THE NEW FAST TRACK RULES OR “BE THERE, OR BE SQUARE”

by Mark E. Hancock

Page 6
Are you sitting on a huge referral fee?

Refer your CA and NV personal injury cases to us.

(805) 650-7778

Recent Referral Fees PAID:
$400,000 Motorcycle Accident, Riverside County
$360,000 Slip and Fall, Riverside County
$54,486 Auto Accident, Clark County, NV
$40,500 Slip and Fall, Monterey County

4222 Market Street, Suite C, Ventura, CA 93003
As I was settling into my new office at Hathaway, Perrett, Webster, Powers, Chrisman & Gutierrez, my old former adversary and new colleague, Alex Gutierrez, came into my office to welcome me. He was not the first. Everyone here has been so nice to this old warrior. Anyway, Alex and I spent some time catching up, and he also spent some time giving me the 411 on how things work around here.

Toward the end of the conversation, he mentioned how he enjoyed my past President’s Messages and asked me how I came up with the topics. My only thought was: “Holy crap! I have another deadline for the September issue of CITATIONS.”

I know that the President’s Message is supposed to have some relationship to weighty issues relevant to Ventura County practitioners. In an earlier message, which I am sure you all read with great interest, I offered some reflections on the transition, perceptions and changes that brought me to Ventura County 13 years ago. This month, however, all I can offer are a few more reflections on the transitions, perceptions and changes that have shaped my own life over the past several months. So, please indulge me. I promise you, as I promised Alex, that future messages will return to more relevant issues of the day.

The first transition, as you know, is my transition from the Nordman firm to the Hathaway firm. What I discovered in the process was that the Ventura County legal community is very much like its own law firm. So many of you were kind enough to reach out to me and the other survivors of the sinking of the Nordman firm – all with genuine wishes for our future success as we went elsewhere, and many with offers of housing or more formal associations. As of this time, everyone – attorneys and staff – has ended up somewhere or has an offer to do so when the Nordman firm finally is wound down.

Having been a partner in a prior life in the largest law firm in the world, Baker & McKenzie, a firm with about four times the number of current members of the VCBA, I can attest that I feel closer to my “partners” here within the Ventura County legal community than I ever did with most of my partners at Baker & McKenzie. I again repeat that it is good to know that we still have here a sense of community that holds strong even as we are competitors and adversaries.

The second major transition in my life recently, and again I apologize for using this forum for such a personal reflection, was the passing of my father, Dr. Jerome S. Mark. He passed exactly 95 1/2 years to the date and hour of his birth. He had quite a run, and I know of no one who lived life more fully. For 50 years, he was a practicing pediatrician in the San Fernando Valley. He was a consummate professional, he was an expert diagnostician, and he had an exceptional bedside manner. As someone once related to me: “Your dad was ‘mellow’ before anyone knew what the meant.” Frankly, I think his love of the profession was directed far more to the mothers than to the patients. That was Pop.

I remember the time he retired. A letter was sent out to his patients about it. I recall taking my daughter’s soccer team to an after-game pizza lunch and overhearing two women in the booth behind me lamenting about the retirement of Dr. Mark and how they were so concerned that they would never find another pediatrician as good as my dad.

As good a physician as my father was, however, he was a challenge as a parent. His father died when my dad was five, and his mother had severe health issues. By all accounts, she was not much of a parent either. So my dad had to make up parenting as he went along, especially after my Mom passed when I was just 14.

I would say he got it right about 85 percent of the time. Other times, however, as I got older, we would get into it. A number of those conversations would end with him extending his middle finger and walking out of the room. I came to understand that it was not a mean or obscene gesture. It was just his way of telling me: “Ok, kid, I admit you are right, but I still am the father and I still get the final word.”

On the day he passed, I got the call that he had been put on life support, and they wanted a family member to come down to the hospital in Santa Monica. Leslie and I raced down there, probably breaking several traffic laws in the process. When we arrived, it was clear that he no longer was cognitive. The doctor told me that he probably had had a massive stroke or heart attack, but that he was functionally gone with no hope of recovery.

Ever the lawyer, looking for any loophole, I asked repeatedly: “Are you sure? Is there nothing else that can be done?” After much persistence along that vein, the doctor finally lost patience with me and told me that he was so sorry, but that my dad really was functionally deceased. I finally gave the doctor permission to give the order to remove life support.

As Leslie and I stood by his bedside, she looked down at his left hand and exclaimed: “Look!” As he had slipped away, his left hand had curled up into a soft fist, except that his middle finder was extended as straight as could be.

“Well, Old Man,” I thought, “You got the final last word again one more time after all.”

