

Santa Barbara Lawyer

Official Publication of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association
December 2017 • Issue 543



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Santa Barbara County Bar Association

www.sblaw.org

2017 Officers and Directors

MICHAEL DENVER

President
Hollister & Brace
PO Box 630
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
T: (805)963-6711
mpdenver@hbsb.com

JEFF CHAMBLISS

President-Elect
Criminal Defense Attorney
133 E. De La Guerra Street #188
Santa Barbara CA 93101
T: (805) 895-6782
jeff@chamblisslegal.com

AMBER HOLDERNESS

Secretary
Ofc of County Counsel
105 E. Anapamu Street, #201
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T: 568-2969
aholderness@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

ELIZABETH DIAZ

Chief Financial Officer
Legal Aid Foundation
301 E. Canon Perdido Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T: 963-6754
ediaz@lafsb.com

JAMES GRIFFITH

Past President
Law Offices of James P. Griffith
25 E. Anapamu Street, #2
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T: (805) 962-5821
jim@jamesgriffithlaw.com

LETICIA ANGUIANO

Associate Counsel
Mechanics Bank
1111 Civic Dr., Ste. 390
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
leticia_anguiano@mechanicsbank.com
T: (925) 256-3067

ERIC BERG

Berg Law Group
3905 State St Ste. 7-104
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
T: (805) 708-0748
eric@berglawgroup.com

JOSEPH BILLINGS

Allen & Kimbell, LLP
317 E. Carrillo Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T: (805) 963-8611
jbillings@aklaw.net

DEBORAH K. BOSWELL

Mullen & Henzell L.L.P.
112 E. Victoria Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T: (805) 966-1501
dboswell@mullenlaw.com

MICHAEL BRELJE

Grokenberger & Smith
152 E. Carrillo Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101
T: (805) 965-7746
gmb@grokenberger.com

LARRY CONLAN

Cappello & Noël LLP
831 State St
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T: (805) 564-2444
lconlan@cappellonoel.com

BRIAN COTA

Ofc of District Attorney
1112 Santa Barbara St
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T: (805) 568-2424
bcota@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

STEPHEN DUNKLE

Sanger, Swysen & Dunkle
125 E. De La Guerra, Ste 102
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T: 962-4887
sdunkle@sangerswysen.com

JENNIFER DUFFY

Fell, Marking, Abkin,
Montgomery, Granet
& Raney LLP
222 E Carrillo St #400
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T: (805) 963-0755
jduffy@fmam.com

ELVIA GARCIA

Law Offices of Gregory I. Mc-
Murray PC
1035 Santa Barbara St Ste 7
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T: (805) 965-3703
elvia@mcmurraylaw.us

JEFF SODERBORG

Barnes & Barnes
1900 State St Ste M
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
T: (805) 687-6660
jsoderborg@barneslawsb.com

LIDA SIDERIS

Executive Director
15 W. Carrillo Street, Ste 106
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
569-5511; Fax: 569-2888
sblawdirector@gmail.com

Santa Barbara Lawyer

A Publication of the Santa Barbara
County Bar Association

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Michael Denver
Larry Doyle
David K. Hughes
Alicia Roessler
Robert Sanger

EDITOR

Eric Berg

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Lida Sideris

MOTIONS EDITOR

Michael Pasternak

VERDICTS & DECISIONS

EDITOR

Allegra Geller-Kudrow

PROFILE EDITOR

James P. Griffith

PHOTO EDITOR

Mike Lyons

DESIGN

Baushke Graphic Arts

PRINTING

Printing Impressions

Submit all **EDITORIAL** matter to
sblawyer magazine@gmail.com
with "SUBMISSION" in the email
subject line.

Submit all **MOTIONS** matter to
Michael Pasternak at
pasterna@gmail.com.

Submit all **ADVERTISING** to
SBCBA, 15 W. Carrillo Street,
Suite 106, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
phone 569-5511, fax 569-2888
Classifieds can be emailed to:
sblawdirector@gmail.com

Mission Statement

Santa Barbara County Bar Association

The mission of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association is to preserve the integrity of the legal profession and respect for the law, to advance the professional growth and education of its members, to encourage civility and collegiality among its members, to promote equal access to justice and protect the independence of the legal profession and the judiciary.



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Annual Dinner. Photo by Mike Lyons.



Judge Pauline Maxwell, Naomi Dewey, Judge Tom Anderle, Lorraine Pereverziev, Katy Graham, Justice Kenneth Yegan at the 2017 Justices' Reception.

From The Editor

BY ERIC BERG

This marks my final issue as Editor. As I hand off duties to the very capable hands of Jennifer Duffy, I am struck by a number of observations about our legal community that have been reinforced over twelve opportunities to put together this Magazine.

We have very talented lawyers. I've learned more in the last year about tax, ERISA, support guidelines, criminal sentencing, property exchanges and land use than at any other period of my practice. That is a testament to our specialists who took the time to share their expertise with us. The press of daily work often does not afford us the luxury of learning and appreciating the nuances of technical areas outside of our talents. This Magazine, and its contributors, gives us the opportunity to not only get that quick overview, but to point us in the direction of additional resources.

We have very generous lawyers. More importantly, our legal community gives of their time and talent in abundance. How many Santa Barbara lawyers serve on local Boards? How many of us serve in leadership positions on those Boards? How many of us offer our services *pro bono*? How many of us volunteer at our schools, sports teams, and houses of worship? I could go on. But the numbers are large. My own very unscientific conclusion is that as

a percentage of our total lawyer population, the statistics would surpass most larger communities. Editing the Magazine has afforded me the privilege of witnessing this generosity on a grander scale than I would normally be afforded.

We have very talented professionals supporting our work. The talent does not stop on the legal side.

There are hosts of local professionals who make us look good every day—financial, real estate, technology, marketing, to name just a few. The Magazine has been fortunate to serve as a platform for these experts to bring their knowledge directly to us, so the next time we need to hire someone we have a discreet talent and background to reference. Broadening the pool of local magazine contributors also makes for a more interesting read.

We are lucky to have such a vibrant Bar Association. We are financially sound and under great volunteer leadership. For those of you not familiar with the work of our Executive Director Lida Sideris, you should be. Lida wears too many hats to fully capture here. One of those is serving as Associate Editor of this Magazine, which means she has been tasked with keeping an eye out for the Editor's inevitable mistakes. For purposes of this column, it is sufficient to say that Lida is invaluable to us, and we are lucky to have her.

Thank you for this privilege. My best wishes for a healthy and successful 2018. ■



Eric Berg

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President's Message

BY MICHAEL DENVER

We have a special legal community. The Santa Barbara County Bar Association is proud to be part of it. For one century, the SBCBA, through Staff and Board, has provided important services which invigorate our legal community and bring it closer together. It truly has been my honor to serve as the 2017 President of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association.

