



BarNotes

A Publication of the
San Fernando Valley Bar Association

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR SFVBA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for candidates to the 2004-2005 SFVBA Board of Trustees.

The eight-member Nominating Committee will meet next month to fill six open trustee seats on the 19-member Board. The Committee also selects the SFVBA Treasurer, Secretary, and President-Elect. The Committee can nominate up to 12 candidates for Trustee and two candidates for each officer position. Current President-Elect Alice Salvo automatically becomes President on October 1.

Interested Members can download the SFVBA's *Policy Statement Re: Board of Trustees Responsibilities* at <http://www.sfvba.org/about/boardoftrustees.htm>. Letters of Intent and resumes can be submitted to SFVBA Nominating Committee, 21300 Oxnard Street, Suite 250, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. All nominations must be received by Friday, May 21.

"We are looking for candidates who are committed to the future of the SFVBA," announces SFVBA President Jim Felton. "We want leaders who represent the diversity of our membership: sole practitioners, members of large firms, barristers, in-house counsel, public sector attorneys, lawyers from all areas of law and background."

The Committee must issue their report to the Secretary of the Association by June 10. Nomination by the Committee is not the only way for a member's name to be placed on the ballot. Additional nominations for any office (except that of President or President-Elect) or for Trustee may be made by filing a written nomination with the SFVBA Secretary, Richard Lewis, signed by at least twenty active members of the SFVBA, no later than July 25. Ballots are mailed to attorney members in August and Election Day is September 10. ♣

SFVBA SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR VAST PROGRAM

Attorneys with at least five years experience are invited to participate in the Valley Associated Settlement Team ("VAST") Project scheduled for the week of October 18, 2004 at the Chatsworth courthouse.

The VAST Project began in 1994 as a joint effort of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association and the Los Angeles Superior Court to help the Court reduce its backlog of cases caused by the Northridge Earthquake and then new "Three Strikes Law". The first year, 300 volunteer attorneys disposed of 975 cases, saving the courts an estimated 4,000 trial days. Since then, VAST has been conducted from time to time as requested by the Court. In October 2003, VAST volunteers settled 360 out of 800 targeted civil cases over a two-week period at the Van Nuys Courthouse.

Six departments of the North Valley District will participate. The Bar will need to schedule two pairs of defense and plaintiff's attorneys for each courtroom each day.

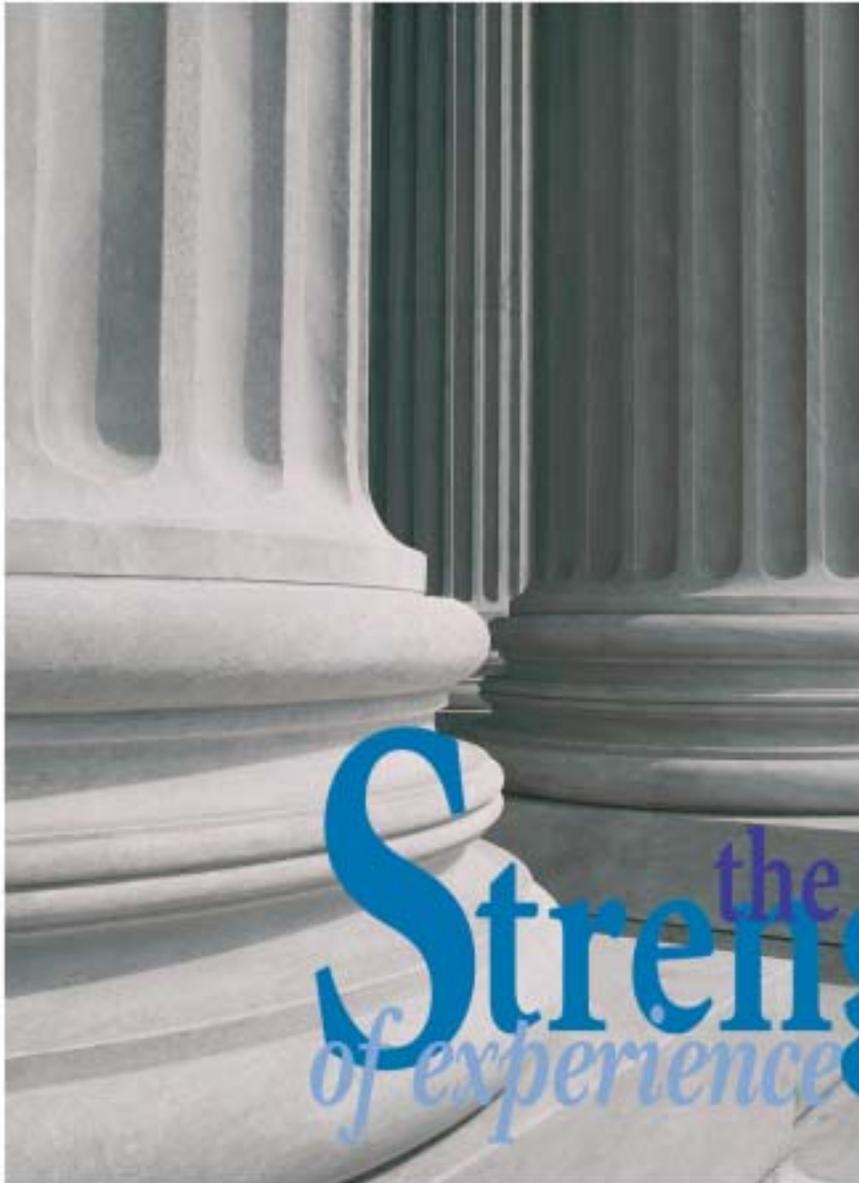
To schedule a convenient date to volunteer, call Aileen at (818) 227-0490, ext. 100 or email Aileen@sfvba.org. Members are also encouraged to spread the word through their firms and colleagues. ♣

