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# CITATIONS

OCTOBER - TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN



## DENNIS NEIL JONES TO RECEIVE 2019 NORDMAN AWARD

*by Kelton Lee Gibson*      *Page 8*

DOUGLAS K. GOLDWATER

SASHA L. COLLINS

RABIAH A. RAHMAN

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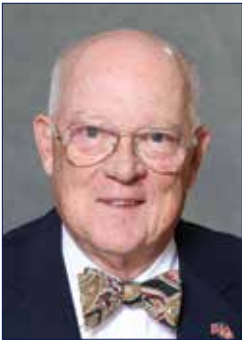
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Douglas K. Goldwater

**The horror! The horror!** Is it not already difficult enough for lawyers to have to, from time to time, handle matters adverse to a self-represented party? Now, we have to face the prospect of opposing an unlicensed person – or, gasp, artificial intelligence – on a matter. In reality, have we not already been doing this for years? We have been fixing the messes created by document preparation services, private paralegals and online legal form providers for as long as each has been in existence.

All joking aside, the concept that the State Bar is exploring is an alarming one. As mentioned in last month's CITATIONS, The Task Force on Access Through Innovation of Legal Services, commissioned by the State Bar's Board of Trustees, is entrusted with making recommendations to the governing board on how to advance the practice of law by effectively "thinking outside of the box." While the State Bar's heart may be in the right place with exploring ways in which legal services can become more accessible to the general public, the idea of potentially extending legitimacy to non-lawyers to provide important legal assistance is certainly worrisome. Ultimately, sophisticated clients will likely still end up in the offices of knowledgeable attorneys. Thus, the question is whether we would be doing a disservice to those individuals who have never had to hire an attorney before, or are concerned about the cost of one, by making legal services from non-attorneys sanctioned. We will soon be hearing from the State Bar as to whether the risks outweigh the perceived benefits.

One component of the directives given to the Task Force to explore is, however, an interesting one – the concept of allowing non-attorneys to own interests in law firms. Now, let me be clear – I am not advocating for lifting of prohibition. Rather, this is simply intended as fodder for conversation.

Harkening back to one of my President's Messages from earlier this year, I discussed how family law attorneys truly are "counselors at law." Consider, however, what the impact could be on a legal practice if, for example, a psychologist could be one of the

owners of a law firm. In Collaborative Family Law, mental health professionals are often involved as members of the professional team established to help accomplish an interest-based settlement of a family law dispute. The assistance and input of such professionals are often integral to not only navigating through the high emotions of the break-up of a family, but also helping to identify our own client's needs and motivations. Could this perhaps be helpful in various other areas of the law? Even if the assistance of a mental health professional does not help establish the framework of a deal, wouldn't it be a nice internal resource to be able to check on the sanity of a client (or oneself) during the course of a representation?

While attorneys are generally strong at applying the law to the facts of their case, they are not always the best businesspersons. Because there are only so many hats an attorney can wear, who can blame them. What if a law firm could bring in a new partner from the private business world, whose ownership interest would be enhanced by advancing the firm's marketing, investments and profitability? This could free up the lawyers to – lo and behold – practice law. What a concept!

*Douglas K. Goldwater is a partner at Ferguson Case Orr Paterson, LLP. His practice focuses on family law. He can be reached at (805) 659-6800 or at [dgoldwater@fcoplaw.com](mailto:dgoldwater@fcoplaw.com).*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I just wanted to drop a line to say how impressed I was with the September issue of CITATIONS. I won't say which was my favorite article, but I will say that starting with the President's Message I was much impressed by both the quantity and quality of the articles.

Having served for 25 years on the CITATIONS Editorial Board, I know first hand how difficult it is to exact publication-worthy articles from our legal community.

Well done and keep up the good work!

**Robert Long**

I enjoyed the article about billable hours in the Sept. issue. It reminded me of the value of my "other jobs" prior to the law. The year before I entered law school I was a teacher in the New York City school system. Tough schools. I didn't serve in Vietnam but I did see combat of sorts while there. Another teacher who was in WW2 once told me that we should receive combat pay just for showing up. I learned how to function under fire there. My waiter and bartender experiences through the college years taught me how to deal with extremely difficult people that were both demanding and anxiety ridden at the same time. That taught me how to deal with clients. And finally the two weeks that I drove a cab in New York City one summer taught me that the rules of the road are merely suggestions for most people.

