

VALLEY LAWYER

AUGUST 2019 • \$5

A Publication of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association

How Do I Distribute: Let Me Count The Ways

Earn MCLE Credit

Something for Everyone:
Why and How SFVBA Works

Official Sponsors of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association

KRYCLER ERVIN TAUBMAN & KAMINSKY

FULL SERVICE ACCOUNTING FIRM

CONTACT MICHAEL J. KRYCLER, CPA, FCA | SCOTT R. ERVIN, CPA

*When you need more than just numbers...
you can count on us...*

- LITIGATION SUPPORT
- EXPERT WITNESS
- FORENSIC ACCOUNTANTS
- FAMILY LAW MATTERS
- BUSINESS VALUATIONS
- LOSS OF EARNINGS
- DAMAGES

MEMBERS OF
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
California Society of Certified Public Accountants

15303 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1040
Sherman Oaks, California 91403

info@ketkcpa.com
t: 818.995.1040
f: 818.995.4124
www.ketkcpa.com



INNOVATION COMES STANDARD

FASTCASE IS ONE OF THE PLANET'S MOST
INNOVATIVE LEGAL RESEARCH SERVICES,
AND IT'S AVAILABLE FREE TO MEMBERS OF
THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION.

LEARN MORE AT
WWW.SFVBA.ORG





Our Family Law Practice Group:

over 30 years of service in Southern California



Vanessa Soto Nellis*
Chair, Shareholder



Lynn Soodik
Shareholder



Melissa L. Mayer*
Senior Associate



Susan T. Goldstein
Of Counsel

*Certified Specialist in Family Law, State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization

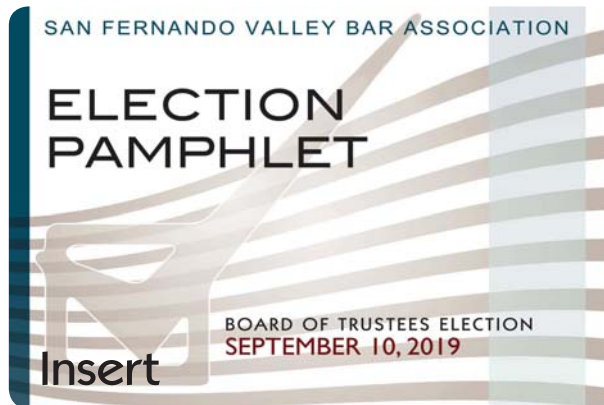


LEWITT HACKMAN

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

16633 Ventura Boulevard, 11th Floor
Encino, California 91436-1865

lewitthackman.com
818.990.2120



On the cover: Back Row (L-R) David B. Bobrosky, Joanna M. Sanchez, Christopher P. Warne, Amanda Marie Moghaddam, Alan E. Kassan
Front Row (L-R) Yi Sun Kim, Richard A. Lewis, Rosie Soto Cohen

FEATURES

- 12** How Do I Distribute:
Let Me Count The Ways | **BY DAVID GURNICK**
MCLE TEST NO. 130 ON PAGE 20.
- 30** Something for Everyone:
Why and How SFVBA Works | **BY MICHAEL D. WHITE**
- 38** Courtroom Artists: A Picture is Worth a
Thousand Words | **BY MICHAEL D. WHITE**

INSERT

Election Pamphlet

DEPARTMENTS

- 7** President's Message
- 9** Editor's Desk
- 10** Event Calendars
- 37** Member Focus
- 41** Attorney Referral Service
- 43** Valley Community Legal Foundation
- 45** Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association
- 46** Classifieds

How did
that last
lease work
out for you?



Landlords lease office space everyday, so they know the ins and outs of crafting a lease that benefits them the most. At Mazirow Commercial, we represent you, the tenant, and only you. With our decades of lease negotiation experience, we make sure you come to an even negotiating table with the landlord and stay out of a leasing bind.



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

805-449-1945
www.tenantadvisory.com



Jack G. Cohen

COURT QUALIFIED EXPERT WITNESS

*OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
IN PRIVATE MONEY LENDING &
REAL ESTATE RELATED CASES*

Plaintiff and Defense

OFFICE: 747.222.1550 « CELL: 747.222.1554

EMAIL: jack@coheninv.com

2629 Townsgate Road, Suite 110 « Westlake Village, CA 91361

PRIVATE MONEY LENDING
CREDIT FILE AND QUALIFICATIONS
APPRAISALS • EVICTIONS • FORECLOSURES
INDUSTRY STANDARDS • TITLE REPORTS
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
TENANT AND LANDLORD ISSUES
BROKERS AND INVESTORS RELATIONS
FINANCE AND DOCUMENTATION
SALES & LEASING • INSURANCE CLAIMS
LOAN SERVICING • ESCROW

VALLEY LAWYER

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION

20750 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 140
Woodland Hills, CA 91364
Phone (818) 227-0490
Fax (818) 227-0499
www.sfvba.org

EDITOR

Michael D. White

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Marina Senderov

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President Yi Sun Kim
President-Elect..... Barry P. Goldberg
Secretary..... David G. Jones
Treasurer Christopher P. Warne
Past President..... Alan E. Kassan
Executive Director..... Rosie Soto Cohen

TRUSTEES

Matthew A. Breddan	Samuel R.W. Price
Kyle M. Ellis	Allan D. Sarver
Heather Glick-Atalla	George N. Seide
Gary J. Goodstein	Steven M. Sepassi
Peta-Gay Gordon	Benjamin E. Soffer
Alexander J. Harwin	Toni Vargas
Alexander S. Kasendorf	Taylor F. Williams
Amanda Marie Moghaddam	

STAFF

Director of Education & Events Linda Temkin
Communications Manager..... Michael D. White
Member Services Coordinator... Sonia Bernal
Associate Director of
Public Services Miguel Villatoro
Referral Consultant Favi Gonzalez

SECTION CHAIRS

Bankruptcy Law Steven R. Fox
Business Law & Real Property Lauri Shahrar
Criminal Law..... David S. Kestenbaum
Employment Law Kimberly Westmoreland
..... David G. Jones
Family Law Sandra Etue
..... Amir Aharonov
Litigation Christopher P. Warne
New Lawyers Yi Sun Kim
..... Amanda Marie
..... Moghaddam
Probate & Estate Planning..... John E. Rogers
..... Nancy A. Reinhardt
Taxation Law..... Hrach J. Karakachian
Workers' Compensation..... Jeffrey S. Swartz

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

David Gurnick

Valley Lawyer is published monthly. Articles, announcements, and advertisements are due by the first day of the month prior to the publication date. The articles in Valley Lawyer are written for general interest and are not meant to be relied upon as a substitute for independent research and independent verification of accuracy.

Printing Southwest Offset Printing

© 2019 San Fernando Valley Bar Association

Challenges and Rewards

SURPRISINGLY, ONE OF THE most challenging parts of my term has been writing this monthly column. It seems simple and even fun to do, but I get apprehensive knowing what a privilege it is to have this forum, and the enormous responsibility to best represent the Bar and myself.

What makes this task more daunting is witnessing the extent of work, skill, creativity, and integrity that is put into each issue of *Valley Lawyer* by the Editorial Committee and staff. Publishing the magazine is a full-time operation requiring substantial advanced planning and constant updates.

Unbelievable efforts are put in to researching topics, connecting with members, experts and judges, assisting contributors with articles, promoting the Bar and its programs, and showcasing our sponsors and advertisers. Leading up to the publication deadline, our team often works through the night and over weekends rechecking every article and perfecting the layout.

It is because of these endless efforts that the *Valley Lawyer* has been honored by numerous organizations and awarded for its content and execution including multiple Luminary Awards from the National Association of Bar Executives.

Most recently, *Valley Lawyer* was named a finalist at the 61st Annual Southern California Journalism Awards competition held by The Los Angeles Press Club. Out of more than 1,700 entries in various categories, *Valley Lawyer* was recognized in both the "In-House or Corporate Publications" and

YI SUN KIM
SFVBA President



ykim@gbllawllp.com

"Personality Profiles" classes. The latter nomination was for Michael White's profile of Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Lippitt that appeared in the February 2018 issue of the magazine.

I was so proud to attend the awards banquet with members of the Editorial Committee and staff, and was especially pleased to have Judge Lippitt join us that evening.

What this team does is both meaningful and critical to the Bar, and they deserve the recognition and celebration.

Many thanks also go to our devoted Editorial Committee Chair, David Gurnick, and Committee members including Sassoon Sales, Terri Asanovich, Mark Shipow, David Jones and Asya Ovsepyan.

I want to specially recognize the talent and dedication of Michael White, our Editor and Communications Manager, as well as our Graphic Designer Marina Senderov and Executive Director Rosie Soto Cohen.

They each work hard with a genuine desire to make the best product possible for the Bar. We also appreciate everyone who has contributed to *Valley Lawyer* by writing an article or providing an interview.

At the awards gala, I told Judge Lippitt that the nomination was due to both exceptional journalism and the unique, engaging subject matter that she provided just by sharing from her unique experiences both as an attorney and as a bench officer.

I know our members have similarly compelling stories that you will hopefully allow us to highlight in future issues. 🏠

EG

EISNER GORIN LLP

STATE AND FEDERAL CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Firm Partners:

Bar-Certified Criminal Law Specialists
UCLA and Pepperdine Law Professor
Former Senior Deputy District Attorney



RECENT VICTORIES:

- \$3 Million Fraud Case: Dismissed, Government Misconduct (Downtown, LA)
- Murder: Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, Jury (Van Nuys)
- Medical Fraud Case: Dismissed, Preliminary Hearing (Ventura)
- Domestic Violence: Not Guilty, Jury Finding of Factual Innocence (San Fernando)
- \$50 Million Mortgage Fraud: Dismissed, Trial Court (Downtown, LA)
- DUI Case, Client Probation: Dismissed Search and Seizure (Long Beach)
- Numerous Sex Offense Accusations: Dismissed before Court (LA County)
- Several Multi-Kilo Drug Cases: Dismissed due to Violation of Rights (LA County)
- Misdemeanor Vehicular Manslaughter, multiple fatality: Not Guilty Verdict (San Fernando)
- Federal RICO prosecution: Not Guilty verdict on RICO and drug conspiracy charges (Downtown, LA)
- Murder case appeal: Conviction reversed based on ineffective assistance of trial counsel (Downtown, LA)
- High-profile defense: Charges dropped against celebrity accused of threatening government officials



Eisner Gorin LLP

877-781-1570

Immediate Response
www.EgAttorneys.com

Offices in Van Nuys and Century City

Life Insurance

Term, Universal Life, Survivorship, Estate Planning, Key-Person

Disability Insurance

Insure your most important asset—"Your ability to earn income"

Insures you in your own occupation

Benefits keep up with inflation

Long Term Care Insurance

Several quality carriers for individuals and firms

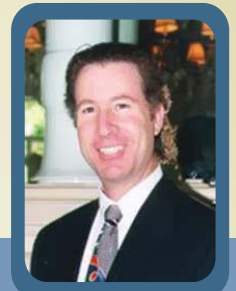
Health Insurance

All major insurance companies for individuals & firms



The Matloff Company

An Insurance and Financial Services Company



Elliot Matloff

The Matloff Company has been a top insurance broker to Southern California attorneys, their firms and families for over 32 years.

**RATED A+ A.M.
BEST INSURERS.**

Phone: (800) 468-4467

E-mail: elliot@matloffcompany.com

Sometimes numbers are the only prints left behind.

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

Chris Hamilton, CPA, CFE, CVA

805.306.7890

www.arxisfinancial.com

chamilton@arxisgroup.com

ARXIS
FINANCIAL, INC.

FORENSIC ACCOUNTING

BUSINESS VALUATION

FRAUD ANALYSIS

An Essential Exception

MICHAEL D. WHITE
SFVBA Editor



michael@sfvba.org

HAVE NEVER REALLY BEEN what you might call a “joiner.” For the longest time, I have strictly adhered to the wisdom in a maxim first put forth by one of the finest minds of the 20th century, that genius philosopher and thinker Groucho Marx, who once intoned with elevator eyebrows and cigar akimbo that, “I would never belong to any group that would have me as a member.”

Over the years, I have occasionally come across a group of professionals that, though I would never have to worry about being asked to join their ranks, strikes me as one that genuinely puts into practice what it preaches, namely a commitment to serve not only its members, but minister to the community that it calls home.

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association is one of those rare organizations.

It has been almost a century since the Bar was founded by a small group of visionary attorneys who not only saw the Valley for what it was, but for what they envisioned it would become. They laid a foundation of laudable goals and a dedication of service to its members and the community at large that has never faded in even the most challenging of times.

Over the years, SFVBA has provided its members with countless opportunities to gain a competitive advantage by making them more active, informed members within the legal

community. They depend on it to brief them on important developments in the law, new legislative rulings, and more; provide them with opportunities to network with their peers; offer valuable


“
I, for one, am
proud and privileged
to be associated
with the San
Fernando Valley
Bar Association.”

educational programs; gain leadership experience outside a traditional office format; develop long-term friendships;

and serve a community that desperately seeks better access to the justice system.

The Bar, said one of the individuals interviewed for this month’s cover article, “has become an indispensable and highly valued element of what makes the Valley the great place it is. It is essential.”

In a few weeks, attorney members will have the opportunity to select from a slate of highly qualified candidates the new Board of Trustees that will lead SFVBA into a new year. Please take the time to study the enclosed Candidate Pamphlet and exercise your franchise.

I can say without reservation that I, for one, am proud and privileged to be associated with the San Fernando Valley Bar Association...even if it would have me as a member. 

**YOUR GOOD PRACTICE
IS REFLECTED IN OUR NEW LOWER RATES.**



As we celebrate our 40-year anniversary, **we are pleased to announce that we were able to lower our rates by an average of 17.5%** effective January 1, 2019.

As the leading provider of professional liability insurance, continued legal education and member benefits to California lawyers, we are committed to the next 40 years and will continue to build with the future and our members’ best interest in mind.

