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# CITATIONS

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

## ANTHONY SABO: COMMISSIONER BY DAY, MARATHONER BY NIGHT (AND WEEKEND)

*by Rachel Coleman  
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

## “TIME IS A JET PLANE, IT MOVES TOO FAST”

*You're a Big Girl Now*- Bob Dylan, 1974

by William M. Grewe



**Chutes and Ladders.** Thank you for a wonderful year as your VCBA President. You are in for a treat. 2016 VCBA President **Charmaine Buehner** has ideas and energy, and she puts the two together to improve what she gets involved with. **Erik Feingold** is the new president-elect and **Mark Kirwin** the 2016 secretary-treasurer. 2014 VCBA President and 2015 Ben Nordman Award recipient **Laura Bartels**, who has served on the Executive Committee for four years, most recently as Immediate Past President, will have some free time to fill. Joining the VCBA Board in 2016 are **Lane Lopez**, **Jacquelyn Ruffin** and **Kathi Smith**. Welcome aboard!

**“Do trees have standing to sue?”** *Sierra Club v. Morton* (1972) 405 U.S. 727. How about coyotes? A few weeks back, just before sunrise, a purposeful coyote trotted east across Victoria, just south of Thille, headed in the direction of the courthouse. She probably had water rights or hillside development on her mind.

**Ventura Veterans Court.** November's Veterans Court graduation was our justice system at its best. **Judge Toy White** and the Veterans Court Team are doing good work and supporting veterans committed to turning their lives around. There has been a voice or two critical of this program. Long ago, after soldiers fought to create our country, as veterans they established a court system. Even Chief Justice John Marshall wore the uniform. The least we can do in thanks is lend a hand to contemporary veterans when they ask for help. The critics should have been in Courtroom 22 on Nov. 12, for if the proof is in the pudding, this was a banquet.

**“No ifs or buts or maybes.”** In writing these monthly columns, I've sprinkled in occasional stories of inspiring people who might just give the reader a nudge forward in the pursuit of a dream or goal. I will say so long with one.

During the 1970s, I spent seven summers running a grocery store in the Sierras. High, beautiful country. 8600 ft. An incredible range of folks passed through. Some on their way to the Himalayas; fellows actually walking around the world, tip to toe; others were set on free climbing granite walls. All kinds. Many top flight athletes.

One summer, a girl arrived who was committed to making the U.S. Women's Olympic Cross-Country Ski Team. She called a tent in a walk-in campground home. She made a few bucks working at a diner at the top of Tioga Pass. Otherwise, she was training, alone. In those days, there was no active Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. It would open in 1978, but it would take time to find its role. She had no coach, no nutritionist, no sports psychologist and no doting parent. There was nothing to guide her but a Coleman lantern. She combined a certain grit with the surrounding landscape of long roads in high mountains. It was no more than a paper dream, but it was hers. The next summer, she was back, pushing just as hard.

I would see her out on the road on her roller skis, arms flailing as if pursuing an invisible foe. Mile after mile, chasing a dream no one else could see at a time when there were so few women athletes. Title IX passed in 1972, but its impact had not yet been realized. Women simply did not pursue athletics in this way.

Once, I saw her near Mono Lake on a two-lane lonesome highway to nowhere, under a bright sun, pumping away with her roller skis. What did she see? What made this lone figure go? Why did she never ease up? No one would know. No one was checking. Cars would slow. People would stare out their windows and then accelerate on by. No matter. She kept at it. Always.

Time would take me to other places. Years would pass. I was in the lobby of an L.A. hotel. There was a TV playing. The Olympics were on. It was a relay race on cross-country skis. The announcer spoke along with the action, “Now taking the baton for the Americans is the oldest member of the women's Nordic ski team, Nancy Fiddler.” The girl from the campground. Wow. (*Fiddler was the oldest Nordic skier in the '88 Olympics and the oldest women's Nordic skier in the '92 Olympics. She was the top performing American women's Nordic skier in both Olympics.*)

**Thank you** to everyone who put on a bar program, spoke at a program, or promoted one of our many offerings. We are truly local and our quality, low-cost programs hit the mark and shine thanks to you. Thank you to **Sandra Rubio** and **Nadia Avila** who, like unseen stage hands, keep the wheels turning and the bar on course.

