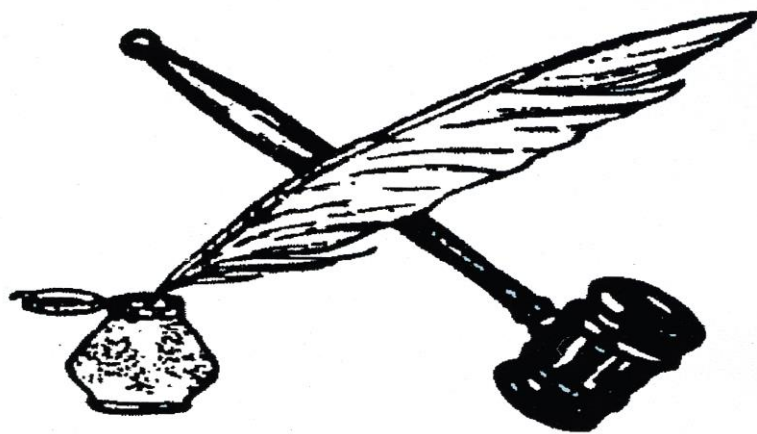


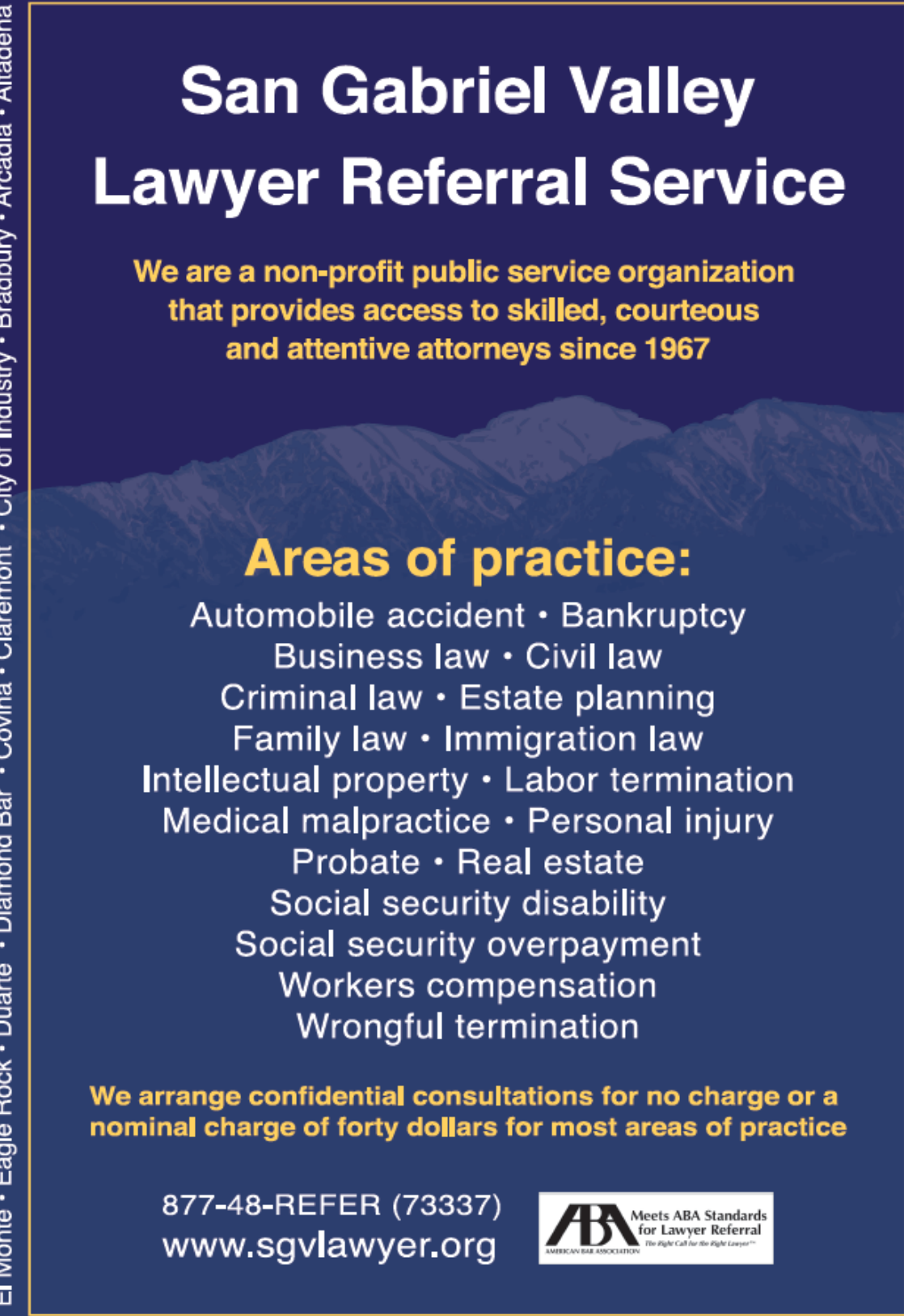
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that provides access to skilled, courteous  
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## **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE**

