How we stay connected

Jackie Oliver practices law and music

Hon. Terrie Roberts reads to children

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AUTHENTIC HEARSAY

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For some, learning that your job offer at a prominent law firm would be deferred a year would be bad news. But maybe not if you’re a political junkie, and it’s an election year.

“I kind of jumped at the opportunity,” says Aaron Friberg, a 2009 law grad who joined Latham & Watkins as an associate in November, a year after his intended start date. “Politics has always interested me, and I wanted to do something with community service and civic service.”

Friberg, who learned of Latham’s voluntary deferral offer during his third year at UCLA School of Law, spent the next year volunteering on political campaigns, plus some post-bar exam travel and an extended honeymoon in Europe. The first campaign, hard fought but unsuccessful, was with the Hotel Employees Restaurant Employees Union to recall Oceanside Councilmember Jerry Kern in a December 2009 special election. The next campaign—to elect David Alvarez to San Diego City Council—was more fulfilling.

“I jumped full-time into David Alvarez’s campaign in February 2010,” says Friberg, who served as field director. “I was in charge of voter outreach. I helped decide who we were going to talk to. We went out with David and talked to the voters. I did a lot of precinct walking.”

Working on Alvarez’s successful campaigns for the June primary and November general election, he says, was exhausting but energizing.

“It was pretty busy, but it was fun,” he says. “It’s fun to have a goal you’re working together for. Our campaign manager had been involved in politics but had never managed a campaign before. It was David’s first time running for office. It was fun to be with a group where this was new for all of us.”

Although he continues to be involved in politics as president of the San Diego County Young Democrats, Friberg doesn’t plan to run for office.

“Five years from now, I’d like to still be working at Latham,” says Friberg, who works on transactions in the firm’s project finance group. “I want to be involved at my firm and in my community, maybe serving on a board or commission. I don’t think I’ll run for office. I’m open to that, but I think I’m going to like being an attorney.”

Jodi Cleesattle (jodi.cleesattle@doj.ca.gov) is a deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice.
Welcoming Our New Panelists

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By the time you read this letter, 2011 will be well under way. The holiday buzz has worn off, and we are back at our desks, resuming the work we began last year, perhaps setting meetings with new clients and beginning new projects, while steadfastly trying to hold true to our new year’s resolutions.

Before we get too lost in the daily responsibilities of our profession, I urge you to make one more resolution for 2011: Resolve to reconnect. Reconnect to what brought you into this noble profession and what inspired you to choose this career path, and reconnect with the many other dynamic members of our legal community and association.

For me, becoming an attorney, and particularly a Deputy District Attorney, has always been about having the ability to assist victims—being able to ensure that those who had been wronged were able to seek justice. But over the years, becoming a lawyer (and particularly an SDCBA member) has meant more to me. It has meant that I have the opportunity to learn from attorneys across all different areas of practice, that I have the opportunity to truly understand the courts through our connection to the Bench, that I can truly make a significant difference by connecting with the victims I serve and that I have the opportunity to serve our community in a number of meaningful ways.

I appreciate all that we are able to do together, as a community and as an association, but I particularly value the times where I am able to connect with all of you—whether it be over lunch following a hard-fought dispute in the courtroom, at a section meeting at the Bar Center or while working together at our annual beach cleanup or on other community service projects.

This year, I urge you to step out of your offices and come to an SDCBA event. Have coffee with your client or courtroom adversary instead of trading e-mails, join us at an event where you can connect with our incredible judicial officers, or volunteer to lead a CLE program or community service project. Or simply make use of our listserves and e-communities to reach out to your fellow practitioners when you need some practice-related advice.

The SDCBA will create opportunities throughout the year for you to connect to one another and to learn to connect with your clients, connect to our bench and connect to our community. San Diego Lawyer will focus on connecting you with the people who are making a difference this year, and we will continue to use our e-publications and website to share with you the many ways you can get involved in our various initiatives and programs.

I look forward to working with all of you. It is an honor to serve as your SDCBA President in 2011, and I invite you to connect with me anytime in person or by sending me an e-mail at president@sdcba.org.

Making the Connection
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There are endless opportunities for San Diegans to enjoy the arts, be it the symphony, the opera or a play at one of our many theaters. One hitch: Where to have a nice meal beforehand close to the venue? Here are a few of our favorites that get you to the show on time and leave you satiated.

Downtown, of course, provides many dining options. For performances at Civic Theatre or Balboa Theatre, we like the bar at the Grant Grill, which is a quick walk to either place and offers the restaurant’s full menu without the need for reservations. A meal in the lounge is also considerably faster than sitting down to dinner. The historic hotel’s dark paneled walls and high ornate ceilings take you back to 1920s glory. We’ve enjoyed the various soups offered at this fine establishment, as well as the Kobe sliders. 326 Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101, 619-744-2077, www.grantgrill.com.

A little deeper in the Gaslamp Quarter, Bice offers a great selection of authentic Italian food, plus a cheese and salumi bar, in a sophisticated setting. The food is amazing, such as the ravioli di manzo alla massaia (ravioli stuffed with braised beef, veal and spinach) and the filetto di branzino alla Mediterranea (Mediterranean sea bass cooked on a cedar plank). Follow the server’s wine recommendation; we have never been led astray. Be sure to tell them what time you have to leave if you are going to a show. 425 Island Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101, 619-239-2423, www.bicesandiego.com.

If you’re heading to Symphony Hall, La Gran Tapa is right across the street, with classic Spanish tapas and live music on weekends. We like the gambas al ajillo (shrimp sautéed in garlic) and the grilled asparagus, to which we add the optional prosciutto. They also offer a large serving of traditional paella. Service is quite quick, so you’ll have no problem making it to the show on time. 611 B Street, San Diego, CA 92101, 619-234-8272, www.lagrantapa.com.

If your end destination is the Old Globe Theatre, Cucina Urbana is a good option. We’re big fans of the ricotta gnudi appetizer, the short-rib pappardelle and the duck conserva with fennel pollen fettuccini. For a more formal meal and excellent French cuisine, we recommend Hexagone across the street. Boeuf Bourguignon and coq au vin anchor a menu of classic and contemporary dishes using local ingredients. Cucina Urbana, 505 Laurel Street, San Diego, CA 619-239-2222, www.cucinaurbana.com; Hexagone, 495 Laurel Street, San Diego, CA 92101, 619-236-0467, www.hexagonerestaurant.com.

Inside Tip
Hexagone’s owners have opened a casual spot on the opposite Bankers Hill corner, Gourmet on 5th, which offers simple but flavorful options for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Many dishes served at Hexagone are available—for half the price—to pick up on your way home. Just call ahead, and they’ll have a tasty, reasonably priced takeout meal waiting for you. 2505 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103, 619-231-0700, www.gourmeton5th.com.

