

# RIVERSIDE LAWYER

June 2018 • Volume 68 Number 6

MAGAZINE

## In This Issue

Every Lawyer's Goal: Credibility

A New Test for Independent Contractors Demands Immediate Reevaluation by Businesses of Their Independent Contractors

Ten Tips for New Attorneys Jumping into the Riverside Legal Community

Going Solo – Lessons from the Guy Who Made the Kessell Run in Less than 12 Parsecs

Litigation Practice for New Lawyers

Is the Law Still a Noble Profession? Three Local Leading Lawyers Weigh In

RCBA-Riverside Superior Court-ABOTA New Attorney Academy



## Publications Committee

Sophia Choi	Boyd Jensen
Donald Cripe	Robyn Lewis
Melissa Cushman	Jennifer Lynch
Megan Demshki	Juanita Mantz
DW Duke	Chad Morgan
Abram Feuerstein	Charlene Nelson
Stefanie Field	Nesa Targhibi
Alexandra Fong	Mohammad Tehrani
Betty Fracisco	Jamie Wrage
Andrew Gilliland	Lisa Yang
Amy Guldner	

**Editor** ..... Jacqueline Carey-Wilson  
**Copy Editors** ..... Yoginee Braslaw & Juanita Mantz  
**Design and Production** ..... PIP Printing Riverside  
**Cover Design** ..... Jacqueline Carey-Wilson/PIP Printing

## Officers of the Bar Association

<b>President</b> L. Alexandra Fong (951) 955-6300 lafong@rivco.org	<b>President-Elect</b> Jeffrey A. Van Wagenen, Jr. (951) 529-4092 JVanWagenen@rivco.org
<b>Vice President</b> Jack B. Clarke, Jr. (951) 686-1450 jack.clarke@bbkllaw.com	<b>Chief Financial Officer</b> Sophia H. Choi (951) 955-6300 sochoi@rivco.org
<b>Secretary</b> Nicholas Firetag (951) 684-2171 nicholas.firetag@greshamsavage.com	<b>Past President</b> Jean-Simon Serrano (951) 682-6400 jserrano@heitingandirwin.com

### Directors-at-Large

Stefanie G. Field (951) 684-2171 stefanie.field@greshamsavage.com	Lori Myers (949) 300-3596 loriamyers@me.com
Jennifer Lynch (951) 686-1450 jennifer.lynch@bbkllaw.com	Matthew Strickroth (951) 955-5400 matthewstrickroth@rivcoda.org

### Executive Director

Charlene Nelson  
(951) 682-1015  
charlene@riversidecountybar.com

## Officers of the Barristers Association

<b>President</b> Shumika T. R. Sookdeo (951) 683-3974 shumika@robinsonsookdeolaw.com	<b>Treasurer</b> Nesa Targhibi
<b>President-Elect</b> Breanne Wesche	<b>Members-at-Large</b> Kris Daams Megan Demshki Braden Holly Paul Lin
<b>Secretary</b> Priscilla George	<b>Past President</b> Erica Alfaro

Riverside County Bar Association  
4129 Main Street, Suite 100  
Riverside, California 92501

Telephone 951-682-1015	Facsimile 951-682-0106
Internet www.riversidecountybar.com	E-mail rcba@riversidecountybar.com

# RIVERSIDE LAWYER

MAGAZINE

## C O N T E N T S

### Columns:

- 3 ..... **President's Message** by L. Alexandra Fong  
 6 ... **Barristers President's Message** by Shumika T. R. Sookdeo

### COVER STORIES:

- 8 ..... **Every Lawyer's Goal: Credibility**  
by Judge Craig Riemer
- 10 ..... **A New Test for Independent Contractors Demands Immediate Reevaluation by Businesses of Their Independent Contractors**  
by Jamie E. Wrage
- 12 ..... **Ten Tips for New Attorneys Jumping into the Riverside Legal Community**  
by Megan G. Demshki
- 14 ..... **Going Solo — Lessons from the Guy Who Made the Kessell Run in Less than 12 Parsecs**  
by Andrew Gilliland
- 18 ..... **Litigation Practice for New Lawyers**  
by Boyd Jensen
- 20 ..... **Is the Law Still a Noble Profession? Three Local Leading Lawyers Weigh In**  
by Melissa R. Cushman
- 21 ..... **RCBA-Riverside Superior Court-ABOTA New Attorney Academy**  
by Robyn A. Lewis

### Features:

- 22 ..... **The Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court**  
by L. Alexandra Fong
- 23 ..... **Richard T. Fields Bar Association**  
by Jennifer Small
- 24 ..... **Opposing Counsel: Taylor Bristol Warner**  
by Betty Fracisco
- 25 ..... **Kudos**  
by Donald B. Cripe
- 26 ..... **Dedication of Display Case in Historic Courthouse to Judge Gloria Trask, Retired**  
by Robyn A. Lewis
- 27 ..... **Judicial Profile: Judge Randall Stamen**  
by Robert A. McCarty, Jr.

