admissibility] provides:

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter:

(a) No evidence of anything said or any admission made for the purpose of, in the course of, or pursuant to, a mediation or a mediation consultation is admissible or subject to discovery, and disclosure of the evidence shall not be compelled, in any arbitration, administrative adjudication, civil action, or other non-criminal proceeding in which, pursuant to law, testimony can be compelled to be given.

(b) No writing, as defined in Section 250, that is prepared for the purpose of, in the course of, or pursuant to, a mediation or a mediation consultation, is admissible or subject to discovery, and disclosure of the writing shall not be compelled, in any arbitration, administrative adjudication, civil action, or other noncriminal proceeding in which, pursuant to law, testimony can be compelled to be given.

(c) All communications, negotiations, or settlement discussions by and between participants in the course of a mediation or a mediation consultation shall remain confidential.

Evidence Code section 1123 [Written settlement agreements; conditions to admissibility] states:

A written settlement agreement prepared in the course of, or pursuant to, a mediation, is not made inadmissible, or protected from disclosure, by provisions of this chapter if the agreement is signed by the settling parties and any of the following conditions are satisfied:

(a) The agreement provides that it is admissible or subject to disclosure, or words to that effect.

(b) The agreement provides that it is enforceable or binding or words to that effect.

(c) All parties to the agreement expressly agree in writing, or orally in accordance with Section 1118, to its disclosure.

(d) The agreement is used to show fraud, duress, or illegality that is relevant to an issue in dispute.

My solution has been to draft these provisions into Settlement Agreements to be used in mediation:

"Consistent with Evidence Code section 1119, the parties hereto agree that this agreement is and shall remain confidential, except that the parties further agree that there is no expectation of confidentiality, and the parties hereby knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily waive such confidentiality as to this instrument and the facts and circumstances surrounding it, if any question arises as to its validity or enforceability, including but not limited to questions arising, if any, as to knowing consent as to its terms."

Also,

"The parties agree that this settlement agreement is binding and enforceable pursuant to Code Civ. Proc. §664.6 or any other means authorized by law."

This language is untested but is at least an attempt to grapple with the possibility that a mediation settlement agreement will be inadmissible and unenforceable, notwithstanding breach, under Evidence Code sections 1119 and 1123. ⚡

David I. Karp has a real estate and business litigation practice in Van Nuys and is available for court-ordered and private mediation. He can be reached at (818) 781-1458.

ELEANOR M. FARBER Probate Paralegal

Twenty years experience assisting attorneys with:

- * probate estates
- * summary administration
- * court accountings
- * guardianships
- * conservatorships
- * trust petitions

Telephone: (818) 991-1708
www.probateassistant.com

Renee Leff, MFT, JD

Board Certified Diplomate Fellow in Forensic Sciences



MFT 34345

- Evaluations
- Psychotherapy
- Reports

- Employment Discrimination
- Family Law
- Sentencing Evaluation
- Sexual Harassment

16055 Ventura Blvd. Ste. 500
Encino, California 91436
Tel: (818) 734-9602 Fax: (818) 774-2224
email: lefforensic@aol.com

Attention All Lawyers Need Office Help?

Use our free
Job Listing Form
inside this issue!
Service is Free!

Receptionist
Filing Clerk
Calendar Clerk
Document Manager
Litigation Assistant
Paralegal Secretary
Paralegal

Here's what our paralegal graduates can do
after 400 hours of intensive job training . . .

- Perform legal research, legal analysis, case briefings, Shepardizing, and draft memorandums.
- Draft complaints, answers, interrogatories, special interrogatories, discovery documents and prepare responses (constructed full text pleadings as well as form pleadings).
- Draft motions, including Motion for Summary Judgment and prepare trial notebook.
- Perform initial client intake and other organizational duties pertaining to a busy law practice.
- Substantive knowledge in the areas of family law, bankruptcy procedures, transactional law (contracts, entertainment, intellectual property), employment law, and criminal/constitutional law.
- Hands-on experience in working with litigants as a result of an intensive Externship Program with local self-help legal clinics.

Teaching Opportunities

If you have an idea for a class or program that is not currently offered through the Extension Program, please contact us. We are always looking for new ideas, workshops, seminars and experienced instructors.



Los Angeles Valley College
Extension Program
5800 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, California 91401
(818) 947-2320 (phone)
(818) 947-2930 (fax)
Goldmaa@lavc.edu (email)
www.lavc.edu (website)

Notice To Attorneys

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT OF NORTH CENTRAL FAMILY LAW CASES

Effective March 1, 2004, all family law cases filed in either the Glendale or Burbank courthouses of the North Central District are assigned to Dept. NC "C" in the Burbank Courthouse at 300 East Olive Avenue, Burbank, California, 91502, and assigned to the calendar of Commissioner Robert P. Applegate.

SUPERIOR COURT'S CIVIL RECORDS NOW AVAIL- ABLE 24-HOURS A DAY VIA INTERNET

Effective immediately, there is 'round the clock Internet access to civil documents filed since 1997 at the Los Angeles Superior Court's downtown Stanley Mosk Courthouse. For a modest fee, general jurisdiction records may be viewed or downloaded to computers from www.lasuperiorcourt.org, the court's secure Web site. Records can be found by using a case number or a party's name.

