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CRLA

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2026 Law Day Award Recipient





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MESSAGE FROM THE **President**

As we move beyond the midpoint of this bar year, I am proud of what we have accomplished together and grateful for the trust, engagement, and commitment of our members. Serving as President of the San Joaquin County Bar Association has been an honor, and our progress reflects the values that continue to guide our work.

Over the past several months, we have strengthened our profession, expanded service to the community, and supported both current and future members. These efforts reflect the shared commitment that defines our bar association.

This year, the San Joaquin County Bar Association hosted several notable events, including the New Lawyers Reception in March, hosted by the Bank of Stockton, where Karina Wiechert was honored as the Outstanding New Lawyer recipient. In May, we gathered for the Law Day Luncheon, where California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA) was recognized as the 2026 Law Day Award recipient. We also concluded our MCLE Masters Series, which offered valuable opportunities to learn, connect, and deepen our shared commitment to justice.

We have also expanded access to continuing legal education through our SJCBA+ collaboration with the Beverly Hills Bar Association. Our new Attorney Directory makes it easier for the public to connect with local counsel while strengthening visibility and connection within our legal community. In furtherance of this commitment to access and service, we created and launched the NorCal Bar. The NorCal Bar extends educational programming, professional resources, and community connections to attorneys who may otherwise lack access to organized bar support. At the same time, we continue to invest in the future of the profession through scholarships and mentorship opportunities that support law students and future lawyers while advancing access, inclusion, and equity.

These initiatives have laid a strong foundation. As we begin the second half of the year our priorities remain clear. Our priorities remain focused on advancing professional excellence by providing high-quality resources, training, and opportunities that help our members thrive. Strengthening inclusion, belonging, and connection among our members, future lawyers, and the communities we serve. Additionally, advancing growth and resilience by expanding our reach to legal communities that lack active bar associations through resources, networking, and support for underserved regions.

Looking ahead, I hope to see you at several important events. In August, please join us for the Sidebar Baseball Social Night at the Stockton Ports, a casual evening of baseball, food, and fun. Then, please save the date for our Annual Meeting and State of the Court on November 4, 2026.

I am deeply grateful for the dedication of the San Joaquin County Bar Association staff, Board of Governors, our committees and sections, and every member who has contributed their time, talent, and passion to our mission. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient bar—one prepared to meet today's needs and serve generations to come.

Thank you for your trust, your engagement, and your commitment. I look forward to the second half of our year with optimism, energy, and confidence in what we will accomplish together.

With gratitude,

Monica Sousa, President

San Joaquin County Bar Association Board of Governors

MESSAGE FROM THE
**Executive
Director**



A Look Back, A Look Ahead: SJCBA's Eventful Year

As we settle into summer, it's the perfect moment to reflect on a remarkably active year for the San Joaquin County Bar Association — and to look ahead to exciting events on the horizon.

A Year of Growth and Engagement

This year, SJCBA proudly delivered 20 Continuing Legal Education programs, giving members robust opportunities to stay sharp, meet MCLE requirements, and connect with colleagues across practice areas. From substantive law updates to ethics and professionalism training, these programs reflected our commitment to supporting every member's growth. Beyond CLE, the year was marked by strong participation and the collegiality that makes our legal community special. We're grateful to everyone who showed up and helped make it memorable.

Save the Date: Annual Meeting & State of the Court

Mark your calendars for the SJCBA Annual Meeting Luncheon happening on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at the University Plaza Waterfront Hotel. This cherished tradition brings our legal community together to celebrate the State of the Court, this year's accomplishments, welcome new leadership, and honor the members and volunteers who make SJCBA thrive.

Looking Ahead: Family Day Next June

We're excited to announce that we will bring back an OLD, OLD favorite – the San Joaquin County Bar Association Family Day next June! This beloved event brings members, families, and the broader legal community together for a day of fun and connection outside the courtroom. Full details will follow in future issues, so stay tuned.

Thank You to Our Annual Partners and Sponsors

None of what SJCBA accomplishes would be possible without the generous, ongoing support of our Annual Partners and Sponsors. Please join us in thanking:

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Your partnership makes our programming, events, and member services possible, and we thank you for standing behind SJCBA year after year.

As we move through summer and into fall, we look forward to seeing you at upcoming programs and at the Annual Meeting & State of the Court this November. Thank you for being part of what makes SJCBA such a vibrant and supportive community.

