



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.

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|---------|---|----------------------------|
| Feb. 16 | Public Law Seminar:
Road Associations; Dpt 1
Courthouse, N.C. | Noon |
| Feb. 16 | Reception for Judge Dover | 1:30pm
Courthouse, N.C. |
| Feb. 21 | ADR Section Meeting
Sergio's; 154 Mill St., G.V. | Noon |
| Mar. 1 | Fee Arbitration Course
The Ridge, Auburn | 12:30pm |
| Mar. 7 | Estate Planning Council
Mtg., Trolley Junction, N.C. | 11:45am |
| Mar. 29 | Family Law Update
Dpt. 3, Courthouse, N.C. | 8:15am |

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No February MCLE Lunch; Next Lunch: March 28

The NCBA Membership meetings take place during odd numbered months so we have no general meeting in February.

This gives you plenty of notice for our next meeting scheduled for Noon, Wednesday, March 28 at the Stonehouse Restaurant in Nevada City. Peter Bronson of Kelly, Lytton & Vann, will speak on creditor's remedies. The title of his talk: **Creditor's Rights and Bankruptcy: Ten Things You Need to Know.**

Attend this luncheon and receive one unit of credit toward your MCLE requirement.

Friday, February 16: Reception for Retiring Judge Al Dover

An open reception will take place on Friday February 16, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the court's jury lounge, Suite 6, on the first floor. Cake and coffee will be served. Please stop by to wish Judge Dover well and Bon Voyage!

Have You Turned in Your ADR Survey?

Last month we included in your newsletter a questionnaire prepared by Dave Finch, ADR Section Chair. Please take the time to answer the questions and return the survey to: NCBA, P.O. Box 1473, Nevada City, CA 95959. Your answers will help the ADR Section in determining how best to assist the bar, and the community, in finding economical methods for dispute resolution.

President's Report: Adios, Au Revoir, Auf Wiedersehen, Till Then!

It's hard to believe that my two years of service to the NCBA as Vice President / Newsletter Editor and President have come to an end. My thanks to all of you for the opportunity to serve and especially to my fellow officers – Mike Phillips, Debbi Sitzberger, Ed Batista, and Steve Baker – for their friendship and camaraderie. By the time you read this, the February 6th Annual Bench & Bar Dinner will be a memory and a new slate of officers will have been elected to serve you. Nominees are Steve Baker, President; Helen Cavanaugh-Stauts, Vice President / Newsletter Editor; Debbi Sitzberger, Treasurer; and Judy Ford, Secretary. I hope you will give them the encouragement and support that I and my fellow officers have enjoyed.

Another reminder that it is now time to **renew your membership in NCBA**. Your officers are proud to have built on the work of our predecessors by increasing dues-paying membership from 98 to 122 in 2005 and to 133 in 2006. Help us continue that success by renewing your membership! Dues remain at \$50, but we have increased the voluntary donation to the Nevada County Law Library to \$30 per person. Those who pay at least \$20 to the Library may use outside our Library inter-library loan materials borrowed from the Sacramento Law Library and other libraries. Others will be required to use these materials only in the Library. If you have not received your dues invoice by mail or email, contact 2006 Vice President Steve Baker at the contact information shown at the end of this newsletter. You can also find the renewal form on our website at www.nevadacountybar.com. The 2007 officers will soon send a reminder mailing to those of you who have not paid up for 2007. Help us make that a small, inexpensive mailing!

Our next **MCLE lunch on Creditor's Remedies** will feature NCBA Member Peter Bronson of Kelly, Lytton & Vann. This will be held **March 28th at noon** at the Stonehouse Restaurant. Mark your calendars. While we're talking about MCLE, we should thank retired **Judge Frank Francis and**

President's Report, Continued

ADR Section Chair Dave Finch for their program on Alternative Dispute Resolution at our MCLE lunch in January. The august panel and interesting topic drew a large crowd, including Assistant Presiding Judge Robert Tamietti. Thanks!