Gil Cabrera (gil@cabrerafirm.com) is an attorney with The Cabrera Firm. Krista Cabrera (kabergara@wilsonturnerkosmo.com) is an attorney with Wilson Turner Kosmo.
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Final Exam in Ethics

The monitor screen filled the room with a cold, soft light. Josh Barber sat immersed in that cold light, lost in thought. Or maybe just lost.

Two pieces of paper sat on the desk next to the computer. Two figures danced in his head. “Loan Balance: $183,293.21.” “Statement Balance: $141.03.”

The monitor displayed his most current résumé: Admitted to the State Bar of California December 2009. A prestigious internship with a government agency. Summer law clerk position with a midsize law firm. None of it seemed to matter. A hundred résumés and no interviews. None. Except the one he had today. And that had come from Craigslist. He pondered the interview again.

“The beauty of this position is that you really don’t have to do much to begin with. We’ll bring you on slowly, teach you the ropes. I have been Irv Beauchamp’s office manager for the last two years, and Irv is getting ready to retire. The staff is in place, and they really know their stuff. The place really runs itself, what you call a ‘turnkey’ operation. We would only ask you to spend a few hours a week in the office to begin with.”

He reached down and unholstered a BlackBerry from the belt holding up his designer jeans. “Hmm. I just got a message from Irv. He isn’t going to be able to join us for lunch. Too bad; I know he wanted to talk to you about the outsourcing agreement.”


More words came floating back from the day’s interview. “We can’t pay you much to start, just $5,000 a month . . . but you will have your name on the door.” Josh realized that his law license really was a valuable asset. Unfortunately, it was also valuable to some who would gladly use him and then toss him aside as damaged goods.

“Other words came back to him, from his professional responsibility professor in law school: “The true test of your ethics won’t come when everything is going well. It will come when things are going badly and the temptation to cross the line is served up to you.”

“I may starve,” Josh thought, “but I am not going to be used.” He went back to his résumé and began printing it out yet again.

David Cameron Carr (dccarr@ethics-lawyer.com) is a San Diego lawyer.
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For me, writing jokes is fun, even if it can be a struggle. I enjoy performing more than writing, but only because I’m performing jokes I’ve spent days, weeks, months crafting and perfecting. It’s like successfully arguing a case in court. Doing the research and drafting and editing and redrafting can be a pain, but when it comes together, and you argue it and win... that feeling is hard to top.

Some of your material might be considered “not politically correct.” What offends one person may be neutral to another. After one show, an audience member told me I was his favorite comedian of the night, but he thought I could be better if I did not do racial and religious jokes. He found a pretty mild Muslim joke offensive, but he thought a joke I told about...
midgets was hysterical and that I should tell more jokes like that.

Do you ever rein in your “blue” material? I have enough jokes in my quiver that I can still appeal to any audience. I try to walk the line . . . Comedy is about pushing limits and getting a dialog started. I think comedy has a very important role in society and in social discourse.

You mention your wife in your routines. Do you get much material from dating/marriage experiences? Most, if not all, is about a fictionalized, exaggerated version of my actual wife and stereotypes about spouses and relationships. That makes things more fun and keeps me off the couch. We encounter many funny experiences together. She has her views, and I have mine. Many of those shared experiences and different viewpoints make good jokes people can relate to.

Does having a honed sense of humor help in law? Do you ever use law skills in humor? The two worlds work well together. Both involve discipline, timing, writing, structuring words and delivering an effective argument. In both law and comedy, how you say things is often just as important as what you say . . . and you need to know when to drop the punchline, too.

If you have a lawyer joke, please leave us laughing. I am sure I do; not sure if I have any appropriate for print. All standup comedy is best experienced live. Come see me at a show. ☯

Alice Solovay (alice@solovay.net) is an Ocean Beach lawyer.

Postscript

Erik left Butz Dunn & Desantis in October “to pursue a few new developments in the comedy world.” He performs regularly at the Comedy Store in La Jolla, the Comedy Palace and at Winston’s, and he helps run a monthly show called Live Comedy Live. He also cohosts Comedy Night at Lestat’s, a free, all-ages show every Tuesday night. Info: www.LiveComedyLive.com.
Tell us about the Survivor audition. I submitted my video but didn’t get confirmation until three weeks before we departed for Samoa. As for the interview, it’s hard not to be anxious when you’re meeting with executive producers like Mark Burnett and infamous torch-snuffer Jeff Probst. They truly want to see your quirks, so my best interviews were where I didn’t hold back.

Did law school help your game strategy? Absolutely! Studying for law school exams was extremely stressful. You’re mentally exhausted, but you have to overcome that stress and be mentally strong. In Survivor, there is a constant paranoia and conspiracy theory hanging over your head. Plus you’re starving, tired and dirty. But I was able to tap into that mental toughness. I used my experiences from law school to consider every argument available. I organized my thoughts before approaching people with my ideas for the game.

Did the Survivor experience meet your expectations? Yes! I’ve met amazing people, and I’ve grown immensely, mentally, spiritually and physically.

Lots of lawyers on your season’s show. Any war stories? Let’s see, we had Liz, Russ, Jaison and me. I didn’t tell them I graduated law school. I told Jaison I had played Pocahontas at Disney World in Orlando, which wasn’t a lie; I just, umm . . . omitted some key facts. I had fun with it and played dumb: “Wow, Jaison, laaaaaw school . . . that sounds soooo hard! What’s a tort?”

Biggest challenge on the show? Hunger. There were times I’d stand up too quickly and see stars. My vision got spotty, and I was scared that I might pass out. Also, fear of the unknown. You never know what might happen next. The game changes so quickly, and you can be left fighting for your life before you know it.

What was your first meal after your torch went out? The minute you’re voted off you get a goodie bag filled with peanut butter, candy, cookies, apples, soda, etc. I massacred mine! I literally closed my eyes and giggled with delight. When I got back to base camp I had a big bowl of chicken soup and an ice-cold beer . . . it was heavenly! But since I hadn’t really eaten in 33 days, my body went crazy. It was quite the battle!

Do people recognize you now? Yes. It’s usually when I’m at the supermarket or the gym in sweats with no makeup on!

Would you rather win a million dollars on Survivor or win a landmark United States Supreme Court case? I’ll take the million bucks and the publicity. Besides, who’s to say I wouldn’t win a USSC landmark case after I take home the million? Anything’s possible!

What’s next? I’m interested in entertainment law. I love intellectual property, and have always been drawn to copyright and trademark.

Brian Brunkow (brian@brunkoulaw.com) is a San Diego and Seattle lawyer.
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Since I have begun to include movies in the Law & Literature class I teach at California Western School of Law, I’ve become aware of a lot of law-related films that are better than the more well-known instances. The famous films are often infected by too many Hollywood stereotypes: the annoyingly saintly lawyer (To Kill a Mockingbird), the cliché-riddled “road to redemption” plot (The Verdict and all its clones), the overdose of glamour (Susan Sarandon as a nun counseling Sean Penn?), etc. Here is my wholly subjective list of lesser-known films every lawyer should see—more than once:

**The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance.**
John Ford’s 1962 Western, about the attorney (Jimmy Stewart) who comes to the frontier town of Shinbone to bring law and order, is a profoundly moving and melancholy examination of the limits of a community established by law, as well as the human values that are lost when the West becomes “civilized.” It’s America’s equivalent of Aeschylus’ Oresteia.