Susan Bartman, Executive Director
San Joaquin County Bar Association

CHAMPIONING ACCESS & EQUITY: INSIDE THE 2026 LAW DAY LUNCHEON

LAW DAY LUNCHEON

THE RULE OF LAW AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

Presented by Judicate West

SJCBA 2026 LAW DAY LUNCHEON CELEBRATES THE RULE OF LAW AND THE AMERICAN DREAM



The San Joaquin County Bar Association (SJCBA) hosted its signature Law Day Luncheon at the Hilton Stockton on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.



This year's event centered on the national theme, "The Rule of Law and the American Dream," offering an opportunity for members of the legal community to reflect on the role of the law in protecting individual liberties, ensuring equal treatment under the law, and creating opportunities for all to pursue their dreams.



Following the opening ceremony, the Stockton Chorale delivered a powerful performance of the National Anthem, a beloved Law Day Luncheon tradition. Year after year, the Stockton Chorale delights attendees with its exceptional talent and helps set an uplifting tone for the celebration. The SJCBA is grateful for the Stockton Chorale's continued participation and support of this annual event.



Guests then enjoyed lunch as the main program kicked off with Jonathan Lopez, Training and Development Manager with the San Joaquin Pride Center, introducing the 2026 Law Day Award recipient, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA).

The introduction highlighted the vital partnership between the two organizations, noting how community hubs like the Pride Center work hand in hand with CRLA's specialized legal advocacy to defend the civil rights of low-income, marginalized, and rural residents. This ongoing collaboration underscores a shared commitment to expanding access to justice and protecting vulnerable populations across the Central Valley.

Accepting the award on behalf of the organization, Monica Sousa, CRLA Director of Legal Services, thanked the SJCBA and the local legal community and shared a powerful overview of CRLA's mission to champion Californians who face systemic barriers to representation.

The luncheon ultimately served as both a celebration and a reflection on what this year's national theme means in practice. Recognizing an organization like CRLA, which has spent decades fighting for equal rights and access to justice, is a powerful reminder that a just and accessible legal system is essential to keeping the American Dream alive for everyone.

SAVE THE DATE

**2027 Law Day Luncheon
Wednesday, May 5, 2027**



CRLA RECEIVES 2026 LAW DAY AWARD

The San Joaquin County Bar Association (SJCBA) selected California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA) as the recipient of its 2026 Law Day Award, recognizing the organization's longstanding commitment to advancing justice and expanding access to legal services for underserved communities.

A Legacy of Access to Justice

Founded in 1966, CRLA has spent six decades providing free civil legal services to low-income residents across California's rural communities. Its work reflects a fundamental principle of the legal profession: access to justice should not depend on a person's income, geography, or circumstances.

CRLA serves communities throughout California, providing legal representation, advocacy, and community-based services that help individuals and families understand and exercise their legal rights. Its work is especially significant in rural areas, where geographic and economic barriers can make legal resources more difficult to access.

Over the course of six decades, CRLA has built a legacy of public-interest advocacy focused not only on individual legal needs, but also on the broader systemic barriers that can prevent communities from accessing justice. Through outreach, education, partnerships, and advocacy, the organization works to strengthen legal access for Californians who might otherwise go without representation.



The 2026 Law Day theme is "The Rule of Law and the American Dream." The rule of law—the idea that no person is above the law—helps ensure people can live freely and pursue their dreams. This year's theme invites reflection on how the rule of law supports the ability of all Americans to fulfill their dreams.



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NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2027 LAW DAY AWARD

Nominations for the 2027 Law Day Award are now open and will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on October 9, 2026. Members are encouraged to nominate individuals or organizations making a lasting impact on the legal community.

For more information about the nomination process, contact Susan Bartman, SJCBA Executive Director, at sbartman@sjcbar.org.

A Meaningful Recognition

CRLA's mission closely reflects the ideals of this year's national Law Day theme, "The Rule of Law and the American Dream." The rule of law is strongest when people have a meaningful opportunity to understand their rights, seek legal assistance, and access the systems designed to protect them.

CRLA's recognition represents more than six decades of legal service. It reflects the enduring importance of public-interest advocacy and the profession's responsibility to help ensure that the protections of the law are accessible to all.

Congratulations to California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. on this well-deserved recognition and on six decades of dedicated service to California communities!



SJCBA

Annual Meeting

and STATE OF THE COURT

Presented by Judicate West

NOVEMBER

Wednesday

04

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2026

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WHEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS: SUCCESSION PLANNING AS AN ETHICAL IMPERATIVE



BY RACHEL BREWER & JAKE GLASER
*State Bar of California,
Office of Professional Competence*

California attorneys spend their careers helping clients prepare for the future. Yet, many postpone planning for their own practices in the event they are unable to continue practicing law.

