

Merced County Bar Association



Volume 2, Issue 1

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January 2018

President's Column

Casey Aitchison
MCBA President

The 2018 year started off with a resoundingly successful luncheon on January 4 with the Honorable Donald J. Proietti speaking. We had a banner turnout, seeing our attendance double what it was in January 2017!

We're excited to have so much participation to kick off 2018 and we look forward to you all returning for next month's luncheon on February 1, 2018 at 12:00 noon. Note that the venue changes for this next meeting to the Elks Lodge at 1910 M Street in Merced, which will allow seating for everyone. The featured speaker will be Deputy District Attorney and esteemed City Councilman, Matthew Serrato. He'll speak to attendees on "Updates in Criminal Law". February's luncheon price is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members and includes 1 hour of MCLE credit. Once again, we encourage you to bring a friend/colleague so we can continue building our Merced Bar Association to new heights.

Reminder - save the date of May 3, 2018 for the annual Law Day Celebration! With speakers at 10:00am and 11:00am, followed at 12:00 noon by Keynote Speaker Justice Charles S. Poochigian of the 5th District Court of Appeal, it promises to be a great day of learning & networking. MCLE credits for the event have been expanded to include 2 hours in obscure, harder to attain subjects for our first two 1-hour sessions.

2018 MCBA OFFICERS

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Who are we?

By George Leavell
MCBA Secretary

My sister gave me a t-shirt as a birthday gift. A plain, white t-shirt that says "Sometimes being a LAWYER is better than being a superhero."

At first, I just chuckled a bit and then really thought about it for a few moments.

What do attorneys actually do?

It depends! The answer is both simple and complex at the same time!

We help people that are in a "tough spot" and need our keen, legally skilled minds and expertise to help them navigate through and out of their tough spot.

The origins of the word "ATTORNEY" are worth considering:

In middle English (Anglo French) ATOURNE': one who is turned to

One of my law school professors claimed "ATTORNEY" was a shortened contraction of "at-tournament" where one selects their champion to represent them at a tournament or trial of skills.

An attorney is a dedicated professional having hard-earned skills, first gained in challenging study, then developed through rigorous apprenticeship and honed during years of adversarial contest.

Paraphrasing a popular comic book: With superhuman skills comes superhuman responsibilities.

Our clients turn to us as their hero for seeming superhuman knowledge, guidance and skills in navigating through their difficult and vitally important negotiations and trials.

It is a new year and time to renew our bar memberships but also time to renew our commitment to representing our clients because they rely on us to commit our very best efforts for them, every day.

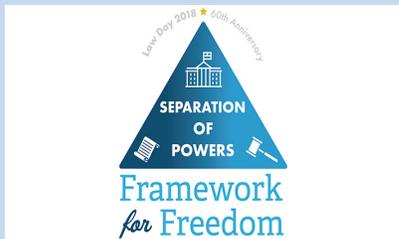
Calendar of Events

February 1 at Noon – MCBA lunch at Elks Lodge Merced: Speaker Matthew Serratto on criminal law updates

March 1 at Noon – MCBA lunch at Bella Luna Bistro: Speaker - TBA

April 5th at Noon – MCBA lunch at Bella Luna Bistro: Speaker – TBA

May 3rd - MCBA Law Day at the Italo-American Lodge: Speaker – Justice Poochigian, 5th District Court of Appeals, on Separation of Powers and MCLE classes 10AM and 11AM



June 7th at Noon - MCBA Lunch at Bella Luna Bistro; Speaker – TBA

July 5th - MCBA Summer Social at 4 p.m.; location TBD

August 2nd at noon – MCBA Lunch at Bella Luna Bistro: speaker – TBA

September 6th at Noon - MCBA Lunch at Bella Luna Bistro: Speaker - TBA

October 4th at 6 p.m. - West Side Dinner at Wool Growers, 609 H Street, Los Banos

