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Riverside County Bar Association



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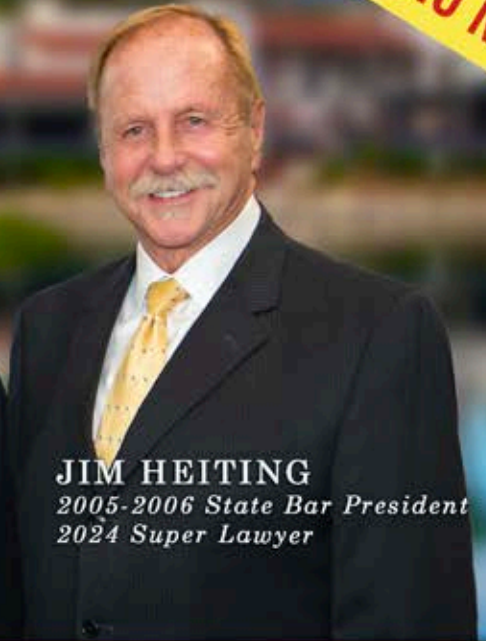
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Top photo

(Front Row L-R) – Summer DeVore, Elisabeth Lord, Megan Demshki, Sharon Ramirez

(Back Row L-R) – Chris Jensen, Mark Easter, Lauren Vogt, Goushia Farook, Chris Johnson

Bottom photo

(Front Row L-R) – Sara Truitt, Faran Imani, Sharon Ramirez, Summer DeVore, Derek Diemer

(Back Row L-R) – Henry Andriano, Elia Vasquez, Kevin Collins, Amanda Perez, Nolan Kistler

PRESIDENT'S Message

by Megan G. Demshki



Simply feeling thankful

A few months into my term as RCBA president and I am routinely struck by how giving of their time and talent the members of our RCBA community are. So many of our programs started as the idea of one member and were brought to life by the vision of a couple members willing to commit the time to make it happen. The programs are often spearheaded by just a couple of people who make it happen year after year.

Here are just a few of the examples that I'm thankful for this month:

- **Chris Jensen's** commitment to preserving the RCBA's history.

Chris serves as the Chair of the RCBA History Committee (as well as Board Secretary). What I didn't fully appreciate until this year was Chris' commitment to research into and preservation of the RCBA's rich history. Chris has now given two presentations on the RCBA history—one to the board and one to the current Riverside Chamber Leadership Riverside class—and the level of detail has been amazing. I learn something new every time! I am thankful for his commitment to preserving our history and I look forward to figuring out how we can share these stories and history with more members.

- The 2025-2026 Section Chairs' willingness to meet the challenge.

Carmela Simoncini (Appellate Law), **Andrew Saghian** (Civil Litigation), **Paul Grech** (Criminal Law), **Lori Myers** (Criminal Law), **Matthew Neufeld** (Labor & Employment Law), **Alisha Maline** (Labor & Employment), **Shane Duncombe** (Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law), **Aiskell Roman** (Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law), **Goushia Farook** (Family Law), **Michellanne Hrubic** (Family Law), **Danielle Linker** (Family Law), **D.W. Duke** (Human/Civil Rights Law), **Ednna Ibarra** (Immigration Law), **Alexandra Fong** (Juvenile Law), **Joelle Moore** (Juvenile Law), **Barry O'Connor** (Landlord &

Tenant Law), and **Bryan Owens** (Solo & Small Firm) currently serve as Section Chairs for the RCBA. This is no small commitment. Section chairs are charged with hosting educational opportunities for our members throughout the year and representing the various practice areas. This year's Section Chairs have committed to hosting several programs, providing opportunities for both in-person and remote learning. In October, the Section Chairs attended a planning luncheon and the energy in the room was so invigorating. I am thankful for their willingness to chair and carry out this important branch of the RCBA.

- **Jacqueline Carey-Wilson's** devotion to the *Riverside Lawyer Magazine*.

Jackie serves as Editor of the *Riverside Lawyer Magazine*. This magazine is published 11 times per year, and Jackie works tirelessly to edit and coordinate the articles in the magazine. That is no small feat! Jackie, with the help of the Publications Committee, brainstorms a theme for the month, recruits writers, herds in the articles, and edits the magazine. The magazine keeps our members informed and serves a time capsule for the Bar. I am thankful for Jackie's service to the RCBA in this important role.

- **Robyn Lewis** and **Greg Rizio's** unwavering dedication to the New Attorney Academy.

We are already over two months into the New Attorney Academy, and the participants bring the kind of eager energy and excitement that I want to channel into my own practice. Now in its 11th year, the program not only educates new attorneys about the practice of law, but the Inland Empire legal community. Robyn, Greg and the entire Steering Committee bring fantastic speakers to the Academy each month. From the speakers' willingness to take time away from their practices to the organizers' steadfast dedication, I am so thankful for this program and the way it is shaping the future leaders of this organization and our larger legal community.

- **Charlene Nelson's** love for the RCBA.

Nothing at the RCBA happens without Charlene and the amazing RCBA staff. Charlene is the RCBA's Executive Director and serves our organization with an unparalleled love and commitment. None of the programs or services the RCBA provides happens without Charlene. Charlene breadth of knowledge regarding all things RCBA is unmatched. We are so thankful for Charlene's tireless commitment.

Don't forget about Lawyer Referral Service (LRS)

In our office, December is always a busy month with new client calls—perhaps it's the holidays or the end of the year giving people a little nudge to get something off their to do list.

Unsure where to refer a potential new client? Direct them to the RCBA Lawyer Referral Service (LRS). Established in 1968, LRS is an excellent resource to direct members of the public to where the RCBA helps connect the potential new client with an appropriate attorney on the attorney panel. LRS has grown to over 75 attorney members and refers over 3,000 cases a year.

The panel is made up a broad range of practice areas of local attorneys ready to consult with the potential new client. For a modest fee, the potential new client is set for a consult with the attorney.

Are you interested in serving on the LRS attorney panel? We are eager to add additional qualified attorneys! Applications and more information are available online on the RCBA website.

Please reach out

I would love to hear from you! If you have any feedback or see an opportunity to grow the RCBA program-

ming, please do not hesitate to reach out. I'm also happy to introduce you to new colleagues at any of our events. My email is megan@aitkenlaw.com and my phone number is (951) 534-4006. We look forward to a year full of engagement with the RCBA.

Megan G. Demshki is the president of the RCBA and a partner at Aitken Aitken Cohn.



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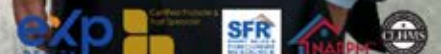
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BARRISTERS

President's Message

by Sharon P. Ramirez



As we turn the page on another calendar year and gather in the warm glow of the holiday season, it's a fitting moment to pause and reflect on how much our Riverside legal community has grown. The past few years have tested us in new ways, from pandemic-era adaptations to evolving client expectations, to the deepening urgency of serving diverse and underserved populations. And yet, it is precisely in this season of service and renewal that we can see our progress most clearly: more collaboration among bar associations, more outreach to young students curious about the law, and a growing sense of what it means to practice in a place where we all call home.

