

SBCBA was one of 15 bar associations that sent delegates to the September 14-16, 2018 annual conference of the Conference of California Bar Associations. Delegates of these bar associations make proposals called “resolutions”. These are then assessed by the CCBA Resolutions Committee, then by each bar association, and at the annual conference these are debated, negotiated and voted as either “approved in principle” or “disapproved”. Of the 107 resolutions for changes to California statute or its Constitution, 74 were approved at this conference. Full text of resolutions with their reasoning and CCBA assessments can be viewed at <http://calconference.org/html/2018-resolutions/>. Here is a brutally summarized list of some of the resolutions that were approved:

- a prohibition on local agencies receiving surplus military equipment without voter-based approval of the agency legislative body,
- elimination of sales tax on the sale of used clothing,
- prohibition of district attorneys and county sheriffs serving as coroner,
- creation of a state long term care insurance system analogous to the CA Earthquake Authority,
- addition of voting and the electoral system to public school civics curriculum,
- decriminalization of willful failure to complete “Traffic School”,
- prohibition on ICE entering certain state-owned buildings to question occupants without a warrant,
- authorization of electronic recording of court proceedings in counties that do not provide official court reporters,
- tolling of the statute of limitations for legal malpractice actions while the client is pursuing a Mandatory Fee Arbitration against her/his attorney,
- making inadmissible evidence of prior gender identity of the complaining witness in prosecutions for rape and forcible sexual penetration,
- broadening of DA’s obligation to turn over exculpatory evidence to include all witness statements, co-defendant statements, and test results, and
- voiding of nondisclosure clauses in employment agreements that prohibit employees from complaining about discrimination and sexual harassment or assault.

CCBA’s representative walking the halls at the California statehouse is Larry Doyle, who was able to get more than 20 resolutions passed into law since the 2017 conference.

This conference provides to delegates an opportunity to learn, and enables SBCBA to influence legislation. Although SBCBA does not have the numbers that Los Angeles County Bar Association and the Bar Association of San Francisco have, on many occasions SBCBA delegate votes have made the difference between a resolution being approved or disapproved.

There will be two delegate slots open in 2020. The time commitment is a September work-up of the proposed resolutions (12-22 per delegate), a 3 hour meeting before the conference during which the delegation decides its position on each resolution, and the conference, which is a weekend of 2 half days and a full Saturday. SBCBA defrays the cost of attendance. Consider joining. Please contact sblawdirector@gmail.com to offer your services as a delegate.

Delegate Donna Lewis

An engineer and a practicing attorney who teaches at Santa Barbara City College, Donna Lewis is, by her own admission, as nerdy and annoying as they come. During the run of the cable TV show "What Not to Wear" several persons threatened to turn her in. She fled Rhode Island as the ink was drying on her Brown University degree. She is the only past president of the century-old Santa Barbara County Bar Association who is married to another past president, Tom Hinshaw, actor and Superior Court research attorney. Ms. Lewis' practice emphasizes employment and business law.