



OCBA 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Todd G. Friedland



Todd Friedland co-founded Stephens Friedland LLP, a law firm devoted exclusively to the practice of business litigation, in 2006. Previously, Todd practiced at the multi-national law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman and worked for many years in the corporate sector. Through Todd's broad-based experience and outreach activities he acquired a unique perspective. Therefore, he is able to understand and represent the views of OCBA members from diverse backgrounds and to formulate a vision for the OCBA that will benefit all members.

Todd believes the OCBA can elevate the profile of legal practice in Orange County and has worked towards that goal as a member of the OCBA Board of Directors, and then in his service as OCBA Secretary in 2013 and Treasurer in 2014. Todd will continue to work to ensure that the business community, general public, California's legislators, and legal practitioners throughout the state understand that the Bench and Bar in Orange County are second to none. Todd will also promote programs that foster professionalism and ethical practice in the legal community. It is Todd's belief that we must preserve and expand Orange County's reputation as a place where great legal work is performed in a professional manner.

Todd is active on the Mentoring Committee, *Orange County Lawyer* Editorial Committee, and the Charitable Fund Board and Annual Benefit Committee. As a Past-President and present board member of the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County, Todd continues to champion its mission of civics education through Mock Trial, Peer Court and other programs. In addition, Todd serves on the Board of Governors of the Orange County Chapter of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, and sponsors the Orange County Bar Foundation (which administers such worthwhile programs as Project SELF) and many other worthwhile organizations. Todd has also served in leadership for Adventure Guides (Dads & Daughters) and on golf tournament committees supporting charitable organizations (despite being a terrible golfer).

Todd is fortunate to be married to D'Ann who understands and supports his commitment to our legal community. They have three great kids (Ashlyn, Aubrey and Aidan) who make Todd smile every day.

TREASURER

Michael L. Baroni



Mr. Baroni is a nationally-recognized General Counsel who has a long history of sincere, passionate devotion to the OCBA and serving its membership.

As a three-time General Counsel to major companies in diverse industries (currently, with Palace Entertainment, a world leader in amusement parks), he brings 21 years of in-house legal experience in virtually every area a company can face. He has managed over 1,000 litigation matters, engaged in hundreds of mediations, handled deals worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and drafted/negotiated several thousand contracts. He has spoken at several dozen events across the country and internationally, been a guest on numerous TV and radio shows, and published 100+ articles, on a broad diversity of legal topics.

Mr. Baroni's national recognition as a General Counsel includes a "Best Legal Dept." in the U.S.A. award (American Lawyer Media), a "Most Innovative Counsel" award, a Professional Excellence Award, and being the subject of a chapter in the book, *Legal Visionaries*. He has been named a "Leading General Counsel" in California (*Daily Journal*), and "Top Attorney" in O.C. (*OC Metro*). He was deeply honored by a "Volunteer of the Year" award from the Constitutional Rights Foundation, in recognition of Palace Entertainment's work on events such as Law Day and Career Forum. The State Assembly recently recognized Mr. Baroni with a Certificate of Recognition for his work on Constitution Day.

Mr. Baroni is the Founder of the *Entertainment, Sports & Marketing Law* section; past Chair of Product Liability; a two-term elected Board member and a Board member of the Charitable Fund; and he has served on numerous committees including Administration of Justice, Community Outreach, and Legislative Resolutions, and been a Mentor. His devotion to the OCBA members is exhibited by the fact that he has attended meetings at all 25 Sections, and he is a member of nearly every affiliate bar. Mr. Baroni will continue to serve the OCBA members with the most humble respect passionate zeal, knowing that he serves the membership.

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SECRETARY (Elect 1)

Nikki P. Miliband



OCBA Board member Nikki Presley Miliband seeks your vote for Secretary. Nikki, a trust and probate litigator with Good, Wildman, Hegness & Walley, was first licensed in Oklahoma in 1990, moving to California shortly thereafter. Nikki has dedicated a significant portion of her professional life to enhancing the justice system and the lawyers served by it through her active participation in the OCBA. Nikki's demonstrated leadership, experience and vision are the foundations upon which she asks for your support.

Leadership: As chair of Lawyer Referral & Information Services since 2008, Nikki and the Committee have matched lawyers with clients in need, while generating funds for Public Law Center. As Chair or Co-Chair of the OCBA Charitable Fund's Annual Fall Gala since 2008, Nikki has helped raise money for Orange County's legal charities and programs.

