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ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS FOR A SECURE FUTURE.

# Full Disclosure

## *DPLPA*

### *Newsletter*

## *Intro*

Desert Palm Legal Professionals Association's primary purpose is continuing legal education. DPLPA and LSI provide members with many opportunities to increase knowledge and improve skills.

# WELCOME!!

### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

By David Tennison

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to Desert Palms Legal Professionals Association. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. On behalf of your Board of Directors I want to thank everyone for your continued support and participation in the coming year. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and special events as well as participation in our scholarship program. Let's make 2012 a truly wonderful year for everyone!!!



# Meet Our DPLPA Boards of Directors (2011/2012)

**David G. Tennison, President**  
The Mack Law Offices  
[Dave@TheMackLawOffices.com](mailto:Dave@TheMackLawOffices.com)

**Joleen Leonard, Secretary**  
Law Offices Of Naran Reitman  
[jleonard@reitmanlaw.com](mailto:jleonard@reitmanlaw.com)

**Donna Ellis, Governor**  
Law Offices Of Brian M. Lewis.  
[donna.ellis@lawlewis.com](mailto:donna.ellis@lawlewis.com)

**Erika Garduno, Editor/Advertisement**  
Slovak Baron & Empey LLP  
[Erika.Garduno@hotmail.com](mailto:Erika.Garduno@hotmail.com)

**Patricia Pierce, Vice President**  
Sanger & Manes LLP  
[PPierce@sangerlaw.com](mailto:PPierce@sangerlaw.com)

**Donna Bleyl, Treasurer**  
(760) 320-8889  
[Tactics2001@msn.com](mailto:Tactics2001@msn.com)

**Florence Ross, Parliamentarian**  
Schlecht, Shevlin & Shoenberger  
(760) 320-7161

*To become a member of the DPLPA, please fill out the attached application and submit it at any DPLPA events along with the annual fee payable to DPLPA. Please visit our Website. <http://www.dplpa.org>*

## Benefits of Membership

Members of the Desert Palm Legal Professionals Association receive advance notice of all LSI publications and events as well as a yearly subscription to LSI's quarterly magazine, The Legal Secretary. Additionally, Desert Palm Legal Professionals Association has a monthly newsletter, Full Disclosure, which provides current information on changes in the law, legal procedures, law office products and management information, interclub news and meeting notices.

To view detailed information about the benefits of membership, please visit our website. <http://www.dplpa.org>

To view and print an application for membership, please print page 6. Adobe Acrobat is required to view this download. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat installed, you may download it for free.

## More About DPLPA

Desert Palm Legal Professionals Association was chartered by Legal Secretaries, Inc. a California Corporation ("LSI") in 1953. In joining the Desert Palm Legal Professionals Association, you also become a member of LSI. Dues are payable annually in advance and the fiscal year runs from May 1 to April 30. Monthly dinner meetings are held on Tuesdays (see the DPLPA Events section) and feature an educational guest speaker.

Desert Palm Legal Professionals Association's primary purpose is continuing legal education. Desert Palm Legal Professionals Association and LSI provide members with many opportunities to increase knowledge and improve skills. Classes and seminars are sponsored in addition to the educational speakers featured at monthly Desert Palm Legal Professionals meetings.

LSI offers memberships in specialized areas of the law such as: litigation, probate/estate planning, family law, criminal, transactional law and law office administration. Each section provides a quarterly newsletter which contains changes and updates in the law from throughout the state.

We also administer the California Legal Secretary (CCLS) certification exam, for secretaries with at least three years experience. The one-day examination is given semi-annually and covers California legal procedure, legal terminology, ethics, administrative and performance skills.



### DPLPA EVENTS

Regular Meetings listed below:

January 10, 2012  
March 13, 2012  
April 10, 2012  
June 12, 2012  
September 11, 2012  
November 13, 2012  
December 11, 2012

Meetings will be held at:  
The Clubhouse at **Desert Falls Country Club**  
1111 Desert Falls, Palm Desert  
(Corner of Cook Street & Country Club Drive, entrance north of Country Club Drive on Country Club Drive (If any changes, members will be notified via Email.)

Congratulations and a big welcome to our returning and new DPLPA members.

Mary Carter; Jason Connolly, Jordyn Gibbs, Kathleen Gorham, & Angela Richter

### BIRTHDAYS

A birthday is just the first day of another 365-day journey around the sun. Enjoy the trip.

Happy Birthday!!!!!!  
From the DPLPA Members

**December:**  
Angela Richter

**January:**  
Florence L. Ross  
Jason Connolly

**February:**  
Kathleen Gorham

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**  
**MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2011**  
**DESERT PALM LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION**

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the Desert Palm Legal Professionals Association was held at Desert Falls Country Club, Palm Desert, California, on November 8, 2011. Patricia Pierce, newly appointed Vice President and Acting Secretary, presided over the meeting in the absence of the President. A quorum was confirmed.

**Introductions:** Member, Joleen Leonard, led the Pledge of Allegiance, introduced the Desert Bar Association President, Mary Gilstrap, Esq., the evening's speaker, and called for the introductions of the members and guests.

**Speaker:** Ms. Gilstrap spoke at length and asked for group participation on how attorneys and their support staff could work more productively together. Ms. Gilstrap offered the assistance of the Desert Bar Association to promote the goals of DPLPA.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report submitted by Donna Bleyl was confirmed pending audit.

**Approval of Memorandum and Minutes:** The members approved the September 13, 2011, regular business meeting Minutes as printed and distributed to the members.

**New Business:**

1. Donna Bleyl advised the members that the November 2012 LSI conference account had been opened at Desert Commercial Bank with \$1,000. Conference Chair, Jennifer Ellis, is the signatory on the account.
2. Patricia Pierce announced that, pursuant to DPLPA Bylaws, President David Tennyson appointed her the Vice President of DPLPA for the remaining year due to the resignation of Elva Rizzo.

3. Patricia Pierce briefly discussed the Bylaws, stating that at the January 10, 2012 meeting, discussion would be held regarding the need to update and amend the DPLPA Bylaws. Patricia distributed copies of the Bylaws to those who requested copies.
4. Due to the vacancy of Secretary of DPLPA for the remaining year, Patricia Pierce asked interested members to submit their request to carry out the duties of Secretary for the remaining year to President David Tennison.
5. Jennifer Ellis, as the November 2012 LSI Conference Chair, felt she could no longer devote time to *Full Disclosure*, DPLPA's newsletter. Erika Garduno volunteered for the position and will take Jennifer's position as *Full Disclosure* Editor.
6. Treasurer, Donna Bleyl, opened the DPLPA Scholarship Account at Desert Commercial Bank with \$500. Signatories on the account: Treasurer, Donna Bleyl, and Vice President, Patricia Pierce.
7. Parliamentarian Florence Ross announced the particulars of the December 13, 2011 holiday party.
8. Discussion was led regarding fundraisers and the importance of fundraisers. The members agreed to Bingo Night one Friday in February 2012.

### **Reports:**

The members reviewed the November 2012 LSI conference report by Jennifer Ellis. No questions or discussion by members.

### **Motions:**

After discussion, it was moved and seconded to charge \$10 for MCLE credit at the January 10, 2012 meeting. Motion carried.

### **Announcements:**

No announcements.

**Adjournment:**

January 10, 2012, at 6:00 P.M. at Desert Falls Country Club, Palm Desert, California, were fixed as the date, time and place of the next regular meeting. The November 8, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patricia Pierce, Acting Secretary

**2012/2013 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN DESERT PALM LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION**

COMPLETE AND DELIVER THIS APPLICATION WITH YOUR CHECK FOR \$40 PAYABLE TO "DPLPA" (which includes local dues and Legal Secretaries Incorporated (LSI) per capita tax from May 1 to April 30) TO:

Donna J. Bleyl  
77-060 Indiana Avenue  
Palm Desert, CA 92211

NAME OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Birthday (month and day) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYMENT IN LEGAL FIELD (Include positions, dates for last five years): Litigation Secretary (2007-present)

IF ACCEPTED AS A MEMBER, I AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE BYLAWS OF AND THE STANDING RULES OF LEGAL SECRETARIES, INCORPORATED AND THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION TO WHICH I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING CODE OF ETHICS:

*It shall be the duty of each member of LSI to observe all laws, rules and regulations now or hereafter in effect relating to confidentiality and privileged communications acting with loyalty, integrity, competence and diplomacy in accordance with the highest standards of professional conduct. (Dedicated to the memory of Joan M. Moore, PLS, CCLS, LSI President 1980-1982)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR

**LSI members are eligible for membership in the following LSI legal specialization sections:**

ANNUAL DUES FOR LSI MEMBERS (AS OF FEBRUARY 2001) ARE \$20.00 FOR EACH SPECIALIZATION SECTION OR \$75.00 FOR ALL SIX SECTIONS:

**CIVIL LITIGATION  
LAW OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

**CRIMINAL LAW  
PROBATE/ESTATE PLANNING**

**FAMILY LAW  
TRANSACTIONAL LAW**

LSI LEGAL SPECIALIZATION SECTION MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES: (1) QUARTERLY SECTION NEWSLETTERS; (2) FREE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS; (3) REDUCED REGISTRATION FEES FOR REGIONAL SPECIALIZATION SECTION SEMINARS; AND (4) STATEWIDE ROSTER LISTING EACH SECTION MEMBER'S NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EXPERTISE AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA WITH WHICH FAMILIAR.

