



CITATIONS

JANUARY - TWO THOUSAND FIVE

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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.

VENTURA COUNTY'S AT-SEA EDUCATION PROGRAM

By Michael McQueen

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EULUA ACCOUNTING

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: WHERE HAVE ALL THE MGs GONE?

By Don Hurley



Note: For my first President's Column, I had commenced writing a more traditional "This Is What I Intend to Do" feature. Halfway through, I realized that it was dry and only marginally informative. Following the lead of our immediate past president, Phil Panitz, I have instead opted for a more unconventional article having little, if anything, to do with the legal profession, with the goal of being at least half as entertaining as Phil. Future columns will occasionally touch upon the Bar and legal topics.

I first fell in love in the Spring of 1961, while walking by the back lot of Johnny's Garage in Wofford Heights, California. This was not a teenage flirtation or an "Are you trying to seduce me, Mrs. Robinson" moment of sexual awareness. At that very instant, without warning, I fell victim to the most extreme type of lust. It has stayed with me the rest of my life.

It was British Racing Green, damaged in the front, probably due to an overly enthusiastic driver with too little experience in driving the winding roads of the Kern River Valley. My own driving had been limited to large American cars with bumpers suitable for pushing other large American cars, a desirable quality at that time. This automobile was very different, having wire wheels, only two small seats, and absolutely no capacity for hauling trash or pulling a boat. In my circle of friends, this car would be viewed as subversive.

There still may have been some small chance of avoiding becoming completely smitten, but I made the mistake of getting too close, of touching, then caressing and finally, having no resistance left, pulling open the driver's side door and sitting on the black leather seat. I sat still for several moments, uncertain if Johnny or one of his two greasy employees of questionable mechanical knowledge had seen me. Then, with the bravery of an infatuated 16-year-old, I touched the steering wheel and imagined myself actually driving this car. It was only several minutes later that I realized there was no radio. I didn't care. I was in love.

During the next few years, I attempted to forget my time with the Triumph, but I couldn't. I purchased a 1953 Chevrolet convertible and washed it dutifully every other day, waxed the Earl Scheib paint once a week, and drove it up and down the 392 curves of the Kern River Canyon at speeds totally in excess of what caution would dictate. But that wasn't enough. Every time I passed (please refer to the previous sentence) a sports car, I remembered the green object of my passion and knew that some day, it would be mine.

Military service called in 1964 and I found myself in the Navy stationed in Idaho Falls, Idaho, commencing Nuclear Power Training. Lacking suitable wheels for socializing with the townsfolk, I walked down automobile row hoping to find a comfortable car appropriate for snowy winters and warm summer nights. It was there, hiding between lines and lines of large and completely ordinary American sedans and station wagons, a 1969 MGA roadster, dark blue with wire wheels and a fiberglass "hardtop." Love had again found Andrew Hardy. It was mine.

Following in the tire treads of the MGA would be more than a dozen MGs, ranging from 1951 to 1968. Each was special in its own way, some refusing to start, others to stop, a few choosing to break down in unique ways not within the scope of the MG Workshop Manuals. Similar to Whitney Houston remaining with Bobbie Brown, I couldn't seem to avoid the temptation of another British automobile. My love had gone from adoration to addiction. I found myself looking through auto junkyards and

perusing foreign car parts catalogues in the hope, generally in vain, that I could find cheap replacements for my MGs' failing mechanical, electrical, and/or interior parts. It was not a pleasant sight.

My redemption came in July of 1991 when I was again searching for transportation, this time in the form of a Mazda pickup truck. After several weeks, I located just the right one, burgundy in color with an extended cab, perfect for those weekend projects like hauling furniture and bringing home the purchases from Costco. At the very moment I was about to sign on the dotted line, I made the mistake of glancing across the showroom floor. It wasn't British Racing Green, it was silver and it wasn't from a British manufacturer, it was a Mazda Miata. But it was the most enticing vehicle I had ever seen.

I still own the Miata. Every time I consider buying a new, more exciting car all I have to do is to drive the Miata and realize that it has a true sports car sound, one that you listen to rather than turn on the radio. While I can't be certain, I believe that my affection has been returned in that it doesn't break down on the road, it starts every time, and always gets me home to my other love.

I'll never forget my first love, and in those memories it will never get old or rusty or broken down. That's the way it should be.

Don Hurley is an Assistant County Counsel for the County of Ventura and is President of the Bar Association.

I DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO THE ANNUAL VCBA DINNER

By Patricia Kochel

It was an interruption to my weekend. Weekends pass so quickly, I never have time to do all the things I want to do. Then when I entered the banquet room, my husband showed me where we were sitting. "Oh no," I thought, "next to a judge. What will I talk about? I'm so boring."

It got worse. There were two judges at our table, the dean of a college, a school administrator, two lawyers (my husband was one) and a politician. What could I say that would be witty or intelligent to those people? I know nothing about the government. I did hear the name Pedro Nava. I recognized it because I voted for him, but I couldn't tell you what he ran for. I voted for him because my husband told me he was the good guy. I whispered to my husband, who was paying too much attention to the attractive school administrator and not enough to me, his insecure wife, "Ron, I don't have anything to say to these people. I'm not as important. I'm nothing next to them." And as he always says to me when I share my insecurities, "That's right, Patricia, everybody is smarter and richer and happier than you are." No sympathy from him tonight. Then a couple mentioned their home in Montecito. I again pulled my husband's attention away from the administrator. "Ron, they live in Montecito. I'm getting depressed."

"I don't think you should have come tonight," he replied. Then Jim Farley, the recipient of the Nordman award, spoke. First, he read to us the note someone had passed to him during dinner: "Not too shabby for someone who has a wing at San Quentin named after him." After the laughter died down, my husband explained the joke to me.

Though Jim began by noting that many people think of criminal defense attorneys as a little below "pond scum," he ended by accepting the award on behalf of every criminal defense lawyer in Ventura County, a group, he said, that stands up and speaks out against injustice. Criminal defense lawyers are a "buffer between an oppressive and tyrannical government and the people." They are the ones who protect our Constitution and make sure that justice is served. That's all the criminal defense lawyer seeks – justice.

Mr. Farley said that criminal defense lawyers make sure the defendant is not "run over by

a dump truck and thrown away. We police the police." He spoke in this vein for several minutes, causing, I'm sure, the chest of every criminal defense attorney there to swell with pride. I wondered if Ken Clayman popped a button.

Then Mr. Farley spoke of his passion in life: helping the poor and marginalized, those who have no voice in our society. Many of us, he noted, think of the dirty old man smelling of wine pushing a shopping cart down the street when we think of the homeless. He reminded us, however, that the homeless are children and women sleeping in cars. Many homeless are adults who, because of some quirk, have lost their jobs and are diligently are looking for a way to support themselves. It is the duty, he said, of all lawyers to represent these people because no one listens to them. He talked about his favorite charity, Project Understanding, an organization which provides a reception center with telephones, laundry facilities, showers, and an address for the homeless, besides food and shelter. Project Understanding is also active in tutoring the children of the homeless, so they can keep up on their school work. He urged us all to volunteer at Project Understanding or any organization that works for the poor. He called the work "noble work" because we are helping those who can't help themselves.

My husband often says to me when I bemoan my middle class economic status, "look down at those less fortunate instead of up when you compare yourself to others." Jim Farley's presentation brought me back to the reality of my life. I have so much when so many have so little. I can well afford to share my wealth with those less fortunate. His speech was inspirational. Loye Barton told us all that she thought his speech was the best she had heard since she started attending the Nordman awards banquet.

Jim ended by assuring us that if we volunteer to work for the poor, our lives would be enriched. He ended with "Trust me on that." Well, Jim Farley, just by listening to you that night, my life got a little better. I felt so blessed driving home. I've already written my check to Project Understanding.

Patricia Kochel is a teacher at Buena High School, a lawyer and a member of VCBA.

