

2021 Committee Information

Awards

Chair: Kathleen Durrans, (650) 368-4662 kdurrans@arcr.com

The Awards Committee is charged with making recommendations for the award of The James M. Dennis Memorial Award and The William Nagle, Jr. Memorial Award. The James M. Dennis Memorial Award shall honor a member or members of the San Mateo County Bar Association for contributions to the profession and to the community at large. The William Nagle, Jr. Memorial Award shall honor a member or members of the San Mateo County Bar Association for service to the San Mateo County Bar Association.

The Committee shall make a recommendation for the award of either or both of these awards each year, but each award need not be given each year.

Bench and Bar Liaison

Chair: Chinhayi, (415) 535-5596 chinhayi.cadet@usdoj.gov

The purpose of the Bench and Bar Committee is to promote efficient, speedy, and fair legal procedures and to this end to recommend changes in procedural statutes, legal forms, and legal practices and to recommend the number of courts and court rooms required in San Mateo County. A collateral purpose of the committee is to promote harmonious relations with the judiciary.

Client Relations Committee

Chair: Jennifer Acheson, (650) 364-8200 jennifer.acheson@ropers.com

The purpose of the Client Relations Committee is (1) to make recommendations as to the reasonableness of fees in disputes between attorney and client, and (2) to oversee disputes between attorneys and clients in accordance with the Mandatory Fee Arbitration rules. The aforesaid duties will be carried out in accordance with rules and regulations established by the Board of Directors as amended from time to time.

Community Affairs

Chair: Angelica Ayar, (650) 634-8525 angelica@ayarlawoffices.com

The purposes of the Community Affairs Committee are to present to the general public the significance of the rule of law, to inform the general public of the activities of the Bar, and to encourage public confidence in the judiciary and the Bar, together with maintaining a liaison with other non-governmental organizations as may seem appropriate. The Community Affairs Committee shall also be responsible for the organization and conduct of appropriate activities in commemoration of Law Day and to maintain a Speakers Bureau for speakers to address service clubs, business, labor and professional groups, women's clubs and other organizations and schools on subjects relating to the law and administration of justice.

Conference of California Bar Associations (CCBA)

Co chair: Meera Balat (650) 515-0467 meera.balat@gmail.com

Co chair: Catherine Rucker (415) 246-6647 catherinerucker@me.com

The San Mateo County Bar Association's Conference of CA Bar Associations (CCBA) Committee cooperates with other California Bar associations to propose and evaluate policy changes each year. The policy changes are proposed as "resolutions," and every year a few CCBA resolutions become California laws. The 2021 CCBA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 23 - Saturday, September 25, and it will be virtual. The CCBA's website is www.ccba.law.

Our Committee is made up of approximately 20 attorneys from varying backgrounds. The Committee critiques, creates, and refines approximately 80 pieces of proposed legislation each year, and meets a few times before the annual meeting. The Committee has been meeting via Zoom.

2021 Committee Information

Diversity Committee

Chair: Joanna Wald, (650) 347-0132 joanna@deitaandlowe.com

The Diversity Committee's purpose is to encourage and promote equality and diversity in our Bench and Bar for all underrepresented minorities. Our goals include working with local public schools, colleges, and law schools to encourage a diverse base of students to become attorneys who will ultimately practice in San Mateo County.

Funky Credit Day

Co-chair: Jeffrey R. Lowe, (650)-397-8700 jloew@loewlawgroup.com
Co-chair: Chantel Fitting, (650)-345-8484 cfitting@gfflaw.com

The purpose of the Funky Credit Day Committee is to cooperate with the State Bar of California in its continuing education program, and to arrange for the presentation of course and panel discussions of current interest to San Mateo County lawyers.

Law Library Liaison

Liaison: Jeffrey R. Loew, (650) 397-8700 jloew@loewlawgroup.com

The purpose of the Law Library Liaison is to review the needs of the San Mateo County Law Library and the needs of the members of the Bar; recommend to the library staff and the library board of trustees those changes which may best satisfy those needs; act as a resource to all library users to ensure that the library fulfills its responsibilities to the community.

Lawyer Referral Service

Chair: Marie Kayal, (415) 779-6412 mkayal@mariekayal.com

The purposes of this Committee are to monitor the policies and procedures which govern the operation of the Association's Lawyer Referral Service Program; to recommend to the Board of Directors such changes as may be necessary or desirable; to maintain and promote the public service aspects of the Program; and to maintain an effective liaison with the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County so as to insure that every person who needs an attorney may readily obtain one.

Legal Clinic

Co-Chair: Renee Chantler, (650) 387-5328 renee@chantlerlaw.com
Co-Chair: Debre Vernon, (650) 285-9503 debravernon@zhonglun.com

The purpose of the Legal Clinic Committee is to provide avenues for SMCBA members to volunteer and help provide representation to homeless shelter residents.

Membership

Chair: Michael Carney, (650) 341.1395 michael@michaelcarneylaw.com

The purposes of the Membership Committee are to encourage membership in the Association by all eligible persons; to assist new members in familiarizing themselves with legal procedures in San Mateo County; and to review and recommend to the Board of Directors the addition or deletion of benefits offered to members of the Association.

Nominations

Chair: Chinhayi, (415) 535-5596 chinhayi.cadet@usdoj.gov

The purpose of the Nominations Committee is to consider proposed nominees for the positions of Secretary and non-officer directors and submit the list of nominees to the Board of Directors.

Operations

Chair: Melissa Karlsten, (650) 368-4662 karlsten@arcr.com

2021 Committee Information

The purpose of the Operations Committee is to help improve the operations of the Association and develop policies regarding the day to day operations.

Private Defender

Chair: Dek Ketchum, (650) 368-3930 dek@ketchumlawoffice.com

The purpose of the Private Defender Committee is to insure the efficient and just operation of the Association's Private Defender Program (PDP) relating to the representation of indigents accused of crime and the representation of others as may be entitled to the services of the Association.

Publications

Chair: Nazar A. Ghosseiri, (650) 341-2585 nazar@mcglashan.com

The Publications Committee shall oversee and direct the production of The Docket, Here-Say, Member Directory and/or such other publications of the Association as may be directed by the Board of Directors.

Race & Social Justice

Chair: Sandy Narayan, (650) 403-0150 s.narayan@narayantravelstead.com

The Race and Social Justice Committee's mission is to develop a multifaceted approach to advance justice for all, including:

- Conducting a series of CLEs which will focus on education and specific actions that members of our legal community can take to help dismantle systems of oppression. Topics will include:
 - Understanding Implicit and Explicit Bias in legal institutions
 - Legal observer training
 - Diversity and inclusion in hiring
 - Jury selection and racial justice
 - Racial discrimination in the Criminal Justice System, Housing, Education, and Healthcare
 - Effective anti-racist ally-ship and advocacy
- Educating our communities of color through “Know Your Rights” workshops that include demonstration law, immigration law, housing law, voting rights and the criminal justice system.
- Encouraging our members to support social justice organizations with their time and donations.