

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### *Trial Bar News: A Favorite Member Benefit*

by Wayne Alan Hughes

*Wayne Alan Hughes is CASD's President for 2009. He practiced criminal and domestic law before joining with his "significant other," Tracee Lorens, to practice in various areas of complex civil litigation. Their first trial, as co-counsel, served as a chapter in Judge Ehrenfreud's book, You Be the Jury. Currently he practices in the areas of mass torts and class actions for which he received two Outstanding Trial Lawyer Awards. He is blessed with three children: Alexander Zaharopoulos Hughes, MBA Oxford, Vice President at Wells Fargo; Cassandra Zaharopoulos Hughes, completing Vet. school; and Alexandra Rose Lorens, first year college student and dynamic carbon copy of Tracee. You can reach Wayne by email at: [waynecloud@aol.com](mailto:waynecloud@aol.com).*

Creating reality out of the slogan "**Still Year of the Member – More for Less**" always depended upon the efforts of others. In our organization, the majority of members pay dues and go to some events. Many think that it is these dues that make the organization a reality. A much smaller group [less than 10%] also volunteer their efforts and labor. Without the smaller group, benefits to the larger group would diminish. This month's column is dedicated to some of the 10%.

We are able to focus on our members and provide more for less because of literally thousands of hours donated by volunteers. Busy professionals who also have a commitment to service . . . to paying it forward by helping others. If you want something done, get a busy person to do it.

If you are one of the 90% take the time to thank those who volunteer time for your benefit. You have a truly great board of directors, good seminars with gifted speakers, *Trial Bar News* and its helpful information, list serve, mixers, scholarships to help struggling attorneys, events, awards that recognize member accomplishments, and even a golf tournament.

When we graduated from law school, we left with tools but no architectural plans. It was in the act of doing that we learned to create. These lessons came from not only kind mentors but also from the rough and tumble of litigation. We learn from our opponents, our own mistakes and both kind and harsh judges. We are blessed to be in a profession which need not grow routine as the years past. We are blessed with a profession that allows us to continue to learn about our art for decades.

This month's column is dedicated to recognizing some of those who make our organization's goals a reality.

Recently in picking up a copy of a very colorful monthly magazine published by a much larger organization than ours, it was a surprise to see how little of substance was contained in it. The contrast with the *Trial Bar News* was significant. You look through *Trial Bar News* and you have to appreciate what **Kerry Hoxie** and her team of editors do for us 10 times a year. *Trial Bar News* offers a wide range of topics covering generally 10 areas of interest every month throughout the year. It is not just a bunch of ads and color pictures of others. Most of the columns in *Trial Bar News* take many hours of donated work.

Unless you have been one of the column editors, it is hard to imagine the amount of work that goes into writing up to 10 columns a year. Our Editor-in-Chief, Kerry Hoxie, takes a great deal of pride in her team. She is very protective of them.

Recently Kerry told me that **Drew Dunk**, who is also active on list serve giving members free legal advise, spent over 40 hours researching for one of his Civil Procedure columns. Drew is considered to be one of the most generous of our members at taking the time to answer frequently complex legal questions on list serve or over the phone.

Five of our column editors are also board members. So the many hours of writing an article each month are in addition to the many hours of committee or project activities of a board member.

Board member **Nicole D. Tee** cares for her new infant, actively practices criminal and administrative law, serves on the board and writes/edits the Criminal Law column. Nicole is one of many women in our organization who excel as a mothers, wives, lawyers and volunteers. We frequently get most from those who are the busiest.

**Raul Cadena** writes on employment law as well as serves on the board. He is the newest member of the executive committee and is on track to be president in 2014. He arranges monthly meetings between the board and local legislators and organized more than 35 members to go to Lobby Day this year in Sacramento. Raul has made a reality of the often stated goal of building relationships and opening communication with legislators. Behind the scenes, it is often what legislation we are able to prevent which does our clients the most good.

**Tim Blood** helps write the Legislative Law column in order to keep us up to date on legislation or efforts in Sacramento which stand to impact our clients' rights. As a board member he provides great insight into the legislative process and CAOC activities. His firm, Coughlin, Stoia, Geller, Rudman & Robbins, generously lets us use their meeting facilities for **Tuesday Nights at the Lab** which allows us to keep cost at a minimum. Tim was also a finalist for 2007 Consumer Attorney of the Year for the state of California.

