



OCBA ELECTION 2026 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Eric V. Traut



Our Bar Association remains among the strongest and largest in the nation. I believe that together we must continue to take the lead at meeting the changing needs of our profession.

I am the owner of Traut Injury Law – where I work alongside my wife, son, and daughters – handling personal injury and wrongful death litigation. Born and raised in Fullerton, a graduate of both Cal State Fullerton and Western State University College of Law, I have devoted over 35 years of demonstrated leadership to our Orange County legal community, prioritizing service to others.

I am humbled by the confidence placed in my ability to lead two years ago when I was elected by the membership to serve as Secretary. Having served as President of the OC Trial Lawyers Association, our local chapter of ABOTA, OC Italian American Lawyers Association (twice), Banyard Inn of Court, and the OC Bar Foundation's Project Youth, I will employ my knowledge and experience in my roles with the OCBA.

Through Project Youth, I continue to donate time and money to educate and mentor at-risk teens. Further, I am a proud founding member of the OC Trial Lawyer Charities, even offering myself up in 2023 as a roastie at one of its major fundraisers.

My lengthy track record implementing the OCBA's mission includes service on its Board of Directors, Judiciary Committee, Co-Chair for the College of Trial Advocacy for nearly 25 years, and Board Member of both the Masters Division and Charitable Fund.

I remain committed to the OCBA membership. As its President-elect, I will focus on supporting Shirin and her efforts throughout the year, and making sure we distribute our charitable funds fairly to the deserving organizations who serve our community in various ways.

My vision for the OCBA is to promote public confidence in our legal system, including supporting the rule of law and our local judiciary. We must prioritize the depth of diverse representation, maintain civility, and provide engaging educational programming. Together, our work will ensure the lasting success of our legal community, our democracy, and the public we serve.

TREASURER

Sharon Oh-Kubisch



I remain deeply committed to the OCBA and its mission. Serving on the OCBA Board of Directors has been a privilege. I am proud to be part of one of the strongest bar associations in the country and remain dedicated to ensuring we continue to meet the evolving needs of our members and the legal profession. As Treasurer, I will focus on maintaining a balanced budget and ensuring charitable funds are distributed equitably to organizations making a real impact in our community.

I was born and raised in Orange County and have practiced law here for over 25 years. I'm a partner at Kahana Feld, LLP, focusing on business and real estate law. My involvement with the OCBA spans more than two decades. I currently serve as Co-Chair and Board Member of the OCBA Charitable Fund's *Raise Your Glass* event, Treasurer

of OCAABA, and a member of the Bench and Bar Committee with OCKABA. Within OCBA, I've served on key committees including Audit, Administration of Justice, Nominating, Membership, Finance, Practice Pointers Portal, and Mommy Esq. I've also chaired the Business Litigation and Real Estate Sections - two of our largest. These experiences have shown me the true value of OCBA: community, education, and opportunity.

My Goals:

- Deliver engaging, relevant educational programming
- Expand membership and improve member benefits
- Launch a mental health and wellness hotline
- Host judicial panels to foster civility and collaboration
- Create cross-generational networking opportunities
- Support CLE travel abroad seminars

I welcome your ideas and feedback on how we can continue strengthening the OCBA together. You can learn more about me at www.kahanafeld.com, connect with me on LinkedIn or email me at sokubisch@kahanafeld.com.

SECRETARY (Elect 1)

Josh Ji



I am honored to be nominated for the 2026 OCBA Secretary position.

By way of introduction, I have had the great privilege of serving two terms on the OCBA Board of Directors. During those terms, I helped drive many key initiatives to enhance member benefits and engagement, such as the Mobile App task force (making benefits more accessible), the Practice Pointers task force (interviewing OC Superior Court judges on best practices), the Intergenerational task force (identifying ways to engage younger members), and the Mentor on Demand committee (preserving advice from experienced lawyers and judges). I have also served alongside many esteemed leaders of the OCBA through my service on the Nominating, Appointments, Leadership Development, and Editorial Advisory Committees, and have served as Chair of an OCBA Section, Committee, and Affiliate. I am deeply

familiar with the workings of the OCBA and the wide-ranging needs of its members.

