



BarNotes

A Publication of the
San Fernando Valley Bar Association

In This Issue

ALL THAT JAZZ, AND LAWYERS IN JEOPARDY AN EVENING SO HOT, IT SHOULD BE ILLEGAL!

LISA MILLER, EDITOR

President's Message3

Lawyer Referral Service5

Do You Know a Fed Hurt at Work? ..6

Santa Clarita Valley Bar7
Association

Section Spotlight8

Homeruns Aren't Just9
for Ballplayers

Bench Brief: Judge Craig Richman ..11

Valley Community15
Legal Foundation

New Members17

Classified Ads19

Charity work has never been more sultry than at the Valley Community Legal Foundation's Law Day Gala on Saturday, May 12. The Foundation is offering an evening of sparkling jazz sounds, courtesy of sax man extraordinaire Jimmy Roberts.

The Foundation's Gala is part of a nation-wide celebration reminding the public of one of our great American treasures: the rule of law. The Foundation's celebration, at the Woodland Hills Marriott, puts the national Law Day theme front and center, "Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy."

"I'm excited about all three concepts captured by this year's theme," Marcia Kraft, Foundation President, says. "But I'm especially enamored of 'Empowering Youth.'"

According to Kraft, Law Day is an opportunity for educating the next generation. And the Gala is a fun way to do just that, she says. She is especially proud of the evening's entertainment, presented by sax man Jimmy Roberts.

"I'm excited to be presenting the hard-driving and funky-yet-smooth trademark tones that are unmistakably soulful and unmistakably Jimmy Roberts," she says. "Fund-raising has never been so glamorous."

Roberts has performed with many greats of the music business spanning many genres of music, from the pop-rock sound of Rod Stewart to the smooth jazz tunes of Sade, Rick Braun, Jeff Golub and many

others. In 2000, Roberts collaborated with session guitarist and producer Peter Roberts to form The Roberts Brothers.

"As always, the Gala includes entertainment and dancing and exciting silent and live auctions," Kraft, who practices law in Woodland Hills, says. "Prizes range from restaurant gift certificates to event tickets to goodie baskets."

Justice Armand Arabian, this year's Fernando Award winner, will present the *Armand Arabian Law and Media Award* to television screenwriter Bill Chais at the Gala. Chais, who practiced criminal law for a decade with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, joined Mickey Fine to form Fine & Chais in 1995, doing criminal defense work. But at some point he wanted to use the other side of his brain.

Starting in 1999, Chais worked for three years as a staff writer for the CBS Television drama series "Family Law" and then worked as a staff writer and consultant for the ABC drama "The Practice."

"Everything I learned about the law, and writing about it, came from my six years as a public defender," Chais, whose license is inactive, says. "I worked with prostitutes, drunks and petty thieves, and even tried capital murder cases."

"I'm looking forward to a sell-out crowd," Kraft says. "I hope everyone knows to make reservations early, or they might get closed out." 🍷



About three hundred members and Bench officers attended Judges' Night on February 22, 2007 at the Hilton Woodland Hills. The event honored Burbank Judge Michelle Rosenblatt as the SFVBA 2007 Judge of the Year, Commissioner Alan Friedenthal for his efforts to establish a Children's Waiting Room at the Van Nuys courthouse; and Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Michael Nash with the Stanley Mosk Legacy of Justice Award.

Calendar of Events
Page 23

OUR EMPLOYMENT LAW DEPARTMENT

We assist business owners, in-house counsel, human resource professionals and senior management, prepare and implement policies and practices in efforts to create a trouble-free workplace and materially reduce the risk of disputes and litigation. In addition to giving advice to our clients on daily employment matters, we also create employee handbooks and prepare and negotiate a variety of employment agreements. We provide training programs and seminars on employee issues such as harassment, wage and hour, performance management and supervisor skills. If disputes arise, we aggressively prosecute or defend clients before courts, arbitrators and administrative agencies.



SUE BENDAUID-ARBIV
(818) 907-3220



STACEY L. WEST
(818) 907-3277



NICHOLAS KANTER
(818) 907-3289



NICOLE KAMM
(818) 907-3258

A full service law firm for more than 35 years.

- **Business (Transactions and Litigation)** -- Corporations / Partnerships / LLCs
Commercial Finance • Employment • Environment • Equipment Leasing • Franchising
Health Care • Intellectual Property • Land Use / Development • Mergers / Acquisitions
Real Estate Finance, Leasing, Sales and Acquisitions • Tax Planning
- **Consumer** -- Family Law • Personal Injury • Tax and Estate Planning

LEWITT HACKMAN

LEWITT, HACKMAN, SHAPIRO, MARSHALL & HARLAN
A LAW CORPORATION

16633 VENTURA BOULEVARD, 11TH FLOOR, ENCINO, CALIFORNIA 91436

(818) 990-2120 • 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

Editor
Lisa Miller

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PresidentPatricia McCabe
President-ElectSue Bendavid-Arbiv
Secretary.....Tamila Jensen
TreasurerRobert Flagg
Past President.....Richard A. Lewis
Executive DirectorElizabeth Post

TRUSTEES

Chancela Al-Mansour	Seymour I. Amster
Jonathan Arnold	Ronald Gold
David Gurnick	Wendy Hartmann
Irene Mak	Steven G. Mehta
Everett Meiners	Sanford L. Michelman
Carolyn Reznik-Camras	Myer J. Sankary
Jan Frankel Schau	Jeffrey M. Slater

STAFF

Associate Executive
Director.....Michele Morley
Referral CoordinatorGayle Linde
Referral CoordinatorLucia Senda
Referral CoordinatorRosita Soto
Events Coordinator.....Linda Temkin
Administrative AsstAileen Jimenez

SECTION CHAIRS

ADRAlan Saler
Business LawSteven R. Fox
Criminal LawSeymour Amster
Louisa Pensanti
Family Law.....Keri Caetano
Michelle Robins
Intellectual Property, Entertainment
and Internet LawMishawn Nolan
LitigationRobert Flagg
Jan Frankel Schau
Cynthia Elkins
New LawyersJustin Gold
Probate & Estate
PlanningWendy Hartmann
Marlene Seltzer
Small Firm and
Sole Practitioner.....Lisa Lerner Miller
Women LawyersHillary Grosberg
Workers' Comp.....William 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

© 2007 San Fernando Valley Bar Association

Heroes and Heroism, Real and Fantastic Foundation Presenting Honors at Law Day Gala

PATRICIA L. McCABE, SFVBA PRESIDENT



On May 12, 2007, the Valley Community grants for non-lawyers. The members of this Legal Foundation of the San Fernando Valley Bar Board do not do this volunteer work for Association is hosting its annual Law Day Gala notoriety: They do it for the act of giving. event, "Jazzy Nights." They work for months on end to host an event that is successful, entertaining and fruitful. The evening will feature the sounds of respected jazz musician Jimmy Roberts. It is a significant opportunity for attorneys, bench officers, civic leaders and members of the Community Legal Foundation. Last year, the Foundation awarded more than 20 educational scholarships and \$24,000 in community grants distributed. Each year, the number of scholarships has increased, as has the amount of community grants.

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee." – Marian Wright Edelman

The Law Day Gala is a fun event, albeit with a serious purpose. The word "fun" is not often associated with legal dinners, however. Although the event includes speeches and awards, this event is different from most bar dinners: The honorees are unique, the event centers around two auctions and it wraps up with great music and dancing.

This year, the Foundation is presenting the *Armand Arabian Law & Media Award* to Bill Chais, the producer of the hit television show *Shark*, starring James Woods and Jeri Ryan. Chais was a public defender and criminal defense attorney from the San Fernando Valley. The Foundation is honoring members of local law enforcement agencies and the Los Angeles Fire Department for their heroism. The Gala features both a silent auction and live auction during the evening.