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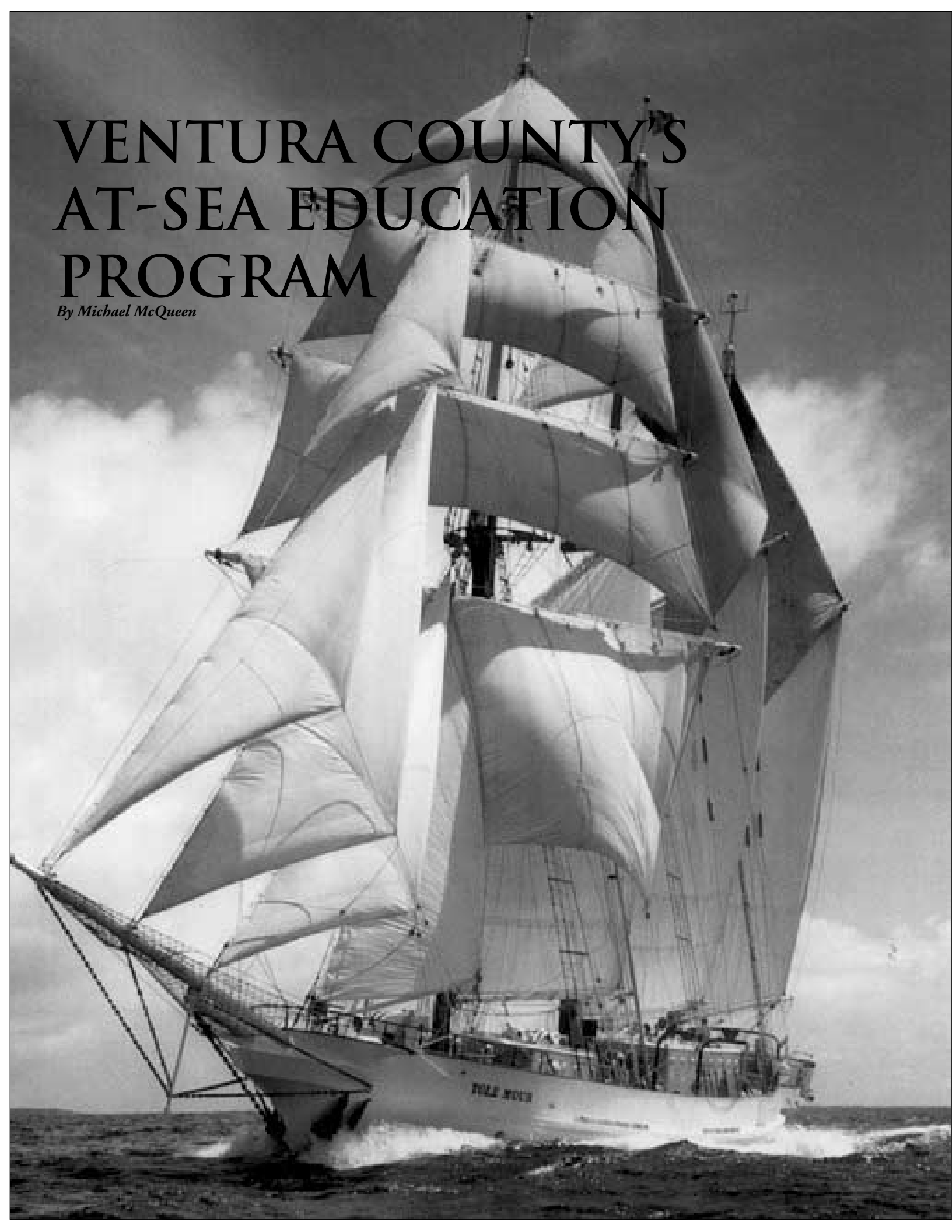
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VENTURA COUNTY'S AT-SEA EDUCATION PROGRAM

By Michael McQueen



With sails snapping, the three-masted, square-rigged schooner heels over to starboard. Green water surges over the gunwales and the wind hums through the rigging as the ship plows through the swell of the Potato Patch, where the currents between Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands join. The two islands act like a Venturi tube, creating stiff and persistent winds and challenging and exhilarating sailing conditions.

The SSV Tole Mour is being put through her paces by 30 Ventura County school children. Under the guidance of an exceptionally experienced crew, the children heave on lines, trim the sails, maintain watch, and sweat the halyards, all to the tune of ancient sea chanties sung with abandoned enthusiasm. The first mate hollers “10 knots” and the kids cheer as the beautiful ship slices through the sea.

During the voyage, the kids swam with inquisitive sea lions and learned to snorkel off island reefs. They hiked on the pristine Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands, and marveled at the echelons of once-endangered brown pelicans. They marveled at the pods of playful dolphins racing the prow of the ship and stared in awe at the fluke of a sounding gray whale. On midnight watches, they took the helm and watched the phosphorus lines scored over the ocean surface by flying fish fleeing voracious sea lions.

Being immersed in the teeming wildlife of the Channel Islands is to be face to face with the uniqueness and fragility of this special place. Once exposed, these children cannot ignore the experience. These programs create a sense of environmental responsibility that is nurtured through a sense of wonder instilled in our youth.

The SSV Tole Mour, currently owned by Guided Discoveries, Inc. of Claremont California, is operated by its subsidiary, Catalina Island Marine Institute. It

provides school children with a deeply personal, hands-on, interactive program intended to develop a sense of individual responsibility, self-confidence, and the excitement of successfully working together as a team. Instead of sitting in their bedrooms playing Nintendo, surfing the net, or hanging out at a park with not particularly savory friends, these children are having a life-changing experience. The Ventura County Maritime Museum’s At-Sea Education Program is designed to instill, on a first hand basis, a sense of environmental stewardship, the joy of camaraderie at sea, the benefits of teamwork and the excitement and revelation of the natural sciences.

