

# Mariposa County Bar Association

Volume 3, Issue 32

[www.MariposaBar.org](http://www.MariposaBar.org)

[Newsletter@MariposaBar.org](mailto:Newsletter@MariposaBar.org)

December 2020

## President's Column

Casey Archer, MCBA President

The Mariposa County Bar Association ("MCBA") in-person meetings have been suspended since April 2020 due to COVID-19. We look forward to resuming our meetings sometime in 2021 at the Miner's Roadhouse 140. In the interim, anyone with information regarding free MCLE webinars, or who would like to submit a news article of general interest, is invited to email the information to [MCBA@MariposaBar.org](mailto:MCBA@MariposaBar.org) for inclusion in our monthly newsletters.



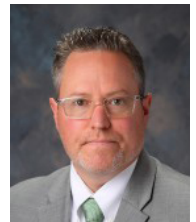
MCBA Membership is \$35.00 and includes a listing on the MCBA website at [www.MariposaBar.org](http://www.MariposaBar.org). We recently updated our website to include a "Resources" page, and invite members to provide input regarding additional information to include on our website. We are also working to provide access to MCLE credits for our members throughout 2021. For new members, the attached application may be mailed to our PO Box with the yearly dues. If current members would like to maintain membership including their listing on our website, they should send their annual \$35.00 dues to MCBA, PO Box 628, Mariposa, CA 95338.



## You Make the Difference: Be Engaged, Be Pro Bono

by Andy Kucera, CCLS Pro Bono Program

The recent pandemic and its economic consequences have disproportionately affected low-income individuals and communities, people of color, and others already struggling for social justice. Today, there are many more people eligible for legal aid, when only months ago no one could have predicted they would find themselves in this position. Legal aid resources are stretched thin, and inadequate to meet the demand for assistance with legal issues such as preventing evictions and homelessness, meaningful access to health services and public benefits, and protections for victims of domestic violence.



The role of pro bono attorneys in mitigating this crisis has been specifically addressed in open letters from the Chief United States District Judge of the United States District Court, Eastern District of California, and the President of the American Bar Association, calling on bar associations and individual attorneys to mobilize and engage in pro bono service.

Your individual contribution makes all the difference. Whether a family avoids homelessness by having legal representation in their unlawful detainer case, or a victim of domestic violence secures a restraining order against their abuser, often hinges on whether a volunteer attorney is willing and able to serve. Legal aid simply cannot accomplish its mission without you.

CCLS has a wide range of volunteer opportunities, with different time commitments, levels of services provided, and areas of substantive law. Training and supervision is provided, so you may volunteer outside of your regular practice areas. Volunteers are also covered by CCLS' professional liability insurance policy.

*...continued on page 3*

## “Mariposa County, Esq.”

by Anita Starchman Bryant

As we look back over 2020, we are reminded of Law Day 2020, which celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote. Reprinted here with the permission of the *Mariposa Gazette*, is the article authored by Anita Starchman Bryant in recognition of Law Day:



### Law Day Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote

In 1961, May 1st was proclaimed to be National Law Day. Law Day is a day for celebrating our legal system. This year’s Law Day theme is “Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100.” Each year the American Bar Association designates a new Law Day theme. The ABA chooses an annual theme to spotlight a particular aspect of law or the legal process and its impact on our daily lives. As stated on the ABA’s website “Law Day provides an opportunity to understand how law and the legal process protect our liberty, strive to achieve justice and contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share.”



The ABA’s 2020 theme not only celebrates the rule of law, but also an important anniversary in our nation’s history. This year is the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women’s constitutional right to vote. As ratified and certified in August 1920, the 19th Amendment states *“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”* The passage of the 19th Amendment marked the largest expansion of democracy in the history of our country.

## “Mariposa County, Esq.”, *cont.*

ABA President Judy Perry Martinez states that “[t]his historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy and to explore its relevance to the issues of equal rights today.”

The 100th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote celebrates a historic time in American democracy. The 19th Amendment is sometimes called the “the Anthony Amendment” because of the prominent role of suffragist Susan B. Anthony.

Long before the passage of the 19th Amendment, in 1870, Wyoming was the first territory to grant women the right to vote. That same year Wyoming (appropriately nicknamed “the equality state”) made history with several other “firsts” in the nation such as having the first jury to include women and the first woman to serve as a judge in the United States. California granted the state’s women the right to vote in a special election on October 10, 1911. According to the ABA, more than 80 million women are now registered to vote.

