SAN DIEGO LAWYER
THE JOURNAL OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
MAY/JUNE 2010

2010 Service Award WINNERS

BACK ROW: Hon. Napoleon Jones Jr (awarded posthumously), Stephen Kelly, Lizzette Herrera, Steven Boudreau, Lei-Chaia Wilson
MIDDLE: Marty Lorenzo, Community Housing Works' Gabe del Rio, Jill Burbankit, Anna Romanovskaya, Juan Zúñiga
FRONT: Affordable Housing Advocates' Peter Lisa and Catherine Redman; Latham & Watkins' Robert Knaider, Cynthia Cwilt, and Bruce Shepherd; Julie Myres

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A legal career may be shaping up for two fifth-graders from Emerald Hills. Best friends Marcus and Brent, both 10 years old, excel in school, look forward to recess and share a love of basketball as well as debating.

Most of my male students say they want to be pro athletes whenever they're asked about career goals. Marcus and Brent are interested in the law.

So when Federal Magistrate Judge William McCurine graciously invited the three of us into his chambers for an informal introduction to courtroom proceedings, we accepted. In a relaxed and inviting setting he answered the boys’ questions while slipping in a vocabulary lesson or two.

Brent came prepared with a list of questions, including “Are you afraid of ever making a wrong decision?” While I sat back and let the boys conduct the interview, I began to realize that these two could easily be part of a future generation of lawyers or judges. We then observed half a dozen or so arraignments before saying goodbye to Judge McCurine and his staff.

“IT was a great experience because you could get in there and see what happened, and it made me want to be a lawyer,” says Brent.

Adds Marcus: “When I went into Judge McCurine’s office, it was scary at first because it was all big. I want to be a lawyer and work my way up to a judge like Judge McCurine. He kinda inspired me to become a lawyer.”

What do you need to do to become a lawyer? “Hard work in school, paying attention, not slacking off, not talking back and being responsible and doing all your homework in class,” says Marcus.

What is one word that describes a lawyer? “Honesty,” says Brent.

Meghann Kruming (meghann@kruming.com) teaches at Johnson Elementary School in Emerald Hills.
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Hon. Wayne Peterson (Ret.)

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In February 1850, San Diego County was created as one of California’s original 27 counties. It was incorporated later that spring with Joshua Bean, brother of the famous Judge Roy Bean, elected San Diego’s first mayor. The first courthouse and attached jail was located in present-day Old Town San Diego (a replica is there now) and presided over by San Diego’s first district judge, Hon. Oliver S. Witherby. Interestingly enough, Roy Bean was spending time in the jail awaiting Judge Witherby’s return after Bean shot a man in a duel. Bean escaped from the jail by digging a hole in the adobe wall.

That was 160 years ago, when the census for San Diego County was about 600. Since then, the population of metro San Diego has grown to more than 1.2 million, with more than 3 million people in the county as a whole. As the county has grown, so has our legal system. San Diego now is home to one of the largest court systems in the country, and the San Diego County Bar Association, with nearly 10,000 members, has grown to become the second largest bar association in the state of California. Our jail walls have also markedly improved since Mr. Bean’s time.

In San Diego, we consistently witness the inevitable growth and evolution of our community and our legal system. New and updated procedural and administrative rules are issued regularly, elections for judicial office are pending, and needed new facilities are either under construction or in the planning phases.

Despite our growth, or perhaps as a result of our growth, our courts, both state and federal, continually face challenges. Some have arisen from the state of California’s financial hardships, which have resulted in budget cuts for the San Diego Superior Court’s central operations, furlough days, reductions in staff, reduced court office hours and a delay in filling judicial vacancies. How the courts meet their obligations directly impacts our ability to practice law and represent our clients. As such, it is important that we stay apprised of issues affecting both the bench and our profession.

In this issue of San Diego Lawyer, we hope to do just that. We are honored to present articles from Judge Irma Gonzalez, Justice Judith McConnell, Judge Lorna Alksne and Judge Kevin Enright, presiding judges of their respective courts. We hope to periodically feature articles from our bench in both San Diego Lawyer and in our Bar Report publication, with the goal of keeping our membership informed of court-related issues and changes.
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outside my office window, the rain had turned Alvara-
do Boulevard into a river of brown mud. It was a dull
day with nothing to do but wait for trouble.

The phone rang. “This is the long distance operator,”
a nasal voice announced. “A person-to-person call for
Philbrook McCoy from Earl Warren. Will you accept the
charges?”

“With pleasure,” I barked.

Warren laughed and said, “McCoy. It has been too
long. I need some ethics advice. I am a little steamed, to tell
the truth. The State Bar is looking into the conduct of some
of my prosecutors, and I am damn mad about it.”

“I don’t know why, Earl, your boys are lawyers and
subject to the same professional rules as everyone else. Al-
most. Unlike the civil lawyers, you are shielded by the im-
munity doctrines. The U.S. Supreme Court said so in
means that even a wronged criminal defendant has no civ-
il redress against a prosecutor. Without immunity, you guys
would forever be looking over your shoulder, waiting to get
sued. But the price you pay for that immunity is the possi-
bility of professional discipline for a malicious or dishonest
prosecutor. The Supreme Court said that a ‘prosecutor stands
perhaps unique, among officials whose acts could deprive
persons of constitutional rights, in his amenability to pro-
fessional discipline by an association of his peers.’ ”

“The Supreme Court? What do they know? The State
Bar? They have never raised questions about what we do before!”

“Right. Despite the language in Imbler, it is no se-
cret that prosecutors have hardly ever been prosecuted by
the disciplinary authorities. Look at Zacharias, ‘The Pro-
fessional Discipline of Prosecutors,’ 79 No. Carolina Law
Review 722. Zacharias characterizes the lack of reported
discipline cases involving criminal prosecutors as ‘surpris-
ing’ in light of the frequent references to prosecutorial mis-
conduct in the case law. A little rain has got to fall into
everyone’s professional life now and then.”

“When you deal with the State Bar, McCoy, it’s more
like the deluge. They say one of my prosecutors failed to
provide exculpatory evidence, and another misrepresented
facts to a judge! Of course, I don’t condone that, but how
can we take out gangsters if prosecutors are in constant fear
of being second-guessed by the State Bar? And I am run-
ning for attorney general next year!”

“Yes, withholding exculpatory evidence violates the
Supreme Court’s holding in Brady v. Maryland (1963) 373
U.S. 83, providing that a criminal defendant is constitu-
tionally entitled to it. But it also violates Cal. Rule Prof.
Conduct 5-220, forbidding an attorney from suppressing
evidence that the attorney or client has an obligation to
produce.