The Ventura County Maritime Museum, through cooperative efforts with the Tole Mour Company, the School of the Pacific Islands Foundation, and Guided Discoveries, Inc., has facilitated the participation by Ventura County school children in this exciting and unique opportunity. The program is designed to widen horizons and allow students to experience first-hand the vast world laying just off the coast beyond their immediate neighborhood.

The largest operating tall ship on the west coast, the SSV (Sailing School Vessel) Tole Mour is currently based out of Long Beach, but efforts are afoot to relocate the ship to the Channel Islands Harbor to make the At-Sea Education experience available to more Ventura County children. The Museum has also worked with the Irving Johnson and the Exy Johnson, twin Barkentines operating out of Los Angeles Harbor and named after the father of At-Sea Educational Programs.

How the SSV Tole Mour arrived at the Potato Patch with 30 Ventura County students is a tale of serendipity, foresight, personal commitment and selfless collaboration between many individuals.

THE VOYAGE BEGINS IN WESTWOOD

At the turn of the 19th century, a Danish immigrant doctor, practicing medicine in Los Angeles, invested in Los Angeles properties. His son, Edwin Janss, Jr., continued the tradition, purchasing 3,000 acres of undeveloped land in what was to become known as Westwood. Shortly after the founding of the University of California at Berkeley, the Regents were looking to establish a new campus in the Los Angeles area. The site selection committee was primarily focused on the Pasadena and Palos Verdes areas. Recognizing the opportunity, Edwin Janss convinced the carriage company hired to take the committee on the tour to have one of his people do the driving. The carriage operator conveniently pointed out the shortcomings of Pasadena and Palos Verdes, while emphasizing the benefits of the Westwood area. Shortly after, Edwin Janss contacted the Regents and told them the Westwood site was available. The Regents were quite receptive. To seal the deal, Janss contributed 600 acres to the university that happened to be in the middle of his 3,000 acres. This was the genesis of the Janss Development Company and of Westwood.

Edwin Janss’ wife knew of this transaction. She “suggested” her husband establish and fund a charitable foundation to help her in opening an orphanage, as well as funding other charitable causes. The Janss Development Company went on to develop a significant portion of Thousand Oaks. The Janss Foundation flourished, and continued supporting charitable pursuits

THE MARSHALL ISLANDS CONNECTION

In the late 1980’s, David Higgins, a Harvard-trained lawyer, and his physician wife,

Lonny, left Boston on a 4-year, around-the-world sail with their children in tow. They came upon the Marshall Islands. Dr. Higgins recognized the grave need for medical treatment facilities and spearheaded a program to raise funds to build a large medically-equipped schooner to serve the islands' needs.

This was the genesis of the *Tole Mour*. In the Marshallese language, *Tole Mour* means "gift of life and health". David Higgins' quest for funding led him to the School of the Pacific, Inc. (SOPI) an affiliate of the Janss Foundation, now headed by Larry Janss. SOPI contributed the funds necessary to start building the ship, which was designed in New Zealand and built in the Pacific Northwest. She was sailed down to the Marshall Islands and provided much-needed healthcare to the island people. After a number of years of public service, the political circumstances of the island changed. The government started actively building clinics. With the ship's charter fulfilled, it changed its base to Hawaii, where it was reconfigured and started its at-sea educational endeavors.

THE VENTURA COUNTY MARITIME MUSEUM

In 1989, at about the same time that the Janss Foundation was providing the seed money to lay the keel of the *Tole Mour*, Tom Volk, then Director of the Channel Islands Harbor, envisioned a Maritime Museum and a tall ship located at the Channel Islands Harbor, but there was no

collection and no ship. Tom Volk set up a committee to find one.



While the *Tole Mour* was sailing through the Marshall Islands, Joyce and Harry Nelson were collecting maritime art and ship models. Harry Nelson had been a lawyer in the Los Angeles firm of McDonald, Halstead & Layborne, but abandoned the practice to pursue the development of marinas. Their company, ALMAR, Inc., owns and operates marinas from San Francisco to Baja, California, including marinas in the Ventura and Channel Island Harbors. The couples' avid interest in the maritime arts resulted in a world-class collection scattered among various offices and their home. It was a collection in search of a home.

