

NON-SEQUITUR

The Publication of
Stanislaus County Bar Association
<http://www.stanbar.org>

January 2018
Volume No. 1

President's Message

By Michael R. Dennis



Well, Stanislaus County, you've gone and done it. You've elected (anointed) me your President. Some will cry, "Fools!" but others shall shout, "Genius!" History, (not my wife), shall decide. I believe that I'm the 4th attorney from Crabtree Schmidt to hold the title, so there's a legacy at stake during my reign.

People often ask me, "Why should I join the SCBA? I can just get my MCLE credits online." To answer that question, as above, let's let history decide. Last year alone, members could've attended Law Day, and heard California Supreme Court Justice Leandra Kruger discuss the 14th Amendment. Members could've attended the Bench-Bar Dinner, and listened to Sherman Kishi, a local Japanese Internment Camp survivor, share his haunting, firsthand experience. Then, there was the Golf Tournament where scholarship money was raised for local students. This was all on top of such events like the evening welcoming new attorney's to our fold. Then, one had the opportunity to learn from former and current members of our local Bench who taught classes during MCLE lunch programs. At these functions, one had no choice but to meet fellow attorneys practicing in every legal arena and at all levels of experience.

One can only learn so much from taking a class on the internet taught by somebody you'll never know who works in a city you will never see. There is nothing like meeting and talking to real people from your own legal community. These people have tackled every legal issue and dealt with every sticky courtroom situation. These people are the ones you'll need favors from when you screw up, and who will take you out for drinks when you triumph. They'll be your opposing counsel on Monday, your co-counsel on Tuesday, and your mediator on Wednesday. The knowledge to be gained from being a member of the SCBA is immeasurable. Additionally, sometimes it's just plain fun. Sure, being a member of some civic organization might offer a better opportunity to gain clients. But, being a member of SCBA will allow you to better serve those clients. Your client might need your help drafting a contract today, but what do you do when they need a family law attorney tomorrow?

If you're reading this, then you know that the best and brightest attorneys in California are all practicing right here in Stanislaus County. Our local branch of the American Inns of Court has repeatedly stomped Stockton's team in Legal Jeopardy. (Though last year there was an upset.) Therefore, contact the SCBA and volunteer, or get a friend to volunteer, to present an MCLE class on a topic that interests you. I guarantee that if you're interested in it, so is somebody else.

I moved to Modesto back in 2004 as a brand new attorney. At the time, there were many of us in the same boat: new to the law, and new to town. When I now look around the table at SCBA Board meetings, I see those same faces. But this time, we are partners in firms or founders of our own firms, senior level District Attorneys, and most recently, a judge. It's like in the old Wild Kingdom television shows, (brought to you by the good people of Mutual of Omaha), where the young lions have taken over the pride. Well, Stanislaus County, that is where we sit. The young lions are in control, new blood has taken over, new traditions are being created, and we are in for an exciting year. For example, the SCBA is going to hold a debate for two candidates for District Attorney, but you have to be a member to attend. It's going to be exciting, and you're going to want to be a part of it. All you have to do is join!



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SCBA Calendar of Events

** You may also view all Bar Association events at register online at STANBAR.ORG **

JANUARY

Friday the 12th – MCLE on “Competence Issues,” by Christopher Haberman, Esq. Taking place from Noon to 1:00 PM in the Jury Room for 1 hour of Competence Issues credit (formerly known as *Substance Abuse*). This program is FREE to the first 100 bar members that have paid their 2018 dues! It fills up quickly so do not wait to register to attend this class! Here is a direct link to sign-up for this class and pay your 2018 bar dues today: <https://www.stanbar.org/mcle/fri1-12-18-competence-issues-by-david-mann-12-1-pm-jury-room-01st-100-paid-bar-mems-flyer-coming/> and follow the easy step-by-step instructions. Lunches are still available for \$10. Renew your bar membership or join the bar today!