If there is a gateway to VCBA, it is Citations. **Thank you Wendy, the editorial board and JP.**

**Thank you – and a tip of the cap – to Steve,** our CEO, who doesn't just write one good monthly column, or 12 or 24. Month-to-month, year-to-year, he keeps putting out good stuff. Steve has a little bit of himself in everything the bar does. I learned that you don't ask Steve if he knows someone. Rather, you ask, “Have you spoken to ... this week?” Steve, thanks for making sure we all hit our marks.

From the courthouse to the islands, and the hills to the highways, be safe and enjoy all that winter brings.

*Bill Grewe handles wrongful death, personal injury, employment law and workplace injury cases at Rose, Klein & Marias, LLP in Ventura. He can be reached at w.grewe@rkmlaw.net*



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## BARRISTERS’ CORNER

by Steve Marshall

Barristers have elected their 2016 slate of officers and members at large: **Melanie Ely**, president; **Josh Hopstone**, vice president; **Lauren Sims**, treasurer; and **Lauren Wood**, secretary. These individuals were elected as members at large: past president, **Katie Becker**; **Tom Adams**; **Rachel Coleman**; **Renee Dehesa**; **Brian Israel**; **Steve Marshall**; **Brier Miron**; **Rabiah Rahman**; and **Robyn Weiss**.

Barristers are proud to present the “Bridging the Gap 2016” MCLE event on Saturday, Jan. 16. This event is open to all attorneys and is a great way to get those difficult-to-obtain credits in substance abuse, elimination of bias, and ethics. The program also provides three general credits for a total of six credits. The MCLE compliance deadline for those with last names beginning with A-G is just around the corner on Feb. 1. For those whose compliance deadline is farther out, why not make a New Year’s resolution to get a jump on your MCLEs? See the flyer in this issue for more information.

Congratulations are in order for two Barristers. Josh Hopstone and his wife Michelle welcomed a daughter, Natalie Maya Hopstone, to their family on Nov. 5, and Brier Miron has been elected the incoming Chair of the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce.

We also wish to congratulate all those who passed the July 2015 bar examination (or as we call them, “instant Barristers!”). We have a number of exciting events planned for 2016, and we hope that you will join us.

If you are a member of the Bar and are 35 years old or younger, or if you have been practicing law for less than seven years, you are a Barrister! If you are interested in getting more involved with the Barristers, feel free to email us at [vcba.barristers@gmail.com](mailto:vcba.barristers@gmail.com) or simply make it out to an event.

*Steve Marshall practices civil and criminal law at the Law Offices of Brian A. Vogel, PC.*

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am glad that CITATIONS has raised the timely issue of death with dignity. However, I disagree with the way this issue was presented in the article, “An Easy Way to Die?” [Oct. 2015 issue – ed.] Ms. Darnall’s piece seemed to suggest that the end of one’s life should be “inconvenient” – to those around it and to the dying person themself. The author finds the Brittany Murphy case “unsettling.” She argues that because it is unsettling to have someone choose to take their own life, albeit peacefully and surrounded by loved ones, it is preferable that a dying person go out and toss themselves under a train.

While I have considered the issue of death with dignity for many years, it has very recently hit home for me. My mother, 72 years young, has been diagnosed with bone cancer of “unknown primary.” Her oncology team cannot identify where the cancer came from or what sort of cancer it is. The damage to my mom’s bones is irreversible. The pain is extreme and seemingly relentless at times. Because doctors cannot identify the primary cause, there is no target for chemo, radiation or surgery. My mother’s case is terminal and quick. Just last ski season, my mom skied at least 30 days. She is my second-in-command in parenting my active 8-year-old, taking him on hikes and bike rides, going swimming and taking trips to museums, among other activities.