**Karen Frostrom** is new to the board. She edits and writes Property Law columns. Currently she is heading up a significant project called "**The CASD Almanac**". This project hopes to eventually produce an annual publication for members that lists useful information such as web sites of interest to attorneys, discounts available to members, reference materials for trial and deposition objections, special code sections relating to damages, expert information and much more.

Another column editor and new board member is **Jeremy Robinson** who keeps us up to date on Tort Law. He is another gift from the law firm of Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP, the oldest personal injury law firm in San Diego. The history of this firm goes back to the foundation of this organization. At least five members of the firm have served as CASD president including our first president, David Casey, Sr.

Two editors are also past presidents of CASD: **L. Tracee Lorens** edits and writes some of the columns for the Legislative Law column. And the Insurance Law column has found a very clear and

precise author in Richard A. Huver. If you haven't had the chance, take it now and read Richard's January article, "Insurer Cannot Ignore Evidence Which Supports Plaintiff's UM/UIM Settlement Demand to Create a 'Genuine Dispute'."

**Tracee Lorens and Rebecca Lack Mowbray** have done the impossible and grown CASD's membership this year despite the economy. Lady Mowbray organizes list serve parties and, as a member of the executive committee, is on track to be your president in 3 ½ years. Tracee is also working on another major seminar for us next fall. Her last seminar brought in attorneys from all over the state.

There are three other column editors who help Kerry put together *Trial Bar News* for us.

Discovery Law is covered by **Dick A. Semerdjian**. Dick specializes in civil litigation and trial practice and has served on CASD's board. He has represented seriously injured individuals and families in personal injury, insurance claims and wrongful death cases and serves as Vice Chairman of the Business Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association, working with attorneys and clients throughout the United States on complex business and commercial litigation. Dick Semerdjian has been named one of the Ten Best Attorneys in San Diego by the San Diego Daily Transcript and a Southern California Super Lawyer in the practice area of business litigation.

**Ian Fusselman** covers Evidence Law for us. An attorney at Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire, his practice focuses on complex litigation, including catastrophic injury, aviation law, product liability, insurance litigation and construction law. He received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from California State University, Long Beach, and obtained his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Southern California Law School. Mr. Fusselman is also a pilot and chef. While attending high school and college, Ian worked in restaurants in Newport Beach's popular "restaurant row." By age 20, Ian earned a position as a chef at a world-class seafood restaurant, managing two kitchens and a staff of more than 50 employees.

Products Liability is covered by **James R. Lance**. Kerry paints a vivid picture of Mr. Lance who she says creatively drives his "gang of associates" until they produce great articles – faithfully every month. Jim Lance is a partner in the law firm of Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge LLP specializing in products liability, maritime personal injury, employment and commercial litigation involving complex business disputes. Jim was also named one of the Top Attorneys in San Diego County by the San Diego Transcript in 2008 and was selected by his peers as one of San Diego Super Lawyers in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

This column doesn't cover all of those who make up the 10% to whom great thanks is due. We ran out of room. There are many more names who deserve recognition. Thank my higher power that there are four more president's columns. By the time you read this article, you will have the benefit of at least two other projects put together by our dedicated leaders:

The Golf Tournament is the second event this year run by board member **Karin Wick**. She is a powerhouse and was the true superstar of the installation dinner in January [see photos on pp. 20-21 of this issue]. Even members who don't attend these events benefit from them because both events are heavily dependent on sponsors. Karin spearheads getting the sponsors. This revenue then

allows us to provide benefits to the full membership that dues alone don't cover. Services like the labs, list serve and *Trial Bar News* are actually supported by events.

**Robert Jackson**, fresh from two significant back to back courtroom wins, in May will have presented a full day seminar: **The Master's Guide to Trial Practice: Handling a Civil Jury Trial.**

Robert, despite two trials and every scheduling problem invented by mankind, produced a team of top lawyers from both sides of the bar to help educate us.

Last and most significant for this article is **Kerry Hoxie**, our Editor-in-Chief. She devotes more than 40 hours to each issue of *Trial Bar News*, making sure we have the articles, notices and other information we need to communicate with our members.

Please remember to thank these people.