I'm reminded not only of the season's joy but also of the deeply personal traditions that shape who we are. Every December, I carve out a special day to visit Disneyland with my little sister, a tradition that goes back to our childhood. Those magical trips were a gift from our parents, a reminder of the sacrifices they made so we could experience a bit of wonder. And to this day, as the park transforms into a holiday dreamland, I find that same sense of gratitude and reflection, thinking of how those childhood experiences now inspire my own work and the way we give back to the community.

On the family business side, December is a natural time for review and planning. We look at the numbers, the cases, and the stories of those we've served, always asking, "How can we make an even bigger impact in the Inland Empire next year?" It's not just about goals and projections, it's about how we can deepen our service, especially for families and clients who trust us to be their advocates.

As we look toward 2026, I see our legal community continuing to grow not just in size, but in the depth of our commitment to those we serve. The holidays remind us that our work is more than a profession it's

a calling to create a more just and compassionate community. And as we step into the new year, let's carry that spirit of purpose forward, knowing that every small act of kindness and every case we take on is part of a bigger journey toward a brighter future.

Finally, this season offers a special opportunity for each of us to carry the spirit of service into our practice and our lives. Whether it's writing a holiday card to a colleague, volunteering at a legal-aid event, or mentoring a young student who wonders whether a career in law is reachable. It's these small acts of kindness set the tone for the year ahead. As the December chill gives way to new beginnings, let's enter 2026 with gratitude for how far we've come, and determination for the journey still to be traveled.

Happy Holidays and New Year's to you and your loved ones! Here's to our best year ahead!

Past Events Recap

November was a full and fulfilling month for the Barristers, filled with connection, collaboration, and celebration!

We kicked things off on November 5 with a joint RCBA Board and Barristers Board Mixer, where both boards came together, with special thanks to the initiative of RCBA President Megan Demshki. As a past president of the Barristers herself, Megan's commitment to



RCBA and Barristers Boards Mixer



November Happy Hour



November Happy Hour

building bridges between the two boards made the evening especially meaningful. It was a great opportunity for new board members to meet one another and for returning members to strengthen relationships that continue to support the growth of both organizations.

Just a couple of days later, on November 7, we hosted our Barristers Happy Hour at The State in downtown Riverside, with appetizers generously sponsored by Kenny Ramirez Law Firm. It was a wonderful evening where we welcomed many new faces, including members of the 2025-2026 RCBA New Attorney Academy. It was fantastic to see so many first-time attendees and to feel the energy of new connections being formed. Our happy hour gatherings continue to be a cornerstone for young attorneys looking to build their professional network and create community in a relaxed setting.

To round out the month, our board members, including Kevin Collins, Derek Diemer, Sara Truitt and myself, were invited to attend the UCR Phi Alpha Delta Lawyer Banquet on November 17, where we had the chance to sit on a panel, share our journeys, and connect with Phi Alpha Delta members who are eager to pursue careers in law. It was inspiring to hear their questions, share advice, and see firsthand how much enthusiasm there is among the next generation of future attorneys. It was a special evening that underscored our dedication to supporting the next generation of legal professionals.

As we look ahead to 2026, we're proud of how far the Barristers have come, continuing to create spaces for networking, mentorship, and community. We're grateful for every member, sponsor, and volunteer who helps make these events possible and can't wait to build on this momentum in the new year.

Upcoming Events. You're Invited!

We're finishing 2025 strong and starting 2026 with some great events that we have planned for you. Hope to see you there!

- Barristers and Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire (HBAIE) will be teaming up for the RCBA Elves Wrapping at the RCBA Building (there may be some prizes for those wearing holiday sweaters!) followed by Happy Hour afterwards at W. Wolfskill. Appetizers will be pro-

vided courtesy of our sponsor, Alleviate Institute of Spine and Pain – Wednesday, December 10

- o Wrapping will be from 4-7pm, stop by anytime!
- o At around 7pm we will walk over to W. Wolfskill and enjoy some more time together!
- CLE with JAMS in mid-December – check out our socials for more information and the registration link
- Barristers Happy Hour, appetizers will be sponsored by Imani Injury Firm – Friday, January 23, 2026, location to be announced

We are always happy to hear suggestions and ideas for events you are interested in seeing from Barristers. Please feel free to reach out! My contact information is below.

Barristers Board Spotlight: Sara Truitt, 2025–2026 Member-At-Large

Meet our next amazing board member!

Sara Truitt is an attorney at Cal-Lawyer PLC located in downtown Riverside, where she specializes in trust and estate litigation, restraining orders, and real estate litigation. This is Sara's first year serving on the Barristers Board. Sara values the friendships, mentorship, and professional connections that Barristers encourages. By participating in Barristers, Sara hopes to learn from her peers and mentors and contribute to the culture of support for new and emerging attorneys in the Inland Empire.

As a Riverside native, Sara enjoys seeing the growth and success of the region. She is continually inspired by the resilience and accomplishments of the local community. Sara served as the volunteer attorney for the Riverside Legal Aid Probate Clinic in 2024 and is excited to do the same for the Probate Pro Se Clinic in Temecula starting early next year. Out of the office, Sara enjoys yoga, skiing, and spending time with her family.

Stay up to date on everything Barristers!

For upcoming events and updates:

Website: <https://rcbabarristers.wixsite.com/rcbabarristers>

Facebook: RCBA Barristers

Instagram: @rcbabarristers

If you're interested in learning more about Barristers or you would like to attend one of our events, I am more than happy to connect with you and introduce you to our amazing members. Feel free to email me at sramirez@ramirezlaw.com or text or call at (909) 702-0058.

Sharon P. Ramirez is an attorney with Kenny Ramirez Law Firm located in San Bernardino, where she practices catastrophic personal injury. Sharon can be reached at sramirez@ramirezlaw.com.






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Changing Futures, Including My Own: Why I Volunteer with Project Graduate

by Jeremy N. Roark

When I first learned about **Project Graduate**, I was struck by its simplicity and power. As attorneys, we are trained to advocate, to guide, and to lend a voice to those who might otherwise go unheard. This program gives us the chance to do exactly that – not in a courtroom, but in the life of a foster youth who desperately needs someone in their corner.

The idea behind **Project Graduate** is beautifully simple: if we cannot foster these young people ourselves, we can still make a difference by doing what we do best – **advocating** for them. When I began my role as an Educational Representative, or “Ed Rep,” I was already fostering a newborn while raising my biological son, who has special needs. Our family had just opened our hearts and home to this new baby, and I was near my capacity as a parent. Still, I felt a deep desire to do more for foster youth – to contribute in a meaningful way even when we could not welcome another child into our home.

A Program with Purpose

Founded in 2011 as a philanthropic program of the Riverside County Bar Association (RCBA), **Project Graduate** partners with the **Riverside Superior Court** and the **Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)** to help foster youth graduate from high school and plan for life beyond it.

