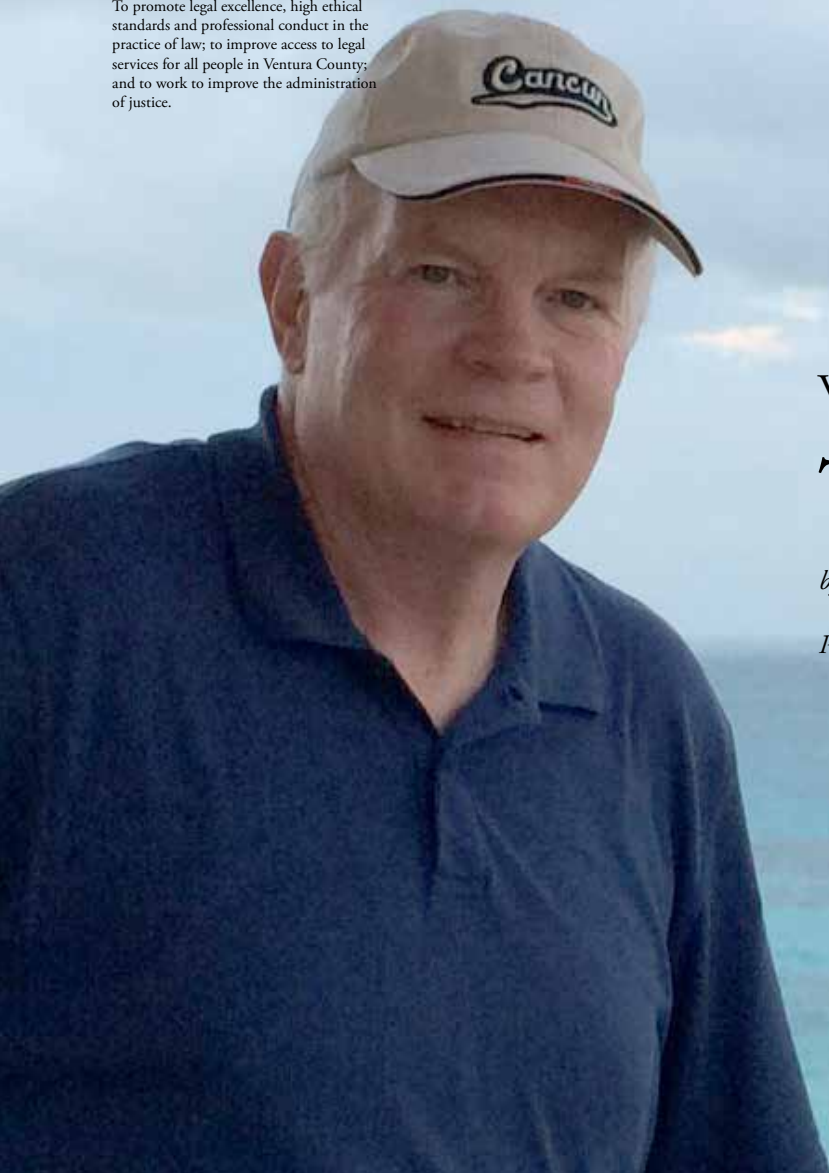




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Buehner with her grandfather, Capt. James F. Newell, USMC, Ret., in 2015.

My family is very excited to spend Spring Break this year in Washington, DC. My husband, James, and I lived there from 1998 through 2002, and we look forward to sharing our favorite museums, monuments and memorials with our children. I find the war memorials particularly moving and especially look forward to seeing the World War II Memorial, which opened after we moved from DC to California. Almost all the men in my family have served in the military.

James was in the Army for the first nine years we were married, and worked as an interrogator in the 82nd Airborne Division and as a Human Intelligence Specialist for the Defense Intelligence Agency. He spent a number years overseas while I kept home base wherever we were stationed. My dad and uncles all served, and my grandfather, who turns 92 this month, is a Marine Corps veteran of not only World War II and the battles of Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima, but also of the Korean and Vietnam wars.