The latest in the Superior Court's LAeCourtONLINE products, the civil case records can be accessed by customers who establish an online account to pay for services with a major credit card. Name searches cost \$4.75 apiece. The flat fee for case documents up to 10 pages in length will be \$7.50 with each additional page costing 7 cents. There is a maximum \$40 charge per document.

Many helpful user services are available on the Civil Case Document Images pages, including step-by-step instructions for finding documents, answers to frequently asked technical questions, and an opportunity to review a sample document for free. ↗

Certified Tax Law Specialist, CPA
Representation before the IRS, Franchise Tax Board, State Board of Equalization and other government agencies in audits and other controversies. Income and estate tax preparation and planning, tax opinion letters, transactional planning, and other tax related matters.

Michael D. Daniels

*Certified Specialist in Taxation, Board of Legal Specialization,
State Bar of California*
20700 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 227, Woodland Hills, CA 91364
(818) 227-5648

A New Alternative to Custody Resolutions

BY BRUCE DERMAN, PH.D. AND RENEE LEFF, J.D., M.F.T.

The resolution of custody issues is the most volatile and painful area in the divorce arena; it can destroy families and create extreme economic and emotional hardship. It is also an area that can burn out the professionals who get caught up in these conflicts. One case, that is really not uncommon, is now going into its fourth year of abuse allegations. It has produced fights over visitation and custody, which has already cost close to \$200,000. This figure is nothing compared to the emotional cost already endured. One of the attorneys even admitted that he was exhausted. Unless custody mediators and evaluators are able to fully take care of themselves in this process, they will become victims of it, and the goal of coming to a joint respectful resolve will be lost.

In order to address the dilemmas and conflicts inherent in the custody area, new formats and approaches are needed to match the powerful nature of custody disputes. Toward that goal, several themes need to be dealt with by professional psychological evaluators, e.g. bias, sloppy agreements, and gaps in the clients' understanding of the consequences of this process. Additionally, the parties involved need to resolve their hidden emotional agendas that block a real custody agreement that will hold up over time. The objective is to address these factors and develop a structure that anticipates these issues.

Since this is a highly emotional area, it is easy for evaluators, as well as for attorneys, to get caught up in gender and personality biases. These arise from listening to the subjective stories that each parent uses to support the position that the children should be awarded to him/her. According to the parties in most custody disputes, the other parent is often seen as inadequate, abusive and barely competent. By using male-female teams in high conflict custody cases, the bias and ultimate seduction of the professionals can be greatly reduced.

In that way each member of the team serves as a balancing force for each other, so as not to fall into the power struggles. Another benefit in working as a team is that one evaluator can fully support the voice of each parent, so that both parties are fully and accurately represented.

In the more traditional one-person format, with its emphasis on neutrality, this kind of support is not possible. Furthermore, by being a team, the evaluators can more easily cut through power imbalances, when one party is not as articulate as the other or one is more emotionally dominating than the other.

Typically divorcing parties who are fighting over custody issues possess little or no awareness of the consequences of pursuing a custody evaluation. Each parent believes he/she will be seen as the parent of choice and that the evaluation will be the solution to custody problems. Therefore, tremendous animosity and frustration occurs when the evaluation and/or court decision fail to meet a parent's expectation.

To avert such reactivity, the team offers the parents the choice of a mediated custody agreement or a mini, a partial, or a full evaluation. The evaluators explain in advance what each of these options requires, and the consequences of each choice. There is the possibility that there may be disagreement between the team mediators/evaluators, and the parties

involved. If this were to occur, discussion should be encouraged beforehand – not after the fact, when it is too late. Unless the parties are willing to sign a statement that they are open to all aspects of this process, the involvement should end right there. We have had success with the agreements coming from this process.

A major key in mediating custody work is bringing all of the underlying intense emotional agendas to the surface, so that the evaluators can look at them in the light. It is pointless to attempt to negotiate custody, visitation, or co-parenting issues, unless the evaluator can help shift the perception of one party that the other is "abusive, incompetent or untrustworthy." This can be done by listening and clearly exposing the agendas, in order to help the parents rethink whether their beliefs are in the best interest of the children and supportive of effective parenting.

The evaluators should not confine themselves to questions that only lead to extensive subjective stories by each parent. This merely results in conclusions based on who has the best story, and provides no insight into the dynamics of the two people who are creating the custody conflict. This approach, in addition to requesting relevant information, encourages the use of questions that expose the destructive patterns that occur between parents. "What would be

continued on page 15

L.A. EXPRESS APPRAISALS

Patti Kraakevik - Licensed General Certified Appraiser

25 + years experience in real estate appraisals

Federal Estate Tax - Estate Tax Planning, including Gift Taxes

Single Family Residences - Commercial Buildings - Apartment Buildings - Condos

Located in the Encino Law Center

15915 Ventura Blvd., Suite 303, Encino, CA 91436

818/343-7802 Fax: 310/831-6954

Ca. Lic. # AG016568

President's Message ...continued from page 3

your legs off (metaphorically speaking). This is the juror that is secretly plotting your downfall, but you cannot see it. This is the juror that leads you down the primrose path only to force you into a dead end. This juror, in basketball parlance, is the one, two or three seed, that you think is going to take you to the Promised Land, but ends up destroying one of your four brackets to the Final Four.

