



BarNotes

A Publication of the
San Fernando Valley Bar Association

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THE BENCH COMES TO THE BAR ASSOCIATION HONORS JURISTS AND BAR LEADER AT JUDGES' NIGHT GALA

It will be a brain trust of judicial wisdom and proactivity at the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's annual Judges' Night. The bar is honoring not only state and federal bench officers, but the bar's own retiring Associate Executive Director, Michele Morley. It will certainly be an emotional and meaningful evening.

The gala is slated for Thursday, February 21, 2008, at the Hilton Hotel in Woodland Hills. The cocktail reception begins promptly at 5:30 p.m., with dinner and programming beginning at 6:30 p.m. Valet parking is available.

"We are all so excited to have such committed bench officers in the Valley," SFVBA President Sue Bendavid-Arbiv says. "Selecting the honorees was made just that much more difficult."

The Hon. Michael Harwin has been selected Judge of the Year, with Special Recognition awards to Judges Barbara Scheper and Maureen Tighe.

"Judge Harwin is without a doubt a wonderful choice for our Judge of the Year award," bar trustee Alan Sedley says. "A fine jurist and a great selection."

Judge Harwin, assigned to the Van Nuys East Court, has years of experience handling a

diverse calendar. The esteemed jurist is known for his excellent bench demeanor and patience with both counsel and parities.

"We all have tremendous respect for our new Judge of the Year," Bendavid-Arbiv, who focuses her practice on management-side employment matters, says.

But Judge Harwin is not the only local jurist who has provided outstanding leadership to the Valley legal community this past year. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Barbara Scheper is receiving the Special Recognition Award for spearheading the VAST Program at the Chatsworth courthouse, where she sits as the site judge. The VAST program brings attorneys from their law practices into the courthouses to provide settlement services to parties whose matters are pending. The program is extremely well-regarded as an effective resolution tool within the civil court system.

"Attorneys who come before Judge Scheper are always impressed by her professionalism," association past president Richard Lewis says. "She is a credit to the bench."

The bar's evening of recognitions is not limited to State Court judges. The bar will be

continued on page 6

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR
A s s o c i a t i o n

**11th Annual
MCLE
Marathon**

Details on Page 20

**Calendar of Events
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The North Valley Bench extends their appreciation for members of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association for the attorneys' participation in the 2007 VAST Program, conducted the week of October 15 at the Chatsworth Courthouse. VAST volunteers settled 35% of the 144 cases heard; 240 cases were originally scheduled for the Program.

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New Year, New Directions

SUE M. BENDAVID, SFVBA PRESIDENT



Happy New Year! I hope 2008 brings you much health, happiness and prosperity. Each December, many of us start thinking about New Year's resolutions. I'm sure many us fully intend to keep our resolutions, only to make them again the following year - whether it's to lose 10 pounds, stop smoking, or stay in touch with old friends. However, rather than making difficult-to-keep resolutions, why not instead choose "bite-sized" goals that are achievable, either on an individual basis, or together with us at our bar association.

For example, no one can overnight change the diversity on the bench to better reflect our local community. But our bar association can help by taking small steps in that direction. We intend to reach out to public school children and introduce them to the possibility of law careers. Consider volunteering with us in a public school, talking about law careers on career day, or arranging a field trip to the courthouse.

No one can overnight change how jurors think about jury service, but together, we can try to make jury service more people-friendly, and start changing the public's perception of jury duty. Try to speak positively about jury service the next time you are asked.

Similarly, none of us alone can change the public's perception of lawyers, but

together we can move in that direction by performing public service, helping others less fortunate and demonstrating to the public that many lawyers do, in fact, care.

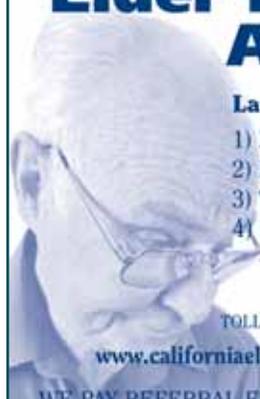
Our bar association and our Foundation are good places to act on these resolutions. You can contribute to our Foundation and help build a children's waiting room at the courthouse. You can volunteer to participate in the bar's diversity committee. You can participate in the Conference of Delegates and help change laws. You can support and volunteer for our Attorney Referral Service, as well as other programs designed to help those who cannot afford the cost of competent legal counsel. You can volunteer in the Van Nuys Self-Help Center. You can support the Blanket the Homeless project.