The year absolutely flew by. It kicked off with the annual Bench & Bar Conference in January. The featured topic of the day, "Individual Privacy v. Collective Security", drew strong opinions from more than a few attendees. The day's healthy dialogue reflected the growing tension between historic societal rights and modern societal needs in our rapidly evolving age of digital and social media. It



2018 SBCBA President Jeff Chambliss and 2017 SBCBA President Mike Denver

was a day of great debate, delicious food and close camaraderie. Topping it off, the 2017 edition of the Conference was held in our very own and truly spectacular Santa Barbara County Courthouse.

The Bench & Bar Conference was but one highlight in the many great events the Association offered this past year. Others of course included the famous BBQ, the golf and tennis tournament and the Justices' Reception, which took place at the Santa Barbara Club on a very warm evening in October. The Justices from our Court of Appeal put on quite a presentation and then, ever so gently, excused the audience so that we (or they?) could go home and enjoy the Dodgers! The work required to crank out these enjoyable functions is substantial. The effort is largely shouldered by the Bar's outstanding Executive Director, Lida Sideris. We are very lucky to have her!

Having mentioned the Justices, it must be noted that one key reason we have such a special legal community is the quality and character of the people we have serving on the Bench, both in our Superior Courthouses and in our Court of Appeal. Those of us who work in other counties know that Santa Barbara County is truly blessed in that regard and has been for many years.

In the years since I joined the Board, the Bar Association has flourished, both programmatically and financially. The credit for the programmatic success belongs with Lida and her Staff, each year's current Board and the volunteers who provide CLE's and related services. The financial success lies with you, our SBCBA Members and also with numerous Board Members who preceded my years of service. There was a time when the SBCBA was not fiscally sound. Hard work by past Board Members righted that ship and we all owe them a debt of gratitude!

The bar is set high for incoming President Jeff Chambliss. I did not set the bar where it is. My predecessors did. That said, I know he and his slate of Officers are up to the challenge. The SBCBA is in very good hands in 2018.

We are truly blessed to live and work in beautiful Santa Barbara. I want to reiterate what an honor it has been to serve as the 2017 President. I will work hard as the "Past President" to ensure the County Bar Association has another great year. See you all at the Bench & Bar Conference! ■



Michael Denver

Lincoln's Advice to Lawyers

BY DAVID K. HUGHES

In the Spring of 1849, Abraham Lincoln returned to Illinois from Washington, D.C., after having served a single term in the House of Representatives. Lincoln returned to the practice of law that he shared with William Herndon in Springfield, Illinois. Having previously been elected to the Illinois state legislature, as well as trying cases throughout a large portion of central Illinois, Lincoln was well known and respected, and thus was often asked to speak in public. The following observations of Lincoln about the law were believed to have been written on July 1, 1850 and intended to be the basis of a law lecture. This document fragment was one of the many Lincoln writings collected and organized after his death by his White House secretaries, John Nicolay and John Hay.

In these lecture notes, we see a lot of the plain spoken and thoughtful Lincoln, as well as his humility. As lawyers, we would be wise to read his words carefully and give due weight to his counsel:

....I am not an accomplished lawyer. I find quite as much material for a lecture in those points wherein I have failed, as in those wherein I have been moderately successful. The leading rule for the lawyer, as for the man of every calling, is diligence. Leave nothing for tomorrow which can be done today. Never let your correspondence fall behind. Whatever piece of business you have in hand, before stopping, do all the labor pertaining to it which can be done today. When you bring a common law suit, if you have the facts for doing so, write the declaration at once. If a law point be involved, examine the books, and note the authority you rely on upon the declaration itself, where you are sure to find it when wanted. The same of defenses and pleas. In business not likely to be litigated, ordinary collection cases, foreclosures, partitions, and the like-make all examinations of title, and note them, and even draft orders and decrees in advance. This course has a triple advantage: it avoids omissions and neglect, saves your labor once done, performs the labor out of

court when you have leisure, rather than in court when you do not. Extemporaneous speaking should be practiced and cultivated. It is the lawyer's avenue to the public. However able and faithful he may be in other respects, people are slow to bring him business if he cannot make a speech. And yet there is not a more fatal error to young lawyers than relying too much on speech making. If anyone, upon his rare powers of speaking, shall claim an exemption from the drudgery of the law, his case is a failure in advance.

Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser- in fees, expenses, and waste of time. As a peacemaker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough.

Never stir up litigation. A worse man can scarcely be found than one who does this. Who can be more nearly a fiend than he who habitually overhauls the register of deeds in search of defects in titles, whereon to stir up strife, and put money in his pocket? A moral tone ought to be infused into the profession which should drive such men out of it.

The matter of fees is important, far beyond the mere question of bread and butter involved. Properly attended to, fuller justice is done to both lawyer and client. An exorbitant fee should never be claimed. As a general rule never take your whole fee in advance, nor any more than a small retainer. When fully paid beforehand, you are more than a common mortal if you can feel the same interest in the case, as if something was still in prospect for you, as well as for your client. And when you lack interest in the case the job will very likely lack skill and diligence in the performance. Settle the amount of fee and take a note in advance. Then you will feel that you are working for something, and you are sure to do your work faithfully and well. Never sell a fee note-at least not before the consideration service is performed. It leads to negligence and dishonesty-negligence by losing interest



David K. Hughes

Continued on page 18

Phillips 66 Oil Train Litigation: Derailed by Demurrer

BY ALICIA ROESSLER, STAFF ATTORNEY, ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER

Thanks to a recent victory by the Environmental Defense Center (“EDC”) in *Phillips 66 v. County of San Luis Obispo, et al*, a proposal to regularly transport several million gallons of explosive crude oil by rail through the heart of our community has been defeated.

This recent threat to our public health and safety has gained unified opposition by cities and counties facing similar oil train proposals across the country. Transporting oil shipments by rail has increased exponentially in the last decade, as domestic oil production has outpaced pipeline construction. This significant acceleration in oil shipments has brought with it an unacceptable escalation of deadly oil train derailments in local communities across North America. Between 2013 and 2015 alone there were 31 oil train crashes – the deadliest killed forty-seven people and burned thirty buildings in the town center of Lac-Megantic, Quebec.¹

Similarly, the trains proposed by the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project in Nipomo would have extended over a mile long, included over 80 rail cars carrying more than *seven million gallons of highly explosive crude oil* each week, with a blast zone a mile wide. Phillips 66’s project, initiated in 2013, sought to modify the existing spur extension from the Union Pacific Railroad (“UPRR”) tracks to the Santa Maria refinery in Nipomo, and to construct an unloading facility and pipeline on site. It would have allowed 3-5 five oil trains per week, or up to 250 annually, travelling along our coast and through our communities - including the town center

of Santa Barbara. EDC, representing its members and a coalition of local groups (including Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation-San Luis Obispo Chapter, Stand.Earth, and the Center for Biological Diversity), joined forces with 25,000 Californians to oppose Phillips’ project.

Although the federal government has preemptive jurisdiction to regulate interstate rail transportation in the U.S. (through the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995), for this case, the County determined that “for activities performed within the Santa Maria Refinery site the County is not preempted by federal law since these activities would not occur on UPRR property and would not involve infrastructure or trains operated by UPRR.”² Since Phillips 66’s Rail Spur Project included the construction of a 6,915-foot rail spur, an unloading facility, and onsite pipelines, located entirely within the Phillips’ owned project site in the County of San Luis Obispo’s permit jurisdiction, the County was not preempted and neither was its obligation to conduct an environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act³ (“CEQA”).