Tell **John Hribar** that I agree with him wholeheartedly that there is a valuable perspective to be gained in these "other jobs."

**Lou Vigorita**

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## HAVE YOU HEARD?



**Sam Mojabi** has joined Ventura's Norman Dowler, LLP. A 2017 graduate of the Ventura and Santa Barbara Colleges of Law, Mojabi brings experience in all phases of family law proceedings, including representing individuals in dissolutions and obtaining support modifications, training for minors' counsel and applying for and terminating guardianships. He also has volunteered at the Ventura County Veterans Military Clinic. Email [smojabi@normandowler.com](mailto:smojabi@normandowler.com) or call 805-654-0911.



**Chris Beck** and **Deborah Meyer-Morris** have been selected to be members of Cohort XXV of the Ventura County Leadership Academy. VCLA, which strives to create a diverse corps of business, social services,



education, community, government, and cultural leaders, conducts focus sessions about public safety, education, economic development, water, transportation, health care, nonprofits and volunteerism, the environment, agriculture and land use, regional issues and governance. For more information, see <https://vclleadership.org>.



Ferguson Case Orr Paterson, LLP has elevated **Kymberley Peck** to partner. Named a Superlawyers *Rising Star* for 2016-2018, and honored on the *Pacific Coast Business Times'* 40 under 40 list in 2017, Peck serves on the Ventura County Bar Association's board and is a past-president of Women Lawyers of Ventura County. Peck also serves on the Ventura County Library Foundation. She earned her J.D. at Southwestern University School of Law. Peck's practice focuses primarily on family law, estate planning, probate and trust litigation. Email [kpeck@fcoplaw.com](mailto:kpeck@fcoplaw.com); call 805-659-6800.

**Dien Le**, **Louis Kreuzer** and **Glenn Kelble**, along with other friends, visited Santa Paula



Canyon on Sept. 14. They hiked from 9:00 am through 3:00 pm in 100-degree weather. The round trip was nine miles; Le's device calculated 19,000 steps. They promise their next hike, in Jan. or Feb. 2020 will be less challenging, and they hope you will join. Watch CITATIONS for an announcement.

Vince Morda, Supervisor of the Ventura County Superior Court's Family Court Services Unit, retired from that office on Aug. 30 to open his own private practice. Morda is a licensed marriage and family therapist with 25 years' experience working with families to develop custody and visitation plans and completing reports in guardianship and conservatorship investigations. Prior to his tenure with the VCSC, Morda worked with families and individuals in private practice. 877 S. Victoria Ave., Ste. 207, Ventura. 805-853-8158. [Vmorda6@gmail.com](mailto:Vmorda6@gmail.com).



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# THE NEVER-ENDING STORY OF AMERICAN MASS SHOOTINGS

by *Sasha L. Collins*

On Aug. 4, my husband and I went to dinner to celebrate our sixth wedding anniversary. It was the first night out after the birth of our second daughter, Natalie, and we were enjoying the quiet getaway.

After dinner, we decided to make a spontaneous trip to the Ventura County Fair. Nothing says “cheesy romance” like riding a Ferris wheel on your anniversary. It had been years since we last went to the Fair, and as we pulled up, the allure of the neon lights and the smell of funnel cake instantly transformed us into the giddy teens we were when we first got together. We reminisced about concerts we attended together at the fairgrounds and how much we had changed over the years.

But as we made our way to the Ferris wheel (\$60 poorer), we started to discuss what we would do if gunfire broke out. We assessed the various exit options. We discussed whether we would run or hide. We discussed where we would meet after the chaos subsided. At least one of us had to survive – we have young children at home. With almost daily shootings in the U.S., it seemed prudent to plan.

The term “mass shooting” is a loaded term, so much so that the number of 2019 mass shootings in the U.S. differs depending on the news source. According to Wikipedia, there may have already been 248; ABC News, on the other hand, has counted “only” 17. As lawyers, we know that definitions matter. The Stanford Mass Shootings of America data project defines mass shooting as “three or more shooting victims (not necessarily fatalities), not including the shooter. The shooting must not be identifiably gang, drug, or organized crime related.” The Congressional Research Service produced a report in 2013 which defined public mass shootings as “incidents occurring in relatively public places, involving four or more deaths – not including the shooter – and gunmen who select victims somewhat indiscriminately.”