**Adam’s Rib.**
There is no better foundation on which to build a movie than the chemistry between Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn. In this 1949 film by the great George Cukor, Tracy is an assistant D.A., and Hepburn, his wife, is a de-
fense attorney. They wind up on opposite sides of the case of a woman accused of shooting her philandering husband. Judy Holliday is amazing as the defendant, balanced perfectly between humor and pathos, and Tom Ewell is his oily best as the wounded husband. This film examines the continuity between legal and erotic relationships and explores the extent to which one can serve as a paradigm for the other (a theme few legal films today take up; back in the ’40s they really knew that the personal was the political).

Snow Falling on Cedars. Long, slow-moving, self-consciously arty film, but beautifully and expressively shot (which means it will be diminished on DVD, unfortunately). In the murder trial that forms the climax of the 1999 film, the late, great Max von Sydow, as the defense attorney, delivers the greatest closing argument ever put on film, full of unforced compassion and humanity.

Erin Brockovich. The best of the latter-day Hollywood lawyer films, probably at least in part because it is based on a true story. The good guy/bad guy aspects are somewhat muted by the fact that the plaintiffs are not a single person with whom the audience is supposed to identify but an entire community. Their lawyer comes off not as a saint but as a regular lawyer trying to win a big contingency case. Must have a high Julia Roberts tolerance. But if you do, she’s wonderful here.

Decalogue V. In the mid-’80s, master Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Kieslowski made a series of 55-minute films for Polish TV, The Decalogue, each exploring the contemporary relevance of one of the Ten Commandments. The fifth episode, about the Fifth Commandment, concerns capital punishment. It eschews rhetoric and instead focuses on many small, revealing details to create a cumulative effect of horror at state-sponsored killing (despite having the most unsympathetic convicted killer ever put on screen—as far from Sean Penn as humanly possible).

Let Him Have It. Another capital punishment film set in very gritty, post-war working-class London. It tells the true story of Derek Bentley, a youth condemned to die as the result of a set of circumstances that is both completely logical and totally unbelievable. His execution eventually caused such a public outcry that it led to the abolition of capital punishment in Britain in 1959. Be forewarned: This is a harrowing film.

There you are. Anyone wants to argue with me, send an e-mail.

Paul Gudel (pgudel@cwsl.edu) is a professor at California Western School of Law.
When did you become interested in being a musician? I began studying classical piano at age 7 but quickly became interested in “boogie woogie” piano. After I jazzed up Bach in boogie-woogie style while practicing at church where the organ was, I decided organ was not for me. Now I wish I had learned to play classical organ as well.

Did you always know you were interested in jazz and blues, or did you try out other genres? I still play classical piano, including Beethoven, Bach, Brahms, Chopin and Mozart. I love to play all types of music, including country, pop, Italian arias, gospel and ragtime.

Did you ever perform during law school? I had many performances in law school, including singing with a band on San Diego Bay aboard the Hornblower Cruise Ship and in Newport Beach on one of the cruise ships. Those gigs were so much fun. I sang with the band as many as six times in a month. With my law school schedule, it was very hectic, but I really enjoyed it. The guys in the band quickly tired of hearing about law school with its torts and contracts. We once opened for the Platters at the U.S. Army Ball in Century City and another time for comedian Rich Little for a mechanical engineers convention in Anaheim.

How often do you perform now? I play about once per month.

Do you ever travel for performances? Not lately. However, now that the world is smaller, you can find me on the web. My music for sale is available at www.jackieoliver.com.

Have you ever had difficulty making time for music in your hectic career? Yes, unfortunately, there is never enough time to practice my classical music. I have a wonderful list of classical pieces to work on when I have time.

What is the most unusual place you’ve performed? Quake Stadium in Rancho Cucamonga and an airplane hangar in Tucson. At Quake Stadium, I thought we were playing for an audience of about 500, since I was told we were playing at a “little” baseball game in Rancho Cucamonga. It turned out to be more than 7,000 people. I was very surprised at the size and enthusiasm of the crowd. They loved it, especially when we sang old favorites like the Beach Boys and the Beatles.

Where is your favorite place to perform? The Joan B. Kroc Institute of Peace & Justice at USD.

Do you get more nervous before a performance or before a court appearance? Definitely a court appearance, but I still get butterflies before musical performances.

Elise Korican (elise.korican@gmail.com) is a San Diego lawyer.
LAW BY DAY, MUSIC BY NIGHT

Superior Court Judge John Thompson talks about growing up in the law (his father is U.S. District Court Senior Judge Gordon Thompson Jr.; his uncle is U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge David Thompson; his brother Peter is a lawyer) and his ongoing gig as keyboard player, guitarist and vocalist in the band Night Shift.

BY ELISE KORICAN

What was it like growing up in a family of attorneys and judges? Until about eighth grade, my friends and I thought everyone was an attorney, a judge or a bad guy, because those were the only people we knew.

Did you decide right away you wanted to go into law? There was never any doubt about what I would do. It was either go into law or go to umpire school.

What about your own kids? They grew up in a similar environment. They frequently went to court to watch us. The difference is they ended up being exposed to a lot of other options. My older son is a curator at the Aspen Museum of Art, and the younger son has a master’s degree in Chinese medicine and is now a licensed acupuncturist in Point Loma.

How do you feel about being considered to have a “specialty” in hearing homicides? The majority of cases I handled downtown were homicides. That has changed dramatically here in East County. I look back on my years downtown fondly and wouldn’t trade them for anything.

Have you ever been threatened? Sure. One night I received a call at home from our judicial protective services unit and was told, “Don’t be upset, but the white van outside your house, that’s us.” The District Attorney’s office had received information about a “contract” put out on me, the prosecutor and lead detective in a recently concluded case. They wanted me not to play at any of my gigs. I told them that was not going to happen. We ended up having undercover officers at gigs and squad cars circling the surrounding blocks. The potential shooter was eventually arrested. That was the most serious threat I have faced.

Do you talk to your dad about the controversial cases, like his ruling in the Mount Soledad case? Sure. He has one of the great legal minds here in San Diego and a wealth of practical judicial experience. We rarely disagree. Dad was never at a loss for controversial cases, and he routinely gave me good advice regarding the high-profile cases I presided over.

What does your dad think about you and your band? [He laughs.] One of the first gigs we had was in ‘95 at Dick’s downtown. Mom and Dad came. Dad stayed for one song and left. Mom stuck around and ended up starting her own band within a week. They played for about five years after that.

