



# BarNotes

A Publication of the  
San Fernando Valley Bar Association

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## AFTER THE RAINS

The unusually heavy rains - 36 inches in Los Angeles this season - have sent hill-sides slumping, damaging or destroying many homes and roads, and turning creeks and washes into raging rivers

According to the Insurance Information Institute, thousands of homeowners and flood insurance claims have been filed in Southern California following these record rains.

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association Business Law, Real Property, Employment Law & Bankruptcy Section's Annual Construction Law Seminar will focus on the anticipated legally related construction defect fallout from that deluge.

The half-day seminar will be held on June 3, 2005 at the University of West Los Angeles in Woodland Hills.

According to the program's moderator, retired judge Marvin D. Rowen, "Construction related defects in residential and commercial real property are a perplexing and ongoing problem facing homeowner and business real property owners in every community."

"Oftentimes those defects first present themselves or are exacerbated by stresses caused by a natural phenomena such as earthquakes or unusually heavy rainfall."

Program coordinator and land use attorney Fred Gaines adds, "The recent rainstorms and corresponding landslides raise a number of issues in real property, construction and land use law. Our seminar will focus on these issues and the subsequent insurance claims and litigation."

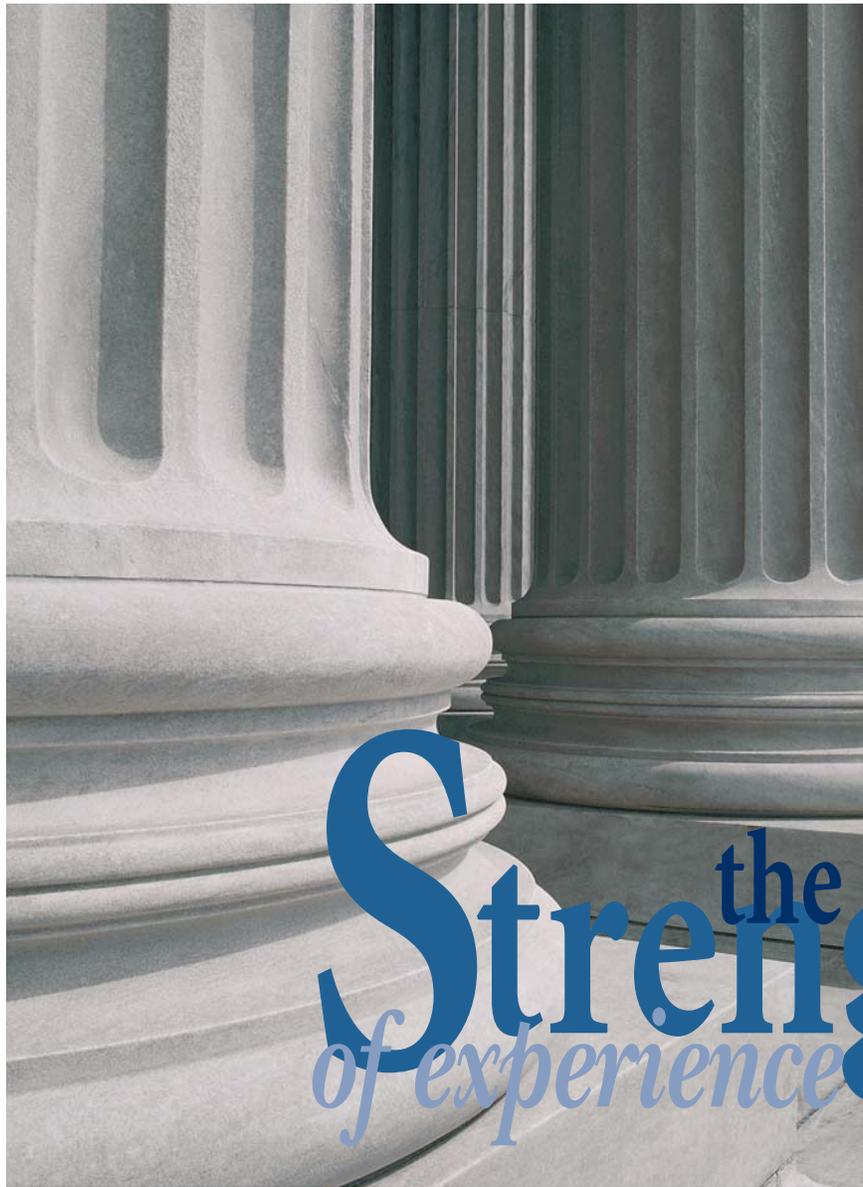
Two of Los Angeles' leading construction law litigators Chris Roux and George Knopfler will discuss current cases dealing with storm damage, landslides and construction defect; Stan Shure, of counsel to Morgan Lewis, will address insurance coverage issues; and James Acret, well-known author of books on construction law, will discuss the disparities of the mechanic's lien and contractor's license laws.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the program concludes at 1:30 p.m. Attorneys will earn four hours of MCLE. The \$55 early registration fee for members includes continental breakfast and lunch. The seminar is being sponsored by East West Bank.