As I close 2007 and start on a new path in 2008, I sit back and count my many blessings. I know I am blessed to be supported by a wonderful family, friends and law partners (who are like a second family to me). I am grateful for the many opportunities I have and look forward to the future, with its many possibilities.

Happy New Year to all of you! 🐉

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MICHELE C. MORLEY, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC SERVICE



In this New Year, my role will change. I have asked to move from the Attorney Referral Service Director position to a consultant role with the service, and the bar leadership has agreed. I have spent over a year seriously considering this change. I am genuinely reluctant to leave the position that I have grown into and in which I feel quite comfortable. Selfishly, I want to have the opportunities that having more time provides: mentoring, writing, exercising, studying, enjoying, experiencing, and working at something new and challenging.

My exact duties will be determined once we determine the skills and interests of my replacement. I will still have the consultant role, so I will really not be leaving. Everything will continue "as is" during the transition period, which will last as long as necessary to find and train the new Director. I will remain available as a resource whenever the bar feels it is appropriate to bring me into the discussion. I am confident that the hiring process will be pursued with care and deliberation. Finding the best candidate will be the standard.

That I would no longer be daily involved with Liz, Linda, Aileen, Gayle, Rosie and Lucia is not something that I like to consider. The individuals on the Referral Service panels and the ARS Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the Valley Community Legal Foundation Board have always been supportive. When new ideas were presented to them, the response was "let's try this," "we will fund this," "sounds like a good pilot project," "if it benefits the public, let's do it."

If we had not had such wonderful staff in Gayle, Rosie and Lucia, the

program could not have been so successful. If the panel attorneys had not been exceptionally professional and committed to public service we would not have the excellent reputation that we enjoy. If the leadership had not been so open to seeing the big picture and thinking strategically, the Referral Service would not have been competitive in serving the public.

I have talked about support and the fact that everyone associated with the bar has given me support from day one. This was so critical to my success, especially for someone coming into a new position. At the time, and even now, dynamic changes are occurring and there is no luxury of easing into the position.

I am confident that the next Director will bring a new energy and perspective to the job. This will invigorate the ARS in very positive ways. What I ask of all those who I have counted on for these years, is never to say, "Michele would have done it differently." "Michele has big shoes to fill." (They are not that big - size 7½) "Michele was a great Director." The new Director of the ARS should do things differently, and will leave her or his own imprint. This is what makes the referral service great.

Thank you for the journey we have shared. I have learned and I have grown. You have made me a better person. What more could anyone ask from her work? ♣

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The Bench Comes to the Bar, continued from cover

honoring U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Maureen Tighe as well. Judge Tighe will be receiving the Special Recognition Award for spearheading the Self-Help Center at the Bankruptcy Court.

“Judge Tighe really represents something important to all of us at the bar association,” Bendavid-Arbiv says. “She is at the forefront of expanding access to justice for users of the bankruptcy court.”

Chief Bankruptcy Judge Barry Russell of the Central District says that Judge Tighe’s appointment by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is “fabulous.” Judge Tighe was a U.S. trustee starting in 1998 and a federal prosecutor.

“She is a wonderful person, very bright, very conscientious,” Judge Russell says. “She really knows the bankruptcy system and the local bar.”

Sadly, the bar will be saying good-bye to Los Angeles Superior Court Judges Charles Peven and Barry Taylor on their retirements from the bench. They will be sorely missed. Both Judge Peven and Judge Taylor embodied the finest qualities that Valley lawyers and parties have come to expect from their local jurists.

Judge Peven, who retired December 15, 2007, was on the bench 27 years. He sat at the San Fernando courthouse, appointed by Governor George Deukmejian in December 1989. He plans to continue sitting on assignment. He began his bench career as a Court Commissioner and Municipal Court Judge.

Judge Peven joined the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office in 1959, working as a deputy district attorney until 1971, when he left to open a solo law practice in Van Nuys.

Judge Peven says he will always cherish the time he spent on the bench. “It’s the greatest job I ever had,” he says.

Judge Taylor has most recently been sitting as a criminal court judge in Van Nuys. His reputation is one for following the law and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable.

“Judge Taylor applies both the spirit and the letter of the law,” long-time Valley practitioner and now full-time neutral Myer J. Sankary says. “And he does it with kindness and caring.”

