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WOMEN WHO TRY

by Kathleen J. Smith and Rabiah A. Rahman
 Page 8



Jody Moore



Maureen Houska



Janice L. Maurizi



Jill Friedman



Carol Woo

CHARMAINE H. BUEHNER

MICHAEL W. CASE

RABIAH A. RAHMAN

WILLIAM E. PATERSON

STEVE HENDERSON

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & JOIN A VCBA GROUP FOR 2016!	3
MICHAEL'S QUICK RULES... OR "CASE LAW" ON CONFIDENTIALITY	16
BARRISTERS' CORNER	20
REMEMBERING RICHARD A. REGNIER	21
CLASSIFIEDS	25
EXEC'S DOT...DOT...DOT...	26



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*Charmaine and James Buehner
at Law Day 5k 2015*

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & JOIN A VCBA GROUP FOR 2016!

by Charmaine H. Buehner

This past February, 37 dedicated legal professionals convened on a Saturday morning to hold VCBA's Annual Strategic Planning Breakfast. Attendees were VCBA leaders from the VCBA board, sections, friends and affiliates. **Assistant Presiding Judge Patricia Murphy** and the venerable CEO of our courts, **Michael Planet**, also generously participated in the breakfast to give a brief overview of the state of our superior court. The breakfast provided a wonderful overview of the year ahead and the good work being done by our legal community. Be sure to calendar the following important 2016 events. Register for them by contacting VCBA (unless noted otherwise).

Ventura County Legal Aid (VCLA) launched a new free legal clinic on Feb. 2, while at the same time continuing to operate VCLA's 20-year-old pro bono program under the direction of VCLA president **Kevin Staker**. The Clinic operates on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Ventura County Law Library, on a first-come first-served basis. Come by to say hello to **Mark Kirwin**, our other volunteers and me, and see us in action. Better, sign up to volunteer at www.vcllegalaid.org.

It is never too early to start training for the Law Day 5K! **Joe Strohm** is at it again this year, working tirelessly with his committee to put on the flattest, fastest 5K of the West that benefits both VCBA and VCLA. The race will take place on **Saturday July 9** at 8:30 a.m. at Kimball Park. Register at www.RunSignUp.com.

VCBA's Annual Awards and Installation Dinner will take place **Saturday Nov. 19** at the Mandalay Bay Embassy Suites. Join us for the dinner and consider spending a night at the hotel to take advantage of

the resort amenities. Stay tuned for details, including possible discounted room rates. **Tom Hutchinson** and **Amy Dilbeck Kieswetter** have graciously agreed serve as auction co-chairs again this year. If you missed Dilbeck-Kieswetter's stellar live auction performance at the 2015 dinner, you have at least one more chance to see her in action this year.

The Jerome H. Berenson Chapter of the American Inns of Court provides an unparalleled opportunity to work closely with lawyers from around the county. I will always remember my first "Inns" team fondly, which was led by Masters **Michael McQueen, Jim Armstrong** and **Greg Pyfrom**. That year, I found myself cast as the Wicked Witch of the West, along with the rest of the Wizard of Oz characters, to present a Legal Ethics CLE. We had a great time.



(Greg Pyfrom, Jim Armstrong, Archana Vaidhyathan, Harveen Simpkins, Andrew Covner, Buehner, Michael McQueen, F. Stephen Jones, Rebeca Mendoza and Rennee Dehesa).

Judge Tari Cody reminds us that new members are always welcome to join the group, which meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Saticoy Country Club.

Contact **Steve Henderson** to be his guest for the evening or to join.

Women Lawyers of Ventura County will host the Appellate Justice Reception at the Tower Club on April 13. WLVC President **Cari Ann Potts** encourages you to attend WLVC's evening presentation by **Presiding Justice Arthur Gilbert** and **Associate Justices Kenneth Yegan, Steven Perren** and **Martin Tangeman**. Justice Tangeman, confirmed on Feb. 22 fills the seat vacated by retired **Justice Paul H. Coffee**. Register for this event and other quality WLVC events at www.wlvc.org.

If you have not attended the "What's New in Tort & Trial" program hosted annually by the Ventura County Trial Lawyers, you're doing yourself a disservice. This January event is the most entertaining and substantive three hours you will spend getting an update from the prior year. Look for it next year, as well as the other fine upcoming 2016 VCTLA events. **Marc Anderson** leads the 2016 VCTLA charge and reminds us that all events take place at the Tower Club: April 26, Expedited Jury Trial program; May 24, Trial Lawyer of the Year; July 26, Demonstrative Evidence at Trial; Sept. 27, CAOC/VCTLA Masters' Program; Oct. 25, Medical Negligence Dos and Don'ts. VCTLA's annual holiday party is in December. Register at <http://divetribes.com/VCTLA/>.

