



VCBA MISSION STATEMENT
To promote legal excellence, high ethical standards and professional conduct in the practice of law; to improve access to legal services for all people in Ventura County; and to work to improve the administration of justice.

CITATIONS

M A R C H - T W O T H O U S A N D E L E V E N



LOCAL ATTORNEYS' CIVILITY A PROBLEM FOR VETERAN LITIGATOR

By Alan R. Templeman

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JOSEPH L. STROHMAN

JAMES B. FORREST

STEVEN B. LEHAT

CHRISTINA STOKHOLM

LOUIS J. VIGORITA

CHERI L. KURMAN

STEVE HENDERSON

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October 12, 2009

Jack Trimarco & Associates
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Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Dear Jack:

It was good to have a chance to talk with you today. I write to emphasize my appreciation for your good work on the cases on which you consulted with us.

I have found that your professionalism in conducting and scoring polygraph examinations is outstanding. Your reputation for integrity as a polygrapher was known while you were with the FBI and has continued into your years of private practice. Both your professional work product and your excellent reputation are particularly important to me as a criminal defense lawyer.

We do not routinely use polygraph exams but, when we do, we expect an honest confidential examination and report. Whether or not we choose to disclose the report, the examination and report are often very important to the client and often influence choices we make in strategizing with that client.

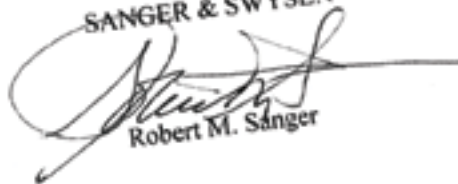
When we do decide to disclose the report in an attempt to convince a reluctant prosecutor of a client's innocence, a favorable polygraph report alone is not sufficient. The professionalism of the examination and the reputation of the polygrapher are critical.

In the recent case you worked on with us, we submitted your report along with witness interviews and other materials to the prosecutor. As you know, it was dismissed in its entirety on the day of trial. It was a felony case being vigorously prosecuted and the consequences of any conviction would have been devastating to my client's life and career. Being able to disclose your solid report backed by your substantial credentials was an important aspect of asserting our client's innocence.

Thank you again, Jack, and I will look forward to working with you in the future.

Best regards,

SANGER & SWYSEN


Robert M. Sanger

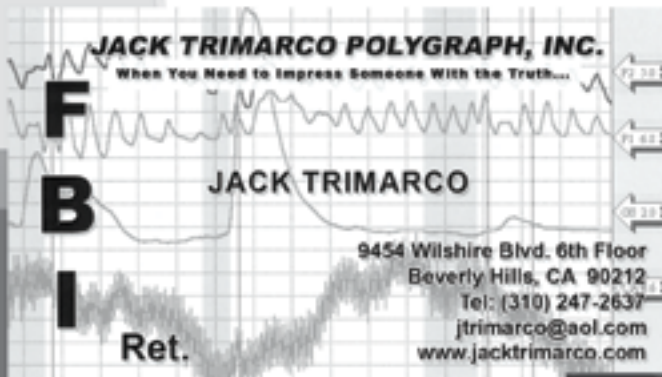
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VCBA 2011

By Joe Strohman



“What does the bar do anyway?” I get this question from people a lot. Actually the answer takes about 30 minutes if you have time to listen or five minutes if you read this article. The Ventura County Bar Association is busy with 35 sections, committees and affiliates churning out programs, meetings and projects every month. Our 1,267 members benefit from more than 120 continuing legal education (CLE) events and 252 hours of programs offered through the VCBA every year. Last year the VCBA’s CLE programs served 2,060 different attorneys.

On Saturday, Feb. 6, more than 35 people, representing all of the VCBA’s sections and affiliates, attended our annual strategic planning session. To give you an idea of depth and scope of what is being offered and accomplished through your VCBA, here is a summary of the reports from that session.

Past President **Kendall VanConas** is continuing the technology innovations from last year. The new website launched in May 2010 has been updated to make it easier for members to access information they need, and to increase interest and participation in VCBA activities. Usage has been steady, with over 19,000 visits by 10,000 unique users who viewed over 450 different pages since the launch. Through the website, members can now sign up for e-mail updates and subscribe to *CITATIONS* electronically. The VCBA has a Facebook page which will be fully operational later this year. The website also has a blog, and blogging classes will be given throughout the year.

VanConas also reports that the Probate Section meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Wedgewood.

The Court Executive Officer of the Ventura County Superior Court, **Michael Planet**, gave an excellent presentation regarding the state of the courts in Ventura County. The report is too expansive for this article. But a lot has been accomplished on a tight budget. The Bench-Bar Committee has been revitalized and is helping our attorneys address issues directly with the court and court staff.