But the bar is honoring not just bench officers on Thursday night. The bar’s own Attorney Referral Service Director, Michele Morley, is retiring and will be honored for her long and effective leadership. Ms. Morley arrived at the bar tasked with rebuilding a vibrant attorney referral service to serve the entire Valley. She has been widely recognized by local and national organizations for her exemplary achievements in this regard.

“Michele has been such a pillar of the bar,” Bendavid-Arbiv says. “Our ARS program is what it is due in great part to Michele’s vision and commitment.”

Ms. Morley will remain on-call as a consultant to the ARS. ↗

For more information about Judges’ Night, contact Linda Temkin at events@SFVBA.org or (818) 227-0490, ext. 105.

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ARS Director Michele Morley Conquering New Worlds



LISA MILLER, EDITOR

Useful leadership is creating the environment for others to work at their highest level. When Michele Morley was hired as LRIS Director in 1999, the leadership of the SFVBA offered their support and freedom to manage.

Eight and a half years later, Morley is retiring as Associate Executive Director of Public Services and leaving behind a legacy of innovation and growth. Morley will continue in a consultant role, however.

“It has been fun making new ideas happen such as our state-of-the-art phone system that permits automatic transfer of callers to attorneys, our Google campaign that has increased our Internet referrals, our Valley Legal Grind, our expansion of the Senior Program to Santa Clarita Valley, our new Internet case reporting system and our new website and logo.” Ms. Morley says. “But to be successful you have to pay the most attention to the basic of providing good service and referrals to excellent attorneys. We do feel a little smug that we do this.”

When she was hired, Ms. Morley brought the right tools to her new position. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Drama at the University of Central Missouri. She received her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and is licensed to practice in Missouri, Minnesota and Massachusetts.

As a former litigator, Michele understands what it is like to be a practicing attorney. She knows the pressures of deadlines, cash flow, preparation of multiple cases, and the professional care of multiple clients. Ms. Morley personally interviewed each panel attorney applicant.

“A friendly relationship with the attorneys is so important,” Ms. Morley says. “They know that we work hard to make the referral service a resource for them.”

As a former CEO and General Counsel for James R. Gary & Co. Ltd. in Woodland Hills, a real estate company, she knows the value of creative marketing. Working in trailers for six months after the Northridge Earthquake and trying to manage a

business during the painful real estate recession of the early 1990s added to her performance under pressure skills.

“I know that life goes on and people need your services regardless of your personal and professional problems,” she says.

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As a community activist, she understands the necessity of community service and organizations that can be relied on at all times. She has served as President of Haven Hills and continues on its board. She has been a board member of the Woodland Hills Chamber of Commerce. Morley serves on the Woodland Hills Community Coalition, chaired by Los Angeles Councilmember Dennis Zine.

Whenever possible she encourages cooperative efforts between the SFVBA and other organizations. Haven Hills benefits from the SFVBA Valley Community Legal Foundation and Morley's community contacts.

"Getting a group of diverse people together to achieve a goal is exhilarating," she says.

During her time at the SFVBA, the referral service has become financially healthy and has achieved a significant share of referrals in the very competitive Los Angeles market where there are over 26 operating referral services. One of her proudest moments at the SFVBA was when she received the President's Award from Lyle Greenberg, whom she considers a role model for the legal profession.

"We are committed to increasing our marketing efforts to expand our name recognition into the circles that need to know about our service," she says.

Because of the success and creativity of the SFVBA's referral program, Morley has been selected to serve on the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Lawyer Referral and Information Services. She intends to complete her two-year term on this committee.

Michele's strength is her enjoyment in mentoring and networking. She has always encouraged staff to pursue their educations and has approved work hours to accommodate class schedules.

Michele's colleagues remark on the qualities she brings to all the projects in which she participates.

"Michele has a work ethic like I have never seen before," Bar President Sue Bendavid says, "We will miss her."

"It has been a team approach to managing the bar association with Michele for the past 8 years," long-time SFVBA Executive Director Liz Post says. "I have come to rely on Michele for her wisdom, compassion, and sense of humor."

"Michele also has a green thumb, and is quite handy with tools, so I hope our offices don't change for the worse with her changing roles," Post laughs.

"We are truly grateful for the fine leadership from Michele," ARS staffer Gayle Linde says.

"We will always remember her words of wisdom and encouragement, her trust in us, her emphasis on the importance of teamwork, and, oh boy, that infectious laugh," Lucia Senda, who works for the referral service, says.

