



CAL-ABOTA

California Chapters of the
American Board of Trial Advocates

www.cal-abota.org

CAL-ABOTA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March, 2015

With the momentum left over from Steve Glickman's banner year, your CAL-ABOTA board started this year strong. At the March 13 & 14 Retreat, 27 of our 33 Board members were in attendance, along with past CAL-ABOTA Presidents Jack Daniels, John McGuinn and Steve Cornwell, National Vice President Dulin Kelly, National Foundation President Cynthia McGuinn and FLABOTA President Bob Palmer. A considerable amount of business was completed over the two days of meetings, including the selection of CAL-ABOTA'S 2015 Trial Lawyer of the Year, Bill Shapiro. Some highlights from the meeting and our plan for the year are summarized below:

Election of Trial Lawyer of the Year

All eight chapters submitted nominations. Prior to the Retreat, each chapter circulated written materials detailing the career and accomplishments of the respective nominees. At the Retreat, one representative from each chapter gave an oral presentation. In essence, we were treated to eight outstanding closing arguments before voting.

The nominees (with the names of the presenters in parenthesis) were:

Mark Connely, California Coast	(Dana Caudill)
Duke DeHaas, Los Angeles	(Steve Pasarow)
Doug DeGrave, Orange County	(Tom Dillard)
Bill Callaham, Sacramento	(Dominique Pollara)
Bill Shapiro, San Bernardino/Riverside	(Greg Bentley)
Mike Neil, San Diego	(Sheila Trexler)
Mike Bradley, San Francisco	(Don Carlson)
Warren Paboojian, San Joaquin Valley	(Steve Cornwell)

Bill Shapiro was selected to receive what is widely regarded as the highest honor bestowed upon a jury trial lawyer, the CAL-ABOTA Trial Lawyer of the Year.

Journalist's Law School

CAL-ABOTA has always been a strong supporter of the Journalist Law School, an intense four-day program that draws journalists from throughout the country. The course will take place from May 27 to May 30th at Loyola Law School. The tuition for each student journalist is \$5,000.00.

I am proud to report that this year CAL-ABOTA and all eight chapters have combined to sponsor five journalists with scholarships totaling \$25,000.00.

The donations will be as follows:

1. \$5,000.00 by the San Diego Chapter;
2. \$4,000.00 by the Los Angeles Chapter with an additional \$1,000.00 by CAL-ABOTA;
3. \$2,000.00 by the San Francisco Chapter, \$2,000.00 by the San Joaquin Chapter and \$1,000.00 by CAL-ABOTA;
4. \$2,000.00 by the Sacramento Chapter, \$2,000.00 by the California Coast Chapter and \$1,000.00 by CAL-ABOTA;
5. \$2,000.00 by the Orange County Chapter, \$2,000.00 by the San Bernardino/Riverside Chapter and \$1,000.00 by CAL-ABOTA

Chapter Meetings, Events and Programs

During the Board meeting, each chapter shared with the group its plans for the year. Accompanying this report you will find a comprehensive list of the meetings, events and programs that will be taking place throughout the state. Please take a moment to review the list. I am sure you will be impressed by how active our ABOTA chapters are statewide.

In the near future, we will be posting each chapter's plans on the CAL-ABOTA website. Some of the activities are still in the formative stages. As more information develops, it will be posted on the website and accessible to all.

Committee Reports

This year's committees and their chairs are:

1. Education – Bryan Reid, CAL-ABOTA Member At Large, San Bernardino/Riverside,
2. Civil Justice – Mike Bradley, CAL-ABOTA President-Elect, San Francisco and Denise Taylor, CAL-ABOTA Vice President, Los Angeles;
3. Long Range Planning – Chris Wesierski, Immediate Past President, Orange County;
4. National Foundation – Richard Scott, Immediate Past President, San Bernardino/Riverside;
5. Sponsor Guidelines – Doug DeGrave, CAL-ABOTA Past President, Orange County;
6. Bylaws – Dominique Pollara, CAL-ABOTA Member At Large, Sacramento;
7. Public Service Announcements – Steve Glickman, CAL-ABOTA Immediate Past President, Los Angeles

Every Board member has been assigned to at least one committee. The committee work has begun in earnest. At the Retreat, all committee chairs reported on their progress and plans for the year. I will mention just a few.