With the help of local attorney E.E. Claybaugh (he incorporated Thousand Oaks), the Ventura County Maritime Museum was organized as a non-profit corporation in 1990, to house and display

at one location the Nelsons' collection. Bill Hair, of Nordman, Cormany, Hair & Compton, took over Claybaugh's legal duties for the Museum and became a board member, helping the fledgling organization grow. Martin "Bud" Smith, a prominent Ventura County developer, donated a block of stock to the Maritime Museum. The funds generated by sales of those shares built the current museum facilities at Fishermen's Wharf in the Channel Islands Harbor.

Though the Museum's primary mission is to promote, preserve and enhance the maritime collection, it also supports ancillary programs. The Model Guild serves to preserve the art of creating maritime models. Local attorney Dick Walton is one of only two master modelers for the Museum. The museum has also promoted the Channel Islands Marine Floating Lab. School children visit the museum, view the art and models, and then venture out on a specially configured marine lab that locates and examines marine life in the Harbor.

The Maritime Museum has a well-established interest in helping local schools. Ventura County Superintendent of Schools, Chuck Weis, sits on the Board. Thousands of school children visit the museum each year. Jean Harris, a prominent local environmentalist, was instrumental as an initial Board member in emphasizing the educational purpose of the Museum.

FUTURE VOYAGES

The County has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Museum to relocate and enlarge the facilities so that the Nelson collection can be permanently located in Ventura County. Local attorneys Brad Marcus and Phil Drescher have

devoted their time and skills as board members in helping the Museum grow and pursue the dream of larger and better facilities.

Larry Janss is currently pursuing fundraising efforts so that the Tole Mour can be permanently berthed at the Channel Islands Harbor. It is fair to say that the efforts of these attorneys and Ventura County developers have made a unique and valuable experience available to our students.

It is a collaboration of dreams.



Michael McQueen is a Camarillo attorney and a member of CITATIONS' Editorial Board. He is a member and trustee of the Museum, and chairs its Relocation and At-Sea Education Committees.



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STREET LAW ANNOUNCEMENT

Ventura College of Law's, Street Law Program will hold a volunteer instructor training on Saturday January 22, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The course will be taught by attorneys Tara Haaland-Ford and Jodi M. Kaufman, who are the backbones of the Street Law program affiliated with the Santa Barbara College of Law. Ms. Ford and Ms. Kaufman are volunteering their time to help us create a pool of instructors to teach Ventura County high school students. The training will help local attorney volunteers become familiar and comfortable with teaching Street Law to high school students in Ventura County so they become more informed and proactive about laws which affect their daily lives.

Attendance is free, but you should bring your own sack lunch. Become a volunteer instructor and earn MCLE credit. To register or for more information, please contact Denise Brogna at Lascher & Lascher, 605 Poli Street, Box 25540, Ventura, California 93002, (805) 648 3228 or email denise@lascher.com.



“ART AND THE LAW”

Local attorney Panda Kroll, M.F.A., recently taught courses in Art History and in Business Law at Cal State University Channel Islands. First Amendment law and intellectual property are the most obvious intersections of art and law. Panda suggests, however, that the practice of both art and law requires creativity and the ability to think outside the box. After all, it was a lawyer who first saw “shadows” (“penumbras”) emanating from the Bill of Rights (Justice William O. Douglas in his 1965 Supreme Court opinion, *Griswold v. Connecticut*).

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VCBA ADMISSION CEREMONY



The Ventura County Bar Association sponsored a swearing-in ceremony on December 2, 2004, in Courtroom 22, officiated by Court of Appeal Associate Justice Kenneth R. Yegan and Superior Court Presiding Judge Bruce Clark.

Seven organizations welcomed the new admittees. Phil Panitz addressed them as the President of the Ventura County Bar Association. James Herman spoke on behalf of the Board of Governors. Wendy Lascher represented the American Bar Association. Meghan Clark exalted the California Young Lawyers Association.

Leslie McAdam appeared as Ventura Barristers President, and Alan Yochelson certified the new admittees to the California Supreme Court for admission.

Sworn in, as pictured above, were Josephine Ko, Adam Horn, Sara Larios, Peter Sabido and Tareq Hishmeh.

