



CAL-ABOTA

California Chapters of the
American Board of Trial Advocates

www.cal-abota.org

2016 PRESIDENT

Michael P. Bradley

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N. Denise Taylor

VICE-PRESIDENT

William B. Smith

TREASURER

Bryan R. Reid

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Members-at-Large

Dominique A. Pollara (2016)
Christopher P. Wesierski (2017)
Walter M. Yoka (2018)

August 4, 2016

Distinguished Member of CAL-ABOTA,

The first half of 2016 has been a busy one for CAL-ABOTA. Committee appointments were filled by eager board members. The election of the 2016 Trial Lawyer of the Year ended in a tie between Doug DeGrave and Mike Bradley. The CAL-ABOTA officers have or will attend all of the other regional ABOTA conferences. As President, I have made Chapter visits to four chapters already and intend to visit the other four during the remainder of the year. The Board met in San Francisco in May and will meet again in Orange County in August. The Executive Committee voted to comment in two cases involving unfair criticism of California judges. We continue to support, in close coordination with Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye, the education efforts which she has designated as her legacy issue and which are at the core of ABOTA's work to preserve and protect the right to a jury trial in civil cases. We continue our work on proper funding for the judiciary through our seats on the Open Courts Coalition.

Attached is an explanation of the high points of what CAL-ABOTA is and what it does. We have an excellent website, www.cal-abota.org, which you are encouraged to visit for information about the activities, programs, officers and members of CAL-ABOTA's eight chapters.

COMMITTEES

The Civil Justice Committee is headed by Bill Smith of San Francisco. It is involved in a mentorship program for new members of ABOTA and also programs regarding Court funding and response to the unfair criticism of judges. CAL-ABOTA occupies a permanent seat in the Open Courts Coalition which is designed to encourage proper funding for the judicial branch of California government. The Civil Justice Committee is also considering the possibility of participating in an Amicus program. The Education Committee is Co-Chaired by Bryan Reid of San Bernardino and Dominique Pollara of Sacramento. This committee works in close coordination with National ABOTA in sponsoring a variety of educational programs throughout the state. These include the California Council and Social Studies Conference, the Power of

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer Blevins

PAST PRESIDENTS

* George W. Bullen 1979-80

* Richard M. Sangster 1981-83

* Charles A. Lynberg 1984

* Warren C. Wetteroth 1985

Hon. Richard Aldrich 1986

Eugene J. Majeski 1987

Robert N. Stone 1988

* Marjorie W. Day 1989

* John J. Collins 1990

George J. Shelby 1991

John D. Barr 1992

Edward D. Chapin 1993

Dennis J. Sinclitico 1994

David P. Freitas 1995

Jack Daniels 1996

Edward J. Nevin 1997

Christopher Helenius 1998

Donald R. Warren 1999

Margaret M. Holm 2000

John A. McGuinn 2001

Stephen R. Cornwell 2002

Rudolph Nolen, Jr. 2003

Jeffrey S. Raynes 2004

Darrell A. Forgy 2005

Charles R. Grebing 2006

Christopher J. Day 2007

John F. DeMeo 2008

David B. Casselman 2009

Alan K. Brubaker 2010

Frederick H. Ebey 2011

James D. Weakley 2012

Douglas M. DeGrave 2013

Steven C. Glickman 2014

Dennis LaRochelle 2015

* Deceased

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Democracy Program, the Teachers Law School, the Journalists Law School, and the James Otis Lecture Series.

The Long-Range Planning Committee is Co-Chaired by Chris Wesierski of Orange County and Don Carlson of San Francisco. This committee is considering the adoption of public positions by CAL-ABOTA, similar to the public positions on matters relating to the preservation of the right to a jury trial in civil cases by National ABOTA.

CAL-ABOTA also has four ad hoc committees. These are the committees which are monitoring the expedited jury trial legislation headed by Wally Yoka of Los Angeles and Frank Pitre of San Francisco; the ABOTA Foundation Committee headed by Chris Beeman of San Francisco; the Public Service Announcements Committee headed by Steve Glickman of Los Angeles; and the Website Committee headed by Dennis LaRochelle of the California Coast Chapter.

TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR

In March CAL-ABOTA held its Trial Lawyer of the Year election. The election resulted in a tie between Doug DeGrave of Orange County and Mike Bradley of San Francisco. The other nominees were Mark Connelly of California Coast, Duke de Haas of Los Angeles, Bill Callaham of Sacramento, Cynthia Chihak of San Diego and Warren Paboojian of San Joaquin Valley. All of these trial lawyers are exceptional and represent the very best of the CAL-ABOTA Membership. This award is widely considered as the most prestigious award a California trial lawyer can receive.

JOURNALIST LAW SCHOOL

CAL-ABOTA has been a strong supporter of the Journalist Law School for many years and is continuing to do so in 2016. The course took place at Loyola Law School in June 2016. The tuition for each student journalist is \$5,000.00. Many of the CAL-ABOTA chapters contributed generously toward the sponsorship of journalists to attend the program at Loyola.