Elise Korican (elise.korican@gmail.com) is a San Diego lawyer.
As of today, the county’s law library is tucked away in a building destined to be demolished to make way for the Superior Court complex. We have a skeleton crew processing materials, a small information counter with only three computers for public use and a small collection of practice materials for checkout. It’s obviously a makeshift space.

What happened to San Diego’s grand public law library?

Becoming the 10th director at San Diego County’s public law library was awesome for me. I come to work every day realizing I have the stewardship of this old boat in my hands. What I do with it will affect the usage and reputation of this institution for decades to come.

First Impression: Wow Factor

In my old office, I sat in a huge space that had a floor-to-ceiling painting of downtown San Diego, a sunny, spectacular work of art. The ceilings were 40 feet high, with walnut paneling framing the walls. I had floor-to-ceiling windows, a desk that covers a good chunk of territory and a solid oak conference table. It is an impressive place, fit for the prestige and responsibility of the job.

Reality: Fear Factor

My office was also perpetually 55 degrees. I had two portable heaters, one to warm my fingers so I could type, the other to warm my feet and legs. “There is something wrong with the HVAC,” they told me. Crossing the threshold from the library lobby, 10 degrees dropped away, and you were in the frozen tundra.

Other amenities for the director included close proximity to the sidewalk outside. Sirens from the sheriff’s office and the fire-and-rescue company rattled my windows regularly. Right outside my window, people shouted into cell phones while dragging on cigarettes. The planter box next to me made a pretty good ashtray. When the trolley rolled past, the windows shook with an intensity that signaled the next 8.0 earthquake.

The furniture was the same pictured in photographs from the mid-1950s. It was amazing to be sitting at the same desk as previous directors—from Stanford to Werner to Dyer to Riger.

Troubles and Treasures

A few months ago, I walked through the stacks, amazed at the contents. At the same time I was troubled, and not just a little shocked, at the condition of the collection and the building housing it. I was also in awe of the responsibility I have toward the county and its future.

I’m trying to foresee what will be relevant and useful to the library user of tomorrow—or even today. The troubling part is to weigh the benefit of the material to patrons versus having shelves cleared for more utilitarian uses to conduct legal research. The mission of a library as repository for knowledge (that is, old books) has become secondary to requirements to provide access to online databases, along with space to read, research and work with others.
The granite exterior is from Escondido. Below: 1576 copy of the Magna Charta.
Five levels of shelving are structurally integrated. We cannot remove them; they are literally holding up the building. This is a difficulty when trying to get creative with the interior space. Books are increasingly marginalized in our society, and this library was built before there was any thought of a replacement for the book.

The legendary Leland Stanford, appointed law librarian in 1951, raised the structure at Front and C with guile, force of personality and imagination. There were barely 20,000 volumes in the collection when this building was contemplated in 1956. He saw an opportunity for a grand edifice, dedicated in 1958.

To fill the shelves, Stanford purchased volumes of early state statutes for all 50 states from territorial and colonial times. He purchased reporters for all 50 states as well. He purchased massive sets of old English Reports, Statutes of the Realm and 20 different editions of Blackstone. Periodicals were bought until miles of shelving were filled — more than 7 miles, actually. By the time he retired in 1971, Stanford had increased the collection to 150,000 volumes.

When I arrived, the staff took me up to the Pioneer Room (dedicated to the pioneers of San Diego’s legal community, not Wyatt Earp and his ilk) to show me the great treasures: A Papal Bull signed by Pope Eugene in 1104. The Magna Carta from 1236. Tomes from the Civil War and other precious legal materials from early California and San Diego.

Impressive? Definitely. Relics or relevant? You be the judge.

How County Law Libraries Operate

County law libraries are creatures of state statute. Back in 1891, the legislature formalized its desire to have legal materials available to every county’s bench, bar and residents. The statute directs each county’s board of supervisors to provide “sufficient quarters” to house the law library, and mandates that county government provide furniture, floor and wall coverings, utilities and maintenance. This is a lot for a county to provide without a budget to do it with. The San Diego County Law Library was es-
established February 2, 1892, and ever since, everyone could see the value of having a law library free to the public and the bar—but nobody wanted to pay for it.

Other public libraries exist on tax dollars, bond measures and generosity of "friends of the library," volunteers and donors. Not so the law library. We are a "special district" of state government, run autonomously by a volunteer board of trustees comprising judges and lawyers (and sometimes laypeople). Funding is supplied by a percentage of the filing fees paid to the San Diego Superior Court. The vast majority of law library funds come from the initial request for marital dissolution and the responsive pleading thereto.

This funding system is not stable. It depends on how many people file, month after month. Budgets are determined by a guess from what we got last year at this time. Lean economic times sometimes mean less legal work, sometimes more. The boom of federal bankruptcy filings does nothing to help us, since we are creatures of state law only. The trend toward alternative dispute resolution strikes fear in the heart of a typical law library trustee: If litigation drops off, so do library revenues.

In these days of fiscal scarcity, these fees are tempting to other government entities. County law libraries face periodic raids on their funds and need champions to fight them off. At the same time state agencies are jealous of our funds, the county government is responsible for our facility and upkeep without getting 1 cent from the state. Our building was a joint enterprise with the county government, and the county actually loaned the law library the money to build it. Every cent was repaid; however, ownership remains with the county. Because of this, the county’s obligations to upgrade and maintain the building are often last on the list of projects. Years of benign neglect have made the building way overdue for upgrades. Yet the county has no money for
such an overhaul. So it was up to the law library to save its pennies, go on an austerity budget to accumulate more funds and seek out help from potential generous donors.

**Ushering in Change**

The precise but unwieldy SDCPLL acronym was first on my list of cancellations. While county law libraries typically have the word “county” in their names, “public” was added in the 1990s so residents knew this was a place they could get legal information. Cutting it down to the essentials, this is *San Diego*’s law library, here for the benefit and use of all San Diegans countywide. Thus: the San Diego Law Library.

We needed a new digital identity as well. Simplifying our name made it easy. You can find us at www.sdlawlibrary.org.

Second on the cancellation list was the old logo. If we are to reinvent the library, we need to appeal to a new generation of users. We think our final choice works well with our new tagline, “Law Made Public.” Until that logo is itself made public, we’re identifying with the butterfly’s transformation.

**Renovation**

This project has been in the works for almost a decade. A team of consultants sketched out a new vision for the library. Architects were hired, county project managers were consulted, and plans were batted back and forth without moving forward. I came at a time when the board of trustees was tired of the disagreements between county administration and the library; the architects were weary of waiting; the staff did not care anymore because they figured it was just not going to happen.

Reviewing the existing plans, I called staff together to get reinvested in the project. What would they like to see in the new library? Ideas bubbled forth. Staff office spaces were designed and rearanged; new public areas were envisioned. Staff, trustees and architects were re-energized and recommitted.

