



BAR COMMUNITY

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

AWARD NOMINATIONS

The **State Bar of Arizona** is soliciting nominations for awards to be given at the annual convention. Nominations for all categories should be submitted to: State Bar Awards, 4201 N. 24th St., Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85016-6288. The deadline for nominations (with one exception) is February 28, 2011.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded to that attorney or those attorneys who have rendered extraordinary contributions to the programs and activities of the State Bar in the prior year. Hundreds, even thousands, of the Bar's members contribute their time and talent to the work of the Bar, but this award is limited to those whose contributions are exceptional. In 2010, the award was given to Jeffrey Messing and J. Scott Rhodes.



Jeffrey Messing

"Although I am honored to have received the award, my time volunteering in the areas of attorney discipline and examinations has taught me that the functioning of both the bar exam and the discipline system depends primarily on the efforts of the staff, who do not receive nearly the credit they deserve."

—Jeffrey Messing



J. Scott Rhodes

"I consider it an honor to serve the Bar in whatever way I can. I know many members feel the same way and give generously of their time. So, while I was very pleased when I learned I was co-recipient of the 2010 Member of the Year Award, I immediately thought of the many lawyers who deserve that recognition more than I."

—J. Scott Rhodes

JAMES A. WALSH OUTSTANDING JURIST AWARD

Awarded to that judge whose career exemplifies the highest standards of judicial conduct for integrity and independence; who is knowledgeable of the law and faithful to it; who is unswayed by partisan interests, public clamor or fear of criticism; who is patient, dignified and courteous to all who appear before him or her; and who endeavors to improve the administration of justice and public understanding of, and respect for, the role of law in our society. Last year's recipient was Hon. Barbara Rodriguez Mundell.

AWARD OF SPECIAL MERIT

Awarded to that member or member of the State Bar who has made significant contributions to the furtherance of public understanding of the legal system, the administration of justice and confidence in the legal profession. In 2010, the recipients were Alex E. Navidad and Gary R. Stickell.

SHARON A. FULLMER LEGAL AID ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded to that legal services lawyer or lawyers in Arizona whose service to low-income people encompasses aggressive advocacy on behalf of individuals in extreme need and addresses systemic issues affecting significant numbers of low-income people. Last year's recipient was Andrew Silverman.

AWARD OF APPRECIATION

Awarded to that individual or those individuals who are not members of the Bar in recognition of outstanding service toward the creation of a better public understanding of the legal profession and the administration of justice, the judiciary or the legislative process. Susan Armstrong was honored last year.

TOM KARAS CRIMINAL JUSTICE AWARD

Awarded to that criminal defense practitioner who during his or her career has worked tirelessly to advance the principles of criminal justice by representing clients with integrity, fairness, tenacity, creativity, brilliance and, above all, professionalism. The recipient in 2010 was Michael D. Kimerer.

MICHAEL C. CUDAHY CRIMINAL JUSTICE AWARD

Awarded to that criminal law prosecutor who during his or her career has worked tirelessly to advance the principles of criminal justice by representing the public's interest with integrity, fairness, tenacity, creativity, brilliance and, above all, professionalism. The recipient in 2010 was Sandra M. Hansen.

HON. JOHN R. STICHT EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITIES ACCESSIBILITY AWARD

(This award has a nomination deadline of April 30)

Awarded to private and/or public legal employers for their efforts to improve access to the Arizona judicial system for persons with disabilities in the legal profession, including lawyers, paralegals and court and law firm staff. The awards are presented at the State Bar Convention, and at a ceremony at the State Capitol in July, the annual anniversary of the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). The Pima County Public Defender's Office was honored in 2010.

Below are highlights from the Nov. 19, 2010, meeting of the State Bar Board of Governors. To see the complete minutes, go to www.myazbar.org/AZBarInfo/BOG/BoGMinutes.cfm.

