

# WHO'S WHO IN THE OCBA: THE AFFILIATE BARS

In order to offer its members increased diversity alongside engaging networking and learning opportunities, the Orange County Bar Association proudly partners with a variety of Affiliate Bars. As such, this article invites you to go behind the scenes and learn more about OCBA Affiliates directly from their leadership. Joining a relevant Affiliate Bar may improve your practice while simultaneously increasing your involvement in the Orange County legal community.



**Karla J. Kraft**  
ABTL-OC, President



## ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS TRIAL LAWYERS, ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER (ABTL-OC)

The Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL) was founded over forty years ago, and now has five thriving chapters across California. ABTL provides a forum in which litigators and judges meet to address issues important to business trial lawyers. Judicial participation in ABTL programs and events is very strong, in part because ABTL includes both plaintiff-focused and defense-focused lawyers.

The Orange County Chapter (ABTL-OC) was founded in 1998 and currently has about 650 members. ABTL-OC provides top quality legal education programs, combined with social hours where colleagues can meet with

each other and with judges. This year's ABTL-OC dinner programs are scheduled for January, March, May, September, and November. At the program on January 16, 2019, Orange County Superior Court Judges James DiCesare, John Gastelum, and Peter Wilson, and U.S. District Court Judge Josephine Staton, provided insight into their expectations for trial counsel in *Ready for Trial, Your Honor: What Judges Expect From Trial Attorneys Prior to Calling Their First Witness*. Our March 13 program was entitled *Business Crimes: How the Government Investigates and Remediates Fraud and Illegal Activity Affecting the Business Community*. On May 22, ABTL-OC will host our annual Robert E. Palmer Wine Tasting Dinner to benefit the Public Law Center. All dinner programs are held at the Westin South Coast Plaza with a social hour at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m., and the CLE program starting at 7:30 p.m.

In addition to its dinner programs, ABTL is known for its unmatched statewide Annual Seminars. This year's seminar will

take place October 3-6 at the La Quinta Resort and Spa. These seminars usually draw approximately 400 attendees and offer 8 hours of CLE credit to lawyers and judges from across the state.

ABTL-OC also is dedicated to mentoring and fostering relations with its "Young Lawyer Division" (YLD), which is defined as those practicing ten years or fewer, and organizes events throughout the year for YLD members. The brown-bag lunch series invites YLD members to interact with distinguished members of our local bench in an informal setting. The YLD also organizes "nuts and bolts" programs, happy hours, and a year-end judicial mixer.

Finally, ABTL-OC is devoted to giving back to the Orange County community. Each year, ABTL-OC participates in building at least one house (often two) for Habitat for Humanity. And at our November dinner program, ABTL-OC hosts its holiday gift-giving opportunity, where attendees participate by donating money to select children's

charities or by donating new stuffed animals to the Orange County Superior Court's adoption program to be given to children on the day of their adoption.

Every Orange County business litigator is encouraged to join ABTL-OC. The cost is only \$110/year and only \$85/person if all of a firm's litigators become members. Law students can join for a special price of \$20/year. For more information, visit our website at [www.ABTL.org](http://www.ABTL.org), or contact Linda Sampson at [abtlc@abtl.org](mailto:abtlc@abtl.org) or 714-516-8106.



**J. Craig Williams**  
CBA, President



### CELTIC BAR ASSOCIATION (CBA)

The goals of the Celtic Bar are to promote camaraderie amongst its membership, civility and professionalism within the Orange County legal community, and a greater awareness of the Celtic culture and history, particularly its contribution to the law. There are seven separate Celtic nations, all of which are connected to one another by common history and culture: Wales, Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Galicia (in Spain), Brittany (in France), and Cornwall (in England). Celtic people are known for their outgoing nature and their love of the written and spoken word. While there are many Irish-American lawyers' groups in major cities throughout the United States, we believe that the CBA is the first attempt to gather all the Celtic clans in a single legal organization.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at Muldoon's Irish Pub (through the graciousness of one of our founding members, Ronald "O'Schwartz"), located near Fashion Island in Newport Beach. We have a long-standing tradition that is set forth in our bylaws that meetings cannot last more than five minutes, which bylaw is strictly adhered to at all meetings and the leader is heckled down as the deadline approaches.

