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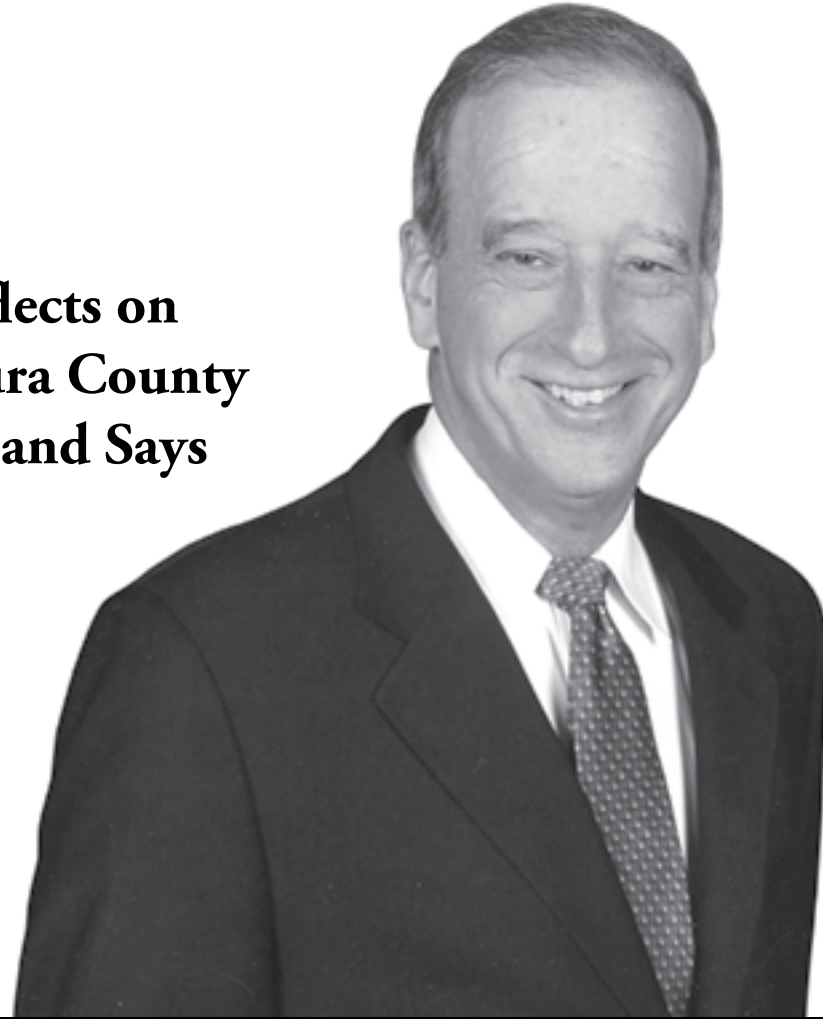
CITATIONS

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

Ken Clayman Reflects on His Years as Ventura County Public Defender (and Says Goodbye)

By Eric Reed

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A year blazes by...

My dad always said that time passes more rapidly as we age; a year to a 50-year-old goes by far more quickly than a year to a seven-year-old (365 days is an eternity; especially the last 10 before a birthday party or Christmas).

This year has blown by, and the meetings and columns have been far less arduous than I had anticipated. I managed to get Steve Henderson to eliminate one of the two monthly executive committee meetings, and it has been fine, at least from my perspective. I think Steve just likes all the food I bring, Matt Guasco's dead-on movie star imitations, and the general banter that a group of talented, glib, funny, lawyers – Tony Strauss, Loye Barton, Don Hurley most frequently, along with Matt – bring to an otherwise potentially dull and dreary affair. Yes, we get off task frequently, but it is worth the smiles, and I've truly enjoyed our 60-90 minute Thursdays. Surround yourself with these and other interesting, smart, dedicated, diligent people, and all will be well. This bunch fits those criteria on all counts. And Steve is truly the dream Executive Director. Great job 100% of the time, smart, friendly, and a terrific asset to our organization. Sartorially resplendent. "Thursdays With Stevie"... Hmm. Possibilities for a book title.

Meeting monthly with the likes of Verna Kagan and Earl Price, who lead the VLSP emeritus team of lawyers, has shown me repeatedly how dedicated attorneys can be to their profession and helping those most in need – and do it well past official retirement age. These people

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jonathan Fraser Light

are on the ball. I would say that my year as president has demonstrated most clearly to me how much our Bar members do for those who can't afford our services. I've said, partially tongue-in-cheek, that one of my goals in life is to earn enough money to afford myself as a lawyer. Still working on that. A better goal would be to earn enough to be able to devote more time to doing what so many of my brethren in the county are doing; good deeds for those in need. And most of them are doing it without the luxury of extra income or large blocks of time to easily give over to these endeavors. Amazing what busy people can squeeze into a day.