Erik Feingold chairs the Business Litigation Section which meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Tower Club. Erik welcomes new members and any potential speakers.

Joel Mark, current VCBA Secretary-Treasurer, continues on the Business Litigation Section Board, JEC and Client Relations Committee and as a member of the fee arbitration panel. Joel is also a member of the State Bar Mandatory Fee Arbitration Committee, two-time Chair and current State Bar Presiding Arbitrator and Special Deputy Trial Counsel for disciplinary matters.

Jim Dawson reported for the Intellectual Property Section. The 40-member IP group meets the second Thursday of the month at the VCBA office or in Thousand Oaks.

Joe O’Neill encouraged everyone to sign up as a scorer for the mock trial competition on Feb. 28, March 1 and 3. **Judge Kent Kellegrew** has again written Bar members and requested they volunteer as scorers for the competition. See the *CITATIONS* packet for sign up forms or contact Mariela at 981-5953 or Art at 981-5967.

Renee Dehasa is Chair of the Barristers’ Mentor program as noted in the February

edition of *CITATIONS*. The VCBA is actively promoting the Mentor Program this year. Please contact Renee at rdehesa@nchr.com to sign up as a mentor.

Katie Pietrolungo, past president of Barristers and present Secretary of Inns of Court, is representing our county now as Vice-Chair of California Young Lawyers.

Doug Goldwater, president of the Family Law Bar and past president of Barristers, is also the president of the Collaborative Family Law Professionals group. The Family Law Bar will be holding quarterly dinner meetings and courtroom brown bag lunches in the intervening months.

Michael Sment, a member of the *CITATIONS* editorial board, chairs the VCBA Bankruptcy Section, which provides lectures and assistance on bankruptcy issues.

Barristers president for 2011, **Christina Stokholm**, reported on the Barristers’ many projects. Dart Night was Feb. 17 at the Bench Warmer. The bowling night on July 21 will now be a fundraiser for the Make A Wish Foundation. Other events include Judges’ Pizza Night and a future “Bridging the Gap” program.

This year, **Bill Grewe** leads the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association. VCTLA holds nine dinner programs per year. Speakers from throughout the state present at these events, held the fourth Tuesday of each month. Two annual programs are high notes: the Judges’ Night (at which Trial Judge of the Year and Portrait Judge awards

Continued on page 5

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EAR TO THE WALL

The Law Offices of **Heywood G. Friedman** of Westlake Village proudly announces its hiring of two associate attorneys.



Julie E. Sarto, Esq., received her Juris Doctor degree from Chapman University School of Law and was admitted to the Bar in December, 2010. While in law school, Ms. Sarto served as the senior articles editor for the Chapman Law Review. As an undergraduate, Ms. Sarto attended the University of California, Santa Barbara where she studied political science and global peace and security. Ms. Sarto is actively involved in the community and has volunteered hundreds of hours with the Legal Aid Society. Ms. Sarto participates in the firm's insurance law and workers' compensation defense practices.



Justin T. Barkowski, Esq., graduated cum laude from Pepperdine University School of Law and was admitted to the Bar in December, 2010. During his time at Pepperdine, Mr. Barkowski received the Ronald Sorenson Award for Best Student Article and served as the literary citation editor for Pepperdine Law Review. Prior to attending Pepperdine, Mr. Barkowski graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied economics. Mr. Barkowski is an instrument-rated private pilot and enjoys flying in his free time. Mr. Barkowski is active in the firm's business litigation and insurance law practices.

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VCBA 2011 *continued from page 3*



are presented) and Trial Lawyer of the Year. VCBA Board Member **Susan McCarthy** is acting VCTLA secretary.

Mike Wolfram is chair of the alternative dispute resolution section, which sponsors in conjunction with the Ventura Center for Dispute Settlement a program in May. The ADR section is interested in joint CLE programs with other sections. Contact Mike to make that happen.

Jill Friedman recently moved back to Ventura from an active practice in Santa Barbara and is now President of Women Lawyers. Women Lawyers plans several events, including a wine tasting and a "So You Want to Become a Judge" program.

Bret Anderson, President of the East County Bar Association and the East County Chair of the CPA/Law Society, reports that the East County CPA/Law Society meets eight times a year at the Westlake Village Inn. The CPA/Law Society (west end) continues its regular meetings and scholarship program under the leadership of **Doug Kulper**.