Each year, we install our officers and recognize our Celtic Judge of the Year on Samhain Eve, which heralds the beginning of the Celtic New Year. This past year, Judge Jamoa Moberly was recognized as the Celtic Judge of the Year, while past recipients include Judge Linda S. Marks, Judge Nancy Wieben Stock (Ret.), Judge Gail A. Andler (Ret.), Judge Dennis Choate (Ret.), Judge Sheila Fell, Judge James Di Cesare, Justice Kathleen O'Leary, Judge William McDonald, Judge

C. Robert Jameson, Judge David McEachen, Judge Ronald Kreber, Judge Dan Pratt, Judge Franz Miller, Judge Michael Brenner, Judge Andrew Banks, Judge Lon Hurwitz, and Justice William Bedsworth. For the first time, this year we will grant the initial Founder's Award at Samhain Eve.

We have organized travel seminars to Ireland, Scotland, Iceland, France, Italy, England, Spain, Iceland, and Wales. We announce our next trip to Prague, Czech Republic in October 2019. We have also had excursions to the contemporary Irish comedies and plays, as well as the Orange County Irish Fair, the Renaissance Faire, and Irish and Celtic movies.

More than 300 lawyers and judges rally to our cause. One does not have to be of Celtic descent to join the CBA. All we ask is that you be a member of the OCBA, have an outgoing nature, and support our organization's goals. (We have modest annual dues of \$25!) For further information, please contact CBA President J. Craig Williams at [jcraig.williams@wlc-legal.com](mailto:jcraig.williams@wlc-legal.com), or call 949-422-7617, and visit our website at [celticbarassociation.org](http://celticbarassociation.org).



**Van V. Nguyen**  
FBA/OC, President



### FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION, ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER (FBA/OC)

The Federal Bar Association (FBA) is the preeminent national organization for private and government lawyers and judges involved in federal practice. The organization's mission is to strengthen the federal legal system and administration of justice by serving the interests and needs of federal practitioners, the federal judiciary, and the public.

The Orange County Chapter of the FBA (FBA/OC) covers the spectrum of federal legal practice in Orange County and focuses on presenting frequent and topical CLE programs. Local federal judges assist in planning and presenting many of the programs, provide valuable and specific insight on federal practice in Orange County, and serve on the FBA/OC Board of Directors. Programs and events provide a unique opportunity to meet federal judges and courthouse personnel, stay current on the latest developments in federal practice, and meet and learn from other federal practitioners in our community. FBA/OC has won

numerous national awards as an outstanding chapter for its innovative and valuable programs and its excellent newsletter.

FBA/OC's regular programs include: annual civil, criminal, and intellectual property practice programs on cutting edge topics; periodic "Behind the Bench" and "Behind the Glass" tours of the Ronald Reagan Federal Courthouse; and special programs with nationally recognized members of the legal community. The Chapter's hallmark event each year, Judges' Night, draws many judges from local and regional courts. Each summer, the organization hosts two Bench and Bar luncheon events, during which local federal judges provide valuable insights to practitioners.

FBA/OC supports the local community by hosting an annual pro bono lunch to raise awareness of the various pro bono programs in the County. Its members also support the Federal Pro Se Clinic at the Santa Ana courthouse via volunteer activities.

FBA/OC is also committed to promoting the growth of younger federal court practitioners via its Young Lawyers Division. The YLD hosts brown bag lunches with our local judges and networking opportunities for younger federal court practitioners. In addition, the YLD supports the Federal Pro Se Clinic, the Constitutional Rights Foundation, and other charitable organizations.

The Chapter's membership spans a wide range of attorneys in Orange County, from civil to criminal, from private practitioners to corporate counsel to government attorneys, and includes lawyers in diverse practices, from solo offices to the largest firms.

For more information, membership applications, or to join the FBA/OC, visit the website at [www.fbaoc.com](http://www.fbaoc.com) or contact FBA/OC Administration at [info@fbaoc.com](mailto:info@fbaoc.com), or 949-608-9905 (phone and fax).



**Reza M. Razavi**  
IABA-OC, President



### IRANIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (IABA-OC)

The Iranian American Bar Association (IABA) was formed in 2000 in the District of Columbia. Having begun with one chapter and only four founding members, IABA has grown to include nine chapters nationwide and a membership of prominent attorneys, law students, and members of the judiciary.

IABA is a professional organization that seeks to educate and inform the Iranian-American community about legal issues of interest and to ensure that the American public at large, our local representatives, and other government officials are fully and accurately informed on legal matters of interest and concern to the Iranian-American community. IABA also strives to foster and promote the achievements of Iranian-American lawyers and other legal professionals. IABA is an independent, non-religious, and apolitical organization. IABA is not a lobbying or advocacy group; it is primarily an educational organization and is categorized as a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Orange County Chapter of IABA (IABA-OC) hosts various MCLE, community outreach, legal clinics, and networking events, including a holiday Toy Drive, beach clean-up, and an Annual Fundraiser Gala to raise money for scholarships. This year, IABA-OC looks forward to hosting IABA's National Conference, which will include prominent key note speakers.