What does my dad’s passing have to do with the Ventura County legal community? All I know is that, when I first joined the Nordman Firm, Jon Light included me in a panel presentation on employment law. When
40 years litigation experience-AV rated.
Personal injury, business, construction, employment, real estate, probate/trust, partnership and corporate disputes and dissolutions
Member: American Board of Trial Advocates
Past President Ventura County Bar Association and Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association
American Arbitration Association and NASD arbitrator
Trained Mediator– Pepperdine University Straus Institute
Reasonable fees and flexible scheduling. No administrative charges.

Richard M. Norman
Of Counsel
Norman Dowler, LLP
840 County Square Drive
Ventura, California 93003-5406
(805) 654-0911 RNorman@normandowler.com
Jon introduced me, he began by explaining: “Joel’s father saw me naked.” Jon had been a patient of my dad’s. So, I guess the old man did have at least some influence within the Ventura County legal community, if only with regard to the care and well-being of Jon Light’s rear end.

Finally, I want to thank everyone in our legal community who was aware of both of these personal transitions and who reached out and offered support to me as I have gone through them. I appreciate that support so very much. Thank you.

Joel Mark is of counsel to Hathaway, Perrett, Webster, Powers, Chrisman & Gutierrez in Ventura. He is happy to be managing nothing anymore, except for his duties as President of the Ventura County Bar Association. He thanks all of his colleagues for their well wishes regarding the transitions about which this message is written.
By now, attorneys should be aware that changes have been made in how the Ventura Superior Court manages compliance with the civil case management rules, AKA “fast track.” The overall effect of these changes is that the court is now less maternal; the parties and their attorneys are, under this new regime, more responsible for their own compliance with the fast track/case management rules and deadlines.

One of the changes is how courts deal with the case management conference. Gone is the day of all the little subsidiary conferences and OSCs re service, when the Court would mail out a “Notice of Case Management Conference” to counsel several months after the filing of a case, requesting “Case Management Statements” from counsel, regarding such subjects as service, discovery still to be done and trial length estimate to be filed no later than fifteen days prior to the case management conference.

Now, pursuant to Rule 3.03.1 of the Ventura County Superior Court Rules, and Rule 3.722 of the California Rules of Court, a “Notice of Case Assignment and Mandatory Appearance” is provided to counsel filing a new complaint at the time of that filing. This notice identifies the courtroom and judge to whom the case is assigned and sets forth the date, time and courtroom of a combined (i.e., “super,” “all-inclusive”) initial case management conference and OSC re sanctions and/or dismissal for failure to file proof of service and/or take default(s). The date is approximately five months after initial filing.

A copy of this notice is to be served by the filing party on all named defendants and/or new cross-defendants. Obviously, the fact of service of this “Notice of Case Assignment and Mandatory Appearance,” if accomplished, should be noted in a filed proof of service.

Continued on page 9
St. John’s Seminary

invites the Ventura County legal community to the

6th Annual Ventura County Red Mass

St. John’s Seminary
5012 Seminary Road
Camarillo, California

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

5:00 p.m. | Registration
5:30 p.m. | Red Mass
6:30 p.m. | Reception

Advisory Committee
Suzanne L. Austin, Esq. + Mr. David P. Bender, Jr., Esq. + Aaron Botti, Esq.
Matthew Byrne, Esq. + Maureen Byrne, Esq. + The Honorable Paul H. Coffee

For more information and RSVP please email advancement@stjohnsem.edu or call (805) 389-2035
Please RSVP by October 4, 2013
OUR MOST IMPORTANT SERVICE IS

PEACE OF MIND.

Established in 1993 in Ventura, CA, Commercial Process Serving, Inc. is your premier local Attorney Service! With a fully staffed office, Registered Process Servers & Photocopiers, and field experienced managers, CPS has you covered. We provide an array of solutions guaranteed to meet ALL of your legal service needs. Let our extensive resources, investments and experience work for you.

BEST RATES GUARANTEED!
References Readily Available

VENTURA
634 County Square Drive, Suite 107
Ventura, CA 93003
Phone: (805) 650-9291
Fax: (805) 658-8170
E-mail: admin@comproserve.net

SANTA BARBARA
209 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Phone: (805) 845-4200
Fax: (805) 845-4201
E-mail: sb@comproserve.net

NEW LOCATION!
SANTA MARIA
124 West Main Street, Suite C
Santa Maria, CA 93458
Phone: (805) 361-0781
Fax: (805) 361-0782
E-mail: sm@comproserve.net

Same Day Services | Email Status & Service Confirmation | Conformed Face Pages Emailed
Fees Advanced | Daily Pick Up/Retainers | Statewide/Nationwide Coverage
Large Format Printing/Scanning | Copy Services, Color & BW
Lisa Zonder, Esq.
Mediator / Collaborative Divorce / Private Judge
*Certified Family Law Specialist
Divorce Clients Reached An Impasse?