Throughout my whole life, my mother has consistently told me of her wishes to die quickly, without any pain – she has made it clear to me from childhood that she never wanted to be connected to any life-saving devices, never wanted to artificially prolong her life.

And now she is dying, and she is in great pain. Her primary wishes have not changed. She wants to be comfortable, and she does not want to be a burden on her family or close friends. I treasure every moment I still have with her. She lives in New Mexico, where the State Supreme Court is currently considering death with dignity, but they will not decide soon enough.

I read the CITATIONS article as a suggestion that I wheel my mother to the closest train tracks – that she should not have access to a

medical protocol to end her suffering. I find this suggestion absurd and abhorrent. My mother faces a brief but uncertain time of morphine-induced, near-coma conditions, interrupted by excruciating “breakthrough pain.” This woman who has always been fiercely independent, this person who has always been the first to lend a hand to others. She is confined to her bed and hopes to have just one good day: one in which the pain is controlled and she can be comfortable. She is no longer able to help anyone, not even herself. There is no cure; there is no therapy. Darnall’s article suggests that the state should not allow her to pass on with dignity. The article suggests that those who want to terminate their own suffering should face so many obstacles that their death will be dramatic, “inconvenient” and stressful. Why?

I appreciate that affirmative action to end one’s life raises many questions and

concerns, but for those of us who are living with someone we love so deeply and who is suffering so relentlessly, this issue is not to be callously dispensed with the suggestion that we just deal with the “anxiety and inconvenience” of an ad-hoc death or suicide. Being with my mother in this condition is already full of anxiety and inconvenience, thank you. We don’t need her actual death to be another “inconvenience” – to her or to others – on top of everything else.

Death with dignity means that caregivers – doctors, nurses, social workers, loved ones – can access another tool to help ease the situation. Instead of hopelessly waiting around for that final shoe to drop, a person can plan, can make arrangements and can go peaceably, with dignity, with care. Why deny a person the ability to control her own life?

*Vanessa Frank*



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## ANTHONY SABO: COMMISSIONER BY DAY, MARATHONER BY NIGHT (AND WEEKEND)

by Rachel Coleman



On May 12, 2014, **Anthony Sabo** started yet another adventure in his life as a Ventura County Superior Court commissioner. Sabo's current assignment is in Department J5 at the Juvenile Justice Center and in Department S1 in the Simi Valley Courthouse, handling adult and juvenile traffic court trials as well as juvenile infractions and low-level arraignments and contests. Before that he had been assigned to a trial courtroom in the Hall of Justice, and he has covered virtually all of the calendar courtrooms at some point.

Sabo attended Indiana University, soon followed by law school at the University of North Dakota. In 1992, Sabo took the California Bar Exam and in 1995, took the Indiana Bar Exam after living in Tokyo, Japan for three years. Sabo related that he ran a private law practice in Indiana for thirteen years. His practice focused on family law, personal injury, real estate and bankruptcy matters. From 1997 to 2008, he also worked part time as a prosecutor for Ohio and Dearborn Counties, where he prosecuted both felony and misdemeanor matters. During his time in private practice he served as the attorney for the city of Rising Sun, Indiana and was the attorney for the county planning commission, county

parks, and county zoning appeals board. Outside of legal work he was very active in the 4-H program and was president of the county extension board for ten years as well as a soccer coach and the Rising Sun City Santa Claus (he still has the suit).

Before moving to Ventura County in August 2008, Sabo ran for a superior court judicial position in Ohio County, Indiana. Just before the election, the Indiana legislature deleted the court where he would sit as judge. Sabo stated he felt frustrated with his career and applied for a job on-line with the District Attorney's office in Ventura. At the time, he did not even know anything about Ventura other than it is located in California. As luck would have it, he received a job offer and packed up his belongings and his very old beagle and moved 2,400 miles west. Sabo worked for the District Attorney's office from August 2008 to May 9, 2014, taking many assignments, including one in the major crimes gang unit.

