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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Matthew P. Guasco

Recently, we celebrated Law Week. It culminated in the annual Law Day 5K race which raises money for the VCBA's Volunteer Lawyers Services Program, one of the very tangible ways we attempt to provide equal justice under law to all. Law Week, however, also involves another tradition: VCBA members going out to the local schools and talking about the law, lawyers, and the justice system. With the leadership of Deirdre Frank, our members went to schools throughout the county to perform this valuable public service.

I went to Oxnard High School and talked about what lawyers do, what it takes to become a lawyer, and the different legal careers available. Reflecting on this experience and similar ones in past years, I marveled at how easy it is for us to reach out and connect with our communities in a positive way. You – the members of the VCBA – have given back to your communities in this and many other ways year after year.

During our strategic planning session earlier this year, Carmen Ramírez, a Past President of VCBA and our current District Six Representative to the State Bar Board of Governors, had an idea. In addition to our yearly Law Week speaking efforts, what if VCBA joined with educators and community organizations throughout Ventura County, but particularly in traditionally overlooked communities, as part of a continuous program of youth outreach, guidance and mentoring? A standing committee of the VCBA could be formed with the mission of organizing this youth outreach program in association with all VCBA sections and affiliates, many of whom are already helping their communities in different ways. The point of this program would be to nurture, encourage and support the future lawyers, judges, professionals, educators, business owners, and community leaders who might not realize the potential they have within them.

As I left Oxnard High School, I realized how powerful Carmen's idea was. I met young people who were outgoing, vocal and very

bright. I also met kids who were quiet, awkward and lacking in self-confidence. I wondered how many teenagers I met that day could fulfill their potential with a little extra assistance and how many might go another direction entirely without it? It is no coincidence that police officers, probation officers, district attorneys, public defenders, and other lawyers often work with children and teenagers through P.A.L., or Big Brothers and Sisters, or the Boys and Girls Club, or the Y.M.C.A. They know that sometimes the difference between the lawyer or judge as opposed to the defendant in a criminal courtroom is an adult who took an interest and gave his or her time to get involved.

Carmen has offered to give her time and her talents to lead an effort of the VCBA to get involved. The VCBA Board supports this effort, and I have committed to give my time and energy to help Carmen's vision become a reality. Others on the VCBA Board of Directors have offered to do likewise, and so this idea, like a seed, has germinated and taken root. As we begin the process of developing this program, we invite others to join us. Together we can make a difference in the lives of our children

and provide them with a path to leadership in their lives and communities. I will report to you later this year on the progress of this idea. I welcome your ideas and assistance with this project as it goes forward.

Which brings me to the point of this article. Even though I have been a member of the VCBA since I came to Ventura County in 1989, I continue to be impressed by our organization of lawyers. You give your time generously and often. You attend MCLE courses regularly. You support the Volunteer Lawyers Services Program. You serve your communities in countless ways. You make practicing in Ventura County collegial and fun, which is a far cry from lawyering in much larger urban areas. Sometimes I am so busy thinking of new goals and ways to achieve them, that I forget two simple words which you so well deserve: Thank you.

*Matthew P. Guasco is a mediator and arbitrator in Ventura. He is also Of Counsel to Norman Dowler, LLP, where he handles post-trial and appellate matters.*