Above all, I view the OCBA as a community where peers come together to exchange knowledge and ideas, connect the bench and bar, volunteer our expertise and time together, and give back to our community. We are extremely fortunate to have some of the best lawyers in the country here in our backyard, and our members are incredibly generous people. On a personal note, my introduction to the OC legal community was in 2010, when I participated in UCI Law's Pre-Law Outreach Program ("POP") as a college student. There, I spoke with lawyers who volunteered their weekends and inspired me to believe that I could become a lawyer, no matter what the circumstances. As I later came to learn, POP is sponsored by the OCBA's Charitable Fund, and many of its volunteers are OCBA members. Their encouragement—as well as the kindness of other mentors I have met through the OCBA—brought me to where I am today despite facing extreme personal adversities. I am forever indebted to them and this community, and I am firmly committed to giving back in every way that I can.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. I hope to earn your vote.

Casey R. Johnson



Greetings, fellow OCBA members! The need for a strong Orange County Bar Association has never been greater. I am running for Secretary to help the OCBA remain a continued source of strength and stability for lawyers, judges, and law students during this time when threats to professionals are rising and the practice of law is evolving. OCBA enjoys a national reputation as one of the best local bars in the nation, and I would be honored to bring more than two decades of legal organization experience to the leadership of OCBA to continue the legacy of civility, respect, and inclusion that has come to exemplify the practice of law in Orange County.

Through my 22 years practicing law at Aitken*Aitken*Cohn, I have had the honor of working alongside legendary lawyers who advocate community engagement and service as an essential part of serving in the legal profession. I have served as president of numerous legal organizations, including the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association, Orange County Lavender Bar Association, Robert A Banyard Inn of Court, and Western Trial Lawyers Association. I also serve on the executive committees of the Consumer Attorneys of California and the American Association of Justice and support pro bono legal services and charitable giving on the boards of the Public Law Center and Operation Helping Hands. My OCBA service includes two terms on the board of directors, as well as the Racial Justice Task Force, Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee, Nominations Committee, and Bylaws Committee.

I am running for OCBA Secretary to fortify the pipeline for newer and younger attorneys, expand opportunities for involvement for all lawyers, and ensure that OCBA remains the place lawyers turn for stability, camaraderie, and education in these ever-changing times. I will do this by:

- Supporting OCBA's 26 Sections
- Expanding and supporting membership
- Supporting the court's civility and mentorship efforts
- Providing timely educational programs relevant to diverse practice areas

If you have any questions about me or my candidacy, please call me at (949) 233-7246 or email casey@aitkenlaw.com. I would be honored and humbled to earn your support.

DIRECTORS – AT – LARGE (Elect 4)

Brian D. Chase



I am honored to be a candidate for the Orange County Bar Association At Large Board of Directors. Over the course of my career, I have been fortunate to serve in leadership positions that strengthened our profession and deepened my commitment to the values of service, mentorship, and integrity.

I have had the privilege of serving as **President of both the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association (OCTLA) and the Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC)**. In those roles, I worked with colleagues across the legal community to expand continuing education opportunities, promote diversity and inclusion, and support programs that benefit both lawyers and the public. These experiences taught me that strong bar associations succeed when they bring together attorneys from all practice areas and backgrounds to advance shared goals.

If elected to the OCBA Board, my priorities will be to:

- Support meaningful professional development and mentorship opportunities for attorneys at every stage of practice.
- Strengthen OCBA's role as a leader in fostering collegiality, civility, and professionalism within the bar.
- Ensure that our association remains inclusive and welcoming, reflecting the diversity of the Orange County community.
- Promote public service and pro bono initiatives that enhance access to justice and reinforce the profession's role in serving the public good.

I am committed to being an active, collaborative, and engaged board member. I believe in listening carefully, building consensus, and ensuring that decisions are guided by what will best advance the mission of the OCBA and support its members.

It would be a privilege to continue my service to the legal community through the OCBA Board of Directors. I respectfully ask for your support and look forward to the opportunity to work with my colleagues in strengthening our profession and the community we serve.

Caroline R. Djang



I am honored to be nominated to run for a second term as an OCBA Director at Large. Serving on the Board for the past three years has allowed me to fulfill two of my favorite aspects of being a lawyer: public service and making connections. I was born and raised in Orange County, and have been privileged to have been a Partner/Shareholder at three of Orange County's finest law firms: Rutan & Tucker, Best Best & Krieger and currently, Buchalter.

Since being elected to the Board in 2022, I have endeavored to achieve my goal of the OCBA reaching a broader, more diverse audience. The OCBA and its affiliate bars have given me an opportunity to network, learn, lead and mentor, and I want to continue to give back. Currently, I am the OCBA Membership Committee Co-Chair and a member of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Judiciary and Finance Committees. I am a past Chair of the OCBA Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section and the only bankruptcy attorney on the current OCBA board and on the slate of nominees this year.