In between these two types of jurors is where almost 90 percent of the rest of jurors fall. These jurors could go either way. They could follow or they might not. They could lead, or they might not. These are the middle of the road jurors. They have done their homework and could end up giving you everything you want. Or, they could have a bad night's rest and come out flat, sleepy, and miss your stellar closing. These jurors, of course, in basketball terms are your seven through ten seeds. They have talent, but will they come to play when you really need them.

Finally, there are the underdog jurors. These are the jurors that come from nowhere and save the day. You expected so little from them thinking that they were not strong. These are the silent types who read during breaks and rarely make any eye contact. Yet, when they retire to the jury room, these jurors break out and shine turning everyone else's head. These jurors, in my basketball analogy are the thirteenth through sixteenth seeds. These are Austin Peay, Gonzaga, Princeton, and so many more that also threaten to completely eliminate you from one of your brackets.

Now, you may still be asking yourself how in the world any of this has to do with practicing law in the San

Fernando Valley. Well, predicting the winner of the NCAA Basketball tournament is much like predicting what a jury will do. You can do all the homework you want, and study all the trends that you can find, but ultimately, you will get wild card juror or the underdog juror that will muck up all of your plans.

So, what exactly is the moral of the story and its relationship to the San Fernando Valley Bar Association? Well, funny you should ask.

I certainly can't stop you from playing the office pool, but I can give you more certainty than what you might get from going to trial. Specifically, why not strongly consider mediation.

For about five years now, the Bar Association has put together a panel of some of the best mediators in the Valley. Their success rate is about 65%, and unlike the vagaries of the office pool and the idiosyncrasies of a jury, our mediators will give you 110%, and will take the uncertainty away from your client's litigation.

There is no certainty in basketball and certainly no certainty in placing a decision with a jury. However, parties to mediation know that a settlement will remove all uncertainty. Play the office pool if you want, but if you really want to win, stop spending time figuring out which No. 14 is going to beat a No. 3. Figure out, instead, how to get your case to mediation.

P.S. I am not a graduate of Duke, Austin Peay, Gonzaga or Princeton. ☺

James Felton can be contacted at (818) 382-6200 and jfelton@greenbass.com.



Advanced Mediation Services

Myer J. Sankary, ESQ. Mediator

"Your Guide to Dispute Resolution"

Author, lecturer, and practitioner of innovative negotiation strategies!

Proven track record of over 500 successful mediations. J.D. Harvard Law School, 1965,

Pepperdine Law School Advanced Mediation Program 1996, Director, SCMA;

Panel arbitrator and mediator for all LA Superior Courts. Experienced business transactional and litigation lawyer in contracts, torts, probate, real estate, construction. AV Rated.

12925 Riverside Drive
Third Floor
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Call
818.325.8989

Fax 818.325.8980
email: myer@sankary.com
www.sankary-mediate.com

Report From The Foundation



BY DAVID GURNICK, PRESIDENT, VALLEY COMMUNITY LEGAL FOUNDATION OF THE SFVBA

How many ways do you, your loved ones and friends benefit from a system of laws, and respect for the law? How would you benefit from a community imbued with even greater respect?

Do you have the luxury to feel reasonably secure when you awake each day, go to work, take kids to school, and come home?

Do you enjoy our system of private property ownership – real property, tangible things, and even the creations of your mind?

Have you benefited from our system's ability to grow, to change, and even to correct acknowledged mistakes of the past?

Do you take for granted, as we all do sometimes, after more than 225 years of American freedom, that we are not subject to the whims of a monarch,

tsar, emperor, fuehrer, generalissimo, president for life, dictator or the like? In most places throughout history, and many nations today, the same cannot be said, or thought, or felt.

Since you are reading this, your profession contributes to, and benefits from respect for the law, because you earn your daily living from working in the law or a directly law related field.

Respect for the law and its institutions, the ideal our Foundation serves, means supporting heroes who protect us, like police and firefighters. It also means a lot more because the law involves much more than just law enforcement.

Thanks to our system of laws and shared respect for law, we enjoy property rights, which provide 300 million people the opportunity to enjoy the

luxury of treasured possessions. Our nation enjoys intellectual property rights, which have resulted in advances in arts and sciences over the past 225 years, beyond any other era in human history. We enjoy privacy, freedom of expression and religion. Every day, we enjoy the precepts of the Founders: life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness.

These benefits start with respect for law; and this respect starts here in our community. Your support for the Foundation helps us recognize, and encourage continuing respect for the law and its institutions.

Since this month is the mid-point of the Foundation's fiscal year a brief status report is in order. We are planning our annual dinner (April 30 at the Woodland Hills Hilton), and our grants and scholarship committees are at work receiving applications and making selections for award recipients. Our recruiting committee is identifying new members for our board. We are moving forward on our program to establish a permanent capital endowment. We are also working on a children's waiting room at the Van Nuys courthouse.

Now in our 25th year, the Foundation has savings of just over \$100,000. In the recent past, we have raised and given away about \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year in grants and scholarships. We have supported law related programs, including adoptions of young children, the drug court graduation ceremony, publications on the rights and responsibilities of new adults, legal aid to battered spouses attending court, and beautifying the Valley courts with murals honoring the Bar Association's 75th Anniversary.

