

The **BARRISTERS BULLETIN** of the South Bay Bar Association

May 2002

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VOLUME 28 NUMBER 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The South Bay Bar Association is proud to announce that it is once again sponsoring the "Ask A Lawyer" program in celebration of Law Day. This event will take place at the Torrance Courthouse on Thursday, May 9, 2002 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our members have participated in this program for years helping make the annual program a success. We are hoping with your help as volunteers this year it will be an even bigger success. Remember, this is one of the few chances you have, as an attorney, to get involved in community service. If you are interested in participating in our community outreach program, please contact our Executive Director, Melissa Rivera (310) 543-9773 to sign up and receive more information.

In addition to hosting our annual "Ask A Lawyer" program we are also teaming up with the Inns of Court and participating in "Dialogue on Freedom," a new program that engages high school students in discussion about American traditions and values. Members of the bench and bar will act as dialogue leaders using hypothetical situations to stimulate discussion among students. The program was conceived and outlined by United States Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy after September 11. We are looking for volunteers who are interested in participating in this program. It is currently scheduled for late May at local high schools. Again, please contact the office if this sounds like a program you would like to be involved in. If you would like more information about this program go to www.dialogueonfreedom.org.

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Report from the Los Angeles County Bench & Bar Committee New Jury Procedures - New Problems For Lawyers?

On April 23, 2002 the LA Bench & Bar Committee held its first meeting of 2002. LA Superior Court Presiding Judge James Bascue and Assistant Presiding Judge Robert Dukes discussed the Superior Court's major project for 2002, the "One Jury" system, now operational in all Los Angeles County Courthouses.

Under the "One Jury" system, jurors are summoned to the individual county courthouses and, if selected for a trial, serve the length of that trial only and are thereafter excused. Jurors not selected for a trial by the end of the day are excused, having been in the courthouse for only the one day.

Prior to the "One Jury" system LA County summoned 7,000 jurors per week to the various county courthouses. Recall that jurors were "on the hook for up to 10 days" under the previous plan. The "One Jury" plan requires that over 10,000 jurors be summoned per day. The strain of the additional jurors is apparently stressing many courthouse facilities.

As additional background, historically in LA County only 20-25% of juror summons are responded to by recipients and, of those responding, 60-70% requested hardship waivers for a variety of reasons.

It is a goal of the Judges that under the "One Jury" process the response rate will increase to 40% and the number of hardship waivers granted will be reduced to zero. The Court presently has a "no hardship, no waiver" policy and an "everyone has to serve" philosophy. People not responding to a second summons will have Orders to Show Cause issued and served on

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IMPORTANT NOTICE!

This Could Be Your Last Barristers Bulletin!!!

If you have not renewed your membership to the SBBA by **May 31, 2002**, your name will be taken off the mailing list and you will not receive any further notices, mailings, or membership benefits.

You also will **not** be listed in the 2002-2003 Membership Directory. If you have misplaced your renewal application and/or need an application, please call us at (310) 543-9773 now and one will be faxed to you. Or, you may download the application from our website .

**SOUTH BAY BAR ASSOCIATION
of Los Angeles County, Inc.
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2002 SECTIONS & CHAIRS

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<p><i>Editor</i> James M. Hallett <i>Co-Editor</i> Susan E. Hargrove <i>Managing Editor</i> Melissa Rivera <i>Publisher</i> George Haddad, INET Graphics</p>
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Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are not necessarily those of the SBBA, its officers, directors, or members.

The South Bay Bar Association Barristers Bulletin is published monthly, except February and August. Articles on topics of interest and letters from readers are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Submitted materials will be subject to editing and approval of content, with final approval for form and content to be under the authority of the Editorial Staff.

Articles, announcements and advertising copy are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please submit your contribution to: South Bay Bar Association, 3465 Torrance Blvd., Suite C, Torrance, CA 90503, Tel. (310) 543-9773, Fax (310) 543-3273, E-mail: dir4sbba@aol.com

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SOUTH BAY BAR ASSOCIATION

"Ask A Lawyer" Program

Date: Thursday, May 9, 2002
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Place: Torrance Courthouse
First Floor Common Area
825 Maple Avenue, Torrance

If you would like to volunteer and are available on May 9, 2002, please contact the SBBA office and sign up today (310) 543-9773.

