



# CITATIONS

APRIL - TWO THOUSAND TWENTY THREE



## COMMISSIONER PAUL W. FELDMAN

*by Ted Andrews*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Brian C. Israel



You may or may not know that I am a twin. Being a twin is a huge part of my identity. It has affected my worldview and perspective on life. I truly consider it a blessing to be a twin even though I didn't really have a choice in the matter. My twin brother, Alex, has quite literally been by my side since day one.

Alex was born first. The nurses and doctors at Community Memorial Hospital identified him as Baby A. After almost an hour and a half wait, I finally arrived—Baby B. That morphed into naming us Alex and Brian, continuing our identities as Baby A and Baby B.

We both have our own narrative about why I took so long. He claims we had a little boxing match and he “knocked me out.” I guess I don't blame him for thinking of himself as an Ali, Tyson or Canelo type of boxer. However, I maintain that I was just enjoying my last free meal before entering the world. It also goes without saying that “good things come to those who wait.”

I have been asked many times over the years, what's it like to be a twin? Almost as many times, I have been asked if we share some sort of telepathic connection. If this were a text message, I would include a smiley face emoji after the second question. Still, of course, we are 100 percent telepathic. As for the first question, it's been such a blessing and great experience being a twin. As a twin, I can say that I am thankful that I always have a built-in friend, someone to

talk to, and someone to vent to. I have a built-in support system. My brother and I always were by each other's sides when we faced many firsts.

But being a twin is not always fun and games. Even being fraternal twins, it wasn't always easy being called the wrong name consistently. Secondly, my brother has a wicked sense of humor and one might argue that he veers closer to the evil twin stereotype (though he argues the opposite). Take this for example: in the second grade, I walked out to recess, and found out that my brother had announced to his whole class that I, his twin brother, was a “mistake.” To be fair, after our older brother Stephen was born, my mom wanted a baby girl and ended up having two boys, so in a sense we were double oops babies. Nonetheless, it can take some time to get accustomed to this kind of twin kidding around.

While enjoying my identity as a twin, it also sometimes left me contemplating my own personal identity. When you are tied so closely to someone your entire life, where do you find yourself? That's probably a longer story, but ultimately we both grew to be fiercely independent, yet still always close. While we share the same birthday, we were also able to branch off from one another. I am proud to say that this also came to fruition in terms of our professions. Our dad, **Michael Israel**, is an attorney and CPA. I followed as an attorney and Alex became a CPA. Our branches, still part of the same tree, went our own ways in search of the sun and came out strong. I am so proud of his many accomplishments and how our individual branches have become strong independently, yet are still tied together.

As you might imagine, we have been constantly compared by others and have been competing since we were born. This led to some pitfalls, but also many triumphs, for both of us. I fondly remember playing one-on-one basketball to one hundred points on many a Saturday night in front of our house. The sounds of the Ventura Raceway ricocheted off the hillsides and carried off in the distance. We fought the sunset and took turns to run in front of our neighbors' motion sensor light for some extra light.

For anyone that has played a game to one hundred (or seemingly forever), it becomes less about who won and more about the perseverance and determination it took to play (although I maintain I had a winning record against him). My brother and I are competitive, but at the end of the day supportive. We always have and continue to push each other to improve and be better than the day before.

That support continues today. For those who attended VCBA's annual awards and installation dinner, you may have met my twin. Flying in from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, he was there to support me. Alex loves to shake a leg on the dance floor, so it didn't hurt that Past President **Jacquelyn Ruffin** had an excellent band perform. Many of you danced with us.

It means a lot to me that I know my brother will continue to be by my side. Whether it be on the dance floor, basketball courts or catching up via Facetime now that we live several time zones away, I'm grateful to have him on my team for the rest of our lives.



**Brian C. Israel** is an associate attorney at Norman Dowler, LLP in Ventura. His practice focuses on estate planning, probate and trust administration. He can be reached at [bisrael@normandowler.com](mailto:bisrael@normandowler.com)

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A to Z Law is pleased to announce that Dennis P. McNulty and Mischa N. Barteau have joined the firm.

*Welcome Dennis and Mischa!*

**Dennis P. McNulty** has joined the firm as partner, focusing on real estate, commercial, business, and corporate transactions, as well as administrative law and the representation of special districts and agencies. A lifelong Ventura County resident, Dennis started his career with A to Z Law as an associate. His 25 years' experience and background in litigation give Dennis a valuable perspective and talent for managing inherent risks, resolving disputes and moving transactions forward.