Experience: In addition to serving in her second term as an OCBA director, Nikki has been a member of the OCBA's Charitable Fund board since 2008 where she has served on the Scholarship Committee and the Grant Giving Committee; Co-Chair, Mentoring Committee since 2013; Legislative Resolutions Committee (2007 Chair); member, blue ribbon Administration of Justice Committee; member, Access to Justice Task Force; Mandatory Fee Arbitration arbitrator; member, OCAABA and HBA; and member of the Trust and Estates and Elder Law sections.

Vision: Nikki will work to ensure that the OCBA remains relevant to its membership so that members can be connected through participation in *their* bar association, promotes professionalism and ethics, delivers quality and cost effective educational programs, is fiscally responsible, adheres to its purview policy, provides networking and professional growth opportunities, and continues to offer and expand upon meaningful member benefits that enhance the professional practice of OCBA lawyers.

Nikki is endorsed by former OCBA presidents -- including her husband, Joel Miliband! -- other bar leaders, and large and small firm lawyers across all practice areas. Dedicated to improving the practice of law in Orange County, Nikki appreciates the opportunity to give back to the legal community that has given her so much and would be honored to serve as your Secretary.

Please visit www.nikkimiliband.com.

Solange E. Ritchie



Solange Ritchie is a litigation attorney with the Law Offices of Steven R. Young, focusing on all kinds of trials. As a three term OCBA Board member, Solange believes that the OCBA can continue to thrive only if it continues to be responsive to its members' needs.

Solange worked her way through law school becoming Editor in Chief of Western State University College of Law. Solange was recently named to the Western's Alumni Hall of Fame. She received the Myer J. Sanksary award from the Solo and Small Firm Section of the California Bar on September 12, 2014 in San Diego - an award given to only one lawyer each year for exemplary service to the bar.

Her "can do" spirit has always included passionate service to the bar. She served on the OCBA's Board of Directors from 2005 to 2007 and from 2008 to the present. Until last year, she served as a board member of the OCBA Charitable Fund. Each year, she co-chairs the Charitable Fund's Gala event.

Solange's service to the OCBA includes work on the Committee on Diversity and Equal Justice, Community Outreach, Education and Resolutions Committee, the Administration of Justice Committee, among others. She has served on LRIS, College of Trial Advocacy and the Nominating and Appointments Committees.

In 2007, she was the president of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association (OCWLA), the Orange County Asian American Bar Association (OCAABA) and the Peter M. Elliott Inn of Court. In 2008, Solange was selected as one of the NAWBO's Remarkable Woman. In 2009, she was honored as OCWLA's Attorney of the Year.

Solange is also active with the HBA, Celtic Bar, OCTLA, ATLA, CAOC and CWL. She is a member of the OCBA's Business Litigation and Appellate Law Sections. She has published numerous articles on a broad range of topics, and spoken across the country and internationally, from Prague to Costa Rica. She knows she will serve you - the OCBA members. To see Solange's list of endorsers and to support her campaign, go to: www.solangeritchielaw.com.

DIRECTORS – AT – LARGE (Elect 4)

John S. Cowhig



My name is John S. Cowhig. I am a partner of Stabile & Cowhig, which dedicates its practice exclusively to handling Family Law litigation and mediation. I have practiced exclusively in the field of Family Law since I was admitted to practice and have been a Certified Specialist since 1998. I have been selected as "Super Lawyer" 2004 2013 2014.

I'm a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers where I serve on the Electronic Discovery committee.

I have been heavily involved with the OCBA for many years. I served on the Board of Directors of the Family Law Section of the OCBA from 2003 – 2008. During my tenure as President of the Family Law section in 2008, I accomplished my goal of contributing to Orange County charities as well as promoting and presenting multiple legal seminars.

Presently, I am a member of the Education Committee of the OCBA. I have also been a member of the Education Committee for the Family Law Section starting in 1999 through 2008. I have been an instructor and continue to participate in numerous seminars and other continuing education panels for the Family Law section and now through the Education Committee.

I am also a member of several different bar affiliates of the OCBA including the Celtic Bar Association, Probate and Estate Planning section and the Sports, Marketing and Entertainment section.

I am very much looking forward to the challenge and enjoyment of helping guide the OCBA in its future endeavors of promoting professionalism and charity within and throughout our legal and non-legal communities.

I am proud to be on the Board of Directors of Vocational Steps, a non-profit organization which prepares, instructs and guides adults with mild to moderate special needs with the skills needed to obtain employment and provide them support to ensure long term success. I have dedicated numerous hours as a volunteer for the Legal Aid Society of Orange County and enjoy volunteering regularly at Orangewood Children's Home.