We invite you to visit our new website at www.lawyersmutual.com, call us at **818.565.5512** or email us at lmic@lawyersmutual.com to make sure you have the right professional liability cover at the right price or your practice.

We’re here so you can practice with peace of mind.





**LAWYERS’
MUTUAL**
INSURANCE COMPANY

Our strength is your insurance

www.lawyersmutual.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				Membership & Marketing Committee 6:00 PM SFVBA OFFICES	1	2
4	 5:30 PM	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	All Members Accounting for Lawyers 12:00 NOON SFVBA OFFICES Free to SFVBA members! (1 MCLE Hour) See ad on page 29	13	14	MCBA of Southern California Summer Networking Reception 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM OUE SKYSPACE Free to SFVBA members! Must RSVP form.jotform.com/jagsds/mcba-2019-summer-reception	16
18	Mock Trial Committee Meeting 6:00 PM SFVBA OFFICES	19	21	22	23	24
25	26	Board of Trustees 6:00 PM SFVBA OFFICES	28	DINNER AT MY PLACE 6:30 PM ENCINO	29	30
				See ad on page 29	31	

SEPTEMBER 2019

1		2	3	4	Membership & Marketing Committee 6:00 PM SFVBA OFFICES	5	6	7
8	9	SFVBA ELECTION DAY Probate & Estate Planning Section 12:00 NOON MONTEREY AT ENCINO RESTAURANT (1 MCLE Hour) Board of Trustees 6:00 PM LOCATION TBA	10	11	Business Law and Real Property Section Landlord Liability 12:00 NOON SFVBA OFFICES Gary Ganchrow, speaker. Sponsored by 	12	13	14
15	Mock Trial Committee Meeting 6:00 PM SFVBA OFFICES	16	17	Taxation Law Section Should You Comply with Subpoenas for Tax Returns? 12:00 NOON SFVBA OFFICES Attorney Mark Sharf will discuss why blindly complying with a valid subpoena may subject tax lawyers, CPAs and other tax preparers to criminal prosecution under 26 U.S.C. 7216. (1 Hour Legal Ethics)	18	19	20	21
22	Family Law Section Cultural Issues and Family Law Cases 5:30 PM MONTEREY AT ENCINO RESTAURANT Qualifies for One Hour Recognition and Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession and Society. Approved for Family Law Legal Specialization. (1.5 MCLE Hours)	23	24	25	DINNER AT MY PLACE 6:30 PM HIDDEN HILLS	26	27	28
29	30							



The San Fernando Valley Bar Association is a State Bar of California MCLE approved provider. Visit www.sfvba.org for seminar pricing and to register online, or contact Linda Temkin at (818) 227-0495 or events@sfvba.org. Pricing discounted for active SFVBA members and early registration.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION AND
VALLEY COMMUNITY LEGAL FOUNDATION

INSTALLATION GALA PARTY UNDER THE STARS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019

5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

All Event sponsors will be recognized during the program, as well as in all promotional materials (e.g. invitations, electronic advertisements, *Valley Lawyer* publication) subject to publication deadlines.

SPECIALTY SPONSORS

Title	Available	Amount	Benefits
Cocktail Sponsor <i>Carpenter, Zuckerman & Rowley</i>	SOLD OUT	\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full page ad in Program Book• Prominent Signage at the event• Ten tickets to event

EVENT SPONSORS

Title	Available	Amount	Benefits
Diamond Sponsor <i>Lewitt Hackman</i>	SOLD OUT	\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full page ad in Program Book• Top Tier signage and stand alone• Ten tickets to event
Emerald Sponsor	1	\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full page ad in Program Book• Top Tier signage and stand alone• Ten tickets to event
Platinum Sponsor	Unlimited	\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full page ad in Program Book• Ten tickets to event (full table with smaller signage)
Gold Sponsor	Unlimited	\$1,800	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full page ad in Program Book• Four tickets to event
Silver Sponsor	Reserved for annual silver sponsors	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full page ad in Program Book• Two tickets to event
Bronze Sponsor	Unlimited	\$1,250	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Half page ad in Program Book• Two tickets to event

ADVERTISING SPONSORS

Title	Available	Amount	Benefits
Full Page	Unlimited	\$750	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Color Ad
Half Page	Unlimited	\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Color Ad

Contact Linda Temkin at events@sfvba.org or (818) 227-0495 to purchase tickets and sponsorships.



By reading this article and answering the accompanying test questions, you can earn one MCLE credit. To apply for the credit, please follow the instructions on the test answer form on page 20.

How Do I Distribute: Let Me Count The Ways

By David Gurnick

Distribution is the activity of both selling and delivering products and services from manufacturer to customer. Depending on the length of the distribution channel there can be many people—and federal and state regulatory agencies—involved in the process that can act to complicate the process of moving a tangible or intangible product from Point A to Point B.



MANUFACTURERS AND RESELLERS HAVE MANY ways to place their goods and services into the stream of commerce, while the government has many ways to regulate distribution methods. This article discusses various modes of distribution and how each is regulated.

Defining 'Distribution'

The most basic distribution method is for one to create a product and sell it. This can be called "direct distribution". A farmer who grows a product and brings it to the market for sale engages in direct distribution. So does a restaurant that prepares meals for customers and receives payment. This method of distribution is sometimes called "cash-and-carry." The term can apply to any business that sells merchandise and receives payment at or about the time of sale.¹

Today, the term "cash-and-carry" also commonly applies to sales made on short term credit, such as payment by credit card. As an example, Apple makes iPhones and sells them through company-owned stores where customers can pay with cash or, more commonly, by using their credit cards.

Direct distribution is the least regulated form of conducting sales. Neither the federal nor state government regulates this as a method of distribution. But this does not mean such businesses are unregulated.

A typical business in any field is subject to federal, state and local laws regulating any number of concerns—by way of example, the construction of physical premises; zoning, parking, health, safety and welfare of customers, workers and the public, sanitation; inspections by government agencies; employment practices; the restrictions on hiring persons not authorized to work in the United States; minimum wage; any restrictions on smoking; insurance for employees; taxes and withholding; the collection and payment of sales tax; fire safety and emergency preparedness; the use, storage and disposal of waste and hazardous materials; and nondiscrimination as to customers, employees and others.

Obviously, laws addressing many more subjects, as well as laws specific to the industry and activities of business also apply.

Working with Representatives, Dealers and Distributors

Next, one may engage representatives to sell one's product. Representatives can be sales agents, dealers or other kinds of distributors. Representatives solicit potential customers who then buy direct from the manufacturer.



David Gurnick is with Lewitt Hackman in Encino. The author of *Distribution Law of the United States* (Juris, 2d ed. 2015), he can be reached at dgurnick@lewithackman.com. The author thanks Lewitt Hackman summer intern **Kevin Brothers** for assistance in editing this article.

A California statute—the Independent Wholesale Sales Representatives Contractual Relations Act—seeks to protect commission-based sales representatives against perceived mistreatment by companies whose products they represent.²

According to the statute, a company in the state that uses outside sales representatives who are to be paid by commission must have a written agreement. The agreement must address the rate and method of computing commissions, when commissions will be paid, the sales representative's assigned territory, any chargebacks and any exceptions the representative is subject to with regard to territory and customers.

The California company must also provide its representative a copy and get a receipt for having done so and must provide the representative with an accounting of orders for which payment is made, the commission rate for each order, and details of any chargebacks.³ A company that violates the statute can be subject to triple damages.⁴

Dealers and distributors buy inventory of a product, and resell from that inventory for their own account. The chain of product distribution, from manufacturer to end user, commonly includes dealers and distributors as links in the chain.⁵

Thus, as examples, Ford Motor Company and other car makers manufacture automobiles. These companies do not sell their products directly to consumers. Rather, their products are sold through dedicated Ford dealers, or sellers of other specified brands. Home appliances, household furnishings, clothing, food and agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, and the seemingly infinite varieties of other tangible products, and increasingly many kinds of services, are sold through resellers, such as distributors and dealers.

In a sense, retail stores, whether grocery, department, sporting goods, home furnishings, mattress or the countless varieties of independent stores in shopping malls, strip centers and along commercial streets, are examples of independent distributors. They buy products supplied by others, hold them in inventory, and advertise, display and resell them to the public. So are companies that buy, warehouse and resell industrial goods.

When an individual proprietor succeeds so well as to grow its number of distribution points, or, in other words, to grow its number of retail stores, it has become a chain distributor.

In 1950 Sam Walton opened a variety store called Walton's 5 & 10 in Bentonville, Arkansas. Twelve years later, he opened the first Wal-Mart store. Today, Walmart has thousands of stores nationwide and internationally.⁶ Auto Zone, .99 Cents Only, Best Buy, Grainger and Nordstrom are additional examples of chain distributors.



LAWPAY IS FIVE STAR!



LawPay has been an essential partner in our firm's growth over the past few years. I have reviewed several other merchant processors and no one comes close to the ease of use, quality customer receipts, outstanding customer service and competitive pricing like LawPay has.

— Law Office of Robert David Malove

Trusted by more than 35,000 firms and verified '5-Star' rating on Trustpilot

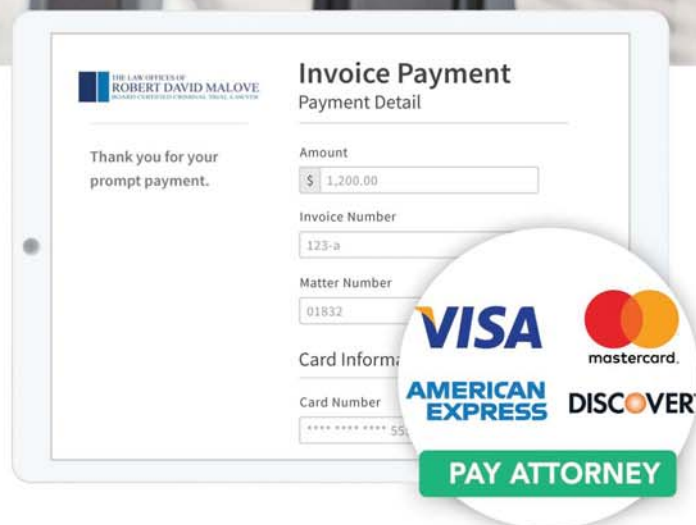
LAWPAY[®]

AN AFFINIPAY SOLUTION

THE #1 PAYMENT SOLUTION FOR LAW FIRMS

Getting paid should be the easiest part of your job, and with LawPay, it is! However you run your firm, LawPay's flexible, easy-to-use system can work for you. Designed specifically for the legal industry, your earned/unearned fees are properly separated and your IOLTA is always protected against third-party debiting. Give your firm, and your clients, the benefit of easy online payments with LawPay.

866-751-8288 or visit lawpay.com/sfvba



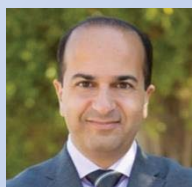
LawPay is proud to be a vetted and approved Member Benefit of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.



Special offer for bar members.
Call for details



INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT PLANS FOR LAWYERS AND LAW FIRMS



PEYMAN COHAN, ESQ

License # 0F47171

Peyman@cohan-horn.com

(323) 708-0072



JOHN HORN, ESQ MBA CFP

License # 0I25017

John@cohan-horn.com

(818) 802-5895

DELIVERING
VALUE



Jenny Chen, Partner

Specializes in serving law firms and other professional services

- * Attestation/Accounting
- * Tax Planning and Compliance (Multi-State, International)
- * Audits of Employee Benefit Plans
- * Tax Credits and Incentives
- * Controllershship
- * Business Valuation
- * Estate and Trust Planning
- * IT Systems Review and Consulting



HUTCHINSON AND BLOODGOOD LLP
Certified Public Accountants and Consultants
550 N. Brand Blvd., 14th Floor Glendale, CA 91203
t 818.637.5000 www.hblp.com

Working with Suppliers

Suppliers have a strong interest in helping resellers maintain and grow sales. More sales by a reseller means an increase in sales by the manufacturer to the reseller.

Thus, everyone profits with suppliers able to provide additional assistance to their resellers such as, advertising, training reseller personnel in the use of the product, staffing and merchandising assistance at retail stores, the payment of slotting fees, sharing or reimbursing advertising expenses, consulting on product usages, conducting sales and other promotions.

Resellers sometimes become strongly associated with a supplier. As a result, a retail store may become known for one or more brands of products distributed. In earlier times, examples included appliance stores that might display signage for such brands as Maytag washer/dryers or Orrick vacuum cleaners. Today, it is common for a mattress store to display signage of the product brands they sell, for example, Beautyrest, Serta, Sealy and Simmons.

A supplier may provide so much assistance that the aid, in effect, amounts to a marketing program for its reseller. When a supplier provides a marketing program, allows the reseller to become strongly associated with the supplier's brand, and charges the reseller any kind of a fee, the relationship may be in actuality, a business franchise—a distribution method in the United States that has roots dating back to the late 1800s and has grown most substantially over the past 50 years.⁷

Today, the public does business with countless franchised businesses including quick service restaurants such as, McDonald's, Burger King, real estate services like Century 21, Union 76 and ARCO gasoline stations, Hilton and Marriott hotels, and numerous other businesses.

Federal and State Regulations

A rule of the Federal Trade Commission that has nationwide application, as well as statutes in 13 states, have established an extensive body of regulation of offers and sales of business franchises.⁸

These rules require the preparation of an extensive Franchise Disclosure Document that must be presented to prospective franchisees, followed by a cooling-off period of at least 14 days, before any agreement is signed or any money is paid in relation to a franchise. In states with franchise laws, an additional regulatory layer consists of a review of the Franchise Disclosure Document by a state examiner.

California and approximately 25 other states regulate the ongoing franchise relationship. Those states restrict a franchisor from terminating a franchise agreement before the expiration of its agreed term and restrict a franchisor from refusing, at the end of the term, to renew a franchise if the franchisee wishes to renew. Early termination or nonrenewal may not occur over the franchisee's objection, unless the franchisor has good cause for its decision to terminate or not renew.