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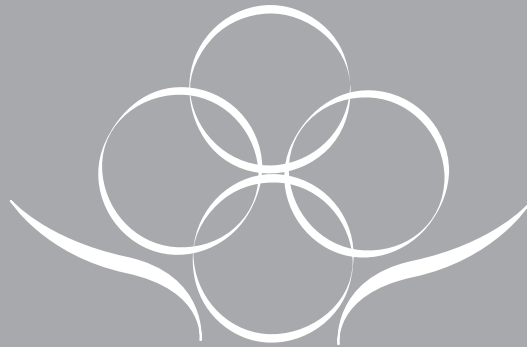
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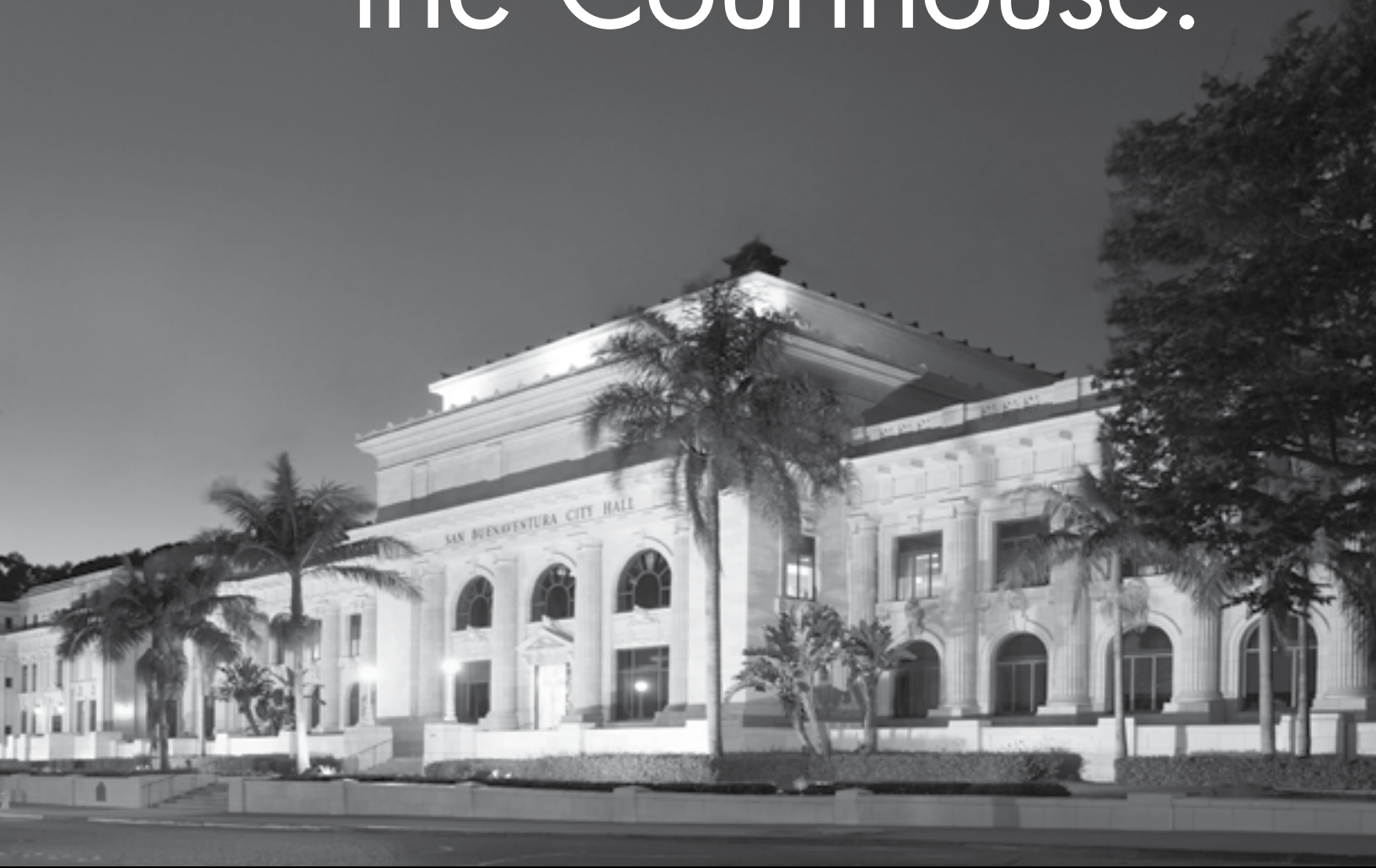
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# SANTO TOMAS: LIFE IN A JAPANESE PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

By *Lindsay F. Nielson*



December 8, 1941. A day of infamy. I know, I know, you are all thinking the old man has lost it. But the fact of the matter is that while the 7th was Pearl Harbor Day, Manila, the “Pearl of the Orient,” was bombed on the same day – on the other side of the International Date Line.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese forces also launched invasions of other Pacific areas, most notably the Philippine Islands. My family, including my father, a British citizen, and my mother, an American, had been living for many years in the Philippines, where they were involved in numerous businesses including mining, importing, and stock brokerage.

My father built the first civilian airport in Manila, which was called Nielson Airport. Nielson Airport played a strategic role in the battle for the Philippines. The two military airports, Clark Field and Nichols Field, had been bombed, but our little civilian airport was spared (although it was constantly being strafed). Later in the war it went on to become the headquarters for the Far East Army Air Force. I don't consider any World War II book worthy of its price unless it mentions Nielson Field.

In the latter part of December, 1941 notices came out from the Japanese Imperial Forces then in control of Manila that all American civilians in the city must report to Santo Tomas University. Santo Tomas is the oldest university in Asia, founded by the Jesuits in the mid-1600's. It was totally encircled by a six-foot high adobe wall, which conveniently allowed people to be interned.

My father was sent to Hong Kong to be imprisoned with other British nationals. He was there until he died. My mother, brother and I were ordered to leave our home on magnificent Manila Bay to the newly converted university/prison camp for American prisoners of war, with a three-day supply of clothes. We were there three and a half years.

There were about 3,500 American citizens interned at Santo Tomas, the largest number of American civilians interned by hostile forces in enemy territory during the war. During the years of captivity (1941-1945), the American internees organized a camp government with the appropriate committees for everything from hygiene, medical, medical care, education, entertainment, and to liaison with the Japanese camp commandant.

Discipline was severe. Failure to abide by the rules led to harsh punishment. Each time you encountered a Japanese guard it was necessary to bow. If you didn't bow low enough you were hit by their batons. On more than one occasion my mother, a strong willed woman, was taken from Santo Tomas to Bilabid Prison to serve a detention for some perceived infraction or insult to our captors.

Food was always scarce and was a constant struggle. We were, however, allowed to grow our own vegetables and bananas. The adults always made sure the children received nourishment while they did without.

On one occasion in the latter part of the captivity, it was announced that the guards were going to kill a water buffalo or caribou, and portions of the animal would be made available to internees. My family got two buckets of the poor beast's blood. At great risk, my mother secretly cooked the blood into a pudding and managed to share this high

protein meal with our family and neighbors. Later, I learned of another internee who lived in Ventura also. I related this story, and he said his family got two hoes that they boiled into a broth. I told him we should try to put that poor animal back together if we could find who got the other parts.

Death, disease and deprivation were everywhere. Once healthy and vibrant people were after years of starvation reduced to mere walking skeletons. Many died while prisoners. My mother eventually lost a kidney due to the severe conditions. The children, including me, were spared the worst part of the deprivation because our parents and the many other adults always did without so we could eat.

