

# The LEGAL PROFESSIONAL®

MAY 2021



## ELEVATE, PART II

### It's All About the Climb

LPI's 87th Annual Conference of Delegates and Board of Governors Meeting  
May 21-23, 2021 | Sacramento Hilton Arden West | Hybrid Platform



## CORONA'S HIDDEN FIGURE, JUDGE MARY ALICE SUTTER

By Shaylene Cortez, CCLS  
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*Dedicated to LSI Past President,  
Joan M. Moore, PLS, CCLS*

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**LYNNE PRESCOTT, CCLS,** is LPI's President, and a member of Sacramento Legal Secretaries Association. She first became a member of LPI in 1990 while working as a legal secretary in Fairfield, CA. She is currently employed by the law office of Rich, Fuidge, Bordsen & Galyean in Marysville, CA. Lynne is a two-time past president of both Solano County LSA and Sacramento LSA, and obtained her CCLS certification in 2013. She resides in Yuba City with her husband, Randy, and four fur-babies, and is a proud mother and grandmother.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LYNNE PRESCOTT, CCLS

## Lemons, Silver and Boxes

I recently wrote an article about what it's like to be a "COVID President," in which I stated that any preconceived ideas I had about what my term as LPI President would look like have completely gone out the window. In fact, so much about what life usually looks like has had to be adjusted or entirely reconceived. The past 14 months have certainly given new meaning to phrases like "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade" "Every cloud has a silver lining" and "Think outside the box." So, here we are mixing every flavor of lemonade we can concoct, stockpiling as much silver as we can from those clouds, and mentally maneuvering more boxes than U-Haul!

For some, this is the first time dealing with such a long-term life situation. Others have endured wars, diseases, unfathomable hardships, economic depressions, and various forms of oppression. Each has a story. Each has been affected in a different and extremely personal way. If we had the opportunity to hear all of your amazing stories, I have no doubt we would be profoundly impacted and moved by your journeys. More importantly, we would be awed and inspired by your courage and strength.

Sometimes you may not see it that way when you are going through trials and tribulations, but the fact that you keep putting one foot in front of the other and making it through the next ten minutes makes you more than a survivor. It makes you a warrior. After all, if you make it through ten minutes six times, that's an hour. And that's an hour you may not have believed you could get through. But you did. And then you did that for a whole day and then another day, which turned into a week and then a month.

We've now made it through 14 months. YOU have made it through 14 months. That's a lot of putting one foot in front of the other, a lot of ten minutes at a time. We've not only made it, we have been explorers, students, teachers, pioneers, and innovators. Who would have thought we would be using all those steps to climb and scale new



heights? Who would have predicted that this pandemic would bring out a force of determination in you, your associations, and LPI, the likes of which have never been seen?

The February 2021 Quarterly Conference is a perfect example of this. After two previous hybrid conferences, it was LPI's first completely virtual conference. The Executive Committee was able to meet as the Budget Committee on the Thursday before conference, completely virtually, thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer, Bettina Jacobson, and the rest of the EC. The following day, the EC was able to conduct its quarterly meeting, again via virtual platform, with appearances from several of our appointed officers and chairpersons. Executive Secretary Donna Day was able to produce the EC Resume immediately following the meeting and have it distributed to all LPI members electronically in advance of the Board of Governors meeting.

On Saturday, February 20, 2021, there were over 100 members registered to attend the Conference. LPI Administrator Kim Oreno and Vice President Rod Cardinale, Jr., did an incredible job of managing the Zoom

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← Continued from page 2

platform so that we could conduct the business of the corporation and hold the Presidents', Governors', and Open Luncheons. Lindon Lilly of Rhino Process Serving and Investigations, LLC sponsored all three luncheons and joined us for a short presentation. Cordelia Willis, Criminalist from the Santa Clara County Crime Lab, gave an excellent presentation on behalf of LPI's Continuing Education Council during the afternoon session, on "Real Life CSI." Compex Legal Services sponsored a gift card drawing, which was awarded to Natalie Chop of Mt. Diablo LPA.

We also celebrated the unveiling of LPI's new blog, "The Podium." Legal Procedures Chair Larry McGrew has spent the last several months educating himself on blogs, the best direction to take for our members and target audience, and developing our own content. The Podium features articles of general interest to the legal community in addition to legal procedures information and updates/news from the courts. It is a fabulous resource and Larry is to be congratulated on his hard work and commitment to elevating LPI.

Also introduced at the February Conference was LPI's new "Legacy

Project." You heard me state in my acceptance speech in August that we are all standing stones in this legacy we call LPI, that we leave our mark on history "so that the world may know." Because the importance of legacy is near and dear to my heart, and because of the rich history and longevity of this organization, I would like to see that history and its memorabilia and artifacts chronicled so that our legacy is preserved for future generations of LPI members. Heather Edwards, LSI/LPI Past President 2018-2020, will serve as the Chair and Curator of the Legacy Project. She will have more to report at the May 2021 Annual Conference, but all local associations and LSI Past Presidents can expect to be contacted by Heather regarding the project's development and how you can contribute.

In keeping with the Conference theme, Tech Committee Chair Erika Garduño reported on the schedule of new "Eye on LPI" interviews and videos to be broadcast live and posted to our YouTube channel. Be on the lookout for exciting things to come!

The February 2021 Quarterly Conference was one of the smoothest and most efficient in recent memory,

with many of you commenting on what a great meeting it was, how much you enjoyed it, loved hearing about all the positive things happening in LPI, and what a wonderful job everyone is doing. It was great to see so many of you in attendance. And while we can't wait for the day when we can all be together again, it is tremendously reassuring to know that because of the hard work of so many we can still connect and continue the mission and purpose of LPI.

Stay connected to your members. Offer them the tools they need in order to take their next step. Some may be struggling and all they need is a "Hello, how are you doing?" Some may just need that reassurance that your association is still there, doing what you always do, even if it's in a different format. Give them a reason to value their membership, remain loyal and come back. Remember, elevating takes effort. It takes putting one foot in front of the other and making it to that next step. It takes courage and strength. It takes heart and vision. Most of all, it takes us — ALL of us.



## Dates to Remember | 2021

**MAY 4, 2021 | 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**LPI Webinar** – Microsoft Word Table of Authorities

**MAY 6, 2021 | 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**LSS Webinar** – Strategies Out in the Current Job Market – Even If You're Not Looking

**MAY 12, 2021 | 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**LPI Webinar** – Formatting Pleadings and Discovery

**MAY 18, 2021 | 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**LPI Webinar** – Ex Parte Applications

**MAY 19, 2021 | 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**LPI Webinar** – Microsoft Word Table of Authorities

**MAY 21-23, 2021**

**LPI's 87th Annual Conference of Delegates and Board of Governors Meeting**

– Sacramento Hilton Arden West (Hybrid Platform)

**MAY 27, 2021 | 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**LSS Webinar** – Understanding the Value of Estate Planning and the Probate Administration Process

**JUNE 3, 2021 | 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**LSS Webinar** – Legal Ethics: The Most Recent Developments

# LPI'S 87TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING - MAY 21-23, 2021

SUBMITTED BY LPI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## "Elevate, Part II: It's All About the Climb"

PLEASE NOTE: COVID-19 PROTOCOL AND SAFETY MEASURES WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO DURING THIS HYBRID CONFERENCE. FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO BE WORN IN THE MEETING ROOMS AND IN ANY COMMON AREAS WHERE PERSONS ARE CONGREGATED. WELLNESS SCREENINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED BEFORE ENTERING THE MEETING ROOM. SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES WILL BE OBSERVED. REFUSAL TO WEAR A FACE MASK OR FOLLOW THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL RESULT IN NON-ADMITTANCE TO THE MEETING ROOM AND RESULT IN YOU BEING ASKED TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY.

LPI invites you to join us for the 87th Annual Conference of Delegates and Board of Governors Meeting, to be held in hybrid format (both in-person and via Zoom platform), at the Hilton Arden West in Sacramento, California. In-person attendance is limited to 50 persons, due to COVID-19 safety protocols; however, our Zoom platform can accommodate a greater number of participants. We are pleased to present this at no cost to attendees (yes, that means FREE!); however, registration is required via the LPI website. The theme for this conference is "Elevate, Part II: It's All About the Climb."