Good cause is defined in each statute, typically involving breaches of the franchise agreement that the franchisee fails to cure after being given notice and a reasonable opportunity to do so, endangerment of public health or safety, abandonment of the franchise and a few other specified circumstances.⁹

California goes so far as to restrict business franchisors from interfering with franchisees who wish to associate with each other.¹⁰

Consignment Sales

One more type of distribution method is consignment sales.

Consignment occurs when a supplier, called a consignor, provides its product to another, called a consignee, without transferring title. The consignee is authorized to resell the product and keep part of the sale price, while turning over the rest of the price to the supplier.

As described in the courts, “a consignment is nothing more than a bailment for care or sale, wherein there is no obligation of purchase in the consignee.”¹¹ Thus, a consignment “creates an agency pursuant to which goods are delivered to a dealer for the purpose of resale; the consignor usually requires the consignee to charge a certain price for the goods.”¹²

Farm-fresh produce is often placed in the chain of distribution in this manner, being placed with resellers sometimes called commission houses. The reseller does not own the produce, but sells it to another distributor, keeps a commission on the sale price, and remits the rest to the supplier.

This method makes sense because the market price of wholesale produce fluctuates continuously so that it would be difficult for the farmer to set a fixed price and equally difficult for the reseller to agree to it.

Many retail antique and used goods stores use the consignment method. Individual owners provide merchandise for display on consignment. This lets the store operator present vintage clothing and eclectic household relics for sale without having to incur any investment in inventory. This is important because the uniqueness of each item means the store owner lacks reliable knowledge about how much time will be needed for any particular item to be sold.

Multi-Level and Seller-Assisted Marketing

Another distribution method—multi-level marketing—is, in some ways, a development over recent decades, but in other ways has been around a long time.

This is sometimes called “network” or “pyramid marketing.” This characterization is often pejorative, as the reference to a pyramid recalls the infamous Ponzi schemes of the 1920s.¹³

While multi-level marketing is not against the law, it has been criticized as involving deception in the promises made

How to retain your Top Performers

CALL **CorpStrat** | One of Southern California's largest insurance brokers

INTRODUCING

Life Comp[™]

Tax-favored unique strategies to *attract, reward and retain* your most valuable employees



- **Recruit, Retain, Reward**
- **Build supplemental retirement income**
- **Restrict access (Golden Handcuffs)**
- **Various balance sheet options**
- **Full administration**

Contact me to have a unique conversation about how companies “lock-up” their most important key performers.

Martin Levy, CLU/RHU
marty@CorpStrat.com
818.377.7260 Office
www.CorpStrat.com

 **CorpStrat**
INSURANCE • EMPLOYEE BENEFITS • HR • PAYROLL

CA Lic. #00357903

to participants.¹⁴ The Federal Trade Commission also has expressed concern that aggressive multi-level marketing programs may be deceptive and unlawful pyramid schemes.¹⁵

Yet another distribution method is related to franchising. It consists of a supplier providing assistance in starting a business that creates merchandise for sale back to the originator, or in which the originator commits to assist in providing locations for sales of merchandise, such as vending machines, or displays of items like jewelry.

California calls this method a Seller Assisted Marketing Plan, while other states refer to this as sales of business opportunities.

In this distribution method, the supplier makes a commitment that it is in need of and will purchase products made by the investor, or that it will provide locations for resale of the merchandise, or provides some other assurance of success.¹⁶

Licensing is another method. This occurs when the owner of a valuable brand name, cartoon character or other intellectual property grants permission to a third party to display or otherwise use that property whether on the third party's products or in the conduct of its business.

Professional sports teams, universities, entertainment companies, and even industrial companies generate large revenues from licensing their names and characters for use on toys, clothing and any number of items.¹⁷



Merchandise Making Licensed Use of Third Party Names and Characters

Patent owners, by virtue of their position, possess for a period of time, a limited monopoly to make or use the inventions embodied in their patents. Patent owners often grant licenses letting others use their patented inventions, in exchange for the payment of royalties.

Trademark, copyright, trade secret, and patent licenses typically require licensees to follow guidelines and comply with restrictions while using the name, character, secret or

invention. Fundamental to most licenses is the requirement to pay royalties to the intellectual property owner.


Other Regulation of Distribution Methods

The federal government and California, as well as some other states, have regulations that focus on particular industries.

The Federal Petroleum Marketing Practices Act and portions of the California Franchise Investment Law, apply specifically to the offers, and sale and terminations of gas station franchises, while the distribution of alcoholic beverages and of automobiles each have their own regulations.^{18 19}

An ongoing development is the wave of legislation moving toward legalizing the distribution of cannabis products. These too are subject to particularized schemes of regulation.

Seller Assisted Marketing Plans or Business Opportunities are regulated by laws similar to the franchise laws. These too consist of a regulation of the Federal Trade Commission having nationwide application, and laws in several states.

Typically, these too require preparation of a disclosure document, presentation to a prospective investor and allowing a cooling-off period to pass before signing. Business opportunity laws also typically require the promoter to post a bond.²⁰ 

¹ See e.g., *In re Micro Innovations Corp.*, 185 F.3d 329, 332 (5th Cir. 1999) (Supplier who requires payment in cash at the same time he releases goods, "is engaging in a cash and carry transaction.").

² Cal. Civ. Code Secs., 1738.10 et seq.

³ Cal. Civ. Code Sec. 1738.13.

⁴ Cal. Civ. Code Sec. 1738.15. See e.g., *Reilly v. Inquest Technology* 218 Cal. App. 4th 536 (2013) (affirming award of triple damages for violation of the Act).

⁵ See e.g., Solomon and Joffe, *Exclusive Distribution and Antitrust*, 53 Fordham L. Rev. 491, 491 n.1 (1984) ("We use the terms 'distributor' or 'dealer' generically to refer to distributors, retailers, or other firms in the chain of distribution between manufacturer or supplier and ultimate consumer.").

⁶ Schragger, *The Anti-Chain Store Movement, Localist Ideology, and the Remnants of the Progressive Constitution, 1920-1940*, 90 Iowa L. Rev. 1011, n.444 (Mar. 2005).

⁷ See, Gurnick and Vieux, *Case History of the American Business Franchise* 24 Okla. City U. L. Rev. 37 (1999).

⁸ The FTC Rule is codified at 16 C.F.R. Secs., 436.1 et seq. The California Franchise Investment Law is at Cal. Corp. Code Secs., 30,000 et seq. Other states that regulate the offer and sale of franchises are Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota Virginia, Washington State and Wisconsin.

⁹ The California Franchise Relations Act is at Cal. Bus. & Profs. Code Secs., 20000 et seq.

¹⁰ Cal. Corp. Code Sec. 31220.

¹¹ *Martini E Ricci Iamino S.P.A. v. Trinity Fruit Sales Co.*, 30 F.Supp.3d 954, 966 (E.D.Cal., 2014).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ For a description of Ponzi's scheme, see e.g., *Cunningham v. Brown*, 265 U.S. 1 (1924).

¹⁴ See FTC Bus. Guidance Concerning Multi-Level Marketing, available at www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/business-guidance-concerning-multi-level-marketing.

¹⁵ See Staff Advisory Opinion -Pyramid Scheme Analysis (Jan. 14, 2014).

¹⁶ See California Seller Assisted Marketing Plan regulation, Cal. Civ. Code Secs., 1812.200 et seq.

¹⁷ See e.g., *Wolf v. Superior Court*, (2004) 114 Cal.App.4th 1343, 1347 (discussing Disney's "agreements with corporate entities such as Kodak, Coca-Cola, and Burger King, licensing them to use Roger Rabbit and Disney characters in their advertising and promotions.").

¹⁸ Federal Petroleum Marketing Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2801-2841 (2007).

¹⁹ Cal. Corp. Code Sec. 31104.

²⁰ See e.g., Cal. Civil Code Sec. 1812.214.

When Bankruptcy May Be the Best Solution...

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

Law Offices of Steven R. Fox
Bankruptcy & Related Matters

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



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



New LA Superior Court Vendor Resource Program now available to all Civil Litigants!

- MCLA was selected by the LA Superior Court as a Civil Mediation Resource Vendor to provide reduced fee mediations by experienced lawyer-mediators.
- MCLA's panel of mediators are qualified to provide exceptional service to help settle your active case before trial, at a convenient time and place FOR YOU!
- MCLA is also an authorized provider of Online Mediation that can substantially reduce the time and expense of mediation, especially if the parties are located in different areas.
- No need to travel. Just stay in your office or home and work online. MCLA uses Zoom.us to create an online mediation experience similar to in person mediations with separate, confidential video conference rooms.

For testimonials about value of online service, call, email or go to our website to find out more information about our exclusive services and rates.

(833) 476-9145 | info@mediationla.org | www.MediationLA.org

20750 Ventura Boulevard | Suite 140 | Woodland Hills, CA 91364

An IRS Approved 501c(3) non-profit organization



Test No. 130

This self-study activity has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) credit by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association (SFVBA) in the amount of 1 hour. SFVBA certifies that this activity conforms to the standards for approved education activities prescribed by the rules and regulations of the State Bar of California governing minimum continuing legal education.

1. Direct Distribution occurs when one creates a product and sells it.
☐ True ☐ False
2. If a credit card is used, the business is not on a cash and carry basis.
☐ True ☐ False
3. The Federal Trade Commission regulates Direct Distribution.
☐ True ☐ False
4. Under the Independent Wholesale Sales Representatives Contractual Relations Act a wholesaler must have a written agreement with its commission-based sales representatives.
☐ True ☐ False
5. A commission-based sales representative can waive the requirements of the act.
☐ True ☐ False
6. Many kinds of products are manufactured by one company and sold by another company in the chain of distribution.
☐ True ☐ False
7. To be considered a chain, it is necessary to have at least 25 locations.
☐ True ☐ False
8. When a supplier provides a marketing program, lets a reseller become strongly associated with the supplier's brand, and charges the reseller a fee, the relationship may be a franchise.
☐ True ☐ False
9. Franchising is regulated by the Federal Trade Commission and laws in presale registration and disclosure laws in about 13 states.
☐ True ☐ False
10. The Franchise Laws require a franchisor to prepare a Franchise Disclosure Document and present it to the prospective franchisee.
☐ True ☐ False
11. A 14-day cooling-off period must elapse before the prospective franchisee can be allowed to sign any agreement or pay any money related to the franchise.
☐ True ☐ False
12. About 25 states regulate the ongoing franchise relationship by requiring good cause as a condition for a franchisor to terminate or nonrenew the franchise at the end of its term.
☐ True ☐ False
13. Franchisees have no right to form an association over a franchisor's objection.
☐ True ☐ False
14. In a consignment, one party provides product to another but title to the property does not change until it is sold.
☐ True ☐ False
15. Consignment is a form of agency.
☐ True ☐ False
16. Farm produce is often sold based on commission.
☐ True ☐ False
17. Multi-level marketing programs can raise suspicion of being unlawful pyramid schemes.
☐ True ☐ False
18. Licensing is when the owner of a trademark, trade secret, copyright or patent allows another company to use the property in exchange for a royalty.
☐ True ☐ False
19. A patent is a limited monopoly to exclude others from practicing an invention and thus the monopoly benefits the patent holder.
☐ True ☐ False
20. Federal and state governments regulate petroleum, beer and wine distribution.
☐ True ☐ False

MCLE Answer Sheet No. 130

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Accurately complete this form.
2. Study the MCLE article in this issue.
3. Answer the test questions by marking the appropriate boxes below.
4. Mail this form and the \$20 testing fee for SFVBA members (or \$30 for non-SFVBA members) to:

San Fernando Valley Bar Association
20750 Ventura Blvd., Suite 140
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- ☐ Check or money order payable to "SFVBA"
☐ Please charge my credit card for \$_____.

Credit Card Number

CVV code

Exp. Date

Authorized Signature

5. Make a copy of this completed form for your records.
6. Correct answers and a CLE certificate will be mailed to you within 2 weeks. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (818) 227-0495.

Name _____

Law Firm/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

State Bar No. _____

ANSWERS:

Mark your answers by checking the appropriate box. Each question only has one answer.

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 2. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 3. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 4. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 5. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 6. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 7. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 8. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 9. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 10. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 11. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 12. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 13. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 14. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 15. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 16. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 17. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 18. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 19. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 20. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |

ELECTION PAMPHLET

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Dear SFVBA Member:

Attorney members of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association have the unique opportunity to elect their Bar Leaders by voting in our annual Board of Trustees election. By allowing members to choose from a ballot of candidates rather than a predetermined slate, our Board of Trustees is more representative of our membership.

Election Day is Monday, September 10, 2019. Ballots will be emailed to attorney members the second week of August and voting will be conducted online. Members may request a ballot to be sent by United States Post Office instead of electronic mail. Contact the Executive Director, Rosie Soto Cohen by August 24 at (818) 227-0497.

I encourage members to take a few minutes to review the following Election Pamphlet and read the candidates' statements. The nominees have contributed to the programs and success of our organization, and represent a cross-section of our Sections, areas of practice and our community.

Thank you for your support and membership this year. I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to serve you.

YI SUN KIM

President

San Fernando Valley Bar Association



BARRY P. GOLDBERG

PRESIDENT



THIS IS AN EXTREMELY EXCITING TIME FOR THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR Association, and I am honored and energized to be the President this year!

I have been an active member of SFVBA for many years, including as chairman of the Attorney Referral Service. I was elected as a Trustee in the first "online" election. I credit my election success with leveraging Social Media and my online presence. Since being drafted to serve on the Executive Board leadership team, I have pushed and preached that SFVBA and its members become more present online and on Social Media.

I have also witnessed the fine work of my predecessors in successfully connecting members through the Valley Bar Network and in becoming the central conduit for multiple bar associations and organizations. These efforts created momentum which also coincided with the elevation of Rosie Soto Cohen as our new Executive Director and our move to new and versatile professional space. It is all coming together and our bar association is on the move!

This election has also brought forth both a record number of candidates for Trustee and a quality level of candidates that is unrivaled. This may be the most important election for the Board of Trustees in recent memory to fuel our growth and establish relevancy with young lawyers.

Although I am a beneficiary of the momentum and excitement at SFVBA, I pledge to the membership and our community to exercise my best efforts to make Valley Lawyers more profitable, more educated and more connected with our community.