Alyse Lazar, past president of Inns of Court, reported for current president **David Lehr**. The Inns of Court meets the second Thursday of each month for dinner and presentation. The Inns of Court holds ten presentations per year with 80 members (judges and lawyers) on ten teams.

Jami Knupp, President of the Ventura County Paralegal Association, reported that the group holds monthly dinner meetings the third week of the month with CLE programs at each dinner. The group's CLE conference will be March 5 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Oxnard. The annual wine and beer tasting and silent auction will be May 19. The VCPA presented the Volunteer Legal Services Program with a \$500 donation at the session.



VCBA Board member **Michele Castillo** continues on the Inns of Court, local JEC, Bench-Bar Committee and is a Mock Trial coach.

VCBA Board member **Linda Ash** continues to Chair the local Judicial Evaluation Committee and also serves on the Bench-Bar Committee.

Lou Vigorita reported for *CITATIONS* Editor-in-Chief **Wendy Lascher**. *CITATIONS* continues to look for and welcome contributors, profiles and stories.

Alvin Arzu, President of the Black Attorneys Association and a member of our Bench-Bar Committee, reported that the Black Attorneys Association meets every third Thursday for lunch at the Hill Street Café in Ventura.

Eileen Walker continues with our outstanding court tour program and as chair of the Library Committee.

Verna Kagan, our loyal VLSP Program Manager, noted that pro bono services are being provided through the Emeritus Attorneys program with fourteen emeritus attorneys. Monthly CLE programs for emeritus attorneys can be attended by all attorneys (provided you agree to take a case).

Don Hurley, our chair of the silent auction, is already looking for silent auction items for the Nov. 19 Annual Bar Dinner. Contact Don directly for donations or ideas. Don thanked **Jon Light** for his extraordinary efforts last year in organizing the VLSP fundraising program.

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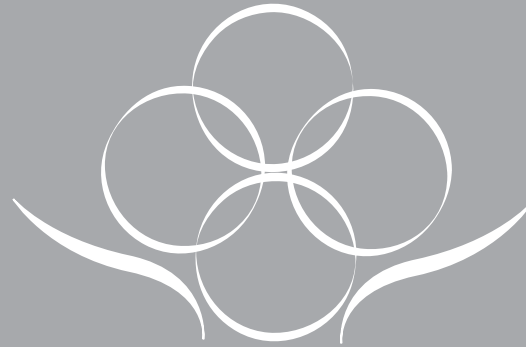
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LETTER: MORE MEMORIES OF MOORE

Dear Mr. Vigorita,

I enjoyed your article in *CITATIONS* about Archie Moore. My brother was a good friend of Yvonne Durelle, the Bay Saint Ann fisherman from New Brunswick, Canada, who fought Archie Moore in a welterweight title fight. Yvonne had Archie down for what Yvonne thought was the count (Yvonne was proud to show the movie of this). However while Yvonne was dancing around, Archie recovered, got up, and knocked Yvonne out.

Nevertheless they apparently became such good friends that Yvonne, and my brother, would plead with me, since I live in Southern California, to please go see Archie Moore. I neglected to do this and now that both my brother and Yvonne are gone, I regret that I didn't at least try.

Thanks for the remembrances.

Jim Forrest is a Ventura-based attorney and a board member at the Southern California Institute of Law.



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LRIS NEEDS HELP REACHING CONEJO BUSINESSES



Ever wonder where many of those promising business law referrals from the Lawyer Referral and Information Service have gone over the last year or so? Well,

I have. I'm **Steven Lehat**. Business law, namely regulatory compliance, is what I do. Along the way of trying to breathe life into this referral base, I discovered that the clients that may need us the most are in the Conejo Valley in general and the Chamber of Commerce there in particular.

That appearing to be the case, I've put together a program called the "Conejo Valley Chamber-Ventura County Bar Association LRIS Affinity Program" (excuse that important mouthful). The goal is to create a referral bridge that would get businesses that really need us comfortable with the legal services we offer. To accomplish this, I've embarked on a number of missions in Westlake Village that are slowly, but surely, getting this job done.

The challenge is that with so many business constituencies in the Chamber and so many venues that resonate with particular ones there is only so much time and personnel to go around. For instance, there are breakfast meetings and evening mixers, special interest committees, networking groups, and lunch and learns. I did the latter (a talk on intellectual property, to be specific), picked up a client and a whole lot of demand for learning experiences, some of which we can actually charge for.

As you can see by now, I need some help from my friends at VCBA in general and LRIS in particular. What better motivation to chip in than to help expand your own practice and those of the rest of our members. We even have a modest budget, so don't be shy. Give me a call at (805)258-9487. Let's roll up our sleeves and deliver prosperity right back to where it belongs, namely, your own backyard, Ventura County!