“Besides, Earl, I know the standards you set in your
office. Are the State Bar’s standards really higher than your
own? You are a tough prosecutor, but you believe in fair
play and the Constitution. You know, Earl, you would
make a hell of a good judge.”

The line went silent. Raindrops tapped at the window.
Finally he spoke.

“Thanks, McCoy. That puts it in perspective for me.
But forget that judge stuff; I am going to be attorney gen-
eral, and then governor and then president!”

“Maybe, Earl, but you never know where Fate will
lead.”

David Cameron Carr (dccarr@ethics-lawyer.com) is a San
Diego lawyer.
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Salad Days

The warmer the weather gets, the cooler we want our food. Fresh, clean and crisp salad need not just start the meal; in these warm months, salad can stand alone as an entrée. Our local eateries have some great hearty salads worthy of a full meal. These beauties will have you happily crunching away.

The soba noodle, vegetable and chicken salad at Salad Style in the East Village is protein packed and flavorful. This mixture consists of chicken, carrots, sugar snap peas, organic sprouts, shiitake mushrooms, peanuts and green onions, sitting atop a generous bed of soba noodles with a ginger-sesame dressing. We also love the Moroccan couscous salad and the daily specials. Any of the salads can be made into a wrap. And especially during June gloom, one of the daily soups will add a little warmth.

807 F Street, San Diego, CA 92101, 619-255-6731, www.saladstyle.com

Farmhouse Café is one of our very favorite restaurants, and the burrata salad is always a delicious treat. Burrata is a mozzarella with cream added, which gives it a gooey texture and a rich, buttery taste. The accompaniments vary by season. As the weather warms, there is a good chance that heirloom tomatoes will be on the plate.

2121 Adams Avenue, San Diego, CA 92116, 619-269-9662, www.farmhousecafedsd.com

The chopped salad at Ruth’s Chris is so good, we could almost bypass the steak. It’s made of julienned iceberg lettuce, baby spinach, radicchio, red onions, mushrooms, green olives, bacon, eggs, hearts of palm, croutons, bleu cheese and lemon basil dressing. The salad comes in a neat little cylinder stack topped with crispy onions.

1355 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101, 619-233-1422, www.ruthschris.com

Salads are also a great weeknight dinner option since they are quick and easy to prepare. Purchase fresh produce at the local farmers’ market over the weekend and declare Monday salad night! Rub half a clove of garlic in a wooden salad bowl, toss in greens (La Milpa Organica Farm has stands at several local farmers’ markets, and their greens are always delicious), vegetables, beans, fruits, nuts and perhaps some cheese, add a drizzle of extra-virgin olive oil and another of balsamic vinegar, then some salt and pepper, and you’re in business.

Inside Tip

Speaking of salads, Ebisu Sushi Bar in Hillcrest prepares a fantastic mushroom salad that is not on the menu but is almost always available as a special. Just ask your server about the special mushroom salad. You’ll be glad you did.

3765 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103, 619-297-3119, www.ebisusushisd.com

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WHO'S WHO LEGAL
The STATE of the COURTS
What is the current state of San Diego’s courts?

We are honored to have reports from Superior Court Presiding Judge Kevin Enright, Southern District of California Chief Judge Irma Gonzalez, California Court of Appeal Administrative Presiding Justice Judith McConnell and Family Court Supervising Judge Lorna Alksne on how our courts are faring. We’re also pleased to share news on the new federal courthouse annex, and we provide tips on how lawyers can assist with regard to our civil backlogs.

“When they handed me the reins of power, no one told me there was nothing attached.”
— Hon. Gilbert Merritt, Chief Judge of the Sixth Circuit

I write to inform you of the state of the judiciary. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve the bench, bar and public as the presiding judge of the San Diego Superior Court. As presiding judge, it is my intention to preserve, maintain and improve a court whose high standards of professionalism, ethics and performance will enrich the entire region.

The San Diego Superior Court is the third largest trial court in the country. We have 130 judges and 24 commissioners housed in 10 courthouses throughout the county. With the statewide budget crisis, our annual budget has been slashed from $235 million two years ago to $213 million for the current fiscal year. Our workforce has dropped from 1,709 positions two years ago to approximately 1,450 today. We have reached an unprecedented high in our employee vacancy rate of 15 percent.

In this era of diminishing resources, our needs have nevertheless been increasing. Over the last fiscal year, unlimited civil cases increased 11 percent over the average number of filings for the prior three years. Limited civil cases increased 42 percent over the average number of filings for the prior three years, and unlawful detainers increased 31 percent over the same average. So far this fiscal year those same categories of filings have essentially returned to the past averages, but we are still working the past increases through the court system. Recently, we have seen significant increases in traffic filings.

The convergence of shrinking resources and increasing needs, along with the court closure/furlough on the third Wednesday of every month, has resulted in significant delays in the court’s ability to process paperwork, and longer lines in the business offices. The court closures have been instituted statewide to help the judicial branch live within its diminishing means. All of this has obviously not been easy for those who work in our courthouses or for the attorneys, litigants, jurors and
public. In spite of our best efforts to live within our means, our court will continue to face a structural deficit of $5 million to $6 million in the next fiscal year beginning July 2010. If the state were to further reduce funding for the third branch of government, the gap would grow even wider.

I draw this to your attention for two reasons. One, if we are to continue to serve the public well, the judicial branch can ill afford another reduction to its budget. Two, the frustration we all feel with the paperwork backlog and long lines at the business offices is not due to any lack of effort on the part of our judges and court staff. On the contrary, the dedication, hard work and flexibility of our judges and court employees have staved off layoffs and other drastic measures. Our court will get through these challenging economic times. It is crucial that we seek to achieve and maintain the highest level of service to the public. Evaluating processes to help us operate a more effective court will remain a top priority. We will continue to pursue excellence in judging by providing fair and efficient proceedings, which foster public trust and confidence.

Ours is a rich and proud tradition. The practice of law in San Diego has always been unique. Here, we strive to uphold the tradition that our word is our bond, that our handshake seals the deal. We live in a large city, a populous region, yet that is our tradition—a tradition begun, instilled and fostered by those fine judges of the San Diego Superior and Municipal Courts and lawyers who have come before, by those who currently sit on the bench, and by you, the lawyers of our county. As a result, our court and legal community enjoy an excellent statewide reputation.

Our judges and commissioners do wonderful things in our community. Many of us sit on boards, committees and commissions, both locally and statewide, to further serve the public and to try to better our society. This type of service to the public is fundamental to the well-being of our democracy. Many of you, the lawyers of our county, do these same wonderful things for our community. You, too, bring that same spirit to the task of serving the public well.