1. Education Committee

Bryan Reid's Education Committee is tasked with assisting the chapters in presenting both professional and public education programs. Every chapter plans to put on Civility Matters programs this year. Two chapters, Los Angeles and Cal Coast, will conduct Masters in Trial programs. Orange County organized an Expedited Jury Trial demonstration in January. Local lawyers were invited to observe an actual Expedited Jury Trial by ABOTA members (counsel and judge) in the Orange County Superior Court.

Los Angeles will have its annual Jack Daniels' Law School in August and San Bernardino/Riverside will partner with the Riverside Bar Association in a "New Lawyers' Academy".

Although professional education programs are growing, youth education programs in California have proven difficult. In the past, Cal Coast organized two James Otis Lectures but there have been no others in California. Last year, Sacramento put on the first Teacher's Law School in California. This year, both San Francisco and San Bernardino/Riverside are organizing Teacher's Law Schools while Orange County will sponsor a tour of its courthouse for Mendez School eighth graders and San Diego plans to have a "Civics for Students" program.

Those chapters throughout the nation that have attempted James Otis Lectures or Teacher's Law Schools have found it difficult to connect with the teachers and students. Our Education Committee will be working on solutions to that problem this year.

2. Foundation Committee

The Foundation Committee chaired by Richard Scott is working hard to improve the percentage of Foundation Fellows throughout California. The committee has already worked up a list of strategies and conducted a census with the disappointing finding that there are 950 CAL-ABOTA members who are not Foundation Fellows. Rich and his committee have made it their mission to significantly increase the number of Foundation Fellows in California before year's end.

3. Civil Justice Committee and Expedited Jury Trials

The Civil Justice Committee has two members, Mike Bradley and Doug DeGrave, who sit on the Open Court's Coalition which continues to work on the lack of appropriate court funding.

This year the Civil Justice Committee will address a new issue. ABOTA uniformly supports the concept of Expedited Jury Trials ("EJT's"). In California EJT's are purely voluntary but the voluntary nature of the program has resulted in EJT's being relatively rare.

Both the plaintiff and defense trial bars are discussing the possibility of making the Expedited Jury Trials mandatory for some types or classes of cases. Given ABOTA's historic interest in promoting civil jury trials, the Board agreed that CAL-ABOTA should be involved in that discussion. The Civil Justice Committee has been tasked with doing so.

4. Public Service Announcements

CAL-ABOTA, under Steve Glickman's leadership, produced a jury orientation video and several jury service public service announcements last year. The jury orientation video is now ready to be shown in all counties.

Steve has forwarded the video to all chapters asking each to see if their respective Superior Courts will show the video during jury orientation.

Steve will also work on rolling out the shorter jury service videos as public service announcements. The jury orientation video and the jury service public service announcements will all be posted on the CAL-ABOTA website in the near future.

Masters In Trial

All MIT's must receive National Foundation approval. In fact, the Foundation has a trademark on "Masters In Trial". Any chapter wishing to conduct a Masters In Trial must schedule it with the National Foundation but, in the past, the Foundation has told some of the chapters that no date was available for over a year.

Cynthia McGuinn, National Foundation President, attended our Retreat. She informed everyone that changes made by the Foundation will both streamline the process and allow for more MIT's to be conducted.

If any chapter wishes to conduct an MIT in the future but cannot proceed with their plan because of calendaring issues, please let me know so that we can work with the Foundation to have the problem rectified. We certainly do not want any chapter to abandon plans for an MIT because of calendaring difficulties.

2015 Hawaii Conference

We are returning to the Mauna Kea for this year's CAL-ABOTA Hawaii Conference from November 2 – 7, 2015. Registration is now open. We hope that you will join us to celebrate with Trial Lawyer of the Year Bill Shapiro and to enjoy the historic ABOTA camaraderie. This year is somewhat unique in that the Mauna Kea will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. It will be a great week. Sign up now!

Future Meetings

The next CAL-ABOTA Board meeting will take place on May 1st in conjunction with the National ABOTA meeting in San Francisco. It will be followed by a Board meeting in Santa Barbara on August 22nd. Summaries of each will follow.

In closing, thank you for your continued involvement and membership in ABOTA; please watch for additional member reports and be sure to visit the CAL-ABOTA Website (www.cal-abota.org) for calendar and association updates.

