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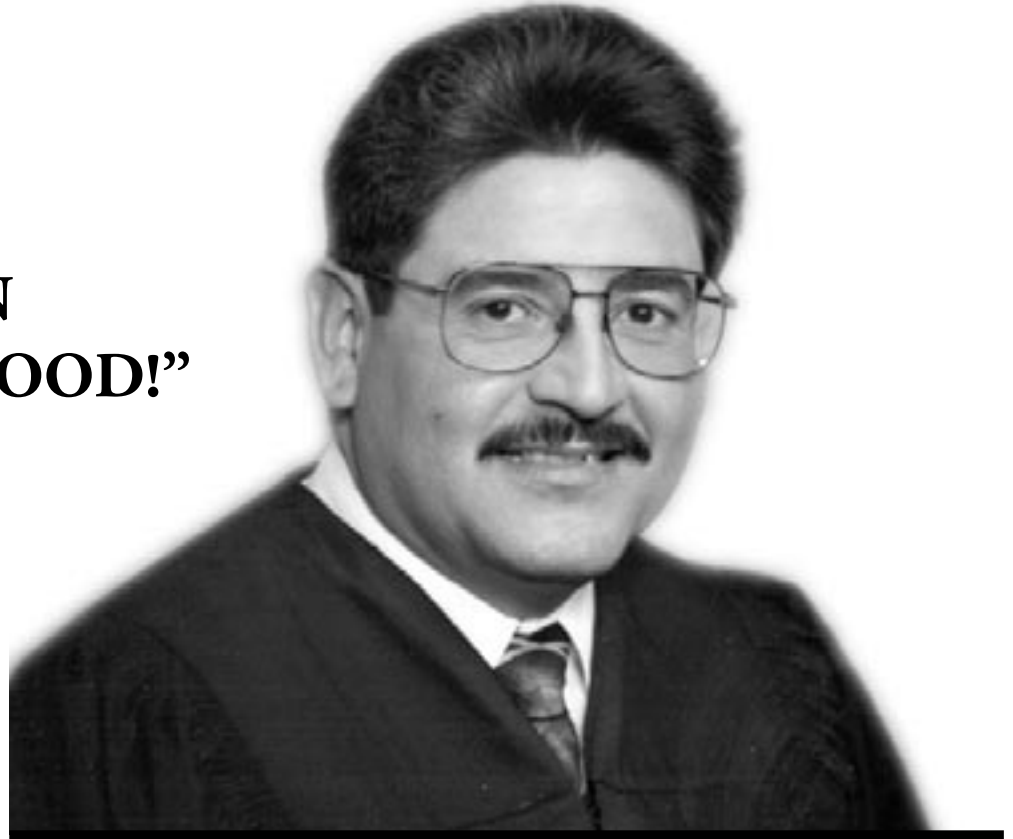
## VCBA MISSION STATEMENT

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.

## “HOME TOWN BOY MAKES GOOD!”

*By Carmen Ramirez*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: BENCH-BAR COALITION DAY IN SACRAMENTO

By Loye M. Barton

When I accepted the invitation to become the Secretary-Treasurer of the Ventura County Bar Association in July of 2003, I did not know how much I was to learn about bar associations in general and all that they do. As I moved through the offices of Secretary-Treasurer, President-Elect (now Vice President) and onto President this year, I was regularly impressed – and still am – with the breadth and depth of lawyers and the associations to which they belong.

### The Bench-Bar Coalition

On February 28, 2006, my knowledge was again broadened as I represented Ventura County in Sacramento. Carmen Ramírez was representing District 6 in her capacity as a member of the State Bar Board of Governors at the same time. I found the day and the cause fascinating. The assignment: meet with as many legislators as possible to discuss the plight of the judiciary and the status of court facilities. We in Ventura County are better off than most of the counties when it comes to number of judgeships, and better off than almost all when it comes to our court facilities. Though our colleagues in other counties are less fortunate, we too have seen days when civil trials were interrupted or delayed to allow criminal trials that must take precedence.

The Bench-Bar Coalition is a group of people from the bench, bar and legal services organizations from all over the state whose goal is to ensure that the “judicial branch is able to fulfill its critical role as a fair, independent, and accessible forum for the resolution of disputes, and to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by our state and U.S. Constitutions.” A lofty assignment.

