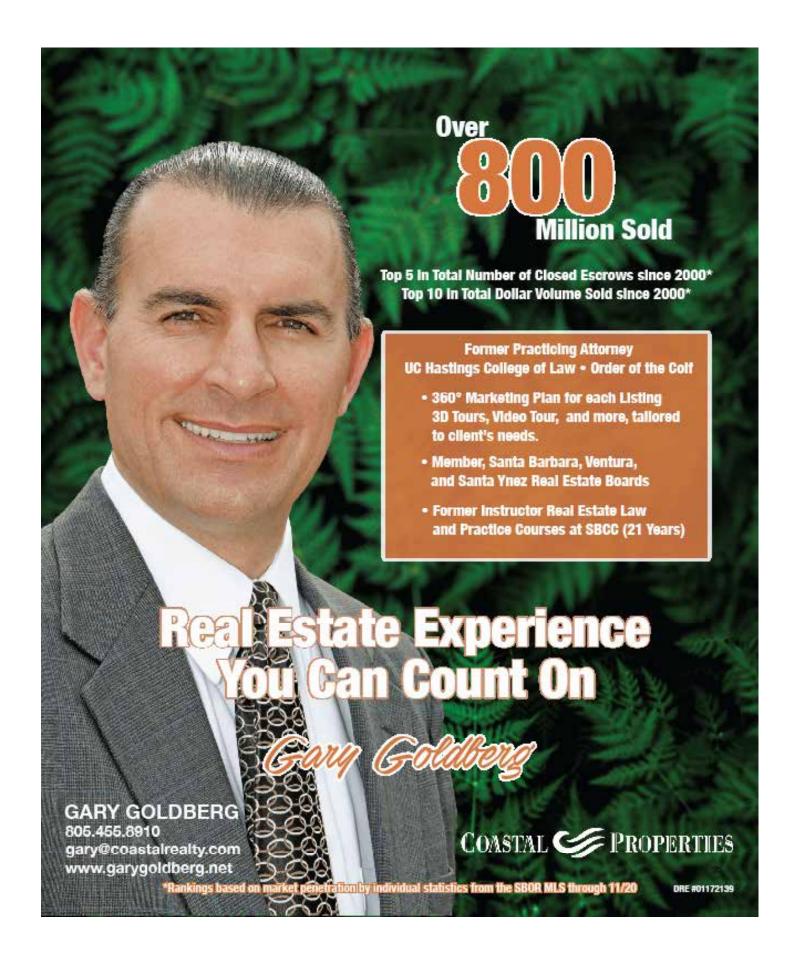


SBCBA Summer Barbecue is Back!

SBWL Legislative Update / More than Student Commencements Celebrated at The Colleges of Law / Updated California Insurance Reform, Mandatory Auto Insurance Minimums Increase / A Most Troubling Opinion: But Does It Have Significance for Capital Punishment? / The Distribution of Funding Between Public Defenders and District Attorneys: A Statistical Analysis



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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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On the Cover

Rusty Brace and Ray Chandler serve it up *hot!* at the SBCBA Annual Barbecue.

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SBCBA Summer Barbecue is Back!

By Bradford Brown

In June, after a two-year hiatus, the Santa Barbara County Bar Association was able to host a get together, in-person, to mix, mingle, and grill up some meats. Everyone came hungry for the delicious food and opportunity to reconnect with over 100 colleagues and friends at the SBCBA Annual BBQ. Most of us remember these chances to socialize and network with other members of the SBCBA as commonplace and a-plenty in pre-pandemic times. While these events were starting to feel like a thing

of the past, our BBQ felt like a huge feat and a step in the right direction to a return to normalcy. It was a success beyond expectation because of all the hard work and contributions of BBQer's Will Beall, Eric Burkhardt, Rusty Brace, Mac Staton, Paul Roberts, and Thomas Foley; the event sponsors including the Law Offices of Brad Brown, the Herring Law Group, the Santa Barbara Colleges of Law, and Montecito Bank and Trust; and the SBCBA Board of Directors and Events Committee. We would be remiss to not mention the donated libations—a fresh German Kolsch home brewed by Greg Herring and the wine contributed by Brian O'Connor and Joe Liebman. The food and beverages were both fantastic!

It was fun to reconnect with colleagues and friends we haven't seen for two and a half years and get caught up on what's been happening with their practices and families. SBCBA is a close-knit community and we look forward to many more chances to connect with our fellow Bar Association members at future events — such as our annual dinner. We hope that you will be able to join us!



Paul Roberts, Mac Staton, Rusty Brace, Tom Foley, and author Brad Brown.





Barbecue attendees look on as President Eric Berg thanks Sponsors and all who helped.