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2ND ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION LAW SEMINAR



see page 18



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President's Message

James R. Felton

WHY WE CAN'T TAKE EDUCATION FOR GRANTED

The title of this month's message should give you some clue that I have given up on sports themes for this month. While my prior messages may have made you smile, this month I raise an issue that is unfortunately no laughing matter.

As some of you may know, over the past several years, I have been fortunate enough to perform volunteer pro bono work for the Alliance for Children's Rights. The Alliance, among other things, puts pro bono counsel together with families trying to work their way through the maze of paperwork in order to finalize adoptions. As I have said before, and it bears repeating, a lawyer will experience no greater "win" than being in Court as the Judge tells a 4-year-old (or any age child) that he or she is now officially part of a family. You stand by and watch a child kiss their "new" mom and dad. This act is more rewarding than any jury verdict.

I have encouraged other lawyers to work on behalf of the Alliance, and I now want to present anyone who will listen the possibilities of an equaling rewarding and important experience. For any of you who have children in school, you probably have seen a large proliferation of children "with special needs". When I grew up, these kids were called "retards" or "spaz". Thirty years ago, our school system knew very little about autism, or asperger's syndrome, or ADD, or any of a number of other disabilities. Fortunately, and unfortunately, we now know what these disabilities are (even if we have not yet figured out how to prevent them) and know that even children with these disabilities can learn and be successful members of OUR society. Having a child with autism at home, I know more than I wish I ever needed to know about laws for children with special needs.

I also know that because of my legal training, and my ability to pay to help my child, he has been able to have therapies and aids to help him through school. Unfortunately, not every child is as fortunate.

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Message From LRIS Coordinator

Michele C. Morley



Some of the best aspects of my work are the opportunities I have to work with the attorney members of the SFVBA and LRIS. On a daily basis, I witness the dedication and determination of members to simply do good work. For example, attorneys Anne Adams, Barbara Azimov, Robert Gantman, Ray Hassanlou, Marcia Kraft, Donna Laurent, Richard Lewis, Denise Placencio, Frank Steinschriber, Grace White and Anthony Zinnanti have volunteered their time to serve as panel members of the Limited Scope Representation Panel Pilot Project.

They volunteered with the knowledge that they would have to find time in their already busy lives for some additional meetings. However, they see the potential of the limited scope representation concept as an opportunity to serve the 80-90% of individuals who appear in family law court without legal counsel. These attorneys are giving their time to this project because they view it as a means to assist the judiciary in making court operations more effective and efficient. The pilot project panel will help design staff training and make recommendations on how to successfully operate the program. Please contact any of these attorneys if you have questions or comments about Limited Scope Representation.

Russell Bankes, an SFVBA member since 1961 and an LRIS member for almost that long, died on March 30 after a long illness. Like myself, Russell was originally from Missouri. That usually means that the phrases "stubborn as a mule" and "strong work ethic" apply. When I spoke to him about a referral client, we always spent some time talking about Missouri. I would keep him on the phone so I could hear again that wonderful Missouri way of speaking and Midwest way of thinking.

Russell was willing to help almost anyone, but he was going to be very direct with you about your case. His twang sounded like my father-in-law,

but his legal writing was eloquent. He could not help including an occasional ironic or humorous sentence in his writing and speaking. He once saw a client at a Senior Center that needed immediate attention. His schedule would not permit Russell to help the man, but he picked up the phone and found an attorney to assist the senior in filing a critical document at a very low fee. As Russell said, "It was a case of contempt of court versus not eating." It was a joy to know and work with Russell. His qualities were such that his secretary, Karen Hartich, worked with him for eight years. I will miss our conversations about porch swings and fireflies.

