



# OCBA ELECTION 2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

## PRESIDENT-ELECT

### Michael A. Gregg



Michael Gregg is a partner in the Irvine office of Littler Mendelson, representing employers in labor and employment matters.

Michael is the 2021 Treasurer of the OCBA and looks forward to serving as President-Elect in 2022. He is a member of the OCBA Board of Directors and has proudly served on the Board for seven years. Michael also serves on the OCBA State Bar Task Force, COVID-19 Task Force, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Lawyer Referral & Information Service Committee, Administration of Justice Committee, and on the OC Lawyer Magazine Editorial Advisory Committee. He has also served on the OCBA Judiciary Committee, Strategic Plan Task Force and as chair of the OC Lawyer Magazine Editorial Advisory Committee. Michael is also one of the founding members of the Thurgood Marshall Bar Association, an affiliate of the OCBA.

Given the changes being considered by the State Bar (such as allowing non-lawyers to provide specified legal advice, permitting certified entities to use technology to deliver legal services and allowing non-lawyers to hold a financial interest in law firms), Michael believes it is increasingly important for the OCBA to focus on supporting and connecting OCBA members.

As part of this initiative, Michael will advocate for the creation of an OCBA App to provide members with the ability to more readily access the resources of the OCBA. He will also push for the creation of the "OCBA Marketplace" to support OCBA members with additional resources and/or negotiated discounts on a range of matters such as an e-Discovery/IT consortium, finding or leasing office space and resources to enable underrepresented attorneys to proactively engage with the broader legal community. Finally, Michael would form an Access to Justice Task Force comprised of the brightest minds in Orange County including practitioners, academia and the Courts to identify pragmatic solutions to increase access to justice. This would provide an opportunity for the OCBA to lead the nation and play a more active role with regard to some of the recommendations being considered by the State Bar.

Michael obtained his JD and BA from USC. He enjoys watching USC Football and the LA Lakers and watching films. He is happily married and the proud father of three girls.

## TREASURER

### Christina M. Zabat-Fran



Christina Zabat-Fran is the Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for St. John, an American luxury fashion brand, leading global legal and business affairs, IP, risk management, loss prevention, asset protection, workplace safety and compliance during a crucial era of the multinational company's evolution and growth.

This year, Christina was lauded as one of three national finalists for General Counsel of the Year by American Lawyer Media, championed for innovation and advocacy. Christina has also been recognized as General Counsel Rising Star of the Year by the Orange County Business Journal, named a "Top 40 Lawyer On The Rise" by the American Bar Association, and shortlisted for the Global Counsel Awards.

Christina has been extremely committed to public service and to the community, particularly through the OCBA. Christina currently serves as OCBA Secretary, and prior to that served as a member of the Board of Directors, as Chair of the Corporate Counsel Section and the Membership Task Force, and on several committees. Christina is Co-Chair of the Charitable Fund's "Raise Your Glass" Gala, the bar's hallmark fundraising effort, and a leader on the COVID-19 Task Force, helping navigate the bar through this unprecedented year. Christina also serves on the boards for the Public Law Center and the Association of Corporate Counsel, and is a founding board member for the Filipino-American Bar of OC.

Christina believes the OCBA should be a key source for members to meet fellow talented attorneys, judges, neutrals, and for attorneys in the private sector, prospective clients, in order to support attorneys during these challenging times, and to better serve our increasingly diverse business community. For example, Christina founded an annual event on behalf of the OCBA that features must-know general counsel who share their inimitable insight and mentorship with the Orange County Bar's young lawyers.

Beyond her leadership in the legal and business communities, Christina loves dedicating time to the arts and cooking up delicious meals for family and friends. Her adobo cannot be beat! Christina believes the OCBA should provide its members with positive community-building to support balancing their practice with life's other pursuits.

## SECRETARY (Elect 1)

### Shirin Forootan



Shirin Forootan has the leadership experience, diplomacy, and work ethic that would make an excellent leader for our bar association. She has practiced law for over a decade. She has worked at both large and small firms, practiced defense and plaintiff's-side litigation, and has served in advice and counsel roles.

