



BarNotes

A Publication of the
San Fernando Valley Bar Association

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SFVBA BEACON TO THE COMMUNITY

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association (SFVBA) faces some notable challenges in today's crowded legal market. The American Bar Association (ABA) reports that the San Fernando Valley is located in the most lawyer-populated county in the nation and is competing for members with the most bar associations per capita than any other locale in the country. The SFVBA has the daunting task of differentiating itself from its myriad of competitors. In addition, there is not one geographic center to the Valley, rather there are several.

The SFVBA Board of Trustees and section chairs met at the beginning of the Bar year, over the first weekend of October, to create a three-year vision for the Association and develop a strategic plan for fulfilling that vision. Facilitated by Elizabeth Derrico, Associate Director of the ABA Division for Bar Services, SFVBA Leaders defined goals, set priorities and identified action items.

"Some bar associations embark on the strategic planning process as a result of stagnation or calamity," according to Derrico. "The SFVBA however, approached the process from a position of strength. The association has a healthy balance sheet, an enviable Lawyer Referral and Information Service, a terrific newsletter, a committed group of volunteer leaders and a dedicated staff."

SFVBA President Alice Salvo received the written plan from the ABA in early December. The strategic plan has three goals: to be a bea-

con to our members by providing well-defined services to meet the diversity of their needs; to strengthen the relationship between the SFVBA and its sections to increase participation and better serve members needs; and to be a respected and influential voice in the community through our successful outreach and branding activities.

"The theme of our strategic plan is a beacon in the community," states Salvo. "Our San Fernando Valley Bar Association is already achieving our vision of spreading our influence in our community by readily offering information, assistance and referrals to the community at large. Our volunteer efforts have gained us respect among the judiciary. We look forward to expanding our influence in the community over the next few years."

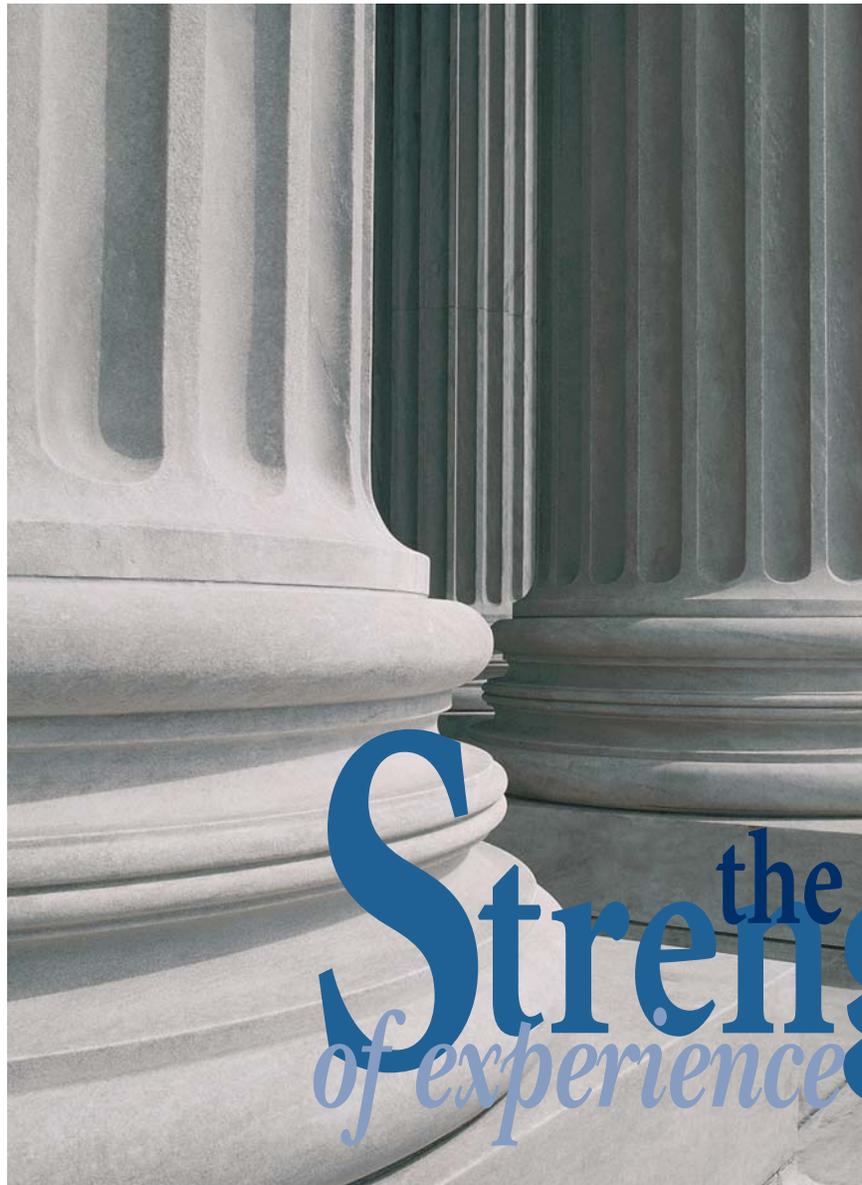
President Elect Richard Lewis was appointed to chair the Long Range Planning Committee to implement the plan's goals. "With this long-range plan, the SFVBA formalizes its commitment to outreach to the larger community of the San Fernando Valley," pronounces Lewis. "This plan also provides a formal structure to translate our often mentioned desire to be a true beacon to your community into reality within a realistic timeframe."

