



2007 Calendar of Events

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming NCBA events. Locations to be announced via the newsletter and website (www.nevadacountybar.com) unless otherwise noted.

Mar. 28	Executive Committee Meeting	11:30
	NCBA Luncheon	Noon
	Stonehouse Restaurant	
March 29	Annual Family Law Update Courthouse Dept. 3	
April 4	Gold Country Estate Planning Council: Trolley Junction	11:45
April 10	Legal Referral Service 140 Litton Ave. Non-Profit Conference Room	12:00
April 10	Criminal Law Section Meeting Stonehouse, Nevada City	5:30
April 18	Alternative Dispute Resolution Lin Q Buffet	Noon
April 23	Family Law Section Meeting Courthouse Department 3	Noon

Next MCLE Luncheon

**Where: Stonehouse Restaurant
107 Sacramento Street
Nevada City**

**When: March 28, 2007
11:30 a.m. Executive Committee
12:00 General Membership**

**Price: \$26 ea. Members with RSVP
\$30 ea. No RSVP**

Program includes 1 hour of MCLE Credit:
"Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy:
Ten Things You Need To Know"
Speaker Peter Bronson (speaker info. below)

The choices for lunch are rotisserie chicken or pasta primavera (vegetarian). Attendees should email jlfordlaw@yahoo.com with their meal choice before March 23, 2007 in order to receive advance pricing.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 3 Comings & Goings
- 3 Section Notes
- 4 Judicial Council News
- 4 State Bar News
- 5 Mediation Week & Classifieds

President's Message

Not Just a Rat Race

When the Marx Brothers were playing Vaudeville, they occasionally were on the bill with an act called Swain's Rats and Cats. The act consisted of a miniature racetrack on the stage. The cats were dressed as horses and the rats as jockeys and they raced for the audience. By all accounts, it was an incredible act. Imagine, teaching these rats and cats to learn all of this! One day, when they were doing their act, a scream came from the

dressing room of another performer, Fannie Brice. Swain ran into the room to find Fannie on a chair, her dress way up, keeping her distance from a rat on the floor. This was not a rat from the act. This was a sewer rat that had gotten into the theater. Swain captured this sewer rat. The next year the Marx Brothers were on the bill with Swain again and this rat was now the star of the show!

I heard Groucho Marx tell that story many years ago and, while I was certainly amused by the "Horatio Algier" tale, I thought to myself, yes, but he is still a rat!

I relate this anecdote because our profession, unfortunately, has a terrible reputation. No, I don't consider lawyers rats. However, a lot of people do. A lawyer can do a great job with his or her case but to much of the public, he or she is still a rat.

Though we are charged with the responsibility of protecting our client's rights and liberties, we are perceived by the public as being among the least trustworthy. I suspect one reason for this is that it is the extraordinary and outrageous that get the most publicity. If all the public ever hears about are the stories of lawyers doing bad things, that is the image the public will keep in mind. Another reason for our sub-par reputation may lie in an uneducated public, including, on occasion, the media.

What can we do about it? Plenty. Offer to

present a seminar on your specialty to the general public for the Public Law Center. Call Helen Cavanaugh Stauts (470-2596, hstauts@nevadacountycourts.com). Sign up for the Lawyer Referral Service. Give people a little of your time and expertise. More often than not, you will give them the direction they need. Occasionally, you might even get a case. Contact Jennifer Wilkerson jenwilk@jwilkerson.net Any ideas on how to improve the Law Library? Contact the law library trustees Mike Colantuano (432-7359, mcolantuono@cllaw.us), Rob Shulman (265-1510, rob.shulman@co.nevada.ca.us), or David Alkire (265-6667, alkirelaw@myway.com). Let them know what you are thinking. Call the local high school to see if debate classes need any help. Make yourself available to one of the many organizations trying to help the truly needy, such as the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Western Nevada County, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Child Advocates of Nevada County. Join one of the many community service organizations and help get something done.