Shirin has served on the OCBA Board of Directors for the past five years. In 2020, she served as Chair of the Labor & Employment Section. Shirin currently serves as Vice Chair of the Judiciary Committee and is also actively involved in the Legislative Resolutions Committee and Administration of Justice Committee. In past years, Shirin has Chaired the Community Outreach Committee, the Lawyer Well-Being Task Force (now Committee), and Mommy Esquire Committee.

Shirin's varied law firm experiences and her vast volunteer leadership roles allow her to be uniquely suited to respond to the needs of our diverse bar members.

As OCBA Secretary, Shirin's vision includes creating a standing "Bench-Bar" committee where issues affecting our cases and clients can be directly discussed and resolved with our local courts. Shirin is dedicated to thinking out of the box to find and implement solutions to help us all. Shirin also seeks to create a "Know Your Rights" committee where our bar educates community members about legal fundamentals on various legal topics. Shirin believes that furthering justice starts with knowing your rights. Lastly, Shirin looks forward to working closely with the Racial Justice Task Force to further their mission.

Shirin became a lawyer to help other people. As Secretary, she would work tirelessly to carry out the mission of our bar: "To Enhance the System of Justice, To Support the Lawyers Who Serve It, and To Assist the Community Served By It."

Shirin is a partner and employment litigator at Workplace Justice Advocates, PLC, in Irvine. She graduated from UCSD, then UCLA School of Law. She lives in Newport Beach with her husband and third-grade son.

Please vote for Shirin for 2022 OCBA Secretary so she can continue her long-standing commitment to serving our bar. To learn more about her, please visit: [www.shirin4ocba.com](http://www.shirin4ocba.com).

### Mei Tsang



Mei Tsang is an intellectual property partner at Umberg Zipser LLP, and honored to be endorsed by many OCBA Past Presidents and other leaders. Mei is completing two terms as an elected OCBA Board member, and has held many other leadership positions within the OCBA over the past 15 years. Among other things, she chaired the IP & Technology Section, has been a member of the OCBA Charitable Fund Board for the past eight years, including co-chairing the Raise Your Glass event, and currently is the co-chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Mei regularly contributes articles to the OC Lawyer magazine and has developed and participated in numerous OCBA webinars. She also is a member of OCBA's Racial Justice, COVID-19, and Intergenerational Task Forces, the Mentoring, Editorial Advisory, and Lawyer Well Being Committees, and Mommy Esq. Committee.

Mei is known for her positive, can-do, attitude. She never turns down an opportunity to help and serve. In addition to her involvement with the OCBA, Mei currently is serving as the President-Elect and chair of Fund Development for Community Legal Aid of SoCal. Mei also is a proud member of Orange County Women Lawyers Association, Orange County Asian American Bar Association, Hispanic Bar Association, Thurgood Marshall Bar Association, OCKABA, Lavender Bar, and ABTL, and volunteers for the Constitutional Rights Foundation.

Our profession is facing very challenging times. All the traditional rules seem to be up in the air, ranging from how we work, who we are (in the face of State Bar changes), to our generational differences, and even to how we connect with each other. The OCBA has been tackling these challenges head on. Mei is proud to be part of those efforts and looks forward to continuing to contribute to them.

As a Chinese immigrant who came to this country at a young age, Mei had to learn how to adapt and evolve. Mei is prepared to lead the OCBA to adapt and evolve as well.

Mei thanks you for your support and wants to hear from you how the OCBA can better serve you. Please visit [www.meitsang4ocba.com](http://www.meitsang4ocba.com) for more information.

## DIRECTORS – AT – LARGE (Elect 3)

### Brian A. Bayati



I am honored to be a nominee to serve on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Bar Association alongside some of our most esteemed and accomplished colleagues.