### California Needs Judgeships

The Administrative Office of the Courts conducted a study that revealed California lags behind most states in number of judicial officers per capita. We need 355 new slots for judges created right now in order to bring the state up to speed. The compromise being considered is found in Senate Bill 56, authored by Senator Joe Dunn. This bill as originally proposed would create the most critical 150

judgeships over a three year period. It would also convert 161 commissioner or referee positions to judgeships as the positions become vacant. The first 50 new judgeships would take effect in April 2007. Senate Bill 56 passes the Senate floor last year on a 36-2 vote. However, the bill was modified during debate to eliminate any reference to the number of new judgeships or change in commissioner and referee positions. So now it is a bill without numbers. The numberless bill passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee and is now somewhere in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Adding new judges for the most critical areas should be a nonpartisan effort, but who knows how the cookie will crumble? Interesting, our meetings with legislators before the mandatory party meeting at lunch found legislators or their aides nodding their agreement to the need for new judgeships. After the lunchtime caucus the legislators or their aides were pretty adamant that there will be some new judgeships, but not the 50 per year first proposed by Senator Dunn. I would not want to be the one to explain this to Riverside County, where civil trials are currently suspended in order to handle the backlog of criminal trials. Riverside is probably the most in need of new judges with a population growth of 50 percent in the last 10 years, and only 3 new judgeships added over the same period of time.

You can imagine the chaos, and the impact on delivering legal services, let alone trying to provide access to justice. Justice is not only delayed, but in many cases denied. I have materials that I would be happy to share with you if you would like to write to your senator or assembly person. It is too bad that the halls in Sacramento are not staffed with more attorneys who are trained to look at the big picture.

### Courts Are Part of the Infrastructure

The second issue we addressed is the courts facilities bond. Bond. Not many minced words about this one. My impression is that there will be no money allocated towards court facilities. Courts, which are clearly part

of our community infrastructure, are not seen in the same light as highways and education and so on. There is also a tension between the branches of government. No surprise there. How naive I was as a child when I really believed that there was a separation of the executive, legislative and judiciary branches, and each was equal in power.

The day culminated with the State of the Judiciary address by Chief Justice Ronald M. George. His message was pretty much what we had been talking about all day.

Carmen and I, and our other teammates, met with 10 different legislators or their aides. Whether the time spent will be fruitful is yet to be decided. I thought you would like to know what is going on in the statewide legal community. We are lucky to practice in Ventura County. Venturing south or inland may be a challenge.

Those of you who know me, know that I am an animal lover. I leave you today with another view of the recent buckshot accident—no names please.

“Levitan the painter and I went out to the woodcock mating area yesterday evening. He fired at a woodcock and the bird, wounded in the wing, fell in a puddle. I picked it up. It had a long beak, large black eyes, and magnificent plumage. It looked at us in wonder. What were we to do with it? Levitan closed his eyes and begged me, ‘Please, smash its head in with the rifle.’ I said I couldn’t. Levitan kept twitching his head and begging me. And the woodcock kept looking on in wonder. I had to obey Levitan and kill it. And then two idiots went home and sat down to dinner leaving one less beautiful, adored creature in the world.”

*Anton Chekhov, Letter to his friend Suvorin, April 8, 1892*

*Loye Barton is VCBA President and is a partner at Norman, Dowler, Sawyer, Israel, Walker & Barton in Ventura.*

## “HOME TOWN BOY MAKES GOOD!”

By Carmen Ramírez



Judge Manuel J. Covarrubias was named Judge of the Year by the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association at Judges' Night March 28. Born and raised in Oxnard, he returned to his native city earlier this year as a Superior Court judge presiding over juvenile delinquency matters at the Perren Juvenile Justice Center in Oxnard.

Judge Covarrubias is a 1977 graduate of Loyola Law School. He made the dean's list and received the William P. Hogoboom Award for Excellence in the juvenile justice program. As a new attorney, Judge Covarrubias' first position was also in Oxnard, where he spent three years as a staff attorney at the legal aid program, Channel Counties Legal Services. From there he went into private practice from 1981, until he joined the Superior Court as a commissioner in 1995. He served seven demanding years, hearing paternity, child support, contempt, domestic violence and civil harassment cases, along with traffic and small claims.

Judge Covarrubias was appointed to the bench in October, 2002 by Governor Gray Davis. He was first assigned to the Simi courthouse, continuing to hear family law matters. He then returned to the Ventura Branch and continued his family law assignment until this year when he began hearing juvenile dependency cases.

Why did he decide to become a lawyer? He says, "I considered the practice of law to be a noble profession." The lack of esteem that many hold the legal profession in was a surprise to him as he started his career.

Judge Covarrubias and his wife Audrey, also an Oxnard native, have been married for 27 years. They have raised two sons and a daughter: Alejandro lives in Baltimore and is pursuing a Master's in Pastoral Counseling at Loyola College; His son Manuel II, works at Orca, a high-end audio equipment distributor, and still lives at home, keeping the dreaded empty nest syndrome at bay for the time being. Andrea is attending college at CSU Long Beach.

