

# RIVERSIDE LAWYER

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MAGAZINE



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for the individual. What he likes best about his current assignment is that he can speak directly to the parties, both to warn and to issue encouragement to parents struggling to regain custody of their children. This paternalistic attitude probably stems from his involvement in his faith. Having served for five years as bishop of his ward of 300-500 Mormons, his main job was to act as spiritual leader, confidant and problem-solver for people with ordinary problems.

Asked what he believes was his greatest reward in his prosecutor role: Two-fold, taking really bad and dangerous people out of circulation and dismissing a case where the defendant was wrongfully accused. One case in particular he shared. A defendant was arrested under another person's warrant. It was agreed that all would return to court in two weeks, so fingerprint and records checks could be run. This was too long for prosecutor Snell, who got the needed information corroborating the person's story and had a court order releasing her in less than 24 hours. He says that there are few things more abhorrent to him than the incarceration of an innocent person. It takes a really great prosecutor to dismiss a case, and only a competent one to get a conviction.

Commissioner Brad Snell seems to be a well-balanced human being who possesses intelligence, humanity, compassion and accountability for himself and others. The black robe looks just fine on him, ex-D.A. and all.

*Evelyn Cordner is blissfully retired from the Riverside County Office of the Public Defender.*



## TEAM MICELI PRESENTS AT LEO A. DEEGAN INN OF COURT

*by Robyn A. Lewis*



*front row (left to right) Richard Reed, Judge Miceli, Cathy Schwartz, Judge Koosed, Raeet (Rita) Tadesse, Linda Roberts-Ross; (back row) Steve Harmon, Phil Greenberg, Dave Werner*

On January 30, 2008, the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court was privileged to have the Honorable Victor Miceli (retired) join its first meeting of the year at the Victoria Club.

Judge Miceli was the namesake of the presenting team, which included Philip Greenberg, Steve Harmon, Richard Reed, Linda Roberts-Ross, Catherine Schwartz, Rita Tadesse, and David Werner and was headed by Judge Charles Koosed. The presentation focused on ethical considerations and contract issues.

Judge Miceli, as many of you already know, is an icon in the Riverside legal community. He began his legal career in Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he practiced from 1954 until 1961. He moved to Riverside and became a member of the Riverside County Bar Association in 1962. After practicing law here from 1962 until 1986, Judge Miceli was appointed as a bench officer and served as a judge from 1986 until 2001, which was the date of his retirement.

In addition to serving the legal community as one of the most well-respected and influential jurists, Judge Miceli also made two major contributions that went above and beyond the call of his duty as a judicial officer. It was Judge

Miceli who spearheaded the restoration of the historic courthouse. He was also instrumental in bringing a law library to Riverside County. That facility proudly bears his name. Judge Miceli is still involved with the law library to this day, serving as a member of its board of directors.

Judge Craig Riemer has remarked of Judge Miceli: "There are many ways that we can show our appreciation to Vic. We can follow his example of service to our clients. We can strive to preserve the excellence and to defend the independence of our judiciary. And we can pledge to maintain for generations to come his beautiful courthouse as a monument to justice and the rule of law."

Judge Miceli is currently involved in the Evergreen Memorial Park restoration project. He is the chairperson of the restoration committee, which is focusing on cleaning up the cemetery where some of Riverside's most famous citizens are buried. Established in 1872, Evergreen is the burial site of Riverside's founder, John W. North, Frank Miller, who built the Mission Inn, and Eliza Tibbets, who planted the first navel orange trees in Riverside.