The 2007 Officers are now working on **MCLE programs for May, July, September, and November, 2007 and January and March 2008**. If you have an interest in presenting an hour of CLE to your peers on a topic of interest – and getting five no-cost hours of CLE credit for doing so – contact any of the officers at the contact information listed at the end of this newsletter.

The next dinner event for NCBA will be in the fall and will be our **recognition of Judge Al Dover** on his retirement from our Court. Stay tuned for details on the where and when. Thank you, Judge Dover, for allowing us to honor your service in this way!

If you are interested in helping with any NCBA event, contact any of the officers. Again, my thanks to all of you for your friendship and support in my work for the Association. Thank you for the opportunity! Adios! Au Revoir! Auf Wiedersehen! Till then!

Mike Colantuono, 2006 NCBA President

Thank you, Mike, for your dedication, hard work, good judgment and friendship.

*Ed Batista
Debbie Sitzburger
Steve Baker*

The 2006 Officers

Law Library

The Law Library Trustees meeting of January 10th had three topics of interest to NCBA members: conference room rentals, appointment of Trustees for 2007, and selection of new officers for the Board.

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 will be set at the February meeting. If you have an interest in reserving the room, contact Librarian Mary Kirby at 265-2918.

David Alkire was persuaded to reconsider his retirement from the Board after no members of the Bar responded to notices in this newsletter of the opportunity to apply for appointment. Accordingly, the Board of Supervisors has reappointed David and Mike Colantuono to represent the private bar. Other members of the Board for 2007 are Jeff Guyton (delegate for Judge Tamietti), Court Executive Officer Sean Metroka (delegate for Judge Dowling), Judges Anderson and McManus, and Rob Shulman (delegate for Board of Supervisors Chairman John Spencer).

Officers of the Board will be selected at the February meeting. In the meantime, this is a good opportunity to thank David Alkire for his service as Board President in 2007.

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

- Mike Colantuono, NCBA President

Ninth Annual Family Law Update Seminar

On March 29, 2007 in Department 3 of the Nevada County Superior Court, the Family Law Department, in conjunction with the Sierra Regional Department of Child Support Services and the Nevada County Bar Association, will present its Ninth Annual Family Law Update Seminar. This event covers new forms, legislation and cases. There will also be a Child Support Calculator demonstration. This update is open to attorneys, paralegals, LDAs and staff and offers 4.5 hours (pending) of MCLE and Board of Legal Specialization credit. The session runs from 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This program will be available to Truckee participants by concurrent video-conferencing at the Truckee Courthouse. Registration fees are as follows: Attorneys - \$50, Non-attorneys - \$30, if paid prior to March 14, 2007. Registration after March 14, add \$5. Space is limited. Continental breakfast and lunch included. Registration forms will be sent out by mail the week of February 5, 2007 or request forms from Judy Kadubec at 265-1363 or by e-mail at jkadubec@nevadacountycourts.com, or by fax at 470-8675.

Lawyer Referral Service

Did you know the Lawyer Referral Service has successfully referred more than 378 persons needing legal advice to panel members - often resulting in a substantial return of fees for both LRS and the panel attorney? LRS matches potential clients with lawyers who have a particular expertise and who are willing to provide a free consultation (except for a small administrative charge, collected by LRS). For the first time since 2003, the funds collected by LRS are being used to engage a part-time administrator/legal services developer, Cheryl Miller. The legal needs of the community are great. LRS provides the link for the public to find the correct attorney, thus providing time and cost saving benefits for both attorney and client. Fees to join LRS are minimal and the client referral is screened prior to the appointment. Please call 272-4292 to obtain your membership application.