As I said in an earlier column, there is a higher percentage of lawyers doing good deeds in the community than among any other profession. Whether it's financial donations or, even more valuable, time and expertise, nobody spends more time giving back than our profession.

Steve made clear early on that a "big agenda" was not necessarily doable in only a year, so being the face of the bar for a year was enough of a bona fide role. I don't think I screwed it up (didn't get arrested for anything, so I consider that an accomplishment), and I am honored that my brethren thought enough of me to select me for the position. I will truly take pride in and enjoy noting in future bios that I am a Past President of this organization.

I enjoyed getting to know people I would not normally have met, at the family law bar, the Women Lawyers Association, the Black Lawyers Association, MABA, and several others who may not be formally affiliated. As a group, not bad to hang out with; and certainly they enhance our sometimes tarnished image in the community.

Thanks to my assistant through most of the year, Julie Napoleone, always a pleasure to work with, organized, and kept me "on task." My partners were understanding when I needed to be somewhere and, perhaps more importantly, when I needed some cash for a bar activity or sponsorship. Great group, led by our managing partner, Tony Trembley.

Coincidentally this year, I had my first taste of mock trial, and am now thick into helping coach the Newbury Park mock trial team with lead coach/attorney Martin Zaehring. He's got quite a passion for this. It's been fun watching these terrific kids practicing their examination skills, and trying to get around the hearsay rule is no easier for them than it is for the real lawyers. My daughters, Katherine and Elena, will be doing both sides of pretrial argument this year, and maybe a lawyer will develop from all of this "law talk." We'll see.

My wife, Angela, was already used to my hectic schedule, so adding in the bar presidency created barely a ripple at home. Eliminate another hour of sleep, and what's the difference? Everything will still get done. Not to worry, however, as we get in our share of fun.

Lastly, I have to say that my non-billable time isn't devoted as much to legal endeavors as some lawyers, given that I am enjoying my time as the production manager for the Footworks Youth Ballet. One last promotional item: If you want to see a classy full-scale production of *The Nutcracker*, complete with full orchestra and choir (Moorpark Symphony and CSUCI Choir), call Footworks at 676.1600 for tickets – Oxnard Performing Arts Center, December 8-9 – I'm going to miss being backstage watching my daughter Elena en pointe after she graduates in two years; as I said, it goes fast.

The photo was taken at Jon's private Starbucks office in Camarillo. Daily rent ranges from \$3.05 (hot chocolate) to \$3.45 (chai latte) – ironically, he's not much of a coffee drinker. Photographer and long-time county attorney Dick Regnier personally delivered the print (no digital for purist Dick) to Jon's NCH&C office dressed in full cowboy regalia, complete with Bowie knife strapped to his side.

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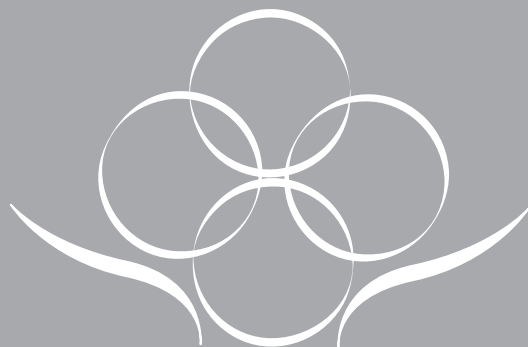
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It's easy for you to help. Simply add a voluntary contribution along with your dues payment for 2008. \$100 is the suggested amount, but any amount will be appreciated. Or go on line to make a donation on the secure website at www.calbar.org/justicegapfund.

Thousands of low-income Californians face serious legal problems involving their homes, jobs, children and income. They cannot afford private representation, and this represents a challenge to our justice system and the trust and confidence of the public which is essential to our democracy. Lawyers more than anyone else understand this.

Please contact me about this or any other matters involving the State Bar of California at ramirezmar@gmail.com. Thank you very much!

M. Carmen Ramirez
Vice-President, Board of Governors, District 6
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P.S. Carmen will be the Director of Community Planning for the Ventura County non-profit, CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for A Sustainable Economy), beginning on January 2, 2008.

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Ken Clayman Reflects on His Years as Ventura County Public Defender (and Says Goodbye)

By Eric Reed



Ventura County Public Defender Ken Clayman is perhaps the first to recite the oft-repeated adage about our coastal paradise:

“Arrive on vacation, leave on probation.”

It has more than a grain of truth, doesn't it? None would dispute that helming the Public Defender's Office is the toughest gig in zero-tolerance Ventura County. Except, that is, Ken Clayman. Our own (but soon to retire) “Chief Defender” recently sat down with *Citations* to explain why he loves coming to work after an unprecedented twenty-four years on the job.