This year, we aim to work with other Affiliate Bars in order to learn more about one another and enhance our community of Orange County lawyers. IABA-OC is open to all attorney members and law students, and one does not need to be of Iranian descent to join.



**Joseph A. Ferrucci**  
IALOC, President



### ITALIAN AMERICAN LAWYERS OF ORANGE COUNTY—LEX ROMANA (IALOC)

Our mission is to celebrate Italian culture, provide continuing legal education opportunities to members of the Orange County legal community, and create fun and festive opportunities for networking among lawyers, non-lawyers, and anyone interested in good food, good wine, and good company.

The Italian American Lawyers of Orange County—Lex Romana (IALOC) meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Annual highlights include our January Board Installation Dinner, cooking demonstrations, and free networking events including wine tasting, a July bocce tournament at Il Fornaio, and a special holiday event.

Additionally, IALOC annually recognizes a member of the legal community for their outstanding lifetime legal career and support

of the Italian American Lawyers of Orange County. Past honorees include Hon. James Alfano, Hon. James DiCesare, and Joseph D'Antony. We also award scholarships to worthy law students each year.

As an MCLE provider, IALOC provides periodic CLE programs to its members, normally while enjoying a glass of wine and good Italian cuisine. In addition to these local CLE programs, IALOC has a "CLE in Italy" program every two years. Attendees obtain MCLE credits while experiencing the history, food, wine, and culture available only in Italy. We have traveled to Sicily, Tuscany, Verona, and Sorrento. We will be hosting another trip to Italy in 2020.

The IALOC takes pride in being the premier OCBA Affiliate that places equal emphasis on the importance of legal, cultural, epicurean, and fermented contributions Italians have made to our society. We are well known for our love of Italian culture, food, and wines, and believe everyone is an Italian at heart. Italians and non-Italians are all welcome and encouraged to join. Our membership has grown over the years and is currently approximately 100 members. If you love good food, good wine, good company, and/or periodic opportunities for CLE locally and in Italy, you qualify for membership in the IALOC!

The IALOC established its roots in the Orange County community in 1979 with Joseph D'Antony installed as its first President. Founding members also include Hon. James Di Cesare, Frank Barbaro, John DiCairo, Joseph DiVincenzo, Andrew Lachina, and Frank Terreri. The IALOC thanks all of its past presidents.

For more information on becoming a member, attending a meeting, learning about the IALOC and its history, searching our Board and Membership Directories, or getting on our CLE in Italy interest list, please visit our website at [IALOC.org](http://IALOC.org) or contact our 2019 President, Joseph Ferrucci, at [jferrucci@oc-litigation.com](mailto:jferrucci@oc-litigation.com).



**Jennifer H. Wilson**  
JRCLS-OC, Chair



### J. REUBEN CLARK LAW SOCIETY—ORANGE COUNTY (JRCLS-OC)

The J. Reuben Clark Law Society (JRCLS) is a diverse, worldwide organization with

active chapters throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and North, Central, and South America. The JRCLS emphasizes public service, loyalty to the rule of law and to the Constitution, and appreciation for the religious dimensions in both society at large and in a lawyer's personal life. The JRCLS Mission Statement reflects these values: "We affirm the strength brought to the law by a lawyer's personal religious conviction. We strive through public service and professional excellence to promote fairness and virtue founded upon the rule of law."

With approximately 190 active members, the Orange County chapter (JRCLS-OC) is one of the largest and most dynamic in the JRCLS. Our chapter hosts six CLE luncheons each year, an annual Religion & the Law Symposium held at Chapman University, Women-in-Law events, an annual dinner, and community service events. We refer pro bono matters to our members who are interested in such opportunities.

Members of the JRCLS-OC and their guests have recently heard presentations by Hon. Kent A. Jordan, U.S. Appeals Court Judge for the Third Circuit, by David P. Dowling on "Key Skills and Practices for Effective Negotiators," and by Neil J. Wertleib on the new California Rules of Professional Conduct.

Our society is named after an eminent statesman, jurist, and religious leader who embodied the values we espouse. J. Reuben Clark, Jr. served as solicitor of the U.S. State Department and later in the JAG Officers' Reserve Corps, earning a Distinguished Service Medal in his work for the U.S. Attorney General's Office during World War II. He also served as Undersecretary of State, publishing the "Clark Memorandum on the Monroe Doctrine," and then as U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. He later served in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Membership in the JRCLS-OC is open to all law students, attorneys, and judges who support our mission statement and share these values. There is no requirement to have attended or graduated from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University or to be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. All who share our mission are welcome.

