

2023 Committee Information

Audit Committee

Chair: Robert Cashen, (650) 381-0467

mrcashen@mtsallawgroup.com

Pursuant to the Nonprofit Integrity Act of 2004, an independent audit of annual financial statements is required for certain tax-exempt organizations with gross revenues in excess of \$2 million (**excluding government grants that require such audit already**). The auditor must prepare the audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Should SMCBA generate more than \$2 million dollars in gross receipts separate and apart from any government grants requiring audit already), an Audit Committee shall be established at the close of the fiscal year in which the funds were generated.

Awards Committee

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 honors 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 honors 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 Committee

Chair: H. Yvonne Seeley, (650) 347-9111

yseelev@seelevfamilylaw.com

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.

Budget and Finance Committee

Chair: Kenneth Linthicum (650) 255-9119

ken@lawofficekrl.com

The finance committee is an advisory committee to the Board on all finance matters and particularly the preparation of the annual budget. It is expected to work with staff and make a recommendation to the board at least 60 days in advance of each fiscal year about the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

As an exception to the general rule:

1. The chair of the Finance Committee shall be the Treasurer.
2. All members of the Board of Directors may but are not required to join the Finance Committee.
3. The President may select additional members of the Finance Committee.

The existence of the Finance Committee does not restrict the authority of the Board of Directors to establish other committees that may also address financial matters including but not limited to the handling of certain investments.

Professional Equality Committee

Co-chair: Chantel Fitting, (650)-345-8484

cfitting@gff-law.com

Co-chair: Joanna Wald, (650) 347-0132

joanna@deitaandlowe.com

The purpose of this committee is to increase awareness and educate members of the legal profession about issues of bias; to promote and monitor professional equality in San Mateo courts, and to provide a confidential forum for both lawyers and

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judges to address these issues. The committee of five members shall include one San Mateo County retired judge and at least one-woman member of the San Mateo County Bar Association. The members shall sit for three years on rotating terms.

Community Affairs Committee

Chair: Angelica Ayar, (650) 634-8525

angelica@avarlawoffices.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) Committee

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.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Chair: Jamay Lee, (650) 378-1263

jamay@jamaylee.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 Committee

Co-chair: Justin Berger, (650) 697-6000

jberger@cpmlegal.com

Co-chair: Sherrie Friedman, (650) 678-2621

sherriefriedmanlaw@gmail.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: Constantine Tsagaris, (650) 345-8484

cptsagaris@gff-law.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 Committee

Chair: Walter Shjeflo, (650) 341-2900

walt.shjeflo@fox-shjeflo.com

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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 to ensure that every person who needs an attorney may readily obtain one.

Membership Committee

Chair: Shivadev Shastri, (650) 325-7000 sshastri@dver-white.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 Committee

Chair: H. Yvonne Seeley, (650) 347-9111 yseelev@seeleyfamilylaw.com

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 Committee

Chair: Constantine Tsagaris, (650) 345-8484 cptsagaris@gff-law.com

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 Program Oversight

Chair: David Avila, (650) 216-958 davidavilalaw@gmail.com

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

1. The Committee shall have responsibility for advising the Chief Defender of the Private Defender Program, as to the operations of the Program and expending funds in accordance with policies of the Board of Directors.
2. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors as to the initiation of programs and policies and relating to the appropriation of funds allowed to the Program.
3. The Chief Defender shall convene a special committee to select a recipient of the annual Dennis L. Woodman Memorial Award, honoring a member of the Private Defender Program panel. If a special committee is not convened, the Private Defender Program Oversight Committee may select a recipient of the annual Dennis L. Woodman Memorial Award, if the Committee determines a suitable candidate exists.
4. The Committee shall meet at least quarterly. From time to time as required by the Board of Directors, the Committee shall report with respect to the operation of the program and with regard to the expenditure of funds.
5. All members of the Committee and all Administrative personnel attached to the Program will work together in order to assure high standards of excellence in all aspects of this endeavor.
6. The Committee shall consist of a chairperson and six regular members at least three of whom shall be active members of the Private Defender Program panel, and three of whom shall have at least five years panel participation, and have experience handling serious felony cases. Regular members shall serve a term of two years and may not serve successive terms. Appointment of committee members shall be staggered,

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so that approximately one-half (1/2) of the committee shall consist of new members. The chairperson shall serve a term of one year, but may serve successive terms, not to exceed four years.

7. A member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed and shall report to the Board of Directors as the liaison and the immediate past chairperson of the committee may be appointed, to serve as special members of the committee. The Board liaison shall not be an active member of the Private Defender Program. Special members shall serve a term of one year. The special member shall also report on the contract negotiation with the county.
8. Notwithstanding anything in this Article to the contrary, the Private Defender Program Oversight Committee shall be a permanent committee and shall be dissolved only upon amendment to the Bylaws.

Publications Committee

Co-chair: Jennifer Acheson, (650) 575-9981

JAchesonEsq@gmail.com

Co-chair: Nazar Ghosseiri, (650) 963-2170

nazar.ghosseiri@hogefenton.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 Committee

Co-chair: Angelica Ayar, (650) 634-8525

angelica@avarlawoffices.com

Co-chair: Peter Goldscheider, (650) 323-8296

pfgolds@aol.com

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

1. 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:
 - i) Understanding Implicit and Explicit Bias in legal institutions
 - ii) Legal observer training
 - iii) Diversity and inclusion in hiring
 - iv) Jury selection and racial justice
 - v) Racial discrimination in the Criminal Justice System, Housing, Education, and Healthcare
 - vi) Effective anti-racist ally-ship and advocacy
2. 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.
3. Encouraging our members to support social justice organizations with their time and donations.