The San Gabriel Valley Lawyer Referral Service is a non-profit organization, jointly created and maintained by the Pasadena Bar, Eastern Bar and San Gabriel Valley Bar Associations, that provides access to skilled, courteous and attentive attorneys who provide legal services to clients from communities throughout the San Gabriel Valley. We provide a valuable service to the public and to our panel members.

**We invite attorneys throughout the San Gabriel Valley to join our team of qualified lawyers.** When considering joining, please consider the following:

- The San Gabriel Valley Lawyer Referral Service is certified by the State Bar of California and meets the standards set forth by the American Bar Association.
- We were established in 1967. Since then, the Service has referred thousands of cases to hundreds of skilled panel members practicing in no less than 18 areas of law.
- Trained staff only refers cases that match your experience and interests.
- As a panel member, you receive pre-screened referrals for a small fraction of the cost of advertising and promoting your practice.

**In particular, we are looking for attorneys who speak Spanish, Cantonese and Mandarin in all areas of law.**

**For a Membership Application and a copy of our Rules and Regulations, please visit our website at [sgvlawyer.org](http://sgvlawyer.org). Completed Applications can either be mailed to us at 1175 East Garvey St., Suite 105, Covina, CA 91724, or e-mailed to [info@sgvlawyer.org](mailto:info@sgvlawyer.org).**

# **.MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

## **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION**

**DATE:** May 6, 2022  
**TIME:** 12:30 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.  
**LOCATION:** University Club, 175 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101  
**PROGRAM:** "Sanctions: From a Slap on the Hand to the End of Your Case"  
**SPEAKER:** Susan Barilich, Esq.  
**MCLE:** 1 HOUR

\* Details on how to sign up for the webinar will be posted to the website: <https://sgvba.org/>

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## **EASTERN BAR ASSOCIATION**

**DATE:** May 19, 2022  
**TIME:** 5:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** ZOOM WEBINAR (No In-Person Meeting)  
**PROGRAM:** "2021 Top Family Law Cases"  
**SPEAKER:** Donald Schweitzer, Esq.  
Certified Family Law Specialist  
**MCLE:** 1 Hour

Visit the EBA Website to Register for ZOOM  
EBA Website: [eбалac.org](http://eбалac.org)

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## **PASADENA BAR ASSOCIATION**

FOR CURRENT EVENTS VISIT  
THE PASADENA BAR ASSOCIATION (PBA)

**WEBSITE:** [www.pasadenabar.org](http://www.pasadenabar.org)    **Phone:** 626-793-1422    **Fax:** 626-793-2370

## Fraud Schemes Leave Many Victims in their Wake: Public and Attorneys

Fake legal firm websites, stolen attorney identities, phony clients with debt cases that resolve miraculously fast: these are all tactics used by scammers to steal money from the public and attorneys alike. Recent examples:

- A California case involved scammers who stole the identity of a retired Maryland attorney to create a bogus website and defraud owners of a Cancun, Mexico timeshare out of \$71,000.
- The San Francisco County District Attorney's Office recently announced additional felony charges against Russell A. Robinson, a former California attorney who was disbarred in 2021. The San Francisco District Attorney's Office alleges that Robinson continued to illegally operate as an attorney after his disbarment.
- The State Bar's Office of Chief Trial Counsel (OCTC) recently announced the seizure of the practice of Efferin Deans, a Lake Balboa man who had 22 aliases and no law license. He brazenly attempted to represent clients in Southern California courthouses, where he preyed on Spanish speakers looking for legal assistance. He was charged with multiple misdemeanor counts related to the unauthorized practice of law, and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office charged him with multiple related felonies.

The public can use the State Bar of California's website to check that a California attorney is in good standing, active, and not suspended or disbarred. Consumers can also use the attorney search feature to check that contact information they may have for an attorney matches what is on the State Bar profile. No record of a person as an attorney, or a different State Bar number, phone, email, website, or address are all red flags for fraud.

