

Mariposa County Bar Association

Volume 2, Issue 20

www.MariposaBar.org

Newsletter@MariposaBar.org

December 2019

President's Column

Casey Aitchison, MCBA President

The MCBA's First Annual Judges Appreciation Day was a resounding success. Anita Starchman Bryant's well-researched tribute to Judge Walton and Judge Fagalde may be read in its entirety in the article set forth below.



We invite all Mariposa area attorneys and colleagues to our next meeting, when we kick off the New Year with the Chairman of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Miles Menetrey, speaking regarding the status of the Board of Supervisors and the issues they are tackling in 2020. Those attending the luncheon may order lunch from the menu at their own cost. RSVPs are appreciated, but not required, by replying to this email at MCBA@MariposaBar.org.

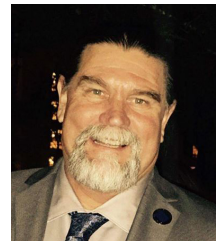
Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Miner's Roadhouse 140. We invite all attorneys and colleagues to join us, whether you are a member, or just want to network or have lunch with friends. MCBA Membership is \$35.00 and includes access to several MCLE credits throughout the year as well as a listing on the MCBA website at www.MariposaBar.org. An application is attached to this Newsletter, or may be downloaded at our website. Those who are renewing their membership may forego the application and simply send in their dues or bring them to the next luncheon.

Come support the MCBA and Miles Menetrey by joining us for lunch on January 9, 2020!



Chairman Miles Menetrey to Speak at January 9, 2020 Meeting

Join us for lunch with Chairman of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Miles Menetrey, on January 9, 2020 at the Miner's Roadhouse 140. Miles will be speaking on the status of the Board of Supervisors and the issues they are tackling in 2020.



Elected on June 7, 2016, Miles' term began on January 2, 2017, and expires on January 4, 2021. Miles' decision to run for the office of County Supervisor was based primarily upon two factors: a very real concern for the future of Mariposa County and a sincere desire to expand the level of his participation in the County's growth and development.

Miles has been a local business owner, a general contractor, for years. He has lived in Mariposa County for 26 years. Thus, his livelihood has been closely tied to the economic prosperity of Mariposa County and he fully understands the importance of fiscal responsibility. He also fully appreciates the importance of both the tourist industry and the need for expanded non-tourist development that will diversify the County's economic base and provide greater stability.

Miles' taste for public service has evolved from his many years of volunteering in the community. His over fifteen years of service with the Mariposa County Sheriff's Search and Rescue taught him a great deal about public safety issues and problems confronting law enforcement. His time as a member and officer of the Mariposa Lions Club introduced him to many of the needs and problems facing the citizenry in general.

When Miles was elected to the Board, he put his knowledge and experience to work. He has no shortage of accolades from the citizens of Mariposa County, who admire him for his commitment to volunteering his time, craftsmanship and integrity as a builder, and being honest, reliable, and trustworthy.

First Annual Judges Appreciation Day

The MCBA held its First Annual Judges Appreciation Day during the December 2019 meeting. Mariposa County is truly fortunate to have all three of our highly dedicated Judicial Officers: Judge Walton, Judge Fagalde and Commissioner Pimentel, who serve with dedication and integrity. On behalf of the MCBA, prior to presenting the Judges with Certificates of Appreciation, MCBA Secretary Anita Starchman Bryant thanked the Judges for their service and dedication, and made the following presentation:



Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation for Judge Walton

By Anita Starchman Bryant

As you are all aware, being a judge in Mariposa County is unique. Unlike larger counties in which judges are assigned only one case type, Mariposa County has only two judges, who on day one of their term must be prepared to handle any case type, ranging from serious and violent felonies to civil lawsuits to traffic court to probate court. Superior Court Judges sit for six-year terms. Judge F. Dana Walton is in his fourth term as Mariposa County Superior Court Judge, having been reelected in the spring 2018 election. Judge Michael Fagalde, who is running unopposed, is seeking reelection to a second term at the primary to be held in March 2020.

Effective January 1, Judge Walton will be the Presiding Judge of the Mariposa County Superior Court. Judge Walton is a lifelong Mariposan. He graduated from Mariposa County High School in 1968, and played on the high school football team, which was undefeated. I read that upon becoming judge, Judge Walton moved his desk (which had not been moved in 75 years), so that he could see the high school from his desk. I also read that at one time Judge Walton thought that he would become a forest service firefighter and after graduating from high school had spent two summers battling blazes. He ultimately ended up practicing as a criminal defense attorney in Fresno and later hung his shingle in Mariposa, practicing locally before becoming a judge. He practiced for over 21 years as an attorney in criminal defense and in the District Attorney's Office, in all case types and has served for over 18 years as our Superior Court Judge.

