



# OCBA ELECTION 2019 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

## CANDIDATES

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

#### Scott B. Garner



Scott Garner has made a career of serving lawyers, and wants to continue doing so by serving as OCBA President-Elect. A 27-year OCBA member, Scott has a long and impressive list of service, including six years as a member of the OCBA's Board of Directors, and the last two years as an officer (Secretary in 2017 and Treasurer in 2018). Among other things, Scott has co-chaired the OCBA's Professionalism and Ethics Committee for the past decade, has served on the OCBA Audit Committee, and currently chairs the OCBA Finance Committee.

Scott's commitment to serving the legal community extends beyond the OCBA. For example, Scott recently completed a term as Chair of the California State Bar Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct, and is a recent Past President of the Orange County Chapter of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers

(ABTL).

Scott's practice also is focused in significant part on service to lawyers. Specifically, Scott counsels and defends law firms and lawyers in legal malpractice, ethics, and other lawyer liability matters. Scott often has been in the trenches with individual lawyers facing reputation-threatening lawsuits or ethical dilemmas. Scott also has served as an expert witness on ethics and standard of care issues.

Scott's Bar service and professional engagements give him a unique understanding of the many issues confronting lawyers, and he is eager to continue putting that knowledge and experience to use for the benefit of OCBA members. Now a partner in the boutique firm of Umberg Zipser, Scott spent over two decades with large, international firms. He understands and appreciates firsthand the different challenges faced by lawyers in both large and small firms, and is prepared to address those challenges on behalf of all OCBA members.

Scott has been married for 25 years to Karen Garner, a successful physician. They are the proud parents of three talented children – Espen (15), Annika (10), and Helena (10).

### TREASURER

#### Larisa M. Dinsmoor



As Treasurer, Larisa will ensure that the OCBA remains financially solid. She will secure members with expertise in finance and investments to be on the appropriate committees. Larisa is currently OCBA Secretary, and has six years of OCBA Board of Directors experience. She is Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair and has held leadership roles in the Homeless Task Force, Diversity Task Force, Editorial Advisory Committee, and International Law Section. She is also a member of several affiliate bars. Larisa seeks to continue to serve the OCBA community.

## SECRETARY (Elect 1)

### Michael A. Gregg



Michael Gregg is a partner in the Irvine office of Littler Mendelson, P.C. and represents employers in a broad range of labor and employment matters.

Michael is a member of the OCBA Board of Directors and has proudly served on the Board for four years. Michael also serves on the OCBA Judiciary Committee, OCBA Diversity Committee, OCBA Lawyer Referral & Information Service Committee 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 (TMBA), an affiliate bar association of the OCBA. Michael has served as TMBA's President, Secretary, and Treasurer and has helped to organize important programs for our OCBA members, such as a round table discussion with Dean Erwin Chemerinsky and Richard Rothstein on *The Historical Seeds Of Segregation And How They Continue To Impact Us Today* and a panel discussion commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Michael will work to ensure that our great bar association continues to connect and support members at large and small firms and in the public sector. As part of this initiative, Michael will advocate for the creation of the "OCBA Marketplace" to support OCBA members with additional resources and/or negotiated vendor discounts on a range of matters such as: (1) an e-Discovery and IT consortium to assist with e-Discovery and IT needs; (2) finding or leasing office space; (3) substance abuse and mental health services; and (4) resources to enable underrepresented attorneys to proactively engage with the broader legal community. Michael will also look for ways to leverage technology to connect and support members. He will work to create a public sector section of the OCBA to further connect our public sector members and highlight their great work.

Michael obtained his JD and BA from the University of Southern California. He is a huge fan of USC football and the Los Angeles Lakers and enjoys watching films and working out. He is happily married and the proud father of three girls. For more information, visit <http://Michael4OCBA.com>.

### Daniel S. Robinson



Daniel S. Robinson is a partner at Robinson Calcagnie, Inc., where he focuses on civil litigation. Dan is proud to serve the OCBA as an elected member of the Board of Directors and humbly seeks your vote for 2019 OCBA Secretary.

Born and raised in Orange County, Dan has tremendous respect for its legal community and institutions. He understands the importance of the OCBA's mission and has served on its Judiciary Committee, Membership Task Force, Civility Task Force, Mentoring Committee, 1L Kickstart Program, and Charitable Fund Board. This year, Dan and 2018 OCBA Secretary Larisa Dinsmoor re-launched the OCBA's Pro Bono Committee and are serving together as its co-chairs.

Outside of OCBA, Dan has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the Orange County legal community through his service as 2017 President of Project Youth OCBF (a non-profit organization providing education, counseling and mentoring programs for at-risk Orange County teens) and as 2017/2018 Co-Chair of the Public Law Center's Volunteers for Justice Fundraiser. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for Loyola Law School and CAOC, the committee for UCI Law School's annual scholarship fundraiser, and FBA-OC, OCTLA, OCAABA, ABTL, and the Celtic Bar Association.