Above: Our new Executive Director, Marietta Jablonka and her son, Chris



Right: Greg Herring and Clark Lammers





Attendees mix and mingle at Oak Park on a beautiful Friday night



Above: Jessica Phillips, Taylor Fuller, Nick Behrman and Christina Behrman



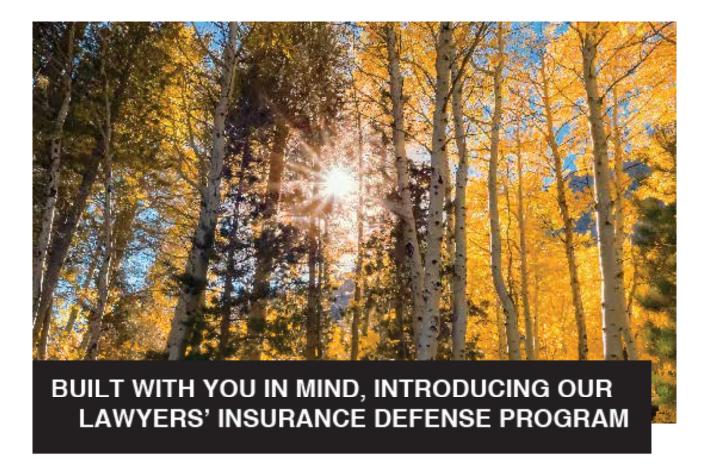
Right: Ray Chandler





Greg Herring, Brnadon Veltri, Teresa Martinez and Will Beall





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Santa Barbara Women Lawyers: Legislative Update

By Natalie Mutz, Advocacy Committee Chair for Santa Barbara Women Lawyers

n May 2022, the Santa Barbara Women Lawyers (SBWL) submitted letters of support to the State Legislature for three important bills that are currently making their way through the State Legislature. These are Assembly Bill 1666 (Abortion: Civil Actions), Assembly Bill 2091 (Disclosure of Information: Reproductive Health and Foreign Penal Actions), and Senate Bill 1162 (Pay Transparency for Pay Equity). SBWL has also drafted a letter of support for Senate Constitutional Amendment 10 (SCA 10), which, if passed into law this November, will incorporate abortion rights into our State Constitution.

The Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned five decades of judicial precedent, holding that the right to seek and obtain an abortion is not a protected liberty under the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution. Under the new Supreme Court rule, state laws that restrict, ban, or criminalize abortion will be upheld if the state legislature establishes a "rational basis" for the law. In its holding, the Court articulated a respect for prenatal life at all stages of development, thus essentially foreclosing potential arguments that complete bans on abortion are fundamentally irrational because they deprive pregnant women of their life and personal liberty.

In the three weeks since the decision in *Dobbs*, at least six states have enacted complete bans on abortion care, with more to follow by the end of July. Many of those states have enacted, or soon will enact laws that ban and/or criminalize traveling out of state to seek or obtain an abortion.

SBWL supports the proposition that all people have a fundamental right to access safe, affordable, ethical abortion care and contraception. An important part of SBWL's mission is to promote gender equality by targeting and eliminating factors that inhibit women in their social and professional pursuits. As law and policy in our country has taken a dramatic shift away from the principles of *Roe v. Wade*, in favor of greater restrictions on and criminalization of abortion procedures, SBWL believes that our state urgently needs to push back by enacting law and policy that supports the fundamental rights of reproductive freedom.

SBWL has voiced its support for new legislation that will deter those bans, offering protection to patients and healthcare providers in our state.

AB 1666—Abortion: Civil Actions

AB 1666, authored by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, is among several measures to mitigate the devastating impact on women of the recent decision in



Natalie Mutz

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. This bill was signed into law by Governor Newsom on June 24, 2022. It can be found at Section 123476.5 of California's Health and Safety Code.

The new law, which took immediate effect, declares that a law of another state that authorizes a person to bring a civil action against a person or entity that receives, seeks, performs, induces, or aids or abets the performance of an abortion, or who attempts or intends to engage in those actions, is contrary to the public policy of California. The law prohibits the application of that out-of-state law to a case or controversy heard in a California court. It also prohibits the enforcement or satisfaction of a civil judgment received under that out-of-state law.

AB 1666 serves the vital objective of insulating Californians from civil liability for providing or obtaining abortion care and it protects the fundamental right to choose pregnancy and childbirth. It preserves the ability of healthcare providers in our state to give needed advice, education, and services so women can make informed decisions, free of coercion. These objectives, in turn, help to advance and empower women by safeguarding their control over their bodies and their lives. SBWL was extremely pleased to see that AB 1666 was passed into law—and not a moment too soon.

AB 2091—Disclosure of Information: Reproductive Health and Foreign Penal Actions

AB 2091 is authored by Assemblymember Mia Bonta and is another important measure to address the impending U.S. Supreme Court decision concerning abortion. As of the date of this writing, AB 2091 is awaiting approval by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

If passed into law, this bill would prohibit the validation



of foreign subpoenas pertaining to a foreign penal civil action (as defined). It would prohibit the sharing of specified information in response to subpoenas related to out-of-state anti-abortion statutes or foreign penal civil actions. The bill would authorize the Insurance Commissioner to impose civil penalties against health insurers who violate the confidentiality of an insured's medical information. It would also prohibit prison staff from disclosing identifying medical information related to an incarcerated person's right to seek and obtain an abortion if the information is being requested is based on out-of-state anti-abortion statutes or foreign penal civil actions.

After the U.S. Supreme Court's devastating decision in *Dobbs*, our state must take steps to support the right of privacy of individuals who come to this state seeking abortion care. AB 2091 ensures that information about individuals who travel to California to obtain an abortion will not be used against them in out-of-state penal civil actions.

