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San Gabriel Valley
Lawyer Referral Service

We are a non-profit public service organization
that provides access to skilled, courteous
and attentive attorneys since 1967

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Automobile accident • Bankruptcy
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Intellectual property • Labor termination
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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. 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.
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION

DATE:       June 2, 2023
TIME:       12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
LOCATION:  University Club, 175 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena CA 91101
PROGRAM:   The Supreme Court Today: What Roles Do Norms Play?
SPEAKER:   David Codell, Esq.
MCLE:       1 Hour

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

EASTERN BAR ASSOCIATION

DATE:       June 8, 2023
TIME:       5:30 P.M.-Social Gathering-Hosted Bar
            6:00 P.M.-Canyon City BBQ-Buffet
            6:30 P.M. To 7:30 P.M. MCLE Presentation
PLACE:      Rainbow Canyon Ranch
            2350 San Gabriel Canyon Road
            Azusa, CA 91702
PROGRAM:   “East Meets West”
SPEAKERS:  Hon. Peter Hernandez, Assistant Presiding Judge Pomona Superior Court
           Hon. Glenn Yabuno, Presiding Judge San Bernardino Superior Court
MCLE:       1 Hour/General

Visit the EBA Website to Register
EBA Website: ebalac.org

PASADENA BAR ASSOCIATION

FOR CURRENT EVENTS VISIT

THE PASADENA BAR ASSOCIATION (PBA)
WEBSITE:  www.pasadenabar.org  Phone: 626-793-1422  Fax: 626-793-2370
State Bar Board of Trustees Approves Several Oversight and Accountability Reforms

At its meeting on May 18 and 19, the State Bar of California Board of Trustees approved two alternatives for California Supreme Court consideration of a new Rule of Professional Conduct that would require attorneys to report misconduct by other attorneys.

“While the Court will ultimately need to finalize the specific parameters of the rule, the Board has agreed on the overall importance of having such a rule: that it acknowledges and codifies that lawyers have a moral duty to report criminal acts and misconduct that imperil the public,” said Ruben Duran, Board Chair. “Given their expertise, lawyers often recognize misconduct that clients are unaware of. I am grateful for the work of the Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct and staff, as well as for the many people who contributed their comments, for helping to shape this effort since I called for it in November 2022.”

Meanwhile, an overlapping bill, Senate Bill 42, is currently pending in the Legislature. The bill would establish a duty in California Business and Professions Code to report attorney misconduct. At this writing, the bill is substantially the same as the American Bar Association’s Model Rule 8.3, which is broader than both of the California proposed alternatives.

The new rule is among several actions taken at the May Board meeting to strengthen the State Bar’s accountability and transparency in the wake of recent reports spotlighting the agency’s past failures in handling complaints against now-disbarred attorney Thomas V. Girardi. The Board approved several legislative priorities to pursue statutory reforms proposed by the Board’s Ad Hoc Committee on Oversight & Accountability Reforms. These include:

- An Inspector General/Discipline Monitor who would regularly review performance measures for the State Bar discipline system, assess the effectiveness of selected policies, procedures, initiatives, and internal controls, recommend further corrective actions for Board consideration, and ensure implementation of approved measures.

- Making the State Bar subject to the Political Reform Act as well as conflicts statutes related to government contracting to broaden and clarify their application to the State Bar’s Board and staff decision-making.

- A proposal to include the State Bar in the California budget process conducted by the executive and legislative branches.

Emphasizing the importance of the State Bar having sufficient funds for core operational stability as well as for important and needed reforms, the Board deleted a proposal to hold off on requesting a fee increase until 2025 and agreed to move forward—as approved in January 2023—with a request to the Legislature for a licensing fee increase in 2024.
The Ad Hoc Committee also recommended, and the Board approved, pursuing a statutory change to extend the term for the Board chair from one to two years. For the 2022–2023 Board year, the Supreme Court appointed Ruben Duran as Chair for an unprecedented second year to allow for continuity while the State Bar was dealing with important, transformational issues. The committee believes making this change permanent will benefit leadership continuity and longer-term planning.