Three subcommittees have been set up to tackle each of the stated goals. To participate in making the plan become a reality, contact Richard Lewis at (818) 704-3333 or Rlewis@RichardLewis.com. 📧

Bloomindale's Buyers Day for Comfort for Court Kids a Great Success

Bloomie's Manager Clay Harrison, CCK Board Member Debra Meiers, SFVBA Executive Director Liz Post, and CCK President Ernestine Fields were on hand to accept a check for \$2,500 from Kim Van Natta, General Manager of Bloomindale's, Sherman Oaks. The financial support generated by the SFVBA's Buyers Day on December 1 will assist Comfort for Court Kids® in delivering more than 4,200 new teddy bears to Children's Court each month. 🐻





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BY L. ROB WERNER, SCVBA PRESIDENT

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION IN ACTION

At our January Meeting, the membership finally had an opportunity to vote on adopting a logo/seal for our association. We had submitted the task to the local high schools as a contest and offered a \$500 scholarship to the winner. At the time we were not sure that we would really want to use the submission. Well, we were pleasantly surprised. We had several very good submissions. We adopted the logo/seal submitted by Nicole Noble. Here it is!



The submissions were so good that we decided to accept another submission as a masthead for our letterhead. Although this was not part of the contest, we awarded its creator, David Schnurr, a \$100 scholarship. The masthead should appear at the top of this article.

Nicole Noble and David Schnurr were awarded their scholarships at our February dinner meeting. We have decided to move our dinner meetings to Marie Callender's Restaurant at 27630 The Old Road, Valencia. The location is right off Highway 5 at Magic Mountain Parkway. We made the move because the restaurant provides much greater flexibility in meals and can accommodate more diners without reservations and at a lesser price. At our February meeting we were honored to have an MCLE program with Justice Roger W. Boren, the presiding judge of the Court of Appeals joining with a panel to discuss appellate practice, procedures and pitfalls.

As a group we have been discussing the possibility of having two meetings during certain months so that we can accommodate both those who favor a lunch meeting and those

who would rather meet in the evening. For now we have decided to have quarterly lunch meetings and the remaining meetings would be evening meetings at Marie Callender's. Our quarterly lunch meetings are in March, June, September and December. We have not yet established a permanent venue for these meetings. All regular meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of the month. The evening meetings all have a 6:00 p.m. time for registration and networking and 6:30 for dinner and the program. Please contact our Meetings Committee Chairperson, Jane McNamara, at (661)287-3260 or the SFVBA for the specifics on our March meeting.

Our Association decided to offer free legal mediation services for certain disputes when there is a great public interest in the outcome. For several years now the City of Santa Clarita has been battling a proposed mining project. This has cost the taxpayers several millions of dollars. We hope that we might help resolve this and similar disputes.

We have also been advancing our plans to create a Law Appreciation Day. Our target is for a May luncheon. We are not sure we will be able to do everything to bring it about this year. But by doing the ground work, we anticipate it to be a yearly event. I

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Santa Clarita Valley, Continued from page 5

met with our new Mayor, Cameron Smyth, to discuss this and the mediation proposal. He expressed a positive interest in these projects and also volunteered to be a speaker at one of our future meetings.