DAVID G. JONES

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT



I AM EXCITED AND HONORED TO BE NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT AND TO have the added opportunity to serve on the San Fernando Valley Bar Association Board. I genuinely believe in the importance of our Bar Association as a means for connecting the attorneys of the San Fernando Valley.

I have been practicing in various areas of civil litigation for nearly twenty years, sixteen of which have been in the San Fernando Valley, in Woodland Hills. The primary emphasis for my practice has been employment law, advice and litigation. My firm, Santiago & Jones, specializes in employment law, transactional estate work, complex probate and estate litigation disputes and general civil litigation matters.

I am the chairman of the Bar's Attorney Referral Service Committee. My involvement with the Bar referrals has been very rewarding, and is a highlight of my Bar activities. Clearly, the legal guidance and support that our Bar Association provides to Valley residents in need is one of SFVBA's lasting accomplishments.

My primary focus is to increase membership and energize member participation through social functions offered by our Bar Association. I believe that the ability to network with fellow Bar members with various areas of legal expertise can prove invaluable for both new members and established attorneys in the community. Given the relationships created at such events, our Bar should strive to create member-friendly events which attract new members and encourage existing members' relationships.

So, with this, I ask that you cast your vote for me, I will work tirelessly to bring energy and creativity to the SFVBA, in an effort to improve our Bar Association and honor your trust.

Thank you for your support and vote.

CHRISTOPHER P. WARNE

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY



THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE BOARD AND SECTION LEADERS PRESENTS A bright future for the SFVBA. The surge of ideas, opportunities, and potential for the Bar will only grow over the next year. I am excited to continue on the Board and help ideas come together.

I have been entrusted with helping section chairs continue the Bar's education and networking opportunities. The section leaders are the unsung heroes of the SFVBA. The sections host amazing monthly education programs for the varied practice areas of the Bar. Over the next year, I hope to expand the cooperation of the sections to create more joint programs and networking opportunities.

As this issue goes to publication, we are anxiously awaiting our new summer event called "Meet the Experts." We hope this member benefit will become a new annual networking and socializing event. We expect these new events will draw new members—both attorneys and associates—to the SFVBA.

I look forward to serving the SFVBA members in 2020.

MATTHEW A. BREDDAN

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER



I AM HONORED TO BE NOMINATED AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE the San Fernando Valley Bar Association Board as the next Treasurer. After serving as a Trustee for the past four years, I look forward to continuing to assist our members and the public in this new capacity. As your Treasurer, I hope to strengthen our relationships with existing members, our community, and develop new relationships to enhance our current programs. Further, I look forward to finding new avenues to strengthen the SFVBA's role in community outreach.

Over almost two decades, my family law practice has consistently served the San Fernando Valley. Upon joining The Reape-Rickett Law Firm as a Shareholder in 2013, we expanded our practice areas to include Conejo Valley and Ventura County in addition to the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. With offices in Calabasas, Santa Clarita, and Westlake Village, we are continuing our mission to provide outstanding family law services while supporting our communities through charitable work and establishing strong community relationships. Furthermore, I have served as Judge Pro Tem, volunteered as a Mediator and work with the SFVBA's ARS program to help provide accessible legal assistance.

As a Trustee and member of the SFVBA, I am dedicated to the success and growth of our organization. I appreciate your vote of confidence and look forward to the opportunity to serve you, and all SFVBA.

MICHAEL L. COHEN

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE



HAVE A LONG AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SAN FERNANDO Valley Bar Association. Therefore, I am thrilled to be nominated as a candidate for SFVBA Trustee.

While in law school, I did my clinical placement in the Attorney Referral Service of the SFVBA. That internship was incredibly valuable and rewarding. Not only did I gain a unique perspective into the public service aspect of the SFVBA, where I facilitated access to justice for hundreds of people in my community, it's also the place where I met my wife, SFVBA Executive Director Rosie Soto Cohen. This being the case, you can rest assured that if elected or appointed, I will be transparent and take actions to avoid all conflicts due to this relationship.

Since 2005, I have formally volunteered at various SFVBA events, such as Lawyers in the Library and Blanket the Homeless, where I performed free legal consultations. I also volunteer countless hours on evenings, weekends and holidays to promote the Bar and its public service programs at community service events, such as the Valley Cultural Foundation Concerts in the Park and 4th of July Fireworks Show.

It would be an honor to officially extend my services to you, the members. As a Trustee, I will work to increase and strengthen our membership. I want the SFVBA to be the "go-to" place for networking, referrals, community engagement and CLE. I will work to form mutually beneficial relationships between the Bar and other organizations such as Los Angeles Trial Lawyers' Charities, CAALA and others.

I am personally and professionally invested in the well-being and continued success and growth of the SFVBA, and with your vote of confidence, I will do everything in my power to help that continue. #Vote4MLC

ALAN EISNER

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE



IT IS WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM THAT I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE TO SERVE ON THE Board of Trustees of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.

I care deeply about the San Fernando Valley. I have been a lawyer in the Valley for three decades, and have lived here throughout that time with my wife and three children. As a Certified Specialist in Criminal Law for over 20 years, I am proud of the work my firm, Eisner Gorin LLP, has done on criminal justice issues in our community.

I have a great appreciation for the energy and collegiality of the SFVBA. It is a vital resource for our community, and has the opportunity to do even more. As a Board member, I intend to increase participation in the SFVBA through MCLE, networking and social events and other innovative programs. These include programs to mentor young lawyers on courtroom procedure and advocacy, and on business development. I would also develop a speakers program featuring distinguished authors, journalists, entertainers and others.

I believe the SFVBA can offer useful resources to help members deal with the stresses inherent in our profession and achieve a healthy work-life balance, such as classes on mindfulness, breathing, stretching, stress reduction and Yoga.

My goal is to help our Board make the SFVBA an even more vibrant and relevant bar association for our profession and for our community, assisting members in the development of their careers, attracting more young members, and strengthening ties between the SFVBA and our community.

If you believe these are worthy objectives for the SFVBA, I ask for your support and vote. Thank you.

ANTHONY ELLIS

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE



I'M HONORED AND EXCITED TO BE NOMINATED TO SERVE AS A TRUSTEE FOR the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. Our great association has been serving the Valley's legal community and residents for the past 93 years. We have a long history of public service through various programs that directly benefit our community. For decades, we have provided a place for our legal community to receive support, networking and referral opportunities, and continued education. I want to be a part of the team that continues our great traditions.

My legal practice focuses on catastrophic injuries, wrongful death, and product liability. I started out my career working for an outstanding firm in L.A. When it was time to hang my own shingle, I knew I wanted it to be in the Valley, where I grew up, went to school and reside. I was taught at a young age that giving back is how we flourish as a community. Thus, one of my passions is mentoring at-risk youth, detained minors, high school students, law students and young attorneys, through various organizations and programs. I currently serve on SFVBA's Inclusion and Diversity Committee.

I want to work with our members, Board, committees, staff and my own network to grow our reach by connecting us with other attorneys and organizations across the state. I also want to help create new legal and community service programs and bring in more experts and specialists for our legal education programs. I want every attorney, whether sole practitioner or big firm, veteran or new attorney, to know SFVBA is the association to go to for support and networking.

Thank you in advance for your support and vote.

KYLE M. ELLIS

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE



SERVING ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS BEEN AN HONOR AND I ASK the members of the SFVBA to re-elect me to my position on the Board of Trustees. During the last year, I have seen the SFVBA expand its programs, the participation of its members, and its engagement with the community, and I want to continue to play a role in this exciting time for our Association. I am proud to have been a part of these trends in the SFVBA, and in the last year, I organized and moderated a well-attended Candidates Forum for Los Angeles City Council, and launched the Organizing Committee for a mock trial competition that the SFVBA will host in May 2020.

If I have the good fortune of earning your vote and being re-elected to the Board, I will move forward with a number of new ideas as well as continue to work on organizing our mock trial competition. For next year I plan on collaborating with staff to open an online store for SFVBA merchandise, establishing a committee that will work directly with our elected officials in the San Fernando Valley, and exploring how SFVBA can best aid and inform the public about candidates for judicial office.

I ask for your vote, and I thank you for your consideration.

ALEXANDER S. KASENDORF

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE



THE SFVBA IS GOVERNED BY A 20 MEMBER BOARD OF TRUSTEES. LAST YEAR I WAS appointed to the Board and proudly served the San Fernando Valley community. With your help, I want to do it again. I have been a “Valley Lawyer” since 2008 and work at a firm that has had four Presidents of the SFVBA. I am honored to continue along the path that blazed before me. It would be a tremendous honor if I could have your vote. And if I do, I will work tirelessly to make our legal community a shining light that we are all proud to belong to.

My goals are to bring our younger lawyers into our ranks, and grow our base as an organization. We need to become a one-stop shop for any lawyer in the SFV. MCLE, low-cost mediations and attorney referral services are crucial aspects of our trade that I want our SFVBA to present to our members. Let's do this!

MINYONG LEE

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE



I AM HONORED AND EXCITED TO BE IN CONSIDERATION FOR A TRUSTEE position for the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. I have always called the Valley my home, with the exception of my years of undergraduate study (Go Bears!). Upon graduation, I came back home to attend Pepperdine University for law school and continue to call the Valley my home with my own children.

Working in the public sector to serve the needs of our underserved communities is my passion, both professionally and personally, and I have dedicated my legal career to that cause. I previously worked representing indigent parents in juvenile dependency proceedings for many years and now practice as a family law attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, with an emphasis of assisting survivors of domestic violence.

As the SFVBA is expanding and having a greater impact in the Valley, it would be a great honor and privilege to be a part of the organization as it continues to grow. If elected, a goal would be to forge new connections and referrals between the private sector and public interest agencies in the Valley to ensure access to justice for all Valley residents. I believe my voice as a public sector employee will provide a unique perspective to discussions within the SFVBA and add to the dimension of the association.

Thank you for your consideration and look forward to the possibility of serving you.

JOY KRAFT MILES

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE



BRING A ROBUST HISTORY OF PHILANTHROPY, BUSINESS NETWORKING, AND deep personal dedication to the work to which the San Fernando Valley Bar Association is committed. With a longstanding passion for social justice and community service, I want to energize the Board of Trustees by bringing in new members, expanding the relevance of the SFVBA for existing members, and improving its reputation in the community.

Since law school, I have been a member of the SFVBA. More recently, I have become an enthusiastic board member of the Valley Community Legal Foundation (VCLF), the philanthropic arm of the SFVBA. Over the last two years, I have taken leadership roles within the VCLF on the Education and Scholarship subcommittees. I have found great satisfaction in belonging to the Family Law and Estate Planning sections, especially attending each section's MCLE events, where I have made many friends among you.

Philanthropy and trailblazing as a female leader run in my family. I proudly carry the legacy of my mother, attorney Marcia L. Kraft, the 2018 Honoree of the VCLF for her Exemplary Community Service, who recently passed away after 28 years of service to the SFVBA and the VCLF. The outpouring of love and support this community gave to our family has only increased my desire to give back. My newly established firm, Kraft Miles ALC, created on the eve of my mother's passing, is dedicated to continuing her tradition of being President's Circle donors and supporting the SFVBA.

Vote for "Joy" to bring new energy and relevance to the members of the SFVBA.

DARREN LE MONTREE

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE



WAS BORN IN, AND HAVE RESIDED IN, THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY FOR MOST of my life. After 20 years of practicing downtown at large law firms, last year, I decided to launch a firm based in Woodland Hills to focus on insurance policyholder advocacy and litigation. I have been an active member of the Attorney Referral Service and through that engagement, regularly interface with the SFVBA staff and the community at large.

I very much have enjoyed working with the fine staff at ARS, attending SFVBA and ARS events and helping members of our community. I believe that as a member of the Board of Trustees I can provide a fresh perspective and help develop new and creative ways to encourage more attorneys to participate and contribute to the SFVBA.

We have a deep well of resources within our legal community and my focus would be to enhance our connections, foster development opportunities for mentorship and training of new attorneys, networking and community outreach opportunities for our members and increase access to affordable legal services.

Thank you for considering me for the Board of Trustees.

NANCY REINHARDT

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE



WANT TO THANK THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR ITS SUPPORT OF

my desire to serve the San Fernando Valley Bar Association as a member of the Board of Trustees. I look forward to this new opportunity to serve our Bar and its membership.

I was raised in the San Fernando Valley, having moved here from New York. I raised my family here and consider the Valley to be my home.

My primary areas of practice are probate, estate planning, and trust administration. I am active in the Trust and Probate Section, having served as Speaker Chair and Section Chair. I hope to bring some of our successes in the Section to the Board.

If elected, I want to offer more pro bono outreach programs, which will allow our membership to give back to our community, and to encourage involvement with existing programs that provide access to attorneys who need it most. We also have tremendous opportunities to support local schools with mock trial programs that encourage them to become the next generation of lawyers who serve our community.

I have served as a volunteer settlement officer for a number of years and was involved with the implementation of the program. I have been active with a number of professional and personal boards and associations over the past years, and with both the San Fernando Valley and Woodland Hills Tax and Estate Planning Councils, having served as an officer and director of both organizations for a number of years. Being part of these groups has given me invaluable insight into effective team-building.

I would be honored to receive your vote and support for my candidacy for the Board of Trustees.

GEORGE N. SEIDE

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE



IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO HAVE SERVED SAN FERNANDO VALLEY ATTORNEYS

and the area communities for the past two years as a member of your SFVBA Board of Trustees.

Having been active at the State Bar level for many years as a member and Chair of the Family Law Executive Committee, Co-Chair of the State Bar Counsel of Sections, member of the Law Practice Management and Technology Executive Committee and the Southern California Regional Director of the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists, I then became active at the local level as a member of the BHBA and SFVBA Family Law Executive Committees, the latter for over a decade.