The Natural Resource Section, led this year by **Kate Neiswender**, will host an April 6 presentation on climate change and the Paris Treaty. On April 29, the CPA/Law Society will feature a CLE presentation on land use policy and water rights issues, with monthly CLE presentations planned thereafter under the direction of **Lars Rathje**.

Continued on page 4

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *Continued from page 3*

VCBA's Estate Planning Section is hard at work under the direction of **Amber Rodriguez** to update the Local Probate Rules together with **Judge Glen Reiser**. Judge Reiser's annual probate update is scheduled for May 26 and will be followed by other CLE presentations, including "No Contest Clauses" on June 23 and "Electronic Discovery" on July 28.

Black Lawyers of Ventura County, led by **Jacquelyn Ruffin**, asks us to watch for, and participate in, BLVC's annual "Juneteenth" event in Oxnard. For a fascinating read of the origins of the worldwide Juneteenth celebration, check out <http://www.juneteenth.com/history.htm>.

Do not miss the Barristers' Annual Wine and Cheese Mentor Night. Barristers President **Melanie Ely** tells us Mentor Night will happen on Aug. 18.

The Ventura County Paralegals Association looks forward to your participation in its 20th Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction on May 20 at Cantara Cellars in Camarillo. VCPA leader **Diana Mueller** informs me that the VCPA awards scholarships to students in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties enrolled in paralegal studies. The Ventura County Legal Professionals Association seeks new members! VCLP Officer **Mae Brooks**, whom you can contact at crazyKrafter2@yahoo.com, reminds us that members can take advantage of online courses with a paid membership.

The Family Law Bar section invites you to attend a bridging the gap on spousal support brown bag lunch on April 22 in Department 33, and dinner on May 24 to learn about forensic accounting. FLBS president **Heather Kadeg** reminds us to look for details on the Section's Annual State of the Courts Dinner in September.

Finally, Citations editor **Wendy Lascher** encourages and welcomes articles from VCBA members, affiliates and friends. Articles are generally due by the 10th of the month prior to the publication of the issue in which they will appear. Also look for activity from the Employment Law and Business Litigation Sections, which are planning upcoming CLEs, as well as the Mexican American Bar Association.



Charmaine H. Buehner is an Assistant County Counsel for the County of Ventura and the chair of Ventura County Legal Aid's Free Legal Clinic. She is also very excited to see Paul Simon at the Santa Barbara Bowl this June. You can reach her at charmaine.buehner@ventura.org.

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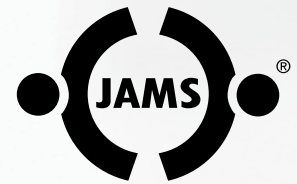
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WOMEN WHO TRY by Kathi Smith and Rabiah Rahman

The number of women practicing law is high, but relatively few women become trial lawyers. Here are profiles of five prominent women who try cases.

JODY MOORE

Jody Moore was a junior on the Santa Paula High School mock trial team when she won her first case, if you count winning Best Defense Attorney at the Ventura County Mock Trial Tournament in 1989. Since then, Moore has had more than ten civil jury trials in her practice as an advocate for nursing home patients, medical malpractice plaintiffs, and catastrophic injury victims. Moore teaches other litigators “Elder Abuse Basics” at the annual California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) Elder Law Conference. One year at CANHR, Moore gave a speech, “What’s On My Bookshelf” and identified *Twelve Heroes, One Voice – Guiding Jurors to Courageous Verdicts*, by Carl Bettinger. Moore’s trial experience includes many courageous verdicts gained through framing a story about why the jury should care about what happened to the loved one who suffered injury at a nursing home, in medical care, or through catastrophic circumstances. Moore’s goal in jury trial is to find open-minded jurors in voir dire who will listen to the story and conclude, “The wrongful conduct is not OK with us.”

Moore reinforces the litigator’s constant refrain, “be yourself.” Her philosophy is to “advocate authentically.” Moore is a student of a wide variety of advocacy techniques, which she employs flexibly to deal with issues as they arise in discovery and trial. In voir dire, Moore believes she should let the potential jurors do 90 percent of the talking and encourages crosstalk between potential jurors to learn more about their willingness to listen to the trial story.

