

# Merced County Bar Association



Volume 1, Issue 1

[www.mercedbar.org](http://www.mercedbar.org) / [www.facebook.com/mercedbar](http://www.facebook.com/mercedbar)

January 2017

## President's Column

### Darryl Young

Law Office of Darryl E. Young

Welcome to the New Year! The 2017 MCBA Officers have set out an aggressive plan to grow the MCBA membership and give the MCBA a new look with this new format newsletter, a website (currently under construction), a Facebook page and more. 2017 will be a banner year for MCBA!

Our website will include MCBA info, history, and listings for all the members, among other features. Please contact MCBA Treasurer, George Leavell with the info for your listings.

Come join us at the up-coming **MCBA MCLE Luncheon**: February 2nd at Noon, at Bella Luna Bistro, 350 W. Main Street, Merced. Speaker for this luncheon is Merced County District Attorney Larry Morse to discuss the VIPER gang project.

A brief reminder that 2017 membership dues are due.

## Mock Trial Success

*High School Teams Argue Case*

### By Larry Morse, District Attorney

Merced County

On January 11, 2017, Merced County hosted its first high school Mock Trial Competition. By all standards it was a success. The District Attorney's Office would like to thank the following for all of their efforts: MCBA; scoring judges Eric Beiswanger, Corbett Browning and David Foster; Deputy DA volunteers Tyler McKean, Travis Colby, Ilia McKinney, Sara Rosenthal, Katie Gates, Thane Nored and Tom Min; Merced County Office of Education Stacie Arancibia. We intend for this to be an annual event and hope the MCBA will join MCOE and the DA's office as an event sponsor and that more members of MCBA will volunteer.



District Attorney Larry Morse Presided Over the Mock Trial Competition in Merced County. The Constitutional Rights Foundation will hold the 36th Annual California Mock Trial Finals on March 24-26, in Riverside. The winning teams from 34 counties will present *People v. Awbrey*, a criminal case involving a charge of human trafficking and a pre-trial argument on the Fourth and Fifth Amendments.

[www.mercedsunstar.com/news/article126024794.html](http://www.mercedsunstar.com/news/article126024794.html)

## 2017 MCBA OFFICERS

### Darryl Young, President

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### Casey Aitchison, VP

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### Tom Min, Secretary

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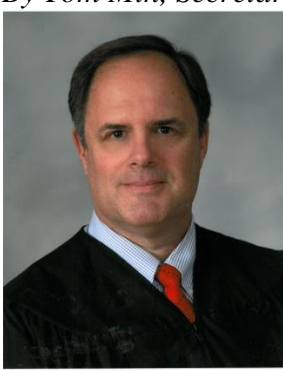
### George Leavell, Treasurer

[George@georgeleavell.com](mailto:George@georgeleavell.com)



# Announcements

By Tom Min, Secretary



From the Merced County Superior Court  
[Honorable Donald Proietti & CEO Linda Romero-Soles] effective Jan. 1, 2017:

## 1. Districts of the Court

For the convenience of the parties, attorneys and the court, sessions of the court shall be heard in districts which are based upon the courthouse locations.

The Merced District is the District consisting of the divisions and courthouses located in Merced. The West County District is the District consisting of the courthouse located in Los Banos and is based upon the following zip code designations:

95322 – Gustine, 95322 – Santa Nella, 95374 – Stevenson, 93620 – Dos Palos, 93635 – Los Banos, 93665 – South Dos Palos

Except as these rules provide or unless the Presiding Judge orders otherwise, all actions or proceedings shall be filed and heard in the District in which they arose or in which the land subject to dispute is situated, or in which a party resides. Any action or proceeding may be transferred to any other District by the court on its own motion or on noticed motion by any party where the action was filed in the wrong District or for other good cause shown by affidavit, declaration, or stipulation. To determine the proper District for filing, please refer to the venue provisions set forth in Code of Civil Procedure section 392 through 401. (1/1/17)

## 2. New Presiding Judge and Assistant Presiding Judge

The Merced Superior Court Judges elected Judge Donald Proietti as the new Presiding Judge. His two-year term formally began Jan. 1, 2017 and ends Dec. 31, 2018. Judge Mark Bacciarini was elected as the Assistant Presiding Judge. His two year term is the same as the Presiding Judge.