The legal community is large in the Valley and growing. We include thou-

Environmental Transactions & Litigation Since 1982



STEPHEN T. HOLZER

Parker, Milliken, Clark, O'Hara & Samuelian,
a prof. corp.

Phone: (213) 683-6671
E-mail: sholzer@pmcos.com

continued on page 14

SFVBA MEMBER BENEFITS



SFVBA rents its **Executive Boardroom** for depositions and hearings. Amenities include breakout room, beverage service, and free parking. Only \$125 per day.

SFVBA attorney members receive **free library privileges** at the University of West L.A. San Fernando Valley Campus in Warner Center. Call (818) 883-0529 for library hours.



Receive **5% monthly discount** and special equipment pricing through AT&T Wireless Services. Stop by your AT&T wireless store or call (866) 4AWS-B2B. Mention Code 50001405.

Join Southland Civic Federal Credit Union and gain access to **great interest rates** on deposits and loans, no fee traveler checks, and more. Call (800) 426-1917.



MBNA offers members the exclusive **Platinum Plus MasterCard**. Call (800) 457-3714. Mention priority code OMKA.

Mercury Office Machines offers members discounts and flexible lease options on all Panasonic copiers, printers, and fax machines. Call (818) 782-1221.



Contact the SFVBA office to receive a package of **discount coupons & membership cards** for Southern California's major theme parks and attractions.

Now Messenger Service offers members who open new accounts a **5% discount** off their current rates. Call (818) 774-9111.



Chase Manhattan Mortgage gives members **1/2 point fee discount** on fixed and adjustable rate programs. Call John Bartnicki at (818) 226-0888.



Attorney Services of Southern California offers SFVBA Members who open a new account **FREE court filing** service and guarantee to beat current process service rates. Call (818) 772-4795.



Save 20% on investigative services. Contact **J R Investigations** (818) 704-9925.

SFVBA members **save \$10** on new AAA Membership. Please also ask us about new insurance with many available discounts. Call Nell Derderian at (805) 306-8181.



To obtain **fleet pricing** on your next car, call Gina Lopez at Keyes Express at (818) 907-4168.

Membership Has It's Priveleges!

Applications For Admission

THE FOLLOWING JOINED THE SFVBA IN JANUARY 2003:

Richard Stuart Adams
5811 Cantaloupe Ave
Van Nuys, CA 91401
(818) 994-7794
symcomp@aol.com

Gevik Anjirgholian
518 North Kenwood St. Apt. 301
Glendale, CA 91206
(818) 419-6620 Fax (818) 240-4083
ggghln@aol.com
Personal Injury

Stanley Walter Arky
Bien & Robinson
16950 Sherman Way
Van Nuys, CA 91406
(818) 757-2111 Fax (818) 757-2112
arkysw@yahoo.com
Criminal Law, Workers' Compensation

Yolanda Simmons Bachtell
5347 Natick Avenue
Van Nuys, CA 91411
(818) 288-8372 Fax (818) 788-7611
ybachtell@hgla.com
Criminal Law, Family Law, Personal Injury

Frank Bacon
10153 1/2 Riverside Dr. PMB320
Toluca Lake, CA 91602
(818) 761-5000 Fax (818) 761-4680

Keren Bahar
Law Offices of Keren Bahar
23708 Welby Way
West Hills, CA 91307
(818) 884-3160 Fax
bahar_keren@hotmail.com
Immigration & Naturalization

Omero Banuelos
Loewenthal, Hillshafer & Rosen, LLP
15260 Ventura Blvd. Suite 1400
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
(818) 905-6283 Fax (818) 905-6372
obanuelos@lhrlaw.net
Community Association Law

George Benetato
Law Offices of George Benetato
16144 High Valley Place
Encino, CA 91436
(818) 986-5050 Fax (818) 788-1177

David A. Berkovitz
4333 Park Terrace Drive Suite 200
Thousand Oaks, CA 91361
(818) 597-9787 Fax (818) 597-5840
Personal Injury

Svetlana Brontveyn
Michael Rubin & Associates
5410 Rhodes Avenue No. 210
North Hollywood, CA 91607
(818) 508-5874
sbront@earthlink.net

Debra K. Butler
P.O. Box 2301
Pasadena, CA 91102-2301
(818) 951-2414
debrabutler@verizon.net

Herbert George Chesney
6527 Debs Avenue
West Hills, CA 91307
(818) 346-3876 Fax (814) 346-6469

Stephen L. Chesney
VanLochem & Chesney LLP
6565 Sunset Blvd. Suite 422
Los Angeles, CA 90028
(323) 993-0500 Fax (323) 993-0501
schesney@vandc.net
Business Litigation

Robert T. Conley
1390 E. Hillcrest Drive No. 603
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
(805) 373-0060 Fax (805) 373-0051
RTConley@hotmail.com

Martha Contreras
15637 Labrador Street
North Hills, CA 91343
(818) 894-3506 Fax
mcontreraslaw@aol.com

Ronald Cooperman
Anz & Associates
P.O. Box 33982
Granada Hills, CA 91394
(818) 788-6120 Fax (818) 788-6130
Real Property, Workers' Compensation