There were small privations as well as large. In 1943, one internee wrote a letter to the camp commandant on behalf of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp Finances Supply Committee:

*Dear Sir:*

*In reference toilet paper.*

*We have not received a delivery of toilet paper since the latter part of January. It is now March and it is now most urgent that we obtain additional supplies. Since our last delivery we have made the issues only to women and children on a strict rationing basis. The men have been using scrap paper which had been donated to the camp. As previously reported, this paper is no longer available and our supply is now almost completely exhausted.*

*Our previous requests have been for 16 cases per month and we respectfully request your kind assistance in getting a permit for the purpose of this quantity at this time. With the increased population of the camp and the exhausted supply of scrap paper the requested 16 cases will meet our minimum requirement only on a very strict ration basis.*

*Your kind assistance will be greatly appreciated.*

*Yours truly,*

*Earl Carroll, Chairman*



On February 1st, 1945, two days before the ultimate liberation, a low-flying American spotter plane flew over the camp and a small object was tossed to the ground. The pilot had dropped his goggles with a note scribbled inside. The Japanese wouldn't know what it meant, but to the Americans in the camp, the note needed no further explanation: it proclaimed, "Roll out the barrels." General MacArthur had kept his famous pledge to return to the Philippines. American forces were on their way!

"I shall return" had been the hope and inspiration of tens of thousands – both American and Filipino nationals. The First Cavalry Division landed some 50 miles north of Manila on Luzon Island. MacArthur had ordered them to form a "flying column" to proceed directly through enemy territory to free the Americans held captive in Santo Tomas. The 41st Tank Battalion was ordered not to engage enemy forces but to go directly

to the camp and liberate the imprisoned American citizens. The General feared massive efforts to kill the prisoners as a last desperation measure. American forces had broken the Japanese code and intercepted the message directing that the guards undertake such a slaughter in the event of defeat.

When the troops reached the adobe walls of the old University on the evening of February 3rd, 1945, their tanks crashed through the gates with little difficulty. Pandemonium broke loose. My mother, normally a strong and rational person, was swept up by the rumors that the Japanese were coming to annihilate the prisoners. This was not the salvation all had prayed for.

In the melee, as she ran down one of the main streets of the University, she confronted a large tank that came to a jolting halt in front

*Continued on page 10.*



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## SANTO TOMAS: LIFE IN A JAPANESE PRISONER OF WAR CAMP



of her. As she saw the hatch being opened and the metal helmet slowly rising above the open hatch, she thought it surely would be her last moment on earth; she expected to be shot. What she heard, however, never left her memory. In a deep southern accent a trooper demanded, "Lady, would you please move your goddamn ass, we are trying to fight a goddamn war!" My mother always said that in her lifetime many beautiful words were spoken to her, but none more beautiful than those spoken by that GI on that February evening in 1945. I later verified that one of the first two tanks into the camp was called "The Georgia Peach." The Army has detailed records of every combat mission.

As the liberation of the camp began, the Japanese camp commandant took several hundred prisoners hostage up in the main administration building. Two days of tense negotiations finally resolved the drama, when the Japanese guards were allowed to march from the camp with their weapons, under armed escort on both sides by American troops. Once they left the grounds of Santo Tomas, they were allowed to break and run into the streets of Manila. No lives had been lost in that standoff, to the great credit of the camp civilian leaders and the military commanders of both forces.

Within weeks we were loaded on to a converted cargo ship (converted by putting two-anti aircraft guns on it) steaming for San Francisco. For three days we were followed by a submarine. It wasn't known whether it was Japanese or American, so we all had to sleep on deck in our life jackets. Fortunately, it turned out to be an American submarine, and we made the passage to San Francisco in slightly more than two weeks. Although I was

not yet five years old, I can still recall sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge.

The emotional impact of arriving home in the sheltering protection of San Francisco Bay was overwhelming... even to a 5-year-old. All of the former prisoners were on deck, and the relief

purpose. I can only say to them, although belatedly, "Thank you. And well done, well done, indeed."

It has been more than 63 years since my liberation from the Great War. Will Rogers once said: "If we really wanted to honor the

---

***"I often say that some people end up in prison, but I started out that way and got it over with early."***

---

and happiness of homecoming were beyond description. We were met by our families in the Embarcadero, having passed through the same port that millions of returning soldiers would soon also experience.

I often wish I could have thanked that GI who so eloquently asked my mother to let the troops do their tasks. He, along with millions like him, left the safety of their homes all across America to fight in places they couldn't even pronounce to free people they didn't even know, people like my family and me. They performed their duty with bravery and

veterans, we ought to let them sit in the stands and have the citizens march by." That's still not a bad idea.

America should never forget, particularly in these trying times, what it has stood for and what price is paid for freedom. And most importantly, it should never forget the men and women who stood tall and did their duty when their country called. I know I never will.

*Lindsay Nielson is a lawyer and real estate appraiser who practices in Ventura.*

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# CITATIONS Welcomes (Back) Ventura's New City Attorney,

## Ariel Calonne

By Eric R. Reed



**A**riel Calonne always had a soft spot for San Buenaventura.

After all, Calonne (pronounced like “cologne”) began his public law career as Ventura’s Deputy City Attorney in 1986. Two of his children began their lives here. Fortunately, his first six months on the job have not dampened his affection.

### The New Sheriff

Ventura’s City Council hired Calonne in August 2007 after a nationwide search to replace Bob Boehm, who retired in June of that year after more than a decade as City Attorney. Calonne liked what he found after his twenty-year absence. “This City Council is committed to civic engagement, and [City Manger] Rick Cole is brilliant,” he observed. “They aren’t the politically ambitious types you often see in leadership. It’s nice to have clients sincerely concerned about the community.”

