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CITATIONS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Matthew P. Guasco

In last month's article, I drew upon the theme of harvests. I should explain. Much of my young life was devoted to food. I was raised in a grocer's family. My family owned a successful, independent supermarket which grew from an Italian immigrant's small roadside produce stand over 80 years ago. I learned all aspects of the business, from stocking, to sweeping the aisles, to cleaning the dairy case glass doors (boy, that *was* a long time ago), to clerking, to preparing and presenting the produce, to customer service, to accounting and bookkeeping. After my parents divorced, I put myself through college and law school from the money I saved working as a supermarket clerk for the Raley's chain in Sacramento. So, naturally, food and harvests readily come to mind because they have played such a large role in my life.

As lawyers, we rightly focus on our clients' legal interests, on their rights and obligations, on their disputes, on their injuries or their crimes. The VCBA and its members spend a great deal of time, energy and effort trying to provide legal services for those who cannot afford to pay for them, whether through the Volunteer Lawyer Services Program or otherwise. But there is a more fundamental need, one that is unmet for too many people each day: adequate, healthy food. That is why I am devoting this month's column to food, or more accurately, the task of trying to feed the many Ventura County residents who go hungry every day.

There are many groups that try to feed the hungry in Ventura County, but I would like to highlight the work of one in particular.

Food Share of Ventura County provides nutritious food to those in need. Food Share is a non-profit organization affiliated with America's Second Harvest national network of food banks. If you visit Food Share's web-site at www.foodshare.com, you will learn that more than 38,000 people obtain food each month from Food Share. Over one-third of those receiving food assistance are children. In Ventura County, one in five children live below the poverty line. We are in a period of economic instability which is likely to increase the number of people, and children in particular, who will need food assistance.

September is National Action Hunger Month, and Food Share of Ventura County has invited Ventura County lawyers to learn more about and become involved in its important work. The VCBA Board of Directors supports the work of Food Share and encourages all Ventura County attorneys to get involved. Food share will host a series of open houses for Ventura County lawyers at its Oxnard headquarters, which is located at 4156 Southbank Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036, telephone number (805) 983-7100. The open house dates and their respective sponsors are as follows:

Thursday, September 4 at 8:30 a.m.
Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association

Tuesday, September 9 at 8:30 a.m.
Nordman, Cormany, Hair & Compton

Thursday, September 11, 8:30 a.m.
Women Lawyers of Ventura County

Tuesday, September 23, 8:30 a.m.
Ventura County Family Lawyers

VCBA encourages you to attend these open house events and learn about the amazing work Food Share is doing to feed Ventura County's hungry. Food Share distributes over 10 million pounds of food annually to Ventura County residents. Food Share does this work with the assistance of hundreds of volunteers and in association with 155

agencies and other entities throughout the county. Food Share acquires food for distribution from a variety of sources, including food donations from farmers, supermarkets, food manufacturers, and packing houses. Daily, Food Share volunteers are permitted by local farmers to glean fresh produce from the county's many acres of farmland. Food is also provided through the America's Second Harvest network of over 200 food banks.

Donations of money go a long way to provide food through Food Share. For example, Food Share can acquire \$370 worth of food with a cash donation of \$20. And while Food Share obtains enormous quantities of donated food items each year, cash donations provide it with needed operational cash flow and the flexibility to purchase the broadest selection of healthy, nutritious foods. Cash donations can be made a variety of ways, including by check, monthly automatic deduction from a checking or savings account, and e-scrip. You can learn more by calling Food Share or visiting its web-site.

VCBA encourages all Ventura County lawyers to support the work of Food Share however they can. I know this is not a purely legal undertaking. As Lincoln said, however, we lawyers can do so much more for our communities than simply be technicians in the law. We are citizens first, lawyers second. Besides, we already have so many of our members helping in their communities in countless ways. This is another, important way to continue that tradition. To all of you already giving to Food Share, thank you.

Matthew P. Guasco is Of Counsel to the law firm of Norman Dowler, LLP, where he specializes in appellate litigation and select trial court litigation. He is also a private mediator and arbitrator of civil legal disputes.

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**LETTER TO
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Dear Editor,

I am writing to compliment Steve Henderson on his regular column. It is not easy filling the page each month with humor and topical news - especially humor - but he always does so. He is to Citations what Herb Caen was to the San Francisco Chronicle. Steve, keep it coming!