In February, our court Liaison Committee, led by James Reape, set up a meeting in Judge Nash's court. Several of us met with three of the Newhall judges as well as several administrators. Among the things the Committee is working on is setting up court call procedures and helping to educate the bar on the process of FAX filings. The staff made several suggestions and provided us with forms and procedural guidelines on a couple of issues. We are working to disseminate this material through our email address or post it within the context of our web page. Also, we are all looking for ways to promote the establishment of a full service court in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Our Web page has been set up and the Legal Forum is

operational. But like so many other things, someone needs to service the page and get the forum moving. Hale Antico is the Chairperson of our Internet Committee. He may be contacted at hantico@scvbankruptcy.com. This is a big task. He really could use some help in disseminating information, running the legal forum and posting things to our web page at scvba.org. If any of you or your support staff could help - please contact him.

We are always looking for ways to improve our organization. If you have any suggestions or know anyone who might be willing to help, please contact us. We are also trying to expand our email lists so that we can notify attorneys who live or work in our Valley or are interested in our group about our meetings and projects. Your help in expanding our email list would be appreciated. Our bar email address is santaclaritavalleybar@yahoo.com. You may also contact me directly at lrobwerner@yahoo.com. ☺

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By The Numbers

Michele C. Morley, LRIS Director



We often rate success by looking at the numbers. Here are our numbers. We are making more referrals this fiscal year than we did last year which was a banner year. We have at least six pending cases that are in the six to seven figure range in settlement or judgment. The day I wrote this column, the LRIS received a very nice surprise check from Attorney Richard Singer. He took a case that several other attorneys rejected. He saw something that others obviously missed.

Our percentage fee income is already ahead of last year. This is good news for our members and for the LRIS. We want to use this new income to undertake new marketing ideas.

We have had ten new members join the LRIS since October 2004. All of these attorneys have met our high standards of experience and expertise. A couple of other attorneys have applied who we have asked to wait until they have more cases and trial work. We are looking forward to the time we can have them join as they demonstrated to us that they will be assets by their intelligence and professionalism.

We are proud to report that referrals from attorneys are ahead of referrals from the Yellow Pages for the second year in a row. We believe that this reflects the quality of service we are known to provide. Our printed materials, court signs and cards, Internet, Legal Forum cable show, senior centers, community colleges and governmental agencies have increased

as a source of referral business. We are also pleased that individuals who have used our services are coming back or sending friends and family in increasing numbers.

We have focused on increasing our referrals in the areas of business and criminal law. In both areas, we are seeing increased referrals and increased income. Particularly in the competitive area of criminal law, we are seeing more referrals. Business law is generating higher income as the quality of cases as well as the number of cases has risen.

While numbers are a good guideline of success, sometimes it is those who do not “do it by the numbers” who are most successful. These are the attorneys who go that extra 5,280 feet for their clients. For example, I received a client survey for LRIS attorney James Morris, where the client says they were “overwhelmed” by the quality of the legal services provided. The client went on to say, “Would not hesitate to recommend Jim Morris & Associates to anyone that might ask if I know a good law firm.”

Following is a quote from a survey I received about family law attorney Denise Placencio, of DaCorsi & Placencio:

Ms. Placencio is in my opinion a great attorney. She and her wonderful secretary (Anne VanCott) made me feel so comfortable. I immediately felt that I was in very competent hands and that I could relax a little. One very important concern I had before you sent me to her was that if I could find an attorney that would take my small retainer, “(s)he” would then not be available for me to talk to and I would always worry about what was going on. Ms. Placencio and her secretary, Anne, made themselves available to me and treated me as their equal. It meant a lot to me.

She then goes on to describe a time when she was given kind attention when she dropped by some papers. The client also praised the results and the negotiation skills of Ms. Placencio.

Going the extra mile or improving the bottom line are both ways to “do the numbers.” 🐾

The Lawyer Referral & Information Service is extending membership for its Family Law Limited Scope Representation program from its initial pilot group to all qualified LRIS panel attorneys.

To join the panel, attorneys must attend or view a three-hour unbundling services training. Members can borrow the video of the SFVBA's December 2003 training from our MCLE tape library. In addition, the Practice Law Institute (PLI) and the State Bar of California conducted an attorney training in November. The training can be viewed online for free at <http://www.pli.edu>. The written materials for both trainings are available on the SFVBA website at <http://www.sfvba.org/public/familylaw.htm>.

For more information, contact LRIS Director Michele Morley at (818) 227-0490, ext. 103 or LRIS@sfvba.org.



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Letters

Dear Colleagues:

Sorry I can't be with you on this occasion [Judges' Night].