November 1st at Noon - MCBA Lunch at Bella Luna Bistro: Speaker - TBA

December 6th at 6 p.m.- Holiday Party at Bella Luna Bistro

Merced County Superior Court News

DRPA Program- Merced County Superior Court will begin using the Better Business Bureau from Fresno for mediation purposes on Mondays. The BBB have twenty-seven years of experience in assisting with mediations. The BBB also provides assistance to Fresno, Tulare and Kern Superior Courts. The BBB mediations will focus on Civil limited and Unlimited, Small Claims, Mandatory settlement and Probate matters in Courtroom 9. Using the BBB service will help alleviate some of the Courts caseload as well as providing an alternative to trials thus saving the Court and public time and money. The contract with BBB is for four years and ends in 2021.

VRI Project- Merced County Superior Court is one of three California Courts selected for the Video Remote Interpreting Project. Training was completed this week and the Court will begin using VRI on January 23, 2018. VRI will be used in Courtroom 9 and Courtroom 13.

Former Commissioner Jeanne Schechter was appointed Superior Court Judge by Governor Brown. Judge Schechter was sworn in on Friday, December 1, 2017.



Friendly Reminders

If you have not done so already, please pay your MCBA dues of \$110 for 2018.

Merced County Bar dues this year are \$110 and anyone interested in joining can contact MCBA at mercedbar@gmail.com for an application.

Download a Member Application on the member's resources page of our website: www.mercedbar.org/member-resources/

To Ad Or Not To Ad

Casey Aitchison
MCBA President

In the recent issues, the MCBA Newsletter has allowed members to place a free ad in the content (or for a small fee for non-members). We want your input on whether you think this should continue, change, or just be done away with in the interest of cleaning up the publication. Please email your thoughts, suggestions, or rants on the subject to mercedbar@gmail.com.

2018 Membership Drive

Let's make 2018 the year we drive the MCBA to its greatest membership level ever! We have so much great stuff planned for the year, you won't want to miss out. We thank all those below for their membership in 2017 and encourage you to invite a new attorney to join MCBA. If you haven't already paid your dues for 2018, please bring payment with you to the February meeting, or mail it in to MCBA, PO Box 2982, Merced, CA 95344.

- Vincent Andrade
- Casey Aitchison
- Eric Beiswanger
- Geraldine Brown
- Corbett Browning
- Beau Correia
- Betty Dawson
- Gabriel Delgado
- Maile Dunlap
- Thomas Ebersole
- Skye Emery
- James Fincher
- David Foster
- Doug Foster
- Carlos Fuentes
- Shawn George
- Arthur Godwin
- Jeff Grant
- Janinda Gunawardene
- Melbourne Gwin
- Emily Haden
- Robert Haden
- Kyle Hampton
- Forrest Hansen
- Ann Hanson
- David Haycraft
- Kimberly Helms
- Bruce Hendricks
- Raymond Isleib
- Thomas Keene
- Claire Lai
- George Leavell
- Nini Lee
- Thomas Lewis
- Kenneth Mackie
- Weldon Mattos Jr.
- Richard Marchini
- Roger Matzkind
- Sean McLeod
- C. Logan McKechnie
- Phillip McMurray
- Derek Meyer
- Patience Milrod
- Thomas Min
- Cindy Morse
- Paul Mullen
- Christine Parraz
- Thomas Pfeiff
- Diane Rathmann
- Kenneth Robbins
- Matt Serratto
- Shane Smith
- Bruce Sousa
- Stuart Spencer
- Karen Spinardi
- James Stone
- Anne Taylor-Boreham
- Ralph Temple
- Samuel Tenenbaum
- Rick Wallace
- Alfred Whitehurst
- Charles Wilson
- Darryl Young

The MCBA Holiday Dinner was at 510 Bistro. If you weren't there, you missed a great crowd and very good food! We presented Darryl with a plaque for all his work as 2017 MCBA President plus a few pics of happy faces!



Merced County Bar Association
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