

NEWSLETTER

THE BLESSINGS AND BENEFITS OF PRACTICING IN A 'HOMETOWN' COURTHOUSE LIKE EAST COUNTY DIVISION

By William A. Hannosh

I only recently discovered for myself just how great it is to have camaraderie and collegiality among local attorneys practicing in the same field as I am. When you're in a smaller city like San Diego (we're smaller than L.A., New York, and Chicago), we just cannot afford to tick off the wrong judge or that attorney whom we will be dealing with frequently. At last count, we had just a few courthouses around the entire county. (I think we have four divisions, and eight separate courthouses here). That makes for a smaller and more tightly-knit legal community too. In L.A., there are 35 separate courthouses. L.A.'s system is far more complex, complicated and less personal, I think.

I understand that our courthouse in East County is not exactly the rubric for sexy, glamorous and technologically sophisticated courthouses (you know, the ones used to film *Ally McBeal* or *Boston Legal* in), but it is cozy, welcoming, and thankfully, simple. Sure, due to its lesser stature, our courthouse could only be used to film a re-make of *Perry Mason*, but it is the East County Division's simplicity that makes me want to practice there. When you compare our facility and network of local attorneys to those of bigger cities (like Tinseltown's), you really begin to appreciate just how nice we have it. There are certain blessings and benefits to practicing in a "hometown" courthouse like ours.

About three months ago, I had to travel to one of L.A.'s largest courthouses, in downtown. Being from L.A., I was excited about going back there to litigate a hotly contested Restraining Order Trial. The judge was in his chambers, presumably reading pleadings to prepare for the matters on his calendar. While I was with my client, waiting in the gallery, I could not help but notice just how many arguments and tiffs

Upcoming Events Calendar

August 9th

Estate Planning and Probate Section Meeting
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Law Office of Nancy Kaupp Ewin, Esq.,
8155 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa

Speaker and Topic TBA

August 13th

Civil Litigation Section Meeting
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

BJ's Restaurant in Grossmont Center, La Mesa.

Topic: "Unemployment Benefits – is your Former Employee Entitled To Them?"

Speakers: Michael Freeland, Esq.

August 21st

Family Law Section Meeting
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

East County Court, Dept. 6. Located at 250 East Main Street in El Cajon

Topic: "Trying to Collect? Tips on Preparing the Writ of Execution"

Speakers: Joint Panel Presentation by the San Diego Sheriff's Civil Office and San Diego Superior Court – Civil Business Office.

August 29th

The San Diego Law Library presents:
"Bankruptcy and Debt Negotiation"
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (check-in 11:45 a.m.)

East County Branch
250 E. Main Street, El Cajon

To register, call 619-441-4451

Foothills Bar Association Notice of Board Meeting:

The Foothills Bar Association Board of Directors meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meetings will be August 21 and September 18 in the 2nd floor conference room at 7777 Alvarado Road, La Mesa (Allied Plaza Building). Meetings begin at 4:45 p.m. and continue until business is completed. If you want your voice to be heard in policy discussion and upcoming events planning or would simply like to learn more about the organization, your attendance is welcome.

were going on - right there in the courtroom. Two attorneys began arguing about some point of law, and what the judge's ruling would be. As soon as they were done, almost within minutes, another set of attorneys began arguing with each other - again, right there in the courtroom. One of them vigorously walked away, went over to the bailiff, and asked the bailiff to order the other attorney to "stop speaking" with her - as if that bailiff had some sort of wonderful, magical, Captain Kangaroo-type parental ability to keep attorneys in check. I was laughing on the inside, even though the tension in that department was apparent. As a matter of fact, as attorneys were arguing with each other, in the courtroom, their shouts were within earshot of the judge's chambers - and the bailiff did not seem to care about keeping any proper courtroom decorum. He just "let 'em have at it", as it were. And then, I had the pleasure of introducing myself to my opposing counsel. All I can say is, I am feeling more conversational give-and-take writing this piece for you now, than when I tried to speak with this Esq. - which is all he was - a mean, silent and unpleasant Esq.

L.A. is a different place, with a different vibe.

Having had this experience caused me to immediately recall the wise words of a law school professor. In talking about the judicial system and legal community here, he said that San Diego is a smaller town, and whatever you do in Court can always come back to you, whether it takes months or years. Here in San Diego (especially in East County), there really is no place to hide if you've offended or mistreated someone. We're not like L.A., in that if I committed a major faux pas in Pasadena, then I can just move over to West L.A. or Long Beach, where no one knows me. That out does not exist here. Being unruly, rude, difficult, or downright nasty will be talked about. And worse, because we all seem to be more tightly connected down here (as attorneys, paralegals, staffers and judges), we need to be more responsible and conscientious about how we carry ourselves and how we treat others as we practice in this profession. (Hopefully, we are already doing this, not because we want to avoid having our name placed in a negative light in the Daily Transcript, but because we do have an inherent commitment to treating others respectfully).