For more information or to register for the seminar, contact SFVBA Events Coordinator Linda Temkin at (818) 227-0490, ext. 105 or [events@sfvba.org](mailto:events@sfvba.org). 🐾



L-R: SFVBA President Alice A. Salvo joined Sheriff Lee Baca and City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo at the "Don't be Fooled" campaign event at the Van Nuys courthouse on April 1. In response to a growing number of consumer complaints about fraud and botched legal cases by paralegals, notarios and legal document preparers, a coalition of legal services organizations and government agencies aim to tell people where to get free and effective legal services, and bring civil and criminal cases against scammers. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Attorney General Bill Lockyer addressed the crowd.



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# For the Welfare of the Whole, Including Attorneys

Michele C. Morley, LRIS Director



On April Fools' Day, Neighborhood Legal Services publicized the problems and dangers of fraudulent legal services providers. The message was to be careful and selective about whom you turn to for legal services. The problems of unauthorized practice of law have grown because of the increasing numbers of people who do not receive or cannot afford representation by licensed attorneys.

According to the California Commission on Access to Justice's "Path to Equal Justice", a 2002 study, only 28% of the legal needs of low-income Californians are being met. In California, there are approximately 10,000 low-income persons per legal aid attorney.

The U.S. Trustee for the Central District of California has developed strict guidelines for non attorneys who prepare documents for filing. The main guideline is that "a bankruptcy petitioner preparer (non-lawyer) may only type forms." The Trustee then lists all of the acts in a bankruptcy that constitute the practice of law and that a non-lawyer cannot perform. Clearly, there is recognition that "L.A., we have a problem."

"However, the best available research suggests that the American legal profession averages less than half an hour a week and under half a dollar a day in pro bono contributions, most of which goes to help family, friends, and charitable causes that largely benefit middle and upper income groups." (The Professional Lawyer Spring 2005)

In 2002, the ABA's Litigation Section conducted a survey about the

public perceptions of lawyers; 81% of the public surveyed wanted lawyers to help educate the public about how to handle common legal problems and 63% wanted lawyers to provide more public service and pro bono work. So the perception, and to an extent the reality, is that lawyers need to provide more meaningfully targeted pro bono services.

I personally know many attorneys who provide reduced fee services or do pro bono work. Recently, a woman called from a facility for the disabled. She was trying to collect back support. Her divorce had been granted in the Van Nuys Court but the woman did not have the case number. She had only a vague idea of where her ex-husband might be. Donna Laurent volunteered to help with this. Donna is a certified Family Law specialist and has a busy practice. She is a member of the SFVBA Board of Trustees, co-Chair of our LRIS Committee, and an LRIS panel attorney. She is also a wife and mother. Working on a pro bono basis, Donna obtained the file and located the ex-husband. The woman has now communicated with her husband and agreed upon a settlement.