**Criminal Law Section Luncheon
1 Hour MCLE credit**

Date: Thursday, June 6, 2002
Time: 12:00 noon
Place: Torrance Marriott, 3635 Fashion Way, Torrance

Speaker: Maria E. Stratton, Esq., Federal Public Defender, Central District of California
Topic: "Basic Federal Criminal Practice and Procedure" – Come Ask Your Questions About Federal & Criminal Law

Price: Members & Judges - \$25.00 Prepaid
\$28.00 at the door, Non-members - \$30.00 Prepaid, \$33.00 at the door
****Non-member attorneys - \$50.00 Prepaid & at the door**

**Family Law Section Luncheon
1 hour Law Practice Management
MCLE Credit**

Date: Monday, June 17, 2002,
Time: 12:00 noon
Place: Torrance Marriott,
3635 Fashion Way, Torrance
Speaker: Hon. Aviva Bobb, Supervising Judge,
Family Law Department of The Los Angeles County Superior Court
Price: Members & Judges - \$25.00 Prepaid,
\$28.00 at the door, Non-members - \$30.00 Prepaid, \$33.00 at the door
****Non-member attorneys - \$50.00 Prepaid & at the door**

For Reservations for all SBBA meetings –
Call SBBA at (310) 543-9773

Be sure to check out our website for
up-to-date information on upcoming events!
www.SouthBayBar.org

**KIWANIS Club Of
Torrance Scholarship
Luncheon
MAY 21, 2002 NOON
Torrance Marriott Hotel**

In memory of the Honorable Benjamin Aranda III, Judge, the Torrance Kiwanis Club will be awarding their annual scholarships to four graduating seniors from Torrance High, South High, North High, and West High. Everyone is invited to attend and support the students. Lunch will be \$25.00. For reservation, please call Mickey Friedman, 540-7774.

****NOTE**
Attorneys who are not SBBA members will be charged \$50.00 to attend luncheons that provide MCLE credit.

IMPORTANT — SBBA EVENT POLICIES

Discounts. The SBBA offers a discount for any person who reserves and pays for an event at least 5 days in advance of the event. Payment can be made by mailing or delivering a check to the SBBA at 3465 Torrance Blvd., Suite C, Torrance, CA 90503, or charging it on a Visa or Master Card by calling (310) 543-9773. In order to receive a discount, payment must be actually received by the SBBA at least 5 business days before the date of the event.

Reservations. Please reserve for events as early as possible. In the event there is not adequate seating at an event, those persons who have reserved and paid for their reservations 3 days or more in advance will be given priority as to seating. Others will be seated to the extent they can be accommodated. Your early R.S.V.P. and pre-paid reservation will enable the SBBA to ensure that there is adequate seating at its events enable it to avoid being charged for guarantees which are not met.

Cancellation. If the SBBA offices does not receive an adequate number of R.S.V.P.s at least 5 days prior to any event, the event will be canceled without further notice. Anyone who has reserved will be contacted.

Refunds. A full refund will be given if the SBBA cancels an event or if a reservation is cancelled more than 3 business days prior to an event. Otherwise, amounts paid will not be refunded.

BRIEFS BY BLOODGOOD

**COURT APPOINTED LAWYERS
IN HIGH PROFILE CASE GET
CURIOUS TREATMENT:**

There is a problem brewing in the San Diego Courthouse which may become a scandal!!!

Facts: Defendant WESTERFIELD is charged with kidnapping and murder of the VAN DAM child. He has had an Attorney Defense Team of two Lawyers, BOYCE and FELDMAN. He ran out of cash money after he deeded his expensive (\$485,000) home to his two lawyers.

Then, his two lawyers moved the Court in a "Sealed" and redacted file for a "JOHN DOE" asking that the lawyers be paid by the County "in a serious felony case". An estimate is "six figures" (\$100,000 to \$999,999).