Because the project would have been located in the Coastal Zone (identified in the County’s Local Coastal Plan (“LCP”)), Phillips 66 was required to obtain a Coastal Development Permit (“CDP”). A CDP cannot be issued if a Project fails to comply with the standards adopted in the County’s LCP – which became an insurmountable hurdle for Phillips 66’s Rail Spur Project and the catalyst that “spurred” the ensuing litigation. As a result, challenging the County’s application of its LCP to the Rail Spur Project and circumventing the Coastal Commission’s appellate jurisdiction quickly became the focus of Phillips 66’s unprecedented (and unsuccessful) game plan.⁴ It was EDC’s unique legal expertise in the Coastal Act (arguably the single strongest environmental law in our country) that triggered our involvement.

As the CEQA lead agency, the County released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) in November 2013 that analyzed the Project site, and imposed conditions of approval necessary to mitigate impacts within the site boundary. However, the County was required to revise and recirculate the Draft EIR to also analyze and disclose



Alicia Roessler



environmental impacts along the rail route of the trains, beyond the site boundary, pursuant to CEQA's requirement to analyze all foreseeable impacts, including those that are indirect.⁵

The Final EIR, released in December 2015, included input from the Coastal Commission, which confirmed upon review of the biological surveys and a site visit that the Project site contained Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area ("ESHA") as defined in the County's LCP.⁶ This determination was fatal to the project because the Coastal Act (and County's LCP) protects ESHA from harm or disturbance.

On October 5, 2016, after eight hearings, the Planning Commission voted 3-2 to deny the Phillips Rail Spur project due to its significant impacts to public health and safety, air quality, the risk of oil spills, and conflicts with the County's General Plan and LCP (including protections for ESHA). Just ten days later, Phillips appealed the Planning Commission's decision to the Board of Supervisors ("Board") and simultaneously filed a lawsuit against the County of San Luis Obispo in Superior Court. The lawsuit alleged claims against the Planning Commission and Department of Planning and Building, challenging the ESHA determination and findings adopted by the Planning Commission when it denied Phillips' CDP application. To preserve our clients' interests, EDC filed a motion to intervene so that the groups could become parties to the lawsuit.

In early January of 2017, while still waiting for the Board to hear Phillips' appeal, Intervenors and the County each filed a demurrer based on Code of Civil Procedure ("CCP") § 430.10, alleging that the court had no jurisdiction over the lawsuit since Phillips had failed to exhaust available administrative remedies, which, in this case, required Phillips to appeal the Planning Commission's decision to the Board and ultimately to the Coastal Commission.⁷ A demurrer is properly sustained when a petition fails to adequately plead exhaustion of all available administrative remedies.⁸

On March 7, 2017, Judge LaBarbera sustained the demurrers without leave to amend on almost all grounds, ruling: "in the absence of any exception, 'the exhaustion of an administrative remedy is a jurisdictional prerequisite to resort to the courts.'" However, the court gave Phillips leave to amend an ambiguous constitutional challenge to the County's definition of ESHA in its LCP. On March 14, 2017, the Board affirmed the Planning Commission's denial in a 3-1 vote.⁹

Although Phillips had ten working days to appeal the Board's denial to the Coastal Commission, it inexplicably failed to do so, and the deadline passed in April of 2017.¹⁰ Instead, Phillips amended its lawsuit and filed the same claims that were previously struck (because it failed to

exhaust its administrative remedies) against the Board of Supervisors. Phillips' lawsuit now alleged that the Board's decision was the final step in the administrative process, overtly challenging the Coastal Commission's jurisdiction to review the County's application of its LCP policies to Phillips' CDP application – an issue that would have far-reaching consequences.

Intervenors and the County each quickly filed another demurrer, on the same grounds as before, citing to the court's prior ruling on the first demurrers, as well as dozens of cases upholding the Coastal Commission's appellate authority to review an agency's application of its LCP policies - which include an ESHA determination - when reviewing a CDP. In response to the demurrers, Phillips agreed to a settlement that preserved the County's decision and underlying ESHA determination, and required Phillips to dismiss its case with prejudice. In the end, the integrity of the County's decision to protect important coastal habitats, as well as the Coastal Commission's oversight of local decisions that have broader regional repercussions, was upheld. ■

Alicia Roessler is a Staff Attorney at the Environmental Defense Center. Her work includes litigation and advocacy related to open space and wildlife, climate and energy, and clean water. Alicia received her J.D. from Lewis and Clark Law School with a certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. Before joining EDC, Alicia was the Board President for EDC and the Oaks Parent-Child Workshop Preschool, and was an attorney at Cappello & Noel, LLP.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Vartabedian, Ralph, *Why Are So Many Oil Trains Crashing? Track Problems to Blame*, Los Angeles Times (October 15, 2017).
- 2 Department of Planning and Building, County of San Luis Obispo, Staff Report for Phillips 66 Application for Development Plan/Coastal Development Permit #DRC2012-00095 for the Planning Commission at 13 (January 25, 2016).
- 3 Public resources Code § 21000 *et seq.*
- 4 *See*, Coastal Act, Public Resources Code §§ 30513, 30603; County of San Luis Obispo Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance § 23.01.042-043.
- 5 CEQA Guidelines § 15126.2.
- 6 Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance § 23.11
- 7 Pub. Res. Code § 30603(a)(5); CZLUO §§ 23.01.042-43 and 23.07.070; *Abelleira v. District Court of Appeal* (1941) 17 Cal.2d 280, 292; *McAllister v. County of Monterey* (2007) 147 Cal. App.4th 253, 274.
- 8 *Tejon Real Est., LLC v. City of Los Angeles* (2014) 223 Cal. App 4th 149, 156, as modified on denial of reh'g (Feb. 14, 2014), citing *Shuer v. County of San Diego* (2004) 117 Cal. App 4th 476, 482.
- 9 One Supervisor was required to recuse himself due to his financial ties to Phillips 66.
- 10 Under the Coastal Act, certain local CDPs, including permits for major energy facilities, are appealable to the California Coastal Commission. Pub. Res. § 30603(a)(5),

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Justices Tangeman, Yegan, Gilbert, and Perren

SBCBA Justices' Reception



Hon. George Eskin, Hon. Donna Geck, Hon. Arthur Gilbert



*Judge Michael Carrozzo,
Judge Patricia Kelly*



Naomi Dewey, Raymond Pulverman



Allan Morton, Betty L. Jeppesen



Lida Sideris, Tessa Ortega

Courtroom Architecture and Human Beings

BY ROBERT SANGER¹

All of us who visit courtrooms have encountered some frustration with the manner in which they are designed. I had occasion to have a brief discussion about this with a Judge from the United Kingdom which, in turn, led to researching the literature on courtroom architecture.² In this *Criminal Justice* column, we will explore some of the current themes (or themes that should be current) regarding what courtrooms look like, why they look that way and how we can do better.