When RCBA members first discovered that fewer than half of local foster youth were graduating from high school, it was a wake-up call. These students, through no fault of their own, were often shuffled from one home to another, attending multiple schools in a single year and receiving little consistent educational support. Many were “aging out” of the foster care system at 18 without family, stability, or a plan – and far too often, without hope.

Becoming an Educational Representative

Each volunteer attorney in Project Graduate serves as an Ed Rep, appointed by the Juvenile Court to act as the educational rights holder for a foster youth identified by DPSS. The youth we work with are usually 16 or 17 years old, often with GPAs below 2.0, and placed in what’s called an **Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)** – meaning they are not expected to return to their biological families or be adopted. In other words, we strive to be the one of the few consistent adults in their lives.

We meet with our students monthly at Education Calendar hearings, where we review their grades, attendance, and progress. We communicate with teachers, counselors, and social workers, attend IEPs to make sure

their needs are being met. But the heart of the relationship goes beyond academics – it’s about being someone who shows up, listens, and believes in them.

A Program That Changes Lives

Since its inception, Project Graduate has helped **64 foster youth** earn their high school diploma or GED – and behind each diploma is a story of resilience, persistence, and support. For many students, the program’s incentive system provides extra motivation. They earn monthly points for attendance, academics, and community involvement, which later translate into financial rewards. Graduates receive a plaque, a laptop generously donated by the Juvenile Defense Panel, and recognition at a special June celebration. These may seem like small gestures, but for our students, it is significant.

Why It Matters – To Them and To Us

Volunteering with **Project Graduate** has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. It is a powerful reminder that advocacy does not end when we step out of the courtroom. In the rush of deadlines, filings, and hearings, it is easy to lose sight of the human side of what we do. Stepping into this role has given me perspective and renewed purpose. Many of these students carry deep trauma that can dull their motivation, willingness, and even their belief in their own ability to graduate. I have found great fulfillment in meeting that challenge – finding ways to connect with them, to earn their trust, and to spark an interest in their future. It is incredibly rewarding to see even small moments of progress turn into genuine hope for what lies ahead.

At our most recent graduation, we celebrated six remarkable students. At first glance, that number might not seem extraordinary – but when you know their stories, it represents something far greater. Each graduate symbolizes resilience, determination, and the triumph of hope over hardship. Together, we celebrated young people who have faced more obstacles, roadblocks, and barriers than most of us will ever encounter, yet still found the strength to persevere.

Through this program, we witness firsthand how our time and advocacy can truly change the course of a young person’s life. We help them find stability in a world that has rarely been steady, and we help them believe – often for the first time – that their future can be brighter than their past.

And in the process, something remarkable happens: **we grow too.** This work reignites a sense of purpose – the same one that led many of us to the law in the first place.

As one fellow volunteer put it perfectly, *“You can’t change where these kids came from, but you can absolutely change where they’re going.”*

An Investment in Our Community’s Future

Beyond personal fulfillment, the community impact of this program is profound. By helping foster youth graduate high school, we reduce the risk of homelessness, unemployment, and exploitation – challenges that affect not just individuals, but the health and safety of our entire county.

Every student who earns a diploma is one step closer to breaking the cycle of instability. Every volunteer who participates helps strengthen the community we all share.

How to Get Involved

Becoming an Educational Representative is easier than you might think. The process involves a background check, LiveScan fingerprinting, a short training session, and appointment by the Juvenile Court.

If serving as an Educational Representative is not feasible, there are many other ways to support Project Graduate. You can assist the **Steering Committee**, orga-

nize Career Day or other student events, help with **fund-raising**, or assist in **volunteer recruitment and training**. Every contribution – of time, skill, or resources – helps sustain this vital program.

A Call to Serve

Every young person deserves someone who believes in them. Through Project Graduate, we as attorneys have the opportunity to be that person – to use our expertise, empathy, and advocacy to make a tangible difference.

For me, volunteering with Project Graduate has not just been about helping one student graduate; it’s been about reaffirming why I became an attorney in the first place: to stand up for those who need someone in their corner.

If you are looking for a way to reconnect with your purpose, to make an impact that extends beyond your practice, I encourage you to join us. Together, we can help foster youth across Riverside County graduate not just from high school, but into a future filled with hope and possibility..

Jeremy N. Roark is an Educational Representative for Project Graduate and a family law attorney at Holstrom, Block & Parks, APLC. He is also the financial secretary for the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court.



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Attorneys say Judge Bermudez is a “quick study” who is “thoughtful in his analysis” and cite his “ability to be both thoroughly professional and extremely personable” and to keep proceedings “focused and efficient.”

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Judge Bermudez spent the majority of his 18 years on the Riverside County Superior Court presiding over unlimited civil matters, including a wide array of complex cases. He also served in the court’s family law division and, prior to his appointment to the bench, spent 16 years as a senior deputy district attorney. At JAMS, he will focus on resolving business/commercial, civil rights, employment, family law, personal injury, professional liability and real estate disputes.

jamsadr.com/bermudez



Leo A. Deegan American Inn of Court

by Gabriel White

The Leo A. Deegan American Inn of Court is one of the Riverside chapters of the American Inns of Courts. Per the national organization's website, the "vision" of the Inns of Court is a "legal profession and judiciary dedicated to professionalism, ethics, civility and excellence."¹ Our own website will tell you much the same: "The Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court is a professional organization comprised of attorneys and judicial officers, organized under the American Inns of Court," which "focuses on improving the skills and professionalism of the bench and Bar."² I'm going to try to describe here how these underlying values get translated into practice—what we *do*—and what being a part of the Inn has done for me.

I'll start with what we do. Our program year runs from September to May. During the program year, after our September orientation meeting, we meet roughly once a month, with an adjustment for the holidays. In recent years, we have met at Loft 84 in downtown Riverside. These are social events and dinners, but they also usually qualify as continuing legal education (CLE) on a topic that is at least loosely tied to the Inns' fundamental values of professionalism, ethics, civility and excellence. We also have one meeting per year, normally in February, which is held jointly with three other Inland Empire chapters of the American Inns of Court.³ We rotate yearly which of the four Inns hosts the joint meeting.

At the beginning of our program year, the Deegan Inn divides up into teams of eight to ten, and each normally led by a judicial officer or two. Each of the teams is responsible for presenting at one of our regular dinner meetings. Most of the teams prepare a CLE program organized around a theme that our Board chooses for the year. Sometimes the theme is expressly legal-related. For example, one year, teams were each assigned a different clause of the First Amendment. Another year, the presentations were each on a United States Supreme Court case originating from Riverside. Other years, we take a more whimsical approach. This year our theme is nursery rhymes and children's stories. Our first presentation on this theme, at our October meeting, took Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree* as the starting point for an outstanding CLE program on attorney mental health and burnout. I'm looking forward to finding out what the rest of the teams will come up with.