The Trial Court denied the Motion. It was appealed up to the 4th DCA which overruled the Trial Court saying that Private Attorneys should remain on a case at public expense when a Defendant runs out of money stating a "well-settled rule" that a Defendant should have the Attorney of his choice if based on "trust and confidence developed over a substantial period of time."

Comment: The problem is the charade of two separate Court files: One with a gag-order and one completely sealed!

The San Diego newspaper has done the investigation which indicates that WESTERFIELD is "JOHN DOE".

Trial is scheduled for 5-17-2002.

**US SUPREME COURT STRIKES
DOWN CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
LAW:**

Facts: In 1996 Congress passed the Child Pornography Protection Act to stop child sex abuse on the Internet!

The creators of child sex on the Internet used "virtual" (digital created) pictures, not actual children.

The Fed Justice Department prosecuted under the Act.

An adult business group called the "Free Speech Coalition" sued to invali-

date the Act, claiming a violation of the First Amendment guarantee of Freedom of Speech.

Held: 6-3 Decision by Justice KENNEDY: There was no crime and no victim in the computer images! "The statute prohibits the visual depiction of an idea-that of teen-agers engaging in sexual activity-that is a fact of modern society and has been a theme in art and literature throughout the ages".

KENNEDY: "The law was unconstitutionally broad, so far-reaching as to have the potential to "chill expression" with clear artistic and literary merit... SHAKESPEARE'S JULIET was only 13 years old (in Romeo and Juliet)".

FREE SPEECH COALITION v _____, ____ US _____, 4-16-02

**ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT NOT
ENTITLED TO SAME RIGHTS
SAYS US SUPREME COURT:**

Facts: One CASTRO, a Mexican citizen, sneaked across the border, got a job at a local plastics plant by lying about his identity using a friend's ID, then tried to unionize workers, and was fired. He sued the employer for \$67,000 "back pay" per the NLRB rules. Employer took the case up to the US Supreme Court.

Held: 5-4 Decision by REHNQUIST: Illegal immigrant does not have the same rights as US Citizens. CASTRO gets nothing.

Dissent by BREYER, SOUTER and GINSBERG.

CASTRO v HOFFMAN PLASTICS, _____ US _____, 3-27-02

**CRIM LAW - PUBLIC HOUSING
FAMILY EVICTED FOR ONE
MEMBER USING MARIJUANA
AWAY FROM RESIDENCE SAYS
US SUPREME COURT:**

Facts: Young child of Public Housing family used marijuana away from home by several blocks.

Held: The **whole family can be evicted** says US Supreme Court. REHNQUIST Decision

(_____ v _____) _____ US _____, 3-26-02

**CRIM LAW-PRO PER
CONGRESSMAN CONVICTED
ON 10 FELONY COUNTS:**

Maverick Ohio Congressman TRAFICANT was found Guilty of ten felony counts of bribery, etc by a jury. He did not have an Attorney although he could afford one!

Before the Trial he boasted on TV that he would be found Not Guilty, and, that the Prosecutors and Witnesses would all go to prison!!!

The Trial Judge had urged him to get an experienced Trial Lawyer. The Trial was a travesty.

He could spend the rest of his life in prison because he faces 63 years!!!

He says that he will appeal in pro per! He just doesn't get it.

Comment: What does Society do with such people who have a "quirk" and "go down in flames"? Is it Justice? I don't think so...

Note that the Prosecution "over-charged" with ten overlapping charges.

The Judge could have appointed an "Associate Counsel" and explained it to the Jury and charged TRAFICANT with "Court Costs" for the Attorney's fees.

The Judge also could have ordered a mental competency exam to see if TRAFICANT could stand Trial.