Dennis may be reached at [dmcnulty@atozlaw.com](mailto:dmcnulty@atozlaw.com) / 805.988.9886



**Mischa N. Barteau** has joined the firm as an associate specializing in civil litigation, mediation, and negotiation. Mischa received her JD from Pepperdine University School of Law where she was a member of the Pepperdine Law Review and received her Master of Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. Mischa's experience encompasses all aspects of civil litigation in state and federal courts, at the trial and appellate levels.

Mischa may be reached at [mbarteau@atozlaw.com](mailto:mbarteau@atozlaw.com) / 805.988.9886

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## HAVE YOU HEARD?



Having celebrated a milestone birthday last November and after 49 years in practice, family law attorney **Richard S. Rabbins** has retired. VCBA wishes him a well-deserved retirement.



Ferguson Case Orr Paterson associate **Bryce Wallgard** is a member of the Swedish National Lacrosse Team and will be playing in June in the 2023 Lacrosse World Cup in San Diego.



VCBA would like to give a shout out to the following diverse group of attorneys for participating at Ocean View Middle School's Career Day through the A.S.K. program. Back row, L to R: **Dien Le, Rabiah Rahman, Amber Lee, Antonio Rodriguez, Xavier Villegas**. Front row, L to R: **Vanessa Frank, Jessica Wan, Sparky Abraham**. Special thanks to Frank, VCBA Community Outreach Committee member, for leading this event. If you would like to get involved, please email **Kristine Tijam**, VCBA Committee Chair at [kristine@proctershoyer.com](mailto:kristine@proctershoyer.com).



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# COMMISSIONER PAUL W. FELDMAN

by *Ted Andrews*

When the judges of the Ventura County Superior Court selected him as commissioner in 2022, **Hon. Paul W. Feldman** not only had to prepare for the exciting role of judicial officer, he also had to see how he could best continue serving in the United States Air Force. Never one to turn down a challenge, Commissioner Feldman spent the summer getting up to speed with his new judicial assignments at the Juvenile Justice Center and East County Courthouse, as well as a new assignment with the Air Force Inspector General's Office.

A California native, Commissioner Feldman attended UCLA for college and University of San Diego for law school, before embarking on a career of public service. He worked for several years as a prosecutor in the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, handling appellate work and a broad swath of cases and trials across offices, before joining the Ventura County District Attorney's Office in 2012. During this time, Commissioner Feldman also joined the Air Force Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps as a reservist attorney. A newer prosecutor when he became a JAG, Commissioner Feldman applied after some reflection. "I have always worked to serve my country. When I applied, we had been fighting in multiple wars and I felt obligated to do something. I felt it was important to pay my dues." He was recognized repeatedly as an officer of the year for his work in the JAG Corps.

In Ventura, Commissioner Feldman prosecuted numerous serious and violent felonies, including assignments in the Sexually Violent Predator and Major Crimes/Gang Units, rising to the position of Senior Deputy District Attorney. Over the course of his career as a prosecutor, he handled over 60 jury and bench trials and conducted over 100 preliminary hearings. Some of his assignments, such as prosecuting Sexually Violent Predator cases, involved significant civil litigation and trial experience. His civil experience was further bolstered through a Special Assistant Counsel assignment with the County in Murphy Conservatorship (Lanterman-Petris-Short Act) practice.

After his selection by the Ventura County Superior Court, Commissioner Feldman initially handled traffic and small claims calendars, along with guardianship disputes, petitions and trials at the Juvenile Justice Center as well as the East County Courthouse. "It was a great opportunity to learn," Commissioner Feldman commented. The assignment not only provides exposure to the operational and decision-making aspects of being a judicial officer, but also offers a chance to work directly with the public where those appearing are in stressful situations, often representing themselves. Of the assignments, he found Small Claims – "the last court of equity" – rewarding because the strongest rule was to simply do what was fair, and also appreciated the opportunity to preside over traffic disputes and a dependency hearing, which he saw as an opportunity to help family members who all want what they believed best for the child. Within months of joining the Court, however, Commissioner Feldman took over the misdemeanors assignment in Courtroom 11 of the Hall of Justice.