In short, find a way to do something great for our community. What you do may not change the reputation of lawyers, but it will help make our community a better place. Who knows? You might just become the star of the show!

Stephen Baker - NCBA President

Section Notes

Criminal Law Section:

The Criminal Law Section meets the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., upstairs at the Stonehouse Restaurant.

Family Law Section:

This month the ANNUAL FAMILY LAW UPDATE will be held on March 29th. April's meeting will be April 23rd at Noon in Department 3 of the Courthouse. The topic will be "How to Value a Business."

ADR Section: The next meeting of the ADR Section of NCBA will be Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at Noon at the new Lin Q Buffet, 682 Freeman Lane, next to Raley's. We will be reviewing the results of the recent ADR Bar Survey and planning the rest of the year's events, including topics for future Round-Table discussions & brainstorming practical problems in ADR work.

Gold Country Estate Planning Council:

Meets monthly at 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m., every first Wednesday. The luncheon meetings are held at the Trolley Junction Café (at the Northern Queen Inn) in Nevada City. The next meeting on **April 4th** will feature a presentation on **The Paperless Office**. All are welcome! To RSVP for the next meeting, please call Terry Brown at 273-1323. Or check out the website:

www.estateplanningcouncil.net.

[<http://www.estateplanningcouncil.net.>](http://www.estateplanningcouncil.net)

LRS Seeks Volunteers for Phone Referrals:

The Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) is seeking volunteers for the LRS telephone help line. HelpLine volunteers speak with potential clients and refer them to LRS volunteer attorneys based on their legal specialties. LRS is in need of volunteers who will be trained to provide this service. Some knowledge of law is helpful, although not essential. Retired lawyers, paralegals, or legal

assistants would be a big asset. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in volunteering a few hours a week, please contact Scott Adams, Program Coordinator of the LRS HelpLine, at 273-2273.

Comings & Goings:

Farewell to Judge Dover. After 20 years of service on the bench we all wish you well on your next adventures.

Welcome to Robert Stirling. Robert will be working as a Court Services Assistant II in the Facilitator's Office. He brings with him several years of legal experience including previously working for the Nevada County District Attorney's office and Orange County Superior Court. His schedule is Tues. and Wed. 8:30 to 4:30, Thurs. 8:30 to 3:30. Please stop by and introduce yourself.

Public Law Center:

The Administrative Office of the Courts has prepared a "Nevada County Guardianship" program which assists in completing the 13+ forms required for Guardianship. Thank you to the AOC for their technical support.

We are still looking for speakers for August; October & November 2007. Stop in & let us know if you are interested in presenting as part of our Seminar Series.

New Court Forms:

A new schedule for Waiver of Court Fees was released in March.

Grant Info. For Labor Law:

The California State Bar Labor & Employment Law Section has established a grant program to provide educational and networking in the area of labor and employment law.

Deadline for current grant cycle: April 1st, 2007. See State Bar web page for info.

Law Library Report

The Law Library Trustees meeting of February 14th had two topics of interest to NCBA members: adoption of a conference room rental policy and reorganization of the Board Trustees for 2007.

In an effort to raise additional revenues for the Library and to provide a service to the local legal community, the Library will make its conference room (which seats 8 to 10) available for rental by lawyers and others for depositions, meetings and the like. Charges are \$10 per hour for use of the room and \$15 per hour for use of the room with videoconferencing or teleconference equipment (which can link County facilities only at this price; linking other sites will require a price quotation). If you wish to reserve the room, contact the Law Library at 265-2918 or the Public Law Center at 470-2594.

Following action by the various appointing authorities and votes by the Board to appoint officers, the Trustees line-up for 2007 is this: President (and County Counsel) Rob Shulman, Vice President Mike Colantuono, Treasurer (and Court Executive Officer) Sean Metroka, Secretary (and Law Librarian) Mary Kirby, and Trustees David Alkire, Judge Tom Anderson, Jeff Guyton, and Judge Julie McManus.