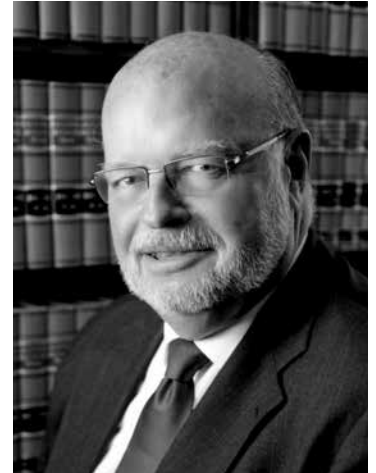
For the purpose of this column, we will look at the broad historic trends in development of the modern courtroom in the context of Anglo-American law. We will focus on the treatment of criminal cases in particular and then look at some of the more disturbing trends in dealing with people in custody, the non-judicial courtroom participants and the public. We will use as examples some local and other California examples.

Courtroom Architecture in the English Tradition

The concept of the Anglo-American courtroom is derived from the process of seeking an audience with the King or the feudal lord. Courts of equity were places where the Lord Chancellor, usually a bishop, could be approached as the keeper of the King's conscience to address situations in which remedies in the King's courts of law were inadequate. Family law matters were addressed directly to the authorities of the Church where canon law applied. The political and social dynamics of these court settings placed the individual litigants in a position of supplicant to noble or religious authority figures.

Criminal law, in the Western sense, was a departure from the sort of community justice that prevailed before the feudal systems took hold. Most criminal wrongs were resolved between members of the community in the name of those who were harmed. There is much written on this and it is not a linear progression.³ The state or polity was involved in enforcing serious criminal wrongs in ancient Greece and Rome, but most prosecutions were brought by or in the name of the person harmed. For instance, citizens could

go before the assembled members of the community to try others whom they accused. Famously, in the trial of Socrates, his accuser Miletus and others brought him before the jury of 500 fellow Athenian men chosen by lot to accuse him of impiety and of corrupting the youth of Athens by his teachings.⁴ Instructive also is the dialogue with Euthyphro where the interlocutor is in the process of prosecuting his own father for murder that involved impiety.⁵



Robert Sanger

This paradigm, of the community taking on the accused shifted as feudal structures were imposed over community life in Europe and England. It was a matter of consolidating power, raising revenue and commanding a fearful respect from the population that feudal lords and eventually kings took over the criminal law. Crimes were no longer a matter of restoring justice to members of the community who were harmed by the crimes but became a matter of offending the king. Ultimately, in England, crimes were prosecuted in the name of the King or Queen and still are to this day.

In fact, the "court" was synonymous with the courtiers, retinue, and the household members of a sovereign's family. The place at which they resided was known as the court. Both civil disputes and crimes against the king were a matter of offending the royal court. Eventually, as time went on in England, the court would include the councilors and minions of the royal government. The King or other nobles would designate magistrates and judges to hold court four times during the year, called assizes, in each county of England and Wales to administer civil and criminal law. The regular sitting of a magistrate or judge to hear cases, gave rise to courthouses in each county.

In the United States, federal crimes are still prosecuted in the name of "The United States" and state crimes are prosecuted by "The Commonwealth," "The State," or, with slight deference to populism, "The People of the State." We have federal courthouses, as a result of Article III of the Constitution and the Federal Judiciary Act. And throughout the country we have county courts which form the network of state level trial courts. For the most part, the civil aspects of ecclesiastical courts, like family law, and the chancery

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SBCBA Comes Together for Annual Dinner

Jeff Chambliss took the reins as 2018 President of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association at the Bar's Annual Dinner, held on November 17th at the Canary Hotel. Outgoing President Mike Denver was there to welcome Jeff and reflect on his own significant contributions to the Bar during his tenure.

Also at the Dinner, the Bar was pleased to present the

following recognition to our members:

The Association's Frank Crandall Community Service Award was presented to Mullen & Henzell LLP for its longstanding efforts in providing pro bono services to community non-profit organizations.

The Association's Pro Bono Award was presented to Allan S. Morton of Fell, Marking, Abkin, Montgomery, Granet & Raney, LLP for his tireless commitment to serving as a Family Law Settlement Master, Mock Trial Volunteer, and donation of legal services to the nonprofit community, to name just a few.

The Association's John T. Rickard Judicial Service Award was presented to the Honorable Clifford R. Anderson III in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Judiciary, the local court system and as President of Inns of Court.

Thank you to all of our attendees and honorees for helping us end the year on a memorable note. ■



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Feature

Hughes, *continued from page 8*

in the case, and dishonesty in refusing to refund when you have allowed the consideration to fail.

There is a vague popular belief that lawyers are necessarily dishonest. I say vague, because when we consider to what extent confidence and honors are reposed in and conferred upon lawyers by the people, it appears improbable that their impression of dishonesty is very distinct and vivid. Yet the impression is common, almost universal. Let no young man choosing the law for a calling for a moment yield to the popular belief--resolve to be honest at all events; and if in your own judgment you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer. Choose some other occupation, rather than one in the choosing of which you do, in advance, consent to be a knave. ■

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Sanger, *continued from page 13*

courts in their entirety, have been consolidated with the courts of law in this country. However, they all display the legacy of their royal and ecclesiastical heritage.

Hence, the environment of the typical American courtroom is what social scientists call a “hard environment.”⁶ It is replete with symbols of authority and the vestiges of heraldry. There are symbols of the great seal of government. There are banners or flags. The bench is elevated so that the litigants can come before it to seek the government’s mercy. The judge is decorated as a lord wearing a robe. He or she is referred to in the third person as “Your Honor,” a throwback to those days when the person judging was the King, a noble or a bishop.

Treatment of Criminal Defendants

The “hard environment” is not one that is conducive to the comfort of the litigants. To the contrary, the environment reinforces their status as supplicants in the presence of royalty or its representative. In England, prisoners were and still are placed in the dock, isolating them in a way that empirical research, not surprisingly, conveys a presumption of guilt.⁷ It is a practice that is under current attack in England and by other members of the British Commonwealth.

In the United States, we give deference on paper to treating defendants in criminal cases as presumed innocent, particularly when before a jury for trial. Generally, courts attempt to minimize the appearance that a defendant is in custody by allowing him or her to dress out in civilian clothes and to hide any restraints like handcuffs, often using a leg brace or other concealed restraint. Nevertheless, even in trial, American defendants are generally placed at the far end of the counsel table while the prosecutor and investigating officer sit next to the jury. An armed, uniformed bailiff, and sometimes more than one, hover beside and around the defendant giving subtle but perceptible clues that the defendant is not free to go.

Worse yet is the way in which defendants are treated prior to trial. In many courts, it has become the model of courtroom architecture to have a cage in which litigants are confined. In Santa Barbara, we have the “fish bowl” in Department 8. There, the litigants who are too poor to post bail or who are held for other reasons, are brought to a glass cage. The cage has metal benches, and a microphone and speaker system designed to allow the person to hear what is being said about him or her in the courtroom, when it works. The door to the cage is now locked and counsel is prevented from sitting next to their clients or to be able to answer questions during the proceedings. The prosecutor

and other litigants can participate in the actual courtroom, but those in custody are degraded and treated like caged animals.