In observance of Law Day, local bar associations are encouraged to reach out to schools and discuss the American legal system with students. This year the California Lawyers Association has rolled out an online toolkit to educate students on the importance of voting rights. This toolkit, available on the California Lawyers Association website, can be used by educators online or in local classrooms after schools reopen. More information about this year’s Law Day theme, including podcasts and videos on the long and difficult struggle for women to win the right to vote, is available on the ABA’s website at

[www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education).

\*This column was originally printed in the Mariposa Gazette

Anita Starchman Bryant, who earned her J.D. from UC Berkeley School of Law, is a Mariposa attorney practicing in the areas of real estate, land use, estate planning & administration, and probate law. Disclaimer: This article is intended to provide general information. The content of this publication is for informational purposes only. Neither this publication nor its author is rendering legal or other professional advice or opinions on specific facts or matters.

## MCBA 2020 Meetings

Our meetings are traditionally held on the second Thursday of each month at the Miner's Roadhouse 140 banquet room, but are currently suspended due to COVID-19. The following recaps our 2020 schedule:

### **January 9, 2020**

Luncheon meeting: Strategic Planning Meeting for 2020.

### **February 13, 2020**

Luncheon meeting: Speaker, Dr. Eric Sergienko, Mariposa County Public Health Officer, regarding COVID-19 and Public Health Law.

### **March 12, 2020**

Luncheon meeting: Judge Michael Fagalde, .5 MCLE credit in Ethics with his presentation "Ethics-A Perspective After Crossing the Divide from Attorney to Judge".

### **April 9, 2020**

Luncheon meeting postponed due to COVID-19.

### **May 14, 2020**

Judge Fagalde, speaker, Law Day postponed due to COVID-19.

### **June 11, 2020**

Miles Menetrey, Chairman of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, luncheon meeting postponed due to COVID-19.

### **July 9, 2020**

Luncheon meeting: 1 hour MCLE credit Webinar with Speaker, Brian Chase, Director of Digital Forensics at ArcherHall, with a presentation on "How to Find and Use Location Information in Litigation".

### **August 13, 2020**

Russell Cook, MCLE presentation, luncheon meeting postponed due to COVID-19.

### **September 10, 2020**

Luncheon meeting postponed due to COVID-19.

### **October 15, 2020**

Luncheon webinar meeting postponed pending MCLE webinar approval by the State Bar: Speaker, Russell Cook, with a presentation on "Effective Mediations through Zoom".

### **November 12, 2020**

Luncheon meeting postponed due to COVID-19

### **December 10, 2020**

Holiday Luncheon and Judges Appreciation Day postponed due to COVID-19.

## You Make the Difference, *cont.*

Legal clinics have been a staple at CCLS since the beginning, and now is no exception. Since May of this year, we have retooled to offer legal information clinics virtually via Zoom, completing about 20 of them. The clinics have had tens of thousands of views on social media. We are reaching more people than we ever were before. We continue to schedule and host clinics, on a wider variety of topics, and in more languages. Most of the clinics rely on volunteer attorneys or other legal professionals.

CCLS has been hard at work rolling out three virtual clinics to provide counsel and advice, and brief services, in the areas of eviction defense, criminal record expungement, and domestic violence.

The Unlawful Detainer Clinic utilizes the Zoom meetings platform to enable volunteer attorneys and CCLS staff attorneys to provide legal advice and prepare and file answers for tenants facing eviction. Tenant protections are sunseting, and the underlying economics have only gotten worse. We expect significant demand for this clinic in the coming months.

The Criminal Record Expungement Clinic is a partnership between CCLS, Fresno County Public Defender's Clean Slate Program, Root and Rebound, and Law Students for Community Advancement. In October we held an attorney MCLE recruiting event and a public information session, both virtually via Zoom webinars. The clinic pairs volunteer attorneys with law students to assist clients with applications and petitions for criminal record expungement. Volunteer attorneys work their cases on their own time, with case support from the law students, and substantive expertise from the Clean Slate Program and Root and Rebound. A criminal record often separates an individual from obtaining housing, employment, and other basic necessities. This clinic will have a huge impact on our community.