"Her departure seems premature because there is always more to learn from her," Rosie Soto, a long-time bar employee says. "She is not only our co-worker, but a dear friend."

Ms. Morley will decide on her future role once the bar designs the exact parameters of her consultant position with the ARS.

"I'm from Missouri and I know I can't stop working - work is inbred in Mid-Westerners," she says. "I want to stay connected to the SFVBA." 🐘

Inside Info

Litigation Section to Present Court Clerks Panel

DAVID GURNICK, SFVBA LITIGATION SECTION CHAIR



Court clerks are powerful folks. They are the gatekeepers to our judges. Do you know what our Superior Court clerks really do? And all that they do? Do you know how hard their jobs are? Or what lawyers can do to be more effective when working with the court's civil clerks? If you would like to know more, then the Litigation Section's January program is an event you should attend!

The Litigation Section will host a panel of Valley Court clerks on Thursday, January 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the San Fernando Valley Bar offices in Warner Center. MCLE credit will be provided. The program is a unique opportunity for lawyers to hear from our clerks about the full scope of their work, what they like about the ways we practice, and what we can do better to make their jobs - and ours- easier and more effective. The panel includes civil clerks from the Van

Nuys, Chatsworth and Santa Clarita courthouses.

The court's administration enthusiastically supports this program. Litigation Section Chair David Gurnick met with Superior Court administrators in Van Nuys to plan the program and the Court solicited a cross-section of clerks to participate. Clerks Kent Toby from Van Nuys (unlimited jurisdiction), Diane Teibell from Van Nuys (limited jurisdiction), Lisa Berkowitz from the Santa Clarita courthouse and Candace Lutz from the Chatsworth courthouse will comprise the panel.

The program grew out of a meeting among bar association leaders and Superior Court judges. There was discussion about working with clerks in the courts throughout Los Angeles County. This led to the idea of a panel

presentation where lawyers can hear and learn from the Court's clerks in a relaxed and collegial setting outside the formality of the courtroom.

This program will be a good opportunity for lawyers to become more aware of what court clerks experience in dealing with attorneys, and how attorneys can work better in the courts, improve the practice of law in the Valley, and ultimately provide better service for clients.

There will be opportunity for discussion and questions and answers. ↗

To assist the clerks in preparing for the event, lawyers are encouraged to submit questions in advance by e-mail. Transmit questions directly to Litigation Section Chair David Gurnick at dgurnick@lewitthackman.com.

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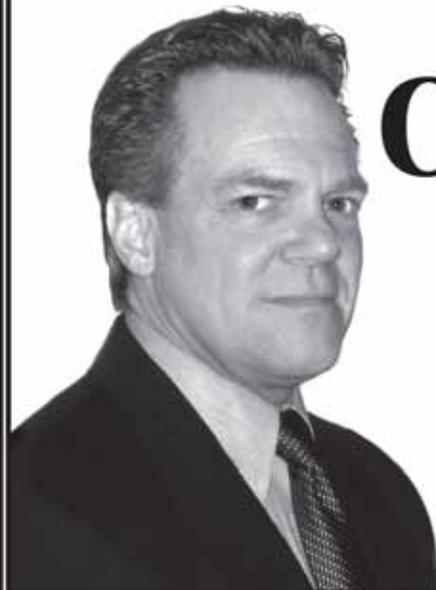
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United States Bankruptcy Court Central District of California Public Notice

RE: Amendments to Official Bankruptcy Forms Effective December 1, 2007

At its September 2007 meeting, the Judicial Conference approved amendments to Official Bankruptcy Forms 1, 3A, 3B, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 16A, 18, 19, 21, 23, and 24. The revised Official Forms will become effective on December 1, 2007.

The Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California will require the use of the new forms by December 1, 2007. The current version of these forms may be used through November 30, 2007, but the revised forms must be used on or after December 1, 2007.

CM/ECF filers may need to upgrade their petition preparation software and/or templates in order to file petitions, schedules, or other amended documents. The new forms are available on the Court's web site www.cacb.uscourts.gov, under both *Petition Forms* and *Court Forms*. The forms will be made available in printed format at the copy services at each division, and the Intake Section of the Northern Division.

Additional information regarding the revised form changes can be found on the Judiciary's web site at www.uscourts.gov/bankform/index.html. ↗

The Business in Chapter 11

What to Look for When You Walk in the Door



STEVEN R. FOX

Most attorneys who file chapter 11 cases to reorganize companies make two fundamental errors: First, they believe that application of law to a business will reorganize a company. Second, they turn over the business reorganization part of the chapter 11 case to a turnaround expert, meaning that the attorney does not get his hands dirty in reorganizing a company.