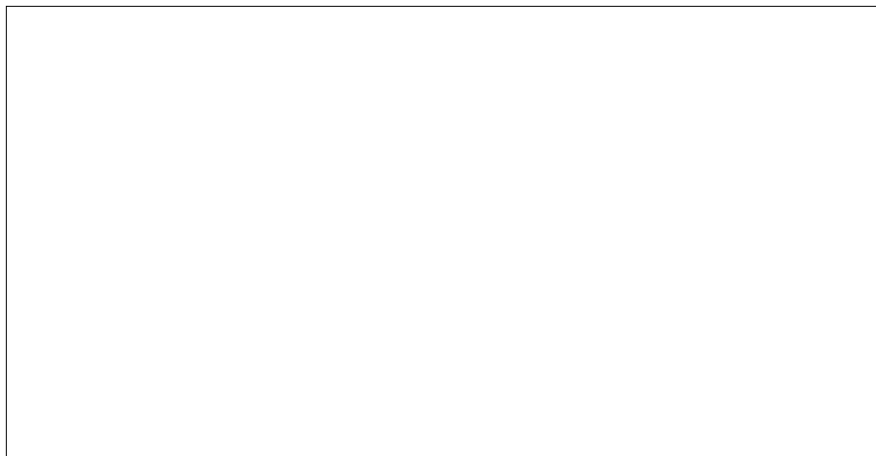
Congratulations! Your bar numbers will probably be higher than 234,000—twice what they were twenty years ago last month.

VENTURA AND SANTA BARBARA COLLEGES OF LAW CELEBRATE NEW ADMITTEES

By Linda Paavola

Dean Richard Goldman proudly announced that twelve recent graduates of Ventura and Santa Barbara Colleges of Law were included on the most recent State Bar pass list. Successful students from the Ventura campus were Donna Carroll-Rhodes, Andrea Garzon, Art Gutierrez, Mina Hakakian, John Murray and Kathryn Sowell. Passing candidates from the Santa Barbara campus were Krista Kodl, Bruce May, Bruce McIver, Tanya Partida, Jason Sigel and Joshua Yager.

The Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law, a non-profit educational institution, has offered a California State Bar accredited, part-time evening program leading to the Juris Doctor degree since 1969. To date nearly 1500 individuals have graduated from the Colleges, with many completing the program while maintaining child-rearing, occupational, and other obligations.



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Volunteering with Election Protection

By Tina Rasnow

On Monday, November 1, 2004 I joined with over 8,000 volunteer attorneys nationwide to help protect citizens' rights to vote in the November 2nd election. I volunteered with the Election Protection Project, a non-partisan effort sponsored by the People For the American Way Foundation, Working Assets Long Distance, and other non-profit organizations. From my choice of 17 high-risk states, I chose Arizona because it was the closest to home. I began my training in the intricacies of election law a month earlier via a telephone conference call with 500 participants. Organized by Working Assets Long Distance, we were given approximately an hour of training by an attorney with expertise in election law, including the "Help America Vote Act" (HAVA) enacted by Congress in the wake of the 2000 election debacle in Florida. With that many participants on the line, we could not have a meaningful exchange of questions and answers, so I anxiously awaited my in-person training on November 1st in Phoenix.

I arrived in Phoenix early Monday afternoon. My training was scheduled for that evening at a union hall north of downtown. So many volunteers showed up (over 800), we exceeded the capacity of the facility, and the lawyers were moved to a neighboring union hall for specialized training on Arizona's election law. Over 200 lawyers volunteered in Phoenix, and it seemed that at least half were from California. Some came from as far away as Maine and Connecticut. We were directed to assemble at a vacant lot off of Central Avenue at 5:00 a.m. on election day so we could receive our precinct assignment and Election Protection materials, including "Voter's Bill of Rights" flyers to distribute, forms to document voting rights abuses, and instructions for reporting abuses as we observed them.

I arrived at the vacant lot and waited in the pre-dawn dark to hear my assignment. I was assigned to the Franklin Precinct, a working class neighborhood near downtown Phoenix, with a significant minority population. A gracious non-attorney volunteer from Palo Alto kindly offered to assist me. We drove the short distance to the polling place located in a Progressive Christian School on McDowell. We found two people from the

Move On organization already setting up a table outside the 75-foot perimeter marker that identifies the protected area around the polling place. They were kind enough to offer us chairs, coffee and donuts.

Polls in Phoenix open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. In the early hours before dawn, voters started to arrive—generally working class folks on their way to work. It was not long before we found people coming out of the polling place looking angry and confused. Apparently, the Maricopa County elections division had redrawn the precinct lines between the primary and general election. Many voters who had voted in the primary election at the Progressive Christian School were told upon arrival that their polling place was moved two miles away, despite the fact that some of them lived only doors away. A number of first-time voters were told by poll workers that they were at the wrong precinct, even though the elections division office had directed the voters to the Franklin Precinct. People complained that the election division web site (that was supposed to show where to vote) was down on election morning.