Sgt. Buehner after recovering contraband weapons, Bosnia, circa 1996.



Capt. James F. Newell, USMC, Ret., circa 1960.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

The Legal Community's Strong Support for Our Veterans

by Charmaine H. Buehner

Although we can usually get my Grandpa to talk about the time he commandeered a US Navy ship for a practical joke, he sparingly shares more serious war-time memories. He once told me that after landing on the tiny volcanic island of Iwo Jima, and after several days of heavy fighting without rest, he was so tired he could barely stand. He could not sit down because the hot volcanic sand would burn through his uniform pants. So, my then-20-year old Grandpa decided to alternate between taking his helmet off to sit on it and rest, and standing to put it back on in effort to shield his head from the bullets whizzing by. I gain perspective easily if I think about the challenges I face at work compared with those of the boys on that island 71 years ago.

Though my family members were fortunate to leave military service in relatively good shape, many more service members are not so fortunate. In my opinion, California, and Ventura County's legal community in particular, deserve solid marks for support of our active military and veterans. In late January, the California Senate passed SB112, the Veterans Bill of Rights, which is now pending before the Assembly (see http://sd31.senate.ca.gov/sites/sd31.senate.ca.gov/files/20150SB112_97.pdf). Locally, you may recall reading a November 2014 Citations article about a then-newly formed Veterans Legal Clinic, or you may be familiar with the annual "Stand Down" weekend, the Veterans Court or other programs.

The Ventura County Veterans Legal Clinic operates on the first Friday every month from 1 to 4 pm, in the National University building in Oxnard (see www.vcmilc.org). In 2015, **Mark Kirwin** and I visited the clinic to see it in action. I was impressed to

see a waiting room full of veterans, and a full complement of volunteer service providers, such as the County Veterans Service Office, financial advisors, and lawyers, including VCBA board member and family-lawyer extraordinaire **Tom Hutchinson**. I recently checked back in with **Kim Evans**, the volunteer clinic director, and **Tom Kitchens**, who is a regular clinic volunteer and practices workers compensation law.

Both Kitchens and Evans related stories of veterans whose lives have dramatically improved by the work of clinic volunteers. In one instance, the clinic helped an active service member prevail in a custody matter that arose while she was overseas so that she could keep her child. In another case, the clinic helped clear a World War II veteran of fault for a car accident by correcting a witness statement error. Evans expressed gratitude for the lawyers who so generously give their time, and encourages new volunteers to participate.

Since 1993, **J. Roger Myers** and **Glenn Campbell** have helped to organize the annual Stand Down weekend, which usually takes place the last weekend of July at the Ventura Armory. The weekend gives veterans access to a range of services, from meals and haircuts to social services and legal counsel. On Friday of the weekend, the Superior Court holds a special session at the Armory to clear misdemeanor warrants, and during the weekend, volunteer lawyers hold sessions to provide counsel on civil matters. For several years now, volunteer lawyers have included Myers, Campbell, **William Raymond**, **Nancy Aaronson**, **Thomas Adams** and **Rod Kodman**. For more information, please see www.venturacountystanddown.org.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Continued from page 3

Finally, the Ventura Superior Court Veterans Intervention Program, authorized by Penal Code section 1170.9, began in 2010. The Program operates every Thursday at 2 p.m. in Department 37 of the Hall of Justice, and is presided over by **Judge Colleen Toy White**. The Program is a collaborative effort by the Superior Court, Public Defender, District Attorney, Probation Agency, Veteran's Court Liaison and Department of Veterans Affairs. The Program gives veterans facing criminal charges the option to participate in social services and treatment instead of jail time. Of the program, Judge White said, "Our success is not measured in statistics or numbers; it is measured in the lives that have been changed. We are honored to participate in this effort to provide these veterans with accountability and supervision to ensure they embrace treatment, but the real rewards come from seeing families reunited and lives restored."