TO REQUEST LSI SPECIALIZATION SECTION MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, COPY THIS ENTIRE PAGE AND MAIL THE COPY TO: LEGAL SPECIALIZATION COORDINATOR, LSI CORPORATE OFFICE, 12852 HORTENSE STREET, STUDIO CITY, CA 91604-1123.

TO ALL ATTORNEYS, PARALEGALS, AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

*A Continuing Legal Education Program presented by*



## DESERT PALM LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

**TUESDAY · JANUARY 10, 2012**

General Membership Meeting

Social at 5:30 P. M.; Dinner/Program at 6:00 P. M.

### **TAXES: WHERE, WHEN, AND WHY?**

#### Jason Connolly, Paralegal

With a legal career spanning 23 years, Jason works for Sanger & Manes, LLP, as the senior tax paralegal. Jason has been under the tutelage of Howard L. Sanger, Esq., a certified tax specialist, for 20 years.

Jason's presentation will focus on basic issues that confront people that cannot or do not timely file income tax returns or timely pay their taxes. Jason will also give a quick overview of IRS and FTB collection actions.

*This activity has been approved for minimum continuing legal education by the State Bar of California in the amount of one hour of general participatory credit. DPLPA is a State Bar of California-Approval MCLE Provider.*

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LOCATION:	Desert Falls County Club 1111 Desert Falls Parkway (Country Club Drive & Desert Falls Parkway) Palm Desert, CA 92260
MENU:	Buffet (non-alcoholic refreshment included)
PRICE:	\$26. Plus \$10 for MCLE certificate (optional)

RSVP by Noon on Friday · January 6, 2012, to  
Patricia Pierce at [ppierce@sangerlaw.com](mailto:ppierce@sangerlaw.com) or 760.320.7421

# DPLPA' Scholarship

Each year Desert Palm Legal Professionals Association offers a scholarship to students enrolled in a college, university or business school offering a degree or certificate of completion upon graduation for a course of study in the legal field, i.e., paralegals, legal assistants, legal secretaries, law office receptionists, court reporters, etc.

**Scholarship Criteria:** Applications and accompanying documents must be submitted to DPLPA not later than April 15th each year. Scholarships are awarded based on:

- applicant's desire for a career / position in the legal field;
- applicant's academic achievement (GPA);
- applicant's financial need; and
- applicant's personal characteristics, aspirations and goals.

**Announcement of Award:** Recipients will be notified by DPLPA by mid-May each year via mail following the DPLPA business meeting. Completed applications must be mailed and postmarked to the DPLPA Scholarship Committee on or before the April 15th deadline.

Visit our website: <http://www.dplpa.org>

## Employment Opportunity

**Location: Palm Desert**

The duties of a legal secretary include but, of course, are not limited to:

- Legal Secretary for Family Law Specialist in solo practice.
- Must have experience in the preparation, service and filing of pleadings, and the preparation of correspondence from dictation.
- Responsibilities include dictation, calendaring, pleadings preparation, discovery, answering the telephone, responding to client questions, proofreading, and other duties that come up in a solo practice.
- Of particular importance is the ability to work with clients in exceptional emotional distress, while at the same time remaining pleasant and professional.
- The office is also in the process of transferring much of the office paper to electronic form, so knowledge and experience relating to scanning and tracking electronic documents is helpful but not essential.

Please only respond by email to [Bcanela@virginiascristeplc.com](mailto:Bcanela@virginiascristeplc.com)



### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Encouragement by Benjamin Franklin

The finest gift you can give anyone is encouragement. If everyone received the encouragement they need to grow, the genius in most everyone would blossom and the world would produce abundance beyond the wildest dreams. The U.S. Constitution doesn't guarantee happiness, only the pursuit of it. You have to catch up with it yourself.

### YOUR VOICE COUNTS

If you wrote any articles, have any photos, comments/opinions, ideas, employment opportunities to share with the rest of the world or inquiries, please submit your request (YOUR VOICE COUNTS) to:

[Erika.Garduno@hotmail.com](mailto:Erika.Garduno@hotmail.com)

YOUR VOICE... could be in our next issue.





# GOOD READING



## WILLS & TRUST

BY Kathleen Gorham  
Slovak Baron & Empey LLP

I know what you're thinking...boring, right? No way! And what so many people don't know, it isn't that expensive to have your affairs in order should, God forbid, something happen to you. I was surprised myself when I started in this field to learn that the basics cost only about \$1,600 - \$1,800.

But the basics – Will, Power of Attorney, Medical Directive and Trust are not so expensive. Not having these in place could cost your loved ones tens of thousands of dollars. First, you want a power of attorney and medical directive in place so that someone can make the decisions you want for you if you cannot. Second, you want to protect your money and your assets so that your spouse, children or other relatives will be able to continue without your income or monetary aid when you're gone. Protection of assets and allocation of taxes can be protected through a trust. For anyone with a special needs child or relative, a separate special needs trust can be set up so that assets, including assets that will build up over time or insurance policies can be set aside for the care and well-being of that special needs person, again, relieving your family of much stress. Sure, you're not taking any wealth you have with you but don't you want it to go to your family rather than to pay your hospital bill or other creditors?

Life is full of daily stresses, but no experience is more difficult than a loved ones illness, incapacitation or death. On top of that, even the closest and most well-behaved families fight over inheritance. We can relieve much stress and pain for them by dealing with those questions like, "What if something happens to me?" now, while we can.

If you already have these important documents in place, good for you! Make a note for yourself to check and go over them every new year. Never put off making changes that you think of.

For those of you without these documents in place, think about starting this new year with the extra security that comes with knowing your affairs are in order and your family will be looked after.

Happy New Year Everyone!



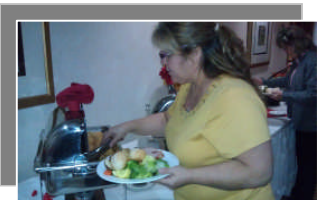
## Code of Ethics

Members of DPLPA adhere to the Code of Ethics which is dedicated to an LSI Past President, Joan M. Moore, PLS, CCLS, and reads as follows:

It shall be the duty of each member of Legal Secretaries, Incorporated, to observe all laws, rules, and regulations now or hereafter in effect relating to confidentiality and privileged communication, acting with loyalty, integrity, competence and diplomacy, in accordance with the highest standards of professional conduct.

# CAPTURED MOMENTS

(Don't miss the next event)



**DPLPA'S 2011 Holiday!!!!**

DPLPA would like to thank everyone that attended this event. As you can see, this organization is more than just an association – it's a family!!!!

Our warmest wishes to everyone and their families and that 2012 brings you, health, wealth and happiness.

Cheers!!!!

# CAPTURED MOMENTS

(Don't miss the next event)



DPLPA'S 2011 Holiday!!!!

Any photographs in your possession that should be here and shared – please contact [Erika.Garduno@hotmail.com](mailto:Erika.Garduno@hotmail.com) and reference POST MY PHOTO



<http://www.dplpa.org>



# Legal Secretaries Incorporated & Chairman

([www.lsi.org](http://www.lsi.org))

If you would like to get in contact with any of the people listed below, please e-mail [info@lsi.org](mailto:info@lsi.org) or call (800) 281-2188.

The day-to-day operation of the corporation is done by the Executive Committee consisting of four elected officers and two appointed officers as follows:

## Executive Committee:

President: Brooke Atherton, CCLS	Vice-President: Sandra T. Jimenez, CCLS
Exec. Secretary: Mary J. Beaudrow, CCLS	Treasurer: Jennifer L. Page, CCLS

## Appointed Officers:

Executive Advisor:	Christa Davis
Parliamentarian:	Julie Edsill, CCLS
Editor-in-Chief	Lugene Borba, CCLS
Editor of The Legal Secretary® Magazine	Deborah Rickert, CCLS
Educational Program Coordinator	J. Cori Mandy
Historian	Carrie Hughes, CCLS
Legal Specialization Sections Coordinator	Cheryl L. Kent, PLS, CCLS

The LSI Chairmen oversee the various programs and committees of LSI:

Advertising	Michelle Tice, CCLS
2012 Annual Conference Co-Chairs	Elizabeth Adame, CCLS Michelle Tice, CCLS
California Certified Legal Secretary	Terrie Quinton, CCLS
Career Promotion/Scholarship	Diana Dempsey, CCLS
Editor, The Legal Professional's Handbook	Maria Bishop, CCLS
Editor, Law Office Procedures Manual	Ann Boccia Rosado
Legal Procedure	Rod Cardinale, Jr.
Legal Secretary Training/Seminar	Colleen Young
Marketing Committee Coordinator	Sandra T. Jimenez, CCLS
Nominations and Elections	Christa Davis
Professional Liaison/Day In Court	Leanna Pierce
Liaison to Law Practice Management & Technology Section of the State Bar of California	Heather Edwards

## California Certified Legal Secretary Program ("CCLS")

Certification is achieved by passing a comprehensive examination. Candidates are tested in California legal procedures, legal terminology, performance skills, reasoning and ethics, law office administration, communications, and bookkeeping. A minimum of two years experience is required. Continuing legal education requirements must be met for recertification. For more information, please visit: <http://www.lsi.org/ccls.php>

## The Next Move Is Up To You

- Set your goal
- Register for the exam
- Study for the examination
- Pass the examination!