Lake Tahoe Granlibakken MCLE

The 2007 Lake Tahoe Granlibakken MCLE Conference, sponsored by the Placer County Bar Association, takes place April 20-21. Courses include Computer Tips, Tricks and Techniques, Child Witness Testimony, Civility in the Law, Dynamics in Addiction, Recent Developments in Criminal Law, Malingering in Civil Cases and "Direct Characterization through Tracing: From Hicks to Mix and Walrath, Too, Beam Me to Marsden, Please." Get away to Lake Tahoe for the weekend and get some MCLE units. Cost is \$240 for non Placer County Bar Association Members, \$195 for PCBA members if postmarked by 3/15; \$275/\$225 if postmarked after 3/15. Contact the Placer County Bar Association for details: (530) 885-7713; e-mail: info@placerbar.org; website: www.placerbar.org.

Spring Training: Become a Mediator for Third District Court of Appeal

The Appellate Mediation Program Committee for the Third Appellate District has recently announced that Dana Curtis Mediation is conducting a training session in March 2007. The Appellate Mediation Committee encourages applications from attorneys throughout the 23 counties that it serves. Contact Anne K. Meline, Mediation Coordinator with the Appellate Mediation Program, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District: Phone: (916) 274-5882; fax: (916) 641-6527.

Increase in Copying Charges at D.A. Office:

Beginning February 1, 2007, the Nevada County District Attorney's Office will charge \$.50 per page for all photocopies.

State Bar Fee Arbitration Course

The State Bar of California's Committee on Mandatory Fee Arbitration and the Placer County Bar Association has invited members of the Nevada County Bar Association to attend Fee Arbitrator Training on Thursday, March 1, 2007, 1:00-4:00 p.m. (registration and refreshments at 12:30 p.m.).

This Training session will be held at The Ridge, 2020 Golf Course Road, Auburn, and is offered to all prospective and current volunteers who arbitrate attorney-client fee disputes for the Mandatory Fee Arbitration Programs through Nevada County and the State Bar of California. The course will provide the basic training required to serve on a bar program's fee arbitration panel and also provides the periodic training recommended for all current fee arbitrators.

Lay persons, in addition to attorneys, are also encouraged to attend this valuable training session and join the Mandatory Fee Arbitration Program. The NCBA Fee Arbitration Program is in need of at least five lay arbitrators, so please, if you have a friend or acquaintance who may be interested in serving as an arbitrator, let Andy Harris know, have him or her contact Andy, or better yet have them attend the seminar and meet with Andy in person.

To reserve a space, please leave a message at 530-885-6531 or e-mail eos7@sbcglobal.net.

Public Law Center

Upcoming Public Law Center Seminars:

February 16: Scott Browne on Road Associations.
March 16: Michael Colantuano on Boundary Disputes.

All seminars take place in either Department 1 or 2 and run from noon to 1:15 p.m.

Section Notes

Family Law Section:

Although the next meeting date of the Family Law Section has not been confirmed, the subject of the meeting is set: business valuation. Jim Roberson of Sweeney & Associates has agreed to speak. Additional speakers are being arranged. Chuck Eckerman will notify all local family law practitioners once the date is confirmed. If you are not on Chuck's list, contact him at 477-2440. Once the date is confirmed, the meeting will take place in the Mediation/Orientation Room adjacent to Dept. 3 of the Nevada County Courthouse.

Gold Country Estate Planning Council:

The Gold Country Estate Planning Council meets monthly at 11:45 am-1:15 pm, every first Wednesday. The luncheon meetings are held at the Trolley Junction Café (at the Northern Queen Inn) in Nevada City. The next meeting is March 7th. To RSVP for the next meeting, please call Terry Brown at 273-1323. Or check out the website: www.estateplanningcouncil.net.

Criminal Law Section:

Criminal Law Section meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., upstairs at the Stonehouse.

ADR Section:

The next meeting of the ADR Section is Wednesday, February 21 at noon. Location: Sergio's Café, 154 Mill Street, Grass Valley.

Classifieds

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Secretary, Needing a Change: Competent, highly recommended by current boss, Jim Anderson, needing a change. Call Faith @ 272-7591, evenings.

NCBA CONTACT INFORMATION

2007 OFFICERS

Stephen C. Baker - President
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Helen Cavanaugh Stauts - Vice-President
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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

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Next MCLE Lunch: March 28

Stonehouse, Nevada City