When I was little, I mostly appreciated my grandfather's service for the gloriously large tattoo of a bald eagle he acquired on his arm during it, which he would let my sisters and me color in with vibrant rainbow markers. Now, and particularly after having spent years as an Army spouse, I more fully appreciate and recognize the meaning behind the service and our obligation to those who have served. While our legal community can be proud of the good work we do to support our veterans, many legal needs of veterans remain unmet. Let's continue to work together to meet them.

Charmaine H. Buehner is a Senior Assistant County Counsel with the County of Ventura, and is glad that her duties as assistant-Girl-Scout-Cookie seller to daughter, Avery, are just about over for another year. You can reach her at charmaine.buehner@ventura.org.



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SIGNAL VICTORY

by Nabil Sakla



I visit my mother every day. I always take the same route home: south on Johnson Drive in Ventura. One day at the intersection with North Bank, I noticed the green light was exceptionally long. I maintained my speed at 45 m.p.h, but as I crossed the intersection, I noticed that the light had turned yellow and then, unusually quickly, red. I saw a bright flash as I went by. Sure enough, the very next day I received a citation from the court, and the day after that a notice of traffic violation from the Ventura Police Department (VPD). My options were pay a \$490 fine or pay a \$558 fine if I wanted to attend a traffic school. Neither option included the cost of traffic school itself!

I made many inquiry calls and web searches into similar events. I received several offers to assist from web advertisers, many of whom are not attorneys. I also received a couple of offers from local attorneys, asking for fees from \$250 to \$600 to handle my case. When I asked what kind of defense they would use, the answers varied, but none seemed convincingly bullet-proof. Besides, what could they do that I could not do myself, since I am also a practicing attorney?

I looked back at the documents from the VPD, which included a short video and four photos, one of which showed my car in the intersection white limit line with the signal light red. It indicated that my speed was 46 mph, that I was in the Number 2 lane, and it said, "Red 0.25". According to Tom

Randall, who handles red light tickets for the VPD, this meant that I drove for 0.25 of a second while the light was red.

I was an engineer before I became a lawyer. My mathematical instincts taking over, I converted 46 m.p.h. into 67 feet per second. This meant that in a quarter of a second I would be driving a little over 16 feet. But after watching the video several times, I noticed that I was only about four feet from reaching the white limit line before the light turned red, nowhere near the 16 feet the picture and report suggested.

VPD's Randall, who was very courteous and responsive, gave me a case-specific DVD depicting my car going through the red light. He also gave me a certificate stating that the yellow light at that intersection was supposed to last 4.7 seconds (yellow light durations vary with the design traffic speed at a given intersection and are set by Caltrans).

In enforcing red light citations, the VPD attests to the accuracy of the red light camera equipment. Red Flex System Inc., which provides red light ticket equipment to the City of Ventura and to many other cities across the country, is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Arizona. Rather than subpoenaing Red Flex records, I obtained additional documents from the Ventura Traffic Engineer assuring me that the traffic lights were working properly and were recently calibrated.

Because perseverance is the essence of research, I decided to watch how trials for red light traffic camera citations are handled in Ventura courts. At the courthouse I met Ernie Edrozco, who represents the VPD in red light camera cases. In each case, he testifies that he personally inspects each traffic signal for proper working order once a month.

The video I had received from VPD only reads in whole seconds, not fractions. I tried to use a stopwatch to verify the claimed 4.7 yellow light duration, but it was very difficult to measure fraction of seconds; human response time is not fast enough.

After looking unsuccessfully for precision cameras that could capture and replay the video frames in fraction of seconds, I obtained software that dissects the video into multiple frames per second. When I played the video frame by frame, I proved my instinct correct. The last frame depicting the yellow light ON was frame number 133, which was 4.433 seconds from the start. The next frame, which depicted the start of the red light ON, was frame number 134, which was 4.466 seconds from the start. Eureka!. The yellow light was short by almost quarter of a second.