AB 2091 serves the vital objective of protecting the privacy, security and confidence of those who come to this state for reproductive healthcare and protecting the fundamental right of reproductive freedom. These objectives, in turn, help to advance and empower women by safeguarding their control over their bodies and their lives.

SCA 10—Constitutional Amendment to Protect Abortion and Contraception for Californians

SCA 10 would ensure protection under the California Constitution for abortion and contraception.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* is an assault on the health, life, and personal autonomy of all women in our country. SBWL believes we must act now to cement our state's progressive laws on reproductive freedom by ensuring that access to a safe and legal abortion is protected in our state constitution. We support Governor Newsom's pledge to "not sit on the sidelines as unprecedented attacks on the fundamental right to choose endanger women across the country."

As of July 6, 2022, SCA 10 is authorized to be placed on the November ballot, as Proposition 1, to be voted on by the citizens of California.

SB 1162—Pay Transparency for Pay Equity

On a different, but equally important subject, SBWL also wrote to the legislature to support SB 1162. Authored by Senator Monique Limón, this bill would make important progress on the struggle for pay equality for women and people of color.

Despite significant advances in California's equal pay laws, the gender- and race-based pay gap persists. SBWL

believes that legislative action is needed to address this gap.

SB 1162 proposes mechanisms that would allow state agencies, employers, and workers to gather data to help close the pay gap. The bill would make three key changes to existing law. First, it would change the type of data private companies are required to report to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH). Companies would be required to report the median and mean rate of pay for each job classification for each combination of race, ethnicity, and sex. Additionally, it would require any private employer who hires or uses the service of at least 100 temporary or contract workers to submit the same report for that population of employees. *Second*, it would require DFEH to make each private employer's report publicly available on its website. *Third*, the bill would require private companies with 15 or more employees to provide the pay scale information in each job posting and make pay scale information available upon request to any employee who requests the information regarding their current position.

SBWL supports SB 1162 new requirements. By exposing the reality of pay inequity, this bill will address the gender and race-based disparities that continue to drive economic inequality. SB 1162 serves as a critical step in advancing and empowering women in the workplace to negotiate for higher pay and better opportunities. SBWL therefore supports SB 1162 and strongly urges its passage.

How You Can Take Action

Writing letters of support (or opposition) to the State Senate and Assembly about pending legislation of interest is a great way to move the Legislature to take action on important issues. The process is surprisingly simple. You need only create an account at https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/. You can submit a letter through that portal, and urge others to do so. Your voice makes a difference.

Get the latest information about legislative bills covering issues of interest to you by heading to the California Legislative Information Homepage, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.html. Use the search pane to type the bill number (e.g., AB1, or SB2). If you don't know the bill number, you can also search by keyword(s).

Address letters to the bill's author(s). The author's name can usually be found at the top of the text of the bill. It's a good practice to copy the Legislator's Chief of Staff—and you can find out who that is by googling or calling the office of the Legislator. Even if you cannot find this information easily, it is not a problem. Generally, when a letter is submitted through the portal, a staff person will receive the

Continued on page 20



More than Student Commencements Celebrated at The Colleges of Law

By Marietta Iablonka and Michelle E. Roberson





Michelle E. Roberson

Marietta Jablonka

t's 2016 and Jackie Gardina assumes her role as Dean and Chief Academic Officer of the then-known Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law. Along with her colleagues, they contemplate the common problem of new law students: high attrition rate.

Many of us remember 1L year too clearly. The unending days filled with lectures only to be followed by neverending reading and outlining. Only to do it over again the next day either hoping you would get called because you understood the case very well or really hoping that today was not your day. Yet, after a full year of it, the attrition rate for 1Ls can reach 50%.

The number one reason for quitting is the in-class time commitment, required to be accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California. In 2017, Dean Gardena requested authorization to start the first state accredited "hybrid" juris doctorate program to ease the burden of the forced in-class time.

Our local law school with campuses in Santa Barbara and Ventura has always been appreciated for its flexibility for working professionals and parents, offering night school courses over a 3-year, 8 month period with strong job prospects post-graduation. Many local firms find local talent as support staff that end up seamlessly becoming lawyers after a few years, but no matter the flexibility, it is not easy. The hours still must be put in, those cases must still be read. It is still law school and after a full day of work, class at night is still daunting.

Enter the Hybrid J.D. program. In 2018, our local law school, now known as The Colleges of Law (COL), was the first law school in the history of the state to receive accreditation for a hybrid Juris Doctorate program. The change in name came because it started admitting students from across the country as the physical in-class component work can be done by remote instruction so long as the hybrid component is met by students showing up for the residency requirement. Some meet this requirement once a month or on the weekends to synthesize information and fill any holes, according to Kryztofr Kaine, Senior Manager of Institutional Advancement and Community Relations at The Colleges of Law.

No longer is our local law school just local.

Mr. Kaine, an alum and enthusiastic about where COL is going "national!", mentioned a student attending COL from Texas. He not only talks about the hybrid program, but also the programs designed for practicing lawyers the COL puts out that are instrumental in perfecting our craft. But, let's not digress. Why would an out-of-state student study at a locally accredited school?

