

# NON-SEQUITUR

The Publication of  
The Stanislaus County Bar Association

April/May/June 2010

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Judy Jensen

I hope everyone is having a great summer! It is hard to believe that June is over. We went from the beautifully mild and sometimes cold spring weather to the more familiar valley heat in a blink of an eye!

But June means we have reached the half-way mark for our year and that it's time to recap the first half of the year – for those of you keeping score at home. First, the bar association has 255 regular members and 4 associate members. We have held two significant events, including our law day luncheon and annual golf tournament. We have also held 8 MCLE events, providing members and nonmembers with 327 continuing legal education credits. Our Lawyer Referral Service has been operating.

To recap some of the events that have taken place since our last newsletter, the Law Day Luncheon was a great success with more than 125 SCBA members, judges and other guests attending. Keynote Speaker, Justice Steven M. Vartabedian with the Fifth District Court of Appeal addressed and entertained the crowd on the topic—"Law Day and the 5th DCA- 50 Years and Beyond. The Liberty Bell was awarded to Kenni Friedman for her outstanding community service. SCBA scholarships

were awarded to two outstanding high school students, Alejandro R. Angarita from Beyer High School and Nadine N. Khedry from Turlock High School. Thank you to all who attended and helped coordinate this year's Law Day Luncheon!

On June 5<sup>th</sup> the SCBA held its annual golf tournament. The event was a swinging success! We want to congratulate all of our team and contest

winners and extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of the sponsors that helped to make the tournament such a special event. A special thank you to Brett Dickerson and Marlisa Ferreira and their committee for organizing the event and to the Stanislaus County Legal Professionals Association for

volunteering at the event!



## ROBERTA ANNOUNCES HER RETIREMENT

After 16 years of service as executive director of the Stanislaus County Bar Association, Roberta has announced that she intends to retire at the end of the year. Roberta first started working with attorneys in 1961 as a legal secretary for a law firm in Beverly Hills. During her tenure as SCBA executive director, Roberta organized, managed and oversaw all of the organization's activities.

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## UPCOMING 2010 EVENTS



### July

- 9<sup>th</sup> **MCLE** – Conservatorships  
Noon – Jury Assembly Room  
Speakers:  
The Honorable Loretta Begen  
Kent Faulkner, Public Defender  
Vicki Fern de Castro, Deputy County  
Counsel  
Sandra Lucas, Family Court Services  
Manager  
Margaret Middleton, Probate Examiner  
Nina Wendt, Probate Examiner
- 16<sup>th</sup> **MCLE**—Economic Damages in  
Personal Injury, Employment and  
Business Litigation  
Speaker: Nicholas Briscoe, MS, AVA  
Noon—Jury Assembly Room

### August

- 20<sup>th</sup> New Judge’s Luncheon for  
The Honorable Ann Ameral  
Noon at Galletto Ristorante

### September

- 17<sup>th</sup> **MCLE**—Real Estate Ponzi Schemes  
an Inns of Court Production  
Noon—Jury Assembly Room

### October

- 17<sup>th</sup> SCBA Night at the Movies  
“Judgment at Nuremburg”  
State Theater
- 21<sup>st</sup> Bench-Bar Dinner  
Charity Ballroom (Elks Lodge)

## THINGS THAT AREN’T BILLABLE

The MoBand is in full swing now through July 15th. Come on out! Bring wine, bring food, bring friends. Concerts begin at 8 p.m. every Thursday in Graceada Park. For more information about specific shows, visit [www.modestoband.org](http://www.modestoband.org).

Calling all concert junkies! Summer’s hot at Ironstone this year. Get out and see Sugarland (July 9), Faith Hill (July 23), REO Speedwagon and Pat Benatar (Aug.1), ZZ Top (Aug. 14) and Sheryl Crow (Sept. 17).

The California State Fair is July 14 through August 1. Musical acts include The Family Stone (July 17), Rick Springfield (July 21), Martina McBride (July 23) and The Village People (July 27) to name a few. Try out some California beer and wine. Sadly, the cut-off date to participate in the Karaoke championship was June 15, but you can still watch. (If anyone out there has slipped under the radar and been deemed a regional champion, please advise).

In keeping with Fair Season - the Stanislaus County Fair is July 16 to July 25. On July 16 take the kids for the rainforest adventure exhibit or farmyard experience. See KC and the Sunshine Band on July 17 or compete in the homemade salsa contest. See who’s the bravest of your friends with the hypnotist. Pet the bunnies. Take in a cooking demonstration. There’s rodeo, motor-cross, monster trucks, a demolition derby and yes, lawn mower racing.

Hit the valley’s biggest and loudest party at X-Fest on August 7 in downtown Modesto. X-Fest this year boasts 50 bands, 8 stages and 15,000 people. Tickets are only \$20 if purchased in advance. Rock on!