Lisa R. Zonder, has been a Certified Family Law Specialist since 1999, and has practiced law for over 20 years. Lisa has taken over 100 hours of family law mediation and collaborative trainings.

We are a boutique firm and can serve as private judge or mediator. Our goal is to provide guidance, privacy and resolution for a myriad of divorce situations, including traditional divorce (in court), mediated divorce, collaborative divorce, or judge pro tem services.

Telephone: (805) 777-7740
www.zonderfamilylaw.com

*Certified by the State Bar of CA, Board of Legal Specialization

THE NEW FAST TRACK RULES OR “BE THERE, OR BE SQUARE”
Continued from page 6

This is a big change in a number of important ways. First, it means that the filing party is responsible for giving notice. The court is no longer giving notice of this new combined conference, which includes trial setting. Especially since this conference includes trial setting, it should not be ignored. If the filing party doesn't give the notice, it can cause potential problems.

Second, by eliminating the earlier conferences and OSCs re service, it means counsel have to watch out for the rules regarding when service is to be accomplished on their own, or they will be that much further along in the case (i.e., five months in) when it may be harder to deal with the situation.

Third, showing up at this new “super CMC” is now declared mandatory. Appearance at the CMC in person or by phone is necessary, unless the court notifies you otherwise. Appearance is now the rule, not the exception. It is less likely than in the “old days” that this CMC will be taken off calendar, even if the parties submit their case management statements ahead of time.

Case management statements are still required, pursuant to CRC, Rule 3.725. Parties must meet and confer 30 days before the super CMC, per CRC, Rule 3.724.

Mark E. Hancock is an attorney, with offices in Ventura, who handles insurance disputes, and insurance, personal injury and real estate litigation.

Court Appointed Receiver/Referee

“Mr. Nielson is more than just a pretty face. He is one of our best receivers.”

(Hon. John J. Hunter, October 9, 1999)

The Superior Court has appointed Mr. Nielson in over 400 cases involving the sale of real property, partnership or business dissolutions, partition actions and matters requiring a referee.

LINDSAY F. NIELSON
Attorney at Law

Member – California Receiver Forum

Email: nielsonlaw@aol.com

845 E. Santa Clara, Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 658-0977
PRACTICE TIP: TENDER THE LAWSUIT TO THE INSURER

by David Laufer

Your new client is sued for wrongful conduct. You are not an insurance coverage lawyer; you do not have time to analyze the client’s portfolio of insurance policies; and your client does not know if its earlier insurance policies have been validly terminated, cancelled or renewed (“TCR”).

“My insurance agent said the lawsuit is not covered by my GL or D&O policies,” Your client says. “Can you defend the lawsuit?”

You do not discuss with your client investigating insurance coverage or the tender of the lawsuit to an insurer for defense. Your retainer agreement with your client does not exclude the duty to investigate insurance coverage for the lawsuit or the duty to tender the lawsuit for defense to an insurer.

Do you advise the client to tender the lawsuit to the insurers for defense? Yes. Why? Because in Jordache Enterprises Inc. v. Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison (1998) 18 Cal.4th 739,745, the Supreme Court implied that a lawyer may have a duty to inquire about a client’s insurance coverage and a duty to tender a case for defense to an insurer.

The following suggestions should be reviewed with your client, and documented, to avoid potential prejudice or liability to the client:

1. Tender the lawsuit for defense to all known insurers identified in writing by the client;
2. Tender the lawsuit for defense under the any earlier insurance policies because they may not have been validly TCR;
3. Request each insurer of a TCR policy to provide proof of a valid notice sent to the insured about the changes made to a previous policy;
4. Notify the insurer that a responsive pleading is due on a date certain;
5. Obtain and confirm in writing an extension of time to file responsive motions and pleadings to challenge the claims and the jurisdiction over your non-resident corporate client; and
6. Advise the insurer that if it does not defend the client, you will and the client will request reimbursement of legal fees and costs.

Related Cases to Read

Fields v. Blue Shield of Cal. (1985) 163 Cal. App.3d 570, 579, says insurance companies are “bound by the greater coverage in an earlier policy when a renewal policy is issued but the insurer is not notified of the specific reduction in coverage.” Koltar v. Hartford Fire Ins. Co. (2000) 83 Cal.App.4th 1116, 1121, fn. 3 provides that the “named insured” entitled to notice of cancellation under Cal. Ins. Code section 677.2(b) includes “additional named insureds” who are added as insureds after the policy issues.

David Laufer is a former general counsel of a public company. He practices at Burke, Williams & Sorensen LLP, focusing on class actions, insurance coverage, franchise-distribution disputes, Prop. 65 and risk management strategies for business enterprises.

Sometimes numbers are the only prints left behind.