In addition to the teams putting on CLE programs, we also have one team that devotes its efforts to community

service. Usually, this team's members continue or expand on their own individual volunteer passions, and the team also works together on one or more group projects. In past years, projects have included volunteering at the Special Olympics, working with victims of sex trafficking, conducting programs for underserved local schools, and raising money, collecting items and volunteering time for a multitude of local charities. The community service team reports on their work at our May meeting.

As a special mentoring aspect of our program, the Deegan Inn also holds "chambers chats" several times a year. Often organized by our judicial officer members, together with their colleagues on the bench, these are opportunities to meet with judicial officers in a casual environment and have a conversation. Of course, there is practical value to these programs for members who specialize in the practice area focus of each chambers chat. But it is also a rare opportunity to learn a bit about a new practice area and have contact with judicial officers our members may not otherwise encounter during their work.

Our presentation teams—which the national Inn would call "pupillage" teams, harkening back to the English roots of the American Inns of Court—put on excellent CLEs. Our community service team does awesome work, and they inspire me to do more in my own life. The venue where we now meet is beautiful and the food has been delicious. I always learn something from the chambers chats, even though—or, maybe, especially because—the topics discussed are not often directly relevant to my own work. And, even though I am massively introverted, I do enjoy the social aspect of our monthly meetings, which are opportunities to mingle with and get to know a little bit the brilliant and fascinating attorneys and judicial officers who make up our membership.

For me, though, the most important aspect of being an Inn member—the part that has kept me coming back as a member for most of a decade now—has been my team members. The presentation itself has never been my favorite part; see above regarding introversion. But each team is a group of attorneys and judicial officers, from a variety of practice areas and levels of experience. I usually have never met my teammates before, let alone worked with them. But we are all self-selected as motivated by the Inn's fundamental values of civility, ethics, professionalism, and excellence, which is a good place to start. The presentation gives the team a focus and something to work towards together, which builds camaraderie. And the best teams meet not just to prepare their presentation, but also get together regularly just for lunch, dinner, or coffee.

1 <https://home.innofcourt.org/>

2 <https://deeganinnofcourt.org/about>

3 Those three other chapters are the Hon. Joseph Campell American Inn of Court (San Bernardino), the Hon. Angel M. Bermudez American Inn of Court (Temecula), and the Richard Romer-Warren Slaughter American Inn of Court (Desert).

In doing so, we get to know one another, learn from one another, commiserate with one another about work and life, and so on. Over the years, I have gained dear friends and inspiring mentors, and more recently I have been able to serve as a mentor myself from time to time. I cherish these connections within the legal community that I simply never would have made without the Deegan Inn.

If you are a judicial officer or an attorney and a member of the Riverside County Bar Association, please consider joining us for our next program year! An announcement about applications will go out by email to RCBA members

in Spring 2026, and applications will be considered over the summer. In the meantime, please inquire about joining us as a guest at one of our dinner meetings. You can find my contact information and more information about our Inn on our website at deeganinnofcourt.org.

Gabriel White is a senior appellate court attorney at the California Court of Appeal, 4th District, Division 2, assigned to the chambers of Justice Michael J. Raphael. He is also the President of the Leo A. Deegan American Inn of Court for the 2025-2026 program year. The views expressed in this article are his own.



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Installation of Officers Dinner 2025-2026 RCBA & Barristers Boards

A record crowd attended the Annual Installation Dinner for the 2025-2026 Boards of RCBA and Barristers on September 11, 2025 at the Mission Inn.

The Honorable Sophia Choi served as the master of ceremonies. Judge William Bailey (retired) administered the oath of office to the RCBA board members. Megan Demshki was installed as president. The other officers installed were Elisabeth Lord (president-elect), Goushia Farook (vice president), Lauren Vogt (CFO), Chris Jensen (secretary), Alejandro Barraza, Summer DeVore and Chris Johnson (directors-at-large), Mark Easter (past president), and Sharon Ramirez (as Barristers president, she sits on the RCBA Board). Directors-at-Large Erica Alfaro and Alex Barraza were not in attendance; Erica was on her honeymoon in Spain and Alex was at the hospital waiting for the arrival of his son.

Judge Jack Lucky (retired) gave the oath of office to the 2025-2026 officers of Barristers. Sharon Ramirez was installed as president. The other officers installed were Nolan Kistler (president-elect), Henry Andriano (secretary), Kevin Collins (treasurer), Derek Diemer, Faran Imani, Amanda Perez, Sara Truitt and Elia Vasquez (members-at-large), and Summer DeVore (past president).

Mark Easter was honored as the outgoing RCBA President. Mark served almost two full terms (2023-2025) and did so despite facing a serious medical emergency at the end of his first term. He offered heartfelt remarks, reflecting on his years of dedicated service on the RCBA Board. He expressed gratitude for the strong support of his colleagues, friends and family, especially during his recovery period.

Jacqueline Carey-Wilson presented the 2025 E. Aurora Hughes Award to Brian Unitt. The annual award was named in honor of 2008 RCBA president E. Aurora Hughes, to honor a distinguished member of the RCBA for his or her service to the RCBA and to the legal community.

Harlan Kistler was presented with the Attorney of the Year Award by Mark Easter. Harlan was recognized for his many years of service and dedication to the legal profession and to the Riverside legal community.

Megan Demshki presented RCBA lapel pins to Robyn Lewis, Luis Lopez and Craig Marshall for their 25-years or more membership in the RCBA.

Chris Jensen, chair of the RCBA History Committee, presented recognition plaques to Virginia Blumenthal and Steven Weisberg for their 50 years of membership in the State Bar of California.

The RCBA would like to give a huge thank you to the following sponsors for their generous contributions:

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Photos by Lisa Renee Photography, Nick Ochoa Photography and Jacqueline Carey-Wilson



Judge William Bailey Jr. (ret.) swearing in the
2025-2026 RCBA Board of Directors.



Judge Jack Lucky (ret.) swearing in the 2025-2026 Barristers Board.