Bill Grewe

(Editor's Note: That's why we keep him on page 30.)

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AB INITIO THOUGHTS ON LAW PRACTICE 40 YEARS AGO

By *Terrence Bonham*

With apologies to Carly Simon, these are the good old days. But then, I've been saying that all along, and here it is 35 years – can you believe it? – since I started as a baby lawyer. Terrence Bonham captures a few colorful stories for CITATIONS that I remember too. I bet some of you not only remember these, but have many more tales of the past to share. Please send them to wendy@lascher.com for a future issue of CITATIONS. - ed.

40 years ago law offices did not have Xerox machines. Secretaries had to use carbon paper to copy any letter or document. When paper came out with the carbon paper already attached, it was a revolutionary development and saved a step in the process. We did not have dictating equipment; rather, secretaries took shorthand in a spiral notebook. There was no such thing as e-mail, and blackberries were little purple fruit that grew on thorny bushes. Most large law firms had huge libraries, some of which required a full time librarian to keep them updated, whereas today of course, you just check into Westlaw or other preferred service for your research. Trial could be done in three days, discovery was practically non-existent and investigators were widely used.

Back then, lawyers dealt with each other on a first name basis. Their word was their bond and it was not necessary to send a letter

confirming that “you said . . . , I said . . . , we agreed . . .” Despite the lack of conveniences that we have today, we had a variety of extremely competent lawyers who were proud of their standing in the community. But there still were “characters” and I am going to relate some stories of those folks that I recall.

DEPOSITION TECHNIQUE

When I got out of the army in 1968 I went to work for the firm of Halde, Batten, Barrymore & Stevens in Santa Barbara, where I was assigned to work with the late David Howard Batten. On one of my first days in the office, I was accompanying Batten to San Luis Obispo where he was going to take the deposition of a personal injury plaintiff. As we drove, he indicated that he wanted to impress upon this plaintiff that trials are not fun, and that the case should settle. I asked him how he would convey that thought and

he told me to “just watch.” We arrived in the office of the plaintiff’s attorney in San Luis Obispo where we were warmly greeted and escorted into a conference room with this very nice plaintiff. As the plaintiff was sworn and the deposition began, Batten gritted his teeth, leaned across the table and growled at the plaintiff, “I’m ready for the first lie. What’s your name?” Needless to say, the atmosphere in the room immediately changed from comfortable to hostile. Within days, the attorney for the plaintiff telephoned Batten and the case settled.

Soon after, I was invited to attend an evening deposition in which Bill Brace represented the plaintiff and Tom Halde represented the defendant. The deponent was a witness who had very little to offer either side. She arrived very pregnant, accompanied by her husband. A few minutes into the deposition, Halde instructed her not to answer a question.

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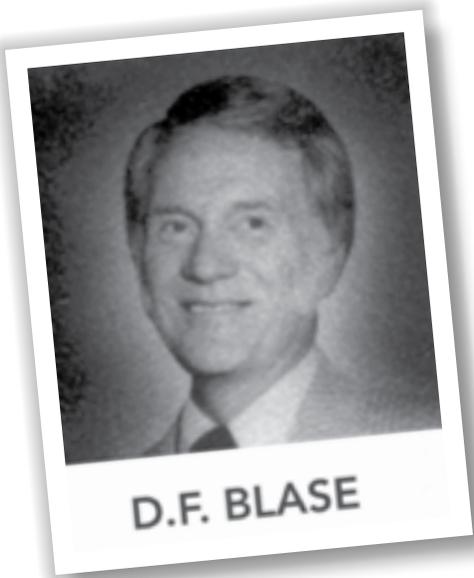
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Brace immediately told Halde that he didn't represent the lady and that he had no right to instruct her with regard to anything. Brace instructed her to answer the question. After a while, Brace finished his questioning and passed the witness to Halde – who soon asked a question that Brace instructed the witness not to answer. Halde reminded Brace that he had just indicated the witness was not a party, was not represented by him, and that he had no business instructing her to do anything – and that since he had made the instruction he had thought over Brace's position and now agreed with him. Brace insisted that he had been wrong and that Halde had been right all along, and that they had a right to instruct the witness. Brace insisted that she not answer. So it went.