I understand the pressures inherent in the practice of law and especially for the solo and small firm practitioners. LRIS staff also hears on a minute by minute basis the needs of the public for effective and competent representation. One of the most difficult aspects of this job is not being able to refer someone who has a real need.

There are new means to assist many who contact us, including the new 211 social service phone network, that beginning in July 2005, will lead callers efficiently to health and human services in Los Angeles County.

The goal of the newly created Los Angeles Pro Bono Council is to get more law firms committed to providing pro bono services. In addition, the Council will find programs and ways to fulfill pro bono obligations.

More than 100 Southern California Justice Corps students are guiding individuals at the self-help centers through the maze of divorces, landlord-tenant disputes, civil restraining orders and other matters.

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*President's Message, continued from page 3*

out looking at the hard (physical) evidence required to convict a defendant of child abuse.

Now, the defense attorneys have their own expert medical witness to challenge the prosecutor's alleged evidence of rape, sexual abuse, or molestation. At its April 26 meeting, the Criminal Law Section brought in the defense's expert medical doctor who is leveling the playing field in these high profile cases.

### Probate & Estate Planning Section

Ever since the media coverage sensationalized the tug-of-war between Terri Schiavo's parents asking the courts to leave her feeding tube in and her husband asking the courts to remove her feeding tube and allow her to die, our telephones have been ringing with requests asking what to do so that this does not happen in their family. LRIS Director Michele Morley has been working with senior groups requesting speakers and information on how to avoid the Schiavo fight.

Did you know that the California Domestic Partnership Law includes same sex and opposite sex committed relationship? Domestic Partnership laws give intestacy rights to registered partners. We probate attorneys are busying creating reciprocal trusts for domestic partners.

The Federal Government passed HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 - 42

USC 1320d and 45 CFR 160-164), a privacy law to protect our medical information. Do you need ideas on how to deal with a doctor who is reluctant to provide information on his/her patient's competency that would allow another party to step in under a Power of Attorney or Trust to handle his/her patient's assets and hides behind HIPAA?

Please remember that our sections are designed to assist you, your clients and your business. Most programs are designed to provide you MCLE credit. On the inside of the back cover of *Bar Notes*, the dates, time, location, topic, and speakers for the section meetings are listed. If you have questions on the sections, call SFVBA Events Coordinator Linda Temkin at (818) 227-0490, ext. 105. Contact information for all section chairs can be found on the SFVBA website at [www.sfvba.org/about/committeesection.htm#sections](http://www.sfvba.org/about/committeesection.htm#sections).

A special thank you to Cindy Elkins from the Business Law, Real Property, Employment Law, & Bankruptcy Section; Michelle S. Robins from the Family Law Section; and Seymour Amster from the Criminal Law Section who generously provided information to include in my article. 🐶

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BY L. ROB WERNER, SCVBA PRESIDENT

**Find Your Niche in the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association**

At a recent Board meeting, the SCVBA decided to expand the job of its Membership and Membership Benefits Committee to provide compassion, assistance and services to our members who have been injured or taken ill. Beyond just a card or bouquet with get well wishes, the idea is that we will provide resources of our membership to assist the member and/or member's family with making court appearances and handling legal matters on an emergency basis. These are laudable goals - it remains to be seen if we can actually fulfill our ambitions.

I had hoped to announce in this issue the fixed date of our first annual Law Appreciation Day to take place in May. However, the consensus of our Board was that this was putting on too much too soon for our young association, something that personally doesn't usually stop me. But because of our required financial commitment and the need to make sure this is a major community event, I acquiesced. The Board suggested we have a special committee put together for this purpose. A meeting was called, the meeting was announced at our March membership meeting and two emails

were sent out to all the attorneys we know of in our valley.

It was almost like having a party without anyone showing up. Still the few of us who did show up for the Law Day Committee are going forward with the event. It is now tentatively scheduled for the first Monday in October. We are searching for a less expensive forum that can service a few hundred people. We now have commitments from the District Attorney,

Sheriff, Highway Patrol, Santa Clarita's Mayor's Office and the SCV Chamber of Commerce to cosponsor the event. The program will be utilized to recognize heroes in our community.