Anyone interested in attending one of our luncheons or joining our organization may contact the JRCLS-OC Chapter Chair Jennifer Wilson at [jwilson@bohmwildish.com](mailto:jwilson@bohmwildish.com), or visit our websites at [www.jrcls-oc.com](http://www.jrcls-oc.com) and [www.jrcls.org](http://www.jrcls.org).



**Chang S. Lim**  
OC KABA, President



### **ORANGE COUNTY KOREAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (OC KABA)**

Orange County Korean American Bar Association (OC KABA) was established in 2005 to foster professional and personal relationships among Korean American attorneys, provide pro bono services to the Orange County Korean American community, promote the appointment of Korean American judges, and facilitate the efforts of Korean American law students to navigate the transition to licensed practice.

This year, OC KABA has grown to over 100 officially registered members for the first time in its history (135 members as of March 1, 2019). The membership includes law firm partners and associates, solo practitioners, in-house counsel, government and public interest attorneys, law professors, and law students.

One area that has seen tremendous improvements and growth this year is OC KABA's pro bono sector. OC KABA Secretary Jeeny Lee (JL Bridge Legal Consulting) and OC KABA Director Mimi Ahn (Kahana & Feld LLP) began leading the monthly pro bono clinics and have been successful in recruiting attorney and law student volunteers and growing and improving the pro bono clinics significantly. OC KABA's pro bono clinics are usually held on the first Saturday of every month and the third Thursday of every other month and are attended by about 8-12 volunteer attorneys and law students. If you are interested in volunteering, please email [admin@ockaba.org](mailto:admin@ockaba.org).

In addition to the monthly pro bono clinics, OC KABA hosts its annual installation dinner in October. At last year's installation dinner, Andrew Kim, Senior VP and General Counsel at NETGEAR, was the keynote speaker and honoree. He was awarded the Community Hero Award for his promotion of diversity in the Korean American and Asian American legal community. He was previously recognized by the Silicon Valley Business Journal and San Francisco Business Times as Diversity Champion. This event was sponsored by 53 generous supporters, including Diamond Sponsors Knobbe Martens LLP and Kia Motors America.

This year's installation dinner will be joined by Don Liu, Executive VP and Chief Legal Officer of Target Corporation. At the event, he will be recognized for his dedication to mentorship, promotion of diversity, and commit-

ment to social justice. The event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 10, 2019. Additionally, OC KABA plans to host a charity beach volleyball tournament this summer to raise money for a local charity.

Chang Lim of Knobbe Martens LLP is the current OC KABA President, and Josh Ji of Greenberg Gross LLP is the current OC KABA President-Elect. Questions or suggestions regarding OC KABA can be submitted to [admin@ockaba.org](mailto:admin@ockaba.org). Additional information about membership, committees, upcoming events, and job opportunities can be accessed at [ockaba.org](http://ockaba.org).



**Denise F. Crawford**  
OCAABA, President



### **ORANGE COUNTY ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (OCAABA)**

Established in 1993, the Orange County Asian American Bar Association (OCAABA) proudly celebrates its 26th year as Orange County's pan-Asian bar association. OCAABA embraces diversity welcoming members from any and all backgrounds and practices. Interfacing regularly with our fellow local bars, OCAABA is a voice for our community with endless dedication to service, charity and leadership. We also act nationally through our partnership with the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Every year, OCAABA members have the opportunity to meet with their House and Senate members to lobby on issues of importance to the API community through NAPABA's Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. In 2017, OCAABA was honored the prestigious "Affiliate of the Year" award from NAPABA, competing with bar associations from all over the United States and Canada. Above all, our members and leaders make the OCAABA experience truly exceptional. There is something for everyone in OCAABA and we welcome you to join one of nine committees:

The Professional Development Committee organizes MCLE programs and seminars on topics of interest to the OCAABA membership. These original programs focus on providing guidance to its member attorneys for their professional development and advancement.

The In-House Counsel Section strives to build stronger relationships among corporate and outside legal counsel through substan-

tive programming and networking events such as the "The Three Must-Know GCs in OC" reception and "Must-Know GCs" lunch series.

The Small Firm/Solo Practice Section provides a welcoming home for solo, small firm, and general practice attorneys by offering a platform of programs, networking mixers, and general support to assist members in advancing their practices.

The Pipeline Committee works with law student associations and partners with local law schools to provide mentorship, career panel programs, and skills workshops to our future lawyers.