So, in the universe of possibilities, our East County Division could be used as a venue for a stage play of "My Cousin Vinny", because of its small, hometown feel; but, I can say, with confidence, that the spirit of collegiality and camaraderie among my fellow attorneys is golden. That, my friends, is a blessing and benefit. So, keep the collegiality and camaraderie going.

Civil Judge Pro Tem Schedule

Please be prepared to take the bench at 8:15 a.m.

Date	Temporary Judge
August 1	Steven Spinella, Esq.
August 2	Cynthia Stratton, Esq.
August 3	Catherine Tancredi, Esq. Barry Pasternack, Esq. 6/6/12 Steven Spinella, Esq. 7/26/12
August 7	Victor Torres, Esq.
August 8	Susan Yeck, Esq.
August 9	Connie Zimmerman, Esq. Michael Adkins, Esq. 7/18/12
August 10	Mark Abumeri, Esq.
August 14	Michael Adkins, Esq. Connie Zimmerman Esq. 7/18/12
August 15	Wayne Templin, Esq.
August 16	Elizabeth Aronson, Esq. David Pomeranz, Esq. 6/14/12
August 17	Dan Bacal, Esq. Jeanette Holm 7/31/12
August 21	Thomas Bucheneau, Esq.
August 22	Edward Castro, Esq.
August 23	Andrew Cook, Esq. Kathleen Corrigan, Esq. 6/6/12
August 24	Kathleen Corrigan, Esq. Andrew Cook, Esq. 6/6/12
August 28	Paul Fine, Esq.
August 29	Stewart Cowan, Esq.
August 30	David Demerjian, Esq. Danna Cotman, Esq. 6/7/12
August 31	David Egan, Esq.

CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION MCLE UPDATE

by Cheryl Stengel, Esq.

On August 13, 2012, the Civil Litigation Section will present “Unemployment Benefits – Is Your Former Employee Entitled To Them?” with speaker, Mike Freeland, Esq. from 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. at BJ’s Restaurant in Grossmont Center in La Mesa. Mr. Freeland is a sole practitioner and owner of Freeland Law APC, in La Mesa, CA specializing in employment law. Mr. Freeland represents and counsels employers and employees of all types in private sector/government matters such as: wage and hour, wrongful termination, employment discrimination, potential job loss/discipline, sexual harassment, defamation, and claims for unemployment benefits. A trial attorney for over 21 years, Mr. Freeland has represented his clients in numerous arbitrations, mediations, appeals and trials in the federal and state courts, administrative hearings before the DLSE, CUIAB, MSPB and EEOC. He has extensive state appellate court experience, and is an attorney of record in three published opinions from the Fourth District Court of Appeal in California. He is also published contributor to the San Diego Update Magazine and the San Diego Daily Transcript, and an active member of the California Employment Lawyers Association, the Foothills Bar Association, San Diego County and the California State bar associations.

Family Judge Pro Tem Schedule

Date	Temporary Judge
Wed, Aug 1, 2012	John McCabe, Jr.
	Emory Boutilier
	Debra Collicott
Wed, Aug 8, 2012	Julia Garwood
	Christine DeSantis
Wed, Aug 15, 2012	Charles Schmidt
	Solveig Duprey
	Scott Finkbeiner
Wed, Aug 22, 2012	Laura Miller
	Thomas Marshall
	David Pomeranz
Wed, Aug 29, 2012	Robert Lesh
	Cheryl Graf
	J R Givens
	Steven Merker

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CHECK IT OUT - LITERALLY!

by Keith A. Jones, Esq.

Foothills Bar Association’s partnership with Attorney Credits, an approved MCLE provider, has enabled the FBA to establish a lending library for its members. The library includes the final DVD videos of programs sponsored by the FBA. In case you missed any, here’s your chance to check them out.

The Paralegal Studies ABA approved program at Cuyamaca College is seeking a Worker's Compensation instructor for the Fall, 2012 semester. The class will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 for 5 consecutive weeks starting 9/26 to 10/24. For more information contact Mary T. Sessom at mary.sessom@gccd.edu.

We currently have the following titles, with more to be added as they are received:

- So You Settled Your Case, Now What? by Jon H. Espsten & Mark R. Raftery (Civ. Lit. Sec.)
- Medi-Cal Recovery – An Unavoidable Event? by Richard Scott Stewart (Est. Plan. Sec.)
- Estate Planning Opportunities Under the 2010 Tax Relief Act by Brad Dewan (Est. Plan. Sec.)
- Litigating the Personal Injury Case by George De La Flor (Civ. Lit. Sec.)
- Selected Issues in Legal Ethics by Professor Steven Berenson (Annual Hard to Get Sem.)
- Substance Abuse & Attorneys: Recognition, Understanding & Intervention by Mick Meagher (Annual Hard to Get Sem.)
- Update on Trust & Probate Litigation: Undue Influence by David Kross (Est. Plan. Sec.)