A practical guide to adhering to the ethical mandates

The State Bar has made clear that attorneys have an ethical obligation to prepare for interruptions to their practice. The State Bar's new Succession Planning Guide, its related resources, and the Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct's Cal. State Bar Formal Opn. No. 2024-209 (the Opinion) all conclude that an attorney must take reasonable steps to protect clients in the event of death, incapacity or other inability to practice law. This duty applies to all attorneys. Protecting client interests does not depend on firm size.

The Opinion grounds this duty in several rules in the California Rules of Professional Conduct: Competence (rule 1.1); Diligence (rule 1.3); Communication (rule 1.4); Confidentiality (rule

1.6); Conflicts of Interest: Current Clients (rule 1.7); Duties to Former Clients (rule 1.9); Imputation of Conflicts (rule 1.10); Safekeeping Client Funds & Property (rule 1.15); Declining or Terminating Representation (rule 1.16); and Responsibilities of Managerial and Supervisory Lawyers (rule 5.1).

The Succession Planning Guide translates these duties into practical action items, helping attorneys implement a business continuity plan before problems arise. Recognizing that many California attorneys lack clear strategies and resources to prepare for these scenarios, the Succession Planning Guide translates ethics into action. It offers practical checklists and tools to ensure attorneys take concrete steps to establish a continuity plan before an unexpected absence occurs or when winding down a practice.

At the heart of this process are four critical designations:

- Planning attorney: The attorney preparing the succession plan.
- Assisting attorney: An attorney designated to assume responsibility as outlined in the planning attorney's succession planning agreement.
- Authorized signer: A person authorized to sign on the planning attorney's client trust account. This could be the same person as the assisting attorney.
- Emergency practice coordinator: An administrative person who holds emergency access credentials and helps facilitate an orderly transition with the assisting attorney.

These designations should be documented in clear and formal

agreements. The Opinion notes that failure to designate and authorize another attorney to assume responsibility can leave clients unprotected, potentially leading to missed deadlines, communication lapses and other ethical violations.

‘Activating’ the succession plan, communication and ongoing maintenance

Equally important is clarifying when the plan becomes effective. Attorneys should specify whether death, incapacity or other specific circumstances trigger the Assisting Attorney’s authority. The Opinion underscores that ambiguity in this area risks jeopardizing both client rights and trust account management under rule 1.15.

A robust plan goes beyond paper work. Attorneys should coordinate with partners, staff, malpractice carriers, financial institutions and relevant family members.



Most importantly, clients must be notified when there is the potential for an imminent extended absence or when the planning attorney is unable to continue representation. The Opinion explains that an attorney shall keep the client reasonably informed about significant developments relating to the representation under rule 1.4. Early disclosure reassures clients, preserves the reputation of the Planning Attorney and supports business continuity should an unexpected absence occur. Clear communication maintains stability and trust.

Succession planning is not a one-time exercise. Attorneys should maintain updated office systems, contact lists, passwords, calendars and trust account records, and they should review their business continuity plans annually. The Opinion reminds attorneys that circumstances change. For example, designees may move, retire or decline responsibility. Regular updates ensure compliance and effectiveness.

While the need for succession planning is most urgent in emergencies, the benefits extend to any form of transition, including voluntary retirements, firm mergers or sales. By maintaining systematic, up-to-date records and establishing clear lines of authority, attorneys not only protect themselves against worst-case scenarios but also position their practices for smooth and orderly transitions—whether voluntary or unexpected.

While the need for succession planning is most urgent in emergencies, the benefits extend to any form of transition, including voluntary retirements, firm mergers or sales.

Failing to implement a succession plan can create immediate and far-reaching consequences for clients, the firm and its staff, and the attorney’s family. Clients may face missed court dates, expired statutes of limitations, inaccessible trust funds, and an inability to transfer files to new counsel, all of which may implicate the Rules of Professional Conduct. As illustrated in the Opinion, clients may even need to seek court intervention simply to recover their own records. For the firm, the absence of a plan creates malpractice exposure, reputational harm and potential disciplinary action, while staff may be left without direction or authority to manage operations. Family members may be forced to navigate unfamiliar legal and financial responsibilities during an already difficult time if no roles or procedures have been established.

Practical takeaway

Succession planning is not only an ethical duty but also a safeguard for clients and the attorney’s professional legacy. Attorneys cannot ignore the possibility of unexpected incapacity or inevitability of death. By designating trusted colleagues, maintaining organized records and reviewing arrangements annually, attorneys can ensure continuity of representation and avoid preventable harm.