When I first started my law practice in Van Nuys there was one part-time Municipal Judge in the Valley – on Friday morning in City Hall. There was no Superior Court Judge or session.

In San Fernando there was a City Judge and a Justice Court Judge, but one man filled both offices.

There was a Judge in Burbank and a Justice in Calabasas.

How times have changed.

On the positive side, I am now a member of the 20-25 group, i.e. twenty years on the Bench and twenty-five years in retirement. Thank goodness so many legislators want to become Judges, so they protect our retirement system.

Fondly,

Ray Roberts

Raymond Roberts served as President of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association in 1956. Judge Roberts retired from the Bench in 1980 and resides in Auburn, California.

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Law Day Dinner Foundation for VCLF Success



BY ANNE ADAMS

The Foundation needs your support as we prepare for our Law Day Dinner, which will be held on Friday, May 6, 2005. Our Law Day Dinner is our major fundraiser of the year. We raise money through our sponsorships, our auctions and our ticket sales.

We have three levels of sponsorships: Bronze, Silver and Gold. All three levels of sponsorships include an ad in our program booklet and tickets to the Law Day Dinner. Our sponsorships start at \$500 for the Bronze level. Our sponsors are generally law firms, businesses and individual attorneys. Please contact Barry Harlan at (818) 990-2120 for sponsorship information.

We hold a silent auction and a live auction at our Law Day Dinner. Do you have a set of sports tickets you can donate? Do you have extra theatre tickets? Do you have a family

member that would like to donate some products or services to help promote their business? Do you have a friend that could donate a basket of items?

Our auction items frequently include restaurant gift certificates, gift baskets, sports tickets, event tickets and a wide variety of products. Unusual services and products often make the auctions more interesting. If you would like to make a donation for our auctions, please contact our Law Day Dinner co-chairs, Christine Lyden at (818) 888-8866 or Mark Blackman at (818) 881-5000.

Please plan to purchase tickets to our Law Day Dinner. Has your firm thought about sponsoring a table? We appreciate the support of the firms who sponsor tables for our event.

Law Day was established in 1958 to strengthen our heritage of liberty,

justice and equality under the law. The mission of the Foundation is to enhance community respect for the law and the professions that serve it through financial and educational support.

We provide grants for law related projects. Our funding has helped grandparents become guardians of foster care children. Our grants have helped runaways and high-risk youth. We have provided funding for court advocates for domestic violence victims. We also provide scholarships for students who intend to pursue careers in law enforcement, firefighting, public safety or a legal profession. Please support the Foundation by supporting our Law Day Dinner. 

Anne Adams may be contacted at (818) 715-0015 or by email at anneadamslaw@sbcglobal.net.

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Practice Areas Ripe for ADR



BY JOHNATHAN ARNOLD, ESQ.

Even though I like my clients very much, I never fail to get a humorous response from my fellow practitioners when I say that sometimes I wish I could insist that any party interested in initiating a lawsuit had to be compelled to carry a hot iron bar in their bare hands twenty paces to demonstrate sufficient belief in the merits of their own case before being allowed to file any form of complaint. I know that seems harsh (and indeed it was when a variant of this procedure was used in medieval England), but it is an extreme example of an ADR mechanism at work.

A Little History

Trail by combat is typically something that is mentioned in passing (if at all) in most civil procedure courses. If it is mentioned, reference is usually made to the fact that parties to dispute could basically fight it out, and the stronger party (supported by "truth")

would somehow prevail. Variations to fighting included the ordeal of water, where a priest would invoke a tub of water to not accept a liar, after which the accused would be lowered in. If the accused floated, guilt was pronounced, as the water would be "rejecting" a liar. However, once the parties had set upon some form of trial by combat, they each had to retire to a local monastery (or similar institution) where they were secluded for anywhere from several days to almost a month, compelled to pray, fast and seek the counsel of a priest, who would query them again and again and again to discover if they might want to "settle" instead.

Interestingly, the only point at which a party could withdraw from a trial by combat was only after the actual combat commenced; the case could be "settled" any time before that. Thus began a very early form of ADR.

Fast forward a few centuries when the common law had developed to the point of more precise procedure and potential litigants had more of a choice as to where to take their claims: the Court of Common Pleas, the King's Bench, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and so on. Taking advantage of any one of these forums would generally preclude physical violence as a procedural option. However, burdened by the highly technical forms of writ-based pleading, these courts still were not able to efficiently address or resolve many of the disputes of the day.