Douglas Crowder
Law Offices of Douglas A. Crowder
P.O. Box 10819
Glendale, CA 91209
(818) 767-4936 Fax (818) 767-6116
dcrowder@crowderlaw.com
Bankruptcy, Debtor's Rights

Dennis P. DeFranzo
Marrone, Robinson, Fredrick & Foster
111 North First Street Suite 300
Burbank, CA 91502
(818) 841-1144 Fax (818) 841-0746
Civil Litigation

Jhayne M. Eddy
The Wealth of Nations Foundation
5429 Cahuenga Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601
(818) 429-7757
Jhayne@Tmail.com
Corporate Law, Criminal Law, Juvenile, Litigation

Ayman I. Elsharkawi
P.O. Box 3734
Granada Hills, CA 91394
(818) 357-8529
elsharkawi_a@hotmail.com
General Practice

Louis Jay Esbin
Law Offices of Louis J. Esbin
27951 Smyth Drive Suite 108
Valencia, CA 91355-4049
(661) 257-3636 Fax (661) 257-3297
esbinlaw@sbcglobal.net
Bankruptcy, Commercial Transactions

Jonathan W. Evans
Jonathan W. Evans & Associates
12711 Ventura Boulevard Suite 440
Studio City, CA 91604-2456
(818) 760-9880 Fax (818) 760-9881
dukejwe@aol.com
Securities

August C. Farnsworth
19609 Sherman Way No.322
Reseda, CA 91335
(818) 882-4640 Fax (818) 465-1337
beachbrat2001@aol.com
Litigation

Mark Jeffrey Feuer
Law Offices of Mark J. Feuer
2107 West Commonwealth Ave. No. 408
Alhambra, CA 91803
(818) 631-3667 Fax (818) 884-1850
mjfesqlaw@earthlink.net
International Law

Martin H. Flam
P.O. Box 4072
Ventura, CA 93007
(805) 647-7677 Fax (805) 647-3839
kle218@aol.com

Robert J. Frakes, Ret.
P.O. Box 166
Acton, CA 93510
(818) 919-6606

Raymond Arthur Garcia
Law Offices of Raymond A. Garcia
516 Pensfield Place No.104
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 495-4653

Guadalupe Y. Gonzalez
Office of District Attorney
P.O. Box 3444
Granada Hills, CA 91394
(818) 898-2512

Andrew S. Jordan
Cislo & Thomas LLP
233 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 900
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 451-0647 Fax (310) 394-4477
ajregister@cislo.com
Copyright, Intellectual Property,
Patent, Trademark

Phillip R. Koch
Roberts, Ure & Koch
800 Wilshire Boulevard Suite 1050
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 202-6070 Fax (213) 202-6075
raiderphil@earthlink.net
Bankruptcy, Personal Injury, Probate

Rene Llapur
3836 N. Poppyseed Lane Apt.G
Calabasas, CA 91302
(818) 880-8038 Fax
rene.llapur@pepperdine.edu
Law Student

Katherine C. Lynch
Law Offices of James P. Reape
23929 W. Valencia Blvd. Suite 404
Valencia, CA 91351
(661) 288-1000 Fax (661) 288-1932
katherineclynch@yahoo.com
Family Law

Gisselle A. Mencia
18136 Delano Street
Tarzana, CA 91335
(818) 774-1416
ucla_07@hotmail.com

Ann L. Sokolowski CLAS
Robinson, Diamant & Wolkowitz
1888 Century Park East Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90067
(310) 277-7400 Fax (310) 277-7584
asokolowski@rdwlawcorp.com
Bankruptcy

Vanessa M. Soto
Lewitt, Hackman, Shapiro, Marshall & Harlan
16633 Ventura Blvd. 11th Floor
Encino, CA 91436
(818) 990-2120 Fax (818) 981-4764
vsoto@lewitthackmann.com
Family Law

Frank Steinschriber
Drucker & Steinschriber
15840 Ventura Blvd. Suite 101
Encino, CA 91436
(818) 995-6515 Fax (818) 990-2537
Frank67688@earthlink.net
Bankruptcy, Family Law, Probate

Christine Durham Thorpe
15 Toluca Estates Drive
Toluca Lake, CA 91602
(818) 509-1091 Fax (818) 509-1187
cdvoce@aol.com

Daniel I. Wagner
Law Offices of Daniel I. Wagner
16661 Ventura Blvd. Suite 506
Encino, CA 91436
(818) 528-2020 Fax (818) 528-2021
danieliwagner@hotmail.com
Civil, Criminal Law, Immigration & Naturalization

The Finest Neutrals Around.



HON. BRUCE J. SOTTILE



HON. ARNOLD H. GOLD



HON. DION C. MORROW



HON. ETTA O. GILLIVAN



HON. REGINALD A. DUNN



HON. ELI CHERNOW



HON. EDWARD Y. KAKITA



RICHARD M. COLEMAN, ESQ.



HON. HARVEY A. SCHNEIDER



CHARLES I. DOLGINER, ESQ.



HON. GEORGE P. SCHIAVELLI



HON. IRWIN NEBRON



GORDON WALLACK, ESQ.