“AROUND THE OFFICES”

Stanislaus Family Justice Center

1418 “J” Street
Modesto CA 95354
(209) 525-5130

(new location in addition to “I” Street)

Rodarakis & Sousa, APC

100 Sycamore Avenue, Suite 101
Modesto CA 95354
(209) 554-5232

(new location)

Rambacher Prokey Leonard LLP

1301 “L” Street, Suite 4
Modesto CA 95354
(408) 293-3616

(new location in addition to San Jose)



JOB OPENINGS

EXPERIENCED PROBATE PARALEGAL/ SECRETARY: Immediate opening.

Applicant MUST have experience in probating estates, administration of trust estates and similar areas. The greater the experience, the better but will consider the highly motivated with some probate experience. Full or part time, competitive pay with awesome work environment. E-mail resume to: laura@paulecholslaw.com

The Honorable Hurl W. Johnson (Ret.)

20 years with the Stanislaus County Superior Court

Mediation and Arbitration Services

Civil Cases: Contract & Commercial Disputes, Employment, Personal Injury, Insurance, Professional Malpractice, Probate and Family Law.

Pepperdine University School of Law trained mediator
(209) 809-2014 or (209) 524-1100

SCBA WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR 2018 SCHOLARSHIP DONORS:

Vernon Gant
Aaron Anguiano
Alan Eighmey

We would not be able to provide these special scholarship awards to our local high school seniors without your support. Thank you!

2018 SCBA BOARD

If you are interested in joining the bar association board to serve our local attorneys and want to commit to volunteer and better our programs to enrich our organization with new ideas....

Contact SCBA at (209) 571-5729 or deana@stanbar.org and let us know.

**There is one vacancy left
to fill for 2018 – join us!**

STANISLAUS COUNTY LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION...

meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm. Meetings are open to anyone and our goal is to provide continuing education for those in the legal field as well as scholarship opportunities for those studying to become support staff in the legal field. For more information you can contact SCLPA's President, Diane Mecca, at: Diane.1stclasslegals@gmail.com

MINIMUM CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

GROUP 1 (A-G)	GROUP 2 (H-M)	GROUP 3 (N-Z)
Period: 2/1/16-1/31/19	Period: 2/1/15-1/31/18	Period: 2/1/14-1/31/17
Deadline: 2/1/2019	Deadline: 2/1/2018	Deadline: 3/1/2017

SCBA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The SCBA is accepting your generous contributions for the 2018 Scholarship Fund. Our goal for 2018 is to provide two \$1,000 Scholarship Awards to Stanislaus County High School seniors at the 2017 Law Day Luncheon.

Please send contributions to:

SCBA: 802 14th St, Ste O, Modesto, CA 95354

CONGRATULATIONS

2018 SCBA Officer's & Board of Director's

OFFICERS

President, **Michael R. Dennis of Crabtree Schmidt**

Vice President, **Jeffrey W. Mangar of the District Attorney's Office**

Secretary, **Duane L. Nelson of Damrell, Nelson, Schrimp,
Pallios, Pacher & Silva**

Treasurer, **George P. Rodarakis of Rodarakis & Sousa, APC**

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Andrea M. Leavy of Goss & Goss, APC

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Deana Skelton

A big thank you goes out to the Honorable Valli Israels
for administering the bar oath and swearing-in our new board
at the Judicial Calendar & Holiday Luncheon on
December 1st, 2017 at Skewers Kabob House in Modesto.

Stanislaus County Superior Court

Stacy P. Speiller, 37, of Oakdale, has been appointed to a judgeship in the Stanislaus County Superior Court. She has been a partner at Cash-Dudley Speiller and Torres since 2010. She was an associate at E.F. Cash-Dudley from 2004 to 2009. Speiller earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brandeis University. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Nan C. Jacobs. Speiller is a Democrat.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public and attorneys have an opportunity to submit written comments about policy issues before the Board of Trustees. These issues may include proposals such as amendments to the Rules of Professional Conduct and ethics opinions. Comments may be directed to the address listed on each proposal.

Read more: The Political Reform Act, Government Code § 81000 et seq. (PRA), requires that the State Bar, like other state and local government agencies, adopt a Conflict of Interest Code (Code) for officers, employees and consultants, who, during the course of their work for the agency, make or participate in making decisions that may have a material impact on the interests defined in the Code.