Dan believes in an OCBA that supports diversity and inclusion. He is proud that a third of his firm's partners are women. Before Robinson Calcagnie, Dan was an associate at O'Melveny and an Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office. His professional background will help him serve and represent the diverse interests of OCBA members.

As Secretary, Dan will work hard to ensure cost-effective events and educational programs; support court funding and access to justice initiatives; promote civility, diversity and professionalism; and improve communication and collaboration with OCBA sections and affiliate bars. He is excited for the opportunity to work with OCBA leadership to strengthen the OCBA and enhance its benefits to members.

Dan is a graduate of Williams College and Loyola Law School. Dan and his wife Cate are the proud parents of Abby and Luke, who are eagerly awaiting their new baby brother.

For more information, visit <http://DanRobinson4OCBA.com>.

## DIRECTORS – AT – LARGE (Elect 3)

### Eric S. Blum



I'm Eric Blum and I'm grateful to be nominated for a position on the Orange County Bar Association Board of Directors.

I have been practicing for over 25 years and have been a member of the OCBA since 1994. I greatly respect the mission and accomplishments of the OCBA in providing opportunities for lawyers, working closely with the local bench to constantly improve the administration of justice and in assisting members of the public who interact with the legal system here in Orange County. My goals are to ensure that the OCBA continues to provide a high level of service to its members, to support a healthy and independent judiciary, and to constantly improve the level of professional discourse and ethical behavior among lawyers in our community.

Since 2010, I have been one of the two co-chairs of the Mandatory Fee Arbitration Committee ("MFA Committee"), the largest in the OCBA, and have served actively as an arbitrator since 1999. Because of the important role the MFA Committee plays due to its regular interaction with members of bar and general public, it has been my mission to make the OCBA's MFA program the best and most professionally run in the state.

To the Board I will bring the perspective of someone who first worked as a litigator in small and mid-sized firms, spent 17 years as a sole practitioner and who recently has moved in house as Corporate (litigation) Counsel for the Auto Club.

My volunteer experience outside the OCBA includes my present service as a member and secretary of the Board of Directors of the Newport Beach Baseball Association and ten years as a member (the last eight as secretary) of the Board of University Synagogue in Irvine. I also volunteer as a temporary judge for the Orange County Superior Court and serve as a qualified hearing officer for the County of Orange.

I am a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the USC Gould School of Law. My wife, Michelle, also an attorney, and I met in law school and we do our best to raise three teenage boys.

### Michael L. Fell



Mike Fell is honored to have been nominated to run for the OCBA Board of Directors. Having previously been on the Board from 1997-2006, Mr. Fell is excited to once again have the opportunity to represent his colleagues as a Director of the OC Bar.

Mr. Fell is a former Senior Orange County Deputy District Attorney where he prosecuted cases for over 18 years. While at the prosecutor's office, Mike handled cases ranging from murder to arson to organized crime. He left the DA's office in 2008 to become the California Trial Counsel at a construction defect firm in Newport Beach and ultimately founded his own law practice in 2009. He now practices criminal defense and victims' rights representation under Marsy's Law.

Mike has been actively involved in the Orange County Bar Association since he became an Affiliate Board Member in 1995 while serving as the President of the Association of Orange County Deputy District Attorneys. Throughout his years of practice, he has enjoyed being a member of several Bar sponsored organizations including the Judiciary Committee, the Nominations Committee and Law Day. He has been an active member of the California State Bar since 1989.

## Kelly L. Galligan



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

As the current chair of the OCBA Young Lawyer's Division ("OCBA YLD"), I had the privilege to serve as an OCBA Director this past year. Inspired by the dedication of fellow Board members, I am eager to continue serving our legal community.

I have been active in the OCBA since beginning my career at Rutan in the following capacities:

- Director, Board of Directors;
- Chair, OCBA YLD;
- Chair-Elect, OCBA YLD;
- Social Chair, OCBA YLD;
- Co-Chair, Mentor On Demand Committee;
- Board Member, Diversity and Inclusion Committee; and
- Board Member, Leadership Development Committee.

With my finger on the pulse of our OCBA YLD, and as a 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 an OCBA 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;
- Putting together the inaugural Judicial and Young Lawyers Mixer, where judges and young lawyers have the opportunity to get to know one another in a casual setting;
- Organizing the first, second and third annual Leadership Development Committee Masters and Young Lawyers Trivia Night, bridging the gap between new and experienced attorneys;
- Coordinating diversity-centric CLE events such as the Women in Leadership and Overcoming Bias in the Workplace panels; and
- Instituting the OCBA YLD Tiki Cruise, an island-themed cruise around the Newport Harbor that is wildly popular and has become a staple event of the OCBA YLD.

