

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**  
**May 2007**

*A True Community Event - Come Celebrate With Us!*

**By**  
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This June, the San Diego legal community will join together once again as we celebrate the legacy of Red Boudreau, a Past President of CASD, a much loved and respected trial lawyer and beloved father of CASD's own Steve Boudreau at the **23<sup>rd</sup> annual Red Boudreau Trial Lawyers Dinner on June 16** at the newly refurbished US Grant Hotel in downtown San Diego. This gala event is a true celebration by the San Diego legal community and annual fundraiser for the programs at St. Vincent de Paul Villages. I hope you'll join us! Be sure to read Karin Wick's article on page 13 of this issue for more background information on the Boudreau Dinner.

A highlight of the Boudreau Dinner is the presentation of the annual Daniel T. Broderick III award to a trial lawyer who represents the highest standards of civility, professionalism and integrity in the practice of trial advocacy. Former recipients of this award represent the best in our community. They include Tom Sharkey, Gerald McMahon, Peter Hughes, Gerald Davee, Bonnie Reading, Robert Steiner, Denny Schoville, Virginia Nelson, Charles Grebing, Mike Thorsnes, Ed Chapin, David Monahan, Charles Dick, Dave Casey, Dave Noonan and Vince Bartolotta.

This year's recipient of the Broderick Award is our valued friend and CASD Past President, **Cynthia Chihak**. Cindy Chihak is a deserving recipient of this award. She has worked tirelessly throughout her career to provide access to the courts to those who otherwise would not have the opportunity to seek justice. A graduate of Pepperdine University Law School, Cindy has represented victims of injury for decades. Her success record speaks for itself. She is a five time recipient of CASD's Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award and was named Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2004. Additionally, for the past five years she has been named one of California's Top Woman Litigators by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*. Cindy is a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, President Elect of ABOTA for 2007 and she is the only Past President of CASD who served two consecutive terms as president. Yes, she is that good! Cindy is a true Consumer Attorney who has dedicated her career to the mission we hold so dear.

Cindy's practice focuses solely on personal injury and has since she began the practice of law. Though she is a multi-award winning lawyer, there are a few highlights of her stellar career of which she is extremely proud. Back in 1989, she took over a case that was on the court's dismissal list for failure to answer interrogatories. The plaintiff was in *pro per*. Cindy ended up trying the case

against a great veteran trial lawyer, Douglas Reynolds. It was only her 3rd or 4th trial. At the last minute, Cindy added a battery count alleging the performance of a "substantially different surgery" since the plaintiff wanted a breast reduction and instead got a subcutaneous mastectomy. The jury was out three days and came back with the question, "We are 'yes' on battery. Do we have to decide negligence?" They returned the exact amount asked for in general damages, in addition to special damages. Since Cindy had alleged battery, an intentional tort, her client received an award well in excess of the MICRA general damage limit. The trial judge's judgment on the MICRA issue was affirmed by the appellate court and resulted in a published opinion. The case went to the Supreme Court as a companion to *Central Pathology*. The Supreme Court sustained and in 1992, the verdict, with costs and interest of a substantial amount was paid. A trial star was born! For this case, Cindy received her first CASD Outstanding Trial Lawyer award and she went on to become a medical malpractice specialist.

Her practice is not limited to medical malpractice though. She is extremely proud of a recent case she resolved for a most deserving hero in the true sense of the word. Cindy represented a 31-year-old engineer who heard a sign marquee falling and covered a 4-year-old little girl with his body to save her. He ended up a paraplegic, but returned to work six months later making more money. This case resolved right before trial. Cindy's client started a foundation at Sharp Rehabilitation with part of his funds. He will be at the dinner to celebrate Cindy's accomplishments. You should be too!

I hope you will come out to the US Grant to celebrate this evening with Cindy. She represents the best in our community. Let's join together to support her, the Boudreau family and at the same time, to support a wonderful cause – the St. Vincent de Paul Villages which does so much for the homeless in San Diego.

The Red Boudreau dinner is a fabulous event! The bar is hosted, the food is plentiful, the company can't be beat and there will be a super dance band, The Fabulous Pelicans, who are very energetic and sure to get the place rocking. It is a wonderful opportunity to join our friends in the legal community and at the same time do something good for those less fortunate than ourselves. Be on the lookout for the invite or call the CASD office for details and reservations. Take the opportunity to buy a congratulatory ad to our friend Cindy Chihak, come to the dinner, share a drink and good conversation with friends. You'll be glad you did. I look forward to seeing you there!