- ▶ **President's Report**—President Alan Bayham, Jr., introduced Dean Shirley Mays of the Phoenix School of Law. He announced that the Long-Range Planning Committee has changed its name to the Strategic Planning Committee to align with its refocused purpose.
- ▶ **CEO/Executive Director's Report**—John Phelps summarized the major initiatives on which staff are working. He introduced Carol Stiles, a paralegal in Lawyer Regulation Division, who was selected by the staff as Employee of the Month for her work on an internal litigation team. He announced that the dues statements had gone out one week earlier than usual and that the number of online users is increasing. He thanked board member Richard Platt for hosting him and the Pinal County Bar at a luncheon program.
- ▶ **Strategic Planning:**
 - ▶ **MCLE Review**—Tom Crowe reported that 10 qualified diverse individuals have been identified to serve on the study group, whose charge will soon be developed.
 - ▶ **Discipline Guidelines**—Richard Platt reported that Supreme Court and State Bar representatives were currently meeting with Colorado Bar staff to review certain areas of the new discipline system that mirrors what Arizona is implementing.
 - ▶ **Positive Things Lawyers Do**—Chief Communications Officer Rick DeBruhl reported that the new public website—www.azbar.org—has been launched. The Communications Committee will focus on where to find the stories about attorneys' positive contributions in the community so these stories can be circulated.
 - ▶ **Mission Statement**—Ted Campagnolo reported that the Strategic Planning Committee recommends that three words be added to the end of the State Bar's Mission Statement: "The State Bar of Arizona serves the public and enhances the legal profession by promoting the competency, ethics, and professionalism of its members and enhancing the administration of **and access** to justice." The board will vote on the proposal at its December 17 meeting.
 - ▶ **Diversity**—Lisa Loo updated the board on various meetings she has had to coordinate diversity-related programs/services in the legal community. Her itinerary takes her next to Yuma.
- ▶ **Section Management Policies**
Review—General Counsel John Furlong reported that information is being collected from other bar associations regarding policies and guidelines relating to the maintenance and management of committees and sections.
- ▶ **Support Independence of the Judiciary**—Amelia Craig Cramer suggested that the Bar needs to develop a short- and long-term strategy regarding issues such as merit selection and the independence of the judiciary.
- ▶ **Legislative Update**—Janna Day reported on the turnover in the state House and Senate following the elections. The number of attorney-legislators has decreased from 11 to 8. The Law School for Legislators will be held Thursday, January 6, with Hon. Sandra Day O'Connor as the keynote luncheon speaker. The Elder Law and Mental Health Legislative Subsection is addressing concerns raised by the Pima County Attorney's Office regarding proposed revisions to Titles 14 and 36, which is slated for board action in December. The board voted to support the proposed technical changes to numerous statutes relating to the Arizona Trust Code and the Uniform Probate Code and authorized Ms. Day to shepherd these proposals through the upcoming legislative session.
- ▶ **Appointments Committee**—Chair Whitney Cunningham presented the committee's recommendations, and the board:
 - ▶ Voted to appoint J. Tyrrell Taber (Aiken Schenk Hawkins & Ricciardi PC, Phoenix) to a six-year term on the Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct.
 - ▶ Voted to reappoint Milagros A. Cisneros (Federal Public Defender's Office, Phoenix) and to appoint Thomas L. Murphy (Gila River Indian Community, Sacaton) to serve four-year terms on the DNA-People's Legal Services, Inc. Board of Directors.
 - ▶ Voted to reappoint the following individuals to a final three-year terms on the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education Board of Directors: Hon. Thomas J. Berning (Tucson City Court), Commissioner Frank A. Johnson, Jr. (Maricopa County Superior Court, Phoenix), and Robin Mitchell (Arizona Corporation Commission, Phoenix). The board also voted to appoint Meredith Peabody, a public member on the Board of

Governors, to a three-year term to further advance the working relationship between the sister organizations.

- ▶ **Rules Committee**—Chair Bryan Chambers reviewed the two rule petitions to be voted on: Petition to Amend Rule 55(a)(1), ARIZ.R.CIV.P. (Entry of Default), which unanimously passed, and Petition to Amend Rule 38(h), ARIZ.R.S.CT. (Admission on Motion), which was tabled to the December meeting and returned to the Rules Committee for further study.

Mr. Chambers introduced Isabel Humphrey, Professionalism Committee Vice Chair, and Kelly Barr, In-House Counsel Committee Chair, who presented the pro and con side of the Petition to Amend Rule 34 and 38, ARIZ.R.S.CT., regarding in-house counsel and the professionalism course. The board voted to table this petition for a year to give the recently formed In-House Counsel Committee time to gather demographics of its members and study the proposal.