Planning for the unexpected is an integral part of competent and ethical law practice in California.

About the Authors

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Rachel is licensed in California and before the U.S. Supreme Court, a certified domestic violence counselor, and an active mentor. She holds a J.D. from Loyola Law School and a B.A. in Politics from Occidental College.

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This article was originally published on the Daily Journal on May 28, 2026, and is republished here with permission. Read the original piece at <https://www.dailyjournal.com/articles/391718-when-the-unexpected-happens-succession-planning-as-an-ethical-imperative>.

Board of Governors Nominations *Now Open!*



Nomination Deadline:
4:30 PM on Tuesday, September 15, 2026



The San Joaquin County Bar Association is accepting nominations for individuals interested in serving on the Board of Governors for the 2027-2029 term. As a member-driven organization, the SJCBA relies on the dedication, insight, and leadership of its members to help guide the Association and support its mission. Serving on the Board of Governors offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction of the SJCBA and make a meaningful impact within the legal community.

We invite nominations of individuals who are passionate about advancing the goals of the Association and committed to serving the needs of both our members and the broader legal profession. Board members play a key role in ensuring the continued relevance and strength of the SJCBA as we navigate an ever-changing legal landscape.

Full details including eligibility and nomination forms are available at sjcbar.org/BOG2027. Nominations must be received by **4:30 PM on Tuesday, September 15, 2026**.

**Please note: You must be logged in to your membership account to view and download the forms.*

Submit your nominations for the 2026 Outstanding New Lawyer Award and the 2027 Law Day Award!



The San Joaquin County Bar Association is now accepting nominations for its annual awards!

- **2026 Outstanding New Lawyer Award:** Presented by the Young Lawyers Section to an attorney practicing for seven years or less with a distinguished record of service.
- **Law Day Award (2027):** Presented at the annual Law Day Luncheon to an individual or organization making significant contributions to the San Joaquin County legal community through professional achievements, community involvement, and volunteerism.

Deadline: Completed nomination forms must be received before 4:30 PM on October 9, 2026. (Incomplete forms will not be considered).

Full details and nomination forms available at sjcbar.org/AWARDS26-27.

**Please note: You must be logged in to your membership account to view and download the forms.*

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MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

BY JANETTE L. ROSSELL
Law Office of Janette L. Rossell



Memberships in the San Joaquin County Bar Association provides legal professionals with a very important resource: Networking. Networking can play a vital role in improving professional competence, increased productivity and improved reputation in the legal community.

Networking is essential for professional growth, as it provides specific benefits, such as:

1. **Knowledge Sharing:** Networking allows professionals to exchange ideas, insights, and best practices. Engaging with others in your field can provide you with new perspectives and knowledge that can enhance your skills and understanding, and professional competence.
2. **Access to Resources:** Through networking, individuals can gain access to resources, such as training programs, workshops, and educational materials that can help them improve their professional abilities.
3. **Visibility and Reputation:** Actively participating in professional networks can increase your visibility. A strong professional reputation can open doors to new opportunities and make you more attractive to potential employers or clients.
4. **Career Advancement:** Networking can lead to job opportunities and career advancements. Many positions are filled through referrals and personal connections, and having a robust network can increase your chances of being considered for such opportunities.
5. **Staying Informed:** Networking helps you stay updated on changes in the law, court procedures and local rule changes. Being informed about the latest developments can enhance your professional competence and success in practice.

Not only is networking important to your professional growth, connecting with people is crucial for mental health and stress management. It is important to build a network that understands your situation and can help provide advice or just set a good example.

1. **Reduced Stress Levels:** Social interactions can help reduce stress by providing an outlet for expressing feelings and concerns. Talking about challenges with others who understand what you do can lead to solutions and decrease the burden of stress.
2. **Increased Sense of Belonging:** Having strong social connections fosters a sense of belonging and community. This can enhance self-esteem and create a positive self-image, which are vital for overall mental health.
3. **Coping Skills Development:** Interacting with others can help develop coping mechanisms. Observing how others manage stress can provide valuable strategies and insights that can be applied in one's own life.
4. **Reduction of Isolation Effects:** Isolation can exacerbate feelings of depression and anxiety. Regular social interaction can mitigate these feelings and promote a more optimistic outlook on life.

So, if you are not taking advantage of networking opportunities you are ignoring your professional growth and personal wellbeing. Join a section, attend a mixer, and go to that ballgame!