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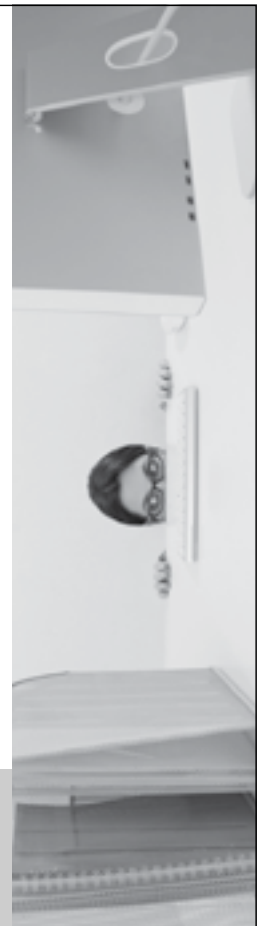
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LOCAL ATTORNEYS' CIVILITY A PROBLEM FOR VETERAN LITIGATOR

By Alan R. Templeman

I am always disappointed after serving a complaint when the answer comes back signed by a Ventura or Santa Barbara County defense attorney. I would rather oppose the obnoxious, ill-mannered, un-civil, and fire-breathing Los Angeles County defense attorney because at the conclusion of the case, my client always seems to end up with more money. However, most times, when the case is defended by Ventura or Santa Barbara attorneys such as **Jake Stub** and his Farmers contingent, **Mack Staton**, **Pat Ramsey** and her medical malpractice defense team, **Jim Procter's** group, **Ben Engle's** old firm, Hager and Dowling, **Howard Cho**, **Jay Borgeson** and his ancient partner, **Dan Henderson**, **Terry Bonham**, and **Tom Bohl's** group; the end result seems either to be a defense verdict or a low verdict.

Many of the Los Angeles defense firms treat us hicks from Ventura County like some sort of lower life forms. At the outset, they inform us that we will be ground into dust with their discovery stonewalling and summary judgment motions. Sometimes their arrogance, rudeness, general obnoxiousness, and lack of civility backfires.

Example one involves a case where the defense attorney was house counsel for the predecessor of 21st Century Insurance, the Neanderthal 20th Century Insurance. They are the company that adopted a written claims procedure that instructed adjusters to offer only one-half the amount to minority plaintiffs than they would offer to Anglos with a similar claim. At one hard fought trial in Torrance the defense attorney surprised even the judge with his dirty tricks. During the deliberations, the judge received a phone call indicating that his football-playing son had been injured and was in the hospital. Thirty minutes after the judge left the courthouse, the jury announced that they had a verdict. The defense attorney, knowing it was Halloween night and that I wished to be home with my children, refused to stipulate to having another judge take the verdict, which forced me to stay in Torrance. When the jury returned the next morning they asked the judge for permission to re-open deliberations. The result was that they increased the verdict by \$15,000 which resulted in the verdict

exceeding our statutory offer by \$5,000. In those days, the cases took five years to get to trial. The interest and expert witness fees caused the judgment to be twice as much as it would have been had the defense attorney stipulated to another judge taking the initial verdict.

Example Two involved the Los Angeles defense firm that described itself as the Oakland Raiders of the defense bar. During the initial call, the defense attorney told me I should dismiss my spurious lawsuit at once, and that I should be investigated by the State Bar for bringing a lawsuit against his larger corporate client. Since I refused, he embarked on a campaign of taking over 25 depositions in seven different states, even though most produced no relevant information or involved facts to which I would have stipulated. At the mandatory settlement conference the defense attorney informed me that their offer in this wrongful death case was \$25,000, but it would remain open for only five minutes. As a professional courtesy, he extended the time limit to seven minutes. During trial, the defense hired a bus to transport Judge Lewis, the jury, the clerk, and me to Oxnard Airport to view a mock-up aircraft. Fortunately, Judge Lewis and the jury saw that the three defense attorneys, one investigator, one insurance attorney and two engineers traveled to the airport in one of the largest Mercedes ever manufactured. One of the defense motions in limine granted by Judge Lewis was that I could not refer to the fact that the defense attorney was from Los Angeles. In speaking to the jury after the trial, they believed he was from New York. The verdict reflected what they thought of New York attorneys.