RCBA Past Presidents

L-R Back Row – Lori Myers, Steve Harmon, Jane Carney, Brian Percy, Judge Steve Cunnison (ret.), Harlan Kistler, Jim Heiting

L-R Front Row – Judge Chris Harmon, Jacqueline Carey-Wilson, Theresa Han Savage, Mark Easter, Megan Demshki, Judge Sophia Choi, Robyn Lewis, Judge Chad Firetag (ret.), Judge Kira Klatchko



Justice Richard T. Fields and Marina Dini



Justice Frank Menetrez, Lisa Visingardi, Mike Vahl, Judge Kira Klatchko



Megan Demshki and Wiley Aitken



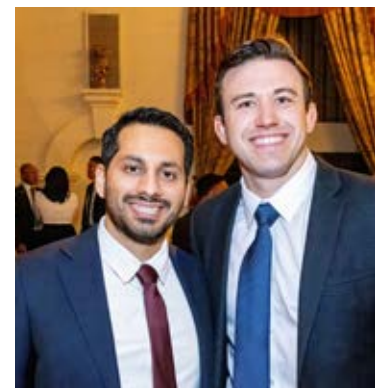
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Judge Steve Cunnison (ret.) and Brian Unitt



Judge Sophia Choi and Sylvia Choi



Faran Imani and Nolan Kistler



Senator Richard Roth, Jane Carney, Harlan Kistler, Mark Easter



Harlan Kistler and Darryl Exum



Megan Demshki and Mark Easter



John Demshki, Besty Demshki, Megan Demshki, Janet Gless, Brenton Burke



Judge Sophia Choi and Megan Demshki with 25 year or more members Craig Marshall, Robyn Lewis and Luis Lopez



Sharon Ramirez, Brandon Ramirez, Judge Jack Lucky (ret.), Kenny Ramirez



Diane Wiesman, Laiba Malik, Alicia Aquino, Viri Aquino



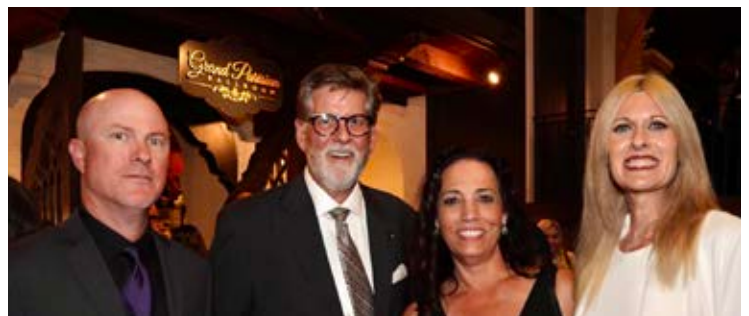
Shirley Li, Elizabeth Duran, Donna Brandt, Antonieta Leal



Mark Flory, Jack Osborn, Eric Anderson, Austin Borchard



Judge Chad Firetag (ret.), Michael Marlatt, Judge Chris Harmon, Steve Harmon



Robert Cleek, David Werner, Elisabeth Lord, Michelle Brooker



Chris Jensen presented plaques to 50 year members of the State Bar – Virginia Blumenthal and Steven Weinberg



Christopher Moffitt, Andrew Saghian, Scott Ditfurth



*Dr. Dorian Burton, Carmela Simoncini,
Presiding Justice Manuel Ramirez*



Harlan Kistler and Brian Unitt



Lauren Vogt, Brenton Burke, Olyssa Valadez



Megan Demshki and Judge William Bailey, Jr. (ret.)



*Jacqueline Carey-Wilson, Judge Jack Lucky (ret.),
Theresa Han Savage, Judge Kira Klatchko,
Judge Chad Firetag (ret.) and Lisa Visingardi*



Trish Lennan, Brian Unitt, Megan Demshki

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San Bernardino County Bar Association: Serving Together for 150 Years

by Michael Reiter

On December 11, 1875, a group of pioneer attorneys in San Bernardino met at the Courthouse and founded the San Bernardino County Bar Association (SBCBA). That founding marked the beginning of what is now California's longest continuously active county bar association. The purpose has always been steady: when lawyers organize together, the administration of justice improves and the public benefit grows.

Membership today includes solo practitioners, small firm attorneys, government lawyers, legal aid counsel, in-house counsel, and private firm attorneys working throughout the Inland Empire. Judges and commissioners participate as honorary members. SBCBA remains entirely voluntary. Its work centers on three goals: supporting the professional growth of lawyers practicing in the county, strengthening the justice system, and building connections among the individuals who make up the local legal community.

SBCBA operates the Lawyer Referral Service, or LRS, which helps residents find qualified attorneys for an initial consultation at a fixed fee. SBCBA also administers mandatory fee arbitration under the Business and Professions Code, providing a local forum for resolving fee disputes between attorneys and clients. These services demonstrate the dual role of a voluntary bar: strengthening the profession from within and offering direct help to the public.

The Association's long relationship with legal aid began in 1958 when SBCBA founded the Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino, Inc. That organization continues today as an independent 501(c)(3) public interest law office. SBCBA still supports its mission of providing free and low-cost legal services to residents of the county.

Continuing legal education remains central to SBCBA's work. The association offers MCLE programs that respond to local needs, including trial practice geared to local procedures, updates in government practice, ethics and competence programs, and practical

guidance on technology in modern legal practice. Judicial officers and court staff sometimes participate to provide updates on local rules and courthouse operations. Programs are offered in person or remotely as needed so that attorneys throughout the county can take part.

The size of San Bernardino County makes a strong local bar especially important. Lawyers practice in communities separated by long distances, and courthouse practices can vary. Meetings, MCLEs, and events provide opportunities for lawyers to stay connected, share information, and understand changes in the Superior Court's procedures and operations.

As part of the sesquicentennial year, SBCBA will hold a 150th Anniversary Gala on Thursday, December 11, 2025. The event will take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton Ontario Airport. A reception is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing. The Gala will bring together members, former presidents, judges, and community partners to recognize SBCBA's history and its ongoing role in the county.

SBCBA's story runs parallel to the development of the region itself. It predates the creation of Riverside County in 1893. It has witnessed the building and modernization of multiple courthouses, the growth of the local legal community, and statewide changes in technology and procedure. Through each period of change, SBCBA has provided continuity for lawyers and stability for the public.

Membership is open to attorneys in good standing, judges, law students, and others who support SBCBA's mission. Participation can take many forms, including attending MCLE programs, volunteering for LRS or fee arbitration, contributing to committee work, or supporting legal aid. Each contribution reflects the same idea that guided the founders in 1875: lawyers improve the administration of justice when they work together.

SBCBA remains committed to serving the profession, the public, and the legal system of the county as it moves into its next one hundred fifty years.

Michael Reiter is a former president and the Chief Historian of the San Bernardino County Bar's Sesquicentennial Celebration.



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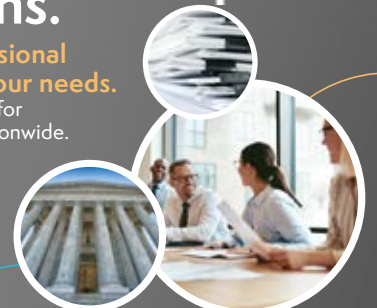


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Presenting the E. Aurora Hughes Award to Brian Unitt

by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson

On September 11, 2025, I was honored to present one of the associations' most meaningful recognitions, the E. Aurora Hughes Award. This award is given to individuals in the legal community whose careers reflect not only excellence in the practice of law but also an extraordinary commitment to service, mentorship, and resilience. During the installation, we celebrated someone who embodies all those qualities and more – Brian Unitt.

First, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable woman whose name this award carries: E. Aurora Hughes.