The Hilton Arden West is offering a very special rate of \$109/night for our in-person attendees, and parking has been discounted to \$6/day. Please see the LPI website for hotel reservation information.

The Legal Specialization Sections are holding their Day of Education on April 24, 2021, in advance of Annual Conference. The Continuing Education Council is also presenting two workshops in advance of Annual Conference, one on social media marketing and the other on Zoom meetings and presentations.

The Executive Committee will meet on Friday, May 21, 2021, with the Resume of the EC meeting being electronically distributed immediately following the meeting. Governors are especially encouraged to check their e-mails on Friday evening and review the Resume, as it will be discussed during the Pre-Board of Governors Meeting first thing on Saturday morning.

LPI's Tech Committee will be bringing back our Friday night fun by hosting a fabulous Virtual Vendor Partner Party. This virtual party will feature all kinds of fun, including games, music, contests, visits from our vendor partners, and prizes. You will definitely not want to miss this! The event is FREE and open to anyone who would like to attend. Pre-registration is required so that you receive the Zoom link and your name gets entered into the prize drawing.

Saturday morning will start with the Pre-Board of Governors meeting. Only certified governors for the 2020-2021 fiscal year should be seated at this meeting. Registration of Certified Delegates and Alternate Delegates will also take place during this time. The General Session will follow, complete with opening ceremonies and the



welcoming of delegates and attendees. Reports from all officers and chairmen will be given, as well as awards for the Bulletin Contest, Membership Gain Contest, Golda J. Cooper Chapter Achievement Contest, and the announcement of Scholarship Award winners.

The Kalman S. Zemplyny II CCLS Luncheon will be hosted by the CCLS Certifying Board in hybrid format to honor our most recent CCLSs. The Certifying Board is very pleased to be able to celebrate the new CCLSs since we were unable to do so last year, and the celebration is long overdue. The CCLS Luncheon is open to all conference attendees with pre-registration.

Our LSI/LPI Past Presidents will also be gathering together for their annual luncheon. This will be a hybrid luncheon for LSI/LPI Past Presidents only, with in-person attendees gathering in an on-site room at the Hilton, and virtual attendees participating via Zoom. Past Presidents are requested to RSVP to Jennifer L. Page, CCLS.

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The Open Luncheon is exactly that - open to all attendees not attending one of the other luncheons. This luncheon will be in a hybrid format, with in-person attendees gathering in the Folsom Room, and virtual attendees participating via Zoom. Please indicate that you are attending the Open Luncheon when registering for conference.

Box lunches are available for purchase for those attending the conference in person. Make your selection when registering online. The second session of the General Meeting will begin after lunch, with the continuation of chairmen reports and additional presentation of awards.

On Sunday morning, the third session of the General Meeting will take place, beginning with the installation of LPI's elected officers for 2021-2022, followed by the announcement of appointed officers and chairmen. Presidential awards and the Corporate Resolution will be presented, as well as the announcement of door prize winners.

The Post-Board of Governors Meeting will take place immediately following the close of the General Meeting. All 2021-2022 elected officers, appointed officers, and chairmen are required to attend, as well as all local association governors who have been certified for the 2021-2022 term.

While we long for the time when we can return to full in-person conferences, we have put tremendous effort into making this hybrid conference as close to a "real" conference experience as possible - the return of the Friday night party, the opening ceremonies for conference, the CCLS and Past Presidents Luncheons, the awards presentations, formal installation of officers, vendor participation, and door prizes.

Elevating our purpose, our people, and our profession takes effort, commitment, and creative collaboration. It's all about the climb.

"There's always gonna be another mountain  
I'm always gonna wanna make it move  
Always gonna be an uphill battle  
Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose  
Ain't about how fast I get there  
Ain't about what's waiting on the other side  
It's the climb"

*(Lyrics from "The Climb," as recorded by Miley Cyrus)*

SEE YOU AT THE TOP!

### LPI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Lynne Prescott, CCLS, Rod Cardinale,  
Jr., Donna Day, Bettina Jacobson,  
Heather Edwards, Jennifer Page,  
CCLS, and Kim Oreno



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# CHOOSING BETWEEN ADR AND JUDICIAL PROCESS

BY DAVID STEUER, ESQ. - SUBMITTED BY SANTA CLARA COUNTY LPA

Many considerations enter into the selection between ADR (generally, arbitration) and litigation. Arbitration normally proceeds faster than litigation, offers greater confidentiality of proceedings, provides (some believe) less erratic decisions than juries, and may avoid burdensome discovery. Drawbacks to arbitration include that it offers limited or no opportunity to make dispositive motions, does not avoid employment of attorneys and experts, may make it hard to compel attendance of witnesses across state lines, may provide no appeal from the arbitrator's decision, and may not require any statement of the reasoning behind an award. Regarding expense, arbitration may or may not cost a party less than litigation in the long run, because it accelerates the costs of dispute resolution which a litigant might otherwise prolong over years. In fact, arbitration of a commercial case could well cost hundreds or thousands of dollars in arbitration fees alone, and these fees may even exceed the amount in dispute.<sup>1</sup> Common wisdom (although little hard evidence) suggests that arbitrators tend to "split the difference" in deciding disputes; also, many observers believe that arbitrators are less moved by sympathy for the weaker party than are judges or juries, although this too remains anecdotal. Similarly anecdotal is that unlike judges, arbitrators do not encourage the parties to settle their dispute. (Judges have an incentive to clear their calendars; arbitrators not so much.) Often, defendants prefer arbitration over litigation, and they are becoming the standard mechanism in certain types of contracts. In any case, even if negotiators omit an arbitration clause from an agreement, the parties can always agree to submit to arbitration when a dispute arises.

Clients and attorneys choosing between ADR and litigation should also consider whether the Federal Arbitration Act

(FAA)<sup>2</sup> or state arbitration law<sup>3</sup> will apply. In the absence of a provision specifying state law,<sup>4</sup> the FAA will probably apply, since it governs all contracts "involving commerce."<sup>5</sup> The parties can also expressly choose the FAA to govern their agreement.<sup>6</sup> Defendants tend to prefer the FAA, because it does not allow such case management options as consolidation of arbitrations<sup>7</sup> which can increase the liability exposure of defendants. Nor does the FAA allow class-wide arbitration absent proof of a contractual basis to find an agreement to arbitrate on that basis.<sup>8</sup>

Another reason the parties might choose the FAA rules is that under the FAA, when a party to an arbitration is also a party to a pending court action with a third party, the court's only option is to stay the court proceeding and compel arbitration. 9 U.S.C. § 3. By contrast, under California law, the court has several options: it may refuse to compel arbitration, or it may stay either the arbitration or the court proceeding pending completion of the proceedings in the other forum.<sup>9</sup> The stay of arbitration under California arbitration rules is a frequently litigated issue, but the parties can avoid it by expressly choosing the FAA rules to govern their arbitration. The parties should also consider the California Supreme Court decision *Cable Connection, Inc. v. DIRECTV, Inc.*, 44 Cal. 4th 1334 (2008) in which the court determined that errors of law in an award can be reviewed under the California Arbitration Act where the parties had specifically provided for such a review in their arbitration agreement.<sup>10</sup> By contrast, the FAA's grounds of vacatur, as listed in Sections 10 and 11 of the FAA, are exclusive, and any method of expanding review under FAA is invalid.<sup>11</sup> Thus, if the parties desire enhanced judicial review of the arbitral award

(and most parties do not), the parties may choose the California Arbitration Act to apply to their arbitration and specifically provide that the arbitrator's legal errors are reviewable by the courts. See *Cable Connection*, 44 Cal. 4th at 1361. Even though the California Supreme Court did not specifically endorse the arbitration clause in the *Cable Connection* case as one always sufficient to confer expanded scope of review, the parties are encouraged to use similar formulation in their agreements if the review is desired, as such clauses are likely to be enforced (in California anyway). See *id.*

One type of dispute in which arbitration has obvious advantages (to the U.S.-based party) is in the area of international disputes. It is sometimes difficult or impossible (e.g. in China) to enforce a U.S. judgment in a foreign court. However, the 1958 New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards<sup>12</sup> allows the enforcement of arbitral awards in foreign countries where U.S. judgments would be ignored (e.g., China).