In his current role as a judicial officer, Commissioner Feldman presides over a criminal calendar focused on misdemeanor arraignment and motion practice. The morning calendar consists primarily of appearances on cases where defendants are out of custody, while the afternoon calendar includes misdemeanor in-custody cases. Arraignments of defendants in custody are often by remote appearance and, because felony arraignments are also heard in the afternoon, the afternoon calendar can be particularly busy.

"The biggest thing is just being prepared," Commissioner Feldman notes for attorneys appearing in Courtroom 11. "I recognize, because I was just an attorney, how heavy caseloads can be," Commissioner Feldman explains; however, the arraignment calendar moves very quickly and attorneys need to be quick with the fundamentals of each case – for a shoplifting case, e.g., the location, nature of theft and whether property was recovered. Restitution amounts and names of victims or locations for orders are often

needed quickly. Attorneys should also be cognizant of any client immigration concerns; the motion calendars that Commissioner Feldman handles include sufficiency of advisement at time of plea, among other things. Beyond this, he notes the basics, such as turning off one's cellphone and presenting in a professional manner even when appearing remotely. Commissioner Feldman welcomes counsel approaches, but those must fit within the ebb and flow of the calendar and typically happen only after defendants in custody have been arraigned.

In addition to his work for the Superior Court, Commissioner Feldman enjoys his new duties with the Air Force. Currently stationed at the 310th Space Wing at Schriever Space Force Base, and the only member of his team with experience as a lawyer, Commissioner Feldman likes the chance to learn from others' perspectives along with the challenges of the Inspector General's work, a different role than his prior work primarily providing legal advice as a member of a larger attorney group. His personal interests include reading and books, coffee and live music. Commissioner Feldman is looking forward to the continued opportunity to serve his community and nation.



*Ted Andrews is a deputy district attorney in Ventura, and a member of the CITATIONS editorial board.*

## BARRISTERS CORNER

by Valarie Grossman

The 42nd annual Mock Trial Competition was a huge success, with a long list of local attorneys included in the list of volunteers that help make the event happen. Many of these volunteers are Barristers members. For the competition, local students actively work in teams to gain an in-depth understanding of the workings of our legal institutions. And, for the first time, this year Ventura County middle school students were able to participate in the competition as well. Altogether, over 700 Ventura County students participated in the Mock Trial event.

So how does the Mock Trial competition work? The student teams study a hypothetical case, conduct legal research and present their case before volunteer judges. The students actively examine legal issues while interacting with volunteers from the legal community. This makes the attorney volunteers essential to a successful Mock Trial event.

The recent competition took place on Feb. 6 and 7 at the Ventura County Courthouse. Students from all over Ventura County argued both sides of a hypothetical case that included various tort allegations. The pretrial arguments centered on the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure, and the admissibility of the resulting evidence. Each school then presented opening arguments, had evidence admitted into the record, examined witnesses and presented closing arguments.

The attorney volunteers practice in various areas of law and have varying levels of experience. It is also a great opportunity to give back to the community and network with other attorneys you may not otherwise get the opportunity to meet in your day-to-day practice. It is a great event for young or new attorneys to meet attorneys in the area who have more experience and expand their network. If you are interested in volunteering for the event next year, please contact Andrea Rubin at [arubin@ucoe.org](mailto:arubin@ucoe.org).



*Valarie Grossman is an attorney with the Saltzman & Johnson Law Corporation specializing in ERISA litigation and multi-employer pension plans.*



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# SWAP MEET JUSTICE (fiscally sponsored by CLUE-Ventura County)

VCBA will spotlight a nonprofit and recognize community involvement by a Ventura County lawyer.

Swap Meet Justice seeks to provide professional services in a client-centered environment to build bridges across race, socioeconomic status, immigration status, access to healthcare, and multiple other overlapping identities.

Since 2018, our ever-expanding group of organizations, legal professionals and community volunteers come together once a month at Oxnard College’s Marketplace & Swap Meet to assist people who may be hampered by lack of money, lack of transportation, language issues, or by weekday jobs that prevent them from accessing the services or information they need. Swap Meet Justice offers access to legal services related to landlord/tenant disputes, immigration and expungement of criminal convictions. We also offer assistance in obtaining access to medical services such as vaccinations and care at health care clinics. We provide Medicare information and assistance with completing Medi-CAL applications. We help members

of the public who may need assistance with voter registration, obtaining citizenship, DACA and Green Card renewals, Selective Service applications, fee waivers and access to public benefits.

