

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.



Todd Friedland
ABTL-OC, President



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

The Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL), founded over forty years ago, 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 and defense perspectives.

The Orange County Chapter (ABTL-

OC) provides top quality programs, combined with social hours where colleagues can meet with each other and with judges. ABTL-OC's January program was entitled "Sargon The Gatekeeper" and featured members of the bench, bar, and professional community discussing the introduction and exclusion of financial expert witness testimony. In March, "Opening Statement Techniques from the Masters" featured renowned litigators performing opening statements and sharing their tips and techniques. In April and May, ABTL-OC co-presented updates with Orange County Superior Court leadership regarding COVID-19's impact on the courts and legal education on how COVID-19 is affecting juror attitudes. Previously, ABTL-OC hosted Justice Kathleen O'Leary interviewing California

Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and Associate Justice Carol Corrigan. Other past programs included "Ready for Trial, Your Honor" with Judge James Di Cesare, Judge John Gastelum, Judge Peter Wilson, and Judge Josephine Staton; "Business Crimes" presented by District Attorney Todd Spitzer, Deputy District Attorneys Kelly Ernby and Nick Miller, and Assistant US Attorney Vib Mittal; "Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on the Legal Profession"; and insights from four general counsel representing Facebook, Oracle, El Pollo Loco, and Edwards Lifesciences. Going forward in 2020, until resuming in-person programs, ABTL-OC will present a number of webinars, both OC-centric and statewide through partnership with its other chapters.

In addition to its dinner programs,

ABTL is known for its unmatched statewide Annual Seminars. In 2021, ABTL will hold its members only Annual Seminar at the Mauna Lanı resort on the Big Island of Hawaii. The Annual Seminar usually draws approximately 400 attendees and offers eight hours of CLE credit to lawyers and judges from across the state.

ABTL-OC also is dedicated to mentoring and education for its “Young Lawyer Division” (YLD), which is defined as those practicing ten years or fewer. Finally, ABTL-OC is devoted to giving back to the Orange County community. Each year, ABTL-OC participates in building at least one house for Habitat for Humanity. ABTL-OC also 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. ABTL-OC annually raises tens of thousands of dollars for the Public Law Center.

Every Orange County business litigator is encouraged to join ABTL-OC. For more information, visit our website at www.abtl.org, or contact Linda Sampson at abtloc@abtl.org or President Todd Friedland at todd@sf-lawyers.com.



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 mem-

bers, 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 Shaina Coliver was recognized as the Celtic Judge of the Year, while past recipients include Judge Jamoa Moberly, 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 last year we granted the initial Founder’s Award at Samhain Eve to Attorney Ronald Schwartz.

We have organized MCLE travel seminars to Ireland, Scotland, Iceland, France, Italy, England, Spain, Iceland, and Wales. We announce our next MCLE trip to Helsinki and Vilnius in October 2020. 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, or call 949-422-7617, and visit our website at celticbarassociation.org.



Dean Zipser
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 through 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 of Orange County, 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 or contact FBA/OC Administration at info@fbaoc.com, or 949-608-9905 (phone and fax).



Sanaz Jahangard
IABA-OC, President



IRANIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (IABA-OC)

The Iranian American Bar Association (IABA) is the only national association of Iranian-American judges, attorneys, legal scholars, and law students in the United States with over 1,500 members and eight chapters nationwide. The IABA's mission is threefold: (1) to educate our community about legal issues of interest and ensure that the public and our representatives are informed on such matters; (2) to protect and advance the legal rights of our community; and (3) to foster and promote the achievements of Iranian American legal professionals. The IABA has quickly risen as a premier minority bar association and has been at the forefront of protecting the rights of Iranian Americans and other minorities, whether in courtrooms or in meetings with our elected officials.

The Orange County Chapter of IABA (IABA-OC) hosts various MCLE, community outreach, informational, and town hall events, legal clinics, holiday toy drive, fundraising, networking, and an Annual Fundraiser Gala to raise money for scholarships. IABA-OC is open to all attorney members and law students, and one does not need to be of Iranian descent to join. Connect with us on iaba.us, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn @iabaoc.



Anthony Modarelli
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 a summer bocce tournament at Il Fornaio.

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 Di Cesare, and Joseph D'Antony.

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 2021 to the Puglia region.

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!

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 DiCario, Joseph DiVincenzo, Andrew Lachina, and Frank Terreri. 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 or contact our 2020 President, Anthony Modarelli at amodarelli@damfirm.com.



Daniel Livingston
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. Jay Bybee, U.S. Appeals Court Judge for the Ninth Circuit, by David P. Dowling on "Key Skills and Practices for Effective Negotiators," and by Neil J. Wertzleib 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 Dan Livingston at dml@paynefears.com, or visit our website at www.jrcls-oc.com and www.jrcls.org.