Family life is very important to the judge. As he is one of nine siblings, one girl and eight boys, Judge Covarrubias has an understanding of what it's like to be a member of a large family and the pressures on parents. Most of his extended family was present at his swearing-in ceremony in 2002, including his parents, bursting with pride as he thanked them in Spanish from the bench. He comes from a family of carpenters and enjoys woodworking as a hobby. He has been known to lament the fact that his most current home simply did not require that much of his home improvement skills. His projects, cooking for his family, listening to Mexican balladeers Vicente Fernandez and Ana Gabriel, gardening and raising roses, bring him relaxation and balance.

Hearing domestic violence matters, Judge Covarrubias informs both the aggressor and the victim that such conduct is not to be taken lightly or considered the norm, and lets both parents know that this kind of conduct is very damaging to children who are exposed to it.

He has been active in community affairs and professional organizations, including board terms on El Concilio del Condado de Ventura and El Centrito de La Colonia. He was President of the Mexican American Bar Association. He has reached the level of a Five Gallon Blood Donor for United Blood Services, and he is a Founding Member of the Destino Fund of the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Judge Covarrubias continues to be concerned about equal access and equal justice for all. He has served on the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Commission since 2001, and is co-chair of that Committee's Race and Ethnic subcommittee.

Why was Judge Covarrubias chosen as this year's Trial Judge of the Year? According to Joel Mark, President-elect of the VCTLA, "our committee just decided that here was a judge who had served in a long and difficult assignment, but who unflinchingly treated the public and the litigants with the utmost courtesy and respect. We felt that this kind of performance over the long haul really deserved recognition."

Today litigants entering Judge Covarrubias' courtroom can continue to expect that they will receive the dignity and respect that he believes that everyone is entitled to when they come to our courts.

*Carmen Ramírez is an attorney with the Ventura Superior Court's Self-Help Legal Access Center in La Colonia. She is District Six representative on the State Bar Board of Governors.*

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## COUNTY WELCOMES NEW JUDGE

By Wendy Lascher



Chief Assistant District Attorney Patricia Murphy has been named to fill the Ventura Superior Court vacancy left open by the retirement of Judge Roland Purnell. The County's newest

judge, a 1987 graduate of Southwestern University Law School, has served her entire career in the District Attorney's Office. Her most recent assignment involved responsibility for all of the office's functions, including administration, prosecutions and civil actions, funding, and personnel matters. Previously, Judge Murphy prosecuted high profile crimes and supervised the Sexual Assault and Family Crimes Unit.

Judge Murphy, whose husband Richard Shimmel is also an attorney, lives in Ventura.

*Wendy Lascher is an appellate lawyer in Ventura, and co-editor of CITATIONS.*

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# WE READ SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO OLDIE, NO GOODIES

By Joel R. Villaseñor

The incarcerated in our nation face many hardships; some, however, are simply not to be borne. In November 2000, Texas inmate David Lorenza Joyner, who styled himself "Minister of Law of the Mandingo Warriors," purchased the December issue of Penthouse magazine touting, "Paula Jones Uncovered! Shows All and Tells All..." To Mr. Lorenza's outrage, however, the photographs in the magazine didn't show quite all.

The aggrieved Minister of Law of the Mandingo Warriors filed suit in federal court against six individuals, including Bob Guccione, publisher of Penthouse, and the bedeviled Ms. Jones herself. The suit alleged "mail fraud, false advertising, any and all cognizable claims under 'RICO', mental anguish, [and] deceptive business act or practice," and sought a total of \$3 million plus attorneys' fees.

Feeling the spirit move him, District Court Judge Sam Sparks issued the following terse, if poetic, order of dismissal on December 14, 2000:

## ORDER OF DISMISSAL

*T'was [sic] the night before Christmas and all through the prison, inmates were planning their new porno mission.*

*While the December issue of Penthouse was hitting the stands, the Minister of the Mandingo Warriors was warming his hands.*

*For you see, the publishers had promised a pleasurable view of the woman who sued the President too.*

*The minute his Penthouse issue arrived the minister ripped it open to see what was inside.*

*But what to his wondering eyes should appear not Paula Jones' promised privates but only her rear.*

*Life has its disappointments. Some come out of the blue. But that doesn't mean a prisoner should sue.*

Mr. Joyner's application to proceed in forma pauperis was denied, and for his trouble, Mr. Joyner was also sanctioned and ordered to pay costs.

*Joel Villaseñor is an associate handling business and employment litigation at Sullivan Taketa LLP in Westlake Village and a member of the CITATIONS' Editorial Board.*

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# LRIS MODEST MEANS PANEL

By Alice Duran

The Lawyer Referral & Information Service Advisory Committee has approved the implementation of a family law Modest Means Panel to complement our pro bono program and the existing LRIS.

The Modest Means Panel is designed to provide legal assistance to moderate-income individuals who do not qualify for our pro bono services. Our staff will screen applicants for financial eligibility, and if they qualify for the Modest Means Panel, they will be referred to attorneys who will accept a reduced retainer and a reduced hourly rate to be negotiated between the attorney and the client.