"Whether you're a member of the public or a licensed attorney, basic precautions can help you avoid being victimized by scammers who use the legal system to rob others of their money, often with devastating impacts to people's lives, reputation, and legal standing," said George Cardona, State Bar Chief Trial Counsel. "A little bit of time and care can save a lot of heartache."

Attorney identity theft is just one of the types of cases handled by the unit of the State Bar 's Office of Chief Trial Counsel assigned to pursue the unauthorized practice of law (UPL). UPL is a crime. People who hold themselves out as practicing law who are not authorized to do so can do significant harm to the public.

The State Bar coordinates with local law enforcement on such cases. If you believe you have been defrauded by someone posing as an attorney, please contact us and file a complaint.

It is not just consumers who need to ensure the people they are dealing with are legitimate. Attorneys can also be victims of fraud and should take the same advice in checking the credentials of people they meet who claim to be California-licensed attorneys. A scam targeting attorneys pointed out in media reports is a fake client who reaches out to an attorney asking for debt-collection representation. The lawyer contacts a fake debtor and receives a check fairly quickly, which the lawyer puts in his client trust account. The fake client asks for payment from the attorney, receives it, and soon after the debtor check bounces. The attorney is out whatever he paid, and the scammers are long gone.

California attorneys should follow the best practices in client trust accounting: A client's funds aren't available for a lawyer to disperse to the client (i.e., used on the client's behalf) until the funds have cleared the banking process and been credited by the bank to the lawyer's client trust account.

What can you do to try to protect yourself from fraudulent actors posing as attorneys?

- Ask for the attorney's State Bar number.
- Look them up on the State Bar website to see if their license is active and whether they have any history of discipline.
- Check that the address, phone number, and email, and website listed in correspondence matches what appears on the attorney's profile on the State Bar website.
- Call the phone number listed on the attorney's State Bar profile to make sure you are dealing with the correct attorney.
- Make sure to get your agreement in writing, as well as receipts for payments you make.
- Be wary if someone requires cash payments.

- Keep a paper trail. If you don't have a bank account, use another monetary option, like a money order or cashier's check, but be aware that you cannot stop payment on a cashier's check or money order.
- If you have already made a payment, a California attorney must provide you an accounting of your bills. Anyone who refuses or neglects to do this is suspect.
- If you believe you have been defrauded by someone posing as an attorney, please contact us and file a complaint. You may also want to file a complaint with local law enforcement authorities, or with federal authorities, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), or Federal Trade Commission (FTC).
- The State Bar makes available unauthorized practice of law complaint forms and instructions in multiple languages.

What steps should attorneys take if they believe their identity has been stolen?

- Contact the State Bar's Office of Attorney Regulation, 888-800-3400.
- We place an internal note on the attorney's State Bar records, in case a complaint is ever made about the attorney.
- We encourage attorneys victimized by identity theft to file a police report with local law enforcement. You may also want to file a complaint with federal authorities, such as the FBI, USPIS, or FTC, if fraud is evident.
- We encourage attorneys to file formal UPL complaints with the State Bar.
- When cases allegedly involve fraudulent use of letterhead, we report them to federal authorities – the FBI or USPIS for mail fraud and identity theft, and the FTC for identity theft.

**EASTERN BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**UPCOMING MCLE PRESENTATIONS**

**EAST MEETS WEST**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022, 5:30 p.m.**

**Joint Meeting with Eastern Bar Association and  
Western San Bernardino County Bar Association**

**Speakers: Presiding Judges from both the  
San Bernardino County Superior Court and the  
Los Angeles County Pomona District Court**

**Topic: “State of the Courts”**

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**THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022, 5:30 p.m.**

**Program: “Five Steps to Protect Your Firm from  
Catastrophic Cyber Attacks”**

**Speaker: Darwin Chitwood  
IronTech Security**



**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE  
MANDATORY FEE ARBITRATION PROGRAM**

**Attorneys, do you have uncollected legal fees?**

**Clients, do you have a fee dispute with your attorney?**

The San Gabriel Valley Lawyer Referral Service  
Mandatory Fee Arbitration Program may be able to help.

The San Gabriel Valley Lawyer Referral Service administers  
a State Bar approved Fee Arbitration Program.

For more information about the Program, you can visit our website  
at [www.sgvlawyer.org](http://www.sgvlawyer.org), call our office at 626-966-5530  
or email us at [info@sgvlawyer.org](mailto:info@sgvlawyer.org).