**The Vision**

Bring the outside in—open it up! Allow for beauty, artwork, plants, and make it a place of study, knowledge and access to justice.

Walking in, you approach a welcoming information desk where a staffer will jump up and take people to find their answer. I want lots of these folks ready to jump in! They have headsets and handheld mobile devices to interact online and on the phone. I want info kiosks on every floor, branded in a way that immediately says to the patron, “Helpful person with information HERE!” People, people everywhere—bringing people to every floor makes it more secure, more useful and more alive.

We need to create physical transparency, even if we see the inner staircase or parts of floors from the lobby. Let people know there is more than just what they see upon entrance. Bring down walls and open up avenues—nothing hidden. Make it secure and safe, with cameras in strategic locations viewed by security and totally wired for staff/patron use.

We’ll move to a coffeehouse-lounge experience in the front lobby, with a small café outside and a permanent coffee/food cart. The lobby will have comfortable public seating for relaxed reading and research task areas for laptops and mobile devices. I’d like a giant drop screen to provide video training sessions in the lobby for those using the computers.

We want to impress. We want to be welcoming and inviting. The litigation process is stressful and agonizing to go through. I see it every time people come to the counter. Debt collectors. Sued for collection. Divorce. Temporary restraining orders. Fighting a ticket. How do you design an aesthetically pleasing environment to reach all the way from pro se litigants to judges and dignitaries without being too ostentatious or pretentious? It must be pleasing and inviting for all. A place to learn, with spaces to collaborate.

Besides new artwork inside, external signage will include street signs throughout downtown pointing the way to the library. We want good external lighting, neon artwork along the C Street wall or hanging banners. And the topper? A rooftop deck with patio seating and greenery that looks out onto the new expanse of park replacing the old courthouse and jail, all the way to the entrance of the new Superior Courthouse. This will be a place for people to get outside and talk to clients or associates, a place for special occasions and events—and a spectacular jewel in our newly polished crown of a law library.

We are facing the next four to six months in our small office suite while the vision I have described becomes a reality. We hope you’ll visit at our grand reopening months in our small office suite while the vision I have described becomes a reality. We hope you’ll visit at our grand reopening and remain with us as members and library users for many years to come. Providing that service is an enormous responsibility and an enormous challenge.

*John Adkins* (jadkins@sdcpll.org) is executive director of the San Diego County Public Law Library.
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HISTORY

The late 1950s was a busy time for the local legal community. Downtown, the present building for the San Diego County Public Law Library was dedicated in late 1958, and in 1959 the courthouse at 220 West Broadway opened for business. Also in 1958, District Court Judge James Carter made his judicial appearance in San Diego, eight years later becoming the first chief judge of the newly created Southern District.

The city and the county of San Diego continued to share space in the waterfront administration building (the city left for downtown in 1965), and the criminal prosecutors and county civil attorneys shared one boss. James Don Keller was elected District Attorney in 1946. One of his collateral duties was advising the Board of Supervisors regarding civil matters. But he was more interested in restructuring the criminal side, so in May 1959 the appointed position (separate from the District Attorney) of County Counsel was created. (Keller served as D.A. until 1971 and was succeeded by former U.S. Attorney Ed Miller.) The first appointed County Counsel was Henry Dietz, serving 1959-1962.


—George Brewster Jr.

George Brewster Jr. (george.brewster@sdcounty.ca.gov) is a senior deputy county counsel with the Office of County Counsel. He is also chair of the San Diego County Bar Association’s History Committee.
It was a hot August in Pennsylvania. My broken-down ’68 Ford Mustang was filled to the roof with everything I owned, and I was determined to get to California. Thinking back to that 1975 road trip, it is hard to believe the paths I ended up taking.

I was born and raised in Pennsylvania and earned a math degree from Westminster College in 1972. People may not believe it now, but I attended college on a football scholarship and participated in two other sports (wrestling plus track and field) during my first two years of college. I finally figured out I was in college for the academics, not athletics, so I dropped the sports gigs. Wouldn’t you know it, the following year the football team went undefeated and won an NAIA National Championship.

My trek west continued in August 1972, when I left Pennsylvania for the Midwest and graduate school at Indiana University—go, Hoosiers! My years in Bloomington, Indiana, taught me at least one thing: what real basketball is all about. IU’s basketball record during the 1972-75 period was 76 wins and 12 losses. Again, the year after I left, the basketball team went undefeated (32-0) and won the 1976 NCAA National Championship. Is there some sort of pattern here? Did I mention “Go, Hoosiers!”?

In 1975 I headed to California, to start my first professional position as assistant director of financial aid at the University of San Diego. I loved the green hills of Pennsylvania but loved the San Diego climate even more (plus, not as many mosquitoes!). While at USD, I became interested in law. I applied to USD Law School, was admitted and attended evening courses during my full-time employment.

After 10 years working at USD, I decided to put that newly earned law degree to use. In July 1985, I was hired as an entry-level Deputy County Counsel, and for the next decade I worked on a variety of matters and cases. My specialty became employment and labor law, among other general local government legal matters.

When my predecessor retired in 1995, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors appointed me as County Counsel on January 3, 1996. With my retirement on January 7, 2011, I will have served more than 15 years as County Counsel, the longest sitting County Counsel in San Diego County’s history. Another unique milestone is that I was appointed as County Counsel in 1996 by the very same five members of the board who currently serve. My County Counsel peers across the state are amazed that in these politically charged times I have served my entire 15 years with the same five elected board members. The recently passed term limit measure for board members means that no other County Counsel will repeat this.

It has been a great ride in the fast lane, and time has flown by.

After my time with the office ends, the next road leads me back to USD to volunteer my services, this time teaching law and serving as a faculty advisor for law student interns placed in local government law offices.

Who knows? Maybe the year after I cease my service at USD, the USD basketball team will go undefeated and win the NCAA National Championship! It has been a great trip.

I loved the green hills of Pennsylvania but loved the San Diego climate even more.”
WHAT ARE “HATE CRIMES,” and why are they treated differently? San Diego Deputy District Attorney Oscar Garcia, a 25-year veteran of the D.A.’s office, realized on his first day with the San Diego Hate Crimes Unit four years ago that he would need to answer these questions for himself before he could convince others of the need to have a special category for these crimes. On that day, July 29, 2006, six individuals were attacked in Balboa Park following the Gay Pride Festival there. When the crimes were investigated as possible hate crimes, Garcia quickly became an expert in the case law that led to the hate crimes statutes.

California Penal Code Section 422.7 “can escalate a crime into a felony that would otherwise have been a misdemeanor,” Garcia says, “like throwing a single punch and causing even minor injury.” When the hate crime allegation is added to an underlying felony, Penal Code Section 422.75 adds the potential of an additional three years of imprisonment. If the attacker acted in concert with another, then the hate crime allegation might add an additional four-year penalty.