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A SUMMER RESET FOR THE LEGAL PROFESSION: FACING BURNOUT WITH INTENTION

Summer often offers a brief window of time for us to step back, take a vacation, and recharge. Yet the demands of our profession rarely pause in tandem. Workloads accumulate, clients continue to need attention, and deadlines arrive regardless of the season. These persistent pressures, compounded by the adversarial nature of our work, billable hour expectations, and high-stakes matters, make a genuine reset difficult. When sustained without relief, they contribute to a pervasive challenge facing attorneys today: burnout.

Burnout is more than routine stress. As described in the American Bar Association's (ABA) Commission on Lawyer Assistance Program's The Path to Lawyer Well-Being report,¹ burnout is a response to unmanaged stress that is closely correlated with depression, often resulting in emotional exhaustion, cynical or detached feelings, difficulty concentrating, fatigue, and a reduced sense of accomplishment. These symptoms also erode competence, judgment, and ethical decision-making, directly affecting our ability to serve clients effectively.

Addressing burnout proactively is critical to sustaining a healthy, ethical, and fulfilling legal career. Below are three practical strategies tailored to our profession, followed by an overview of confidential resources available through the State Bar of California's Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP),² which can help attorneys navigate issues with burnout at any stage of their career.

Left unaddressed, burnout can lead to further challenges that reduce productivity, affect client representation, and take a toll on our minds and bodies, families, and friends. Utilizing proactive strategies can help manage burnout when it happens or avoid it altogether. Establishing healthy boundaries, building a supportive network, and practicing mindfulness regularly can all help combat burnout and improve our overall well-being.

1. Establish Healthy Work-Life Boundaries

A lack of work-life balance has become an unhealthy cultural norm

Mind & Motion is your go-to column for well-being in the legal world. We offer practical tips, expert advice, and inspiring stories to help you maintain both physical and mental health amid the demands of the profession. From stress management to fitness and mindfulness, we've got you covered.

*Interested in contributing?
Send submissions to:
ATB@sjcbar.org.*

BY KEN NOURSE

Senior Program Analyst
State Bar of California Lawyer
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&
CALEB OAKLEY

Intern
State Bar of California Office of
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in the legal profession and, for some, even a point of pride. Long hours, late-night drafting sessions, and working through vacations are sometimes a part of being a lawyer, but so is taking a break from work and recharging. By creating intentional boundaries, we can preserve our mental and emotional energy to better serve our clients and, equally importantly, ourselves.

These boundaries can take many forms, including setting designated times during the workday to check and respond to email, working with clients and opposing counsel to establish reasonable communication expectations, and limiting work on weekends, on holidays, or while on vacation. View these breaks as essential to peak performance rather than an obstacle to productivity. These practices help build a professional culture that values sustainability, competence, and well-being.

2. Build a Support Network

Even though we work alongside colleagues, the legal profession can feel deeply isolating. Much of our work is performed independently, and the adversarial nature of practice can unintentionally reinforce separation. This isolation often begins in law school and persists throughout a career.

1. https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/professional_responsibility/lawyer_well_being_report_final.pdf
2. <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/legal-professionals/legal-resource-center/lawyer-assistance-program>





One approach to counteract that isolation is to develop supportive professional relationships with other members of the legal field who understand the everyday stresses and pressures that come with the profession. Those contacts can offer practical advice, emotional and professional support, opportunities for mentorship, and a sense of community that fosters resilience and combats burnout.

One of the best ways to establish that network is to get involved with a local or affinity bar association. Consider consulting the California Lawyers Association's (CLA) list of bar associations and other law-related organizations³ to find one that resonates with you. Many of these organizations offer more than one means to engage with other members of the legal community, including as a mentor or mentee, a general member, or as a committee member. As an example, the CLA Business Law section holds Mindful Mondays Chats⁴ that provide a dedicated space for connection, discussion, and support among section members.

3. Practice Mindfulness

Cognitive reframing through mindfulness, included as a key recommendation in the ABA's *Path to Lawyer Well-Being* report, can help reduce burnout and other stress-related conditions, making it a powerful tool. The idea behind mindfulness is the ability to be in the present moment fully, intentionally, and nonjudgmentally. A mindfulness practice can take many forms, such as box breathing exercises,⁵ mindful walking,⁶ journaling,⁷ or meditation.⁸ When practiced intentionally and consistently, mindfulness can help reduce stress, improve concentration, and foster sustainable work habits that lower the risk of burnout.

