

NON-SEQUITUR

The Publication of
The Stanislaus County Bar Association

May 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Peter Stavrianoudakis

We are well into the New Year and I mean NEW!!!!
You have probably already noticed some changes.
We are going GREEN, both ecologically and fiscally.
Lawyers Referral Service is now in-house and we are logging in more confirmed appointments with our panel members than ever before. This is now a revenue generator vs. expenditure: more Green, no Red, and in the Black.

Invitations are now transmitted via email: GREEN no paper (or paper cuts opening them), no postage and you have it instantly. We can, at your request, send our announcements/communications/invitations and Non-Sequitur to all or anyone in your office. We will maintain ADA compliance for all technologically challenged attorneys and will snail mail (that means paper and stamp delivery via US Postal Service), just make your request to Deana and we will accommodate you.

We have launched our new web-site, a big thanks to Sally Chenault. Take this opportunity to send us your firm and attorney information, include a photo, a link to your firm's webpage, and let the public get to know a little about you and your areas of practice before they walk in the door. We are also now members of the Modesto Chamber of Commerce. This will open up your client base as SCBA will have a link on their web-site to ours, virtually linking the Chamber's member base to every attorney and firm represented by the SCBA. The goal here is to build bonds between the business members in our community by providing that prospective client in need access to all of our members.

Cont. Pres. Mess. P. 2...

In this Issue . . .

President's Message.....	1
Upcoming Events	1
Judicial Council Kleps Awards.....	2
From The Library	3
Around Town	4
From The Court.....	4
Liberty Bell Award	4
Law Day Reports	5
Meet the SCBA Executive Director.....	6
Golf Tournament Flyer	7

UPCOMING 2011 EVENTS



JUNE

- 4 24th Annual Golf Tournament
Location: Dryden in Modesto
Time: 8:00 am (Shotgun 9:00 am)
- 8 Board of Directors Meeting
Noon: Borton Petrini Office
- 17 MCLE: Basics of Business Valuation
Noon: Jury Assembly Room
(MCLE: 1 hour credit)

JULY

- 13 Board of Directors Meeting
Noon: Borton Petrini Office
- 29 MCLE: Economic Damages in a Personal Injury Case
Noon: Jury Assembly Room
(MCLE: 1 hour credit)

AUGUST

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting
Noon: Borton Petrini Office

SEPTEMBER

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting
Noon: Borton Petrini Office

Cont. from p. 1, Pres. Mess.

We are very fortunate that the changing of the guard has gone so smoothly. Deana Skelton has jumped right in with both feet and the office is full of new energy. I was a little concerned that I would be the first president in decades without the benefit of Roberta Burge's vast historical background. My predecessors and I just had to whisper in her ear "what do we do now?" and she made us look good or at least knowledgeable. But my concerns were quickly put to rest. Deana grabbed the reins and took off at a gallop. If you haven't had a chance to meet her yet drop in and get acquainted.

Your calendars should be full with a long list of upcoming events. Hope you all enjoyed Law Day, May 6th at the SOS Club. A big thank you to Justice Charles S. (Chuck) Poochigian for his keynote address. Congratulations to Michael Tozzi, our recipient of the coveted Liberty Bell Award, and to our two SCBA Scholarship recipients: Danesha Grady and Brian Lewis

MCLE attendance has been up, due to your patronage, costs have been down, primarily due to the expense and labor saved by emailing communications.

Closing on a Green note, we hope to see you on the greens at our annual Golf Tournament. Sponsor a foursome, a hole or just show up for a fun day of golf. If you can't beat 'em in the court room, try your luck on the fairway. If you have been to the event before you know how much fun it is and if you haven't...well, you are certainly due.

Fresno Court Receives Judicial Council Top Innovative Programs Awards



The Fifth District Court of Appeal in Fresno is proud to announce that the court has won two 2010-2011 Ralph N. Kleps Awards for Improvement in Administration of the Courts. The Kleps Awards are a biennial awards program, which recognizes innovation in the state's courts. These awards were created in 1991 in honor of Ralph N. Kleps, the first Administrative Director of the Courts in California. Awards are given in five categories. Eligible programs must be innovative, transferable to other courts and have demonstrated results. The Fresno Court of Appeal won awards in two special categories:

The Appellate Courts category for its Electronic Writ Processing Program

The Collaborative Projects category for its Transcript Assembly Program, in conjunction with the appellate court's

collaborative partners – Fresno and Stanislaus Superior Courts.