**Tamara Baron**  
CSR No. 6874

**YATES COURT REPORTERS**

**800.669.1866**  
cell 760.808.1585  
74967 Sheryl Avenue  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
[tamara@yatescsr.com](mailto:tamara@yatescsr.com)

**(LSI) Membership Benefits/Advantages ([www.lsi.org](http://www.lsi.org))**

**LSI®** provides educational, professional, and personal development information to legal support staff throughout the state of California. Many educational opportunities are available to members (and non-members, for a nominal fee) throughout California.

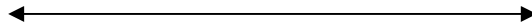
Monthly educational programs and newsletters are provided by local associations

General educational programs are offered at each LSI conference free to anyone wishing to attend. Topics vary among specialized areas of law, ethics, law office products and management, and personal development. Click on LSI Events for more information about upcoming LSI Events.

Members (and non-members) are given the opportunity to join one or all six Legal Specialization Sections. Each specialization section offers seminars and newsletters on specific areas of law. Seminars are presented at each LSI quarterly and annual conference free to LSI section members and at a reduced cost to non-section members. For more information, click on "Legal Specialization Sections."

Many local associations offer study groups for members interested in preparing to take the California Certified Legal Secretary (CCLS®) examination. Information on the CCLS examination can be found by clicking on "California Certified Legal Secretary."

These programs are designed to provide current material and educational tools to enable law office support staff to remain current with the changes in general law, as well as in their respective areas of practice.

**Why Become a Legal Professional?**

- Why Become a Legal Professional?
- Competitive salaries and benefits
- Knowledge and skills allow the freedom to work anywhere Competent legal professionals are well respected in the legal community
- Legal professionals fulfill a vital and meaningful roll for law firms and attorneys
- Continuing education enhances legal professionals, making them an asset to every employer

**How you can become a Legal Secretary Professional?**

- Learn basic secretarial and computer skills
- Enroll in a legal secretarial or paralegal course through business schools and college courses
- Enroll in a training course offered by a Legal Secretaries, Incorporated, association in your area
- Legal Secretaries, Incorporated, offers scholarships to non-members interested in pursuing a career in the legal field

**Why Join Legal Secretaries, Incorporated?**

- Become one of the 2000 elite legal professionals in California
- Build a network of knowledge by meeting other legal professionals
- Continuing education is the main focus of Legal Secretaries, Incorporated
- Our motto: Excellence through Education
- Expand your personal and professional development and skills through a multitude of educational opportunities offered statewide
- Enjoy discounted educational benefits through the Continuing Education of the Bar
- Become a California Certified Legal Secretary (CCLS®) through a course of study and a comprehensive examination
- Easily maintain your CCLS credits and your MCLE credits through workshops and seminars sponsored by the Legal Specialization Sections of Legal Secretaries, Incorporated

**LSI® EVENTS**

**February 24-26, 2012**

February Conference  
Concord, CA

*Hosted by Mt. Diablo LPA*

 [Conference Registration Form](#)

 [Hotel Registration Form](#)

 [CCLS Workshop Reg. Form](#)



**May 17-20, 2012**

78th Annual Conference  
San Diego, CA

*Hosted by Imperial County LPA  
and San Diego LSA*



**August 17-19, 2012**

August Conference  
Hilton Pleasanton at the Club  
Pleasanton

*Hosted by Alameda County LSA  
and Livermore-Amador Valley  
LPA*



**November 2012 Conference**

November 16-18, 2012  
Palm Springs Hilton

*Host Association: Desert Palm  
LPA*



# LEGAL SPECIALIZATION SECTIONS

## *Of LEGAL SECRETARIES, INCORPORATED*

### 2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

Complete and mail with your check made payable to LSI, for \$20 for each section, or a total fee of \$75 per year to join all SIX sections simultaneously if an LSI Member, or \$40 for each section or a total fee of \$150 per year to join all sections simultaneously if joining as a non-LSI member.

Mail to: **Cheryl L. Kent, PLS, CCLS, Legal Specialization Sections Coordinator**  
**5534 Blackbird Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566**

Enclosed is payment of my dues for the fiscal year 8/1/11 through 7/31/12 for the following Section(s). Please check appropriate boxes below for the sections you are joining.

Method of Payment: Check, payable to "LSI," enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐

Credit Card Information: Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Verification Number \_\_\_\_\_

PER LSI STANDING RULES, CHECKS ISSUED TO LSI WHICH ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDS OR OTHER REASON SHALL BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY BY CASH, A CERTIFIED CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR THE AMOUNT OF THE ORIGINAL CHECK, PLUS \$25 PENALTY, PLUS THE ACTUAL COST CHARGED LSI BY THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FOR PROCESSING THE ORIGINAL CHECK.

NEW RENEWAL


Civil Litigation  
 Criminal Law  
 Family Law  
 Law Office Administration  
 Probate/Estate Planning  
 Transactional Law



(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

NAME: MR./MRS./MS. \_\_\_\_\_ PLS/CCLS/CLA/PARALEGAL

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL ASSOCIATION: \_\_\_\_\_ LSA/LPA

RESIDENCE PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES): \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER'S ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS:** ☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE ☐ EMAIL

YEARS OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIALTY: \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILIAR WITH PRACTICE IN COUNTIES OF (Please indicate each County, not area):

**LET THE GAMES BEGIN!**  
WITH  
**MT. DIABLO LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION**  
FEBRUARY 24, 25, & 26, 2012  
LSI QUARTERLY CONFERENCE  
HILTON HOTEL  
CONCORD, CALIFORNIA

# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME (ON BADGE): \_\_\_\_\_  
MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCAL ASSOCIATION: \_\_\_\_\_ LSA/LPA (FULL NAME)

PLEASE CHECK IF APPLICABLE AND INCLUDE TITLE:

☐ STATE OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_

☐ STATE CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK IF YOU ARE:

☐ GOVERNOR   ☐ CCLS   ☐ PLS

SCRIP (INCLUDES REGISTRATION, WELCOME RECEPTION, BANQUET AND BRUNCH)

	<u>BY CHECK</u>	<u>BY PAYPAL*</u>	
POSTMARKED ON OR <b>BEFORE JANUARY 28, 2012</b>	<b>\$107.00</b>	\$111.50	\$ _____
POSTMARKED <b>JANUARY 29, 2012 OR LATER</b>	<b>\$117.00</b>	\$121.90	\$ _____

### INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

REGISTRATION BY JANUARY 28, 2012	_____ @	\$15.00	\$15.70	\$ _____
REGISTRATION JANUARY 29, 2012 OR LATER	_____ @	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$ _____
WELCOME RECEPTION (FRIDAY)	_____ @	\$20.00	\$20.90	\$ _____
GOVERNOR’S LUNCHEON (SATURDAY)	_____ @	\$33.00	\$34.40	\$ _____
PRESIDENT’S LUNCHEON (SATURDAY)	_____ @	\$33.00	\$34.40	\$ _____
MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON (SATURDAY)	_____ @	\$33.00	\$34.40	\$ _____
SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET	_____ @	\$51.00	\$53.15	\$ _____
SUNDAY BRUNCH	_____ @	\$27.00	\$28.15	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID				\$ _____

## CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

VEGETARIAN MEAL(S) REQUESTED

FOOD ALLERGIES:

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MDLPA**

MAIL TO: DIANA DEMPSEY, CCLS  
5356 Alonzo Road  
Vacaville, CA 95687

**\*TO PAY BY PAYPAL, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

WWW.MTDIABLOLPA.INFO AND FOLLOW THE LINK TO “PAYPAL.” Payment by PayPal includes a transaction fee.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

REGISTRATION CHAIR – DIANA DEMPSEY, CCLS, (925) 783-9085 – [diana@mtdiablolpa.info](mailto:diana@mtdiablolpa.info)  
OR CONFERENCE CHAIR – MARIA BISHOP, CCLS, (925) 284-7788 – [maria@mtdiablolpa.info](mailto:maria@mtdiablolpa.info)

**NO REFUNDS AFTER JANUARY 28, 2012**

**LET THE GAMES BEGIN!**  
**WITH**  
**MT. DIABLO LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION**  
**FEBRUARY 24, 25 & 26, 2012**  
**LSI QUARTERLY CONFERENCE**  
**HILTON HOTEL**  
**CONCORD, CALIFORNIA**

## HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**HILTON CONCORD HOTEL**  
**1970 DIAMOND BOULEVARD**  
**CONCORD, CA 94520**  
**(925) 827-2000**

**ACCOMMODATIONS: (PLUS APPLICABLE TAXES AND FEES)**

<b>ROOM RATES:</b>	Single:	\$99.00	Triple:	\$109.00
	Double:	\$99.00	Quad:	\$119.00
	Rollaway:	\$15.00		

**TAX: 10%    OTHER CHARGES: \$ .10/per night tourism fee**

**To make reservations (by telephone or online):**

[http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/C/CONCHHF-LSI-20120220/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/C/CONCHHF-LSI-20120220/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

Group Name: Legal Secretaries, Inc.  
Group Code: LSI  
Phone Number: (925) 827-2000

**FOR GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**REGISTRATION CHAIR – DIANA DEMPSEY, CCLS, (925) 783-9085 – [diana@mtdiablolpa.info](mailto:diana@mtdiablolpa.info)**  
OR