Both of these are mistakes and hurt the client, who often ends up in an unsuccessful reorganization.

Reorganization is Business with a Legal Framework Superimposed on It. Chapter 11 is one of the greatest legal tools ever created to help companies reorganize. Its flexibility serves as an umbrella permitting almost any type of entity, be it retail stores, a sole proprietorship, a factory or a nonprofit corporation, to reorganize its business and financial structure, to obtain favorable tax treatment and to re-structure its debts (read lower or eliminate debt obligations). Chapter 11 is but a series of laws that puts into play financial, personal and business dynamics. These dynamics have little or nothing to do with Chapter 11's laws. These dynamics extend beyond the debtor to include creditors and other parties.

Years ago, I represented a furniture manufacturer in a chapter 11 case. With ample reason, most of the unsecured creditors opposed the debtor and its plan. The debtor's president often mistreated or cheated the creditors. They saw the chapter 11 as an opportunity for payback. The solution? Many bankruptcy attorneys would look to the law to find the solution, but the solution for this chapter 11 could not be found in chapter 11's laws alone. The effective solution was to meet with the 20

largest creditors in a conference room and spend the day with them.

I listened to their complaints, empathized with them, and where possible, resolved their complaints. The 20 largest creditors withdrew their oppositions to the plan and instead asked the bankruptcy judge to confirm the plan. And the judge did.

She noted that the plan violated large portions of Chapter 11. But what was more important to her was that the 20 largest unsecured creditors personally appeared at the confirmation hearing to voice support for the plan.

The judge understood that Chapter 11 was there to facilitate, not

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strangle, a reorganization. The laws were not to be exalted above reorganization. And the company did successfully reorganize. Had the rules in Chapter 11 (the superimposed structure) mattered over business reality, the company would have been liquidated.

Reorganizations Attorneys Don't Like to Get Their Hands Dirty. Many attorneys, including some who became bankruptcy attorneys, went to law school to avoid manual labor. But Chapter 11 is like a construction project. The attorney must put his hard hat on and dig into the leadership and business problems that brought the debtor to his doorstep. He must also get involved in all the business management and operations of the reorganization. By delving deeply into the company's structural problems, he can see what is truly wrong with the financial

management and operations of the company.

These problems are many, including:

- Failing to recognize a changing industry or changing laws
- Leaders keeping expensive sacred cows (perks, favorite employees who must be fired, unprofitable but favored customers)
- Failing to run the business on a positive cash basis
- Keeping the company within a profitable financial box
- Leaders borrowing against some perceived future success instead of confronting the company with day to day challenges
- Employees who suffer from entitlement problems
- Leaders who do not balance their lives mentally, spiritually, or physically, or spend enough time with family

The attorney has to delve deeply into the company's structural problems and not heedlessly rely on an expert, the turnaround manager, to solve the business problems.

What a Turnaround Manager Does?

Chapter 11 attorneys often use the assistance of a turnaround manager during the company's reorganization. The term turnaround manager is not standardized. In my experience, an effective turnaround manager works closely with the attorney and the company's leaders as a team to treat the problems as an entire entity. While good turnaround managers crunch numbers, that is only one aspect of their work.

When work shifts start at the affected company, both the attorney and the turnaround manager are there talking to the employees and finding out from them what is wrong. It means interviewing mid-level

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management, many of whom can often identify (usually unwittingly) the company's real problems. It means once the attorney and the turnaround manager have identified the problems, they have the guts to take the diagnosis to the company's leaders and tell them what the problems are and what it will take for the company's reorganization to be successful. It takes guts because exposure, vulnerability, criticism and necessary changes are difficult for any leader to accept.

When the turnaround manager retreats regularly to number-crunching, that could be a sign that the manager does not know much about running businesses and they do not want to get their hands dirty. Turnaround managers can calculate numbers very well. They should be able to, because they usually come from accounting backgrounds. For this reason, they don't identify and solve the

company's real problems, and they won't confront the company's leaders about necessary changes for the company to become successful.

Conclusion

Chapter 11 is a powerful legal tool for reorganizing companies. The laws within the Bankruptcy Code help the knowledgeable attorney take advantage of opportunities presented in a reorganization.

