



CAL-ABOTA

California Chapters of the
American Board of Trial Advocates

JANUARY 2018

Dear CAL-ABOTA Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of our quarterly CAL-ABOTA e-NEWS. We hope this will be a great resource for you to find out what's going on and how you can be involved.

Many California ABOTA Members have no idea what CAL-ABOTA is or what we do. They think we only annually elect the Trial Lawyer of the Year in Hawaii. I intend to change that perception and this newsletter is a first step.

My goals for this year are three C's: Communication, Civic Education and Civility.

COMMUNICATION

- Visiting and highlighting our eight chapters
- Improving our judicial Rapid Response program
- Spotlighting our sponsors

CIVIC EDUCATION

- Educating more efficiently and economically
- Reaching more teachers and students

CIVILITY

- Continuing our Civility Matters programs
- Initiating a Civility Mentoring Program

We have a great year ahead of us.
Thank you for your continued membership
and involvement in ABOTA.



William B. Smith
President



Swearing in by Justice William W. Bedsworth of
2018 Officers (L to R) Wally Yoka, Treasurer; Chris
Wesierski, Vice President; Bryan Reid, President
Elect; and Bill Smith, President

CAL-ABOTA HOSTS INAUGURAL STATEWIDE TEACHERS LAW SCHOOL

CAL-ABOTA, in partnership with the Sacramento Valley Chapter of ABOTA, proudly presented a Teachers Law School program on September 18, 2017 at the Justice Anthony M. Kennedy Library and Learning Center in Sacramento, California.

Forty-five eager California educators from all over the state joined us for a meet-and-greet with CAL-ABOTA and Sacramento Valley Chapter members, followed by a day of compelling sessions on civics and civil discourse.

Featured speakers included:

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
Judge Morrison C. England, Jr.
Justice Arthur G. Scotland
California Attorney General, Xavier Becerra
and several other esteemed members of the bench and bar



Forty-five educators from all over California attended Teachers Law School in Sacramento in September

Teachers had great things to say about the California Teachers Law School:

“I’m so grateful for this opportunity!”

“Thank you so much for such a wonderful event! I learned so much and felt inspired.”

“Very happy I was able to make it; would love to attend ABOTA conferences again.”

“As a new teacher, I am not very confident. This taught me more, making me more confident in the subject matter. Thank you.”



California Attorney General, Xavier Becerra, speaks to the educators



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Recognition of 2017 Award Recipients: Trial Lawyer of the Year, Warren Paboojian, and Inaugural Judicial Civility Award Recipient, Justice Bill Bedsworth

During the week of November 6-11, 2017, CAL-ABOTA had its Trial Lawyer of the Year (TLY) celebration at the Andaz on Maui. It was a near sellout crowd.

In addition to a stimulating CLE Program and a spectacular performance by Justin Hayward, lead singer for the Moody Blues, CAL-ABOTA recognized Justice Bill Bedsworth -- affectionately known to all as "Beds" -- with our first Judicial Civility Award.

Henceforth, the award will be known as CAL-ABOTA's Justice William W. Bedsworth Judicial Civility Award. This is the highest honor CAL-ABOTA can present to a sitting judge or justice.



Justice Bedsworth receives Judicial Civility Award



Congratulations to Warren Paboojian 2017 TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR



Left to right: Dan Baradat, Warren Paboojian and Brian Panish



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Moody Blues legend & Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Inductee, Justin Hayward performs at Hawaii Conference



Justin will be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in April 2018.
[Center: Justin Hayward with Phil and Tina Baker | Photo courtesy: Rick Kraemer, Executive Presentations]

NATIONAL ABOTA DIVERSITY AWARD GOES TO ED NEVIN

During the October 2017 National Board Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, ABOTA gave Ed Nevin from the San Francisco Chapter, the first Diversity & Inclusion Award. This award recognizes everything Ed did to advance diversity in ABOTA during his tenure as 2003 National President.



Dulin Kelly (L) and Ed Nevin (R)

Ed Nevin is joined by former and current National Diversity & Inclusion Committee co-chairs as well as Charles H. Baumberger, 2016 National President

SPOTLIGHT ON ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

New President Judge Michael Strickroth has exciting things planned for the Orange County chapter of ABOTA for 2018

We will kick off the year with MIT at Chapman Law School, the Installation of Board Officers Dinner which will be held at Lyon Air Museum, and the New Member-Mentor Lunch.

The Spring brings the Law School Post Graduate Fellowship Program as well as our OC Spring Dinner and annual golf tournament.

In the Summer, we will host our Courthouse Steps Cocktail Party which we hold twice a year. This is for future membership candidates to meet and greet with the Board.

Civility Matters will be held in the Fall with presentations being held at three local law schools in Orange County as well as a Foundation Membership Cocktail Party, Teachers Law School and our Judges Night. We will also take some time again for a New Member-Mentor Cocktail Party. And as usual, we will end our 2018 with our Holiday party.



“Current enthusiasm and energy are running high. Orange County looks forward to a robust and productive year!”

THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT, DENISE TAYLOR



- Congratulations on a productive presidency in 2017!
- Thanks for making us proud with your service to National as Treasurer and a pioneer for diversity.



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Cynthia McGuinn

HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY ABOTA!

ABOTA started here in Los Angeles in 1958, and 2018 will be its 60th birthday.

Congratulations to Cynthia McGuinn of the San Francisco Chapter who will be sworn in as National President on January 20, in San Francisco, during the National Board Meeting.

Cynthia is the partner of former National President, Ron Rouda, and the wife of former CAL-ABOTA President, John McGuinn.



Ronald Rouda



John McGuinn

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

We could not have the same quality of programs without our valuable sponsors. It is crucial that we remember to use them in our cases so they can benefit from their generous sponsorship.

Please start by trying to use one or more of them on one case and go from there.
USE THESE GREAT SPONSORS PLEASE!



Group photo of our sponsors at the Andaz



CAL-ABOTA BY THE NUMBERS

\$75

Your annual dues to CAL-ABOTA

1

CAL-ABOTA is the largest state-regional ABOTA organization

24%

CAL-ABOTA makes up nearly one quarter of all ABOTA members

1979

CAL-ABOTA started then and is the oldest state-regional ABOTA organization

34

This is the number of CAL-ABOTA Board members. It is also the number of National ABOTA presidents from CAL-ABOTA to date. 34/60 or 57% CAL-ABOTA members

6

The number of ABOTA Chapter of the Year awards awarded to CAL-ABOTA chapters

6

The number of ABOTA National Lifetime Achievement Awards that have been given to CAL-ABOTA members



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WHAT WE DO...

Educational programs for law students, lawyers and educators:

Masters in Trial
James Otis Lecture Series
Teachers' Law Schools
Civility Matters Program
Civility Mentorship Program
Support for Loyola's Journalist Law School
Support for California's new Civics Education
Program for grades K-12
Support for the California Council of Social
Studies conference

Protecting Judicial Independence:

Rapid response program for unfair judicial
criticism (examples of responses on
CAL-ABOTA website)

Recognition of California Judges, Justices and Lawyers:

Selection of California Trial Lawyer of the Year
Selection of recipient of William W. Bedsworth
Judicial Civility Award

California's New Civility Oath: California
Rules of Court, Rule 9.4

Creation of jury service video for California courts

Amicus Committee to address important
statewide legal issues