After I brought this evidence to Edrozco's attention, he called me to confirm that I was correct and to apologize for the inconvenience. With that evidence, my case was dismissed. Though it took 48 days and many hours of research, I was able to confirm that the camera equipment was behaving abnormally in spite of all the assurances I was given, and to establish my innocence.



Nabil Sakla is president and CEO of Pacific Wireline, an oilfield service company he co-started in 1991. He has also been an attorney in solo practice since 2005, and is a member and co founder

of Saint John the Baptist Coptic Orthodox Church in Oxnard.

William R. Redmond: THE COMMISH

by Rachel Coleman



On Aug. 18, 2008, **William Redmond** started his position as a Ventura County Superior Court Commissioner. He adjudicated all types of criminal cases, including felony preliminary hearings, sentencing hearings, misdemeanor jury trials, traffic infraction arraignments and trials, landlord-tenant disputes and small claims cases. He spent three years at the Simi Valley Courthouse as the only judicial officer in the entire building. He currently sits in Courtroom Ten, handling misdemeanor arraignments and infractions.

In March of 2008, Redmond went to the doctor for a routine check up, and doctors found a spot on his kidney. The spot turned out to be a cancerous tumor the size of a small plum. While he recovered from surgery, he received a call asking if he would be interested in an upcoming Commissioner position. Due to the recent surgery, he declined. As luck would have it, four months later, he received another phone call, alerting him to another open commissioner position left by **Commissioner Ellen Gay Conroy's** appointment to the bench. He immediately accepted the position. Redmond will be eight years cancer-free this month.

Before becoming an attorney, Redmond was a National Park Service Ranger from 1979 to 1987. He worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer for Ventura County from 1987 to 1990. Redmond recounted that he became interested in becoming an attorney when

he was called a witness in a case when he worked as a ranger. He was not impressed by the attorney who examined him as a witness. Redmond said to himself, "If that idiot can be an attorney, then so can I." With that, Redmond started the first step in his legal career by attending night classes at Ventura College of Law while working as a probation officer during the day. He received his law degree from Ventura College of Law and was admitted to the State Bar Dec. 5, 1990. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from San Francisco State University, graduating magna cum laude.

From 1990 to August of 2008, Redmond worked for the Ventura County District Attorney's Office in various assignments. From 1990 to 1997, he handled misdemeanor crimes, major financial fraud crimes, juvenile delinquency matters and major narcotics crimes. From 1997 to 2002, Redmond was the Supervising Deputy District Attorney of the General Felony Unit. From 2002 to 2005, he was the Supervising Deputy District Attorney of the General Felony and Misdemeanor Unit. From 2005 to 2008, Redmond prosecuted sexual assault, child molestation, child abuse, elder abuse and domestic violence cases as the Senior Deputy District Attorney in the Sexual Assault and Family Protection Unit.

In his spare time, Redmond enjoys traveling with Terry, his wife of 22 years. Except for the Simi years, they have tried to go on a vacation at least two times a year. New Orleans and Cancun are favorite locations. They went on several cruises over the years, including cruises to Mexico and the Panama

Canal as well as to Sweden and Denmark. Redmond also makes many day trips to Santa Barbara when he is not able to take time off from work to travel.

In addition to traveling, Redmond takes regular walks around the Channel Islands Harbor to take in the beauty of the Southern California coast. He is also an avid reader of murder mystery novels written by Robert Tanenbaum, Michael Connelly, John Lescroart and Sheldon Siegel. For the last twenty years, Redmond has not missed a single novel published by these authors. Redmond considers these authors to be excellent storytellers and enjoys how they weave the bars and restaurants of Manhattan, Los Angeles and San Francisco into their stories. Redmond is also a big fan of barbecuing and trying out different recipes. He admits, however, that he is not patient enough to wait for charcoal briquettes to get to the right temperature, so he just uses a gas grill. He loves to cook for other people and hopes that after they eat his BBQ, they will live to see another day. Redmond disclosed that as of the running of this article, everyone who has eaten his BBQ survived.