Ventura courts are now even worse, where they have large steel cages in the criminal courts that handle not only arraignments but most of the pretrial matters in criminal cases. Once again, people who cannot make bail are herded into the cages and made to sit on steel benches. When their cases are called, they come to the metal slats in the cages where they can only see the judge and the prosecutor with difficulty. In fact, the slats were so obtrusive, that one of the judges had to issue an order that the slats be modified so that he could see the defendants when they were pleading guilty or otherwise addressing the court.

In Orange County, in the Santa Ana Courthouse where arraignments are held, the lack of respect for the accused or for the entire process, for that matter, is almost complete. Arraignments are held in the basement of the Main Jail. The public is not allowed in the building so they have to go to the neighboring jail facility and watch what they can on closed circuit television. Lawyers go thorough jail security and then traverse a series of underground hallways until they come to a windowless dank room with old Government Issue metal and wood veneer desks which constitutes the place that the judge, the prosecutors and public defenders sit when not in the courtroom. Beyond that room is another green and gray walled jail basement room with a crudely erected stage, and another Government Issue desk perched on it about a foot higher than the concrete floor. There is barely room for a couple of small tables for the prosecutor and public defender and another for the clerk. In the back is a heavy duty, chain-link enclosure with a metal bench in it where they bring in two or three people accused at a time.

I have been in many other courts where defendants in custody are handled with varying degrees of dignity or indignity. Many courts have people in custody sit in the jury box and some have the people brought out to a side dock or special sitting area. Some courts are physically located in or attached to the jail, but have proper courtrooms accessible to the public and having traditional décor. A few courts will allow the client to join the attorney at the counsel table, especially if counsel makes the request. But very few accord the accused in custody the dignity of equal status as litigants with the government representatives accusing them. Courtroom architecture could and should be sensitive to treating criminal defendants and all litigants with respect.

Treatment of the Public, Jurors and Lawyers

It is said that criminal courtrooms in England were par-

ticularly hostile to the public. The story is that early assizes for criminal trials had no regular place to meet. The most accommodating structure was often a public house. The people of the area were not particularly hygienic by our standards and they would come from the countryside to see the spectacle of a trial. Drinks, of course, were served in the pub. When time came to design courtrooms, traditional English courtrooms had significant barriers between the unwashed masses and the trial participants. The large physical barriers in English courts did not carry over to American courts, although the public does have to remain behind a low wall generally with a swinging gate. However, there have been some reversions to antipathy for the public.

In recent years in Ventura, courtroom architects created Department 13. It shows a bizarre disregard for the public, lawyers and the accused. The accused, if in custody, are herded into the metal slat cages with the metal benches. The public cannot see the people in custody due to the intentional angle of the slats. The public is required to sit on convex metal benches with ridges between each seat – the sort that might be used in a bus station to prevent people from getting comfortable so that they might loiter. The space is wholly inadequate for the number of people who attend felony arraignments each day. Litigants out of custody have to force their way to the front to stand behind the wall often addressing the court from the middle of other members of the public who cannot find a seat.

The space provided for the lawyers in that courtroom, and many others, is wholly inadequate while the space behind the bench for the judge and his clerks is large enough to play volleyball. Once again, the architect's obsequious deference to authority, which is demanded by the judges, results in twice the amount of space for the judge and two clerks as there is for the entire public seating area. And, in the middle are two crowded counsel tables with barely enough room to slide to the podium behind them where all the lawyers – prosecutors, public and private defense lawyers—are required to do their work.

Although the Ventura example is an atrocious example of disdain for the public and those who work as lawyers in the courts, there are many other courts where the allocation of space for the ceremonial deference to the judge and symbols of authority result in lawyers, witnesses and jurors being confined to pathetically little room. Federal courtrooms and some like those of the Los Angeles Superior Court sitting in the Clara Shortridge Foltz Building are exceptions to the rule. It is amazing how many courtrooms are designed without any room for lawyers to do their jobs. Multiple defendant cases are not unexpected, yet there is seldom room for the personnel. Even in a single defendant

case, some courtrooms will not accommodate a couple of banker's boxes for files or room for an investigator or paralegal.

Jurors are also often forced into small quarters. In San Luis Obispo, for instance, some courtrooms are not large enough to accommodate a venire panel of more than 50 or so people. After that, selection using a six pack results in jurors crammed in front of the counsel table with their backs to counsel. Once selected, they are relegated to jury boxes where they cannot easily lean back or move from side to side. Many courts do not have regular seating for more than one alternate requiring moveable chairs to be perched in corners of the box. Once the case is submitted to them, the jurors are taken to a deliberation room where there is a conference table and twelve chairs leaving no room to move around once everyone is seated. The deliberation rooms have no windows and are conducive to engendering claustrophobia. Other places, like federal courts and the Foltz building, have better sized jury rooms with windows and, since the jurors are locked in, there is a kick-out panel or emergency release on the door in case of emergency.

Conclusion

Courtroom architects should take notice. So should court administrators and judges who have a hand in planning courthouses and courtrooms for criminal cases. Court buildings themselves are usually fairly large to grandiose. There is no requirement that they dedicate so much space to the judicial bench officer and staff within the courtroom. And, other than a result of tradition, there is no reason that courtrooms have to be so ceremonial and symbolic at the expense of function. Yet, the courtrooms continue to be designed without the working needs of all of the participants.

Specifically, criminal courtrooms should be built with concern for the needs of the lawyers and the jurors as well as for the public. Some deference can be made to authority and there should be respect for the process. However, that does not mean that the symbols of respect have to interfere with a situation where human beings are supposed to tell their stories and have others make intellectual decisions based on law and fact. Judges do not need a space the size of a volleyball court, they do not need to sit three feet higher than everyone else, they do not need a bench that looks like a battleship bearing down on the litigants. The defendant should be allowed, even if in custody, to come out into the courtroom and sit in the upholstered seats, just like all other litigants. There should be plenty of room for lawyers, investigators and paralegals in front of the bar, not only in single defendant cases but in multi-defendant cases as well. Jurors should be treated with respect but

also with a great deal of deference for the sacrifice they are making by serving. And, the public should be welcomed and not be treated like unwashed and rowdy spectators of centuries gone by.

There is a psychological price for not getting it right. There is a price for the injustice that comes by treating people without respect. Empirical research shows that judges are more autocratic and less just based on their surroundings. Jurors are less open and able to exercise good judgment when confined by a hard environment. Lawyers and litigants are less able to express themselves and tell the story that needs to be told. The public comes to think of the courts as another instance of elitist government and pompous authority. All this can be avoided. ■

Robert Sanger is a Certified Criminal Law Specialist and has been practicing as a criminal defense lawyer in Santa Barbara for over 40 years. He is a partner in the firm of Sanger Swysen & Dunkle and Professor of Law and Forensic Science at the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law. Mr. Sanger is Past President of California Attorneys for Criminal Justice (CACJ), the statewide criminal defense lawyers' organization, and a Director of Death Penalty Focus. Mr. Sanger is also an elected Member

of the Jurisprudence Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS).