Your SFVBA Board of Trustees was extremely active the past two years. I am humbled to have participated in hiring a new Executive Director, approving our new Bylaws, upgrading our website and Listservs, our hosting of SFVBA's first LA City Counsel Candidates' Forum, choosing the location for our significantly upgraded SFVBA Office, now on Ventura Boulevard in Woodland Hills, with a large area for MCLE events and a conference room for day rentals. We held our first Member Attorney's Art Show with food and beverages provided in its large patio in June. Come and visit.

Expanding the Attorney Referral Service, being part of SFVBA's efforts with the Valley Community Legal Foundation, our annual "Blanket the Homeless" project, helping organize the July Member Appreciation Evening with its Meet the Experts trade show, as well as, now planning for our 2020 Mock Trial Competition has been very rewarding.

As there are many projects to see to completion and others to initiate, I respectfully solicit your vote to allow me a second term as a SFVBA Trustee to help complete work in progress, to continue increasing membership, expanding membership benefits and our community outreach.

Thank you for your continued support.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION

Accounting for Lawyers



Tuesday, August 13

12:00 NOON

SFVBA OFFICES

Sponsored by



FREEMAN & MILLS

Experts in Financial Forensics

David Connelly of Freeman and Mills sponsors and leads the discussion. David will address significant accounting issues that attorneys should be aware of, with particular focus on financial statement fundamentals. Basic accounting principles, types of accounting records, and financial internal control processes will also be discussed. Free to SFVBA members! (1 MCLE Hour)

REGISTER NOW

THE SFVBA IS A STATE BAR OF
CALIFORNIA APPROVED MCLE PROVIDER.

SFVBA Inclusion & Diversity and Membership & Marketing Committees **DINNER AT MY PLACE**

A member benefit to help members get to know each other in an intimate setting, spur referrals, and become more involved with the SFVBA!

August 29, 2019

6:30 PM • Encino

The cost is just \$25 to attend one dinner.

“

What a fantastic idea and way to meet members I wouldn't have a chance to meet otherwise! Great program, SFVBA!"

—Valarie

“

Dinner at my Place is a unique way to meet bar members you may not normally run into. DAMP offers a way to get to know other members in a casual, relaxed atmosphere. It is a fun change from the normal mixers and happy hours."

—Chris



Something for Everyone: Why and How SFVBA Works



By Michael D. White

LIKE A MECHANISM THAT ONLY functions because of the divergent moving parts that make it function properly, any effective and vibrant organization consists of the members who play the central role in making it not only work, but make membership attractive to like-minded others in the profession who may share the same goals and aspirations.

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association was founded in 1926 by a small group of attorneys who met in the Mission-style clubhouse of the recently-opened Encino Country Club to cast their lot with those visionaries who saw the bucolic Valley not for what it was at the time—a largely agricultural enclave of about 71,000 residents covering some 200 square miles—but, for what it had more than enough potential to become over the following century.

Since then, the Bar has blossomed through both good times and bad,

offering its more than 2,000 attorney and associate legal professional members an array of educational programs, social events, and philanthropic opportunities that help them better serve the Valley's increasingly diverse population.

One of the Bar's longest-active members is Albert Ghirardelli, a wounded World War II veteran, who joined SFVBA in the early 1950s after graduating from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law on the GI Bill.

The 94-year old Ghirardelli was named President of the Bar in 1955.

"It was a very enjoyable experience to serve," he says. "I think the same challenges we faced back then are basically the same as now...building up membership immediately comes to mind. But we had some pretty good young people and offered opportunities to get to know one another and develop close relationships."

In 1960, Ghirardelli chaired the Bar's newly-formed Law Day Committee in an effort to educate young people about the legal profession and the rule of law.

SFVBA, he says, "is a real asset to the Valley community and its members have always been the best."

Networking: Getting to Know You

Typical of those members who have played a central role in the growth and maturation of SFVBA is attorney Laura Whitefield.

A former paralegal, she graduated from the Ventura College of Law in 1994, and passed the Bar with plans to open an office in the San Fernando Valley.

Quoted in an article printed in the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* in November 1995, Whitefield spoke of her attending what was the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's first-ever event aimed specifically at offering attorneys the opportunity to network.

"I have never been to a networking session like this," she told the *Daily Journal* reporter covering the event, which was attended by 30 members. "For a young attorney like myself, these connections are important, because these are the people I will be meeting and practicing with for the rest of my career."

Reflecting almost 25 years later, Whitefield, still affiliated with and active in SFVBA, says she saw attending the 1995 networking event as "an opportunity to meet experienced attorneys who could mentor and help me get my career started. I wasn't disappointed."

Attending almost all of the Family Law Section events organized by the Bar, Whitefield says, "Those seminars are always well populated and have been very, very helpful. What I've learned has been instrumental in building my practice and that hasn't changed over the years. I think the San Fernando Valley Bar Association is one of the best and strongest associations around."

Attorney Asya Ovsepyan joined the Association earlier this year "primarily for the networking opportunities and the MCLE and educational seminars."

A native of Armenia, Ovsepyan graduated from the Western State University College of Law in Irvine after earning her undergraduate degree in sociology from California State University, Northridge. She was admitted to the Bar in 2017.

"When I started out, it was overwhelming," she says. "As a solo family law practitioner, I needed to get my name out there and find other people who could serve as mentors to me and help me be a better attorney and keep up with developments in the law. I felt that joining the Association would be the best way to do that, and it has."

Recognizing the need for members to be able to network in a relaxed setting, SFVBA launched the Valley Bar Network (VBN) in 2016, under

the direction of SFVBA Past President Carol L. Newman and future President Alan E. Kassan.

"VBN was developed more as a benefit to existing members than a strategy to increase SFVBA membership," says Kassan. "As it turns out, VBN has been responsible for a good number of new SFVBA memberships, even though that was not the motivation. It seems VBN has also developed as a perfect way to introduce non-SFVBA members to what the SFVBA is all about. In every way, VBN has definitely been a win-win proposition."

The group "started with a core group of about 12. We are now about 65, and each year it seems more and more people are talking about it at other events," he says. "Though we've had some attrition, we seem to get new members every month or so," adding that "it's always hard to start something new, and to get the attention of the masses."

VBN "is growing, slowly, but steadily, and I hope to have the momentum grow as members spread the good word," says Kassan. "Future plans are to create other VBN groups that meet in other locations around the Valley, so as to accommodate more members."

Diversity and the SFVBA: A Genuine 'Melting Pot'

In 2008, attorney Richard Lewis, the first African-American president of the SFVBA, was instrumental in putting SFVBA on track to become one of the most diverse professional organizations in Southern California. Over the past decade, the Bar has earned a reputation as one of the most active groups of its kind in terms of actively promoting diversity and inclusion.

Lewis worked with the Bar's Board of Trustees to form a first-ever, standing Diversity Committee to address the issue and help re-mold a profession by attracting and retaining diverse talent into the legal profession.



FlagshipEscrow.com

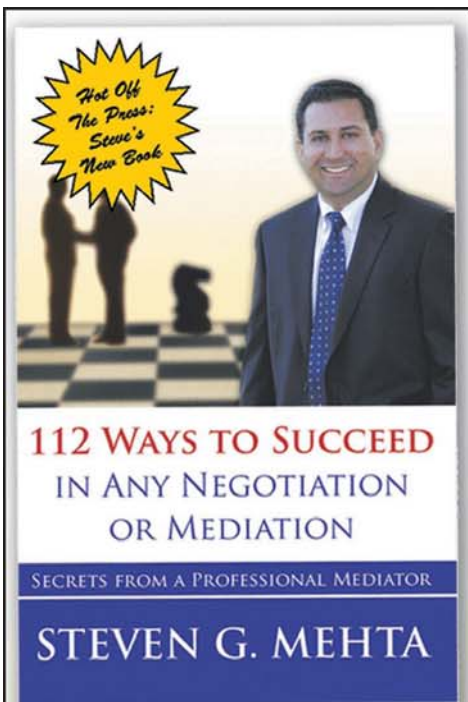
*Official Sponsor of the SFVBA
Probate & Estate Planning Section*

**We are an
independent,
full-service
escrow company
with years of
experience
in probate,
trust sale and
conservatorship
transactions,
along with all
other types
of escrows.**

MARGARITA F. BILLINGS
Certified Escrow Officer
Margarita@FlagshipEscrow.com

ENID TOBIAS
Certified Escrow Officer
Enid@FlagshipEscrow.com

16101 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 324
Encino, CA 91436
PH # 818 990 3565



Steven G. Mehta is one of California's premier, award-winning attorney mediators, specializing in intensely-difficult and emotionally-charged cases.

Steve's book, **112 Ways to Succeed in Any Negotiation or Mediation**, will turbo-charge your negotiation skills regardless of your experience.

To schedule your mediation or order a copy of Steve's new book, call **661.284.1818** or check with your local bookseller, preferred online retailer, or online at:
www.112ways.com or www.stevemehta.com

Locations in Los Angeles & Valencia
Mediations throughout California

He was instrumental in the SFVBA joining the 20-member Multicultural Bar Alliance (MCBA) of Southern California as an Associate member. The coalition, comprised primarily of woman and minority bar associations, is one of the largest of its kind in the entire country.

"I made it a point to reach out to other minority bars and, I particularly saw it as very important to become involved with the MCBA," says Lewis. "I am very proud of that, and SFVBA remains the only regional bar association that's a member of the Alliance."

In October 2016, under the direction of then SFVBA President Carol L. Newman, and thanks to the work of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee and Co-Chairs, Valarie Dean and Joanna Sanchez, and all who came before them, the Bar was a joint recipient, along with Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles, of the State Bar of California's prestigious Bar Association Diversity Award. SFVBA was also lauded for its efforts to promote and maintain diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

"I am very proud of how far we've come over the past years and being involved with the Bar has been one of the greatest experiences of my life," says Lewis. "We've got African-Americans, Asia-Americans, Latinos... we've got it all. The Valley is truly a melting pot and so is the SFVBA."

Current SFVBA President is attorney Yi Sun Kim, whose tenure as head of the organization will end next month.

"I want to maintain continuity and make things stick," says Kim, the youngest and first Asian-American to head the organization. "A lot of positive things have been happening with the Inclusion and Diversity Committee and we want to make sure that its good work continues. When we have diversity events, we want everybody to participate because they welcome everyone. That's the point. Being diverse means we can't be exclusive

in any way. We have to make sure that everyone is given the opportunity."

Emphasizing the Bar's efforts to reach younger, minority attorneys, Kim feels that "the free exchange of ideas is at the very core of diversity and inclusiveness. If you feel that you're different from everyone else, you may have a harder time sharing your ideas and expressing yourself. It's easier to communicate and identify with someone who shares a common experience. Especially with new lawyers, if you see young people like yourself, you want to get involved more."

Valley Courts and SFVBA: Equal Access to the Law

SFVBA, since its inception, has labored mightily to improve the Valley community's access to the justice system.

Its efforts harken all the way back to 1926, the Bar's first year of existence, when it began what the *Los Angeles Herald* at the time called "a vigorous and untiring campaign" to establish the San Fernando Valley's first-ever Municipal Court.

That year, the organization's first president, Robert Hanley, appointed a committee to collect information illustrating the need for a court in the Valley and the difficulties faced by Valley-based litigants and attorneys who were required to spend an inordinate amount of time traveling miles, often over unpaved roads, to downtown Los Angeles to have their civil and criminal cases heard.

By the following December, the committee had filed its report, which, urging "the necessity of such a court in the Valley," was forwarded as a petition to the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Just three months later, March 1927, it was announced that a branch of the Municipal Court would be established in the Holloway Building on Sylvan Street in Van Nuys.

In 1946, the Valley—with an exploding population and its parallel need for enhanced access to the legal system—saw the opening ceremony

of its first Superior Court in the City of San Fernando, largely due to several years of determined effort by SFVBA.

The San Fernando court joined other branches of the Superior Court in Pasadena, Pomona, Santa Monica, Glendale, and Long Beach, giving more than 100 attorneys practicing in the Valley, and their clients, greater access to the court.

"We were nowhere near the size then that we are now, perhaps 300 members," recalls Past President Albert Ghirardelli. "With many of them involved, one way or another, we were able to lay the political groundwork which in a few years led to construction of the San Fernando Courthouse and, later, the expansion of a new one in Van Nuys. We convinced the County Board of Supervisors of the urgency to build the courthouses to serve the rapidly growing post-war Valley population."

The Bar, he says, "has always had an interest in the community and, because of the work of the group, the Valley was able to see the development of new courthouses, outreach programs and other things that perhaps wouldn't have happened if the SFVBA wasn't involved."

Attorney Referral Service: Showing the Way

In 1948, SFVBA launched its fledgling Legal Aid and Lawyer Referral Service to vet Valley residents in need of legal assistance and direct them to qualified attorneys based on the worthiness of their case and their ability, or inability, to pay.

The service was expanded in 1977 to offer a legal services program for seniors in cooperation with the Van Nuys Senior Citizens Center, and, since then, has expanded its operation to offer information on legal assistance on an on-going basis at senior centers, shelters for abused women, neighborhood events, and courthouses across the Valley.

Seventy-plus years on and one of the first lawyer referral services certified

SALLY SOLOMON

DIVORCE REAL ESTATE EXPERT

Serving Conejo & San Fernando Valleys



- Master Certified Negotiation Expert (MCNE)
- Certified Distress Properties Expert (CDPE)
- Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist (CLHMS)
- Certified Divorce Real Estate Expert (CDRE)
- Broker Associate Licensed since 1982
- Five Star Real Estate Agents Award for Highest in Service & Overall Satisfaction 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2018
- Former Legal Assistant & Negotiator

Phone: 805.338.7878

Email: Sally@SallySolomon.com

Website: ExpertDivorceRealEstate.com

DREI #: 00841652

Brokerage/Address:

Keller Williams Realty World Class
30700 Russel Ranch Rd. Suite 200
Westlake Village, CA 91362

MSM

Moon, Schwartz & Madden

COURT QUALIFIED EXPERT WITNESS

Actuarial Valuation of Retirement Plan Benefits Including Survivor Benefits



Matthew H. Schwartz
PARTNER



John C. Madden
PARTNER

- Moon, Schwartz & Madden is the leading provider of actuarial community property valuations for defined benefit plans (including survivor benefits), and defined contribution plan tracings in Northern CA.
- We are qualified as experts in the valuation and division of public, private, federal, military, qualified and non-qualified retirement plans.
- Additional services include income stream estimates, review of opposing expert reports, review of plan calculations, QDRO review and more!
- Need to trade off other marital assets or debts against the pension? Need to know the actuarial present day value of lost survivor benefits? No problem, just call MSM!