Remaining on the December 17 board agenda are petitions to amend the following rules:

- ▶ Rule 77(d), ARIZ.R.CIV.P. (peremptory change of judge)
- ▶ Rules 5(c) and 6(e), ARIZ.R.CIV.P. (electronic service of post-complaint filings in civil actions)
- ▶ Rule 4, ARIZ.R.FAM.L.P. (provide clarification of the time calculation provisions)
- ▶ Rule 38(i), ARIZ.R.S.CT. (in-house counsel MCLE requirements)
- ▶ ER 1.5(b), ARIZ.R.S.CT. (lawyer fees)
- ▶ Rules 13(f) and 15(a)(1), ARIZ.R.CIV.P. (modifications of said rules to comport with recently amended federal rules)
- ▶ Rule 43, ARIZ.R.S.CT. (trust accounts)
- ▶ **Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct (“Ethics Committee”)**—Vice Chair Jodi Feuerhelm presented revisions to the Statement on the Jurisdiction of the Ethics Committee, and the board voted to approve the document as submitted. The procedural change provides a mechanism to notify Bar leadership of an upcoming opinion and time to discuss it if necessary.
- ▶ **Finance Committee/CFO Report**—Joe Kanefield reviewed highlights of the 2011 draft budget, which will be voted on in December. CFO Tom Johnson presented the financial statements, noting that as of Oct. 31, 2010, the Bar has a surplus of \$1,221,000, which is favorable to budget by \$250,000.
- ▶ **Chief Bar Counsel Report**—Roberta Tepper, Senior Bar Counsel, reported that the Lawyer Regulation Division staff continue to make presentations statewide on the new discipline system. She reported that

the members seem to be pleased with the new system, which includes additional staff Bar counsel in the Attorney/Consumer Assistance Program devoted to quickly and efficiently handling live calls.

The division continues to dispose of cases within the current guidelines, with an overall yearly compliance rate consistent with last year.

▶ **Liaison Reports:**

- ▶ **AWLA**—Regina Nassen, Pima County Attorney’s Office, reported that the 31st annual conference “Achieving Without Limits” and the Mothers/Lawyers Breakfast in Phoenix were very successful. Teri Thomson-Taylor was elected State Chapter President. Former ASU Law School Dean and current Professor Paul Bender is the keynote speaker at the Maricopa Chapter’s December 8 luncheon. Amelia Craig Cramer will be honored at the Southern Arizona Chapter’s December 15 holiday luncheon.
- ▶ **Young Lawyers Division**—President Maricela Meza reported that the YLD held a very successful mixer the previous evening with the CMWL and Solo/Small Firm practitioners. The annual holiday parties for underprivileged youth are set in Maricopa (December 11) and Pima (December 17) counties, and volunteers and donations are welcome.
- ▶ **Arizona Asian American Bar Association**—Lisa Loo stated that the AAABA officers were attending the national Asian Pacific Bar conference in Los Angeles.
- ▶ **Los Abogados**—Virginia Herrera-Gonzales reported that Sal Ongaro was re-elected as President, and that the association’s efforts include promoting access to justice and civil rights in Arizona. The diversity of the Maricopa County Superior Court bench has been affected with the recent retirement of five Latino judges.
- ▶ **Native American Bar Association**—Ted Campagnolo reported that the NABA-AZ had coordinated a CLE on Native Health and participated in another on SB 1070, which was hosted by the Indian Law and Immigration Sections. Four \$1,000 Seven Generations Scholarships have been awarded.
- ▶ **Arizona Minority Bar Association**—Board of Governors member Dee-Dec Samet will be honored.
- ▶ **Pima County Bar Association**—Amelia Craig Cramer reported that the PCBA has raised its dues; that its CLEs are experiencing better attendance and are

designed not to conflict with those of the State Bar; and that the joint event with doctors was successful.