## 3. Family Law Video Hearings in Los Banos Courthouse

The court has begun conducting Family Law video hearings in the Los Banos Courthouse on the second Tuesdays of every month. These video hearings are held all day.

## 4. Self Help Office open on Thursdays in Los Banos

The Self Help office at the new Los Banos Courthouse is open every Thursday from 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM. The self-help attorney is available every Thursday to assist the public with any questions.

## 5. DCSS E-Filing underway

The court is actively testing interfaces with Tyler Technologies (the court's CMS vendor), and Department of Child Support Services to eventually accept E-filings for DCSS cases. The target go-live date is March 19, 2017.

## 6. Innovation Grants – funding from the Judicial Council of California

The court is always researching ways to enhance its services and as a result has applied for the following grants: 1) Expansion of ADR services for Family Law, 2) Expanding of our current E-Citations with local law enforcement agencies (Merced Court is currently the second court in CA that accepts E-citations from the CA CHP); 3) Expanding Self-Help services to include paralegal assistance; and 4) Video Conferencing of Preliminary Hearings. The court will be advised late 2017 if any of these grants will be awarded.

## 7. Attorney-Client Room in Merced Superior Court

The Attorney-Client Room in Merced next to Dept. 1 is now open and available for use.

## Calendar of Events

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Noon - MCBA lunch at Bella Luna Bistro; Speaker – Ray Islieb on bankruptcy**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> at Noon – MCBA lunch at Bella Luna Bistro; Speaker – Vince Andrade on expungments and post-conviction relief**

**May 4<sup>th</sup> - MCBA Law Day at the Itlo-American Lodge**

**June 1<sup>st</sup> at Noon - MCBA Lunch at Bella Luna Bistro; Speaker – Vinnie Lee and Federal Public Defender**

**July 6<sup>th</sup> - MCBA Mixer at 4 p.m.; location TBD**

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> – No Meeting**

**September 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon - MCBA Lunch at Bella Luna Bistro**

**October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. - West Side Dinner at Wool Growers, 609 H Street, Los Banos**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Noon - MCBA Lunch at Bella Luna Bistro**

**December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.- Holiday Party at Bella Luna Bistro**

## **Friendly Reminders**

**March 1:** Last day to pay State Bar annual Fees

**March 1:** Last day for Group 3 attorneys to file MCLE compliance report.

RCL Portraits will be sending out notices.

**Merced County Bar dues this year are \$110 and anyone interested in joining can contact Tom Min at [tmin1216@gmail.com](mailto:tmin1216@gmail.com) for an application.**

## **Welcome**

The Law Office of Casey Aitchison is pleased to announce the addition of attorney Skye Emery to the firm. Ms. Emery's areas of practice include family law, with an emphasis in dissolution of marriage, child custody, child support, spousal support, and domestic violence restraining orders.

Ms. Emery earned her Juris Doctor from San Joaquin College of Law. She represented the Law School at the UC Davis National Moot Court Competition where she received the award for Best Brief. In her time at San Joaquin College of Law, she served as Treasurer of the Student Bar Association as well as being published in the Law Review.

Ms. Emery clerked at the Merced County District Attorney's Office for two years before serving as a Deputy District Attorney. As a prosecutor, she worked extensively in the areas of domestic violence and protective order issues.

Ms. Emery is an active member of the Merced community where she resides with her husband, a local physician, and four children.



**Skye Emery**

MCBA welcomes new Deputy District Attorneys Donna Bakich and Anne Waddell.



**Donna Bakich**



**Anne Waddell**

Merced County Bar Association  
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### **MCBA Development Goals for 2017**

**We are currently developing a website to increase communication and to promote MCBA attorneys and their respective practices. Our web address is [www.mercedbar.org](http://www.mercedbar.org). Other developments underway include:**

- **Plans for a fundraiser;**
- **An historical essay on the significance of the MCBA;**
- **Re-establishment of a fee arbitration panel;**
- **Work with judicial council for greater input for prospective judges**