Too often, the larger community views lawyers harshly. Yet each year, the members of the Valley Community Legal Foundation come together with the goal of working to raise funds for educational scholarships and community

To reserve your tickets, contact SFVBA Events Coordinator Linda Temkin at (818) 227-0490 ext. 105. Table sponsorship, event sponsorship and auction donation opportunities are available. For more information, contact Christine Lyden at (818) 888-8359. ☎

PERSONAL INJURY LAW GROUP

We pay referral fees pursuant to the Rules of the California State Bar

AREAS OF SPECIALTY:

- Wrongful Death Claims
- Vehicle Accidents
- Aviation/Train Accidents
- Pedestrian Injuries
- Dog Bites
- Slip and Fall
- Spinal Cord/Brain Injuries
- Premise Liability

Toll Free: 877.999.5529

www.personalinjurydefenders.com



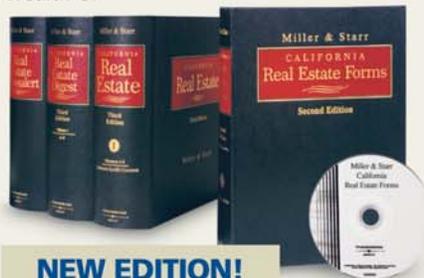


This forms book guides you through every turn of California real estate law.

You get your best results at the intersection of form and substance.

You get more than up-to-date forms with *Miller & Starr Real Estate Forms 2d*. This forms set by Alexander Hamilton also includes a wealth of drafting comments covering

- Alternative considerations and approaches
- Substantive law
- Procedural concerns
- Strategies for negotiating and drafting specific provisions and clauses



NEW EDITION!

Vol. 1 available May 2005
More forms and commentary.

Miller & Starr is a California classic. It contains

- Easy-to-use, easy-to-customize forms
- Extensive coverage of commercial and residential real property
- Extensive cross-references to the entire Miller & Starr California Real Estate Library

Also available on Westlaw.®

To order or for more information, call
1-800-762-5272.

The most valuable view in California real estate, *Miller & Starr*.

A Senior Moment Bar Staffer Rosie Soto Moves Senior Legal Program Forward By Leaps and Bounds

MICHELE C. MORLEY, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC SERVICE



This month I have asked Rosie Soto to contribute to this *Bar Notes* column because she has worked so hard and effectively on expanding our Senior Program.

So, Rosie Soto, please share your good news!

“For two years I have worked to identify other senior centers that would benefit from hosting our Senior Legal Program,” Soto says. “A conversation that Michele shared with me about wanting to bring more opportunities to our attorneys practicing in Santa Clarita set me to investigating senior programs in that area.”

Soto quickly found that the Santa Clarita Valley Committee on Aging/Senior Center was the Senior Center in that area. According to Morley, she mentioned this idea in a report to the Board of Trustees and Caryn Sanders, the President of the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association, immediately volunteered to get involved.

“She was a great help,” Soto says. “The staff at the Center wanted the attorneys coming to the Center to offer their legal advice to have offices in the area so that the seniors could visit their offices when necessary.”

Morley emphasizes the importance of this arrangement.

“Of course, that is what we do with the programs we run in the San Fernando Valley,” Morley says. “We have Valley attorneys go to the Valley senior centers.”

Soto says that the next steps were very easy. Caryn Sanders, Morley and Soto met with the director, Suzann Nelsen, and the bilingual caseworker, Armida Dominguez. During the same visit, they met the executive director, Brad Berens, and some of the other staff and seniors.

“In what turned out to be a very short meeting, we all agreed that this would be a good idea and a helpful service,” Soto says. “We decided upon the logistics of scheduling appointments, how we would announce this new service, and that we would have our first appointments in April.”

Soto particularly enjoyed the tour of the facilities. It gave the Bar staff an opportunity to see some of the many programs offered.

“We listened to the quiet in the countryside and watched the buffalo in a field next to the Center,” she says. “I was not sure I wanted to come back to the urban setting in Woodland Hills.”

Morley says that she was struck by what a small world large Los Angeles County can be, and smiled when Nelsen related her prior working experience with the Bar. She had worked at the North Hollywood Senior Center in the 1970s and remembered working with long-time Bar employee Barbara Williams on the Senior Legal Program at that Center.

continued on page 18

When Bankruptcy May Be the Best Solution...

Choose an experienced & knowledgeable attorney who provides personal & timely attention and recommends bankruptcy only when it is the best solution.

Law Offices of Steven R. Fox
Bankruptcy & Related Matters

Debtor and Creditor Representation
Chapter 11 Reorganization
Bankruptcy Litigation
Developing and Rebuilding Companies



17835 Ventura Blvd., Suite 306
Encino, CA 91316 III (818) 774-3545
SRFox@FoxLaw.com

Do You Know a Fed Hurt at Work?

Consider the Federal Employees' Compensation Act Remedies

BY MAX GEST



The Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) provides benefits to which federal civilian employees are entitled if their claims are accepted. This system's rules are significantly different from those of state workers' compensation and personal injury claims. The system is administered by the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP), which has a number of district offices. The San Francisco District Office administers claims in California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii.

For a claim to be approved, the claimant must meet five basic requirements.

The claim must be timely filed. In general, this means that the claimant must file within three years of the date of the injury or last exposure or, in the case of latent conditions, the date on which the claimant knew or should have known of the injury and its relationship to his or her work duties.

The claimant must be a civil employee. This is rarely a concern, because the vast majority of claimants are employed by a federal agency such as the United States Postal Service, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Internal Revenue Service and similar employers.

The next requirement is injury. The employee must show that the employee actually experienced the accident, untoward event or employment factor which caused the personal injury or illness. The claimant must submit adequate medical evidence to

indicate that he or she did in fact suffer a diagnosable medical condition resulting from the incident claimed.

The claimant must show that the injury occurred in the performance of duty. This is generally a straightforward issue in traumatic injury claims, because it involves the question of whether the claimant's injury arose out of employment and occurred in the course of employment. However, this requirement can cause significant difficulty in occupational injury claims and especially in emotional illness claims (stress claims).

The last requirement is causal relationship. The employee must show that the injury, illness or death was causally related to employment factors. However, a claim can be accepted if the injury or illness or death was caused by, aggravated by, precipitated by or accelerated by work duties.

The vast majority of claims that are presented are relatively small claims. For those claims that involve less than \$1,500 in medical bills, when the claimant did not lose time from work and when the employing agency does not controvert the claim, the claim is usually accepted on an administrative basis without a merit review. However, when a claimant incurs more than \$1,500 in medical bills and/or has a period of disability and/or the employing agency controverts the claim, the case must be adjudicated with a merit review by the Claims Examiner.

continued on page 16

GROSSLIGHT INSURANCE, INC.

Superior service and quality products for your law firm

LAWYERS' PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

ALL AREAS OF PRACTICE
SMALL & LARGE FIRMS
FULL TIME & PART TIME
IN-HOUSE COUNSEL
"A" RATED CARRIERS
NO BROKER FEE
NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

(310) 689-5325

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS FOR BUSINESS & HOME

BUSINESS OWNERS' PACKAGE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION
EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE LIABILITY
UMBRELLA
FUDICIARY BONDS
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
AUTO/BOATS/YACHTS
HOMEOWNERS' / CONDO OWNERS'

(310) 689-5344

SINCE 1950

1333 WESTWOOD BOULEVARD . LOS ANGELES, CA 90024
LICENSE NO.0247283

Theater, Judges and Magic, Oh My!

Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association Offers Variety of Programming

CARYN BROTTMAN SANDERS, SCVBA PRESIDENT



February was truly a busy month for our association. We had a night at the theater, a night with the judiciary, a night of magic for MCLE credit and we began a relationship with the Senior Center.

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) has chosen to expand its Senior Center program to the Senior Center of the Santa Clarita Valley. They would like to serve our community using our local attorneys, but more LRS panel members are needed to meet these needs. Please contact Michele Morley at the SFVBA LRS directly for more information on how to get involved.

"A Few Good Men" without Tom Cruise, Demi Moore and Jack Nicholson? I have to admit I had my doubts. But on February 17, 2007, the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association had a social outing to see the performance of the play at the East Repertory Theatre in Newhall. Wow! It was outstanding.