I am proud to be a member of this legal community and a judge of the San Diego Superior Court. The law is a noble profession—in everything that we say and do, let us always remember that.

ANNEX NEWS
Downtown’s courthouse annex is long awaited and eagerly anticipated
By Emmet Pierce

It took longer to approve and it cost more than expected, but supporters say the public and the legal community will greatly benefit from the 16-story, $380 million federal courthouse annex now under construction in downtown San Diego.

“It is very important to the San Diego community for two major reasons,” says U.S. District Court Chief Judge Irma Gonzalez. “We need the space to house the judges and court personnel. Secondly, we need it for security reasons. We believe that this building is going to be very cost-efficient. We have worked really hard to make it a project that is going to satisfy Congress’ concerns about cost.”

Gonzalez is among local officials who worked to make the courthouse annex a reality despite a tight federal budget. The Edward J. Schwartz U.S. Courthouse at Broadway and Front Street, which opened in 1976, is too small for its growing caseload and no longer meets federal standards for public safety.

Excavation work on the annex began in November on the site where the Hotel San Diego once stood. David Allen, a court district architect who is working closely with the General Services Administration and annex designers, says, “This first year will be spent getting the building structure up to the street level.” After the annex (not yet named) is completed in early 2013, the Schwartz building will undergo infrastructure improvements as a separate project, he says.

An organized program for replacing federal court buildings has existed for more than 15 years, Allen explains. However, the federal budgeting process has slowed the approval process in recent years.

“The Hotel San Diego was imploded in 2006, and here we are in 2010 just putting foundations in the ground,” he says.

It’s estimated that the work will bring more than 1,500 construction jobs to downtown San Diego over the life of the project. About 75 workers currently are taking part, says Tom Diersbock, of Hensel Phelps Construction Company, the general contractor. “It actually
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pumps a lot of money into the economy,” Diersbock says.

That’s good news for the construction industry, “which has been hammered the worst of all industries during this economic downturn,” says Marney Cox, chief economist for the San Diego Association of Governments. The project will have a lasting economic impact by strengthening downtown’s position as a regional hub for court activities, Cox adds.

“There is a lot of positive energy, optimism and excitement” about the project, says Edward Fates, president of the San Diego chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

The tower planned for 339 Broadway will encompass 467,000 square feet and include six courtrooms and 12 court chambers. The west side of the building will offer judges’ chambers views of San Diego Bay. Public circulation areas on the east side of the tower will have views of the city and the south bay. Adjacent to the building’s lobby will be a large jury assembly area. Below ground, there will be a level of assigned parking and a level of office space. A pedestrian plaza will separate the annex from the Schwartz courthouse.

The design takes advantage of natural lighting and offers natural ventilation on selected floors. The east side of the building’s exterior will consist largely of glass. In contrast, the west side will feature terra-cotta exterior panels. One goal of the designers was to make sure the slender tower would complement downtown’s growing collection of condominiums and high-rise commercial structures. Existing pedestrian walkways will link the structure to nearby Pantoja Park and the Martin Luther King Jr. Promenade.

Besides Hensel Phelps, the project team includes the Jacobs Engineering Group as construction manager, and design architect Richard Meier & Partners. Michael Stepner, a professor at San Diego’s New School of Architecture, says he’s very pleased with the team’s efforts.

“I think the architects have done a really good job,” he says. “I think it will be a major asset to the downtown landscape.”

Gene Gibson, a public affairs officer for the General Service Administration, says Gonzalez deserves credit for holding down project costs and addressing budget concerns that might have prevented the project. “Without her, it would not have happened,” she says.
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I have now completed five years as chief judge of the Southern District of California, and I have only two more to go. I thought that by this time, perhaps things would slow down or might even get a little easier. When I assumed the chief judge position in 2005, I learned that my responsibilities included court management oversight and case management oversight. These two things have kept me very busy the past year. Our criminal felony filings totaled 4,851, a 20 percent increase over 2008. The civil case filings reached 3,175, an increase of 20 percent over 2008. However, the court still manages to handle its cases efficiently. That is due to hard-working colleagues, judicial staff and the Clerk’s Office staff.

For most of 2009, the court had all its 13 active district judge, nine magistrate judge and four bankruptcy judge positions filled. However, things have really changed. In October 2009, a vacancy was created on the district court when Judge M. James Lorenz took senior status. Senator Barbara Boxer’s Judicial Advisory Committee has completed its screening process, and I understand the White House has selected a candidate to undergo a security background check.

Magistrate Judge Leo Papas retired July 31, 2009. To celebrate this event, the court held its first “swearing out” ceremony. William Gallo, a former Assistant United
States Attorney, has now been appointed to succeed Magistrate Judge Papas.

Last fall, the court obtained authorization from the Judicial Conference to add a 10th full-time magistrate judge position in San Diego, based on our increasing caseload. In January, the court selected Bernard Skomal, a criminal defense lawyer, as the newest magistrate judge. He is, at this time, undergoing his security background check, and we hope to have him on board within the next 60 days.

As for the bankruptcy judges, Judge James Meyers retired February 28. However, he has been recalled and is continuing to work as if nothing has changed. Margaret Mann was sworn in informally on April 2 as our newest bankruptcy judge.

On a sadder note, District Judge Napoleon Jones Jr. passed away December 12, 2009. A large segment of the legal community turned out for a wonderful memorial service to honor Judge Jones. He left an indelible mark on this community and, in particular, the African-American community. A judge’s judge, he treated everyone who appeared before him equally and with great respect.

Excavation began on October 13 for the new courthouse annex. The General Services Administration’s groundbreaking ceremony was held December 11. At that time, I received a commemorative shovel and hard hat, which I have yet to wear, but I am hoping that at some point I will be able to go out to the big hole in the ground to check out the progress of the building.

Since November 1, 2006, all attorneys practicing in the Southern District have been required to register with the court’s electronic filing system, CM/ECF. With only limited exceptions, attorneys are required to file all papers electronically through CM/ECF. In addition, all of the court’s orders are served upon counsel electronically. CM/ECF gives both the court and all involved attorneys immediate electronic access to filed documents and orders, dramatically reducing both cost and delay.

Last year, the court convened a new Local Rules Committee, chaired by District Judges Marilyn Huff and Barry Moskowitz and Magistrate Judge Anthony Battaglia and made up of both civil and criminal practitioners as well as court staff. The committee was concerned not only with the need to make the Local Rules consistent with the new time conventions contained in the amended Federal Rules of Procedure, but also with identifying portions of the Local Rules that had become obsolete as a result of CM/ECF and other changes in local practice. The committee’s work resulted in amendments to a total of 27 separate Local Rules, which went into effect December 1, 2009.