News item, 4-12-02

**MORE MAXIMS OF
JURISPRUDENCE:**

Here are three more of the superb Maxims of Jurisprudence:

CCC 3518. FRAUDULENT CONVEYANCES:

He who has fraudulently dispossessed himself of a thing may be treated as if he still had possession.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

TORRANCE

COURTROOM/CALENDAR ASSIGNMENTS

REVISED - APRIL 2, 2002

DEPT./ DIV.	PHONE NUMBER	JUDICIAL OFFICER	CLERK	ASSISTANT	CALENDAR
FIRST FLOOR					
H	222-6826	John A. Slawson	Lynn Robinson	Judy Edwards	Family Law
SECOND FLOOR					
2	222-6538	Jesse I. Rodriguez	Shirley L-Ponce	Bernice Guzman	Hermosa Beach, Lomita, Lennox, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates Misdemeanor Trials
3	222-6531	Laura C. Ellison	Alicia Brandes	Rebecca Franco	Felony Preliminary Hearings; Misdemeanor Custody Arraignments
4	222-6544	Thomas R. Sokolov	Caren Cole	Susan Delgado	Felony Arraignments and EDP
5	222-6541	Sandra Thompson	Linda Green	Denise Bartholomew	Redondo Beach Misdemeanor Trials
THIRD FLOOR					
A	222-8872	James M. Ideman	Frances Dion	—————	Long-Cause Trials and Small Claims Appeals
B	222-8828	Jean E. Matusinka	Deborah Luna	Monica Lim	Unlimited Civil Cases 01-08, 49-56 and 97
C	222-8832	William R. Hollingsworth	Robert Fitting	Gina Zucco	Felony Trials - Case Numbers ending with 1 and 5
D	222-8836	Bob T. Hight	Elma Oda	Deborah Beckles	Unlimited Civil Cases 09-16, 57-64 and all 170's and Recusals
FOURTH FLOOR					
E	222-8871	Cary H. Nishimoto	Heather Howell	Marie Pilarca- Loretto	Unlimited Civil Cases 17-24, 65-72 and all 170's and Recusals
6	222-8841	Dudley W. Gray II	Darrin Oura	Sabrina Thomas	CHP (South Los Angeles), El Camino College, Gardena, Lawndale, Manhattan Beach Misdemeanor Trials
G	222-8849	Mark S. Arnold	Marcia Bouchelion	Nancy Shimane	Felony Trials - Case Numbers ending with 2 and 6
1	222-8851	Deanne Smith Myers	Shelia Bray	Maria Ronquillo	Limited Jurisdiction Civil, UD, Probate
DEPT./ DIV.	PHONE NUMBER	JUDICIAL OFFICER	CLERK	ASSISTANT	CALENDAR
FIFTH FLOOR					
J	222-8855	Glenda Veasey	Beatriz Pelayo- Garcia	Kimberly Smith	Family Law
F	222-8861	Francis J. Hourigan	Marilynn Holcomb	Nancy Shimane	Felony Trials - Case Numbers ending with 3 and 9
L	222-8868	Andrew C. Kauffman	Ruth Gilliland	Gina Zucco	Felony Trials - Case Numbers ending with 4 and 8
P	222-3858	Bradley Fox	Michelle Milligan	Cristela Jurbina	Torrance Misdemeanor Trials

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

TORRANCE

COURTROOM/CALENDAR ASSIGNMENTS

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COURT ANNEX, 3221 TORRANCE BLVD., TORRANCE					
7	222-6551	Mark H. McGee	Debbie Tillman	_____	Traffic Infractions
8	222-1759	Douglas G. Carnahan	Gipsy Baladad	_____	Small Claims
JUV	222-8879	Nancy Daniels	Lydia Colcol	_____	Juvenile Informal and Traffic Court
BEACH CITIES BRANCH, 117 W. TORRANCE BLVD., (UPPER LEVEL - PIER PLAZA), REDONDO BEACH					
9	798-6887	Ramona G. See	Maria Arreola	Loreen Gustafson	Unlimited Civil Cases 33-40, 81-88 and 99
M	798-6896	Lois A. Smaltz	Kerry Padilla	Tess Sangalang	Unlimited Civil Cases 25-32, 73-80 and 98
11	318-8710	William G. Willett	Amy Eubanks	Scott Kinoshita	Unlimited Civil Cases 41-48, 89-96 and 00

FOR CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT SANDY TURNER AT 222-6501.