Think about our modern concept of easily pleading the breach of a partially performed oral contract; the closest you might be able to in one of these courts was by pleading *indebitatus assumpsit*, wherein you would stretch the already rigid writ of *assumpsit* whenever you were stuck in

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ADR, continued from page 11

the situation where you had already delivered the goods to the defendant and now wanted to be paid. Again, ADR – in the form recourse to the newer mercantile courts – provided a solution. Parties here would agree to be bound by some variation of what later became nominated as the Law Merchant, which had business-savvy judges applying more real-world commercial norms to resolve disputes. Thus began the Uniform Commercial Code.

ADR Now, Litigation Later

As an attorney, I am a very strong believer in the necessity for aggrieved parties to have recourse to a court of law. The procedural rules, though highly technical and sometimes seemingly obtuse, really have as their noble goal the placement of the parties in equipoise: properly represented, the small side should be on an equal footing with the larger side so that the law can be applied fairly. That being said, I know that at the end of the day parties to a civil action usually come away feeling like the whole matter could have been handled better.

Several recent studies have revealed a key statistic: upwards of 70% of the parties to a non-personal injury actions have stated that if given the chance with their opposing side, they probably could have worked out a more satisfactory result outside of court. Moreover, most of those polled agreed that the missing factor in a civil action was time, and time is the coin of the realm for a host of practice areas. As a practitioner, you need to be aware that the cycle time for concluding a civil action often does not serve the life cycle of the litigated subject matter, even if you end up representing the prevailing party. Accordingly, consider the merits of some form of ADR as a precursor to filing suit. Technology and entertainment are two areas where ADR makes sense.

Technology

In high technology practice, "Moore's Law" dictates that the speed of an average CPU (i.e., the comput-

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er's brain) doubles approximately every 18 months. This means that the shelf life for most software programs is about one year, and is in fact often less. While you might be able to obtain a preliminary injunction, and then possibly a TRO, today's fast-track rules don't really capture technology's life cycle to make civil litigation the preferred forum for resolving disputes where the underlying subject matter surrounds things like software. Let me give an example.

Recently, I was asked to resolve a dispute between a technology house and one of its former employees. The technology house (I'll call them "TechCo") was in the posture of the plaintiff and the former employee (whom I'll call "Programmer") was in the posture of the defendant, who had threatened to file a counter-claim. This dispute arose out of Programmer's alleged theft of TechCo's trade secrets while developing a particular piece of software code.

Programmer claimed that there was no theft as Programmer was never an employee, only an independent contractor. It gets worse: not only did TechCo retain Programmer under an oral contract, TechCo appears to have never properly protected its proprietary information in the first place such that it could credibly argue that such information should be subject to trade secret protection. But wait, there's more: Programmer was prepared to allege that Programmer was retained by TechCo to develop the specific piece of code in question to allow Programmer's own trade secret information to work with TechCo's contemplated software program.

I have to complement the counsel for both sides here as they realized that all parties stood to lose if this matter were not resolved in less than one month. Here's what we all were able to come up with in non-binding mediation. Each side would release the other; TechCo agreed to a one time fee (approximating 1 year of what it would have paid Programmer as an employee) for an exclusive, one-year license to Programmer's proprietary information; Programmer, in turn, agreed to a very robust set of cooperation obligations for this one-year period to work with TechCo finalizing, debugging and implementing this software for any of TechCo's clients who purchased this software.

At the conclusion of this one-year period, each side agreed to engage in substantive negotiations for the retention of Programmer as either an employee or consultant, and reduce an agreement covering such to written form, including how any of Programmer's subsequent "inventions" would be treated (e.g., TechCo as having right-of-first refusal, work-for-hire, etc.). Importantly, it took only one day for us to hear, analyze and craft an agreement for this. I doubt that any court could have compelled such a win-win solution in even one year.

Entertainment

In entertainment practice, cycle time is important, but so is the availability of really robust arbitral forums. Luckily, a good portion of the entertainment industry is

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The Finest Neutrals Around.



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ADR, continued from page 13

covered by collective bargaining agreements that provide for ADR – especially arbitration – with neutrals that really understand the “biz”.

For example, let’s say you represent a screenwriter who has gotten the run-around from a quasi-professional producer who has a “house-keeping deal” with a studio (whereby the studio basically agrees to seriously consider any and all movie ideas presented by the producer during the term of the “housekeeping deal”).