Despite the hard work of many, little headway has been made in the effort to end
the erosion in federal judicial pay. For nearly two decades, Congress has failed to pass a significant pay increase for federal judges, and in several of those intervening years Congress enacted legislation barring automatic cost-of-living adjustments. At the same time, inflation has continued to climb, resulting in a significant effective decline in judicial pay. The inadequacy of judicial salaries continues to deter many highly qualified judicial candidates and has led others to leave the federal bench in favor of private practice. Despite this, as Chief Justice Roberts recently noted: “The courts are operating soundly, and the nation’s dedicated federal judges are conscientiously discharging their duties . . . [in] their devoted service to the cause of justice.”

I am confident that the judges of the Southern District of California, with the assistance of diligent chambers and Clerk’s Office staff, will be able to meet the challenges lying ahead in 2010. I am proud to be chief judge in a district so dedicated to the fair and expeditious administration of justice.

In August 2009 the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division One, completed the construction of its new courtroom, which more effectively meets the needs of the public, the court and counsel and improves security. The new courtroom accommodates increased attendance and improves access for people with disabilities. Adjacent to the courtroom are conference rooms where overflow crowds can view oral argument live on video monitors, the court can conduct settlement conferences, and local counsel can participate by video conference in oral arguments held in other parts of the state. The courtroom bench accommodates seven justices, which will allow the California Supreme Court to hold occasional arguments in San Diego in its outreach program.

Thanks in part to the enlarged courtroom, the court has expanded its own outreach efforts through invitations to local law schools interested in having students attend oral argument. In April, the court held a special session at UCSD’s Earl Warren College as part of the college’s celebration of Earl Warren Week. California courts are also in the process of improving outreach to the public through online forums such as Twitter and YouTube, which should prove particular-
The court's extern program continues to provide law students with training and hands-on working experience at the intermediate appellate level. Each extern works under the supervision of one or more justices, in a role similar to that of a judicial staff attorney.

As in other parts of the state, the ongoing fiscal crisis has affected the court, requiring its closure the third Wednesday of every month since September 2009. Additionally, the court has achieved salary savings by maintaining unfilled positions. Nonetheless, the court has continued to receive monthly transfers of cases from the other Fourth District divisions, a program implemented in 2009 and designed to equalize the workload among the divisions. The number of transferred cases is periodically adjusted, but the court has received 10 to 13 cases each month from Division Two (Riverside) and occasional transfers from Division Three (Santa Ana).

The court is also striving to be more environmentally conscious by working with the San Diego County Bar Association’s Appellate Court Committee, institutional appellate agencies and the superior court to implement changes that will reduce paper usage. The court encourages parties to electronically file their appellate briefs and other documents via e-mail, which makes the appellate process more efficient. Based on a formal agreement between the Attorney General’s Office and Appellate Defenders, Inc., briefs, motions and applications in criminal appeals are also served on the parties electronically. The court invites parties to file hyperlinked appellate briefs and records on CD-ROM when it is economically feasible to do so. The court also has a pilot project whereby parties can file many types of court documents by fax. For details on these and other programs, please see the court’s website at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/courtsofappeal/4thDistrictDiv1/programs.htm.
Our San Diego Family Court in 2010 may not look different from the outside, but an honest and frank look inside reveals a court that is very different from previous years. Simply put, the current set of circumstances—more cases, less personnel and fewer days to get the work done—translates into a problem that needs the immediate assistance of our local family law bar to help ease the situation. What is happening to the family court is similar to a “perfect storm.” We are facing a collision of several independent conditions which, ordinarily, could be addressed separately but, when taken all together, have our courts struggling to keep up with the paperwork, the people and the demand for hearings.

Just to give you an idea of the magnitude of the elements of this perfect storm, let me throw out some statistics. Contrary to the national news media reports that divorce rates are going down during these recessionary times, this is not the case in San Diego. In each of our four branch locations throughout the county, the case filings in 2009 increased from 2008. Indeed, the trend is continuing, as the first few months of 2010 showed a continued increase in overall filings compared to this same time last year. These filings include all aspects of family law, domestic violence, the Department of Child Support Services, paternity and dissolution of marriage.

In addition to an increase in case filings, the number of self-represented litigants is on the rise as we discover that people either cannot afford an attorney or simply choose not to hire one. Additionally, the family court, like all of the other divisions of the Superior Court, has fewer employees to handle this increased workload. As a result of the 2007 hiring freeze that was imposed to combat our statewide fiscal crisis, our personnel vacancy rate is at an all-time high of over 15 percent. Finally, if all of this was not hard enough, everyone is now fully aware of the mandatory statewide court closure and furlough days. All of this translates into more work being done with less people and with one less day a month in which to accomplish it. It is an understatement to say that we are stretched very thin.

What does this mean for our community and the members of the family law bar? We need your help, patience and understanding to weather this storm. I am not unmindful of the impact all of this has on the present practice of family law. Paperwork does not always make it into the file before a hearing; cases cannot get scheduled quickly enough; and there are long lines for self-help centers. It is frustrating, but with a few practical suggestions, hope is on the horizon.

First, make sure when you file a noticed motion that you are ready to proceed on the date set for your hearing. If you know you need to complete discovery before you actually have the hearing, either ask for a date farther out or follow the procedure in Local Rule 5.5.8, whereby you can preserve your retroactivity but not have a date certain. Why is this helpful? Each time a hearing is set and does not go forward, someone in the clerk’s office has to literally pull the file, print minutes, possibly take the file to other areas of the courthouse and then take the file back to the file room and put it back on the shelf. This is not a trivial amount of time! It can also include an unnecessary review of the file by the judge and thus reduce the amount of time the judge otherwise has to prepare for the hearings that are going forward. Again, forethought and preparedness by all attorneys will help alleviate that precious amount of wasted time that can otherwise be put to use on other cases.

Another valuable way members of the bar can help is in the ever-growing area of the self-represented litigants. As a court, we direct parties who need assistance to our self-help center, commonly known as the Facilitator’s Office. While we have an excellent office, the supply can simply not keep up with the demand. A major campaign of the San Diego County Bar Association last year was “Community Service—Lawyers Giving Back.” Every member was challenged to dedicate at least 50 hours to pro bono or volunteer service. Have each of you answered the challenge? We need you to volunteer in our family courts. This can be as simple as representing a party for one hearing, using the limited scope representation arrangement; volunteering to sit as a settlement judge at any of our courthouses; or deciding to take on one or two pro bono cases each year from start to finish.