Clayman is proud that he began his career at America's oldest Public Defender's Office: Los Angeles, established in 1914. He points at a group photo taken of the office's staff in his first year, 1967. “You need to remember, the indigent defendant's constitutional right to counsel wasn't recognized until *Gideon v. Wainwright* in 1963, so Los Angeles was quite groundbreaking.”

He can rattle off the first impressions he's received from the countless interviewers, politicians, students, clients and citizens with whom he broached the topic of the public defense system:

How can you represent someone you *know* is guilty?

Isn't your office *underfunded*? *Overworked*?

Isn't it hard to find people who *want* to work at your office?

He can rattle off his answers even faster.

On Guilt: Once Clayman diverts his audience from their fixation on guilt, he makes a point

few can rebut: that no matter how ostensibly culpable a defendant, judges and prosecutors alike must adhere to those procedures set forth in constitution and statute. The Public Defender's Office ensures fairness in the process. Nevertheless, “some people still can't understand. This is when you need to believe most in what you do.”

On Funding and Workload: “The motto of this office is to provide the best possible legal representation to Ventura County's indigent clients at the least cost to the taxpayer. Or, as I've told the Board of Supervisors, ‘a Dom Perignon defense on Miller Lite money.’” And although Clayman admits to frequently cutting costs on items like office furniture, he insists that he'd never allow funding restrictions or workload to dilute the attention given to his clients. “Careful budgeting ensures that we very rarely run out of money. But if it did happen, I'd feel comfortable requesting the Board fund the shortfall. And if they didn't give it to us, I'd stop taking clients before compromising the quality of service. Fortunately, this hasn't happened.”

On Staffing: “We have an abundance of applicants from all different backgrounds. Many of them are local, but we also get career public defenders from other counties. Ventura County is a great place to live, and hopefully the word is out that we're a good office.” Relatively low turnover in his office reveals that fledgling public defenders more often view their job choice as a *career* choice rather than a temporary stop on the way to more lucrative or prestigious positions.

“A large percentage of Ventura County's judges and many members of the private defense bar served in the District Attorney's Office.

Politically, prosecution is the safer path to take if you want the governor to appoint you to a judgeship. And for those considering private criminal defense, joining the DA's Office provides insight that is invaluable when you eventually switch over. However, our candidates often have their sights set on public defense and see their joining our office as a long-term commitment.” Private criminal defense attorney Jay Leiderman noted Clayman's staff-minded approach during his six-and-a-half years under Clayman. “Ken said once that when it's all said and done, if people told him he hired great attorneys he would be happy. I think that sums him up well.”

Among the framed pictures crowding Clayman's desk is a photo of the man who proved the exception to the DA-judgeship trend: Commissioner Douglas W. Daily, a twenty-three year veteran of the Public Defender's Office recently appointed to the Superior Court by Governor Schwarzenegger. The photo shows the office's proud staff and attorneys surrounding Daily at a party thrown in his honor shortly after the announcement.

A DA Diverted?

Upon graduation from UCLA School of Law in 1966, Clayman joined the firm of medical malpractice stalwart Leo Gelfand. “Leo and every other attorney in the office held both medical degrees and law degrees. This was before universities offered joint J.D./M.D.s. Each practiced medicine before enrolling in law school. I served as more of a gopher than anything, and quickly began wanting more action.”

His laments fell on the less than sympathetic ears of friend Roger Kossack, Los Angeles Deputy DA (and legal commentator-to-be), who raved

about the fast-paced world of prosecution. Soon after, Clayman sat in front of a panel representing L.A. County's "Big Three": the District Attorney, the Public Defender and County Counsel. He stated his intent to join the DA, and thereafter laid into what he described as "softball" questions from the DA's panelist. The problem was this: Clayman's responses to these softballs betrayed a jurisprudence more fitting the defense. He doubted the moral implications and practical effects of the death penalty. He touted the virtues of the Constitution over the punitive goals of prosecution.

Clayman didn't get a call back, even from the Public Defender's panelist, who "lapsed into a coma as I stated my initial intent to join the DA."

Fatefully, the failed interview did provide him with the career counseling he needed. Immediately he lobbied the Public Defender's Office and requested another interview. The warm demeanor Clayman still uses to his advantage must have worked; he soon found himself in an impromptu face to face with the PD's recruiting attorney. "He told me I was so far down the civil service list that he could never hire me. I made my pitch anyway. He told me to show up in two weeks."

That was forty years ago. Thereafter, Clayman honed his craft in the halls of the Los Angeles Criminal Court, serving as a trial lawyer for ten years before being promoted to the Chief of Juvenile Services Division in 1977. Three years heading the Central Municipal Court Trials Division followed. In 1984 he found himself at the top of the hierarchy in another department just a short way up the coast – in Ventura County.

