

# Merced County Bar Association



Volume 2, Issue 2

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February 2018

## President's Column

Casey Aitchison  
MCBA President

Our February 1, 2018 lunch was a resounding success, included several new attendees, and resulted in positive feedback regarding our venue change to the Elks Lodge. As our membership continues to grow, our March 2018 luncheon meeting will once again be held at the Elks Lodge located at 1910 M Street in Merced, to allow seating for everyone.

We invite you to join us on March 1, 2018 for Judge Baccarini's presentation on the Elimination of Bias, for one hour of MCLE credit on a required subject. Bring a friend/colleague to help grow our Merced County Bar Association! The luncheon price is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. RSVPs are appreciated, but not required - call the Law Office of Casey Aitchison at (209) 725-0770 to reserve your spot. If you forget to RSVP, be sure to still attend the luncheon!

**Reminder - Save the Date of May 3, 2018 for the annual Law Day Celebration!** With speakers at 10:00 and 11:00 am, 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 and networking. MCLE credits for the event have been expanded to include 2 hours in the harder to attain required subjects for our first two 1-hour sessions.

## 2018 MCBA OFFICERS

**Casey Aitchison, President**  
[casey@merceddivorce.com](mailto:casey@merceddivorce.com)

**Tom Min, VP**  
[tmin1216@gmail.com](mailto:tmin1216@gmail.com)

**George Leavell, Secretary**  
[george@georgeleavell.com](mailto:george@georgeleavell.com)

**Skye Emery, Treasurer**  
[skye@merceddivorce.com](mailto:skye@merceddivorce.com)



## Assistant Presiding Judge Bacciarini to speak at MCBA luncheon March 1, 2018

The MCBA is honored to have Merced County Assistant Presiding Judge Mark V. Bacciarini as the speaker for the next Bar Association luncheon, scheduled for noon on March 1, 2018 at the Elks Lodge, regarding the required subject of *Elimination of Bias*.



Judge Bacciarini was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in June 2010 to succeed retired Judge Frank Dougherty. Judge Bacciarini served as a Merced County Deputy District Attorney for the 10 years prior to his appointment to the bench. Born and raised in Merced and a 1976 graduate of Merced High School, Judge Bacciarini graduated with a bachelor's degree in music from University of the Pacific and worked 16 years as a high school music teacher and band instructor in Manteca, Merced and Clovis. During the mid-1990s, Judge Bacciarini decided to switch gears in his career and attend law school. He graduated with a Juris Doctorate degree from San Joaquin College of Law in 1998. Judge Bacciarini's experience as a former teacher and chief deputy district attorney brought him into contact with a diverse group of people and prepared him to serve with the fairness, integrity and respect for which he is renowned.

## Calendar of Events

March 1 at Noon – MCBA lunch at Elks Lodge Merced: Speaker: Judge Bacciarini – Elimination of Bias  
(1 MCLE credit *REQUIRED SUBJECT*)

April 5<sup>th</sup> at Noon – MCBA lunch at Bella Luna Bistro: Speaker: Judge Schechter-ETHICS  
(1 MCLE credit *REQUIRED SUBJECT*)

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 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 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon - MCBA Lunch at Bella Luna Bistro; Speaker: Kirk McAllister – Recent developments in Brady v. Maryland  
(1 MCLE credit)

July 5<sup>th</sup> - MCBA Summer Social at 4 p.m.; location TBD

August 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon – MCBA Lunch at Bella Luna Bistro: speaker: *TBA*

September 6<sup>th</sup> at Noon - MCBA Lunch at Bella Luna Bistro: Speaker: Judge McCabe – *Subject TBA*

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

November 1<sup>st</sup> at Noon - MCBA Lunch at Bella Luna Bistro: Speaker: Dave Elgin – Cross-examination