The Board also approved a comprehensive new Whistleblower Antiretaliation Program to be administered by the California Department of Justice (DOJ). The program will provide a process whereby individuals can send whistleblower complaints and whistleblower retaliation complaints against State Bar personnel directly to the DOJ for review and investigation without prior review by the State Bar.

In other actions at this meeting, the Board:

- Approved proceeding with the sale of the San Francisco headquarters building, directing staff to refine pending offers and select a best offer, negotiate with the selected buyer over sale and leaseback agreements, and return to the Board or its Executive Committee for review and approval of the agreements.

- Approved a slate of administrative fee increases to enable the State Bar to recover the full cost of providing related services, which include certifying Limited Liability Partnerships, Law Corporations, and providers of Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE); issuing certificates of standing; and administering attorney MCLE compliance. Some of these fees have not changed in 5 to 10 years. The fee increases are projected to generate an additional $1.7 million in General Fund revenue, enabling the State Bar to use less licensing fee revenue to subsidize programs currently operating at a deficit, as recommended by the most recent State Audit report. A separate proposal for admissions-related fee increases completed its public comment period earlier this week and is expected to be presented at the July Board meeting.

- Received the final report and recommendations of the joint Supreme Court/State Bar of California Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the Bar Exam. The commission recommended that California develop its own new exam rather than relying on the National Conference of Bar Examiners’ NextGen exam. Exam recommendations include topics and skill areas for a new exam and a proposal that California pursue reciprocity with other states so long as it applies equally to all California licensed attorneys regardless of how they met their legal education requirement. The Board indicated its support of the commission’s recommendations but directed staff to work with commission members who favored a nonexam pathway to develop such a proposal and return to the Board later this year. The report will now go to the California Supreme Court for review.

Reprinted with Permission from the State Bar of California
State Bar of California Releases Results of February 2023 Bar Exam

Today the State Bar announced that 1,224 (32.5 percent of applicants) passed the February 2023 California General Bar Exam, and 205 (56.9 percent of applicants) passed the Attorneys’ Exam. If those who passed satisfy all other requirements for admission, they will be eligible to be licensed by the State Bar to practice law in California.

“Today is a very exciting day for 1,429 General Bar Exam and Attorneys’ Exam applicants and their families, and a time to reflect on their personal journeys, challenges, and successes,” said Leah Wilson, State Bar Executive Director. “The State Bar of California congratulates them, and we look forward to welcoming them to California’s legal profession very soon.”

This year’s 32.5 percent pass rate on the General Bar Exam represents a slight decline, 1.4 percentage points, from the February 2022 pass rate of 33.9 percent. The pass rates for the February 2023 bar exam varied nationwide, with most states experiencing a decline, including:

- New York (40 percent compared to 45 percent in 2022)
- Florida (39 percent compared to 44 percent in 2022)
- Washington D.C. (45 percent compared to 42 percent in 2022)
- Pennsylvania (44 percent compared to 37 percent in 2022)

According to the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), the mean scaled score on the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) for February 2023 across the nation was 131.1, representing a decline of 1.5 points from the February 2022 score of 132.6.

In most U.S. jurisdictions, including California, the bar exam consists of three sections, one of which is the MBE. A decline in the national mean MBE score would likely indicate a decrease in the February 2023 pass rate, and in California’s case, as in previous years, it did. The February bar exam typically includes a higher proportion of repeat takers than a July administration.

Repeat takers’ exam performance, including pass rates, is lower on average than that of first-time test takers. The proportion of repeating examinees on the California February 2023 administration was nearly 71 percent, which represents a 17 percent increase over the last two years.
State Bar of California Releases Results of February 2023 Bar Exam (continued)

Attendance at California’s February 2023 General Bar Exam was higher (3,765) than for the February 2022 exam (3,113).

February 2023 General Bar Exam preliminary statistics*

- Completed the General Bar Exam: 3,765 applicants
- First-time applicants: 1,100 (29.2 percent of total)
- Pass rate for first-time applicants: 45 percent overall
- Repeat applicants: 2,665 (70.8 percent of total)
- Pass rate for repeat applicants: 28 percent overall

Pass rate for the General Bar Exam (rounded to whole numbers) by law school type:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>First-Timers</th>
<th>Repeaters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California ABA</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-State ABA</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Accredited (not ABA)</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccredited: Fixed-Facility</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccredited: Correspondence</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccredited Distance-Learning</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Applicants</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General information about the structure and content of the General Bar Exam.