The "Boys from Brazil" Welcome Ken Clayman to Ventura

Although now removed from the clogged, well-worn Los Angeles criminal courts, Clayman encountered a new challenge in his new environs: a community and bench that gave little in the way of sympathy for even the petty criminal. "The Muni bench was known as 'The Boys from Brazil' back then. These days harsh prison sentences are generally saved for felons and repeat offenders. When I arrived, the Muni bench would mete out jail time for *anything* if they could. They were draconian. If a misdemeanor defendant went to sentencing with outstanding probation grants, he could find himself locked up for six, seven years."

Clayman still notes that Ventura County – California, for that matter – retains a

Continued on page 11.

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Ken Clayman Reflects...

Continued from page 9.

pro-prosecution attitude and struggles to understand the practical and constitutional role of the Public Defender. "We simply don't receive the grant money and political popularity enjoyed by the prosecution. Fortunately, the Ventura County Supervisors appreciates our work and knows the importance of our job in the community. The Board even designated March 18, 2003 "Gideon Day" on the fortieth anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright*."

Clayman hesitates a bit when asked what he'd change about Ventura County's criminal bench and prosecution. For someone who has spent forty years, quite often on the "losing" side of the courtroom, he is surprisingly slow to criticize or dwell on perceived biases. "The main thing I would change is the emphasis on pursuing maximum jail time in *every* case, which the prosecution seems to insist on. We now have great rehabilitative programs for every type of criminal background. I would be less anxious to send people away for the longest time possible. Increasing funding and vigorously implementing these programs would, in my opinion, have a greater impact on crime. Secondly, I would be more selective overall in my filing decisions."

What's Next for Ken Clayman . . . and Ventura County?

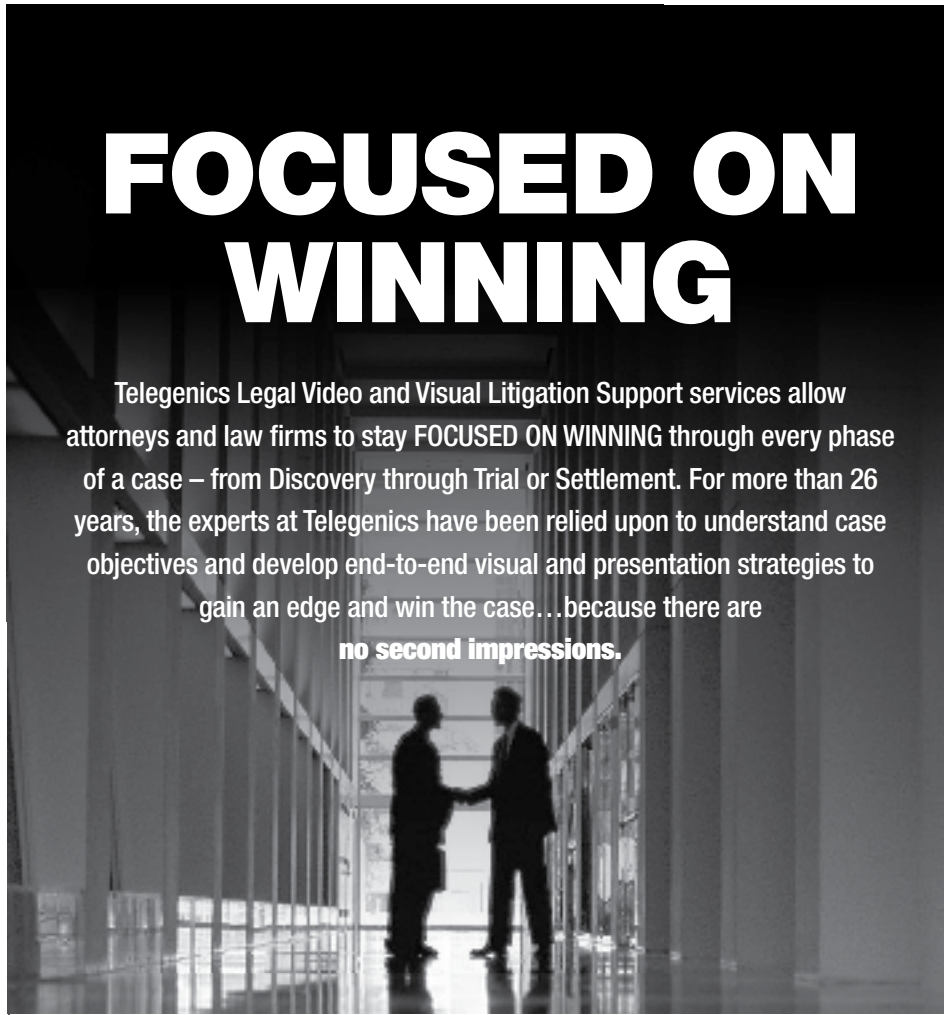
Clayman stays away from the specifics when asked about his recently-announced retirement next March. "I mentioned something about gardening in an interview with the *Star*, and now my mother-in-law wants me to replace her garden at a bargain-basement price. But seriously, I want to stay busy – as busy as I am right now." His candor increases when the topic of succession arises. "The Board of Supervisors chooses my replacement. Each of them knows how I feel (about Duane Dammeyer, his next-in-command and favored successor), and I hope they exercise their discretion to appoint him."

