

## CASD's Trial Masters Committee Program Begins

by Joel R. Bryant, CASD 2011 President

Two of California's finest trial attorneys, Vince Bartolotta and Denny Schoville, both former presidents of CASD, spent in excess of three hours recently providing invaluable suggestions for overall trial preparation and strategy to four CASD members who are preparing for trial.

The event was CASD's Trial Masters Committee (TMC) program in which top-notch trial lawyers who are former CASD Board members (*i.e.*, Trial Masters) meet with up to four CASD members at a local law office to help the members prepare for trial. Trial Masters are selected from a panel of CASD's trial stars who have experience with the types of cases involved.

To participate in the program, a CASD member provides information about his or her case by filling out a short Case Conference Application and submitting it to the CASD office. The form is on our website at [www.CASD.org/TMC](http://www.CASD.org/TMC). Appropriate TMC panel members are selected and the meeting is scheduled. At the meeting, the CASD member provides a short synopsis of

the case. The Committee then brainstorms with the member providing input about case themes, voir dire, overall trial strategy, motions in limine, the judge, the opposing attorneys, expert witnesses, opening statement, order of proof, demonstrative evidence, and closing argument.

CASD member Mark Velasquez attended the first TMC conference and commented: "Without a doubt the Trial Masters Committee may be one of the best benefits to newer attorneys that CASD has to offer. The ability to sit down with two veteran attorneys for almost an hour and discuss my concerns, issues, and strategies of a complex case was invaluable. As a solo practitioner, it is often difficult to find the opportunity to brainstorm and discuss a case with other knowledgeable attorneys. This service has provided me with that opportunity and, as a result, has better prepared me for trial."

Take advantage of this tremendous resource when you have an upcoming trial date. If you have any questions about the program, please send an email to me at [jbryant@gbflawyers.com](mailto:jbryant@gbflawyers.com) or to [casd@casd.org](mailto:casd@casd.org).

## Notice to Members re Annual CASD Elections —

The CASD Board of Directors urges members to nominate themselves or other members for positions as Board members or Officers of the organization. Requirements are as follows:

- (1) To run for the Board of Directors, a candidate must have been a member of the Association for the two years immediately preceding the election, or have served on an active committee for at least one year. The current year may be used in computing the two-year period.
- (2) To run for an Officer position, a candidate must be or have been a Director of the Association for at least two full years immediately preceding the election.
- (3) Members who qualify and wish to serve as an Officer or Director should submit this information to the CASD President in writing *before September 15* so that they may be considered by the Nominating Committee. CASD office, 3633 Camino del Rio, South, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108; fax: 619-696-1294.