



CAL-ABOTA

California and Hawaii Chapters of the
American Board of Trial Advocates

CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII CHAPTERS OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES 2026 CAL-ABOTA COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES (Per the Bylaws, Section 4):

Standing committees shall consist of at least three members, including the chair of the Committee. The purpose, per the Bylaws, of each standing committee is listed below.

EDUCATION

“This committee shall be responsible to assist chapters in the presentation of programs throughout the state, to assist chapters in carrying forward the Youth Education Program and any other ABOTA education programs and to engage in any other activities, including school related programs and awards, as shall promote the purposes of ABOTA.”

Karen Goodman – Co-Chair - kgoodman@goodman-law.com

Steve Grebing – Co-Chair - sgrebing@wingertlaw.com

Plus Chapter Vice Presidents/President-Elects shall serve as committee members:

CalCoast Vice President	Armando	Berriz	armando@alfonsoandberriz.com
Hawaii Vice President	Greg	Markham	gmarkham@cheemarkham.com
Los Angeles President-Elect	Shawn	McCann	sm@bhattorneys.com
Orange County President-Elect	Jennifer	Russell	jrussell@mswlegal.com
Sacramento Valley Vice President	Keith	Chidlaw	kdc@szs.com
San Bernardino/Riverside President-Elect	Daren	Lipinsky	dlipinsky@lipinskylaw.com
San Diego Vice President	Hon. Carolyn	Caietti	carolyn.caietti@sdcourt.ca.gov
San Francisco Vice President	David	Depolo	ddepolo@dndmlawyers.com
San Joaquin Valley Vice President	Todd	Barsotti	tbar@barsotti-law.com

CIVIL JUSTICE

“This committee is responsible for monitoring proposed legislation, jury instruction proposals, the administration of civil justice, and any other issue that may affect the goals and purposes of CAL-ABOTA and to engage in such activities to preserve the purposes of ABOTA as set forth in the Constitution.”

Niall McCarthy – Chair - nmccarthy@cpmlegal.com

Joe McMonigle – Co-Chair - jmcmonigle@longlevit.com

Frank Pitre – Co-Chair - fpitre@cpmlegal.com

Greg Rizio – Co-Chair - grizio@riziolawfirm.com

Hon. Ben Coats – Committee Member (non-board member) - ben.coats@ventura.courts.ca.gov

Plus Chapter Presidents shall serve as committee members:

2520 VENTURE OAKS WAY, SUITE 150 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95833
TELEPHONE: (916) 239-4087 • FAX: (916) 924-7323 • WEB: www.cal-abota.org

CalCoast President	Barry	Reagan	reagan@srllplaw.com
Hawaii President	Cynthia	Wong	cyn@legalmaui.net
Los Angeles President	Thomas	Johnston	tjj@johnstonhutchinson.com
Orange County President	Deborah	Tropp-Thompson	dtropp@mtbattorneys.com
Sacramento Valley President	Shelley	Jenni	sjenni@wilcoxenlaw.com
San Bernardino/Riverside President	Steve	Goldstein	steve@davis-grass.com
San Diego President	Bibianne	Fell	bibi@fellfirm.com
San Francisco President	Bradley	Corsiglia	bmc@cbalawfirm.com
San Joaquin Valley President	Abby	Leaf	abigailleaf@aol.com

LONG RANGE PLANNING

“This committee shall be responsible to recommend future activities, organization, awards, Board membership, chapter engagement, and any other Board actions that shall carry out the purposes of ABOTA and CAL-ABOTA.”

Walter Yoka, Chair – wyoka@yokasmith.com

Chris Faenza, Co-Chair - cfaenza@yokasmith.com

Joe McMonigle – Co-Chair - jmcmonigle@longlevit.com

Bob Morgenstern, Co-Chair – bob@ramlg.com

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Appointed by the Board, as necessary, to carry out its business for such terms as it shall determine.

AMICUS

Shelley Jenni - Chair – sjenni@wilcoxenlaw.com

FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

Yoshi Kubota, Chair - ykubota@kubotacraig.com

Steve Grebing – Co-Chair - sgrebing@wingertlaw.com

Deb Tropp-Thompson, Co-Chair - dtropp@mtbattorneys.com

Plus Chapter Immediate Past Presidents shall serve as committee members:

CalCoast Immediate Past President	Eric	Berg	eric@berglawgroup.com
Hawaii President (in absence of a PP)	Jeffrey	Portnoy	jportnoy@cades.com
Los Angeles Immediate Past President	Gary	Dordick	gary@dordicklaw.com
Orange County Immediate Past President	Juan	Delgado	idelgado@fwhb.com
Sacramento Valley Immediate Past President	Jill	Telfer	jtelfer@telferlaw.com
San Bernardino/Riverside Immediate Past President	Daniel	Kruid	dkruid@alderlaw.com
San Diego Immediate Past President	Ben	Bunn	Ben@bunnlawgroup.com
San Francisco Immediate Past President	Dale	Allen	dallen@aghwlaw.com
San Joaquin Valley Immediate Past President	Thomas	Feher	tfeher@fehermediation.com

MEMBERSHIP/DIVERSITY

Niall McCarthy, Co-Chair - nmccarthy@cpmlegal.com

Yoshi Kubota, Co-Chair – ykubota@kubotacraig.com

Plus Chapter Presidents shall serve as committee members:

CalCoast President	Barry	Reagan	reagan@srllplaw.com
Hawaii President	Cynthia	Wong	cyn@legalmaui.net
Los Angeles President	Thomas	Johnston	tjj@johnstonhutchinson.com
Orange County President	Deborah	Tropp-Thompson	dtropp@mtlbattorneys.com
Sacramento Valley President	Shelley	Jenni	sienni@wilcoxenlaw.com
San Bernardino/Riverside President	Steve	Goldstein	steve@davis-grass.com
San Diego President	Bibianne	Fell	bibi@fellfirm.com
San Francisco President	Bradley	Corsiglia	bmc@cbalawfirm.com
San Joaquin Valley President	Abby	Leaf	abigailleaf@aol.com

NEWSLETTER

This committee shall be charged with producing the E-News, the official periodic publication of CAL-ABOTA. The newsletter shall also be available on the CAL-ABOTA website.

Bob Morgenstern – President - bob@ramlg.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE

This committee shall reference the Community Service Award description and criteria approved by the Board of Directors on August 24, 2019. This committee shall also:

- 1. Maintain a form to have each chapter complete for possible consideration.*
- 2. Interview the contact from each chapter about their nominees, if necessary.*
- 3. Meet to narrow the list to three nominees only or one if there is overwhelming support for one chapter.*
- 4. Recommend to the Executive Committee, the final three possible candidates.*

Committee Members: Executive Committee Plus Walter Yoka

Ex-Officio Member of All Committees:

President, Bob Morgenstern

Executive Director:

Teresa Excinia, MBA, CAE – teresa@caladmanagement.com - <http://cal-abota.org/>