17901 Von Karman Avenue ■ Suite 600 ■ Irvine CA 92614

(714) 430-8984 ■ www.msmqdros.com

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF OUR NEW
OFFICE IN IRVINE!**



PERSONAL INJURY PRACTICE GROUP

(nearly 40 years of service in the Valley)



ANDREW L. SHAPIRO
Chair & Shareholder
ashapiro@lewitthackman.com



THOMAS CECIL
Shareholder
tcecil@lewitthackman.com



DAVID B. BOBROSKY
Shareholder
dbobrosky@lewitthackman.com

lewitthackman.com
(818) 990-2120



LEWITT HACKMAN

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

Referral fees subject to California Bar rules.

by the California State Bar, the SFVBA's Attorney Referral Service's bilingual staff carries on that work from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, deftly fielding an average of 500 telephone calls every month from people looking for a vetted option—potential clients, sometimes desperate and emotional, who feel their only recourse is the protection afforded by the law.

Now one of the longest running State Bar-certified legal assistance programs in California, the ARS recruits and assists approximately 120 well-established attorneys who have an average of 25 years of experience in a variety of legal areas including estate planning, criminal defense, personal injury, and immigration, bankruptcy, and family law.

The ARS also participates in a number of community events every year, distributing materials and speaking with members of the public looking to connect with an attorney.

Each ARS attorney must meet the ARS' top qualifications that include experience, a practice in good standing with the State Bar of California and must carry professional liability insurance, amongst other qualifications.

The ARS is certified by the State Bar of California, #0006, and approved by American Bar Association to help individuals find a qualified attorney in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

Over time, the ARS 'adopted' Maurice Sendak Elementary School, Milliken Middle School, helped Reseda High School's Law and Government Magnet Program, and worked with Pierce College and Mission College to help them start their law clubs.

The Bar and ARS have also organized productions of courtroom trials pitting the Big Bad Wolf against the Three Little Pigs and Snow White versus the Witch who attempted to poison her.

To reach middle school and high school students, the ARS has worked hand-in-hand to organize court tours,

speaking engagements with lawyers, and meetings with judges, bailiffs, court reporters, and others involved in the profession who serve as mentors.

MCLE: Always Accessible Education

With only a few exceptions, every attorney actively practicing law in California must complete ongoing legal training, called Minimum Continuing Legal Education, or MCLE.

Twenty-five hours of MCLE are required every three years and must include credits on ethics as well as competence issues, such as substance abuse and mental health.

SFVBA provides its members with convenient and affordable options for earning their MCLE credits as most SFVBA seminars are recorded and made available on both audio CDs and MP3 files.

"We include education on a broad selection of topics, as well as specialty credits in the required areas of ethics, competence issues, and the elimination of bias," says Linda Temkin, SFVBA Director of Education and Events.

Many of the live participatory MCLE seminars offered throughout the year are free to members, thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, and the work by our section chairs. Additionally, each month, *Valley Lawyer* magazine features a self-study test. Members can earn one easy hour of credit at a very low cost. And, the SFVBA has very active law practice sections like family law, bankruptcy, probate and estate planning, etc., which offer attorneys relevant seminars, networking, and the opportunity to learn the latest changes firsthand from bench officers.

For the past 22 years, SFVBA has organized its annual MCLE Marathon, a two-day event offering attorneys the opportunity "to catch up with their MCLE credits if they've fallen behind," she says. "We average between 40 and 65 attorneys, both experienced and those new to the profession."

"The Marathon is more than a participatory educational experience," says Temkin. "It gives attendees the opportunity to catch-up with their fellow attorneys and share experiences, triumphs and failures. It's a great event and a tremendous benefit for our members."

Conference of Delegates: A Positive Influence

The California Conference of Bar Associations (CCBA) was formed in 2002 as the successor entity of the Conference of Delegates of the State Bar of California, which was formed more than 60 years ago to consider resolutions proposing amendments to existing state law and the adoption of new legislation by the California legislature.

Last year, SFVBA was one of 23 California-based bar associations that sent 200 delegates combined to the CCBA's Conference of Delegates annual meeting in San Diego. Some 147 resolutions were considered during the three-day conference.

Since 2010, more than 100 chaptered bills originated from CCBA resolutions, which is an unparalleled record of achievement for a single organization. The CCBA provides a practical way for rank and file members to propose legislation that otherwise would not come to the attention of the legislature and to have a reasonable opportunity to see their proposal become a reality.

For example, longtime SFVBA member Roger Franklin "has been very successful with resolutions modifying unlawful detainer laws to promote efficiency and fairness in unlawful detainer actions," says SFVBA Past President Tamila Jensen.

The 2017-2018 legislative year was very successful. In 2017, CCBA was involved in 40 bills as a sponsor, co-sponsor or supported. Among the sponsored bills, 13 in which the Conference played a role, were signed into law by then-Governor Jerry Brown

and 13 more were on the desk of the governor at the time of the Conference.

Since 2010, more than 100 chaptered bills originated from CCBA resolutions, "which is an unparalleled record of achievement for a single organization," says Jensen.

Valley Community Legal Foundation: A Helping Hand

Under the current leadership of attorney Mark Shipow, the Valley Legal Community Foundation (VCLF), serves as the fundraising and charitable arm of SFVBA.

The VCLF is administered under a separate Board of Trustees and provides member's with opportunities to get involved in giving back to the community through providing educational grants to local schools, scholarships to young students who plan on pursuing a career in the law, and sponsoring law-related events to stir interest in the law, and other charitable assistance.

VCLF organized and hosted a presentation of *Defamation—The Play*, a courtroom drama that explores issues of race, religion, class and the law in the context of a trial.

Donations from SFVBA members and the community made it possible for VCLF to sponsor several hundred high school students to attend the play and participate in a vigorous discussion of race and related issues.

Last year, the VCLF created a constitutional law program for Valley high school students. Called *The Constitution & Me: True Threats v. Pure Speech Drawing the Line between Safety and Freedom*, the program calls for sitting judges and active lawyers to engage the students in thought provoking discussions about the U.S. Constitution, culminating in a mini-moot court exercise. The program also sponsors an essay contest to award financial scholarships to deserving Valley high school students.

"For the past three months, Valley-area judges and lawyers have engaged

students at Monroe, Taft and Canoga High Schools in Socratic conversations about how our Constitution protects—or does not protect—free speech in a school environment," comments Shipow. "The program...has been a huge success."

As expected, he adds, "The program has been highly interactive with students fully engaged in the free speech debate and very proactive in their thinking about the issues. Of great significance, they have grappled with how these sorts of events should be handled in real life.

"In the process, they have developed their reading, speaking and analytical skills, gained additional experience in interpersonal and teamwork skills, and had the opportunity to interact with positive role models from the Valley legal community. And we have been told that the program materials were so well-received that at least one teacher is using them in all her government classes."

Valley Mediation Center: Offering an Alternative

In March 2015, SFVBA partnered with the Valley Bar Mediation Center (VBMC)—founded by SFVBA members Myer Sankary and Milan Slama—in an effort to fill the vacuum left by the dismantling of the Los Angeles Superior Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program two years previous.

The court's ADR Program was the largest of its kind in the country and helped resolve thousands of disputes each year. Its closure added to the backlog of cases in the court system leaving low-income litigants with few, if any, options for affordable mediation.

According to David Gurnick, twice-elected SFVBA Past President who has served with the Center since it was first created, mediation "involves communication, mediated by a neutral, to help the parties listen and understand each other and come up with creative solutions. It is a powerful

tool in our legal process and one that empowers parties because it lets parties fashion their own solution, rather than being subject to court-imposed outcomes.”

After a year of hard work and planning, the VBMCL launched with a diverse panel of 16 local mediators who met the Center’s high standards for ethics, education and training. VBMCL mediators are committed to providing high quality, affordable mediation services at rates comparable to those charged by the court’s defunct ADR Program.

Three years later, the scope of the Valley Bar Mediation Center’s work expanded significantly when it was named one of two Los Angeles Superior Court Civil Mediation Resource List Vendors, and the only one with an online dispute resolution (ODR) contract, given the go-ahead to provide low-cost mediation services to all civil litigants throughout Los Angeles County.

In November 2018, the Valley Bar Mediation Center officially changed its name to the Mediation Center of Los Angeles (MCLA) to indicate its county-wide scope and dispel any impression that its operations were limited to the San Fernando Valley.

The prime stimulus behind the creation of the MCLA, and its predecessor VBMCL, is the axiom that by talking through and resolving small conflicts can prevent them from growing into even bigger ones, and that through shared perspectives, both sides of any dispute can learn by listening and finding some common ground.

Last March, the SFVBA-sponsored MCLA was among the third-party organizations honored during the Los Angeles Superior Court’s observance of Mediation Week.

MCLA Program Director, Myer Sankary, was on hand to receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the court that was awarded “in recognition of your dedication to pioneering,

creating and providing reduced-cost mediation and online dispute resolution services as one of the first Civil Mediation Vendor Resource List participants.”


The MCLA program, the Certificate reads, “has provided a great benefit to the civil litigants served by the Los Angeles Superior Court, the public, and the Court, and is greatly appreciated.”

At the time the Certificate was presented, Sankary said, “I’ve derived so much from my work over the past 20 years. It’s very satisfying that we have a program that can provide attorney’s and litigants with an excellent alternative to going to court. It’s very satisfying that we can administer a critical program for the courts. We view it as a great opportunity and a great responsibility to serve the court in this way.”

Built on a Firm Foundation

With almost a century of history to draw on, SFVBA is set on a firm foundation of service to the legal professionals who practice in the Valley and the community in general, SFVBA stands tall as one of the most proactive, multi-dimensional organizations of its kind in the state.

“What the members get from the Bar has not changed over the years in terms of what they expect...networking, education, community outreach, and more,” says outgoing SFVBA President Yi Sun Kim. “I think what we’ve done this year is enhance on those categories and grow them in terms of the way they’re delivered. We’re always looking for ways to engage on another and the community by getting attorneys from a wide variety of practice areas, as well as associate members, together.”

Today, she says, “We are identifying more opportunities, and are rejuvenated and motivated to find more creative ways to make sure we’re checking off all the boxes for our members. I credit our Board, our Executive Director, our staff, and especially our members for being proactive in wanting to make the San Fernando Valley Bar Association an even better and stronger organization to serve the Valley.” 

RE/MAX[®]

OLSON & ASSOCIATES

Robert Graf

DRE# 01469117

- Will provide all vendors necessary to prepare any property for sale.
- Attorney references provided upon request.
- Serving greater Los Angeles, Ventura, and Orange County areas.



PROBATE. TRUST. STANDARD SALES

O: 818.368.6265 | M: 818.399.9455 | E: bob@RobertGraf.com
www.RobertGraf.com | 11141 Tampa Ave., Porter Ranch, CA 91326

WORKERS' COMPENSATION STATE CERTIFIED SPECIALIST



William J. Kropach
william@kropachlaw.com
Chairman Workers' Comp Section
SFVBA 1987-2000
Volunteer of the Year
SFVBA 2003



LAW OFFICES OF

KROPACH & KROPACH

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Over 40 years combined experience.

REFERRAL FEES PAID—CALL

818.609.7005

WWW.WILLIAMKROPACH.COM



William H. Kropach
whk@kropachlaw.com

Member Focus

Without its individual members no organization can function. Each of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's 2,000-plus members is a critical component that makes the Bar one of the most highly respected professional legal groups in the state. Every month, we will introduce various members of the Bar and help put a face on our organization.



Angela Berry



Law School: Loyola Law School

Area(s) of Practice: Criminal Law, trials, writs and appeals

Years in Practice: 28

Office Location: Encino

What's your favorite vacation spot? "Any vacation."

What was your favorite childhood television program? "Twilight Zone and Perry Mason."

Your favorite Valley restaurant? "Firefly."

Angela Berry is a criminal defense attorney who practices in both trial courtrooms and before the appellate courts. Her practice involves a wide range of cases, including the defense of the accused in simple misdemeanor misconduct and those accused of capital murder.

She credits her precise and persuasive motion and appellate writing to her clerkship with the California Attorney General's Office, Criminal Appeals Section while attending Loyola Law School. Her experience in the trial courts is a culmination of 28 years of trying cases, over 50 of which have been jury trials.

Berry currently sits as an executive board member of the Indigent Criminal Defense Appointments Program, and a member of the Billing and Discipline Committee for the same organization. She is actively engaged in, and sits on the Board of, the Criminal Courts Bar Association.

She is the former Chair of SFVBA's Criminal Law Section and currently sits on the Bar's Attorney Referral Service Committee.

The mother of two and the step-mother of two, Berry loves running marathons and has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Ronald J. Tasoff



Law School: Loyola Law School

Area(s) of Practice: Certified Immigration Law Specialist

Years in Practice: 43

Office Location: Encino

What do you like to read?

"I read a lot of magazines and newspapers such as *The Economist*, *New Yorker*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *Archeology*, *Discovery*, *National Geographic* and the *Funny Times*."

What's your favorite legal film? "My Cousin Vinny."

What was your childhood career goal? "Being a space doctor."

Ronald Tasoff was born in Los Angeles and has lived in the Valley "with the exception of living eight years elsewhere...Berkeley, Scotland and Laurel Canyon."

He entered his father's immigration law practice after graduating law school and now practices exclusively in immigration law with his brother.

Tasoff has served as the Southern California Chapter Chair of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has held several other positions including four years on the SFVBA Board of Trustees. He has also served on the Bar's Executive Board and was the first editor of *Valley Lawyer*.

He has written numerous articles for various professional publications, as well as one book on immigration law, which he taught "for a few years" at the University of West Los Angeles School of Law.