A few reasons. First is the flexibility of being able to do the bulk of the work remotely and on their own flexible schedule. Second is the low tuition rate. The entire cost for a juris doctorate, which could take about 3-4 years, is only a few thousand dollars more than a single year of in-state tuition at a University of California. Being able to do this from a state where cost of living is lower or you have an established job could drastically reduce costs all-around. Third, upon earning a juris doctorate at the COL, you are able to sit for the California bar exam.

During the pandemic, many concessions had to be made to allow some remote courses and remove the in-class requirement, but the COL was ahead of the game. With the removal of in-person courses, of course other cancellations were made like graduation ceremonies. But, this did not stop the degrees from being issued, including the first graduates from the first hybrid juris doctorate program (HJD). Lawyers were made, even if quietly.

Anyone who has graduated from law school knows what a long and difficult journey it is. Late nights of study, time away from you friends and family, and lots of coffee. You



so look forward to the day when the people you love and had to ignore for 3 plus years can gather to watch you walk with your classmates to Pomp and Circumstance. It's a day filled with pride, happiness and a sense of accomplishment.

For the COL class of 2020 that day was delayed by two years, and the class of 2021 by one year, all thanks to the Covid pandemic that shut the world down.

The COL alum takes pride in their community and when the day to take that walk finally arrived in May 2022 the COL hosted the largest commencement exercise in the history of our beloved, small local school. The classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022 all made the walk together. Some had just graduated and some had already passed the bar and

were already employed as lawyers. Judge Von Deroian, a graduate of COL served as the ceremonial keynote at the Hilton Beachfront Resort in Santa Barbara.

Dr. Gardina boasted "what an honor it was to have gathered together for Commencement on March 26th. This important day was made even more special because it was the first time, in over 1,000 days, that our community could be together at such scale. Together, we celebrated graduates from the classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022. This included cohorts from both our Ventura and Santa Barbara campuses, as well as the first graduates of our HJD program."

Congratulations to the graduates of the COL on their commencement.















Updated California Insurance Reform, Mandatory Auto Insurance Minimums Increase

By Renee Nordstrand

ast month the California State Senate passed Senate Bill 1107, sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC) and authored by Senator Bill Dodd (D-Napa). This is important legislation that will increase California's outdated financial responsibility laws (currently \$15,000/30,000 for liability and \$5,000 for property damage). The new mandatory coverage requirements will affect and protect all drivers of motor vehicles. The bill passed the Assembly Insurance Committee on June 22, and it is anticipated that this negotiated bill get to Governor Newsom before September 1, 2022. Once signed by the Governor, it would become effective on January 1, 2023, giving the Department of Insurance time to process any new rate applications.

The key provisions of the new mandatory minimum insurance limits are as follows:

• \$30,000, \$60,000 and \$15,000 (respectively), effective January 1, 2025 (the delayed effective date is necessary for the insurers to apply for and receive rate increases at the Department of Insurance).

A further increase to \$50,000, \$100,000 and \$25,000 (respectively), effective January 1, 2035. This increase will put California in the highest level of mandatory financial responsibility limits in the United States.



Renee Nordstrand

In return, there will be a new statutory structure

on pre-litigation time-limited demands. (The benefit of this to an insurance company is that they have more time to evaluate a claim and avoid allegations of bad faith, which may potentially increase their exposure). Under the proposed statute, pre-litigation time-limited demands must be clearly identified and remain open for 30 days from date of transmission, or 33 days if mailed. They will need to include the claim number, if known, date of loss and other basic information that largely reflects current practice. The amendments reflecting the agreement with the insurers will be made in the Assembly and will be contained in Senate Bill 1155 (Caballero).

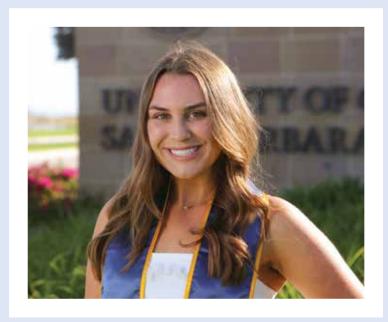
As consumers we are grateful to the CAOC legislative team for fighting for justice for all of us.

Renee J. Nordstrand is a partner at NordstrandBlack P.C. AV rated by Martindale Hubbell, Renee exclusively represents Plaintiffs throughout California in personal injury matters.

THE OTHER BAR NOTICE

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.





A Special Thank You to Assistant Editor, Jenna Gatto

Editing this magazine is an honor and could not be done without the hours of work that is put in by contributing writers, photographers, advertisers, our ever-patient graphic designer, Kathleen, and editors. This year, we had a shake-up with the departure of the amazing Lida, but were fortunate to have Marietta come in and fill that gap.

As this year's named Editor, I would be remiss if I failed to honor Jenna Gatto, our Assistant Editor. As she prepares to move to San Diego to start her 1L year at the University of San Diego, I say goodbye with the utmost gratitude for her organization and follow up.

She edited each article and draft of the magazine, starting with December's issue, at least twice. She has emailed countless authors and interviewed various individuals, all to be able to piece together each publication.