Since Natalie was born on May 9, there have been at least four mass shootings in the United States that I can think of off the top of my head: Gilroy, El Paso, Dayton and

Odessa. In these four shootings combined, over 40 people were shot and killed.

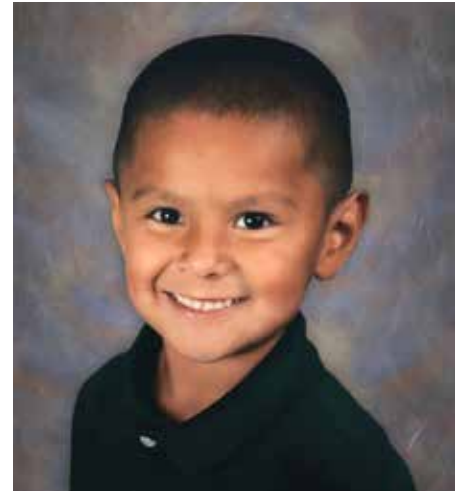
After each shooting, the response is the same: the Left calls for tighter background checks and more regulations. The Right blames video games and mental illness. Everyone on Facebook suddenly becomes an expert on Con Law and the Second Amendment. The news runs nonstop stories on the victims, GoFundMe pages are created, politicians are interviewed and then? Nothing.

Call me Pollyanna, but I just don’t understand how our leaders cannot come together and find a way to stop, or at least reduce, these shootings. There’s always a preemptive argument for why a particular approach won’t work. Liberals argue that changes to mental health treatment won’t do anything if people still have access to high-powered, high-capacity guns. Conservatives argue that we should not implement gun control or gun restrictions because “criminals don’t follow the law anyway.” These arguments fall short. Of course there will still be people who break the law, but since when has that stopped government from implementing a law in the first place? And yes, improvements to mental health treatment may not eliminate all shootings, but they could help.

It has often been said that a successful mediation is one in which both parties leave unhappy. So why don’t politicians treat this situation like a mediation? Come to the table with a set of lofty goals, and sit there until there is a compromise. Can’t we work on improving access to mental health treatment **and** imposing restrictions on certain types of guns?

I don’t know the answer, I truly don’t. But that’s why I have elected officials to represent me and make these tough decisions. In February, the House of Representatives passed H.R.8: The Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, but it has not yet been brought before the Senate for a vote.

So long as our leaders do nothing, these mass shootings will continue.



<https://www.gofundme.com/ffstephen-romero>

Unlike the victims of the Gilroy Garlic Festival, my husband and I made it home safely from the Fair. We got to wake up and play with our girls the next morning. The parents of Stephen Romero, the six-year-old killed at the Garlic Festival, will never get to wake up and play with their son again.

I am sick of these mass shootings being reduced to a 24-hour news story and a hashtag. We aren’t #GilroyStrong, #ElPasoStrong or #DaytonStrong. Right now, we’re #USABroken.



*Sasha L. Collins is an attorney at Staker Law Tax & Estate Planning Law Corporation. She handles trust administration and probates, including the estate of a victim of the Route 91 shooting in Las Vegas.*

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## DENNIS NEIL JONES TO RECEIVE 2019 NORDMAN AWARD

by Kelton Lee Gibson

It is my honor to write on behalf of the 2019 Ben E. Nordman Public Service Award recipient, **Dennis Neil Jones**. My friend and partner joins more than thirty prior recipients of the Ventura County Bar Association's most esteemed award.

I talked to Dennis about the award and how he arrived at this place in his career.

**Q:** *What do you feel is important to lawyers, both those starting their careers and those who have been at it for a number of years?*

**A:** *The most important – and the hardest – thing is balance. The most difficult challenge as an adult is to get one's professional life, family life and personal health and fitness all moving in a positive direction.*

**Q:** *How did you get to where you are today, professionally?*

**A:** *It's been a long journey. I grew up in the Bay Area, east of San Francisco, where I attended Dublin High School.*

Dennis was elected student body president,

editor of the student newspaper, played basketball and baseball and was voted most likely to succeed.