This program allows us to make a difference in the life of someone who otherwise could not afford legal services.

If you are interested in learning more about the Modest Means Panel, please contact me at the bar association office, 805-650-7599.

*Alice Duran is Client Relations Manager for the VCBA.*

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## PRO-BONO HIGHLIGHTS

By Verna R. Kagan,  
VLSP Senior Emeritus Attorney

An excerpt from a letter we received said:

“Sandra Knapp was very kind and professional. She explained the complicated legal terms and made it simple for me to understand. In court, she was very professional. I have nothing but respect for and appreciation for the amount of time she dedicated to my case.”



This represents the latest in a series of cases that Sandra Knapp has handled for us. She accepted this matter in 2004 and to date has spent 122 hours handling it. This far exceeds our request of her and shows her true willingness to see a matter to its conclusion. The above letter exemplifies that.

Culled from her personal experience and professional experience, Sandra has written a poem, reprinted here with her permission.

### THE ROOTLESS CHILD

You want me to move where!  
I've already been from here to there –  
And back again!

We're going *when?*  
Can't we wait until ten?  
That's a nice round number.  
Well, how about the *end* of summer?

We have *these* trees to climb,  
*This* walk to skate.  
We have to find another State?

I have a boyfriend, you know.  
You think he could go?

I see you're tough, resigned,  
By that blind look on your face.

But you can't fool me.  
My home is *not* a state of mind  
That moved from place to place.

SANDRA CANNADAY KNAPP  
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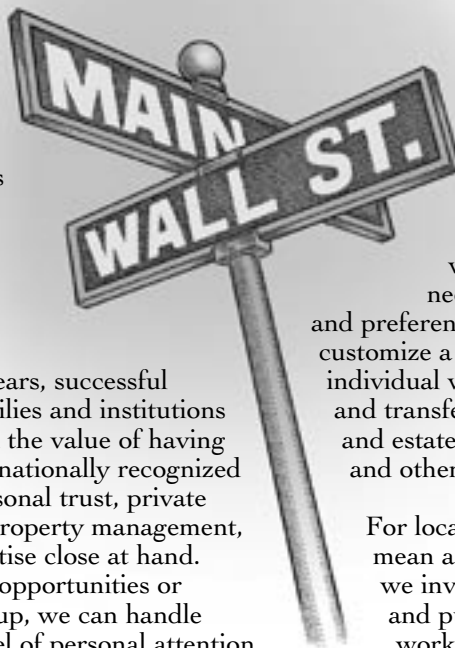
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## LAWYERS AND FAITH

Carolyn Tulberg: Grandmother's Master's in Theology Enhances Her J.D. Degree  
By Panda Kroll

In February, Pepperdine University's Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics presented a conference on "Lawyers, Faith, and Peacemaking." The University writes, "The common image of the lawyer is that of combatant, but much of the work of lawyers serves the ends of peace. Good lawyers bring important skills to the project of peacemaking, including the ability to identify the sources of conflict, organize complex situations, narrow the issues, bring law and other social norms to address emotionally driven conflicts, and creatively identify stable solutions." In keeping with this theme, CITATIONS profiles an attorney who has integrated spirituality into her professional life

While many local attorneys find comfort and inspiration in a spiritual practice, only a unique few have formal religious training. One of these unique individuals, Carolyn Tulberg, was already a grandmother when she enrolled at the Ventura College of Law in 1978.

Carolyn is currently one of about a dozen California-designated Emeritus attorneys volunteering each week with the VCBA's Volunteer Legal Services Program. She previously worked for twelve years as a research attorney for the Court of Appeal in Los Angeles and in Ventura. While working for the courts, Carolyn enrolled in Mount Saint Mary's evening program, earning a Master's in Theology.

Carolyn reports that she often relies on her religious training in her work with VLSP. In advising clients, she is required to quickly assess to what extent, if any, the problems they report are primarily emotional or spiritual in nature. While the Emeritus attorneys do not provide psychological advice, Carolyn acknowledges that not all client problems

can be resolved through the legal system, and VLSP volunteers are trained to additionally refer clients to social workers or other care providers, if necessary.

Carolyn's MT qualified her to offer religious education through Saint Sebastian's Catholic Church in Santa Paula. While she no longer teaches, as the mother of ten children, with thirty-four grand- and great-grand-children (and more on the way), Carolyn has had ample opportunities to offer spiritual counsel to what constitutes a virtual congregation. On a serious note, Carolyn recalls that her theological training was put to its greatest test when her sixteen-year-old nephew was in a coma for months following an automobile accident that killed his mother and sister. The boy's father was eventually called upon to make difficult decisions, and Carolyn and the family priest worked with him to facilitate these.