She did all of this with grace and a keen sense of humor and now she moves on, but I know that her wit and kind spirit will get her through whatever comes next for her. Thank you, Jenna, for all your help these last nine issues. We wish you all the best for your future endeavors as I am sure you will be a success in whatever you choose to do!

-Michelle E. Roberson, Editor



A Most Troubling Opinion: But Does It Have Significance for Capital Punishment?

By Robert M. Sanger

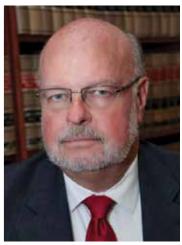
he last two *Criminal Justice* columns have dealt with the recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court, which have turned conservatism on its head in a rash of radical, result oriented decisions. Of course, the capper for the term was *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, decided June 24, 2022—a case that has been criticized roundly by academics, political writers and the majority of the public. A question now is, what remains of any semblance of jurisprudence in the Court?

In this month's column, perhaps oddly and unexpectedly, we will look at the *Dobbs* opinion and see if there is anything might be of interest in arguing that capital punishment should be found unconstitutional. In criminal cases, especially capital, the Court has all but eliminated meaningful review of innocence claims and has found that virtually all capital systems in the death states are procedurally constitutional. Cruel and unusual challenges under the Eighth Amendment have been routinely rejected. However, the *Dobbs* opinion, upholding Mississippi's Gestational Age Act, provides an argument that both the killing of a fetus and the killing of an adult have special status under the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Decision

The argument is not as simple as saying that the Court is opposed to abortion of a fetus so it must also be opposed to killing of adults. The *Dobbs* opinion is craftily written—bizarre as it is in some parts. It rejects the intent of legislature but embraces the opinions of people like Bracton writing in the Thirteenth Century when women were prosecuted as witches and Blackstone writing in the Eighteenth Century who perpetuated the term "rule of thumb" which stood for the width of a switch that could be used by a man to beat his wife.

The Court in *Dobbs* appeals to "the Nation's history and tradition" which leads to an analysis of the history of prosecutions of physicians for causing the death of a mother while attempting to perform an abortion. This, in turn leads to a pseudo history of "quickening" in archaic writings. This strange affinity with Bracton, Coke, Hale and Blackstone to support a Twenty-First Century medical and mor-



Robert M. Sanger

al analysis makes the Court look more like politicians than jurists.

The *Dobbs* opinion subjugates a woman's autonomy to the will of conservative politicians of the religious right (mostly men) elected by virtue of gerrymandering and voter suppression—both of which have been bolstered by this Court's recent actions—and those politicians are beholden to cynical capitalist economic coercion bolstered by the Court's prior decision in *Citizens United*.

Incredibly, the *Dobbs* decision does not even make accommodation for child victims of rape or incest. In addition, there are insidious references to further gutting Fourteenth Amendment jurisprudence where it has protected substantive rights. If *Dobbs* set back personal autonomy, privacy and women's rights fifty years, the Court is making references that could set back other rights to the 1920's.

But the opinion is clever. It does not come out and say what the majority justices have said in other contexts—it does not say abortion is morally wrong or *per se* illegal (even though it spends a lot of ink saying how it has been held to be illegal by the male commentators of centuries gone by). Instead, the opinion finally gets around to saying that the Constitution does not protect abortion as a liberty right. Ultimately, the holding is that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution does not prevent the legislators of each state from regulating or prohibiting abortion because abortion is not a right deeply rooted in our history and tradition and is not essential to the Nation's scheme of ordered liberty. Oddly, the Court mentions as a paradigm of such a right the Second Amendment "right to bear arms."

In other words, the Court did not immediately resort to an affirmative right to life argument. It took the negative approach to say that, historically, the law (as related by the old white men) made abortion a crime so, therefore,



Criminal Justice

abortion could not be a liberty right rooted in the history and tradition of the country (or England) in past centuries. The decision, through the first 30 pages of the slip opinion (to the end of section II B), was not based on pro-life arguments but, instead, on the history of not recognizing abortion as a right.

Dobbs and the Taking of Life

To that point in the Court's decision, there does not seem to be much support for the argument that, if it is illegal to kill a fetus, it should be illegal to kill an adult prisoner. However, starting in section II C, the Court could not resist getting into an argument with the *amici* and the dissenters who contended that there were a long line of cases on which *Roe* and *Casey* relied. Those cases include the right to interracial marriage, the right to marry in prison and the right to contraceptives. Subsequent cases, relying on the Fourteenth Amendment and *Roe* and *Casey*, also included the right to engage in private consensual sex and the right to same sex marriage.

In fact, despite the protest to the contrary, all of those cases are likely on the radar of this Court for potential overruling. If the Court does away with substantive Fourteenth Amendment protections, those decisions are in jeopardy. The Court suggest, as Justice Thomas did in the *Vaello Madero* concurrence, that these rights might be more properly addressed under the Privileges and Immunities Clause which would only pertain to citizens and which could be interpreted to include or exclude whatever rights the new majority of the justices wanted.