**DAVID STEUER,**

**ESQ.** is a civil litigator and trial lawyer at Wilson

Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, with an emphasis on securities litigation, intellectual property matters, general commercial disputes, and employee/trade secrets issues. He has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* in the practice areas of Commercial Litigation, Litigation-Intellectual Property, and Litigation-Securities.

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## ENDNOTES:

<sup>1</sup> See Ronald J. Offenkrantz, *Arbitrating Commercial Issues: Do You Really Know the Out-Of-Pocket Costs?*, New York State Bar Association Journal, Vol. 81, No. 6, July/Aug. 2009.

<sup>2</sup> 9 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> E.g., Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 1280 *et seq.*

<sup>4</sup> As noted above, n.12, the parties should avoid using a generic choice-of-law provision, and must instead specify that the arbitration clause is governed by the state arbitration law. Even though courts hold that a generic choice-of-law provision incorporates the state arbitration laws, this issue is frequently litigated. See *Volt*, 489 U.S. at 476 (giving effect to a choice-of-law provision as incorporating state arbitration rules (rather than the FAA) into the contract; “[t]here is no federal policy favoring arbitration under a certain set of procedural rules,” and

the California arbitration rules did not undermine the FAA policy of enforceability of arbitration agreement); *Cronus Investments, Inc. v. Concierge Services*, 35 Cal. 4th 376 (2005) (applying California rules of arbitration and holding that Section 1281(c) of the California Rules of Civil Procedure was not preempted by FAA). However, with a clearly drafted choice of state arbitration law provision and absent a conflict of the state statute with the FAA’s substantive policy favoring arbitration which would trigger the FAA preemption, such choice of law will be enforced.

<sup>5</sup> 9 U.S.C. § 2.

<sup>6</sup> *Rodriguez v. American Technologies, Inc.*, 136 Cal.App.4th 1110 (2006) (where the agreement expressly adopted FAA, the otherwise applicable state statutes did not apply to the dispute).

<sup>7</sup> Compare Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 1281.3.

<sup>8</sup> *Stolt-Nielsen S.A. v. Animal Feeds Int’l Corp.*, 559 U.S. 662 (2010).

<sup>9</sup> Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 1282.2(c).

<sup>10</sup> The agreement in *Cable Connection* stated that “arbitrators shall not have the power to commit errors of law or legal reasoning, and the award may be vacated or corrected on appeal to a court of competent jurisdiction for any such error.” *Cable Connection*, 44 Cal. 4th at 1341.

<sup>11</sup> *Hall Street Associates, LLC v. Mattel, Inc.*, 552 U.S. 576 (2008).

<sup>12</sup> 21 U.S.T. 2517, reprinted at 9 U.S.C. §201. For those so inclined, a wealth of information about the New York Convention may be found at <http://www.newyorkconvention1958.org>.



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**MAY 12**

**12:00-1:00 PM**

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**MAY 18**

**12:00-1:00 PM**

**EX PARTE APPLICATIONS**

**MEMBER NON-MEMBER**

☐ \$25 ☐ \$45

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER MAY 17**

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**Cyndee Saucedo, CCLS at**

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A CANCELLATION OCCUR AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE  
THE LIVE WEBINAR, LPI WILL ISSUE A FULL REFUND.

## LIST OF EVENTS

**MAY 12**

**12:00-1:00 PM**

**Formatting Pleadings  
and Discovery**

Our work product is a reflection of our knowledge, skills and work ethic. This one-hour webinar will provide you with the tools to properly format pleadings and discovery that will give you, your attorney, and your firm the image of professionalism and excellence.

**MAY 18**

**12:00-1:00 PM**

**Ex Parte Applications**

This webinar will go over the process of ex parte applications in the California Superior Court. This presentation will provide you with a guide to prepare the application and supporting documents, filing, serving and preparing your attorney to attend the hearing.

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# CCLS QUIZ

## Civil Litigation

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Superior courts have original jurisdiction in all causes except:  
(a) writs to lower courts  
(b) causes given to other courts by statute  
(c) limited civil actions
2. Which of the following are not pleadings?  
(a) cross-complaints  
(b) answers  
(c) requests for CourtCall appearance
3. Which documents are not filed with the court?  
(a) subpoenas  
(b) declarations  
(c) notices of pendency of action
4. The statute of limitations for a personal injury action is:  
(a) One (1) year  
(b) Two (2) years  
(c) Three (3) years
5. The deposition of any witness can be taken within \_\_\_\_ miles of their residence.  
(a) 10  
(b) 25  
(c) 75

### TRUE OR FALSE

6. When filing a Request for Dismissal, "with prejudice" means the plaintiff cannot reopen or file a later case.
7. All documents in pleading format are to be filed with the court.
8. "Calendar days" are weekdays and weekends, not including holidays.
9. Plaintiff's response to a Request for Statement of Damages must be served on defendant within 30 days.
10. Parties listed on a summons do not have to appear identical to the parties listed in the complaint and can be abbreviated.

CCLS QUIZ ANSWERS ON PAGE 24



# ZOOM TIPS AND TRICKS

BY LARRY MCGREW - SUBMITTED BY SAN FRANCISCO LPA

Over the course of the past few months, LPI hosted a webinar training series on Zoom and other virtual platforms to teach us not only about the basics of attending a virtual meeting, but also how to host a meeting in a virtual environment. If you missed these presentations, go to the LPI Webinar Library to sign up to review the recorded meetings. Maybe you can ask your association to host a membership event to watch these presentations. Since our professional lives have been consumed by virtual meetings, mainly Zoom for many of us, we thought it would be appropriate to review the dos and don'ts as well as tips to avoid Zoom burn out.

## Zoom Tips and Tricks:

1. **Don't Be Late** – sign in early to make sure you are connected, your audio and camera is working, and that you do not miss the meeting instructions provided by the host, if any.
2. **Mute Yourself** – be mindful of background noise. You can unmute yourself if you wish to speak. Make it a habit to make sure you are muted once you log into a meeting.
3. **Position your camera** – it is best to position your camera at eye level and that your webcam is stable.
4. **Be Still** – avoid moving around as that can be a distraction to others. If you need to get up or walk away, turn off your camera.
5. **No Eating** – unless you are attending a lunch-and-learn or a happy hour networking event that encourages attendees to eat and drink.
6. **Raise your Hand** – if you want to say something. Depending on the meeting format, you may want to wait for a stopping point or transition period to speak up if the host or presenter does not notice that your hand is up.
7. **Use of Chat** – be careful especially with recorded presentations. The recording can also record the comments in the chat. Also, be mindful about sharing with everyone.

8. **Educate yourself** – take the time to watch an instructional video to learn about the virtual platform that you will be using. Familiarize yourself on how to participate and use the features required.



## Experiencing Zoom Burn Out? Here are some tips to help avoid the burn:

1. Try not to schedule too many virtual meetings in one day. If you need to participate in multiple meetings in one day, schedule a buffer in between each virtual meeting.
2. Take a break before your virtual meeting. Get some fresh air or simply get up and walk around for a few minutes to get the blood flowing through your body and drink some water.
3. Attend meetings through your phone instead of virtually. If you do not need to be seen through your camera, opt to attend a meeting via telephone.
4. Try taking that Zoom meeting somewhere else rather than your home workstation. Mix it up. If you can take the meeting outdoors on a patio, that would be ideal.
5. Turn your camera off or hide the Zoom meeting so you listen rather than seeing the others on the call or consider hiding self-view.
6. Finally, schedule some screen-free time. Get up, do some stretches or have your yoga mat handy.



**LARRY MCGREW**

has over 30 years of legal support experience by serving most of all markets in the State of California. He has been with First Legal for 18 years, serving in a variety of positions in management in the San Diego and San Francisco offices. He is currently Manager of Learning in Development. Larry has also been an active member of the San Francisco Legal Professionals Association for over a decade.

