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Serving San Luis Obispo
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A Conversation With Kerrin Adams,
SLO County Bar Association Executive Director
In Memoriam—Attorney Michael Blank
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San Luis Obispo County



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Cover: Meet Kerrin Adams, San Luis Obispo County Bar Association's Executive Director.

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The *Bar Bulletin*, ©2024, is published six times a year by The San Luis Obispo County Bar Association, P.O. Box 585, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, (805) 541-5930, and subscription is included in the membership dues. The *Bar Bulletin* welcomes and encourages articles and letters from readers. Please send them to Tara Jacobi at the above e-mail address. The San Luis Obispo County Bar Association reserves the right to edit articles and letters for publication. All material herein represents the views of the respective authors and does not necessarily carry the endorsement of the San Luis Obispo County Bar Association, its Board of Directors, its committees, and/or its sponsors and advertisers, unless specifically stated.

President's MESSAGE



Embrace Those Joyful Small Moments...

by **Melissa Chabra**

As I write this it is still November, and I'm in the throes of holiday chaos and preparation with turkey recipes, Black Friday specials, Nutcracker rehearsals and letters to Santa. And, of course, trying to juggle all of the hearings, motions and trials that have been stacked up in an attempt to wrap up cases before the end of the year (why do we always do this to ourselves?).

But I know when you read this, it will already be January. All the twinkling lights will be gone, the decorations packed up, and the shiny wrapped presents unveiled and already put away. Maybe it's raining while you read this and you might be feeling the letdown after the thrill of the holidays, the short gray days of January lending to the feeling of melancholy.

As things slow down this month, have you had a chance to reflect on the prior year and set your intentions for 2024? Did you live 2023 the way you wanted to? Are you proud of how you lived every day? And I don't just mean the big things like the verdicts,

settlements, promotions or even long-planned vacations. Did you really live? Did you live for yourself? Did you make decisions every day that made you happy? Did you take time to notice and appreciate what makes you smile?

These are questions I have been endeavoring to ask myself everyday and not just at the end of the year. The legal profession is notorious for sucking the joy out of life. Lawyers have a tendency to prize long hours and high stress, as though that is an indicator of how successful you are. We are very skilled at producing alcoholics and addicts, often with a side of depression and anxiety. We are less skilled at checking in on each other and prioritizing mental health and work-life balance.

So, at the start of 2024, I think it is a good time to take a moment to think about our intentions for the year and what we can do to avoid being consumed by the demanding and difficult aspects of our jobs. Even a small change in routine or mindset can lead to compounding benefits throughout the year.

Earlier this year, my family and I were driving home from a weekend trip to San Francisco. We were on the 101, moving at a good clip, when I looked at the car in the lane next to us—and burst out laughing. There was a golden retriever in the back seat, with his head out the window, wearing what can only be described as a pair of very fashionable doggie goggles (also known as doggles).

And he looked so, so happy. He was not bothered by the wind, high speed or what anyone else thought of him. I thought, I want to live my life like that, head out the window, wind in my hair, making a simple moment like a car ride joyful and thrilling, with nary a thought to how ridiculous those doggles might look.

As I think back about my 2023, I'm grateful for the "head out the window" moments I was able to experience and appreciate this year. I danced to "La Cucaracha" with my 8-year-old daughter at her school fiesta. I joined an adult ballet class that has become the highlight of my weekly routine. I sing Taylor

Swift songs loudly in the car with my daughters (and sometimes when I am alone too). After traveling to Italy with my husband, I've developed a deep love for limoncello. I bought my family matching Christmas pajamas, including the dog. I've tried to laugh harder, snuggle more, feel deeper, sing louder and live every day more fully.

I'm not always successful. There are some days that this profession tries to drag me back under its cloud of seriousness and despair. Of course, I still have days where the mundane chores and stress of daily life close in around me. Days where I come home ranting about what

happened in court, a ridiculous motion that I have to respond to, or an ever-increasing caseload.

But, as much as possible, my new mantra is to let it go. I can worry about the motion in the morning, but for now, I can enjoy listening to my daughters practice their violins while cleaning up after my husband as he destroys the kitchen to make a deliciously complicated Tuesday night meal. How lucky am I?

It takes a lot of practice to let go. But luckily, I have the photo I snapped of the happy dog with his doggles, as a reminder about my intentions to live joyfully.

I would love to hear about your own ruminations on 2023



and your intentions for 2024, both personally and professionally.

Also, as your San Luis Obispo County Bar Association President for 2024, I am asking you to share any hopes and goals you have for the San Luis Obispo County Bar Association in 2024. What do you think we did well in 2023? What could we do better? From the large to the small, I want to hear it all.

Let's take the time in 2024 to listen and support each other and embrace those joyful small moments. ■



Editor's Note

by Tara Jacobi

It is a new year. It's a Leap Year. It's an election year. According to Wikipedia, 2024 is going to be the biggest election year in history, given that eight of the most populated countries are holding elections. In April there will be a total solar eclipse. It is the year of the Dragon, which symbolizes power, nobleness, honor, luck and success. This summer, Paris will host the summer Olympics.

With the new year, we have a new San Luis Obispo County Bar Association President. We have a new Board of Directors. And we will set new goals and objectives for our year ahead. Take a look at my conversation with Executive Director Kerrin Adams to see the challenges the SLOCBA will be facing as we go into the new year. Good news, according to our Presiding Judge Federman, the Court now has a full house.

What is in a year?

The Year

by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

What can be said in New Year rhymes,
That's not been said a thousand times?

The new years come, the old years go,
We know we dream, we dream we know.

We rise up laughing with the light,
We lie down weeping with the night.


We hug the world until it stings,
We curse it then and sigh for wings.

We live, we love, we woo, we wed,
We wreath our prides, we sheet our dead.

We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,
And that's the burden of a year.

Happy New Year.

Tara ■



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In Memoriam

Attorney Michael Blank (1948–2023)

by Stephanie Barclay

Photos courtesy of Blank family and Stephanie Barclay

San Luis Obispo County lost a legal aid legend, Michael Blank, on October 14, 2023, after his lengthy battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

In an email notifying friends of Mike’s passing, his wife, Marla Lipshin, wrote: “Mike loved life and lived it to its fullest. He was a friend to many, a lover of nature, a fighter for social justice and peace, a gardener, woodworker and, most of all, a loving husband, father and brother. I always admired his enduring ability to look on the bright side and be happy. His heroes were Cesar Chavez, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela, and he embraced their philosophies in his personal and work life every day. He was quick to smile and laugh, forgave easily and embraced all that life had to offer.”

A Legal Career Dedicated to Helping the Poor and Disenfranchised

Mike moved to San Luis Obispo in 1986 to accept a newly created position with California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) working with farmworkers in the county, and improving working and living conditions for the Hispanic community. During his 30+ years with CRLA, he served on numerous boards and committees dedicated to improving the lives of the poor and disenfranchised. He won numerous awards, including the Bar Association’s John Seitz Community Service award, and was featured many times in newspaper articles and a documentary film, “Pride and Passion.”

After his CRLA career came to an end, *Bar Bulletin* Editor Raymond Allen wrote an article on Mike’s impressive career of service in 2015. “Mike loved working with the CRLA clients. Because he is fluent in Spanish, he better understood the needs of the migrant farm workers and his many low-income clients.