ENDNOTES

- 1 ©Robert M. Sanger.
- 2 There is much written on how we have gotten to where we are in courtroom architecture and how it is, to one extent or another, a manifestation of social and political influences. See, e.g., Jonathan D. Rosenbloom, *Social Ideology as Seen Through Courtroom and Courthouse Architecture*, 22 Columbia-VLA Journal of Law and the Arts 463 (1998).
- 3 E.g., see, John Braithwaite, *Crime, Shame and Reintegration*, Cambridge (1989).
- 4 Plato, *The Crito and The Apology*, Plato: The Collected Dialogues, Princeton (1961) 3-26, 27-39. See also, I.F. Stone, *The Trial of Socrates*, Anchor Books (1989).
- 5 Plato, *The Euthyphro*, Plato: The Collected Dialogues, Princeton (1961) 169-185.
- 6 The "hard environment" rather than a "soft environment" that is more compatible with perception, cognition and social interaction. See, e.g., H.M. Proshansky, W.H. Ittelson, and L.G. Rivlin, (Eds.), *Environmental Psychology: People and their physical settings*, 2nd ed. Oxford (1976).
- 7 Merideth Rossner, *Does the Placement of the Accused at Court Undermine the Right to a Fair Trial?* London School of Economics, Policy Briefing 18 (2016).



The People's Choice award winners, Jalama Beach Grill, flanked by (L-R) Phil Kirkwood, Garry Tetalman and Alan Blakeboro, Legal Aid President



Phil Kirkwood and Garry Tetalman flanking the winners: Three Pickles

Chowder Fest 2017



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Lynn Goebel and Mike Lyons

Online Confidentiality Issues

BY LARRY DOYLE

In a previous article, I'd described how a California attorney's failure to exercise common sense and due diligence in the selection and use of technology can result in a breach of her ethical duty of confidentiality. However, the online age also has provided many ways an attorney can breach confidentiality that have nothing to do with the hardware, software, ISP, or Wi-Fi network she uses.

As a refresher, Business and Professions Code section 6068(e)(1) provides that it is the duty of an attorney "[t]o maintain inviolate the confidence, and at every peril to himself or herself to preserve the secrets, of his or her client." This standard, which is effectively duplicated in California Rule of Professional Conduct 3-100, permits exception only to allow the revelation of confidential information the attorney reasonably believes "is necessary to prevent a criminal act that the attorney reasonably believes is likely to result in death of, or substantial bodily harm to, an individual." The courts have further expanded the exception to include revealing confidential client information to the attorney's own attorney (who is subject to the same standard and restraints) in malpractice actions. (See *Fox Searchlight Pictures, Inc. v. Paladino* (2001) 89 Cal.App.4th 294.) Other than that, the duty is pretty much absolute.

The problem is that we live in an age increasingly dominated by social media, where information on almost any topic is readily available, and the pressure on everyone, including attorneys, to create and maintain an online "presence" is incredibly strong—particularly from a marketing perspective. The challenge is maintaining a practice-related "presence" without jeopardizing client confidence and secrets in the content one posts.

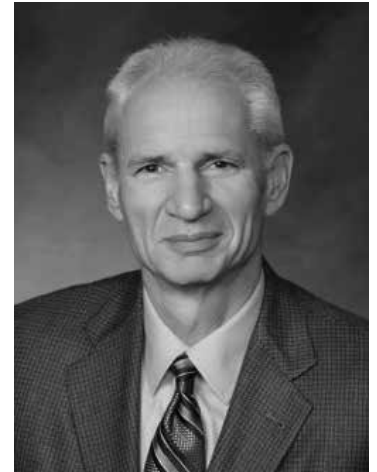
What are the secrets and confidences attorneys are supposed to protect? According to the State Bar's Standing Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct (COPRAC), "[c]lient secrets means any information obtained by the lawyer during the professional relationship, or relating to the representation, which the client has requested to be inviolate or the disclosure of which might be embarrassing or detrimental to the client." (Cal. State Bar

Formal Opn. No. 1993-133.) This goes far beyond the duty to protect confidential client communications established in the attorney-client privilege or matters protected by the work product doctrine. It "applies to information relating to the representation, whatever its source" (Comment [2] to Rule 3-100) and "even where the facts are already part of the public record or where there are other sources of information" (Cal. State Bar Formal Opn. No. 2004-165).

In practice this means that making comments about current clients on a webpage, social media, or blog post without their consent is a bad idea. The American Bar Association has opined (ABA Formal Opinion 10-457) that even identifying current or former clients by name on an attorney's website requires the client's prior consent. California's rules don't go that far, but it still is a sensible practice. And clearly, if the client does not wish his or her name used, the attorney is duty-bound to respect that wish.

Posting or commenting online about real clients can be dangerous even if the client is not specifically named in the post, comment, or blog, if his or her identity can be determined from other sources. The Model Rules of Professional Conduct in effect in some form in all other states address this specifically in Comment [4] to Model Rule 1.6, stating that the prohibition against revealing client confidential information "also applies to disclosures by a lawyer that do not in themselves reveal protected information but could reasonably lead to the discovery of such information by a third person." An Illinois public defender who used first names, case numbers, and similar easily-defeated devices to "disguise" the identities of her clients in unflattering blog posts was suspended from practice for 60 days and, more importantly, was fired for violating her clients' confidentiality. (See *In re Peshek*, M.R. 23794 (Ill. May 18, 2010).) Although California does not have this specific rule and currently is not considering its adoption, the concept is so clearly consistent with case law and practice that a prudent attorney should consider it a given.

But what if the comments are about a former—not a current—client? California has an abundance of case law indicating that both the duty of confidentiality and the



Larry Doyle

related duty of loyalty survive the termination of the professional relationship. (See *Wutchumna Water Co. v. Bailey* (1932) 216 Cal. 564; *In the Matter of Johnson* (Rev. Dept. 2000) 4 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 179; *Dixon v. State Bar* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 728; and *Oasis West Realty, LLC v. Goldman* (2011) 51 Cal.4th 811, among others.)

Any doubt about the matter should be resolved very soon. The commission created by the State Bar to overhaul California's Rules of Professional Conduct on an expedited timetable basis has recommended that California adopt a version of Model Rule 1.9, that specifically will prohibit the use or revelation of information protected by Business and Professions Code section 6068(e) and Rule 1.6 (formerly Rule 3-100) acquired by virtue of the representation of the former client to the disadvantage of the former client except as these Rules or the State Bar Act would permit with respect to a current client, or when the information has become "generally known."

What does "generally known" mean? The proposed rule does not define the term, except by describing in Comment [3] what it is not: "The fact that information can be discovered in a public record does not, by itself, render that information generally known." By example, the rule cites to *In the Matter of Johnson, supra*, 4 Cal. State Bar Ct. Rptr. 179, in which a client's prior criminal conviction, although publicly available information, was still held a client secret because it could be found only through effort and research.