# IT'S TIME TO GET YOUR CRAB ON!!!

BY PAMELA K. STALLINGS, CCLS – SUBMITTED BY SANTA CLARA COUNTY LPA

"It's time to get your crab on" was my battle cry whenever I greeted friends and colleagues (also known as "My People") about coming to Santa Clara County Legal Professionals Association's Annual Crab Feed. Our association hosting a crab feed at all was an idea many of us members had tossed around for years, and on Saturday, February 12, 2011, it took our brand-new President, Rod Cardinale, to turn our idea that some-day-we'll-have-a-crab-feed into a dream come true. Today, the crab feed has become one of the crown jewels of our association's fundraisers.

In many ways, I have thought our association misnamed our annual crab feed—that it should have been called Rod Cardinale's Primo Pasta Extravaganza. This is because, while we definitely get good grades for our crab, in my mind, the best part of the crab feed is the pasta, crafted by none other than the King of the Crab Feed, Rod Cardinale himself!!! His outstanding pasta sauce is unlike anything I have ever tasted before. For years, many of us members have told Rod he should bottle and sell his pasta sauce. I myself have sold many a crab feed ticket to My People who simply don't like crab because of how great I told them the pasta was.

One of Rod's many visions as President was to find an effective fundraiser that would bring money into our association. He had known other associations' coffers benefited greatly from hosting annual crab feeds; in particular, Rod had talked to Schuyler Bayless from El Dorado County Legal Professionals Association about their great returns from sponsoring crab feeds. The turning point for Rod was when his aunt and uncle, who had enjoyed great success from crab feeds at their church over the years, told Rod how profitable they were and suggested our association start

having them. Rod followed their advice, created a crab feed committee, and, as they say, the rest is history!

As some of you fellow associations know, it is no small feat to produce a crab feed. The magic begins by picking a date for the feed within crab season, roughly November through March. We felt January and February were the best months to hold one. After the date is selected, six months before the crab feed date, Rod reserves and pays for the hall. In recent years, Rod has gone to the Quinlan Community Center, where we currently hold our crab feeds, and stood in line beginning at eight o'clock in the morning, so he could guarantee we would beat out any potential rivals for our coveted crab feed date.

Once our date is secured, Rod contacts Mark Dresser, our Man-for-All-Seasons when it comes to creating Flyers Extraordinaire for our organization. Next, Rod sets up Eventbrite and starts hunting for donations. He also manages the reservations, sends out thank-you emails to our wanna-be, crab-craving participants, and asks them with whom they want to be seated. Over the next six months, Rod would make several trips to the crab feed location to map out where everything goes—from the tables to the extension cords. Sheryl Boardman, our sitting President, creates a stellar table chart board!!!

The Thursday night before the feed, Rod, with his Crab Feast Commandos Elise Dresser, Linda Neuman and Sheryl Boardman, shop-till-they-drop, leaving the grocery store with at least two to three carts full of food: pasta and sauce ingredients, bread, salad fixings, sheet cakes, beer, wine, soda, water and whatever paper and plastic items in short supply from our remaining stash used at past functions.

More magic dust is sprinkled come



Friday night (before the Saturday crab feed) at Rod and Tina's home when a number of members join Rod and Tina to chop, dice and spice up the needed ingredients for Rod to mysteriously mix his pasta sensation together and slowly simmer his bubbling crude overnight!!! Is that mad look in Rod's eye a delicious spell he has cast on his pasta delight? Is that how he makes his secret sauce so sumptuous? Oh no . . . it's probably the Fireball shot he and his culinary accompaniment have enjoyed as a merry toast to another anticipated successful crab feed feast!!!

We next gather together on Saturday afternoon at Rod and Tina's house (in later years, we gathered at the crab feed location itself) to assemble aluminum tins with salads, small containers of salad dressing, cut and buttered pieces of sourdough bread, and, of course, our main event: The Wild and Crazy Crab!!! For the first five years of our crab feeds, our crab was delivered to us by Justin's Crab Company, in Fairfield. After that and thanks to Rod and Shannon Quigley getting up at the crack of dawn (7:00 a.m. to be exact) the Saturday morning of our feed and driving to

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Fairfield, they picked up somewhere in the neighborhood of 225 pounds of Dungeness crab from Justin's. We playfully assembled aluminum tin after aluminum tin of succulent crab parts in Rod and Tina's driveway. "Hey, I need some more bodies over here," one of us would shout! "Yeah, and I'm short on legs." "I'm missing a body!" We all laughed, thinking of how it might sound to a casual passer-by, listening in—and what would our mothers say??—as we tried to get equal portions of the delectable crab organized in each tin.

Then came time to drive everything to the crab feed location, set up the room, cook the pasta, keep the pasta sauce in Simmer-Mode, melt the butter for the crock pot, cut up lemons, and ultimately heat the bread.

In the banquet hall, a number of us were busy setting up tables and room decorations. When it came to table and room decorations, our Linda Neuman had her unique flare. In the beginning years, in addition to the table settings (paper plates, silverware, etc.), we dressed our dinner tables with seashells, fish nets, and paper mache crabs—boy, did that make the tables inviting!!! We also donned the tables with critical items like red plastic buckets for empty crab shells and flags to raise to summon more crab so the Beat Goes On!!!

When we began hosting our event at the Quinlan Community Center, we found the dinner tables were smaller so we slimmed down the table decorations to provide only weapons for the purpose of the mass destruction of crab-- red plastic buckets and flags!

In unison with table setup and room decorations, the many, many silent auction tables are artistically being shaped and set up. We pride ourselves in always having incredible silent auction items: San Jose Sharks tickets (thank you, McManis Faulkner), estate trusts (thanks to the most generous Law Office of Janet L. Brewer), Chardonnay sailing trips, overnight stays at the Silver Legacy (in Reno), Harveys and/or Harrah's. Our vendors were most generous with donations as were our membership. We had a flood of gift baskets. In 2019, when we auctioned tickets to see Pink, we broke our record for profits from our silent auction. The Pink tickets alone sold for over \$1,000. Thank you again, McManis Faulkner for your incredible donation of those tickets.

Wait, we need a picture of all the Crab Feed Crazy Crew!!! Thanks to Elena Schneider, we all were fitted with crab hats and poof: there is it!!!

The clock struck 5:30 p.m., and the race was on as ravenous crab connoisseurs were admitted, got their beer, wine and/or other liquid libation of their choice, met up with friends, and perused the

silent auction before the Main Event was served (usually around six o'clock). DJ Lannie Meadows added to our night of revelry with his melodic tunes to which we later danced.

The excitement rose to a fever pitch: it was time to devour crab . . . and everything else in its path!!!! In our Starter Years, the Boy Scouts graciously

donated their time by helping serve the food and clean up. In later years, the Girl Scouts accepted the proverbial baton and became our Angels of Mercy (and sold Girl Scout cookies on the side—how could you beat that?!!!!). Last year, we the members served the food. Throughout the night, our Fearless Kitchen Brigade stood ready to fill more carts with tins of crab to keep the crowd down to a dull roar as they rigorously waved their flags for reinforcements!!! Carts rolled back and forth from the kitchen to the dinner tables in what seemed like an endless flurry of activity until the last portions of cake were later served (we usually had two or three sheet cakes).

Announcements were made throughout the night to be sure to check out the silent auction. Toward the end of the silent auction, announcements came a half hour before the close, then fifteen minutes, and then a last-minute notice. Winners were declared and told where to pay-up-or-die!!

While dessert was being served, we danced the rest of the night away!!! At varying times, Dancing Queen Linda Neuman took charge of the dance floor so we line dancers could learn to do the "Cupid Shuffle," and many other line dances!!! Thank you, Linda—my two left feet have never been the same!!!

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Dancing usually happened from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., with everyone wrapping up an evening well spent, and stomachs well fed by 8:30 p.m. One year, when we had leftovers, we sold them. Other years, we intended to sell leftovers and for some reason, didn't get around to it.