I have been married for 24 years to my lovely wife, Shana. We have four children ages 11 to 23 years.

Larisa M. Dinsmoor



For the past three years it has been my privilege to be the only government public interest attorney on the Board of Directors. As a Deputy Public Defender, I bring a unique perspective to the leadership of the OCBA.

During my term, I have made various contributions. I was a member of the Access to Justice task force, which advocated for increased court funding. I gave Teenage Legal Survival Skills trainings to several Orange County high schools, and conducted mock trials at Orangewood to educate our youth on the process and perils of the juvenile justice system. I have published articles in the Orange County Lawyer magazine on how to conduct voir dire ("Shut Up and Listen: Conducting a Successful Voir Dire") and on the importance of sharing our legal skills internationally ("Lawyer without Borders"). I currently serve on the magazine's Advisory Board. In addition, I have represented the OCBA at speaking and mentoring events at Whittier, Chapman and Western law schools.

I believe in giving back to my community and show this commitment by action. I plan to continue with action upon re-election. Our court system continues to struggle with ever-changing polices and challenges. The OCBA can and should be an instrument of change. As a public defender, I am in our courts daily and am able to provide invaluable insight from a ground-level.

In addition, Orange County will not have any representation at the California State Bar level once Pearl Mann terms out. I want to establish a task force or committee to strategically coordinate a plan for getting an OC representative elected.

Finally, there is always room for improvement. The OCBA Board of Directors is here to serve you. I want to implement a mechanism on the OCBA's website specifically designed to solicit feedback so we can know if we are meeting your needs and what we can do to improve.

I seek your vote because I believe in zealously representing my community, just as I do my clients. I look forward to serving you for another term.

Chad A. Franks



Chad Franks is Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary to the Board of Decton Inc. Decton is a large staffing organization based in Irvine with over 10,000 employees throughout Southern California and five western states. Mr. Franks oversees all litigation, M&A, regulatory, HR, risk management, and safety matters at Decton.

Along with Mr. Franks' primary passion in life -- surfing, camping, and biking with his four year-old son -- Mr. Franks also holds strong commitments to mentoring youth, and to representing corporations in our legal community. To that end, Mr. Franks currently serves on OCBA's (1) Charitable Fund Board of Directors; (2) Judiciary Committee; (3) Mandatory Fee Arbitration Committee; (4) Client Relations Committee; and (5) Mentoring Committee. Mr. Franks also serves on the Youth Forum Committee of the Constitutional Rights

Foundation, which exists to engage our youth in civic and law-related projects throughout Orange County.

Mr. Franks seeks your vote, assuring that he will serve with two purposes in mind: the continued integration of our youth in civic and law-related activities in Orange County, and the diversification of the OCBA through more active participation by general counsels like himself.

Michael A. Gregg



My name is Michael A. Gregg and I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA). If elected, I will work to highlight and build upon the diversity that exists within the Orange County legal profession, incorporate the programs of the Orange County affiliate bar associations into the OCBA including presentations that include women and persons of color, and advocate for programs that help economically disadvantaged and at-risk youth.

In Orange County, we have a number of civic-minded bar associations dedicated to making a difference within and outside of the legal profession. As a part of that effort, in 2012 I co-founded the Thurgood Marshall Bar Association (TMBA), a contemporary bar association committed to diversity, professional improvement and the advancement of justice through positive community involvement and excellence in the practice of law. I currently serve as Secretary, Treasurer and Board Member of the TMBA. I believe that as lawyers, we have a role to play in helping to provide kids from economically disadvantaged backgrounds with an opportunity to succeed. With that goal in mind, I have worked with the Magic Johnson Foundation to develop a pilot mentoring program for kids in economically disadvantaged areas and would be committed to this same objective if elected to serve on the Board of the OCBA.

I am a shareholder in the Irvine office of Littler Mendelson, P.C. and represent public and private sector employers in a broad range of labor and employment law matters arising under state and federal law and in all aspects of litigation. I am a member of several affiliate bar associations, including the TMBA, the Orange County Asian American Bar Association (OCAABA) and the Orange County Jewish Bar Association (OCJBA). I obtained my BA and JD from the University of Southern California and I am a big fan of USC football and the Los Angeles Lakers. I am happily married and the proud father of three girls.

Kirsten M. Kreymann



Kirsten Kreymann is Pro Bono Director of the Public Law Center (PLC). She is responsible for the recruitment of over 1,500 attorneys, law students and other incredible individuals each year who provide pro bono representation to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. As a member of PLC's leadership team, Kirsten helps manage the organization to ensure top-quality services to Orange County's poor and underserved.