Dennis continued:

**A:** *After that I received my undergraduate degree from the Annandale School of Communications at the University of Southern California. I wrote an in-depth article in the Daily Trojan my senior year that received an award from the Hearst Foundation National Student Journalism Competition, and the school offered me a graduate fellowship. I accepted it, and two years later received a master's in public administration with a specialty in court administration. I was placed in a summer externship in Las Vegas, working for the court administrator. That turned into a full-time job lasting three years.*

*There was no law school in Nevada at that time, so the state gave ten grants per year for students to go out-of-state to law school. I was fortunate to receive one of those grants, which basically provided a free ride to the University of San Diego School of Law.*

*When I graduated in 1983, the conventional wisdom was to try to get hired by a "national" law firm. I joined the Los Angeles office of a Philadelphia-based firm, Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz. But my first day of work as an associate I was told that all of the lawyers I had worked for the prior summer were jumping ship that week to another firm. They said, "we're sorry, but we can't take you with us." That was my introduction to the changing landscape of law firms in the 1980s.*

*I worked at several other firms in Los Angeles and Manhattan Beach, eventually gravitating towards insurance coverage litigation. I found I preferred representing policyholders over insurers. I gained expertise in insurance coverage issues arising from complex construction defect cases, which is where I eventually met my future partners. On January 1, 2000, after practicing in Los Angeles County for sixteen years, I merged my practice with what at the time became Myers, Widders, Gibson & Jones. I also moved with my family to Upper Ojai.*

Dennis and his wife Deanna live in the Upper Ojai on a small ranch with two spaniels, too many cats, and formerly, horses. Dennis's 30 year-old daughter, Danielle, lives in Simi Valley and his 29 year-old daughter, Jessica, is studying in London to receive her master's degree in occupational therapy.

**Q:** *Do you consider yourself a trial lawyer?*

**A:** *Definitely, although the kind of cases I handle – mostly insurance coverage and construction defect – rarely go to trial. I've tried a number of construction defect cases, but my reputation is as more of a problem solver than a trial lawyer.*

**Q:** *Why have you devoted part of your life to public service?*

**A:** *Practicing law is more than just billing time and collecting fees. It's also important to provide legal services to those in need.*

Dennis was the 2008 President of the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association, where he was instrumental in starting the organization's "Trial Lawyer of the Year" award. He also volunteers as a settlement officer in Courtroom 22. And then there is his pro bono work.

Cathy Cunningham is the former Vice President of California Coastal Horse Rescue, a non-profit corporation devoted to taking in and caring for abandoned, abused



and neglected horses. “He literally rescued the Rescue,” Cunningham explained. A neighbor complained of the dust caused by their horses and sued the organization. Retained counsel did not perform as expected, so they contacted numerous other attorneys looking for representation. Then the insurance carrier for the non-profit filed suit against it, attempting to get out of having to defend and indemnify their insured.

“Luckily Dennis Jones was in his office when I called.” After donating over 200 hours to the defense, including flying to Northern California for settlement meetings, “Dennis’s efforts paid off, and the insurance company went from suing us to paying a confidential six-figure settlement. If not for Dennis Jones, there is a good chance California Coastal Horse Rescue would have had to close. This would have resulted in the displacement or euthanasia of eighteen horses that already have had difficult lives.” After the case settled, Jones joined the rescue’s board of directors, where he still sits.

Pro bono services continue for many in our community. Our office is fortunate to be representing a number of victims of the Thomas and Woolsey Fires in claims against Southern California Edison. As an adjunct to that representation and, on a pro bono basis, Dennis continues to provide advice and representation so that fire victims can maximize their insurance benefits.

Dennis’ other involvements include the Rotary Club of Ojai West, the Ojai Education Foundation and the Ojai Community Memorial Hospital Foundation. He has also been instrumental (pun) in setting up the Ventura Soundboard of Notes For Notes, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing kids with free access to musical instruments, musical instruction and a fully-equipped recording studio at the Oak Street Boys & Girls Club in Ventura.