The last example involves a case that **Mark Hiepler** and I tried in Riverside County. It was defended by two San Fernando Valley lawyers. I liken a San Fernando Valley lawyer to a Los Angeles lawyer-light. Attorney number one looked and acted like a river boat gambler. He impressed the jury by dressing like Bart Maverick one day and Brett Maverick the next. However, he was mild and polite compared to his partner, whose style was to treat us like pond scum because he had memorized all corporation and administrative codes that dealt with HMOs. Mark had merely read them and I knew only that they were contained

in some books somewhere. The defense attorney encouraged his clients' employees to also treat us contemptuously, and for some reason many of his witnesses had a strong aversion to telling the truth. He was not above personal attacks, and when he swirled around the courtroom quoting "Madame Butterfly," he would look down his nose at us and give a Cheshire cat smile to the jury. Fortunately, the jury saw through his tactics, and when they filled out the verdict form, the judge initially returned it to them because he thought it contained too many zeros.

The moral of these examples is that the bigger the jerk on the other side, the larger the verdict.



Alan R. Templeman is a partner at Oxnard-based Lowthorp, Richards, McMillan, Miller & Templeman.

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VCBA 2011 *continued from page 5*

Matt Guasco, now a full time ADR provider with Judicate West, is Co-Chair with Michael Planet of VCBA Bench-Bar Committee. The Bench-Bar Committee meets every two to three months and serves as a liaison between the bench and the bar on issues of common interest. Committee and section leaders are encouraged to provide information, questions and feedback on issues involving the courts.

VCBA Board Member **Lee Hess** continues to also serve on the VLSP advisory board.

Rebeca Mendoza, President of the Mexican American Bar Association, reported on the association's active calendar of events including a judicial recognition event, collaboration with the Women Lawyers Association, the Black Attorneys Association and the Asian American Bar Association. MABA meetings are the first Friday of each month at Ruby's Café in Oxnard. The organization is planning a non-profit foundation to award scholarships (\$4,000 was donated last year). The MABA annual scholarship dinner is in October.

Dien Le, our VCBA President Elect, reported on the Asian American Bar Association.

Our final report for the day regarding the VLSP came from former VCBA President and former VCTLA President **David Shain**. Our emeritus attorneys continue to provide greatly needed legal services and the VLSP welcomes volunteer attorneys on specific cases. Dave encouraged everyone to consider making an annual donation to the VLSP ("The Best Thing We Do") and again especially thanked **Jon Light** for his fundraising leadership for the VLSP.

Many attending our planning session are involved in two or more VCBA organizations. I would encourage you to contact the section/affiliate president or check our VCBA website and *CITATIONS* for current or upcoming events. As you can see, we are accomplishing a lot in 2011.

*My special thanks to VCBA's secretary/treasurer **Joel Mark** for his thorough and excellent reporting skills from the session which greatly assisted me in completing this article.*