Arxis Financial is a proven forensic accounting and litigation specialist. We will examine the financial data and help you determine the “bottom line.” Arxis provides financial and valuation analysis needed to resolve a variety of legal disputes from family court to civil, criminal, and probate courts. In many cases our experts can help you reach a settlement. If trial or arbitration is required we give you the support you need to win.

Chris Hamilton, CPA, CFE, CVA
805.306.7890
www.arxisfinancial.com
chamilton@arxisgroup.com
FILM REVIEW: “FRUITVALE STATION”  
by Bill Paterson

In the pre-dawn hours of New Year’s Day, 2009, a fatal drama played out at the Fruitvale BART station in Oakland. When it was over, young Oscar Grant lay dying on the station floor. In the aftermath, the transit police officer who shot him ended up in prison and many of the officers on the scene were fired. “Fruitvale Station” is a dramatic recreation of the events leading up to that fateful night. It is a remarkably assured piece of work by first-time director, Ryan Coogler.

Oscar Grant was an innocent victim of a racist cop who initiated a confrontation and then kept pouring fuel on the fire. (While the term “racist” is sometimes thrown around too casually, there is no other way of describing the police actions in this case.) Given the stark moral equities, it would have been easy to turn this film into a one dimensional piece of cinematic moralizing. But Coogler resists that temptation, electing instead to focus on a young man’s struggle to find himself in the world.

When we first meet Oscar he is a sad product of the streets. He can’t keep a job, has done prison time and ekes out a living dealing dope. His only apparent redeeming quality is his love for his young daughter but even that has not led him to turn his life around. And turning your life around is not easy when all your past mistakes come back to haunt you. But ever so slowly it dawns on Oscar that he is at a dead end. He knows something must change. The tragedy is that he was just on the cusp of that change when a police bullet ended his life. Oscar Grant did not die for anything he did wrong that night. He died because the police could not see past his color, his age and the way he was dressed.

“Fruitvale Station” has been impressively cast, scripted and shot. A number of scenes especially stand out. One of them takes place between Oscar and a young white woman in a market. She is there to buy fish but is not sure how to prepare it. Oscar is standing nearby and you can almost see the wheels turning in his head as he decides how to put a move on her. But then something else happens and it begins to change the way you see Oscar. Then there is an almost

Continued on page 15
As a significant benefit to our members...the Ventura County Bar Association has identified these Insurance and Financial Planning professionals to accommodate your insurance needs. These brokers are recognized for their integrity, knowledge and experience in serving the legal community. They can assist you in the areas of life, health, disability income, long-term care insurance, annuities and investments. You can obtain State and County Bar plans at discounted rates through these brokers.

Barry A. Cane
Disability Income Insurance
Business Overhead Expense
(805) 496-5537  Fax: (805) 496-5598
240 Lombard St., #100, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
Lic. #0740274

Michael P. Kenney*, CLU
Group and Individual Health Insurance
Business and Personal Life Insurance
(805) 497-7407  Fax: (805) 494-1363
www.kenneyins.com
Lic. # 0688916
As a significant benefit to our members, the Ventura County Bar Association has identified these Insurance and Financial Planning professionals to accommodate your insurance needs. These brokers are recognized for their integrity, knowledge and experience in serving the legal community. They can assist you in the areas of life, health, disability income, long-term care insurance, annuities and investments. You can obtain State and County Bar plans at discounted rates through these brokers.
The State Bar of California’s Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform will accept comments on its Final Phase I Report until 5 p.m. on Sept. 5. The entire report is available online at www.calbar.ca.gov/AboutUs/PublicComment/201307.aspx, but an overview of the proposed recommendations follows:

**Pre-admission**: A competency training requirement fulfilled prior to admission to practice. There would be two routes for fulfillment of this pre-admission competency training requirement: (a) at any time in law school, a candidate for admission must have taken at least 15 units of practice-based, experiential course work that is designed to develop law practice competencies, and (b) in lieu of some or all of the 15 units of practice-based, experiential course work, a candidate for admission may opt to participate in a Bar-approved externship, clerkship or apprenticeship at any time during or following completion of law school.

**Pre-admission or post-admission**: An additional competency training requirement, fulfilled either at the pre- or post-admission stage, where 50 hours of legal services is specifically devoted to pro bono or modest means clients. Credit towards those hours would be available for “in-the-field” experience under the supervision and guidance of a licensed practitioner or a judicial officer.

**Post-admission**: Ten additional hours of mandatory continuing legal education courses for new lawyers, over and above the required MCLE hours for all active members of the Bar, specifically focused on law practice competency training. Alternatively, credit towards these hours would be available for participation in mentoring programs.
throwaway scene on New Year’s Eve when Oscar and a young white father to-be are conversing outside a restroom. Totally absent is the racial divide that will claim Oscar’s life a few short hours later. And finally there is the deadly encounter at the Fruitvale Station as things spin out of control. Words such as “riveting” and “gripping” scarcely do justice to what is up on the screen. It is filmmaking of the highest order.