“As he recently stated, ‘It was like being an anthropologist. I got to work with so many people I would not otherwise have known.’



Attorney Mike Blank, “a legal aid legend.”

“He enjoyed working with people from various cultures and economic strata. ‘They trusted me. It was a wonderful relationship.’ Reflecting on his time at CRLA, Mike was proud and positive. ‘I loved it. The [office] grew while I was there. It became a very powerful vehicle. It was a good representative for low-income people.’

“Mike was a strong advocate who made sure that employees in the farm and service sectors were not economically abused by their employers.”

Mike was a legal aid legend in San Luis Obispo County. I had known of Mike Blank, “Mr. Legal Aid,” as I thought of him, throughout my career in SLO County. However, I didn’t actually *know* Mike until I joined the board of SLOLAC (the organization that is now known as SLOLAF, San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation) in 2011. Mike was President of the Board when I joined the board and when I was hired as the Project Director for Senior Legal Services Project and then the Executive Director for SLOLAF.

Although our leadership styles were completely different, he let me spread my wings and do things my way, which is a hard thing for most people to do—but Mike had no ego. When I was new to legal aid work and sharing an office with CRLA, I would often seek advice from Mike. I remember panicking about an elderly couple being evicted and Mike saying, “Let’s talk a walk and talk.”

We would walk around the block while Mike gave me calm, sound advice. I have never known such a Zen lawyer as Mike. Since I only knew him for a few years, I reached out to other colleagues who knew Mike in different contexts to share their thoughts and memories.

Colleagues Remember Mike Blank

Judge Rita Federman

Mike made a tremendous contribution to our community, working tirelessly on behalf of individuals who could not afford an attorney. He was dedicated to the cause of justice, and I recall his letterhead quoted Martin Luther King’s inspiring words to “Let justice roll down like water.”

He was passionate about his work but equally so about his family. He looked forward every year to the Live Oak concert, where he put his skills as an electrician to work to make the music shine.

I spent many hours with him at board meetings for SLOLAC, now known as SLOLAF. With his leadership, the organization provided free legal services to domestic violence victims and senior citizens, and was always exploring ways to expand its services. Mike’s life work might have been performed below the radar, but it had big impact for those he touched.

Angie King

“Live simply so that others may simply live,” may have been one of Mahatma Gandhi’s most famous quotes, but Mike embodied that counsel

and applied it to his own life and career. It was his email signature line.

He was my colleague at CRLA, where I worked with him for a number of years. He was always calm in times of stress, and he always put the needs of the client first. He always looked for solutions that benefitted the whole community, if possible.

In 1994 it was Mike who suggested me for the initial contract through Santa Barbara Legal Aid to run a new program to help seniors, the program that is now SLOLAF. It was Mike who found a way to “rent” the Senior Project space within CRLA offices so that it could operate without incurring major expense. It was Mike who organized a group of people to become a board of directors for the new nonprofit, and it was Mike who gave us the CRLA space to hold our meetings.

Continued on page 10



Mike Blank and Angie King

Remembering Michael Blank continued

Having daily contact with him during those years gave me an appreciation for his dedication, his expertise and his commitment to his community that, in turn, made me want to emulate him and become a more compassionate advocate.

One of the best ways we remember our friends is to realize how they have influenced us. Mike Blank was a major positive influence in my life and I thank him for it.

Susan King

During the 27 years I worked for Mike, he was always kind and considerate.

I remember not long after starting to work for CRLA, we took a case representing an elderly man who was on the verge of losing his housing due to hoarding. We visited his house and there was literally stuff everywhere!

Mike right away started negotiating with the landlord and organized assistance to clear out his house enough so he could keep his housing! It is an excellent example to me of what we could do to improve peoples' lives. I learned that Mike's knowledge of landlord-tenant law was vast and respected by the entire SLO legal community, and he often got requests from his fellow attorneys regarding landlord-tenant law.

Allen Hutkin

I worked with Mike Blank for many years both as opposing counsel and as co-counsel. Our firm represents many property management companies and property owners as part of our real estate litigation practice, so I opposed Mike on unlawful detainer cases. Mike and I generally were able to work out a fair settlement for the landlord and the tenant. But when we weren't, it was very clear that Mike really understood landlord-tenant law and was a worthy adversary.

As part of Mike's work for CRLA, he recognized that it was really important to educate property management companies and property owners about state and federal fair housing laws. So for many years, he put on workshops on this topic, which I spoke at. He also convinced me to cross over and represent a Cal Poly student, who was forced to live in horrific housing conditions, against his landlord, which resulted in a very nice settlement for this student.

Our firm worked with Mike and CRLA on numerous employment cases over the years, particularly wage and hour cases. Mike understood the limited resources he was working with at CRLA, so he leveraged those resources by creating a panel of private lawyers that he and CRLA either would



From left, Mike Blank, Scott Law, Allen Hutkin

co-counsel with or refer cases to in various practice areas. While Mike did not have a lot of experience in employment cases, he was always eager to learn something new and was a supportive co-counsel.

Mike always had a special place in his heart for farmworkers, which dated back to his time working with his hero, Cesar Chavez. His work led him to law school at UC Davis' Martin Luther King Hall, where he specialized in Legal Aid. Upon graduating he received a prestigious fellowship to work with farmworkers in Las Cruces. He worked for New Mexico Rural Legal Aid for three years, including being part of an important lawsuit that went all the way to the Supreme Court and changed the lives of farmworkers nationwide by banning the use of the short handle hoe.

Mike then moved to San Luis Obispo in 1986 to accept a newly created position with CRLA, working with farmworkers in the county, and improving working and living conditions for the Hispanic community. Through Mike's outreach work with CRLA and referrals to our firm, we helped thousands of low-income farm, construction and restaurant workers recover wages in a number of different wage and hour class action cases. It was really fulfilling work to help so many people, which would not have been possible without Mike's outreach efforts.

I will always admire and respect the financial sacrifices that Mike made in choosing to be a legal aid attorney instead of going into private practice. He had a huge heart and helped so many people through his work.

Craig McCollum

I had the fortune to interact with Mike on a regular basis during my 10 or so years serving as the San Luis Obispo County Bar Association's appointed member to CRLA's board of directors. However, my real connection with Mike began after being introduced to him years earlier while I was still a young lawyer learning the ropes. After a few meetings, I quickly realized that Mike was not only a dedicated legal servant to the poor and disenfranchised, he was also extremely well connected to the San Luis Obispo County community, both legal and otherwise.

As I got to know Mike better, I found that he was always more than willing to share his experiences, connections and information with me and, thus, he became a friend and a true resource. Over

the years, whenever I had a client, potential client or friend contact me with an unusual situation, legal or financial issue, or other need that I had not encountered nor dealt with before, I could always call on Mike for creative and knowledgeable ideas on how to best tackle the situation. In addition to his own thoughts, Mike would be full of information about which lawyers, law firms or nonprofit organizations might be able to offer various types of services or had dealt with similar issues or situations. He would even reach out to others on my behalf. The next time I would see Mike, he would always follow up with me and inquire how the situation had resolved. He truly cared about helping people.