First Annual Judges Appreciation Day, *cont.*

Since taking office, Judge Walton has led the modernizing our rural court, implementing the CASA program to support abused and neglected children in court, establishing a diversion program for qualified veterans and establishing the Self-Help Center.

On a personal note, Judge Walton administered the attorney oath at my swearing-in ceremony in the Mariposa courtroom after I passed the Bar in 2001. Judge Walton and his wife Debbie are the parents of two adult daughters and grandparents of three. Since this is a judges appreciation lunch, I thought I would say a few things I appreciate about Judge Walton. Having observed him in court for many years I can say that he genuinely cares about and empathizes with those individuals that appear before him. When someone appears before Judge Walton, for instance as a defendant in a traffic matter, they feel that they have been heard, that he has listened to them, and that they have had their full opportunity to present their position. He is respectful of each individual. He also finds common sense solutions to resolve problems and to keep our calendar running efficiently. He is also still just Dana and always makes the time to visit with community members and attend Friday night home football games. Judge Walton has been known on occasion to talk with the high school football team to fire them up before playing our longtime rival Le Grand.



With over 36 years of combined experience as a judge and as an attorney, Judge Fagalde has handled thousands of cases, including hundreds of trials by jury or by the court. Judge Fagalde is currently the Presiding Judge of the Mariposa County Superior Court. He hears most criminal cases, juvenile dependency cases, juvenile traffic court and a variety of civil matters. Judge Fagalde helped create the court's Behavior Health Court in 2017 and has presided over it since then. That court is designed to focus on individuals with a diagnosis of serious mental illness, and who have been convicted of a crime and placed on probation with the goal of decreasing future criminality by means of intense treatment and supervision.

...continued on next page

Hold the Dates in 2020!

Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Miner's Roadhouse 140 banquet room. Everyone is invited to attend. The atmosphere is always fun, and we welcome new members. Our attendance grew significantly in 2019, and we look forward to the coming year. We have many exciting things planned, and hope to see everyone at our luncheons.

January 9, 2020

Luncheon meeting: Speaker, Chairman of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Miles Menetrey

February 13, 2020

Luncheon meeting: Speaker, Dr. Eric Sergienko, Mariposa County Public Health Officer

March 12, 2020

Luncheon meeting: Speaker To Be Announced

April 9, 2020

Luncheon meeting: Speaker To Be Announced

May 14, 2020

Law Day - Speaker, Judge Michael Fagalde "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100"

June 11, 2020

Luncheon Meeting: Speaker To Be Announced

July 9, 2020

Luncheon meeting: Speaker To Be Announced

August 13, 2020

Luncheon meeting: Speaker To Be Announced

September 10, 2020

Luncheon meeting: Speaker To Be Announced

October 8, 2020

Luncheon meeting: Speaker To Be Announced

November 12, 2020

Luncheon meeting: Speaker To Be Announced

December 10, 2020

Luncheon meeting: Holiday Luncheon and Judges Appreciation Day

First Annual Judges Appreciation Day, *cont.*

Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation for Judge Fagalde

By Anita Starchman Bryant

Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Fagalde worked as an attorney for over 31 years, practicing primarily in Mariposa and Merced Counties. He is a member, and past president, of the Mariposa Rotary Club and does volunteer work in the community, including assisting me for the past 13 years with the When You Turn 18 Program, involving speaking to classes of high school seniors about how the law affects them when they turn 18.



He also volunteers at the high school Sober Grad party every year, and is still dealing cards late into the night in the casino room, when I typically leave the event at 1 in the morning.

He and his wife, Sharon, reside in Catheys Valley and are the parents of two adult children, and grandparents of three. I am told that Judge Fagalde's close friends say that he isn't as much fun now that he is a judge. What I appreciate about Judge Fagalde is that he holds himself to a very high standard, and that in turn he holds the rest of us to a high standard. On Tuesday mornings, my son has to be at school for practice by 6:30 a.m. At that early hour Judge Fagalde's office light is always on and although he tells me is typically enjoying his morning coffee and paper, I know that he is diligently preparing for the day. I know that he reads every word of the documents I submit because he always finds my typos no matter how obscure and I can tell you that he does check my math in my probate filings. And that makes me a better lawyer knowing that I need to be fully prepared every time I appear before him, because he is always prepared. Judge Fagalde's demeanor also puts people at ease. Like Judge Walton he takes the time to explain the court process to pro pers and patiently listens so that regardless of his ruling, everyone feels they have had their day in court.