In his spare time, Sabo enjoys training for and running half marathons, marathons and ultra marathons. A half marathon is a 13.1-mile foot race; a marathon is 26 miles and 385 yards. An ultra marathon is a footrace longer than the traditional marathon length of 26 miles and 385 yards. Sabo first started running marathons in 1994. He ran his first one around Lake Kawaguchiko, which is at the base of Mt. Fuji. He followed that race with a half marathon that started at

sea level at the base of Mt. Fuji, went one block straight and then turned left, finishing thirteen miles and 13,000 feet later at the summit of the volcano.

Sabo reports he has run too many half marathons to count, six marathons and three ultra marathons. Sabo's farthest run was last year – a mere 46 miles. His most recent half marathon was Nov. 15 in Malibu. This will be the sixth time Sabo ran this particular half marathon. He also plans to run another one in December, the "Santa to the Sea" half marathon.

Sabo regularly trains for these races with his dachshund Minnie. Fortunately for Minnie's paws, Sabo runs with her safely stowed in a running stroller. Sabo is a big supporter of the American Humane Society and the ASPCA; he adopted Minnie from the Camarillo Animal Shelter.

Sabo related he is a proud father of a senior at the University of Colorado. His daughter will graduate in May 2016. Sabo also enjoys spending his weekends around the house doing home repairs with various power tools and cutting things with his chainsaw. Sabo noted that he still has all of his fingers.



*Rachel Coleman is an associate attorney at Lehr Lemmon & Associates, LLP, where she practices criminal defense and civil litigation.*

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# VENTURA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL INSTALLATION AND AWARDS DINNER

*Photos courtesy of Craig Bates and Telegenics: 805-981-3994*





## UNTIL WWII, AMERICANS IN CHINA HAD THEIR OWN SPECIAL EXPAT COURTS

by Bill Lascher

On July 2, 1937, a 20-year-old Stanford student visited Shanghai after a year studying abroad in southern China. Curious about the “judiciary complications that would naturally ensue from such a mixed-up city,” Melville Jacoby was looking forward to visiting the chambers of Judge Milton J. Helmick, who presided over a peculiar but powerful instrument of early 20th century American colonialism: the United States Court for China.

Yes, the United States had its own court of law in China.

What neither Jacoby nor Helmick knew was that he would be the last judge to preside over the court. Five days after Jacoby’s visit, Japan and China would exchange the first shots of a conflict that would morph into World War II and ultimately see the end of extraterritoriality.

For decades, the U.S., like Great Britain, France, Japan and a handful of other countries, had enjoyed extensive “extraterritorial” powers in China. Since 1906, the court had been part of these powers. This meant that U.S. citizens in China were subject to American, not Chinese law, even when on Chinese soil. If an American were accused of a crime or sued anywhere in China, Helmick or one of his four predecessors, not a Chinese judge, would have heard her case.

Judge Helmick, appointed by FDR in 1934 and formerly New Mexico’s attorney general, joked that anyone qualified enough to preside over the court “would surely have proved too sagacious to take the job.” In an ordinary day, a judge in his position, Helmick wrote:

ought to have known most of the substantive law there is on any subject, Federal procedure and practice, state court methods and function, all about extraterritoriality, a little international law, a smattering of the laws of other countries, something of Chinese law, a great deal about China, a lot about international politics, considerable about diplomatic usages, a bit of

anthropology and a modicum about bomb dodging. Curiously, he need not know that elusive thing called the Chinese language.

As Jacoby wrote out in a letter to his family after meeting Helmick, one of the judge’s chief difficulties was figuring out which laws even applied in China. It was unclear whether the United States Court for China was a federal court, a local court, a state or territorial enterprise, or a consular court.

“Obviously – or perhaps not? – China was not a ‘state’ of the United States,” writes Emory University Law Professor Teemu Ruskola. “In the end the only thing truly obvious was that the court was *sui generis*.”

The 1907 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision *Biddle v. United States* said that any federal law that applied in any part of the United States could be applied in China. At first, the federal territory in Alaska seemed like the best model, but then the court leaned toward the District of Columbia Code to guide its decisions.