Programs such as LAP's Refresh: Mindfulness Series⁹ and the Mindfulness in Law Society's Mindful Mondays and Wakeful

Wednesdays¹⁰ introduce common mindfulness techniques and provide support to develop a consistent practice. With busy schedules, structured opportunities such as these make it easier to incorporate mindfulness into your routine.

LAP: Promoting Attorney Well-Being

Heading off burnout and managing it when it occurs are both essential to a healthy, sustainable legal career. LAP is a confidential resource that supports members and organizations of the California legal community. Through LAP, legal employers, bar associations, and law schools can request a presentation¹¹ for their employees, members, and students on the prevention and detection of substance use and mental health challenges and other wellness topics. In addition, California attorneys (active, inactive, retired, disbarred), bar applicants, and law students can access two free counseling sessions with an individual therapist¹² who has experience working with legal professionals to tackle issues such as burnout, stress, anxiety, and depression. LAP also offers individualized support programs through Monitored LAP¹³ and provides educational resources on attorney wellness and competence, including toolkits¹⁴ that allow your legal association, organization, firm, or government agency to lead your own wellness and competence MCLEs.

To contact LAP, email LAP@calbar.ca.gov or call 877-LAP-4HELP (877-527-4435). Sign up¹⁵ to receive updates on future LAP offerings.

This summer offers an opportunity to reset with intention. Commit to one boundary, one new connection, and one mindfulness habit. Our clients deserve competent, ethical representation, and we deserve a sustainable, fulfilling career. Taking small, deliberate steps now will pay dividends across the months and years ahead.

3. <https://calawyers.org/bar-relations/california-bar-associations-and-organizations/>

4. <https://calawyers.org/business-law/mindful-mondays-chats/>

5. <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/box-breathing-benefits>

6. <https://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/topss/lessons/activities/activity-mindful-walking.pdf>

7. <https://www.themindfulcounselor.me/blog/mindfulness-journaling>

8. <https://www.mindful.org/meditation/mindfulness-getting-started/>

9. <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/legal-professionals/ethics-compliance-practice-resources/lawyer-assistance-program/lap-offerings#:~:text=Refresh%3A%20Mindfulness%20Series>

10. <https://www.mindfulnessinlawsociety.org/virtual-sits>

11. https://fs16.formsite.com/SB_RRC/hfxweznddg/index

12. <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/legal-professionals/ethics-compliance-practice-resources/lawyer-assistance-program/lawyer-assistance-program-support-services>

13. <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/legal-professionals/legal-resource-center/lawyer-assistance-program/monitored-lap>

14. <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/legal-professionals/ethics-compliance-practice-resources/lawyer-assistance-program/lap-offerings#:~:text=MCLE%20Toolkit%20on%20Wellness%20in%20Law>

15. https://resources.calbar.ca.gov/subscribe-to-state-bar-opt-in-lists?mailing_lists=Lawyer%20Assistance%20Program%20Offerings

About the Authors

Ken Nourse, J.D., leads Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP) education and outreach efforts for the State Bar of California, including programming on attorney wellness, the prevention and detection of substance use and mental health challenges, and key areas of professional competence such as practice management and compliance.

Caleb Oakley is a rising 2L at the University of Oregon with a background in psychology and neuroscience, bringing an interdisciplinary lens to the study and practice of law.

JAMS NEUTRAL SPOTLIGHT



Hon. Kevin M. Seibert (Ret.)

Judge Seibert spent 10 years on the Tuolumne County Superior Court, serving as both assistant presiding judge and presiding judge and handling civil trials, settlement conferences and law and motion. Before being appointed to the bench, he was in private practice for three decades, focused primarily on civil matters. At JAMS, he is available to resolve disputes involving agribusiness and food law, business/commercial, construction/construction defect, employment, personal injury and professional liability.

jamsadr.com/neutrals/seibert



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Contact our Stockton office to speak with an advocate:
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Learn more: crla.org



San Joaquin County Bar Association
Unity Bar + Women Lawyers Sections

MCLE - Not Recognizing PTSD: Moral injuries Can Amount to Bias Against Those Who Served

Thursday, September 17, 2026
1.0 Hour Implicit Bias MCLE Credit*



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program will explore how biases and trauma (such as PTSD) affect interaction in the courtroom, impact access to justice, and factor into veteran-specific legal issues and mental health diversions.