Dennis LaRochelle
President



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2015 CAL-ABOTA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

California Coast:

Meetings

February 18: Tower Club, Oxnard
May 16: Sycamore Mineral Springs, Avila
September 30: University Club, Santa Barbara

Events

December 4: Holiday Party-Biltmore, Santa Barbara

Programs

March: Civility Matters, San Luis Obispo
June 19: Civility Matters-ProVisors, Westlake Village
September 23: Civility Matters- Santa Barbara
October 16: Masters in Trial-location TBD

Los Angeles:

Meetings

January 14: Chapter Meeting- Jonathan Town Club
April 15: Chapter Meeting- Jonathan Town Club
June 10: Chapter Meeting, Reception Only- California Club
September 16: Chapter Meeting- Jonathan Town Club
December 16: Chapter Meeting- California Club

Events

February 5: President's Dinner Dance- Four Seasons
April 13: Golf Tournament, El Caballero Country Club, Tarzana
May 27: Sidebar Event-Wilshire Restaurant, Santa Monica
July 22: Judicial Reception, Jonathan Club
December 16: Holiday Dinner, California Club

Programs

TBD-Civility Matters-TBD
June 12: Masters In Trial- Southwestern Law School
August 3-5: Jack Daniels Law School-Loyola Law School

Orange County:

Meetings

May 13: Spring Dinner Meeting, Andrei's Restaurant- Irvine, CA
August 8: Executive Board Summer Party- Dillard Residence

Events

January 17: Installation Dinner
January 30: Actual Expedited Jury Trial Demonstration-OC Superior Court
March 26: Mendez School 8th grader's tour of OC Courthouse
May 18: 9th Annual Golf Tournament- Santa Ana Country Club
October 7: Judges Night-Pacific Club
December 7: Holiday Party-Muldoons Irish Pub

Programs

TBD (fall) Civility Matters- Western State University
TBD (fall) Civility Matters -Chapman Law School
TBD (fall) Civility Matters- Whittier Law School

Sacramento Valley:

Meetings

October 21 or October 28: Annual Membership Meeting

Events

May 7: Judicial Reception
July 28: St. Philomenes Charity BBQ
August 29: Annual Summer Party

Programs

TBD- Civility Matters- Redding
TBD- Civility Matters-Sacramento
TBD- Civility Matters-Chico
TBD- Civility Matters- Stockton
Sept/Oct- Teachers Law School
November 13: Masters in Trial-McGeorge School of Law

San Bernardino/Riverside:

Meetings and Events

April 21: Chapter Meeting- Auto Club Speedway
August: Chapter Meeting- Presidents Home
October 15: Chapter Meeting- Judges Dinner-TBD
January 9: Chapter Meeting Installation- Chino Air Museum

Programs

TBD- Civility Matters-TBD
TBD-Teachers Law School-TBD
March 15: Deposition-Riverside New Lawyers Academy
April 17: Trial-Riverside New Lawyers Academy

San Diego:

Meetings

February 26: Dinner Meeting- San Diego Yacht Club
April 23: Dinner Meeting-San Diego Yacht Club
June 25: Dinner Meeting- San Diego Yacht Club
October 22: Dinner Meeting- San Diego Yacht Club

Events

August 15: Summer Party-Home of Vince & Judy Bartolotta
September 24: Judicial Reception-Westgate Hotel
December 12: Holiday Party- La Jolla Country Club
TBD- Golf Tournament-TBD

Programs

TBD- Civility Matters
TBD- Civility Matters
TBD-Civility Matters
TBD- Civics for Students

San Francisco:

Meetings

February 12: Membership Dinner- St. Francis Yacht Club, San Francisco
May 19: Membership Election Meeting-Nikko Hotel, San Francisco
October 15: Membership Dinner-Marines Memorial Club & Hotel, San Francisco

Events

August 14: Summer Event- Triples Alley AT&T Park (Giants vs. WSH)
December 11: Holiday Gala-Westin St. Francis Hotel- San Francisco

Programs

February 18: Civility Matters! Skadden Law Office, Palo Alto, CA
February 19: Civility Matters! Solano Bar Association, Fairfield, CA
March 16: Civility Matters! Clapp Moroney, San Bruno, CA
March 27: The Art of Storytelling in Trial, from Opening Statements to Closing Arguments Fairy Tales – Goldilocks and Red Riding Hood Can Still Teach Us
TBD-Additional Civility Matters programs
TBD- Two Brown Bags
TBD-Teachers Law School

San Joaquin Valley:

Meetings

April 18: Annual Meeting & Banquet-Vintage Press

Events

May 28: Golf Tournament and Dinner- Fort Washington Country Club

Programs

February 11: Civility Matters-Kern County Superior Court
May: Civility Matters- San Joaquin School of Law
October 24: Masters in Trial- San Joaquin School of Law