**Q:** *Your involvement with Notes for Notes is part of a theme. How and why has music also been a big part of your life?*

**A:** *My mom played the piano, and we always had a baby grand in our house. I studied piano for three years until, at age eight, I decided I hated practicing and wanted to stop taking lessons.*

*A year later, like millions of other Americans, I sat in front of our television set on Feb. 9, 1964, when the Beatles first performed on*



*the Ed Sullivan show. Beatlemania made me want to play the guitar, and I started taking lessons in 1966, when I was twelve. I later re-taught myself to play piano by ear in high school. By then, I was playing guitar and later bass in local rock bands. In college, I mostly played piano, often in USC’s Songfest competition.*

*Fast forwarding a few years, I sold my electric guitar just before I left Las Vegas to attend law school in 1980. At that time, I assumed that once I became a lawyer, I wouldn’t be able to perform music professionally. Luckily, I was wrong. In 1984, I helped start a band called Tom Thumb & the Hitchikers, that a few years later, became very popular on the Los Angeles Country Club circuit*

*After that band had grown to eleven members and I had moved to Ojai, it became difficult to keep us working together regularly. I figured it would be much easier to book a four-piece band than an eleven-piece, so I started a Beatles tribute called Sgt. Pepper. We have performed all over California, including summer concerts at the Collection and for many different cities, county fairs, festivals, Discovery Ventura and other venues. The other three guys in Sgt. Pepper are full-time, world-class pros. It’s largely because of their talent that we’ve gigged regularly the past twelve years. And by the way, I still practice on my mom’s baby grand piano.*

Dennis also volunteers as a member of the Ojai Presbyterian Church Praise Band every other Sunday.

**Q:** *Did you engage in any public service before you became a lawyer?*

**A:** *I was a big brother with Big Brothers of America for a few years and I did some volunteer work in school.*

**Q:** *Do you have any other advice for lawyers looking to build their practices?”*

**A:** *Building a practice is your only security as a lawyer. The trick is to do a good job on the work you’re assigned as an associate and spend additional time developing clients of your own. But first you have to learn your trade. As a lawyer, that usually takes about ten years.*

*It helps to specialize. In my case, I saw that not many lawyers specialized in insurance coverage. It helped that I really like practicing insurance law. I don’t have much competition for insurance coverage work in the Tri-County area. But even when you know your stuff, you sometimes have to market yourself. In my case, that involved writing articles on emerging insurance law issues. You publish, then the next thing you know, someone asks you to speak at a convention or teach an MCLE course. All of a sudden, you’re the expert.*

*It also helps to become active in the community. Join organizations that feed your passions and give back.*

On Nov. 23 at the annual bar dinner, VCBA will honor Jones for giving back.



**Kelton Lee Gibson** is a partner at Myers, Widders, Gibson, Jones & Feingold, LLP, Ventura, CA, which he co-manages with Jones.



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# #METOO MOVEMENT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Rabiah A. Rahman

Before leaving office, Governor Jerry Brown signed several bills into law and, interestingly, vetoed a few notable pieces of legislation worthy of mention.

## New laws effective Jan. 1, 2019

The most comprehensive legislation addressing workplace harassment last year was Senate Bill 1300, the “Sexual Harassment Prevention and Accountability Act.” The current legal standard for workplace harassment requires that the conduct be *either* “severe or pervasive.” S.B. 1300 provides specific guidance to courts on how to apply this standard consistently and fairly, and it makes the legal threshold more inclusive. S.B. 1300 reflects the standard set forth in Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s concurrence in *Harris v. Forklift Systems* (1993) 510 U.S. 17: “The plaintiff need not prove that his or her tangible productivity has declined as a result of the harassment. It suffices to prove that a reasonable person subjected to the discriminatory conduct would find, as the plaintiff did, that the harassment so altered working conditions as to make it more difficult to do the job.” (*Id.*, at p. 26). Additionally, the legislation makes clear that a single incident of harassing conduct is sufficient to create a triable issue as to whether the conduct has unreasonably interfered with the plaintiff’s performance or created a hostile work environment.

The bill also encourages employers to provide “bystander intervention training.” The idea is to supplement the already-required sexual harassment training with information and practical guidance on how to enable bystanders to recognize potentially problematic behaviors and to motivate action when they observe problematic behaviors. This provision, however, is not required.

Another significant provision of S.B. 1300 makes it unlawful for employers to require an employee to sign two types of documents as a condition of getting a job, keeping a job or receiving a raise or bonus. The first unlawful document is a release limiting the employee’s ability to bring a claim under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (“FEHA”), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, gender, race or other

protected classes. The second document is a non-disparagement agreement or any other prohibition against disclosing information about unlawful acts in the workplace.