As an added bonus, members viewing the videos can receive self-study MCLE credit!

To borrow a video, contact the receptionist at the office of former FBA President, Nancy Kaupp Ewin, Esq., at (619)698-1788. Her office is located at 8166 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa, CA 91942. You will need to complete a form and leave a deposit subject to the following Video Library Policies and Procedures adopted by the Foothills Bar Association.

1. Contact the receptionist at Nancy Kaupp Ewin's office, (619)698-1788 to confirm the availability of a video and to make arrangements to pick up the video at her office located at 8166 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa CA 91942. You may also call (619)698-1788 to extend the check-out period subject to requests from other members for the video.

2. The FBA will need to confirm your membership status prior to the checkout and you will need to complete the form. You will be required to submit a check for \$20.00 representing a refundable deposit for the video.

3. Your check will be returned to you upon the timely return of the video. You will be sent an e-mail notification to the address provided by you to the FBA if you fail to timely return the video. If you fail to return the video within three (3) days after e-mail notification, then your deposit will be forfeited. You will still remain responsible to return the video.

4. You will be liable for the replacement cost of any video which is damaged, lost, or not returned, which includes the cost of the video plus any shipping, handling and mailing costs. Additionally, your membership privileges will be suspended until such time as you pay for the replacement costs or return the undamaged video.

Foothills Bar Association seeks a chairperson for the Criminal Law Section. Responsibilities will involve locating and coordinating speakers for lunch time MCLE lecture programs on topics of interest and providing Section status reports to the Foothills Bar Association Board.

Interested attorneys should contact Carolyn Brock at carolyn@crbrocklaw.com, 619-741-0233.

EAST COUNTY LAW LIBRARY LEGAL CLINIC - CALL OUT TO VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

The East County Branch of the San Diego Law Library is looking for volunteer attorneys who would be interested in staffing our legal clinic on September 28th. The available time shifts to choose from are: 10-1pm or 2-4pm. All areas of law are welcome to volunteer especially attorneys in the practice areas of family law, landlord-tenant law and general civil litigation.

For the legal clinic, we will schedule 15 minute appointment times with attendees in advance. We plan to give volunteers 5 mins break in between appointments, so volunteers would probably consult with 3 individuals per hour.

The attendees will all sign a legal disclaimer form, so that they understand that they will not be receiving legal advice and they will not be entering into an attorney-client relationship. We also inform attendees that the attorneys will not help them fill out legal forms because of the short time frame for the consultation.

Attendees are informed that they are consulting with the attorney for general guidance and assistance only.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event as part of your pro bono hours and community service, please contact Benita at: bghura@sdcpoll.org

By: Benita Ghura, Reference Librarian
San Diego County Public Law Library - East County Branch

Foothills Bar Association 50th Anniversary Celebration will be held in January of 2013. We are looking for old photographs and memories for the event. If you have a funny story, a photograph, etc. that you would like to share, please contact Carolyn R. Brock at carolyn@crbrocklaw.com. In particular we are looking for photographs or quotes from the past board members/presidents. If you are a past president and would like to submit a photograph (rather than letting us find one on our own) please send it to me at the e-mail address given.

Thank you!

2012 FBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, SECTION CHAIRS & COMMITTEES

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SUBMISSIONS

Your submissions are welcome! Send articles, letters, flyers, and other non-advertising submissions to Cheryl Stengel at cs@debtsd.com.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Send change of address or telephone number to Bradley Schuber at 619-589-8800.

Foothills Bar Association

P.O. Box 1077
El Cajon, CA 92022

Addressee Name
4321 First Street
Anytown, State 54321

The **San Diego Law Library**
presents

USING ONLAW

Wed, Sept 12th, 2012

12 – 1 pm (check-in 11:45 a.m.)

East County Branch

250 E. Main Street, 1st Floor

El Cajon, CA 92020



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or call to register at (619) 441-4451.



The **San Diego Law Library** **presents**

BANKRUPTCY & DEBT NEGOTIATION

Wed, August 29th 2012

12 – 1 p.m. (check in 11:45 a.m.)

East County Branch

250 E. Main Street

El Cajon, CA 92020

This workshop covers:

- Overview of Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcy filings;
- Procedures for filing a Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcy;
- How the process affects creditors and debts;
- Alternatives to bankruptcy filings – debt negotiation; and
- Open Q & A on debtor's rights

FREE

Sign up online at: <http://bankruptcy2012aug29.eventbrite.com/>
or call to register at: (619) 441-4451