He also lauds what he believes is an effective and progressive governance paradigm for municipal leaders. “They evaluate their choices on the three ‘E’s’: environment, economy and equity. Boulder just started to get this going when I left, so this is going to be a great learning lab.”

### The Winding Path

Calonne’s story is quintessentially American. His mother Mariam arrived in the United States at age two, the daughter of Armenian parents who had settled in Calcutta, India during the early 1900’s. His French father, Pierre, arrived as an adult after the Second World War; he sought to begin anew after serving under Charles De Gaulle in the Free French Army during Second World War. The two met in Hollywood in 1947, where Pierre worked as a cashier for Bank of America and Mariam worked for Columbia

Studios. After Calonne’s birth the family lived in Mar Vista before settling in Thousand Oaks, where he graduated from high school in 1975.

Calonne majored in biology at UC Riverside. Upon graduation, he joined the California Department of Food and Agriculture as an Environmental Hazards Specialist on that agency’s first pollution research unit. The fledgling biologist discovered that his scientific training prepared him well for an ostensibly unrelated vocation: lawyer.

Growing concern over environmental issues led the California Legislature and courts to confront water pollution issues head-on in the 1970s. Calonne found himself on the front lines of this effort when his CFDA unit was charged with monitoring water pesticide drift in Riverside County.

He didn’t stay in the fields long, but kept close to the issues. He enrolled at UC Hastings College of the Law within a year. He clerked at the California Coastal Commission and then went to work for Best, Best & Krieger, an environmental and municipal law firm. After three years in private practice, he moved to Ventura to accept a position as Deputy City Attorney under then-City Attorney Donald Greenberg. The two had met before when Calonne served as lead associate on the special counsel team hired by the City of Ventura to defend *Hansen v. City of San Buenaventura*, a ratemaking class action that eventually reached the California Supreme Court.

Calonne enjoyed working for the City and was elevated to Assistant City Attorney after 18 months. He nevertheless arrived at a sobering conclusion within months of his promotion: The small office had no room for career advancement. He accepted an offer to join Los Angeles municipal law firm Richard, Watson & Gershon, where he stayed another two years. The firm gave him the opportunity to serve as a contract city attorney or assistant city attorney for Rancho Palos Verdes, Palmdale and Westlake Village.

Palo Alto presented Calonne the promotion he was waiting for when it named him City Attorney in 1990. The city controlled all its utilities and enjoyed a long history of careful development (thanks in part to the presence of Stanford University). Palo Alto’s proximity to California’s technology center appealed to his long-held interest in computers and science, and he took full advantage of local resources. He created the nation’s first city website and NT

network, and began the nation’s first city attorney “listserv” to keep municipal attorneys abreast of the latest developments.

Calonne’s listserv soon boasted several hundred attorneys and continues to this day. The project led to his being named Public Attorney of the Year in 2003 by the Public Law Section of the State Bar of California. “It was nice to be recognized after all of the work we put into it,” said Calonne of the award. “For years people laughed at me for being a techie, so this was very validating.”

Calonne remained in Palo Alto for thirteen years. In 2003, he moved to Boulder, Colorado to pursue what he describes as a mid-career learning experience. “The legal field is an intellectual profession. If you don’t force yourself to learn, it becomes a trade.” Colorado brought a new climate and a larger office with an expanded in-house litigation team. He stayed for four years, until he learned of an irresistible opening in his native Ventura County.

### The Return Home

The move from Boulder allowed Calonne to downsize in many respects. Although the two cities house nearly identical populations – a shade over 100,000–Boulder’s City Attorney’s Office boasted a staff of 19, compared to Ventura’s six. He appreciated having an in-house litigation team but grew tired of the heavy administrative load. “In order to keep my hands on each case as well as the administration, I had to work seven days a week. I wanted to collaborate with my attorneys, but it was killing me,” Calonne admits. “Boulder is considered the fittest city in the nation, but I managed to gain weight and rarely get outside.”

Calonne found his new Ventura office in good shape. “Bob Boehm and I have very different styles, but he hired a talented office. He followed the Silicon Valley adage: A’s hire A’s, and B’s hire C’s. Ventura has a fine staff.”

### Looking Forward

Calonne seeks to improve the office but doesn’t foresee radical change. “I would like to build up our in-house litigation capability and change how we work with outside counsel. But I will stay heavily involved in the substantive aspects of the cases we have. I can’t do justice to six or seven attorneys, though, so the office will not grow significantly.” Not surprisingly, he also hopes to integrate the newest technology into the operation.



As before, Calonne remains committed to using his position to improve the image and practice of municipal law. "My colleagues and I need to bring young lawyers into the profession. Public law is often perceived as a steady job with mediocre wages and little challenge. We began rebelling against this model in the 1980's. Lawyers like [former SB City Attorney] Steve Amerikaner and [former Berkeley City Attorney] Natalie West, who came from top schools, brought an intellectual and progressive edge to the profession." Calonne proposes a practical idea for recruiting those usually swayed into big-firm practice. "I want to establish a post-graduate municipal law fellowship to entice excellent students into the profession. It would be similar to a clerkship but a student could spend that year or two with a municipal entity such as the Ventura City Attorney's Office."

*Citations* wishes Ariel Calonne the best of luck in this latest chapter of a distinguished career.

