



2008 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.

March 20 Reception with Justice Butz - NCLA
5:30 – 7:30 Posh Nosh Restaurant 272-5962

March 21 MLCE Seminar: Guardainships
Noon – 1:30 Judge Sean Dowling - courthouse

March 26 MCLE LUNCHEON
Noon Stonehouse Restaurant – Nevada City

March 27 Family Law Update Seminar
8:00 – 3:00 Register (530) 265-1363

Plan ahead – legal holiday March 31, 2008

MCLE LUNCH March 26, 2008

District Attorney Cliff Newell will present to the Nevada County Bar Association on the Prosecution of Financial Elder Abuse. As you know, this is a growing area of concern in our community. Come learn how to protect your clients and yourself.

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10th Annual Family Law Update Seminar
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Next MCLE Luncheon

MARCH 26, 2008

Where: Stonehouse Restaurant
107 Sacramento Street
Nevada City

When: March 26, 2008
11:15 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:
Financial Elder Abuse

– see enclosed article -

Attendees should email jlfordlaw@yahoo.com with their meal choice before Fri. March 21, 2008 in order to receive advance pricing.
Grilled Salmon or
Apple Walnut Salad

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

New Leadership Built on Past Successes.

I am honored to serve as the President of the Nevada County Bar Association for this upcoming year and look forward to continuing the fine traditions that we have developed over the years to enhance the relationship among attorneys, the bench and the public at large. Thanks to my predecessors we have all come to expect a regular Newsletter keeping us informed of the goings on in our legal community, CLEs every other month and a Law Day Dinner and Annual Dinner you can count on. Because of our past efforts to encourage membership, and the resulting extraordinary enrollment and participation, we have had extra funds to donate as grants to worthy organizations that benefit our legal community and promote the objectives of our Bar Association.

The Annual Dinner held this past February was a wonderful and successful event.

New Officers/Executives:

Candice Heidelberger graciously agreed to perform the swearing in ceremony of the new Officers and Executive Committee Members, and to speak at the event giving us all an opportunity to get to know her better. The acting Executive Committee is the largest we have had in recent years. It is as follows:

- President: Debra Sitzberger
- Vice President: Helen Cavanaugh-Stauts
- Secretary: Judy Ford
- Treasurer: John Bilheimer
- Executives At Large: Peter Bronson, and Neil Dorfman

I want to extend a special thank you to Steve Baker for serving as President for the year 2007, and volunteering to stay on as head of the Law Day Committee. Continuing as heads of Committees are: Andrew Harris, Fee Arbitration Program Committee and Kip Wordell, MCLE Committee. With this group of energetic and enthusiastic volunteers it is sure to be another great year for the Nevada County Bar Association.

Grants Distributed:

Thanks to all of you who came to the Annual Dinner and voted in person, and to those of you who were thoughtful and concerned enough to put in your proxy vote. We needed every last one of them, as it turned out, to get the majority vote of our Members that we needed to make these grants. I am happy to report that the following resolutions passed and the checks have been issued!

RESOLVED, that the Conflict Resolution Center of Nevada County (CRC) be granted \$2000.00. The Membership hereby requests that the funds be used in mediation training programs.

RESOLVED, that the Nevada County Legal Assistance, Inc. ("NCLA"), a/k/a Lawyers Referral Service be granted \$2500.00. The Membership hereby requests that the funds be used to fund liability insurance for its panel attorneys to expand the number of attorneys eligible.

RESOLVED, that the Nevada Union Debate Club be granted \$2000.00. The Membership hereby requests that the funds be used for travel expenses and entry fees programs.

RESOLVED, that the Nevada County Law Library be granted \$2500.00. The Membership hereby requests that the funds be used for the contract for the Online Public Access Catalog.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Treasurer of this Association is authorized and directed to issue checks to the above named organizations in the amounts stated above.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Debra Sitzberger
President, Nevada County Bar Association

FROM THE BENCH:

Notice of Unavailability:

The recent case of *Carl v. Superior Court* (4th Dist, Div 3, Nov 21, 2007) concluded that a "notice of unavailability" is not a fileable document under the Rules of Court. The bench has discussed the implications of this case for this county. Despite the *Carl* decision, the clerk will continue to accept for filing notices of unavailability. However, the bench notes that such notices are advisory only as to any absence and once again reminds the bar, and particularly sole practitioners, of their obligation to provide coverage counsel during their absences.