In response to the needs of the community, we set up a tent village of social services at Oxnard College Swap Meet. Swap Meet Justice occurs at 9:00 a.m. on the last Sunday of every month, rain or shine (unless the Marketplace itself is closed that day). We committed to a regular monthly schedule to become a trusted and reliable resource in a place that already had strong community support. At Swap Meet Justice, we are all in the work together – those wanting help, and the endless list of those who volunteer such as organizers, young, old, disabled and retired.

To get involved as a volunteer, simply show up to our tent village next to the gym at Oxnard College located at 4000 S. Rose Avenue in Oxnard, CA on the last Sunday

of every month at 8:30 a.m. for volunteer training in preparation of the assorted application forms needed by members of the community.

If you have services or skills to offer to support our community movement for justice, please reach out to **Vanessa Frank** to determine the best way to get involved. In particular, we seek attorneys who can assist with expungements, landlord/tenant issues and all aspects of immigration law. We are looking for anyone with the heart, soul and stamina to provide much needed legal and healthcare information and related services to the community making the Central Coast a beacon of equity and opportunity for all. To get involved call Vanessa Frank, 805-641-9300 or [info@vanessafranklaw.com](mailto:info@vanessafranklaw.com)

If you are an active volunteer with a nonprofit that you’d like to highlight, please email [sandra@vcba.org](mailto:sandra@vcba.org).

VCBA and the Office of Education are grateful to all those which volunteered for the 2023 Mock Trial Competition				
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# DON HURLEY - GOODBYE FRIEND

by Tony Strauss



I was dumbfounded when I received an email from **Kathi Smith** on February 12 saying that she and husband **Leroy Smith** had heard that **Don Hurley** had passed away. My wife Michelle immediately called Carol, Don's wife and found out that indeed it was true. Don had passed on Feb. 10.

I don't think that anyone forgets their first week of law school. It was the middle of a very cold August in San Francisco in 1973 at the law school formerly known as Hastings. One thing that I can distinctly remember is that I didn't want to open my mouth in class because I knew that I would say something stupid. There were those few who had no problem talking while the rest of us lived in fear that we might be called upon in what was sure to be the most embarrassing moment of our lives. But that first week I met and became friends with one of those unintimidated souls who had no problem speaking his mind. It was a trait that lasted his entire life.

I first met Don in our legal research and writing class. It was a seminar-sized group and it was Don who asked the instructor questions and spoke his mind when he didn't agree with the answers. Don had an assurance about him that came with being one of the older members of the class. He had spent six years in the Navy working in the engine room of a nuclear-powered carrier and then nuclear submarines. Don would joke that he had been around nuclear fuel so much that he probably glowed in

the dark and posited that cancer would be his ultimate demise. He dodged that bullet.

Don was born in Long Beach on Aug. 27, 1944, moving to Lake Isabella as a child. He went to Lake Isabella High School where, according to Don, he excelled at every sport, particularly baseball. (Of this, I have no doubt per below.) They played other powerhouse high schools in the high desert like Inyo Kern, Mohave and Independence. Following high school, Don went to BYU for a year, did his stint in the Navy (this was the Viet Nam era), then went to UCSD to get his undergraduate degree. It was while he was in the Navy in San Diego that he met Carol. They married in Dec. 1969.

Both Don and Carol worked to put Don through law school. Don worked at the United States Information Agency and Carol was a librarian at the UCSF Medical School Library. During his final year, Don clerked for a San Francisco firm that hired him after graduation.

Following our graduation in 1976 and the "bar experience" that summer, Don and I occasionally played some tennis together but lost contact for a short period. He had remained at the firm in San Francisco, and I came to Ventura to work in the County Counsel's Office. About a year later, I got a call from Don saying that he was coming to interview in a Ventura firm. He and Carol wanted to get out of the city and liked it down here. He got the job at the Hathaway

firm. That was to be relatively short-lived because within a very short time he applied for and was hired by then-County Counsel **Dorothy Schechter** as an Assistant County Counsel.