My journey with the OCBA commenced over eleven years ago and continues to allow me opportunities to serve in such positions as mentor to our aspiring colleagues, member of the OCBA LRIS Committee, former chair of the OCBA LRIS Committee, and arbitrator for the Mandatory Fee Arbitration Panel. The chance to now serve on the Board is exciting and another opportunity for me to contribute to our organization, profession and community.

Given is the fact that there certainly is no shortage of talent amongst our colleagues who, thankfully, readily avail themselves to serve the OCBA in various capacities. My purpose in running is to contribute the vantage point of a small firm principal whose practice is limited exclusively to the County of Orange.

Our organization, community and profession as a whole face so many challenges. I aim to bring to the Board the viewpoints of the smaller sized practitioners who serve an integral role in our local community. A leadership with experience in differing areas of practice, various levels of community, and different courts within our County will provide representation reflective of our entire membership.

By way of professional background, I've been a family law litigator for the past eleven years and a principal in a boutique family law firm. For the five years preceding, I litigated civil cases within a medium-size and another boutique civil law firm. I also spent one year handling civil litigation as in-house counsel. I hope to contribute to the Board what I've learned thus far in my professional journey; and, ultimately, to our membership and community.

This election presents us, the members of the OCBA, with dedicated, capable and talented candidates to lead our organization. To be one of the nominees in this candidate pool is a privilege that I cherish. If elected, my dedication will focus on representing our members through the Board and maintaining the best interest of our organization.

### John S. Cowhig



I am a former director on the OCBA Board of Directors. What I have learned these past three years by not being on the Board is that I miss it, a lot. It is truly an honor to serve on this Board. The dedication and work performed by the Board is admirable and important. I was proud to be part of and contribute to an organization dedicated to supporting and bettering the practice of its members while also serving the needs of the Orange County community. Because I miss it, I have a zeal to again be part of the Board and to make our bar stronger and our community better.

I am requesting your vote for a second term on the Board of Directors so that I can continue working with and contributing to the OCBA, its members, and its goals.

The importance of volunteer work and serving our community made its first impression on me at the start of my legal career 27 years ago while volunteering at the Legal Aid Society of Orange County. My appreciation and understanding of its importance have continued with me since that time.

This has caused me to dedicate the majority of my legal career to volunteer positions. I am a past president of the OCBA Family Law Section and served on its executive committee for 6 years and its education committee for several years prior to that. I also co-chaired the OCBA's Education Committee for several years.

Outside of the legal community, I serve on the Board of Directors of Vocational Steps, a non-profit organization that prepares, instructs and guides adults with mild special needs in how to obtain employment while providing the support necessary to ensure their long-term success.

This is enriching and rewarding work which I seek to continue by serving a second term on the OCBA Board.

I'm fortunate to have 4 incredible children and a wonderful wife of 31 years who is supportive of my goals and efforts. I would be honored and humbled to have your support as well.

## Jared H. De Jong



I currently serve as a member of the OCBA Board of Directors, and I am running to continue serving in this role.

I am running for a Director-at-Large position to strengthen our community and deepen connections between the bar and the public. The OCBA is a singularly important institution. Members rely on the OCBA for training, mentorship, and community building. The OCBA also acts as intermediary between practitioners and the courts.

I am an insurance-coverage litigator with Payne & Fears LLP, helping policyholders navigate the complex world of insurance coverage. I have held various OCBA leadership roles, including Chair of the Insurance Law Section and Co-Chair of the Community Outreach Committee. I understand the work that it takes to maintain the OCBA as an effective institution, and I would appreciate your vote and support to continue those efforts.

## Kelly G. Dunn



Hello, OCBA members! If we have not yet met, my name is Kelly and I am a mergers & acquisitions attorney at Rutan & Tucker, LLP. It is with great enthusiasm that I respectfully submit my candidacy to serve, for a second term, as a member of the OCBA Board of Directors.

I have had the privilege to serve the legal community in a variety of ways, including in the following capacities:

- President, Orange County Women Lawyers Association (also served as Vice President, Secretary and Board Member)
- Director, OCBA Board of Directors;
- Chair, OCBA Young Lawyers Division (also served as Chair-Elect and Social Chair);
- Co-Chair, OCBA Mentor On Demand Committee;
- Board Member, OCBA Diversity and Inclusion Committee; and
- Board Member, OCBA Leadership Development Committee.