"I'm married to Malka Tasoff, a retired public defender and magnet school coordinator and we have three children...a professor, a data analyst and a dentist.

"I have no real hobbies or sports, although I like photography and travel. I do love chocolate ice cream and my current goal is to live long and prosper."



Courtroom Artists: A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

By Michael D. White

IT WAS THE TRAGIC KIDNAPING AND MURDER OF Charles Lindbergh's infant son in 1932 that created the framework for the courtroom sketch artists whose work is often seen on television and on the pages of newspapers and magazines today.

With its clattering newsreel cameras, snapping camera shutters, blinding flashbulbs and scrimmaging press photographers jockeying for position, the trial of the accused kidnapper, Richard Hauptmann, had cast a blinding light on the impact that the media had on the decorum and civility usually expected in the courtroom.

While allowed only limited access to the courtroom, the photographers, many felt, had created a disorder in the court that ruled the day.

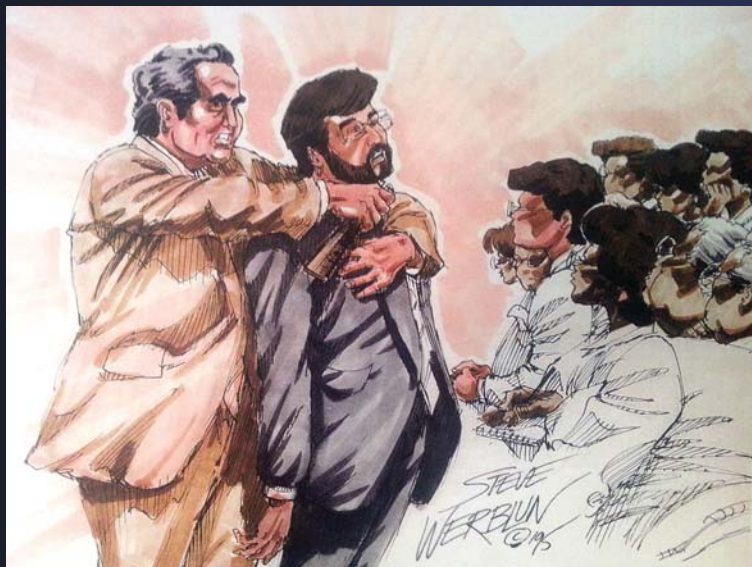
One year after Hauptmann's trial ended, the frenzied, often sensationalist media coverage that dogged the entire tragic event, induced the American Bar Association to create a

special committee—the Special Committee on Cooperation between the Press, Radio and Bar—to “agree upon standards of publicity, of judicial proceedings and methods of obtaining an observance of them....”

The Committee, convened in New York City, was in fact, an 18-man, composite body consisting of six members of the American Bar Association appointed by its President, seven representatives of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, and five representatives of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

The Committee condemned the proceedings at the Hauptmann trial and recommended standards for media conduct in the court. Acting on the Committee's recommendations, the ABA amended its Code of Judicial Ethics to include Canon 35, which states that cameras should not be permitted in the courtroom.

Sketches courtesy of Steve Werblun



ADA Brian Kelberg conducts a demonstration during the 1995 O.J. Simpson murder trial.



Anna Nicole Smith at the 1999 Herbert Marshall bankruptcy trial.

“While the trial is in progress,” the Committee concluded, “those bearing responsible parts in it are performing a high public duty from which their attention ought not to be diverted.”

Most states followed the Bar’s recommendation, and, by 1946, both photography and radio broadcasting were banned in federal courts, eventually creating a head-on collision of two Constitutionally-mandated rights—one, guaranteeing a defendant due process in court and the other, the right of a free, unencumbered press to do its job.

The landmark precedent was legally set after Texas financier Billie Sol Estes was convicted of fraud in 1963. He argued that his Fourteenth Amendment rights under the due process clause were “rendered impossible” by the presence of cameras in the courtroom and the media frenzy that ensued.

The United States Supreme Court, in its narrow 5-4 ruling, agreed that cameras had indeed interfered with Estes receiving a fair trial—a ruling that has set the tone for the role of the media in the nation’s courtrooms.

According to California’s current 2019 Rules of Court, “court proceedings may not be photographed, recorded, or broadcast. This rule does not prohibit courts from photographing or videotaping sessions for judicial education or publications and is not intended to apply to closed-circuit television broadcasts solely within the courthouse or between court facilities if the broadcasts are controlled by the court and court personnel.”

Enter the Courtroom Artist

Over the past several decades, as a result, multiple national and local media outlets and press agencies have come to rely on the work of courtroom artists, whose rapid-fire and

often striking compositions often provide the only permissible visual record of the action inside courtrooms. It is inside these courtrooms where, quite often, sensational, headline-grabbing trials are conducted.

One such sensational trial—the 1994 O. J. Simpson murder trial—sent everything in a new direction when Presiding Judge Lance A. Ito allowed a single television camera into his courtroom in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

Ito made his decision to allow the TV camera in response to a request for “transparency” from both the defense and the prosecution. It was a decision he came to regret as the plan backfired.

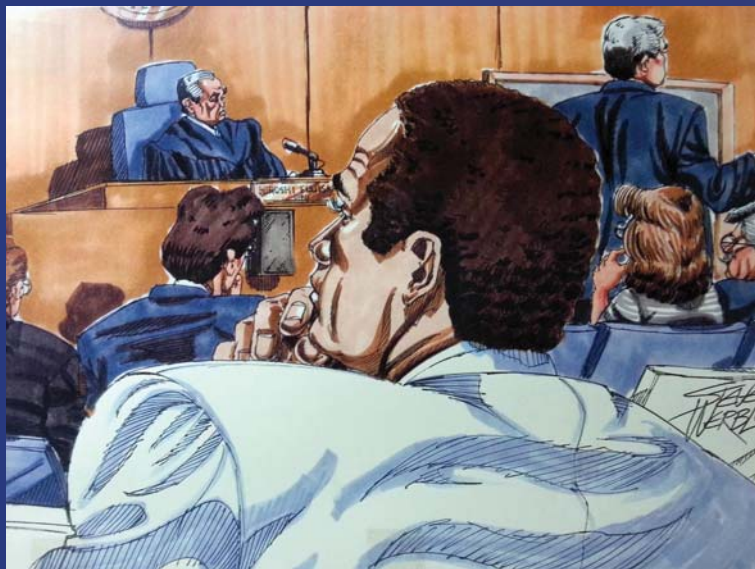
According to one observer, what ensued was less transparent than it was “a circus” with attorneys positioning their lecterns at just the right camera angles and witnesses mugging for the camera.

The camera was removed and replaced with a battery of courtroom sketch artists, who every day of “the Trial of the Century” produced dozens of pen and ink, pencil, crayon, watercolor and color marker sketches capturing, in a moment, individual identities, gestures, nuances, and body language in a way that humanized the defendants, lawyers, witnesses and judge.

Later filmed by television crews for broadcast on television news outlets around the news-hungry world, their sketches brought to life real people, not caricatures, at what are sometimes the lowest, perhaps most vulnerable points in their lives.

A Pad Too Big

One of those artists in Judge Ito’s courtroom was Steve Werblun.



O.J. Simpson looks on during his 1997 civil suit trial.



L.A.P.D. officers Briseno, Wind, Koon and Powell listen to the Rodney King federal civil suit verdict, April 1993.

A graduate of Philadelphia's Hussian School of Art, Werblun's first opportunity to sketch an event came during the inaugural event of the 1976 Bicentennial—the New Years' relocation of the iconic Liberty Bell from Independence Hall in Philadelphia to a glass pavilion on Independence Mall.

"At the time, I was interested in getting into film and there wasn't any work in that area in Philadelphia," says Werblun. "TV was the thing and I thought that illustrating would be a way to work in television and film. That was my ultimate goal."

A friend, a press photographer for a local paper, shared an extra pass to the event which drew a crowd of some 200,000 people and a battalion of press photographers and other media types. "It was rainy, snowing, sleeting, and hailing, and 32 degrees below zero with the wind chill factored in," he recalls. "It was impossible to draw anything, so I went home without having produced anything."

An anxious 3:00 a.m. telephone call from his photographer friend revealed that he had not been the only one stymied by the inclement weather, so had virtually all of the photographers, whose equipment had been rendered inoperative in the freezing cold.

"They needed a picture of the event and the only one available was the one in my head, so I took a 30 by 40 inch piece of paper and sketched from memory what I'd seen," he says. "That morning, I brought it in to the *Philadelphia Daily News* and they bought it for \$35. They asked me if I had done any courtroom art and that's how I got started."

Now, over the past four decades, Werblun has sketched the famous and the infamous sensational trials involving Rodney King, Reginald Denny, Madonna, Michael Jackson, Heidi Fleiss, Richard "The Night Stalker" Ramirez, and O. J. Simpson for NBC, CNN, and scores of other local and national media outlets.

"It's the television stations that do the real hiring," he says. "The Philadelphia experience was unusual because they wanted me to cover the trial of the person accused of murdering the paper's Editor-in-Chief. That was my first actual courtroom case. It took a couple of years to break into illustrating for television, but, I had something to show and, finally, NBC picked me up."

Werblun's first case for NBC was, he says, "my most difficult. There were nine defendants, nine different attorneys, nine prosecutors, the judge, the jury and all the witnesses.

The sketches have to be done very, very quickly and nothing I have done since has been as challenging."

His personal technique is initially producing a pencil sketch, which he goes over with an ink detail line. Erasing the pencil, he then paints in using artist quality magic markers.

While O. J. Simpson trial Judge Ito exasperated Werblun and the other courtroom artists with the demand that he approve their drawings before they could be televised, Werblun actually credits Ito with helping him improve his style.

"Prior to the O. J. trial, I would work with a 17 inch by 22 inch drawing pad," he says. "That was huge, but it was the way I'd been doing them for 20 years. During a break, Judge Ito told me that the paper pad I was using was just too big and that I was distracting the jury, which was watching me draw rather than listening to testimony."

Ito told Werblun to change the size of his paper so they couldn't see what he was doing. "I brought it down to 9 inches by 12 inches," he says. "My work actually improved because it took on a finer look...like that of a watercolor. It also allowed me to be much more detailed."


Due Credit

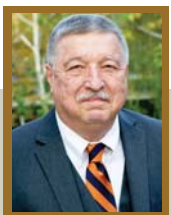
Over the past several years, a number of books have been published featuring the works of prominent courtroom sketch artists, including Steve Werblun, while the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. has accumulated more than 10,000 courtroom sketches—the most comprehensive collection of its kind in the country.

In 2017, the Library of Congress organized *Drawing Justice: The Art of Courtroom Illustration*, its first-ever exhibit of courtroom sketch art to show "how courtroom artists visualize the trial narratives for the public, and also process emotional moments and pivotal testimonies beyond simple documentation."

According to Sara W. Duke, curator of applied and graphic art in the Library of Congress' Prints and Photographs Division and the exhibition's organizer, courtroom artists "are not cartoonists nor caricaturists, and their ability to work depends on capturing not only a portrait of those involved, but the gestures they made, their facial expressions, the way they interacted with those around them."

Their work, she told the media, accomplishes a critical purpose "by offering the American people, through the television news, newspapers and now the Internet, access to the proceedings."

Whether it involves a once-beloved celebrity or a reviled terrorist, "Americans want access to the legal system." 



Michael D. White is editor of *Valley Lawyer* magazine. He is the author of four published books and has worked in business journalism for more than 35 years. Before joining the staff of the SFVBA, he worked as Web Content Editor for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. He can be reached at michael@sfvba.org.

New ARS Leadership

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE that SFVBA's ARS Committee announces the promotion of Miguel Villatoro as the new Associate Director of Public Services.

As Associate Director of Public Service, Miguel will oversee the Attorney Referral Service program. He will be more closely involved in the formulation of marketing plans for review by the ARS Committee, with particular focus on growing the ARS membership and referrals from Social Media.

In addition, he will continue to form strategic partnerships with community organizations to enhance the ARS.

Miguel joined the ARS about two years ago and is committed

to his work. Initially hired as an intake consultant, he was responsible for properly screening individual clients and matching them with an ARS attorney.

Over the past two years, Miguel has shown exemplary performances in his work with our attorneys and the public and has formed great relationships with the attorneys who form the backbone of the ARS.

In no small part, that is largely responsible for the increase in the numbers of ARS attorneys attending SFVBA events such as Judges' Night, the Installation Gala, Lawyers in the Library, and Member Appreciation Day.

DAVID G. JONES
ARS Committee Chair




djones@santiagojoneslaw.com

He has taken the lead in organizing an information booth at the Van Nuys courthouse to promote both the ARS and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association—a program that has garnered recognition from judges, Bar members, and the public.

"I'm very excited about my promotion," says Miguel. "The career experience at the San Fernando Valley Bar Association has been wonderful for me. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity and want to thank everyone for their support and recognizing my accomplishments. I look forward to adding more value to my new position."

Miguel "has always shown initiative in the performance of his duties, even going above and beyond what is expected of him, in order to ensure

that ARS delivers quality customer service while producing expected results," says Rosie Soto Cohen, SFVBA Executive Director. "He has really impressed us with his creative ideas and eagerness to always help."

Miguel has established himself as a dedicated and focused force in support of ARS and its programs. The Bar believes that his leadership will continue the positive trajectory of the ARS and bring new energy and revenue to the program. I encourage Panel members to interact with Miguel so that they can experience his positive energy and focus. 