*Eric Reed is an associate at Lascher & Lascher in Ventura, where he practices appellate law.*



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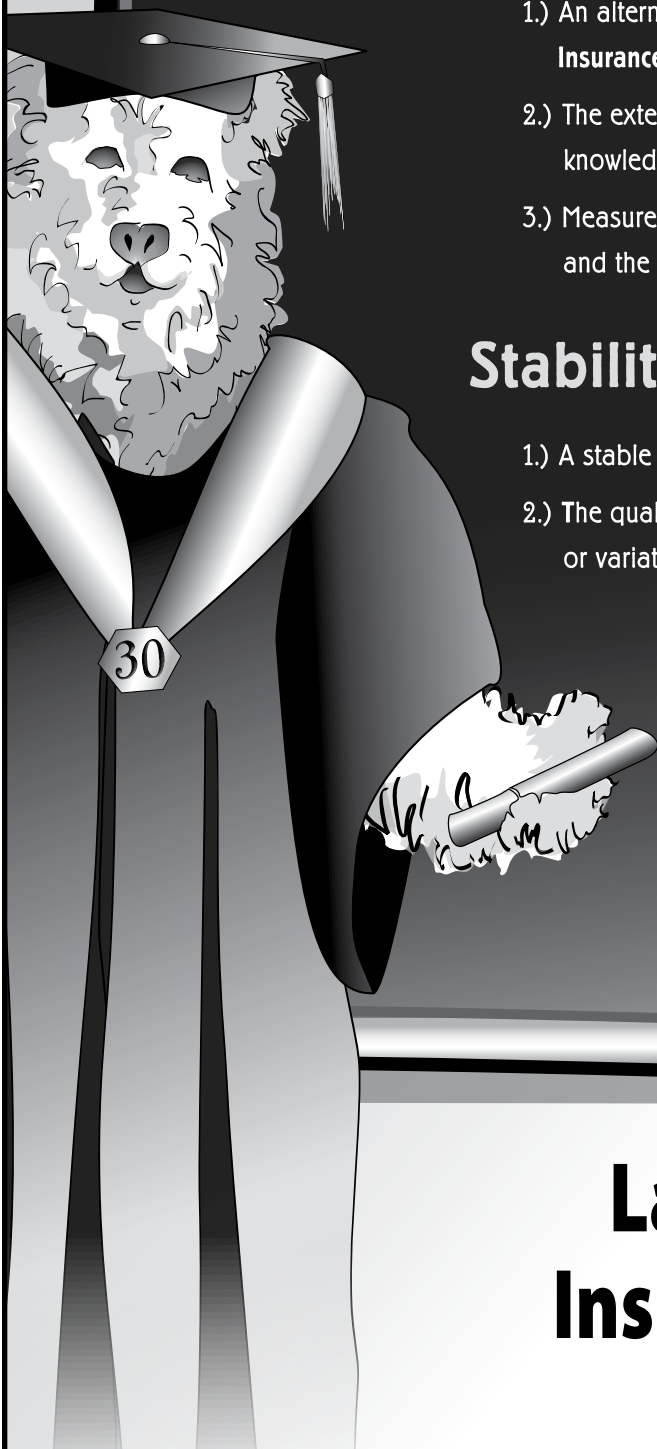
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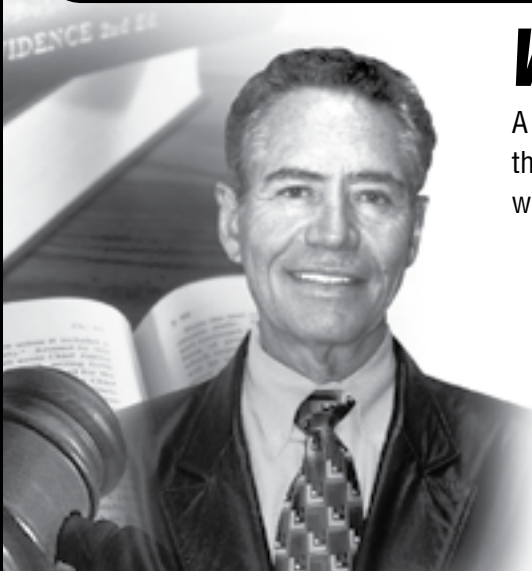
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# PRO-BONO HIGHLIGHTS

By Verna R. Kagan

Earlier in the year the director of Prototypes Women's Center contacted me. This is a live-in center for drug and alcohol-addicted women and their children. Her quest was to see if VLSP could provide a group of attorneys to come and speak at the facility about their legal specialties. Many legal issues confront these women.

I put out some calls and had some beautiful responses. Melissa Cohen brought her expertise in family law. Cheri Kurman spoke from her substantial experience in guardianship. Brian Vogel most generously gave of his expertise in criminal law. Yours truly brought up the rear, so to speak, from some years-ago experience in dependency court.

Those of us who could were invited to stay on for lunch after our talks. Brian Vogel, I noticed, spent his after talk-time offering advice to individual women. I owe him gratitude for that extra effort.

The reputation of the Bar Association is enhanced by the contribution that these fine Bar members made to the education and assistance to the general community and more specially to those most in need. I am sure everyone's effort was much appreciated. May I add my thanks and job well done.

*Verna Kagan is VLSP Senior Emeritus Attorney*

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# LAW LIBRARY RECORDS NOW ONLINE

By Jane Meyer

The first meeting of the Ventura County Law Library Board of Trustees was held on April 18, 1891 as a result of Chapter 225 of the Statutes of California and Amendments to the Codes, An Act to Establish Law Libraries. The Board began buying books pursuant to the act. According to the year-end report for December 3, 1900 the library owned a total of 1,078 volumes: the National Reporter System, the federal decisions and the California Codes. By 1967 the collection had grown to 16,500 volumes.