Kirsten has deep knowledge and experience within the Orange County legal community. She is a strong believer in collaborations, in particular the power of multi-organization partnerships to address social justice issues. She regularly works with the OCBA, affiliate bar groups, firms large and small, law schools and others. Specifically, with the OCBA, Kirsten helps coordinate the joint PLC/OCBA Guardianship Clinic, Chapter 7 Bankruptcy and Reaffirmation Clinics, and an array of substantive legal trainings aimed at recruiting bar members to assist in areas of pro bono need. She sits on the OCBA Pro Bono Committee. Kirsten also helps create volunteer projects and manage initiatives with affiliate bar groups such as the Orange County Asian American Bar Association, Hispanic Bar Association, Lavender Bar Association, Orange County Diversity Task Force and others.

With her significant experience working with these groups, Kirsten will come to the Board poised for action. She has years of interacting with thousands of attorneys from backgrounds as varied as solos to large law firm partners to corporate counsel. She will represent their diverse needs and interests as a member of the Board.

If elected, Kirsten will focus her attention on the education and mentorship of recently admitted attorneys, the promotion of women in law, and seek to strengthen and expand pro bono opportunities for members, particularly those in conjunction with the OCBA and affiliate bar groups.

Kirsten lives in Old Towne Orange with her husband, daughter, and two trouble-making dogs. She enjoys collecting art, gardening and traveling throughout the globe. She humbly seeks your vote.

Patricia Lee-Gulley



Patricia Lee-Gulley has a solid track record of involvement and achievements within the Orange County legal community. She is currently serving as a Director on the Orange County Bar Association Board ("OCBA") and is a long-time member of the OCBA's Community Outreach Committee whose projects serve the community at large all year round. As President of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association ("OCWLA") and the President of the Orange County Asian American Bar Association ("OCAABA"), she built and strengthened relationships with other affiliate bar associations within Orange County, Los Angeles County, San Diego County and the Inland Empire. Patricia believes that a partnership among the OCBA affiliate bar associations is a benefit that needs to be affirmatively promoted.

As a Director, Patricia will support and participate in the many exemplary OCBA events and projects that are already established and offered. She plans to suggest and implement events and programs that will provide updated best practices that will assist OCBA members maneuver through the recent changes in our courts as the result of the on-going budget crisis. Additionally, Patricia will continue with her community service projects for the OCBA Community Outreach Committee and with the various OC affiliate bar associations.

Patricia is a partner at Gordon & Rees LLP with a litigation practice focusing primarily on commercial litigation, products liability, complex/mass tort litigation, premises liability and business/employment related matters. Patricia is AV-Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell; and Superb rated by Avvo.com. OC Register Metro Magazine selected Patricia as a Top Attorney for litigation in Orange County in 2013 and in 2014. Patricia is a Southern California native who has been practicing in Southern California since her admission to the State Bar in 1989.

Patricia Lee-Gulley seeks your support and vote.

Brian M. McDonald



I have been honored to serve on the OCBA Board of Directors for the last three years. I hope you will give me the opportunity to continue my service to the Orange County Bar Association for a second three year term.

During my first term on the Board I have served on the Finance Committee and Health Care Benefit Task Force. I attended nearly every meeting, and every social event, and was an active participant in working towards improving the providence of lawyers in Orange County.

For more than eight years I have served on the Voluntary Fee Arbitration Committee. I am a member of the Trusts & Estates, Real Estate, and Employment Sections of OCBA and have previously served on the Employment Law Section Executive Committee.

I have a sole practitioner in Huntington Beach where I focus on business transactional law and estate planning. I am active in the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce where I serve as co-chair of the Legislative Action Committee and on the Board of Trustees for the Chamber PAC.

As I enter my 31st year as a Member of the California Bar, I hope that you will empower me to continue to serve my fellow Orange County Attorneys. Thank you for your support.

Sarah J. Nowels



As an involved and devoted member of the Orange County legal community I am honored to be a nominee for a position as a Director At Large for the OCBA.