He has done his own research to understand the history and the motivation for these laws and says, “The penalty is based on result and motivation.” The reasoning is similar to the differing penalties for murder, attempted murder or an act that causes some serious injury or death but was not intended to kill. It’s not designed to punish people’s thoughts or opinions, as some feared when the laws went into effect, but rather to punish the behavior that results from those opinions, when it affects a victim.

Victims Are Vulnerable Just Because of Who They Are

Garcia acknowledges that some people think it is overbroad to have hate crime statutes. Why not just punish the underlying crime? In talking to experts, Garcia learned that victims of hate crimes take twice as long to recover than victims of similar, random crimes. “It’s a personal attack, based on the color of someone’s skin” or other immutable characteristic, he explains. “With a generic crime, such as a robbery at an ATM, the victim can avoid another attack by just going at a different time of day, or going to a different ATM. But with a hate crime, the victims are vulnerable just because of who they are. There’s no behavior they can change that makes them less vulnerable.

“This is especially true with the white supremacist type of attackers,” says Garcia. “It’s the emotional effect of the crime that makes it deserving of additional penalties, that it was not just a random at-
They fight hate crimes with education as well as prosecution. San Diego Deputy District Attorney Oscar Garcia explains the purpose of the San Diego Hate Crimes Unit.

BY ELIZABETH BLUST

Hate Defined
A crime is classified as a hate crime if the act was committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, according to California Penal Code 422.55. Section 422.55 et seq.—parts of which codify existing law under In re M.S., 10 Cal. 698 (1995) (regarding a fight following the shouting of antigay epithets) and People v. Superior Court (Aishman), 10 Cal. 4th 735 (regarding an attack by white men on Mexican men following the alleged rape of one white man’s wife by a Mexican man)—defines hate crimes and sets forth additional penalties where substantial bias against certain actual or perceived characteristics of the victim is proven to be a motivator for the underlying crime.

On September 22, 2010, members of the Southern Poverty Law Center spoke at St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral on Sixth Avenue. Founded in 1971 in Montgomery, Alabama, to keep the spirit of the civil rights movement alive, SPLC uses litigation, education and other forms of advocacy to fight racial and social injustice across America.

SPLC President Richard Cohen stands before a projection of a news article proclaiming SPLC’s victory over Imperial Klans of America in November 2008. A jury found IKA leader Ron Edwards and two other members responsible for a racially motivated attack on a teenage boy—a U.S. citizen of Panamanian-Indian descent, whom his attackers mistook as Hispanic—at a county fair in Kentucky, awarding $2.5 million to the teen. The two attackers served time under a criminal conviction, but the civil trial proved that the attack was motivated by the group’s racist rhetoric. Edwards’ defense—that he discouraged violence and instructed his followers to obey the law—was undermined by the testimony of a former white supremacist who served time for weapons charges after a foiled plot to assassinate Morris Dees under Edwards’ leadership years earlier.

Del Mar attorney James McElroy (center) with SPLC President Richard Cohen and Bill McMurray, an SPLC attorney who was co-counsel on the Edwards case.

SPLC President Richard Cohen (left) stands with Del Mar attorney James McElroy (center) and Richard Cohen (right). Cohen spoke on behalf of SPLC founder Morris Dees, who had to cancel his appearance due a family illness.

Lecia Brooks is director of outreach of SPLC, where she directs the center’s anti-bias education efforts, including the Teaching Tolerance magazine and website, the Mix It Up at Lunch Day program and the Teaching Diverse Students Initiative.

Photos by James Blust. Captions by Elizabeth Blust, with contributions by Andrew Desposito.
As prosecutors, it is our job to determine whether the bias toward the victim was a substantial motivation for the crime.

As prosecutors, it is our job to determine whether the bias toward the victim was a substantial motivation for the crime. Garcia explains, “but two main types. First are the reactionary type—a lone offender hears something on the news, takes it out on someone. Recently, a guy started shooting into the ground and shouting anti-racial epithets when some Hispanics rode by him on bikes, just a few feet away. “The other main type are mission offenders,” he continues. “They see it as their mission to be the vanguard of the race war; they look for their opportunity to get away with something. They want to terrorize and eliminate people who are different than themselves.”

Hate crimes in San Diego County spiked in 2006-2007 and have steadily declined. Garcia admits that running the Hate Crimes Unit presents “a lot of challenge,” but he sticks with it because it also offers “a lot of satisfaction. The mental trauma, in addition to the physical trauma, that victims of hate crimes and their families are left to endure, and the fact that these victims can be anybody, also draws me to work hate crime cases.”

Elizabeth Blust (egblust@gmail.com) is an attorney in San Diego.
EWITNESS EXPERT TESTIMONY: 41 years of forensic psychology experience with pretrial consultations and frequent court testimony regarding factors known to influence the validity of eyewitness report. Pretrial consultation can include choosing foils for live lineups and selecting jurors. Trial testimony includes charts to explain the results of scientific research demonstrating factors known to influence eyewitness identification accuracy. Thomas R. MacSpeiden, Ph.D. (619) 294-4044, fax: (619) 295-4113 e-mail: macspeidenphd@nethere.com

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2010: The Year in Review

We look at people, events and accomplishments in the San Diego legal community during 2010. If we omitted anyone, please contact martin@kruming.com.

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Reaching Out

Lawyers and judges volunteer with many organizations in San Diego County. They help out at their children’s school, work with the homeless, deliver meals, serve on an arts board and so much more. During 2011, San Diego Lawyer magazine will list those members of the local legal community who are helping others. If you would like to participate, please e-mail martin@kruming.com with your name, affiliation and volunteer organization.

Hon. Carolyn Caetti
Superior Court: Justice 101 Program

Hon. Richard Cline
Superior Court: Sunrise
Kiwanis Club of Vista

Hon. Francis Devaney
Superior Court: Reality Changers

Hon. David Gill
Superior Court: Salvation Army
Thanksgiving Dinner

Hon. Laura Halgren
Superior Court: United Church of Christ in Mission Hills

Hon. Albert Harutunian III
Superior Court: Rotary Club of San Diego Board of Directors

Hon. Keri Katz
Superior Court: Anti-Defamation League

Hon. Evan Kirvin
Superior Court: I Love a Clean San Diego

Hon. Melinda Lasater
Superior Court: St. Gabriel’s St. Vincent de Paul Society

Hon. Frederic Link
Superior Court: Justice 101 Program

Hon. David Oberholtzer
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WHERE’S THE ART?

Please submit answers by February 15 to martin@kruming.com. Your name will be entered to win lunch for two at Dobson’s Bar & Restaurant in downtown San Diego. Congratulations to Kenneth Fitzgerald of Chapin Fitzgerald Sullivan LLP, who correctly identified the Metropolitan Correctional Center in the previous issue. Thanks to everyone who participated.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31
CESAR CHAVEZ DAY
RANCHO BERNARDO
INN AND GOLF CLUB
11:00 a.m. – Registration
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$125 for SDCBA Members
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As part of this year’s Tournament, players have exclusive access to special room rates of $119 per night (plus taxes and resort fee) as well as Spa use and a 10% discount on Spa treatments and services. For more information on these special offers visit www.sdcba.org/golftourney.