**CONFERENCE CHAIR – MARIA BISHOP, CCLS, (925) 284-7788 – [maria@mtdiablolpa.info](mailto:maria@mtdiablolpa.info)**

**MT. DIABLO LPA WEBSITE: [WWW.MTDIABLOLPA.INFO](http://WWW.MTDIABLOLPA.INFO)**

**HOTEL REGISTRATION DUE BY FEBRUARY 9, 2012**



## **BENEFITS**

### **LEGAL SECRETARIES INCORPORATED (LSI)**

*Note: This list is maintained for use by members of Legal Secretaries, Inc. Agents for insurance and financial providers are available as resources when members inquire about benefits. Please use this as a starting point; ask for information, compare policy coverage and prices. LSI wants its members to find the BEST coverage for each member's individual needs and location. For information call these representatives directly.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DISCOUNT THROUGH CEB</b></p> <p>Members of Legal Secretaries, Incorporated are offered a reduced cost for certain educational benefits (seminars, publications) through Continuing Education of the Bar. For more information, visit <a href="http://ceb.com/LSI/">http://ceb.com/LSI/</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WORKING ADVANTAGE</b> Toll Free: (800) 565-3712 <a href="http://www.workingadvantage.com">www.workingadvantage.com</a></p> <p>Discount on event tickets, movie tickets, theme parks, Broadway theater, sporting events, ski tickets, hotel certificates, family events, gift cards and more. Member ID: Contact LSI Corporate Office, <a href="mailto:lsicorp@suddenlink.com">lsicorp@suddenlink.com</a> or LSI Vice President</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HERTZ CORPORATION</b> Effective Date: June 1, 1996 CDP Card #447698 (800) 654-3131 <a href="http://www.hertz.com">www.hertz.com</a></p>	
<b>INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL PROVIDERS</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AFLAC AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION QUOTES</b> Steven C. Dannenberg (Independent Broker) 11091 Rhyolite Drive, Suite 4 Redding, CA 96003 Direct: (530) 339-5889 - Office: (530) 243-9879 Fax: (530) 243-9880 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dannenberginsurance@gmail.com">dannenberginsurance@gmail.com</a> Offering supplemental insurance for Accident, Sickness, Cancer, Dental, Hospital Indemnity and Heart Attack/Stroke.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT ADVISERS</b> Emerson J. Fersch, CFP, ChFC, CLU, CASL 5000 E. Spring Street, Suite 200 Long Beach, CA 90815 Office: (562) 420-9009 or (877) 270-9342 Fax: (562) 420-9955 <a href="http://www.ciadvisers.com">www.ciadvisers.com</a> Offering Retirement Planning/Investment Management, Pension and 401K Rollover Consulting, and Comprehensive Financial Planning</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DWORKIN INSURANCE SERVICES</b> Earl Dworkin 467 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 1 Palo Alto, CA 94301 Office: (650) 329-1330 or (800) 332-4313 Fax: (650) 329-9957 <a href="http://www.dworkininsurance.com">www.dworkininsurance.com</a> Offering Individual and Family Medical Insurance, Travel Medical, Medicare Supplements, Dental Plans, and Part D Prescription Drug Plans</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEGACY WEALTH MANAGEMENT</b> Daniel R. Henderson, MBA, CFP 3478 Buskirk Avenue, Suite 300 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 Office: (925) 296-2853 or (877) 679-9784 Fax: (925) 944-5675 E-mail: <a href="mailto:daniel@legacywealthmanagement.biz">daniel@legacywealthmanagement.biz</a> <a href="http://www.legacywealthmanagement.biz">www.legacywealthmanagement.biz</a> Offering discounted John Hancock Long Term Care Insurance and Life Insurance, Annuities, Retirement, Investment and Estate Planning, Mutual Funds, and 401K.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DAVID WHITE &amp; ASSOCIATES</b> Wealth Accumulation and Preservation 3150 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 2000 San Ramon, CA 94583 (800) 548-2671 Contact: Ryan Gonzales (ext. 2682), <a href="mailto:rgonzales@dwassociates.com">rgonzales@dwassociates.com</a>, or Matt Kay (ext. 2628), <a href="mailto:mkey@dwassociates.com">mkey@dwassociates.com</a> Offering Investments, Retirement Plans, Education Savings Accounts, Medical Insurance, Life Insurance, Disability Insurance, and Long Term Care Insurance.</p>	
<b>CREDIT UNIONS</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LA FINANCIAL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION</b> P.O. Box 6015 Pasadena, CA 91102-6015 (800) 894-1200 <a href="http://www.lafinancial.org">www.lafinancial.org</a> Open to anyone living, working or worshipping in Los Angeles County, or referral from existing member.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROVIDENT CREDIT UNION</b> 303 Twin Dolphin Drive P.O. Box 8007 Redwood City, CA 94603-0907 (800) 632-4699 - (650) 508-0300 <a href="http://www.providentcu.org">www.providentcu.org</a> All LSI members are eligible to join.</p>

#### **QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS CONTACT:**

Sandra T. Jimenez, CCLS, LSI Vice President  
LSI® Marketing Committee Coordinator  
P.O. Box 58, Seeley, CA 92273  
Cell - (760) 604-3057  
[sjimenez52@yahoo.com](mailto:sjimenez52@yahoo.com)



LEGAL SECRETARIES, INCORPORATED  
CALIFORNIA CERTIFIED LEGAL SECRETARY  
**WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM**

**“Ability to Communicate Effectively”**

Third Quarterly Conference, February 24-26, 2012  
Hilton Concord Hotel, Concord, CA

Saturday, February 25, 2012, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Speaker: Terrie Quinton, CCLS

Cost: \$5.00 for LSI members/\$10.00 for non-LSI members

*Affect v. Effect. Who v. Whom. Comma vs. Semicolon.* No, these are not recently filed lawsuits – they are some of the battles that are faced in the Ability to Communicate Effectively section of the CCLS exam. Even hours spent reading the Gregg Reference Manual do not always solve the mysteries of proper punctuation, grammar, and spelling. This workshop will help you navigate your way through the English language, including all of its exceptions to the exceptions. Join us for tips and tricks to passing the Ability to Communicate Effectively section of the CCLS Exam.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 20, 2012


Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Work): \_\_\_\_\_ Local Assn.: \_\_\_\_\_ LPA/LSA

Please make check payable to LSI. Mail registration to Terrie Quinton, CCLS, c/o Duckor Spradling Metzger & Wynne, 3043 4th Ave., San Diego, CA 92103, and email registration to [quinton@dsmwlaw.com](mailto:quinton@dsmwlaw.com).

CCLS CREDIT (SECRETARIAL SCIENCE - NOT UNIQUELY LEGAL) WILL BE GIVEN FOR THIS WORKSHOP

<b>LEGAL SPECIALIZATION SECTION SEMINARS</b> <b>3rd Quarterly Conference – February 24-26, 2012 – Hilton Concord</b> <b>Host: Mt. Diablo LPA</b> <b>REGISTRATION FORM - DEADLINE IS <u>FRIDAY, February 17, 2012</u></b> Registration <b>MUST</b> be <b>RECEIVED</b> by each Section Leader <b>on or before the deadline.</b> <b>Please make advance reservations so materials may be prepared. Please check appropriate boxes below.</b> <u>Mail, Fax or E-Mail a copy of this form to each corresponding Section Leader.</u> Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish confirmation of your reservation. <b>PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "LSI"</b>		
LSI SECTION MEMBER: Free with Advanced Reservations \$5.00 at the Door/After Deadline Handout Only: \$5.00	LSI NON-SECTION MEMBER: \$10.00 with Advanced Reservation \$15.00 at the Door/After Deadline Handout Only: \$10.00	NON-LSI MEMBER: \$15.00 with Advanced Reservation \$20.00 at the Door/After Deadline Handout Only: \$15.00
<b>Friday, February 24, 2012 -- 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</b>		
<b><u>PROBATE/ESTATE PLANNING:</u></b>  Topic: <b><i>Estate Planning Issues and Timely Topics for our Aging Population</i></b>  Speaker: Virginia M. George, Esq.  <input type="checkbox"/> I will attend <input type="checkbox"/> Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-LSI Member <input type="checkbox"/> Handout Only  <b>Send to:</b> Linda Moore, CCLS, Probate/Estate Planning Section Leader c/o Stutz Artiano Shinoff & Holtz, APC 2488 Historic Decatur Rd., Ste. 200, San Diego, CA 92106 (O) 619-232-3122 ext. 404 (F) 619-232-3264 Email: lmoore@stutzartiano.com	<b><u>CIVIL LITIGATION:</u></b>  Topic: <b><i>Trial Preparation</i></b>  Speaker: Richard C. Raines, Esq.  <input type="checkbox"/> I will attend <input type="checkbox"/> Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-LSI Member <input type="checkbox"/> Handout Only  <b>Send to:</b> Denise Aguilar, CCLS, Civil Litigation Section Leader 8279 Philodendron Way, Buena Park, CA 90620-2120 (H) 714-670-0215 Email: daguilar57@att.net	
<b>Saturday, February 25, 2012 — 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</b>		
<b><u>TRANSACTIONAL LAW:</u></b>  Topic: <b><i>Bankruptcy and The Road to Recovery</i></b>  Speaker: Diane Mecca  <input type="checkbox"/> I will attend <input type="checkbox"/> Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-LSI Member <input type="checkbox"/> Handout Only  <b>Send to:</b> Belinda Owens, Transactional Law Section Leader 3163 Easy Street, San Diego, CA 92105 (C) 619-261-9323 Email: bowens0913@aol.com	<b><u>FAMILY LAW:</u></b>  Topic: <b><i>Maneuvering thru Watts &amp; Epstein Credits</i></b>  Speaker: William P. Davis, Esq.  <input type="checkbox"/> I will attend <input type="checkbox"/> Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-LSI Member <input type="checkbox"/> Handout Only  <b>Send to:</b> Judith Williams, Family Law Section Leader 2368 Lincoln Street, Suite A, Oroville, CA 95966 (O) 530-534-8973 (F) 530-534-6551 Email: pwplgl2@yahoo.com	
<b>Saturday, February 25, 2012 — 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.</b>		
<b><u>LAW OFFICE ADMINISTRATION:</u></b>  Topic: <b><i>TBA</i></b>  Speaker: TBA  <input type="checkbox"/> I will attend <input type="checkbox"/> Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-LSI Member <input type="checkbox"/> Handout Only  <b>Send to:</b> Sara E. Mull, CCLS, Law Office Administration Section Leader Harris, Sanford & Hamman P. O. Box 908, Gridley, CA 95948 (O) 530-846-5691 (F) 530-846-5738 Email: sara@sacvalleylaw.com	<b><u>CRIMINAL LAW:</u></b>  Topic: <b><i>TBA</i></b>  Speaker: TBA  <input type="checkbox"/> I will attend <input type="checkbox"/> Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Section Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-LSI Member <input type="checkbox"/> Handout Only  <b>Send to:</b> Linda Lane, Criminal Law Section Leader P. O. Box 12582, La Crescenta, CA 91224 (H) 818-248-0739 (C) 818-434-6600 Email: l.lane44@yahoo.com	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PLS/CCLS/CLA/Paralegal E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Local Assn.: \_\_\_\_\_ LSA/LPA