Collaborative Projects - Transcript Assembly Program (TAP)

*Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District
Superior Court of California, Counties of Fresno and Stanislaus*

This is the first program in California that automates the compilation and preparation of civil clerk's transcripts in the trial courts. This program was the vision of Retired Presiding Justice James A. Ardaiz. He believed if the courts were able to automate the complex civil clerk's transcript, other case types, i.e., criminal, juvenile, etc. would readily follow, thus laying the groundwork for electronic filing. The transcripts are compiled and prepared in the trial courts, including customizable indices, via automation and are electronically transmitted to the Court of Appeal. The program significantly improves the business processes for these two levels of court by saving staff time (the compilation and preparation process is an entirely manual process in the courts today), reducing paper use and storage costs, and eliminating shipping costs in forwarding transcripts to the reviewing court. In addition to saving time and reducing costs, the litigants and general public benefit by gaining electronic access to voluminous court records that are word searchable.

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FROM THE LAW LIBRARY

By: Janice K. Milliken, Law Librarian



The Stanislaus County Law Library's cataloging project is nearing completion.

To take a look, please visit our website at: www.stanislauslawlibrary.org and click on the catalog button in the purple row. The catalog is available on mobile devices at <http://goo.gl/dTsO6>. The library name is "Stanislaus County Law Library". It is also accessible online at <http://goo.gl/nqd1H>. This online catalog allows you to see whether the law library owns a specific book or if there is access to the same title in Westlaw, Lexis Nexis or CEB OnLAW.

Some of the key features of the catalog that increase access and utility of the catalog include the following:

- A treatise that is available online or has an accompanying CD is notated in the record. For online sources there is a direct link to the database that can be accessed if you are using the library's public terminals.
- The Tables of Contents for many California specific publications have been made searchable to increase the number of results that are relevant to your search.

Secondary material that is available only in electronic format has been cataloged and is indicated by an icon shaped like a sheet of paper. These treatises are only available at the law library using one of our four public terminals.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

BENCH-BAR DINNER

OCTOBER 20, 2011

SCBA WEBSITE PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED!

Attention all photographers! Photos taken by our members will be used in our website. They do not need to be law related - just have a Stanislaus County theme. Please submit all photographs you would like considered in our website to Sally Chenault at schenault@damrell.com.



SCBA JOINS THE MODESTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FROM THE COURT



Celebrating the One Year Anniversary of Judges Honor Roll

About a year ago, Judges Sue Siefkin and Nan Cohan-Jacobs put into place the Honor Roll Program at the Juvenile Facility on Blue Gum. The program was a collaborative effort with the Juvenile Probation Department and Stanislaus County Office of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide incentives for good conduct at Juvenile Hall. In April the judges went to the Hall to award Honor Roll certificates and treats to 39 minors who demonstrated excellent behavior during the month. Accompanying them at the most recent ceremony were: Vicki Trask, Scott Kuykendall and Telka Walser of SCOE, as well as Natascha Roof, Juvenile Hall Superintendent, and court staff.

To be eligible for any given month, a juvenile must be in the Hall for the entire month, and must earn at least 95% of his/her behavioral points every day. In addition to receiving a certificate from the Judges and staff for each month that they qualify, kids can earn 3 days early release from the Hall. There is a healthy competition among the units at the Hall, and for the unit with the highest percentage of those making Honor Roll receives special recognition. Additional incentives are provided for those who are not eligible because they are not going to be in the Hall for the entire 30 day period, are facing adult charges, or are awaiting placement.

Superior Court judges and staff have been donating a packaged snack for each child receiving the award. They, and other visitors as well as Hall staff are gratified by the smiles, the handshakes, and the genuine appreciation that these kids demonstrate, as well as by the kids' obvious sense of pride in having accomplished something positive. In some of the housing units 100% of the eligible juveniles have made the Honor Roll. Juvenile Hall staff has observed a marked reduction in disruptive incidents since the inception of the program. Since these kinds of incidents can negatively impact an entire unit in terms of Honor Roll and unit competition, it is gratifying to see some of the kids choosing good conduct over participation in one of these incidents.

"Boys and girls whose poor conduct at home, in the community and at school have landed them in Juvenile Hall discover they can follow the rules and be successful. They enthusiastically greet the arrival of the judges and applaud loudly as awards are presented," said Judge Siefkin. "We make every effort to reward good behavior and school work because these children are ones who may never have received recognition at home, at school or in the community. We do impose consequences for bad behavior, but we know Incentives are the most effective way to change conduct and encourage positive choices," Judge Jacobs added.

