

RIVERSIDE LAWYER

October 2013 • Volume 63 Number 9

MAGAZINE

In This Issue:

People v. Gordon Stewart Northcott

Rethinking *Erin Brockovich*: The Truth About Hinkley

The Coogan Act: Protecting the Child Actor

Bryan Hartnell: Attorney, Bit Actor & Zodiac Survivor

Movies and the Law: Stuff That Career Choices Are Made Of – Or Not?

The Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court Goes to the Movies

See Films That You Cannot See Anywhere Else in Riverside at UCR's Culver Center of the Arts



The official publication of the Riverside County Bar Association

Publications Committee

Sophia Choi
Melissa Cushman
Abram Feuerstein
Stefanie Field
Alexandra Fong
Amy Guldner
Robyn Lewis
Christopher Marin

Charlene Nelson
Jean-Simon Serrano
Donna Thierbach
Bruce Todd
Jamie Wrage
Lisa Yang
Connie Younger

Editor Jacqueline Carey-Wilson
Design and Production PIP Printing Riverside
Cover Design PIP Printing Riverside

Officers of the Bar Association

President

Jacqueline Carey-Wilson
(909) 387-4334
jcareywilson@cc.sbcounty.gov

President-Elect

Chad W. Firetag
(951) 955-6000
cwfiretag@co.riveride.ca.us

Vice President

Kira L. Klatchko
(760) 568-2611
kira.klatchko@bbklaw.com

Chief Financial Officer

Jean-Simon Serrano
(951) 682-6400
jserrano@heitingandirwin.com

Secretary

L. Alexandra Fong
(951) 955-6300
LaFong@co.riverside.ca.us

Past President

Christopher B. Harmon
(951) 787-6800
chrisbharmon@me.com

Directors-at-Large

Jack B. Clarke, Jr.
(951) 686-1450
jack.clarke@bbklaw.com
Diana Renteria
diana@drloffice.com

Neil D. Okazaki
(951) 826-5988
nokazaki@riversideca.gov
Jeffrey A. Van Wagenen, Jr.
(951) 955-5517
jvanwagenen@rivcoda.org

Executive Director

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

Officers of the Barristers Association

President

Kelly A. Moran
(951) 682-5550
kmoran@tclaw.net

Treasurer

Sara Morgan

Vice President

Reina Canale

Members-at-Large

Christopher Marin
Scott H. Talkov

Secretary

Arlene M. Cordoba

Past President

Amanda E. Schneider

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 Jacqueline Carey-Wilson*
6 **Barristers President's Message** *by Kelly A. Moran*

COVER STORIES:

- 8 **People v. Gordon Stewart Northcott**
by Gerald D. Shoaf
10 **Rethinking Erin Brockovich: The Truth About Hinkley**
by Lucas Quass
12 **The Coogan Act: Protecting the Child Actor**
by Christopher Buechler Marin
14 **Bryan Hartnell: Attorney, Bit Actor & Zodiac Survivor**
by Bruce E. Todd
17 **Movies and the Law: Stuff That Career Choices
Are Made Of – Or Not?**
by Abram S. Feuerstein
20 **The Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court Goes to the Movies**
by Sophia Choi
26 **See Films That You Cannot See Anywhere Else
in Riverside at UCR's Culver Center of the Arts**
by Nikolay Maslov

Features:

- 23 **California Employers Beware: The Second District Holds That Piece-
Rate Employees Are Entitled to Additional Hourly-Compensation**
by Evan Beecher

Departments:

- Calendar 2 Membership 28
Classified Ads 28

THE LEO A. DEEGAN INN OF COURT GOES TO THE MOVIES

by Sophia Choi

The American Inns of Court is an association of attorneys and judges dedicated to fostering excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills. Our local inn here in Riverside is the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court. The board members of the Inn hold a table discussion on what would be a good theme for the Inn to use for the upcoming year. One Past President of the Inn later explained, "The Inn's focus is supposed to be on litigation-related topics, and so we try to keep that in mind whenever we pick a theme." For program year 2012-2013, board member Jeremy Hanson suggested a movie theme, and the other board members were in consensus.

There were six teams for program year 2012-2013. The movies selected were *Philadelphia*, *Michael Clayton*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *A Civil Action*, *The Verdict*, and *Reversal of Fortune*. Each team focused its presentation on the team's movie selection and the ethical issues and dilemmas involved.

The most notable presentation was by the team presenting on *A Civil Action*. The members of this group, Team Varner, were Justice Carol Codrington, Stefanie Field, Chad Firetag, David Werner, Dorothy McLaughlin, Kirsten Shea, Connie Younger, Sylvia Choi, Sara Morgan, and law student Alyson Bashor. *A Civil Action* is a 1998 film about a water contamination case in Massachusetts that involved the leukemia-related deaths of several children. In presenting the legal and ethical issues surrounding this movie, Team Varner put on a television commentary show, much like that of Nancy Grace. Nancy Grace is an American legal commentator and television host. The presentation was done in the form of a television

show called *You Be the Lawyer*, presenting the case portrayed in the movie of the environmental catastrophe in Woburn, Massachusetts. This team was so dedicated to its presentation that the members not only dressed for their parts, but also made extravagant props, such as the Hollywood sign and television "screens" that they stood behind to "be on television." With their dedicated performance, Team Varner took home the Oscar, i.e., the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court's recognition for the highest-scoring presentation.

Other teams presented in various ways, including guest speakers on related issues, vignettes, and other creative forms.

This program year's presentations were definitely entertaining as the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court went to the movies!

Sophia Choi, a member of the Bar Publications Committee, is a deputy county counsel with the County of Riverside. She is presently serving as President of the Asian Pacific American Lawyer of the Inland Empire.



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 rcba@riversidecountybar.com

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1054
RIVERSIDE, CA

YOU BE THE JUDGE

RCBA Dispute Resolution Services, Inc. (DRS) is a mediation and arbitration provider

Why let the judge or jury decide your case when an experienced professional mediator from DRS can assist you in achieving a settlement of your dispute...on your terms.



DRS, a less expensive, prompt and effective means to Dispute Resolution

DRS is the approved mediation service for the Riverside County Superior Court.
4129 Main Street, Suite 100, Riverside, CA • (951) 682-2132 • www.rcbadrs.org