Board of Trustees Dec. 1, 2017 Agenda Item 709

Deadline: Jan. 22, 2018

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/About-Us/Our-Mission/Protecting-the-Public/Public-Comment>

Contact: Nicole Pereira, Assistant General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
180 Howard St, San Francisco CA 94105
(415) 538-2186

Nicole.Pereira@calbar.gov

STANISLAUS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S 2017 BUNCH-BAR DINNER

Wednesday, October 18th, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Famiglia Bistro Ristorante - 2501 McHenry Ave, Modesto

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Sherman Kishi

A JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMP SURVIVOR

Mr. Kishi graciously shared his firsthand accounts of his personal experience living through one of the most horrific time periods in history.

The bar association was truly honored to have Mr. Kishi address our local community.

The evening was made possible only through the generosity of our Sponsors.

BORTON PETRINI LLP

Curtis Legal Group

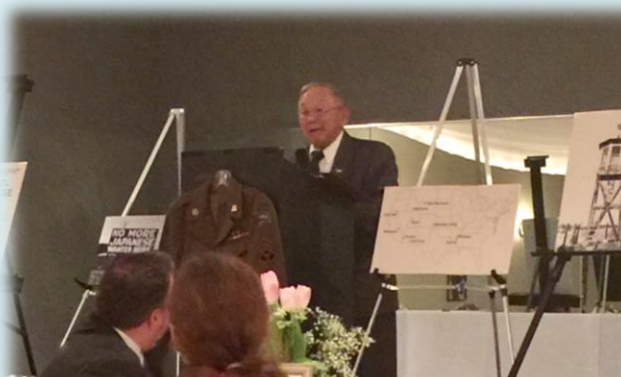
Berliner Cohen LLP

Law Offices of Sonya A. Bouma

ROADRAKIS & SOUSA, APC

McCormick Barstow LLP

E. & J. Gallo Winery



" MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION "



STANISLAUS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
802 14th Street, Suite O, Modesto CA 95354
(209) 571-5729 ♦ FAX (209) 529-6130
WWW.STANBAR.ORG

☐ INFORMATION IS THE SAME: Check here to duplicate prior year's information.

☐ FREE ATTORNEY DIRECTORY AD FOR PAID SCBA MEMBERS
Check box to remain or be added to our websites directory with no changes.
Please contact the Bar Association to update any changes necessary.

2018

Name (Last, First) _____
Full firm Name _____
Physical Address _____
Mailing address if different from above _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone () _____ Fax () _____
E-Mail Address _____ Website _____
California State Bar No. _____ Year Admitted _____
Law School _____ Year Graduated _____

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law Day Luncheon Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Non Sequitur Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bar Membership Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MCLE Program Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Bench-Bar Dinner Committee |

REGULAR Bar Member.....\$ 150.00

*FIRST TIME Attorney Member....\$ 75.00

RETIRED Attorney.....\$ 75.00

**ASSOCIATE Member.....\$ 35.00

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

Dues.....\$ _____

***Scholarship Donation.....\$ _____

Total.....\$ _____

*First Time Attorney Member: Attorney who has not been a bar member anytime during the last 5 years.
INCLUDES: Admission to Bar Members Only "Mixer" and "New Lawyer's Reception."

**Associate Member: Not admitted to practice law in California or another jurisdiction, such as: Law Clerks, Law Students, Paralegals, Legal Assistants, Legal Secretaries, Court Personnel, and Legal Administrators.

***Scholarship Fund: Support Bar Scholarships presented annually at Law Day Luncheons, to local Senior High School students who pursue careers in the legal field. Easily contribute today with your membership dues.

Paid SCBA Members have the option to advertise their firm/sale, on our websites ATTORNEY DIRECTORY section at STANBAR.ORG.
Paid SCBA Members require the box above to be checked to renew annually. For more information contact us STANBAR.ORG or (209) 571-5729.

