

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
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Calling All Leaders

by Richard A. Huver

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CASD is looking for A Few Good Men And Women -- the leaders of the San Diego plaintiff's trial bar -- to assume an active role in our organization. The "old guard," as I like to call them -- people like my partners Harvey Levine and Harris Steinberg, and Vince Bartolotta, Cindy Chihak, Dave Casey, Jr., Steve Boudreau and Rob Trentacosta, and too many others to name -- have "been there, done that." They have served their time, assumed their leadership roles in our organization, and been at the helm of the CASD ship. While many still give of their time and energy participating in local seminars and other activities, it is our turn -- your turn -- to step up.

When I moved to San Diego almost 15 years ago, I joined SDTLA. A few years later, I decided I needed to become an active participant in the organization. After all, two of my partners, Harvey and Harris, were past presidents of the organization. More importantly, I thought it was almost necessary for me to "serve my time" and participate in a meaningful way. My first effort to join the Board was declined because no one knew who I was. So I joined two committees, worked very hard, and the next year was elected to serve on the Board. Two years later, I was fortunate to be asked by outgoing President, and now Judge Rob Trentacosta, if I would consider elevation to the Executive Committee. Who would have thought a kid from Los Angeles, who knew literally no one in San Diego when I moved here, would be elevated to the Executive Committee just five years later? If I can do it, so can you!

Many of you have lived and worked in San Diego your whole legal career. We need the next group of leaders in our organization to step forward and assume their role in CASD. You do not need to be well connected (remember, I didn't know anyone when I moved here) and CASD is not the "Old Boys Club." All it takes to be selected for the Board is to work hard on a committee or two. There are many to choose from and we are always looking for new, energetic, hard-working committee members. Here are the current available committees: Membership (which includes Member Recruitment and the Annual Renewal Drive), Legislation (which coordinates meetings with local legislators), Communications (which includes sub-committees for the Web Site, List Serve, and Community Outreach), Education (which plans all Seminars and Tuesday Night at the Labs), Events (which plans the Installation and Annual Awards Dinner, golf tournament, Trial Stars Dinner, Mixers and List Serve parties and helps with the Red

Boudreau Dinner) and Awards (which investigates members nominated for trial lawyer and advocacy awards). If you do the work, your name will float to the top of the list for consideration as a new Board member the following year.

Please take a moment to learn about working with and joining our organization. Visit our website. Give me a call, drop me an e-mail, or ask any of our current Board members about serving on a committee and working to get on the Board. Thank you.