Your client was asked to perform what otherwise might be characterized as some non-substantial edits and this producer is now wanting a co-writing credit should your client’s script get optioned for development by a major studio. Obviously, you might be able to file suit alleging breach of a confidential relationship (and plead a Desny claim) in the hopes of getting this producer to cry uncle, but win, draw or lose, this course of action has the strong likelihood of destroying your client’s current (albeit imperfect) deal and also marking your client as a “suer”, foreclosing a lot of meetings with other producers in the future.

A better tack would be to take advantage of the Writers Guild of America arbitration powers. Not only would your client arbitrate before a panel of three very well qualified writers, but a decision would be reached pretty quickly...and in this set of circumstances, the decision would likely be in favor of the screenwriter. This would allow you to continue work with your client moving this script in development and, hopefully, onto pilot format (I do like to be optimistic).

Conclusion & Resources

Admittedly, technology and entertainment are but two practice areas where ADR really makes sense. For more on entertainment, the ADR section is hosting a lunch presentation on March 18 at noon at the SFVBA’s offices by Bob Giolito, the General Counsel of the Directors Guild of America. He will be discussing the DGAs Basic Agreement, and how its arbitration provisions have kept dis-

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putes between directors and studios in Hollywood to a minimum.

No matter what your practice area, though, keep in mind the costs that can be saved by you and your client when you elect ADR over civil litigation. Whenever I have a client who really wants to litigate I do a litigation budget that captures not only what it will cost to get to – and through – trial, but also how long it will take (I find Microsoft Project displays this sort of data very clearly, especially for my high tech clients). And I can tell you that once most of my clients go over this, they are soon asking me if there are other alternatives.

A new feature of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association’s website contains listservs for most of the practice sections. You can use this to easily send an email to every member of a particular section should you decide to utilize some form of ADR and require assistance, either in the form of procedural advice or to find someone with subject matter expertise who can sit as an arbitrator and/or mediator. Try the ADR section’s listserv if you need some ADR specific help and I’ll bet more than one of us will be able to provide some solid assistance, myself included! 🐼

Jonathan Arnold, Esq. is a member of the SFVBA’s ADR and Entertainment, Intellectual Property & Internet Law Sections and is in private practice in Sherman Oaks. He can be contacted at (818) 990-7958 or jonathanlaw@pacbell.net.

A Tribute to Pro Bono



Long-time SFVBA members Pearl Vogel and Florence Rosenberg (top row, far right) received the State Bar 2004 President’s Pro Bono Service Awards for Emeritus or Limited Active Practice. Ms. Vogel and Ms. Rosenberg practiced family law for more than 30 years each before retiring. They have been committed volunteers at the Van Nuys Self-Help Legal Access Center since it opened in November 2000, explaining legal rights in different areas of family law. The Center is a collaboration between Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, the SFVBA and the Los Angeles Superior Court.

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THE PRACTICE

a series of essays on practice of law and life

Give Your Phone a Rest



BY DAVID R. HAGEN

The electronic devices that we have today are simply phenomenal. With my cell phone, I can be almost anywhere in the world and immediately speak with my wife, children or the office. I occasionally give my cell phone number to clients who can call me while I am going to a meeting or commuting at the end of the day. I have also come to realize that there are several attorneys that I can typically get in touch with during the drive to or from work. This is good in that it allows me to be more in touch and allows me the opportunity to bill for time which is otherwise not usable.

My office computer has a program (Phoneslips) that collects all of the messages and allows me to speed dial the return number. My laptop computer can wirelessly network to the house and get onto the Internet. From there, I can access my PACER subscription which lets me look at most of the paperwork filed in any bankruptcy files in the last ten years. I also have access to a website that allows me to look at all of the statutes and reported cases in the entire United States since 1925.

This connectivity is truly phenomenal. These electronic devices, and the connectivity which they promote, did not exist as recently as ten years ago. It is wonderful to know that at a moment's notice I can be in contact with the office or friends or look at any case ever reported in the United States. These devices allow us to get more and more done during the course of the day.

I wonder, however, whether there might be some time to turn these devices off. One of the ways that we can compel our minds to deal with problems or problem issues is to compartmentalize them. This means putting them in a box and putting the box away until a later point in time when the issue can be dealt with. This prevents us from allowing the issue to fester at a time when we cannot fully address and cannot solve the problem.