“Consequently every American lawyer in China had a D.C. Code on his desk for his number-one law book, just as any lawyer in America would have his own state statutes on his desk,” Helmick wrote in a 1941 article. “American law” in China on just about every matter, from traffic violations to wrongful death suits, came from Washington D.C., though judges tended to interpret the application of D.C. Code as it fit China.

“It is odd when you see cases like ‘so and so was brought up for pushing a Chinese into the Huangpu River contrary to the laws of the District of Columbia,’” says Eileen Scully, a professor at Bennington College whose book, *Bargaining with the State from Afar: American Citizenship in Treaty Port China*, deals extensively with the court.

One thing was definitive about the United States Court for China, though. There were no juries. Trials were decided by judges, though a court commissioner handled traffic citations. Only Americans could be tried or sued by the court, though anyone could be a

plaintiff. Moreover, non-American witnesses could not be compelled to answer questions, as they weren’t subject to contempt.

For a court with so much power, the U.S. Court for China was little known, even during its time. “It seemed that Congress had to be reminded that the court existed,” says Scully.

Complicating matters yet further, few litigants ever appealed cases heard by the U.S. Court for China. Appeals were heard by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which sat in faraway San Francisco, and it could take two to three years from the original decision for Ninth Circuit judges to render a new decision. The Ninth Circuit heard only about two appeals a year from the China court, and most of the judgments in those appeals were affirmed.

Even in China, logistics proved a problem. The United States Court for China had the largest jurisdiction of any U.S. court in terms of land area. Though the court’s judges were based in Shanghai, they also sat annually in Tianjin (about 600 miles north of Shanghai), Hankou (about 430 miles west), and Guangzhou (765 miles to the southwest). These were huge distances to travel at a time when China still lacked extensive infrastructure, especially early in the court’s tenure.

“Except for absence of jury trials, the Bill of Rights is otherwise scrupulously respected as a matter of primary American principle and legal policy,” Helmick wrote in 1941. Defendants’ rights to speedy trials were also constrained; sometimes, accused criminals were held for many months before being tried.

“When I first started looking into it, I was expecting the court to be kind of a kangaroo court,” admits Scully. Instead, she says the court was often used as a model of American democracy by progressive-era politicians interested in nation building in China. This was particularly true for the court’s first judge, Lebbeus R. Wilfley, and its third

*continued on page 15*





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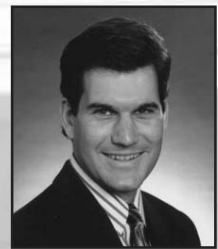
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*Continued from page 11*

judge, Charles Loebinger, who presided from 1914 to 1924 and often used his position on the bench to advance his own agenda. "He was very good at making this a showcase of Chinese justice," says Scully.

Not everyone involved with the court portrayed the U.S. positively. During the 1920s, Leonard Husar, the U.S. District Attorney for China – the government's chief prosecutor in China – ran guns to a powerful warlord named Zhang Zongchang, who also paid him to assist an opium smuggling ring. Husar was finally convicted in 1927 for extorting prostitutes and accepting bribes from Zhang.

Dramatic as Husar's downfall may have been, most of the cases heard by the U.S. Court for China were decidedly dull. In the 1920s, China was wracked in civil strife as warlords vied for control of the country. But extraterritoriality meant Shanghai (and to a lesser extent, other treaty ports) was a bubble where Americans just wanted to collect their rent or seek damages for a business deal gone sour.

"This was kind of the point," Scully explains. "They allowed people to have everyday lives while China is falling apart."

Helmick served as the court's judge until Japan seized control of Shanghai following its attack on Pearl Harbor. Detained for months with a number of other Americans at Shanghai's Hotel Metropole, Helmick was finally repatriated to the United States on one of two trips of the Gripsholm, a neutral Swedish vessel used for prisoner exchanges throughout the war.

The last case the U.S. Court for China ever heard involved a different extension of U.S. power in China: the Flying Tigers, a volunteer air force led by General Claire Chennault.