The 81-seat intimate theatre setting and superb cast had us all believing we were part of the drama. It was a great opportunity to experience local theater and mingle with fellow bar members. In addition to purchasing the group of tickets, we put advertisement in the program to help support the production. I am very pleased that we chose to support our local community in this way and I look forward to other events like this. I hope more members and friends will join us.

Thank you to those members and friends who attended the San Fernando Valley Bar Association Judges' Night event. Because of your support, we were able to become a table sponsor and assist our sister organization in this special evening. I have to admit that it was my first Judges' Night. I was truly awed by the unique opportunity to meet and mingle with dozens of local members of the judiciary in a social setting.

Our February meeting was great. Who knew you could get your mandatory substance abuse prevention MCLE credit without listening to a speaker explaining the dangers of substance abuse and how to get help? Deputy Dan Jordan of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has put together an informative and fun seminar he calls "The Magic to Balancing Stress".

Dan is an accomplished magician who regularly performs at the Magic Castle and private parties. Dan used his magic and performance skills to teach the importance of reducing stress and having balance in our lives, which in turn will help to prevent the urge to abuse substances for relief. Those in attendance truly enjoyed the program and probably learned some techniques to help with the stresses of everyday life.

In light of what we learned from Dan the Magic Man, we are going to work toward putting together more social

opportunities for our members. We are planning other theater events and possibly an outing to the Magic Castle and wine tasting event. I would love to hear about other events you might be interested in or want to plan.

Keeping a promise I made to myself, we have already begun to work on our Law Day event set for October 1, 2007 at the Valencia Hyatt. We want to increase our sponsorships this year and need the whole ballroom. If you want to be a part of planning this wonderful event honoring our community heroes, please contact me. 🐾

Responsible for our debts? Sure! But responsible for our parents debts too?

Attorneys are mandated reporters of elder financial abuse (they may not know this), and banks are now mandated reporters as well. The California Court of Appeals has now dredged up Family Code §4400 and Penal Code §270c dealing with adult children's obligations to support their parents.

Please join us for our April Dinner meeting on April 19 at Marie Callendars. Kris Hough of the Santa Clarita Valley Bank will present "Updates on Enforcement of Elder Financial Abuse & California Statutes Imposing Support Obligations from Children to Parents."

It will be interesting to see where that goes!

ARBITRATION and MEDIATION



ALL TYPES OF DISPUTES BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES

International Trade Disputes • Discovery • Accounting and Financial Statement issues and disputes • Corporate and small business marketing issues and disputes • Human Resource issues, and disputes between large corporations and small companies • Contract disputes of all kinds • Homeowner Associations disputes and issues • Domestic and partnership relationship disputes including divorce

ALL REAL ESTATE, INCLUDING: Evaluations • Contracts • Zoning • Development • Construction • Secondary Marketing • Borrowers/Lenders • Residential Escrows • Residential • Commercial • Apartments • Lending • Contracts

Thirty years as CEO, including a nationwide company. Eight years as an Arbitrator

DAVID W. DRESNICK, PRESIDENT ■ ARBITRATOR/MEDIATOR

tel: 818-790-1851 • fax: 818-790-7671 • e-mail: dave@mediationla.com • www.mediationla.com

Nursing Home Abuse or Neglect?

Law Offices of Steven C. Peck can help with:

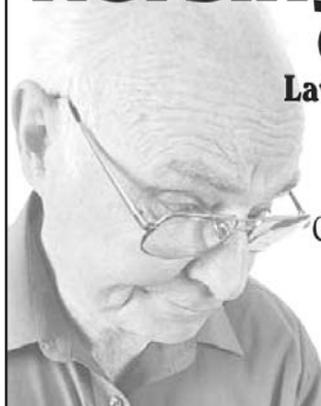
- * Bedsores * Dehydration
- * Falls * Financial Abuse
- * All Elder Law Issues

Conveniently Located in The San Fernando Valley
Call our offices today

818-908-0509 1-866-999-9085

elderlaw@californiaeldercarelaw.com
www.californiaeldercarelaw.com

FREE Initial Consultation



DN072145 090105

Section Spotlight

Holistic Approach: Women Lawyers Programs Range from Court Appearances to Personal Appearance and Everything in Between

LISA MILLER, EDITOR



The Women Lawyers Section of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association sounds like its all about women. But the programs it presents make clear that the Section is really all about lawyers.

The Section strives to offer a wide assortment of programs of interest to men and women alike. Anyone who works in the legal field in any way, in fact.

“While we are the Women Lawyers Section, men, to my delight, have made themselves welcome,” section chair Hillary Grosberg says.

And this is no surprise, considering the heavy hitting subject matter of the abundant program offerings found at this active section. Already, in 2007 alone, the Section has examined “How to Prepare Your Case for Appeal While In Trial,” “Effect of Tax Laws on Bankruptcy, Family Law, Estate Planning, Settlements, Judgments and Real Estate Transactions,” and “What Your Judge Really Wants in Pleadings and Argument,” presented by Judge Holly E. Kendig.

“Most of our speakers speak to all lawyers,” Grosberg, who practices in Encino, says.

Although some programs do sound at first as if they are closely focused on women and their particular interests, these topics can benefit men as well. Many of the issues raise awareness and insights in male audience members that they appreciate and find of benefit in their professional as well as personal lives.

The Section is offering lectures on “How Appearance Affects Discrimination Against Women Lawyers” and “Investment Strategies for Women at any Stage of Life,” both very popular topics for any small business person trying to gain an edge in the competitive market.

But Grosberg says the Section presentations offer many other benefits as well.

“One of the benefits of our section is meeting women that are new to us,” she says. “I’ve been a SFVBA member for almost 14 years and yet month after month, I’m meeting fellow practitioners I never would have met otherwise.”

And these networking opportunities are plentiful at Women Lawyers meetings, she says. The group is

continued on page 10

Sometimes numbers are the only prints left behind.

Arxis Financial is a proven forensic accounting and litigation specialist. We will examine the financial data and help you determine the “bottom line.” Arxis provides financial and valuation analysis needed to resolve a variety of legal disputes from family court to civil, criminal, and probate courts. In many cases our experts can help you reach a settlement. If trial or arbitration is required we give you the support you need to win.

Chris Hamilton, CPA, CFE, CVA
 805.306.7890
 www.arxisfinancial.com
 chamilton@arxisgroup.com

ARXIS
 FINANCIAL, INC.

FORENSIC ACCOUNTING BUSINESS VALUATION FRAUD ANALYSIS

Homeruns Aren't Just For Ballplayers

Using Baseball Arbitration techniques to Get Great Results for Clients

BY STEVEN MEHTA



What does baseball have to do with negotiations? Baseball can help improve counsel's ability to settle a case. More specifically, baseball arbitration can help settle almost any of counsel's cases.

The concept of final offer arbitration, otherwise known as "baseball arbitration," has long been used as a tool to resolve labor disputes between players and management. In baseball arbitration, like any other arbitration agreement, the parties agree that if they cannot resolve their dispute, they will submit the ultimate decision to an arbitrator.

However, unlike other forms of arbitration, in baseball arbitration, the arbitrator has limited options. In one form of baseball arbitration known as "daytime" baseball arbitration, the arbitrator knows the value of the most recent offers of the parties. The arbitrator is then asked to decide which one of the two offers is more reasonable. For example, if a player feels that his salary should be \$1,000,000, but management feels that the player should only receive \$200,000, and the parties are unable to resolve the dispute, the arbitrator is only allowed to choose between the \$200,000 offer and the \$1,000,000 offer.

On the other hand, "nighttime baseball" arbitration applies the same principle but does not inform the arbitrator of the last offers. The arbitrator will decide the matter, and then whichever offer is closest to the arbitrator's number becomes the award of the arbitrator.