Aurora was an extraordinary lawyer, leader, and mentor. Her legal skill was matched only by her unwavering determination. Even after being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a progressive and devastating disease, Aurora never stepped back from serving others. In fact, she continued to lead with strength and grace, serving as president of the Riverside County Bar Association while facing unimaginable challenges.

Her life reminds us that true leadership is not defined by circumstances – it is defined by perseverance, dedication, and service.

Brian's journey reflects that same spirit. Brian has a condition known as retinitis pigmentosa, which has left him totally blind. Brian's vision problems were first recognized when he was a toddler. By the time he was in first grade he had begun to learn braille and of course picked it up very quickly. He was educated in mainstream classrooms and was always in the top of his class. He went to the University of California, Riverside for undergraduate studies, starting as a music major and finishing in political science in four years. He went on to UC Davis for law school and finished in three years. He sat the bar exam, in Braille, and was given only time and a half to accommodate his disability. He took barely over the standard time and, of course, he passed the first time.

After Brian passed the bar, he began what has now been an extraordinary 40-year legal career. For decades, Brian served as a shareholder and managing partner at Holstein, Taylor & Unitt, where he built a reputation as a



Jacqueline Carey-Wilson, Sophia Choi, Brian Unitt, Megan Demshki

certified specialist in appellate law – one of the most complex and prestigious areas of practice. Today, he continues his work as a sole practitioner, dividing his time between Riverside and Santa Cruz.

What makes Brian's achievements even more remarkable is that he has never allowed his visual impairment to limit his goals, his passion, or his impact. Patricia Law, a former partner with Brian, once told a story that

she had asked Brian to make an appearance for her in court. After the appearance, she received a call from the opposing attorney who asked what was the problem with her associate. The attorney said he stuck out his hand to introduce himself and Brian walked right passed him. Patricia responded, "Well, he doesn't have a problem, he is blind."

Navigating appellate law – an area that demands precision, analysis, and mastery of details – would be daunting for anyone. But Brian's accomplishments remind us that excellence is not defined by the challenges we face, but by how we rise above them.

Like Aurora Hughes, Brian shows us what it means to persevere – to lead, to mentor, and to give back despite obstacles that would stop many others. His story is not just about legal success; it is about resilience, grit, and an unwavering belief in making a difference.

Brian's dedication to the Riverside County Bar Association and the broader legal community is extraordinary. Among his many contributions:

- Served on the RCBA Board of Directors;
- Chaired the Appellate Law Section;
- Presented at continuing legal education seminars on appellate practice, ethics, and elimination of bias;
- Written thoughtful and engaging articles for the *Riverside Lawyer* magazine; and
- Perhaps most meaningfully, chaired the steering committee for Project Graduate from 2011 through 2021 – a program that pairs foster youth with mentors to help them graduate high school and plan their futures.

Project Graduate in particular demonstrates Brian's heart for service. Through this work, he has helped young people navigate difficult paths, giving them tools and hope for a brighter future.

Over the course of his career, Brian has been recognized with several prestigious awards, including:

- The **Florentino Garza Fortitude Award** (2006)
- The **St. Thomas More Award** (2018)
- The **Terry D. Bridges Award** (2019)
- And the **Appellate Attorney of the Year Award** from the RCBA in 2022.

Each of these honors reflects a career built on integrity, dedication, and excellence. This recognition is especially meaningful because the E. Aurora Hughes Award celebrates not just Brian's legal achievements – it celebrates his resilience, his service, and his unshakable commitment to lifting others up.

Those of us who have had the privilege of knowing Brian personally know that his influence extends far beyond the courtroom.

Brian is a mentor. A teacher. A leader. He freely shares his knowledge, encourages others to grow, and models what it means to face challenges with grace, humility, and strength.

In many ways, his story mirrors Aurora Hughes' – two individuals who encountered profound obstacles and yet chose to keep serving, keep leading, and keep inspiring the rest of us.

By presenting Brian Unitt with the E. Aurora Hughes Award, we are thanking him for his courage, his leadership, and his example. Brian inspires all of us – not just with what he has accomplished, but with how he accomplished it. At the installation, we celebrated not only what Brian achieved, but who he was in this legal community.

Brian's brilliance as an appellate lawyer, his devotion to mentorship, and his relentless dedication to this community embodies the very spirit of E. Aurora Hughes. Like Aurora, he has shown us that our greatest impact comes when we rise above our challenges and use our gifts in service to others.

On behalf of the Riverside County Bar Association, it was my profound honor to present Brian Unitt with the E. Aurora Hughes Award.

Jacqueline Carey-Wilson is a deputy county counsel with San Bernardino County, editor of the Riverside Lawyer, chair of Reading Day, and a past president of the Riverside County Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association, Inland Empire Chapter.



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Richard T. Fields Bar Association 2025–2026: Elevate - Advancing Equity, Justice, and Leadership

by Channing Hawkins

My name is Channing Hawkins, managing director of Hawkins Legal, P.C. I am honored to serve as the president of the Richard T. Fields Bar Association for the 2025–2026 term. Our organization, founded in 2010, has long represented and supported the interests of African-American attorneys throughout the Inland Empire. As the local affiliate of the National Bar Association and the California Association of Black Lawyers, the organization is committed to increasing the number of youth of color who pursue careers in law and to promoting justice for communities of color in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The group continues the legacy of its predecessor, the African American Attorneys Association of the Inland Empire, which operated in the 1990s and shared many of the same goals.

The association is named in honor of the Honorable Justice Richard T. Fields, a pioneering figure in California's judiciary. Justice Fields became the first African-American jurist in Riverside County when he was appointed as a Commissioner in 1991. In April 2000, he became the county's first African-American judge and went on to serve 26 years on the bench. From 2007 to 2008, he was the presiding judge of the Riverside County court system, and in 2017 he was appointed to the California Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Two.

In keeping with Justice Fields's legacy, the association actively supports the Inland Empire community through programs such as the SOAR Initiative, which educated youth on their rights during law enforcement encounters; annual donations to families, and individuals in need; scholarships for students; and partnerships with local foundations. For the legal community, the association offers

MCLE programs, mentorship opportunities, networking mixers, an Annual Mock Interview Program with LaVerne Law School's Black Law Student's Association, and the Annual Judicial Mixer.

For the 2025–2026 year, the association proudly embraces the theme "ELEVATE: Advancing Equity, Justice, and Leadership." This theme reflects the commitment to uplifting members, strengthening professional relationships, and expanding impact through community-centered leadership and advocacy. We would love you to join us. Our meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The 2025–2026 Board of Directors:

- President: Channing Hawkins
- Past President: Kizuwanda Walton
- Secretary: S. Alfonso Smith
- Treasurer: Karl Hicks
- Judicial Liaisons: Judge Joshlyn Pulliam and Judge Margery L. Melvin
- Board Members at Large: Damien Robbins, Ashlee Poullard, Paulette Gray, and Tamara Ross

Contact Information

Richard T. Fields Bar Association
P.O. Box 782
Riverside, California 92502
Email: rtfieldsba@gmail.com
Website: www.rtfbarassociation.org

Channing Hawkins is the managing director of Hawkins Legal, P.C. He is the president of the Richard T. Fields Bar Association for 2025-2026.