In 2000, the Restatement (Third) of Law Governing Lawyers section 59 attempted to establish a guideline between information that was "generally known" and that which merely is publicly available, saying that the distinction "depends on all circumstances relevant in obtaining the information... Information is not generally known when a person interested in knowing the information could obtain it only by means of special knowledge or sub-

stantial difficulty or expense." In a world where anyone is capable of initiating a detailed web search for free, and even public database searches for criminal records, lawsuits, and

Continued on page 25

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Motions

Reicker, Pfau, Pyle & McRoy LLP, Santa Barbara's Business Law Firm, is pleased to announce that **Meghan K. Woodsome** has joined the firm and will specialize in litigation and privacy law. Ms. Woodsome commenced her career in the San Francisco offices of O'Melveny & Myers LLP, where she practiced in the Financial Services Litigation Group. After relocating to Santa Barbara, Ms. Woodsome operated an independent law practice. Ms. Woodsome received her J.D. and undergraduate degrees cum laude from Georgetown University.



Appearing in SNOWBOUND: BEST NEW ENGLAND CRIME STORIES anthology, is "The Nut Job" by SBCBA Executive Director, **Lida Sideris**, about a police cadet tracking a possible suspect in Boston Common. Published by Level Best Books, SNOWBOUND continues the tradition of presenting the best mystery and crime fiction from both acclaimed and seasoned authors, and exciting new voices.

Minehan, McFaul & Fitch, LLP has relocated its offices to 990 Cindy Lane, Suite B, Carpinteria, CA 93013, from which the firm looks forward to continuing the representation of both insurance carrier and policy-holder clients based locally, nationally, and globally in the areas of insurance coverage and general civil litigation.

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Doyle, *continued from page 23*

similar information which used to be available only to those with special expertise and resources easy and inexpensive, there does not seem to be a lot this standard would exclude any more, and new criteria may need to be developed.

Finally, another potential pitfall for attorneys lies in responding to negative online reviews posted by clients or former clients. Although there is general consensus that public response by a lawyer to such a review is not per se improper, there is clear consensus that the response must not disclose any confidential information without the former client's consent, it must not violate the attorney's duty of loyalty to the former client, and it must be proportionate and restrained. (See Los Angeles County Bar Association Formal Opinion No. 525 and Bar Association of San Francisco Formal Opinion No. 2014-1.) ■

Larry Doyle is a Sacramento-based attorney, lobbyist and mediator, and a member of the State Bar's Standing Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct and the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers. He can be contacted at larry@larrydoylelaw.com.



Verdicts & Decisions

James Hawryla Mecredy v. Sonic Industries, Inc. et al

Court & Division:	Los Angeles County Superior - Central Division
Case Number:	BC593961
Type of Case:	Employment; Defamation; Interference with Economic Advantage
Type of Proceeding:	Jury Trial
Presiding Judge:	Hon. Gregory Alarcon
Length of Trial:	Eight Days
Length of Deliberations:	Three Days
Date of Verdict/Decision:	May 30, 2017
Plaintiff:	James Hawryla Mecredy
Plaintiff's Counsel:	James H. Cordes, Esq. Attorney at Law and Steven M. Rubin, Esq. of The Rubin Law Corporation
Defendant:	Sonic Industries, Inc.
Defendant's Counsel:	Ryan D. Saba, Esq. and Krystle D. Meyer, Esq. of Rosen + Saba, LLP
Experts:	Plaintiff's Retained Experts: Anthony E. Reading, Ph.D. (Psychology) Kenneth Creal, CPA (Economic Damages) Defendant's Retained Experts: James E. Rosenberg, M.D. (Psychiatry) Henry Kahrs, CPA (Economic Damages)

Overview of Case: At issue was defendant Sonic Industries, Inc.'s ("Defendant's") alleged defamation of its former employee, plaintiff James Mecredy ("Plaintiff"), as well as Defendant's alleged interference with Plaintiff's subsequent employment.

Facts and Contentions: Plaintiff was employed by Sargent Aerospace LLC, Sonic Division (also known as Sonic Industries, Inc. (i.e., "Defendant")), for approximately 27 years. In December 2014, he was laid off and paid a severance. In March 2015, he was hired by another company, a job shop that was a supplier to Sargent Aerospace. Employees of Defendant—a division of Plaintiff's former employer—visited Plaintiff's subsequent employer and spoke by telephone to its owner. Shortly after these contacts with Defendant's representatives, Plaintiff was terminated from his new employment. The owner of Plaintiff's new employer later left a voicemail for one of Defendant's employees confirming that he had terminated Plaintiff and that Plaintiff no longer had any affiliation whatsoever with the company. Other companies had also called and discussed Plaintiff with his new employer's owner.

Plaintiff alleged that he had been slandered and that his employment at his new employer was interfered with by Defendant. Plaintiff claimed that Defendant, through two of its managers, pressured his subsequent employer to dismiss him after only three weeks because Defendant did not want to compete with its former employee—Plaintiff—at the new company. Plaintiff claimed that as a result of these actions by Defendant, and certain statements by and through its managers, he lost income and commissions and suffered emotional distress and damage to his reputation.

Defendant maintained that it had not slandered Plaintiff and that it had not interfered with his subsequent employment. Defendant claimed that Plaintiff incurred no damages and that if he did, then other companies were responsible for any such loss—in addition to Defendant—including the new employer who terminated Plaintiff and the other companies who had inquired about him.

Settlement: Defendant made a single Code of Civil Procedure section 998 offer, in the amount of \$75,000.

Result: The jury returned a verdict in favor of Plaintiff, on each cause of action for slander, intentional interference with prospective economic advantage, and negligent interference with prospective economic advantage. The jury found no comparative fault and no allocation of liability to other parties.

The jury awarded Plaintiff damages in the amount of \$474,004.

Post-Trial Motions: Defendant moved for JNOV and for a new trial. However, both motions were denied.

The SBCBA Criminal Law Section Presents:

Marijuana Zeitgeist: Fear and Loathing at the DOJ

When

December 13, 2017, at noon

Where

Santa Barbara College of Law – 20 E. Victoria Street

MCLE

One Hour of General MCLE credit (pending)

Speakers

Jay Leiderman, Criminal Law Specialist

About the Event

Jay Leiderman is the owner of the Law Offices of Jay Leiderman, PC a Ventura, California based law firm. Mr. Leiderman advises medical marijuana collectives, teaching them the law, writing up their contracts and articles of association, and helping them to comply with local and state laws. He co-authored a book on the legal defense of California medical marijuana crimes, which was published by NORML, the National Organization for the Reform

of Marijuana Laws. Mr. Leiderman has been a Certified Criminal Law Specialist (California Bar Board of Legal Specialization) since 2006. Lawyer Monthly Magazine named him the 2016 Criminal Defense Attorney of the Year for the United States. The *Atlantic* magazine called Mr. Leiderman the “Hactivist’s Advocate” for his work defending hacker-activists accused of computer crimes, or so-called (“Hactivism”) especially people associated with Anonymous. He defended journalist Matthew Keys from accusations that he had conspired with hackers to attack the *Los Angeles Times* and was the defense counsel in many other noteworthy cases.