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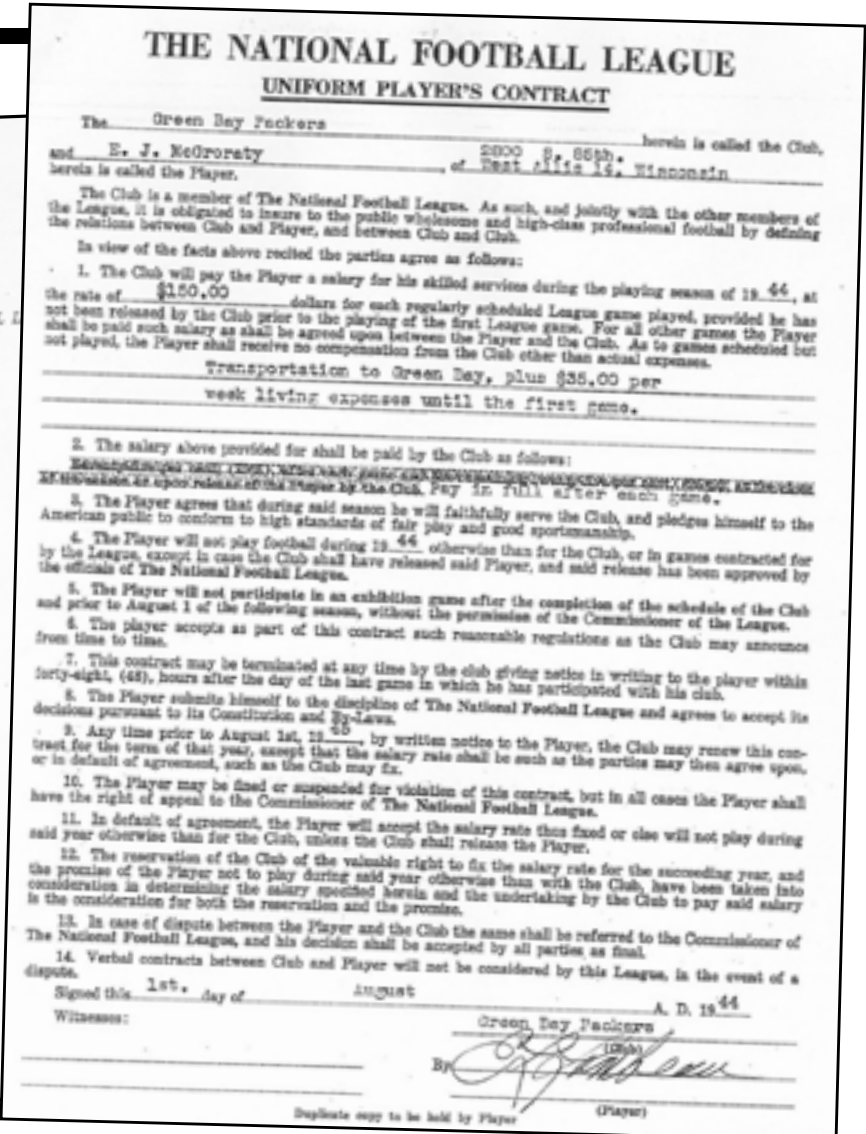
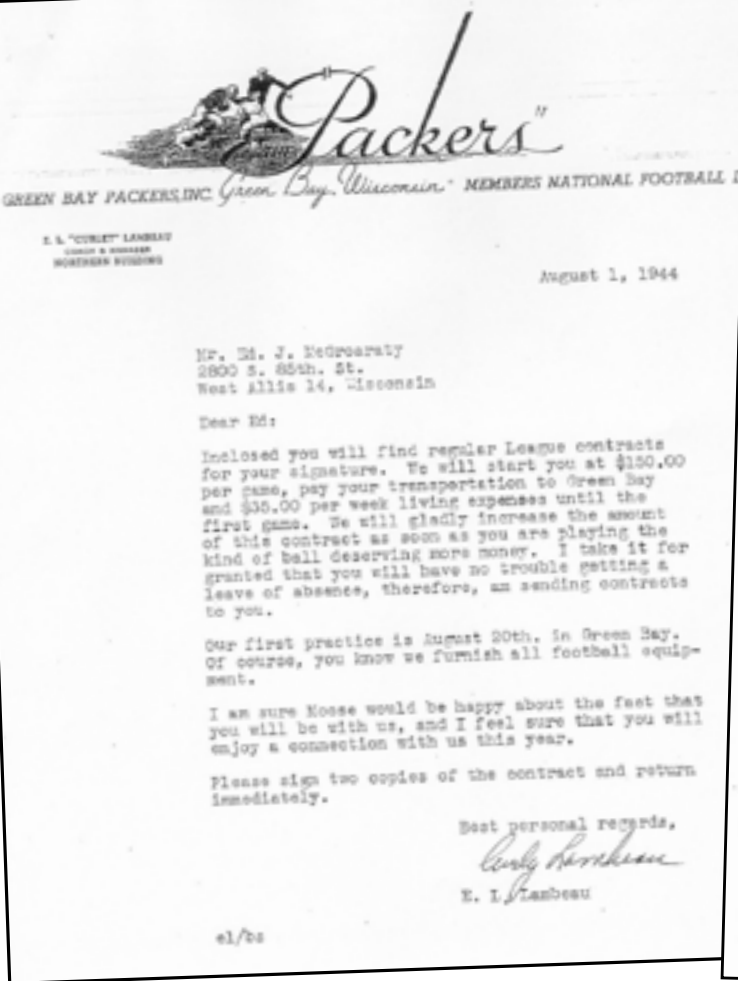
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Barristers are helping build a house with Habitat for Humanity on March 12 in Piru. Interested in volunteering? Email Christina@pachowicz.com. And it's not too late to sign up as a Mentor or Mentee. Email: rdehesa@nchc.com

The Barristers' 2011 Darts Night



The Barristers' 2011 Darts Night was February 17 at the Bench Warmer. This was the group's fourth annual Darts Night, and the first ever sponsored by the Ventura County Dart Association. Several members of the Dart Association were present for the Darts Tournament to observe the competition, in which fifteen members of our bar and bench participated. The Barristers would like to thank the Dart Association for their generous support at the event, including the donation of the raffle prizes. In addition, the Barristers were honored to have **Judge Walsh** and Presiding **Judge O'Neill** in attendance. Judge O'Neill competed in the tournament but was eliminated in the second round after being defeated by **Doug Goldwater**, who went on to win three more matches and be crowned Champion. **Katie Pietrolungo** won two of the three raffle prizes: a beautiful dartboard and an attractive dart case. **John Hribar** took home the third raffle prize, a fine-looking set of professional darts. Special thanks go to **Taylor Waters** and **Melissa Waters**, who coordinated the entire successful event.