Whomever the Board of Supervisors chooses, *CITATIONS* encourages the Ventura County Bar to first look back and applaud a great man and dedicated public servant. Ken Clayman, thank you for twenty-four years of zealous, yet unfailingly professional, advocacy of our County's indigent defendants.

Eric Reed is an associate at Lascher & Lascher, and a member of the CITATIONS editorial board.

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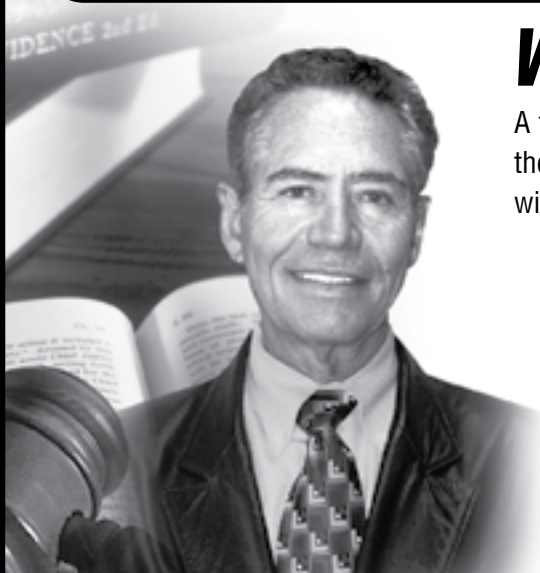
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WILLIAM BOYD RITNER

September 5, 1928
October 20, 2007

Born September 5, 1928, in South Gate, California, to Dr. Smith Boyd and June Ritner, Bill passed peacefully October 20, 2007, surrounded by his loving family in Palm Desert.

Bill was an amazing and charismatic man who cherished his family and friends above all else. He was gifted with a quick wit and charming character, and loved without abandon. For most of his young life, his family lived in San Marino where he and his sister raised ponies and tended to various other pets.

Bill went on to wear many different hats throughout his life and travels. As a young man, he traveled extensively throughout the United States and was variously employed as an iron worker, a welder, a mason and a logger, depending upon which part of the country he was in at that moment. Bill later worked as a math teacher before enlisting with the Army as a medic and being deployed to Korea, where he was wounded and returned to the U.S. as a decorated hero.

After recovering from his tour, Bill worked as an insurance adjuster and attended Southwestern Law School. Bill passed the bar and spent nearly 40 years practicing law in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Bill practiced throughout the years with Judith L. Wong, Randi Lentz, Duane Skavdahl, and Frank Bellinghiere.

Bill is survived by his sister, Mary Hamilton, her husband Jack and their family. He is also survived by his four devoted children, Boyd Ritner of Montara, Michele Harding of Simi Valley, Bruce Ritner of Palm Desert, and Brian Ritner of Simi Valley.

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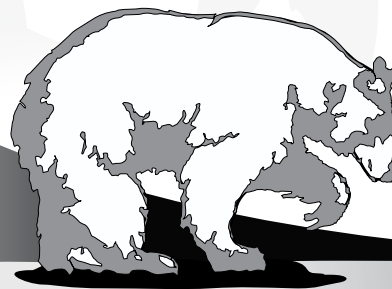
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PRO-BONO HIGHLIGHTS

By *Verna R. Kagan, VLSP Senior Emeritus Attorney*



A very dear lady who makes a point of taking and representing at least one pro bono matter a year is **Melissa Cohen**. It is always a pleasure to talk to her.

Her most recent matter was by far her most difficult. Our applicant was learning disabled, very excitable, and though quite nice, it took a long time to explain things to him. As always, Melissa is very knowledgeable, very affable and is able to handle these matters with fortitude and skill.

Further, Melissa is a wonderful resource person and we don't hesitate to call her for discussion and advice. So thank you, Melissa for your continued support of the pro bono program.