MASTERS IN TRIAL

All MIT's must receive National Foundation approval. The Foundation has a trademark on "Masters in Trial." Any chapter wishing to conduct a Masters in Trial should schedule it with the National ABOTA Foundation. If scheduling problems occur with the National Foundation, the chapter representative is encouraged to contact us at CAL-ABOTA and we will attempt to work toward a solution which allows the MIT to go forward.

2016 HAWAII CONFERENCE

We are returning to the Mauna Kea Resort again for the third year in a row to celebrate CAL-ABOTA's Conference from October 31st through November 5th. The conference is chaired by President-Elect N.

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Denise Taylor. We hope that you will join us to celebrate with our Trial Lawyers of the Year, Doug DeGrave and Mike Bradley, and to enjoy the traditional ABOTA comradery and the luxury of the Mauna Kea Resort. You are encouraged to register with Carrousel Travel and may do so through the CAL-ABOTA website: <http://www.cal-abota.org/hawaiiConference.asp>.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next CAL-ABOTA meeting will take place in Newport Beach on August 19, 2016 and you will receive a report soon thereafter.

Thank you for your continued involvement, membership and support of CAL-ABOTA. We are the organization with the single best ability to preserve and protect the right to a jury trial in civil cases and this is a responsibility we must discharge. It is likely to be a challenge which lasts for a considerable period of time, but it is a challenge we must meet for fear that if this precious right goes away it will never return.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Michael P. Bradley
2016 President, CAL-ABOTA

WHAT IS CAL-ABOTA?

When you receive emails addressed to “CAL-ABOTA member,” you may wonder exactly what CAL-ABOTA is and how you got to be a member.

Here’s the quick answer: CAL-ABOTA is the regional organization that serves as the “umbrella” for the eight (8) ABOTA chapters in California. It’s a way to keep the over 1,700 ABOTA members in California informed and connected. As a member of a California chapter of ABOTA, you are automatically a member of CAL-ABOTA. The President, Vice-president and Immediate Past-President of your chapter are members of the CAL-ABOTA board. The board elects a Treasurer each year who then succeeds to the offices of Vice-president, President-elect and President. In addition, there are three members-at-large.

We also hope you’ll be an active member of your chapter and participate in CAL-ABOTA activities, including our annual Hawaii Conference, where we honor the CAL-ABOTA Trial Lawyer of the Year, provide great speaker programs, and enjoy some time together in Hawaii.

Here are some facts about CAL-ABOTA.

- There is a CAL-ABOTA Executive Committee

For 2016, CAL-ABOTA Executive Committee members are:

Michael Bradley (San Francisco) – President
Denise Taylor (Los Angeles) – President Elect
Bill Smith (San Francisco) – Vice-President
Bryan Reid (San Bernardino/Riverside) – Treasurer – Member-at-Large
Dennis LaRochelle (Central Coast) – Immediate Past President
Steve Glickman (Los Angeles) – 2014 CAL-ABOTA Past President
Doug DeGrave (Orange County) – 2013 CAL-ABOTA Past President

- CAL-ABOTA was formed in 1979
- CAL-ABOTA holds a CLE program in Hawaii each year in November. At least every other year, the conference is held at the luxurious Mauna Kea Resort
- The prestigious *Trial Lawyer of the Year* award is presented each year at the CAL-ABOTA conference in Hawaii.
- CAL-ABOTA holds a permanent chair on the Open Courts Coalition, which strives to ensure proper funding for the California Judicial Branch of Government.

- CAL-ABOTA committees provide chapters and members with information on legislative activities that affect trial lawyers, defending judges who have been unfairly attacked and much more.
- CAL-ABOTA has a website (www.cal-abota.org) which we use to present videos, upcoming chapter events and photos and more. *Please* let us know when your chapter has an event and we'll put it on the calendar.

Chapters:

California Coast
 Los Angeles
 Orange County
 Sacramento Valley
 San Bernardino/Riverside
 San Diego
 San Francisco
 San Joaquin Valley

HIGHLIGHTS OF CAL-ABOTA ACTIVITIES

- ABOTA Foundation – work with ABOTA Foundation, raise funds
- Annual Hawaii Meeting – arrange for sponsors for Hawaii meeting with informative and engaging speakers
- Champion of the 7th Amendment – Teachers Law School, James Otis Lecture Series
- Civility Matters – program promoting civility among lawyers, held often throughout California
- Defense of the Judiciary – when they are unfairly attacked in media, social media
- Diversity/Inclusion – encouraging a diverse membership
- Expedited Jury Trial & Civil Procedure – promotion of the legislation, encouragement of faster, less expensive jury trials
- Open Courts Coalition – permanent seat to support proper funding of the Judicial Branch
- Legislative – what's going on, how it affects trial lawyers
- MIT – throughout the state. The gold standard of trial CLE
- Trial Lawyer of the Year – Election in March, celebration in November in Hawaii

Now that you know more about it, we hope you'll help CAL-ABOTA help you. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact an officer or CAL-ABOTA Executive Director, Jennifer Blevins at jennifer@caladmanagement.com or (916) 239-4099, ext. 107.

One more thing: Make plans now to attend the Hawaii Conference at the Mauna Kea Resort, October 31 – November 5, 2016. Contact Sara Mooney at skmooney@carrouseltravel.com or (612) 798-1428/(800) 800-6508

Michael P. Bradley
2016 President, CAL-ABOTA