A Life Well Lived

In his spare time, Mike loved to be outside. He swam or biked daily for many years. He enjoyed gardening, backpacking and camping. He loved spending time with family and was immensely proud of his daughter, Kate. He never missed the Live Oak Festival or the annual Santa Margarita Fourth of July parade, where he was a part of the Elite Precision Wheelbarrow Drill Team.

Mike is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Marla Lipshin, and their daughter Kate. If you have a Mike Blank memory you would like to share, please visit his memory page at <https://memories.net/timeline/michael-blank-28417>. ■



Marla Lipshin with husband Mike Blank

A Full House Graces the Superior Court

by Rita Federman, Presiding Judge

It is a great pleasure to announce that our San Luis Obispo County Superior Court has a full slate of 15 bench officers again after two years of vacancies. As of mid-2022, we had five open seats to fill, plus one open position for a Superior Court Commissioner.

Since the beginning of 2023, we have been fortunate to have six outstanding judicial officers join our bench. They are hard working and dedicated, and they come from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Above all, they are collegial, volunteering to take on projects, assist with each other's caseloads, and work together to make decisions that benefit the Court and the community as a whole.

I worked with our six new colleagues to prepare a short summary of their background to introduce them to our legal community. They are presented in reverse order, starting with our newest colleague.

Hon. Crystal Tindell Seiler

Crystal Tindell Seiler is the most recent addition to our bench. Judge Seiler devoted her life to public service, serving as a deputy district attorney in San Luis Obispo County and Santa Clara County. Her career as a prosecutor included trial litigation, complex wiretap investigations, appellate advocacy, collaboration with immigration attorneys on post-conviction relief, and work on several high-profile homicide cases. In addition to her work as an advocate, she taught



Hon. Crystal Tindell Seiler

police officers ethics, courtroom procedures, and the importance of constitutional protections.

Judge Seiler clerked for the Honorable Frederick H. Weisberg at the Superior Court of the District of Columbia after she earned her undergraduate degree at Stanford University and her J.D. at Stanford Law School.

Judge Seiler grew up in Templeton, where she raised cattle, worked in her family's small sign shop, and learned the true value of hard work and community. She credits the San Luis Obispo County Mock Trial Program for sparking her early interest in the legal profession. Judge Seiler is honored to be serving the community that is, was and always will be her home.

Judge Seiler is assigned to the Criminal Division.

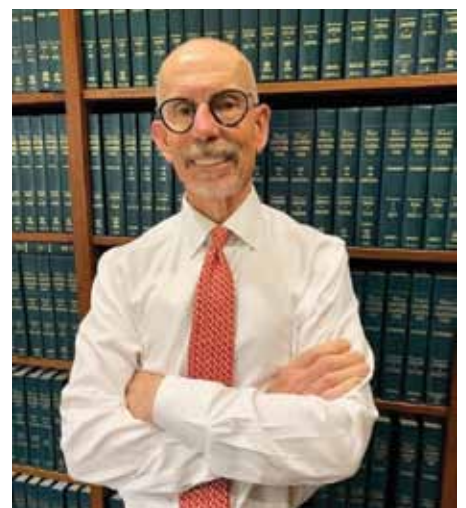
Hon. Michael C. Kelley

Judge Kelley joins our court following five years of service as a judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, where he

served in various assignments. These included service in juvenile dependency, limited civil (small claims and unlawful detainer) and unlimited civil departments. He also served as a Justice Pro Tempore with the Court of Appeal, in Division One of the Second Appellate District, where he authored opinions dealing with civil, criminal and juvenile cases. At the time of his appointment, Judge Kelley was commuting every week from his home in San Luis Obispo County to his assignment in Los Angeles County.

In addition to his judicial service, Judge Kelley brings a wealth of civil litigation and trial experience to the Court. Prior to serving as a judge, he was a partner at Sidley Austin LLP from 1987 to 2018, where he served as head of the litigation department and managing partner of the Los Angeles office. Judge Kelley earned a J.D. from Yale Law School and his B.A. from USC.

Judge Kelley deeply admires Abraham Lincoln and keeps a



Hon. Michael C. Kelley

bust of the President (who was also a skilled trial lawyer) on his bench. He shares this quote from Lincoln with counsel as sound advice for the importance of diligent preparation: "If I had six hours to cut down a tree, I would spend the first four sharpening my axe."

Judge Kelley is assigned to the Civil Division and hears cases in the Paso Robles Branch Court.

Hon. Catherine J. Swysen

Judge Catherine Swysen joined our court following a successful career in both state and federal courts, where she handled criminal, death penalty, civil and appellate matters.



Hon. Catherine J. Swysen

Prior to her appointment, Judge Swysen was a partner at Sanger Swysen & Dunkle. She served in leadership roles in the Santa Barbara Women Lawyers Association, Santa Barbara County Bar Association and Federal Bar Association and as a trustee for the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law.

She also was designated a lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference by the federal bench in Los Angeles. She currently serves on

the Criminal Law & Procedure Committee of the California Judge Association. She earned her J.D. from The Colleges of Law (formerly Santa Barbara College of Law) and her License in History from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB.)

Judge Swysen enjoys sharing her love for the law and appreciation for our judicial system with students and colleagues abroad. She recently spent a week in Ukraine with a judicial delegation from California. Judge Swysen and her husband live in Arroyo Grande. In her free time, Judge Swysen is an avid reader in French and English and likes to cook with locally sourced ingredients she finds at local farmers' markets and stands. Originally from Belgium, she cherishes any opportunity to visit her parents and family in Brussels.

Judge Swysen is assigned to the Criminal Division.

Hon. Michael Frye

Judge Michael Frye was elected to the Superior Court in June 2022 and took the bench in January 2023. He is a 1991 graduate of McGeorge School of Law. His first four years of practice were in litigation, followed by 16 years in the Fresno County District Attorney's Office where he prosecuted gang, sexual assault, arson and homicide cases.

Judge Frye then moved to the United States Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of California where he prosecuted major narcotics, homicides, sexual assault and human trafficking matters.

In 2016, Judge Frye joined the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office where he handled public integrity matters, homicides and major fraud.



Hon. Michael Frye

In the past, Judge Frye has also been a news reporter, a news editor, a teacher in China, a ski instructor. Judge Frye and his wife, Kay, a nurse practitioner, have been married 34 years, have four children and live in Morro Bay. The Fryes enjoy backpacking, surfing, sailing, hiking, birding, camping and other outdoor activities.

Judge Frye is assigned to the Criminal Division.

Hon. Erin M. Childs

Although Judge Childs is a new judge, she is not new to our court. For the last six-and-a-half years, Judge Childs has worked as our Family Law Commissioner. When asked, she says she loves her job and, even on its worst days, it's the best job she has ever had.

When she is not working, Judge Childs immerses herself in everything family, Spain, travel, cooking and learning languages. Her husband is half Spanish, and they try to go back once a year to see his family. After work hours, Judge Childs attends night school to work on a Master's in Spanish language. She enjoys learning

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A Full House continued



Hon. Erin M. Childs

new things and challenging herself. For years, she has run half-marathons, but now she finds herself in the weight room multiple times a week. Her next big goal is to walk the 500-mile Camino de Santiago in Spain.