On May 4, the LRIS will staff a booth at the Pasadena City College Law Day activities. In addition to pro-

moting the LRIS, we will inform students about opportunities, services and programs provided in law-related fields. This Law Day is recognizing the 50th anniversary of *Brown vs. Board of Education*.

This month's poem is a verse from the new album by Peter, Paul & Mary. This is their first album in a decade. They are still singing songs that encourage and remind us that giving up is not an option.

*With my hands and with my sweat
I will do what's not done yet
With tenderness and no regret
Embrace the work before me
I will not turn my head
I will not close my heart
I will not still my hands
Until my work is done. ♪*

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David R. Hagen, Past SFVBA President

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The State Bar of California Spring Summit Leadership Forum

On Saturday, June 5, 2004, the State Bar will present the Spring Summit (formerly the Midyear Meeting) with Leadership as the theme. With an ever-changing population, the need for direct training of leaders has become an imperative to strategic planning, meaningful interaction, and successful performance. The State Bar is continuing its tradition of relevant training by offering this one-day conference at Paradise Point Resort and Spa in San Diego.

The Planning Committee, led by Board of Governor's member Demetrius Shelton, has confirmed speakers, including Angela Blackwell, Stewart Kwoh, and Manuel Pastor, co-authors of *Searching for the Uncommon Common Ground*. Also speaking will be Robert Grey, Jr., President-Elect of the American Bar Association, Cruz Reynoso, former Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court, the Hon. Laurie Zelon, Associate Justice, California Court of Appeals, Paul Igasaki, former Vice-Chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Martha Africa, partner at the attorney search firm of Major, Hagen & Africa, and many others. The panels will explore the different paths available to become leaders, what leadership means in the 21st century, and potential leadership careers, such as the bench, the legislature, private practice, academia and public interest positions.

In addition to the Forum, the Spring Summit will inaugurate the Access & Fairness Leadership Academy (AFLA), a pilot program to provide leadership training to a group of twelve selected attorneys from diverse backgrounds that aspire to become leaders and serve our communities. AFLA will address the need for a broad range of leaders in the legal profession reflecting the State's diverse population and ultimately enhancing the public's confidence in the profession.

Participants will receive guidance and advice from current prominent leaders on what is expected of leaders and on the appropriate activities in which leaders should be engaged to be effective in the profession and respected in the community. The leadership training will span one year and consist of four workshops (the first being the Spring Summit), three of which will be held in conjunction with major State Bar events. This project is made possible by a grant from the Foundation of the State Bar of California. The Spring Summit is funded through voluntary contributions. No mandatory dues paid to the State Bar are being used to fund this event.

For more information, call (415) 538-2316 or email programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov 📧

Members In The News



Retired California Supreme Court Justice Armand Arabian will receive the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor at a gala black tie reception in the historic Great Hall on Ellis Island on May 15.

The Ellis Island Medals of Honor are presented by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, Inc. (NECO) to Americans of diverse origins for their outstanding contributions to their own ethnic groups and to American society. Honorees typically include U.S. Presidents, Nobel Prize winners, leaders of industry, and gifted artists, performers, and athletes. Past recipients include Madeleine Albright, Muhammad Ali, Tommy Lasorda, Gregory Peck, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Joe Torre and Donald Trump.

Justice Arabian served the courts of California for twenty-four years at every level. As a member of the Supreme Court, he authored 104 majority opinions. Since his retirement in 1996, he has been involved in arbitration and mediation hearings and was appointed trustee of the Albert Einstein Correspondence Trust.

In 1993, Justice Arabian received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the San Fernando Valley Bar Association for "Dispensing Justice Tempered with Mercy." 📧

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HON. LAWRENCE W. CRISPO



Known as a "litigator's judge" Judge Crispo was an AV-rated trial attorney and community leader, having served both as a National Director for ABOTA and as a Governor for the ABTL. Appointed to the Los

Angeles Superior Court in 1994, he presided over a direct calendar where he deftly applied his trial skills and legal acumen to a wide variety of subject matter. As a member of the court's ADR committee, he has a deep understanding of ADR processes and their potential.

For more information, please contact:

Lucie Barron, President

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Membership Has It's Priveleges!

Battle of the Sexes - Strategies for Successful Negotiation with Members of the Opposite Sex



BY JAN FRANKEL SHAU

Anyone who has ever been married will have to admit that men and women fight differently. So it should not have been a surprise to me to learn that they often also negotiate differently in a mediation setting. As much as I wanted to deny the gender differences in myself and in our profession, after many years of practicing law, the truth is inescapable: there are certain ways that men communicate that are distinct from "a woman's voice". When these differences are better understood, each side of the dispute has an enhanced opportunity to optimize their client's outcome in a negotiated settlement or mediation.

