

# Merced County Bar Association



Volume 2, Issue 10

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October 2018

## President's Column

Casey Aitchison  
MCBA President

Our annual Westside dinner at Wool Growers Restaurant made for a wonderful evening of delicious food and great company. The MCBA thanks all members who were able to attend, as well as Judges Proietti, Kirihara, and Ash for this enjoyable evening.

Our next MCBA meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, November 1, 2018, at the Elks Lodge, 1910 M Street, Merced. We will not have a speaker for this meeting. Instead, during this session we will be having a general meeting and officer elections for 2019. We invite all members and colleagues to join us, and to bring any announcements or items you would like to discuss as part of our meeting agenda. We look forward to seeing you there.

The MCBA has now established three Sections, including the Criminal Defense Section, Minor's Counsel Section, and Family Law Section. There is no fee for joining a Section or attending a Section meeting, and all MCBA members and colleagues are invited to participate.

Lastly, the new panel of Officers will be announced at our Holiday Dinner and Judges' Night on December 6, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Branding Iron Restaurant, banquet room. We hope that you will join us and bring a spouse or friend to partake in this memorable evening.

## 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)



## 2019 MCBA OFFICERS' NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 2019 MCBA Officers are as follows:  
**President:** Tom Min, Merced County District Attorney's Office

**Vice President:** George Leavell, Law Office of George B. Leavell

**Secretary:** Skye Emery, Aitchison and Emery

**Treasurer:** Sara Rosenthal, Merced County District Attorney's Office

The elections will be held at the November 1, 2018 MCBA lunch.

## 2019 MCBA CALENDAR

Your MCBA board is planning an exciting calendar of events for 2019. Most monthly luncheons will include MCLE credit and the 2019 Law Day will include 3 MCLE credits. The following events will be held at the Elks lodge, unless otherwise stated.

**January 3** – lunch with Judge Proietti's update on Civil Practice.

**February 7** – lunch with Matthew Serratto's update on criminal law.

**March 7** – lunch with Judge Bacciarini's discussion of Small Claims.

**April 4** – lunch with Carlos Fuentes' discussion on Immigration Law

**May 4** - LAW DAY at the Italo-American Lodge 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Speakers: TBA 3 hours *MCLE credit*

**June 6** - Lunch Speaker Walter Wall, Mariposa County District Attorney, subject TBA

**July 4** – no MCBA meeting due to holiday

**August 1** – lunch speaker TBA

**September 5** - lunch speaker TBA

**October 3** at 6 p.m. - WESTSIDE DINNER at Wool Growers, 609 H Street, Los Banos

**November 7** - lunch for Annual Membership meeting and board elections.

**December 5** at 6 p.m.- HOLIDAY PARTY and Judges' Night at the Branding Iron in Merced

If there are events you would like to add to the calendar, please let your MCBA board members know! Looking forward to seeing each and everyone one of you at next year's events!

## Calendar of Events 2018

January 4 – MCBA Luncheon – Bella Luna Bistro – Judge Proietti’s discussion on Best Practices in Civil Law and Motion (1 MCLE credit)

February 1 – MCBA lunch at Elks Lodge Merced: Matthew Serratto on criminal law updates (1 MCLE credit)

March 1 – MCBA lunch at Elks Lodge Merced: Judge Bacciarini’s discussion of Elimination of Bias (1 MCLE credit)

April 5<sup>th</sup> at Noon – MCBA lunch at the Elks Lodge: Speaker: Judge Schechter-ETHICS (1 MCLE credit)

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - MCBA Law Day at the Italo-American Lodge: Speaker: Justice Poochigian, 5th District Court of Appeal, on Separation of Powers *and MCLE classes 10AM and 11AM*



June 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon - MCBA Lunch at the Elks Lodge; Speaker: Kirk McAllister – Recent developments in Brady v. Maryland (1 MCLE credit)

July 5<sup>th</sup> - MCBA Summer Social at 5 p.m., Branding Iron in Merced (hosted beer and wine bar)

August 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon – MCBA Lunch at the Elks Lodge: speaker: Cory Hama, Calforensics – Ethics and Electronically Stored Information (1 MCLE ETHICS credit *REQUIRED SUBJECT*)

September 6<sup>th</sup> at Noon - MCBA Lunch at the Elks Lodge: Speaker: Judge Shaver will be presenting on The State of International Law (1 MCLE credit)

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

November 1<sup>st</sup> at Noon - MCBA Lunch at the Elks Lodge: Annual Membership meeting and board elections.