Rachel Coleman is an associate at Lehr Lemmon Kirwin and Francis, LLP in Ventura, where she handles criminal matters and civil litigation. She is a member of the CITATIONS editorial board.

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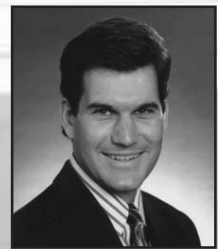
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BOOK DRIVE BRINGS HOPE, INSPIRATION TO LOCAL INCARCERATED YOUTH

by Jacquelyn D. Ruffin

Over the last two decades, the total number of juvenile arrests in the United States has steadily decreased. Notably, during that same time period, the proportion of girls in the juvenile justice system has increased at every stage, including arrests, detentions and probation. According to a national report, "Gender Injustice: System-Level Juvenile Justice Reforms for Girls," (Francine T. Sherman, Esq. and Annie Balck, Esq. in partnership with the National Women's Law Center and The National Crittenton Foundation), these statistics are the result of numerous disparities in the treatment of girls in the juvenile justice system.

The majority of girls in the juvenile justice system have experienced abuse, violence, poverty and neglect. Critically, girls are more likely to be arrested for non-violent infractions (e.g., prostitution and theft) that are directly connected to abuse and poverty, and their violent offenses (e.g., simple assault and disorderly conduct) are frequently related to domestic or partner violence. Sherman and Balck contend that girls are often placed in detention as a means to protect them from violence and abuse. However, this well-intentioned practice may inadvertently cause other problems, such as increased likelihood of future incarceration. Sherman and Balck argue that these girls instead need "gender-responsive, culturally-informed supports," including access to respite centers and community-based programs that teach life skills and foster positive relationships. The authors conclude that "by assessing the impact of system decisions on girls throughout the juvenile justice process and modifying many existing juvenile justice reforms to fit the needs of girls, juvenile justice systems can be redesigned to promote healthy relationships, shore up girls' social supports and give girls agency over their lives."

In Ventura County, the gender disparities in the juvenile justice system are being addressed, in part, by Girls, Inc. This local nonprofit is a research, education and direct advocacy organization that "inspires girls and young women to be strong, smart

and bold" and empowers them "to achieve personal, social, economic and political success." Among its many endeavors, the local Girls, Inc. organization provides gender-specific programming to girls in the detention and commitment units at the Juvenile Justice Complex (JJC) in Oxnard. Program topics include self-esteem building, job skills training, college-bound education, adolescent health, violence prevention and economic literacy – all tailored to our local population of girls and aiming to reduce recidivism. The program is operated by Devorah Elizalde and supported by a small staff and many volunteers.

For the past year, Women Lawyers of Ventura County (WLVC) members **Charmaine Buehner, Rennee Dehesa, Jill Friedman, Jacquelyn Ruffin** and **Jaclyn Smith** have been volunteering at the JJC through Girls, Inc. They have conducted writing workshops, participated in mock interviews, facilitated cultural programs and assisted in self-esteem activities. Several new WLVC volunteers, including **Jessica Arciniega, Sasha Collins, Katherine Hause Becker, Kathleen Fellows, Vanessa Frank, Kymberley Peck** and **Rabiah Rahman**, will begin volunteering at the JJC this year.

The effort to positively influence our local population of incarcerated girls can be a community endeavor. For example, WLVC recently conducted a book drive for the Girls, Inc. library at the JJC. Thanks to generous donations from local law firms, numerous community members and individuals from across the country, the Girls, Inc. library was supplemented by a diverse collection of more than 125 empowering, inspiring and highly relevant books. When personally delivering the books to a group of thirteen girls at the JJC in early February, Collins, Ruffin and Smith shared their personal perspectives on the value of reading as a means of self-discovery, problem solving and healthy entertainment. They told the girls that books were donated from the local community and from people as far away as New York. The girls received a clear message that their community supports and believes in them.

