

FROM THE EDITOR

Trial Bar News Completes 31st Year

by **Kerry Hoxie**
Editor-in-Chief, *Trial Bar News*

*Kerry Hoxie has been Editor-in-Chief of **Trial Bar News** since 1987 and is a member of CASD's Board of Directors. She practices law in San Diego, currently concentrating her practice in property and business law. She previously practiced clinical psychology and taught seminars on crisis intervention, family counseling and cognitive development. She was Assistant Editor of *The American Journal of Clinical Pathology*, authored *Family Counseling – A Manual Using Milieu Therapy*, edited *Real Property in Theory and Practice, Vols. I & II*, and has authored numerous articles for legal publications and legal seminar syllabi. She also taught property law. She may be reached via email at: khoxie@aol.com.*

By the time you receive this issue of ***Trial Bar News*** I hope things have settled down from what can at best be described as a tumultuous fall – global economy in near collapse and the U.S. in an endless loop of political campaigning which culminated in a new low of name calling and inflammatory allegations. If you caught yourself staring blankly into space while thoughts swirled in your brain like a hive of angry bees, you were not alone. There was simply too much swirling around to process it all and it is probably just as well if it doesn't get processed. Taking long walks on the beach was the best remedy I devised. I highly recommend it.

Next month, ***Trial Bar News*** will complete its 31st year as CASD's primary communication with its members about the latest developments in the law and how you can better represent your clients. The civil justice system is continually under attack by businesses which lobby our lawmakers to change centuries of tort law into a system of "no fault" profit making. One of CASD's primary missions is helping our members fight to protect the civil rights of our citizens, particularly the civil justice system and tort law. ***Trial Bar News*** is our chief method for providing our members with analyses of legal issues, new laws, recent court decisions or the latest techniques for improving the practice of law.

Trial Bar News is fortunate to have a wonderful panel of column editors who provide us with updates each month in the key topic areas so pivotal to our practices. This year, three new column editors joined our panel: **Drew Dunk** for civil procedure, **Ian Fusselman** for evidence law and **Tim Blood** and **Tracee Lorens**, with the assistance of **Lea-Ann Tratten** from CAOC, for legislative law.

Drew covers everything from the intricacies of service of process to the new rules governing your fee agreements – all those nuts and bolts issues that can easily escape our attention. Ian helps us with problems in gathering and presenting our clients' cases – the evidence to persuade the jury. Tim Blood and Tracee Lorens have raised the curtain on the activities by our legislators in Sacramento. If you ever wondered how to get something turned into a bill and then processed through the maze in Sacramento until it becomes a law, read their columns. Lea-Ann Tratten has literally "been there and done that" for a long time so she knows where the skeletons are buried, so to speak. Be sure to read the article on the budget process in this month's issue (on page 23).

Our other column editors include **Nicole Tee** for criminal law, **Dick Semerdjian** for discovery law, **Raul Cadena** for employment law, **Richard Huver** for insurance law, **Jim Lance** for products liability, **Jacob Slania** for property law and **Jeremy Robinson** for tort law. **Richard Huver**, CASD past president, has been writing the insurance law column for 10 years and **Jim Lance** has been covering products liability issues for nearly that long. These column editors are a truly dedicated group who, month after month, make sure you are informed about the latest developments in areas of your practice and frequently include practical tips to help you improve your representation of clients. We owe all of them a big “Thank You” for taking time from their busy lives to help you with your practice each month. Be sure to tell them the next time you see them.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention that, in a true example of the dedication so typical of our faithful editors, **Nicole Tee** never missed a deadline for her criminal law column even though she had a beautiful baby boy on September 30! She carefully arranged for **Dana Grimes** and **Jeremy Warren** to prepare articles in her absence – and they did a great job! Congratulations, Nicole, on new baby Luke!

Each area of law covered by ***Trial Bar News*** seems to be in flux as a result of the continuing attacks on consumer rights. Businesses, especially the insurance industry, are continually seeking to limit their responsibilities by eliminating any rights their customers have to use their products or services safely and as expected. Last month, our president Ken Sigelman wrote about federal preemption of state laws which is the latest assault on consumer rights. Federal preemption has been called “silent tort reform” because federal agencies as well as federal legislation is increasingly written to expressly provide that state or local law is preempted by the new law or regulation.

Discovery law has become increasingly complicated as we adapt to the digital age. Information may be communicated in many ways and is stored literally all over the globe. Discovering it is a big challenge and the law is struggling to keep up. Federal courts have new rules for digital discovery and California has proposed new rules as well. If you missed **Monty McIntyre’s** article on California’s proposed rules in the October issue, be sure to go back and read it. This is yet another area in which ***Trial Bar News*** tries to help its members keep informed on the latest developments and learn how to use them.

Help us make ***Trial Bar News*** one of our most valuable member benefits. Send us your comments on what you like, how we can improve, what topics you would like to see – or, better yet, write an article yourself. If you have learned something that would be helpful to our members, share it with us. **Don de Camara** writes special articles on the latest developments in lien law once or twice a year to be sure that you are saving your clients as much as you can when settling their lien claims. We really appreciate his willingness to share information he has developed in this highly technical, always evolving area of the law.

Be sure to tell us about your accomplishments also! We like to publish them to share the good news. You can submit comments, accomplishments or articles directly to me at **khoxie@aol.com**. We are always interested in hearing from you about ways to improve our magazine.