By volunteering to help self-represented litigants, you will be helping those who cannot afford an attorney and thus give them access to the judicial process. This is not only the right thing to do, but it is also a powerful way to make a difference in the lives of those who are facing situations they never thought they would have to face. It is an opportunity to give back to the community and to be part of the solution to the challenges we face in the family court system.
“If we do not maintain justice, justice will not maintain us…”

- Francis Bacon

Because all people deserve justice, the San Diego County Bar Foundation supports over 30 legal aid and public interest organizations including...

- The Access Center of San Diego
- Access, Inc.
- American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
- Beck’s House
- Casa Cornelia Law Center
- Casa de Amparo
- Catholic Charities
- Center for Community Solutions
- Children at Risk
- Children’s Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego
- Coming Home to Stay
- The Community Resource Center
- The Crime Victims Fund
- Elder Law and Advocacy
- Hannah’s House
- Home of Guiding Hands
- Homeless Court
- International Rescue Committee
- Kids Included Together
- Kids Turn San Diego
- La Cuna, Inc.
- Labor Training and Community Development Alliance
- Las Valientes
- Legal Aid Society of San Diego
- License to Freedom
- Parkinson’s Association of San Diego County
- Peninsula Family YMCA
- Saint Clare’s Home
- San Diego Advocates for Social Justice
- San Diego Coastkeeper
- San Diego Family Justice Center
- San Diego Justice Foundation
- San Diego Superior Court
- San Diego Teen Court, Inc.
- San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program
- Second Chance
- Southwest Center for Asian Pacific American Law
- Voices for Children
- Volunteers in Parole of San Diego County
- Women’s Resource Fair
- YMCA of San Diego County
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SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION
Civil judges and court staff are acutely aware of the delays in processing court judgments in some branches of the San Diego Superior Court. The delays cause problems for both the parties and the court and have been the subject of extensive discussion and analysis by the court. Due to the ongoing financial challenges, the unfortunate reality is that staffing in the civil operations area is down significantly. At the same time, filings are up. The court continues to grapple with this reality by constant analysis of our processing practices and will be making adaptive changes as a result.

While I know this is only a small piece of good news in this crisis on family courts, I also know we can get through this crisis by heeding the advice of Vince Lombardi, who said, “Individual commitment to a group effort is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.” Please keep this quote in mind in the coming months as we need your extra commitment and efforts to weather this storm.

Finally, I want to let you know some good news. I know there are concerns statewide about closures of family courts due to the financial crisis. However, effective June 1, 2010, our court will be creating a new family law department (D-45) to handle child custody and visitation issues for matters that have involvement with the Department of Child Support Services. The creation of this new department next to DCSS should help by reducing the need to have files transferred all over the county, and free up the dockets in the branch courts for hearing dates. Unfortunately, without hiring more Family Court Services mediators, this new department will not reduce the waiting times to get an appointment.

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With staffing levels stymied and workloads increasing, these legal logjams are not
going to break apart quickly, but it is hoped that with open communication with the legal community and tips provided to court customers, all parties can navigate these choppy waters.

At this point, the court is seeing the following backlogs:

**Central Courthouse**
- Limited Default Judgments (clerk and court): about six months backlogged.
- Unlimited Default Court Judgments: about five months backlogged.
- Request for Entry of Default on Unlimited cases: about six and a half months backlogged.
- Writs and Abstracts on Unlimited cases: about four and a half months backlogged.

**East County Courthouse**
- Limited and Unlimited Default Court Judgments: about six and a half months backlogged.
- Unlimited Default Clerk Judgments: about two months backlogged.
- Request for Entry of Default on Unlimited cases: about six and a half months backlogged.
- Writs and Abstracts on Unlimited cases: about four and a half months backlogged.

**North County Courthouse**
- Limited Default Judgments (clerk and court): about two days backlogged.
- Unlimited Default Court/Clerk Judgments: about two days backlogged.

**South County Courthouse**
- Limited Default Judgments (clerk and court): about two days backlogged.
- Unlimited Default Court Judgments: about two days backlogged.
- Unlimited Default Clerk Judgments: about two days backlogged.

To reduce these times, the court’s Civil Court Policy Committee is recommending several procedural changes to speed processing of default judgments and is exploring ways to cut backlogs, including streamlining internal processes. For example, we are recommending that rejected defaults be returned with the Judgment Checklist to facilitate refiling of the default application. The rejected application will be sent back after the first determinative error is identified by the clerks.

While the court explores additional new ways to process its filings, there are things the legal community can do to ensure cases move through smoothly:

For default judgments, please utilize the Judgment Checklists on the civil page of the court’s website. These checklists may save an attorney/plaintiff a lot of time and the possibility of having their judgment paperwork returned because of insufficient documentation. This is a big problem: There is a 50 percent rejection rate on default judgments because material is missing. The checklist can be found at www.sdcourt.ca.gov/pls/
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Save time by using the Case Search link on the court’s webpage to check if/when certain documents were received, such as requests for default, judgment documents, writs and abstracts. The register of actions is available online for cases filed in 2008 and later. The register of actions can also be used to verify hearing dates. In addition, the court is exploring making minute orders available through the ROA as well. If the court is able to accomplish this, information regarding past hearings and future events will be available online.

Verify that the correct fees are sent in with documents requiring a fee. Example: When filing stipulations, make sure to submit the $20 stipulation fee along with any defendant’s first paper fees that may be due.

Provide the correct case number on your documents. The numbers recycle each year, so the same case number can be in two different years (example: 2008-00045678 and 2009-00045678). Besides the case number, please include the judge’s name and the department to which the case is assigned, as per California Rules of Court 2.111.

Additional tips from the civil clerks:
1. BE PREPARED!!!
2. Have original signatures on documents.
3. Pleadings should be two-hole punched and stapled. Don’t staple documents in trial notebooks.
4. Stipulations to continue a trial will not be considered in most departments. An ex-parte hearing is typically required.
5. Do not submit unsigned Proofs of Service.
6. Don’t forget to put the case number on pleadings.
7. Don’t put the judge’s signature line on a blank page.
8. Certificates of Service (COS): Only one should be filed on the case when all defendants have been served. We do not need a COS on cross-complaints.
9. Make sure the names of parties are identical on the summons and the complaint. If not, the default will be rejected. Make sure the names match the complaint on all default documents.
10. When calling the clerk to inquire about a case, be ready with the case number.
11. Include instructions for the return
of conformed copies or lodged documents.

12. Print your name clearly on the sign-in sheet when making a court appearance, especially when making a special appearance (this helps the new relief clerks who may not know you).

13. Attorney offices should provide only an original and one copy of papers that are to go to court. Multiple copies get confusing!

14. Please fill out court forms correctly. This will eliminate many, many send-backs.

15. When checking to see if oppositions/replies have been filed, call opposing side or check the register of actions on the court’s website for cases filed 2008 and after.