As the books were passed around the room in sets of five or six, each girl selected from three to twelve books that she immediately wanted to read. Individually and collectively, the girls expressed their sincere gratitude for this token of encouragement from the community.

However, the work of ensuring that our local juvenile justice system comports with the needs of girls is far from complete. Girls, Inc. can use more volunteers at the JJC. The nonprofit is often in need of in-kind donations, including updated devices for its technological literacy program. Perhaps most importantly, Girls, Inc. aspires to open a center in Ventura County that provides preventative programming for at-risk girls, community-based alternatives to detention and post-incarceration support. Local law firms and attorneys are welcome to get involved. For more information, contact Jacquelyn Ruffin at jruffin@mwgjlaw.com.




Jacquelyn D. Ruffin is an associate at Myers, Widders, Gibson, Jones & Feingold, LLP. Her practice focuses on business transactions, real estate matters and public entity law. She can be reached at jruffin@mwgjlaw.com.

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Prior to practicing in San Francisco, Ms. Glanville pursued her family law career in Santa Barbara. In 2012, she was awarded the McLafferty Scholarship, provided by the Santa Barbara Women Lawyer's Foundation in part for her dedication to the Santa Barbara community.

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BARRISTERS' CORNER

by Tom Adams

The Barristers of Ventura County are off to a strong start this year. Last January, we held our biennial Bridging the Gap CLE presentation at the Ventura County Government Center. We are especially grateful to the panelists: **Judges Vincent O'Neil, Tari Codi** and **Patricia Murphy** and **Justice Steven Perren**; and to the other presenters: **Michael Case, Wendy Lascher, James Heiting, Greg Durst**, Esther Bleuel and **Christine Goodman**, who each graciously volunteered their time.

Coming off the success of the Bridging the Gap CLE presentation in January, our group, which is aimed at helping young and new attorneys acclimate into the larger legal community, has more events scheduled to bring our community together.

One of these is free Game Night March 15, at the Victoria Pub & Grill. This month, the Barristers are pleased to invite all members of the legal profession, as well as their friends and families (ages 21 and up), to Game Night. We'll be tracking our brackets, playing pool and darts, mingling and meeting newer and long-time members of the bar. There's no charge for this event, and we're looking forward to a big turnout.

March Madness starts early, but we'll get started around 5:30. 1413 S. Victoria Ave., Suite F. No RSVP needed.

But it's not all fun and games. The Barristers are continuing the organization's commitment to service by volunteering on alternate Tuesdays at Ventura County Legal Aid's new clinic at the Ventura County Law Library. Volunteers are still needed throughout the year. More information is available at www.vlegalaid.org. Also, keep on the lookout for a new program of CLEs, including a series we'll be doing with **Judge Gilbert Romero**, starting in April. More information on that, and other Barristers events, in coming issues.

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@beachcoudrey.com.

Tom Adams runs a private practice in Ventura, focusing on employment, consumer and personal injury matters.

EAR TO THE WALL

Second Saturday Divorce Workshop: Conejo Valley – This educational workshop helps people navigate their way through the divorce process. The workshop is held the second Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Westlake Village. To register please visit www.secondsaturdaydivorceworkshop.org.

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Two interns wanted – Candidates must be law students with a knack for technology, leadership and teamwork. Join a group of dedicated individuals improving access to justice in Ventura County. The internship is part-time, exceedingly flexible hours, and pays primarily in food, friendship and access to a plethora of clients and attorneys. Contact Steve Henderson or Sandra Rubio at the Ventura County Bar Association at (805) 650-7599 or bar@vcba.org. Two positions open until filled.