Another wonderful perk of her job, she says, is that she has the opportunity to teach. Twice a year, she trains all the newly assigned family law bench officers for the Judicial Council. It's a one-week boot camp on the law and how to run a family law courtroom. Judge Childs also teaches for the local law school and helps train attorneys statewide to be minor's counsel.

She enjoys working with new commissioners, judges and young attorneys, noting that she learns

as much from them as they from her. She is also grateful our court is very supportive of her teaching, which also allows her to represent our court up and down the state.

Judge Childs is the Supervising Judge of the Family Law Division.

Hon. Kenneth R. McDaniel

Commissioner Kenneth McDaniel was appointed in December 2022. He presides over a family law assignment, which includes domestic violence and child support calendars. He has more than a decade of experience in family law.

Commissioner McDaniel's family has resided in southern San Luis Obispo County since the 1930s. He was raised by multiple family members, who each cared for him as their own child. He owes a debt of gratitude to his family, teachers and friends for their support throughout his life.

Commissioner McDaniel received his J.D. from the Santa Barbara College of Law in 2010 and a B.S. in economics from California State University Sacramento in 2004. He was the first member of his extended family to attend a four-year college. Prior to beginning the practice of law, he worked in the construction field and played poker professionally.

Commissioner McDaniel was an associate attorney in local family law offices from 2011-2013 and 2019-2021. He opened a private practice in 2013. He served as a juvenile dependency panel attorney from 2017-2019. He is proud to have been regularly appointed to represent minor children in child custody and parental right termination cases.

Commissioner McDaniel enjoys the process of understanding and solving questions about the law. He gives great value to empathy and the inherent importance of each person who comes into the courtroom.

Commissioner McDaniel is assigned to the Family Law Division. ■



Hon. Kenneth R. McDaniel

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A Conversation With Kerrin Adams, Executive Director of SLOCBA

with Tara Jacobi

Photos courtesy of Kerrin Adams & Bar Bulletin Photographers

Just how many hats are you wearing as the Executive Director of San Luis Obispo County Bar Association (SLOCBA)?

A lot. The SLOCBA is doing more than it has ever done before. There are quite a few “branches” of the Association that I don’t think most members are fully aware of.

The Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS)

LRIS is one branch of the SLOCBA. It is a non-profit organization (501c6) that provides the community with legal direction to either free resources or attorneys who specialize in the area of law they need. If a caller can afford an attorney, they are connected with a 30-minute consultation (for only \$50) to find out what their options are with an attorney and what the attorneys’ rates and fees would be to represent the caller.

This service is invaluable to our community; I answered more than 6,000 calls last year. LRIS offers a free membership option for local attorneys and is looking to add more qualified attorneys to the LRIS panel.

For more information, contact me at Iris@slobar.org.



To build awareness and community connections, an LRIS fundraising barbecue in 2022 included volunteers (from left) Brad Hill, Kerrin Adams, Matt Kraut, Lisa Sperrow, Shaun McGrady, Mary Molina, Stephanie Barclay, Don Ernst,

The Fee Arbitration Program

Another branch of SLOCBA, Fee Arbitration, offers clients and attorneys who disagree

on fees or costs a way to resolve disputes at an early stage and at a low cost. The SLOCBA offers this program to assist the clients and their attorneys in these difficult situations. The number of Fee Arbitration cases has increased significantly in recent years, and we are in need of more volunteer Arbitrators.

Arbitrators are volunteer attorneys and non-attorneys who are in good standing and approved by the Fee Arbitration Committee. Once an attorney completes the required training video and their application is approved, the applicant is placed on an approved list of Arbitrators. An approved arbitrator is chosen randomly and contacted (once or twice per year) with a potential case for a conflict check and availability check. If the attorney is not available, they can let me know, and I will contact the next approved Arbitrator.

Volunteer time estimates are hard to give with so many different factors, including the details of a case and whether attorneys are on both sides’ vs. self-represented parties.

If interested in an application or more information, please reach out to me at slobar@slobar.org.

California State Bar MCLE Provider

The SLOCBA is also a California State Bar Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) provider and has recently provided a significant increase in hours/credits/events than in years past. MCLE refers to the approved continuing legal education required of California attorneys.

Continued on page 16



Kerrin Adams continued

Attorneys are required to complete a total of 25 hours of approved credit every three years.

SLOCBA has put a lot of time, effort and finance into providing education topics to benefit everyone and also into transitioning to now offer a hybrid option for events. This allows those unable to attend in person an option to attend virtually, ask questions and receive credit. I encourage our members to reach out and share any ideas you might have for future CLE events and social events!



Kerrin Adams (second from right) organized SLOCBA's September 23 Appellate Reception with four justices from the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Six, which also served as an MCLE event. From left, Melissa Chabra, SLOCBA President; Justice Tari L. Cody; Justice Kenneth R. Yegan; Justice Hernaldo Baltodano; Presiding Justice Arthur Gilbert; Greg Gillett, former SLOCBA President.

Connecting With Our Members AND the Community

As Executive Director of the SLOCBA, I believe one of my most important “hats” is connecting with our members AND the community. We have nearly 600 members now—more members than the SLOCBA has ever had!

I strive to provide events that our members will enjoy. The Board of Directors and I realize how isolated everyone became after covid and have worked hard this year to provide many ways for our members to receive valuable continued legal education opportunities and to connect, network, and socialize with peers and colleagues.

In doing so, we have successfully put on countless hours of CLE events, organized local hikes, hosted our annual Summer Social and Winter Social events and a few happy hours as well. If you have not been able to attend any of these events, I encourage you to join us!

Connecting with the community when they need legal assistance is something I enjoy providing as well. Connecting callers through LRIS with free resources or attorneys they so desperately need, or walking callers through the fee arbitration process is such a valuable resource to so many people.

When people call me, they are often at their lowest and sometimes weakest points and really do

not know what to do. Simply providing them with the options available is a huge relief to many callers. Most of the time people are simply unaware of what options are even available. The SLOCBA provides the community with an access to justice on so many different levels—and that I am truly passionate about!

Where do our challenges lie?

In short, we need more involvement from our members. To operate and offer the best services possible, I need YOU, our members! The SLOCBA cannot function without our members. I encourage you to stay active, attend events and to always send me your feedback and ideas. Your thoughts and opinions are important to me!

- The LRIS cannot operate without attorneys. I encourage you to join today FOR FREE and see if it's something that you might not only enjoy but benefit from as well.
- The Fee Arbitration Program needs more volunteers, both attorneys and non-attorneys. Please sign up to be an Arbitrator and encourage anyone you know who is not an attorney to volunteer as well.
- Did I mention to attend our events?! We'd love

to have more people attend our events, both educational and social!

- If you have the time and passion, please consider joining the SLOCBA Board of Directors or the many sub-committees.
- The Lawyer Referral and Information Service also has its own Committee and is looking for more attorneys to join! Please reach out to me for more information.

Tell us about your background and how you came into this role?

I have always been passionate about helping people. At 15-years old, I found myself helping a grandmother raise her infant twin granddaughters who had been abandoned by their parents, as a result of addiction. I assisted the grandmother to get guardianship of the twins while I attended high school and watched the girls after school so their grandmother could continue to work and provide financially for them.