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Attorney of the Year – Harlan Kistler

by Mark A. Easter

In September, at our annual RCBA Installation Dinner to honor our incoming RCBA president, officers, and board members, as well as the incoming Barristers president, officers and board members, I had the honor and privilege of presenting the Attorney of the Year Award to my good friend, Harlan Kistler.

Harlan was very deserving of this award. But in my estimation, it is not because of a particular verdict he won, or settlement he achieved, or ground-breaking appellate decision he successfully argued. No, this was more about who Harlan is as a person and as a professional, and the example he sets for all of us in our legal community.

I have known Harlan as a colleague for over 30 years now. And I have watched Harlan “grow” from a hard-working litigator, and tough as nails wrestler and wrestling coach (that other life of Harlan’s that is probably even more near and dear to him than his lawyer life), to a leader, mediator, and mentor.

Harlan is a mentor of attorneys. And he mentors not only the attorneys in his office who work for him, but other attorneys in our community. Attorneys who need a referral. Or need an expert witness. Or are struggling with getting a case ready for trial. Or are trying to decide between mediating or trying a case. Or need input on how much a case is worth. Harlan is always available with helpful insight.

Harlan has progressed from being a successful trial lawyer to also being a highly successful mediator. He sometimes settles five or six cases a week. And he mediates all types of cases. Harlan’s success as a mediator no doubt comes from the no-nonsense wisdom he has gained from his years of practice, and he applies his mentoring spirit to that experience. In settling cases, Harlan is effectively mentoring people on not only things like cost-benefit, risk, and the strengths and weaknesses of a case, but also the importance of time, family, certainty, physical and mental health, and the other things that are really important in life. I will add, on a personal note, that Harlan is also a mentor of mentors... advising others on how to get training and experience, and how to be an effective mediator.



Sophia Choi, Harlan Kistler, Mark Easter, Megan Demshki

And of course, Harlan, as a wrestling coach, is a mentor of young people (when he started, it was just young men, but now Harlan also coaches young female wrestlers as well, as that sport has evolved). And year after year Harlan has succeeded in coaching wrestlers to perform at a State Championship level. But Harlan isn’t just an instructor of complex wres-

tling holds, moves, and techniques. Harlan mentors his young wrestlers on the value of hard work, dedication, fitness, nutrition, teamwork, and spiritual health. Harlan’s impact on his wrestlers is far-reaching and life changing, long after his wrestlers have stepped off the mat for the last time.

But I have also observed that Harlan’s mentoring extends a step further. Indeed, Harlan is also a mentor of men—the fathers of his wrestlers as well as other men (some of whom are former clients). He develops long term relationships with these men, meets with them, fellowships with them, and mentors and shares his insight on how to be a better father, a better husband, and better boss or employee, and perhaps most importantly, how to have a deep and meaningful relationship with God. In fact, in the last two years he has taken a group of men on home-building mission trips to Mexico.

I am sure that after more than thirty years in this business, Harlan is very proud of his accomplishments as a lawyer and litigator. But I also know that Harlan is as equally proud (if not more-so) of how he has been able to serve the legal community, and the community at large, as a mentor all these years. I am proud of him as well, which is why it was with great joy that I was able to present him with the Attorney of the Year award this year. Congratulations, Harlan. Well done.

Mark A. Easter is the immediate president of the RCBA, a partner at Best Best & Krieger LLC, and has been residing and practicing in Riverside since 1989.



Judicial Profile: Judge Scott Williams

by Betty Fracisco

One of the newer judges in Riverside County, sitting in Department 41 in the Hall of Justice, is Scott Williams, a judge with an interesting background and an abundance of experience in the criminal justice arena. Judge Williams was born in San Francisco to parents he described as "growing up poor." His mother graduated from San Francisco State, as it was then known, and by the time their second child, Scott, was born, his mother was a teacher, and his dad was a bartender and operator of a liquor store.

The family moved to southern California where his dad continued to bartend and became a Longshoreman in San Pedro. When he was in sixth grade, the family moved to Diamond Bar, a culturally diverse suburb. His mom went to Whittier Law School and practiced in civil defense. Judge Williams attended Diamond Bar High School where he excelled in football and track. During his senior year, he was recruited by several universities and ultimately chose West Point and played on their football team from 1996 to 1999. He was greatly encouraged to attend West Point by his grandfather, a World War II Army veteran.

Attending West Point was a difficult adjustment for a laid back Southern California suburban kid. The rigorous schedule, the strict rules, the colder weather of the Hudson River valley, the hazing, and the class hierarchy were all a challenge. His salvation was football, because it afforded travel opportunities to schools like Notre Dame and Duke, and time away from campus for days at a time, as well as daily practice and gym workouts. The first two years were a challenge, and the last two as upperclassmen were doable. His entire family, including his grandparents, came to West Point for his graduation and commissioning as a Second Lieutenant.

Then it was time for Judge Williams to serve five years of active-duty service (plus three years in the reserves). His first duty station was at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, for his initial training as an air defense artillery officer. His good fortune was that he met his wife, before being transferred to Fort Hood, Texas. Then 9/11 occurred, and he was able to marry just prior to deployment with the Fourth Infantry Division to Kuwait. They went into Iraq at the start of the war, to provide security in Saddam Hussein's hometown. By now he was a captain, and they spent their time securing the city and rebuilding schools. After a year, he returned to the states, because he had served his five years and earned a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service.

When he returned to California, Judge Williams' wife and now three-year-old son were waiting, and the three of them moved in with his parents in Anaheim Hills, so he could prepare for law school. He had decided to follow his mother to Whittier Law School, now in Costa Mesa. There, he was accepted into their accelerated two-and one-half year spring



Judge Scott Williams

admission program and was fortunate to receive academic scholarships every semester. He graduated in 2007, passed the Bar, and accepted a job from Riverside County District Attorney Ron Pacheco. He spent the next sixteen years in the DA's Office with predictable assignments in misdemeanors, juvenile delinquency, grand theft auto, felonies, and vehicular homicides. During his last five years in the DA's Office, Judge Williams was assigned to the Fugitive Apprehension Unit, a single officer with the assistance of investigators and support staff who are tasked with working on the location and extradition of individuals suspected of serious felonies who have fled the country. The serious cases usually involved homicide and sexual assault on minors. Finding and extraditing these suspects was an arduous process, which involved cooperation between California, the federal government, and the country in which the suspect was eventually located. Success was in the return of the suspect to Riverside County for trial. Judge Williams found this work very rewarding.

Judge Williams had not given much thought to the judiciary until a judge recommended he apply, which was seconded by his wife and parents. He was appointed by Governor Newsom on January 29, 2024. Although his personality is reserved and he does not like being the center of attention, he does enjoy being neutral, loves his staff, and is very happy being a judge.