HON. HERBERT L. ASHBY



HON. HAIG KEHIAYAN



HON. ROBERT H. LONDON



HON. MANEY D. CALOF

Amy Newman,
President

310-312-6002
800-347-4512
www.arc4adr.com



CONFLICT RESOLUTION
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

William J. Kropach WORKERS' COMPENSATION STATE CERTIFIED SPECIALIST



UCLA LAWSCHOOL, 1971

20% REFERRAL FEE PAID PER STATE BAR RULES

CHAIRMAN SFVBA WORKER'S COMPENSATION SECTION SINCE 1987

DIRECTOR VCLF OF SFVBA 1980 - 2001

FORMER TRUSTEE OF SFVBA

818-609-7005, EXT. 25

<http://home.earthlink.net/~wkropach>

Report from the Foundation, continued from page 11

Messenger Service Discounts to SFVBA Members



20th Year of Service to the San Fernando Valley/Southern California Legal Community

- Process Serving Per Your Exact Specifications
- Court Filings/Last Minute Court Filings in All Southern California Courts
- Mobile Notary
- Custom Courier Routes
- Regular, Rush and Hot Rush
- Licensed/Bonded/Insured Uniformed Messengers

(818) 774-9111 • (323) 851-7500
(310) 273-3002

*"We Don't Promise Anything
We Can't Deliver"*

sands of lawyers, five courthouses (Chatsworth, San Fernando, Sylmar, Van Nuys, Burbank and the Bankruptcy Court in Woodland Hills). We have a quality State Bar Accredited law school and a strong Bar Association. We have a law-magnet at Monroe High School, and law courses at the Valley's colleges, which include CSUN, Pierce and others.

The legal community's services support, and require help, from attorney services, book publishers, court reporters, forensic accountants, physicians and other experts, insurance adjusters, messengers, photocopy services, document managers, lawyer referral services, legal recruiters, law professors, legal research services and others. Lawyers, together with the wider legal community, can provide even more support for the Valley's Community Legal Foundation and our mission.

I am calling on all law firms and lawyers to help in the following ways:

- Join us at the Law Day dinner, Friday

evening April 30 at the Hilton Hotel. Make a bid at the silent auction. And have fun too.

- Consider making a donation. Make your tax-deductible check payable to "VCLF" or "Valley Community Legal Foundation" and send it to my attention at 21300 Oxnard Street, Suite 250, Woodland Hills, California 91367.

- If you have money set aside in your estate for charity, but aren't sure where you want to direct it yet, consider a donation to the Foundation.

- Many lawyers and firms choose to make charitable donations around the holidays and to let clients and friends know in your holiday greetings. Consider making a donation to the Foundation around the holidays later this year.

- Ask suppliers who help you, to make a donation as well.

Let me know your other ideas and suggestions. Email me at dgurnick@lewitthackman.com. 🐘

RICHARD GORDON

Expertise in Federal and California Securities Laws Compliance – Regulatory – Enforcement SEC – Department of Corporations

- former Branch Chief with the SEC in Washington, D.C.
- former Chief Regulatory Counsel in SEC/ Los Angeles Regional Office
- Arbitrator for National Association of Securities Dealers
- 20+ years private practice experience



OF COUNSEL

LEWITT, HACKMAN, SHAPIRO, MARSHALL & HARLAN

A LAW CORPORATION

16633 Ventura Boulevard • 11th Floor • Encino • CA 91436

(818) 990-2120 • FAX (818) 981-4764

www.lewitthackman.com

Direct Dial: (818) 907-3271

RGordon@lewitthackman.com

Custody resolutions, continued from page 9

unpleasant if you allowed yourselves to come up with a mutual solution for parenting the children?" "What is the danger of letting go of your negative perception of the other as a parent?" With this information the evaluator is able to make more pertinent recommendations in the reports.

Ultimately, the evaluators are committed to working with the parties in custody conflicts from a collaborative spirit with a deep respect for the children and for the parents. Only by fully anticipating the dilemmas unique to the custody arena and by creating a powerful container that can address these issues can the team accomplish this enormous task. ♣

Renee Leff J.D., M.F.T. and Bruce Derman Ph.D. are certified Child Custody Evaluators. Leff is a licensed marriage family therapist and a specialist in psychological/legal issues. She can be contacted at (818) 734-9602. Derman is a licensed clinical psychologist specializing in divorce issues. He is the author of *We'd Have a Great Relationship if it Weren't for You*. He can be contacted at (818) 735-7194.

Bankruptcy

Refer clients with confidence

**Don't get
blind-sided
by a bankruptcy
issue!
We offer
free
consultations
for all
SFVBA
members.**

Merritt & Hagen

Serving the Valley continuously since 1988

Call for our free desktop reference: "The Basics of Bankruptcy for Attorneys"

(818) 992-1940 <http://www.bk-info.com>

David R. Hagen, Past SFVBA President

When Bankruptcy May Be the Best Solution . . .

Choose a knowledgeable attorney who provides personal/timely attention
& recommends bankruptcy only when it is the best solution



STEVEN R. FOX

ATTORNEY AT LAW
PRACTICE LIMITED TO BANKRUPTCY

Experienced & knowledgeable in Chapters 7 and 11
for both debtors and creditors
and the complexities & advantages of
Chapter 13 bankruptcies

17835 VENTURA BLVD., SUITE 206, ENCINO, CA 91316 818-774-3545



ATTORNEY TO ATTORNEY REFERRALS...