When the twins were just six-months old, their grandmother and sole provider had a massive stroke, which resulted in many months/years of rehabilitation. At one point during this time, I moved into a spare bedroom to continue caring for the babies. I went to school during the day, while their great-grandmother watched them until I got back from school to continue to care for them.

Watching the court battle unfold over these babies was my first “introduction” to the legal world. Learning the proper legal steps to take to protect them intrigued me. I then signed up for Mock Trial and soaked up every ounce of knowledge those attorneys provided, and I loved each and every minute of it. While on the high school Mock Trial team I was the “lead prosecuting attorney” for my team, and I truly believe this is where I gained my confidence in the legal world.

One of the volunteer attorneys who was a scorer the night of the competition offered me a job as a legal secretary in his office when I was 16. I eventually became certified as a paralegal and worked mainly in family law for 15 years before joining the SLOCBA Lawyer Referral & Information Service in 2016.

In 2021, the Board of Directors chose to combine the SLOCBA and LRIS, previously operated by two Executive Directors, into one position. Since then, I have been challenged to effectively operate all positions simultaneously. And while it has been

a challenge, it has been rewarding as well, in so many different ways.

What would you like to see happen for our future?

I know at this point, I sound repetitive, but more involvement from our members will only make this Association better and stronger. I am excited to see what we can accomplish together in the future!

Is there anything else you wish to share with our readership?

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, Thank you!!!

Thank you to those who volunteer—those who are on the Board of Directors and the LRIS Committee (your time committed does not go unnoticed), who present at our CLE events, who tackle a project for the Board, who take on another fee arbitration case, who assist an LRIS caller, who help me set up or tear down at an event, who give me encouragement and positive criticism—I appreciate it all SO MUCH! Thank you for your patience with me as I have juggled all these roles! It has not been easy, but with your kindness and patience it has been possible. ■

Your Expertise Is Needed in These Areas...

- **Family Law**
- **Traffic**
- **Education Law**
- **SSI Appeals**
- **Workers’ Compensation**

The Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS) has an urgent need for attorneys who practice in the above areas for potential (paying) clients.

If you are interested in prescreened, quality referrals, please call Kerrin, (805) 541-5502.

Congratulations to Seitz Award Winner Lisa Sperow!

The Seitz Family Community Service Award honors attorneys whose significant community contributions exemplify the best attributes of the legal profession.

The Seitz Award is funded by the Seitz family and named for John L. Seitz, a longtime San Luis Obispo County attorney. Since 1989, it is presented annually in our legal community.

Lisa Sperow's work as the Executive Director of Cal Poly's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, which provides pro bono representation for low-income individuals, exemplifies the objectives of the Seitz Award. In addition, Sperow's numerous volunteer community activities include Women Lawyers Association, where she received the 2020 OWL Award, and the San Luis Obispo County Bar Association, where she serves on the Board.

Right, Michael Seitz presented the Seitz Family Community Service Award to Lisa Sperow.



Congratulations to Pentangelo Award Winner David Warren!

The Pentangelo Award is named in honor of Frank T. Pentangelo, a longtime contributor to the *Bar Bulletin*. The award recognizes writers who provide articles, and it is designed to inspire other attorneys to contribute.

When David Warren authored "Ahhhh, the Humanity" about the impediments to mediation, he showed us that "emotional concerns, worry and distrust are a part of every significant dispute."

For this article in 2023 and previous articles over the years, Warren received the Pentangelo Award. Thank you, David Warren.

Tara Jacobi presented the Pentangelo Award to David Warren.



2023 Winter Social

Thursday, December 7, at The Monday Club

Photos courtesy
of Tara Jacobi
& Kerrin Adams

Continued on page 20



Lisa Toke, Tana Coates



Meet the 2024 SLOBA Board of Directors (from left): Tara Jacobi, Lester Paredes, Melissa Chabra, Ginger Ortiz, Executive Director Kerrin Adams, Nicole Norris, Elizabeth Culley, Judge Matthew Guerrero, Kara Stein-Conaway, Allen Hutkin, Lisa Sperrow, Jon Ansolabehere, Stephanie Barclay, Greg Gillett. Not pictured: Amanda Busick, Judge Erin Childs, Hannah Murphy, Lisa Toke.



Robert Warshawsky, Laura Petty



Jan Marx, Jeff Stein



David Warren, Jane Heath



Helen Silva, Kevin Ramey

2023 Winter Social

continued



Nicole Norris, Maren Hufton, Lisa Sperow



Judge Matthew Guerrero, Judge Rita Federman



Members of Gypsy All Stars add to the ambiance.



Sarah Matthews (left) and Anita Marlett enjoy dinner from the Haute Skillet truck (left).



Melissa Chabra, Kelly Mandarino, Greg Gillett



Judge Catherine Swysen (left), Judge Jacquelyn Duffy, Judge Michael Duffy (retired), Judge Michael C. Kelley



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Women Lawyers Association of San Luis Obispo County 2023 Annual Judicial Reception

by Michaela Cotton

The Women Lawyers Association of San Luis Obispo (WLA) hosted its Annual Judicial Reception Thursday, November 2, 2023, at Saints Barrel in San Luis Obispo. The annual event is an opportunity for members of the bar to honor current and retired county judicial officers.

This year's event was well attended by members of the bar and the bench. A short program was held to swear in the 2023-2024 WLA Board of Directors. The oath of office was administered by the Honorable Catherine J.

Swysen to Erin Brandt (President), Lisa Hamon (Vice-President), Elizabeth Culley (Treasurer), Emilie De La Motte (Secretary), Sarah Yasutake (Membership), Michaela Cotton (Publicity), Skye Christakos (Technology), Lisa Sperow (Scholarship), Maren Hufton (Scholarship), Sarah Pazdan (Judicial Reception), Kara Stein-Conway (Member at Large), Sheryl Wolcott (Member at Large), Megan Baltierra (Member at Large), Amanda Busick (Member at Large), Aislinn Roberts (Member at Large), and Jessica

Saldo (Immediate Past President).

The program also introduced the recipients of the WLA Scholarship Awards: Ashlie Andrade, a 1L at University of California, Berkeley College of Law and San Luis Obispo native; Alexandra Bernal, a 2L at San Luis Obispo College of Law and Cuesta College graduate; Audrey Hall, a 1L at UC Davis and Cuesta College graduate; Vanessa Ibarra, a 3L at McGeorge School of Law and Cal Poly graduate; and Mikayla Regier, a 4L at San Luis Obispo School of Law and Cal Poly graduate. ■



Navigating Divorce Real Estate: A New Year's Checklist for Attorneys & Their Clients

by Lindsey Harn

As we step into the new year, divorce attorneys and their clients face pivotal decisions, especially when it comes to real estate. In the world of divorce, where emotions can run high and details are critical, having a comprehensive checklist is crucial for a smoother transition. Here's a checklist to guide attorneys and clients through the intricate process of divorce-related real estate, ensuring that every detail is not just considered but proactively addressed.

Review Valuations and Buyouts

As the calendar resets, it is crucial for divorcing parties to review property valuations and buyout agreements. In protracted divorce cases, which can span several years, the initial valuation may become obsolete.

