

Leveling the Playing Field

In my first President's Column, I wrote about how membership in CASD helps to level the playing field as we seek just for our clients. As we head toward the end of the year, I wanted to look back to the many ways in which this great organization helps us accomplish this. Beginning with inspiring excellence in advocacy through training and education, our Education Committee has offered a great line-up of training and education programs, many of which are led by our own CASD Board members. These have included:

January 29	Substance Abuse
February 12	Tort & Trial
March 13	Voir Dire
April 8	Case Selection Lab
April 16	Lizard Law
May 2	Class Action Symposium
May 27	Preparing Client for Cross
June 11	Liens
July 17	Client Injuries
September 11	Evidence with Judge Trentacosta

In addition to the formal programs described above, our members train and educate each other informally every day on our members only listserv. Questions on our listserv range from how to notice an out of state deposition to how to successfully oppose a motion for summary judgment. The listserv is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and is unquestionably one of the best resources available to our members.

CASD's Trial Bar News ("TBN") continues to offer eight columns with high quality substantive discussions of recent cases, which help keep our members current on changes to existing laws as well as legal trends. TBN circulates to more than 1000 recipients, including to our own members and to our local judges.

Members also train and educate each other informally while networking at the various member mixers and social events. This year, CASD mixers and social events have included:

January 23	Fred's
February 26	Spike Africa
March 14	Mentor Mixer
March 20	Women's Caucus Mixer
April 2	Stone Brewery
May 2	Judge's Reception/Mixer
May 29	Golf Tournament
June 24	Past Presidents Reception
June 26	Mentor Mixer
July 24	Day at the Races
August 21	Basic
September 19-21 Women Trial Lawyers' Retreat	

The CASD Mentor Committee has had an active mentorship program for more junior attorneys, which has been spearheaded by our CASD Board members. At the June Mentor Mixer, the CASD Mentor Committee provided a mentor-mentee workshop with numerous luminaries from the plaintiffs' bar to speak with new lawyers about topics such as collaboration with other plain-

by Raul Cadena, CASD President



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Continued on page 4

tiff attorneys, generating and maintaining business, managing the practice of law, and balancing the practice of law with life. The information offered by the veteran attorneys was extremely useful and practical.

CASD attorneys represent people who are injured, oppressed, subjected to deceptive trade practice or falsely accused. In the face of a constantly changing regulatory, legislative and political landscape, we must stand watch. This year the CASD Governmental Relations Committee has remained involved in educating our legislators about proposed laws that positively impact the people we represent and that allow us to better represent them.

In May, several CASD members traveled to Sacramento for Justice Day to meet with and discuss important proposed legislation with our law-

makers. At Justice Day this year we addressed the importance of AB 2171, which is a Bill of Rights for Elder Residential Care. AB 2171 represents the package of bills introduced this year to protect seniors and those with disabilities who reside in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly. The bill creates a statutory bill of rights and a private right of action for the elderly in residential facilities.

We also impressed upon our lawmakers the importance of AB 2059 which modernizes the law on electronic medical records. This bill modernizes Evidence Code Section 1158, which allows an attorney, with authorization, to request the medical records of a patient. Current law requires a per page charge of \$0.10 cents. The per-page cost does not make sense when the medical records are sent via electronic delivery. This

type of legislation not only provides much need protections for the type of people we represent but also allows us to better represent them. As an organization, we must

In April, CASD Board members participated in the Bench and Bar Summit to address the dire fiscal circumstances facing our courts, and subsequently participated in the meetings with local elected officials organized by the San Diego County Bar's Court Funding Action Committee to advocate for the restoration of funding to our local courts.

Our CASD Governmental Relations Committee has also organized a town hall meeting and provided further education regarding Proposition 46 to raise awareness about the Troy and Alana Pack Patient Safety Act of 2014 ("Pack Patient

Continued on page 30

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For information and scheduling, please contact Genevieve Kenizwald at Gen@adrservices.org or (619) 233-1323

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Safety Act”) among our own membership. Our members are best suited to inform members of our local community about Prop 46 and to respond to the attacks and dissemination of misinformation. Those who oppose Proposition 46 are vilifying trial attorneys and claiming the impetus behind the proposition is a money grab by plaintiffs’ attorneys. Locally, we are one of the only organizations who can speak to the public about how Californians finally have an opportunity to pass a law which will protect patient safety and restore the right of injured patients and their families to be fairly compensated in medical negligence cases.

Finally, CASD members not only help each other level the playing field but also give of their time by volunteering in our community through

outreach and service programs identified by the CASD Community Committee. So far this year, our Community Outreach Committee members have been actively involved in the following events:

- March 29** **Habitat For Humanity Build Day**
- June 4** **KPBS Pledge Drive**
- June 27** **Blood Drive**

CASD currently also has on its calendar, the October 18 Alzheimer’s Walk and CASD was a sponsor of the September 13 Red Boudreau Dinner which annually helps to raise money for charity.

Looking back, I am amazed at how much this organization does to help level the playing field for our members. I am also astonished at how CASD accomplishes this with a small staff of employees and a group of vol-

unteer Board members who roll up their sleeves to do the work. For any of you out there who represent the injured, the oppressed, those subjected to deceptive trade practice or falsely accused but are not yet a member, the only question in your mind should be: Where do I sign up? **TBN**



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