The Attorneys’ Examination is open to those who have been admitted to the active practice of law and are in good standing for at least four years in another U.S. jurisdiction, as well as disciplined lawyers who are ordered to take the examination as a condition of reinstatement.
A pass list from the exam will be published on the State Bar website on May 7, 2023, at 6:00 a.m. More detailed statistics about exam results will be available in four to six weeks on the State Bar website.

Successful applicants who satisfy all requirements for admission may take the Attorney’s Oath individually or participate in admissions ceremonies held by their law school or others. Applicants are eligible to practice law in California after taking the Attorney’s Oath and submitting their oath card to the State Bar. The State Bar has enabled digital signing and electronic processing of oath cards on a permanent basis.

*Please note that these are preliminary statistics. Law schools will be required to confirm the students allocated to their law school and as a result, these statistics may change. Approximately 4-5 weeks after the exam results are released, the general statistics, including data on pass rates by gender, race/ethnicity, and law school type, will be released.

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We would like to extend a special thank you to Pam Swift of Swift Mediation Services. She is the Sponsor for the “East Meets West” event on June 8th held jointly by the Western San Bernardino County Bar Association and the Eastern Bar Association.

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LA Law Library

What's Happening
June 2023

PUBLIC CLASSES

LIVE ZOOM: Introduction to Thomson Reuters Westlaw
Thursday, June 1  12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

LIVE ZOOM: Custody & Child Support: Where You Begin
Friday, June 9  12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

LIVE ZOOM: Citators: Expand Your Research & Cite Good Law
Thursday, June 15  12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

LIVE ZOOM: Legal Aid as Racial Justice Work
Wednesday, June 21  12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

IN PERSON: Landlord-Tenant: Where You Begin
Friday, June 23  12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

LIVE ZOOM: Book Discussion: Paradise - One Town’s Struggle to Survive an American Wildfire, by Lizzie Johnson
Tuesday, June 27  6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

LIVE ZOOM: Legal Research on the Internet
Thursday, June 29  12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

WORKSHOPS & ONE-ON-ONE HELP

LIVE ZOOM: Ask a Lawyer: Trial Preparation for Civil Cases
Thursday, June 1  5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

IN-PERSON: Eviction Defense: Help Answering Unlawful Detainer Complaints
Tuesday, June 13  12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
*By appointment only. To register, call: 213-896-6537

Considering Conservatorship?
Get Answers / ¿Está considerando la tutela? Obtenga respuestas
IN PERSON: Friday, June 9 & 23
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
No advance registration or phone appointment is necessary. Check-in begins at 9:30am. Participants register on the day of the program and will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis.

LIVE ZOOM: Adult Name Change Workshop
Wednesday, June 14  12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

BUSINESS SERIES

LIVE ZOOM: Legal Dos & Don’ts for Employers
Tuesday, June 6  12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

CIVIL LAWSUIT BASICS

IN PERSON: Subpoenas and RFPs: Getting Documents to Prove Your Case
Thursday, June 8  12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

LIVE ZOOM: Motions for Summary Judgment
Thursday, June 22  12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

FOR CLASSES HELD VIA ZOOM, ZOOM INFORMATION WILL BE EMAILED TO REGISTRANTS PRIOR TO CLASS START TIME

Scan the QR Code with your phone to download this flyer.

For more information or to register, visit: www.lalawlibrary.org/CLASSES
or call: 213.785.2516  |  301 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
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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

**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.

**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.

**CRIMINAL LAW**
Learn about your rights interacting with police, and about release and bail reduction services if you’re facing charges.

**LANDLORD/TENANT LAW**
Learn about the rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords, including the basics of the eviction process.

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

**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.

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

**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.

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**CLASSES LEGALES EN ESPAÑOL**
Vea algunos de nuestros videos populares de clases en línea para ayudarlo en sus problemas legales.

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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.

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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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Please address your contribution to:

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