Changes in the real estate market or financial circumstances can render the original valuation irrelevant. For instance, those who agreed to a buyout when interest rates were at 3 percent might find themselves in a very different financial landscape. For example, the spouse who initially accepted the buyout may now struggle to afford it. It is also important to consider tax implications when reviewing valuations and buyout agreements. Tax consequences can significantly impact the financial outcomes for both parties.

Attorneys should guide their clients in seeking updated valuations, ensuring that the financial settlements align with the current market conditions.

Omissions in Stipulations

Starting the new year calls for a fresh approach, and part of that involves avoiding unnecessary complexities. Attorneys should guide their clients to omit certain points in stipulations that could lead to disputes or complications.

By steering clear of these unnecessary complexities, divorcing parties can streamline the process and foster an environment conducive to amicable resolutions.

- **List Price:** Deliberately exclude specific details about the list price, allowing the agent to determine

it based on a comprehensive evaluation of the property's fair market value.

- **Price Adjustments:** Refrain from specifying details about price adjustments to accommodate the real estate market. Instead, advise maintaining flexibility in response to varying home and market conditions.

- **Time Frames:** Avoid setting rigid time frames for crucial stages, such as when to list the property, the duration before reviewing offers, the timing for price adjustments, and the allowable period for the in-spouse to occupy the property.

Omitting these specifics encourages a more adaptable and tailored approach to the home-selling process, enabling attorneys and their clients to navigate the unique conditions of the market and property more effectively.

Equity Buyout and Refinance

Understanding the intricacies of equity buyouts and refinancing is pivotal in divorce-related real estate transactions. Attorneys should recommend certified divorce lending professionals to assist their clients through these processes.

Here are some insights into the equity buyout or cash-out refinance process.

Documenting Full Application for Sale

1. Importance of Timely Documentation

Stress the significance of promptly documenting a full application for sale. Delays may prolong the divorce proceedings and create additional complications.

2. Recommended Timeframe

Suggest a time frame of no more than 90 days for completing and submitting the full application. This ensures that the parties involved move forward efficiently, preventing unnecessary delays.

3. Documentation Components

Outline the essential components of a full application, including financial records, property details and any other relevant documents. A comprehensive and well-documented application streamlines the process for all parties involved.

Continued on page 24

Navigating Divorce Real Estate continued

4. Legal Implications of Delays

Emphasize the legal implications of failing to submit a full application within the recommended time frame. Delays might lead to court interventions, potentially impacting the division of assets and the overall divorce settlement.

Execution of the Equity Buyout/Refinance Processes

1. Understanding the Equity Buyout/Refinance Process

Provide a clear explanation of the equity buyout/refinance process, ensuring that both parties understand the steps involved in transferring property ownership.

2. Timely Execution

Recommend a timeframe of no more than 180 days for executing the equity buyout or refinance. This allows the party retaining the property sufficient time to secure financing or complete the buyout process.

3. Financial Planning

Encourage clients to engage with financial advisors and mortgage professionals early in the process to facilitate a smooth equity buyout or refinance. This can help in understanding the feasibility and obtaining the necessary financing within the stipulated time.

4. Consequences of Delay

Communicate the potential consequences of not completing the equity buyout or refinance within the recommended time frame. Delays may trigger a court-ordered sale of the property, affecting both parties' interests.

5. Flexibility and Communication

Highlight the importance of open communication between divorcing parties. If challenges arise during the equity buyout or refinance process, encourage parties to communicate openly and consider possible modifications to the timeline, if agreed upon mutually.

Sale of Property

Navigating the sale of a jointly owned property requires a delicate touch and a strategic approach. It is recommended to work with a Certified divorce real estate agent when working through the sale of the property.

Certified divorce real estate agents play a crucial role in this process by guiding clients through the intricacies of listing, marketing, and selling the

property. Attorneys should encourage their clients to ask pertinent questions related to repairs, debt settlement and the equitable distribution of proceeds. By doing so, divorcing parties can start the new year on a solid financial foundation, minimizing potential conflicts and ensuring a fair distribution of assets.

Here are some important topics to discuss relating to the sale of property.

1. Repairs of the Property

- Responsibility and Payment

Clearly define who will be responsible for any necessary repairs to the property. Establish a fair and practical approach for covering these costs, whether it is a joint expense or if one party will bear the burden.

- Reimbursement Mechanism

Determine how the party covering the repair costs will be reimbursed. This could involve deducting the repair costs from the sale proceeds or setting up a reimbursement plan to be settled at a later date.

2. Settling Debts Before Proceeds Distribution

- Debt Prioritization

Outline a plan for settling outstanding debts related to the property, including repairs, mortgages, or any other financial obligations. Clarify the order in which these debts will be addressed.

- Impact on Distribution

Emphasize that debts, including repair costs, should ideally be settled before the distribution of sale proceeds to ensure a fair and equitable division of assets.

3. Division and Distribution of Sale Proceeds

- Agreed Upon Split

Clearly articulate how the sale proceeds will be divided between the divorcing parties. This may



involve an equal split or a division based on a predetermined agreement.

- **Timing of Distribution**

Specify when the proceeds will be distributed. This could be at the closing of the sale or shortly afterward, depending on the specifics of the agreement.

4. Partial Distribution for In-Spouse

- **Financial Support for Relocation**

Consider whether a partial distribution of cash should be given to the in-spouse before closing to facilitate their financial move. This can include funds for the first and last month's rent, security deposit and storage expenses.

- **Amount and Timing**

Clearly define the amount to be distributed and the timing of this disbursement. This can help the in-spouse plan their relocation effectively.

5. Retrieving Personal Property

- **Pre-listing Retrieval**

Ideally, arrange for the out-spouse to retrieve their personal property before the property is listed for sale. This can prevent complications during the sales process and streamline the transition.

- **Logistics and Coordination**

Work out the logistics of the personal property retrieval, ensuring that it aligns with the overall timeline of the divorce real estate process. Open communication and cooperation between the parties are crucial in this regard.

Agreement Points Upfront

To set the stage for a smooth process, certain agreement points should be established upfront. Attorneys should guide their clients in determining logistics. By addressing these practicalities early on, attorneys can help their clients embark on the journey of property division with a sense of control and clarity.

Here are some important agreement points to determine.

1. Installation of Lockbox and For Sale Sign

- **Access and Visibility**

Acknowledge that a lockbox and For Sale sign can enhance the property's marketability. The lockbox provides easy access for real estate agents, while the for sale sign increases visibility to potential buyers. It is also important to recognize that the listing agent has the discretion to install a lockbox based on their professional judgment, considering factors like security and convenience.

2. Timely Signing of Paperwork

- **Efficiency in Documentation**

Stress the importance of all parties on the title promptly signing all applicable listing and sales paperwork within one business day. This efficiency helps avoid possible delays in the sales process.

Continued on page 26

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Navigating Divorce Real Estate continued

3. Open House and Showing Schedule

- Maximizing Exposure

Highlight the significance of open houses and regular showings in attracting potential buyers. The listing agent's determination of schedules ensures a strategic approach to showcase the property.

- Occupant Cooperation

Emphasize the occupant's responsibility to make the house available for showings seven days a week, within the agreed-upon time frame. This flexibility is essential for accommodating potential buyers and cooperating with the listing agent's schedule.