Separately, in our continuing efforts to educate the public, the Court has added a new page to the Nevada County Superior Court website. Entitled *For the Record* articles will be published from time to time on matters of public interest. Our first article, concerning disqualification, may be found at http://court.co.nevada.ca.us/services/general_info/public_education.htm . If the bar has any suggestions about content, please contact Judge Sean Dowling through Ms. McCalligan at 265-1476.

TENTH Annual Family Law Update Seminar
March 27, 2008

On March 27, 2008 in Department 3, Nevada County Superior Court, the Family Law Department, in conjunction with the Sierra Nevada Regional Department of Child Support Services and the Nevada County Bar Association, will present its' **TENTH Annual Family Law Update Seminar**. This event covers new forms, legislation, cases, and a Child Support Calculator demonstration.

This update is open to attorneys, paralegals, LDAs, and staff and offers 6.0 hours (pending) of MCLE and Board of Legal Specialization credit. The sessions run from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. This program will be available to Truckee participants by concurrent videoconferencing to Truckee Courthouse.

Registration fees are: Attorneys - \$50; Non-attorneys - \$30 and \$25 - Secretaries, if paid prior to March 12, 2008. Registrations after March 13, 2008, add \$5. Space is limited.

Continental breakfast and lunch are included. Registration forms will be sent out by mail the week of 2/4/07 or can be requested from Barbara Cravalho at (530) 265-1363 or by e-mail at barbara.cravalho@nevadacountycourts.com, or by fax at (530) 470-8675.

Section Notes

Criminal Law Section:

District Attorney Cliff Newell will be our guest to discuss policies of his office, and current issues in the criminal courts.

The criminal defense group is meeting on **2nd TUESDAY of the month** at 5:30 p.m. at the Stonehouse Restaurant (If you would like to receive the group's e-mail notices, call Anita at 265-8508). The meetings are kept to about one hour max, so as many as possible can attend. There are kudos each month for individual successes, and contributions to criminal defense - if you have a nomination, tell Steve or Anna at 265-8508. - Steve Munkelt

Family Law Section:

Monthly Seminars presented by local experts in the issues of Family Law are offered now through June 2008.

March 21, 2008

Noon – 1:30

At the Nevada City Courthouse
Video Link to Truckee Available
Probate/Dependency Guardianship

Come & learn while receiving MCLE.

CIVIL LITIGATORS:

Judge Anderson will be scheduling a Roundtable re: procedure and policies. If you want to be on the invitation list: (530) 265-1380

ADR Section:

ADR SECTION:

We meet
Wednesday, April 23 at Noon
at Kane's Restaurant in Grass Valley.

We will discuss our new mediation program with the court in unlawful detainer and small claims matters and share ideas and strategies for dealing with difficult issues in mediation sessions.

Contact Rosemary Metraier: rmetraier@metraier.com

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
April 2nd meeting will feature
Jim Willson of Jackson National Life Insurance
to talk about annuities.
All are welcome!

All are welcome! Please call Terry Brown at 273-1323 to RSVP - Or check out the website:

www.estateplanningcouncil.net

PLACER COUNTY

The Placer County Lawyer Referral Service is coming! Under the auspices of the Nevada County program and its insurance coverage, *no additional insurance will be required for Placer County Lawyers* to enroll in this service, which will provide *Placer County* cases to *Placer County* lawyers. PCBA participants will be covered by the master insurance policy and will not need their own. Look for more details in the coming months.

The deadline for inclusion in the 2008 Membership Directory is March 1 (postmark), so send your registration form in right away - and if you're going to Granlibakken, March 15 is the deadline for the early registration discount.

THE OTHER BAR

Free confidential assistance to lawyers, judges, paralegals and law students with substance abuse problems.

Weekly Other Bar 12-step Meetings are held in many areas, and others are being established. For times and locations, or to start a meeting in your area, contact the number or website below:

Provider of Certified MCLE Instructors

Confidential Hotline: (800) 222-0767 www.otherbar.org

The State Bar of California:

Standing Committee Appointments:

The State Bar of California is recruiting for the 2008-2009 Appointments to the State Bar standing, section executive, and special Committees. Attached are two files concerning those appointments: A file of a memo from the Appointments Administrator, along with an appointment schedule; and a file of the application itself.