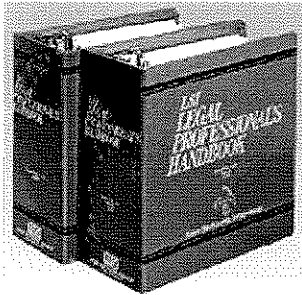
Method of Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Card: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ M/C \_\_\_\_\_ AmEx \_\_\_\_\_ Card Verification No: \_\_\_\_\_

PER LSI STANDING RULES, CHECKS ISSUED TO LSI WHICH ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDS OR OTHER REASON SHALL BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY BY CASH, A CERTIFIED CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR THE AMOUNT OF THE ORIGINAL CHECK, PLUS \$25 PENALTY, PLUS THE ACTUAL COST CHARGED LSI BY THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FOR PROCESSING THE ORIGINAL CHECK.

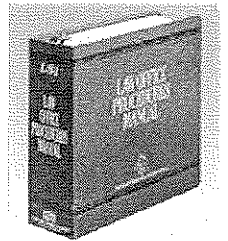
*The Legal Specialization Sections are a program of Legal Secretaries, Incorporated, an approved provider, and certify that these seminars have been approved for minimum MCLE/CLE credit of 1.25 hours each, by the State Bar of California.*

# Legal Publications

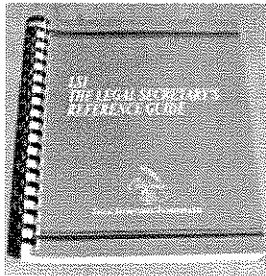


## LSI Legal Professional's Handbook and Law Office Procedures Manual

- The most clear, concise procedural handbook for California courts on the market! Cross-references to code sections and other legal publications.
- Twenty-four separation chapters giving deadlines and step-by-step instructions on what to do and how to do it. Reviewed and used by professionals throughout the state. Updated and reviewed annually by working members of the legal profession.
- These books are published through The Rutter Group and may be ordered by contacting 800-747-3161 extension 2 or through its website at <http://www.ruttergroup.com/legalsec.htm>. Members of Legal Secretaries, Incorporated, receive a discounted rate for these publications.



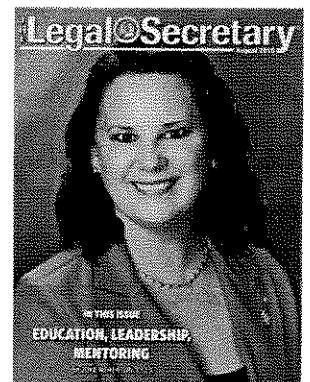
## Legal Secretary's Reference Guide

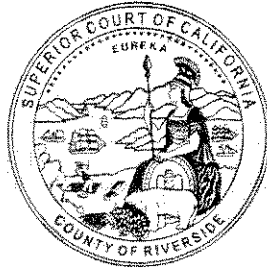


- A legal procedure guide designed to assist local associations in conducting a training class. Also useful for training office personnel and as a general reference for experienced staff.
- [http://www.lsi.org/reference\\_guide.php](http://www.lsi.org/reference_guide.php)

## The Legal Secretary

- Become a member of Legal Secretaries, Incorporated, and you will receive this informative quarterly magazine. The magazine contains educational and professional development articles submitted by LSI officers, chairmen, members and guest writers; a list of all officers and chairmen; notification of upcoming conferences, workshops, seminars, dates for upcoming California Certified Legal Secretary examinations and much, much more!





Superior Court of California  
County of Riverside

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CIVIL LAW AND MOTION HEARING DATE  
ON-LINE RESERVATION SYSTEM EXPANDS**

Effective Wednesday, December 14, 2011, the automated on-line system for reserving civil law and motion hearing dates will expand and become operational for civil cases pending in the court's desert region. The system was implemented for civil cases pending in the court's western and mid-county regions in April of this year.

With the exception of unlawful detainer and small claims cases, a civil law and motion hearing date can be reserved on-line through the court's website. Attorneys and litigants will enter the case number and type of motion with a short title or description and then reserve a hearing date.

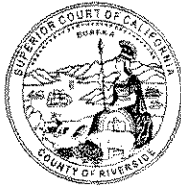
The only fee charged is the motion filing fee in accordance with statute. There are no additional fees to use this reservation system. The court accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express as forms of payment. A receipt with a confirmation number is available for printing.

Once a motion hearing date is reserved through the system, parties must serve and file the motion papers with the court pursuant to statute. Upon the filing of the motion and any related documents with the court, the reserved motion hearing date will be confirmed.

This convenient service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For further information, please visit the court's website at <http://riverside.courts.ca.gov/> and click on the on-line services tab.

Sherri R. Carter

Court Executive Officer  
and Clerk of Court



Superior Court of California  
County of Riverside

## **Public Notice re Indio Civil Calendar Changes**

### **Small Claims, Unlawful Detainers and Short Cause Civil Trials** **Moved to Department 1C Eff. 1/3/12**

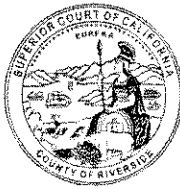
Effective Tuesday, January 3, 2012, Commissioner David E. Gregory will hear all desert small claims, unlawful detainer, and short cause civil trials in Department 1C of the Annex court located at 82-675 State Highway 111, Indio. Please make note of the following calendar time changes:

- Small Claims matters will be heard daily, Monday - Friday at 8:30 a.m.
- Unlawful detainer (landlord tenant) matters will be heard Monday - Thursday at 10:30 a.m.
- Short cause civil trials related to general civil matters scheduled after January 3, 2012, will be set Mondays at 1:30 p.m. (mandatory appearance).

Small claims filings will continue to be accepted in the Annex Court; all unlawful detainer and general civil filings will continue to be accepted in the Larson Justice Center.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the civil division supervisors at:

Mark Pettie: (760) 393-2299  
Enedina Diener: (760) 393-2094



**Superior Court of California  
County of Riverside**

4050 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92501

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

November 10, 2011

Contact: Sherrill A. Ellsworth, Presiding Judge (951) 777-3163

Barrie J. Roberts, Director of Alternative Dispute Resolution programs (951) 777-3157

(Electronic version available at:

<http://riverside.courts.ca.gov/media/media.shtml>)

**PRESIDING JUDGE SHERRILL ELLSWORTH INSTITUTES "PJ SETTLEMENT DAYS" TO RESOLVE CIVIL CASES ON THE DAY OF TRIAL**

RIVERSIDE COUNTY: The Riverside County Superior Court is pleased to announce a new monthly "PJ Settlement Day" program in which Presiding Judge Sherrill Ellsworth will help settle civil cases at the Historic Courthouse immediately before trial. The program begins on January 27, 2012, and is expected to help reduce the court's civil case backlog and increase access to justice for civil litigants countywide.

During a typical Friday morning trial calendar, litigants in over 20 civil cases tell Supervising Civil Judge Mac Fisher that they are ready to start trial. However, there is rarely an open courtroom for each case due to the continuing shortage of judicial officers in Riverside County: The court needs 150 judges but only has 76 judicial officers, leaving a deficit of 74 judges, according to the Judicial Council. Adding to this ongoing strain, the court is preparing for a \$10.6 million decrease in state funding for fiscal year 2011-2012.

Therefore, during every Friday morning trial calendar, Judge Fisher encourages each civil litigant to find "a glimmer of hope" for settlement with the help of a mediator in the court's "last chance" day-of-trial mediation program. This highly successful program was started by Judge Gloria Trask with the assistance of local attorney- mediators, Judge Woody Rich (ret) and Justice Barton Gaut (ret) in June 2008, and is now managed by the Riverside County Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Service (DRS), directed by Chris Jensen, and supplemented by the Chapman University School of Law Mediation Clinic, directed by David Dowling.