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YOU KNOW ME AL

by Ring Lardner (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1916; First published Saturday Evening Post, 1914) as introduced by Lou Vigorita

Now that baseball season is amongst us I felt it appropriate to submit something on the topic. I naturally thought back to one of my favorite books on the subject, the inimitable "You Know Me Al" written by Ring Lardner in 1914. One of his most famous novels is based upon a series of letters from a bush-league player to his friend "Al" back home. Never heard of Ring Lardner? Well, you should check him out. And while you are at it, look up H. L. Mencken.

It starts out innocently enough:

"Well, Al old pal I suppose you seen in the paper where I been sold to the White Sox. Believe me Al it comes as a surprise to me and I bet it did to all you good old pals down home. You could of knocked me over with a feather when the old man come up to me and says Jack I've sold you to the Chicago Americans."

Then, as the letters flow through the season from start to finish, the taste of the grass, the smell of the dugout and the sight of the stadium shadows moving across the outfields move effortlessly across the pages. Here you can almost see the coach spitting tobacco juice while he tries to "learn" the new guy:

"Don't you never throw a slow ball? I says I don't need no slow ball with my spitter and my fast one. He says No of course you don't need it but if I was you I would get one of the boys to learn it to me."

I especially enjoy the letter on the day after Jack faces Ty Cobb.

"He says How are you going to pitch to Cobb? I says I am going to feed him on my slow one. He says Well Cobb had ought to make a good meal off of that."

Yeah, he was gonna pitch him inside and show him who's boss. Next day he starts out telling Al that it didn't go as well as he expected, leaving much to the imagination as to what Ty Cobb did at the plate.

"I am tickled to death at the chance of working in Detroit and I can't hardly wait till we get there. Watch my smoke Al."

And then the next day he writes the inevitable:

"They got one hit off me and Cobb made it a scratch single that he beat out. If he hadn't of been so dam fast I would of had a no hit game. At that Weaver could of threw him out if he had started after the ball in time."

Sure, you can read a more contemporary piece on America's favorite pastime, but you will never taste the flavor that comes across the pages of this tome. It's short, easy, on point and, as Wikipedia says, "... one of the first sports books to criticize the excesses, hero-worship and myth-making of sports in general." It captures the feel

of a long lost time when our grandfathers got their news from newsprint peppered with columns written by cigar smoking, hat wearing, hard drinking, cynical sport writers racing to the telegraph to get their stories to the presses before their deadlines. Think Clark Gable in "The Front Page" Or Cary Grant in "His Girl Friday."



Lou Vigorita is a member of the CITATIONS editorial board and a certified workers' compensation specialist who practices in Ventura.

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Probate and Estate Planning Meeting Schedules Change

There are changes to some of the scheduled Probate and Estate Planning Section lunch meetings for 2011. First, the March meeting will be on Wed., March 23, rather than March 24 (the section normally meets the last Thursday of most months). In addition, in our effort to reach out to interested attorneys in the East Valley, the May and November meetings will be held at the Hampton Suites in Camarillo. If you need any further information, please watch for the fliers present in every issue of *CITATIONS*, call the VCBA office or contact any one of the Executive Committee members. We are happy to assist you and look forward to your participation in the upcoming probate and estate planning events this year.”

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Jill Friedman has assumed the role of President of the Ventura County Women Lawyers following the exemplary two-year term of **Jodi Prior**. She'll be capably assisted by **Charmaine Buehner**, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer **Robert Guerra**. BTW – the California Women Lawyers announced that President-Elect Patricia Sturdevant of Sacramento has been selected as its new President...Bored, a 14-year-old Virginia high school student admittedly did a dumb thing in the cafeteria during lunch period. He blew small plastic pellets at fellow students through a plastic pen tube, striking three. "They flinched. They looked annoyed," Andrew Mikel told the Washington Post. Now the Spotsylvania High School freshman is paying a steep price for the prank: He has been expelled for the remainder of the year, he says, charged with three counts of misdemeanor assault. A Virginia civil liberties organization known as the Rutherford Institute is appealing the disciplinary action in state circuit court... **Cheri Kurman**, of Norman Dowler, has a weekly radio show – Grey Matters – dedicated to our nation's caregivers and for those they care. Each week hear interviews with experts locally and around the country addressing the issues involved in aging and what people should know as both a caregiver and someone receiving care. Grey Matters airs Fridays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Live stream it at am1400coach.com or listen to podcasts at greymatters.podomatic.com...