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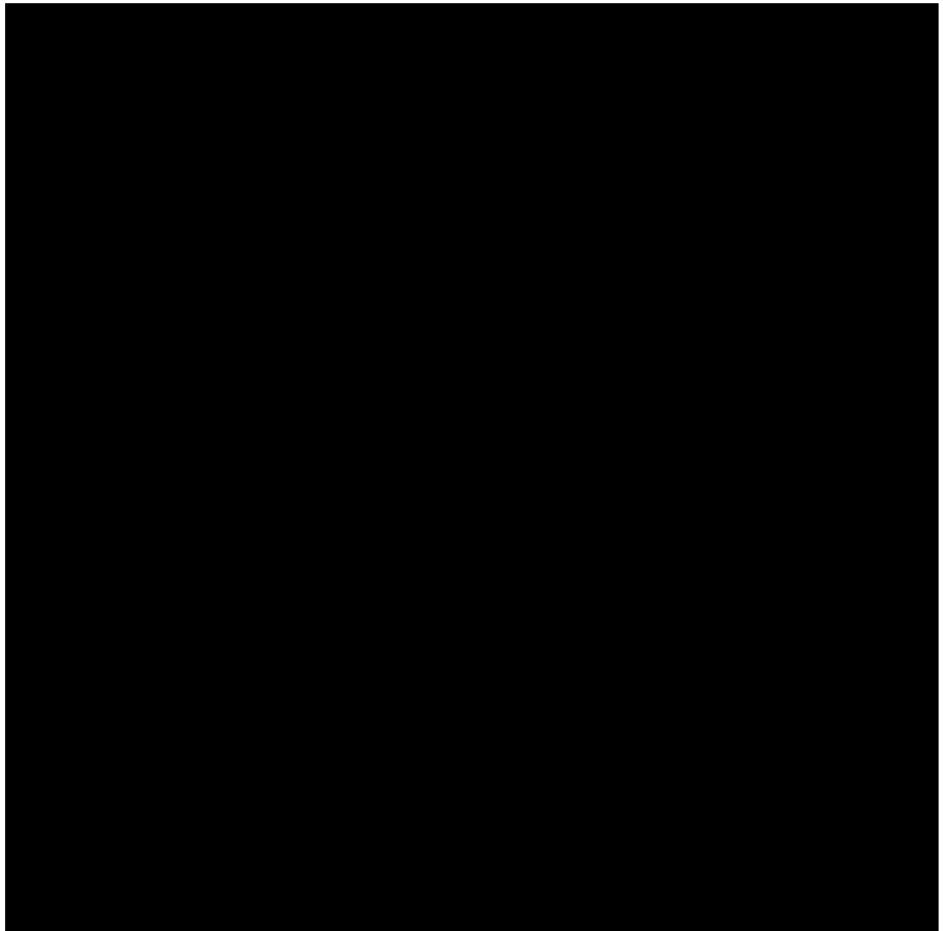
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ANOTHER WAY TO GO

CITATIONS has heard good things recently from two lawyers (Rob Long and Gabriele Lashly) who each have tried the new Route 31X bus that leaves the Ojai Park & Ride at 7:05 a.m., travels through Meiners Oaks, Oak View and Casitas Springs, and arrives in the Government Center circle at 7:53. The return trip is at 5:10 p.m., arriving at the Park & Ride at 5:58. Both Rob and Gabriele are bike riders, and there is room on the front of the bus for two bicycles, making it possible to ride to work and take the bus home with a bicycle aboard (no word on what happens if more than two bicyclists want to climb aboard). The fare is \$1.25 a trip.

EAR TO THE WALL

Cheri L. Kurman will mark the two-year anniversary of her law firm, renamed the law firm Kurman Law Group, on November 8, 2007. Ms. Kurman is certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization as a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Law. 1601 Carmen Dr., Ste. 211 Camarillo, California 93010, (805) 445-7640, CLK KurmanLaw.com.



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Former presiding Judge Jerome Berenson, left, discusses matters with his former partner, Ben Nordman, right, as then bar president (and now Judge) Fred Bysshe looks on.







The Ventura County Asian American Bar Association raised money for their scholarship fund with a golf tournament at Las Posas.


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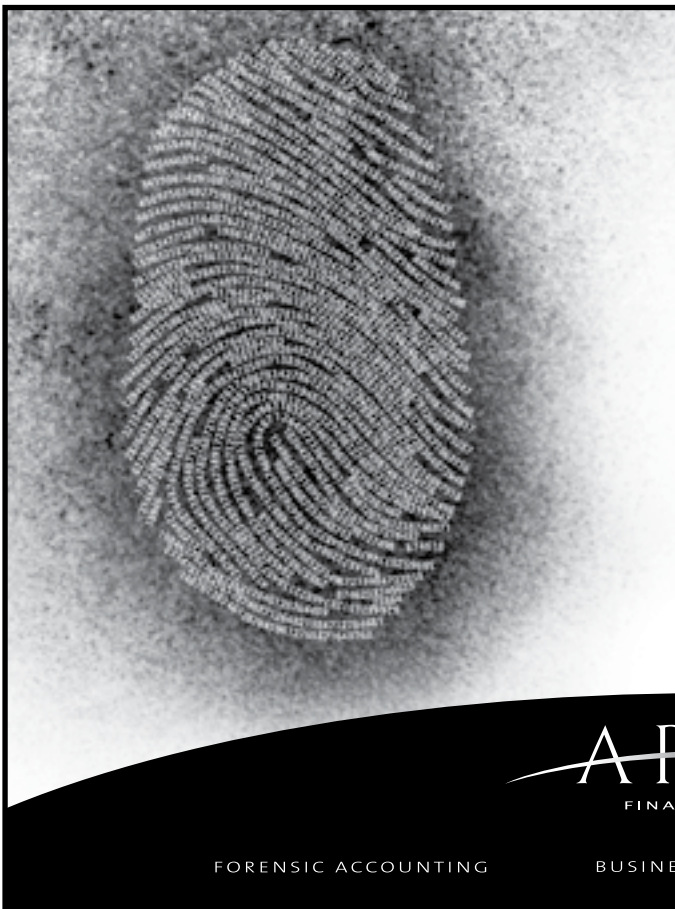
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VCBA SOLIDARITY