APPEALS & TRIALS

\$95/hour. I'm an experienced trial/appellate attorney, Law Review. I'll handle your appeals, trials or assist with litigation. Alan Goldberg (818) 421-5328.

EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION

Sexual Harassment Discrimination, Wrongful Termination, QuiTam/ Whistleblower, Overtime Violations, etc. 25% Referral Fee paid to attorneys per State Bar Rules. Law Offices of Jill B. Shigut (818) 708-6655.

PATENT, TRADEMARK & COPYRIGHT

Over 17 years full service IP-patent and trademark procurement, infringement clearance and litigation. Many projects at fixed reasonable rates. David L. Hoffman, Esq. (661) 775-0300.

STATE BAR CERT. WORKERS COMP SPECIALIST

Over 25 years experience-quality practice. 20% Referral fee paid to attorneys per State Bar rules. Jack Goodchild, PLC (818) 380-1600.

TRADEMARK APPLICATIONS

Don't your clients deserve quality and fast service? Alan I. Cyrlin, Esq. U.S. and international trademark registration. AlanCyrlin@msn.com/ 818-609-2367. *The Alacrity Advantage.* SM

WORKERS' COMP & SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY SPECIALIST

Over 20 Years Experience. 20% Referral Fee paid to Attorneys per State Bar Rules. State Bar Certified. Robert Lee Finestone (818) 879-9950 • (805) 496-3477.

WRONGFUL TERMINATION

25% Referral Fee paid to attorneys per State Bar Rules on Wrongful Termination, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Federal False Claim Cases. 20+ years experience; Heavy Jury Trial Experience. Danz & Gerber (818) 783-7300

EXPERT...

STATE BAR DEFENSE & PREVENTATIVE LAW

Former: State Bar Prosecutor; Judge Pro Tem. Legal Malpractice Expert, Bd. Certified CA & ABA. BS, MBA, JD, CAOC, ASCDC (818) 986-9890 Fmr. Chair SFBA Ethics, Litigation. Phillip Feldman www.LegalMalpracticeExpt.com. StateBarDefense@aol.com

SPACE AVAILABLE...

ENCINO

Premium Encino executive suites include receptionist, conference room, tax library, kitchen. Photocopying, underground parking available. 15821 Ventura Blvd Suite 275. Call T. Ball. 818.990.6363

One interior office available within a suite at the ENCINO LAW CENTER. Access to law libraries, conf. rooms, copiers, kitchen, etc. Call George (818) 788-3651.

TARZANA

\$1,000/mo. for window office w/secretarial on Ventura Blvd. with view, conference room, etc. Contact Jill at (818) 708-6655.

VAN NUYS

Adjacent to Van Nuys courthouse. Window offices (3) available. Includes receptionist, conference room, copier and fax. Reasonable rent. Call Dianne Myers (818) 947-0118.

WOODLAND HILLS

Spectacular view office in Attorney Suite, which includes receptionist and all amenities. Contact: Stan Freeman at (818) 884-4100.

WdInd Hls Offc space in 5 attorney suite with or without secretarial. Conf rm, library, copier, storage, kitchen, parking, cleaning service. Karen (818)340-4479.

Terrific penthouse on Ventura Blvd. in Warner Center with great views. One 18x18 exec. and 3 11x14 available. Secretarial bay, kitchen, large conference rooms, library, full amenities. Must see. Call Jean (818) 716-7200 x150.

\$1,150, 11th floor window office in Warner Center. Reception, conf. room, kitchen, secretarial avail. Levin & Levin. Dean or Nancy (818)703-0511.

SUPPORT SERVICES...

COURT REPORTERS

Boutique Service • Worldwide Coverage • Malibu Court Reporters, 35 years' service • All litigation support • DepoSpan network • SFVBA Associate Member • (800) 848-5838 • "You don't have to paddle it alone!"

LAW CLERK/PARALEGAL

Law school graduate (February Bar) is seeking challenging position as law clerk/paralegal. Great credentials, extensive research background, exp. in civil litigation. (818) 512-0485.

NOTARY OF THE VALLEY

Traveling Notary Public. 24 hours-7 Days. Attorneys' Office • Clients' Office • Homes • Hospitals • Jails. David Kaplan (818) 902-3853 SFVBA Assoc. Mbr. www.notaryofthevalley.com

Is A Malpractice Insurance Crisis Looming In Your Horizon? Are You Ready?

Over 15 ~~#~~ carriers have withdrawn from the California market. Will your carrier be next?

The changes in the marketplace are troubling. It is an unknown future.

Non-renewals are commonplace. Some carriers can't secure sufficient reinsurance to operate their professional liability programs.

A major carrier was recently declared insolvent. Other carriers have been downgraded by A.M. Best. Severe underwriting restrictions are now being imposed. **Rates are not certain.**

It's all very unsettling.

Be prepared. Be informed.

Lawyers' Mutual Policyholders are . . .

. . . and have been for the past **25** years

Secure Your Future.

Insure With Lawyers' Mutual.