The Community Service Committee organizes monthly pro bono clinics and charitable drives providing opportunities for members to volunteer on the charitable projects of their choice. OCAABA is also a strong supporter of Asian Americans Advancing Justice and the Public Law Center.

The Social Committee plans and coordinates social events throughout the year. The Moon Festival Mixer and the Holiday Dim Sum Mixer have become two of our signature events, creating opportunities for students, attorneys, judges, and community supporters to promote friendships and professional ties.

The Membership Committee is dedicated to expanding OCAABA's membership base to support OCAABA's ongoing efforts to serve the APA community in Orange County. The Fall Membership Drive and the Sushi & Sake Fest are fun events where members can renew their annual memberships and meet candidates for OCAABA's incoming board of directors and executive board.

The PR/Affiliates Committee focuses on outreach to OCAABA's affiliate bars and the wider community. OCAABA partners with affiliate bars to host events throughout the year, such as a judicial reception to welcome new judges to Orange County. Our relationship with NAPABA and the California Minority Counsel Program offers additional resources to OCAABA members.

The Judicial Evaluation Committee evaluates qualified judicial candidates for endorsement by OCAABA.

OCAABA's annual installation and awards dinner offers a chance for members and friends to celebrate an evening of camaraderie. This year, OCAABA hosted its 26th Annual Installation Dinner on April 18, 2019, at the Hilton Costa Mesa honoring Nathan K. Watanabe from Crowell & Moring and Judge Deborah C. Servino. Embracing our 2019 theme, "Unity, Liberty, Charity" we are look-

ing forward to your joining our organization!

For more information, please visit [www.oacaaba.org](http://www.oacaaba.org) or email [contactus@oacaaba.org](mailto:contactus@oacaaba.org).



**Paul S. Meyer**  
OCCDBA, President



### ORANGE COUNTY CRIMINAL DEFENSE BAR ASSOCIATION (OCCDBA)

The Orange County Criminal Defense Bar Association (OCCDBA) is the unified voice of the criminal defense bar for Orange County. The founding Board members, Paul Meyer (President), Kate Corrigan (Past President), Jennifer Keller, Gary Pohlson, John Barnett, Mike McDonnell, Al Stokke, Jack Earley, and Ed Muñoz started the association to promote the interests of the private criminal defense bar in Orange County. Ed Flores, Tom Bienert, and Ed Welbourn joined the Board and are currently serving as active members.

The OCCDBA Board members have been actively participating in courthouse meetings and providing a voice for the private criminal defense bar. The concerns and input from the members have contributed to many productive changes in the Orange County criminal courts. Membership continues to grow, and great MCLE is one of the hallmarks of the OCCDBA. Expanded vision for private defense counsel and a high level of camaraderie amongst its members are highlights of the Association. Our meetings have included panel discussions with presiding and trial judges, open forums for judicial candidates, and great insights arising from those practicing trial and appellate law. In the coming year, the programs will continue to feature town-hall style exchanges with the bench and co-hosted receptions with other legal associations. The OCCDBA members range in age and experience. Seasoned attorneys offer their time and insights to younger members in a friendly and informal mentoring setting.

We meet at 5:00 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month at Original Mike's in Santa Ana. Our dues are \$150 per year, and we offer a discount to law students and investigators. Membership is now open. For further information, please contact OCCDBA President Paul Meyer, Past President Kate Corrigan, or visit our website at [www.occdba.com](http://www.occdba.com).



**Yolanda V. Torres**  
OCHBA, President



### HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY (OCHBA)

The Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County (OCHBA) promotes education, unity, and excellence in the Hispanic legal community by expanding the business and professional opportunities available to its members, enhancing the members' business and professional stature in the Hispanic community, increasing the participation of Hispanic leaders in civic affairs, and enhancing the quality of life for the members and the community.

Since 1995, the OCHBA has been awarding deserving law students with its Wally Davis Scholarships. Many of these scholars have gone on to work for large and small firms, in both the public and private sectors. Many have also joined the leadership of the OCHBA as Board Members and Presidents.

On March 9, 2019, we promoted our mission by hosting our 41st Annual Installation and Scholarship Dinner at the Irvine Marriott. At our Installation and Scholarship Dinner, we awarded 5 scholarships, totaling \$25,000.00, to deserving law students. This year, we honored Bettina Yanez as Attorney of the Year, Wylie Aitken with the Hon. Francisco P. Briseño Lifetime Achievement Award, Golden Boy with our Corporate Citizen Award, and Dannie Ceseña with the Courage Award.