Nevertheless, the Court wanted to make the claim that these other rights are different so as to carve out abortion as a special case where liberty interests are not protected. To do this, the majority in *Dobbs* could not resist finally talking about the right to life:

What sharply distinguishes the abortion right from the rights recognized in the cases on which *Roe* and *Casey* rely is something that both those decisions acknowledged: Abortion destroys what those deci-

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sions call "potential life" and what the law at issue in this case regards as the life of an "unborn human being." . . . None of the other decisions cited by *Roe* and *Casey* involved the critical moral question posed by abortion. They are therefore inapposite.

The right to "potential life" of a fetus or the "unborn human being" is what is involved in the "critical moral question posed by abortion. This difference is what allows it to be carved out for Constitutional purposes from other rights that do not involve taking of "potential life" or life of an "unborn human being."

In this context, the bizarre discussions of "quickening" also take on a new significance. They seemed to be *dicta* attendant to the argument that abortion was not a protected liberty. However, in light of these new arguments in section II C, the discussions of quickening seem to be a backdrop to the argument that the right to life is a protected liberty that is deeply rooted in our history and tradition and is essential to the Nation's scheme of ordered liberty.

Tragically, this right to life is in conflict with what most people believe is the right of a woman over her own body. But the Court cannot have it both ways. If the taking of potential life or unborn life warrants special attention, then why would the taking of "actual life"—that of an adult prisoner—not also be eligible for special consideration? Note that this concern for life in *Dobbs* is expressed under the Fourteenth Amendment Due Process Clause, not under the Eight Amendment Cruel and Unusual Punishment Clause. Hence, this seems to create another argument under a different Amendment, to reject state killing of a prisoner.

Mutz, continued from page 13

letter and channel it to the intended recipient.

Keep in mind that the Legislature takes summer recess during most of July. They reconvene August 1 and August 31 is the last day to each house to pass bills. Bills that have passed both houses will be sent to the Governor's desk to be reviewed in September. Position letters can still be submitted at that phase, but should be addressed to the Governor, rather than Legislators. A Legislative Calendar can be found at https://www.assembly.ca.gov/legislativedeadlines.

Before joining Bamieh & De Smeth, Natalie worked as a litigation attorney with the law firm of Hager & Dowling. Natalie serves on the Board of Directors for the Santa Barbara Women Lawyers Association and Santa Barbara Women Lawyers Foundation.

Since Furman v. Georgia the Court has said, "death is different" under the Eighth Amendment. The Court is now acknowledging in Dobbs that death of a fetus, quickened or not, is different under the Fourteenth Amendment. The reasoning is parallel and, maybe, compelling. Dobbs says that the states can criminalize the killing of a fetus. The killing of a fetus can be prohibited (by criminalization of the acts of a doctor or those aiding and abetting) even if based on justification, such as where the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. In capital punishment, the argument is that killing of a prisoner should be prohibited (by criminalization of the acts of the executioner and those aiding and abetting) even if based on justification, such as where the executioner is following a judge's orders.

The potential life or life of an unborn child is protected by *Dobbs* whereas, once that child is 18 years of age, if capital punishment stands, that child can be executed by the government. It is not a coincidence that those who are chosen for death are generally poor and disproportionately of color and are suffering from mental disabilities. They are disproportionately the subjects of child abuse themselves and have been socially marginalized. These protected fetuses are thrown into a world to survive, wanted or not, and, if they falter, once they are 18, they can simply be killed off—well, maybe not if the rationale of *Dobbs* is followed.

Conclusion

Whether or not this argument will prevail, it is worth citing to the Court its own opinion claiming that the taking of life or potential life is of special consequence under the Fourteenth Amendment. We will, of course, continue to make the arguments under the Eighth Amendment and we will continue to press for legislative and voter-based abolition. However, the special status of human life as acknowledged by this Supreme Court should carry weight in the argument against the death penalty.

Robert Sanger is a Certified Criminal Law Specialist (Ca. State Bar Bd. Of Legal Specialization) and has been practicing as a litigation partner at Sanger Swysen & Dunkle in Santa Barbara for 48 years. Mr. Sanger is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). He is a Professor of Law and Forensic Science at the Santa Barbara College of Law. Mr. Sanger is an Associate Member of the Council of Forensic Science Educators (COFSE). He is Past President of California Attorneys for Criminal Justice (CACJ), the statewide criminal defense lawyers' organization.

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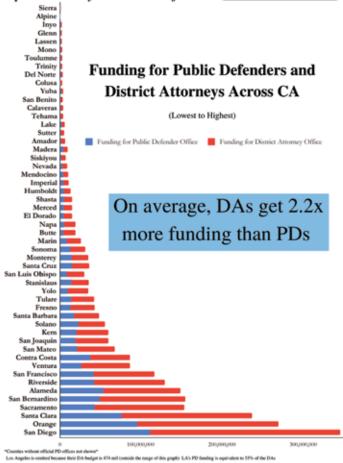


The Distribution of Funding Between Public Defenders and District Attorneys - A Statistical Analysis -

Sean Ignatuk - UC Santa Barbara

Public Defender offices (PDs) are paid much less than District Attorney offices

"Nationwide, as many as 82% of felony cases are represented by a Public Defender" (Bureau of Justice Statistics)



Research Method

- Run a multivariate regression on the distribution of funding between the PD/DA and demographic variables of the county using publicly available data.
- Variables include: income, education, incarceration rates, partisanship, population density, age, and voter turnout.