The baseball arbitration concept can be easily adapted to litigation and can provide numerous benefits during the course of litigation. Unlike normal arbitration, baseball

arbitration actually encourages the parties to be more reasonable in their approach and to try to arrive at a mutually beneficial agreement. Studies show that when parties in labor disputes have agreed to go to baseball arbitration, approximately 80 percent don't actually use the arbitrator; they resolve the dispute before needing to go to arbitration.

In traditional arbitration, the parties may try to resolve the dispute. However, if they cannot agree to the terms, there is no fallout if they are being unreasonable in their negotiating approach. On the other hand, in baseball arbitration, if the parties are unreasonable, they may be left with the

continued on page 12

Coming to a *Mediation Near You.*

"Steve Mehta is ranked as one of the best mediators..."
Gerald Macrae

"[S]ettled...an unseizable case..."
Paul Bigley

"You have a rare gift to bring about a meeting of the minds..."
Kathryn DiCarlo

"This man is a miracle worker."
Adam Silverstein



Steve Mehta

MEDIATIONS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA

SUPERLAWYER
MEDIATOR 2005-2006

VALENCIA
661.284.1818

CENTURY CITY
310.657.1001

www.stevemehta.com



ARC: Conflict Resolution for the 21st Century



**Hon. Lawrence
W. Crispo**



**Hon. Daniel
A. Curry**



**Hon. Ruth
Essegian**



**Hon. Michael
J. Farrell**



**Hon. Richard
G. Kolostian**



**William N.
McMillan III, Esq.**



AMY NEWMAN, PRESIDENT • STEVEN DAVIS, ESQ., CEO

For complete panelist profiles, visit www.arc4adr.com.

310-312-6002 • 213-623-0211 • Toll Free 800.347.4512

Section Spotlight, continued from page 8

welcoming to new attendees and encourages questions from all participants.

Grosberg says she is especially looking forward to the May program, "What Type of Partner, How to Get There and What will Be Expected of You," presented by Sue Bendavid-Arbiv and Valerie Fontaine. This is expected to be informative, inside-baseball-type information for any attorney looking to get ahead in a law firm setting.

"Our section provides women a chance to meet other women and create referral bases or mentors or attorneys to work with, or new friends," Grosberg says. "This all sounds like "win-win" to me."

Grosberg will soon be handing over the leadership role in the Section. In June, Roxanna Boyle Kaz takes over as chair of the Section. Kaz practices trusts and estate law in Encino.

"I'm always open to suggestions for topics or speakers," Grosberg says. "Just let me know what you would like to hear about, and I'll work to make it happen." 🐘

For more information about the Women Lawyers Section, call A. Hillary Grosberg at (818) 789-1593 or e-mail Hillary@annhillary.com.

SFVBA Mediator Directory

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association has an online Mediator Directory to help members and your clients find qualified mediators.

To find an experienced mediator in all areas of law, visit

www.sfvba.org/public/mediatordir.htm

To be listed in the directory, attorney mediators can visit our website to download an application.

Bench Brief: Judge Craig Richman

Strong Commitment to the Constitution and Physical Fitness Make Bench Officer an Interesting Mix

BY M. JONATHAN HAYES



Judge Craig Richman finished his first year on the bench this January. He sat in Department 3 in Santa Clarita until March 2007, where three of the courts concentrate on criminal matters and one is civil and traffic. He shared bench duties with Site Judge Lloyd Nash and two commissioners until he moved to San Fernando.

Judge Richman presided over arraignments, felony preliminary hearings, plea dispositions and misdemeanor trials, roughly splitting that work with Commissioner Harold Vites. Site Judge Nash deals with 30 to 40 custody matters per day while overseeing the operations of the court.

"It has been entertaining – still is - although I did not realize how hard it is," Judge Richman says.

Judge Richmond spent 19 years with the District Attorney's Office, which he joined straight out of McGeorge School of Law. "I became a judge," he said thoughtfully, "because it was the next step in the process."

"I try to run a loose courtroom. I try to have fun while doing my job."



While Santa Clarita made a research attorney available, Richman says he likes to do his own research. According to Judge Richman, he uses the research attorney primarily in the civil matters that he hears from time to time.

"The district attorneys and public defenders assigned to me are relatively new so I don't have an experienced person to tell me when I'm doing something wrong," Richman says. "I have to make sure I am doing things right. It is totally my responsibility and it is a responsibility I take very seriously."

continued on page 20



John Arason
Contract Paralegal *
(Associate Member SFVBA since 2000)



- Criminal Appeals & Writs.
- Picking up Discovery.
- In Depth Outlining of Trial Record.
- Copying Record in Court of Appeal.
- Retrieval of Records - Courts & Archives.
- Criminal Document Filing in all Courts.
- Other Paralegal Services Upon Request.

For SFVBA Members:

- ★Automatic Monthly Billing.
- ★24/7 Service at Standard Rates.
- ★One Time Project Assignments.

14416 Hamlin Street, Suite 104, Van Nuys, CA 91401
 (818) 786-5762; (818) 782-9962 fax; (818) 903-6123 cell
cdas@sbcglobal.net

Contact for further information and Rates

* Under Contract with attorneys licensed to practice law in California or in the Federal Courts.
 No services offered to the General Public.
 (Pursuant to California Bus. & Prof. Code § 6450 et seq.)

LONG TERM DISABILITY CLAIMS DENIED?

- First Party Claims (Individual Policies)
- ERISA Claims (Group Policies Issued to Employer)

KINGSLEY & KINGSLEY, APC

CONTACT: KEVIN M. ZIETZ

TEL: (818) 990-8300

FAX: (818) 990-2903

Referral Fees Paid Within Bar Guidelines

ADR SERVICES, INC.**N E W***Now serving the San Fernando Valley legal community*

**Eleanor Barr, Myer Sankary,
Esq. Esq.**

Also available through ADR Services, Inc.



Hon.
Armand Arabian
(Ret.)



Hon.
David Horowitz
(Ret.)



**Jeffrey Palmer,
Esq.**



Hon.
Thomas Schneider
(Ret.)

For More Information Or Scheduling, Please Contact:

Lucie Barron, President
1900 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 250
Los Angeles, California 90067
310.201.0010 Tel
310.201.0016 Fax

ADR
SERVICES, INC.
www.adrservices.org

Homeruns Aren't Just For Ballplayers, continued from page 9

arbitrator making a decision that favors the other side's position entirely.

For example, in a sexual harassment case, plaintiff believes that her case is worth \$500,000 but would be willing to accept as low as \$300,000 for her case. On the other hand, the employer thinks the case is worth \$200,000 but would be willing to pay a maximum of \$300,000. In the traditional arbitration concept, if the last offer from the defendant is \$200,000 and the plaintiff demands \$350,000 and the parties cannot agree to resolve the cases, the matter still goes to arbitration and the arbitrator could award any number, including amounts beyond the respective parties' ranges. There is no consequence to the party that acts unreasonably.

On the other hand, in baseball arbitration, if the same numbers were presented and the arbitrator awarded the amount of \$300,000, then the award would become \$350,000 because the employee's number is closest to the arbitration award. In this situation, the employer would probably be motivated to try to make a higher offer because it knows that if it acts unreasonably, then it could get penalized for such unreasonable negotiating behavior. Instead of \$200,000, it might consider offering \$275,000 because it knows that the closer it gets to a number it believes to be reasonable, the greater the likelihood that if the matter cannot be resolved, then the arbitrator will make a decision that will be favorable to it.

In that same case, plaintiff might also consider reducing her demand to \$320,000 because she too does not want to be at the end of the negotiations and be perceived as the more unreasonable negotiating position. As each party moves closer to the number it believes is reasonable, the closer they come to resolving the dispute themselves. For example, the parties might perceive the difference to be very small and decide that it is better to agree rather than waste the time and effort with the arbitrator.

The net effect of the baseball arbitration provision is to create a greater incentive to be more reasonable in both sides' negotiating approaches. By doing this, the parties also increase their chance of resolving the matter themselves rather than allowing the arbitrator to potentially make a decision that might accept the other party's numbers.

Now that it is clear that baseball arbitration can be beneficial to a litigant, how should counsel apply it in the traditional litigation setting where the parties have filed a lawsuit with no arbitration clause?