A large family offers many blessings, Carolyn notes. While Carolyn is a member of the Catholic church, her Jewish son-in-law and Muslim daughter-in-law have enriched the family by sharing their beliefs and cultures. Carolyn fondly recalls that her daughter-in-law's Iranian father helped to hang the piñata for the grand-children at a family Christmas party. Carolyn's most recent challenge was to co-host a family Seder dinner with her son-in-law's Jewish family. Carolyn relied heavily on books and coaching from VLSP manager Verna Kagan, who, according to Carolyn, is not only a great resource for legal matters, but also for spiritual traditions.

*Panda Kroll is an associate at Norman, Dowler, Sawyer, Israel, Walker & Barton in Ventura and a member of the CITATIONS' Editorial Board.*

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## PROPOSED VENTURA TEEN LEGAL CLINIC

By *Debi Jurgenson*

Several people in Ventura County encourage and support the idea of a Teen Legal Clinic modeled upon the Santa Barbara Teen Legal Clinic, founded by Jody Kaufman and Tara Haaland-Ford. They and their panel of volunteer local attorneys provide legal services for teens, pro bono, ranging from representation at school disciplinary hearings to DMV issues. The clinic counsels a wide range of legal problems including probate, contract, and emancipation issues. They generally do NOT provide representation for delinquency adjudications (equivalent of adult criminal matters), as the minors already have a right to court-appointed counsel. On occasion, they will handle a "criminal" matter if there is conflict of interest with the court appointed counsel (usually the public defender's office).

Their organization is a 501(c)(3) with a Board of Directors, as well as an advisory Board which includes attorneys, lay people, a high school student representative and at least one superior court judge.

A planning session is set for April 4 at 5:45 p.m in the Conference room at Ventura College of Law, 4475 Market Street.

If you are interested, please contact [venturamoondogs@adelphia.net](mailto:venturamoondogs@adelphia.net).

*Debi Jurgenson is a recent Ventura College of Law graduate waiting for Bar results.*

### STREET LAW PROGRAM OFFERED

Four Ventura County high schools (Chaparral Continuation, Nordhoff, Thousand Oaks, and Buena Vista Continuation) now host the Street Law program, designed to teach high school students the realities of legal life: landlord-tenant, family law, credit, criminal, employment rights, civil liberties, etc. This summer the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law will offer a Street Law teacher training course in Santa Barbara, open to attorneys and law students. If you are interested, please contact Mary Osborne at 805-966-0010.

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## EVALUATING JUDICIAL NOMINEES

By Wendy Lascher

Many of you are familiar with the colorful confidential evaluation forms the State Bar's Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission sends lawyers from time to time, asking for ratings of people the Governor is considering appointing to judicial slots. You may not know that the Ventura County Bar conducts its own evaluations.

When the Governor is considering a potential appointment, his office sends the candidate's name and his or her "Personal Data Questionnaire" to our local Judicial Evaluations Committee. We conduct an independent evaluation, sending our own evaluation forms out and making calls to lawyers, judges, and others seeking information about the candidates. The process is highly confidential, and Committee members are barred from endorsing candidates.

Once we have gathered the rating forms, our committee meets to exchange information, and then interviews the candidate. After that, we vote on a tentative rating (exceptionally well-qualified, well-qualified, qualified, or not qualified) and – if the rating is less than exceptionally well-qualified – offer the candidate another interview. After the second interview (or after the time for one passes), we submit the rating to the Governor's office.

Were there a contested judicial election in Ventura County, our bylaws also provide for evaluation of candidates. In this instance, we would share our evaluation with the VCBA Board at least three weeks before the election.

Current members of the JEC include Ricarda Bennett, Paul Blatz, Mike Frawley, John Howard, Sam Huestis, Dennis LaRochelle, Dick Norman, Rick Rabbin, Mary Shea, and Russ Takasugi. Wendy Lascher chairs the Committee. During the past several months, we have rated seven candidates, and one more is pending.

*Wendy Lascher practices appellate law in Ventura. Contact her at [wendy@lascher.com](mailto:wendy@lascher.com) for a copy of the JEC's Handbook.*

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## HALTING UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE

By Scott Drexel

Effective January 1, 2006, Business and Professions Code section 6126.3 gives the State Bar and the superior courts important new powers to deal with the unauthorized practice of law by non-attorneys. Under this statute, the State Bar may petition the superior court to assume jurisdiction over illegal law practices by non-attorneys where there is probable cause to believe that (a) a person or persons are engaged in unauthorized practice in violation of section 6126(a); and (b) the interests of a client or of an interested party or entity will be prejudiced if the proceeding is not maintained.