We still sponsor a weekly column in the *Signal*. Our bank of essays is running low. Anyone who has something to say related to the law can submit an article between 500 and 700 words. Submit your work to [jshaffery@pooleshaffery.com](mailto:jshaffery@pooleshaffery.com).

*continued on page 14*



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*LRIS Column, continued from page 5*

Despite all of these responses to the very real problem, there is much more that needs to be accomplished. At the LRIS we are also exploring ways to meet the needs of the public while keeping in mind the demands of the practice of law. The Limited Scope Representation in family law panel is a response to the needs of the public for affordable and helpful legal services. Other ideas that we are also exploring include a brief advice program where we can assist those who want a legal question answered. We are considering if it is possible to design a document preparation service provided through the LRIS that is closely and truly supervised by attorneys.

We will continue to ask members to contribute pro bono and reduced fee services. Our challenge is to make pro bono and reduced fee programs more successful for attorneys and recipients. We must create well designed programs that bring the public true access to justice and legal representation while doing justice to the attorneys.

Attorneys who donate pro bono services or who are willing to provide limited representation, payment schedules and other innovative ways to make legal services affordable and accessible will receive the necessary support from the LRIS. ↗

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# Report From The Foundation

## "Law & Order" Neal Baer to Receive Arabian Award at Law Day Dinner

BY ANNE ADAMS, VCLF PRESIDENT



Please join us when we celebrate Law Day on Friday, May 6 at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills. We will be raising funds for our grant recipients and our scholarship recipients. Over the last few months, I've highlighted some of our prior grant recipients in this column, including The Alliance for Children's Rights and The Los Angeles Free Clinic.

Last year, we provided \$37,500 in law related grants and scholarships for high school students, college students and law school students. If you would like to continue to support our work, I hope you will attend our Law Day Dinner on May 6. If you cannot attend, we always appreciate your contributions.

This year, the Justice Armand Arabian Law & Media Award will be given to Neal Baer, an award-win-



ning television writer and producer. Many of you have probably seen his work on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and "ER."

In addition to his work in Hollywood, Neal Baer is a physician who graduated from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Baer worked on "ER" while he was finishing his medical training. He completed his pediatric residency at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles. Neal Baer is currently Executive Producer and head writer for "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," a show that has touched on many sensitive legal issues.

We will be holding a silent auction prior to dinner and a live auction during dinner. We will have many items suitable for gifts as well as for your personal use. If you haven't shopped for Mother's Day yet, shop at our auctions.

We expect to have many interesting baskets as well as gift certificates. We will have a wide variety of items at the auctions suitable for a number of people on your gift lists. If you have a last minute donation, please contact Christine Lyden at (818) 888-8866 or Mark Blackman at (818) 881-5000. When you bid on our auction items, please remember that the proceeds support our scholarships and grants.

You should have received your invitation by the time you read this article; however, if you need another invitation or simply need to place your reservation, please contact the Bar office at (818) 227-0490. We really appreciate your support for this event since it is our major fundraiser of the year. 🐾

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## Small Firm Beat



**BY LISA MILLER,  
CHAIR, SMALL FIRM  
SECTION**

### Good News about Bad News - Telling Clients What They Don't Want to Hear

Being the bad news bearer can be a tough sell. But a fresh approach can take the sting out of many difficult conversations, according to Small Firm Section luncheon speaker Abraham M. Rudy.

Rudy, senior litigation partner with Beverly Hills' Weissmann Wolff Bergman Coleman Grodin & Evall, LLP, offered insights into managing the attorney client relationship in the context of adverse developments in litigation matters. "Speak the truth, and fear not even the king," Rudy says, explaining the basic approach to keeping clients through tough times.

Rudy, an expert in both bench and jury trials, as well as arbitration, mediation, and appellate work, says that one of the biggest

avoidable problems attorneys bring on themselves is failing to adequately communicate with clients. Although attorneys communicate with a wide cross-section of audiences, many attorneys mistakenly let communicating with clients slip to the bottom of the list.