Charles Lin
OCAABA, President-Elect



ORANGE COUNTY ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (OCAABA)

Established in 1993, the Orange County Asian American Bar Association (OCAABA) celebrates its 27th year as Orange County's pan-Asian bar association. OCAABA embraces diversity, welcoming members from any and all backgrounds and practices. Interfacing regularly with fellow local bars and nationally with the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), OCAABA is a voice for our community, dedicated to service, charity, and leadership. In 2017, OCAABA was honored with NAPABA's prestigious "Affiliate of the Year" award, competing with bar associations all across 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. These original programs focus on providing guidance for professional development and advancement.

The In-House Counsel Section builds stronger relationships between corporate and outside legal counsel through events such as "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.

The Community Service Committee organizes monthly pro bono clinics and charitable drives. 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 and Holiday Dim Sum mixers 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 works on expanding our membership base to support and serve OCAABA and the APA community in Orange County through the Fall Membership Drive and Sushi & Sake Fest where members can also meet candidates for OCAABA's incoming board.

The PR/Affiliates Committee reaches out to OCAABA's affiliate bars and the wider community. OCAABA partners with affiliate bars to host events, such as a judicial reception to welcome new Orange County judges.

The Judicial Evaluation Committee evaluates qualified judicial candidates for OCAABA endorsement and endeavors to recognize and celebrate diversity on the bench.

OCAABA's annual installation and awards dinner offers a chance for members and friends to celebrate an evening of camaraderie. This year, OCAABA will host its 27th Annual Installation Dinner on September 4, 2020, at the Hilton Costa Mesa.

For more information, visit www.ocaaba.org or email contactus@ocaaba.org.



Paul 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.

During the pandemic, the OCCDBA has been instrumental in assisting to ensure that the rights of the accused have not become lost in the process. A strong working relationship with the courts and prosecution and public agencies guarantees that the voice of the criminal defense bar continues to be effectively heard.

The OCCDBA Board members have been actively participating in courthouse and remote 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.

In normal times, 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.



Bettina Yanez
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 business and professional opportunities available to its members, enhancing members' busi-

ness and professional stature in the Hispanic community, increasing participation of Hispanic leaders in civic affairs, and enhancing quality of life for members and the community.

OCHBA has awarded the Wally Davis Scholarship since 1995. Scholars have worked for large and small firms, and are serving as Board Members and Presidents of HBA.

On March 7, 2020, HBA hosted the 42nd Annual Installation and Scholarship Dinner, installing Bettina Yanez as President. The theme was “2020: Visionaries for Equality & Opportunity.”

With the support of sponsors, advertisers, members, and friends, OCHBA held a successful dinner despite the COVID-19 pandemic. We awarded four scholarships, totaling \$20,000, to Cecilia Bermudez, Martha Martinez, Monserrat Reyes, and Daisy Bautista. The OCHBA scholarship committee chaired by Bettina Yanez, was very impressed and touched by the accomplishments and life challenges overcome by this year’s deserving awardees.

In line with our 2020 vision, the evening’s honors began with the inaugural Judge James O. Perez award. Judge Perez was the first Latino judge appointed to the Orange County bench. If it were not for trailblazers like Judge Perez, both retired and current Latino judges may or may not be in their positions. The recipients of this award were Honorable Elizabeth G. Macias, Honorable Thomas A. Delaney, Honorable Salvador Sarmiento, Honorable Cynthia M. Herrera, Honorable Nathan Scott, Honorable Maurice Sanchez, Honorable Lon F. Hurwitz, Honorable Francisco R. Firmat (Ret.), Honorable Beatriz M. Gordon, Commissioner Carmen R. Luege, Honorable Andre De La Cruz, Honorable Joe T. Perez, Honorable Michael E. Perez, Commissioner Renee E. Wilson, Honorable Julie A. Palafox, and Honorable John C. Gastelum. Additionally, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra received our 2020 OCHBA Attorney of the Year Award, American Honda Motor Company, Inc., received our Corporate Citizen Award, Ada Briseño received our Guardian De Justicia Award, and California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye received our 2020 Honorable Francisco P. Briseño Lifetime Achievement Award—all true visionaries for equality and opportunity.

For the remainder of 2020, we will serve our community by assisting where needed, such as diversity webinars, food drives, vol-

unteering for remote voluntary settlement conferences, and mentoring law students. This year’s MCLE travel seminar to Nuevo Vallarta was rescheduled to May 2021 due to COVID-19.