In January, the State Bar appeared on concurrent petitions filed in the Los Angeles and Orange County Superior Courts pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 6126.3 and 6180/6190, et seq., asking those courts to assume jurisdiction over the law practice of Arthur E. Cooper (SBN 30463) and the unlawful law practice maintained by non-lawyer Jie Yang (aka Jeffrey Yang). Mr. Cooper, who is 81 years old, allowed Mr. Yang to operate a

law practice in Alhambra under his name. Yang independently operated a personal injury practice out of the Alhambra office without any supervision or oversight by Cooper. With the exception of one client with whom he spoke by telephone, Cooper had no contact with any "client" and was unaware of their names or the specific nature of their matters. Yang settled all of the personal injury cases without filing any action in court. Cooper received periodic checks from Yang but they were unrelated to any contingency or other fees received from the settlement of the personal injury matters.

In Los Angeles Superior Court, the State Bar successfully petitioned the court to assume jurisdiction over Yang's illegal practice in Alhambra pursuant to section 6126.3. In Orange County Superior Court, the State Bar successfully petitioned the court to assume jurisdiction over Cooper's Garden Grove practice pursuant to sections 6180/6190, et seq. on the grounds that Cooper was mentally and physically

incapable of practicing law without harm to his clients. Representatives of the State Bar, supported by law enforcement officers, then arrived at both the Alhambra and Garden Grove offices and took possession of the practices' files, financial records and computers. They also froze the firms' trust and office accounts and redirected the telephone and fax numbers to a dedicated number at the State Bar. We will now contact "clients" for the purpose of returning their files and, where necessary, seek extensions of time on behalf of these clients with regard to any court or other deadlines. As required by the orders issued by the L.A. and Orange County courts, we will be providing those courts with periodic reports on our activities relating to the Cooper/Yang practices.

*Scott Drexel is chief trial counsel for the State Bar of California's attorney discipline system.*

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## EAR TO THE WALL

The Law Offices of William F. Powers, Jr. is pleased to welcome **Shantel J. Kuntuzos** as a new associate. She will assist the firm in handling real estate and business transactional and litigation matters. Ms. Kuntuzos received her J.D. from Loyola Law School of Los Angeles, where she was a two-time recipient of the Florine Carmen Phelps Scholarship. The firm's offices are at 20933 Devonshire St., #102, Chatsworth 91311, phone 818-773-9800, fax 818-713-1130.

**Scott A. Hunter** has opened an office at 1000 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 14, Camarillo 93019, phone 805-322-0410, fax 805-322-0413, email shunter@hunterlaw.net. Mr. Hunter will continue to represent homeowners associations, commercial associations, stock cooperatives, planned communities, condominium developments, and gated communities throughout Central and Southern California.



**Aris E. Karakalos**, a 2005 graduate of the University of Arizona School of Law, has joined **Lascher & Lascher** as an associate. Mr. Karakalos will assist the firm in handling civil and criminal trial court motions, writs, and appeals in federal and state courts. Mr. Karakalos may be reached at 605 Poli St., Ventura 93001, phone 805-648-3228, fax 805-643-7692, email aris@lascher.com.

## COURT SEEKS COMMENTS

The Ventura County Superior Court is soliciting comments by April 24 about proposed rule changes that would take effect July 1, 2006. To view the proposals, go to [www.ventura.courts.ca.gov](http://www.ventura.courts.ca.gov) and click on "What's New" (*no, they don't have a question mark on the website*).

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## C. RUSSELL KING

By Robert Sawyer



Long-time Santa Paula attorney C. Russell "Russ" King died in February. Russ was a Santa Paula institution. His office was located in an old house on North 8th

Street, next door to our firm's original offices (we were there until 1981). His only partner during all of his years of practice was Paul Skeels, who became an attorney a year before I did, but left the profession about 15 years ago to become a full-time firefighter, and is now Fire Chief for Santa Paula.

Russ was a Naval Academy grad who flew during WWII. He went to law school at the University of Michigan, and was admitted to the California bar in 1963. He was an active member of the California Bar until this past year. As attorneys who dealt with him over the years will tell you, he could also be a bit cantankerous from time to time – but with a smile on his face. (Maybe the best way to put it is that Russ's loyalty to a client was never diminished by the lack of either legal or factual foundation for his client's position.) Later in his life, Russ was a regular fixture getting his exercise by walking our neighborhood.

*Rob Sawyer specializes in real estate, land use, environmental and water law, at Norman, Dowler, Sawyer, Israel, Walker & Barton in Ventura.*

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## CAOC News

By Deirdre Frank

Consumer Attorneys of California's Board of Governors is undertaking a 3-year campaign to increase membership, increase connection with local Trial Lawyer Associations, and increase access to top attorneys for local seminars. CAOC is also carefully evaluating political candidates, since the State Senate could see a significant turnover in the 2006 elections and there are over 100 candidates for 37 open State Assembly

seats. In addition, CAOC is building lobbyist coalitions with other consumer and environmental groups in Sacramento.

Please email [Deirdre@dfranklaw.com](mailto:Deirdre@dfranklaw.com) for updated information about CAOC.