ERISA LAWYERS

**LONG TERM DISABILITY,
LONG TERM CARE, HEALTH,
EATING DISORDER, AND LIFE
INSURANCE CLAIMS**

**WE HANDLE BOTH
ERISA & BAD FAITH
MATTERS**

- California Federal and State Courts
- More than 20 years experience
- Settlements, trials and appeals

**Referral fees as allowed
by State Bar of California**

**Handling matters
throughout California**

818.886.2525

**KANTOR
& KANTOR LLP**

www.kantorlaw.net

**Dedicated to helping people
receive the insurance
benefits to which they
are entitled**



VALLEY COMMUNITY LEGAL FOUNDATION OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION

Constitution and Me Essay Contest Winners

MONROE HIGH SCHOOL

Jienel Valenzuela and Maximilano Jimenez, "Constitution & Me Outstanding Essay Award" (\$400)

Carissa Po and Sundiata "Chaka" Tellem, "Constitution & Me Excellence in Jurisprudence Award" (\$250)

Ally Lorenzo and Cristina Arechiga "Constitution & Me Youth Scholar Award" (\$200)

TAFT HIGH SCHOOL

Selena Dickson and Taryn Smythe, "Constitution & Me Outstanding Essay Award" (\$400)

Xenia Cornejo and Varya Fayner, "Constitution & Me Excellence in Jurisprudence Award" (\$250)

Victoria Platanova and Alyssa Ochoa, "Constitution & Me Youth Scholar Award" (\$200)

EDUCATING OUR KIDS BEGINS WITH YOU

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and generous sponsors for making VCLF's inaugural Spring 2019 presentation of *Constitution and Me* a great success! VCLF's interactive constitutional law program presented high school students with a hypothetical case involving issues of free speech, cyberbullying, and safety in the school environment.

Using actual Supreme Court case summaries, and with the guidance of volunteer judges and attorneys, students at three Valley high schools participated in a spirited debate on the issues during three weekly sessions, culminating in a mock Supreme Court argument.

With continued help from the bench, sponsors, and the bar, this well-received program will resume this Fall.

FUNDED BY DONATIONS FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU

To donate to the VCLF or to learn more, visit
www.thevclf.org
and help us make a difference in our community.



Help Us Help The Students

MARK S. SHIPOW

President



mshipow@socal.rr.com

IN SEVERAL OF MY *VALLEY LAWYER* COLUMNS this year, I have written about VCLF's highly successful *Constitution & Me* program. While that certainly was the highlight of our year, I don't want to overlook the other good work our organization has performed, all with the help of your donations.

For many years, a key component of the Foundation's educational support has been to award scholarships to worthy students pursuing law-related careers.

Though our scholarships are of relatively modest amounts, we have been frequently told by both students and counselors that the awards make a difference by helping with the purchase of much-needed items such as computers that aren't usually covered by other financial aid, and—most importantly—by encouraging them that they are on the right path.

I had the privilege of presenting a scholarship award this year to a graduate of Reseda High School, my alma mater, and I can attest to how appreciative the students are to receive these well-earned scholarships.

As in past years, our scholarship recipients represent a diverse group. One student lived with his grandmother in Gambia, moved to Texas to live with his father and India-born stepmother and then moved to California. He experienced ethnic stereotyping and prejudice first-hand, but has worked to overcome all that through playing basketball (a sport dear to my heart), and participating in student government and the Black Student Union. He is already giving back to the community by, among other things, tutoring fifth graders and helping them prepare for a mock trial. He will be attending

University of California, Berkeley and aspires to attend Harvard Law School. VCLF is proud to do a small part towards helping him get there.

Another student has had to work while going to school because her parents can only find sporadic jobs and need help supporting the family. But that hasn't stopped her from being active in the Monroe High School Law & Government Magnet program which includes conducting mock trials and interning at the Public Defender's Office, all while maintaining a 3.4 GPA. She will be attending Mount Holyoke College and participate in their Law, Public Policy and Human Rights program, with a focus on non-profit organizations. She clearly is destined to do good.

One of our other scholarship recipients didn't know what Law & Government Magnet meant when he started high school. But he quickly learned, and was hooked. Snagging a one-week law study internship at Loyola Law School, he was active on the high school speech and debate team (finishing 2nd in California), and participated in our *Constitution & Me* program. He also found time to be Captain of the varsity basketball team and plans to attend University of California, Santa Barbara.

VCLF is proud to help these and many other students as they reach to fulfill their dreams. Through them, I believe we are doing our part to create a better world.

The full list of our 2019 scholarship recipients can be seen below. Congratulations and good luck to all of them!

- **Student of Distinction Award** – Maximiliano Jimenez, Monroe H.S. \$1500.



- **Outstanding Student Awards** – Cristina Arechiga, Monroe H.S. and Jack Weerts, Burroughs H.S. \$1000 each.
- **VCLF Achievement Scholarships** – Kate Platten, Burroughs H.S.; Cindy Ruiz Garcia and Oscar Letona, Monroe H.S.; Mia Kelly, San Fernando H.S.; Jennyfer Mercado, Canoga Park H.S.; and Ezequiel Gomez, Reseda H.S. Police Academy Magnet. \$500 each.


In addition to educational scholarships, VCLF continues to provide grants to charitable organizations that do good work in the San Fernando Valley, such as the Ken Project, which helps families and professionals expand their knowledge and understanding of the laws designed to protect the rights of children with special needs, and Haven Hills, which provides safety, shelter, and support to survivors of domestic violence while working to break the cycle of abuse.

VCLF Board has authorized \$5,000 in grants this year to support such worthy programs.

In addition, VCLF's grant to the Anti-Recidivism Coalition last year continues to help fund an in-house attorney to help individuals transitioning back into society overcome whatever legal obstacles they face.

None of these scholarships or grants would be possible without the dedication and financial contributions of our Board members and supporters like you.

Please help by making a donation by check to VCLF, or directly online at www.thevclf.org. You also can help by joining our Board and working with us to administer our programs and develop new ways to help the San Fernando Valley legal community.

Please contact me at mshipow@socal.rr.com to find out more about VCLF and its good work. We thank you for your support. 

VCLF CONSTITUTION & ME AND MARCIA KRAFT FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

\$1,500

Kantor & Kantor, LLP

\$1,000

Ernest Prete Jr. Foundation
Mohammad Virani
Judge Firdaus Dordi

\$500

Lewitt, Hackman, Shapiro, Marshall & Harlan, LLP
Carole Meltzner
The Reape-Rickett Law Firm
Steven Sepassi – Sepassi & Tarighati, LLP

\$350

Christy Keeny

\$250

Robert J. Carlson, APC
Jamal Deeb – BMA USA, Inc.
Nancy A. Reinhardt
Richard S. Rosenberg – Ballard Rosenberg Golper
& Savitt, LLP
Rick Stanoff – Country General Store
Wesley Hampton – Narver Insurance

\$200

Kira S. Masteller

\$180

Laurence N. Kaldor
Jonathan Wershow – Wershow & Cole LLP

\$100

Albert Lee – Business Legal Partners
Marc L. Sallus – Oldman, Cooley, Sallus,
Birnberg & Coleman, LLP
Gerald M. Serlin – Benedon & Serlin, LLP
Alpert Barr & Grant
Kraft Miles, ALC
Kristi Isaac – State Farm Insurance
Marcia W. Wasserman – Comprehensive
Management Solutions
Marty & Francine Hauptman
Christine C. Lyden – Lyden Law Corp.
Barry L. Pinsky – Pinsky Trust
Marlene S. Seltzer – Gold Law Group
Ellis & Bakh
Robert Goldstein
Fred Gaines – Gaines & Stacey

Celebrating 15 years and Other News

AS WE STROLL INTO SUMMER, the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association (SCVBA) is busy planning several upcoming events for attorneys, legal professionals, and the business community.

In June, we hosted our Annual Social at the Wolf Creek Brewery in Santa Clarita. We had a great turnout and a fun time was had by all. Plans are also underway to renew our prior tradition of a joint mixer with the SFVBA, as we look forward to the opportunity for members of both bar associations to mingle. Our members always enjoy the opportunity to network with their colleagues on the other side of the hill!

On August 22, SCVBA is hosting a Sexual Harassment Prevention Training seminar for non-supervisory employees of law firms and businesses.

To help law firms and small businesses comply with the state-mandated training, well-known employment law attorney Brian Koegle, a partner at Poole & Shaffery, LLP, has graciously offered to provide this presentation for non-supervisory employees.

At the conclusion of the training, the employees will receive certificates of compliance to demonstrate their successful completion of the training program. The program will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Valencia Country Club in Valencia and breakfast will be served. Seating at the event is limited and the cost will be \$40 per participant. Please contact Sarah Hunt at info@scvba.org to sign up and for more information.

On September 19, Myer Sankary will provide a CLE seminar on Elimination

of Bias beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Wolf Creek Restaurant in Valencia. We encourage all attorneys to attend this presentation and obtain their Elimination of Bias CLE credit. Plans are also underway for a seminar in October, details of which will be announced shortly.

On November 14, SCVBA will hold its annual Awards and Installation Gala at the Oaks Grille in Valencia. Amazingly, we will be celebrating our 15th Anniversary! Time has certainly flown by and our Bar Association continues to grow and flourish.


We are all grateful for the continued support of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association, which was integral to the formation of our own Bar Association.

Over the years, SFVBA and SCVBA

have enjoyed a close relationship that we know will continue for many years.

Finally, our annual elections for the SCVBA Board of Trustees and Officers will be open for nominations in September. We encourage any attorney member of the SCVBA who is interested to contact us and become involved.

SCVBA is only as strong as its members. We have been fortunate in securing the support of the legal profession in the Santa Clarita Valley, as well as in the San Fernando Valley and countywide in Los Angeles, and we continue to strive to offer programs and events that support and assist the region's legal community.

We invite all of you to join us for these events and many more planned for this year and well into the future. 

CLAUDIA J. MCDOWELL
SCVBA President



cmcdowell@pooleshaffery.com



Mondragon & Associates
Insurance Services

LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY
COMMERCIAL/PERSONAL INSURANCE
CYBER LIABILITY
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

*Contact us now to ensure that you are receiving
the best coverage for the lowest premium.*

SERVING ALL OF CALIFORNIA
(818)-351-5000
(LICENSE NO. 0L38536)



(818)351-5308
DEBRA@MONDRAGONINS.COM



(818)351-5388
MICHELLE@MONDRAGONINS.COM

CLASSIFIEDS

ATTORNEY-TO-ATTORNEY REFERRALS

STATE BAR CERTIFIED WORKERS COMP SPECIALIST

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

HELP WANTED LEGAL ASSISTANT

Shulman Family Law Group is seeking a legal assistant with 2-5 years of family law experience organizing and managing documents, calendars, invoices and caseload. We offer competitive salary with excellent benefits. Please email your resume to mshulman@sflg.us.

LITIGATION ATTORNEY

Nemecek & Cole is seeking candidates with 3 plus years litigation experience to handle professional liability defense claims and insurance coverage. Superior writing skills AND the ability to work independently required. We offer a highly competitive salary commensurate with experience and excellent benefits. Email resume to bcole@nemecek-cole.com.

SPACE AVAILABLE SHERMAN OAKS

Office building at 14156 Magnolia Blvd. in Sherman Oaks. We have three workstation spaces available measuring 8 by 9.5 ft. Call Eric at (818) 784-8700.

WOODLAND HILLS

Private Warner Center window office in Woodland Hills, plus second desk and shared reception area/receptionist, conference room and kitchen. Lease for \$699/month. Contact Fran at (818) 867-9134 or fstone@gomezsimonelaw.com.

WARNER CENTER SUBLEASE

Window office (17x10) plus secretarial bay, full service suite, receptionist, voicemail, copy, conference room. Call (818) 999-9397.

SUPPORT SERVICES PROFESSIONAL MONITORED VISITATIONS AND PARENTING COACHING

Family Visitation Services • 20 years experience "offering a family friendly approach to" high conflict custody situations • Member of SVN • Hourly or extended visitations, will travel • visitsbyllene@yahoo.com • (818) 968-8586/(800) 526-5179.

Legal Document Service

Serving the San Fernando Valley Exclusively
Los Angeles County Registration #2015229255

\$65 Flat Rate!

Need documents Served?
Looking for quality service at
a competitive rate?



Contact Daniel Kahn
at 818.312.6747

www.processserverdanielkahn.com

BURNED BY YOUR STOCKBROKER?

SECURITIES LAW CLAIMS AGAINST STOCKBROKERS

Stock Market Losses Caused by:

- Excessive Trading in Account
- Unsuitable Investments • Misrepresentation
- Variable Annuities • Breach of Fiduciary Duty
- Reverse Convertible Bonds

LAW OFFICES OF JONATHAN W. EVANS & ASSOCIATES

43 Years of Experience
Highest Avvo rating - 10.0 out of 10.0
FINRA Arbitrator

No Recovery - No Fee
Free Initial Consultation

Select by peers as
SECURITIES LITIGATION SUPERLAWYER

2007-2013 & 2015-2019

Call today for an appointment

(213)626-1881 • (800)699-1881

(818)760-9880

www.stocklaw.com

SFVBA MCLE

Seminars on Audio

COULDN'T ATTEND AN IMPORTANT SFVBA SEMINAR?

Most SFVBA
seminars since 2013
available on
audio CD or MP3.

Stay current and
earn MCLE credit.



Versatape

Who is Versatape?

Versatape has been
recording and marketing
audio copies of bar association
educational seminars to
California attorneys since 1983.

www.versatape.com
(800) 468-2737



PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

WE RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO THE SFVBA AND THE COMMUNITY.

Alpert Barr & Grant APLC
Brot & Gross LLP
Brutzkus Gubner Rozansky Seror Weber LLP
Goldfarb, Sturman & Averbach
Greenberg & Bass LLP
Kantor & Kantor LLP
Kraft, Miles & Miller LLP
Lewitt Hackman Shapiro Marshall & Harlan ALC
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
Nemecek & Cole
Oldman Cooley Sallus Birnberg & Coleman
Parker Milliken Clark
O'Hara & Samuelian
Pearlman, Brown & Wax LLP
Pearson Simon & Warshaw LLP
Stone | Dean

- SFVBA membership for every firm attorney and paralegal
- Prominent listing in *Valley Lawyer* and firm logo on President's Circle page of SFVBA website
- Recognition and 5% discount on tables at Bar-wide events, including Judges' Night
- Invitations to President's Circle exclusive events with bench officers, community leaders and large firms



LEWITT HACKMAN

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



16633 Ventura Boulevard, Eleventh Floor
Encino, California 91436

www.lewitthackman.com
818.990.2120