Women Speak a Different Language than Men

The most obvious difference in communication is through the use of language. According to Dr. Deborah Tannen in "You Just Don't Understand", women tend to use conversation as a tool to build relationships, establish connections and to share experiences. This is referred to as "rapport talk". The purpose is not to convey a particular message, but rather to develop and build a relationship. On the other hand, men tend to rely upon "report talk", the purpose of which is to share information. Thus, when a woman undertakes a conversation designed to engender "rapport" and a man understands it as "a report", and responds by trying to "fix the problem", a woman's frustration and disappointment may mount, as she expected empathy, not help.

Because boys emerge within a social hierarchical order, through competitive sports, for example, men tend to focus on results more than women, who may tend to focus more upon the critical goal of maintaining relationships. This difference becomes apparent in mediation where men want to "inform" while women want to "affirm" the same facts and legal findings.

Another example of linguistic differences is "hedging", which is more often used by women than men. A woman may tend to downplay certainty of a particular outcome by instead suggesting, "perhaps it would be better to try another solution," whereas a man is more likely to downplay doubt: "My client can't accept that offer. That's too low." This is also used to rebalance power distances between the speakers. Thus, a woman of high power may use hedging with lower power groups as a way to effectively achieve her goals, whereas a man of lower power may

use hedging with a person of higher power to achieve his goals. Listen attentively to the speech and intonation in your next mediation to determine who is using the softer tone or frequently pausing in their speech to create a sense of uncertainty and indecision. One party's indecision or uncertainty gives rise to the other party's opportunity to present options and offer strategies for resolution that favor their client or side of a dispute. Hedgers beware!

Finally, but most observably, boys learn at an early age to "one up" one another. In negotiation as adults, the men in the room will tend to lobby for leadership by "besting" the others, while the women will tend to collaborate and win through developing critical allies. The conflict arises when men communicate directly about what's necessary to accomplish their goal, and women react as though these direct communications were impolite and overbearing.

Are Men from Venus or was it Mars?

During presentation of the case, gender differences may dictate not only how the parties speak, but how they listen as well. For example, women will often use "insertions" in conversation in order to both seek out more information and show support or validation, whereas men will respond to this with indignation and often insist upon being heard without interruption. Women are accustomed to, and eagerly accept this type of "cross talk" as it tends to build and reinforce rapport. A woman may only feel truly "heard" when the listener responds with interruptions indicating she is empathizing with the story being told. Men, on the other hand, want to get their point across without this type of inquiry and interruption, and feel that it is only in this way that they are truly being listened to and understood.

The Ritual of the Fight

Certain ritualistic behavior may surface in mediation. For example, men fairly consistently utilize a ritualistic opposition by taking a position in a negotiation and zealously mustering all of the arguments possible for their side. This is done through the use of direct speech, and may be seen as a personal attack by the other party. In both men and women, this ritual, although the norm in a litigated

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Public Notice Re: Revisions to Local Bankruptcy Rules

Local Bankruptcy Rule revisions and additions, and associated forms for the Central District of California Bankruptcy Court, have been approved and become effective May 3, 2004.

Number	Title of Revised/New Local Bankruptcy Rules
1002-1	Form of Papers Filed with Court
1007-2	Mailing List or Matrix
1015-2	Related Cases
2016-2	Compensation and Trustee Reimbursement Procedures in Chapter 7 Asset Cases
2072-1	[NEW] Notice to Other Courts
3007-1	Objections to Claims
3015-1	Procedures Regarding Chapter 13 Cases
5075-1	[NEW] Motions for Administrative Orders Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 156(c)
9013-1	Motions (Except Rejection of Collective Bargaining Agreements)
9075-1	Emergency Motions and Motions for Orders Shortening Time

Number	Title of Revised/New Local Bankruptcy Rules Forms
F 1010-1	[NEW] Summons and Notice of Status Conference in an Involuntary Bankruptcy Case
F 1015-2.1	Statement of Related Cases
F 3011-1	Motion for Order Releasing Unclaimed Funds
F 4001-1 SERIES	The Relief From Stay forms were revised and renumbered from 350 to F 4001-1 and a [NEW] declaration form F4001-1.DEC was added.
F 5075-1.1	[NEW] Declaration to be Filed with Motion Establishing Administrative Procedures RE 28 U.S.C. § 156(c)

The revised Local Bankruptcy Rules and forms can be downloaded from the Court's web site, www.cacb.uscourts.gov, by selecting Procedures/Rules/Forms, then Local Bankruptcy Rules & Forms. Printed copies of the Local Bankruptcy Rules and forms will be available for purchase from the copy services at the Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Ana, and San Fernando Valley divisions, and from the Clerk's Office in the Northern Division. ☎



THE PRACTICE

a series of essays on practice of law and life

More on the Big Picture



BY DAVID R. HAGEN

I love looking at some aspects of life's "big picture." Let me give you a few examples:

- 1) That the snack cheese spread that comes out of a can like whipped cream does not need refrigeration. Why? If this is the case, do I really want to put it into my body?
- 2) Why is "grande" not the largest cup of coffee? (I actually stole this comment from a radio ad, but it just seems so appropriate.)
- 3) Did all the lumber you see stacked up at Home Depot actually come from trees? If so, where are all these trees coming from? Are there really that many tree stumps out there somewhere in the forest?
- 4) When I hose down the driveway at home, I notice black dust that apparently falls from the air. Am I breathing this stuff?
- 5) During a commercial break during a football game, we used to see two or three commercials. Recently, I counted six consecutive commercials during a break. Why do I put up with that? Do they really think I won't notice? Does anyone else notice this or am I just that odd?
- 6) Why do men wear ties? They have no practical functionality whatsoever. For that matter, if ties are so cool, why don't women wear them?
- 7) Why are the bottoms of shoes made out of leather? When leather gets wet, it is an extremely slippery surface.
- 8) Why do people sit in traffic for 90 minutes to get to work? Would it not be better to simply get another job or move closer?
- 9) Why is Las Vegas so much fun? A person goes to what essentially is an artificial oasis in the desert to play a game of chance where the odds are decidedly against them. To make things fairer, the casino serves free alcohol that impairs your ability to even discern the unfair odds. What is fun about this? Sure, there is always the buffet, but is that food really that good anyway?
- 10) Why would someone shop for a bargain to have his or her eyes fixed? Choosing the low bidder for someone who will send pulses of laser beam energy into your eyes does not seem smart to me. What am I missing here about this concept?

We get so caught up in our day-to-day life that we fail to step back and look at the big picture. Many times this causes us to miss the obvious and even some of the absurdities that occur in our day-to-day life.

The same is true of our law practices. Let me pass along a few things that have occurred to me recently.

- 1) Why do we call it a practice? I think that most of us get it right and don't need to practice anymore.
- 2) Does opposing counsel actually believe that outrageous story his client is telling him?
- 3) Does opposing counsel really believe that he can prove the position taken in his pleading? For that matter, upon reflection, how does my brief appear to the Court? Is it really credible?
- 4) Before the Judge calls the first matter in the morning and everyone is sitting there ready to go, how much is being billed collectively per hour to the clients in the room? I have been in Courtrooms where there were a hundred or more attorneys waiting their turn. At \$200 per hour, does this really mean that it costs a total of \$20,000 per hour for everyone to just sit there?
- 5) Why is it that so many attorneys will take almost any case for a \$1,500 retainer, knowing full well that the issue will not be resolved for that amount and that the client appears to be problematic? Why do we continue to take these cases?
- 6) I know several attorneys that charge more than \$500 per hour. Doesn't that seem like a lot to you? How much value can one deliver for that amount?
- 7) Is it really that healthy to spend so much time indoors, especially in sealed units where we all breath recycled air all day? Why don't we have conference rooms, or work areas, that have fresh air or are partially outdoors?
- 8) Are you as tired of filling out a timesheet everyday as I am?

Our lives are full of so many questions that go unasked each day because we are too busy to look at the big picture. What are some of the big picture questions that you have not been asking yourself? 🐘

Dave Hagen is a principal at Merritt & Hagen. The firm's practice focuses on representing individuals and small businesses in bankruptcy. David Hagen can be contacted at (818) 992-1940.

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President's Message, continued from page 3

The Alliance has decided to take on another project. The Alliance is seeking to train lawyers to help parents through the special education process. This job is not necessarily about suing school districts. This job is about learning to help mainly low income families who don't know what an IEP is, and certainly have no idea of what assistance they can ask for, or how to fight, when necessary, to get help. Again, I have lots of respect for the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Las Virgenes School District, and all of the districts that have to figure out ways to educate all of our children. Yet, the districts' resources are often limited and those with representation will often be able to get the help they need, while those without representation, simply may not.

The Alliance intends to train lawyers to learn the special education process. I cannot promise you that you will have the instant gratification of an adoption ceremony. I imagine that a lawyer's help in getting a young man or woman speech therapy, or occupational therapy, or even a shadow at school, will not bring the kind of instant results that we see on an adoption Saturday. But, just imagine getting a handwritten letter from your autistic client who couldn't hold a pencil but now can write sentences because of therapy.

I know that we are all busy. I know that we all support our own charities, and generally "give at the office". This is not as simple as putting a dollar in a tin cup. This requires so much more. Yet, think about our fortunate you are to have a law degree, a law practice, and clients that need you. Think, for a moment, that without a proper education, a large segment of our society will never be "smart" enough to be a client. Invest in their future and protect our society for years to come.

If you have an interest, please contact Edwin Egelsee at the Alliance at (213) 368-6010, ext. 135. I promise it is a decision that you will never regret.☺

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

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Report From The Foundation



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

On behalf of the Foundation and the community, thank you to all who attended our Law Day Dinner last Friday April 30, and to our sponsors, donors and auction winners. Thank you for your contributions and support for the Foundation and the community.