Moore prepares each case as if it will go to jury trial, immersing herself in the facts and planning the story from the first client meeting. This is the best way to ensure maximum value for the victim. Moore does



and her husband, Mike, traveled to the trial locales and even met Judge Anderle in Santa Barbara. Mike Moore is a big reason that Jody can bring her talents to bear for the injured. A former Amgen chemical engineer, he now works as the general operations manager at Johnson Moore, where Jody is a partner with **Greg Johnson**. Mike is part of Jody’s support network that any attorney, man or woman, needs if they have a family.

trials with zeal; she was made to try cases. In fact, Moore says that her uber-prepared modus operandi has led to situations where the cases she most wants to try end in settlements instead.

Moore’s pedigree includes a stint in Los Angeles doing medical malpractice defense, a couple of years at Beach Proctor McCarthy & Slaughter establishing her own solo firm and then joining up with Greg Johnson in 2014. Moore graduated from Santa Paula High, Pepperdine (BA Political Science) and Seattle University Law School. At Seattle, Moore published *Experimental Medical Treatments: Who Should Decide Coverage?* (20 Seattle University Law Review 451) about **Mark Hiepler**’s \$89.3 million verdict against HealthNet HMO for denying breast cancer treatment to his late sister, Nelene Fox.

Moore is energized by trying cases. A mother of two school-aged children, Moore tried three jury trials when her second child was between six and ten months old. The kids

Once, in a settlement conference, a local judge warned Moore that there hadn’t been a plaintiff’s medical malpractice verdict in conservative Ventura County in the past ten years. Undeterred, Moore went on to win. She genuinely enjoys trial practice. She feels grateful that she can give clients the ability to tell their story. Moore’s clients probably agree that Moore makes them feel like what happened to them matters to somebody. Moore’s talent is making it matter to juries.

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MAUREEN HOUSKA

Maureen Houska started litigating right out of law school. She will never forget her first jury trial. The case was in federal court before Judge Harry Hupp. Maureen was about one year out of law school, at the tender age of 24. She represented a sheriff's deputy being sued for civil rights violations. The plaintiff, one of three individuals manufacturing PCP in the Santa Monica mountains, ended up serving time in a federal prison. Maureen's very proud father, who was also an attorney, came and watched her every day. One morning before trial, she was exhausted and madly searching for authority to support an evidentiary argument she was making. She found a case directly on point. Unfortunately, she didn't think to Shepardize the case. Had she done so, she would have learned that it had been overruled. She walked into court and cited the case. The judge took a break to review the authority and came back to inform Maureen of her error. Maureen was horrified and mortified. The judge's demeanor was stern, but he took the time to explain her role as an officer of the court, a lesson Maureen has never forgotten.

Growing up in Sherman Oaks, Maureen did not always want to be an attorney. While attending the University of Notre Dame, she majored in finance and even considered being a veterinarian. However, Maureen's penchant for acting and argument drove her to ultimately pursue a career in law. She went on to attend Loyola Law School.

Maureen had a unique introduction to litigation. Although she initially wanted to be a prosecutor, her first job was with a Los Angeles law firm defending the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and



various police departments. She specialized in incidents involving canines. Maureen litigated cases in federal and state court in the 1990s, which was a period of heightened tension between the police and the public. However, Maureen knew she had a job to do and did so with integrity and an eye toward justice.

Maureen moved to Ventura because it was a beautiful place to raise a family. She accepted a job with Lawler, Bonham & Walsh, where she managed her own caseload. Maureen valued her experience at Lawler, as the firm created a supportive environment to hone her skills as a litigator.

Maureen took a few years off to start a family. Shortly after returning to work, she joined her long-respected mentor and friend to open Wool Houska, LLP. Now Maureen primarily focuses her litigation practice on public entity defense. The advice Maureen gives to all young attorneys and aspiring litigators is, "Never, never give up. Preparation and hard work will carry the day.... Oh, and always check your authorities!"

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WOMEN WHO TRY

JAN MAURIZI

Janice L. Maurizi serves as the Chief Assistant District Attorney for Ventura County. Maurizi has been a prosecutor for 31 years, and has an impressive history of 75-plus jury trials. A mother of five children, Maurizi developed a system of making exhibit notebooks at the kitchen table while the kids did their homework. Her youngest child was born during Maurizi's second year of night classes at Whittier Law School. Maurizi worked as a legal secretary until securing a law clerk job at the Los Angeles District Attorney's office.