4. Occupant Presence During Showings

- Maintaining Professionalism

Specify that no occupants, family members, friends or others should be present during showings or open houses. This rule maintains a professional and neutral environment for potential buyers.

5. Coordination with Home Stagers and Photographers

- Quick Turnaround

Stress the importance of accommodating home stagers and photographers within seven days of the listing date. This quick turnaround ensures that the property is presented in its best light, attracting more potential buyers.

- Following Professional Advice

Encourage the occupant(s) to heed the advice of home stagers and the listing agent to keep the property in optimal showing condition. This collaboration enhances the property's appeal in the real estate market, increasing the likelihood of a quick sale.

6. Key Furnishing by Occupant

- Efficient Access

Specify that the occupant(s) should provide two sets of keys to the listing agent at the time of signing the listing agreement. This ensures efficient access for real estate agents and potential buyers.

Conclusion

In the spirit of the new year, a well-prepared checklist ensures that divorce-related real estate decisions are approached strategically and systematically. Attorneys and clients, armed with this guide, can navigate the complexities of property division with clarity and confidence, setting the stage for a fresh start in the new chapter of their lives. ■

Lindsey Harn is a Certified Divorce Real Estate Expert. Her contact information for real estate questions is (805) 441-7744 or lindsey@lindseyharngroup.com.



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A New Position on the Civil Law Team Fills at SLOLAF

by Donna Jones, SLOLAF Executive Director

In early summer 2021, San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation (SLOLAF) ran an online ad for a staff attorney, since one of our long-term employees was leaving. That attorney ended up staying, but through a twist of fate, the ad wasn't pulled for a week.

During that week, a resume came across our desks—that of Christy Ferioli. Could it be true? An experienced legal aid attorney? Licensed in California? New to the area and wanting to continue in public service? Yes, please! And the rest is history.

Christy joined SLOLAF in July 2021, initially staffing a new CARES Act-funded program SLOLAF was administering in partnership with CAPSLO. Though that grant was not long-term, we recognized that Christy was a gem that could add significant value to our legal team. She quickly became a fantastic resource to other attorneys and was a strong advocate for her clients. She was greatly missed during the time she took off to deliver her beautiful daughter in early 2022—the first ever SLOLAF staff baby! And we had plenty of cases for her when she came back, as SLOLAF's growth was in full swing at the time.

With a new Legal Director of Civil Law Services in place as of April 2023 (Kevin Green), a new position was created on the Civil Law Team—that of Senior Staff Attorney. Christy was the perfect fit for this new role, which in addition to carrying a full case

load, assists in the management of the Civil Law programs, oversees our student intern program, and currently oversees the work of our provisionally licensed attorney. We are thrilled to re-introduce you to Christy Ferioli in her new role and hope you will join us in congratulating her on a promotion well deserved. Thank you, Christy, for all you do to represent the underserved in our community.

We caught up with Christy on life at SLOLAF, life as a working mother and life as a legal aid attorney. Happy reading!

What inspired you to go into law?

I went to law school already committed to a career in public service. I wanted to help people, and I think lawyers are uniquely suited to do that. So many of our laws are written to help people who are struggling. The problem is that most people can't navigate the legal system without a lawyer, and too many people who are struggling do not have equal access to lawyers who will fight to secure their rights. I went into the law with a desire to help solve that problem.

What were you doing before you started working at SLOLAF?

Since graduating from Stanford Law School in 2012, I have worked primarily as a legal aid attorney, providing pro bono legal representation to those in need. During my first four years of practice, I provided holistic civil legal services to low-income



Attorney Christy Ferioli

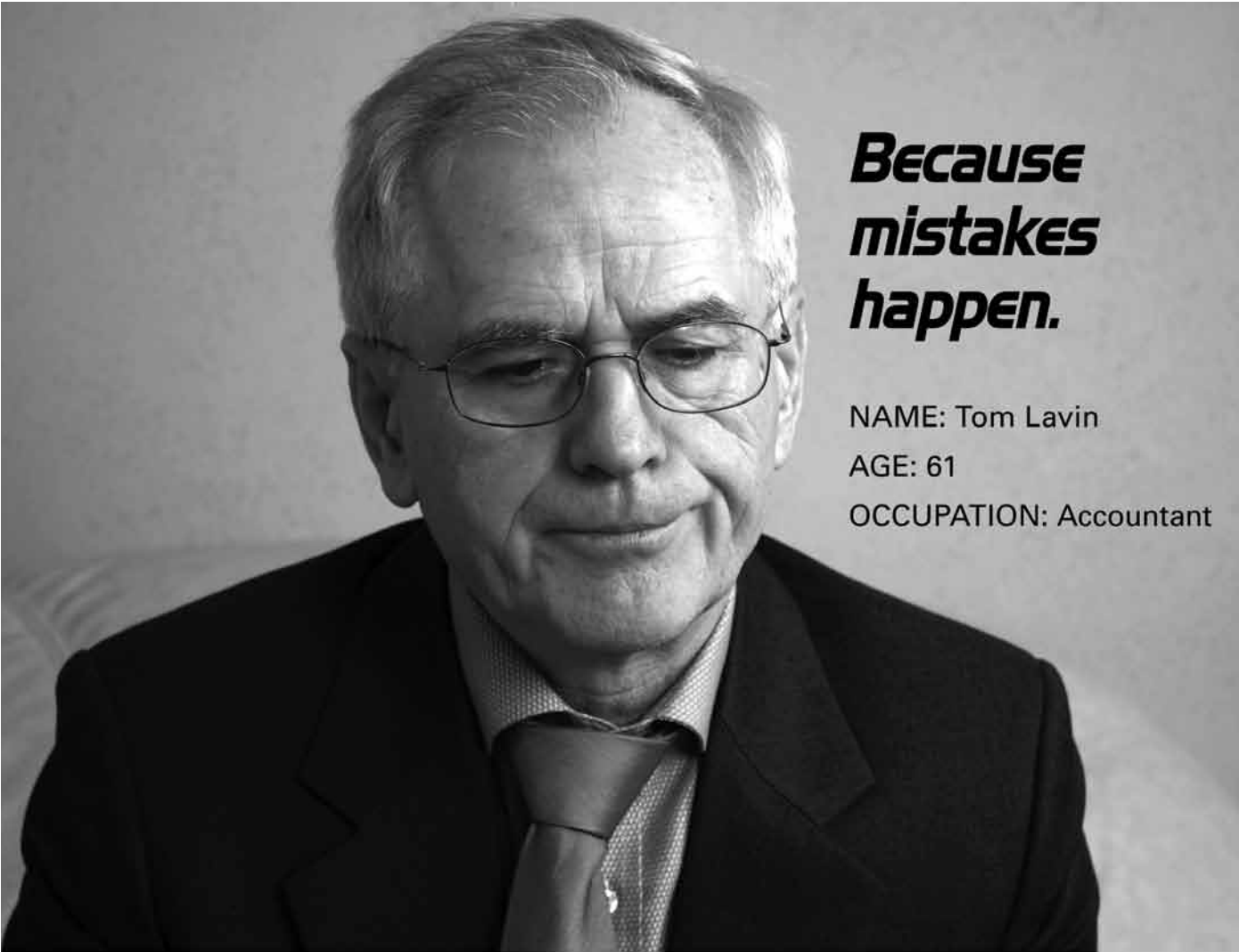
veterans and transition-age foster youth in Los Angeles. I then moved to Tampa, Florida, where I clerked for a federal district court judge and spent three years representing survivors of domestic violence in family law proceedings.