We are actively involved in our community and invite you to join us. If you are interested in becoming a member or getting involved, visit www.ochba.org or email info@ochba.org.



Sheila-Marie Finkelstein
OCJBA, President



ORANGE COUNTY JEWISH BAR ASSOCIATION (OCJBA)

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the Orange County Jewish Bar Association (OCJBA). OCJBA greatly appreciates Jordan Steinberg (2018 Mensch) for taking the initiative to create and sustain this incredible organization for so many years! OCJBA was founded to provide a social environment that engenders camaraderie 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.

This year also marks the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps. In recognition of this significant milestone, multiple Holocaust survivors were scheduled to share their stories at the Annual Dinner. Due to COVID-19, the program will be rescheduled for 2021.

Passover, a time of extended family gatherings and feasts, was spent essentially isolated due to coronavirus stay-home-orders. There is something so very “Jewish” about commemorating survival from the ten plagues and exodus from slavery while sheltering-in-place to survive a deadly pandemic! As can be expected, the people persevered and found meaningful ways to celebrate through renewed appreciation for the nuclear family unit and connection through modern technology.

OCJBA continues to give back to the Orange County community by facilitating and participating in pro bono activities with a variety of community service organizations, including but not limited to, Chapman University, Jewish Community Center, UC Irvine, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Jewish Federation and Family Services. And we look forward to continuing this tradition after the shelter in place has

been lifted and we go back to whatever normal we find ourselves in.

Throughout the year, OCJBA members enjoy the Annual Dinner, Chanukah Vodka Latke & Mensch Award, socials, CLEs and joint events with OCBA affiliates. New this year, OCJBA established Law Student Liaisons with local law schools. OCJBA looks forward to the continued development of meaningful relationships with members from diverse organizations.

OCJBA monthly meetings are temporarily paused until further notice. However, the Board is available virtually, and is now accepting nominations for the 2020 Mensch of the Year, to be presented at Vodka & Latke in December.

OCJBA is eternally grateful to Ron Schwartz (2019 Mensch) for hosting our monthly “Schmooze and Booze” meeting at Muldoon’s in Newport Beach. OCJBA generally meets the first Tuesday of the month for complimentary appetizers and non-hosted drinks. Please join a friendly Jewish group when the monthly meetings resume. All are welcome, no RSVP necessary. Per the bylaws, the business aspect of the meetings last less than five minutes and the fun lasts all night!

For more information about OCJBA activities and to submit Mensch of the Year nominations, please visit OCJBA.ORG, write OCJBA, P.O. Box 6130, Newport Beach, CA 92658, or email president Sheila-Marie Finkelstein at smf@ahavalaw.com.



Josh Ji
OCKABA, President



ORANGE COUNTY KOREAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (OCKABA)

Orange County Korean American Bar Association (OCKABA) was established in 2005 to foster meaningful relationships among Korean-American lawyers and law students, to provide pro bono services to the Orange County Korean-American community, and to promote the appointment of Korean-American judges. Over the past fifteen years, with the help and support of the OCBA and other affiliate bars, OCKABA has grown significantly as an organization in a number of ways.

To start, OCKABA reached record highs in terms of attendance and sponsorship for the annual Installation Dinner, which took place at the headquarters of KIA Motors

America last October. OCKABA had the privilege of honoring Don Liu (the Chief Legal Officer and Executive Vice President for Target Corporation) as the keynote speaker, and Mr. Liu's speech about the need for greater diversity and inclusion in the legal profession was, by all accounts, exceptionally inspirational. For this year's Installation Dinner—assuming it will be safe to do so, in view of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic—OCKABA plans to honor Judge Lucy H. Koh (U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California), who presided over the *Apple v. Samsung* smartphone litigation.

In addition, OCKABA's overall membership has grown to nearly 200 active members for the first time this year. In response to this growth, OCKABA revamped its leadership structure to form committees that will help meet the needs of various member groups. For example, the Community Outreach Committee—chaired by Christina Ahn (Parker and Lynch)—is planning an event geared toward our members who are solo practitioners or lawyers at small firms, especially those members who work in North Orange County and have a difficult time driving down through traffic to attend events in South Orange County. As another example, the Mentoring Committee—chaired by Yashina Burns (Propel Media)—has launched an exciting Mentorship Program that already has forty-six participants (twenty-three attorneys and twenty-three law students) signed up! Finally, our Bench & Bar Committee—chaired by Daniel Lim (Office of the United States Attorneys)—is creating a new pipeline to help encourage culturally and experientially diverse Orange County attorneys to apply for state and federal judicial positions through education and mentorship.