The theme of the Dinner this year was "United We Stand." We selected this theme as we look forward to continuing to build and strengthen our relationships with our affiliate bar organizations to promote access to the legal profession, to promote diversity within the legal profession, and to serve our community as lawyers, mentors, and community leaders. This year, our Immediate Past President, Darrell White, was appointed as an OCBA board member.

We will serve our community by continuing to support the Santa Ana High School Legal Skills Academy, volunteering with the Public Law Center naturalization workshops, mentoring Westminster High School Students through the Puente Pen Pals Program, and volunteering for El Central Cultural De Mexico in Santa Ana.

Our annual MCLE travel seminar this year will take place from May 23, 2019, through

May 27, 2019, in Costa Rica. We will host our mixers throughout the year such as Cinco de Mayo, Judges Barbecue, End of Summer Mixer, and Toy Drive Holiday Party.

If you are interested in becoming a member, getting involved with our organization on a committee, or learning about our scholarship opportunities, please visit [www.ochba.org](http://www.ochba.org) or e-mail [info@ochba.org](mailto:info@ochba.org).



**Sheila-Marie Finkelstein**  
OCJBA, President



### ORANGE COUNTY JEWISH BAR ASSOCIATION (OCJBA)

The Orange County Jewish Bar Association (OCJBA) was founded in 2010 to provide a social environment that engenders comradeship among its members based on the Jewish traditions of Torah (law), Mitzvot (good deeds), and Tzedakah (justice/kindness) while practicing law and serving the community.

In addition to fostering consequential relationships and mentorship, the OCJBA has led to the formation of successful new law firms!

Over the years the OCJBA has given back to the Orange County community by facilitating and participating in pro bono activities with various community service organizations, including, but not limited to, Human Options and the Jewish Federation & Family Services. OCJBA members have also partnered with the Anti-Defamation League to implement the nationally approved Anti-Bullying Campaign in Orange County K-12 schools. The purpose of this free program is to educate schools (students and faculty) on best practices when dealing with bullying issues from the perspective of both the bullied and the bully's perspective.

New this year, on top of our annual dinner, we also hosted the inaugural Chanukkah Vodka Latke and Mensch Award and arranged mixers and CLEs with several OCBA affiliate bar associations and sections. The OCJBA looks forward to the continued development of meaningful relationships with members from these organizations.

If you are interested in boozing and schmoozing with the OCJBA, please join us at any of the monthly meetings. All are welcome to these free open meetings, no

RSVP necessary. The business aspect of the meeting last no more than 5 minutes (it's in the bylaws!) and the fun lasts all night. The OCJBA is eternally grateful to Ron Schwartz for hosting our "Schmooze and Booze" meetings.

The OCJBA meets the first Tuesday of every month. From January through November we meet at Muldoon's in Newport Beach for appetizers and drinks. In December, we meet at Congregation Beth Jacobs in Irvine for the Vodka and Latke tastings and Mensch award presentation.

For more information about the OCJBA activities, please visit our website at [www.ocjba.org](http://www.ocjba.org), write to OCJBA, P.O. Box 6130, Newport Beach, CA 92658, or email Sheila-Marie Finkelstein at [smf@ahavalaw.com](mailto:smf@ahavalaw.com).



**Joseph Ursic**  
OCLBA, President



## ORANGE COUNTY LAVENDER BAR ASSOCIATION (OCLBA)

The Orange County Lavender Bar Association (OCLBA) is the official association of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ), and allied attorneys, judges, and law students in the county. OCLBA provides networking, educational, and mentorship opportunities and resources to its membership and the community with the goal of increasing the county's participation in the broader statewide LGBTQ community and the visibility of LGBTQ issues in the county.

OCLBA launched on June 16, 2010, at a gala attended by 200 attorneys, philanthropists, business and community leaders, judges, professors, and students. The gala featured remarks by the attorneys who completed closing arguments in the landmark *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* case, which challenged Proposition 8 in federal court. Since then, OCLBA's Board of Directors, which includes representatives from private practice and academia, continue to implement a robust series of bar programs. These programs include a number of highly successful events ranging from constitutional law to tax and estate planning issues facing the LGBTQ community, along with social events for networking opportunities.

Each summer, OCLBA's annual Anniversary Gala honors community and legal

leaders in the fight for justice and equality. OCLBA also awards its M. Katherine B. Darmer Equality Scholarship to a law student committed to LGBTQ issues in Orange County. At our 8th Anniversary Gala in 2018, OCLBA honored C.J. Duron with the OCLBA Community Leadership Award and honored Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva with the M. Katherine B. Darmer Outstanding Community Service Award.