I am dedicated to serving the legal community, leading and participating in several professional organizations. I am the Immediate Past President of the OCWLA, Past President of the Orange County Bankruptcy Forum, a member of OCAABA, OCKABA, FLOC, and serve on the Justice Served Committee of CLA SoCal.

In addition to my community activities, I maintain a thriving practice as a Shareholder in Buchalter's Insolvency and Financial Law practice group. I have been honored and recognized by my peers and the media, including being named to: Southern California SuperLawyers: Top 100, Orange County Top 50, Top 50 Women Lawyers; OCCDL Diversity Champion; The Best Lawyers in America®; and Banking and Finance Visionaries by the Los Angeles Times.

As a Board member, I would continue to bring my passion for public service, education and access to justice to the OCBA community. I hope to make referrals within the OCBA more user-friendly, increase mentorship opportunities, and expand the OCBA's presence. I humbly ask for your vote.

John Paul Glowacki



I am honored to seek your vote for re-election to the Board of Directors. Over the past three years, I have been privileged to serve the OCBA's fundamental mission: "To enhance the system of justice, to support the lawyers who serve it, and to assist the community served by it."

My decades of experience as a trial attorney and mediator have yielded invaluable insight into the diverse needs of our profession. As a past Chair of the Trusts and Estate Section, I have seen how my practice area affects every member of our community, and I have grown to understand the value of a human-centered approach to our profession. As an entrepreneur operating a boutique law firm, I am invested in the challenges and opportunities facing solo practitioners and small firms. My studies towards an LLM in mediation have re-connected me to the younger members of our bar and highlighted the importance of a lifelong commitment to learning.

My work on the Audit, Administration of Justice, and Practice Pointers Portal Committees has given me a broad, deep understanding of the OCBA's operations and impact. If re-elected, I will leverage my experience to collaborate on a clear path forward, focusing on initiatives that enhance member services including professional development and mentorship. I also believe in thoughtfully implementing technology to improve efficiency and access to justice, and in encouraging physical and mental well-being in our profession. I want to foster a highly skilled, supportive, ethical, and inclusive community, primed to meet the appropriately high standards of conduct outlined in OCBA's Civility Guidelines.

I am proud of the progress our diverse Board has made together, and I am deeply committed to ensuring the OCBA remains a vibrant voice for our profession, advocating for the interests of our members while upholding the integrity of the legal system. I ask for your vote so that I may continue to be your dedicated servant on the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alexander Payne



Alexander C. Payne is the Assistant Managing Partner at Minyard Morris, where his practice is dedicated exclusively to family law in Orange County. In addition to his legal practice, he is deeply committed to strengthening the local bar and expanding access to justice through leadership and community service.

Alex currently serves on the Board of Directors for the OCBA, the Board of Directors of the Public Law Center (PLC), with Project Youth's Food & Wine Society, and the Board of Directors for the Orange County Korean American Bar Association Foundation (OCKABA Foundation). At OCKABA Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting charitable activities related to the law for the benefit of all communities, particularly the Korean American community, Alex helped raise \$50,000 for their "Taste of Korea" inaugural fundraiser.

Alex is a longtime leader in the Asian American legal community. Alex is currently the President of the Orange County Asian American Bar Association (OCAABA). Under Alex's leadership, OCAABA re-focused on providing more networking opportunities and social events for its members. Alex is also active on the national stage through the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), which recently recognized him with its Best Under 40 Award. His involvement across these organizations reflects his commitment to fostering diversity, mentorship, and collaboration within the legal profession.

Through his roles with the OCBA, PLC, OCAABA, OCKABA Foundation, and NAPABA, Alex has demonstrated sustained dedication and commitment to service, leadership, and the advancement of the Orange County legal community.

I would be honored to continue to serve you as a member of the OCBA Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration. Please connect with me on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexander-payne-cfls-26b76050/> to learn more about my practice, past service, and candidacy.

Howard Privette



It has been an honor to serve on the OCBA Board for the past three years and an even greater honor to be nominated to run for another term. Let me tell you a little bit about my background and experience, as well as my ideas for the OCBA.

I have been around the OC legal community practically all my life. I grew up in OC (Servite HS), and my dad was a deputy DA here. Dad taught me a lot about the legal profession, with a strong focus on principles of justice, integrity and civility.

My practice focuses on business litigation with an occasional dose of criminal defense work, and I spend a lot of time in the state and federal courts here in OC. Today, I am proud to be a partner with Snell & Wilmer in Costa Mesa.