AROUND TOWN

MARK J. ALEXANDER has relocated to 1500 J Street, 2nd Floor, Modesto, CA 95354

BRUNN & FLYNN LAW OFFICES' address is now 928 12th Street, Ste 200, Modesto, CA 95354

LAWRENCE C. BEAVER is now located at 1309 I Street, Modesto CA 95354

The mailing address for the LAW OFFICE OF ANN MARIE FRIEND (formerly Friend & Walton) is now PO Box 830, Modesto, CA 95354

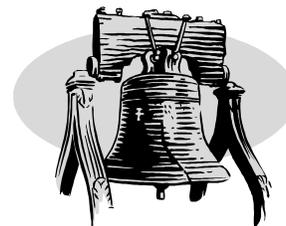
WILLIAM R. MITCHELL's law office address is 1008 Lexington Dr., Modesto CA 95350

PHILIP A. PIMENTEL's address is now 610 15th Street, Modesto CA 95354.

LIBERTY BELL AWARD

The SCBA would like to congratulate *Michael Tozzi* as our 2011 Liberty Bell Award recipient. We are very pleased to recognize his continued commitment to community service in which we believe has strengthened the American system of freedom under law. Mike was honored with his prestigious Liberty Bell Award during a ceremony at our Law Day Luncheon on May 6th.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend a special thank you to Honorable Ricardo Cordova, for presenting the Liberty Bell plaque to Mr. Tozzi and entertaining us with his "roast" to Mike - which was thoroughly enjoyable!



LAW DAY GOES TO THE MALL

Law Day is an annual nationally recognized day to honor the rule of law. The day is officially recognized on May 1 but is celebrated with nationwide events throughout the month of May. This year, Superior Court, Stanislaus in Modesto, California hosted, with the sponsorship of Modesto Bee Law Day at the Mall on May 7, 2011. The Vintage Faire Mall venue was a perfect avenue to assist the public with court services available year-round. Stanislaus County Bar Association, Family Justice Center, Federal Probation, Stanislaus County Law Library, Center for Human Services Youth Court, Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, Stanislaus County Mediation Center/Project Sentinel, El Concilio, Women's Haven, Sierra Vista, Department of Child Support Services were among the many partners present.

In addition to public assistance the Court works with local high school art classes and California State University Stanislaus public relations classes. In their art class this year Pittman High from Turlock, California had paintings unveiled representing the theme of Law Day "The Legacy of John Adams: from Boston to Guantanamo." The paintings are hung in the Superior Court for a two year period. The public relations class from CSUS in Turlock, provides advertising material that is used for promotional fliers, newspaper ads, etc.

This year was one of our best turn outs at the mall. Over 2000 bags of information were provided. Bags include information for everyone from kids learning about safety, teens about drugs and abuse, adults for parenting, custody issues to the elderly regarding care and abuse. Comments from surveys provided to attendees include: "Informative and very much easy to understand", "Nice, lots of pamphlets", "Learned things I didn't know, have more events", "I was easily directed to the correct person when I didn't know which area my question was covered under", "I found out much needed information", "This is a valuable resource", "Extremely helpful and patient - just do it again". "Beneficial information given and answers to questions from resourceful, friendly staff". A special thank you to the lawyers who participated: SCBA Chairperson Rebecca A. Roberson, Patrick Kolasinski, Lindsey Robbins, Sonya Bouma, Robert Ferrace, and Bill Mussman.

LAW DAY LUNCHEON

Our 2011 Law Day Luncheon at the SOS Club, was an overwhelming success. The SCBA was truly honored to have Justice Charles S. "Chuck" Poochigian from the 5th District Court of Appeals, deliver an excellent speech to us. This years National Law Day theme was "The Legacy of John Adams, from Boston to Guantanamo". Justice Poochigian expertly coordinated his address to stay on a difficult topic and still smoothly inter-twine current events throughout - such as Osama bin Laden's death. His words were captivating and enlightening - which is not a simple task, but it was delivered effortlessly.

The Bar Association appreciates everyone's support and presence at the Law Day Lunch this year and believe there was a great time had by all. We look forward to a fantastic turn-out in 2012!



LAW DAY SCHOLARSHIPS



At our Law Day Luncheon, the SCBA presents scholarships to Stanislaus County High School Seniors meeting rigorous criteria, including interest in pursuing a career in law.

This year, we honored two bright, hard working, and deserving students with a \$500 scholarship each, during our Law Day Luncheon. The 2011 Scholarship recipients are *Daneshia Grady* from Davis High School and *Brian Lewis* of Johansen High School.