We've come a long way. At last count the library collection consisted of 9,025 print titles with 70,715 volumes, 1,155 audio tapes and 77 videotapes. To meet changing legal information needs, the library also has eight public access computer terminals with online subscriptions to Westlaw, Shepard's Citations, CEB's Onlaw and full access to the Internet. Our Westlaw package includes the California and national litigation packages, public records, medical malpractice litigation, and California pleadings, motions, and trial briefs. Shepard's Online covers case citations and will link from the citation information to the case online at Lexis. Our CEB Onlaw subscription covers around 90 CEB titles, including forms. Unfortunately our licensing agreements with these publishers do not allow access to our electronic subscriptions from outside the library's four walls. However, you are able to copy your results to portable USB drives or email them to yourself.

The library also provides Microsoft Office on the public computers.

To make the print and audiovisual resources more accessible, in March 2006 the library embarked on a project to produce an online catalog that would be available both in the library and through the Internet. Although still a work in progress, the catalog is now available from our website at <http://www.ventcolawlib.org>. Three different search functions are available on the catalog: Simple, Browse and Power Search. Using the Power Search gives you the advantage of combining different categories, such as "Author" and "Subject," to search multiple terms simultaneously. In Power Search you can also do a keyword search on the entire bibliographic record, enabling you to retrieve information from all fields in the record such

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This summer we will begin using our automated circulation system. Library patrons will be issued library cards that will allow them to check out materials and to access their accounts online. To launch the

new catalog, the Law Library will be hosting an electronic open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15th. We will be demonstrating our online products, including our catalog and issuing library cards. Please come and join us at the Government Center as we move further into the 21st century.

*Jane Meyer is the Director of the Ventura County Law Library.*

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# ANIMAL SUFFRAGE - LET FREEDOM HOWL

By Michael McQueen

I have watched with perplexed bemusement as the burgeoning animal rights movement has snared the imagination of a largely soporific public, mesmerized by that great left wing conspiracy known as the media. For years the media has fed us a constant stream of stories about horse whisperers, cat whisperers, horse masseuses, special needs ducks, animal psychics and shaggy dog stories. Since *Old Yeller*, *Bambi* and *Finding Nemo*, Disney has cultivated an imaginative mass hallucination that animals are equivalent to humans but in a different form and much nicer.

We have come to the point that there is custody litigation between primate centers in Portland and New Orleans addressing the "best interests" of a chimp. A pending German case involves a confused individual who wants chimps declared human because they share 99% of the human genome. While rapes and massacres continue in Darfur, raising an occasional American eyebrow, Michael Vick's cultural proclivity to use fighting dogs – bred for that very purpose – brings forth media indignation and condemnation, seemingly without one person in the country hazarding the observation that perhaps the punishment far outweighed the crime.

Kate Neiswender, a friend and local attorney who is one of the state's most prominent animal

rights attorneys, accuses me of intolerance of other people's values. I have to admit that I find the emotional and irrational investment of some individuals in companion animals to be utter nonsense and a perversion of priorities. The emptiness of people's lives that require that they establish imaginary relationships with animals is of no concern to me. We all hear of those dotty little old ladies who have 35 cats in their house. Doesn't bother me one way or the other. But when these dotty aunties leave their dank, urine-stained cat sanctuaries to impose their emotionally wounded values on society, I become churlish. Admittedly, I do admire groups such as PETA that have tapped into this abyss of emotional need to create a steady flow of money. It is what they do with that money that I find objectionable. I admitted to Kate that I am not particularly supportive of the social mantra of "tolerance," especially the tolerance of idiocy or mendacity. Tolerance of others who seek to impose their values on you is not a good attribute; it is a formula that encourages social despotism as determined by the lowest common denominator.

But Kate is persuasive and has convinced me that I must cast aside my judgmental, intolerant, curmudgeonly attitude, and embrace the animal rights movement with joyful enthusiasm. The more I considered the issue the more obvious

it became that no one can hold back the surging and inevitable tide of the animal rights movement.

## The Manifest Destiny of the Animal Rights Movement

I must confess that I was hopelessly out of touch with growing public sentiment in this area. Frankly, I read with astonishment the PETA house publication assertion that PETA considers the animal rights movement to be the logical successor to the civil rights movement. A herd of animal sympathizers has been pushing legislation amending the Probate Code to allow the establishment of trusts for animals. A recent bill sponsored by Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, of the Republic of Santa Monica, allows family law courts to grant protective orders to animals. Rather than continue this hodgepodge approach to animal rights, I have grasped the progressive bull by the horns. I am proposing that we not hesitate at animal rights, but recognize where we are inevitably heading. We must pass universal animal suffrage.

## Establishing Animal Voting Trusts

Before the more conservative, practical-minded troglodytes out there snicker that this is nonsense and unworkable, let's consider how



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we can make it work. We could take a page from corporate law and establish voting trusts for different classes of animals. We could then locate all those animal whisperers of every sort and appoint them as trustees to vote on behalf of the trusts as they deem is in the best interest of their animal wards. We should not allow ourselves to become ensnared in the controversy of the relative values of different animals. Let's just recognize that all creatures, great and small, deserve full representation. I know there are dog lovers out there who don't see the relative worth of cats, and vice versa. By establishing voting trusts all the different animal classes can be equally represented.