Don flourished in the County Counsel's Office. He loved the work (at least most of it) and found it much more rewarding than private practice. But I think that it was the camaraderie and goodwill of the office engendered by Dorothy that allowed the "true Don Hurley" to emerge. Don loved people and he loved to organize events. He would use any excuse to have an office party and they got to be pretty extravagant, especially once Carol started a tradition of bringing in roasted turkeys for the office on Thanksgiving. I seem to remember Dorothy having to periodically curb his enthusiasm.

Nothing curbed his enthusiasm for softball. We organized coed and mens' teams to compete in the City recreation leagues. I had a buddy who owned NAPA Auto Parts stores and we became "Ventura Auto Supply". There were quite a few Ventura County lawyers who at one time or another wore the NAPA gold and blue. These included, among others, **Jim Thonis**, **Dennis Slivinski**, **Byron Roach** and **Larry Matheney** from the County Counsel's office, a contingent from the Nordman firm including **Randy George**, **Jon Light**, **Tony Trembley** and **about-to-be Justice Tari Cody** (who played a mean third base and had a dynamite arm). Retired **Judge Glen Reiser** played left field until he tore a hamstring. Deputy DA **Richard Simon** was always able to get on base. **Bill Fairfield** played first base for a while. All through it, Don was on the mound. We played for years until all of the other teams were much younger and our injuries had taken their toll. We had some very odd injuries indeed. George broke his nose running to first during a practice (my throw from short stop bounced fortuitously). One of our non-lawyer teammates broke his arm throwing the ball in from center field. There were multiple twisted ankles, bruises and other mishaps. But the most bizarre was in a coed game when Don was running from first to second and collided with the shortstop (!) breaking his jaw and cheek bone. It was not long after that we hung up our cleats.

Meanwhile, Don's legal prowess grew. He took on multiple high level assignments in the County Counsel's Office including representing the Public Guardian. His knowledge of probate law was recognized by Judge Reiser, who tapped Don to sit in as a Judge Pro Tem in Probate Court, which Don did regularly for about ten years. Before retiring from the County in 2010, Don handled the Mental Health calendar and tried a prodigious number of jury trials. Upon retiring from the County Counsel's Office, he was asked by the Court to hear Mental Health cases and he was sitting in that court two weeks out of every month. Don also served as President of VCBA, President of VLSP (now Legal Aid), and donated many hours to pro bono representation.

Don had other passions, especially sailing, tennis and travel. He apparently did not get enough ocean while in the Navy as he and Carol and **Frank** and **Nancy Sieh** went in as partners on a 27-foot sailboat. Ventura Yacht Club became a focus of their activities and Don was on its board. As for

tennis, Don regularly played at the Pierpont Racquet Club and was to have played the day of his last heart attack. Pre-COVID, Don and Carol were regular cruise devotees making approximately 20 trips going to places all around the world. Many of their shipmates became friends and Don and Carol met up with them annually in Palm Springs. They both loved good food and good wine and Carol is a gourmet cook. While they never had children, they treated mine as well as those of many others as if they were their own. They have always had miniature schnauzers as members of their family.

Don was also a true "car guy." I know that over the years he had at least two Datsun Z cars, two Miatas, two Porsches, a Fiat and seven or eight MGBs with a couple of motorcycles to boot. Don wasn't content in just driving them. He would take them apart and put them back together, not always getting it right. For reliability, he drove BMWs and two remain in his driveway.

Don had the first attack in mid- January and spent ten days in the hospital. He seemed to recover and in the first week of February Nancy Sieh was driving him on errands. They stopped at a CVS where Don was picking up prescriptions. It is there that he collapsed and lost consciousness. He didn't wake up.

Oh, Don, there is so much more to say. You will be missed.



**Anthony "Tony" Strauss:** *Hastings 1976; Former Assistant County Counsel and Deputy DA; private practice since 1986 emphasizing in employment law and employment/business litigation; VCBA and VLSP President 2009; semi-retired living in Ojai.*