First, during the course of litigation, the attorney could recommend that the parties agree to baseball arbitration. They could agree to daytime or nighttime arbitration where a separate arbitrator will make the decision if they cannot agree upon a solution. A time limit could also be placed as to when final offers need to be submitted.

Another alternative is to enter into such an agreement, but agree that the jury will act as the arbitrator and that it will be "nighttime" arbitration. In that scenario, the matter will continue as normal, with normal negotiations. If the parties cannot resolve the matter, they will submit the matter to the jury. The parties agree that they will tell the court what their last offers are and then agree that the final judgment will be whichever of the two last offers are closest to the jury verdict.

The downside of choosing a jury to be the "nighttime baseball arbitrator" is that the parties would have to incur the cost of going to trial if a settlement is not provided. However, given the statistics, it may be that the parties will likely resolve the dispute without the need for the trial.

Another alternative is to state that the parties will go to mediation and then if they cannot resolve the matter at mediation, they will submit the matter to the mediator for a mediator's proposal (or award) and then apply the same baseball arbitration provisions. In this way, the parties know that there will be an end to the dispute but that if they are not reasonable in their approach, then the "arbitrator" could potentially accept the other sides' position.

By agreeing to mediation with a baseball arbitration provision, the parties are given a greater likelihood that the other side will be reasonable in their approach to mediation. This could prevent the mediation where one side perceives the other as being unreasonable. If that becomes the case, the side could state that it has made its final offer and wishes to hear the other side's final offer before going to the arbitrator.

Of course, baseball arbitration won't work in all situations. For example, it could not work where one party outright refuses to enter into negotiations and claims that it owes nothing. This process would probably not work where one side perceives a

huge "upside" to getting a jury verdict; in particular, where a party truly believes that if a verdict was given in its favor, it would be substantially in their favor by being very big or very small. In that case, a party might perceive that negotiating based upon a baseball arbitration clause would prevent it from potentially gaining the upside in the event that it had to go to arbitration.

Opponents of baseball arbitration also argue that the process simply favors the defense because it allows

there to be a cap on any recovery and limits the possibility of a plaintiff getting a "homerun." Although it is possible that the process could limit the amount that could be recovered, it also increases the chances that the parties will resolve the matter themselves. Moreover, it also increases the likelihood that the defense will make a more reasonable offer. Overall, it appears that the cost benefit evaluation weighs in favor of a baseball arbitration provision.

DARRYL H. GRAVER, ESQ.

818.884.8474
fax 818.884.8388



Experienced
ARBITRATOR/MEDIATOR

Over 3,000
successful
conclusions

"HAVE GAVEL
WILL TRAVEL"™

CALIFORNIA
SOCIAL SECURITY ADVOCATES

Specialize in handling claims from the initial application level through the hearing before the Social Security Administration and Office of Disability Adjudication and Review

Our specialties include:

- Social Security Disability Claim
- Supplemental Security Income Claim (SSI)
- Retirement Benefits
- Social Security Spouse Benefit
- Social Security Death Benefits
- SSI Overpayment Defense
- SSI Fraud Protection

We pay referral fees pursuant to State Bar Regulations

Toll Free:
866.325.4529

www.socialsecuritylawattorney.com



PROFESSIONAL REAL ESTATE SERVICES

- CH-13 Refinancing (Up to 85% of value).
- CH-7 (1 day old) Purchase or Refinance.
- 100% Financing with recent Bankruptcy.
- Difficult Transactions?No Problem!
- Low credit scores?No Problem!
- 6 Month old Foreclosure?No Problem!
- Self Employed? No 1040s?No Problem!

Ivan Sanzana – President
(661) 600-2007
www.sanmarinofinancial.com






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.

As a member of the ABA's House of Delegates, SFVBA Members can take advantage of the ABA Retirement Funds program, administered by global leader State Street. The program provides full service, cost-effective retirement plan solutions to law firms of all sizes, and charges no out-of-pocket fees for administrative services. For more information see the program's prospectus at www.abaretirement.com or contact Plan Consultant Patrick Conlon at (617) 376-9326.



MARSH The SFVBA is working with The State Bar of California and Marsh Affinity Group Affinity Group Services a service of Seabury & Smith Services to provide members with direct access to an outstanding professional liability insurance program. SFVBA Members benefit from the State Bar's buying power and oversight committee. Visit www.myStateBar.com to complete a short-form application or call (800)343-0132.

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.

Spectrum Clubs offers SFVBA members corporate discount rates on health club memberships with a savings of \$14 - \$22 per month and a waiver of the \$99 initiation fee. Canoga Park, Valencia and Thousand oaks locations. To sign up, contact Kevin Brown in Canoga Park at (818) 884-5034.



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 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.



SFVBA members **save \$10** on new AAA Membership. Please also ask us about new insurance with many available discounts. Call Hazel Sheldon at (818) 615-2289. Mention campaign code 39727.

Membership Has It's Priveleges!

The following is some sample language that can be used as a form regarding a baseball arbitration agreement:

The parties agree to go to mediation with _____. In the event that at the end of the mediation, the parties are unable to arrive at a settlement, then the parties agree to submit the matter to {the same mediator for a final decision} or {an arbitrator. The arbitrator will be _____} (Hereinafter referred to as Arbitrator). The parties agree that the last offers will be made in writing to the other side and will have the heading "Last Best and Final Offer of _____." The parties agree that the arbitrator will {informed of the Last Best and Final Offers of each party and will be limited in making his/her decision between the last respective offers of either side} or {not be informed of the Last Best and Final Offers of the parties and that the parties agree that no evidence or information, informally or formally, will be presented to the Arbitrator regarding the respective offers of the parties. The parties agree that they will request the Arbitrator to make his award as an interim award. The parties agree that once the Arbitrator makes his or her interim award, the parties will then provide copies of their "Last Best and Final Offers" to the arbitrator within seven (7) days of the issuance of the interim award, and that the Arbitrator will be instructed to enter a final arbitration decision. That final arbitration decision will be "Last Best and Final Offer" of the party that is closest to the Arbitrator's interim award.} The parties further agree that the final decision of the Arbitrator shall be final and binding upon all parties and shall not be appealed. The decision of the Arbitrator will become a judgment upon _____ days after the decision of the arbitrator is made unless the decision is satisfied prior to that period of time. The parties agree to complete arbitration by _____.

Another way to submit the matter to baseball arbitration while also saving on costs is to agree that the arbitrator will be limited to reviewing briefs that are exchanged between the parties, rebuttal briefs, and documentary evidence that will be provided by each side to the arbitrator. By doing this, the parties will not have to spend large sums of money in preparing for a full-blown arbitration.

In the past, the baseball arbitration process has not been considered in the litigation setting. However, it should be something that each litigator should consider to determine whether it could be something that could enhance the potential of obtaining a favorable settlement. Remember, baseball isn't just a summer pastime. ⚾

Steven G. Mehta is an attorney and mediator who resolves complex legal disputes. He can be reached at www.stevemehta.com.

Valley Community Legal Foundation

Who's Who and What's What on the Board

A Look at Foundation Volunteers and Their Fundraising Efforts



MARCIA L. KRAFT, VCLF PRESIDENT

What Kinds of People Serve on a Charitable Foundation Board?

The Valley Community Legal Foundation has been in existence for a long time. The Foundation has had nine presidents: Anne Adams, David Gurnick, Patty McCabe, Dee Miller Siegel, Barbara Jean Penny, John J.G. Baptiste, Lee Kanon Alpert, Pearl Vogel and Marshal Oldman.

The Board of Directors currently has 14 attorneys practicing in various fields and six bench officers (judges and commissioners). Six Board members are educators: deans, teachers and professors. Several are business people, including a certified public accountant, marketing expert, a realtor and a specialist in vocational rehabilitation. We also have a retired state assemblyman in the group.

It is a mixed group, but with a common goal. We are all dedicated to raising funds to help the community. The current Board, which now has 35 members, will serve until August 2007.

How Does the VCLF Raise Money?