Price

\$10.00. Free for public defenders, government attorneys and legal aid staff. Please make checks payable to: Santa Barbara County Bar Association
15 West Carrillo Street, Suite 106
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Lunch

Brown bag lunch

RSVP Deadline

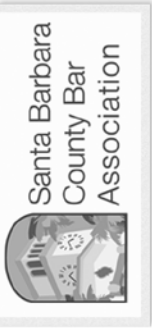
December 6, 2017

Contact Information/R.S.V.P.

Jeff Chambliss, jeff@chamblisslegal.com

Don't forget to renew your SBCBA Membership for 2018!

See application on page 30



2018 Bench and Bar Conference
CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE LAW
 January 20, 2018 at the Historic Courthouse

8:15 – 9:00AM	Conference registration with breakfast by Jill’s Place Outside the Mural Room, Second Floor
9:00 – 9:55AM Mural Room 1 hour MCLE Competence	Andrew Dieden, Esq., presenting on Addiction and Denial (competence issues)
Workshop sessions 10:00 – 10:55 AM 1 hour MCLE Dept. 1 – Elim. of Bias Dept. 2 – General	Hon. Frank J. Ochoa (Ret.) presenting on Elimination of bias in the law Department 1 Bret Stone, Esq., presenting on Green building issues in Santa Barbara County Department 2
11:00 – 11:55AM Mural Room 1 hour MCLE General	Keynote Presentation by Hon. Serge Dedina, Mayor of the City of Imperial Beach and Conservationist Sea level rise, accountability and coastal planning
11:50AM to 12:20PM	Santa Barbara-style BBQ lunch buffet by Jill’s Place
12:30 – 2:00PM Mural Room 1.5 hours MCLE General	Lunch panel discussion in the Mural Room: Climate change, planning and prevention Hon. Serge Dedina, Michael McCormick, AICP, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, Aeron Arlin Genet, Executive Director, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
Workshop sessions 2:10 – 3:05PM 1 hour MCLE Dept. 1 – Ethics Dept. 2 – General	Francine Tone, Esq., presenting on Trust and ethical issues in the attorney client relationship Department 1 John Troxel and Jill Jackman Sadler presenting on E-Discovery and data preservation in the era of climate risk Department 2
3:10 – 4:05 PM Mural Room 1 hour MCLE Ethics	Judges of the Santa Barbara County Superior Court Panel discussion on ethical issues in social media use by judges and lawyers



2018 Bench and Bar Conference

Climate Change, Sea Level Rise and the Law: How Will We Preserve the California Coast?



Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Historic Courthouse

**Keynote Presentation and Panel Discussion with
Mayor Serge Dedina, Imperial Beach, CA
on Sea level rise, accountability and coastal planning**

- Workshops in abuse & denial, bias, green building, trust in client relationships, and data preservation
- Panel of SB County Judges on ethical issues in social media use
- **6.5 Hours of MCLE credits available** in legal ethics, elimination of bias, competence and general CLE

Registration Form	Registration	Payments received →	On or before 1-5-2018	After 1-5-2018
	SBCBA Members			\$110.00
Non-SBCBA Members			\$130.00	\$150.00
New Admittee/Public Interest Attorneys			\$90.00	\$90.00
Three or More Attendees from Same Firm or Organization			\$90.00	\$90.00

Name	Email	Firm	Membership status
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			<input type="checkbox"/> Mbr <input type="checkbox"/> Non-mbr
			<input type="checkbox"/> Mbr <input type="checkbox"/> Non-mbr
			<input type="checkbox"/> Mbr <input type="checkbox"/> Non-mbr

Payment: ___ SBCBA members at \$110 \$130 _____ .00
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To register and pay by credit card, call SBCBA at 569-5511. Otherwise, mail completed registration form with payment to SBCBA, 15 West Carrillo, Ste. 106, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. Attach additional sheets for additional registrants.





Santa Barbara
County Bar
Association

2018 Membership Application

Member Name: _____

Check here if you do not want your name and office address disclosed to any buyer of Bar Assoc. mailing labels.

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Check here if you do not want your e-mail address disclosed to SBCBA sponsors.

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Affiliate Members (non-Attorney members only)	\$65

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

AREAS OF INTEREST OR PRACTICE (check box as applicable)

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2017 SBCBA SECTION HEADS

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clemmonsjd@cs.com

Bench & Bar Relations:

Stephen Dunkle 962-4887
sdunkle@sangerswysen.com

Civil Litigation

Mark Coffin 248-7118
mtc@markcoffinlaw.com

Criminal

Catherine Swysen 962-4887
cswysen@sangerswysen.com

Debtor/Creditor

Carissa Horowitz 708-6653
cnhorowitz@yahoo.com

Employment Law

Alex Craigie 845-1752
alex@craigielawfirm.com

Estate Planning/Probate

Connor Cote 966-1204
connor@jfcotelaw.com

Family Law

Matthew Long 254-4878
matthewjlong@santabarbaradivorcelaw.com

In House Counsel/Corporate Law

Betty L. Jeppesen 963-9958
jeppesenlaw@gmail.com

Intellectual Property

Christine Kopitzke 845-3434
ckopitzke@socalip.com

Mandatory Fee Arbitration

Eric Berg 708-0748
eric@berglawgroup.com

Michael Brelje 965-7746
gmb@grokenberger.com

Naomi Dewey 966-7422
ndewey@BFASlaw.com

Real Property/Land Use

Josh Rabinowitz 963-0755
jrabinowitz@fmam.com

Bret Stone 898-9700
bstone@paladinlaw.com

Taxation

Peter Muzinich 966-2440
pmuzinich@gmail.com

Cindy Brittain 695-7315
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**For information on upcoming MCLE events,
visit SBCBA at <http://www.sblaw.org/>**

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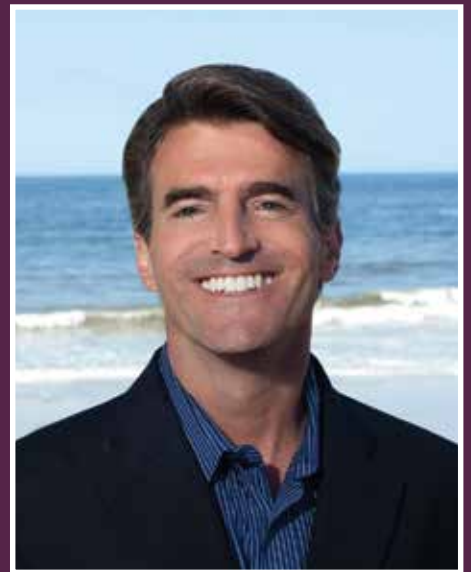
Meets at noon on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 330 E. Carrillo St. We are a state-wide network of recovering lawyers and judges dedicated to assisting others within the profession who have problems with alcohol or substance abuse. We protect anonymity. To contact a local member go to <http://www.otherbar.org> and choose Santa Barbara in “Meetings” menu.

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