■ ince the 1963 US Supreme Court case Gideon v Wainwright, Americans charged with a criminal offense have been guaranteed the right to counsel in the form of a Public Defender. But across the country, Public Defender offices have had reports of underfunding and low resources relative to their criminal justice counterparts in the offices of the District Attorney. The current legal



Sean Ignatuk

landscape has not met the spirit of the promise of *Gideon v Wainwright*. This statistical analysis sought to explore how the systemic differences in funding between PDs and DAs manifest in California. Included in that is whether counties with a higher indigent population rate (i.e. counties that need the Public Defender more), receive more funding proportionate to counties with a lower indigent population rate. By comparing the funding differences between Public Defenders and District Attorneys in California with demographic information on each county, this study concludes that, proportionately, PD offices in counties with a higher rate of indigents aren't given any more support than PDs in counties with a lower rate of indigents. In other words, the funding for indigent defense seems not to consider who is indigent.

This study is by no means comprehensive or dispositive, and given the complexity of county funding schemes, there are many dimensions through which one can view this issue. My hope is that this study might quantify and shed some light for those who are not familiar with this systemic Public Defense issue. Further research into this topic is absolutely necessary. A longitudinal study or a more comprehensive audit of cross-county funding, including research into the specifics of how DA and PD funds are utilized, could illuminate certain facets of this issue previously unknown to us.

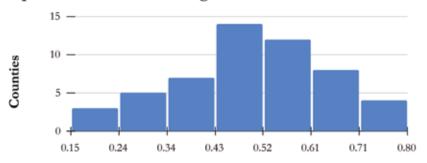
Sean Ignatuk is an undergraduate student studying Political Science at UC Santa Barbara. He is currently interning at the Orange County Public Defender office and has previously interned at the California Department of Justice. At UCSB, he is involved in several pre-law organizations including Mock Trial and Moot Court.



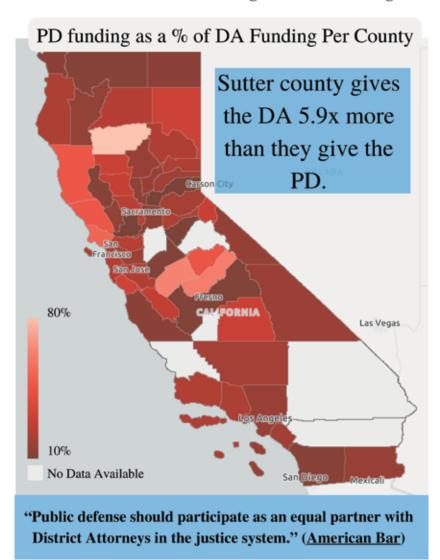
Hypothesis

 Counties with a higher average income more fairly distribute funds between their Public Defender and District Attorney offices compared to counties with a lower average income.

Equitable PD & DA Funding Across California Counties

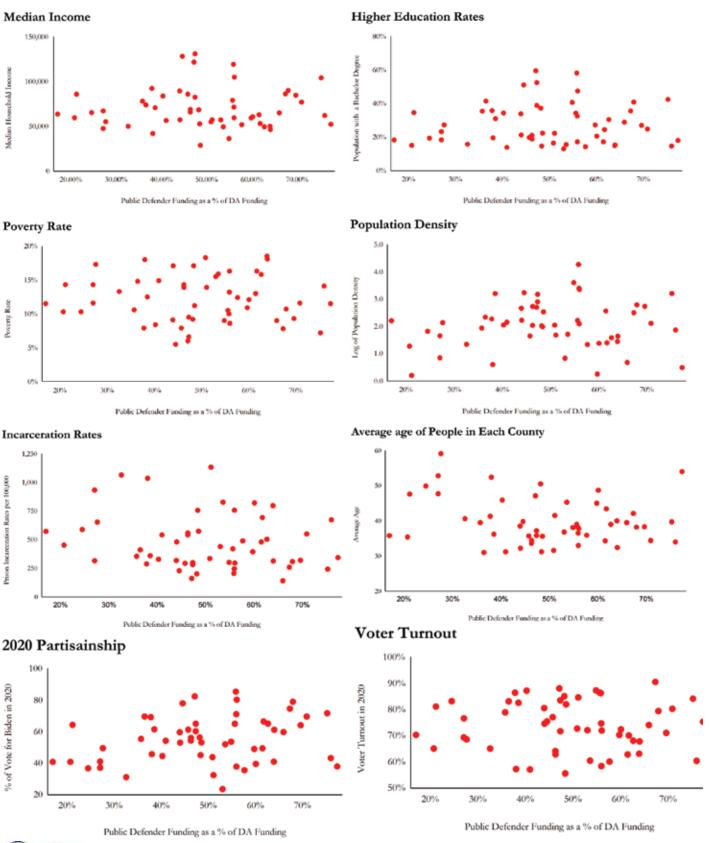


Public Defender Funding as a % of DA Funding

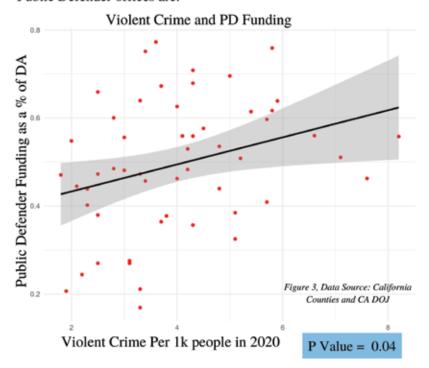




Most variables did not have a statistically significant correlative effect on the distribution of funds between county PD and DA offices.