### Departments:

- Calendar ..... 2      Membership ..... 21  
 Classified Ads ..... 28

# THE LEO A. DEEGAN INN OF COURT

*by L. Alexandra Fong*

The Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court (Deegan Inn) is a professional organization comprised of attorneys and judicial officers and organized under the American Inns of Court. The Deegan Inn was founded by Judge Sharon Waters, Judge Robert J. Timlin, Stanley Orrock, James Heiting, and Terry Bridges in 1991. The organization focuses on improving the skills and professionalism of the bench and the bar. Each month, the Inn holds a dinner meeting, during which a team of members presents a program that focuses on matters of ethics, skills, and professionalism.

The Deegan Inn was named for the Honorable Leo A. Deegan, a legend in the Riverside legal community. Judge Deegan first began practicing in Riverside in 1946 as a member of the District Attorney's office and then with Riverside County Counsel. He became Riverside's City Attorney in 1958. A year later, Governor Edmund Brown appointed him to the Riverside County Superior Court. He served on the court until his retirement in 1975. In the late 1980s, he served for 14 months on the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, in Sacramento.

For the 2017-2018 program year, the theme is the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Each team was named for a signer of the Declaration of Independence that was either an attorney or judicial officer. Team Samuel Chase, led by Judicial Master Kenneth Fernandez, began team presentations with a discussion on freedom of religion on October 25, 2017. Guest speakers, Glenn Wenzel and Kristi Smith, who is a supervising deputy city attorney for the City of Riverside, spoke about the history of the Mount Rubidoux cross and the litigation that threatened it.

Team Francis Hopkinson, led by Judicial Master Irma Asberry, presented on freedom of speech in December 2017. The audience was enlightened with a game of Jeopardy, with Barrister Jean-Simon Serrano portraying Alex Trebek, complete with salt-and-pepper hair and a moustache that appeared to be falling off. The remaining five teams squared off in this game to win the grand prize of Starbucks gift cards.

Team George Read, led by Judicial Master Eric Isaac, presented on freedom of the press in January 2018. Details about historical cases involving this issue were provided to the audience. Attorney Master Mary Anne Forrest regaled the audience with her tribute to George Read.

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, the Deegan Inn was proud to host the Joint Inn Meeting of the Inland Empire Chapters of the American Inns of Court at the California

Citrus State Historic Park, Sunkist Center, in Riverside on February 21, 2018. Carl E. Douglas, an attorney who specializes in police misconduct cases and is best known for being a member of O.J. Simpson's "Dream Team" in the early 1990s, was the keynote speaker.

Team Matthew Thornton, led by Judicial Master Bambi Moyer, presented on the right to peaceably assemble in March 2018. The team began their presentation with a "call for justice for Matt." During the presentation, they were served with a gang injunction by a deputy district attorney and, at the end of their presentation, were "arrested" for violating the injunction.

As many Deegan Inn members wanted to become more involved with the community, two community service teams were formed and their presentations occurred at the last two Inn meetings of the year.

The first community service team, led by United States Magistrate Judge Sheri Pym, discussed Human Trafficking in the Inland Empire. Their presentation occurred on April 25, 2018, and opened with a presentation about their team namesake, John Morton. My Country, 'Tis of Thee (America) was the background music, utilized from a recording of the Boston Pops Orchestra conducted by Arthur Fiedler, circa 1938. Following this brief presentation, a slide show was shown during dinner, which highlighted the community service, which the team had undertaken throughout the Inn year. The slide show was set to George Gershwin's "Summertime" as performed by Simon Gale and the Vienna Symphonic Rock Orchestra, circa 2011. Four guest speakers, Nancy Aguirre (Riverside County Sheriff's Department), Opal Singleton (Million Kids), Debbie Martis (Rebirth Homes), and a survivor of human trafficking spoke in depth about this topic.

The second community service team, Team Robert Paine, led by Judge Jacqueline C. Jackson, presented on May 23, 2018. Team Robert Paine engaged in a mentorship program at Mira Loma Middle School. The desire for the kids to interact with positive role models was strong and the faculty advisor was torn between having the teamwork with youth who had a history of trouble and those who were excelling. The team decided to run programs for both groups of students, meeting bi-weekly with each group. For youth in the personal social responsibility program, the team answered questions about their education, backgrounds, and professions, provided an overview of the legal system, and advised of the consequences of making poor

choices. For the other students, the team created a mock trial club that was open to all students and helped them prepare a mock trial presentation based on *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Both groups of students toured the courts and were able to experience an actual trial. They learned about the history of the Historic Courthouse from Judge John Vineyard and asked questions of the courtroom personnel about their jobs.