"Counsel should focus a bit more on the effect words have on the hearer, and not the mere fact of their communication," Rudy says. "When attorneys do this, they enhance their credibility with clients and the clients appreciate the fact of the communication separate from its content."

Rudy has many years of experience putting this into practice. He specializes in complex, multi-party, multi-district commercial litigation, class actions and Unfair Competition Law claims under Section 17200. He acts as outside general counsel to a broad spectrum of institutions, advising them on issues from formation to dissolution and everything in between.

"The core of the attorney-client relationship is communicating about risk," he says. "Attorneys must be counselors and teachers."



Rudy explained that many attorneys make a mistake with clients by downplaying the risk attendant to their matters. Discussion of risk should be part of almost every decision that the attorney is involved in, he says. And this applies across-the-board.

Gerald Peters, an SFVBA member and Small Firm Section stalwart, attended the presentation. Peters, of Thousand Oaks, limits his practice to appellate work.

"Most appeals are lost," Peters says. "Communicating about risk with appellate clients involves extensive discussion and explanation."

According to Rudy, major litigation is too expensive for most clients, and is devastating for most businesses. While counsel can effectively litigate in this situation, rarely does a full litigation plan get implemented.

*continued on page 13*



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*Small Firm Beat, continued from page 11*

Counsel usually can not litigate in an ideal manner. "Counsel must constantly tweak the plan, because of monetary limits," Rudy says. "When the client limits the amount of money spent on litigation, an element of risk enters the picture. This should trigger a discussion with the client."

These explanations of risk are fundamental, Rudy says. And clients understand this. When clients are involved in risk assessment, they love it, he says. This is an opportunity for counsel to teach the client, similar to the way counsel educates judges and juries in trial.

"When counsel teaches the client about risk, the client will trust the attorney much more," Rudy says.

Rudy warned counsel about mismanaging client expectations. When counsel promises too much, the negative aspects of the situation snowball. This can result in State Bar discipline. Rather, clients appreciate frank conversations about risk, Rudy says.

Encino's Marshall Glick, SFVBA Small Firm Section member, focuses his practice on representing non-profit entities. He asked Rudy about communicating with non-profit clients about risk. "Talk to the client straight," Rudy says. "Tell them what's going on. Tell them the truth."

According to Rudy, the key to a successful overall practice is communicating about risk management. "If you communicate with the client about managing risk, and the client leaves you, the client was never yours," Rudy says sagely.

For more information about Abe Rudy of Weissmann Wolff, visit [www.wllp.com](http://www.wllp.com), or call (310) 858-7888. ☎

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Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association, continued from page 7

Personally, I've never met an attorney who doesn't have something to say. Here's a good opportunity to put your issues to print.

Sometimes being involved in an organization or taking on a project can seem overwhelming. But if we all do just a little bit, together we can achieve just about anything. Please take the time to look at our web page at scvba.org. Look at our membership application with details on all the committees. Think – isn't there something you always wanted to do? Isn't there some task or service that you believe a bar association should provide? Your role doesn't have to be large. Just help a bit - find your niche in providing community and legal services. If there is something you want to do, even if not listed, pester us and email us at [santaclaritavalleybar@yahoo.com](mailto:santaclaritavalleybar@yahoo.com) or me personally at [lrobwerner@yahoo.com](mailto:lrobwerner@yahoo.com).

Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month. The May meeting will be on May 19 at Marie Callender's Restaurant, 27630 The Old Road, Valencia (off Hwy 5 at Magic Mountain Parkway). The one hour MCLE program for the meeting will be "Three Perspectives on Criminal Law". The panel will consist of Judge Lloyd Nash, a prosecutor and a defense attorney. Registration and networking are at 6:00 p.m., dinner and the program begin at 6:30. Dinner, including salad, soft drink and dessert, are included in the admission price. This restaurant can handle sign-ups at the door.