If you have thoughts or concerns about the Law Library, contact Trustees Mike Colantuono (432-7359, mcolantuono@claw.us); Rob Shulman (265-1510, rob.shulman@co.nevada.ca.us); or David Alkire (265-6667; alkirelaw@myway.com).

- Mike Colantuono

Judicial Council News

Revised Notice Rule Under Indian Child Welfare Act.

Judicial Council News

The council at its last business meeting amended rule 5.664 of the California Rules of Court to conform the rule's notice provisions to new Welfare and Institutions Code section 224.2(a). This change, effective February 23, 2007, affects only juvenile cases involving the Indian Child Welfare Act. This spring, the council's Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee and Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee plan to recommend unified rules that will cover notice provisions in probate, family, and juvenile proceedings.

California State Bar

NEW TO BOG --- Former detective William Gailey is the governor's latest appointment to the board of governors.

CIVILITY FEEDBACK --- The Attorney Civility Task Force has scheduled public hearings in San Francisco and Los Angeles on its initial draft of voluntary standards of civility and professionalism.

JOIN THE PARADE OF CANDIDATES --- Applications are available for the five upcoming vacancies on the State Bar Board of Governors and the CYLA Board of Directors.

REWARD GOOD DEEDS --- Guidelines and nomination forms for the State Bar's legal services awards are available online.

Free MCLE!

On March 16 at noon at the Courthouse (courtroom to be announced), NCBA Vice President Mike Colantuono will make a presentation on behalf of the Public Law Center, the *pro se* assistance program of the Nevada County Superior Court, on "Civil Boundary Disputes." The NCBA is cooperating to extend MCLE credit to those who attend.

CLASSIFIEDS

“Legal assistant & former office manager for NC Attorney & FL Specialist Jim Anderson highly recommends Faith Hegeman 272-7591, can work from home.”

TOTAL FORECLOSURE SERVICES by

Michael Ecker, Attorney at Law since '79

Certified Trustee's Sale Officer

No Delay for Legal Complications

(530) 277-1755

www.totalforeclosureservices.com

Pay Your Dues!

Invoices for 2007 dues (\$60, including \$10 for the Law Library) were mailed in December. If you have not yet paid, please send your check to the P.O. box. Second notices cost time and money!

Mediation Week

At its February 23 business meeting, the Judicial Council adopted a resolution proclaiming March 18-24 as Mediation Week and encouraging courts to publicize their mediation programs and recognize those who make them successful. ADR administrators from local courts developed and identified resources that can help, including information on event planning, co-sponsors, and sample Powerpoint presentations and news releases. Courts are encouraged to share other ideas and any related materials for celebrating the week.

NCBA CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICERS

Stephen C. Baker - President
272-9977, sbaker@dbplaw.net

Helen Cavanaugh Stauts - Vice President
470-2596, hstauts@nevadacountycourts.com

Judy Ford - Secretary
265-0154, jlfordlaw@yahoo.com

Debra Sitzberger -Treasurer
274-1321, debbisitzberger@sbcglobal.net

SECTION & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Dave Finch - ADR Section Chair
477-6400, drfinch@mediationserv.com

Steve Munkelt - Criminal Law Section Chair
265-8508, smunk@gv.net

Chuck Eckerman - Family Law Section Chair
477-2440, eckerlaw@sbcglobal.net

Andy Harris - Fee Arbitration Program Admin.
823-9736, aharris@asilaw.org

Kipp Wordell - MCLE Chair
470-0900, kippcharlton@sbcglobal.net

NCBA
P.O. Box 1473
Nevada City, CA 95959-1473
www.nevadacountybar.com

**Nevada County Bar Association
Post Office Box 1473
Nevada City, CA 95959-1473**

Nevada County Bar Association

**MCLE LUNCHEON
March 28 at noon
Stonehouse, Nevada City**