But some complex civil cases need the special attention that only a presiding judge can provide, so Presiding Judge Sherrill Ellsworth has decided to carve out time to help settle complicated civil cases that would otherwise require many days in a courtroom before a judge or jury.

Judge Ellsworth's "PJ Settlement Days" will help litigants in these cases avoid the time, expense and stress of lengthy trials while achieving more satisfying resolutions to their disputes, saving Riverside County courtrooms for cases that truly need a judge or jury to determine the outcome.

####





Superior Court of California  
County of Orange

CHAMBERS OF  
THOMAS J. BORRIS  
PRESIDING JUDGE

700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST  
SANTA ANA, CA 92702  
DEPARTMENT C1

December 15, 2011

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 11/05

ORDER TO FILE PAPERS ELECTRONICALLY  
2.253(a) of the California Rules of Court

Commencing January 1, 2012, and pursuant to California Rules of Court rule 2.253, the Court orders that all papers filed in actions containing a cause of action for breach of contract must be filed electronically. In addition to the Court providing notice, plaintiff and any cross-complainant naming new parties in all breach of contract actions shall serve a copy of this Order on all parties when serving the complaint or cross-complaint. For purposes of complying with rules 2.253(a)(2) and (3), the 10 days for opposing this order begins as follows:

- a) for plaintiff, on the filing date of the complaint;
- b) for defendant or cross-defendant, on the date the Court mails a copy of this Order to defendant or cross-defendant.

The full case number must be printed on all filings for breach of contract actions impacted by this Order.

This order only applies to breach of contract actions filed after January 1, 2012.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 15 day of December, 2011.

THOMAS J. BORRIS  
Presiding Judge

# FAMILY LAW SECTION REPORT OF THE DESERT BAR ASSOCIATION

January 2, 2012 ♦ Issue No. 12-01

**Chair:** Thurman W. Arnold, III, 225 S. Civic Dr, Suite 1-3, Palm Springs 92262, Tel. (760) 320-7915 [twarnold@verizon.net](mailto:twarnold@verizon.net)  
**Legal Analysis & Commentary:** Mark D. Gershenson, 400 S. Farrell, #B203, Palm Springs 92262, Tel. (760) 322-0555 [mdg@mdglaw.com](mailto:mdg@mdglaw.com)  
**Editor:** Lisa D. Jentzen, DCSS, 47-950 Arabia St., Indio, CA 92201, [lisa@jentzenlaw.net](mailto:lisa@jentzenlaw.net)

*If you have material which you would like to include in the Report, please email it to the Newsletter Editor by the second Tuesday of the month. With luck and timely submissions, and the editor's calendar permitting, the Report will be published on the third Tuesday of each month.*

*Disclaimer: Please note that the opinions reflected in the articles and other material herein do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Desert Bar Association, or its Family Law Section, as a whole or individually.*

## **MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

Join us in January for the FLS meeting scheduled for **Thursday (special day), January 12 at 5:30 p.m.** at **Amici Italian Restaurant, 71-380 Highway 111 in Rancho Mirage. (across from Desert European Motors, a few blocks west of The River).** Ordering is not required, so if you want to attend the meeting and skip dinner, that is fine. The restaurant has accommodated our request to order individually off the full menu.

Join us for the **January** Meeting, which starts at 5:30 p.m. **Barrie Roberts and Susan Ryan** will be speaking regarding 'New County Wide Family Law Mediation Panel and Workshops'. Our new Chair, Thurman W. Arnold, III, will also be speaking to the group about upcoming seminars and various ideas for our group. Hon. Dale R. Wells will be in attendance. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Mark your calendar with all the upcoming FLS meetings – lots of interesting speakers and timely topics on the line-up.

See you all on Thursday (not Tuesday), January 12 at Amici, 5:30 p.m.

- Editor

## **FLS MEETINGS SCHEDULE – 2012**

The Family Law Section meetings are generally scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of each month. Regular meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise announced. Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

**Jan 12: Meeting at Amici Restaurant, Please note, this is a Thursday! Not our regular Tuesday meeting.** Speakers: **Barrie Roberts and Susan Ryan**, re 'New County Wide Family Law Mediation Panel and Workshops'; Hon. Dale R. Wells also to attend

**Feb 28: Meeting;** Speaker and Location TBA

**Mar 27: Meeting;** Speaker and Location TBA

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

Greetings All and Best Wishes for a Prosperous and Sane New Year!

There are several important things to share in this January 2012, issue. These are as follows:

We have set the monthly section meeting for January on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Amici's at 71380 Highway 111, in Rancho Mirage. I am continuing to try to find a different venue for future meetings, but that is problematic because many (seems like almost all) restaurants require a preposterous guaranteed threshold amount for meals off their menus in order for us to use their space. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas on locations, please email me. Until we have a better location we are stuck with Amici's (the biggest problem there possibly being the limited size of the room that we can use).

Barrie Roberts, the downtown Riverside court's ADR Director and Susan Ryan, the court's Managing Attorney for Self-Help, will be speaking at our January 12, 2012 meeting about (a) the new county wide Family Law Mediation Panel that is being put together, (b) the new Indio Family Court Mediation Program that Judge Dale Wells will be supervising that is likewise being assembled, and (c) a Mediation Workshop that the Riverside Court is sponsoring in part to be taught by Gary J. Friedman of the Center for Understanding in Conflict which is set for February 24 and 25, and March 2 and 3. It is possible but not certain that Judge Jack Lucky will also attend to speak to us about these subjects, and particularly as to the successes that Judge Lucky has had with the program he began in downtown Riverside a year ago (including an almost 80% settlement rate). We attach herewith in this newsletter more information about that program. All of this is important to us in several ways:

First, no Mediation Panel for family law presently exists in the County. We are on track now to establish one very soon. For those interested and willing to do family law mediations, they will be listed by the Riverside Courts as 'approved mediators', such that this will form a referral basis for those of us who wish to do outside mediations (which we are permitted to charge for at whatever rates we wish to offer). However, there are some strings attached. To be placed on the panel we must each apply and be approved by a panel of Riverside County judicial officers. Certain minimum experience requirements will be imposed, which include completion of at least some basic mediation training workshop(s). The requirements are actually not severe. As I understand it, completion of Gary Friedman's February and March workshop will satisfy the CLE requirement, although that specific training is not itself a condition precedent for

getting on the Mediation Panel (i.e., other comparable trainings will also suffice).

Second, Gary's mediation workshop is being underwritten in part by the Riverside Court. In addition, the Riverside County Bar's Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) looks to be coming in as a co-sponsor. What this means for us is that the training will be at a dramatically lowered cost (possibly near zero) for participants, a value of probably \$1,200 apiece. However, in order to be subsidized and so attend at this reduced cost, each of us must apply and be approved, and each of us must promise to render a nominal amount of pro bono mediation for the year for what will become our Family Law Mediation Program in Indio. I have done 120 hours of trainings with Gary and he is fantastic. I don't know if any of you will care to read any of my scribbles, but here are two articles I've written that described my past experience of his workshops:

<http://www.cuttingedgelaw.com/content/sections-peace-making-understanding-based-guides-opening-dialogue-our-inner-selves> and

<http://www.understandinginconflict.org/%E2%80%9Cmediation-intensive-training%E2%80%9D-at-green-gulch-%E2%80%93-the-2011-redux/>.

My peculiar take on it might not at all be of interest to you, but I do promise that those who undertake this upcoming training will be glad they did and that it will to a certainty benefit their mediation skills and practices.

Third, space in Gary's workshop is limited to about 25 seats. While the impetus behind this program began for the benefit of our Coachella Valley family law attorneys, because the Riverside Court has signed on to paying a considerable amount for the training and so save us attendees big bucks it has evolved that approximately 8 court personnel (including a judicial officer or three) will be attending, and the balance of the seats will be offered to mediator-attorneys at this end of the county but will also include Hemet and to some extent Riverside lawyers. At the Strauss training that was offered on similar terms in Riverside about a year ago, in part to similarly train mediators for Judge Lucky's program, there were some 80 attendees and a waiting list. This training will be way more intimate and hands-on. Hence, if this is of interest to you I suggest you attend our 1/12/12 FLS meeting and get your applications in at once.

Fourth, this workshop is worth 32 CLE credits, which is always a good thing to knock out.

Fifth, Barrie and Susan (and hopefully Judge Lucky) will explain on January 12 how the Riverside program works. Litigants who participate are pro pers, although I believe one side may be represented (there are many details to work out, so please be patient with me if what I report winds up changing). What is really neat about it is that FLAC is involved and functions in this capacity to spend some hours before the assigned mediation dates (probably one Friday each month) educating the participants about family law and mediation, including filling out all the court required forms, so that the mediators in Indio will be handed a fairly complete file so that we can just mediate and not deal with administrative or paperwork hassles. The Riverside mediators indicate that this makes their role and experience much more positive and satisfying – and efficient.

Along these lines, we are also informing you about a workshop that J. Kim Wright is offering on Friday, January 27, 2012, out of my office mediation conference room (because of the lack of free alternate space). Kim is a major figure in evolutionary and integrative law nationwide, and the creator [www.CuttingEdgeLaw.com](http://www.CuttingEdgeLaw.com). She is an important voice for those who are interested in investigating a more holistic approach to the practice of family law. Because of space restrictions and also to make the program more participatory, it appears we are limiting participants to about 15. Please see the enclosed article about that program. It will generate 6 CLE credits, but it will cost \$235 (including lunch) for FLS dues' paying members (see below) and \$275 for others. If you wish to attend, please RSVP as soon as you can.