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

## **UC Merced Venture Lab Needs You! Free MCLE Training in Business Law**

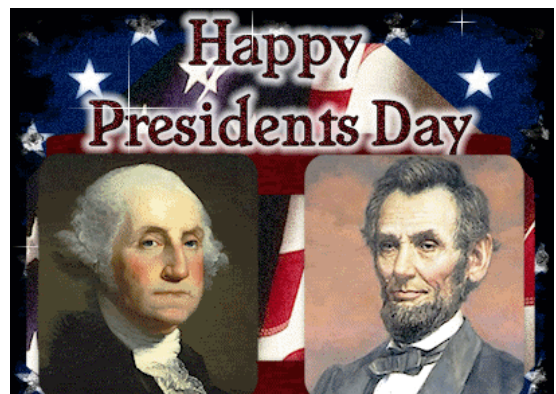
### **William Kell**

UCB Law New Business Practicum's Director and Supervising Attorney

The UC Merced Venture Lab assists Merced area entrepreneurs with the challenges of starting a business. UC Merced Venture Lab and UC Berkeley Law School offer free monthly legal training and office hours for Venture Lab entrepreneurs of limited means - and they're looking for local attorneys to help out.

UCB Law will offer a free, 4 MCLE credit hour training to Central Valley lawyers willing to join UCM Venture Lab's Volunteer Legal Assistance Corp. Attorneys completing the training will learn about the common legal issues that new businesses must solve, including business modeling, entity formation, capitalization, employment law, IP law, and other matters. Once trained, Corp members can volunteer for monthly office hours and trainings, and join a referral pool of experienced, preferred attorneys to receive referrals when UCM/UCB-served businesses are able to pay fees.

The free MCLE attorney training will be March 2 and April 6 2-4PM at the Venture Lab, 1735 M St, Merced, CA 95340. Interested attorneys can register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ucmucb-volunteer-attorney-corp-training-laws-new-businesses-need-to-know-tickets-43104687280> . For more information, contact UCB Law New Business Practicum Director/Supervising Attorney William Kell at [wkell@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:wkell@law.berkeley.edu) (cell: 510-681-6517)



## Central California Legal Services (CCLS) Open House

You are invited to join the staff of Central California Legal Services, Inc. (CCLS) on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm to 6:00pm for our Open House & Reception. Please stop by to meet the staff and learn more about more about our work in the community. Our offices are located at 1640 "N" Street, Suite 200, in downtown Merced.

We look forward to seeing members of the legal community along with our many community partners who lend support to clients served by the organization. For well over fifty years, we have provided free civil legal services to eligible residents of Merced, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, Tuolumne, and Mariposa Counties. We also serve residents in the counties of Madera, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Monterey and San Benito regarding their specific health care concerns in partnership with the statewide Health Consumer Alliance.

CCLS is proud to represent the working poor, seniors, veterans, immigrants, persons with disabilities, and low-income families with young children. Clients can access our services through our Legal Advice and Referral Line (1-800-675-8001) or they may visit any of our three offices located in Merced, Fresno, and Visalia. We offer monthly and quarterly clinics year-round where pro bono attorneys and other volunteers address issues such as the rights of low-wage workers, guardianship, veterans' benefits and senior matters.

Please mark your calendar and make plans to join us.

To RSVP, please contact Evette at [emontes@centralcallegal.org](mailto:emontes@centralcallegal.org). For further information about the event or the services provided, you may contact Gil Olguin at [gil@centralcallegal.org](mailto:gil@centralcallegal.org).

## Summer Internship

The MCBA has been contacted regarding a UC Santa Clara Law School student seeking a volunteer position as a Summer intern for June, July and August 2018. The applicant is seeking the internship strictly for experience and not for compensation. Anyone interested may contact the MCBA at [MercedBar@gmail.com](mailto:MercedBar@gmail.com) for the applicant's contact information.