#### Animal Protective Services

In pursuing progress, we should establish a government-controlled bureaucracy or Animal Protective Service (APS). APS could send investigators into neighborhoods to determine whether Fido and Ms. Kitty are getting the appropriate attention and care. Because this is a progressive movement, all animals must be treated equally, notwithstanding their inherent differences. Who is to say that a gerbil is any less valuable than a purebred chocolate lab or a parakeet? APS could use its bureaucratic oversight to conduct warrantless searches based on confidential accusations of alleged animal mistreatment. Failure to provide adequate bedding, fresh meat, or appropriate entertainment would allow the APS to force the derelict owner to undergo pet counseling or to remove the animals and place them in foster pet homes with more sympathetic and sensitive pet owners.

#### The Distribution of Wealth

We should also progressively tax those animal trusts that are deemed overfunded. For example, the recent \$12,000,000 trust established by Leona Helmsly for her nasty little doggy, in preference to her own grandchildren, could be redistributed to establish trusts for neglected pit bulls raised in the poorer parts of town. When the pet beneficiary dies we should mandate that the residue be redistributed to trusts for other less fortunate animals, like guinea pigs and snakes.

#### Animal Right to Organize

We must allow animals to form their own unions. Animals that are exploited in Hollywood movies can join a Screen Animals Guild. Those German Shepherds and Doberman Pinschers utilized in security should be unionized, just as

*Continued on page 24.*

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## ANIMAL SUFFRAGE LET FREEDOM HOWL

private security forces are, with compensation that greatly exceeds that paid to those animals employed by the military.

Dog racing, horse racing, rodeos, circuses, recreational horse back riding, zoos and the pig races at the County Fair should be banned. Animals bred for these purposes will inevitably all die, out so unionizing activities would be moot.

### Universal Pet Health Care

We should tax every biped in the United States to provide universal pet healthcare to any animal for any purpose. We need to prohibit euthanasia to avoid the religious protests that can surely be anticipated. Obviously, all animal testing that might be used for the benefit of mankind should be completely banned. Mandatory walks, unlawful pet treats and carefully scrutinized caloric intake will be needed to combat the growing epidemic of pet obesity. It should be a form of pet abuse to allow your pet to get chunky.

### Outlaw Pet Eugenics

We must outlaw the slave trade of Mississippi puppy mills and ban the practice of animal eugenics to keep from interbreeding animals to develop traits suited for humans rather than the animals themselves. We should enforce mongrelization; elitist purebred animals should be outlawed and forcefully fixed. We should recognize that all domesticated animals were once wild. Wolves that once looked at humans as food have been genetically altered to look at humans as the source of food. To balance the normal course of nature, we should consider reintroducing mankind back into the food chain. Those of us who fail to pay attention will be culled by lions, tigers and bears. This will greatly improve the gene pool.

For those who believe this would be an inexcusable and improper government interference with private property rights, we merely need to remind them that pet ownership is a privilege and not a right. It takes a village to raise a cat. Our government knows best. Humans are merely the custodians and caregivers of their pets, and we must provide an equal opportunity to all animals; where every chicken has a free range and every dog has its day.

*Michael McQueen practices business, estate planning, natural resources, and real estate law in Camarillo.*

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## EAR TO THE WALL

The Law Office of Hoefflin & Associates, A.L.C. is pleased to announce that **Tamara L. Harper, Esq.**, has joined the firm as a trademark, estate planning, employment and corporate attorney. **Ms. Harper** has been practicing in California since 1994 and is also registered to practice law in the United States Supreme Court, U.S. District Court of California, Central District of California, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Ms. Harper joins **Richard M. Hoefflin, Cynthia R. Hodes, Jason M. Burrows, and Steve A. Meadville.**

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Ventura College of Law and its sister institution, Santa Barbara College of Law, have been recredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California for the maximum period of five years following a multi-day inspection by a four-member visiting team. Accreditation was first granted to the Colleges more than 27 years ago; since then, regular students have not been required to take the First Year Law Students' Exam.

The accreditation team's 50-page report lauded the Colleges for excellence of instruction. "Among the schools' strengths are the experience and quality of the faculty and administration, the quality of classroom instruction, the modern and well-equipped facilities, the general thoroughness of student and faculty files, the law library, and the financial stability of the Colleges."

The Committee also commended the Colleges for innovation in offering four areas of concentration. Students who focus their elective coursework may, upon graduation, earn a certificate in business, estate planning, criminal, or family law. Among the other opportunities available to the Colleges' law students are participation in an annual Moot Court competition, and internships with local courts, legal service organizations, and firms providing pro bono legal assistance.

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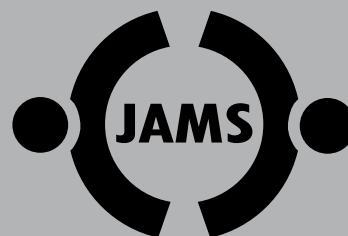
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# Exec's Dot...Dot...Dot...

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

Lookin' for some early morning hoops action before conquering a day at the office? A few Barrister types are ballin' Wednesday mornings at the gawd awful hour of 6:30 a.m. in Thiele Park. **Doug Goldwater**, **Aris Karakalos**, **Mike Strauss**, **Matt LaVere**, **Mike Velthoen**, and **Stuart Nielson** kind of organize things – want to join in? Dgoldwater@fcoplaw.com. Barristers are contemplating a 3-on-3 tournament in September, so get into shape . . . From Ambrose Bierce: “*Misdemeanor*: (n.) An infraction of the law having less dignity than a felony and constituting no claim to admittance into the best criminal society.” . . . Alaskan Cruise? **Don Hurley** at don.hurley@ventura.org . . . Grand Canyon? **Susan Gans-Smith** at ganssmith@comcast.net . . . Cyprus? **Panda Kroll** at panda.kroll@verizon.net . . . To Rome on Azmara Quest? **Howard Evans** at hbevans@roadrunner.com . . .