I am committed to trying to bring CLE and notable trainers to the valley – rather than us always being forced to travel elsewhere, if there is sufficient motivation and interest. Accordingly, I have spoken to about 15 FLS members to request that every family lawyer who wishes to participate in our section pay \$150/year in 'dues', on a trial basis this year, at this time payable to my trust account until I figure out how to create some form of entity to run it through. This is in no way a requirement for FLS, but just an idea that might benefit us. Every person I have

spoken with has committed to paying this fee (and I remember who you are!!!) Personally I will not be paying any section dues to the Desert Bar Association this year. There are about 25 others I've not spoken to yet. I am asking all of us to make this contribution, and the purpose of it is to begin to build up some small amount of money so that we can bring in really high reputation speakers from time to time (by defraying some of their expenses, etc.), to use in hopefully establishing a CLE approved provider capability for our section, and in order to hopefully discount workshops and other activities that with luck and sufficient interest will be set up some months of this coming year. I ask you now to send \$150 payable to the Trust Account of Thurman Arnold for this experiment. For instance, for Kim's workshop the regular price for non-contributors will be \$275, but people who do contribute will be discounted \$45 buckaroos, which seems a good way to manage and husband our resources (that \$45 will get contributed to our general fund). I will account for every penny, and in the Fall we can evaluate whether this was a hair-brained idea or a good one.

It would be really great of any of you who have ideas, interests, people you would like to be trained by or hear from, would shoot me an email and share your thoughts. My hope is that by March we could have a meeting to discuss these areas of interest, and more specifically what you might enjoy inventing and participating in. For instance, one topic that seems to resonate for colleagues I've spoken with is an aspirational "Pledge of Litigation Ethics" to try to make our professional interactions more collegial and less stressful. It would be wonderful if any of you are willing to become involved in any substantive way in helping with any of this – including especially any visions you might have, since these lofty goals will likely fall flat without assistance.

Anyway, I do understand how overburdened we all feel from time to time and that it may be that there is not a high level of interest in too many trainings, speakers, and so on. But there is such an opportunity for our outstanding group of committed family law professionals to come together and establish something larger than our individual practices that the downside risk of giving all this a try seems negligible. I also invite you to tell me you think that this is nuts, as you honestly feel!

Respectfully and Happy New Year,

### **GRANDPARENT VISITATION DENIED**

You may recall that in the November 2011 issue of the Family Law Report, I discussed *Hoag v. Diedjorahor* (2011) 199 Cal.App.4th 1321, in which the court upheld the trial court's grant of visitation to a grandparent over the objection of the surviving fit parent. That parent, although he acknowledged that grandparent visitation was in the children's best interest, denied the grandparent any real visitation even though the grandparent had been closely involved in the children's lives since their birth. The court found that a visitation order under those circumstances did not offend the rule in *Troxel v. Granville* (2000) 530 U.S. 57. *Hoag* was decided by the Fourth District.

Several weeks later, the Second District gave us an opinion that illustrates the other end of the grandparent visitation spectrum. In *Rich v. Thatcher* (2011) Cal.App.4th \_\_\_\_ (No. B228847, Second Dist., Div. Six, Nov. 14, 2011), the paternal grandmother sought and was denied visitation with the grandchild after the child's father committed suicide by a self-administered drug overdose. Grandma and the child's mother (who had not married the child's father) did not get along, and apparently had disagreements regarding the father's long-term use of illegal drugs.

Grandma got into court by moving to be joined in the father's previously-filed petition to establish a parental relationship. The trial court granted her request for joinder, conducted a lengthy evidentiary hearing, and denied her request for visitation. She appealed, but to no avail.

In the trial court's view of the situation, Grandma had two strikes against her: she was not all that involved in the child's life (her interaction with her grandchild was largely limited to that which occurred while she served as the court-appointed supervisor for the father's visits with the child), and she and the child's mother did not get along. Those factors, coupled with the mother being a fit parent, and Grandma's lack of veracity at trial, sank Grandma's ship.

The trial court found that

"Grandmother has not provided clear and convincing evidence to rebut the

presumption that Mother is acting in the best interest of [grandchild] in denying visitation to Grandmother at this time or that denial of visitation with Grandmother would be detrimental to [grandchild]." The court went on to find that, regardless of whether the "detrimental" requirement was satisfied, the granting of visitation to grandmother would not be in grandchild's best interest: "Even if the Court were to find that Grandmother had overcome the presumption by clear and convincing evidence that denial of the visitation by Grandmother was detrimental to [grandchild], the Court hereby finds that it would not be in [grandchild's] best interest to interject court-ordered visitation with Grandmother, particularly in light of the longstanding animosity between Mother and Grandmother."

The court applied a "clear and convincing evidence" standard in terms of a grandparent overcoming the rebuttable presumption that a fit parent will act in the child's best interest in allowing or denying grandparent visitation, i.e., the grandparent must establish that the denial of visitation would be detrimental to the child. Grandma challenged that "clear and convincing" evidentiary standard on appeal.

Although the Court of Appeal could not find any prior appellate decision which held that Family Code section 3102 requires that the presumption be overcome by clear and convincing evidence, it was quite comfortable adopting that standard:

To adequately protect a fit sole surviving parent's constitutional right to raise a child, a "mere preponderance" burden as to "best interest" is not sufficient. The "clear and convincing" burden, i.e. evidence "so clear as to leave no substantial doubt," promotes a parent's constitutionally protected "first" choice. The higher evidentiary burden preserves the constitutionality of section 3102 and insures against erroneous fact finding. [Citation.]

The Court of Appeal also approved of the trial court's alternate "best interests of the child" rationale for denying visitation to Grandma, noting that broad deference must be accorded to the trial judge's

exercise of discretion. The court found that Grandma had failed to establish a "clear case" of abuse of discretion by the trial court.

*Rich* offers several important lessons for all grandparents, lest they be faced with the tragedy of losing an adult child whose own children are still minors:

- Maintain a close, or at least cordial, relationship with your grandchildren's other parent.
- Maintain a close relationship with your grandchildren and be actively involved in their lives. Sure, distance can sometimes make this difficult, but if you don't do anything besides send holiday and birthday cards, don't be surprised if you get shut out of your grandkids' lives some day.
- If you have to litigate for visitation rights, testify honestly.

Will grandparent advocacy groups be pleased with *Rich*? Perhaps not, but that doesn't mean that it is not a correct decision. Should a child trying to cope with the death of a parent be subjected to forced visitation with a grandparent who was not a major presence in the child's life prior to the parent's death, especially if the grandparent and the surviving parent do not get along? From the perspective of the best interests of the child, one doesn't have to strain much to answer that question in the negative.

*Rich* and *Hoag*, taken together, show that grandparent visitation is extremely fact-driven, and focused on the quantity and quality of the grandparent-grandchild relationship from its inception (and the quality of the relationship between the grandparent and the surviving parent). Johnny-(or)Janie-(or)come-lately grandparents face a difficult if not insurmountable hurdle in court, especially in light of the clear-and-convincing evidentiary standard. While good lawyers can spin the facts to some extent, they can't turn them upside down or invent them. As practitioners, we are obligated to inform potential grandparent clients of what they face before we ask them to sign the retainer agreement.

- by Mark D. Gershenson



**JAN. 27, 2012 WORKSHOP BY J. KIM WRIGHT ON "HOW TO PRACTICE LAW CONSCIOUSLY FOR FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS":**

The Family Law Section of the Desert Bar Association is pleased to present a local workshop by J. Kim Wright, a nationally recognized evolutionary lawyer. The workshop will take place on Friday, January 27, 2012 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., so **SAVE THE DATE AND RSVP TODAY! Only 15 Spaces Are Available**

**COST:** \$235 for those FLS members who've contributed \$150 in dues to the FLS for 2012 (please see discussion about that in the 12/30/11 FLS Newsletter) and \$275 for those that haven't. While this program is offered to FLS Family Law Attorneys, space permitting, we invite and welcome all interested legal professionals! Lunch included. *In one day, get those otherwise annoying credits in Ethics, Substance Abuse and Elimination of Bias.*

Please join us for an examination of current research for how to practice law consciously: How might we make a difference that benefits the lives of others, earn a healthy living in what often feels to be the mean trenches of relationship conflict with integrity, and derive greater satisfaction than we otherwise experience when, it seems, we are otherwise at war – sometimes with our clients, often with the other party, at times with judges, and regularly with each other,... and sometimes - as a consequence - ourselves?

Let's be honest: What we do in our professional careers is of immense importance to the lives of so very many people, but the nature of our work can be highly challenging for our own emotional and physical well-being. This is even more true in today's economic climate. Because of how we have been trained, constrained, and conditioned by the traditional paradigms for resolving disputes, many of us find ourselves walking a razor's edge of zealous advocacy with integrity on one side and the personal effects of being lawyer soldiers on the other. While we are a hugely valuable resource for individuals and families who need and merit our vigorous support, we sometimes lose ourselves and risk our own health and happiness in the process.

Modern research offers a different perspective on how we might practice our honored profession, and tools that can improve the quality of our lives and of the services we all aspire to render to our community.