*Deirdre Frank is a personal injury lawyer in Ventura.*

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**Associate Attorney** - Camarillo established boutique estate planning, trust & probate administration and controversy firm seeks full-time associate attorney. Duties include trust and probate administration, deposition support, real estate, and corporate transactional work. Congenial atmosphere, generous pay and benefits package, newly remodeled office suite. Candidate should be admitted to California Bar and have 1 to 3 years' experience in either estate administration or civil litigation. Please send cover letter and résumé to jcunningham@cunninghamlegal.com.

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**Criminal Defense** - Mature, experienced criminal defense attorney, former L.A. County prosecutor, available for contract work, appearances, trial prep, law and motion, appeals and writs, all criminal work, in Ventura, Santa Barbara Counties and San Fernando Valley. \$75 per hour flat rate plus mileage. Contact: Wendy C. Forward 805-496-7901, cell 818-917-3024, email wforward@hotmail.com.

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# INTERNET RECONNAISSANCE REPORT\*

By Glenn J. Campbell

We all know that the internet contains helpful legal sites and gimmicky, downloadable doohickies. From deep within cyberspace, here are but a few stumbled upon, and free, treasures some of us might find helpful.

If you could use a date calculator (and who doesn't), you could do worse than downloading Steven Weeks' free one, version 2.68, at <http://www.sjweeks.co.uk>. He also has a cool metric converter.

Lacking the billing zeal of a first year associate trying to make a 2500 billable hour quota at a white-shoe law firm, most of us are looking to maximize our time and still sleep at night (both morally and restfully). Besides using automatically accumulating, Excel-based time sheets on your windows desktop which you can print and save, the truly anal-retentive lawyer may desire more robust and structured time-management tools. Those twisted minds who want to know how many hours they must spend in the office to meet their billable goals, taking in account vacation, personal days, arranging golf outings, ordering wine and other off-sheet time.

So if you are among those bordering upon OCD, take a few online spins on the "Attorney Work Life Balance Calculator" which may be found at [www.envoyglobal.net/jdbliss/test/calculator2.htm](http://www.envoyglobal.net/jdbliss/test/calculator2.htm), or at [JDbliss.com](http://JDbliss.com). Don't spend TOO much time playing with it. You might get control of your life.

Would you like to get caught up on the current cases pending before the Supreme Court of the United States and not sound like a dope on those topics at cocktail parties? Go to Cornell University's "Legal Information Institute" (LII) where you can also subscribe for free to the "libulletin" <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/cert/>. At the site, you can review the oral argument schedule and read up on argued cases which are explained in LII's excellent summaries. "Ernie The Attorney" is one entertaining legal blog written by an interesting New Orleans attorney. Ernie also helps you keep up with Hurricane Katrina's aftermath.

Where does Ernie find the time? Maybe he is using the "Attorney Work Life Balance Calculator." <http://www.ernietheattorney.net>. At <http://www.moneychimp.com/calculator>,

you can find a good online Present Value Calculator, among other nifty stuff, to give you a heads-up before consulting the experts. Nevertheless, remember to "rely" on the experts. They might be insured.

The internet has changed almost everything about the practice of law and it will continue to evolve so long as over-regulation, taxation and regimentation are held at bay. If you know of cool legal stuff on the net, feel free to e-mail me and let us share in the largesse of cyber-space.

*Glenn Campbell practices in Oxnard, at Lowthorp, Richards, McMillan, Miller, Conway & Templeman.*

\*As of the date this article was sent to the editorial board, the addresses (URLs) were operating. One never knows when any specific URL might break, get hijacked or just close down.

*The VCBA website, [VCBA.org](http://VCBA.org), carries back issues of CITATIONS—if you only look hard enough.*

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The Ventura County Asian American Bar Association held its 1st Annual Installation and Scholarship dinner and raised over \$2,000 for the fund that will be awarded to local law students. (Ya feel the competition Esquire Kulper?) There were youth dancers from the Conejo Chinese Cultural Association; and Christine Leong, a watercolor artist, displayed works for purchase with proceeds benefiting the fund. Nearly 60 people attended, including **Judge Manny Covarrubias, Russ Takasugi, Don Greenberg, Brian Nomi, and Don Taketa**. **President Dien Le** was bestowed a surprise offering for his efforts establishing the affiliate last year. The excessive amount of door prizes and the event were partially underwritten by sponsors **Benton, Orr, et al., Myers, Widders et al., Norman Dowler et al., Self Help Legal Access Centers, Huber & Takasugi, Sullivan Taketa, Weston-Benshoof, Nevers, Palazzo et al., Braden & Hinchcliffe, and Hinson & Gravelle**. Plenty of out-of-town dignitaries too, but won't be cited here... Chair of the bar's Public Education Committee, **Michael Tenebaum**, is seeking lawyers to assist him with a variety of activities including a speaker's bureau and media relations. He's also running for Congress. You can reach him at [mt@post.harvard.edu](mailto:mt@post.harvard.edu)...