Chapter 11 is a powerful tool when the experienced attorney understands the importance of working with the client and a capable turnaround manager as a team, and not abdicating control to a turnaround manager.

Reorganization should be more a building project than legal analysis. ✦

Steven R. Fox practices bankruptcy and related matters. He can be contacted at srfox@foxlaw.com.

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MARCIA L. KRAFT, VCLF PRESIDENT

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and have a happy and healthy New Year.

Now that the holiday season is behind us, we must concentrate on moving forward with our fundraising goals. We are focused on making this year's fundraiser a fantastic event. The event will be held on Saturday night, June 7, 2008, at CBS Studios in Studio City on the "New York Street," where the Seinfeld show was taped. We will be raising money for the installation of Children's Waiting Rooms at both the Van Nuys and San Fernando courthouses. The gala is coordinated by a lot of people, including others from the community, not just our executive board.

We all work on sponsorships, auction item solicitation, dinner program, decorations, food, etc. Working as either a member of the board of the Foundation or as an auxiliary committee member is an opportunity to meet and work with people who care about

others. Besides working towards bettering our community, we get to socialize and know one another.

I am proud and pleased to share the work with the Board and auxiliary committee members. This year we are joined by auxiliary committee members Tom Melatis and his wife, Amanda Breaux, Jodie Berman Levine and Parisa Naziri. While not on our Board, they are happily joining us to make this event a successful one. Parisa is the wife of board member and bar trustee Vahid Naziri. Thanks to all for your efforts!

The feeling of camaraderie and the good spirit of dividing the work is infectious and makes a tough job much easier. This aspect of community service makes the job a more pleasant experience.

I would like to thank the Santa Clarita Bar Association again for raising \$6,000 from its theater event, held in August. This money is directed to the Children's Waiting Room. The check was presented to the Foundation at a

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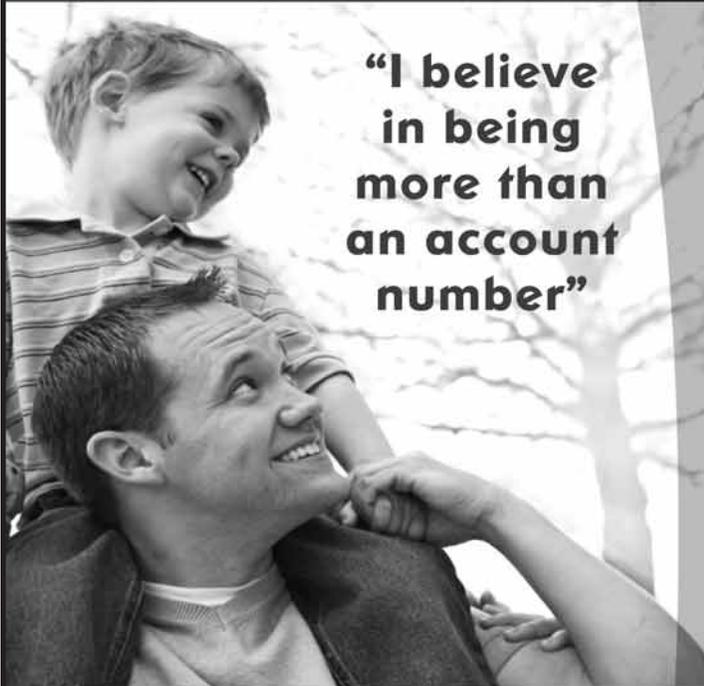
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joint meeting of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association and the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association and the Valley Community Legal Foundation on November 13, 2007.

Finally, please note that the San Fernando Valley Bar Association, the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association and the Valley Community Legal Foundation have decided to combine efforts to raise funds towards the installation of the Children's Waiting Rooms by having a raffle. Various prizes will be raffled at the Judge's Night dinner in February, 2008. If you have an opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket, please do so - it is for such a worthy cause! We are trying to obtain good prizes, such as \$1,000 and/or a plasma television set.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about the foregoing. I am available at marcia@kraftlawoffices.com.

Happy New Year! And remember: *Generosity counts!* ♡

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As 2008 stretches ahead, we take a moment to look back at the accomplishments of the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association in 2007: from the Forever Plaid theater event that raised \$6,000 to help provide a Children's Room at the San Fernando Courthouse, to the monthly meetings that provide MCLE credits, as well as a very successful Law Day. It is the participation of the members of this organization that makes great things happen.