This CLE is based upon the latest scientific research and information from neuroscience, cognitive psychology, positive psychology, conscious business practices and organizational development. It will be interactive, intellectually challenging, and provocative. You will not only fulfill those (otherwise boring and hard to get) MCLE hours, but will be introduced (or re-introduced) to techniques that may make you a healthier, more effective, and more prosperous lawyer!

For more information about the workshop please contact J. Kim Wright at (682) 463-9529 or Thurman Arnold at (760) 320-7915.

The CLE will cover:

How Learning to Think Like a Lawyer Leads to Lawyer Distress and Dissatisfaction

- The State of the Profession: Addiction, Depression, Misery
- Neuroscience 101: How Lawyers are Wired to Be Reptilian
- Domination as ineffective substitute for real connection, and the addiction to adrenaline
- Alternative Solutions for Addressing Stress

Restoring Our Humanity

- Positive psychology: authentic relationship is the key to being effective and happy
- Are you open or closed?
- A strategy for being open and more effective

Becoming a More effective Lawyer by  
Becoming a More Effective Human Being

- Treating people as "things" or as human beings
- Research on how the "Rambo" lawyer is least effective and how collaboration works for everyone

Cognitive Bias: Becoming Aware of our Biases

- The guards and filters that keep us from being authentic
- Common biases for lawyers

How Might We Apply these Ideas in the "Real" World of Lawyering? (Introduction to Integrative Law)

- What we can learn from successful business models?
- Models of law practice that are healthier and happier

Mari J. Frank, Esq. is a co-sponsor of this event. She is a state bar of California approved MCLE provider, and Ms. Frank certifies that this educational activity has been approved for 6 hours of MCLE credit by the state bar of California.

Bio: The author of the ABA flagship book and best seller, *Lawyers as Peacemakers, Practicing Holistic, Problem-Solving Law*, (ABA, 2010), J. Kim Wright is the publisher of CuttingEdgeLaw.com, a web community, magazine and resource center that is a hub for the integrative law movement. In 2009, the American Bar Association named her as one of their 50 Legal Rebels who are "finding new ways to practice law, represent their clients, adjudicate cases and train the next generation of lawyers," [http://www.legalrebels.com/profiles/j.\\_kim\\_wright\\_collaborator](http://www.legalrebels.com/profiles/j._kim_wright_collaborator)

Kim has interviewed hundreds of lawyers, law professors, law students, judges and allied professionals who are on the cutting-edge of legal practice. She leads retreats, speaks and trains lawyers in new approaches to law and the skills needed to succeed in the new paradigm of law practice. A lawyer since 1989, she is licensed in North Carolina.

REGISTRATION LINK (WITH MORE DETAILS):

<http://www.cuttingedgelaw.com/events/conscious-lawyering-become-effective-integrated-lawyer-j-kim-wright>

~T. W. Arnold, III

**NEW RIVERSIDE COUNTY JUDGES:**

Congratulations to the three new judges recently appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown on December 27, 2011. The new judges include two former deputy district attorneys, Raquel A. Marquez and Otis Sterling, III. The third judge is

Commissioner John W. Vineyard, who was in private practice prior to becoming a court commissioner in 2008.

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### **HONESTY IS NOT ALWAYS THE BEST POLICY:**

As he lay on his death bed, the man confided to his wife. "I cannot die without telling you the truth. I cheated on you during our entire marriage. All those nights I told you I was working late, I was out with other women. Not just with one woman. But with dozens of them!"

The wife looked at him calmly and said, "Why do you think I gave you the poison?"

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### **AKA AS SOME-SEX MARRIAGE:**

In September, a judge in France ordered a 51-year-old divorcee to pay his ex-wife the equivalent of about \$15,000 because he wouldn't have sex with her for most of their 21-year marriage (ouch).

[from [everydayhealth.com](http://everydayhealth.com), "The Sexiest Health Findings of 2011"]

Assuming that such a law would be applied in California's gender-neutral fashion, this would certainly make the practice of family law more interesting.

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### **UPCOMING FREE MCLE**

Some of us have our reporting period coming up this February 1<sup>st</sup>. If your last name ends in H through M, this is your reporting year. Don't miss this FREE MCLE opportunity. The subject is "The Other Bar". The program will provide 1.0 credit hour in the category of required subject matter: Prevention of Substance Abuse. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Location is UCR, Palm Desert Graduate Center, 75-080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211. It is sponsored by the Riverside County Law Library. Lunch and parking are included, making this a totally "free" event. (Who says there is no free lunch anymore?)

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### **OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT:**

Office for rent in law office suite in Palm Desert. Convenient El Paseo location. Contact Jennifer J. Beerman, Esq. or her assistant at (760) 568-6264. Office may include use of copier. Full kitchen, private

bathroom. Terms negotiable and potential for referrals exists.

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### **SAVE THE DATE: MORE MCLE**

Here is your "Save the Date" notice for the upcoming MCLE event in the desert. The Association of Certified Family Law Specialists (ACFLS) is holding their annual MCLE March 23-25, 2012 at the Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa. We'll circulate flyers when we receive them. ACFLS has put on numerous high quality and timely family law seminars in our area in the past, so if you haven't attended before, give it some consideration.

-Editor

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### **FINAL THOUGHT:**

What one has to do usually can be done.

- Eleanor Roosevelt

*[Wishing you all the best in reaching your New Year's Resolutions! Ed.]*

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### **VISUAL FINAL THOUGHT:**



# Robert's Rules of Order-Summary Version

**P**rovides common rules and procedures for deliberation and debate in order to place the whole membership on the same footing and speaking the same language. The conduct of ALL business is controlled by the general will of the whole membership - the right of the deliberate majority to decide. Complementary is the right of at least a strong minority to require the majority to be deliberate - to act according to its considered judgment AFTER a full and fair "working through" of the issues involved. Robert's Rules provides for constructive and democratic meetings, to help, not hinder, the business of the assembly. Under no circumstances should "undue strictness" be allowed to intimidate members or limit full participation. The fundamental right of deliberative assemblies require all questions to be thoroughly discussed before taking action!

## How about a Parliamentary Puzzler? Test your knowledge

Puzzled by parlipro? Tongue-tied by motions? Perplexed by whether a motion is *debatable* or *amendable*? Who came up with the rules of parliamentary procedure anyway? Even the most parli-wise among us are occasionally stumped by a parliamentary puzzler. Here's a chance to show that you learned a thing or two about motions and procedure.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is used to obtain information about meeting procedure
2. Previous Question means \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Other than the Articles of Incorporation, the highest body of rules in an organization are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A quorum is \_\_\_\_\_
5. A main motion \_\_\_\_\_
6. If a member makes a motion that is not in order, \_\_\_\_\_
7. If the bylaws require an election to be by ballot, \_\_\_\_\_
8. Division of the question means \_\_\_\_\_
9. The motion to Lay on the Table can be used to \_\_\_\_\_
10. A meeting at which the proceedings are secret is called \_\_\_\_\_

View results by visiting <http://www.rulesonline.com/home/Quiz.htm> Enjoy!!!

## Fun & Games..

### Objects Found In A Law Firm

B G R A N B Z O A Q L V H L T  
G A C S S E T K Q A G K S S N  
W J S R J S W I W K M T I S R  
T E L E P H O N E S E N N E L  
O C K T L R O C F N O E C C H  
C U A N E I L X I I K O F R B  
C A I I Q J F B T A M S W E P  
Y O W R E U A P S P T E M T M  
L E P P M C E U U K D E T A G  
I F N I T C P T O P R Q S R I  
B F A R E P E L O H I D Y Y C  
R A L R O R L A G E L A R A P  
A T O R S T S E X O B S Z K C  
R S T Y X E T O P V N Z X L N  
Y Y N R W W P A R T N E R S F

- ASSOCIATES
- ATTORNEY
- BOXES
- CABINETS
- COMPUTERS
- COPIERS
- FILES
- LIBRARY
- PARALEGAL
- PARTNERS
- PRINTERS
- RECEPTIONIST
- SECRETARY
- STAFF
- TELEPHONES

## FUNNIES

A lawyer's dog, running around town unleashed, heads for a butcher shop and steals a roast. The butcher goes to the lawyer's office and asks, "if a dog running unleashed steals a piece of meat from my store, do I have a right to demand payment for the meat from the dog's owner?" The lawyer answers, "Absolutely."

"Then you owe me \$8.50. Your dog was loose and stole a roast from me today."

The lawyer, without a word, writes the butcher a check for \$8.50. The butcher, having a feeling of satisfaction, leaves.

Three days later, the butcher finds a bill from the lawyer: \$100.00 due for a consultation.

A lawyer calls his client to tell him about his fee schedule.


"Alright," the lawyer says looking through his papers. "You owe me \$1000 down and \$417.58 each month for the next thirty-six months."

"What! That sounds like a car payment schedule," retorted the client.

"Your right. It's mine."

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-Jan C. (Riverside, CA)

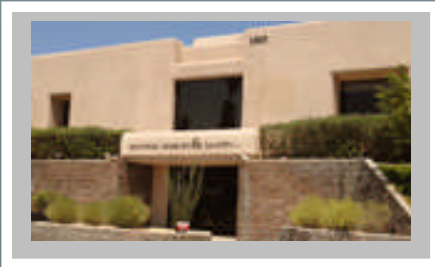
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-Susan (Claremont, CA)

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### Commercial Building

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