

Merced County Bar Association



Volume 2, Issue 3

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March 2018

President's Column

Casey Aitchison
MCBA President

Our March 1, 2018 MCBA luncheon meeting produced another banner turn out, with attendees receiving one hour of MCLE credit for Assistant Presiding Judge Bacciarini's presentation on Elimination of Bias. Judge Bacciarini provided a comprehensive and insightful program, including an extensive power point presentation. Judge Bacciarini's presentation reminded us that one of the keys to eliminating bias is for all of us to acknowledge our own implicit biases and to consciously work to overcome them. His course material is available at the MCBA web site <http://mercedbar.org/mcba-mcle-materials/>

We were also honored to have some of our other Merced Superior Court judicial officers, including Judge McCabe, Judge Lo, and Commissioner Slocum in attendance.

Our regular luncheon meetings are the first Thursday of each month. Our attendance has grown to require a new venue at the Elks Lodge, at 1910 M Street in Merced.

Please join us on **April 5, 2018** for Judge Schechter's presentation on Legal Ethics, attendees will receive one hour of MCLE credit on a required subject. The 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 or email Casey@MercedDivorce.com to reserve your spot. If you forget to RSVP, be sure to still attend the luncheon, and bring a colleague as well! The atmosphere is always fun and we welcome new members!

2018 MCBA OFFICERS

Casey Aitchison, President
casey@merceddivorce.com

Tom Min, VP
tmin1216@gmail.com

George Leavell, Secretary
george@georgeleavell.com

Skye Emery, Treasurer
skye@merceddivorce.com



Judge Schechter to speak at MCBA luncheon April 5, 2018

Merced County Superior Court Judge Jeanne E. Schechter will be the speaker on the required topic of **Legal Ethics** for the next MCBA luncheon, scheduled for noon, April 5, 2018 at the Elks Lodge, at 1910 M Street, Merced.



Judge Schechter was appointed as a Merced County Superior Court Judge in 2017 following her distinguished service as a Merced County Court Commissioner from 2012 through 2017. Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, Judge Schechter served as a Chief Deputy City Attorney at the Merced City Attorney's Office from 2004 through 2012, and as a Senior Deputy District Attorney at the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office from 1991 to 2004. Judge Schechter was a sole practitioner from 1990 to 1991. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio State University.

Judge Schechter often attends the MCBA luncheon meetings, and we are very grateful for her support.

The California State Bar requires attorneys to have 25 Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) credits every three years, including four hours of Legal Ethics. Judge Schechter's presentation on Thursday, April 5, 2018, will provide attending attorneys with one hour of MCLE credit on Legal Ethics.

Calendar of Events

April 5th at Noon – MCBA lunch at the Elks Lodge: Speaker: Judge Schechter-ETHICS (1 MCLE credit *REQUIRED SUBJECT*)

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 the Elks Lodge; Speaker: Kirk McAllister – Recent developments in Brady v. Maryland (1 MCLE credit)

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

August 2nd at noon – MCBA Lunch at the Elks Lodge: speaker: TBA

September 6th at Noon - MCBA Lunch at the Elks Lodge: Speaker: Judge McCabe – Subject 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 the Elks Lodge: Speaker: Dave Elgin – Cross-examination

December 6th at 6 p.m.- Holiday Party at the Elks Lodge

Mark Your Calendars for Law Day, May 3, 2018!

Our nation's first Law Day was established in 1958 by President Dwight Eisenhower to mark the nation's commitment to the rule of law and the importance of the role of law in our society. In 1961, Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1st as the official date for celebrating Law Day. For the past few decades, the Merced County Bar Association has celebrated Law Day each year on the first Thursday in May.

This year, the MCBA annual Law Day Celebration will be held May 3, 2018 at the Italo-American Lodge. Our Keynote Speaker is Justice Charles Poochigian of the 5th District Court of Appeal.

