

Nevada

April 2011



County

Bar Association Journal

Post Office Box 1473 • Nevada City, CA 95959-1473 • www.nevadacountybar.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Peter Bronson



The annual joint meeting of the Nevada County Bar Association and the Lawyer Referral Service, which occurred March 29th at the Holbrooke Hotel, was well attended and – from all indications – a great success.

Retired Judge Al Dover hosted a question-and-answer session with our guest speaker, Court of Appeal Justice William J. Murray, Jr. Among other topics, Justice Murray shared his experience with the San Joaquin County courthouse building project – a subject obviously of great local interest. He was accompanied by three of his colleagues on the Court of Appeal, Justices Louis Mauro, Angela Hoch, and “our own” M. Kathleen Butz. We were also honored by the presence of six of our seven Nevada County Superior Court bench officers.

As always, the annual meeting featured the installation of the coming year's Bar Association officers. The air was heavy with déjà vu, as all four 2010-11 officers were re-sworn for a second term: Valerie Logsdon as treasurer, Tom Norton as secretary, Jennifer Walters as vice president and me as president. Dave Finch, who was on last year's executive committee *ex officio* as immediate past president, remains on the committee because – remarkably enough – he is still immediate past president. We also welcomed new executive committee members Michael Cobden and Nancy Christie.

As the new bar year starts, our members have an opportunity to make a difference and to shape the Association's future, in two ways. First, if you have not done so, please complete the brief membership survey circulated by email in late March. If you have not received a copy, please contact Jennifer Walters or myself. Second, please consider seeking a leadership position next March for the 2012-13 bar year. Your officers are happy to hold over and serve another term this year, but we'll all be ready for a sabbatical after two years in our positions!

In addition to Justice Murray's talk, the meeting will mark the end of the Bar year. Both the Bar Association and the Lawyer Referral Service will recognize their outgoing and incoming officers and board members.

The evening will feature what we are calling “heavy” hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar. Tickets are \$45, and proceeds will benefit the pro bono programs of both LRS and NCBA. Please join us for this event; you may RSVP to LRS at (530) 272-5962 or nclawyeraccess@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE!!

- **April 6** - Gold Country Estate Planning Council Meeting
- **April 11** - Family Law Section meeting postponed
- **April 15-17** - 5th Annual Wildfire Litigation Conference
- **April 22** - Temporary Judge Program Training (registration form on page 4)
- **Oct. 25** - Specialist Certification Examination

Fee Waiver

Please note that there is a new fee waiver form as of February 22, 2011, with new income guidelines for determining who qualifies based on their monthly gross income. The form can be downloaded at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/xbcr/cc/fw001.pdf>.



Lawyer Referral Service honors “Pro Bono Lawyers of the Year”

At the annual NCBA-LRS meeting, Jennifer Walters (Nevada County) and Jack Hirshon (Placer County) were honored as ‘Pro Bono Lawyers of the Year’ with plaques presented by LRS Chair Bobbie Swanson. These two attorneys have assisted many LRS clients in need of ‘pro bono’ services.

The LRS, which operates in all of State Bar District 1, has increasingly referred criminal and civil litigation matters to participating Panel Attorneys in recent months, in addition to family law matters.

Qualified attorneys are encouraged to apply for referrals in your specialty areas. Applications to join are available on our website: www.norcallawyer.org. You may also call the office at 530-272-5962.

Do you have an article or news of interest?

Submit to Helen Cavanaugh
Helen.cavanaugh@nevadacountycourts.com



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It can be ordered through Sacramento with a few days wait.

Family Law Section

Our meeting scheduled for Monday, April 11th at noon in Dept. 3 is being postponed to a later date. We will plan to have Debra Sitzberger, a local real estate attorney, deliver a presentation on the current real estate market and various options in dealing with "upside down" properties in divorces in the near future.

ADR Section:

We are taking a break from meetings for now. Please contact Rosemary at (530) 265-3062 or rmetrailer@metrailer.com with any questions or suggestions for future programs.

Specialist Certification Examination

The specialist examination is rapidly approaching. For those members interested in sitting for the exam, it is scheduled for October 25, 2011. Please visit the State Bar of California's Website for further information and requirements.

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. All are welcome! To RSVP for the next meeting, please call Terry Brown at 530-273-1323. Or check out the website: www.estateplanningcouncil.net.