140 folks attended the luncheon featuring speaker Charlie Weis, Notre Dame football coach. Organized locally by the ND Club of Ventura, in attendance were lawyers **Dave Bender**, **Doug Kulper**, **Lou Cappadona**, **Terry McConville** and **Justice Paul Coffee**. **Joe Strohman** got to introduce the big fella, and the 1964 Heisman Trophy winner, John Huarte, was present too. Joe was just elected President of the Notre Dame Club of Ventura County . . . From a young Richard Nixon on the Teapot Dome scandal: “When I grow up, I want to be an honest lawyer so things like that can't happen.” . . . **Eric Reed's** a daddy! Little Emelia was born May 6 at 3:34 a.m. (ouch) and weighed-in at 7 lbs., 9 oz. Momma Jennifer is doing fine.

**Phil Panitz** the next Hemingway? Steve Lopez has a thrice-weekly column that appears in the California section of the *LA Times*. Last month Lopez launched a contest of sorts where he started a story and invited readers to join in by emailing subsequent chapters, one published each day in the print and website newspapers. The book, called “*Birds of Paradise*,” received nearly 700 submissions a day. Phil's won on April 19 and was published that day too. Winners got to read their chapters aloud at the Festival of Books . . . From Jimmy Carter: “Ninety percent of our lawyers serve 10 percent of our people. We are over-lawyered and under-represented.” . . . And this beaunt from Clarence Darrow: “There is no such thing as justice – in or out of court.” . . . In the recently published book, *Who Was First? Discovering the Americas* by Russell Freedman, are photographs of a model and text on 15th century Chinese Admiral Zheng He's treasure ships. The four-foot long model was researched and built by four Ventura County Maritime Museum Model Guild members, including their current Captain, **Richard Walton** . . .

The American Youth Soccer Organization, serving over 750,000 players in 48 states, announced that **Joel Mark** would be inducted into the AYSO Hall of Fame, at the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame in New York, August 2. Joel is a 24-year volunteer for AYSO who served on its National Board of Directors (1998-2004) and as its National President (2000-2004). Joel will be the 36th inductee and currently is the Chair of the AYSO Audit Committee . . . TV Law – Alan Shore (James Spader): “Let me tell you two things about myself. I too am a lawyer, I can be painfully vindictive, and I do not play fair.” Lester Tremont (Mark Tymchyshyn): “That's three things.” Alan Shore: “See? Not playing fair already. And I'm just getting started.” – *Boston Legal* . . . From Benjamin Franklin: “That it is better one hundred guilty persons should escape than that one innocent person should suffer, is a maxim that has been long and generally approved.” . . .

The **Ventura County Asian American Bar Association** hosted its 3rd Annual Installation and Scholarship Awards Banquet featuring keynote, Stewart Kwoh, founder and director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California. A \$2,000 scholarship was awarded to Angela Buendia, a 3rd year law student at the Southern California Institute of Law. She is a single mother who has worked hard to further her education since coming

from the Philippines 11 years ago. She plans to work in the field of immigration law. Hats off to event organizers **Brain Nomi**, **Leeton Lee**, and **Mark Fang** . . . Stage Review: I hear “*Thurgood*”, starring Laurence Fishburne, is 90 minutes of gold. If you are in New York, it's at the Booth Theatre . . . From Jon Stewart: “Some scholars have argued the Constitution clearly states only Congress can declare war, and they are not allowed to simply delegate that authority to the President. However, you can get around that with the legal technique of taking the word constitution and adding the word *shmonstitution* to the end of it.” . . . Top 20 Movie *Parenthood* – “Jason Robards to Steve Martin: “You worry too much, you always did. *Parenthood*, it never, ever ends.” Not a Top 20 of mine, but saw it again on HBO for the first time in years – *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*. Spicoli having pizza delivered to class kills me still (I've done it myself at movie theatres). Two future Academy Award winners with Penn and Forrest Whitaker . . .

**Rob Sawyer**, easily the greatest Dodger apologist in the history of mankind, has landed a big time job beginning July 1 with Best Best & Krieger's Sacramento office in the Environmental Law & Natural Resources Practice Group. Rob will still represent a number of Ventura area clients in water and land use matters . . . Recommended Reading: *The Little Green Book of Golf Law*, by John H. Minan. ABA Publications, 120 pages, \$17.95. A law professor, Minan has picked 19 cases to correspond to the usual 18 holes played in a round, and one for the traditional 19th hole. Every chapter takes a look at a different set of facts and involves an actual case involving golf . . . From Aristotle: “Law is order, and good law is good order.” . . . Come enjoy the New Admittee Swearing-In Ceremony June 4, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom 22 . . . Thirsty on the 3rd Thursday? Barristers host a monthly event called Thirsty Thursday – kep@wood-bender.com . . .

*Steve Henderson has been executive director and chief executive officer of the bar association and its affiliated organizations since November 1990. Henderson notes that Roger Clemens is no longer held in high esteem and has ordered all his son's baseball cards with Roger's mug on it to Craig's list. Back spasms prevented Henderson from winning the Law Day 5K, but he vows a triumphant return in '09.*

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Michelle Shabo was admitted to the California State Bar in November 2007. She received her Juris Doctor from Nova Southeastern University in Florida and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington. She has prior service at the Ventura District Attorney's Office and was an Articles Editor of Law Review at Nova Southeastern University.

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