



**CAL-ABOTA**

California Chapters of the  
American Board of Trial Advocates  
*www.cal-abota.org*

## **CAL-ABOTA PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**by Dennis LaRochelle**

**June, 2015**

This mid-year report will be brief. I just want to bring you up-to-date on some new developments and future initiatives.

### **Bringing Civics Back to The Classroom**

The office of the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, in collaboration with State Superintendent of Schools, has initiated a program to address the issue of inadequate civic education in our public schools. A "Power of Democracy Task Force" was formed to study the problem and make recommendations. The task force issued a report entitled "Revitalizing K-12 Civic Learning In California: A Blueprint for Action" last August. Since then a number of school districts have adopted resolutions to implement the recommendations of the task force.

Earlier this year, the Chief Justice's Office, knowing that CAL-ABOTA is particularly interested in youth education, reached out to CAL-ABOTA President-Elect Michael Bradley. Mike and CAL-ABOTA Education Committee Chair, Bryan Reid, met with the Chief Justice's Senior Court Services Analyst when our Board was in San Francisco for its May meeting. Bryan and Mike intend to stay involved with this initiative by the Chief Justice which could lead to stronger contacts with educators, making ABOTA's Teacher's Law School and James Otis Programs easier to implement.

Since our May meeting, a Judge of the San Diego Superior Court contacted San Diego Chapter President Sheila Trexler and invited that chapter to participate in on-going efforts to convince various San Diego school boards to adopt a "Civics Learning Resolution", committing school districts to adding civics education to their curriculum. San Diego chapter member Stephen Grebing volunteered to serve on a working committee with school board representatives to create the new curriculum.

Rather than waiting for a new curriculum, some educators expressed an interest in using ABOTA Foundation educational materials now. Stephen, with National's help, provided those materials. We will track the San Diego chapter's progress and let you know what develops.

Hopefully these initiatives will spread throughout the state. (For more information on the civics education effort, go to: <http://www.powerofdemocracy.org/>.)

### **Expedited Jury Trials**

After my last report, CAL-ABOTA formed a subcommittee, chaired by Wally Yoka, to look into on-going discussions between plaintiff and defense trial lawyer organizations on making Expedited Jury Trials mandatory, at least on some level and in some form. Although CAL-ABOTA supports an extension of the current voluntary Expedited Jury Trial legislation, we will not directly participate in the on-going discussions of the joint committee. Instead we will keep track of future developments and if any draft rules or legislation is circulated for comment, we will decide at that time whether to weigh in.

### **Public Service Announcements**

Steve Glickman's Jury Service video so impressed the Judicial Council that it sought and received permission to post the CAL-ABOTA video on the Jury Service page of the Judicial Council of California website.

If anyone has a contact at your local courthouse who has influence on what might be shown to jurors in the jury orientation room, please let them know of the availability of the CAL-ABOTA jury service video. It is outstanding and less than five minutes in length. You can find a link to the video on our website: <http://cal-abota.org/>.

### **Website Upgrade**

Speaking of our website, we have discovered major limitations with the current site. For example, our website will not completely or properly link to smartphones and tablets and our website lacks a number of other features that could improve how it is utilized. CAL-ABOTA's Executive Committee and our management company, CAMS, are discussing completely rebuilding the site. We hope to have that project finished by year's end.

### **Chapter Activities**

Accompanying this report, you will find a comprehensive list of this year's meetings, events and programs at each of our chapters. Please take a moment to review the list. I am sure you will be impressed. The chapter activities list, as well as the color-coded chapter calendar, is on the CAL-ABOTA website at: <http://cal-abota.org/our-chapters/chapter-activities/>.

Special mention should be made of the San Francisco Chapter's plan to present a Teacher's Law School® on August 4, 2015 at the historic Oakland Museum. It will be a day-long event. The agenda is outstanding. For more information go to: [www.sfabota.org](http://www.sfabota.org).

### **2015 Hawaii Conference**

The CAL-ABOTA Hawaii Conference will be here before you know it. We will be returning to the Mauna Kea from November 2 – 7, 2015. Please join us to celebrate with Trial Lawyer of the Year Bill Shapiro and enjoy the historic ABOTA camaraderie. This year is somewhat unique in that the Mauna Kea will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. You can register at the following link: <http://cal-abota.org/hawaii-conference/>. Sign up now!

Thank you for your continued participation and membership in ABOTA; please be sure to visit the CAL-ABOTA website ([www.cal-abota.org](http://www.cal-abota.org)) for calendar and association news.

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- Santa Barbara City College

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> grader's tour of OC Courthouse  
May 18: 9<sup>th</sup> 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 22: Annual Membership Meeting

**Events**

May 7: Judicial Reception  
June 30: St. Philomenes Church 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  
October 19: Golf Tournament- Fairbanks Country Club

#### **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**

June 4: The Art of Direct and Cross-Examination of an Economist Expert, San Francisco  
June 10: Judges Cocktail Reception-San Francisco  
August 14: Summer Event- Triples Alley AT&T Park (Giants vs. WSH)  
December 11: Holiday Gala-Westin St. Francis Hotel- San Francisco

#### **Programs**

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- Two Brown Bags  
TBD-Teachers Law School  
(Civility Matters Programs- private, do not want on website)

### **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