We are so pleased by this venue that we will also continue to have our lunch meetings at this location. Remember we meet for lunch quarterly in place of the evening meeting. Our next lunch meeting will be in June. 🐾

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# Valentine's Day with the ABA



BY JAMES R. FELTON, ABA DELEGATE

I had the opportunity to spend Valentine's Day in Salt Lake City as the Bar's Delegate to the American Bar Association's House of Delegates Meeting. My first reaction to the scheduling of the House meeting on Valentine's Day was that the leaders of the House must be 1) not married, 2) married but seeing someone else involved in the House of Delegates, or 3) following the calendar of another nation.

With all kidding aside, I entered the great hall finding my seat along with the other members of the California delegation. I cannot say that it reminded me a lot of those grand Democratic and Republican conventions that we watch on television. However, there were speeches on the various pieces of legislation that came before the House along with voice votes. Unfortunately, there was

only one measure that actually made it to a hand count (I will detail the more important pieces of legislation below).

The delegates come from every state, and although we were all lawyers, there were some marked differences. For example, the lawyers from the South seem to have this flair for dressing so smartly. It might have been the bow ties, but they just seem to dress the part. (I am working on my southern accent and have been shopping for an appropriate bow tie for the next meeting).

The interesting contrast was between these Southern lawyers, primarily men, against probably an equal number of women representing their respective bar associations. I can only imagine if 25 years ago, the members of the House would have thought that the House of Delegates would be virtually equal between men and women.

Of course, in protest over the scheduling, I would say that probably 25% of the women dressed in bright red.

They made sure the men of the House remembered the date.

Let me outline some of the recommendations approved by the House which will now be part of the ABA's lobbying efforts. For each recommendation, I will identify the committee or section that authored the proposed recommendation.

On behalf of the Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, the House approved a recommendation urging Congress to amend and modernize the adjudication provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act and to expand certain fundamental fair hearings provisions of that Act by enacting legislation consistent with the draft bill entitled, "Federal Administrative Adjudication in the 21st Century", dated February 2005.

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On behalf of the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, the House approved a recommendation urging the federal government to undertake an urgent study of the impact that the federal government has had in the causation of asbestos-related injuries over time and identifying the appropriate role for the federal government in the solution of the present asbestos litigation crisis, without altering the responsibility of others.

The House also approved a recommendation that states and territories establish, by statute or regulation, standards for the operation of screening vans or other forms of mass screening for asbestos-related conditions to prevent medical screenings from being conducted inaccurately and being misused, but not to prevent legitimate monitoring of health.

The House also recommended that states and territories adopt the Model Statute of Limitations for Asbestos, dated February 2005, governing the accrual of actions for injury, illness or wrongful death based upon exposure to asbestos.

On behalf of the Criminal Justice Section, the House approved a recommendation urging jurisdictions to enact statutes to adequately compensate individuals who have been convicted and incarcerated for crimes they did not commit and identifying factors that should be considered in drafting such statutes.

The House also approved a recommendation urging federal, state, local and territorial governments to reduce the risk of convicting the innocent, while increasing the likelihood of convicting the guilty, by ensuring that no prosecution should occur based solely upon uncorroborated jailhouse informant testimony.

The House also approved a recommendation urging federal, state, local and territorial governments to reduce the risk of convicting the innocent by establishing standards of practice for defense counsel in serious non-capital criminal cases. The House also approved a recommendation urging Congress to take specified steps to assure that federal sentencing practices

are effective, fair and just, and effectuate the goals of sentencing set forth in the Sentencing Reform Act.

On behalf of the Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, the House approved a recommendation urging Congress and the President to support the establishment of a federal affordable housing trust fund to increase the availability of affordable housing consistent with certain principles.

On behalf of the Commission on Immigration, the House approved a recommendation supporting the repeal of annual numerical caps that result in undue delays in the granting of lawful permanent residence to those individuals who have already been granted asylum status in the United States.