In late 2020, my husband and I decided to move to SLO County because we missed California and love the Central Coast. In 2021, we found out that we were expecting a baby girl, bought a house, adopted a dog, and I started working at SLOLAF—it was a big year!

What made you want to work for SLOLAF?

When I moved to SLO County, I wanted to continue to work in public interest. Working at SLOLAF gave me the opportunity to keep doing work that I love, where I can help underrepresented individuals understand and

Continued on page 29



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AGE: 61

OCCUPATION: Accountant

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SLOLAF Law Team continued

enforce their rights. I was really impressed by how SLOLAF's leadership (i.e., our Executive Director Donna Jones and former Legal Director Stephanie Barclay) had a clear vision and plan for growing SLOLAF's funding, building up its staff and increasing its reach in the County.

I was initially hired on a temporary grant, and within a few months of starting my position, they had already secured additional funding to keep me on permanently as a staff attorney! In the last few years, SLOLAF has increased our staff to hire a bilingual intake and referral coordinator, bilingual outreach coordinator, and several new attorneys, and we have expanded our service areas to include representation in public benefits matters, domestic violence restraining orders, guardianships, conservatorships and consumer issues.

What kind of cases do you work on at SLOLAF?

Currently I do a mix of civil litigation and administrative advocacy. A large part of my work involves assisting tenants with issues related to their housing, e.g., defending tenants in unmeritorious eviction cases, helping them enforce their right to habitable housing, requesting reasonable accommodations on the basis of their disabilities, advising regarding the legality of rent increases, and more. I also assist clients with public benefits issues (like appealing a denial, termination or alleged overpayment of benefits) and in filing for guardianship of children that they're caring for.

Lastly, I provide holistic legal services to low-income veterans through a partnership with

CAPSLO's Supportive Services for Veteran Families program.

Is legal aid different in SLO County compared with the other places you've worked?

SLO County is by far the smallest county that I've worked in, which means that SLOLAF is by far the smallest organization that I've worked at. However, that brings some advantages. In larger legal aid organizations, most attorneys have to specialize in one area of law, whereas at SLOLAF, attorneys can be more generalists. I appreciate getting to work on a diverse range of cases.

What was most surprising to you about working for SLOLAF?

I was most surprised by how much SLOLAF punches above its weight in terms of its accomplishments and impact, given its small size. Since I started with SLOLAF in 2021, we've assisted more than 1,000 individuals! SLOLAF also engages in high-impact cases when the opportunity arises. A prime example of this is the recent Grand View Apartments litigation, where SLOLAF and co-counsel sued a landlord who forced hundreds of tenants to live in uninhabitable, vermin-infested conditions. SLOLAF and co-counsel obtained a multimillion-dollar settlement for these tenants.

Is there an achievement or contribution that you are most proud of?

It's hard to choose because each win represents a meaningful improvement in my clients' lives. But a recent case that stands out is when I represented Mr. S., a 78-year-old man who had lived in a skilled nursing facility for close to a decade, in appealing Medi-Cal's denial of his continued stay.

Mr. S. had no family, no income, was illiterate and had been homeless prior to his admission to the nursing facility. If he had been forced to leave, he would have returned to homelessness and been unable to appropriately manage his medical conditions, likely leading to catastrophic health consequences. I represented Mr. S. in a half-day administrative hearing and won his appeal, which allowed Mr. S. to continue residing in the nursing facility that he considers his home.

As a new mother, how do you balance life and your work at SLOLAF?

As a legal aid attorney, I'm used to handling 20 to 40 cases at a time, so I've developed strong time management and organizational skills that are helpful in balancing working full-time with parenthood. Even so, I would be lying if I said it isn't hard. I'm very fortunate to have a supportive husband who is a true partner in providing care for our daughter and an employer that believes in work-life balance.

Anything else we should know?

SLO County is such a special place. My husband and I took a leap of faith when we moved to the area, and living here has exceeded all of our expectations. Every day we marvel at how beautiful it is, and we love spending our free time hiking, walking along the beach, and wine tasting. I feel so lucky to be here and to serve the members of our community. ■

Interested in learning more about SLOLAF? Write us at info@slolaf.org. Donations gratefully accepted at slolaf.org/donate.

BAR BULLETIN SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Editorial Policy

Contributors are encouraged to limit the length of their submitted articles to 2,500 words or less, unless the article can be published in two parts in successive issues. Lengthy lists of footnotes or citations should be incorporated into the the article.

Editorial contributions to the *Bar Bulletin* must be submitted electronically **ONLY** in Microsoft Word format directly to the 2023 Editor at tarajacobi@icloud.com

To ensure consideration for inclusion in the next scheduled edition, your articles, photographs and art, advertisements and ad payments must be received by the deadines listed in the Publications Schedule at right.

The *Bar Bulletin* reserves the right to reject or edit any contributions. By submitting contributions for publication, contributors consent under this policy to the editing of their work, the publication of their work and the posting of their work online.

The San Luis Obispo County Bar Association does not pay contributors for their submissions.

Opinions expressed in the *Bar Bulletin* do not necessarily reflect those of the San Luis Obispo County Bar Association or its editorial staff. The *Bar Bulletin* does not constitute legal advice or a legal resource and must not be used or relied upon as a substitute for legal counsel that may be required from an attorney.

Photograph/Artwork Policy

Your submission of photographs/artwork to the *Bar Bulletin* authorizes their publication and posting online. All photographs must be submitted in jpg or tif format with a resolution of not less than 300 dpi via email or, for large files, via WeTransfer. Please include the photographer’s name and that you have permission to use the photograph.

Publication Schedule

The *Bar Bulletin* is published six times per year. **The deadlines for accepting articles, photographs/art, advertisements and ad payments follow.**

ISSUE	DEADLINE
• January–February	11/25
• March–April	1/25
• May–June	3/25
• July–August	5/25
• September–October	7/25
• November–December	9/25

Advertisement Policy

All advertisements in the *Bar Bulletin* must be submitted in jpg, tif or pdf format with a resolution of not less than 300 dpi.

Flyers or announcements for the opening, closing or moving of law practices, upcoming MCLE programs or other events put on or sponsored by organizations other than the San Luis Obispo County Bar Association are considered advertisements, and therefore they are subject to this policy and to all applicable advertising rates.

Information on advertisement sizes and rates can be found online at www.slobar.org. All advertisements should be prepared prior to publication.

Contact Kerrin Adams at (805) 541-5930 to reserve advertising space and arrange payment.

2023 Bar Bulletin
Tara Jacobi, Editor
tarajacobi@icloud.com



HAVE AN ARTICLE FOR THE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION’S BULLETIN?

**Do you know that writing an article for the Bar Bulletin counts toward CLE credits?
Please email article ideas or articles for consideration in Word format to Tara Jacobi
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