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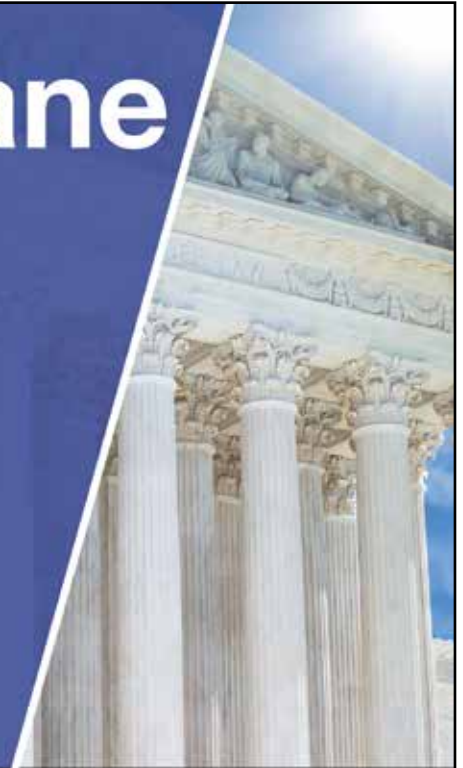
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*Barbara Doyle in the mid-1990's—look, Ma, no wrinkles!*

*Barbara Doyle bids adieu to her 44-year career at The Colleges of Law (well, 43 years, 7 months and 27 days, but who's counting!)*

My first day as Registrar at the school then known as Ventura College of Law was Aug. 6, 1979. The school was housed at the former St. Catherine's by the Sea girls' school on Catalina Street, around the corner from Ventura High School. The school had been founded only ten years before. Besides our Dean and President, there were four administrative employees. I had previously worked for the Ventura County Community College District, at Ventura, Oxnard, and Moorpark Colleges (hundreds of staff and faculty and thousands of students), so this was a big change for me. However, I liked the small size of the school because it meant I could actually know each student by name.

Did you know in 1979 you could get a law degree for \$6,300? Of course, everything was less expensive back then: A box of Cheerios was \$0.99 and eggs were \$0.85 per dozen.

The law school had to move from the original location as the old buildings were going to be torn down and the land sold for development. The law school purchased a lot on Market Street where a new industrial/business park was being located (back then, we would become only the third building in the neighborhood—hard to imagine all the empty space there used to be). Because the new facility would not be ready until late 1986, we had to move from Catalina Street in 1985 to a temporary location at the Hill Road Elementary School, which had been closed for insufficient enrollment. Channel Island University (as we now called ourselves) shared the campus with other non-profits.

Tuition was \$115 per unit. Gas was \$1.10 per gallon, a pound of bacon was \$1.69 and you could buy a new Corvette for less than \$25,000.

We stayed there while our new permanent home on Market Street was being built—we moved over the holiday break in 1986

## THE END TO AN ERA

by Barbara Doyle

to our 20,000 square foot new home. The largest classroom could accommodate 75 new 1L students. We hardly knew what to do with all the space we had.

Tuition was \$145 per unit. A postage stamp cost \$0.24 A loaf of bread was \$0.55.

The law school's first Dean, Fred Olson, had left. We had a succession of Deans (I have worked with eight during my tenure). The number of students waxed and waned. Over the years we abandoned carbon paper and mimeograph machines. Our first computer was from Radio Shack. Suddenly there was this new-fangled invention, "email," that revolutionized the work place. But some things didn't change—I still loved working at The Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law (the latest iteration of our name).

Fast forward to the start of our hybrid JD program—the second in the country. We now have about 150 students in that program along with close to 150 onsite students. Tuition is \$860 per unit, eggs are \$0.50 **each** and gas at the Chevron station next door is \$4.75 per gallon. Wow.

The Colleges of Law (another name change!) now has 2319 alumni! It has been a real treat to get to know "my" students as they

pass through on their way to bigger and better things. I'm glad to have played a role in providing them the opportunity to earn their degree in law in an affordable program that places students first.

Most of all, it has been a privilege to work with so many wonderful colleagues over the year: Deans, staff, and faculty. I also want to recognize two of my mentors, (former) **Dean Heather Georgakis** and **Dean Jackie Gardina**, for all they taught me and for showing me how a great boss makes all the difference.

To all my current colleagues: I appreciate you and I will miss you! May TCOL continue its mission for another 44 years and beyond.


The Colleges of Law is honoring the longest serving member of our family, Assistant Dean and Registrar Barbara Doyle. We invite you to join us for a special evening to honor Barbara and her decades of contributions to The Colleges of Law mission.


**When:** Wednesday, May 3, 2023;  
**Where:** Ventura Campus Community Room (4475 Market St., Ventura);  
**Program:** Open house from 5–7p with a toast and brief remarks at 6p.

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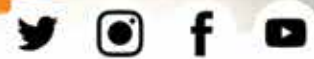






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