As a young, transactional attorney, I offer a unique voice and perspective to our leadership team. I am committed to providing a variety of innovative networking, education, and outreach opportunities. I have brought fresh ideas while serving as a legal community leader, including:

- Founding the sold-out OCBA YLD Diversity Social, where members of all of OCBA's various affiliate bar associations get together to unite the bar and to increase the diversity of the OCBA YLD membership;
- Founding and organizing the annual OCBA Leadership Development Committee Masters and Young Lawyers Trivia Night, bridging the gap between new and experienced attorneys; and
- Coordinating diversity-centric CLE events such as the Women in Leadership and Overcoming Bias in the Workplace panels.

I have loved my time in each role I have served. Most of all, I love how my involvement has given me the opportunity to meet and become great friends with so many of you amazing people.

To learn more about me, please visit <https://www.rutan.com/attorneys/kelly-galligan-dunn/>. Thank you for your time and consideration!

## H. Josh Ji



My name is Josh Ji, and I am a civil litigator at O'Melveny & Myers in Newport Beach. I am the current Chair-Elect of the OCBA International Law Section, Co-Chair of the OCBA Mentor on Demand Committee, and a member of the OCBA Editorial Advisory and Diversity & Inclusion Committees. Previously, I served as an OCBA Director at Large, co-chaired the OCBA Intergenerational Task Force, and served as President of the Orange County Korean American Bar Association.

I am honored to be nominated for an OCBA Director at Large position this year. As noted above, I was previously appointed to this position for a one-year term in 2020. As we reopen and adjust to the "new normal," my goal is to help the OCBA bring back the things we love about our bar association while also innovating to enhance member benefits. The OCBA is important to me because I did not know any lawyers before becoming a member as a UCI law student in 2013, and I have met such wonderful mentors and friends through the OCBA over the years.

I believe that my past experiences will enable me to add value as a returning member of the Board. For example, as Co-Chair of the Intergenerational Task Force, I have surveyed all of the OCBA member benefits to identify the best ways to deliver them to our members. And through the Mentor on Demand Committee—which interviews experienced lawyers and judges on various legal topics to create mentoring videos for junior lawyers—we are continuing to bridge the intergenerational gap and address topics of current interest, such as: virtual networking, managing a remote practice, exceling as in-house counsel, contract negotiations for transactional lawyers, and thriving in a career of public service. If I am elected, I will build on these past experiences to help the OCBA fulfill its critical role in keeping the local bench and bar connected and supported.

I hope that you will vote for me so that I can continue supporting the OCBA, its goals, and its valued members. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Darrell P. White



Darrell White is a business trial lawyer specializing in complex business and real estate disputes. As a master storyteller, Darrell is called on to defend and prosecute high-profile matters. His clients include large corporations and institutions generating billions in revenue annually, multinational corporations, and entrepreneurs. Since co-founding Kimura London & White LLP in 2018, Darrell has recovered more than \$21 MM in settlements for his clients and defended adverse claims and suits worth much more.

Throughout his career, Darrell worked with and against the largest law firms in the world. He prides himself on delivering top results and creating value for his clients, both large and small. In addition to litigation matters, Darrell provides outside general counsel services to clients across the banking/financial services, entertainment, hospitality, manufacturing, construction, real estate, and restaurant industries.

In furtherance of the Firm's core value of public service, Darrell serves on numerous philanthropic and non-profit boards in Orange County and the Southern California area. Darrell is a Past-President of the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County, Board member of the Public Law Center, and Editor of ABTL Report. He currently serves on the Orange County Bar Association Board of Directors, Judiciary Committee, Finance Committee, and Membership Committee. He is a proud Southern California native, and resides in Costa Mesa with his wife and three children.

To find out more about Darrell, visit: <https://www.klw-law.com/attorney/white-darrell-p/>.