We applaud all of those members of the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association who have worked so diligently to plan and bring to fruition these ideas and concepts that will benefit others for years to come. It is their creativity and dedication that has nurtured our organization and seen our membership grow to more than 100 attorneys since our inception just four short years ago.

With any new year comes a fresh beginning and resolution to make it better than the last.

"To be alive is to participate responsibly in the experience of life." – Howard Thurman

As a part of our work and planning for the year ahead, we would like to excite and expand our membership and issue a call to participate in the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association in 2008.

With more than 300 attorneys living and practicing law in the Santa Clarita Valley, along with the hundreds who live here and serve the people outside of Santa Clarita, the convenience and advantages of our local bar association are immense. With larger membership and increased participation come greater possibilities for philanthropy, community awareness, and educational opportunities. Participation breeds possibilities!

We all have clients, families and non-work-related commitments and responsibilities that compete for our attention and resources on a daily basis. As a result, our Board of Trustees and the Programs and Events Planning Committees are working to create meetings and events that provide interesting and worthwhile opportunities for networking, professional growth and continuing legal education. We would also like to arrange social functions that will allow us to get to know one another better, enjoy an evening together and be an excellent opportunity to invite non-members to join us.

Your ideas and input are welcome and appreciated – and your willingness to participate, get involved, and serve your community in 2008 will allow the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association to develop, grow, and effectively enhance our community and our profession.

There are so many ways to serve, with varying levels of involvement. If you are interested in serving on a committee,

using your creativity to plan an event, know someone who would be interested in becoming a member, or would just like to join us for an enjoyable evening - the year's full of possibilities!

"Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work."
– William Arthur Ward

If one of your new year's resolutions is to network more or become more involved with your local community and Bar Association, we've got just the evening for you. Come join us at the El Torito restaurant in Valencia to meet our new Board, network with fellow attorneys, and mingle while you enjoy great snacks and a margarita. We will have great sponsors for the event and look forward to seeing you there on January 17, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 🍸

The Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association's website is scvbar.org. Please share with the bar how you would like to participate and how the bar can better serve you.

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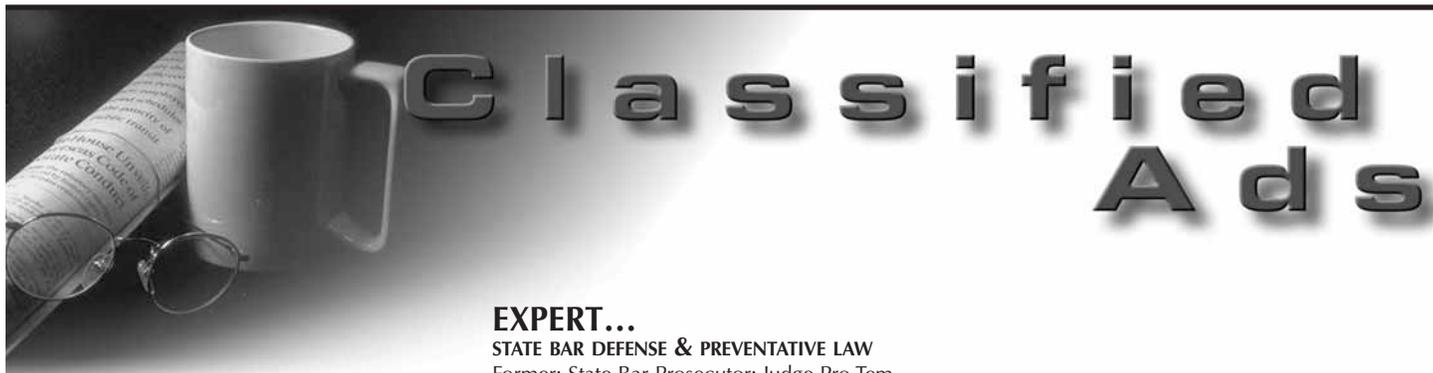
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Fulfilling Your Ethical Obligations

Kevin McConnell, Lexis Nexis
1 Hour MCLE (Legal Ethics)

10:30 a.m.

A General Guide to Estate Planning

Alice A. Salvo, Esq.
Law Offices of Alice A. Salvo
1 Hour MCLE

11:30 a.m.

Is That Considered Malpractice?

William Holden
Wells Fargo Insurance Services
1 Hour MCLE (Legal Ethics)

LUNCH ON OWN

1:30 p.m.