At its November meeting, VCBA's board passed this resolution:


"The Board of Directors of the Ventura County Bar Association, on behalf of its members, hereby expresses its solidarity with and support of the lawyers and judges of Pakistan, and the VCBA stands with them as they seek the restoration of the rule of law."

"Incoming President Matthew Guasco commented, 'In supporting the courageous stand being taken by the lawyers and judges of Pakistan, I hope that we are supporting the rule of law everywhere, including in our own country where we are struggling with several constitutional issues of great concern. I am pleased that the board took this step, and I hope it is the first of others in defense of the rule of law.' "



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DOROTHY SCHECHTER

July 28, 1934 – November 16, 2007

Dorothy Schechter passed away at her home in Ojai on November 16, 2007. Dorothy was born July 28, 1934 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She graduated from the USC School of Law in 1964, and was hired as Deputy District Attorney for Ventura County in 1965. Dorothy joined the newly formed County Counsel Office in 1966. In 1973, she was appointed County Counsel for the County of Ventura, the first woman in the state to hold such a position. Dorothy served as president of the statewide County Counsel Association, and also as president of the Ventura County Bar Association. After retiring from the county in 1985, she went into private practice with her husband, Thomas L. Schechter, until they both retired in 1993.

Dorothy was very proud of becoming a member of the Ventura County Sheriff's Posse. She enjoyed the posse activities, riding the trails, the great barbecues, and the comradeship with other members. Retirement was filled with other joyous times with good friends: riding her beautiful Palomino, Sunny; playing music, and bicycling in gorgeous countrysides.

Dorothy is survived by her loving close-knit family: her husband of fifty-four years, Thomas L. Schechter, her sister-in-law, Corinne Woolf of Ojai; her brother, Ernest Buenting and wife Everill of Upland, California; nephew, Dr. John Buenting and wife Abbey of Sylva, N. Carolina; nephew, Richard Buenting and wife Suzanne, Reno, Nevada; niece Diane Owen and husband Gary, Wenatchee, Washington; numerous adorable grand nieces and nephews; her many friends who supported her in her illness; and her loving and devoted Chow, Cinnamon.

Dorothy was a true friend and an inspiration to all who knew her for her courage and wisdom in coming to terms with her illness.

Paul Bielaczyc

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Justice Arthur Gilbert pens an awfully comical piece for *California Courts Review* entitled, “*The High Cost of Public Recognition*.” This very humorous column may be found at (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference). He drops a number of names, including Lohan, OJ, Beatty, Jackson, Chaplin, Marvin, and Ito... The *New York Times* reported that on Halloween Day, 2005, a light bulb exploded in a ceiling fixture of the courtroom where the U.S. Supreme Court was in session. Court transcripts immediately after the incident read as follows: **Chief Justice Roberts**: “It’s a trick they play on new chief justices all the time.” **Justice Scalia**: “Happy Halloween.” **Chief Justice Roberts**: “We’re even more in the dark now than before.”...New Admittee Swearing-In ceremony is scheduled for December 4th at 4 p.m. in Courtroom #22. It’s a treat to watch even if you have no vested interest as **Justice Gilbert** and **Judge White** preside over an emotion-filled hour... The Santa Barbara law firm of **Hatch & Parent** will merge with the Denver based firm of **Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, and Schreck** effective January 1. H&P has 30 lawyers bringing the merge to just over 200...

Mongolia? **Michael McQueen** (mmcqueen@mcqlaw.com). Grand Lake, Colorado? **David Shain** (dshain@fcoplaw.com). River Cruise on the Rhine? **Howard Evans** (hbevans@adelphia.net). Belize? **Loye Barton** (lbarton@normandowler.com)... From Conan O’Brien: “In Wisconsin, a judge ruled that college students should have some say in how their tuition dollars are spent. Immediately after the ruling, the college kids decided to spend all their money on pot and Ramen noodles.”...No, the 1946 classic, *It’s A Wonderful Life*, falls beneath my Top 20 Movie radar – But, Jimmy Stewart, in *Flight of the Phoenix*, is a near miss in my Top 20. Remember the look on Captain Frank Towns’ face when Hardy Kruger told him he designed model planes? I suppose we have to applaud Jimmy for *Anatomy of a Murder*, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, *The Philadelphia Story* and *Harvey*.