D.F. BLASE



J.F. MCGAHAN

After an hour and a half of shouting and arguing, the deposition came to a conclusion with the witness in tears and her husband looking for someone to fight. The deposition adjourned with the witness and her husband banging doors loudly as they left. At this point, Brace looked at Halde and said "Gee,

Tom, that sure was fun. Let's get a drink." Halde responded "By golly, Bill, I was just about to recommend the same thing. I'll get the first round." And off they went to what was then known as Harry's El Cielito in Santa Barbara, where they discussed how enjoyable depositions could be.

TRIAL STRATEGIES

In another interesting case, the late Al Holzhauer represented a construction worker injured when a brick fell from an upper story, hitting him on the head. Fortunately, he was wearing a hard hat and survived the blow – but with serious injuries. When he was taken to the hospital, it was discovered that he had an aneurism that obviously preceded the injury. Surgery saved his life. The defendant was represented by the late Don Dewberry. Folks will remember that Dewberry habit a of mentioning his father, a minister, during opening statements, voir dire, closing argument, or wherever he could slip it in. In his closing argument, Dewberry told the jury that the man should be thankful that he was hit on the head because it got him to the hospital where the doctors discovered the aneurism and saved his life. Dewberry told the jury that the man was saved by "the divine finger of fate." In Holzhauer's final argument, he told the jury that the man didn't need the fractured skull or other brick-caused injuries and that it was not the "divine finger of fate" but the "grimy finger of a stonemason" that dropped the brick. Plaintiff prevailed.

More recently [*in the 1980s – ed.*] a medical malpractice case took over a year to try. During the course of the trial, one of the jurors got married, became pregnant and had a baby. The cast of characters included four people who are no longer with us: Judge Ben Ruffner, Red Blase for the infant plaintiff and Tom Halde and Jim McGahan for defendants. All three counsel were in the

Continued on page 8.

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**AB INITIO
THOUGHTS ON LAW
PRACTICE 40 YEARS AGO**

Continued from page 7.

habit of making speaking objections, which of course prolonged the trial. At one point, Judge Ruffner ordered them to assign numbers to various objections. Thus, instead of standing up and announcing hearsay and making a speech, they would simply be allowed to say "Objection #12."

At one point Blase was showing the jury a film of the plaintiff. Halde announced, in front of the jury, that Blase was "the Cecil B. DeMille of Oxnard." As happened repeatedly in that trial, the jail doors swung open and Halde was cited. Blase and McGahan also had their share of run-ins with the judge.

The trial also included one of the great cross-examinations of all time. Jim McGahan took on one of the Schultz brothers from IBAR with regard to damages. Using the numbers that the experts had given, McGahan cleverly walked him back, cementing his numbers, and then gave Schultz a hypothetical example about a Civil War soldier eating a ham sandwich at Warren's (a restaurant in the 100 block of California Street where Café Fiore now sits). Using the soldier, the dates of the Civil War, and the data used by the expert, McGahan got the expert to admit that the soldier would have paid something like \$4,000.00 for his ham sandwich. It was a devastating cross-examination, and a classic of good lawyering.

OLD ADVERSARIES

Blase and Halde tried dozens of cases together, some in Santa Barbara, some in Ventura, with each winning about half the cases. When Blase won, he would mail Halde a canvas bag filled with salt "for his wounds." When Halde won, he would send it back to Blase.



Terrence Bonham is a partner at Benton, Orr, Duval & Buckingham in Ventura.

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RASNOW WINS NATIONAL AWARD

By M. Carmen Ramirez



Tina Rasnow Receives the ABA's "Lawyer as Problem Solver" Award

In New York City on August 8, 2008 at the annual meeting of the American Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, Ventura County's own Tina L. Rasnow received that section's prestigious award for her service as a problem solving lawyer. Every year this award is granted to an attorney who best exemplifies the efforts of the legal profession to go beyond adversarial endeavors to solving problems.

Tina was recognized for her ground breaking work for the Ventura Superior Court's Self Help Legal Access Center, where she was the founding coordinator. The program was the first of its kind in California, helping people in more than family law matters. Since 1998, Tina has used her creative and intellectual energies to fashion innovative strategies to help the thousands of people who come to court every year without an attorney.