Over our ten years of scrumptious crab feeds, we enjoyed three venues: the first year, we were at Grace Church of Evergreen (San Jose); the next five years, the Almaden Community Center (also San Jose); and the last four years at the Quinlan Community Center (Cupertino).

An interesting factoid is our first crab feed was almost canceled (it was the only crab feed that was almost canceled). The Monday before the Saturday feed, only 11 tickets were sold. Rod sent a rallying email to everyone: members, local associations, governors—and even posted a crab feed flyer on Facebook. In the five remaining days, we sold an addition 75 tickets, totaling 86 people present to launch us into history!! The most attendees we ever had at a crab feed were 212 (in 2017). That turned out to pretty much burst the Quinlan Community Center at the seams, so we limited attendance to 175 for future feeds.

While every crab feed has been a success, we certainly have made our mistakes—one year, we forgot to buy bread and were scurrying at the last minute to get that handled. Still another year, we ran out of napkins and plates and had to finesse that shortage! More years than not, we needed to make a wine run. (In advance of our crab feed, Rod sought out a volunteer to stand ready to run-and-fetch whatever items we fell short on during the feed.) And try as we may, we struggled every year to get the coffee right!!! Our coffee filters just fell apart, and we even tried to improvise with using paper towels. It seemed no matter what we did, coffee grounds inevitably leaked into the coffee.

We made two significant improvements over the years: one was creating seating chart boards so there were no hiccups to ever happen regarding finding enough table space to seat everyone, particularly the latecomers. The table charts were in full display at the entrance of the hall so everyone knew where they were going to sit. The second improvement was bumping up the price of the crab feed by five dollars per person and thereby including all beverages in the price of every ticket; we set up a bar for people to belly up to!!! Rod makes our prized event better every year!!

As to volunteers, Rod says the feed is so streamlined he could get by with five volunteers. However our board and often times their family members, always step up to lend a helping hand.

Our profits were anywhere from \$4,000 to \$7,000, depending on the year. There was a 50/50 split between profit for ticket sales and silent auction sales (of course, minus the year of the Pink tickets).

Have you ever wondered how much food we usually buy? Me neither--and here's the smut anyway:

- 3 pounds of crab per person
- 10 to 12 pounds of pasta noodles
- 6 to 10 pounds of butter
- 12 to 13 pounds of salad
- 3 to 4 gallons of pasta sauce
- 15 loaves of garlic bread

Please don't ask about the coffee—it's just too painful to remember . . .

From our feeble beginning years to today, we have found such joy in polishing this gem of a fundraiser every year. I know I'm preaching to the choir when I say it takes a lot of commitment—time and sweat equity--as does any great endeavor. I have had the pleasure of being closely involved in every crab feed and I am so in love with our precious venture. If your association hasn't done a crab feed yet, I say you will find immense value and reward from the experience—not to mention great profits!!! Is it time to get your crab on?

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**PAMELA K. STALLINGS, CCLS,**

is a retired legal secretary and active member of Santa Clara County Legal Professionals Association. She spent her entire career as a legal secretary, which career has spanned 47 years. As a member of Santa Clara County Legal Professionals Association since 1978, Ms. Stallings has served on the Board of Directors as Second Vice President (Programs Chair), Corresponding Secretary, Advertising Chairman, and Ways and Means Chairman. Ms. Stallings greatly enjoys living The Life of Riley.



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# CORONA'S HIDDEN FIGURE: JUDGE MARY ALICE SUTTER

BY SHAYLENE CORTEZ, CCLS - SUBMITTED BY RIVERSIDE LPA

It is a well-known fact in Riverside County that Janice McIntyre was the first female judge appointed to the Riverside County Superior Court in 1981. Even Google and Wikipedia confirm it. However, last year the question was posed to a local Corona social media group: Who was the first female judge in Riverside County? Many responded with Judge McIntyre, including myself. But then an "old timer" chimed into the discussion and said, "nope, it is Mary Alice Sutter." Who? I have never heard of her. As a local history geek, I sought out to uncover the answers to this mystery. I was immediately drawn in by her and started my quest to find out why she was buried in our local Corona history. It quickly became apparent that Corona has its own hidden figure, and her name is Mary Alice Sutter.

Who is Mary Alice Sutter? After much research, it was confirmed that she presided as judge of the Corona city court, as well as justice of the peace of the Temescal Township Justice Court in the 1940s and early 50s. Having been a paralegal in the Riverside area for over 30 years, I admired how a woman in that era could hold such a position – and not even be an attorney or have any formal legal education. Not only was it unheard of for a woman to hold such a position, but it was obvious she was well respected by everyone in the community and was afforded a "seat at the table" at various events where normally only men were accepted.

During that time, Corona had two courts: the city court and the justice court. The city court handled matters filed by the police department, which primarily appeared to be citations for intoxication, drunk driving and vagrancy. The justice court heard matters occurring outside the city limits including citations issued by the local

game warden and the highway patrol. Judge George E. McCauley not only sat as judge of the city court, but also sat as justice of the peace of the justice court, both courts were located in Corona City Hall.

In the late 20s, our hidden figure came out to California from Indiana with her husband and two children where they settled briefly in Hemet. Wallace C. Sutter was active in chamber of commerce work at that time and Mrs. Sutter was the secretary of the Hemet Chamber of Commerce. In 1934 Mr. Sutter was noted as the head of the Riverside County Welfare Bureau in Beaumont and was very active in local business matters there.

The family moved to Corona in 1930. Mrs. Sutter was active in the community as the secretary for the Corona Business Men's Association. In January 1935, Mrs. Sutter was appointed by Justice George E. McCauley as clerk of the Temecula Township Justice Court. The following year, she filed her papers to run for city clerk in Corona. While she did not win the April election, moss did not grow under her feet. She was quickly elected president of the Riverside County Republican Women's Club. She was also the first president of the Corona Soroptimist Club.

In 1944, Mary Alice Sutter was appointed to act as judge of the city court as Judge McCauley was granted time off to attend the Lion's Club convention in Chicago. Because it was impossible to have two persons serve at the same time, Judge McCauley resigned with the city council noting he would be reappointed to the position when he returned. For the next couple months, Judge Sutter heard misdemeanor matters and carried out sentencing in a very fair manner. And, of course, after a few months off, Judge



McCauley returned to the city court bench with Mrs. Sutter returning to her duties as clerk of the justice court. So take that Google: The first woman appointed as judge in Riverside County was Mary Alice Sutter in July 1944.

Running two courts was becoming hard for Judge McCauley, who at that time was in his 70s. Early in 1946, he became ill and temporarily was not able to carry on his duties. As such, Mary Alice Sutter was once again called up to officiate during Judge McCauley's illness. The city council appointed her to act as temporary city judge after receiving Judge McCauley's letter of resignation so she could do so. While Judge McCauley was also the Justice of the Peace of the Temescal Township Justice Court, it was decided that his work in that jurisdiction could be carried on in other justice of the peace courts. The newspaper noted her salary to be \$100 a month.

It appears Judge McCauley recovered and once again returned to the bench. In June 1946, Justice of the Peace George E. McCauley was not opposed for re-election of the Temescal Township Justice Court, but a few persons wrote

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in the name of his efficient clerk, Mary Alice Sutter, who was not a candidate. Her demeanor and fairness were obviously respected during her time as “temporary judge.”

Due to his failing health, Judge McCauley realized he needed to slow down. He stepped down from his duties as city judge and happily passed them on to Mary Alice Sutter. The local newspaper strongly endorsed her for the position. On July 1, 1947, at the age of 57, Mary Alice Sutter assumed her new duties as city judge and an office at city hall was remodeled for her. McCauley continued as Justice of the Peace of the Temescal Township Justice Court which was located next to her office. In the months following, the local newspaper documents how very busy she was. In 1948, she even presided over a jury trial. Thereafter, she would further preside over Justice McCauley’s cases when he needed a day off. In March 1950 Judge Sutter took McCauley’s place in the Temescal Township Justice Court after he became ill and suffered from exhaustion. The local newspaper noted how capable Judge Sutter was in assuming the duties of both positions.