Income, poverty, partisanship, age, population density, education and voter turn-out have no significant bearing on how equatably funded Public Defender offices are.



Results

- The primary hypothesis of an income based correlation was not established.
- Violent crime rates had a slight statistical significance, indicating that for every one increase in occurrences of violent crime, proportionate PD funding increases by .3%
- PD offices in counties with a higher indigent population aren't given any
 more support than PDs of low indigent counties (i.e. the funding for
 indigent defense seems not to consider who is indigent).

"The jurisdictions that are often most in need of indigent defense services are the ones that are least likely to be able to afford it." (PrisonPolicy.org)

Implications

- Funding differences without rhyme or reason suggest a lack of thought for one's right to an attorney and a societal prioritization of prosecution over defense.
- the distribution of county funds needs to be rethought so as to ensure an
 equitable justice system.

"Local governments shoulder the entire burden of providing trial-level public attorneys to the poor." (Sixth Amendment Center)



Motions

As a financial planner and investment advisor for more than 15 years, **Kimberly Malesky** noticed the same pattern among new clients seeking advice after going through a divorce: They came to her too late.

So Malesky launched **Ezharmony Divorce Solutions**. Based in Montecito, the company offers tailored financial advice to individuals and couples contemplating divorce or in the midst of a divorce. Her goal is to guide and support her clients through the divorce process, ensuring they understand the financial and emotional implications of their decisions, avoid common money mistakes, and reach a fair divorce settlement.

Malesky is a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst, a trained mediator, and a collaborative divorce professional. She works both as a financial advocate for individuals going through a divorce, and as a financially neutral advisor to couples needing help dividing their assets and liabilities. Her services include guiding clients on their options for reaching a settlement—whether that's through managing the divorce themselves, with the assistance of a third-party mediator, with the help of a legal and financial team, or through litigation. She supports them through the entire process.

"Divorce is one of the toughest, most stressful experiences that a person can go through. While many factors play a role in that stress, concerns about money and fear of making financial mistakes are often the biggest worry and can lead people to delay or stall the process." Malesky said. "Other couples rush to secure a divorce, only to realize their final settlement locks them into a difficult financial position," she added.



Kimberly Malesky

Some of the common mistakes Malesky sees people make is underestimating what their spending will be post-divorce, expecting their attorney to act as a financial advisor, and allowing emotions to influence their decisions. Malesky prides herself on offering her clients level-headed financial and emotional guidance to ensure they get the support they deserve.

"Save yourself the headache and the financial burden of not doing it right from the beginning," Malesky tells her clients. "Outsourcing the financials to an expert allows you to untangle your finances with confidence, enabling you to spend more time with your family, children, friends and writing a new life chapter for yourself."

* * *



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Santa Barbara Lawyer asks "What Did You Do on Your Summer Vacation?"

In its October issue, *Santa Barbara Lawyer* will publish photos and short descriptions of SBCBA members' summer vacation travels.

Please submit one or two photos along with a short description about your vacation by September 5th to:

Michelle Roberson at michelle@sierrapropsb.com.

Staycation photos are welcome, too!



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Articles should be 700 to 3,500 words in length.

Articles should be submitted in Word format, including a short biography of the author. A high resolution photo of the author is desired.

Please submit articles by the 8th of the month for publication in the following month's issue. The editorial board of *Santa Barbara Lawyer* reserves the right to edit for accurateness and clarity, or reject any submission if it does not meet magazine guidelines.

Please submit articles to Michelle Roberson at michelle@sierrapropsb.com.



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21	22	23	24	25	26 National Dog Day	27
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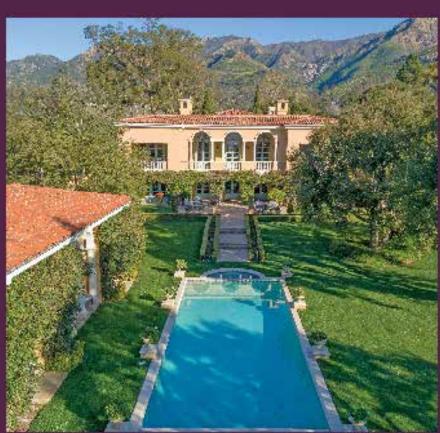
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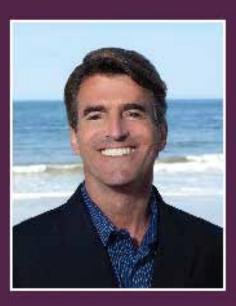
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