As a prosecutor, Maurizi started out with a full-time daily calendar of preliminary hearings. From there, she was assigned to misdemeanor jury trials, then juvenile court. It was in those early juvenile adjudications that Maurizi honed her cross-examination skills. Many years later, that experience paid off in the trial and ultimate conviction and death sentence for "The Green Widow." The "Green Widow" tried for two years to solicit someone to kill her husband when she determined that he was worth more dead than alive. Six months after that murder, the hit man was feeling some remorse and talked about going to the police, so she had the hit man murdered. The "Green Widow" collected about \$500,000 in insurance proceeds and, together with her new boyfriend, went on a travel and spending spree, purchasing property in Mexico and posing nude covered with \$100 bills. She told elaborate, fabricated stories about her years of abuse, allowing Maurizi a treasure trove of inconsistent statements and outright lies. The story has been reported on true crime TV shows like "The New Detectives."

Another way Maurizi honed her skills early in her career was trying cases against pro per defendants who can easily garner the support of jurors who feel sorry for the unrepresented clients. These self-represented defendants can act out in ways that create sympathy. No matter what kind of case it is or who the



defendant is, in jury trials, Maurizi believes it is important to be yourself and not worry about how you're doing, just concentrate on **what** you're doing.

One of Maurizi's most challenging assignments was to take on the Mexican government in a battle to get the government to extradite killers who had fled to Mexico. The Mexican Supreme Court ruled that

life imprisonment was "cruel and unusual punishment," and the Mexican government started denying extradition to killers who were able to make it back across the border to Mexico. Hundreds of murderers, including cop killers, child killers, and those who raped and tortured their victims, found safe haven in Mexico. In response, Maurizi met with the State Department, Justice Department, and White House Counsel, and walked the halls of Congress successfully lobbying for an amendment to the Federal Appropriations Act. This amendment denied aid to any country that refused to extradite in violation of a treaty with the US. Maurizi also drafted California legislation that allowed our government to prosecute defendants who had been prosecuted in Mexico, often sham prosecutions resulting in weekend sentences. After a five-year battle, the Mexican government reversed its decision, and today will extradite killers to stand trial in the United States for crimes committed here.

Maurizi became a prosecutor to make the world a safer place for her children. When she started as a deputy district attorney, she was given a week's classroom training. She took the Evidence Code home at night to read it cover to cover. She found it made more sense in the courtroom than in a vacuum. The Evidence Code makes sense to Maurizi now, after 100 trials and adjudications. In management at the Ventura County DA's office, and serving on the Board of Directors for the California District Attorneys' Association, Maurizi supervises a new generation of prosecutors. She is exponentially achieving her goal of making the world a safer place.

Maurizi believes it is important to be yourself and not worry about how you're doing, just concentrate on what you're doing.

JILL FRIEDMAN

Anyone would be hard-pressed to say that **Jill Friedman** was not born to be a litigator. Jill has tried 22 cases, 16 of which were civil jury trials. She is the only female member of the American Board of Trial Advocates working at a Ventura County firm.

Growing up in Santa Barbara, Jill initially wanted to pursue a career in medicine. She took pre-med classes for her first two years at UCLA. However, Jill realized that her personality, drive and talents were better suited for the law.

Jill was introduced to the legal system at a young age when her parents divorced. During custody hearings, she felt her rights were diminished. When deciding what to do after undergrad, she chose law to be an advocate for those unable to defend themselves.

Jill attended the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She found her course in torts particularly fascinating, specifically with regard to medicine. As a result, Jill began her legal career practicing insurance defense in Ventura County. After her initial job, she accepted another position with Lawler, Bonham & Walsh. There, Jill had an opportunity to try three criminal jury trials as a visiting attorney with the Ventura County District Attorney's Office.

Jill's experience at the DA's office primed her for the civil courtroom. She successfully defended her first civil jury trial in the early 1990s. In 2004, she co-chaired a trial that

led to a 2008 California Supreme Court decision regarding homeowners' liability for the wrongful death of an unlicensed, uninsured tree trimmer. In 2012, Jill was nominated for the Ventura County Trial Lawyer of the Year Award for a civil jury trial in which she successfully defended one of the



largest woman-owned businesses in Ventura County. Jill recently became the first female partner at her firm.

Jill is a natural in the courtroom, but her first courtroom experience as an attorney was anything but relaxed. Her supervising attorney asked her to argue an ex parte

application for an order shortening time in downtown L.A. After figuring out where the courthouse was and running up five flights of stairs because the elevators were too slow, Jill approached the courtroom with a dry mouth and sweaty palms. When the judge asked her why the papers had not been filed earlier, she shrugged and replied, "I don't know." Not surprisingly, the application was denied. Her career could only get better.