On behalf of the Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities, the House approved a recommendation opposing governmental actions and policies that interfere with patients' abilities to receive from their healthcare providers (a) all of the relevant and medically accurate informa-

tion necessary for fully informed healthcare decision-making; and (b) information with respect to their access to medically appropriate care, whether or not the provider chooses to offer such care.

On behalf of the Section of Intellectual Property Law, the House approved a recommendation supporting enactment of legislation providing that the right to a patent shall belong to the inventor who first files an application for patent containing an adequate disclosure under 35 U.S.C. §112 of the invention or, in the event of an assignment of rights, shall belong to the assignee thereof.

On behalf of the Judicial Division, the House approved a recommendation adopting the black letter Guidelines for the Evaluation of Judicial Performance, dated February 2005, to replace the original guidelines of 1985, which have been updated to reflect developments in judicial performance evaluation.

*continued on page 18*

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## Nominations Sought for SFVBA Board of Trustees

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for candidates to the 2005-2006 SFVBA Board of Trustees.

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

Interested Members can download the SFVBA's Policy Statement Re: Board of Trustees Responsibilities at <http://www.sfvba.org/about/boardoftrustees.htm>. Letters of Intent and resume can be submitted to SFVBA Nominating Committee, 21300 Oxnard Street, Suite 250, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. All nominations must be received by Friday, May 20.

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

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

## SFVBA Seeks Volunteers for VAST Program

Attorneys with at least five years experience are invited to participate in the Valley Associated Settlement Team ("VAST") Project scheduled for October 31 and November 1 and 2, 2005, at the Van Nuys courthouse.

The VAST Project began in 1994 as a joint effort of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association and the Los Angeles

Superior Court to help the Court reduce its backlog of cases caused by the Northridge Earthquake and then new "Three Strikes Law". The first year, 300 volunteer attorneys disposed of 975 cases, saving the courts an estimated 4,000 trial days. Since then, VAST has been conducted from time to time as requested by the Court.

The Bar is asked to schedule a pair of defense and plaintiff's attorneys for each civil courtroom of the Northwest District each of the three days.

To schedule a convenient date to volunteer, contact Aileen at (818) 227-0490, ext. 100 or [Aileen@sfvba.org](mailto:Aileen@sfvba.org). Members are also encouraged to spread the word through their firms and colleagues. 🗳️

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*American Bar Association, continued from page 16*

On behalf of the American Jury Project, the House approved a recommendation adopting the ABA Principles Relating to Juries and Jury Trials dated February 2005 and recommending that the appropriate entities review and revise, as appropriate, their respective Standards so as to eliminate any conflicts with the Principles and urging state, local and territorial bar associations to improve the management of jury trials by promoting the implementation of the Principles.

On behalf of the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section and the Section of Litigation, the House approved a recommendation supporting the judicial rulemaking process set forth in the Rules Enabling Act, for principles of federalism and the current version of Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and opposing legislative changes to Rule 11, including changes proposed in the "Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act" (H.R. 4571).

On behalf of the Section of Science and Technology Law, the House approved a recommendation calling upon Congress and the Administration to take steps to ensure that the visa issuance process is more effective and efficient, particularly for those who seek to conduct scientific or scholarly research in the United States and supporting policies to enhance homeland and national security and efforts to establish new visa policies and procedures to bolster security.

On behalf of the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, the House approved a recommendation that the federal government amend the Medicare Secondary Payer Act (42 U.S.C. §1395y(b), et seq.) to return an appropriate level of certainty, predictability and efficiency to the Medicare set aside process that has significantly burdened, delayed and disrupted settlements in state, federal and territorial Workers' Compensation systems throughout the country.

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The House approved a recommendation submitted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, approving the Uniform Wage Withholding and Unemployment Insurance Procedure Act, promulgated by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in 2004 as an appropriate Act for those States desiring to adopt the specific substantive law suggested therein.

On behalf of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, the House approved a recommendation approving the Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act, promulgated by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in 2004 as an appropriate Act for those States desiring to adopt the specific substantive law suggested therein.