Sadly, on May 5, 1950, Judge McCauley passed away at the age of 80. The justice court came to a standstill. The temporary appointment of Mary Alice Sutter as acting Justice

of the Peace of the Temecula Township Justice Court automatically ended with his passing. The justice court clerks were also terminated as they are appointed by the Justice of the Peace. However, Judge Mary Alice Sutter continued in her position as city judge. It was now up to the County Supervisors to fill the justice post left vacant by the death of Judge McCauley. Once again, the community supported Judge Sutter. The local newspaper stated, “the justice of the peace is a position of vital importance – much more than realized.” A few days later, on May 15, the County Supervisors appointed Alexander Rowell as interim justice of the peace.

Alexander Rowell served as Justice of the Peace until January 8, 1951, when he was appointed by the Riverside County Superior Court as receiver for a local hotel. W.S. Caudill was subsequently elected Justice of the Peace of the Temescal Township Justice Court.

A January 1951 report notes that, during 1950, when Mary Alice Sutter sat on the bench, a total of 1,784 cases were heard in justice court and \$23,688 in fines collected. Of those, 1,019 were traffic cases; 49 felony cases; 168 fish and game violations; and 140 miscellaneous misdemeanors. Small claims cases totaled 360 and civil suits numbered 48.

In the beginning of 1951, Chief Justice Gibson, of the California Supreme Court, spoke to a civic group in Corona about the court situation. He stated, “the present system is too complex; that the courts over-lap and duplicate each other and that many operate on a part-time basis.” He further explained that in November, California would vote on re-organizing the lower courts. If the law passed, as appeared likely, candidates for positions corresponding to the present justice of the peace and city judge will have to be attorneys or pass qualifying examinations. The new law would be effective January 1, 1952, and only one judge would be elected for Corona. Judges would be elected and not appointed as city judges are now. The newspaper editor noted “we believe Mary Alice Sutter would be able to handle the combined position for the 18 or 19 months until the new law becomes operative.”

It was later determined that Judge Sutter and Justice Caudill would not be required to take the qualifying examination if they so choose to run for their incumbent seats. In February 1952, Mary Alice Sutter announced her intention to run for Temescal Township Justice of the Peace against three others: W.S. Caudill, Alexander Rowell and attorney James Angell. The June

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<b>Mary Alice Sutter</b> <b>Corona City Court</b> <b>1947 – 1953</b>	<b>Willy S. Caudill</b> <b>Corona Justice Court</b> <b>1953 – 1961</b>	<b>J. William Mortland</b> <b>Corona Municipal Court</b> <b>1969 – 1976</b>
<b>Michael F. Flynn</b> <b>Corona Municipal Court</b> <b>1976 –</b>	<b>Robert J. Timlin</b> <b>Corona Municipal Court</b> <b>1976 – 1980</b>	<b>Charles F. Pendleton</b> <b>Corona Municipal Court</b> <b>1981 –</b>



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election was held and Mary Alice Sutter won her place in a runoff with W.S. Caudill in the November election. She had 2,047 votes; Caudill 1,797; Angell 1,537 and Rowell 902. But alas, the final tally for the November election was released: Willie S. Caudill, 5,700 votes; Mary Alice Sutter, 4,000. W.S. Caudill won the seat for justice of the Riverside County Superior Court, Temescal Judicial District Court.

On January 5, 1953, the records of the city court were turned over to Judge Caudill as newly elected justice of the Temescal Judicial District Court. Judge Sutter responded to the loss with, "While the work at times has been arduous and every judgeship admits of grave responsibilities, yet there has been a joy in service and a remuneration far in excess of a dollar and cents value."

On her last day, City Hall employees and officials presented her with an orchid corsage and a "handsome rosewood gavel with the inscription, Mary Alice Sutter, City Judge, Corona, Calif., 1947 to 1953. A task well done."

It is no surprise that Mary Alice Sutter did not go home and relax. She took courses and studied. A few months later, she announced she had been licensed as a real estate agent. She sold real estate for 10 years to stay busy.

In a 1966 interview, the 77-year-old Sutter described that being judge was the best as "it calls for the highest and best in you, because it is a serious thing to deal with people's lives." Mary

Alice Sutter died in 1984 at the age of 94. Her picture hung in the Corona court until it was donated to the Corona Heritage Room for archiving. Newspaper articles throughout her years note her participation as the Division Secretary in the League of California Cities and various groups. Of interest is, while all women in the newspaper articles were referred to as "Mrs. Wallace Sutter," Mary Alice was always referred to as "Mrs. Mary Alice Sutter."

While there is no doubt other hidden treasures of women making history remain unknown, I was thrilled to uncover the mystery of Judge Mary Alice Sutter.



**SHAYLENE CORTEZ, CCLS**, is a paralegal with the City Attorney's office in Riverside and teaches the Legal Administrative Professional certificate program at Riverside Community College. In addition to serving as president of Riverside LPA, Shay is a local history nerd, genealogist, adrenaline junkie, and computer geek.

## AL GANAHL TO THE VOTERS:

In my opinion Judge Mary Alice Sutter should receive the majority vote for Justice of the Peace at the coming election. She made an outstanding record for efficiency and integrity as Clerk of the Justice's Court, under the late Judge McCauley, during twelve years from 1935 to 1947, then served with distinction as City Judge of Corona during the next five years.

Her 17 years of faithful service rendered to the people of this district in these two courts call for the approval of the voters. In the primary the vote for her was 2236; the vote for her opponent was 1805.

Without disparaging in the least the good work done by her opponent in his two years in office, I regard it as my duty to recommend earnestly a majority vote now for Judge Sutter.

**A. E. (AL) GANAHL**



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# MEET THE LEGAL SPECIALIZATION SECTIONS TEAM

BY: MARY LOU FLOYD, CCLS, LSS COORDINATOR (SOME CONTENT PROVIDED BY BELINDA OWENS, LSS SPECIALTY SECTION LEADER; AND SHANNON QUIGLEY, LSS CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION LEADER)

As the Legal Specialization Sections ("LSS") Coordinator, this has been a challenging time. I have been on the LSS Team for many years. Moving up as LSS Coordinator, during these challenging times, has made me think outside the box. I thank each LSS Team member for being flexible, willing, hardworking, and daring to go where no other LSS Team has gone before!

## THE OLD WAY

(CONTENT PROVIDED BY BELINDA OWENS)

In the past and before the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world, we would have four to six educational seminars at each conference. The Section leaders would work together on finding a seminar for their respective sections that would be both educational and entertaining to the audience.

Can you remember your favorite educational seminar from conference? One of the Civil Litigation seminars, we had a couple of years ago, was Professor Bergman from the UCLA School of Law. He spoke on "Reel Justice – The Courtroom goes to the Movies." This was both an entertaining seminar and educational as he spoke on how the movies portray the courtrooms, he even gave out a couple of books that he had written.

These seminars were mostly provided and done in person. Section leaders would spend time putting together handouts, and forms for the seminars. We worked with the hotel staff, always making sure that the seminar was prepared and done in an orderly fashion, to include making sure the speaker had what they needed to give a well-spoken and educational seminar.

Sometimes, we would have speakers that would only speak for 30 minutes or not provide a handout. If the speaker

was short on their seminar, we would try to ask lots of questions or get someone else in the audience to ask questions.

We always did our best to accommodate the walk-ins. While we loved seeing everyone at our seminars, it is a lot easier for the section leaders, when you are or were pre-registered. Being pre-registered also helped the section leader have what they needed to be prepared also, such as the certificates, etc. Remember if you left a seminar early, maybe you did not like the speaker, you do not receive a full certificate either or one at all.

We were there to intervene when there were issues that were out of our control, such as audio equipment not working or heating or A/C not working in the room. Were you ever in a room that just was not set up properly for a seminar? Sometimes that was out of our control too, but we always did our best in using what the hotels provided for us.

But know that each one of the section leaders worked hard to provide excellent educational seminars and we thank you for attending them and always giving us your feedback. Because, without you we could not provide them.