One night in April, 1942, Chennault's right hand man, Boatner Carney, a balding flying instructor with a push-broom mustache, shot and killed another soldier, William Reichmann, after a bar fight in southwestern China. Carney's case was rushed before the court because the U.S. had signed but not

*continued on page 17*

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*Effective January 1, 2016*

The Ventura County Family Law Department announces a change in the scheduling of ex parte applications for Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders (DVTRO) in cases that are vertically assigned to a specific Family Law courtroom.

Currently, all ex parte requests for DVTRO are heard at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 34. Commencing Jan. 1, a request for a DVTRO in a vertically assigned case will be heard at 11:30 a.m. in the assigned courtroom. Counsel are requested to call the assigned courtroom's judicial secretary for an appointment.

Courtroom 34 will continue to hear DVTRO applications in cases that are vertically assigned to that courtroom and where the DVTRO application is filed at the same time as the Summons and Petition.

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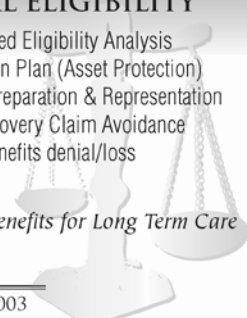
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*Continued from page 15*

ratified a treaty to end extraterritoriality. With Helmick back in the U.S. and Japan occupying Shanghai, Bertrand E. Johnson, a former Oklahoma judge on active duty in the war, was summoned to preside over Carney's case. Johnson convicted Carney of manslaughter and sentenced him to two years in prison. Under pressure from General Chennault and the Senate, though, President Roosevelt pardoned Carney. By then, the treaty had been ratified, extraterritoriality was ended, and the court was dismantled.

"I think by the end [Helmick] was very chagrined at how anomalous the court was, all things considered," says Scully.

To this day, the U.S. Court for China remains something of a mystery. The National Archives and Records Administration holds some of its files, but most of the records produced by the court were handed to neutral Swiss authorities to protect after Pearl Harbor. Once the war was over, a U.S. consul recovered the records, only to leave a safe containing them under the care of the British Foreign Service in 1950, when Communists seized the Americans' consulate. When the U.S. tried to recover the records two years later, the U.K. said its diplomats – unwilling to take responsibility for opening the safe the files were stored in – had left them behind.

It's possible that the last vestiges of U.S. colonialism in China remain somewhere in Shanghai, securely locked inside a safe that no one's bothered to open for 65 years.

*Bill Lascher, son of CITATIONS editor Wendy Lascher, is the author of **Eve of a Hundred Midnights** a biography of Melville and Annalee Jacoby, to be published by William Morrow June 21, 2016.*

*This article was originally published Nov. 11, 2015 by Atlas Obscura, [www.atlasobscura.com](http://www.atlasobscura.com), and is reprinted here with their permission.*



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## Mexican American Bar Association



*L - R: Gregory J. Ramirez, Julie Findley- Malone, Frances Contreras, Alan R. Ball, Bernadet Babasi and Claudia Calderon.*

The Education Foundation of the Mexican American Bar Association (“MABA”) held its Annual Scholarship Dinner on Oct. 23.

MABA awarded its Alice McGrath Warriors for Justice Award for lifetime achievement to Manuel and Irma Lopez of Oxnard.

**Judge Manuel Covarrubias**, co-chair of the Judicial Council’s working group developing

the Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts, received the President’s Award and gave the keynote speech about language access in the courts.

Elizabeth Ann Sugmad, Roxanne Martinez, Frances Contreras, Jessica Vasquez, and Martiza Garcia Lopez received MABA scholarships.