**How to Use Technology to Help
You in Your Practice**

Cecile Bendavid
Computer Engineering Operations, Inc.
1.5 Hours MCLE

3:00 p.m.

Deeds of Trust, Defaults and Deficiencies

Deborah Feldman, Esq.
Loeb, Kosacz & Sundberg LLP
1 Hour MCLE

4:15 p.m.

Bias in the Legal Profession

Judge Michelle Rosenblatt
Los Angeles Superior Court
1 Hour MCLE (Elimination of Bias)

JANUARY 25, 2008

9:30 a.m.

**The Danger Zone:
Escaping Bar Discipline**

Professor Robert M. Barrett
University of La Verne
2 Hours MCLE (Legal Ethics)

11:30 a.m.

Musings of a Discovery Referee

Richard Coleman, Esq.
Mediator and Discovery Referee
Alternative Resolution Centers
1 Hour MCLE

LUNCH ON OWN

1:30 p.m.

**The 3 P's in the Courtroom and
Mediation: Presentation, Personality
and Passion**

Hon. Burton Katz, Ret.
Alternative Resolution Centers
1 Hour MCLE

2:30 p.m.

**Dealing with Stress:
How to Prevent Substance Abuse**

Patricia Tierney, Esq., The Other Bar
1 Hour MCLE
(Prevention of Substance Abuse)

3:30 p.m.

Domestic Partnerships: What's the Latest?

Diane Goodman, Esq.
Wendy Hartmann, Esq.
Caren Nielsen, Esq.
1 Hour MCLE

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January Events

Probate & Estate Planning Section

Topic: New Laws

Panel: James Birnberg, Esq. and Sandy Rae, Esq.
Date: January 8
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

Small Firm & Sole Practitioner Section

Topic: New Year Updates: What Every Lawyer Should Know

Speaker: Harmon Sieff, Esq.
Date: January 9
Time: 12:00 noon
Place: SFVBA Conference Room
Cost: \$25 members prepaid; \$35 at the door
\$35 non-members prepaid; \$45 at the door
MCLE: 1 Hour

Women Lawyers Section

Topic: Hiring and Firing Employees

Speaker: Sue Bendavid-Arbiv, Esq.
Date: January 17
Time: 12:00 noon
Place: SFVBA Conference Room
Cost: \$25 members prepaid; \$35 at the door
\$35 non-members prepaid; \$45 at the door
MCLE: 1 Hour

Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association

Event: Meet, Mingle & Margaritas

Meet the new board, network with fellow attorneys and learn about what our sponsors have to offer.
Date: January 17
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Place: El Torito Restaurant, Valencia
Cost: Event is free to members and prospective members but RSVPs are required.
Go to www.scvbar.org to RSVP.

Litigation Section

Topic: Critical Courtroom Tips: Court Clerks Tell All

Panel: Kent Toby, *Northwest District*
Diane Teibell, *Northwest District, Limited Jurisdiction*
Lisa Berkowitz, *North Valley District, Santa Clarita*
Candice Lutz, *North Valley District, Chatsworth*
Date: January 17
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: SFVBA Conference Room
Cost: \$35 members prepaid; \$45 at the door
\$45 non-members prepaid; \$55 at the door
MCLE: 1 Hour

Business Law, Real Property & Business Law Section

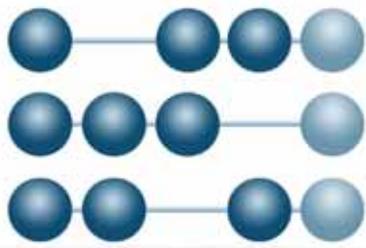
Topic: The Ethics of Asset Protection

Speaker: David J. Berardo, Esq.
Date: January 23
Time: 12:00 noon
Place: SFVBA Conference Room
21250 Califa Street, Suite 113
Woodland Hills
Cost: \$30 members prepaid; \$40 at the door
\$40 non-members prepaid; \$50 at the door
MCLE: 1 Hour Legal Ethics

Family Law Section

Topic: What's New in Department 2? New Cases and Statutes in 2008

Panel: Judge Marjorie Steinberg, Supervising Judge, Family Law and Barry Harlan and Michelle Robins, Lewitt Hackman et al.
Date: January 28
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Monterey at Encino Restaurant, Encino
Cost: \$45 members prepaid; \$55 at the door
\$55 non-members prepaid; \$65 at the door
MCLE: 1 Hour



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