## Side Bar

Interesting Attorney Happenings

Local attorney Casey Aitchison and her husband, Steve Aitchison, just returned from climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania! The Aitchisons own and operate the largest alpaca herd in California, and used the trip as an opportunity to verify the warmth and comfort of various alpaca apparel. The two made it to the summit on day 6 of the climb, which they describe as a once in a lifetime experience.

Do you have an interesting or fun adventure to report? Send it in to [MercedBar@gmail.com](mailto:MercedBar@gmail.com) so that we can spotlight it in our next Newsletter!



## MERCED COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT NEWS

The Merced County Superior Court went live with the pilot project on Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) in Courtroom 9, on January 23, 2018. VRI will soon start in the Los Banos Court. Merced is one of three courts in the State selected for this pilot project.

The Court is working towards setting up courtrooms with video hearing capabilities as part of their innovations grant and is meeting with the Justice partners later this month for their input/assistance.

The Court's newest Commissioner Steven Slocum, started on January 29, 2018 and is assigned to Courtroom 5.

The Court will be closed in observance of two holidays on Monday, February 12th and Monday, February 19th.

## 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](mailto:mercedbar@gmail.com) for an application.**

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

## FOUR PARTNERS LEAVE MCCORMICK BARSTOW TO ESTABLISH NEW FIRM

*Whitney, Thompson & Jeffcoach, LLP*



**FRESNO, Calif. (February 9, 2018)** — Fresno business litigation attorneys Marshall Whitney, Tim Thompson, Mandy Jeffcoach, and Niki Cunningham are leaving McCormick Barstow to establish a new boutique litigation firm named Whitney, Thompson & Jeffcoach, LLP (WTJ), bringing years of experience together to create a new legal practice.

The WTJ office is located at 8050 N. Palm Avenue, Suite 110 in Fresno, and the firm can be reached at [wtjlaw.com](http://wtjlaw.com) and (559) 753-2550. See direct contact information for the partners below:



Marshall Whitney, Partner  
[mwhitney@wtjlaw.com](mailto:mwhitney@wtjlaw.com)  
Tim Thompson, Partner  
[tthompson@wtjlaw.com](mailto:tthompson@wtjlaw.com)  
Mandy Jeffcoach, Partner  
[mjeffcoach@wtjlaw.com](mailto:mjeffcoach@wtjlaw.com)  
Niki Cunningham, Partner  
[ncunningham@wtjlaw.com](mailto:ncunningham@wtjlaw.com)

## Thank you for renewing your 2018 MCBA Membership!

Please invite a non-MCBA member to the next luncheon!

Tabasum Akbari	Betty L. Dawson (Honorary)	Emily J. Haden	C. Logan McKechnie
Edward M. Amaral	Anthony DeJager	Kyle Hampton	Michael W. Murphy
Jenna M. Anderson	Maile C. Dunlap	Forrest W. Hansen	Deanne Peterson
Casey Aitchison	Thomas E. Ebersole	Ann M. Hanson	Sara Rosenthal
Deborah Bennett	Skye Emery	David D. Haycraft	Lisete M. Silva
Mason L. Brawley	James N. Fincher	Bruce J. Hendricks	Shane G. Smith
Geraldine Brown (Honorary)	Kelly C. Fincher	J. Scott Jordan	Bruce B. Sousa
Aaron N. Castleton	Kimberly Flores	Jeffrey S. Kaufman	Stuart B. Spencer
Jeffrey C. Castleton	Christopher Goodness	Thomas J. Keene	James E. Stone
Julie Collura	Jeff Grant	Kevin F. Kelley	Charles R. Wilson
Beau C. Correia	Janinda Gunawardene	George B. Leavell	Darryl Young
Thomas Curry	Robert T. Haden	Roger S. Matzkind	

If you haven't already paid your 2018 dues, please bring your dues payment to the March luncheon, or mail it in to MCBA, PO Box 2982, Merced, CA 95344.

Merced County Bar Association  
P.O. Box 2982  
Merced, California 95344