The money you helped the Foundation raise pays for scholarships for students headed to careers in law, grants for adoptions for parentless children, court assistance for abused spouses, court programs to rehabilitate drug offenders and keep them out of jail, and support for the Lawyer Referral & Information Service.

We honored news correspondent Manny Medrano, a reporter who has covered the U.S. Supreme Court and also provided legal analysis for local television, covering most important

national and local news stories over the past decade. We also honored local police agencies and their representatives. These included County Sheriff Lee Baca, Hon. Greig Smith and Dennis Zine, who serve as members of the L.A. City Council and as reserve LAPD officers, attorney Alan Skobin who is a member of the L.A. Police Commission and a reserve L.A. County Sheriff, City of San Fernando Police Chief Anthony Alba and LA City Schools Police Chief Alan Kerstein.

Our community's thanks are also due to dinner Chair Anne Adams, and members of the dinner committee Sharley Allen, Bob Kahn, Anne Arvin, Mark Blackman, Deborah Duclon, Neil Elmouchi, Barry Harlan, Patty McCabe, Lynda Schwarz, and Nikki Siercks. These volunteers, along with

all of the Foundation's board of directors, selflessly devote their time and energy to benefit the community's youth, and those whose access to the legal system is challenged. Mere thanks are not sufficient recompense for all they have done and continue to do.

The rest of the Foundation's year provides us an opportunity to focus on our permanent endowment and recruiting. We have taken the first steps to establish a permanent capital endowment to enable the Foundation to earn interest and stabilize funding for our mission. We are also seeking individuals from the community to serve on our Board of Directors. If you or someone you know is interested to get more involved in the Foundation, please email me at dgurnick@lewit-thackman.com. ☺

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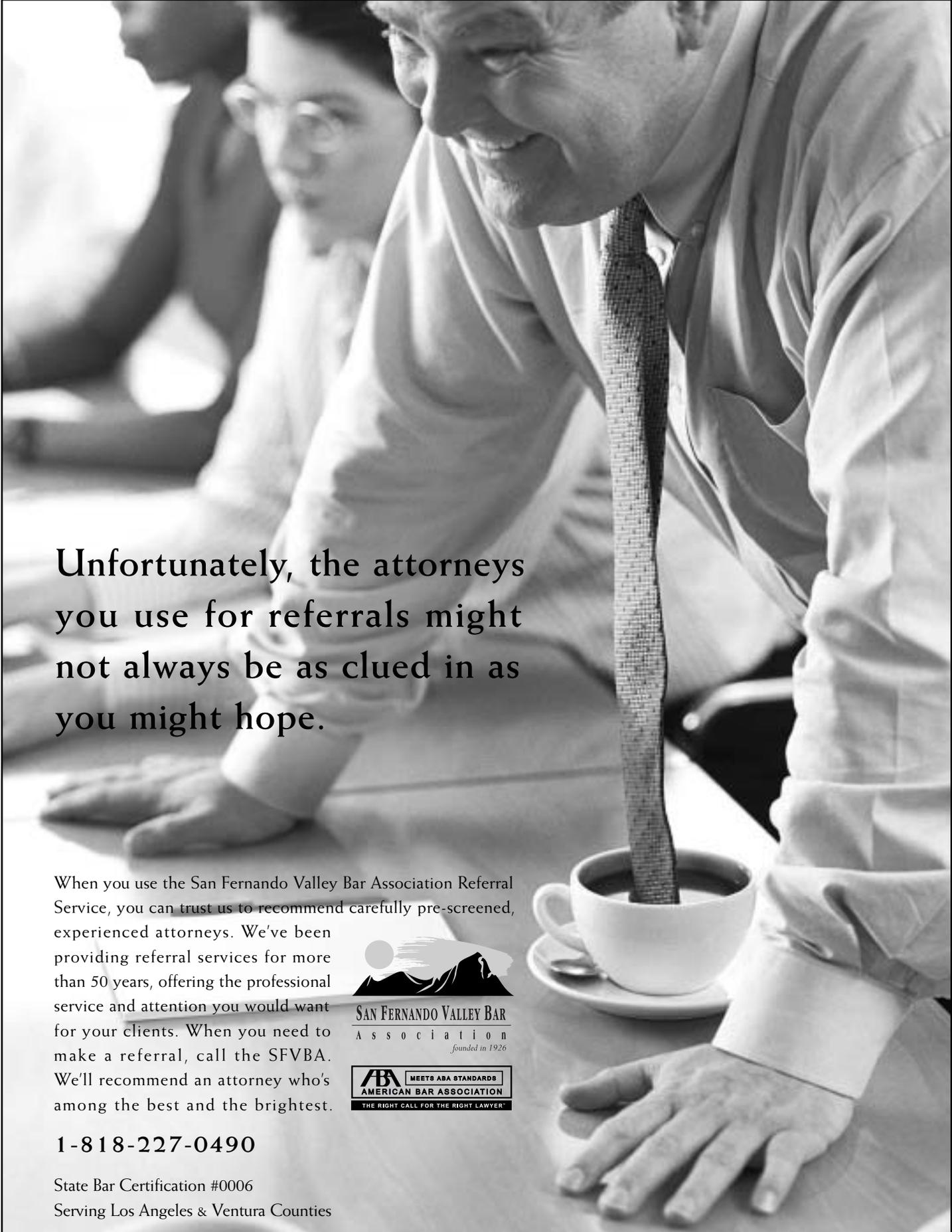
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Battle of the Sexes, continued from page 9

