

The LITIGATOR

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Not resting on our laurels



Michelle C. Jenni
CCTLA President

It's been a busy first quarter for CCTLA and its members. First, CCTLA was called upon by Presiding Judge Culhane, as well as Judge Hight (ret.) and Justice Scotland (ret.), to lend its support as an organization to one of the three options being considered for approval by the Judicial Council for the new courthouse.

Among the options were a new 44-room courthouse, plus renovation of nine courtrooms in the Schaber Courthouse; a new 33-room courthouse, plus renovation of 20 courtrooms in the Schaber Courthouse; or a new 53-room courthouse, and sale of the Schaber Courthouse. The judges were attending a hearing before the Judicial Council and requested that CCTLA endorse the one-courthouse option, calling it the most fiscally responsible, as well as the most logistically feasible, option.

I am happy to report that the single-courthouse option was approved by the Judicial Council. Construction is slated to begin in Spring 2019 and hoped to be

concluded by Summer 2022. The new courthouse will be located in the Railyards.

We also have had great success with our educational programs this quarter. In January, a luncheon seminar was held with Presiding Judge Culhane and Assistant Presiding Judge DeAlba as the speakers. The turnout was fantastic! An accident reconstruction seminar was held in March which also had a very good turnout.

Problem-solving clinics are held once a month, on Thursday evenings, and always offer good topics, great speakers and invaluable information. Also, don't forget that the Q&A lunch that is held every Tuesday at Shanghai Garden restaurant at Alhambra and H streets and is free to members. The only thing you need to bring is a problem or issue you would like to discuss.

In addition, CCTLA is pleased to be bringing Dan Ambrose and his "Trojan Horse" program to our members Aug. 18- 20. If you do not know about this program, I would urge you to take a look at the website at www.trojanhorsemethod.com. Those who have attended in other venues have nothing but fabulous things to say about it.

The CAOC/CCTLA Sonoma Travel Seminar was held on April 1- 2 at the Sonoma Mission Inn. This seminar has historically been held in Lake Tahoe, but with the lack of snow for the past four years, attendance was dwindling. I am pleased to announce we had 128 attendees this year, and the feedback on the new location has been great. We had a very good showing from Sacramento, as well as from the Bay Area and Southern

A Trip Inside the Mind of Lawrance Bohm

Interview by: Lorraine Gingery

Lawrance Bohm has appeared on our radar recently with huge crazy verdicts, and stories about his technological prowess have been told by him and discussed amongst ourselves. You may have wondered, who is this guy? How is he doing what he is doing? I caught up with him in mid-April at Bella Bru in Natomas to get answers to these questions and more.

Q Let's start at the beginning, Why did you become an attorney?

A My Dad's best friend was an attorney, and he seemed like a really fun guy. I thought attorneys must be funny and likeable. I can do that! I was eight years old, and that was important to me. My Dad was a doctor, and I didn't want to do that. It occurred to me that attorneys had rules to play by, and I figured it's more fun to play when you know the rules.

Q Where did your career start?

A I started out in employment law. I had been interested in that area since college. I had also worked at an insurance defense firm and then decided to get into personal injury. I like helping people, and my background in dealing with big corporations made it feel like a good fit.

Q Fast forward to the day you decided to hang out your own shingle. What does that look like?

A It's 2005, in June actually, and my office is in my house in Natomas. A year and a half go by, and it's just me, working alone before I hire any help. In fact, I didn't hire my first associate attorney until 2010.

Q I think your office is a little larger now. What happened?

A People needed help! Specifically, they needed my help. I was surprised by the growth and even a little scared, but I had no choice. I have 20 attorneys working with me now, and we are still

growing. I mean, it's more about the love of the job, but I feel like people need good representation, and if they come to my firm, we're going to help them. There is so much to do compared to what we use to do.

Q You say "we" a lot. Tell me about your staff.

A First you need to know that one of my strengths is identifying great people. I'm a people person; I'm good at reading people. When I find the right person, I throw them immediately into whatever work I feel they can accomplish. Even if they're a new employee, if I feel they can go right into a trial and succeed, that's where I put them. Lately, I spend more of my day teaching; for example, how to do a depo. I do everything I can to help my staff excel at whatever they are doing. We succeed together as a group, or we fail together as a group. The biggest compliment I receive is when a client tells me how great the people who work with me are. Every single person who works with me strives to be the best they can be.

Q From a management perspective, how do you make that work?

A We all engage in a uniform strategy. All of our litigation tactics, processes and procedures and ways of doing things are "The Bohm Way." For example, we have a policy of "every client every month." Every client hears from an attorney at least once a month. No person goes more than a maximum of 59 days without hearing from us.

Q How do your clients find you?

A Internet mostly. There are articles about large verdicts. I have some Spanish speakers in my office and have advertised that as well. Speaking of Spanish, I have just started "Me Centro Legal" (My Legal Center) in San Diego. That office will be able to find justice in the areas of personal injury and employment



law for Spanish speakers throughout San Diego. My hope is to pull these offices up the state and make this help available for everyone.

Q How do you accomplish spreading "The Bohm Way" all throughout the state?

A Technology! I know a bit about it [laughs]. Obviously Skype, cell-phones and the like are available. I'm also looking into moving into the Monterey area in the next two to three years. I hear there is a need for great representation in the employment law area there. I have been in contact with an attorney there, and we will see what happens.

Q What else should we know about you?

A I have to reiterate: I love people, I'm definitely a people person, and when a human being needs legal help, I am going to be there for that person. I have fun doing what I do, and I work hard to bring up the people around me, and I think they do the same for me. I also teach a week-long clinical boot camp at my alma mater, Tulane Law School.