- ▶ **Disabilities Committee**—Meredith Peabody reminded the Governors of the December 1 luncheon program titled “If You Let Us Play: Sports, Disabilities, and the Impact of the Law.” The panel includes University of Oregon Golf Head Coach Casey Martin (*PGA Tour, Inc. v. Martin*), District Court Judge Lawrence O. Anderson, and Arizona Center for Disability Law attorney Jose de Jesus Rico.
- ▶ **Member Assistance Committee**—John Sullivan reported that the committee formulated its charge, is focusing on outreach to the law schools and rural attorneys, and is reviewing statistical data in order to tailor services to members in need, among other initiatives.
- ▶ **Public Lawyers Section**—Ted Campagnolo reported that the section’s first electronic newsletter is scheduled for rollout in January. The section welcomes learning of public lawyer(s) who should be recognized for their work/accomplishments.
- ▶ **Meeting Schedule**—The full Board of Governors meeting schedule is posted on the Bar’s website: www.myazbar.org/AZBarInfo/BOG/BoardofGovernors.cfm

PEOPLE, PLACES, HONORS & AWARDS

Fennemore Craig has launched an **Asia Practice Group**, an interdisciplinary group of legal professionals assisting United States-based clients doing business in the Asia region and Asia-based clients doing business in the United States.

Phoenix-based **Gallagher & Kennedy, PA**, elected new shareholders effective Jan. 1, 2011: **Craig Solomon Ganz** (representation of cor-

porate creditors and debtors-in-possession), **Kiersten A. Murphy** (commercial litigation), and **Janey Henze** (general criminal defense law and general commercial litigation).



Commercial litigator **Ryan M. Scharber** has joined the Chandler law firm **Hoopes, Adams & Alexander, PLC**, as an associate attorney.



Ari Ramras has formed **Ramras Legal, PLC**. He will continue to focus his practice on business and real estate litigation. Information at ramraslegal.com.



Jaclyn D. Foutz joined the Phoenix office of **Ballard Spahr LLP** as a litigation associate. She clerked for Arizona Supreme Court Justice Andrew Hurwitz and practiced law in Phoenix until 2008, when she founded and served as general counsel to the Human Tribe Project, an online fundraising company.



Buckley King has hired **Robert Erven Brown**, Of Counsel. He assists churches, para-churches and other non-profit organizations to manage their key operational risks related to their real estate and campuses.

DAVIS



DIAZ



GABRIEL



VILABOY



Quarles & Brady LLP announced that four of its Phoenix-based attorneys were elected to partnership: **Lisa E. Davis** (Health Law), **Hector J. Diaz** (Commercial Litigation), **Isaac M. Gabriel** (Commercial Bankruptcy, Restructuring Creditors' Rights), and **Mark D. Vilaboy** (Tax).

Birthe S. Goswick joined the Law Offices of **Monte Alan Rich LLC**, where she will practice bankruptcy law and criminal defense.

Sasha Marjanovic joined the Arizona office of **Gurstel Chargo** as an associate, with experience in personal injury and estate planning.

James (Jim) D. Atkinson III joined **Carpenter, Hazlewood, Delgado & Wood** as a partner in its community association, church, nonprofit and business practice. He has practiced in Minnesota and Prescott, Ariz. His addition, along with the Prescott office at 1550 West Plaza Drive, (928) 443-0775, expands the firm's presence in Northern Arizona. The firm's other offices are in Tempe, Tucson, Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

PEOPLE

Bellah and Associates hired **Cristina Perez** as an associate, handling bankruptcy matters.

HUMMELS



JANITCH



ROMERO



Osborn Maledon, PA, Phoenix, announced three new partners and two new associates. The new partners are **Mark Hummels** (appellate law, attorney ethics and discipline and litigation), **Danielle Janitch** (technology and intellectual property, software and corporate securities law and general counsel services) and **Jason Romero** (bankruptcy/corporate restructuring and litigation).

The new associates are **Robert Brooks**, a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, and **Shane Ham**, a graduate of the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law.

HONORS & AWARDS

BERNAL



Judge Margarita Bernal of the Tucson City Court was elected as the first Latina Chair of the **National Conference of Special Court Judges** of the American Bar Association. She has served as a Tucson City Court judge since 1985 and as faculty for the National Judicial College since 1992.

The Special Court conference serves specialized courts, including military, immigration, juvenile court, magistrate courts and Native American courts. It serves as the professional representative to the Judicial Division

of the American Bar Association.

In July 2010, Judge Bernal was nominated and elected as a **Fellow of the American Bar Association**, and she currently serves as the only Latina member from Arizona.

PEOPLE ITEM SUBMISSIONS

Send items for the People column to arizona.attorney@azbar.org. Items run free of charge, but because we receive many submissions, we cannot guarantee when an item will run. If you also send a photo with the item, we try to use it, depending on that month's space and the photo quality (high-resolution required).