Jill started a family and returned to Santa Barbara to take care of her terminally-ill mother. She worked for a medical malpractice defense firm in Santa Barbara before starting her own personal injury solo practice. Seventeen years after leaving Ventura County, Jill returned, to work for Myers, Widders, Gibson, Jones & Feingold, LLP. She jumped right back into the legal community, serving on the VCBA Board of Directors, revamping Women Lawyers of Ventura County, and helping to establish the Diversity Bar Alliance. Jill continues to fight for social justice and the advancement of women in the legal profession. She has actively promoted diversity on the bench in Ventura County and successfully pushed the Lions Club of Carpinteria to allow female members.

Jill has always been thrilled by the dynamic experience afforded to litigators, and is confident that her career will forever be devoted the courtroom. "Trials are my Super Bowl," she likes to say.

"Trials are my Super Bowl"

WOMEN WHO TRY

CAROL WOO

Carol Woo's tenacity and drive are remarkable. Carol was born in San Francisco and raised in Los Banos, California. According to her mother, Carol loved to argue from a young age. Therefore, it was no surprise when she decided to major in rhetoric at the University of California, Berkeley and pursue a career in law.

Carol's father was a farmer who worked hard to create a better life for Carol and her siblings. She returned to Los Banos during the summers while in college, and had a wide range of jobs from working in a drug store to being a tomato truck dispatcher for Del Monte. As a result, Carol developed a strong work ethic at a young age.

After college, Carol completed a paralegal course and worked at firms in Palo Alto and San Jose for several years. As she observed the attorneys, she decided that she might as well become one. When she decided to live closer to her then-boyfriend (now husband) in Ventura County, she viewed it as the perfect opportunity to go back to school. She received her Juris Doctorate from Pepperdine University School of Law.

Carol accepted a law clerk position at Lawler & Ellis, which later became Lawler, Bonham & Walsh. She passed up a law clerk position at another Ventura firm because they told her she might have to make the coffee and deliver it to the attorneys.

Carol's first jury trial was in criminal court. Her firm sent her to the Ventura County District Attorney's office to get trial experience. The case involved a man charged with a DUI and violation of probation. The Deputy D.A. handed her a complaint, a few additional pieces of paper, and Carol went to



court with her mentor to pick a jury and try the case. After a month's stint at the D.A.'s office, she returned to her firm and focused her practice on insurance and public entity defense, which included representing the City of Oxnard in the Dunes toxic tort case for several years.

Carol's intellect and trial skills often benefited her clients, but she found that she and other women litigators were often mistaken for the court reporter when she walked into a deposition, or for a secretary. Despite numerous obstacles, Carol knew that regardless of how bad she thought the circumstance were or any mistake she made, she could work harder the next time and improve. Carol and **Maureen Houska**, her friend and colleague at Lawler Bonham & Walsh, were reunited when they worked together again at the Benton, Orr, Duval & Buckingham. They eventually decided to form Woo | Houska, LLP. Carol now focuses her practice on public entity defense. The best advice Carol received as a young litigator, and the advice she continues to give to other young attorneys, is: "Be a fierce advocate, but never do anything to put your bar card on the line because you weren't the one who created the facts."

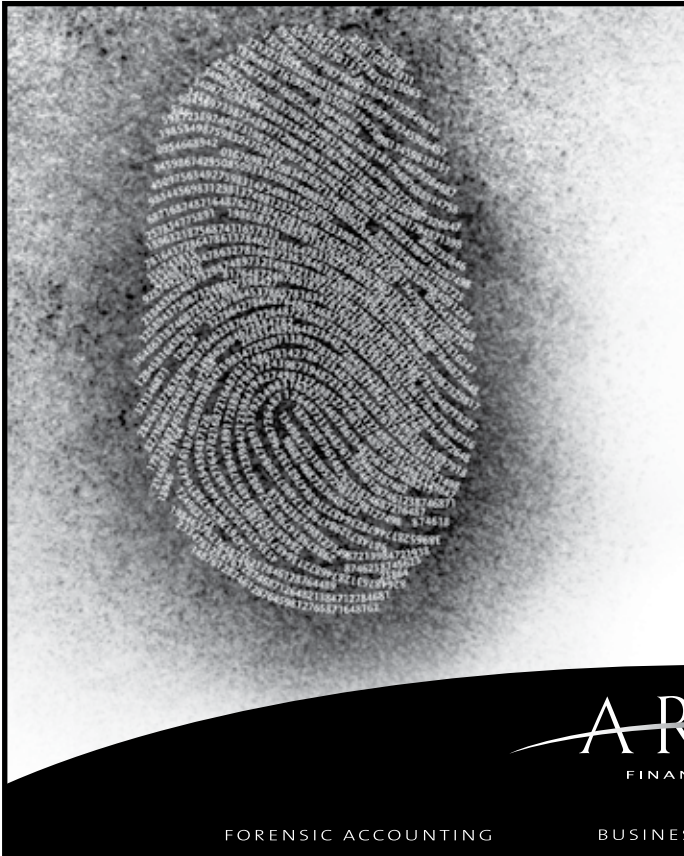


Kathleen J. Smith is an associate at Schneiders & Associates, LLP, in Oxnard.