The work of the Center helps the unrepresented litigant to understand the legal process and provides user-friendly forms to further that. Tina has created a comprehensive set of court forms which have in many cases become Judicial Council forms in use by all of the courts of our state. In addition to forms and processes, Tina has worked with local attorneys to provide in-court legal information about probate matters, landlord tenant cases and more. Those of us who know and work with Tina are very familiar with how persuasive she can be to get cooperation from us.

Much of Tina's time during the past ten years at the Self Help Center has been devoted to

providing educational materials, including programs, classes, and video productions that educate the public about the legal issues most often seen at the Self Help Center, with the ultimate goal of preventing problems before they occur. A special interest is helping young people avoid problems and do what they need

of bar associations, including the specialty bars, getting them involved in providing pro bono services.

The award given in New York City this past August is only a small recognition for the vast amount of work that Tina has done renewing

"Each day we are blessed to awaken, we have new opportunities to work toward easing suffering, or increasing suffering in the world. I try to work toward easing suffering."

to do to get on the right track, through the Teen Court program which Tina founded, as well as the program to give pregnant and teen moms legal information that they need to do better for themselves and their children.

Tina's influence has been felt beyond California's borders as she has been a frequent consultant not only to California courts, but to courts and self help programs around the nation on setting up the much-needed centers in other counties and other states. In everything that Tina has done she has enlisted the support and help

confidence in our judicial system by helping unrepresented people know that the courts can be fair to them as well as to people with attorneys. Tina's philosophy was expressed beautifully in her comments at the Awards reception when she closed her acceptance with these words: "Each day we are blessed to awaken, we have new opportunities to work toward easing suffering, or increasing suffering in the world. I try to work toward easing suffering."

M. Carmen Ramirez is Community Planning Director for CAUSE.

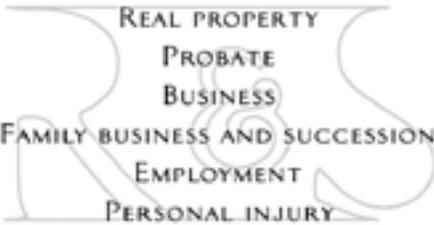


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WELCOME TO THE BENCH

By Eric Reed

CITATIONS congratulates Ventura County's Superior Court's "Class of 2008." The Governor took his time, but appeared to play catch up in July when **Ellen Gay Conroy**, **Kevin G. DeNoce** and **David R. Worley** were appointed as judges, and **David M. Hirsch**, **Roger L. Lund** and **William R. Redmond** joined the Court as commissioners. Conroy, DeNoce and Worley are familiar faces – all served previously as commissioners. Hirsch joins from the Public Defender's Office, Redmond from the District Attorney's Office, and Lund from private practice, where he specialized in estate planning, probate and conservatorship.

Judges Thomas Hutchins, **Herbert Curtis**, and **Charles Campbell** have all retired from the bench this year.



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NEED EXPERIENCE?

I conduct a "free legal clinic" at Catholic Charities on the Avenue in Ventura. I hold office every Friday morning from 9:00am to noon, and try to give advice and help to anyone who asks, and who can't afford to hire one of my colleagues. This modest effort essentially fills my practice.

I see many opportunities for valid civil cases which I simply have not the time to file and litigate. They languish for lack of prosecution, and should not.

I would like to make an arrangement with an up-and-coming lawyer to hear these potential litigants, and to take on their cases if they agree that they have merit. This is by no means a request for pro bono legal services, but rather for a no-cost consultation, a fair assessment of "tryability", and a good-faith attempt to move ahead.

My part of the bargain will be to pre-screen the cases and refer them with interview notes. The two or three lawyers who would be "refer-ees" would agree to give a free, fair, and prompt hearing to anyone I refer. Interested lawyers should call at 524-1919 or e-mail mikeford@earthlink.net.

Michael Ford practices in Ventura.