OCKABA has many other exciting programs planned for the year—public safety permitting—so please stay tuned! For inquiries about upcoming events or sponsorship information, please contact us at admin@ockaba.org. We hope to meet you soon!



Abigail Lloyd
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, the annual gala has provided the opportunity to celebrate advances in LGBTQ legal protections in California and across the nation, including the legalization of same-sex marriage. OCLBA's Board of Directors, which includes representatives from private practice and academia, continue to implement a robust series of MCLE programs. These programs include a number of highly successful events ranging from constitutional law to tax and estate planning to addressing bias issues.

For 2020, OCLBA has focused on increasing networking events to allow all members to connect professionally. Initially through very successful in-person events, OCLBA now hosts Zoom happy hours to allow continued socializing and professional development during the "new normal." Stay tuned for a virtual drag show viewing party!

Since its founding, each summer the OCLBA hosts its annual Anniversary Gala honoring 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. Unfortunately, due to the challenges presented by COVID-19, OCLBA will not be hosting its annual anniversary party this year, but will return ready to celebrate ten successful years at next year's event.

OCLBA also hosted its annual Harvey Milk Day Luncheon on May 22, featuring elimination of bias CLE credit. This year's event included an LGBTQ legal trivia competition hosted by Casey Johnson.

OCLBA seeks to serve and unite not just the LGBTQ community, but our allies as well. For more information, please visit www.ockaba.org or email OCLBA Vice President

Casey Johnson at casey@aitkenlaw.com.



Jonathan Dwork
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 57th 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 trial 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*.

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.

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. 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 14, 2020, at Hotel Irvine.

All consumer 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, or contact OCTLA at 949-916-9577.



Michelle A. Philo
OCWLA, President



ORANGE COUNTY WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (OCWLA)

In 2020, Orange County Women Lawyers Association (OCWLA) is celebrating its 45th Anniversary along with the centennial of the 19th Amendment. OCWLA's mission is to provide a professional network to its members, raise awareness of discrimination and bias, and support charitable organizations. The organization's EmpowHer™ theme aims to encompass all three prongs of this mission statement while advancing women in the profession.

OCWLA hosts four signature events annually. The year opens with a 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, 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.

In addition to its signature events, OCWLA hosts several CLE luncheons and webinars featuring members of the bench and bar incorporating notable annual events such as International Women's Day and Equal Pay Day. OCWLA has also responded to membership desires in providing low or no-cost networking opportunities, such as the monthly book club, virtual webinars, quarterly philanthropy activities, coffee meet-ups, and additional opportunities as they arise.

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. OCWLA also works alongside the OCWLA Foundation which uses money raised through the silent auction and pledges 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. In addition to OCBA, 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 or email info@ocwla.org.



Keshia Dorsey
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 and inclusion, 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 Orange County legal community at large. Everyone is welcome to join and encouraged to support TMBA.

TMBA's leadership team includes seventeen dedicated Board Members and Officers who have volunteered their time, resources and talents to support TMBA's mission while at the same time leading active careers in various sectors of our legal community. We are sincerely grateful for our 2020 servant leaders who include: Yemi Adeyanju, Daniel Alexander, Michele Bell, Denise Carter, Porsche Clarke, Lance Cotton, Lakeshia Dorsey David Griffith, Lisa Hurns, Melissa Padilla, Sakeenah Redmond, Akhil Sheth, Rebekah Thomas, Ashley Turner, Honieh Udenka, Hollie Washington, and Brooke Weitzman.

Over the past six months, our organization has been busy at work planning and executing informative and enjoyable events. In addition to hosting our monthly legal workshops in partnership with the Orange County chapter of the NAACP and hosting our weekly "Wine Down Wednesdays," TMBA also had the opportunity to bring over twenty community leaders together at our first Black Leaders in Orange County cookout! We discussed ways to empower and support the black community here in Orange County over "Sunday dinner." Since the outbreak of COVID-19, we have continued to provide programming to our members and the community. We co-hosted two brunches with the Langston Bar Association and Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles, to give law students the opportunity to voice their concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. From that meeting, we immediately contacted other members of our village such as LawWorks to address the needs voiced by our students and, as a consequence, we were able to partner with LawWorks to provide a quiet study space for law students to take law school exams. TMBA also participated in the first annual Lawyers Well-Being week, established by the American Bar Association. We lined up some amazing webinars, including yoga, wellness tips, therapeutic strategies, and a cooking class! I am incredibly proud of the hard work of each of our board members! Stay tuned for future TMBA events!

Visit www.thurgoodmarshallbarassociation.org to join TMBA today! 100% of all membership dues will be donated to feed the homeless population here in Orange County. We would love to welcome you into our village!