Rabiiah A. Rahman is an associate attorney at Strauss & Palay, APC. Both are members of the CITATIONS editorial board.

"Be a fierce advocate, but never do anything to put your bar card on the line because you weren't the one who created the facts."



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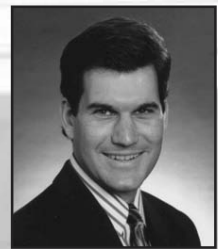
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MICHAEL'S QUICK RULES... OR "CASE LAW" ON CONFIDENTIALITY

by Michael W. Case

1. Presume what you learn from and about your client is secret, unless told otherwise by your client.

2. Remember that the client owns the secret.

3. Secrets remain in the office and should be confined to the "team" working on the matter.

4. Be aware of where you are and who is listening.

5. Do not learn secrets unless there is a need. Recall the burden they create.

6. Before hiring secretaries, paralegals, investigators, etc. who have worked for other law firms, check whether any of those firms are opposing counsel in pending cases. The burden is on the hiring firm.

7. A law firm risks vicarious disqualification when it retains an expert witness who was previously interviewed (even if not retained) by the opposing party.

8. Protect secrets on your computer and computer system. Also guard against providing electronic documents with metadata. Consider software protection.

9. Use caution with faxes and other messages. Be careful about where you send faxes and emails, and how messages are left. Are they viewable to others not within the protected group?

10. Clients should not be inadvertently allowed to overhear conversations or to see other clients' secrets in the office or in stray mail.

11. Be especially careful in shared office environments.

12. Mark documents as protected, including faxes and email.

Continued on page 18



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**MICHAEL'S QUICK RULES...
OR "CASE LAW" ON
CONFIDENTIALITY**
Continued from page 16

13. Avoid the perception of compromised secrets.

14. Return confidential information as soon as possible.

15. Using independent bookkeeping, data processing, copy and other support services is permissible, provided the lawyer or law firm retains ultimate responsibility for the protection of secrets.

16. Inadvertent use of confidential information can lead to recusal, sanctions and other penalties. Protect yourself from something that may be too good to be true. (*Rico v. Mitsubishi Motors Corp.* (2007) 42 Cal.4th 607.)

17. In-house and general counsel should separate ordinary business communications from confidential.

18. The person paying the bill is not necessarily the client and may not be entitled to see the secrets. Consider asking for written consent or agreement in writing regarding what can or cannot be shared.



Michael Case is a founding partner of Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP. He handles business litigation, real estate and land use from the firm's Westlake Village office.

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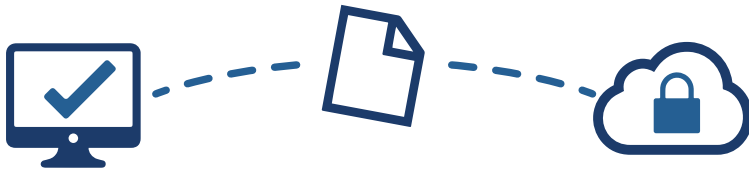
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Barristers' Corner

First and foremost, the Barristers of Ventura County would like to thank everyone who attended our Game Night on March 15. We played pool, met new people and caught up with old friends. It was a successful event and left me excited for our upcoming Wine and Cheese night in August.

This month, I would like to focus on the importance of networking and being more involved in the Ventura County legal community. Networking leads to jobs, clients and referrals. There is an old African proverb: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Networking is never as easy as it sounds, particularly as a new attorney or law student. Whether or not you are from the area, walking into a room of unfamiliar faces can be daunting. Barristers understands this all too well. We are all young attorneys or attorneys who have been practicing for less than seven years. That is why we try to make our events fun and interactive. Going to events like Game Night and Wine and Cheese Night are great ways to build your networking experience and comfort level. We hope to see you at our next event!