PRESENTER

Justice Eileen Moore

Associate Justice, California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three

- Judicial Service: Appointed to the Fourth District Court of Appeal in 2000 after serving on the Orange County Superior Court since 1989.
- Legal & Professional Background: Spent her nonjudicial legal career in private practice in Newport Beach. Formerly served as a registered combat nurse in Vietnam.
- Community Leadership: Chaired the Orange County Family Violence Council (1996-2000) and has been repeatedly honored for her work against domestic violence.
- Education: Graduate of UC Irvine, Pepperdine Law, and the University of Virginia School of Law, Master of Laws in the Judicial Process.

Full bio available at sjcbar.org/Sept17MCLE.

* This program is approved for the MCLE credit hours listed above by the State Bar of California.



Thursday, September 17, 2026
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



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Appetizers & Refreshments Included
Wine available for purchase



Unity Bar/WL Section Members: \$25
SJCBA Members: \$35
Non-Members: \$40

Scan the QR Code below or go to
sjcbar.org/Sept17MCLE



Register by 5PM on
September 16, 2026.

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**STOCKTON
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PETER JAFFE | MUSIC DIRECTOR

BY SCOTT WATKINS
Chief Executive Officer
Stockton Symphony



Stockton Symphony Celebrates 100 Years of Music and Community

What makes the Stockton Symphony's 2026–2027 season special?

This year, the Stockton Symphony celebrates an extraordinary milestone: its 100th season.

Since 1926, the Symphony has been part of the cultural fabric of Stockton and San Joaquin County, bringing generations together through live music, education, and unforgettable shared experiences. As one of California's longest-running orchestras (behind LA and San Francisco), the Stockton Symphony enters its Centennial Season celebrating its history while looking enthusiastically toward the future.

What can audiences expect during the Centennial Season?

The celebration begins September 12th with the 100th Birthday Bash, featuring acclaimed pianist Jon Nakamatsu performing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. The season continues with programs ranging from Halloween silent movie *Nosferatu* and Italian masterpieces to Holiday Pops, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and a special Mother's Day Pops celebration.

Throughout the season, audiences can expect exceptional artists, familiar favorites, exciting new works, and experiences designed to welcome both long-time concertgoers and those discovering the Symphony for the first time.

Why does the Symphony matter to our community?

The Stockton Symphony's mission is to inspire joy and build community through the magic of music. We inspire, unify and lift our communities and neighborhoods through the power of live performances. Beyond the concert stage, the Symphony reaches students and families through education and community programs, helping ensure that orchestral music remains accessible to future generations.

How can you be part of the celebration?

Join us for this once-in-a-century season. Attend a concert, bring a friend, introduce a young person to live orchestral music, or support the Symphony with a gift as we begin our next 100 years.

Learn more about the Centennial Season at StocktonSymphony.org.

The Stockton Symphony is an
**SJCBA 2026 Digital Spotlight
Sponsor**. Members receive a
special discount on tickets for
all performances. Contact
sponsor@sjcbar.org for
member discount code.



Scott Watkins is Chief Executive Officer of the Stockton Symphony. With more than 26 years of experience in orchestral leadership, he is passionate about building community through music and helping lead the Symphony into its historic 100th season.



On August 13, 2026, SJCBA members, family, friends, and one of our favorite four-legged pups, Cooper, joined us for our first-ever Sidebar Baseball Social!

This year, SJCBA reserved a block of tickets in the Home Plate Box area, putting us right behind the plate and closer to the action. With a classic ballpark atmosphere and a fantastic view of every play, it was the perfect spot to enjoy an evening at Banner Island Ballpark. While the Ports didn't take home the win, it was still a fun night at the ballpark and a great way to enjoy America's favorite pastime with SJCBA.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!



SJCBA SECTION NEWS

CATCHING UP ACROSS THE BAR: A SUMMER MIXERS RECAP

SJCBA sections have kept the summer social calendar active with a lineup of events designed to help members connect, network, and strengthen their local professional network.

The Criminal Law Section kicked things off with a lunch mixer on June 3 at Nena's, drawing a strong turnout for an afternoon of networking and reconnecting with colleagues. The Paralegal Section followed, hosting its Summer Mixer on July 23 at Mezzo Ristorante. Rounding out the summer schedule, the Young Lawyers Section held its Summer Mixer on July 30 at Cast Iron Trading Co. This annual networking event welcomed members, summer interns, and law clerks while offering a great space to engage with the broader legal profession.

More section mixers are on the way. Check out the upcoming dates below, mark your calendar, and join us at the next event.



Photo courtesy of Ozena Doughty: Ozena Doughty, Terry Lao, and Angela Yess, and Rhonda Olmo, pictured left to right.