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## **PASADENA OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE**

Great Pasadena location on South Lake Avenue.

Two offices spaces available. One 14' by 10' three window office and one 10' by 10' office. Both have windows overlooking vintage Pasadena. There are also 2 furnished support staff areas. Top floor office suite located on South Lake Avenue at Green Street, adjacent to several high-end restaurants and sandwich shops. There is a Starbucks across the street and lots of shops and business activity on South Lake Avenue.

Comfortable leather upholstered waiting room, 10 chair conference room, internet and a kitchenette area with refrigerator, copier, and microwave that is shared. Civil Rutter and CEB books are available for use.

Parking \$55 a month. Reserved space may be available for \$65.

Five other friendly lawyers in the suite, including a certified estate planning specialist, a copyright, patent, and trademark and business law specialist, a business law, employment law and ethics specialist, a financial planner, and two civil litigation practitioners. There may be some overflow work available.

This is a very attractive suite with a very compatible group of people.

**Call Tom at 626-795-0200 for more details.**

# LA Law Library



## What's Happening May 2022



### BUSINESS SERIES

**LIVE ZOOM: On Solid Ground: Financial Planning for Business Owners**

**Tuesday, May 3**

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

**LIVE ZOOM: Legal Dos & Don'ts for Employers**

**Tuesday, May 10**

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

**LIVE ZOOM: Government Contracts: Steady Income for Your Business**

**Tuesday, May 17**

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

**LIVE ZOOM: International Trade: Increase Your Revenue by Tapping Foreign Markets**

**Tuesday, May 24**

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm



### CIVIL LAWSUIT BASICS

**LIVE ZOOM: Subpoenas and RFPs: Getting Documents to Prove Your Case**

**Thursday, May 12**

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

**IN PERSON: Appearing at Trial: Rules and Strategies**

**Thursday, May 26**

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm



### PUBLIC CLASSES

**LIVE ZOOM: Introduction to Lexis Advance**

**Thursday, May 5**

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

**LIVE ZOOM: Ask a Lawyer: Civil Rights**

**Thursday, May 5**

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**LIVE ZOOM: Landlord-Tenant: Where You Begin**

**Friday, May 6**

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

**LIVE ZOOM: Introduction to Thomson Reuters Westlaw**

**Thursday, May 19**

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

**LIVE ZOOM: Ask a Lawyer: Landlord-Tenant Law and Evictions**

**Thursday, May 19**

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**IN PERSON: Small Claims: Where You Begin**

**Friday, May 20**

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

**LIVE ZOOM: Ask a Lawyer: How Property Transfers After Death and How to Plan Ahead**

**Thursday, May 26**

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

**Memorial Day**

**Monday, May 30**



### WORKSHOPS & ONE-ON-ONE HELP

**Lawyers in the Library**

**IN PERSON: Friday, May 20**

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Free 10-20 minute consultations with volunteer attorneys. **By appointment only.** The Library will call to confirm your appointment and volunteer availability for your requested legal issue.

**To register, please visit:**

**[www.lalawlibrary.org/LITL](http://www.lalawlibrary.org/LITL)**

\*Telephonic appointments are still available.

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For more information or to register, visit: [www.lalawlibrary.org/CLASSES](http://www.lalawlibrary.org/CLASSES)

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**LA Law Library is an approved provider of online, participatory MCLE.**

The State Bar requires attorneys to complete 25 hours of approved continuing legal education credit every three years. LA Law Library is an approved provider of online, participatory MCLE. For more information on our new and fee based MCLE classes, please visit: [www.lalawlibrary.org/MCLE-classes](http://www.lalawlibrary.org/MCLE-classes)

## CLASES LEGALES EN ESPAÑOL

Vea algunos de nuestros videos populares de clases en línea para ayudarlo en sus problemas legales.

## CREDIT, DEBT & MONEY ISSUES

Learn best practices for dealing with debt, your rights when facing repossessions, foreclosures and lawsuits, and when bankruptcy could be an option.

## CRIMINAL LAW

Learn about your rights interacting with police, and about release and bail reduction services if you're facing charges.

## EMPLOYMENT

Learn about your rights and benefits as an employee or employer, including new rights created by law during COVID-19.

## FAMILY LAW

Get the basics of divorce, custody, and child support, plus information on domestic violence restraining orders.

## FINDING A LAWYER

Learn about options for getting help from a lawyer, plus information on how to talk to a lawyer, tell your story, and the importance of gathering the facts in your case.