Immediate Past President of Barristers, **Doug Goldwater**, became a Partner at FCOP January 1. That being written, most of you

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

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

already know that after 37 years with Lascher & Lascher, **Wendy Lascher** has joined the firm as a partner while **Aris Karakolas** enters as an associate. **Eric Reed** has landed with Anderson Kill Wood & Bender...Gerry Spence has a Trial Lawyer's College lasting three weeks in Jackson Hole. The sessions are July 8-August 1 and September 8-October 2. The tuition is a hefty \$3,750 and there's a Death Penalty Seminar for \$1,750 June 11-19. www.triallawyerscollege.com...State Bar data indicates there are 860 lawyers who earn less than \$20,000 a year...**Andres Garcia** became a first-time daddy February 2. Andres Gabriel was born at 1:29 a.m. and weighed 7 pounds and 13 ounces. Young dude was 21 ¼ inches prompting dad to proclaim: he has nice length/wingspan, big hands/feet, broad shoulders, and the body of a swimmer or a shooting guard." Momma Veronica doing well too. Andrew works for CRLA...

Ron Perry has departed the CRLA branch in Oxnard and is taking some well deserved time off...Honduras? **Caroline Hurtado** at churtado@andersonkill.com. She traveled to Tegucigalpa to visit orphanages and to work with attorneys to try to get legal standing for the children so they can be adopted. http://encounterlife.org/doc/experience_Honduras_2011b.pdf...A Virginia (does everything happen in Virginia) lawyer who practiced law with his wife was shot and killed by police after he fired shots in an eight-hour standoff at his home. The lawyer, Richard Ferris of Chesterfield, was "highly regarded" for his civil and family law practice...The eighth time was the charm for an applicant who failed the New Hampshire bar seven times between 1991 to 2007 before finally passing in 2008. But when it came time for the character and fitness interview, G.W. was found wanting. In addition to concerns about criminal charges and a lack of candor, the Committee on Character and Fitness was not positively impressed either with the applicant's \$140,000 in outstanding student loans or that he apparently been largely unemployed for the last 20 years...**DPD Willy Quest** represented the United States at the 31st International Tennis Federation Seniors World Team Championships held February 21-26 in Christchurch, New Zealand. Willy played at Duke in the early 1990s...

Rick Marks' son, Kyle, passed the July bar and was sworn in during a December ceremony. He has joined forces with his dad in Westlake and is a graduate of Southwestern Law School. Kyle plans to practice real estate litigation, title insurance defense and escrow representation. Kyle may be reached at marks@kbrdmpc.com...DLA Piper is planning a merger with its Australian partner DLA Phillips Fox to become the world's largest law firm. The merger, targeted to take place May 1, is subject to a partnership vote that will create a firm with over 4,000 lawyers...U.S. District Judge Gary Sharpe has a theory about people who view child pornography. About 50 years from now, scientists will discover that child pornography consumption by "a gene you were born with," Sharpe said as he sentenced a defendant to six years in prison in December 2009. "And it's not a gene you can get rid of." Now a New York-based federal appeals court has ruled that Sharpe's theories justify resentencing for the defendant...The Ventura County Mexican American Bar Association have selected **Rebeca Mendoza** as president. **Renee Dehesa** has agreed to serve as Vice-President while **Andres Garcia** will serve as Secretary. Rebeca fills the large shoes belonging to **Jessica Arciniega** who served admirably... **Lou Vigorita** is one of four VCBA members traveling to Los Altos Mar. 11-13 for the annual "Silent Retreat for Members of the Legal Profession." If you are ready for three days of introspection, contact lvigorita@yahoo.com

Need 4 hours of CLE? The Ventura County Paralegal Association is hosting a gathering March 5. jknupp@normandowler.com... The VCPA gave the [vcba/vlsp, inc.](http://vcba/vlsp,inc) a \$500 donation to bar prez Joe Strohman during the Bar Leaders Planning Session...

Steve Henderson has been the executive director and chief executive officer of the bar association and their affiliated organizations since November 1990. Henderson will be watching opening day in Yankee Stadium (the House that Jeter built) with Cameron Diaz and basking in his Final Four picks. Go Duke! Additionally, Henderson gave camel-riding lessons in Cairo during the first week of February. Lastly, He may be reached at steve@vcba.org, FB, Twitter at [stevehendo1](https://twitter.com/stevehendo1), LinkedIn, or preferably, 650.7599.



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