December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.- Holiday Party and Judges’ Night at the Branding Iron in Merced

## JOIN US THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018 FOR JUDGES’ NIGHT AND OUR HOLIDAY DINNER!

Our annual Holiday Dinner will take place on December 6, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Branding Iron, banquet room.



This year, we will be combining our Holiday Dinner with Judges Night, to thank and recognize our local Judges. Bring a friend or a spouse and join us for a delicious dinner and a fun-filled evening! We will be having an awards presentation for our Judges, and will be announcing the MCBA 2019 Officers.

We invite all of our members, colleagues, Judges, and spouses/significant others to join us. The cost is only \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. We would like to provide the Branding Iron with an approximate number of attendees to expect, to make sure there is enough food and enough room. We are therefore requesting that you RSVP the number of expected attendees in your party by calling Aitchison & Emery at (209) 725-0770, or emailing Casey Aitchison at Casey@MercedDivorce.com.

We hope that everyone will join us!



## SIDEBAR

On September 23, 2018, MCBA member Ann Hanson and her family suffered an unimaginable loss from a tragic car accident.



The official GoFundMe page for the memorial scholarship fund that has been established by Ann and her husband for their daughter, Riley Hanson, is located at this link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/gyzs4-riley-hanson-memorial-fund>. Ann has asked us to express to everyone her sincere appreciation and gratitude for all of your support during this incredibly difficult time.

Several MCBA members have requested information to be able to send cards or flowers to Ann and her family directly. If you would like Ann's home address, please send an email to [Skye@MercedDivorce.com](mailto:Skye@MercedDivorce.com) or [Casey@MercedDivorce.com](mailto:Casey@MercedDivorce.com), and we will email it to you.



## NEW MCBA SECTIONS

The MCBA recently established three new Sections, including the Criminal Defense Section, Minor's Counsel Section, and Family Law Section. The Sections are headed by individual Section Presidents who will schedule regular Section meetings. There is no fee for joining a Section or attending a Section meeting, and all MCBA members and colleagues are invited to participate. This is a great opportunity for attorneys practicing law in those areas to pool their knowledge, and for those who have an occasional cross-over issue to get their questions answered.

Anyone interested in attending Section meetings should contact the Section Presidents to receive email notifications of the meetings: Doug Foster, President of the Criminal Defense Section, [dougfooster.esq@gmail.com](mailto:dougfooster.esq@gmail.com); Deborah Bennett, President of the Minor's Counsel Section, [deborah@mercedlawyer4kids.com](mailto:deborah@mercedlawyer4kids.com); and Casey Aitchison, President of the Family Law Section, [Casey@MercedDivorce.com](mailto:Casey@MercedDivorce.com).

The first Family Law Section meeting was held in October, with the next meeting scheduled for November 6, 2018 at noon at the Elks Lodge, and monthly sections thereafter on the first Tuesday of each month.

## FUNDRAISER FOR COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

Last year the MCBA donated \$1,000.00 to pay for a table at the CASA fundraiser dinner. This year, CASA has notified us they are having a Non-Event Fundraiser. 100% of your donations will be allocated to support the work of the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Merced County who work with our children/youth in foster care. CASA serves over 150 youth each year, but there are many still waiting to be assigned a CASA to be the constant in their lives. Donors will be entered into the CASA special prize drawing with a chance to win one of several fantastic prizes. To make a donation on line, go to [www.mercedcasa.org/noneventfundraiser](http://www.mercedcasa.org/noneventfundraiser), or contact Carol Etcheverry at (209) 761-6600 for more information.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO MERCED COUNTY'S NEWEST JUDGES, SHELLY SEYMOUR AND STEVEN SLOCUM**

The MCBA is pleased to announce that Merced County Superior Court Commissioners Shelly Seymour and Steven Slocum have been appointed as Merced's newest Superior Court Judges.



Judge Seymour has served as the Merced County Superior Court Family Law Commissioner since 2014 and as the Mariposa County Superior Court Family Law Commissioner from 2012 to 2014. Prior to serving as a Superior Court Commissioner, Judge Seymour served as the Merced County Superior Court Facilitator from 2008 to 2013. After graduating law school, Judge Seymour initially worked for a law firm before establishing her own office as a sole practitioner from 1997 to 2008, with an emphasis in Family Law.