I also believe that our minds, like our bodies, need a certain amount of time simply to rest and regenerate their energy. Sleep researchers have told us for years that this is one of the reasons why our bodies have a need to sleep. However, this continued connectivity expands our day and

makes it longer and longer. It tends to crowd out the time which we should have set aside to regenerate and rest.

What would it be like if after a certain time in the day, you just did not answer your phone? When the phone rings I have such a compulsive urge to pick it up and deal with the issue. However, I am wondering if it would not be healthier if, at different times of the day, I simply did not pick the phone up. Now, those of us with young kids, we always worry about needing to be in touch in case the kids need us. However, newer phones show you the number of the person calling. If you recognize the number of that being the kids, we can still pick the phone up. However, if it is not a call that we recognize, perhaps it would simply be better to ignore the phone and answer the voice mail in the morning.

The electronic devices have given us access and connectivity that we never dreamed of when going to law school. It allows us to do more and better work for our clients and to be more productive. However, as busy professionals, we need to be cognitive of the need to rest and regenerate. Try scheduling some periods of time during the day when you will not answer the phone unless it is an emergency. You might find that you are more productive during the periods of time when you do answer the phone. You might also find that there will be less stress and tension in your life. 📞

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

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Notice From The Clerk

The United States District Court, Central District of California, has adopted, subject to public comment, new Local Civil Rule 79-5.4. The new local rule is in compliance with the policy of the Judicial Conference of the United States and the E-Government Act of 2002 (as Amended).

Members of the public are invited to submit comments on proposed Local Rule 79-5.4. All comments should be in writing and should be submitted no later than March 15, 2005. Comments should be mailed or delivered to: Sherri R. Carter, District Court Executive, 312 N. Spring Street, Room G-8, Los Angeles, California 90012.

All timely received comments will be considered by the Court before final adoption of this rule.

L.R. 79-5.4 Responsibilities of Parties to Redact or

Exclude Personal Identifiers. In compliance with the policy of the Judicial Conference of the United States and the E-Government Act of 2002 (as Amended), the parties shall refrain from including, and/or shall redact where inclusion is necessary, the following personal data identifiers from all documents filed with the Court.

(a) **Social Security Numbers:** If an individual's Social Security Number must be included in a document, only the last four digits of that number should be used;

(b) **Names of Minor Children:** If the involvement of a minor child must be mentioned, only the initials of that child should be used;

(c) **Dates of Birth:** If an individual's date of birth must be included in a document, only the year should be used;

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(e) **Home Address:** If a home address must be included, only the city and state should be listed.

A party who must file a document containing the personal data identifiers as listed above shall: 1) file a redacted version of the document excluding the personal data identifiers; or 2) file a redacted version of the document with unique identifiers (e.g., 1, 2, 3 or A, B, C) used in place of the personal data identifiers, along with a reference list, filed under seal, indicating the complete personal data identifiers and unique identifiers used in their place; or 3) file the complete unredacted document under seal.

Parties shall carefully examine the documents, exhibits or attachments to be filed with the Court in order to protect any sensitive and private information. The responsibility for redacting or placing under seal these personal data identifiers rests solely with counsel and the parties. The Clerk will not review any pleadings or documents for compliance.

Counsel and the parties are cautioned that failure to redact or place under seal these personal data identifiers may subject them to the full disciplinary power of the Court. If a redacted version of the document is filed, counsel shall maintain the unredacted document in their office pending further order of the Court or resolution of the action (including the appeal, if any) and shall, at the request of opposing counsel or parties, provide a copy of the complete document. ⚡