Finally, S.B. 1300 prevents prevailing employers from obtaining fees and costs for claims brought under FEHA unless a judge determines the claim to be “frivolous, unreasonable, or groundless when brought.”

This brings us to S.B. 820. This law, which applies to public and private employers including the legislature, prohibits an employer from requiring a sexual harassment, assault or discrimination victim to keep confidential the **factual** allegations behind harassment claims in settlement agreements. If the claimant wants to remain anonymous, the amount paid and the identity of the person who filed the claim may remain confidential. The purpose is to hold perpetrators accountable for their bad acts, and to allow the victim full discretion over whether to share their story.

One clear point of concern is the crossover between the S.B. 1300 and S.B. 820 disclosures. S.B. 1300 says you cannot, as a condition of a raise, bonus or employment, require employees to sign a non-disparagement agreement, but this law does not apply to settlements. S.B. 820 applies to settlements, but it does not prevent non-disparagement clauses, only non-disclosure/ confidentiality clauses. A non-disparagement clause has no legal definition. It usually says the employee agrees not to say anything disparaging or demeaning about the employer, its products or employees that would be likely to negatively impact the company. Conceivably, an employer could try to discourage employees from disclosing the facts underlying a sexual harassment settlement by including a broad non-disparagement clause.

On the prevention front, S.B. 1343 expands the number and type of employees who must receive sexual harassment training. Now, employers with five or more employees must provide two hours of training to supervisors, and one hour to all other employees within six months of their hire and every two years thereafter. Temporary and seasonal employees must be trained within their first 30 days or 100

hours, whichever comes first. The training may be provided in person or online, but it must be interactive. Starting in 2020, employers must also provide this type of training to migrant and seasonal agricultural workers. The law also requires the DFEH to develop an online training course in multiple languages and make it available on its website.

Fun fact: you do not have to be in an employment relationship to bring a sexual harassment claim. However, in order to prove sexual harassment outside of the traditional employer/employee relationship, plaintiffs must show that a **professional relationship** exists between them and the alleged perpetrators. The Government Code lists several professions by name, including attorneys, real estate agents, social workers and appraisers in which a professional relationship may exist between the parties. S.B. 224 added a few additional “common offenders” to the list, including investors, elected officials, lobbyists, directors and producers. The bill also eliminates a requirement that the plaintiff prove the relationship could not be “easily terminated.”

Another notable bill taking effect this year is S.B. 826. It requires any publicly traded company that has its principal executive office in California to have at least one female director by the end of 2019, even if the company has to expand its board to make room. By the end of 2021, these companies must have at least two women on five-member boards and at least three women on boards with six or more directors.

Finally, Assembly Bill 2770 protects workers and employers from defamation lawsuits brought by alleged harassers. Under the new law, employers may tell a prospective employer whether a former employee is ineligible for rehire because he or she was found to have engaged in harassment.

Governor Brown also vetoed two bills that, would have been gamechangers for California employees. Assembly Bill 3080, sought to ban forced arbitration agreements in harassment cases. Supporters of the legislation argued that these agreements silence vulnerable employees by pushing them into private negotiations with the companies they work for and allow bad behavior to fester behind

## ASYLUM ADVOCACY CONFERENCE TO TRAIN LOCAL LAWYERS

a curtain of secrecy. In his veto message, Governor Brown explained that the bill “plainly violates federal law,” and pointed to recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions that rejected state policies that “unduly impeded arbitration.”

Governor Brown also vetoed A.B. 1870, which would have extended the deadline to file an employment-related complaint with the DFEH from the current one year to three years. He reasoned that the current statute of limitations of one year, which has been in place since 1963, encourages prompt resolution and ensures that unwelcome behavior is promptly reported and halted.

It is also important to mention that Ventura County is sending active representatives to Sacramento! Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson introduced S.B. 1300, S.B. 224 and S.B. 826. Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin introduced A.B. 2770.



*CITATIONS* editorial board member **Rabiya A. Rahman** practices plaintiff's employment law. (805) 626-8337 or [Rabiya@Rabiyahtlaw.com](mailto:Rabiya@Rabiyahtlaw.com).