**Laura Bartels** witnessed the prolonged whoosh with some 30 pals out in Balcom Canyon between Fillmore and Somis as the Tour de California passed. Knowing they were going to be there a good while, she rented a porta-potty, and when folks realized the potty was not provided by Amgen, the proverbial hat got passed, collecting nearly \$100. They decided to purchase one share of Amgen stock. Laura's interest? She saw George Hincapie race in France last year, subsequently obtaining his autograph and a used water bottle. Also in attendance along Balcom Canyon were **Commissioner Mark Borrell** and **Rick Loy**. A short time ago, the Commish scored an autograph from Lance Armstrong while training in Ojai...From Ralph

## EXEC'S DOT...DOT...DOT...

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

Waldo Emerson: "The good lawyer is not the man who has an eye to every side and angle of contingency and qualifies all his qualifications, but who throws himself on your part so heartily, that he can get you out of a scrape."... Strange but True: After taking and failing the bar examination several times, Shakey Johnson gave up on becoming a lawyer and opened up a pizza parlor named after himself. Shakey's ultimately became America's largest chain of pizza parlors... **Tareq Hishmeh** has accepted a position with **Hathaway, Perrett, Webster et al.** effective April 3. Tareq had been with **Norman, Dowler, et al.** since July 03'...

Sitting Corrected: In February's issue I reported **Patricia Lamas** license plate PHRRED was on a late model Toyota. Actually, the car is a Cadillac and PHRRED is a longstanding nickname given to her by the hubby... Oops Part II: **Susana Goytia-Miller** has accepted the dual role as Secretary Treasurer for the Mexican American Bar Association... Movie Law: "Right now everything is great, everyone is happy, everyone is in love, and that is wonderful! But you gotta know that sooner or later you're gonna be screaming at each other about who's gonna get this dish. This eight-dollar dish will cost you a thousand dollars in phone calls to the firm of That's Mine, This Is Yours." --Harry Burns, When Harry Met Sally... Recommended Reading: *Let No Guilty Man Escape*. The Judicial Biography of *Hanging Judge Isaac C. Parker*, by Roger Tuller. University of Oklahoma Press (April 2001), 210 pp. Judge Parker sentenced 161 convicted criminals to their deaths in the Wild West by starting with six of them at once in the Fort Smith gallows September 7, 1875... From Actual Court Records: Counsel: "Let me rephrase it. It was kind of poorly phrased." The Court: "Most of your questions are, but that's okay. Want to start over?"... **Steve Wohlgemuth** has taken a position with **Weston Herzog** in Glendale. After several years as a name partner with **Bohl & Wohlgemuth**, his new number since March 7 is 818.755.8555...

The bar's website Review Committee is comprised of **Ken Kossoff, Jody Moore, Roberta Burnette, and Tom Hutchinson**. They are soliciting recommendations for improve-

ment. You got any? Email our web mistress at [sonia@vcba.org](mailto:sonia@vcba.org)... There's an old anecdote, true I understand although specifics vary, about a judge and a public defender who had been in conflict and prone to outbursts for many years. In one particularly testy exchange the judge said: "One more word out of you and it will cost you \$200". Without skipping a beat, the PD responded with, "For \$500, can I tell you to shove it?"... Justice Samuel Alito hired 37 year-old Adam Ciongoli as his law clerk. He comes to the Supreme Court as a former top aide to AG Ashcroft and previously clerked for Alito at the federal level. Most recently, Ciongoli was a senior lawyer at Time Warner... I'm thinking of tinkering with the bar's Mission Statement. If you've forgotten it, look on the cover of Citations. (You'd think I would have learned my lesson the first time around in 2001.) Anyway, am soliciting suggestions (e.g. "The Best Bar in Town" is mine), and if successful, the victor gets behind-home-plate Dodger tickets during summertime bliss at the Ravine... From Justice Curtis Bok: "Expert opinion is only an ordinary guess in evening clothes."...

**Barbara Macri-Ortiz**, the Mexican American Bar Association VP, received the El Concilio Community Award March 11 for her tireless efforts on behalf of farm workers and labor over the last two decades... BIG congrats to public defenders **Jay Leiderman, Michael McMahon, and Randy Tucker** for obtaining their criminal law specialist certifications... Bizarre Case Names: United States v. Caesar...

*Steve Henderson has been the executive director and chief executive officer of the bar association since November 1990 and inflicted pain upon a 78 year-old attorney only once with a 28-gauge shotgun. His selection for best movie was Cinderella Man followed closely by Crash and Capote. Lastly, he can report a set of drums, a violin and his 13 year-old getting a trim have added to the household cacophony. Play Ball! Estéban may be reached at [steve@vcba.org](mailto:steve@vcba.org).*



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