With two speakers preceding our Keynote Speaker, Law Day this year promises to be a great day of learning and networking. Our day will begin at the Italo-American Lodge with coffee, donuts, and a one hour MCLE session at 10:00 a.m. followed by an 11:00 a.m. presentation. These 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. sessions will provide attendees with two additional hours of MCLE credits in the harder to attain, required subjects. We are honored to have Judge Ash as the presenter for one of the morning sessions on the topic of Elimination of Bias. The other morning session will provide one hour of MCLE credit in the required area of Competence.

Please mark your calendars to join us this year on May 3, 2018 starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Italo-American Lodge.



FEE ARBITRATION PANEL

The Merced County Bar Association has been working to establish a Fee Arbitration Panel. The California State Bar will come to Merced to provide the required training, once we have enough volunteers for the Panel.

An attorney volunteer must be an attorney whose area of practice is either civil or criminal law. If the amount in dispute is over \$15,000.00, three arbitrators decide the matter, and one of the three must be a non-attorney lay person arbitrator.

Our primary hold-up in establishing the Panel, is that we need more lay person volunteers. Per the California State Bar guidelines, a lay arbitrator is defined as "a person who has not been admitted to practice law in any jurisdiction and has not worked regularly for a public or private law office or practice, court of law or attended law school for any period of time. Paralegal assistants, law firm staff and law clerks shall not serve as lay arbitrators."

Please help get the word out to help us find qualified lay persons interested in serving on the Fee Arbitration Panel!

If you or a qualified lay person would like to serve on the Fee Arbitration Panel, please contact Casey Aitchison by phone at (209) 725-0770, or email at Casey@MercedDivorce.com.

MCBA Supports the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

During our February 1, 2018 luncheon meeting, Emily Haden provided the MCBA with information about Derby Night <https://mercedcasaorg.presencehost.net/casacup.html> a dinner to benefit Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) <http://mercedcasa.org/>, on March 24, 2018.

After Emily's presentation, the MCBA voted to allocate \$1,000.00 to sponsor a table for CASA's Derby Night. If you are interested in helping to support this worthy organization, please follow the links to donate and/or buy tickets for a very good community cause!

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

The MCBA has been contacted regarding a Santa Clara University 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 for the applicant's contact information.

SIDEBAR

The local community is saddened by the recent passing of long time Merced attorney James Wilson. Jim was a member of the Merced law firm Canelo, Wilson, Wallace & Padron. Jim grew up in Minetto, New York. He enjoyed many sports and other outdoor activities throughout his life. Jim graduated from Oswego High School and then earned a degree in economics from Union College. Following college, Jim joined the US Navy where he served over 3 years during the Vietnam War. Jim met his wife, Sharon Lynn Kirkendall. Jim and Sharon wed on March 2, 1968. Jim attended Santa Clara University Law School. Jim practiced in San Jose, California before moving his practice to Canelo, Hansen and Wilson, in Merced, in 1978. Jim stayed with the firm 36 years, retiring in 2014. Jim enjoyed reading, meeting with friends and travel with his wife, Sharon to explore new places, cultures, food. Jim's greatest accomplishment, and his heart and joy, was being a loving husband, dad and Papa. He will forever be remembered by his family for his wisdom and guidance, his patience, his heart of gold, and the huge, infectious grin he wore so often. Jim is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sharon, his two daughters, Melissa and Jamey (Cory), his three grandchildren, GraceAnn (Gracie) and Madelyn (Maddy) and Moe, his great-grandson, Michael (Mikey), and his sister, Lorna Verdone.

MERCED COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT NEWS

Just a reminder that Rule 5-300 of the State Bar Rules of Professional Conduct prohibit attorneys from engaging in ex parte communications with Judicial Officers.

SANTA CRUZ SUPERIOR COURT PROPOSED LOCAL RULES POSTED

The Santa Cruz County Superior Court's Proposed Local Rules for July 1, 2018 and Proposed New Local Forms are now posted at <http://www.santacruzcourt.org/forms-filing/local-rules>
The public comment period will end on April, 18, 2018.