To make matters worse, when people were informed by a poll worker that they were in the wrong precinct, rather than look on their map to properly direct the voter to the correct precinct, the poll worker would instead hand the voter a provisional ballot. As I learned through my election law training, this provisional ballot would not be counted because it was cast in the

wrong precinct. We had to direct voters back to the polling place so they could ask where their proper precinct was located. We then had to encourage them not to give up, but go to their correct polling place to vote. Many said they could not afford to take any more time from work, and left feeling frustrated and disenfranchised.

A contracts law professor from Arizona State University School of Law joined us later that morning, followed in the afternoon by a Phoenix litigation attorney. All day we distributed voting rights information, encouraged people to vote, and thanked them for doing so. It was not for us to say how people should vote, only that those entitled to vote are able to do so and have their vote counted.

I stayed at the Franklin Precinct until 7:15 p.m. to ensure the last voter in line could vote, and then returned to the Election Protection field office. I was asked if I would be willing to drive to South Phoenix to assist at a polling place where there was still a three-hour wait in line to vote. Apparently poll workers were trying to convince voters to leave the line, and then not let them back in. I drove two other non-attorney volunteers, both from the San Francisco Bay Area, with me to a church in South Phoenix where we met with other Election Protection volunteers and a line of voters still winding its way outside the church. Election Protection volunteers were able to persuade the poll workers to let those in line into the church so the elderly and frail

could sit and folks could use the restrooms without losing their place in line.

I watched election returns for a while that night from my downtown Phoenix hotel room. It looked like the majority of voters in Arizona preferred Bush to Kerry, overwhelmingly approved Senator McCain, and were determined to deny government assistance of any kind to undocumented immigrants (Arizona's version of California's Proposition 187). Wednesday morning I awoke at 4:00 a.m., after only a few hours sleep, to return my rental car and catch the first flight back to Burbank so I could get to work by noon. The plane had mechanical problems and we had to wait for a replacement aircraft. I arrived in Burbank late, tired—saddened too, but knowing I used my attorney skills and license for the best work – to protect the right to vote.

Tina Rasnow is a past president of the Ventura County Bar Association who appreciates the many volunteer attorneys who do pro bono work.



Matt Guasco

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

Real Estate Associate - Ventura County's largest law firm seeks a transactional real estate attorney with 5+ years experience in drafting and negotiating purchase and sales agreements, commercial leasing, transactions, real estate finance, tax deferred exchanges and real property due diligence, including title and survey review. Development, land use, zoning and public agency experience are desirable. Send resume in confidence to: Hiring Partner, Nordman Cormany Hair & Compton, PO Box 9100, Oxnard CA 93031-9100; Fax (805) 988-7722 or E-mail: atty@nchc.com

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EAR TO THE WALL

FTMLaw is happy to announce the addition of three new remarkable team members. Grace Gilmore joined us as Assistant to the Legacy Discovery and Fulfillment departments and Carly Day as the Legacy Client and Firm Services Administrator. We're also pleased to have **Ken Ball**, a graduate from USC with both his undergraduate and law degree, as our Legacy Fulfillment Attorney. We're extremely excited to have these three in addition to **Marilyn Perez** and **Ted Muegenburg**.

Rebecca B. Lowell, formerly of **Procter, McCarthy & Slaughter**, is now with **Law Offices of Thomas E. Beach** at 751 E. Daily Drive, Suite 230, Camarillo, CA 93010. Telephone (805) 201-1800 and fax is (805) 201-1809.

Alexis Ridenour, a 2004 Pepperdine *cum laude* graduate, has launched a practice at 402 West Ojai Avenue, Suite 103. 805-646-7016.



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Only 48% of the whopping 8,062 individuals who took the State Bar Exam in July passed. 5,521 were first timers. This pass rate for the main test has not been that low since 1986, when only 44% prevailed. Swearing-In Ceremonies were conducted in Courtroom #22 Dec. 2 and presided over by **Justice Ken Yegan** for the first time since 1994. He told those present he recalled fondly "being sworn-in 32 years ago in a small Fresno courtroom. The judge was so ancient, he appeared to come out of a bottle of formaldehyde." Yegan administered the oath, capably assisted by **Judge Bruce Clark**, to *only five new admittees*--and three were from out of state...Already reported in small print by The Star, **Greg Herring** has been elected as the chair of the executive committee of the State Bar Family Law Section for '04-'05. Greg was previously vice-chair and editor of Family Law News...