The SCBA accepts donations to its scholarship fund throughout the year. Thank you to our donors: Mark Alexander, Vernon Gant, Ron Hillberg, Judy Jensen, Jeffrey Olson, Sabrina Tourtlotte, Matt Weston-Dawkes, and Jolene Yee.

MEET THE NEW SCBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



By Deana (pronounced "Dina") Skelton

Hello! My name is Deana (Dina) Skelton and I am your new Executive Director for the Stanislaus County Bar Association. I began working and training in mid-November, up until Roberta Burge retired on January 31st. I've been fulfilling the Executive Director duties for 6 months now, but when many of you ask me at the MCLE's, "How is the job going?", my usual response is, "Ask me at the end of the year - so I can get a full 12 months of Bar Association events under my belt!" I'd like to take this moment to thank each and every one of you that has participated in our efforts to 'go green' with the SCBA, by allowing us to e-mail your notifications.

I was asked to tell you a little bit about myself, so here it goes. First, you've probably all been corrected at least once over the phone, about the pronunciation of my name, when you call the Bar office. Don't make it harder than it is! If it had two "N's" it'd probably be De Anna. But it's just plain ole' Dee Nuh or Dean - a. I'll keep correcting you though, it's a habit now, after quite a few years of having this name (thanks Dad!).

I was born on an Air Force Base in Mississippi and cost only \$11. Really! So the story goes. Wait--that might be too far back. Well, my dad transferred out here to Travis AFB when I was 3, so I consider myself more of a Californian. We lived in Vacaville a few years and moved to San Jose when I was 7, where I grew up and graduated. I started my first job soon after graduation, when my parents moved to Morgan Hill. My job was 45 minutes away in Campbell, for a Check Printing Co., where I worked for 12 years. I worked my way up from an inspector,



all the way up to administration/customer service department - including 4 years operating the massive cutter machine.

I was a single mom for a couple of years, with 2 small children and then began a full-time administrative job and commuted to Pleasanton, 9-5 for a couple of years (another awful commute). I had my third child and chose to be a stay at home mom for nearly 8 years.

I re-entered the workforce with a part-time job, and quickly realized how much had changed. The technology had advanced by leaps and bounds. My work was 10 minutes away, 3 days a week, and perfect for the time being. I was an office assistant at a diesel repair shop where, after 2 years, I went full-time and became the owner's right-arm. When the economy changed, and the company was forced to lay me off, I immediately began a paralegal program here in Modesto and became certified by June. I worked at a few temp jobs at firms and businesses around town and then I interviewed for this position. I feel blessed and thoroughly enjoy fulfilling my new tasks!

My family? I have 3 kids - Erik is 23 and 'resting' after 3 years in the Army. Haley is 20 and in her 2nd year of college, working towards her AA. And Jeff is 14 and the only birdie in the nest! He'll graduate 8th grade this year and towers over his two older siblings. My husband, Ken, has worked for the same company over 25 years. Our family enjoys RV/camping, riding dirt bikes and quads, home improvement, and I'm pretty crafty, if I do say so myself. I love to decorate, especially baby rooms. I've also turned out a few mean wedding and birthday cakes over the years!

I look forward to meeting all of you personally, over time. I appreciate your patience and promise to run the SCBA as efficient as I possibly can.

The Stanislaus County Bar Association's 24th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, June 4, 2011

Dryden Park Golf Course
920 Sunset Ave, Modesto CA 95351

Check-In: 8:00 am ~ Shotgun: 9:00 am

FORMAT: Traditional 4-Person Modified Scramble

COST:Only \$95 per person-*includes* Green Fees, Cart, Beer/Soda & BBQ

PRIZES: Long Drives, Closest to Pin, Net/Gross Scores, Putting Contest & Raffle

EACH PLAYER'S HANDICAP or AVERAGE *must* BE PROVIDED BELOW:

Name	Address	Phone	Handicap
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A FOURSOME, WE'LL FIND YOU ONE!

_____ No. of Reservation(s) at \$95.....	\$ _____
_____ No. of Lunch(s) for non-playing guests at \$35.....	\$ _____
<i>Total Enclosed</i>	\$ _____

Please return your completed form with a check payable to:
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Please Call if you need additional info:

Keric J. Cushing 521-6260 ~ Marlisa Ferreira 525-5550 ~ SCBA 571-5729

ENTRY FEES DUE BY MAY 20, 2011

A Portion of Proceeds Will Benefit CASA

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