I am a partner at Amezcua-Moll & Associates where I practice primarily employment litigation on behalf of employees. Since being sworn into the bar nearly four years ago, I have been very involved with the OCBA and the affiliate bar associations. As the current Chair of the OCBA Young Lawyer's Division, I sit on the OCBA Board of Directors on behalf of the Young Lawyer's Division. Under my leadership as Chair and previously as Chair -Elect and Education Chair, the Young Lawyer's Division, has grown in membership and hosted dozens of sold out quarterly networking, education, community service and sporting events to help Young Lawyers develop and integrate into the Orange County legal community. With the tight knit, yet diverse and expansive legal community in Orange County, I have been honored to provide attorneys with the tools needed to thrive in practice through the OCBA and as a Director on the board of the Orange County Women Lawyers.

My experience working to help originations grow and flourish will make a positive contribution to the OCBA. I sincerely believe that the OCBA is a powerful resource for Orange County attorneys and an important contributor to the Orange County community as a whole. I look forward to the opportunity to become more involved as a Director At Large with the multiple committees of the OCBA that serve the membership and the community including the Community Outreach Committee, the Bridging the Gap Committee and the Mentor on Demand Committee. My background as an Orange County attorney beginning my career in a difficult economy and my dedication to giving back to the community as a whole gives me a unique perspective to contribute to the OCBA Board of Directors.

I humbly seek the opportunity to continue to use my experience leading and contributing to organizations to help serve our membership and the greater community as a Director At Large for the OCBA.

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Mayte Santacruz



Mayte Santacruz is an associate in the Santa Ana office of AlvaradoSmith APC. Her primary areas of practice are commercial litigation, intellectual property and real property transactions. Prior to joining AlvaradoSmith, Mayte was an associate in the Orange County office of Latham & Watkins, LLP where her practice focused on complex business litigation, with an emphasis in securities claims. Mayte graduated from UC Irvine in 2005 and from UC Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) in 2008.

Mayte is very involved in the Orange County legal community. She is the immediate past President of the OC Hispanic Bar Association (HBA), where she currently serves as co-chair of the Program Committee. One of her priorities as President of the HBA last year was to build relationships with other affiliate bar associations within Orange County. To that end, she organized several successful joint events with local bar associations, including the Jewish Bar Association, Celtic Bar Association, Orange County Asian American Association, Lex Romana, Women Lawyers Association, Lavender Association and Trial Lawyers Association, among others. If elected to serve on the OCBA Board of Directors, she would be committed to building stronger relationships between the OCBA and the affiliate bar associations.

Mayte is also an active member of the Celtic Bar Association—she is one of the ten Celtic members who participated in the 84-mile Hadrian's Wall Expedition last year. Mayte is further involved in the community through the Hispanic Education Endowment Fund (HEEF), UCI School of Law's mentorship and Saturday Academy of Law programs, and the OC Public Law Center's pro bono program. In 2012, she received the Attorney of the Year Award by the Public Law Center and the President's Pro Bono Service Award by the State Bar for her commitment to pro bono work.

Mayte seeks to continue her involvement and dedication to the community as a Board member of the OCBA. She would greatly appreciate your support. Vote for Mayte!

Autumn D. Spaeth



Autumn D. Spaeth is a partner of Smiley Wang-Ekval, LLP, a boutique insolvency, real estate, and business litigation firm located in Costa Mesa. She specializes in business litigation and bankruptcy related litigation. Previously, Ms. Spaeth was an associate in the Trial Department of McDermott, Will & Emery's Orange County office and a partner of Costa Mesa based Weiland, Golden, Smiley, Wang Ekval & Strok, LLP. She received her undergraduate degree from UCLA and her J.D. from USC Law School. She also received a Master of Arts in Communication Management from USC's Annenberg School of Communication.

Ms. Spaeth is very active in the Orange County legal community. She was recently elected to serve as the Vice Chair of the Ninth Circuit's Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee and in that role also serves on the Ninth Circuit's Conference Executive Committee. Ms. Spaeth concurrently serves as a Central District Lawyer Representative and, recently ended her two-year term as Co-Chair of the Central District Lawyer Representatives. Ms. Spaeth also served as the Chair of the OCBA's Legislative Resolutions Committee and the Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section.

Ms. Spaeth is a regular speaker at the OCBA's Bridging the Gap program for new admittees to the California Bar. She is a member of the Federal Bar Association, Association of Business Trial Lawyers, the Orange County Bankruptcy Forum, the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation and the William P. Gray Legion Lex American Inn of Court.

As a member of the Board of Directors, Ms. Spaeth will work to improve the development of young lawyers through the Mentoring Committee and is committed to increasing leadership opportunities and training for the diverse population of Orange County's attorneys. Ms. Spaeth will also work to increase the communication and support between the OCBA and the State and Federal Courts to better address the needs of these Courts and to enhance access to justice in Orange County's Court system.