Some tips provided by the civil judges:

1. Pleadings attached as exhibits, such as orders, motions and complaints to ex-parte applications, cannot be filed as a separate document if your motion is granted. Include a separate proposed pleading.

2. Default prove-up hearings: Prove-up declarations and exhibits should be filed one week before the prove-up hearing. Accuracy is very important.

3. Drop documents for the judge in the department mailbox. Most departments do not accept filings in the courtroom.

4. Ex-Parte: Make sure your declaration has notice provisions for ex-parte hearings.

5. Trial: Exhibits should be marked with brown exhibit tags and paginated.

6. In Central, status conferences are being set for cases put on the “wheel” at a time counsel indicate they’ll have difficulty staying on the wheel. At that time, they will discuss the case and timeline with the IC judge.

Motion information: As soon as counsel knows a motion should no longer be on the court’s calendar, the department should be notified immediately so the calendar clerk can possibly fill that spot with another motion hearing, and the research attorney does not spend time working the motion up. Counsel should never assume the court will automatically take a motion off calendar.

Case settled information: When a case has settled and a request for dismissal is filed with the business office, plaintiff’s counsel should always update the court with the information that the matter is settled. The departments are currently not receiving the Request for Dismissal when it is for the entire action. On many occasions, a TRC and/or trial is left on the calendar because counsel assumes that the calendar clerk is aware a dismissal has been filed and assumes the matter has been taken off the calendar.

When calling the court, please have the case number ready, as well as the case name. Please know who the client is if you are setting a motion or other hearing.

When calling a department, leave only one message on voice mail. Repeated messages take time to retrieve and transcribe.

Business hours: The Civil Business Office closes at 3:30 p.m., and afternoons are our busiest times. Many attorney services show up at 3 p.m. with multiple documents. They are only allowed to file three documents at a time and must then go to the back of the line, so the line moves. Consider filing in the morning when we are less busy.

The Thursday after a furlough Wednesday is extremely busy in the Civil Business Office. Expect long lines most of the day.

Keep in mind that Thursday is the busiest day for the IC Clerks, and they are in court on Fridays.
San Diego Lawyer congratulates all of the 2010 San Diego County Bar Association Service Award winners.

The following questions were asked of the individual winners:

• Where did you go to undergraduate and law school?
• How long have you been practicing law?
• Which three noteworthy persons would you invite to dinner?
• What piques your curiosity?
• Any advice for new lawyers?
• What does public service mean to you?

Organizations were asked to supply their founding date, leader and his/her education, staff, pro bono projects or mission and were given the chance to answer the questions about advice for new lawyers and the meaning of service.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAUREN RADACK
SERVICE TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Stephen Kelly
Clerk/Administrator,
Fourth Appellate District

School: UCLA undergraduate
Years in Position: 32 years at the
Court of Appeal, 23 as
clerk/administrator
Dinner Guests: The three presiding
justices of the Fourth District.
Curiosity: Will there be other
deceased clerk/administrators in
heaven, or do we all just go to
the other place and have to file
an appeal?
Advice: Be nice to court staff.
Meaning of Service: I started my
court service at the Superior Court
and came to the Court of Appeal
after four years, and now after 32
years here, I am happy I made that
decision. This court has been a
very interesting and rewarding
experience.

SERVICE TO LEGAL EDUCATION

Anna Romanskaya
Associate, Stark &
D’Ambrosio, LLP

School: University of California,
Santa Barbara; Thomas Jefferson
School of Law
Years Practicing Law: 2
Dinner Guests: Sandra Day
O’Connor, Tom Hanks and my
great-grandparents (victims of
the Holocaust).
Curiosity: The intricate work-
ings of the Internet and how
information is transferred.
Advice: Don’t take yourself too
seriously. Keep in mind why
you become an attorney and
how you want people to re-
member you. Don’t compro-
mise yourself in your cases, and
avoid adopting your clients’
feelings and positions as your
own. Stay visible and connected
in your community. Be civil and
collegial with your colleagues;
your reputation is your most
powerful asset.
Meaning of Service: Service re-
flects representation, advocacy
and support of clients. Service
also suggests contribution and
commitment to the community
through participation, respon-
siveness and donation of time.
SERVICE BY A PUBLIC ATTORNEY
Lei-Chala Wilson
Deputy Public Defender, Law Offices of the Public Defender

School: San Diego State University; UC Davis, School of Law, King Hall
Years Practicing Law: 20
Dinner Guests: President Obama, Michelle Obama and Dr. Dorothy Height.
Curiosity: I am curious, due to current events, where all this “hate,” of late, is coming from all of a sudden. I am curious about how people have the time and energy to “hate,” get so angry and then still feel good about themselves. It takes about the same amount of energy to love as it does to hate. However, one leaves you feeling good about others and yourself; the other leaves one feeling bad about others and yourself. I am curious about why I am hesitant to believe that this “hate” has been here all along and is nothing new and just becoming more overt. And I am curious as why I thought the ’60s had passed and we had moved beyond that period. I suppose the more things change, the more they remain the same.
Advice: You should become involved with your bar associations—state and national bars, local bar associations, specialty bar associations and your community organizations. You will find that you will enjoy the practice of law when you meet others with the same interests and take the time to improve on the practice of law and to help others in your community.
Meaning of Service: Service means giving back to others. To whom much is given, much is required. I promised myself that I would give back to my community.

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN
Julie Myres
Community Outreach and Education Program Manager for the San Diego Superior Court

School: I graduated from a local public high school, did not go to college.
Years in Position: I have been in my current position for 15 years and in public service for 25 years.
Dinner Guests: Bill Gates, Oprah Winfrey and Melba Patillo Beals.
Curiosity: We recently adopted a little Chihuahua named Zoe, and I would love to know what she is thinking.
Advice: Get involved and serve your community. If you want to be a good litigator, spend time in courtrooms observing trials. You will be amazed at what you can learn.
Meaning of Service: What service means to me can best be described by a line from a poem written by Ralph Waldo Emerson: “To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.”

DISTINGUISHED ORGANIZATION
Community HousingWorks

Community HousingWorks is a San Diego nonprofit that helps people and neighborhoods move up in the world by providing a full range of housing options combined with training and support.
Founded: 1982
President/CEO: Sue Reynolds
Education: Ohio State University; master’s in urban planning, Columbia University; not an attorney (though I took the LSAT).
Advice: Understanding your clients deeply, and their interests and needs, will help you be creative and have a lot more fun and be a better legal advisor.
Meaning of Service: To serve is to be a part of creating and sustaining a truly generous world—and to feel that in my heart.
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SERVICE TO DIVERSITY

Lizette Herrera
Public Interest Law Advisor, Diversity Coordinator, Adjunct Professor of Agency Internship Program

School: UCLA; University of San Diego School of Law
Years Practicing Law: Six
Dinner Guests: My fiancé, Luis. We both lead such hectic schedules that an evening of us just getting to sit and talk would be a welcome reprieve. Elpida Herrera, my grandmother who passed away a few years back. She was a woman who called a spade a spade. As a first-generation college graduate and now an attorney, I would enjoy telling her what I have done with my life. Sonia Sotomayor—because she is Sonia Sotomayor.