James Heiting, former Riverside County Bar President and current Vice-President and Treasurer of the State Bar Board of Governors, won the Amateur English Park Pleasure Gait World Championship on his horse "Dragonfire." The competition was held in Tennessee and Jim competed in two classes of the Tennessee Walking Horse National/World Championships. Jim's other horse "Gold Hard Cash", won a Reserve World Championship. It's only Jim's fourth competition and he purchased his first horse in October '03... According to the *SB New Press*, when asked what kind of lawyer he is, inactive SB attorney Steve Gilbar stated: "Fairly honest."...And from John Ashcroft--"Courts are not equipped to execute the law. They are not accountable to the people." He was denouncing the recent rulings against President Bush...

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Steve Henderson, Executive Director

The United States District Court for the Central District of California has announced the appointment of **Rita Coyne Federman** as the new part-time United States Magistrate Judge, in Santa Barbara. The new Magistrate Judge succeeds **Judge Willard McEwen**, who retired Dec. 26, after more than 31 years in the position. Federman was most recently Judicial Staff Attorney for the SLO Superior Court. The Central District now has 20 full-time and two part-time Magistrate Judges...

Once again, it's time for the **Darwin Award**. The Darwin's are presented every year to the person(s) who died in the most stupid manner, thereby removing themselves from the gene pool. Space does not allow describing the winner because of its complexities, but there was one attorney in the Top 10. Toronto police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard as he was explaining the strength of the building's windows to visiting law students. See darwinawards.com...License Plate of the Month: CHECKMT, on a real nice ride belonging to **Dick Chess**...

MCLE OPPORTUNITIES--For those of you who waited until you *had* to take a **substance abuse** or **gender bias mcle**, we've got 'em on Jan. 20. Check your promotional brochure contained herein and many thanks to **Tina Rasnow**...We also have an unusual opportunity on a Saturday, Jan 22nd, with the **Family Law Bar MAC** offering 3 hours of cle on the Karpman Triangle. Call **Ed Buckle** at 653-2505 for details and view that flyer as well...Each year the State Bar of Texas Appellate Section sponsors a Haiku Contest. First Place went to Neil C. McCabe with this entry: No reason no word/ like a migratory bird/your case is transferred. Second Place by Rob Ramsey: Tarzan. J., concurs:/Result Good; reasoning bad/Ah-o-wah-o-wah. And Third Place by Robert Fugate: Mandamus standard/ Clear abuse of discretion/ Squashy banana...Real World Rules, by Bill Gates. Number 1: Life is not fair. Get used to it...

Randall George's father, Gordon, was admitted to the bar in June of this year. He graduated from Hastings in 2000 and studied for the bar while having both hip joints and a shoulder replaced. Oh yeah, he's 80! Check out the 11-24 issue of the Daily Journal for a fun story. He joins 575 other 80-year-olds and two practicing centurions. A great quote from Randall: "Nobody will hire an old fart like you."...**Judge Brian Back** is looking for scorers during the 2005 Mock Trial Competitions February 28, March 1st and 3rd. 24 schools and 400 kids challenge each other and our legal community assists each year. Call **Kaaren Valdez** at 654-2675 to lend your time...

Jody Moore brought forth a brand new, tiny, legal beagle into the world Nov. 29. Weighing-in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces, little Joshua James and daddy Mike are doing well. Jody will take her seat on the bar board of directors this month, beginning a two-year term... With the greatest economy in the USA and a recent diminishing of restrictions on law firms seeking to make some dough, Las Vegas is becoming the destination for practice expansion. Many firms housed outside Nevada are opening new offices or stoking up existing practices, fueled by new construction and increased tourism. The opportunities are coupled with a revision of Nevada rules that previously prohibited outside firms doing business in the state unless the firms' name partners were licensed in Nevada. Los Angeles based Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith opened an office in downtown Vegas in August '04 with 10 lawyers. They now have 23 doing construction defect law...Carolyn Elephant created MyShingle to give solos and small firms a comprehensive online guide for starting and running a firm. In doing so, Elephant occasionally offers up tales of her own private practice. www.myshingle.com...The bar office will be observing the **Martin Luther King** holiday and will not be open Jan. 17...

Steve Henderson has been the executive director of the bar association since November 1990 and has been known to go Ron Artest on people. Additionally, he ate and drank more during the holidays than Michael Moore at a Hometown Buffet, but maintains the guns of Peyton Manning. His twins, Max and Megan, turned 8 on December 19 and neither Barry Bonds nor Marion Jones sent cards.

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