OCLBA recently held a fun holiday drag brunch at VLVT in Santa Ana, and also a successful panel discussion at Chapman Law School on February 20, 2019, on what it means to identify as LGBTQ+ in the legal field, how to be oneself within law firm environments, and why diversity is important. OCLBA hosted a similar panel discussion with the UCI School of Law's OutLaw group on March 12, 2019, with prestigious members of the Orange County legal community. OCLBA will also host its annual Harvey Milk Day Luncheon at Bryan Cave on May 22, featuring elimination of bias CLE credit; and will include Christy Mallory from the Williams Institute who will provide an overview of the current state of discrimination law/protections for LGBTQ individuals, both federally and at the state level. And finally, the OCLBA will hold its 9th Anniversary Gala on July 10, 2019, in the Sky Garden at the Michelson Building in Irvine.

OCLBA seeks to serve and unite not just the LGBTQ community, but our allies as well. For more information, please visit [www.oclba.org](http://www.oclba.org) or email OCLBA President Joe Ursic at [jursic@littler.com](mailto:jursic@littler.com).



**B. James Pantone**  
OCTLA, President



## ORANGE COUNTY TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (OCTLA)

Formed in 1963, when plaintiffs' attorneys gathered to share information and exchange tips and strategies with one another, the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association (OCTLA) has grown into one of the most influential Affiliate Bar organizations in Orange County. Now in its 56th year, OCTLA is stronger than ever, dedicated to providing premier advocacy for the protection of individuals and their access to civil justice through superior education

and training for our members and access to the collective resources, knowledge, and experience of our membership. Below is an overview of the benefits that OCTLA members enjoy.

*Best Networking Opportunities in Orange County:* It's no secret that OCTLA is one of the most prominent bar organizations in Orange County, and members are treated to regular networking opportunities with judges and top lawyers in the county at special events and our monthly dinner meetings.

*Relevant and Interesting Educational Events:* Not all MCLE educational events are created equal. OCTLA provides monthly opportunities to earn MCLE credits while learning about relevant issues from some of the greatest speakers in the state.

*Informative Quarterly Magazine:* From insightful interviews with Orange County Superior Court judges to practical, nuts-and-bolts articles on issues of procedure and trial skills, you will not want to miss an issue of *The Gavel* magazine.

*Member Listserv:* Some have said OCTLA's most valuable member benefit is our member-only listserv, which allows attorney members to post questions regarding their cases and solicit immediate responses from hundreds of fellow trial attorneys. It is OCTLA members connected together in a real time, private, virtual forum sharing their collective knowledge and experience for mutual benefit.

*Deposition and Document Bank:* Our attorney members also have free access to our online document bank stocked with motions, pleadings, and almost a thousand deposition transcripts. It's like having the resources of a large law firm at your fingertips.

*OCTLA Trial Watch:* OCTLA's Trial Calendar lists upcoming trials offering our members an unprecedented opportunity to observe, gain insight, and learn effective trial skills and techniques first hand from OCTLA's experienced trial attorneys.

*Social Activities:* OCTLA gives its members many opportunities to build lasting personal and professional relationships. These include our annual Columbus Day Golf Tournament, along with fun networking mixers including members-only Bowling Night and Angel's Game Family Night. For those who enjoy more formal events, OCTLA delivers with its black-tie Installation and Judicial Awards Program held in January each year and its annual Top Gun

Trial Lawyer of the Year Awards Program and charity auction, which will be held on Saturday, November 23, 2019, at the Laguna Cliffs Resort in Dana Point.

All attorneys engaged in trial practice in Orange County are encouraged to join OCTLA. With benefits like these, how can you afford not to join? For more information, visit our website at [www.OCTLA.org](http://www.OCTLA.org), or contact OCTLA at 949-916-9577.



**Michelle A. Philo**  
OCWLA, President



### **ORANGE COUNTY WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (OCWLA)**

Over the past 44 years, Orange County Women Lawyers Association (OCWLA) has been dedicated to advancing women in the legal profession. OCWLA's mission is to provide a professional network to its members, raise awareness of discrimination and bias, and support charitable organizations. This year's theme, EmpowHer™, aims to encompass all three prongs of this mission statement.

OCWLA hosts four events annually. The year opens with a Mardi Gras-themed Wine Tasting & Membership Mixer. The Women Judges Reception honors the many women judges of Orange County's federal and state bench. The Annual Gala at Pelican Hill honors OCWLA's Attorney of the Year, Judge of the Year, and recognizes a firm or organization with the Advancement of Women Award. In addition, two of OCWLA's philanthropy recipients will be recognized at the Gala. The Holiday & Installation Dinner recognizes the outgoing board members and installs the incoming board as well as presents the Community Service Partner Award and President's Award.