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/

CCLS Welcomes Darryl E. Young to Its Board



Darryl E. Young is the newest board member of Central California Legal Services. He was raised in a single income household in the bay area where his father worked very hard to support them. Seeing his family struggle financially taught him the importance and value of hard work.

It didn't take long for him to realize that education would be the key to his success. He graduated from UCLA and received his Juris Doctorate from Golden Gate University. Young worked for the Merced County Public Defender's Office for three years then went to work in San Jose at Earl Carter and Associates. In 2013 he returned to Merced to inherit the law practice of the Honorable Mr. Paul C. Lo, who was the first Hmong-American Judge in the United States. Young was the Merced County Bar Association President in 2017 and is currently the President of the Southeast Asian Professional Association which has raised over \$150,000 for qualifying college-bound high school students in Merced and Stanislaus counties.

He specializes in personal injury, criminal defense, and employment law and was drawn to the field because he enjoys helping individuals and improving the community.

His penchant for winning difficult cases for the underdog has given him a great reputation. Fellow CCLS board member and Merced attorney Vincent Andrade said of Young, "He's all about the good of Merced, all day every day."

He is very passionate about the law, but also enjoys many hobbies outside of the legal realm. In his free time, he enjoys playing the guitar and reading books on theology. An avid sports fan, Young plays basketball and roots for the Warriors, Niners, and of course the UCLA Bruins. If he wasn't a lawyer he would be a teacher because he believes in the promise of education and helping other people achieve their goals.

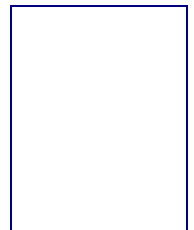
Thank you for your 2018 MCBA Membership!

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

Casey Aitchison	Gabriel A. Delgado	Bruce J. Hendricks	Monika Saini
Tabasum Akbari	Maile C. Dunlap	J. Scott Jordan	Lisette M. Silva
Edward M. Amaral	Thomas E. Ebersole	Jeffrey S. Kaufman	Shane G. Smith
Jenna M. Anderson	Skye Emery	Thomas J. Keene	Bruce B. Sousa
Vincent Andrade	James N. Fincher	Kevin F. Kelley	Stuart B. Spencer
Deborah Bennett	Kelly C. Fincher	George B. Leavell	James E. Stone
Mason L. Brawley	Kimberly G. Flores	Roger S. Matzkind	Bruce B. Sousa
Marvin J. Brown	David A. Foster	C. Logan McKechnie	Stuart B. Spencer
Geraldine Brown (Honorary)	Christopher Goodness	Phillip McMurray	Karen R. Spinardi
Aaron N. Castleton	Jeff B. Grant	Derek Meyer	Ralph S. Temple, Jr.
Jeffrey C. Castleton	Janinda Gunawardene	Rachel Miller	Jennifer Tran
Julie Collura	Robert T. Haden	Thomas Min	Alfred L. Whitehurst
Jeffery B. Corant	Emily J. Haden	Michael W. Murphy	Charles R. Wilson
Beau C. Correia	Kyle Hampton	Michael Noguera	Darryl Young
Thomas Curry	Forrest W. Hansen	Deanne Peterson	
Betty L. Dawson (Honorary)	Ann M. Hanson	Diane V. Rathmann	
Anthony De Jager	David D. Haycraft	Sara Rosenthal	

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

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



MERCED COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – 2018

Annual Dues
Active: **\$110**
Retired: Honorary

Please mail the completed the application and dues payable to:
MCBA
P.O. Box No. 2982
Merced, CA 95344

The following data will be used for your Member Information of the MCBA records and MCBA website member directory page: <http://mercedbar.org/members/>

Name: _____

Bar#: _____

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Areas Of
Practice: _____

Law
Schools: _____

Dues
Enclosed: _____