Each year the VCLF holds a Law Day Gala to raise funds for

scholarships and grants. This year's Gala, themed "Jazzy Nights," is at the Woodland Hills Marriott on Saturday night, May 12. Respected jazz musician, Jimmy Roberts, the former saxophone player for rocker Rod Stewart's band, is providing the entertainment for this glamorous event.

The Gala includes entertainment and dancing, as well as exciting silent and live auctions, with prizes ranging from restaurant gift certificates to event tickets and baskets filled with all kinds of goodies.

We will present the *Armand Arabian Law and Media Award* to Bill Chais, a former public defender and the current producer of the television series "Shark." Justice Arabian, this year's Fernando Award winner, will present the award to Chais.

Share in caring for your local community - if you don't, who will? Please join us at the Gala! Please look at the enclosed flyer for more details. 🐦

Interested in joining the Board? Want to help with fundraising? Please contact Marcia L. Kraft at (818) 883-1330. She will be happy to discuss the Foundation and answer questions.

When You're Ready to Shake on a Deal...

Is your client ready to expand via acquisition? If so, you want assurance that you will receive practical advice, speed and efficiency from your legal team.

Get the strategic legal advice you need from a former big-firm lawyer with thirteen years of M&A experience. Without the big firm price tag.

Crowley Corporate LEGAL STRATEGY

To get the deal done, call Matt Crowley at 818.703.7372
www.crowleystrategy.com

SEYMOUR I. AMSTER



Attorney at Law

- Member of the SFVBA Board of Trustees since 2002
- Experienced in handling Appellate, Federal and State Criminal Cases
- Certified Criminal Law Specialist, Certified by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California

6320 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 300
Van Nuys, CA 91401

(818) 947-0104 Fax: (818) 781-8180

siaesq1@aol.com

NEUTRAL LOCATION FOR MEDIATIONS AND DEPOSITIONS



The San Fernando Valley Bar Association, conveniently located in Warner Center, has available its executive boardroom for depositions, hearings, and mediations. The 600 square foot conference room easily accommodates 20 people. An adjoining conference room is perfect for breakout sessions and private meetings.

Amenities include:

- **coffee service**
- **ample free parking**
- **table data/electrical jacks**
- **white board**
- **retractable overhead screen**
- **television/VCR**

Our dedicated and professional staff is ready to accommodate your special needs.

Only \$125 a day for SFVBA Members.
For more information, call Aileen at
(818) 227-0490, ext. 100.

Do You Know a Fed Hurt at Work?, continued from page 6

When a claim is accepted, the claimant is entitled to receive several benefits from OWCP. The physician with whom the claimant has been treating will generally be authorized to act as the approved treating physician for the claimant. Any change in treating physicians, however, must be approved by OWCP.

The treating physician may evaluate the claimant as necessary. However, pre-authorization must be obtained to refer the claimant to other specialists or to obtain diagnostic testing and treatment, including surgery. OWCP provides payment of authorized medical expenses.

In addition, the claimant may receive disability compensation benefits from OWCP once it is established that the claimant lost time from work as a result of the conditions accepted. Disability payments can be made for temporary total disability, for partial disability and for Loss of Wage Earning Capacity. Claimants without dependents receive two-thirds of their pay. Claimants with dependents (usually a husband, wife or child) receive three-quarters of their pay. These payments are not taxable.

Often, a claims examiner will require an additional medical opinion. The San Francisco District Office and some other district offices have contracted with Bay Brook Medical Group/QTC Medical Services, which provides Board-certified physicians in various specialties to conduct second opinion physician (SECOP) evaluations of federal claimants.

When a SECOP evaluation is required, the claims examiner will prepare a document called the Statement of Accepted Facts (SOAF). This is an extremely important document that must be utilized by the SECOP as the sole factual framework for the SECOP's opinion. The SECOP's opinions and conclusions are considered to the same extent that the opinions of the treating and/or evaluating physician for the claimant are considered. The claimant's physician must also utilize the SOAF as the sole factual framework for the medical opinions expressed.

When the claims examiner determines that there is an unresolved conflict between the opinions of the treating and/or evaluating physician and the SECOP, the claims examiner must refer the claimant for a referee physician/independent medical examiner evaluation.

The referee physician is provided with the SOAF and Questions for Resolution. Unlike the SECOP, however, the referee physician's opinions and conclusions, if properly based upon an accurate history and the SOAF, and if found to contain appropriate medical rationale, are entitled to additional or special weight. This additional or special weight is such that the referee physician's report is determinative in the vast majority of claims.

Attorneys and physicians may not take liens in their favor. In addition, attorneys' fees must be based upon an hourly rate, no flat rates are permitted, and attorneys are not allowed to represent claimants on a contingency basis.

And legal representation is not that easy to find in this area. Only about 50 attorneys across the country emphasize claims under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) in their practices. 🐾

Max Gest practices law in West Los Angeles. He has over 36 years of experience in representing injured workers and personal injury claimants and is the chair of the OWCP Litigation Group, which emphasizes representing claimants in FECA claims. He can be contacted at (310) 553-2700 and MaxGest@sbcglobal.net.

Applications For Admission

THE FOLLOWING JOINED THE SFVBA IN FEBRUARY 2007:

Mark Brian Baer
3500 West Olive Avenue Suite 300
Burbank, CA 91505
(818) 827-7125 Fax (818) 827-7126
mbaeresq@aol.com

Jeffrey Thomas Bell
Masry & Vititoe
5707 Corsa Avenue 2nd Floor
Westlake Village, CA 91362
(818) 991-8900 Fax (818) 991-6200
bell@masryvititoe.com

Cynthia A. Bleifer
Friedman & Friedman
9454 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 313
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
(310) 273-2800 Fax (310) 273-3642
cynthia@f-f-law.com
Family Law

James W. Denison
Law Office of James W. Denison
21550 Oxnard St., Ste. 300 PMB-81
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
(818) 224-5250 Fax (818) 223-8365
jameswdenison@aol.com
Business Litigation

John K. Fu
Law Office of John K. Fu
1505 N. San Fernando Blvd. Suite A
Burbank, CA 91504
(818) 557-3001 Fax (818) 557-3004
jkfu@earthlink.net

Ana Maria Garcia
Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County
1102 East Chevy Chase Drive
Glendale, CA 91205
(818) 291-1788 Fax (626) 307-3655
anamariagarcia@nls-la.org
Family Law

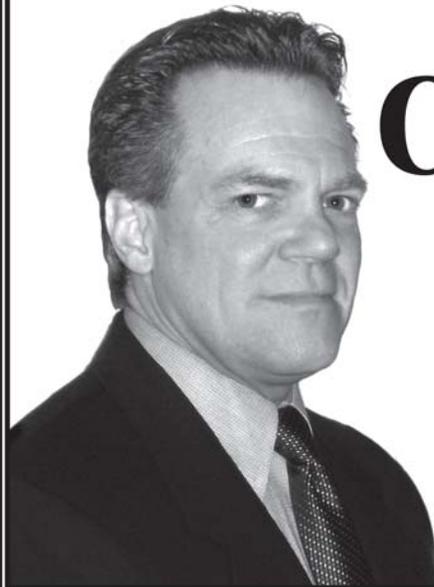
Gail S. Green
Friedman & Friedman
9454 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 313
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
(310) 273-2800 Fax (310) 273-3642
gail@f-f-law.com
Civil Litigation, Family Law

Margalitte Kohn De Monge
Michelman & Robinson LLP
15760 Ventura Blvd. Suite 500
Encino, CA 91436
(818) 783-5530 Fax (818) 783-5507

K. "Luke" Norman
Law Offices of Marcia L. Kraft
6355 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Ste. 419
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
(818) 883-1330 Fax (818) 883-5962
luke@kraftlawoffices.com
General Practice

Christopher L. Persaud
20239 Armihita Street
Winnetka, CA 91306
(818) 437-6820
rialtor12@yahoo.com
Law Student

Robert J. Vars
Law Offices of Robert J. Vars
16633 Ventura Blvd. Suite 900
Encino, CA 91436
(818) 981-8277 Fax (818) 981-1227
robertjvars@aol.com
General Practice, Litigation



Case Settled!