Alas, doth the concert noise bother your ears? Fear not! Get Ye-self to Murphy’s Albino Munari’s outdoor amphitheater for Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream July 2nd through 17th. See [Murphys Creek Theater.org](http://MurphysCreekTheater.org) for ticket information and pricing.

Do they call you a Grill Master? Put it to the test at Ironstone Vineyard’s fourth annual BBQ competition on June 27. It’s only \$25 to enter. See Ironstone’s website for more information.

# SCBA GOLF TOURNAMENT IN PICTURES!



## Golf Winners

Several awards highlighting the good, the talented and the just plain lucky golfers were presented at the 2010 SCBA golf tournament.

The victorious teams earning the bragging rights for Lowest Gross Score were:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Mike Brown, A.J. Davis, Mark Holmes, Dean Petrulakis**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Hurl Johnson, Vern Seeley, Dave Thornberry, Nate Thornberry**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Nate Baker, Shawn Barlow, Shawn Bessey, Cameron Cromwell**

Winners of the Lowest Net Score were:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Mike Dini; Gary Gascon; Vince Jamison; Matt Penalla**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Mark Nelson, Tom Nelson, Steve Ringhoff, Kevin Sharp**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Steve Ferlmann, Sally Ferlmann, Paul Emanuels, Phil Schmidt**

The men's miracle golf drive or the Men's Long Drive-as most know the award-went to **Mike Brown**. The women's longest drive is still in the air and will be measured upon landing.

The sharpshooters snagging the closet to the pin awards were **Steve Ringhoff** on hole #5, **Mike Tozzi** on hole # 9, **Shawn Barlow** on hole #10 and **Kevin Sharp** on hole #17.

### STEPS AWAY FROM THE COURTHOUSE!

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## FROM THE LAW LIBRARY



By: Janice K. Milliken, Law Librarian

As part of the County's cost saving measures, closure and furlough days will be enacted as of July 2, 2010. A proposed schedule was unanimously adopted (subject to making changes at the Holiday season) by the County Law Library Board of Trustees at their most recent meeting. The Law Library will be closed during Fiscal Year 2010 – 11 on the following dates (schedule also includes Holidays):

- Friday July 2 – Monday 5, 2010
- Friday September 3 – Monday 6, 2010
- Monday October 11, 2010
- Thursday November 11, 2010
- Monday November 22 – Friday 26, 2010
- Monday December 27 - Friday 31, 2010
- Friday February 11, 2011 - Monday  
February 14, 2011
- Thursday March 31, 2011
- Monday May 30, 2011

## AROUND THE OFFICES



At the McCormick office, Nicole Bolson is now with the Lewis, Brisbois firm in San Francisco; and Luis Perez is at Gianelli. McCormick also welcomed their new associate Kristina Seward.

After many years, John Peltier has left the Damrell office and is now commuting to the Bakersfield office of Borton Petrini.

Also moving out of the area is Michael Jordan (formerly with Brunn & Flynn). He went to New York.

Gallo added Jennifer Lopez to its Legal Department

More changes at the Curtis office. They have added Jared Rowe and Eric Gutierrez to their list of attorneys.

There's a new attorney in town. Patrick Kolasinski opened his office at 1100 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite E.

Dan Farrar moved his office to 600 East Main Street, Suite 100, in Turlock.

## FROM THE COURT



The funding request for the new Courthouse Project was sent to the Department of Finance on 6/7/10. Staff from the Administrative Office of the Courts met with the Joint Legislative Committee on Monday, 6/21/10. Once approved, the next step is a review by the State Public Works Board. Our project will then be placed on the consent agenda for the July 12th meeting that will be held in Sacramento.

Future project on the horizon is the Juvenile Courts Project. The court is located on Blue Gum Avenue. This project is rated as "High." High is the third rating behind Immediate and Critical. However, funding has not been secured for this project.

## FROM THE STANISLAUS COUNTY LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION



Stanislaus County Legal Professionals Association together with Merced County LPA is hosting a quarterly conference on August 13-15. It will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel here in Modesto. There will be legal education seminars, and you can receive MCLE credits for each workshop you attend. There is a nominal fee for non-members. Everyone is invited.

Legal Secretaries, Incorporated holds quarterly conferences to conduct the business of the corporation, and provide continuing legal education, with the annual conference held in May. Conferences are held at various locations throughout California.

This is a great venue for educational, professional, and personal development information to legal staff throughout the State of California.

So, come one, come all and enjoy our local conference in August. For further information, please contact Linda Brown, CCLS at 529-7254.

## BUYING PANTS

By: Michael Dennis & Crystal Swanson-Dennis

Thanks to a groundhog's neurosis, winter lasted until June this year. The good part, however, is that my winter fat got to enjoy the elastic waistband of my sweat pants until just last week. Such enjoyment, unfortunately, means that my body was far from ready to jump straight from sweats to jeans. Usually, spring provides a transition period (Hello, baggy cargo pants) while I get back in shape. Forced to transition straight to summer, however, my body discovered that last summer's loose jeans were now skinny jeans. Bass players, not lawyers, wear skinny jeans. Thus, I needed new pants.