TORT TACTICS

Unprecedented Air Bag Victim

by Lawrence R. Booth of Booth & Koskoff

Air bags have been responsible for killing hundreds of people, often in low speed accidents, and usually children and small statured women. A recent television news show dealt with another kind of victim. The victim may be the husband of the woman allegedly killed by an air bag. Some people, including the family of his deceased wife, think he's a murderer. The most notorious product which kills hundreds of thousands of people each year is the cigarette, and the cigarette has among its victims people who don't smoke and who are injured or even killed by the effects of secondary smoke. The husband of the woman apparently killed by an air bag may very well be in the same situation as those who are injured by secondary smoke.

Facts of the Accident

The facts given to the police by the husband were that his wife was driving the automobile on a dark snowy night when it skidded off the road into a utility pole. The air bags deployed killing her and knocking him unconscious. She would not have been the first woman killed by an air bag. Air bags deploy at 200 miles an hour. Often, the public as-

sumes that the air bags are nice billowy, fluffy pillows which surround the driver or passenger and protect him or her from any objects inside the vehicle. This notion is created by television commercials put out by the automobile industry which show seemingly real but, in fact, cleverly created deployment of air bags which are ejected slowly, billowy and comfortably. In fact, when an air bag deploys, it deploys like a rocket, and it is the equivalent of firing a shotgun into someone's face at close range. If it hits an adult male in the chest, it may not cause any injuries. If it hits a child or a short-statured woman in the head, it may very well cause brain injury or death. The local coroner who examined the body found some suspicious injuries in the neck area, which he concluded may be consistent with someone being strangled. As he is required to do, he reported this to the police. The police turned it over to the prosecutor who ultimately declined not to prosecute since the evidence was clearly insufficient. In the meantime, all of this created tremendous suspicion in the minds of the deceased wife's parents who got the idea that the husband, a dentist, may have been a murderer and that somehow he

staged the whole thing. Complicating this whole picture is the fact that the bitterness between them resulted in a custody and visitation fight over the right to visit their female grandchild, who was the embodiment of their lost daughter.

During a television broadcast, the reporter asked the grandfather to explain how a person sitting in the passenger seat could propel an automobile into a tree, and he said, without any detailed explanation, that he believed that somehow it could be done. What was not asked and should have been is how anyone could do that at enough speed to hit a tree with enough force to deploy the air bags, and the big question is how does anyone who isn't terribly familiar with the technology know how much impact is required for the air bags to deploy. If we assume that the husband is indeed a murderer and the air bags did not deploy, then he would be sitting there in a possibly disabled vehicle with his wife, whom he had just strangled. Air bags, contrary to popular belief, do not deploy upon impact but deploy when there is sufficient change in speed of the vehicle. The change of speed varies with different automobiles. In fact, the centerpiece of most air bag litigation

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Unprecedented Air Bag Victim

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has to do with plaintiffs complaining that the air bags deploy at too low a speed and that people have been injured or killed by air bags in what amounts to parking lot accidents. As a result, the speed threshold for air bag deployment has changed and varies tremendously from one manufacturer to another so that it would be extremely difficult for anyone to know for sure that he could somehow manipulate a car into a tree from the passenger side and have the air bags deploy. Furthermore, he would have to know that indeed air bags kill people, particularly adults. If you look at the sun visor warnings, which are now required on all automobiles, it warns about injuries or death to children under 12 years of age but it doesn't say a word about small statured women.

The Lawsuit

The husband brought a wrongful death case against the manufacturer of the automobile claiming that it was defectively designed with respect to the air bags and that the air bags killed his wife. The automobile manufacturer employed a number of experts, including an extremely well known and somewhat arguably notorious expert on the question of cause of death. This physician was of the opinion that the death was not due to the air bag but was due to strangulation at the hands of another, supported in part by the opinion of the local coroner who thought that the damage to the neck area was consistent with strangulation. For unknown reasons, the attorneys representing the plaintiff in the wrongful death case dropped the case, and the automobile manufacturer got off the hook. The local prosecutor refused to prosecute the husband, but the family of the deceased wife has now sued him for wrongful death.