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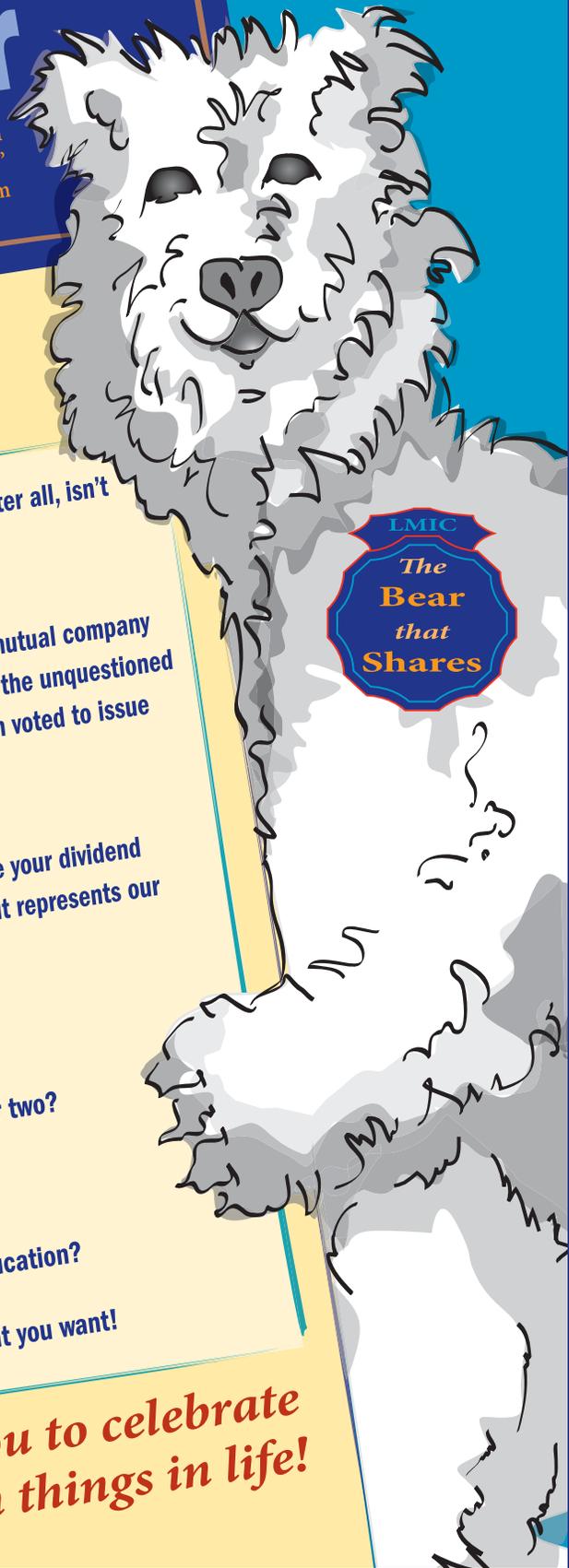
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March Events

Probate & Estate Planning Section

Topic: Update From the Recorder's Office
Panel: Marlene Smith and L.A. County Registrar's Recorder Office
Date: March 8
Time: 12:00 Noon
Place: Encino Glen Restaurant, Encino
Cost: \$30 members prepaid; \$35 at the door
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MCLE: 1 Hour

Small Firm & Sole Practitioner Section

Topic: Communicating with Clients about Risk: What to Say and How to Say It
Speaker: Abraham M. Rudy, Esq.
Date: March 9
Time: 12:00 Noon
Place: SFVBA Conference Room, Woodland Hills
Cost: \$20 members prepaid; \$25 at the door
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MCLE: 1 Hour

ADR Section

Topic: Blueprints for Successful Mediation of Homeowner's Association and Real Estate Construction Disputes
Speakers: Leonard Siegel, Esq. and Jim Mingl, Mediator
Date: March 9
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: SFVBA Conference Room, Woodland Hills
Cost: \$25 members prepaid; \$30 at the door
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MCLE: 1 Hour

Workers' Compensation Section

Topic: The New G.A.F. Scale for Rating Psychiatric Disability
Speaker: David Freeman, Ph.D.
Date: March 16
Time: 12:00 Noon
Place: Encino Glen Restaurant, Encino
Cost: \$30 members prepaid; \$35 at the door
 \$35 non-members prepaid; \$45 at the door
MCLE: 1 Hour

Business Law, Real Property, Employment Law & Bankruptcy Section

Topic: Using Computer Forensics Effectively to Win Cases
Speakers: Zeev Haskal, President, Mega Group Investigations
Date: March 23
Time: 12:00 Noon
Place: SFVBA Conference Room, Woodland Hills
Cost: \$25 members prepaid; \$30 at the door
 \$30 non-members prepaid; \$35 at the door
MCLE: 1 Hour

Family Law Section

Topic: Prevention of Substance Abuse
Speakers: The Other Bar
Date: March 28
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Encino Glen Restaurant, Encino
Cost: \$40 members prepaid; \$45 at the door
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MCLE: 1 Hour

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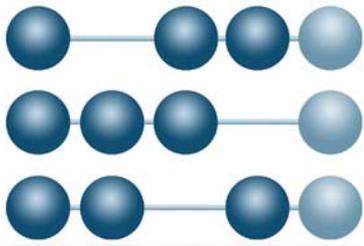
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