Usually, I prefer hand-me-down clothes; Clothes with a story. Isn't "This lavender, polka dot shirt may have been worn in Studio 54" a much better story than, "I got this shirt at Macy's"? Like a textile treasure map, hand-me-down clothes bear subtle clues to their past that spark the imagination. For example, as any kid who has ever gone to camp knows, moms write their little campers' name on their clothes. As for me, I grew up in the fashion rich era of iron-on letters. By the end of camp, unfortunately, the letters peeled and my name became Mic el Den s. Thankfully, I had moved out before my mom discovered the Beadazzler.

I once owned a shirt with the name Seth scrawled along the seam. I was given the shirt by my friend, Andy, who doesn't even know a Seth. So the shirt had to come from at least one other person before reaching Andy's friend. (Dare I guess, Kevin Bacon?) Just think of the stories that shirt could tell? After all, the name Seth derives from an Egyptian deity, the brother of Osiris, known as an evil beast-headed god with high square ears and a long snout. I once wore the shirt while discussing East Coast surfing conditions with Justice Kennedy in Salzburg, a story I inadvertently memorialized with a mustard stain.

Every rip, tear, and stain in a piece of clothing should be a portal to a story. The tear in my current pants was born when I was breaking into a buddy's house because we locked ourselves outside. I was elected to enter the house through the wee bathroom window and left behind some evidence of my passing on the sill. It may not be a good story, but it's a much better one than, "I bought them this way."

Clothes make the man. When a girl sees you in a pair

of weathered jeans, she should think, "Ooh, this guy is a rugged manly man," not, "Ooh, this guy knows where the mall is." By now, my old jeans really should be converted into cut-off shorts. But, because I am just a touch over eight years old and not from Texas, I cannot wear jean shorts. However, torn jeans are now the couture of the moment. Therefore, I ventured to get me some couture, I tell you what. Being a slave to fashion (as well as mini-corn dogs), I headed to the mall.

I walked into one of those boutique stores and was immediately approached by a teenage sales associate:

"Well, like, can I help you?"

"I need to buy some jeans with holes in them."

"What kind?"

"Big enough to show just a hint of thigh."

"Not what kind of holes, what kind of jeans." (Was the eye rolling really necessary?)

"I don't know."

"OK, like, here's what we're going to do. Go in the dressing room so none of my friends can see me talking to you and I'll just start bringing you different pairs."

The dressing room was one of those hip new ones which did not have full size doors so the other customers could marvel as I changed. (As if trying on clothes when you're out of shape and too old for what you're trying on isn't embarrassing enough.)

And so, the parade of pants began. I soon discovered that designer jeans don't come in small, medium and large. No, these pants bore people's names like Jake and Steve. Get this, there was even a style called Seth, and to think I once owned the matching shirt. Anyway, it was kind of odd yelling out for all the store to hear, "I like the fit of Steve's pants." I then somehow became a Roman Emperor, "Seize Steve. Bring him to me."

I proceeded to try on a particularly holey pair of jeans. Although there is a brand called True Religion, these jeans were holey with an "e-y". My big toe got caught in one of the holes. However, by this time I was already fully committed. With toe firmly ensconced in the hole, my foot went down and I heaved the jeans up. Rrrrrrip! Viola! Jean shorts! Who knew Steve was from Texas?

"Everything, OK?"

"Um, yes" I answered furtively as I buried the severed pant leg in the small mountain of denim I had created.

"Oh, I forgot to tell you, the pants stretch a full size once

**Buying Pants continued from Page 6**

you wear them for awhile."

"Fabulous. So this is really a waste of time."

"Yup."

"Have you considered Guess jeans."

"I guess not."

"How about Lucky jeans?"

"Um, no, but I know I lot of girls who wear them. Don't let my great legs fool you."

After wearing Steve's pants, however, who am I to make judgments, so I bought them. On the way to the register, I asked the sales associate if she could pick out a matching shirt. I told her, "The Queer Eye Guys say I should own a woven shirt?" For some reason, I was not asked if I wanted to join the store's mailing list.

Like most of my clothes, Steve's pants will someday be donated. To think, somebody, somewhere, right now might be sitting around a campfire, telling the tale of an adventure had while wearing his signature Mic el Den s shirt. In fact, a "Dennis" shirt just might be in your closet right now.

## Suspension of SCBA Attorney Fee Arbitration Program

Effective December 2009, the SCBA suspended its Attorney Fee Arbitration Program. All fee arbitrations may proceed through the State Bar of California's Mandatory Fee Arbitration Program:

The State Bar of California  
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