Michael Jordan has made the most of his role as Oscar Grant and the Oscar buzz (no pun intended) has already started. His perfectly calibrated performance captures the essence of an imperfect young man being pulled in different directions. Octavia Spencer (“The Help”) plays Oscar’s no-nonsense mom. She is the definition of “tough love,” nowhere more memorably then when she forces Oscar to finally make a choice between her and the life he has fallen into.
BAR TASK FORCE SEEKS ADMISSIONS REFORM COMMENTS
Continued from page 14

Your input on the Final Phase I Report is encouraged and welcomed. Please direct comments to:

Teri Greenman
Executive offices
State Bar of California
180 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA 94105-1639
Phone: (415)538-2454
Email: teri.greenman@calbar.ca.gov

Other Updates From The State Bar

Proposed rule amendments to Title 2 and Title 3 of the Rules of the State Bar would provide clarification of member requirements, expand specialty requirement definitions, and raise provider standards. Proposed amendments to Rule of Court 9.31 would raise the number of required hours and add a law practice management option as part of the legal ethics requirement. To review the recommendations please go to: http://www.calbar.ca.gov/AboutUs/PublicComment/201310.aspx

Carol Madeja is the director of Bar Relations Outreach for the State Bar of California.

BONGIOVI LAW & MEDIATION
Mediating Solutions since 1998

Employment Law
Labor Disputes
Business Litigation
Construction Defect
Legal Malpractice
Medical Malpractice
Commercial Disputes
Personal Injury

831 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Phone 805.564.2115
Fax 805.883.1697
henry@henrybongiovi.com
www.henrybongiovi.com

IRWIN R. “ROB” MILLER ESQ.
MEDIATION • ARBITRATION

Want to settle that case?
A trial lawyer for over 35 years, I have successfully tried and settled million and multi-million dollar cases.

My experience and training will help settle your cases.

• J.D. Univ. of Cincinnati-Law Review Editor
• “AV” Rated Martindale-Hubbell
• Pepperdine Univ. School of Law Straus Institute
• Arbitration Panel Ventura County
• Ventura Center for Dispute Settlement
• Member of VCBA, LACBA
• Past President Hollywood Bar Association
• Million and Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum

(805) 485-2700 Fax (805) 485-2751
Email: irmmediation@aol.com • Web: IRMlaw.net
300 Esplanade Drive, Suite 1760 • Oxnard, CA 93036

ATTORNEYS: STRENGTHEN YOUR TEAM WITH PARALEGAL TRAINING.

Fall 2013 courses
Case Management
Criminal Law
Ethics for the Paralegal
Fundamentals of Paralegal Studies
Tort Law for Paralegals

PARALEgal PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
Classes begin Sept. 23.
For questions regarding the program, call 893-7440 or email paralegal@els.ucsb.edu.
To enroll call 893-4200 or visit extension.ucsb.edu
In 2011, the United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California released their report on Access to Justice in Crisis: Self-Represented Parties and the Court. The report found that approximately 28 percent of bankruptcy filings in the Central District are filed without an attorney, compared to about nine percent nationwide. In 2011 alone, the number of self-represented bankruptcy debtors in the Central District of California numbered 38,098; and if self-represented creditors in bankruptcy actions are included, the number of self-represented litigants in Central District Bankruptcy courts in 2011 exceeded 40,000.

Does it matter if a litigant has an attorney? Most attorneys know that answer is yes. The Central District’s report shows how much of a difference attorneys make in bankruptcy cases. The goal of a chapter 7 bankruptcy is a discharge of debts. In the Central District of California, self-represented debtors in Chapter 7 cases obtain a discharge of debt approximately 61 percent of the time whereas attorney-represented debtors in Chapter 7 cases obtain a discharge of debt 95 percent of the time. In Chapter 13 bankruptcy, the goal is to create, and stick to, a plan to pay arrearages over many months to make up for missed payments. Approximately 55 percent of attorney-represented debtors reach confirmation of a plan, whereas only 0.4 percent of self-represented debtors do – showing that it is nearly impossible for self-represented debtors to succeed in Chapter 13 bankruptcy.