dispute, may serve to impede the path towards settlement rather than enhance it.

Women, on the other hand, are better known to adopt ritual apology than ritual opposition. Think about your childhood. Who among us doesn't remember their mother apologizing when it rained on your picnic? She is not accepting responsibility, but she certainly feels bad that it happened. By contrast, men will usually only apologize when something is their responsibility or their error. Thus, when a woman apologizes when the door shuts in the elevator before every passenger has gotten in, she simply feels sorry that something has occurred. In a negotiation, a man may misunderstand a woman's apology to be accepting responsibility for some event, when she is not intending to do so. The same man may refuse or fail to apologize, making the woman feel that he doesn't care, when in fact his intention is only to communicate that he doesn't take responsibility!

A Few Good Jokes Among Friends

Have you heard the one about the blonde? It is true that a woman's humor tends to be more self-deprecating, whereas a man's humor tends to tease others, but never himself. Again, this may be a source of confusion or misunderstanding as a woman appears to be lacking in confidence when she engages in self-deprecating humor and a man may be seen as making a personal attack, instead of a joke as intended. This is not to censor your use of humor in a tough negotiation, but only to enlighten it by pointing out the hidden messages that may be revealed, or that are unintentionally displayed by it.

The role of Don Quixote

Finally, the roles of machismo, on the one hand, and emotionality on the other, play no small part in every day negotiation. Although it is more pronounced in certain cultures than in others, there is definitely an undercurrent of saving face as a paramount concern amongst men. This quality may be crucial in reaching a durable agreement or establishing a long-term business relationship. By contrast, a woman attorney or her client may be mired in the emotionality of the issues or their feelings about the other party or his/her counsel. This may contribute to resistance to settlement. Formulating a strategy to address these natural tendencies in advance of or during the heat of the battle may prove your best means of breaking down the barriers to successful negotiation.

A skillful and sensitive negotiator will listen for and be attentive to the different styles of negotiating used by men and women. The next time your spouse engages you in battle, watch for these differences, and see if your enhanced knowledge helps to promote a more effective means to resolving the dispute. And if it rains at the picnic, see who apologizes next year. ♣

Acknowledgement and thanks to Nina Meierding for her training in gender and culture issues, on which this article is based.

Jan Frankel Schau is a private mediator, arbitrator and hearing officer and principal of Valley Mediation Services in Encino. Schau can be contacted at (818) 379-1789 or JFSchau@valleymediationservices.com.

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- Perform initial client intake and other organizational duties pertaining to a busy law practice.
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Board Briefs



Minutes of the April 13 Board of Trustees Meeting

Vacated Trustee Seat Filled



Mishawn Yarovesky was appointed by the SFVBA Board of Trustees to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of long time trustee Gerald Fogelman. Fogelman resigned from the Board April 8, citing conflicting work and family obligations. Criminal Defense lawyer Fogelman served as a Trustee for nearly six years. He was also Chairperson of the SFVBA Programs Committee. Fogelman's current two-year term was set to expire September 30, 2004.

Yarovesky is Co-Chair of the SFVBA Intellectual Property, Entertainment & Internet Law Section. She is an associate at the Encino law firm of Greenberg & Bass. Her practice focuses on business related matters, including intellectual property, licensing, entertainment, and mergers and acquisitions.

Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association is working with lawyers in the Santa Clarita Valley to form a bar association in the Northern Valley. The new entity would be an affiliate of the SFVBA and its programs would be administered by the SFVBA.

The initial goals of the bar association would be to sponsor monthly seminars and social events for attorneys in the Santa Clarita area. According to the State Bar, approximately 250 attorneys call the Santa Clarita Valley home.

The bar association's first meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 20. For more information about the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association, contact L. Rob Werner at (661) 252-9022 or lrobwerner@yahoo.com.