Employment Opportunity

Tuolumne County Counsel Employment Opportunity: Deputy County Counsel I/II/III/IV

The Tuolumne County Counsel's Office provides legal advice and representation to County departments, officers and related entities in all civil law matters. The ideal candidate will have experience and/or a passion for public entity law. The Office is looking for an attorney to fill either a juvenile dependency caseload, representing the Department of Social Services in all Welfare and Institutions Code Section 300 hearings and other related matters or someone who has land use experience. Land use experience may include work on development projects, reviewing for CEQA compliance, planning and zoning laws, California Building Code, public contracting, Brown Act and ethics laws.

<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/923/Current-Employment-Opportunities>

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives direction from the County Counsel. No supervision is exercised. May exercise technical and functional direction over assigned lower level Counsel and para-legal and clerical support staff.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

- Deputy County Counsel I is the entry level within this flexible series. Initially under close supervision, incumbents learn and perform the less difficult and less-controversial assignments in the County Counsel's office under the direction and guidance of County Counsel or more senior attorneys. Incumbents normally advance to the level of Deputy County Counsel II after gaining experience, achieving proficiency, and demonstrating ability to perform tasks which meet the requirements for Deputy County Counsel II.
- Deputy County Counsel II is the second level class within this flexible series. Under general direction, through formal and informal work review, incumbents perform the full scope of generalist duties and are assigned specific county departments to represent in legal matters. Projects assigned at this level are more difficult and complex and receive a lesser degree of supervision.
- Deputy County Counsel III is the third level class within the flexible series. Incumbents work on complex and difficult legal matters and controversial professional duties and assignments that require a high level of independence of action and limited direction from County Counsel, particularly on matters involving monetary settlement and appeal decisions.
- Deputy County Counsel IV is the advanced journey level class in the Deputy County Counsel series and is the senior level within this flexible series. Incumbents work on complex and sensitive legal assignments requiring a high degree of independent judgment and discretion, are fully experienced in procedures related to assigned area of responsibility and may provide day-to-day assistance to less experienced staff attorneys.

MCBA Membership List

It's time to renew your membership for 2020! Please bring payment to the next luncheon, or drop it in the mail to the MCBA.

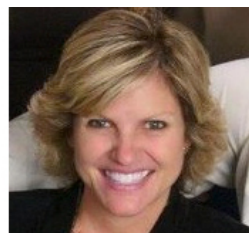
Thank you to our 2019 Members, listed below:

Casey Aitchison	Skye Emery
Alexandria Albertoni	Kimberly G. Flores
Ashley Albertoni	Wayne Green
Susan Albertoni	Melbourne N. Gwin, Jr.
Deborah Bennett	Robert Iwama
Kevin Briggs	Edward J. Johnson
Marvin Brown (retired)	Michael McAfee
Anita Starchman Bryant	Victoria Miller
Aaron Castleton	Cindy Morse
Jeffrey Castleton	Stephanie Perez
Thomas Cooke	Elizabeth Waldow
Steven W. Dahlem	Walter Wall

A Membership Application is attached to this Newsletter or may be downloaded at www.MariposaBar.org. Please bring your \$35 dues payment to the next luncheon, or mail it in with your application to MCBA, PO Box 628, Mariposa, CA 95338.

2020 MCBA Officers

Our annual election was held during the December 2019 meeting. Congratulations to our panel of MCBA Officers, who will remain the same for the year 2020.



Casey Aitchison
President



Ed Johnson
Vice-President



Anita Starchman Bryant
Secretary



Skye Emery
Treasurer

MARIPOSA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Membership Application – 2020

2020 dues: \$35.00

Please mail the completed application and dues payable to:
Mariposa County Bar Association
P.O. Box 628
Mariposa, CA 95338

The following data will be used for your Member Information of the MCBA records. Please indicate what information you would like included on the public web site.

	Include on Website?	
	Yes	No
Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bar#: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Firm Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fax: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Website: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Areas of Practice: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law School: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Languages: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Free Consultations: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dues Enclosed: _____