BRIAN GHIGLIA MEDIATOR

- Personal Injury
- Business
- Insurance
- Commercial
- Employment
- Professional Negligence

*Call me to
discuss your case!*

(818) 758-1900

(800) 616-4000

www.westcoastmediations.com

Serving Southern California and beyond!

Hoefflin & Associates, A Law Corporation

Personalized representation to attain client goals

Hoefflin & Associates delivers results by putting client interests first and using a team-based approach to creatively, intelligently, and effectively resolve legal matters. Specializing in:

- Real Estate
- Business and Corporate
- Estate Planning
- Executive Employment
- Intellectual Property
- Alternate Dispute Resolution
- Entertainment Dispute

Refer with confidence



Steve Meadville, Esq., Of Counsel ◇ Cynthia R. Hodes, Esq.
Richard M. Hoefflin, Esq. ◇ Jason M. Burrows, Esq.

2659 Townsgate Road, Suite 232
Westlake Village, CA 91361
805.497.8605
www.hoefflinlaw.com

Real Estate and Probate Lending

Estates and Trusts Bankruptcy Family Law
 Taxation Criminal And All Others

Client Cash - Attorney Fees - Litigation Costs

Budget Finance specializes in lending to estates and trusts, but no matter what type of case, we have the solutions for your clients' borrowing needs. Budget and its affiliates have been providing loan products to the legal community for over 50 years, and have helped over 7500 heirs and estates.

Let us provide the options you need. Call us for more details.



Loans made pursuant to a Department of Corporations California Finance Lenders License.

A Senior Moment, continued from page 5

Morley says that she often overhears Soto's phone conversations and is amazed at the patience Soto shows while trying to get a senior to hear or understand.

"Working with the seniors is a particular enjoyment for me," Soto says. "When a senior citizen calls, they typically know my name as they have been referred by a Senior Center. Often the individual will say that they have heard wonderful things about our program and they are already trust that the LRS is the right resource for them."

Soto says that the patience she has with senior citizens is part of her nature, but is also driven by her attempts to maintain the good reputation of the LRS, created by the attorney volunteers and other LRS staff.

"It is important to offer every client the best possible service," she says. "I've learned to accept that we cannot help everyone, but I'm always willing to listen."

Soto says that she tries to share with them some options and other resources in a time-efficient manner. At the end of the day, the time the senior program attorneys and staff invest is worth the effort, she says.

"I must thank Rosie for her work on this project," Morley says. "I know that the Santa Clarita Valley Committee on Aging/Senior Center staff will enjoy working with her as much as Bernardi, OneGeneration and the North Hollywood Senior Centers have done." 🐾

Messenger Service Discounts to SFVBA Members



24th Year of Service to the San Fernando Valley/Southern California Legal Community

- Noon Court Run - same day filing in all So. Cal. Courts
- Process Serving Per Your Exact Specifications
- 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 • (805) 777-7170

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

To Aid Families In those moments when difficult issues arise



Richard Lewis, Esq.
Attorney at Law

Past president of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.

- Family Law
- Probate
- Estate Planning

Providing services to the San Fernando Valley for over 18 years



(818) 704-0585
www.RichardLewis.com

HAS YOUR CLIENT BEEN BURNED BY A STOCKBROKER?

SECURITIES LAW

Claims Against Stockbrokers

Stock Market Losses Caused by:
 Excessive Trading in Account
 Unsuitable Investments Misrepresentation
 Variable Annuities

LAW OFFICES OF

JONATHAN W. EVANS & ASSOCIATES

*31 Years in practice
 Arbitrator for Superior and
 Municipal Court*

**NO RECOVERY – NO FEE
 FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION**

Call today for an appointment
 (818) 982-1881 • (800) 699-1881
 (213) 626-1881
 www.stocklaw.com

12711 Ventura Blvd., Suite 440
 Studio City, CA 91604



Classified Ads

ATTORNEY TO ATTORNEY REFERRALS...

APPEALS & TRIALS

\$125/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.

CRIMINAL LAW

Sex, Drugs, Violence and Fraud. William Graysen, criminal defense attorney, 27 years experience, available for consultation. Phone (310) 557-9008 or email graysen@graysenlaw.com. www.graysenlaw.com.

DUI, TRAFFIC CITATIONS & P.I.

Experienced attorney specializing in traffic related matters. Handling all court locations in CA. 20% referral fee paid to attorneys per State Bar rules. AMIR SOLEIMANIAN. (818) MR-TICKET (678-4253)

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) 992-2930.

PERSONAL INJURY/ WRONGFUL TERMINATION

25-30% Referral Fee paid to attorneys on all personal injury, products liability, wrongful termination, sexual harassment, overtime violations and discrimination. Firm (Flaig, Mirroknian & Gordon LLP) has over 25 years combined experience. Contact Donald W. Flaig, Esq. (818) 255-0800 or dflaig@fmglp.com.

PRIVATE AND LASC MEDIATION

Assisted resolution of real estate and business disputes. David I. Karp, Mediation Services. SBN 90608. (818) 781-1458. david@karpmediation.com.

STATE BAR CERT. WORKERS COMP SPECIALIST

Over 30 years experience-quality practice. 20% Referral fee paid to attorneys per State Bar rules. Goodchild & Duffy, PLC. (818) 380-1600.

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, A.V. (818) 986-9890 Fmr. Chair SFBA Ethics, Litigation. Phillip Feldman. www.LegalMalpracticeExperts.com. StateBarDefense@aol.com

SPACE AVAILABLE...

ENCINO

Ventura Blvd, Heart of Encino! Two large window offices, spectacular views, in 12th floor Penthouse suite, with secretarial space, two conference rooms, phone system, receptionist, full kitchen, Internet access, Westlaw, photocopier, fax, postage meter available. (14 X 15½ - \$2000; and 16 x 18½ - \$2250) Call Daniel Spitzer or Sheri Spatz at (818) 990-9700. Available April 2007.

Large window office (12x14) with secretarial and file space; conference room; full reception, phone system, voicemail and Internet access included. Parking, Westlaw, photocopy and fax services available. Excellent Ventura Blvd. location with great amenities - \$1750 per month. Contact Mitch Kaufman or Jack Kaufman at (818) 788-5767.

High-Rise Offices. Corner office suite in full service law firm. Beautiful views and well-appointed interiors. Excellent location. Up to 4 offices available. Conference room/ kitchen access, two secretarial bays, phone system/voicemail, receptionist, Internet, copiers, scanners, fax, etc. Please contact David Adelman at (818) 382-6200.

WOODLAND HILLS

Warner Center - Topanga and Victory. 2 window offices (16'x13') plus interior secretarial bays available in beautiful law suite. Access to photocopier, fax, postage meter, shredder, high speed scanner and color scanner, kitchen, reception room and conference room. Call (818) 716-6400.

Nice Woodland Hills office space available - 12x12 office within collegial 4 lawyer suite. Secretarial space available, Internet, Westlaw. Contact Sean Judge at (818) 610-8799 or Carl Etting (818) 346-1511.

2 Office Spaces starting at \$1,000/month. Prestigious Warner Center location; approximately 10x14. One window and one inside office; secretarial bay available. Luxurious suite: reception area, conference rooms, full kitchen. Congenial atmosphere, all amenities, great setting. Optional monthly parking. Kenneth (818) 264-0209.

Available office space in prime location near the new upscale mall. Wonderful view, kitchen, conference room, receptionist, Westlaw, etc. Space available March 1. For more information, contact Lisa (818) 883-1330.

HELP WANTED...

NEW ADMITTEE/PARALEGAL

Recent admittee or paralegal, with some family law experience for busy Burbank family law practice. Fax Howard Ekerling or Aimee Doherty at (818) 973-2742.

SUPPORT SERVICES...