Judges Act

The Board of Trustees considered a request by the Los Angeles County Bar Association to join LACBA in sending a letter to California Congressional representatives supporting the Judges Act (H.R.2213/S.1086), and expressing concern over past legislation that limits the discretion of federal judges in imposing fair criminal sentencing. H.R. 2213 and S. 1086 study the incidence of downward departures in criminal cases and repeal provisions of the PROTECT Act that do not specifically deal with the prevention of the exploitation of children. The Board agreed to draft its own letter and considered sponsoring open forums on matters of broad public interest. ♣

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Date:	May 7, 2004	
Time:	9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	
Place:	University of West Los Angeles, Woodland Hills Campus	
Cost:	\$55 members prepaid; \$75 at the door \$75 non-members prepaid; \$95 at the door	
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Online Membership Directory Published

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association's new Membership Directory is now available online. Access to the Directory is restricted to SFVBA members through the Bar Association's website at www.sfvba.org under Member Resources.

To search the Directory, members will need a username and password. For attorney members, the user name is your State Bar number. (Associate members need to call Liz Post at the Bar offices at (818) 227-0490, ext. 101 or email epost@sfvba.org to set up an account.) All members can select a unique password of your choice.

The Directory is linked to the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's membership database and is updated daily. You can search for an active member by name or firm. Each listing includes name, firm, address, phone, email and website address. If you would prefer not to be listed in the Directory, please contact Liz Post at the phone number or email above.

Other new interactive features of the SFVBA website include a renewal application and MCLE calendar and registration. The SFVBA is also in the process of creating list serves for its twelve active Sections.

Section members will receive notices shortly regarding participating in the list serves. If you are not a member of a Section and would like to join to participate in its list serve, contact Aileen@sfvba.org or (818) 227-0490 ext. 100. Section membership is just \$10!🐶



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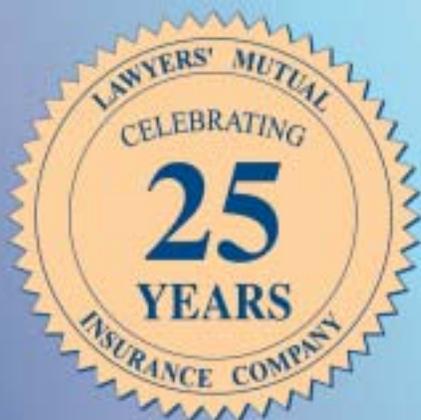
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May Events

calendar and MCLE event listings

Probate & Estate Planning Section and Healthcare Section

Topic: Update from the Bench: Q & A with
Judge Kolostian
Speaker: Judge Richard Kolostian
Date: May 11, 2004
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

Small Firm and Sole Practitioner Section

Topic: Accidental Franchise: Counseling Business Clients
Speaker: Martin D. Fern
Date: May 12, 2004
Time: 12:00 Noon
Place: SFVBA Conference Room, Woodland Hills
Cost: \$20 members prepaid; \$25 at the door
\$25 non-members prepaid; \$30 at the door
MCLE: 1 Hour

Bet Tzedek Legal Services

Topic: How to Prepare a Durable Power of Attorney for
Health Care
Speaker: Janet Morris, Esq.
Date: May 14, 2004
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: 12821 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood
Cost: Free (Attendees will be asked to volunteer one
morning at a Senior Center.)
MCLE: 2 Hours, includes 1 Hour Ethics
RSVP to Irina Portnoy at (818) 487-5211

Workers' Compensation Section

Topic: Medicare Set Aside Trusts & Structures
Speaker: Chad Weinstein, JD, Ringler Associates
Date: May 19, 2004
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: Motions in Limine: Winning Your Case Before
You Pick the Jury
Speaker: James Randall, Esq.
Date: May 20, 2004
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

Intellectual Property, Entertainment Law & Internet Law Section

Topic: I.P.: The Year In Review
Speaker: Stephen Strauss, Esq.
Date: May 21
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: Hot Tips 2004
Date: May 24
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
Invite Your Staff for Staff Appreciation Day!

Office of United States Trustee

Co-sponsored by San Fernando Valley Bar Association
Topic: Should Your Client File Chapter 7 or Chapter 13?
Speakers: Kenneth Jay Schwartz, Nancy Zamora,
Jennifer Braun and S. Margaux Ross
Date: May 25, 2004
Time: 12:00 Noon
Place: Office of the U.S. Trustee
21051 Warner Center Lane, Ste. 105, Woodland Hills
Cost: Free
MCLE: 1 Hour

Business Law Section

Topic: Mediation Techniques Part II
Speakers: Laurel Kaufer, Esq. and Myer Sankary, Esq.
Date: May 26, 2004
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

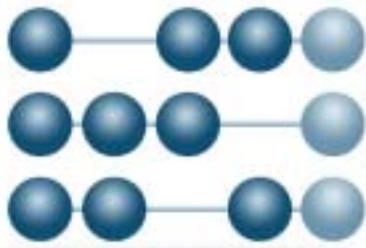
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Food and beverages served at every MCLE event!

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