

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
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A World of Thanks

By
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What a year it has been. Serving as President of this wonderful organization has been one of the true highlights of my 20-year career. There are not enough words to express how grateful I am for the support I have received throughout my service.

This has been a year of transition. We said goodbye to our friends SJ Kalian and Chris Van Orshoven, but we have made some new wonderful friends. Bonnie, Esther and Jasmyne have become the new bedrock of the CASD family and we couldn't have gotten luckier! Not only did we survive this transition, we triumphed. And it couldn't have been done without them. We all owe them a big thank you.

And speaking of thanks, it is not possible to get anything accomplished as President without our Board of Directors and committee members. Your extraordinary commitment to CASD is unrivaled.

Thanks to all for the Installation dinner, the *Trial Bar News*, the membership drives, the Golf Tournament, the Trial Stars dinner, our educational seminars, Labs, Roundtables, fundraisers, mixers, listserve parties, the meetings, the conferences and everything else. I cannot express how much your support is appreciated.

Then too, I could not have served as President of this wonderful group without the unconditional support of my law partners and dear friends. To David, Fred, Robert and Tom, and to the rest of our team at Casey Gerry, thank you for everything, always. And to Bev and Stephen and Juan, you are the best. Thanks for always being there.

And then of course there are Manny and Manny Valdez of Ringler Associates, the structured settlement kings. You are behind so much of what we do. You are truly two of the greatest friends CASD is privileged to have. Thank you for everything, including the Day at the Races. In addition to all of the other support you provide us throughout the year, we appreciated the beautiful and exciting afternoon at the racetrack. We all owe you a huge thanks for all you do.

Thanks, too, to August Larsen and AJL Video Productions. Our events and seminars are so much richer because of you. Your value to CASD is immeasurable. We are so grateful for all that you

contribute to our organization.

Judicate West and Mark Kaufman are wonderful friends too. We are so appreciative of your sponsorship and other support of our events. Your ADR services are first rate and we appreciate your support.

I also want to extend special thanks to Jill Burkhart, SJ and the County Bar for continually reaching out to promote coalition building. What a wonderful asset you have been to the community and we value your fellowship.

And Ray Boucher, President of CAOC, deserves our thanks for all of his efforts this year on behalf of all us. What a year it has been for him! He has more than lived up to his promise to involve the local trial lawyer associations in what is going on statewide. Thanks to Ray and to the entire CAOC team for listening to the issues facing the CASD community and for always trying mightily to address them.

And then of course, the issue became the fires. This tragedy further confirmed the great sense of family our members provide each other. What devastation so many have suffered. And what support our members have offered. Who can forget the offers flying over the listserve to house people and/or animals? Who could ignore the response to the call for volunteers to help the fire victims? The offers of pro bono legal assistance represent the essence of our membership. The CASD family is not only there for one another, but also for the entire community.

Lastly, a huge thanks to each of our members. It has been an absolute, unqualified honor to serve as your President this year. You make our organization what it is. Your support for the organization and for your fellow members is what makes the CASD family a great one. The selflessness and generosity so many of you display on a daily basis is heartwarming. Please continue keeping CASD strong -- you embody the spirit of who we are. As long as we have your valued support, I know CASD members will Never Stand Alone.