They emphasize the fact that the wife's life insurance was increased substantially shortly prior to her death, which the husband explains by pointing out they had just purchased a new home and, therefore, had larger obligations. In addition, there is some discussion about whether the husband had a girlfriend, because 17 months after the wife's death, he remarried. However, he passed two lie detector tests.

Experts

This unfortunate case brings into focus the whole problem of expert witnesses. As everyone knows, in complex litigation, including automobile litigation, there are regular cadres of experts hired by each side who have wildly divergent opinions on such things as cause of death, reconstruction of accidents, air bag technology, warnings, statistics, and a host of other subjects. Usually juries are able, in a lengthy and professionally presented trial, to sort out the wheat from the chaff and come to conclusions that somehow represent a middle ground between the extremes presented by the experts on each side. In the case involving the dentist, that opportunity never arose because the wrongful death case against the automobile manufacturer was dropped.

Fortunately, the network with its resources presented the case to a panel of truly independent experts, including one who was conducting air bag injury research for the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA). It was his conclusion that there was no evidence that the woman was strangled and that the injuries to her neck, although they might seem consistent with strangulation to someone who has not seen a lot of air bag cases, are frequently found in air bag injuries. In

other words, it seems that the local coroner, like most doctors, had not seen air bag injury cases and really had nothing to compare the findings in this case with other similar injuries. On the other hand, the independent researcher had plenty of data, and it was his conclusion that these kinds of injuries happen all the time.

Unhappy Conclusion

The net result of these series of events is that many people watching the nationally broadcast news program will believe that the dentist is a murderer, and one can only assume that this has had a disastrous effect on his personal and professional life. Understandably, the parents of the deceased wife and the grandparents of the child apparently also believe that he is a murderer and are fighting tooth and nail to protect their grandchild and even to bring him to justice by reason of their own wrongful death action. If we assume, for the sake of discussion, that the expert hired by the automobile manufacturer has, for whatever reason, given an opinion which is inconsistent with the research in the field as represented by the independent researcher, then there truly has been a horrible miscarriage of justice. While the automobile manufacturer has a perfect right to defend itself and may very well believe that the testimony from their expert is consistent with the truth, if it is not, then it has not only derailed a meritorious wrongful death case but, more importantly, has ruined the husband's life. The lesson to be learned from all of this is that litigants have a moral responsibility to not only produce expert testimony which will help their side of the case but testimony which is a real search for justice. In my opinion, that did not happen here.



BRIEFS BY BLOODGOOD

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CCC 3519. PRESUMPTIVE AGENCY:

He who can and does not forbid that which is done on his behalf, is deemed to have bidden it.

CCC 3520. SUFFERING FROM ACT OF ANOTHER:

No one should suffer by the act of another.

TIP: Remember to read the Annotations and to use these Maxims for your Briefs and Arguments.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION:

There is one single-volume on the Civil War which is "pure gold". It is: "BATTLECRY OF FREEDOM" by JAMES McPHERSON of Princeton. You will recall McPHERSON as the man working to save the Historical Sites from the Civil War.

The book is so great because in simple, lucid language it handles the causes of the War; All the battles; The players: both Presidents LINCOLN and DAVIS and the Generals on both sides; What was going on with civilians and spies; and many dramatic and ironic incidents.

LINCOLN, the odd-ball mis-fit, elected in a fluke, became our greatest President because he saved the Union. Then, he lived only a couple of days to relish it.

This History reads like a novel.

You intellectuals and American History buffs will want this superb book in a special place in your home or office.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Telephone comments to GENE BLOODGOOD at (310) 316-1501.



President's Message

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I am very excited to announce that the South Bay Women Lawyers have decided to merge with the South Bay Bar Association, and have created their own subsection. The South Bay Women Lawyers will continue to host their traditional programs such as the Annual Judges' Night, Christmas party, brown bag lunches and charity drives. We are planning a welcoming reception sometime in late May early June, keep your eyes open for the official date.