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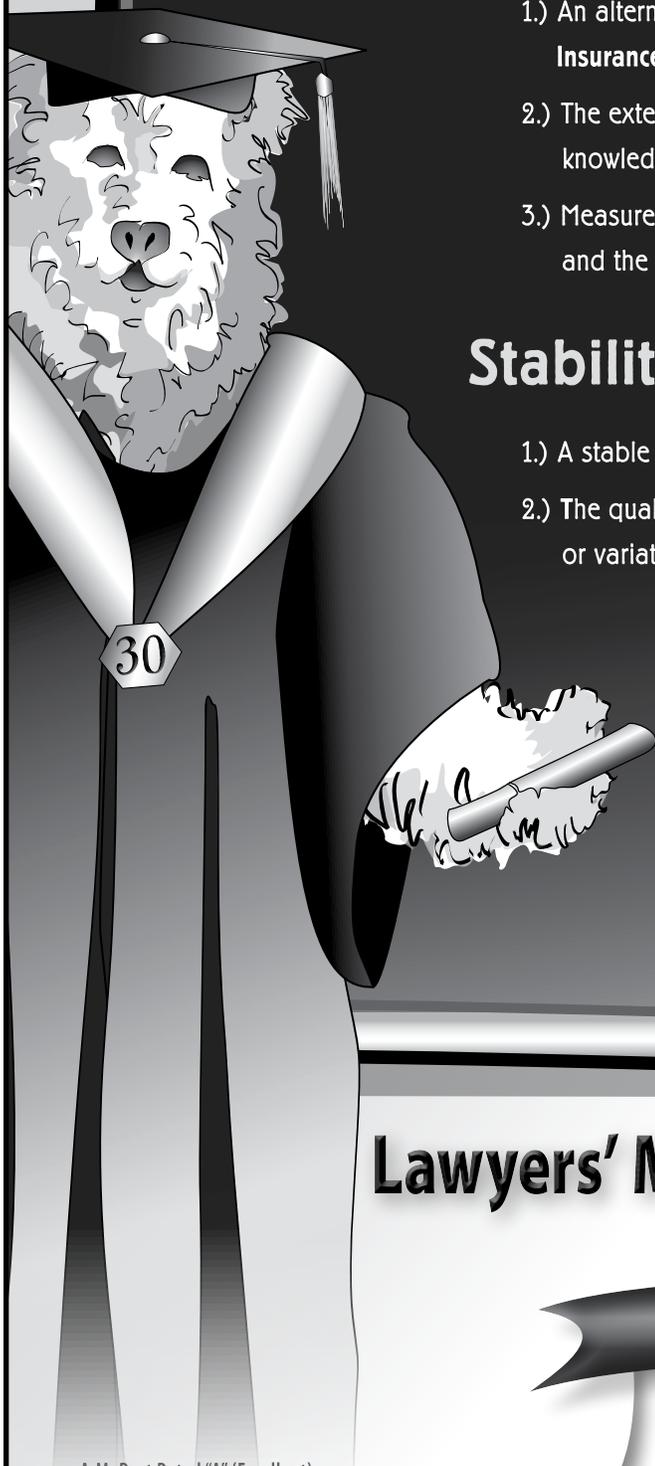
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SELLING PROPERTY IN A TIGHT LENDING MARKET

By Alan Noblitt

With the real estate market in freefall in almost every market in the U.S. and inventories climbing, what is a person to do with a property? Most buyers can't get loans and interest rates are rising, so the banks and other mortgage lenders are lesser players than they were even six months ago. While there is no perfect solution for all scenarios, owner financing is an option that everyone should understand and consider using when selling a property.

Simply put, owner financing is having the seller of the property carry the financing for the buyer of the property. The seller becomes the bank. Then, after the transaction closes, the seller can either hold onto the note or sell it to a note investor that he can trust.

CURRENT SITUATION

The bad economic news:

- Banks are failing at rates not seen in years, and are often not lending even to customers with 700+ credit. The FDIC considers 90 U.S. banks to be on shaky financial footing, and bank write-downs total \$400 billion to date (Business Week, 7/28/2008).
- The economy looks increasingly vulnerable, with unemployment, inflation (driven by energy and food), and interest rates all creeping up.
- Consumer confidence is also way below normal, as Americans grow more pessimistic.
- Etc., etc.

WHAT'S NEXT

The government rescue bill that was just signed will help the real estate market in several ways, though not by much in my opinion. Offering a blank check for Fannie and Freddie will bring some stability into the market, the \$4 billion in block grants to states should slow the price decline in some areas (but is much too small to make more than a dent), and new government regulations may help to avoid this type of crisis in the future. However, there is nothing in the bill to bring the real estate market back up in the short term.