In addition to its signature events, OCWLA hosts several CLE luncheons featuring members of the bench and bar incorporating International Women's Day and Equal Pay Day, often partnering with OCBA's Mommy Esquire and Young Lawyers Division for the luncheon. OCWLA has also responded to membership desires in providing low or no-cost networking opportunities, such as the monthly book club, quarterly philanthropy activities, coffee meet-ups, and additional opportunities as they arise, such as movie outings and the Women's March.

OCWLA's charitable giving aims to aid local programs helping women and children who are subject to domestic violence and human trafficking, as well as programs that assist with the unmet legal needs of women and children. Last year, OCWLA's primary fundraising vehicle, the 43rd Annual Gala, raised enough to provide over \$25,000 in donations this year. Organizations that will benefit from this year's giving include Family Legal Assistance at CHOC Children's, CASA of Orange County, Orange County Justice Fund, Code Open Sesame, Human Options, Laura's House, Thatiana's Home, Project Youth OCBF, Girls, Inc., and Public Law Center. OCWLA also works alongside the OCWLA Foundation which uses money raised through the silent auction at the Annual Gala to fund bar stipends and diversity bar stipends twice annually to outstanding law school graduates who are studying for the California Bar Examination.

OCWLA offers free membership to first-year admittees and law students, and offers discounted membership to young lawyers and government lawyers. OCWLA is an affiliate of California Women Lawyers and National Association of Women Lawyers, offering OCWLA members steeply discounted memberships in both organizations.

OCWLA welcomes members of any gender to the organization and looks forward to continuing to EmpowHer women in the Orange County community.

For more information about OCWLA, view [www.ocwla.org](http://www.ocwla.org) or email [info@ocwla.org](mailto:info@ocwla.org).



**Desirae L. Hutchison**  
TMBA, President



### **THURGOOD MARSHALL BAR ASSOCIATION (TMBA)**

Thurgood Marshall Bar Association (TMBA) was founded in 2012. TMBA is a contemporary bar association committed to connect, support, and increase the Black legal community in Orange County. TMBA strives to promote diversity, professional improvement, and the advancement of justice through positive community involvement and excellence in the practice of law for the Black legal community, allies, and the community at large. Everyone is welcomed to join and encouraged to support TMBA.

The leadership of the organization consists of fourteen dedicated Board Members who have volunteered their time to support TMBA's Mission while at the same time leading active careers in various sectors of our legal community. It is with the sincerest gratitude that we thank our 2019-2020 Board Members for their service, including Board Members Yemi Adeyanju, Daniel Alexander, Denise Carter, Porsche Clarke, Justin Cruz, Lakeisha Dorsey, Desirae Hutchison, Michael Gregg, Christyn Richardson, Akhil Sheth, Rebekah Thomas, Hollie Washington, Brooke Weitzman, and Caylin Young. In addition, we have four committee members who have volunteered to serve this year including Michele Bell, Andre Clark, Lisa Hurns, and Sakeenah Redmond.

TMBA hosted its second annual Installation Dinner and Awards Ceremony on January 19, 2019. On this night, we were able to give out scholarships worth triple the amount given in the previous year due to the wonderful support of our sponsors. In addition, we will be offering bar scholarships to second-time bar takers for the first time in our organizational history! We would like to thank everyone who was able to attend, sponsor, and support this event, including our spectacular platinum sponsors Crowell & Moring and Torklaw; our gold sponsor Carothers, DiSante, & Freudenberg; our silver sponsor Littler Mendelson; and our bronze sponsor Robinson Calcagnie, Inc. We would also like to congratulate all of our award recipients, including Judge Erithe A. Smith (Judge Karen L. Robinson Legal Excellence Award), John Gibson (Attorney of the Year Award), and Christ Our Redeemer A.M.E. Church (Community Organization of the Year Award), and Law Student Ambassadors (Oluwatobi Agbelemose, Dominique Cavalier, and Erika Cervantes).

TMBA has many things planned for the remainder of the year. We have already started our free legal clinic, which will run every quarter. We will continue our legal justice series that began last year with a race and policing discussion. Additionally, we will facilitate law school talks to help students build meaningful connections with attorneys here in Orange County. There will be several other social and educational networking events and volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

Please get in touch with us at [thurgood-marshallbarassociation.org](http://thurgood-marshallbarassociation.org) if you would like to get involved with TMBA and support any of these events.