If you or your members have any comments, questions, or suggestions relating to State Bar matters, please feel free to contact me.

John Dutton,
District 1 Representative

State Bar Board of Governors

Santa Clara County Judge (Ret.)
1505 Grass Valley Highway
Auburn, California 95603-2806
(530) 885-1906

Constitutional Amendment:

Supreme Court Seeks Proposed Amendments to Constitution in Death Penalty Appeals. Chief Justice Ronald M. George announced that the justices of the California Supreme Court have unanimously agreed to endorse a proposal to amend the California Constitution. The amendments would permit the transfer of capital appeals from the Supreme Court to the Courts of Appeal. Chief Justice George is asking the Judicial Council to expeditiously consider the transfer proposal and to assist in the development of a Legislative Constitutional Amendment for placement on the November 2008 General Election ballot.

SAVE THE DATE!

Twelfth Annual Statewide Ethics Symposium –

May 3, 2008

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 3, 2008 and plan to attend the Twelfth Annual Statewide Ethics Symposium, which will be held in San Francisco. As you know, the Symposium provides advanced programs for attorneys in all practice areas interested in cutting-edge ethics issues. The Symposium will begin with welcoming remarks from State Bar of California President **Jeffrey Bleich** (pictured right). There will also be a special keynote address delivered by **Erwin Chemerinsky**, Professor of Law, Duke University and founding dean of UC Irvine's Donald Bren School of Law.

Check Out the Library...

On order ... MCLE Tapes & Materials are available to check out from the Nevada County Law Library. Get you hours for free!

The Lawyer Referral Service

is seeking additional panel members, especially in the Family Law area. The LRS is a powerful tool to gain screened referrals in need of legal assistance. Furthermore, it provides attorneys inexpensive marketing, and it is a wonderful opportunity to provide pro bono services for a certified state bar program. The LRS panel membership also serves as an excellent organization to refer out matters to area attorneys who may be able to assist with a specialty service to your clients. Membership is a mere \$50 a year.

Look for information regarding insurance coverage for LRS Cases.....

Call Mike Colantuono, Esq. for more information at 432-7359 or Ed Cotney at 470-0900.

Lawyer Referral Service
Address is 120 North Auburn, GV.
(530) 272-5962

Judge Albert Dover (Ret.) announces
The opening of his practice exclusively for
Mediation/ med-arb/ and arbitration
Beginning March 1st, 2008.

For further information, email
albertdover@yahoo.com.
Or call (530) 265-2235

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Attorney with inactive license seeks
employment in Nevada County area as
Paralegal or ??? Anxious to relocate to Grass
Valley in near future. Fifteen years
experience in management within real estate
development industry. For resume please e-
mail louiseoates@aol.com.

Now is the time!

Place your ad in The Gold Country Telephone Directory
Get the most exposure, in the only locally owned "Yellow
pages" **Gold Country Telephone Directory**.

The most complete, local directory with the largest
distribution in Nevada County.

To schedule an appointment call Michele Woods 559-8348
When your neighbors need your help, be available and show
that YOU are the Attorney they are looking for.

You are the solution!

Nevada City Branch

Department I: Judge Heidelberg
Department II: Judge McManus
Department III: Presiding Judge Dowling
Department IV: Judge Tamietti
Department V: Commissioner Thomsen
Department VI: Judge Anderson effective October 22
The LPS and Mental Health Court calendars heard in Dept. VI
With Judge Anderson.

Truckee Branch

Judge Anders Holmer

NCBA CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICERS

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

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

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

John Bilheimer -Treasurer
265-6357, hbjgb@jps.net

MEMEBERS AT LARGE:

Neil Dorfman: 274-0643
dorfman@goodfaithlaw.com

Peter Bronson: (916) 444-1110
pbronson@klmvlaw.com

SECTION & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Rosemary Metrailler - ADR Section Chair (530)
265-3062 rmetrailler@metrailler.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

SAVE THE DATE!

Reception with

Justice Kathleen Butz

March 20th 5:30 – 7:30
Posh Nosh Restaurant
RSVP: 272-5962