Investigate Lawyers' Mutual.

Call us directly at **(800) 252-2045.**

Find us at **www.lawyersmutual.com**

Email us at **lmic@lawyersmutual.com**





MICHELMAN & ROBINSON, LLP

a full service law firm

Areas of Practice:

- Banking and Premium Financing
- Commercial and Employment Litigation
- Corporate, Securities, and Business Transactions
- Healthcare and Medical Law
- Insurance Litigation/Coverage
- Intellectual Property, Unfair Competition and Trade Secrets
- Legislative and Administrative Advocacy
- Real Estate and Commercial Leasing



MICHELMAN & ROBINSON, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Los Angeles Office
15760 Ventura Blvd, Suite 500
Encino, California 91436
Tel: 818-783-5530
Fax: 818-783-5507

Orange County Office
4 Hutton Centre, Suite 300
Santa Ana, California 92707
Tel: 714-557-7990
Fax: 714-557-7991

www.mrllp.com



March Events

calendar and MCLE event listings

ADR Section

Topic: Labor and Employment Negotiations: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Speaker: Jim Stott

Date: March 4

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: SFVBA Conference Room, Woodland Hills

Cost: \$30 members prepaid; \$35 at the door

\$35 non-members prepaid; \$40 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

Probate & Estate Planning Section

Topic: Annual Probate Update: Recent Developments and Changes to the Law

Speakers: Jim Birnberg and Sandy Rae

Date: March 9

Time: 12:00 Noon

Place: Encino Glen Restaurant, Encino

Cost: \$30 members prepaid; \$35 at the door

\$35 non-members prepaid; \$40 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

New Lawyers Section

Topic: Nuts and Bolts of Probate Administration

Speakers: Caren Nielsen, Esq.; Pat Chesney, Paralegal

Date: March 16

Time: 12:00 Noon

Place: SFVBA Conference Room, Woodland Hills

Cost: \$15 members prepaid; \$20 at the door

\$20 non-members prepaid; \$25 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

Workers' Compensation Section

Topic: New Medical Protocols for 2004

Speaker: Don Lucien

Date: March 17

Time: 12:00 Noon

Place: Encino Glen Restaurant, Encino

Cost: \$30 members prepaid; \$35 at the door

\$35 non-members prepaid; \$45 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

Litigation Section

Topic: 1-800 Autopsies: Autopsies, The Inside Story

Speaker: Vidal Herrera

Date: March 18

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: SFVBA Conference Room, Woodland Hills

Cost: \$30 members prepaid; \$35 at the door

\$35 non-members prepaid; \$40 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

Rescheduled from January !

Intellectual Property, Entertainment Law & Internet Law Section

Topic: Royalty Auditing in the 21st Century

Speaker: Alan I. Crylin, Esq.

Date: March 19

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Michelman & Robinson, LLP, Encino

Cost: \$10 members prepaid; \$15 at the door

\$15 non-members prepaid; \$20 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

Family Law Section

Topic: Law Office Management

Speakers: Peter Walzer, Esq., John Balian, Esq.,

Commissioner Robert Applegate

Date: March 22

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Encino Glen Restaurant, Encino

Cost: \$38 members prepaid; \$45 at the door

\$45 non-members prepaid; \$50 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

Business Law Section

Topic: Check out the SFVBA website for details

Time: 12:00 Noon

Place: SFVBA Conference Room, Woodland Hills

Cost: \$25 members prepaid; \$30 at the door

\$30 non-members prepaid; \$35 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

SAVE THE DATE!

Topic: Annual Construction Defect Law Seminar 2004 Update

Speakers: Hon. Marvin D. Rowen, James Acret, Paul Makris, G. Christian Roux, Stanley Shure

Date: May 7

Place: San Fernando Valley Campus of UWLA Law School, Woodland Hills

MCLE: 4 Hours

SIGN ME UP!

SEND CHECK TO
SFVBA

21300 Oxnard St.,
Suite 250
Woodland Hills, CA
91367

SECTION _____

NAME _____

STATE BAR # _____

TELEPHONE # _____

CHARGE IT! _____

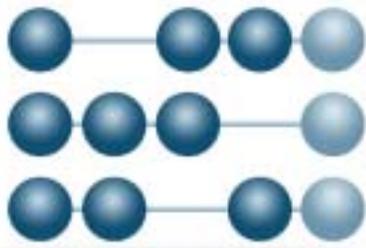
CC # _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL (818) 227-0490 EXT. 105

Food and beverages served at every MCLE event!

* Please note that no credit will be given unless notice of cancellation is provided 48 hours before scheduled event



**KRYCLER
ERVIN
TAUBMAN &
WALHEIM**

AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

Phone: (818)995-1040

Fax: (818)995-4124

15303 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1040

Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

E-mail: INFO@KETW.COM

Visit us @ www.KETW.COM

**Litigation Support • Expert Witness
Forensic Accountants • Family Law Matters
Business Valuations • Loss of Earnings • Damages**

**OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF THE
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION**

**Member SEC Practice Section
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants**

When you need more than just numbers...you can count on us...

Call Mike Krycler or Ken Walheim



21300 Oxnard Street, Suite 250
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CANOGA PARK, CA
PERMIT NO. 348

Change Service Requested