BAR DUES DEADLINE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2018

>>> REGISTER YOUR BAR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE AT THE BAR WEBSITE: <https://www.stanbar.org/membership-levels/> <<<

ANNUAL WEB ADVERTISEMENT ON STANISLAUS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S WEBSITE

2018 WEBSITE ADVERTISING!

"LIVE Web Links" available on the
Stanislaus County Bar Association WEBSITE
at STANBAR.ORG



ADVERTISE YOUR FIRM, OFFICE, OR BUSINESS
ON OUR WEBSITE!

"Reach a vast legal
community and public
audience with
a single ad!"



COST

\$300 Annually
SCBA Member Required

* FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT SBCA AT (209) 571-5729 or DEANA@STANBAR.ORG *

Return this portion with payment to: SCBA • 802 14th St, Ste O, Modesto CA 95354

WEBSITE ADVERTISING!

"Annual" Advertising is Jan 1st through Dec 31st each year

ATTORNEY/FIRM/BUSINESS Name: _____

Website Address: _____ Contact Name: _____

Business Physical Address: _____

Business Mailing Address: _____ Phone: () _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ SCBA Member ☐

THE STANISLAUS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION PROUDLY PRESENTS

COMPETENCE ISSUES (aka: Substance Abuse)

GUEST SPEAKER: Christopher L. Haberman, Esq.
Attorney at Law



Friday, January 12, 2018
Noon-1:00 PM, Superior Court
Jury Assembly Room
800 11th St, Modesto 95354



"FREE"

**MCLE PROGRAM TO FIRST 100 BAR MEMBERS WITH
2018 DUES PAID!**

The Stanislaus County Bar Association certifies that this activity has been approved for
MCLE credit by the State Bar of California for:

1 hour COMPETENCE ISSUES credit

(Formerly Substance Abuse)

Stanislaus County Bar Association is a State of California MCLE approved provider No. 1894

Bar & Bench Members (FREE class)...\$0 *
Order a Lunch only.....\$10

* 2018 DUES PAID = Bar Member Rate

Non-Members.....\$65

(Add \$10 for a lunch if a Non Bar Member)

>>> FOR MORE INFO, CALL (209) 571-5729 — REGISTER ONLINE AT STANBAR.ORG <<<

Return this portion with payment by January 5, 2018 to: SCBA • 802 14th St, Ste O, Modesto CA 95354

COMPETENCE ISSUES (aka: Substance Abuse)

FRIDAY, JAN. 12, 2018 **"FREE" MCLE PROGRAM TO 1st 100 BAR MEMBERS who paid 2018 dues! *\$10 Lunch Only!***

Name: _____ Firm: _____ ☐ NO LUNCH

Lunch choices:

- SANDWICH**
- ☐ Turkey
 - ☐ Roast Beef
 - ☐ Veggie

- CHIPS**
- ☐ Potato Chips
 - ☐ Doritos
 - ☐ Baked Lays

- DRINK**
- ☐ Diet Coke
 - ☐ Diet 7-Up
 - ☐ Bottle Water
 - ☐ Coke
 - ☐ 7-Up

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

PAID 2018 BAR MEMBER ☐

No refunds after January 5, 2018

ARE YOUR STATE BAR RECORDS CURRENT?

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS
CODE §6002.1 REQUIRES
ALL ATTORNEYS TO
REPORT CHANGES TO
THEIR ADDRESS & PHONE
#s TO THE STATE BAR
WITHIN 30 DAYS. YOU
CAN CHECK YOUR
CURRENT LISTING AT
www.calbar.org

CALIFORNIA Rules of Court

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm>

LAWYER'S REFERRAL SERVICE

- Are you willing to support your local Bar Association?
- Are you looking for new clients?
- Are you willing to provide some pro bono time?

If you answer "YES" to the above, please consider serving on the LRS panel.

As an SCBA member, you only pay a \$50 annual LRS panel fee!

Simple appointment process: LRS representative will schedule appointments with your office at your convenience with clients who have a matter in your area(s) of expertise. The client pays a \$50.00 administrative fee to us over the phone, for a 30-minute consultation. Each month you will receive a statement from the LRS listing your appointments for that month. All you do is indicate the LRS clients who kept their appointments, and those that did not, and send the statement back to the LRS office.



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802 14TH STREET, SUITE 0, MODESTO CA 95354
(209) 571-5729
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