Registration includes cart, green fees, range balls, lunch, prizes, and Nineteenth Hole barbecue dinner and awards presentation.

Register online at www.sdcba.org/golftourney.

For questions about the Tournament and information about sponsorships, contact Alison Phillips at aphillips@sdcba.org.

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WWW.SDCBA.ORG SAN DIEGO LAWYER 37
Partly by need and partly by tradition, one unique judicial position was recognized by the California Legislature and remained authorized until 1959: judge of the plains.

From the time of the Spanish acquisition to the U.S. annexation of California in 1848, San Diego remained primarily agrarian. The gold rush in the north created more demand for the livestock of the southern range and ranchos. From Monterey south, there were more than 500 miles of unfenced grazing lands and hundreds of thousands of cattle, sheep, swine and chickens.

Mexican tradition in California had a type of justice of the peace who dealt with disputes over ownership and brands. This on-the-spot justice was first administered by jueces del campo, required to conduct rodeos to separate mixed herds of multiple owners that occupied the open ranges.

One of the original acts of the California Legislature codified into law the position and duties of judge of the plains. In 1851 the legislature passed an act authorizing the Court of Sessions to appoint as many judges of the plains as needed to attend rodeos and determine ownership of herds being moved to Northern California for sale. Appeal of their judgment was to the local justice of the peace, provided the appeal was taken within 24 hours. Judges of the plains also had the authority to arrest any person accused of taking, hiding or killing an animal of another. For this work, the judge was to be paid $5 per day by the party requiring his services.

The judge of the plains would supervise the culling of the animals brought to the site of the rodeo. He would identify the fierro or brand on the animal. Any dispute over identification was decided immediately from horseback by the judge. When the animal was sold or ownership transferred, a distinguishing venta or sale brand was affixed to its shoulder.

In 1873 a series of rodeos was conducted on the Santa Marguerita Rancho of Don Juan Forster (a majority of this rancho is now what we call Camp Pendleton). Hundreds of animals were driven into a central area, from which animals belonging to another ranchero were separated into groups with similar brands. The day ended with a feast and party. The rodeo was a social event as well as a way to cull herds and identify calves born in the spring. As many as 30 or 40 vacqueros would attend the rodeo, supervised by the ranchero owner and juez del campo.

In 1857 the judges of the plains were given authority to exercise the same powers as a sheriff, constable or police officer to arrest and detain “Vagrants, Vagabonds and dangerous and suspicious Persons.” Some sources state they were also supposed to break up bar fights as part of their duties and were to “ride the range” to protect against rustlers and thieves.

In 1863 the legislature transferred the appointment authority for these judges, as well as the setting of the fee for their services, to the county Board of Supervisors. The board retained that authority until 1959, when the legislature abolished the position.

Prominent citizens of San Diego were at one time or another judges of the plains, including James Flinn of Flinn Springs and James Lassator of Green Valley. Even Oliver Witherby, our first District Court judge, was once a judge of the plains.

Hon. William Howatt Jr. is a retired Superior Court judge who currently works for JAMS.
We would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors for their generosity. A special thanks to Ali & Haida Mojdehi for the use of their home.
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ATTICUS UPDATE

The November/December issue of San Diego Lawyer featured a story about Wilson Schooley’s role in a local production of the play To Kill a Mockingbird. Because of his performance, the La Mesa appellate lawyer was invited to take his act on the road, and he presented Atticus Finch’s closing argument at two American Bar Association events: the Litigation Section’s 2010 Leadership Meeting in Chicago, and the Fall Conference of the ABA’s Individual Rights Section in Memphis. Both audiences — more than 500 lawyers and political leaders — gave Schooley standing ovations.

MISSING LINK

Dear Editor,

You scared the heck out of me last month. I woke up and was still a bit groggy when I looked at my brand-new San Diego Lawyer magazine. I saw the caption “Link Is Bar President,” and in my haze I thought that somehow, someone had gone and made Fred Link the Bar president after all these years. You just can’t go around scaring us retired guys like that. Oh, lordy!!

Ned Huntington
(safely retired judge)
HOW'S THE CONSTRUCTION GOING?

During the past year, San Diego Lawyer has featured the progress of two major construction projects in downtown San Diego: a new Thomas Jefferson School of Law campus near Petco Park and a federal courthouse near Horton Plaza. We wanted to see which one would finish first. On January 18, 2011, classes began at Thomas Jefferson, marking a return to downtown for the law school. Meanwhile, construction of the federal courthouse continues, and the magazine will periodically track the progress as it heads to completion.

George Brewster (george.brewster@sdcounty.ca.gov) is a senior deputy county counsel.

LOCAL LEGAL HISTORY

THE MOST LIKELY first African-American attorney in the San Diego district attorney's office was John Edgar Roundtree (1880-1961), who was first admitted in Indiana in the early 1900s and later admitted to practice in California in 1931, joining the San Diego district attorney's office in the 1940s.

THE SMALL RED-BRICK building on Fifth Avenue near A Street once housed the SDCBA. Before that, it housed the firm of Glenn & Wright, both of whom were Bar presidents — in 1946, Eugene Glenn (1900-1975); in 1951, Leroy Wright (1914-1984).

IN THE EARLY 1970S, the Winchester rifle company launched an experimental indoor shooting gallery in San Diego, with guns aiming hollow spheres of ice at targets. (The 20 guns made for this venture are now collector items.) The gallery was not successful and closed after one year. The building on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard currently houses the Small Claims/Traffic Court.

JACOB WEINBERGER was the first resident federal judge in San Diego, appointed to the federal bench in 1946 by President Harry Truman and assigned to San Diego in 1949. (San Diego was then part of the Southern Division, headquartered in Los Angeles.) The bankruptcy courthouse is named for Judge Weinberger.
Stepping Up to the Bar

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALICIA SANTISTEVAN

SDCBA President Dan Link and members of the 2011 Board of Directors were sworn in during the popular Stepping Up to the Bar holiday reception at the Bar Center on December 3.

Brittany Krupica, Larry Huerta, Jerry and Angela Gonzales

Jay McBride, Kimberly Deede

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Jay McBride, Kimberly Deede

April Amador, Marcella McLaughlin

Morgan Smith, NLD President Anna Romanskaya Matt Butler

Edlene McKenzie, Hon. Ronald Frazier

Richard Huver, Jill Burkhardt, Chuck Dick, Renee Schor, Jim Granby

Jamie and Cameron Lumos

Hon. Carlos Armour, SDCBA President Dan Link

Kristin Rizzo

Hon. Carlos Armour, SDCBA President Dan Link

Kristin Rizzo
La Raza
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BARRY CARLTON
Loews Coronado Bay Resort was the setting on October 9 for the La Raza Lawyers Association Awards Dinner.