A one-day event slated for the Ventura College of Law on Nov. 2 will draw attorneys, students and community activists from Ventura, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara Counties, and offers three hours of CLE credit for attorneys. Organized by the Law Office of **Vanessa Frank**, it is co-sponsored by the Ventura County Bar Association, the Santa Barbara & Ventura Colleges of Law and the Immigrant Legal Defense Center.

A morning session for attorneys, with **1.5 hours of Ethics CLE credit**, will introduce the “Nuts and Bolts” of taking on a *pro bono* asylum client. The California State Bar urges attorneys to perform *pro bono* service “with a purpose of improving the law or the legal system, or increasing access to justice.” Already confirmed to speak: experienced asylum lawyers Meredith Brown and Claribel Madueña. At the same time, a separate session will help non-attorneys from high school to retirement age connect with opportunities to volunteer their own assistance to asylum-seekers (such as translation, logistics, and research services).

Lunch is provided, and local immigrant rights organizations will showcase some of the good work already underway in our county.

After lunch, a keynote panel open to all attendees will provide attorneys with **1.5 hours of Elimination of Bias CLE credit** via “Real-Life Asylum Stories.” Asylees by definition are oppressed and marginalized in their own countries; they face daunting obstacles in the U.S. legal system as well. Keynote panelists are retired Immigration Judge Bruce Einhorn (who wrote the US asylum law as a young DOJ lawyer and then adjudicated thousands of cases from the bench in Los Angeles), attorney Judy London (Director of the Immigrant Rights Project at Public Counsel, the nation's largest not-for-profit law firm), and asylee and activist Mariana Marroquin (Program Director of LA's Trans Wellness Center).

The keynote panel will be followed by a screening of the recent biopic “Saint Judy” and Q&A afterward with the subject of that film, noted LA asylum attorney Judith Wood. The film tells the story of one of her earliest Ninth Circuit cases, on behalf of a young Afghan woman persecuted by the Taliban because she started a school for girls.

Please refer to the conference website for updates and registration: [www.collegesoflaw.edu/asylumconference](http://www.collegesoflaw.edu/asylumconference).

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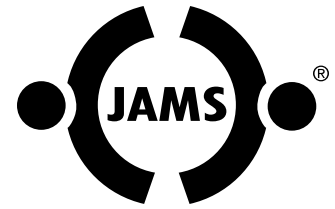


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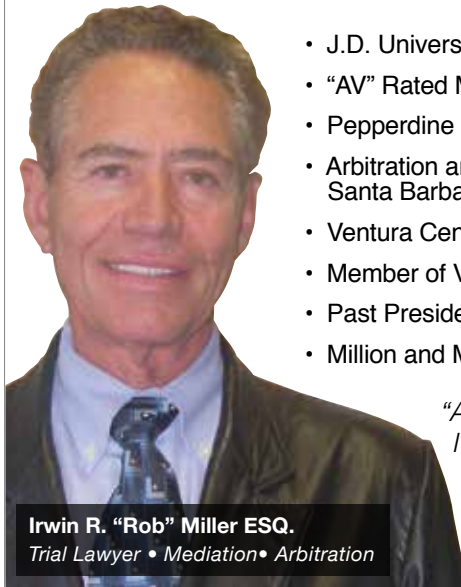


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Do you know someone who would be a great addition to the Barristers Board? Would you like to be a member? Nominations for next year's Board for the following positions are now open: Member at Large, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President. Nominations may be emailed to **H. Frederick Seigenfeld** at [hmseigen@gmail.com](mailto:hmseigen@gmail.com) (subject line: Barristers Nomination) and must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 10. Nominations may only be made by eligible Barristers (described below). If you would like more information or to see a Barristers Board meeting in action, please join us at the VCBA on Thursday, Nov. 7 at noon for our next regular board meeting.

Nominees will be confirmed for eligibility. A "Barrister" is any member in good standing of the VCBA who, on Jan. 1 of a given year, meets at least one of the following requirements: (i) is under the age of 36 years; (ii) has been admitted to practice law in any jurisdiction for a period of seven years or fewer; or (iii) has been in practice in any jurisdiction for a total of seven years or fewer. Active law students who are members of the VCBA are considered "Student Barristers" and may serve on the Board as a Member at Large, but not as an officer.



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