The timing for a market recovery continues to be discussed by all sorts of experts and wannabes. Areas that were the most volatile during the past few years – southern California, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and much of Florida – have fallen the most and seem most likely to continue to fall over the next 12 months. The northwestern U.S. has been much less impacted by either the up or down swings of the market. Overall, I wouldn't count on a market stabilization for another 12 months or so, and a return to increasing prices until 2010 or even 2011!

USING OWNER FINANCING

Owner financing is an option that your clients can use for most property types (residential, commercial, and land). It is not appropriate if an underlying loan nearly matches the note amount or if there is minimal equity in the property. If the note is a 2nd lien or the payer has sub-625 credit, the note is considered to be highly risky. The client may be able to sell the note, but the discount would be steeper.

The perfect note, whether you plan on selling it or keeping it, is one where the sales price approximately matches the property value, the payer puts in a down payment of at least 10% (in this market of declining prices, 15-20% is even better), the payer's credit is 680 or above, and the terms are satisfactory. This means a good interest rate, either no balloon payment or one that is at least three years out, proper documentation, lender's title policy, etc. While there will still be a small discount if the note is sold, that discount would be minimal.

If the note is lacking in some of the elements above, the best option is often to only sell part of the note. For example, if the note has a 30-year term, the client might just sell the next five years or ten years worth of payments. We call this a partial purchase, or simply a partial. With a partial, the seller get less money upfront than by selling the whole note, but can look forward to a future income stream and net a lot more money in total. Often, the note buyer will be open to buying the rest of the note (at the seller's option) after receiving 9-12 months of payments.

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So, if your client has just sold a property using owner financing, the client has three options:

- 1) Hold onto the note and collect the monthly payments. Of course, this means that the client is responsible for managing the collections, being certain that property taxes are being paid, ensuring that fire insurance is current, etc.
- 2) Sell all of the note. Again, if the main elements of the property or note are not strong, the discount may be bigger than the client would like.
- 3) Sell part of the note, as described in the paragraph above. Over the past year, more noteholders working with investors have chosen this option. This allowed them to get some cash in hand while not taking such a discount hit.

SELLING A NOTE

If are considering selling a note, make sure that the client is working with an experienced and reputable investor or broker. In addition to asking lots of questions and checking gut instincts:

- Google the investor or broker to learn about what they have done and whether there are any negatives listed about them.
- Check www.BBB.org and www.ripoffreport.com to see if they are mentioned there and what the complaint was about.
- If the property is in California and the client is working with a broker, make sure that the person has a current real estate broker's license. If not, they're operating illegally, so move on quickly.

In summary, although owner financing is a tool useful in any real estate market it is especially useful in times like these, when lenders have pulled back. Owner financing has been around for centuries and has been frequently used for real estate over the past 30 years.

Alan Noblitt is the owner of Seascape Capital Inc. He may be reached at 1-800-634-4697, or visit the website at www.seascapecapital.com.

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See page 8

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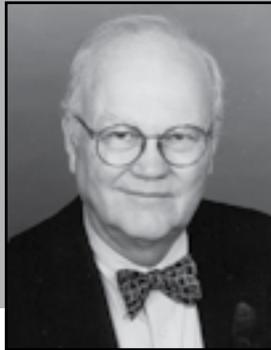
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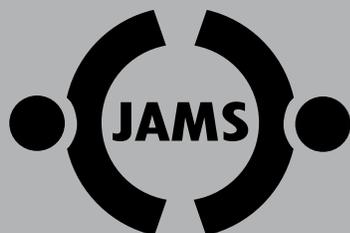
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PRO BONO HIGHLIGHTS

By Verna Kagan

It was my pleasure to be invited to the open house of the new offices of **Deborah Jurgensen**. Deborah is one of the newest attorneys donating pro bono services to the VLSP.

Deborah moved to Ventura County from Santa Barbara eight years ago. She long had a desire to go to law school. However, marriage 28 years ago and the birth of three children delayed the plan until age 44, when she was accepted to Ventura College of Law. She passed the bar and was admitted to practice June 5, 2007.

In the meantime, Deborah operated a sewing business called Sew Lovely Designs. Additional work experience included work as an accounting officer for the Probation Department. She also worked as a court clerk in the Juvenile Court and managed the juvenile office.

These latter experiences had a profound impact on Deborah and she determined that at least part of what she did as a lawyer would be to provide access to justice for juveniles. Among the first classes she took in law college was a class in juvenile law.