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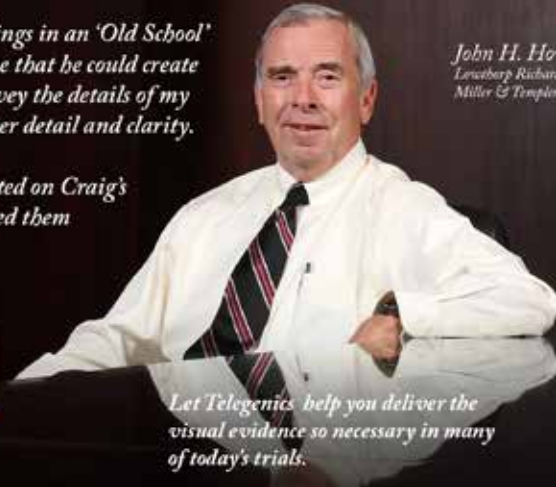
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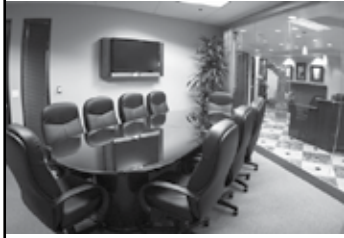
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# Exec's Dot...Dot...Dot...

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



High regards and warm, fuzzy kudos to bar association board members **Tom Hutchinson** and **Amy Kiesewetter** for bailing us out as co-chairs of the Silent Auction portion of our Annual Installation and Awards Dinner held 11.21. These two, taking over for long-time spearhead **Don Hurley**, raised an incredible \$6,000 for

Ventura County Legal Aid. Over 200 souls turned-out for the gala honoring **Laura Bartels**, **Joe Strohm** and **Kathleen Nakos**. Special shout-out to the bench officers who took time out to join us also. **Ayers**, **Back**, **Borrell**, **DeNoce**, **Guasco**, **Innumerable**, **Kellegrew**, **McGee**, **Romero**, **Worley** and **Young**... (not to mention retired **Judge Long**.)



Whoever can tell me the name of the lawyer who owns this automobile and associated plate, I will purchase lunch...



**Mark Pachowicz** was named Boss of the Year by the Ventura County Legal Professionals during the annual Bosses' Night festivities. He was nominated by Charlene Thompson. **Carol Sautter** won the Secretary of the Year and she was nominated by FCOP's **Leslie McAdam**... **Dr. Stanislaus Pulle**, Dean, Southern



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License Plate of the Month: **WEBB LAW** piloted by **Larry Webb** on a Chevy Tahoe...NOTICE OF

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**Raimundo J. Montes De Oca**, who heads the Public Defender's Office in Santa Barbara, has been named to the Superior Court bench... HISTORY made! For the first time in the 58-years history of the American Board of Trial Advocates, a presentation was made by an all-female panel. "Civility Matters," a seminar and panel discussion for attorneys focusing on

the issue of civility and courtesy in the legal profession, was held at the Santa Barbara College of Law on 10.28. The presentation



was organized by the Central Coast Chapter of ABOTA. Panelists included the **Hon. Donna Geck**, **Dana Caudill** and **Jill Friedman**...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - Last chance for an easy six CLE day, Jan. 16, 2016, at the County Government Center. Again, sponsored by the leadership of the Barristers, a practical, economically reasonable way for you A-G procrastinators to score before the deadline Jan. 31. Three generals and one CLE each of Ethics, Substance Abuse and Bias. Nadia at\_bar@vcba.org... Recommended Book of the Month - *Rogue Lawyer*, by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$28.95) An unorthodox lawyer working out of a van defends the riffraff of society. LA Times #1 Best Seller list... A Maryland judge has cited the "untenable" caseload of a public defender in overturning the murder conviction of a defendant at PD represented at trial after juggling 88 felony cases in the previous six months. Judge Michael Mason of Montgomery County ordered the retrial of Reminger Kaur, convicted in the shooting death of her husband's ex-wife. "I think this is an example of what happens when we ask the public defenders to do what we are currently asking them to do. It's untenable," stated Judge Mason...

REMINDER LIST - December 5 is Bath tub Party Day, December 18 is Underdog Day, December 21 is the first day of Winter, and my personal favorite, December 26 is National Whiner's Day...

*Steve Henderson has been the executive director and the chief executive officer of the bar association and its affiliated organization since 1990. Henderson will be spending December 24 & 25th at Adele's ranch in Northern London and New Year's Eve with Johnny Manziel. He may be reached at steve@vcba.org, FB, LinkedIn, Instagram at steve\_hendo, Twitter at steve@hendo1 or better yet, 650.7599.*



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