Judge Slocum has served as a Merced County Superior Court Commissioner since January 2018. He previously served as the Supervising Deputy District Attorney for Merced County, after earning his undergraduate degree from UCLA and his Law Degree from Pepperdine University. The MCBA welcomes the elevation of both of our Court Commissioners to Merced County Superior Court Judges!

## **MERCED COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT NEWS**

The draft Local Rules of the Merced Superior Court for the January publication date have been posted to the court's website for review/comment.

E-filing Probate and Non-DCSS cases will be mandatory starting January 1, 2019. Please go to <http://www.odysseyefileca.com> to get started.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Donald Proietti advised that on October 11<sup>th</sup> Governor Brown appointed former Commissioner Shelly Seymour and former Commissioner Steven Slocum as judges to fill the two vacant judicial positions as a result of the retirement of Judges Ronald Hansen and Harry Jacobs. Congratulations to both of our new Judges!

## **THREE COUNTIES ANNOUNCE PROPOSED NEW LOCAL RULES OF COURT**

The Superior Courts of three local counties have provided notice of their respective proposed new Local Rules of Court, including Tulare County, Mariposa County, and Calaveras County. The effective date of the proposed Rules for all three counties is January 1, 2019.

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 10.613, each Superior Court has their proposed Rules posted on their website for review at the following links: Tulare County Superior Court <http://www.tularesuperiorcourt.ca.gov/> ; Mariposa County Superior Court <http://www.mariposacourt.org/files/proposedlocalrules.pdf> ; and Calaveras County Superior Court [http://www.calaveras.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/pdfs/LocalRules/ProposedLocalRulesEffectiveJanuary12019\\_2.pdf](http://www.calaveras.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/pdfs/LocalRules/ProposedLocalRulesEffectiveJanuary12019_2.pdf) Anyone interested in obtaining a hard copy of the Rules or providing comments to the proposed Rules should contact the Court directly.

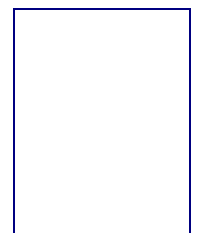
## Thank you for your 2018 MCBA Membership!

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

Casey Aitchison	Maile C. Dunlap	David D. Haycraft	Michael W. Murphy
Tabasum Akbari	Thomas E. Ebersole	Sean Howard	Michael Noguera
Edward M. Amaral	Skye Emery	Bruce J. Hendricks	James P. Padron
Jenna M. Anderson	James N. Fincher	Raymond J. Isleib	Lauri Partin
Vincent Andrade	Kelly C. Fincher	J. Scott Jordan	Deanne Peterson
Eric S. Beiswanger	Michael Fitzgerald	Jeffrey S. Kaufman	Diane Van Atta Rathmann
Deborah Bennett	Kimberly G. Flores	Kevin F. Kelley	Katharine Reed
Mason L. Brawley	David A. Foster	Cyril L. Lawrence	Kenneth M. Robbins
Geraldine Brown (Honorary)	Douglas Foster	George B. Leavell	Sara Rosenthal
Marvin J. Brown	Arthur F. Godwin	Kenneth R. Mackie	Monika Saini
Corbett J. Browning	Christopher Goodness	Richard T. Marchini	Lisete M. Silva
Aaron N. Castleton	Jeff B. Grant	Weldon J. Mattos, Jr.	Shane G. Smith
Jeffrey C. Castleton	Anthony Green	Roger S. Matzkind	Bruce B. Sousa
Julie Collura	Janinda Gunawardene	C. Logan McKechnie	Stuart B. Spencer
Beau C. Correia	Melbourne Gwin	Sean McLeod	Karen R. Spinardi
Thomas Curry	Emily J. Haden	Phillip McMurray	James E. Stone
Betty L. Dawson (Honorary)	Robert T. Haden	Derek Meyer	Ralph S. Temple, Jr.
Anthony De Jager	Kyle Hampton	Rachel Miller	Jennifer Tran
Gabriel A. Delgado	Forrest W. Hansen	Thomas Min	Rickey D. Wallace
Scott Drexel	Ann M. Hanson	Paul Carter Mullen	Alfred L. Whitehurst
			Darryl Young

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

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/>

Please **DO NOT** include a website entry on <http://mercedbar.org/members/> for me.

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

Bar#: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas Of  
Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Law School: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues  
Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_