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

EMPLOYMENT TRIAL ATTORNEYS

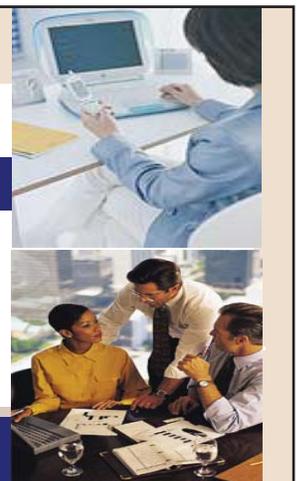
We specialize in handling Employment & Labor Law Cases

You will be paid a referral fee within the Guidelines of the California State Bar

A Full Service Employment Law Firm with Extensive Experience in the following Specialties:

- Wrongful Termination
- Age Discrimination
- Race Discrimination
- Disability Discrimination
- Pregnancy Discrimination
- Sex Discrimination
- Sexual Harassment
- Violation of Whistling Blowing Laws
- Family Leave Act
- Medical Leave Act
- Labor Law Violations
- Employment Manual/Severance Package Negotiations

Toll Free: 310.826.6300
www.employmentattorneyservices.com



L.A. EXPRESS APPRAISALS**Patti Kraakevik:****Licensed General****Certified Appraiser****25+ years experience**

Federal Estate Tax - Estate Tax Planning, including Gift Taxes
 Single Family Residences - Apartment Buildings
 Condos - Commercial/Industrial Buildings
 Business Valuations - Discount Analysis

Located in the Encino Law Center

15915 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 303

Encino, California 91436

Tel: 818.343.7802 • 310.832.5211 Fax: 310.831.6954

CA Lic. # AG016568

Bench Brief: Judge Craig Richman, continued from page 11

Richman points out that civil services in Santa Clarita have not kept pace with the growth in the region. There is still only one hospital, and the Sheriff's Office is the same size as years ago, he says.

"The sheer volume of the Santa Clarita court surprised me," he says. "When I was a district attorney here in 1986, we did 10 to 12 matters per day. Now we see 50 to 60 per day, with the same number of judges, staff and support."

In Santa Clarita, pro per parties make up roughly 60 to 70 percent of the matters before him.

"Plus we have huge 'failure to appear' issues, probably brought on by the close proximity of the court to the freeway," he says. "I would estimate that I issue warrants in 60 percent to 70 percent of the first-time appearances."

Many of those are tickets for suspended licenses or driving with out a license.

"But I try to run a loose courtroom," he says. "I try to have fun while doing my job."

But Judge Richman works hard to educate those who appear before him.

"I want people to have a favorable impression of the system; to know what they have done," he says. "I will take whatever time is necessary to make sure these people know what's going on."

Richman says that he reminds the pro per defendants that they have a right to counsel and he warns them that they are dealing with a crime for which they might go to jail.

"If a defense is obvious, I will point that out," Richman says. "After all, my obligation has always been to seek justice."

He has no comments for attorneys who appear before him. "I'm not the advocate anymore. I really try to honor counsel's role in the process," he says. "My job is to consider the evidence, rule as rulings are required, and I am careful to limit it to that."

His last jury trial was an auto accident case. "It was intellectually stimulating for me. The attorneys did a great job," he says. "I really enjoyed it."

What would people be surprised to learn about him?

"I am obsessed with physical fitness," he says. "I work out at 4:00 a.m., six days a week."

Obsessed may understate it. He also works out at lunch and plays football in the parking lot with his deputies and lawyers when time permits. 🐾

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

M. Jonathan Hayes is a 1976 graduate of Loyola Law School. His practice is primarily in the area of bankruptcy. He can be contacted at (818) 710-3656 and jhayes@polarisnet.net.

Answers & Solutions



m & r
MICHELMAN & ROBINSON, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

www.mrllp.com

Michelman & Robinson, LLP is one of San Fernando Valley's largest full service law firms and is dedicated to bringing its clients the highest quality legal services.

Business & Commercial Litigation ▪ Legislative & Administrative Advocacy ▪ Professional Liability Advice & Litigation ▪ Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation ▪ Premium Financing ▪ Labor & Employment ▪ Real Estate & Commercial Leasing ▪ Corporate, Securities & Business Transactions ▪ Banking ▪ Intellectual Property ▪ Unfair Competition & Trade Secrets ▪ Appellant Advocacy ▪ Insurance Defense ▪ Healthcare & Medical Law

Los Angeles Office ▪ 15760 Ventura Boulevard Suite 500 ▪ Encino, CA 91436 ▪ (818) 783-5530
Orange County Office ▪ 4 Hutton Centre Suite 300 ▪ Santa Ana, CA 92707 ▪ (714) 577-7990
San Francisco Office ▪ 455 Market Street Suite 1420 ▪ San Francisco, CA 94105 ▪ (415) 882-1570



*Sheryl Mazirow, CCIM
Tenant Advocate*

Stay Right Where You Are!

*Is your Option at Market?
What is Market??*

For answers to these and other Tenant questions, call us today. You'll like the answers we have.



*Tenant Representation & Advisory Real Estate Services
For large corporations to individual entrepreneurs*

- Renewals
- Lease Audits
- Acquisitions
- Expansions
- Exercise of Options
- Dispositions
- Relocations
- Leases & Subleases
- Consultations

818.757.1164 • www.tenantadvisory.com



April Events

Probate & Estate Planning Section

Topic: Update from the Central District

Speaker: Judge Aviva Bobb

Date: April 10

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: Monterey at Encino Restaurant, Encino

Cost: \$35 members prepaid; \$45 at the door
\$45 non-members prepaid; \$55 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

Criminal Law Section

Topic: Science of Ballistics Evidence: Is It Really Metallurgy?

Speaker: Dianne Paul, LAPD
Scientific Investigations Division

Date: April 12

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Uncle Chen's Restaurant, Encino

Cost: \$35 members prepaid; \$45 at the door
\$45 non-members prepaid; \$55 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

Workers' Compensation Section

Topic: How to Practice Effectively Under the New Law

Speaker: Bernard Sobelsohn

Date: April 18

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: Monterey at Encino Restaurant, Encino

Cost: \$35 members prepaid; \$45 at the door
\$45 non-members prepaid; \$55 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association

Topic: Updates on Enforcement of Elder Financial Abuse and California Statutes Imposing Support Obligations from Children to Parents

Speaker: Kris Hough, Santa Clarita Valley Bank

Date: April 19

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Marie Callender's, Valencia

Cost: \$30 members prepaid; \$40 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

Family Law Section

Topic: Child Custody: Solution Focused Evaluations

Panel: Commissioner Ann Dobbs and
Dr. Suzanne Dupee

Date: April 23

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Monterey at Encino Restaurant

Cost: \$45 members prepaid; \$55 at the door
\$55 non-members prepaid; \$65 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour

Women Lawyers Section

Topic: How Appearance Affects Discrimination against Women Lawyers

Speaker: Connie Gregory

Date: April 26

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: SFVBA Conference Room

Cost: \$25 members prepaid; \$30 at the door
\$30 non-members prepaid; \$35 at the door

MCLE: 1 Hour Elimination of Bias

San Fernando Valley Bar Association and Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association

Invites you to join us for
AN EVENING AT THE THEATRE
Sunday, April 29, 2007

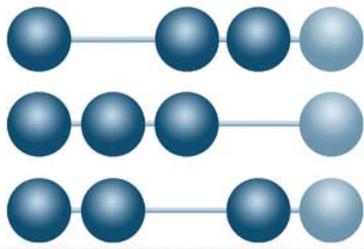


4:30 PM McCormick &
Schmick's Seafood Restaurant

633 West Fifth Street
Downtown Los Angeles
Three Course Dinner with
Choice of Prime Rib or
Seafood Mixed Grill

7:30 PM Twelve Angry Men
Ahmanson Theatre at the
Music Center
Orchestra/Mezzanine Seats

Dinner and tickets \$120 per person



**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



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR
A S S O C I A T I O N
founded in 1926

21300 Oxnard Street, Suite 250
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

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

Change Service Requested