Juan Zuñiga, Rebeca Perez-Serrano, Tony DaSilva

Nadia Bermudez, Carmen Chavez

Lilia Garcia, Victor Nuñez, Jerri Malana

Gita Varughese

Donna S. McBay, Garry Haehle, Hon. Yvonne Campos, Jeff Reilly

Alara Chilton, Tomas Flores

Alan Niesel, Rachel Cano, Gonzalo Curiel

Pablo Palomino
The South Asian Bar Association held its annual dinner on October 16 at the Mingei International Museum in Balboa Park.
McGRATH WAS THE commander of the Reserve Naval Air Force.

MCGRATH COACHED his son’s Little League teams for many years.

MCGRATH’S OFFICE VIEW, showing his other office on North Island (in the tower on the base).

THE PLAQUE ON THE wall does not mean “May God give you a thousand blessings” — it’s more like “moron.” McGrath’s father was from Ireland, and when he was frustrated he’d speak in Gaelic. McGrath has it in his office as a reality check.

MCGRATH, A NAVY helicopter pilot and current two-star admiral, is in charge of the Centennial of Naval Aviation celebrations.

MCGRATH GAVE A MODEL of the Star of India to a 3-year-old son of a coworker. This is the thank-you note, as dictated and signed by the child.

THE OFFICE OF PATRICK MCGRATH

Patrick McGrath (patrick.mcgrath@sdcda.org) is a deputy district attorney who heads the Family Protection Unit and a two-star admiral in the Naval Reserves. Photos by Barry Carlton (bjcarlton@cox.net), a supervising deputy attorney general with the California Attorney General’s Office.

MOST MILITARY organizations have coins produced as symbols of the units, which are often given as thanks for visiting the units and/or for recognizing performance. McGrath has approximately 150 of these coins, collected over the course of his career.
Member Benefits

The SDCBA strives to add value to your membership by offering you discounts on a wide range of practice-related and lifestyle products and services. Contact the Member Services department with questions regarding any of the following benefits and services at 619-231-0781 or mbe@sdcba.org.

Preferred Providers

AHERN INSURANCE BROKERAGE

Law Firm Insurance Specialists

Insurance - Ahern Insurance Brokerage offers a full line of coverage for your practice including professional liability, general liability, property coverage, employee benefits such as medical, life and retirement plans, as well as workers compensation insurance.

MANUEL R. VALDEZ • MANNY J. VALDEZ
RINGER ASSOCIATES

Structured Settlements - Manuel Valdez and Manny Valdez of Ringer Associates are experts who can help you create settlement solutions to best meet the unique needs of claimants.

Networks through E-Communities

SDCBA Sections and Committees provide you with a forum to discuss topics and issues affecting your area of practice. Each section, committee and division has a designated Facebook and e-community, allowing easy communication among members and sharing of documents, tools and information.

Legal Ethics

The online Legal Career Center allows members to search or post jobs at this nationwide legal career center. Used by the nation’s leading law firms, corporate legal departments, and government agencies, there are listings for full-time, part-time, contract, and temporary positions online.

Law Pay

Law Pay has developed a merchant account just for attorneys and law firms. Members can save up to 23% off credit card processing fees by accepting payment through Law Pay.

TERRIS

provides a free workflow analysis from the TERRIS team of experts and a 10% discount on their first order of any product or service.

Hutchings Court Reporters

services include depositions, hearings, arbitrations, meetings, trials, exams, and statements. SDCBA members save 15% or more on both primary and incidental rates.

Javelin

provides website design as well as communications and public relations services, graphic design, and internet marketing services at a discounted rate.

Terrey Pines Bank

offers a comprehensive package of banking services at a reduced cost with fewer banking maintenance fees through the newly created Juris InterAct Checking Account and Services.

Jirsa, one of the nation’s largest private-passenger auto insurers, offers an extra discount to all SDCBA members who purchase insurance policies through Jirsa.

Ace Parking

offers members a Frequent Parking Card, which saves money on parking downtown at the Ace lot at the corner of Union and B Street (near the downtown courthouse). Every sixth time you park at the Ace lot on Union and B, you will receive free parking.

Rental Car discounts are available to SDCBA members through Hertz and Avis.

Amusement Park Discounts are available to such attractions as Sea World, Universal Studios Hollywood, the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Wild Animal Park.

Other Discounts

GCBC, one of the nation’s largest private-passenger auto insurers, offers an extra discount to all SDCBA members who purchase insurance policies through GCBC.

PUBLICATIONS

Members in 2011 will receive a free 12-month subscription to San Diego Magazine – the magazine for San Diegans with a need to know.

San Diego Business Journal

In 2011 members can subscribe to the San Diego Business Journal for $50.00 a year, which is half off the regular subscription price as well as a $10.00 discount on individual and group tickets for all SDBJ events.

American Bar Association Books

offers members a 15% discount on thousands of books and periodicals available from the ABA.

Networking through E-Communities

SDCBA Sections and Committees provide you with a forum to discuss topics and issues affecting your area of practice. Each section, committee and division has a designated Facebook and e-community, allowing easy communication among members and sharing of documents, tools and information.

The SDCBA offers a variety of online seminars for both participatory and self-study credit.

Networks through E-Communities

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Lettie Mann Non-Profits

The SDCBA offers its members preferred access to an extensive list of preferred nonprofit organizations.

Legal Career Center

SDCBA members have access to over 300 hours of quality, low-cost, Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programming presented each year. The SDCBA offers a variety of online seminars for both participatory and self-study credit.

Publications

To enhance communication and awareness among members and the public, the Bar produces three award-winning publications. The monthly San Diego Lawyer is the legal community’s premier source for insight, information, news and entertainment. The monthly Bar Report includes the latest calendar listings, announcements, stickta/cia programming and special event notices. The San Diego Lawyer Directory, free to each member, is the County’s most authoritative listing of attorneys available, is published each year. Legal Ethics Quarterly, an electronic newsletter written by members of the Legal Ethics Committee, summarizes and topicalylizes issues and holdings of ethics-related cases. The stickta/cia also publishes several-e-publications, including This Week at the Bar and CLE Update.

The Legal Ethics

The online Legal Career Center allows members to search or post jobs at this nationwide legal career center. Used by the nation’s leading law firms, corporate legal departments, and government agencies, there are listings for full-time, part-time, contract, and temporary positions online.

Legal Career Center

The Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) matches potential clients with qualified attorneys in their area of the county, providing a panel of the LRIS can be an effective way to build a practice and a great place to refer clients outside of your practice area.

The Bar’s Client Relations Program works to assist lawyers and clients resolve differences before disputes reach the State Bar level.

The SDCBA administers Fee Dispute Programs for the settlement of lawyer/client fee disputes.

www.sdcba.org/benefits