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

## Michael S. LeBoff



As a business trial lawyer in Orange County for nearly twenty years, Mike has benefitted greatly from the Orange County Bar Association's educational, networking, and leadership opportunities. He now wants to give back to the organization that has been so influential in his career.

After graduating second in his class from Loyola Law School, Mike clerked in the Central District of California. He then joined the Orange County office of Paul Hastings LLP. From there, Mike took advantage of the opportunity to work at some of the finest business trial firms in Orange County. Mike also spent time as in-house counsel, managing litigation nationwide. In 2018, Mike became the first new partner at Klein & Wilson in the firm's nearly 25-year existence.

In addition to being an accomplished lawyer, Mike is active in the OCBA and other professional organizations. Mike is the incoming chair of the Business Litigation Section, the largest section in the OCBA. Previously, Mike chaired the OCBA's Banking and Lending Section. The American Bar Association's Section of Litigation recently appointed Mike to a third-term as co-chair of its Commercial and Business Litigation Committee. Mike is also an active member of the Celtic Bar Association and the Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

Outside of the office, Mike recently celebrated his twentieth wedding anniversary. Mike and his wife, Abby, have two teenage daughters. When his kids were younger, Mike coached their tee-ball and soccer teams, and led their YMCA Adventure Princess group. A life-long Orange County resident, Mike was born and raised in Huntington Beach.

As a Board Member, Mike will apply the same work ethic, professionalism, and collegiality he applies to his legal work to enhance an already great organization, continue to provide members with unparalleled educational and networking opportunities, and serve Orange County's legal community.

## Mei Tsang



It's been a privilege to serve on the Board of Directors for the OCBA over this last three years. I am honored to be a nominee again for the position of the Board so I can continue to serve our Bar.

I am an intellectual property partner at Umberg/Zipser, a firm with a rich history of community service and participation. I have been a member of the OCBA since 2006. In addition to my recent service as a Board member, I served as the chair of the Intellectual Property Section, and as a Board member of the OCBA Charitable Fund, the charitable giving arm of the OCBA, for the past 5 years. In addition, I have served on many OCBA committees, including the Diversity Committee, Editorial Committee, Audit Committee, Mentoring Committee, and Lawyer Well-Being Task Force.

Most recently, I helped organized the first OCBA Diversity Summer Social to bring together our diverse communities under one roof. For an immigrant who came to this country not knowing anyone, it was a dream to see our diversity celebrated under the OCBA.

I am also co-chairing the marquee OCBA Charitable Fund event, Raise Your Glass, this year. This event brings in funds to allow OCBA to help all the various charities in our community ranging from domestic violence clinics to nonprofit educational and legal institutions.

Community service is an essential part of my being an attorney. Outside of the OCBA, I also am involved in a number of other organizations, including serving as a Board Member for the Legal Aid of Orange County and Southeast Los Angeles (LASOC), and as a member of various affiliate bars in our community. I know firsthand how much the OCBA can give us in terms of experience, friendship, and opportunities to expand our horizons. I would love the opportunity to continue to do my part to serve our Bar and its mission.

I hope to have your vote this term so I can continue my Board service with the OCBA, and I look forward to hearing from you on how we can do better.

## Christina M. Zabat-Fran



Christina Zabat-Fran is the Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for St. John Knits, the American heritage fashion brand founded in Orange County and known for its fifty-five year history dressing confident women.

Recognized by the Orange County Business Journal as General Counsel Rising Star of the Year, Christina has led legal affairs for the multinational company during a crucial era of its evolution and global expansion.

Christina speaks nationally on the topics of counseling business clients, the attorney's voice in the boardroom, and personal branding. Christina received her law degree from UC Irvine School of Law, where she was a leader in the law school's prestigious inaugural class, helping build an institution that's become a national force as it shakes up traditional legal education. Christina became one of the school's most accomplished early stakeholders, working with Dean Erwin Chemerinsky to start the student bar association and the law review, for which she was co-editor-in-chief.

Christina has been extremely committed to public service and to the community. Christina has been an OCBA board member for several years, and has served as Chair of the Corporate Counsel Section and Chair of the Membership Task Force. Christina has also served on the Finance Committee, Legislative Resolutions Committee, Leadership Development Committee, Mentoring Committee, Pro Bono Committee, and Diversity Committee. Christina believes that the Orange County Bar should be a key source for attorney members to meet fellow talented attorneys, judges, neutrals, and for attorneys in the private sector, prospective clients, in order 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 perspective, mentorship and inimitable insight with rising stars from the Orange County Bar's Young Lawyers Division.

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. Christina believes that the OCBA should provide its attorney members with positive community-building events to support balancing their practice with life's other pursuits.