Volunteering is another great avenue for networking and giving back to the community. In February, the Ventura County Bar Association launched Ventura County Legal Aid. The clinic provides free legal advice on a range of legal issues. This is a perfect way to gain professional experience dealing directly with clients, and also to network with other attorneys. Volunteers will be needed throughout the year. The commitment is minimal, but the rewards are plentiful. The clinics are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at the Ventura County Law Library. Visit www.vclegalaid.org for more information.

The Ventura County Barristers is a section of the Ventura County Bar Association. Membership is automatic. If you are under 36 or have been practicing for seven years or less, you are a Barrister! For more information on Barristers events, see our Facebook page, or email Melanie Ely at Melanie@beachcove.com.

Rabiab Rahman is an associate attorney at *Strauss & Palay, APC*, and a member of the *CITATIONS* editorial board.

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REMEMBERING DICK REGNIER

by *Bill Paterson*



On Feb. 14, **Dick Regnier** suddenly passed away at the age of 84. His was a long and fruitful life. West Point graduate, jet fighter pilot and physical fitness devotee, Dick approached life with unbridled enthusiasm. Nowhere more so than in his law practice. We were partners for many years, and I learned early on that for Dick, the law was more than an honorable profession – it was a calling. When he was your attorney, you were in the hands of a tireless and passionate advocate.

Pessimism was an alien concept to Dick. One of my most vivid memories of him was many years back when he had the first of a number of cancer operations. It was the day after his surgery and I had come by to bring him some books that I thought he would enjoy. He was as cheerful and sunny in his hospital bed as if he were sitting on the beach in Hawaii. He was always the essence of optimism in both his professional and personal life.

As much as I thought I knew Dick, it was only after speaking with his wife **Georgianna** that I learned the full scope of his generosity and community service. He founded and personally provided the initial funding for “El Buen Hijo,” which augmented the Oxnard College Foundation’s scholarship program. He also served for

many years as the Foundation’s president and general counsel. The recipient of the Latino Leadership Award from El Concilio del Condado de Ventura for his many contributions to Ventura County’s Hispanic community, Dick’s charitable work was not confined to our County. He traveled to Honduras with the Cleft Lip and Palate Program after raising funds to support the project, and he and Georgianna spent time in India working with the NID (National Immunization Day) team to eradicate polio, a disease that once crippled over 200,000 Indian children a year. As of March 2014, India has been certified polio-free.

And then there were the chance encounters he had with young people, which led him to personally lend them a helping hand. These ranged from a busboy at the Saticoy Country Club he supported financially at the University of Idaho and the young man working at the hamburger stand across from his office, who is now a chef thanks to Dick’s help putting him through culinary school. One of the most interesting beneficiaries of his generosity was a young Tanzanian porter whom he met on his first trek up Mt. Kilimanjaro. Always a great talker, Dick learned that the young man yearned to become a mountain guide. True to form, Dick told him that he would

fund his way through guide school on the condition that he send him his graduation certificate. It now occupies a proud place in Dick’s study.

One of the dangers of an active law practice is that it can be so consuming that you miss the myriad of opportunities that life outside the office provides. The line between giving your all to your clients and becoming a workaholic is a fine one. Dick never gave less than his best to his clients, but he always set aside time for the other activities that make life worthwhile. These ranged from his community service, bar activities, the loving care he put into his garden, golf, travels with Georgianna, and late in life, earning a degree in English literature at Cal State University Channel Islands. He made the most of the gift of life.

The last time I saw Dick was just two days before he died at the funeral of a mutual friend. Dick, **Lou Carpiac** and I (all partners in our old firm of Ferguson, Regnier and Paterson) sat together. Dick was as vibrant and sunny as ever. And that is how I will always remember him.

Bill Paterson is retired after many years practicing with Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP. He lives in Camarillo.



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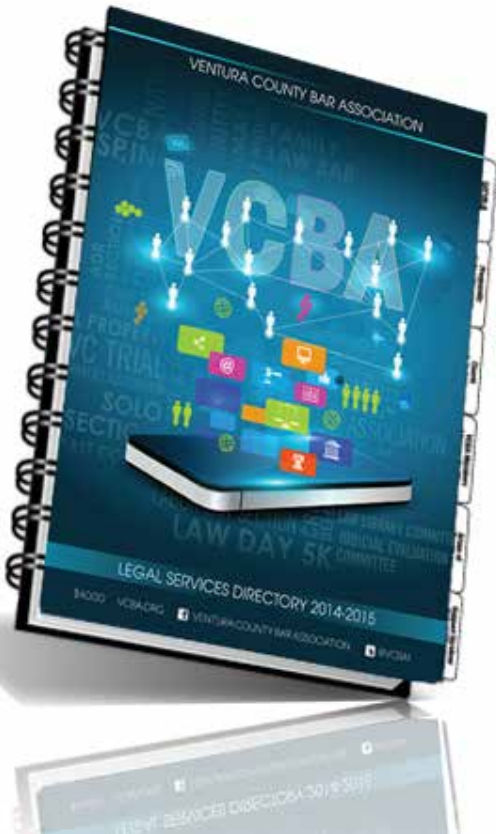
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Exec's Dot...Dot...Dot...