To help level the playing field for bankruptcy litigants, a free Bankruptcy Self-Help Clinic was started in 2009 in Lompoc and moved to the Northern Division Bankruptcy Court on State and Cota Streets in 2010. Every Friday morning, pro bono attorneys meet with self-represented bankruptcy litigants and assist them with their bankruptcy related issues. Randall Sutter helps manage the Bankruptcy Clinic by coordinating the volunteer attorneys and by searching for grants to help provide funding to the clinic. Randall began his career with the United States Department of Defense and then became an entrepreneur in the trucking industry, where his company conducted cargo claim investigations on damaged or lost freight for the trucking, ocean, and airline industries. He had always considered going to law school, and eventually decided to take advantage of the evening classes offered by the Ventura and Santa Barbara Colleges of Law. Randall started practicing law part-time in 2006, focusing on small business and transportation legal issues, and by 2009 decided to expand his practice to full-time. It was then that he was introduced to bankruptcy law. “Initially, I did not think this area of the law would interest me as I was focused more on building businesses than bankrupting them. But, once I began learning bankruptcy in-depth, I found that bankruptcy law is really about allowing businesses and individuals to reorganize or liquidate their debt so that they can rebuild their business or life.” Bankruptcy is now a major part of Randall’s practice at his firm, Rounds & Sutter LLP in Ventura, which also handles consumer debt issues, real estate, and business law.

Two years ago, while waiting to make an appearance at the Bankruptcy Court in Santa Barbara, Randall ran into a Legal Aid employee who informed him of the Bankruptcy Self-Help Clinic and said they were looking for volunteer attorneys. Randall, who already had a history of volunteering with the Ventura Teen Legal Clinic, agreed to become a volunteer.

“By volunteering, I thought it would be an ideal way to help others, give back to the community, and further my knowledge of bankruptcy.” During the two years that he has been working at the Clinic, Randall has been able to help many different individuals. “In a particular way, each client makes an impact on me with their unique circumstances. My primary goal is to give each client a sense of relief and eliminate the stress they may be experiencing.” Many of the people Randall has helped have expressed their thanks to him in the form of phone calls and notes informing him of how they were able to turn their lives around, professionally and personally, after getting assistance at the Clinic.
REMEMBERING JUDITH WONG
by Frank Bellinghiere

Judith L. Wong, a long time Ventura County practitioner, died of stage four throat cancer on July 1.

Judith was born on April 14, 1949, in Los Angeles to Ben and Doris Wong. Her legal career began in high school when she was a legal secretary for William B. Ritner.

Wong attended UCLA as an undergraduate and studied law at Loyola Marymount University, where she graduated in 1974. Admitted to practice in California in December, 1974, Wong practiced in the areas of business law; family law; and estate planning and probate in Thousand Oaks and Westlake Village.

From 1974 until 1982, Judith practiced at the firm of Ritner & Wong. She then worked as a sole practitioner from 1982 until 2010 in Westlake Village.

At various times, Judith shared offices with Frank Bellinghiere, Barbara DiMeo, Richard Loftus and John Pinnell.

She is survived by her mother, Doris, brother, Alan, ex-husband Alan Tom, her three sons, Trevor, Travis and Tanner, and two grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of the Conejo.

Frank Bellinghiere practices in Westlake Village and in Wyoming.

---

SELECT A GENERAL REFEREE, DISCOVERY REFEREE OR TEMPORARY JUDGE FROM JAMS

STIPULATE to a court reference with JAMS or to the appointment of an all-purpose Temporary Judge from our panel, which features some of the state’s most well-qualified retired judges and attorney neutrals. Our Resolution Experts have significant subject matter expertise and superior case management skills.

EXPEDITE the resolution of your matter by appointing a JAMS referee or Temporary Judge who can offer reliable hearing dates and a flexible schedule.

PRESERVE the right of appeal. A decision by a referee or Temporary Judge is subject to full appellate review.

THE RESOLUTION EXPERTS

1.800.352.JAMS
www.jamsadr.com/judicialreference
Volunteering at the Clinic has also helped Randall. He states that “it has reinforced my belief that what is important is not the challenges and struggles we face in our lives, but how we respond to these adversities.” Along with that, it has also validated his decision to practice bankruptcy law and afforded him the chance to meet, work with, and learn from a variety of exceptional people in the bankruptcy community. Volunteering at the Clinic has been “very rewarding and very humbling” for Randall, and the work he and the other volunteers have done has made a big impact on our community.

At the time Randall started volunteering at the Clinic, it consisted of only two volunteer attorneys and only operated twice a month. Since that time, the Clinic has expanded to every Friday morning and has a rotation of seven attorney volunteers, one non-attorney volunteer, and five court staff who assist self-represented litigants. On April 19th, the Clinic opened a new office space in the lobby of the court. Seeing the good work that was being done by the Clinic, the Bankruptcy Court provided the funds to build the new Clinic space and also created a dedicated clerk window for Clinic clients. This summer, the Clinic hopes to expand its services to have two attorney volunteers assisting self-represented litigants each Friday morning.