Decision making is tough, especially when the DA's office is upset with his ruling. One such case was his decision in the compassionate release of Frank Brown, a violent criminal whom he ordered release after serving only eleven of his forty-five-year sentence in August 2024. This was opposed by the DA, but Brown was in a wheelchair with metastatic liver cancer and died approximately two months after his release, so Judge Williams felt his ruling was justified.

Judge Williams has a busy home life. His wife of twenty-five plus years is the director of marketing for a hospice company. Now twenty-five-year-old son is an assistant football coach at Servite High School. Judge Williams' fifteen-year-old is involved in piano, running, and the gym, and eleven-year-old twins play flag football, which the Judge "coaches sometimes."

I guess you could say Judge Williams' life has come full circle. He has experienced things most of us will never experience, but from all appearances he appears to be just a local judge with a close family and a long marriage. Sounds great!

Betty Fracisco is an attorney at Garrett & Jensen in Riverside, a member of the RCBA Publications Committee, and a long-time member of the Board of Governors of California Women Lawyers.



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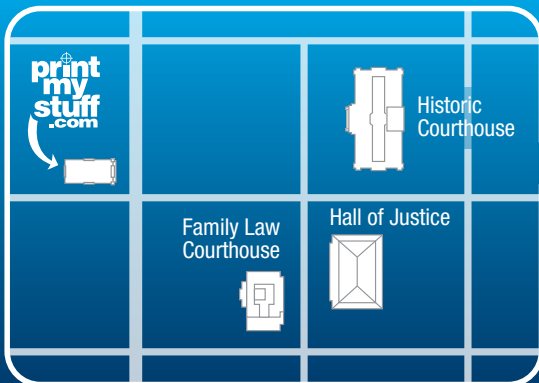
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Conference Rooms Available – RCBA Building

Conference rooms, small offices and the Gabbert Gallery meeting room at the RCBA building are available for rent on a half-day or full-day basis. Please call for pricing information, and reserve rooms in advance, by contacting Charlene or Lisa at the RCBA office, (951) 682-1015 or rcba@riverside-countybar.com.





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The following persons have applied for membership in the Riverside County Bar Association. If there are no objections, they will become members effective December 30, 2025.

- Michele D. Barfuss** – Anderholt Evans, Palm Desert
- Rosario Castaneda Barrera** – Law Student, Riverside
- Susana Beltran** – Law Office of Susana Beltran, San Diego
- Austin T. Borchard** – Brown White & Osborn, Redlands
- Katharine Naqvi** – Rob Schelling APC, Temecula
- Kathleen A. Venegas (A)** – Brown White & Osborn, Redlands

(A) – Designates Affiliate Member



* ATTENTION RCBA MEMBERS *

How would you like to receive (or read) the *Riverside Lawyer* magazine?

Some members have told us they prefer reading the online version of the *Riverside Lawyer* (at www.riversidecountybar.com) and no longer wish to receive a hard copy in the mail.

OPT-OUT: If you would prefer not to receive hard copies of future magazines, please let our office know by telephone (951-682-1015) or email (rcba@riversidecountybar.com).

INLAND COUNTIES JUDICIAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

This program was developed to assist all attorneys applying, or interested in applying, for a Superior Court judicial position. The program will assist in the development of a qualified and more diverse judicial applicant pool. This program is designed to identify, encourage, and provide mentors for all individuals considering a judicial career. One primary goal of the program is to convey to the legal community the uniform message of Governor Newsom's commitment to appointing a highly capable bench reflective of the rich diversity of our state.

To apply to the program, fill out the Judicial Mentor application at:

<https://forms.riverside.courts.ca.gov/Forms/JudicialMentorApplication>

For additional information, go to Riverside Superior Court website or email: JudicialMentor@riverside.courts.ca.gov

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

4 Joint Criminal/Immigration Law Section Meeting
Noon, Zoom
Speakers: Andrea Garcia, Serena Salinas, Christine Juneau
Topic: "Post-Conviction Relief for Non-Citizen Defendants:
Nuts and Bolts" Part II
MCLE

8 Roundtable with Judge Hopp
12:15 PM, Zoom
MCLE

Elves Shopping Night
2:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Walmart
1800 N. Perris Blvd.
Perris 92570

10 Elves Wrapping Night #1
3:30 PM - 7:30 PM
RCBA Boardroom

11 Elves Wrapping Night #2
3:30 PM - 7:30 PM
RCBA Boardroom

12-19 Elves Deliveries

25 Christmas Holiday – RCBA Office Closed

SAVE THE DATE -
MCLE MARATHON (SPECIALTY CREDITS)
Friday, January 30, 2026
Zoom

Events Subject To Change

For the latest calendar information please visit the RCBA's website at riversidecountybar.com

The Riverside Lawyer is published 11 times per year by the Riverside County Bar Association (RCBA) and is distributed to RCBA members, Riverside County judges and administrative officers of the court, community leaders and others interested in the advancement of law and justice. Advertising and announcements are due by the 6th day of the month preceding publications (e.g., October 6 for the November issue). Articles are due no later than 45 days preceding publication. All articles are subject to editing. RCBA members receive a subscription automatically. Annual subscriptions are \$30.00 and single copies are \$3.50.

Submission of articles and photographs to Riverside Lawyer will be deemed to be authorization and license by the author to publish the material in the *Riverside Lawyer*. The material printed in the *Riverside Lawyer* does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the RCBA, the editorial staff, the Publication Committee, or other columnists. Legal issues are not discussed for the purpose of answering specific questions. Independent research of all issues is strongly encouraged.

MISSION STATEMENT

Established in 1894

The Riverside County Bar Association, established in 1894 to foster social interaction between the bench and bar, is a professional organization that provides continuing education and offers an arena to resolve various problems that face the justice system and attorneys practicing in Riverside County.

RCBA Statement

The mission of the Riverside County Bar Association is: To serve our members, our communities, and our legal system.

Membership Benefits

Involvement in a variety of legal entities: Lawyer Referral Service (LRS), Riverside Legal Aid, Fee Arbitration, Dispute Resolution Service (DRS), Barristers, Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court, Mock Trial, State Bar Conference of Delegates, Bridging the Gap, the RCBA - Riverside Superior Court New Attorney Academy and the Riverside Bar Foundation.

Membership meetings monthly (except July and August) with keynote speakers, and participation in the many committees and sections.

Eleven issues of *Riverside Lawyer* published each year to update you on State Bar matters, ABA issues, local court rules, open forum for communication, and timely business matters.

Social gatherings throughout the year: Installation of RCBA and Barristers Officers dinner, Law Day activities, Good Citizenship Award ceremony for Riverside County high schools, Reading Day and other special activities, Continuing Legal Education brown bag lunches and section workshops. RCBA is a certified provider for MCLE programs.



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