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



Ventura attorney **John J. Negley** was notified March 17 by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialty that he passed the Family Law Specialty Exam. Congrats at john@negleylaw.com or 644-4222...**John Hribar** passed the Appellate Law exam, too. jhribar@fcoplaw.com or 659-6800...From the *LA Times* March 18 – California's unaccredited law schools, which collectively have an 85 percent dropout rate, will soon have to disclose their attrition rates to prospective students. Unaccredited law schools are required to report their attrition rates to the State Bar of California but not prospective students. Students in the unaccredited law schools were far more likely to drop out than students at nationally accredited law schools, which



have a dropout rate of 12 percent...He's back – **Dan Palay** has opened his new shop entitled Palay Law Corporation. P.O. Box 7509, Ventura, CA, 93006. 805-890-4747. dpalaylaw@gmail.com



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!! The State of the Probate Court with **Judge Glen Reiser**, this year's Judge of the Year, on May 26. Reiser never fails to entertain, educate and update

a packed house. Sign up early before it sells out at 650-7599, bar@vcba.org, or turn in the flyer contained in the month's edition...

HE SPEAKS – For the first time in a decade, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas spoke during oral arguments Feb. 22. That date came on the same day the Supreme Court first heard oral arguments after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, who was Thomas's ideological soulmate and who had defended his lack of questions over



the years...Caroline Zahra Rad was born March 7, weighing 7 lb. 4 oz. and 20 ½". Mom **Lauren Clark Rad**, an associate at FCOP, and Dad Ramin Rad are all smiles...



Joel Mark, former VCBA and VCLA President (2013), will be moving to Palm Desert full time effective May 1. Joel will continue to maintain a presence in Ventura County

as Of Counsel to Norman Dowler LLP and will continue his practice here taking expert witness assignments in attorney fees, legal ethics and litigation malpractice. The dude gave much of himself to this community and our bar association. Kudos and thanks pal!



Comings and Goings – **Brett B. McMurdo** has joined the Ventura law firm of Hathaway Perrett Webster Powers Christman & Gutierrez as an associate. Undergrad at Cal and his law degree from Davis,

where he served as an editor of the UC Davis Law Review. bmcmurdo@hathawaylawfirm.com or 644-7111...

The Ventura County Military Collaborative hosts a free legal aid clinic for veterans the first Friday of each month. They are looking for volunteers. Attorneys specializing in family law and bankruptcy are in high

demand, but all volunteers are graciously accepted. Contact Kim Evans at 983-4850 or kimevansmft@msn.com... "The problem with political jokes is they get elected." Henry Cate, VII... "if we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven." —Will Rogers...



New Natural Resources Section Chair **Kate Neiswender** has taken over for the affable and competent **Gisele Goetz**. Kate would like you all to know she has organized a terrific CLE luncheon

April 6 featuring presenters **Mark Kirwin** and **Robert Kwong**. The title of their program, "Climate Change: How This Affects Your Clients, or Why the Paris Treaty Matters." Check out the flyer contained herein or 650-7599

Steve Henderson has been the executive director and chief executive officer of the bar association and its affiliated organizations since 1991. Henderson sat second chair during the jury trial for Erin Andrews who was awarded \$55 million. He's happy to share photos. He'll be hosting The Madness that is March at the Spearmint Rhino located in Ojai. Steve may be reached at steve@vcba.org, FB, Instagram at [steve_hendo](https://www.instagram.com/steve_hendo), LinkedIn, Twitter at [steve_hendo1](https://twitter.com/steve_hendo1) or, best yet, 650-7599.

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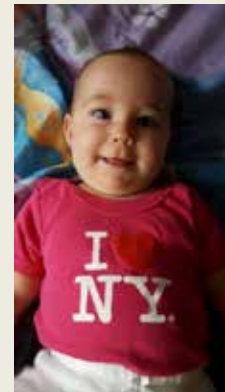
Hands for the Wedding



With the Bride and Groom



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