

Merced County Bar Association



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President's Column

Casey Aitchison
MCBA President

MCBA attendance and membership have increased dramatically during this last year, and we have outgrown our meeting venue. As such, starting in 2019, we will be having our regular luncheon meetings at the Branding Iron Restaurant in the Banquet Room. The cost for the buffet lunch will remain the same, \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

Our next MCBA event is our Holiday Dinner and Judges' Night on December 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Branding Iron Restaurant, with Judge Shaver as our dinner speaker. During the evening we will be announcing our new panel of MCBA Officers and providing special recognition of our Judges. We invite you to join us and to bring a guest to partake in this memorable evening. RSVPs are required, so please contact us prior to December 3, 2018, with the number in your party and your choice of entrée.

The MCBA now has 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.

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, dougfoster.esq@gmail.com;

Deborah Bennett, President of the Minor's Counsel Section, deborah@mercedlawyer4kids.com; and

Casey Aitchison, President of the Family Law Section, Casey@MercedDivorce.com.

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



MCBA Holiday Dinner and Judges' Night, December 6, 2018

The MCBA Holiday Dinner and Judges' Night will take place on December 6, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Branding Iron Restaurant, banquet room.



Our dinner speaker will be Judge Shaver on the topic of What to Expect from the Upcoming Term of the US Supreme Court. This will no doubt be an entertaining and interesting presentation for attorneys and non-attorneys alike, particularly in light of the recent, highly publicized US Supreme Court appointment! We invite you to join us for this memorable evening, and to bring a spouse or friend.

Attendees have a choice of entrée of either Prime Rib, Filet Mignon, or Chicken Scallopini. The cost is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members, and may be paid at the door.

We need to provide the Branding Iron with a count of the number of entrées. As such, we need you to RSVP the number in your party as well as your choice of entrée, on or before December 3, 2018. You may RSVP by emailing MercedBar@gmail.com, Casey Aitchison at Casey@MercedDivorce.com, or calling Aitchison & Emery at (209) 725-0770.



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

May 3rd - 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 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 5 p.m., Branding Iron in Merced (hosted beer and wine bar)

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

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

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

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

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

Calendar of Events 2019

January 3rd at Noon - MCBA Luncheon - Branding Iron Merced - Judge Proietti update on Civil Practice (1 MCLE credit).

February 7th at Noon - MCBA Luncheon - Branding Iron Merced - Matthew Serratto update on criminal law (1 MCLE credit).

March 7th at Noon - MCBA Luncheon - Branding Iron Merced - Judge Bacciarini discussion of Small Claims (1 MCLE credit).

April 4th at Noon - MCBA Luncheon - Branding Iron Merced - Carlos Fuentes discussion on Immigration Law (1 MCLE credit).

May 2nd - LAW DAY at the Italo-American Lodge 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Speakers and subjects: TBA (3 hours MCLE credit)

June 6th at Noon - MCBA Luncheon - Branding Iron Merced - Walter Wall, Mariposa County District Attorney, subject TBA (1 MCLE credit).

July 4th - no MCBA meeting due to Independence Day holiday.



August 1st at Noon - MCBA Luncheon - Branding Iron Merced – Lindsay Nako and David Nahmias presenting on Legal Developments in LGBTQ Employment Discrimination (1 MCLE credit Elimination of Bias).

September 5th at Noon - MCBA Luncheon - Branding Iron Merced - speaker and subject TBA (1 MCLE credit).

October 3rd at 6 p.m. - Westside Dinner at Wool Growers, 609 H Street, Los Banos.

November 7th at Noon - MCBA luncheon - Branding Iron Merced - Annual Membership meeting and board elections.

December 5th at 6 p.m.- Holiday Party and Judges’ Night at the Branding Iron Merced.

FAMILY LAW SECTION OF THE MCBA

The next meeting of the Family Law Section of the MCBA will be Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at King's Asian Cuisine located at 360 W. Main Street, Merced, California. We welcome all interested persons to join us and bring your questions or comments as we discuss any and all topics and issues related to the practice of Family Law. To RSVP your attendance or to be included in the email reminder list, email the Family Law Section President, Casey Aitchison at Casey@MercedDivorce.com.

SIDEBAR

The General Bar Exam is administered in February and July each year. The exam consists of three sections: a multiple-choice Multistate Bar Examination, five written essay questions and one written performance test. The three sections are weighted equally.

The California State Bar has released the results of the July 2018 California Bar Exam, and announced that 3,284 people (40.7 percent of applicants) passed the General Bar Exam. The pass rate for first-time applicants was 55 percent. The names of the people who passed may be found here: <http://apps.calbar.ca.gov/exam/default.aspx>

The California pass rate fell by 8.9 percentage points from July 2017 to July 2018. The results are consistent with the national downward trend in scores from the July 2018 bar exams. The National Conference of Bar Examiners reports that the pass rate for the Multistate Bar Examination fell to a 34-year low in 2018. The preliminary statistical analyses from the July 2018 General Bar Exam are as follows: 8,071 applicants completed the exam; 5,132 (63.6 percent) were first-time applicants with a passing rate of 55.0 percent overall; 2,939 were repeat applicants with a passing rate of 16.0 percent overall.

In addition to the General Bar Exam, there is the Attorneys' Examination which consists of the essay and performance test sections of the General Bar Exam. This Exam is open to attorneys who have been admitted to the active practice of law and are in good standing for at least four years in another U.S. jurisdiction. Of the 522 attorneys who completed the Attorneys' Examination in July 2018, 169 (32.4 percent) passed.

Successful applicants who satisfy all other requirements for admission may take the Attorney's Oath individually or participate in admissions ceremonies held throughout the state in December 2018. After applicants have taken the Attorney Oath and submitted their oath card to the State Bar, they are eligible to practice law in California. Approximately two weeks after forwarding the oath card to the State Bar, their names will appear on the State Bar roll of licensed of attorneys accessible on the State Bar website.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF SHELLY A. SEYMOUR AS SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, NOVEMBER 9, 2018

Judge Seymour formal investiture ceremony was on November 9, 2018. We captured a few photos for those not able to attend. The Merced County Sheriff's Honor Guard presented the flag.



Judge Seymour addresses the attendees.



Honorable Judge Donald Proietti, Presiding Judge, provided opening remarks and administered Judge Seymour's oath of office.



Judge Seymour's husband assists her in donning her Judge's robe.



Gemma Keane and Rachel Seymour perform "God Bless America" in Judge Seymour's honor.

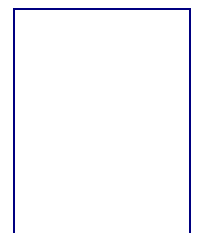
Thank you for your 2018 MCBA Membership!

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/

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: _____