At the present time the South Bay Women Lawyers meet on the last Wednesday of the month at the Bull Pen for drinks and appetizers. Please join us!

Don't forget to mark these dates on your calendar:

"Ask A Lawyer" Program- May 9, 2002 at the Torrance Courthouse, First Floor Common Area. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Criminal Law Luncheon- June 6, 2002 at the Torrance Marriott. Maria E. Stratton, Esq., Federal Public Defender, Central District of California will be our guest speaker. 1 hour MCLE credit.

Family Law Luncheon – June 17, 2002 at the Torrance Marriott. Hon. Aviva Bobb, Supervising Judge, Family Law Departments of the Los Angeles Superior Court will be our guest speaker. 1 hour Law Practice Management MCLE credit.

Until next time.....

Susan E. Hargrove



Mystery Photo



"Can you identify this distinguished attorney?"

Actually, she's grown up a little since this picture was taken but she sure was a cutie, wasn't she? If you think you can identify her – call Melissa at SBBA, (310) 543-9773, with your answer (or guess). If you are the first caller and you are correct, you will be "officially" recognized as the smart person that you are in the next Barristers Bulletin.

Last month's Mystery Photo was recognized by many of you as *Taylor, Marlene* and *Phillip Daigneault*, however, the "winner" (the first person to call with the right answer) was our own **Gene Bloodgood**. We think the mischievous look on Taylor's face was the giveaway. Great job Gene and thanks to all for calling.

If you have a "Mystery Photo" you would like to submit – send it Jim Hallett or to Melissa at SBBA.

New Jury Procedures - New Problems For Lawyers?

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them, can be fined up to \$1,500 for each failure to appear, and will still be required to serve.

The Judges related several anecdotal stories of disgruntled and angry jurors who were accustomed to being granted waivers and who were now being required to serve, including judges, doctors, dentists, bishops, and yes, even lawyers.

The court is encouraging small professional offices with 10 or less employees to select a day when all their employees can be summoned to the respective courthouses to serve for that one day. Thus, the office closes for only a single day, theoretically saving time and money in the long run.

And now the point of all this for trial lawyers: the Judges believe that the now larger pool of jurors must be utilized much more efficiently than in the past. The jurors are available for less time and have more immediate expectations. To accomplish greater efficiency, the presiding judges believe that individual trial court judges must exercise more supervision and control over the trial process. To this end the court

will issue "Policies and Guidelines" to increase the efficiency of the trial process and thereby the more efficient use of jurors.

While no specific policies or guidelines have been issued to date, there is discussion of further limiting or streamlining the voir dire process, handling all motions and pre-trial matters the day before the trial is calendared to begin, beginning trials at 9:00 am exactly, and moving the motion calendar to the late afternoon.

The Judges stressed that all changes would be discussed with the various bar associations and attorney organizations, and we will keep you up to date in this Bulletin.

I hesitate to ask for your comments and concerns at this time since you now have as much information as we do. But, if you wish to express an opinion call me at 323/526-6201 or by e-mail at rdaniel@counsel.co.la.ca.us.

More later.

Roy Daniel



Got An Interesting Article or Announcement?

We'd Really Like to Hear About It!

If you have any articles or special announcements on topics which might be of interest to our readers, please send them to us. Articles and/or announcements submitted will be published as space allows and will be subject to editing and approval of content, with final approval for form and content to be under the authority of the Editorial Staff. Articles, announcements and advertising copy are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please submit your contribution (in electronic form if possible) to:

Melissa Rivera, Executive Director
South Bay Bar Association
3465 Torrance Blvd., Suite C, Torrance, CA 90503,
Tel. (310) 543-9773, Fax (310) 543-3273,
Email: Dir4SBBA@aol.com

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

The South Bay Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service has added a new specialty section to the LRS, an Alternative Dispute Resolution panel. If you are interested in this new specialty panel, please contact Nicole Watson the LRS Administrator at (310) 543-8777. We hope that this addition will help respond to the needs of the public. If you are not a member of the LRS and would like to join, please contact Nicole.

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