The OCBA has played an important role throughout my professional life. In addition to my recent service on the Board, I previously served two terms on the OCBA Judiciary Committee, including a year as Vice Chair and two years as Chair. I have also served for years on the Wine Committee for the Charitable Fund's annual "Raise Your Glass" event. I am also active in the ABTL and FBA, and I regularly present at bar-sponsored CLEs.

These activities illustrate some of the things that I think are integral to the mission of the OCBA. Ours can be a tough calling, but it can also be incredibly fulfilling and even a lot of fun. The OCBA provides great opportunities to meet each other, learn from each other, mentor the newer members of the bar, and serve the community around us. The OCBA also plays a key role in advocating for our profession, for our courts, and for ourselves with the legislative and executive branches of our government, and with the public at large. Above all, the OCBA is here to serve you. Let's make membership in the OCBA one of the best investments you will make.

Arjun Sivakumar



Arjun Sivakumar is a first-chair business litigation partner at Brown Rudnick and a dedicated incumbent OCBA Director. With years of service to OCBA—including leadership roles in the AI & Technology Committee and Business Litigation Section—Arjun brings deep experience and forward-thinking vision to the board.

As organizer of OCBA's acclaimed AI Symposium and a globally recognized speaker on AI in litigation, Arjun equips our bar community with the knowledge and tools to lead the profession in technological excellence. He also actively promotes inclusion and wellness, advocating for work-life balance and mentorship to support a thriving legal community here in Orange County.

Endorsed by OCBA Presidents, Franklin G. West Award winners, managing partners, and respected colleagues, Arjun humbly seeks your vote to continue to lead with integrity, innovation, and heart.

Let's shape the future of our bar together—vote Arjun Sivakumar!

Jennifer L. Waier



I am the Chief Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California, where I advise on legal, administrative, and policy matters and supervise significant criminal and civil cases. I have dedicated my career to public service having served as a federal prosecutor for more than 20 years, primarily in the Santa Ana Branch Office.

During my first term on the OCBA Board, I gained deep insights into our diverse membership's needs and the challenges facing our legal community. I am committed to leveraging this experience to advance inclusive initiatives, including networking events, pro bono collaborations, and tailored continuing education programs, ensuring every member's voice is heard and valued.

In addition to serving on the Board, I am currently the Chair of the OCBA's Judiciary Committee, where I have served three terms. As Chair, I have upheld the OCBA's mission to evaluate judicial candidates with rigor, fairness, transparency, and a steadfast commitment to judicial integrity, ensuring our courts reflect the highest standards of justice. Under my leadership, the committee evaluated many candidates, strengthening judicial excellence in Orange County.

Additionally, as former Chair of the OCBA's Criminal Law Section, I fostered collaboration, education, and advocacy, driving initiatives that enhanced the section's impact and supported members' professional growth.

These leadership roles have sharpened my ability to navigate complex challenges, build consensus, and advance the OCBA's mission.

Beyond the Bar, I am proud to be a Mock Trial Coach for Santa Margarita Catholic High School, where I mentor students in developing critical thinking, advocacy, and leadership skills. This work reflects my passion for nurturing the next generation of legal professionals and fostering a deeper appreciation for the rule of law.

I respectfully seek your vote to continue to serve as an OCBA Board Member.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brooke A. Weitzman



I joined the OCBA as a law student and immediately found a warm, supportive community. Through OCBA events, I met mentors, built friendships, and learned what it means to be part of this profession. That welcome shaped my career, and I want to give back by ensuring law students and lawyers feel the same sense of belonging.

As a student at UCI Law, I helped bring our community together—convening providers to address homelessness and hosting conferences on access to justice. That spirit of collaboration led me to the William P. Gray Inn of Court, where civility and professionalism are at the core. I was honored to lead as President, building authentic relationships across perspectives.

Two years out of law school, I co-founded the Elder Law and Disability Rights Center to serve unmet needs in Orange County. We built it while we flew—partnering with legal aid providers, supporting pro bono attorneys, and launching an incubator for new solo practitioners. Now entering our tenth year, I see clear synergy between this work and the OCBA's mission: To Enhance the System of Justice, To Support the Lawyers Who Serve It, and To Assist the Community Served By It.

I have served on OCBA sections and committees, and stayed active with affiliate and community organizations. From co-chairing Law Day for the Constitutional Rights Foundation to partnering with OCAABA and the FBA Young Lawyers Division, I worked to build bridges and strengthen collaboration in our community.

The OCBA plays a vital role—not only as a resource for lawyers but also as a bridge between the bench, bar, and community. If elected, I will bring my experience building where it is needed, my commitment to collaboration, and my dedication to strengthening the civility and professionalism that define our Orange County legal community. Please vote for Brooke.