Deborah also has a strong attitude about pro bono work. She encourages new admittees to volunteer a portion of their time to pro bono. "It is like tithing," she said. If you wait until you can afford to do it, you won't have the time. So the time to start is at the beginning.

True to her words, she has already accepted two very arduous matters from VLSP. We are very grateful. Welcome to the club, Deborah.

We have among our pro bono volunteers an award-winning poet. It was great fun to go to the county fair and see the blue ribbon attached to **Sandra Knapp's** poetry. With her permission I am going to use future space to print at least one of her winning poems.

This is the month we will be saying goodbye to **Grace Esnardo**. Grace is leaving the community as her husband has been transferred to a new assignment. Though her new location will offer new challenges and excitement, she will be sorely missed here. Her quick smile and sparkling personality adds an oasis of light. Grace was last year's pro bono award winner, having accepted more matters from us than anyone else. We wish her the best of luck.

Verna R. Kagan is VLSP Senior Emeritus Attorney.

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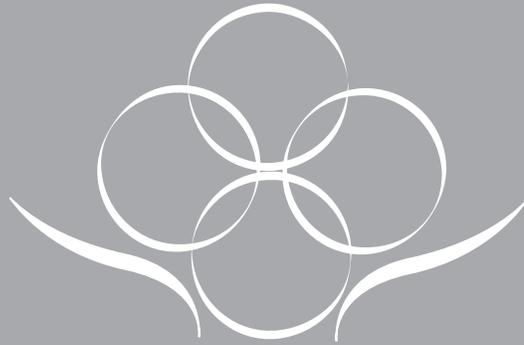
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Associate Attorney Needed - Dynamic plaintiff law firm with national reputation seeks associate attorney with at least 2 years' civil litigation experience and excellent human skills. Excellent working environment, benefits, and profit sharing. Pay commensurate with experience. Email résumé to Dierdre Powell (dierdrepowell@hieplerlaw.com).

United States Magistrate Judges - The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California will appoint two magistrate judges to hold court in Los Angeles, Riverside and Santa Ana, beginning in May, 2009. Appointments are subject to FBI investigations and IRS tax checks. The current salary is \$155,756 per year, plus benefits. Application forms available from Human Resources Department, U.S. District Court, 312 N. Spring Street, Room 535, Los Angeles 90012 or at www.cacd.uscourts.gov.

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England? (13 times!) **Sandra Bolker** at bolkerlaw@charter.net...Lake Louise? Banff? **Bart Bleuel** at bbleuel@atozlaw.com... Switzerland? **Laura Bartels** at lvkbartels@aol.com...Two lawyers on the Oxnard City Council? Could happen – **Dierdre Frank** and **Carmen Ramirez** are taking the challenge... From Conan O'Brien: "In Ohio, a prisoner is claiming that he's too obese to be executed, but he says he could go for a last meal."... From Jean Kerr: "A lawyer is never entirely comfortable with a friendly divorce, any more than a good mortician wants to finish the job and then have the patient sit up on the table." ... The law offices of **Jody Moore** have relocated to 1429 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 202, T.O. New phone number is 604.7130. Jody's website and email addresses remain unchanged ... License Plate of the Month: RBM ATTY spotted on a red BMW piloted by **Bob Maxwell**...

Tim Giles is the new City Attorney for the City of Goleta. Previously, Tim served for many years as assistant City Attorney for the City of Thousand Oaks. He started 8.25...On 8.1, the Ventura County Maritime Museum celebrated the 218th Anniversary of the US Coast Guard with a party at which a model of a US Coast Guard Cape Class Patrol Boat built by **Richard Walton** was presented to the US CG Channel Islands Station...From Melvin Belli: "There is never a deed so foul that something couldn't be said for the guy: that's why there are lawyers."...Since Axiom opened its San Francisco offices less than two years ago, it has received more than 1,500 job applications for fewer than 80 attorney positions. And the New York based firm founded in 2001 doesn't offer partnerships, offices, secretaries, or even desk space (Axiom lawyers work at home or the client's workplace)...**Greg Ramirez** and **Sandra Ruvalcaba** rode their horses in the Santa Barbara Fiesta Parade 8.1...

Exec's Dot...Dot...Dot...