## THE NEW WAY

(CONTENT PROVIDED BY SHANNON QUIGLEY)

A little background to what led me to take the challenge and step up as LPI's LSS Civil Litigation Section Leader. Joining my local association in 2011, I have been a regular attendee to LPI's quarterly conferences, other association meetings and events and continue to serve at the local level. I am so grateful I found LPI as it has proved invaluable to me. For someone who does not need CLE credits, I continue to attend conferences and educational workshops to remain relevant as I continue my path

as a legal professional.

A few life changing events landed me in this field, and it boils down to these two reasons. The first was that I found myself looking for employment in an age that was completely foreign. Gone were the days where you pounded the pavement handing your resume in with the confidence that if they could see you in person and talk to you, they would certainly entertain an interview. Wait... What? I must learn new technology to email or upload my resume and then wait for a reply? Landing an interview now requires me to network? What is networking, what is continuing education? I am a former hairstylist; my work WAS my resume!

No worries! My local association, my fellow colleagues and LPI has been there for me ever since. By 2012, I was on the board at the local level. I landed my first intern position at a law firm as a legal assistant. I have had a few jobs since and each one was by word of mouth or by networking. Fast forward to 2021, I am now the current past president of our local association. In 2020, I was asked to join the LSS team and not only did it seem like a natural progression it also was the perfect time to give back. I knew that being behind the scenes at the state level would prove challenging, because of COVID-19, and I would learn and be a part of providing new ways of remaining connected, inspired and educated as we all remain virtual for the foreseeable future.

I anticipate that being an LPI LSS Leader I will learn valuable skills in the virtual world including platforms needed for meetings, educational webinars and seminars, and conferences. Currently, we are using GoToWebinar for our educational seminars. In place of in person seminars, the LSS Team has been scheduling Days of Education where we offer 3-4 webinars in one day.

Continued on page 23 ➔



## MEET THE LEGAL SPECIALIZATION SECTIONS TEAM

← Continued from page 22

These are online webinars in place of the in-person seminars that you would normally attend at a conference. They have been immensely popular. As a section leader, I have to find a speaker and work with the Webinar Team to provide the information necessary for the Day of Education seminar. I have learned to moderate the Civil Litigation Section webinar, which is a new skill, on a virtual platform – all as a new section leader!

The virtual world is challenging for me, but I am certain that my time for this term will add yet another toolbox of experiences enriching my life and my resume. I am confident that even though that sounds selfish, its true and certainly acceptable.

I am so grateful I stepped out of my box and started nurturing those relationships years ago, even if only a few times a year at the very least. I will do my best to be selfless and look forward to serving our entire association to the best of my ability and bring quality speakers and relevant topics as I learn to work with my fellow LSS team members. If you are new to our organizations, reach out to me, I would love to use my words and share my knowledge and experience and even give you tips and insight about our organization from my point of view and experience.

## THE FUTURE

(CONTENT PROVIDED BY MARY LOU FLOYD, CCLS)

The future of LSS is to ELEVATE LPI. We will do that in whatever manner presents itself. The team's talents are evident in how far we have already come. We can provide in person seminars or webinars on any type of platform. The speakers we have had are all now well versed in technology (still a few glitches here and there), but overall, we get through it together.

Whether we have hybrid conferences, virtual conferences, or in person conferences, the LSS Team is ready!

## BENEFITS OF BECOMING AN LSS MEMBER

- Monthly educational programs – LSS webinars and in person seminars (when applicable)
- Quarterly newsletters
- Quarterly LSS membership roster for networking and assistance when you need it
- Most of the workshops and seminars provide MCLE credits.

- California Certified Legal Secretary recertification credits.
- Educational seminars programs are offered at each LPI conference free to LSS members. Topics vary among specialized areas of law (civil, probate, estate planning, federal, criminal, family law, specialty, law office administration), ethics, law office products and management, and personal development.
- Reasonable annual dues:
  - For LPI members: each section is \$20, or \$75 to join all six sections.
  - For Non-LPI members: \$40 per section, or \$150 to join all six sections.
- Respect from your employer when you pass on the valuable information learned at the workshops and seminars.
- Professional and personal excellence.

Continued on page 24 →

## MEET THE LEGAL SPECIALIZATION SECTIONS TEAM

← Continued from page 23

### MEET THE LSS TEAM



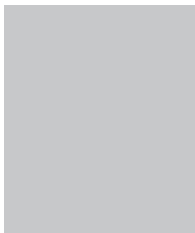
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### ANSWERS FROM QUIZ ON PAGE 10

## CCLS QUIZ

### ANSWER KEY

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. B (LPH, Ch. 1, §104A) | 6. True (LPH, Ch. 6, 609)      |
| 2. C (LPH, Ch. 1, §401)  | 7. False (LPH, Ch. 4, §403)    |
| 3. A (LPH, Ch. 4, §403A) | 8. True (LOPM, II.A., B-19)    |
| 4. B (LPH, 201.6)        | 9. False (LOPM, V.C., B-29)    |
| 5. C (LOPM, Ch. D, §5)   | 10. False (LOPM, IV., E, B-26) |

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# DAY AT THE RACES!

BY CORINNE PATERA AND LAURA PUMERVILLE, CCLS - SUBMITTED BY SAN GABRIEL VALLEY LSA

## San Gabriel Valley LSA held its annual Day at the Races Fundraiser for over 45 years!

In the past 47 years, we have had many fun and successful Day at the Races events! When I first organized this event for our association, we had over 300 attendees! In those years, we had many small offices, which would pay for the entire office to attend. In the last few years of our event, we did not have as many attendees but we had a great time! Many other local associations joined us for our day of fun! It was an annual event that was filled with many wonderful memories.

One of the things we always included was a fundraiser drawing/raffle which was sponsored by our many vendors and members. We often had up to 50 prizes donated. We raised a lot of money for our association over the years.

We have always held our Day at the Races at Santa Anita Race Track in Arcadia, which is a beautiful art deco structure that has been there since 1934. It has a rich history in this community, which includes the

running of the Santa Anita Handicap and the annual Santa Anita Derby. The famous Seabiscuit has a statue there and is remembered for his Santa Anita Handicap win in 1940! Santa Anita underwent a major \$15 million makeover in 2013.

Of course, we also know that they have had other terrible parts of their history including the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII. This reminds us that we must remember our past so that we do better in the future. Also, the disturbing headlines regarding the deaths of many racehorses in 2018-2019 at Santa Anita and other racetracks remind us that the animals that we love need to be protected and cared for while we enjoy them. While these incidents are not related to our events, they are a part of the past and present story of horseracing. Santa Anita has acknowledged this part of their history and has pledged to do better going forward regarding the health and safety of their special residents.

We had to cancel our last Day at the Races in 2018 due to the ongoing issues related to the multiple deaths of the racehorses. This was a devastating blow to our annual event. In addition, no event was held last year or will be held this year due to COVID restrictions.

Many thanks go out to our members who collected gifts and helped to make this a successful fundraiser year after year by attending and bringing friends, family and co-workers!

We hope to continue our tradition - perhaps next year.



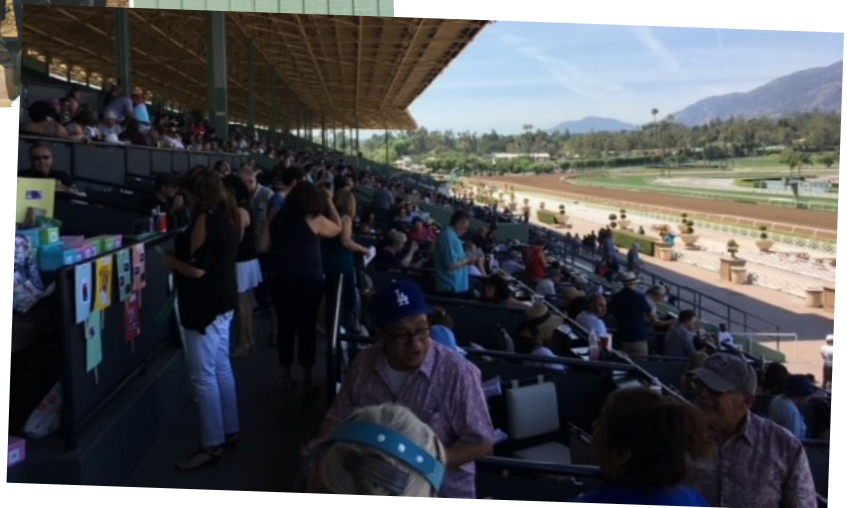
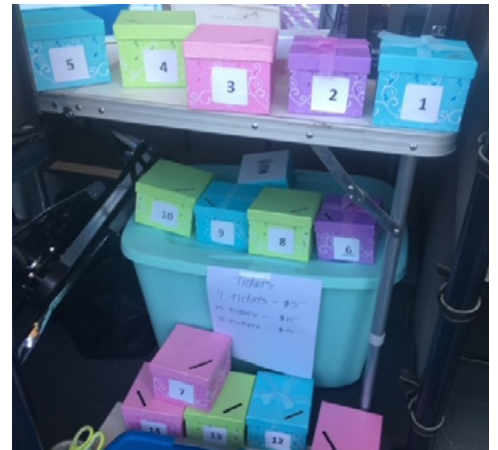
BY CORINNE PATERA AND  
LAURA PUMERVILLE, CCLS