At this final meeting of the 2017-2018 year, the Deegan Inn presented awards to members of the legal community for their professional accomplishments and contributions to the legal community. The Elwood Rich Award, which honors an outstanding jurist, was presented to the Honorable L. Jackson "Jack" Lucky IV. The Terry Bridges Award, which honors an outstanding attorney, was presented to Paul Grech of Grech and Packer. The Deegan Inn also recognized two outstanding younger attorneys for their professionalism and dedication to the legal community with the Biddle Book Award. The Biddle Book Award

was presented to Aaron Chandler, deputy city attorney for the City of Riverside, and Megan Demshki, an associate at Aitken Aitken Cohn.

The Deegan Inn's fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31 of every year. The Inn is now accepting applications for 2018-2019. Membership is by invitation only and members are required to be active members of RCBA. Inn applications are due on July 20, 2018 and decision will be made in August. There are scholarships available to assist in covering the dues. For more information or to obtain an application, please go to [www.deeganinnofcourt.org](http://www.deeganinnofcourt.org) or contact Executive Director Sherri Gomez at (951) 689-1910 or [SherriGomez4@gmail.com](mailto:SherriGomez4@gmail.com).

*L. Alexandra Fong is a deputy county counsel with the County of Riverside, specializing in juvenile dependency law. Ms. Fong is currently the president of the Riverside County Bar Association and president-elect of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court.*



## RICHARD T. FIELDS BAR ASSOCIATION

*by Jennifer Small*

This month's theme of the magazine is practical advice for new attorneys. One fun way to become involved and make contacts is to join a bar association. As president-elect, I want to invite you to join the Richard T. Fields Bar Association.

The Richard T. Fields Bar Association (RTFBA) was founded in 2010. The mission of RTFBA is to represent the interest of African American attorneys in the Inland Empire (IE), but the membership is inclusive of all. Moreover, in addition to representing the interest of African American attorneys, the RTFBA promotes pipeline initiatives to increase the number of youth of color in the IE to pursue careers in the legal profession and to promote justice for communities of color in the IE. The founding members of RTFBA were Charlene Usher, Willie W. Williams, Commissioner Eric V. Isaac, and Daniel Alexander II. The RTFBA is an affiliate member of the California Association of Black Lawyers.

While focusing on education, community service, and mentorship, the RTFBA also raises money to support initiatives such as, back-to-school backpack drive, Thanksgiving baskets program, the holiday gift-card drive (which donates gift cards to foster children through CASA) and finally, the RTFBA's annual scholarships. In addition, RTFBA provides MCLE covering a broad range of topics.

The RTFBA annual scholarships referenced above are awarded each year at the annual gala for the following categories: 1) a high school student entering into undergraduate programs; 2) a first year law student; and 3) a general scholarship.

At the annual gala, the RTFBA also honors a jurist of the year, an attorney of the year, and a community member. Last year, the jurist of the year was Judge Helios Hernandez (now retired) and the attorney of the year was Krystal Lyons, senior director for operations and budget at University of La Verne College of Law. The community service award was presented to Sergeant Major Gregory Coker, founder of Reaching New Heights Foundation, whose mission is "serving those who served."

This year's recipients will be announced shortly for this year's annual gala, which will be held on July 7, 2018 at the Ontario Doubletree Hotel. Tickets cost \$85. Full tables and sponsorship advertisements are also available for purchase.

To join the RTFBA, please visit [www.rtfIELDSbar.org](http://www.rtfIELDSbar.org). You can also find us on Facebook or email [RTFieldsBA@gmail.com](mailto:RTFieldsBA@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list.

*Jennifer Small is the president-elect of the RTFBA and an attorney with the Law Offices of the Riverside County Public Defender and practices in the civil division of the Mental Health Unit.*



Riverside  
County

**LAWYER**

**Riverside County Bar Association**

4129 Main St., Ste. 100, Riverside, CA 92501  
RCBA 951-682-1015 LRS 951-682-7520  
www.riversidecountybar.com rcbars@riversidecountybar.com

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #1054  
RIVERSIDE, CA

**ARBITRATION & MEDIATION SERVICE PROVIDER**

**RCBA Dispute Resolution Service, Inc.**

*You be the Judge.*

**Over 100 experienced Riverside County Bar Association mediators**

**2 out of 3 private mediations reach full settlement**

**3 out of 4 Family Law cases referred to our Court program reach full settlement**

**No administrative fees! Competitive hourly rates!**

*DRS is a nonprofit public benefit corporation proudly serving Riverside County since 1995.  
DRS is the approved mediation service for the Riverside County Superior Court.  
Located across from the Riverside County Historic Courthouse at 4129 Main Street, Suite 100.*

(951) 682-2132  
www.rcbadrs.org