Young Lawyers Section Summer Mixer, July 30, 2026



SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

- **October 8, 2026:** API/Crim Law Networking Lunch Mixer, Presented by Valley Strong Credit Union
- **October 22, 2026:** Civil Litigation Mixer, Presented by JAMS
- **October 29, 2026:** Central Valley Latino Lawyers Mixer, Presented by Judicate West
- **November 4, 2026:** 86th Annual Meeting and State of the Court, Presented by Judicate West
- **December 10, 2026:** Trust & Estates Holiday Mixer, Presented by Lance McHan

Learn more at sjcbar.org/events or scan the QR Code.



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SJCBA Hon. Frank Kim Asian/Pacific Islanders Section

Spring

Mixer & Scholarship Presentation



SJCBA API Section Brings Members Together to Celebrate Scholarship, Service, and Community

The SJCBA Hon. Frank Kim Asian/Pacific Islanders Section recently welcomed members to its Annual Spring Mixer and Scholarship Presentation at Shomi Japanese Restaurant. The evening brought members together for conversation, networking, and an opportunity to celebrate the section's commitment to community and the next generation of legal professionals.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the section's annual student scholarships, recognizing students who demonstrate academic promise and a commitment to pursuing a legal career while giving back to San Joaquin County and supporting the API community.

This year's recipients were Jason Tran (\$1,500), PJ Sandhu (\$1,000), and Sydnee Navarro (\$500). Jason attended the mixer to receive his certificate and award in person.

Congratulations to all three scholarship recipients, and thank you to everyone who joined us in making the Spring Mixer a memorable celebration of scholarship, service, and community.



SJCBA Board Buzz



Q and A



Photo courtesy of James Dadasovich

Meet SJCBA Board Member ...

James Dadasovich

The Day Job: Where do you currently work, and what is your primary practice area or focus?

Villapudua & Somera—Criminal Defense, criminal record cleaning

The Fuel: First thing in the morning, what is your mandatory go-to drink to get the day started?

Coffee

The Downtime: When you are officially off the clock, what is your absolute favorite hobby or activity to unwind?

Spending time with my family and dogs, traveling

The Treat: What is your ultimate comfort food or go-to sweet treat when you want to celebrate a win?

Coffees at random coffee shops

The Soundtrack: When you are driving or relaxing, what is usually playing?

Generally upbeat music or an audio book



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A Toast to Independence: Lisa and Adam Corren Host a Reading of the Declaration

On the evening of August 8, Lisa and Adam Corren welcomed friends and family for an evening honoring one of the nation's founding documents. The gathering blended celebration with reflection, opening with cocktails and easy conversation as guests arrived and caught up with one another.

Prior to dinner, the group gathered together for the reading of the Declaration of Independence — guests taking turns reading passages aloud, giving fresh voice to words written nearly 250 years ago. The reading offered a quiet pause amid the celebration, a chance for everyone to reflect on the ideals the document represents.

The night closed much as it began: with conversation, connection, and the easy company of friends, capping off a memorable evening.



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THE CONSTITUTION'S PROMISE:
**OUT OF MANY,
ONE**



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES



Michael Rasmussen, has been appointed to serve in an interim appointment as a Judge in the San Joaquin County Superior Court. Rasmussen has served as a Commissioner at the San Joaquin County Superior Court since 2020. He served as a Deputy District Attorney at the San Joaquin District Attorney's Office from 1998 to 2020. Rasmussen received a Juris Doctor degree from Lincoln Law School of Sacramento. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Charlotte Orcutt. The Governor's appointment allows him to immediately assume the position he was otherwise elected to begin in January 2027.

Source: Office of Gov. Gavin Newsom



Connecting with the Court just became easier. The new Virtual Traffic Counter is now available, providing convenient online access to many of their most-requested Traffic Division services—no courthouse visit required.

Whether you have questions about a traffic citation or need to complete a transaction, you can now connect with court staff from the comfort of your home, office, or anywhere you're on the go.

Through the Virtual Counter, you can:

- Make secure payments
- Request a payment plan
- Submit proof of correction
- Enroll in traffic school

The Virtual Counter is available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (excluding court holidays), offering the same helpful service more conveniently.

Learn more and access the Virtual Counter by visiting sjcourts.org/traffic

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Collaboration is the heartbeat of SJCBA. The organizations below are vital teammates in our mission to support the legal profession and NorCalBar Association.

We are deeply grateful for their commitment. Their investment drives the programming and innovation that keep our community thriving. **Thank you for your leadership and impact.**

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