Continued on page 25 ➔

# DAY AT THE RACES

← Continued from page 24







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# THE EMOTIONAL BENEFITS OF FEELING UNIQUE

BY WENDY L. PATRICK, J.D., PH.D. - SUBMITTED BY SAN DIEGO LSA

As you have no doubt been reminded of by everyone from relatives to role-models, there is only one “you.” Everyone knows this, yet the extent to which we internalize this understanding often predicts well-being and satisfaction. Some people view themselves as snowflakes, distinctive in every sense of the word, while others feel like trees blending into the forest—predicting that no one would notice if they were gone. Most people fit somewhere in the middle, balancing positive self-esteem with a healthy dose of humility.

To what extent should distinctiveness be celebrated rather than merely acknowledged? True, we share similarities with others, we are attracted to others with whom we share unique interests. But we are also unique. Not in a sense of being superior, but separate. Indeed, it is through celebrating our differences that we recognize we are better together.

Appreciating this reality, many people are not content to merely follow the leader. Desiring to branch out on their own and explore their own path, innovative, curious, enterprising individuals weigh their options carefully, but creatively. Wise counsel and good judgment are both important when making lifestyle choices, but so is embracing individuality. How does all of this work together? Research provides some explanation.

## FEELING SPECIAL

In a study entitled “Feeling special, feeling happy,” Selda Koydemir et al. (2018) found a personal sense of uniqueness to be positively associated with authentic living, which was positively related to happiness.[i] They found the relationship between a personal sense of uniqueness and happiness to be mediated by self-alienation—a core dimension of authenticity. They found a

negative correlation between happiness and self-alienation, but a positive correlation between happiness and authentic living.

Koydemir et al. define self-alienation as “a gap between conscious awareness and actual experience,” describing self-alienated people as feeling “out of touch” with their core being. They define authentic living, in contrast, as congruence between emotional behaviors and expressions, and conscious awareness of beliefs, emotions, and cognitions.

## FREEDOM OF CHOICE

Koydemir et al. observe that having a personal sense of uniqueness allows people more freedom to make lifestyle choices, as opposed to relying on others for points of reference. They recognize that feeling unique means feeling special while walking down one’s own path, rather than seeking to conform to external influences. They note their findings are consistent with research asserting that uniqueness is related to authenticity—which requires accepting the opportunities that flow from a unique personality, and is in line with having a “stable and congruent self-esteem.”

Regarding the moderate negative correlation between personal sense of uniqueness and self-alienation, they note that people who felt more unique had a “smaller mismatch between conscious awareness and actual awareness.” They suggest this may stem from the fact that a sense of uniqueness allows people to appreciate their “true self” and minimize the discrepancy between thought and action.

Not surprisingly, many people can relate to a sense of satisfaction when they are fulfilling their goals and living in a fashion consistent with their values

and ideals, and conversely, experience emotional distress when they deviate from what they consider to be the right path. Appreciating the positive impact of personal uniqueness within this analysis explains how authenticity creates contentment.

## UNIQUE AND HAPPY

Embracing a healthy sense of uniqueness appears to be an important characteristic of well-being. We can live authentically by appreciating the things we have, while also acknowledging why we have them. Recognizing the contributions of faith, friends, and family strengthens resolve and relationships, and allows us to feel both gratified and grateful.

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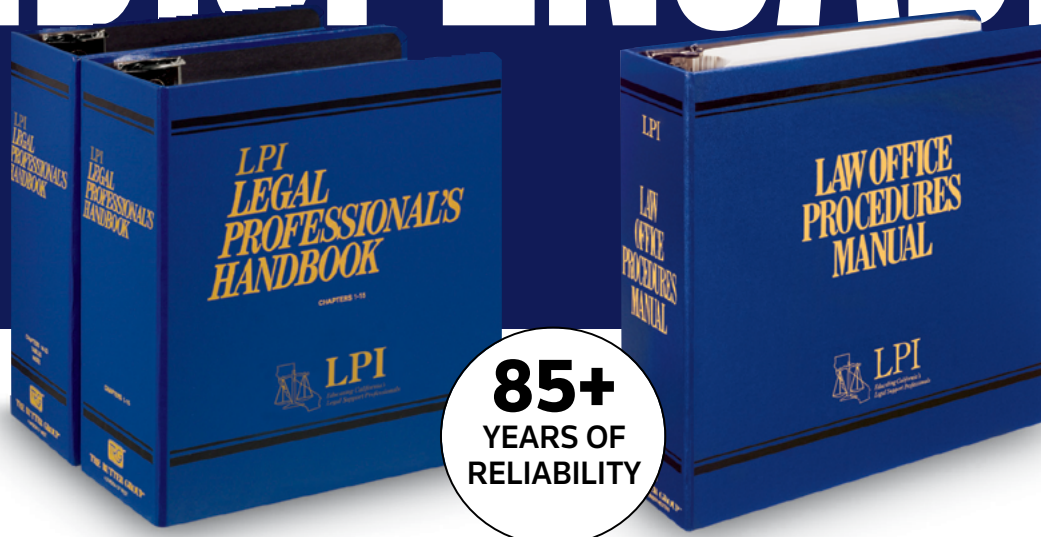
References: [i] Selda Koydemir, Omer Faruk Simsek, Tubanur Bayram Kuzgun, and Astrid Schutz, “Feeling special, feeling happy: Authenticity mediates the relationship between sense of uniqueness and happiness,” *Current Psychology*, May, 2018, 1-11.



**WENDY L. PATRICK** is a San

Diego County Deputy District Attorney named by her peers as one of the Top Ten criminal attorneys in San Diego by the San Diego Daily Transcript and one of San Diego’s Super Lawyers. She has completed over 150 trials ranging from hate crimes, to domestic violence, to first-degree murder.

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**12:00-1:00 PM**

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## NEWSFLASH Regarding CCLS

**NEW EXAMINEES:** If you will be taking the CCLS Exam for the first time in September 2021, the Ability to Communicate Effectively (ACE) section will use The Redbook. The Study Kid and Study Guide on LPI's website will be updated to reference material from The Redbook. The Redbook can be purchased on Amazon for approximately \$55.00.

**RETAKES:** If you are RETAKING the ACE portion of the exam in September, you will still be able to use the Gregg Reference Manual - no need to purchase The Redbook for the retake.

If you have an questions, please contact Vivian Shreve, [ccls.cbcchair@legalprofessionalsinc.org](mailto:ccls.cbcchair@legalprofessionalsinc.org).

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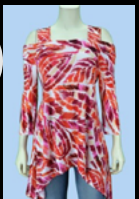
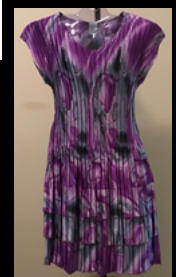
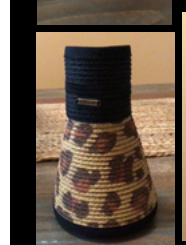
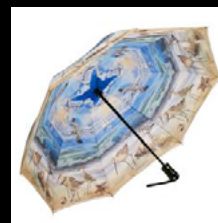
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