Curiosity: Life. I don’t think there is anything I am not curious about. There is so much to be fascinated about: books, people, events, countries, learning. How can we not be curious with everything going on around us?

Advice: Don’t be afraid to meet people. We need to support each other in this profession, and there is nothing better than to meet an attorney in the community who is doing work you are interested in doing. It is easier to understand what you can be in the law if you can find someone else who is doing it. Find someone to be a mentor, a friend and a guide in this profession.

Meaning of Service: You learn, you earn, you return. These are not my words but a phrase I have heard again and again. We all studied hard in law school, we are able to make a living, but we must still give back.

SERVICE TO DIVERSITY

Marty Lorenzo
Partner, DLA Piper

School: University of San Diego, University of San Diego School of Law
Years Practicing Law: 14 years, but have been a zealous advocate all my life...
Dinner Guests: Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Manny Pacquiao.

Curiosity: God’s thoughts—the rest are just details.

Advice: I’ll pass along a Filipino proverb: Walang gawaing mahirap kapag may tiyaga at sikap (No undertaking is difficult if pursued with perseverance and passion). Oh—and always seek out good mentors and be a good mentor.

Meaning of Service: Service is being part of something bigger than one’s self and striving for the greater good. It’s what an honorable person does when duty calls.
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Steven Boudreau

Partner, Boudreau Williams
School: University of San Diego; California Western School of Law
Years Practicing Law: 34 years
Curiosity: The quantity and forms of organisms in the measurable universe.
Advice: Do your homework.
Meaning of Service: Share your blessings with those less blessed.

PUBLIC SERVICE BY AN AGENCY

Affordable Housing Advocates (formerly San Diego Friends of Legal Aid)

Founded: AHA was founded in 1991 by the late Al Walkoe to raise money and support for special projects at Legal Aid Society of San Diego. When, in 1996, Congress imposed restrictions on the types of clients and cases Legal Aid could accept, AHA changed its mission to provide legal representation in impact cases. Since 2002, AHA has focused exclusively on expanding affordable housing and tenants’ rights for the poor. Given the region’s high housing costs, increasing the supply and quality of affordable housing for those earning at or near the minimum wage will continue to have the greatest impact on improving the quality of the lives of our clients and their families.
Leader: Catherine A. Rodman, director and supervising attorney
School: University of California, Irvine; California Western School of Law
Advice: I will borrow from Frederick Douglass and advise them to “agitare, agitate, agitate!”
Meaning of Service: Legal service is the enforcement, adoption or amendment of laws that can help to make our civil society a more just and virtuous one.

OUTSTANDING JURIST

Hon. Napoleon Jones, Jr.
U.S. District Court Judge
(awarded posthumously)

School: San Diego State University, undergraduate and master’s degree; University of San Diego School of Law

“I have had the distinct honor and privilege to practice law before Judge Jones as an advocate and to have worked alongside him as a colleague on the federal district court. Civil and criminal litigants entering his courtroom had every confidence that they would be fairly heard, regardless of status or treasure. He balanced toughness and compassion in an exceptional manner. When handling some of the most controversial, hot-button issues that challenged the framework of the federal constitution, his decisions were based on the law and his sound and informed judgment, without regard to the drumbeat of the public pulse.

“Outside of the courtroom, he made it his driving purpose to involve himself in community activities and civic programs that enriched the lives of African-American children and other children of color. His presence and participation also humanized the position of a ‘judge,’ which served to encourage confidence in the judicial system and show young people that anyone wanting to be a judge, or to pursue any career that appeared to be outside of their current circumstances, could do it.”

— Hon. John Houston, Judge, U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
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1230 COLUMBIA STREET • SUITE 970 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 • 619-231-3334 • FAX 619-231-3335
In 1867, Alonzo Horton, now known as the “Father of San Diego,” purchased 960 acres south of Old Town for $265 and thereafter established New Town, complete with the Horton Pier, land for churches (six parcels donated for six different denominations) and various incentives for commerce. What he really needed, though, was the courthouse.

The first courthouse quickly outgrew its space in Old Town, so additional storage and courtroom accommodations were rented from Thomas Whaley. In the early 1870s, Whaley offered to sell his house to the county for its official use, including the courtroom. On April 12, 1871, Horton signed a grant deed to the county, providing a parcel of land to be used for a courthouse. Horton won out over Whaley, and the board of supervisors ordered everything moved to the New Town site.

There is no free lunch—or free land, for that matter. Horton put a condition into the grant deed: The land was to be used for a courthouse “and shall at all times be kept and used for county purposes and in default thereof all of said property shall revert to and become the property of said A.E. Horton, his heirs and assigns, as fully as if this conveyance had not been made.”

The court was thereafter quickly built at 220 West Broadway (then known as Spring Street). It was soon in need of rebuilding, and a more ornate courthouse was put into place in 1889, then razed and replaced with the present structure in 1959. Today there is talk of selling off this parcel and building a new courthouse, behind the current Hall of Justice. Who would get the old parcel on Broadway if this happens?

As it turned out, the “Father of San Diego” had no children of his own. He had plenty of wives—five in all, the last of them Lydia Knapp Horton, 30 years his junior. The Hortons and the Knapps were acquaintances and members of the same Unitarian Church (first organized — surprise!— in Horton’s Hall). Lydia’s husband had died in 1885, leaving her to take care of two sons. Horton was also widowed, his wife of 30 years, Sarah, having met her end in 1889 in a carriage accident in Washington, D.C.

Alonzo and Lydia married in 1890. In 1897 he conveyed to Lydia all of his interests in real property “belonging to me or in which I may have any interest.” He died in 1909 at age 95, essentially penniless. (There is much more to be said about Lydia, generally thought of as the “Mother of San Diego,” who was responsible for convincing Andrew Carnegie to donate $50,000 to the city for a new library.)

Lydia’s older son, William, moved to San Diego and worked as a Realtor; her son Philip stayed in Northern California. Neither cared much for Alonzo. Lydia passed away in 1926, and her estate (including the interest reserved by Horton in his deed to the county) passed to and became vested in William and Philip.