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

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



My good friend and story-telling colleague, **Richard Regnier**, died February 14. Boalt Hall 1963. State Bar #33610. *Simba1955@verizon.net*. Dick met his wife,

Georgianna Pennington, at the bar's annual installation and awards dinner. Scaled Mt. Kilimanjaro. West Point grad who struck out Willie Mays, Dick was the consummate gentleman ... Watch for article in April CITATIONS. ... Some of the nation's top law firms are approaching and, in a few cases, surpassing a watershed billing rate making the \$1,000-an-hour legal fees that once seemed so steep look quaint by comparison. "We just raise them every year," said lawyer John Altorelli, a finance lawyer at DLA Piper LLP in New York who says the firm has set his rate at more than \$1,500 – an-hour... Kudos to **Slaughter Reagan & Cole** which, in addition to paying bar membership dues, paid \$50 more per lawyer and donated to the VCLA, Inc...



Want to be a member of this group? The **Jerome H. Berenson** Inn of Court is still accepting applications for membership. The Inn continues to meet the second Thursday

evening inside the Saticoy CC. Some substance, some theatre, good folks and plenty of judges. Did I mention Mr. Regnier was a past President of this organization dedicated to civility? Contact the **Hon. Tari Cody**, President, at *tari.cody@ventura.courts.ca.gov*... Nice law clerk's position open in the Los Angeles Superior Court and you have until March 7 to apply. Must be a lawyer and it pays \$6,500 per month. On-line applications only; refer to Exam No.



R9559H ... Welcome if you will **Andreas L. Booher** to the A to Z law offices. He practices environmental, water and land use law. Did I mention his middle name is Luigi and he's fluent in German? *abooh@atozlaw.com* or 988.9886...

The VCLA, Inc. Clinic opened its doors



for the first time February 2 inside the Law Library. The inaugural was an instant success and they will remain open the first and third Tuesdays from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Leading the charge are bar president **Charmaine Buehner** and bar secretary-treasurer **Mark Kirwin**, capably assisted by a whole bunch of folks. *vclegalaid.org*. ... "If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates." – From Jay Leno. And this from Clarence Darrow, "When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become president; I'm beginning to believe it."...



The new 2016 officers of the Family Law Bar have been elected. They are led by President **Heather Kadeg**; **Lisa Sale**, vice-president; **Felise Cohen**, secretary; and **Laurie Peters**, treasurer ...



Frank Bellinghiere has opened up shop with a new firm. Kallal, Bellinghiere & Associates, with offices in Cheyenne and Jackson, Wyoming. 307.734.2963 ...

VCTLA has announced retired **Judge Barbara Lane** will be honored with the annual Portrait to be hung in CR#22 while **Judge Glen Reiser** will be honored as Judge of the Year... **Justice Steven Perren** will be appearing at *A Night at the Opera* March 12th and 13th. Selections from my favorites include Strauss, Bellini, Verdi and Bizet included...

March 1, 1781 was the formal ratification of the Articles of Confederation while President Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961. On March 5, 1868, the U.S. Senate convened as a court to hear charges against President Andrew Johnson during impeachment proceedings. "Et tu, Brute." On March 15, 44 B.C., Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Senate Chamber in Roma ... And let us not forget on March 19, 2003, The United States launched



an attack against Iraq to topple dictator Saddam Hussein ... Edsall Law is announcing that **Katherine Edsall Wells**, has been named a shareholder partner of the firm. Additionally, **Eric Hirschberg** has joined the firm as a new associate. Katherine graduated from Stanford Law and Eric from Pepperdine SOL...



Steve Henderson has been the executive director and chief executive officer of the bar association and its affiliated organizations since November 1990. He is dining with Steph Curry at In-and-Out on Benito Juarez's Birthday, March 21. Additionally, he will be the head referee April 4 of the Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament at NRG Stadium, Houston, Texas. He may be reached at *steve@vcba.org*, FB, Twitter at *steve_hendo1*, Instagram at *steve_hendo*, LinkedIn, or better yet, 650.7599.

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