Dispute? Resolution!

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Jonathan Zerlin
 470-1925

OFFICE SPACE:

Beautiful office space available by sublease. Located across from the Courthouse in Nevada City. Please contact: R. Frishman 265-2399 for information and to schedule a viewing.

**5th Annual Wildfire
 Litigation Conference**

April 15 – 17 • San Diego

Register: wildlandfirelitigation.com
 (530) 893-2398

**Attorney Nancy Christie launches
 new practice in Nevada City**

207 North Pine Street  Nevada City, California

Ms. Christie holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Rochester, and attended law school at the McGeorge School of Law, where she spent considerable hours serving qualified applicants through the McGeorge-sponsored Community Legal Services.

Ms Christie intends to continue her established local advocacy in family law including dissolution, custody, and support matters and will accept clients with limited civil disputes, landlord/tenant issues, conservatorships and end-of-life planning issues as well as those seeking alternative dispute resolution through mediation.


GALA OPENING EVENT

January 20, 2011 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Members of the public and interested individuals are invited to drop by for refreshments and impromptu philosophizing.

530/913-1845, 530/478-0208 (fax)

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COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 874-6867

Registration Form

**Temporary Judge Program
Mandatory Training
Bench Conduct and Demeanor**

April 22, 2011

Registration: 12:30-1:00

Training: 1:00-4:15

**Location: Administrative Office of the Courts,
Northern/Central Regional Office,
2860 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 400, Sacramento**

First Name (Mr./Ms.): _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Fax No.: _____

State Bar No.: _____

Are you currently serving as a Temporary Judge for Sacramento County? Yes No

⇒ **Submit registration form via:**

Email to: temjudadm@saccourt.ca.gov

Fax to: (916) 874-8229

Enrollment confirmation and pre-work materials will be sent to you via email approximately three weeks prior to the class.



NCBA Contact Information

OFFICERS

- Peter C. Bronson** - President
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- Jennifer Walters** - Vice President
(530) 265-2274, jwalters@virxpress.com
- Tom Norton** - Secretary
(530) 265-0404
- Valerie Logsdon** - Treasurer
(530) 272-7207
- David Finch** - Past President
(530) 477-6400, drfinch@mediationserv.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE

- Neil Dorfman**
(530) 274-0643, dorfman@goodfaithlaw.com
- Nancy Christie**
(530) 913-1845, nancychristie@gmail.com

SECTION & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Rosemary Metrailler** - ADR Section Chair
(530) 265-3062, rmetrailler@metrailler.com
- Jennifer Granger** - Criminal Law Section Chair
(530) 470-0328
- Susan Corcoran** - Family Law Section Chair
(530) 264-7014, scorcoran@scorcoranlaw.com
- Andy Harris** - Fee Arbitration Program Admin.
(530) 272-4250, andy@scottbrowne.com

Judicial Officers Nevada City Branch

- Department I: Judge Heidelberger
- Department II: Judge Thomsen
- Department III: Judge McManus
- Department IV: Presiding Judge Anderson
- Department V: Commissioner Y. Durant
- Department VI: Judge Dowling

Truckee Branch

- Dept. A (Truckee Branch) Judge Tamietti
- Dept. B (Truckee Branch) Commissioner

Newsletter

- Helen Cavanaugh** - Newsletter Editor
(530) 470-2596, helen.cavanaugh@nevadacountycourts.com
- Toni Holman** - Newsletter Layout
toni.holman2@gmail.com



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March 21, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find the enclosed here with a check payable to [REDACTED] in the amount of \$250,000.00 United States Dollars. This will represent funds for the property that Mr. and Mrs. Miki is acquiring through Real Estate Company. Further instruction will be giving to you by Mr. and Mrs. Miki regarding the disbursement of the funds cordially. As soon as you receive the enclosed check, it is advisable to notify our office either by e-mail or telephone 1-905-781-8053 E-mail: jameswalker1@accountant.com and also the real estate agent, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Please disburse the earnest money to the real estate agent after depositing and notify my office immediately. Should you have any questions concerning the enclosed check, Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,


Mr. James Walker

SCAM ALERT

Unsolicited emails have been received by several local attorneys. We've since discovered this is a scam targeting local attorneys and real estate agents. A check for \$250,000 payable to our office was received with letterhead from a company called Intact Financial Corporation. Intact has confirmed this is counterfeit.

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