On September 21, 1937, Philip and Lillie Knapp signed a quitclaim deed involving the courthouse tract to William Knapp. It was not recorded; the notary was Dwight E. Knapp. On the same date, William Knapp signed a quitclaim deed for the same tract of land to the county of San Diego. It too was not recorded. Around the time these quitclaims were prepared, the Knapps approached the county and offered to file the deeds in exchange for $25,000. On November 15, 1937, the county brought a lawsuit against the Knapp brothers to quiet title.

Superior Court Judge L.N. Torrentine heard the case on April 26, 1938. The court denied the county’s suit to quiet title but stated that the term “county purpose” meant that the county could use the tract of land for “any function a County . . . may perform pursuant to all the provisions of the laws and Constitution of the State of
California.” In other words, not just for a courthouse. The court’s order was filed July 21, 1938. The board of supervisors accepted William’s deed on July 25, 1938. That same day, the board also agreed to pay William and Philip $25,000 for a “good and sufficient conveyance” of the property to the county. (In today’s dollars, the settlement was worth approximately $200,000.) On July 26, 1938, the quitclaim deeds were filed.

At the time of this suit by the county, William was 73 years old, and Philip was 72. Neither had children. Why did the county bring the suit?

As it happens, the city and the county had long been interested in a consolidation of government offices, including the courthouse, into one large civic center. After years of debate and infighting, it was finally agreed to build the civic center on nearby tidelands. After the board approved the $25,000 payment, the San Diego Union noted in a July 26, 1938, article, “Time is approaching when the county may want to dispose of the property and move all county activities to the new Civic Center.”

The main building was opened for business on December 23, 1938. The additional structures that were to house, among other things, the courthouse, state building and a civic auditorium, were never built there. The county currently occupies the entire civic center (now called the County Administration Center), the city moved to Second Avenue in 1965, and a courthouse, circa 1959, remains at 220 West Broadway.

The Knapp brothers did pretty well by the old man, leading one to conclude that while no good deed goes unpunished, a good quitclaim deed can be very rewarding indeed!

George W. Brewster Jr. (sandbrews@aol.com) is a senior deputy county counsel with the Office of County Counsel.
PHOTO GALLERY

Red Boudreau Trial Lawyers Dinner
PHOTOGRAPHS BY GREG LAMBERT OF LAMBERT PHOTO

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JERRY ROBERTS

The San Diego chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel held its annual Black & White Ball on March 13 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt.

Will and Claudette Wilson, Bernie and Ann Porter

Tim Collins, president; Jon Hellings, executive director

Lonnie and Christie Zilberman

Mike Hird and LAF-Off judges
John Little, Jim Pokorny and Dan Lawton

Veronica Guy, Erin Pederson, Patrick Conolly

LAF-Off
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BARRY CARLTON

A capacity crowd attended San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program’s LAF (Lawyers Are Funny)-Off competition at the House of Blues on March 25.

Black & White Ball
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BARRY CARLTON

A capacity crowd attended San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program’s LAF (Lawyers Are Funny)-Off competition at the House of Blues on March 25.

Mark Zembrowski, Simmone Ballenger, Susan Kamfer, Jennifer and John MacDougall

Sue Hodges, Michelle and Ryan Adams, Kimberly Stewart, George Howard

Mike Hird and LAF-Off judges
John Little, Jim Pokorny and Dan Lawton

Veronica Guy, Erin Pederson, Patrick Conolly

Wendy Denton, Manuel Ramirez

Patti Zlaket

Kurt Whitman
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WHICH COURT IS IN THIS BUILDING?

Please submit answers by June 10 to martin@kruming.com. Your name will be entered to win a luncheon for two at Dobson’s Bar & Restaurant in downtown San Diego. Congratulations to Richard Huver of The Huver Law Firm, who earned a luncheon with Denny Schoville of Schoville & Arnell, featured in the March/April issue. Thanks to everyone who participated.

SDCBA CLOSEUP: YOUNG/NEW LAWYERS DIVISION (YNLD)

MEMBERS: More than 1,600 who have practiced less than seven years, and more than 1,350 law student affiliate members

EVENTS/PROGRAMS: This year YNLD will offer approximately 10 to 12 continuing education classes, including a four-part Civil Litigation 101 series and a three-part Criminal Law 101 program, as well as a Mentoring Circles Program. Events have included Battle of the Bands, Padres Game Night and Casino Night.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Includes Habitat for Humanity, FaceLift and Wills for Heroes

PUBLICATION: For the Record, a monthly e-magazine

MEETINGS: The first Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Bar Center

PRESIDENT: Kristin Rizzo of Higgs, Fletcher & Mack

UPCOMING: Anna Romanskaya of Stark & D’Ambrosio will become YNLD president in December.

NAME CHANGE: Beginning in December 2010, the YNLD will be known as the NLD. According to YNLD President Kristin Rizzo, “The reason behind the name change is based on the YNLD membership; the organization is comprised of members of the SDCBA in good standing with less than seven years of experience as an attorney, including law students. With membership based solely on years of experience, rather than age, the organization felt dropping the word ‘young’ would more appropriately identify the organization.”

WEBSITE: www.sdcba.org/ynld
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THE CHAMBERS OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE FREDERIC LINK. San Diego Lawyer photo editor Barry Carlton (barry.carlton@doj.ca.gov) is a deputy attorney general.

JUDGE LINK WON the Wadie Deddeh Award for community service.

THE ROBED BOBBLEHEAD was a gift from staff; Judge Link says he plans to reproduce it to send to lawyers at holidays.

THE ROBED BOBBLEHEAD is pointed out to lawyers, Judge Link says, “should they go against my order.”

JUDGE LINK ROCKS with musicians Bo Diddley (top photo) and Dick Dale.

JUDGE LINK REVEALS his (not so) Secret Club: “We go to Padres games and dinners together.”

NUNZIO, the first marlin Judge Link ever caught, has been in his chambers for 29 years.

HOLE-IN-ONE PLAQUE earned by Judge Link on the links.

THE FLAG is sort of a joke: Its claim to fame is that it flew over the Municipal Court, back when we had one.

“THE STUFFED BEAR head represents my lifelong devotion to the Chicago Bears.”

SIGNED by Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken.

THE EARL GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION presented Judge Link this award for promoting diversity.
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATE
2010
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
JUDICIAL RECEPTION*

All SDCBA members, law students and all members of the judiciary are invited to the San Diego County Bar Association’s Annual Judicial Reception, where we will recognize Judges and Commissioners who recently joined the San Diego judicial community.

Wednesday, June 9
5:30 p.m.
SDCBA Bar Center

The event is free of charge.

Please RSVP online at www.sdcba.org/judicialreception.

*Previously the Bench/Bar Mixer.
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