Exec’s Dot...Dot...Dot...

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

Top 20 for sure – “*One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest*”—Do you recall McMurphy, peeved that the World Series would not be shown on the tube even though Koufax was pitching, called a play-by-play to a dark screen? Even Billy Babbit and Chief Bromden were thrilled – not so Nurse Ratched... There’s some merrymaking in **Carmen Ramirez’s** honor December 6 at Café on A in Oxnard beginning at 5:30 p.m. They’re celebrating her efforts and Community Profile In Courage Award. Call Debbie DeVries at 216.4530 to reserve...

Looking for some high quality time with a view? Consider the idea of attending the annual VCTLA Holiday party December 11 in the Tower Club – Music by The Jim Calire Trio (including **Dennis Jones** playing a superb bass), and the admission fee is waived for anyone who joins or rejoins the Trial Lawyers (look for the flyer contained herein). Great spirits and munchies too... Elena Glatt, a Manhattan lawyer, is suing Posy Florists for substituting pastel pink and green hydrangeas for the rust and green ones she’d requested for her 22 wedding reception centerpieces. But she doesn’t just want her \$27,000 back – she wants damages for the “extreme disappointment and distress.” That comes to \$400,000. (www.gawker.com) – 10.16... From Mortimer Zuckerman: “I decided law was the exact opposite of sex; even when it was good it was lousy.”... **Ron Bamieh’s** open house was a festive event and well attended even though it conflicted with MABA’s annual scholarship gig 10.11. Ron’s done a spectacular job on an historical site located at 692 E. Thompson. **Mike Bradbury** was in attendance too...

Save the date—the 2008 Barristers’ edition of Bridging the Gap© will be held Saturday, January 26, in the Lower Plaza Assembly Room just below the Board of Supervisor’s Hearing Room. Free to new admittees and Barristers. Need to pick up Ethics, Bias, Substance Abuse, and three general CLE? Veteran legal eagles pay \$50 for the six hours... A former Legal Aid Society lawyer pled guilty on 10.24 to using a spy camera to videotape female co-workers changing their clothes in the office. Peter Barta won’t go to jail for the behavior he admitted was “creepy, disrespectful, juvenile and stupid.” The Georgetown University Law School grad said, “I offer no excuse or justification for my action. My behavior was inexcusable.” He’ll lose his license to practice. (www.nydailynews.com) – 10.25...

Justice Steve Perren appeared as Sir Roderic Murgatroyd in “*Ruddigore or the Witch’s Curse*,” during an October run at the Hillcrest Center for the Arts in T.O...

Remember Elizabeth Wurtzel, the author of “*Prozac Nation: Young and Depressed in America?*.” She cut her legs with a razor, abused heroin and cocaine. Well, in January she graduates from Yale Law School. She’s gone into debt with the \$43,750 yearly tuition. And she’s 40. (www.nytimes.com) – 10.28... What do the candidates Clinton, Edwards, Giuliani, Obama, Romney and Thompson have in common? Lawyers... In Case You Missed It: The ABA announced Oct. 29 they had concluded a three-year study of capital punishment systems in eight states, found so many inequities and shortfalls that the group is calling for a nationwide moratorium on executions... After 8 years in Ventura, **Rick Rabbin** is moving his solo family law practice to 90 East Thousand Oaks Blvd. New phone number is 499.1777 – Email remains the same at: rsrabbin@sbcglobal.net... **John McNamara** has departed the CDC and joined the Public Defender’s Office. You can congratulate the ’78 USD grad at johnniemac9021@hotmail.com...

18 kudos for the VC Asian American Bar Association. They held their first annual golf tournament at Las Posas CC on 10.29 with a \$25,000 hole-in-one cash prize (no takers, however). 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners took home cash prizes of \$900. Something like 45 participants raised money going to the scholarship fund for law students. Lots of work by **Mark Fang**, **Leah Gasendo**, **Dien Le**, **Stephanie Takeuchi**, **Leeton Lee**, **Julie Lin**, and interns **Scott Wintermute**, and **Sarah McEachern**... Finally, my thanks to **President Jon Light**, who didn’t rock the boat (significantly), attended 100 plus meetings, and is a consummate bar leader...

Steve Henderson has been the executive director and chief executive officer of the bar association and its affiliated organizations since November 1990. Holiday celebrations abound this year beginning December 5th at Idaho Senator Larry Craig’s home and ending New Year’s Eve in Times Square enjoying Michael Chertoff’s company. Feelin’ generous? Give to the VCBA/VLSP, Inc., a tax-deductible donation demonstrating the strength of lawyers’ generosity. Henderson remains a loyal Red Sox fan.

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