The House approved a recommendation as submitted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, approving the Uniform Residential Mortgage Satisfaction Act, promulgated by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in 2004 as an appropriate Act for those States desiring to adopt the specific substantive law suggested therein.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the House approved a recommendation supporting legislation to repeal the statutory provision preventing veterans from paying an attorney to represent them in connection with their claims for federal benefits.

There was virtually no opposition to these recommendations which certainly sped up the proceedings, but also did not create any fireworks that you might otherwise see in debates before Congress. With that said, sometimes fireworks between lawyers are overrated.

I enjoyed my first meeting. Thankfully, the House voted down a resolution to hold its next meeting on Mother's day (just kidding). ☺

James Felton can be contacted at [jfelton@greenbass.com](mailto:jfelton@greenbass.com) or (818) 382-6200.

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**Membership Has It's Priveleges!**



# May Events

## Probate & Estate Planning Section

**Topic:** Q & A with the Los Angeles County Assessor  
**Speaker:** Rick Auerbach, Los Angeles County Assessor  
**Date:** May 10  
**Time:** 12:00 Noon  
**Place:** Encino Glen Restaurant, Encino  
**Cost:** \$30 members prepaid; \$35 at the door  
 \$35 non-members prepaid; \$40 at the door  
**MCLE:** 1 Hour

## Small Firm & Sole Practitioner Section

**Topic:** Insurance Issues and Products for Smaller Firms  
**Speaker:** Alan Cyrlin, Esq., Wasserman Comden et al.  
**Date:** May 11  
**Time:** 12:00 Noon  
**Place:** SFVBA Conference Room, Woodland Hills  
**Cost:** \$20 members prepaid; \$25 at the door  
 \$25 non-members prepaid; \$30 at the door  
**MCLE:** 1 Hour

## ADR Section

**Topic:** Entertainment Mediation: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly  
**Speaker:** Jonathan Arnold, Esq.  
**Date:** May 11  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**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

## New Lawyers Section

**Topic:** Bankruptcy Nuts and Bolts  
**Speakers:** Judge Kathleen Lax, Steven Fox, Esq. and Gregory Salvato, Esq.  
**Date:** May 17  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Program  
**Place:** SFVBA Conference Room, Woodland Hills  
**Cost:** \$20 members prepaid; \$25 at the door  
 \$30 non-members prepaid; \$35 at the door  
**MCLE:** 1 Hour

## Workers' Compensation Section

**Topic:** Recent Significant Cases  
**Speaker:** Judge Ralph Zamudio, Workers' Compensation Appeals Board  
**Date:** May 18  
**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

## Family Law Section

**Topic:** Entering Stipulated and Default Judgments  
**Speakers:** Court Personnel  
**Date:** May 23  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Encino Glen Restaurant, Encino  
**Cost:** \$40 members prepaid; \$45 at the door  
 \$45 non-members prepaid; \$50 at the door  
**MCLE:** 1 Hour

## Business Law, Real Property, Employment Law & Bankruptcy Section

Sponsored by East West Bank  
**Topic:** Third Annual Construction Law Seminar: After the Rains  
**Speakers:** James Acret, Esq.; G. Christian Roux, Esq.; Stanley Shure, Esq.; George Knopfler, Esq.  
**Moderator:** Hon. Marvin D. Rowen, Ret.  
**Date:** June 3  
**Time:** 9:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Program and Lunch  
**Place:** SFVBA Conference Room, Woodland Hills  
**Cost:** \$55 SFVBA Members Pre-Paid;  
 \$75 Members at the Door  
 \$75 Non-Members Pre-Paid;  
 \$95 Non-Members at the Door  
**MCLE:** 4 Hours

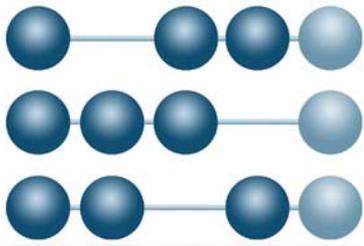
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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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Food and beverages served at every MCLE event!

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



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