## HOUSING RIGHTS

Get the basics of landlord-tenant law, including evictions. Plus, learn about housing protections for victims of domestic violence, those with mental disabilities, and more.

## LANDLORD/TENANT LAW

Learn about the rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords, including the basics of the eviction process.

## LEGAL RESEARCH & ACCESSING COURT RECORDS

Receive information on how to find the answers to legal questions, and how to access records from different types of courts.

## PROBATE & PLANNING FOR END OF LIFE, ILLNESS OR DISABILITY

Get basic information on planning for end of life, illness and disability, including wills, trusts, and advanced health care directives. Plus, learn about the process for transferring property after death.

## STARTING & GROWING A BUSINESS

Learn how to set up a business for growth and success, protect your rights, and access funding for your business.

## REPRESENTING YOURSELF IN CIVIL COURT

Learn about the civil court process from complaints through appeals, and how to represent yourself without an attorney.

## UNEMPLOYMENT, DISABILITY & SICK LEAVE

Learn about important benefits, including unemployment and disability insurance, and sick time and sick leave, including new rights created by law during COVID-19.

**Our commitment to providing service, assistance and support remains as strong as ever. We will be offering reference assistance and free e-delivery up to 25 pages.**

You can reach us at [reference@lalawlibrary.org](mailto:reference@lalawlibrary.org) or 213-785-2513.



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## **MANDATORY FEE ARBITRATION BULLETIN**

If you have uncollected legal fees, the San Gabriel Valley Lawyer Referral Mandatory Fee Arbitration Program can help. We all know that before an attorney may sue a client for fees, the B&P Code requires that the attorney advise the client of the right to fee arbitration. But did you know that under California law, the attorney cannot initiate the arbitration or compel the client to participate in the process?

The only way an attorney can compel a client to arbitrate a fee dispute is if the parties have so provided in the retainer agreement. If your agreement does provide an arbitration clause, update it now! (A suggested fee arbitration clause for your retainer agreements may be found below)

The San Gabriel Valley Lawyer Referral Service Mandatory Fee Arbitration Program offers fee arbitration services for all Los Angeles County attorneys. In 2006 the SGVLRs adopted comprehensive new rules for arbitration of attorney fee disputes. These rules expanded the fee arbitration program and made the resolution of the fee disputes uniform, user friendly and timely. Under the rules (depending on the amount in dispute) the parties may have a one or three person panel of experienced arbitrators. Wherever possible, the SGVLRs tries to provide arbitrators with experience in the area of practice of the attorney(s) whose fees are subject to the dispute. It promises prompt and expeditious handling of each dispute by a knowledgeable and available staff.

### **FEE ARBITRATION CLAUSE**

The dispute resolution provision of Attorney-Client Agreement may take various forms: One possible form is set forth below. Certain governing principles should be considered with regard to a fee arbitration provision for an Attorney-Client Fee agreement. They are:

- Before a dispute over legal fees arises, the parties may agree, in the Fee Agreement or otherwise that all fee disputes will be submitted to arbitration under Business and Professions Code Sections 6200 through 6202, but they cannot agree at the time that the arbitration will be binding.
- Before a dispute over legal fees arises the parties may not agree that they will mediate a fee dispute.
- After a dispute over legal fees arises, the client and the attorney may agree to non-binding and/or binding fee arbitration.
- For any disputes that do not involve attorneys' fees (e.g. malpractice), the parties may agree at any time, including in the Fee Agreement, and without waiting for a dispute, to begin arbitration proceedings.

### **SAMPLE FEE ARBITRATION CLAUSE**

In the event of a dispute between you and our firm regarding our firm's fees, upon the request of either party, the dispute shall be resolved by arbitration under Business and Professions Code Section 6200 through 6206 with the San Gabriel Valley Lawyer Referral Service or another State Bar of California approved Fee Arbitration Program reasonably acceptable to you and our firm. The arbitrator(s) shall apply the law of the State of California. Unless we agree to binding arbitration after a dispute arises, any arbitration award is not binding on our firm or you, and to the extent permitted by law, our firm and you have the right to pursue any other available remedy within 30 days after the mailing of a non-binding arbitration award.

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**The Gavel and Quill** is a monthly publication of the San Gabriel Valley Lawyer Referral Service, the Pasadena Bar Association, the San Gabriel Valley Bar Association and the Eastern Bar Association of Los Angeles County. Its Purpose is to inform members of the sponsoring bar associations of matters of interest to them. We welcome and encourage articles and comments from the membership.

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