By Steve Henderson, Executive Director, M.A., CAE

Justice Arthur Gilbert is doing the VCBA/VLSP, Inc. a huge favor and you too can participate. Justice Gilbert has authored a book, *Under Submission-The Columns of Arthur Gilbert*, published by The Rutter Group, 2008. It's the collection of The Daily Journal columns that ran from 1988 to 2008. Yours truly has them and for \$20 you can have one. ALL the \$\$\$ goes to our pro bono program... From Samuel Butler: "In the law, the only thing certain is the expense."...TV Law: "Our lawyers understand the value of a healthy hunch. It's \$400 an hour, plus court costs." – Isaac (Robert Guillaume), *Sports Night*... Yes, you too can attend the formal installation ceremony of **Judge Ellen Gay Conroy** scheduled for 9.22 at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom #22...**Dan Palay** wants all to know that his firm may now be called the Palay Law Firm. **Kevin McTague** has retired from the practice of law. Dan's new e-address is djp@palaylaw.com...**Denise Trerotola** scored her first job as a lawyer with **Dunn & Sanderson**. She'll be practicing criminal and family law...

Josef "Marc" Dion and **Kim Shean** will collect the prestigious State Bar of California's Pro Bono Awards 9.26 in Monterey during the bar's annual meeting. Marc, nominated by **Verna Kagan**, won for his efforts representing clients of the VLSP, Inc. Kim, nominated by **Laura Bartels**, won the government category Service Award for her work with Santa Clara Valley Legal Aid...**David Shaneyfelt** and **Caroline Hurtado** have been elevated to partners at **Wood & Bender**...**Lisa Spillman** gave birth June 30 to Levi Olaf at 1:39 in the afternoon. He weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces, and was 21.5 inches long. Levi joins sister Ella (4) and brother Atticus (2). Husband Paul doing fine. Lisa lets me know too there will be a charity golf tournament sponsored by the Oxnard Public Works Department benefiting the public works scholarship fund – apwa.oxnard.golfreg.com. The date is 10.31...**Mark Kirwin** and **Kirwin Mediation** have moved their offices to 474 East Main Street, Ventura. mkirwin@hklaw.com...**Joe O'Neill** has been elected chairman of the Ventura County Democratic Central Committee...

Riverside County Public Defender Gary Windom was featured in the July issue of California Lawyer—www.callawyer.com. Terrible backlog down there as most of you know...WOW! From Judge Quentin

Kopp in the July issue of *California Lawyer*. "I am accustomed to your glib political correctness, but you merit condemnation for your reprehensible selection of Kamala Harris for your Attorney of the Year award. She's a prosecutorial joke, a pandering foe of strong pursuit of persons arrested by the police department, and a faddish office holder who uses the position for the toothless, "feel-good" pap described for the so-called award."... More TV Law: "You have a job to do, and so do I. Yours is to sell socks and suspenders. Mine is to cross-examine people like you and crush them." – Alan Shore (James Spader), *Boston Legal*...From Conan O'Brien: "In France, a man sued over the country's ban on 'dwarf tossing,' claiming that it has kept him from earning a living. Not surprisingly, the judge threw the case and the dwarf out of court."...

Little Known Secret #37: A great and significant portion of **Dan Palay's** courtroom victory was due in large part because **Alex Gutierrez** exhibited some magnificent legal skills. For his work, Dan purchased Alex a new Porsche... From Fran Lebowitz: "If you want to get ahead in this world, get a lawyer, not a book."... **John Matthews** continues his quest of visiting all Division I college football stadiums. He's visited Washington State and the University of Alabama most recently. His favorite? University of Tennessee – "It's the people." Of the 120, give or take, he's been to 73. High on the list still remains Penn State and the University of Florida.

Carmen Ramirez and **Tina Rasnow** will be honored by the Ventura County Women Lawyers during their annual event scheduled for October 30. They both will receive the Legacy Award. **Deborah Jurgensen** will be presented the **Holly Spevak** Memorial Award too. Further info? laurie.nintcheff@ventura.courts.ca.gov.

Steve Henderson has been the executive director and chief executive officer of the bar association and its affiliated organizations since November 1990. He will be celebrating his 40th birthday in style on the 15th. Donations to the VCBA/VLSP, Inc. are strenuously encouraged. Bottles of Fosters, Red Stripe and Corona Light are a close second.

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