Legal Aid would like to extend its thanks to Randall Sutter for his hard work at the Bankruptcy Self-Help Clinic. Legal Aid would also like to thank the United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California, Northern Division for the construction of the new Clinic space. Additionally, we would like to thank all of the Clinic volunteers and supporters - Attorney Volunteers: Carrissa Horowitz, Reed Olmstead, Monica Robles, Luis Esparza, Natalie Spilborghs, Anne Rycroft; Clinic Staff Volunteer: Jean Linn; US Bankruptcy Court Staff: Judge Riblet, Meredith Klassen, Cheri Davis, Jim McNabb, and Casey Nelson. Please stop by the Clinic this summer to see the new space and see how you can make a difference in our community.
Marc A. Firestone  
Ph.D. 
Combines over 20 years of experience as a professional research scientist with a 40 year old forensic engineering firm. I have handled hundred of cases in:  

- Vehicular accident reconstruction  
- Slip/Trip falls  
- Product defects  
- Fires  
- Unusual cases requiring a broad scientific background  

2510-g Las Posas Rd.  
#513 Camarillo, CA  
93010  

Phone: (805) 388-7123  
E-Mail: fireball@mailaps.org

Goetz Business Mediations  
Gisele Goetz, Esq. Mediator  
Member: State Bar of California, CIPA, VCBA, SBCBA  
(805) 895-5338  
www.goetzbusinessmediations.com  
giselegoetz@aol.com

Phillip Feldman  
B.S., M.B.A., J.D., AV. (Preeminent)  
Fellow American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys  
Certified Specialist  
Legal Malpractice  
(ABPLA & American Bar Association)  
Former Judge Pro Tem  
Former State Bar Prosecutor  
Fee Arbitrator 35 years  
Litigator/Expert 44 years  
Malp/Ethics Author  
www.LegalMalpracticeExperts.com  
Email: LegMalpExpert@aol.com  
StateBarDefense@aol.com  
(310) LEG-MALP(534-6257)  

Also Fee Disputes, Preventative Law & Risk Management Consultations
Office Space

Executive suites – Floor to ceiling windows – some with sliding glass doors to garden patio. Starting at $485. Includes your personalized professional receptionist, lobby, large conference room, kitchen, and mail room with copier services. Less than 0.5 mile from the 101 freeway and post office. Private entrance with 24/7 access. Lawyers and accountants in the building. Westlake Village at Hampshire Rd. and Thousand Oaks Blvd. Call for information and appointment (805)795-2211.

Law Offices in Westlake Village – For rent 2 offices, one 17’ x 12’ and another 14’ x 12’. Comes with secretarial space, file storage, internet, parking, VoIP telephone, conference room use, nice building and everything else you expect in a law office. It even comes with free parking and a friendly landlord which you may not have been expecting. Call Matt (818)990-1999.

Two Law Offices in Westlake Village – For rent two offices. Both offices come with Internet, parking, conference room & kitchen use. The building is an upscale building within Westlake Village’s business corridor. We are located directly next to the J.D. Power & Associates building. For more information please contact Azucena (Susie) at (805)371-7700.

Help Wanted

We are looking for a part-time person who can help in the following areas: phones, opening mail, filing paperwork, scheduling medical appointments and depositions on the files, and assisting with general office help. The position would consist of approximately 20 hours per week. The office is located in Camarillo. Send résumé to ruth@gablawfirm.com.

Services Offered

Dear Attorneys: I recently opened my solo practice in the county and am currently able to take on contract work for other firms and attorneys. I have experience in trust and probate litigation, commercial litigation, civil litigation, Chapter 11 bankruptcies and preference actions, family law matters, and estate planning. I am available to conduct research, draft pleadings (motions, complaints, answers, etc.), propound and respond to discovery, and any other pre-trial and trial prep tasks. In addition I am able to make appearances as needed. If you are interested in my services please contact Adam at (818)991-7760 ext. 3 or via email at adam@pollocklawfirm.com.

Attorney with excellent research and writing skills and years of experience in family law and civil litigation seeks contract work in the preparation of legal briefs, points and authorities, research (WestLaw Next), discovery, family law disclosure and other document preparation. Available for court appearances at law and motion and ex parte proceedings. Reasonable rates on hourly or per-project basis. Short turnaround on assignments. Reduce your overhead and stress. Call (805)497-0802, ext. 314.

Special Appearance Attorney – Dear attorneys, I am able to make special appearances on your behalf: criminal (including traffic), civil, and bankruptcy for Ventura County and Santa Barbara County. Please call Charlotte at (805)517-4LAW or visit: TheSpecialAppearanceAttorneys.com

ELDER LAW SERVICES

VETERANS BENEFITS
• Veterans’ Non-Service Connected Pensions for Aid & Attendance; Homebound; etc
• Non-service Connected Pensions for Surviving Spouse; children; and parents
• Veterans’ Service Connected Compensation
• Spousal Death & Indemnity Compensation
• VA Appeals

SERVICES FOCUSED ON ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS OBTAIN VETERANS/MEDI-CAL BENEFITS FOR LONG TERM CARE

MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY
• Custom-designed Eligibility Analysis & Qualification Plan (Asset Protection)
• Application Preparation & Representation
• Medi-Cal Recovery Claim Avoidance
• Appeals of benefits denial/loss

THE LAW OFFICES OF CRAIG R. PLOSS

270 MAPLE COURT, SUITE 118, VENTURA, CA 93003  TEL: (805)662-8407 FAX: (805)679-2179  EMAIL: PLOSS@PIDS.NET

Tri-County Sentry Newspaper

LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICES
We can publish your Trustee’s Sales, Probate Notices and Change of Names. Court Order No.125431
Rates: Trustee’s Sales...$225 approx Petition to Admin $180 Change of Name...$110 Legal Notices...$9.50
For the best service call 983-0015
We file your Affidavit of Publication with the court
President Joel Mark may be located at Hathaway Perrett et al. by calling 644.7111 or jmark@hathawaylawfirm.com...Randall George landed at Myers, Widders et al. and may be reached at 644.7188 or rgeorge@mwglaw.com...A few more movements of notice: Kathleen Smith started August 12 as a civil litigation associate with Schneider's LLP...Katherine Hause Becker has also joined the firm as Of Counsel, but shall remain CT with the Law Offices of Ben Schuck and Katherine Hause...Matt Purcell is now at www.tricitylaw.com located at 2415 W. Falls Ave., Kennewick, Washington, 99336...

The nomination form for the Ben E. Nordman Public Service Award is stuffed inside this edition of CITATIONS as a promotional flyer. We all know lawyers who go above and beyond with respect to community service, so take the time to nominate someone. The form may also be found at www.vcba.org and the recipient will be honored at the annual Installation and Awards Banquet scheduled for Nov. 23 at the Spanish Hills Country Club...An assistant U.S. attorney in Beaumont, Texas, is being scrutinized because of his derogatory comments on Facebook about President Obama and Trayvon Martin. John Craft, a lawyer in the criminal division, posted the comments on a private FB page. In one post, Craft showed an image of a graphic that said, "Obama: Why Stupid People Shouldn't Vote." He also wrote that, "low information voters carried the day for the Dalibama in the last election." Craft also commented on the Trayvon Martin case. Craft wrote: "How are you fixed for Skittles and Arizona watermelon fruit cocktail (and maybe a bottle of Robitussin, too) in your neighborhood? I am fresh out of 'purple drink.' So I may come by for a visit. In a rainstorm. In the middle of the night. In a hoodie. Don't get upset or anything if you see me looking in your window...kay?"

Mark your calendars! The first ever joint meeting between the Business Litigation Section and the Intellectual Property Section is scheduled for Sept. 12 atop the Tower Club. Entitled, "A Banner Year in Biotechnology Law," check out the promotional brochure contained inside CITATIONS...Yo, Barristers! The Annual Judges’ Pizza Night is set for September 19 inside Café Fiore located in downtown Ventura. Kudos to Rachel Coleman for coordinating once again. Open only to justices, judges and Barristers, proceeds benefit the VCBA/vlsp, inc...

Congratulations to William M. Grewe who has been recommended by the VCBA Nominating Committee, comprised of 12 past presidents, to become the next secretary-treasurer of the bar association effective January 1, 2014. This also positions him for the presidency in 2016. The VCBA Slate of Officers and Directors is inside this issue of CITATIONS and they will be formally approved during the Installation and Awards Banquet. Laura Bartels will assume the presidency also in January and Deputy District Attorney Alvan Arzu will become president-elect...

Steve Henderson has been the executive director and chief executive officer of the bar association and its affiliated organizations since November 1990. He will be celebrating his 50th in Rio on the 10th and donations of Red Stripe, Foster’s and Trader Joe’s may be delivered to his office. Better yet, a donation to the vlsp, inc: Henderson may be reached at steve@vcba.org, FB, Twitter at stevehendo1, LinkedIn, or better yet, 650.7599.
Conduct a Jury Focus Group

Holding a Jury Focus Group before trial can give you the advantage by affording you the opportunity to test your case in front of a panel of mock jurors. Holding a focus group in the early stages of your case can expose potential problems as well as help point your case in the right direction.

We take all of the hassles out of the process as well. Our facility provides dedicated focus group rooms with closed circuit viewing and video recording for viewing later.

We provide the Jurors, A/V Equipment, food and beverages, all for a price that is surprisingly affordable.

Call today for details and Client discounts

800-43-DEPOS

www.personalcourtreporters.com
Baby #9 – Victoria Kathryn Joy Lehr arrived early on May 6 at 8:15 pm! She weighed in at 6 pounds, 3 ounces. After a brief stay in the NICU, Mom and Baby are at home!

NOW we REALLY appreciate your criminal law referrals.

789 S. Victoria Ave. Suite 200, Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 477-0070