Project First Step is CCLS' flagship clinic that provides limited scope representation to victims of domestic violence seeking restraining orders against their abusers. Marjaree Mason Center and Fresno County Women Lawyers have been long time partners, and new for this year is a partnership with the Fresno County Superior Court. Our upcoming MCLE recruiting event is scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2021, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

*...continued on page 4*

## Job Opportunitites

### Transactional and Real Estate Associate – Modesto and/or Merced Offices

Berliner Cohen, LLP seeks a Transactional and Real Estate Associate for its Modesto and/or Merced offices. The ideal candidate will have 1-5 years of experience in business transactional matters, including demonstrated experience in drafting and negotiating agreements in the areas of business formation, choice of entity, buy/sell agreements, asset acquisition/disposition, and succession business planning. This position also involves real estate work, including property acquisition/disposition, leasing, and related estate planning. Knowledge of income and estate taxation issues is also desirable.

The successful candidate will have strong local ties, a desire to live and work in the Modesto/Merced area, and possess a strong academic background, a proven track record of strong performance, and measurable results with exceptional communication, analytical, and writing skills.

Berliner Cohen LLP is noted for its congenial work environment and provides a competitive compensation package. If you are interested in joining our team, please submit a cover letter and resume to [Kristin.Anderson@Berliner.com](mailto:Kristin.Anderson@Berliner.com). Berliner Cohen, LLP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Mariposa County Superior Court Facilitator

The Mariposa County Superior Court is seeking an attorney to fill the position of Family Law Facilitator/Small Claims Advisor/Self-Help Center. The job involves approximately 20-30 hours per week, some of which may be conducted remotely via zoom. The position provides a competitive salary but does not provide benefits. The attorney filling the position cannot practice law in Mariposa County, but may continue to practice law in neighboring counties.

## Judges Appreciation Day

December is the month for our annual Judges Appreciation Day. This year, we are unable to hold our in-person meeting due to COVID-19. As such, the members of the Mariposa County Bar Association give a collective shout out to our Judicial Officers: Judge F. Dana Walton, Judge Michael A. Fagalde, and Commissioner Philip A. Pimintel. On behalf of the Mariposa County Bar Association, we thank you for your service, work and dedication as Mariposa County Superior Court Judicial Officers.

## You Make the Difference, *cont.*

CCLS has many volunteer opportunities beyond clinics. We are currently seeking pro bono attorneys for full representation in housing and family law matters. We are also seeking experienced trial attorneys to co-counsel in our affirmative litigation cases, including a case about to be filed to enforce our clients' rights to habitable living conditions.

This is not simply a call to action. We all must recognize the sheer magnitude of the legal problems facing our local communities, and the limited resources available to meet them. I often say that attorneys wield immense power. Use that power to make a difference and improve the quality of life of those less fortunate. Be Engaged. Be Pro Bono.

To volunteer with CCLS contact Andy Kucera, Supervising Attorney - Pro Bono Program, at [akucera@centralcallegal.org](mailto:akucera@centralcallegal.org) or (559) 570-1236.

## FAREWELL TO SHERI RICH MOUNT

August 27, 1956 – December 15, 2020

Our long time colleague and friend, Sheri Rich Mount, passed away on December 15, 2020.

Sheri Rich Mount was an attorney who truly did her best to provide compassionate representation.

She understood that her clients wanted an attorney not just with experience, but who cared. Whether the case involved a divorce, custody, support or any other matter involving family law, Sheri Rich Mount always did her best to see that the case was professionally and sensitively handled. She understood how stressful these cases are, and that oftentimes, they reduced the best people to their emotional worst. You could always count on Sheri Rich Mount to have a positive attitude and to try to resolve the case with the least conflict possible throughout these difficult situations.

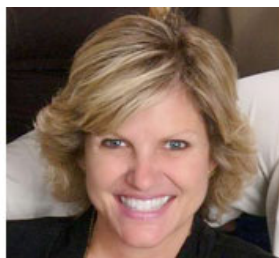


It is with great sadness that we say good-bye to Sheri Rich Mount. She will be missed.



## 2020 MCBA Officers

As 2020 draws to a close, the MCBA would like to thank our 2020 MCBA Officers for their service during the last year.



**Casey Archer**  
President



**Ed Johnson**  
Vice-President



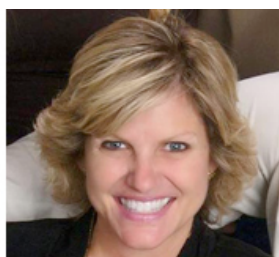
**Anita Starchman Bryant**  
Secretary



**Skye Emery**  
Treasurer

## 2021 MCBA Officers

The Election of our 2021 Officers took place via email, with a unanimous vote by our voting members. The MCBA extends a warm welcome to our incoming Officers:



**Casey Archer**  
President



**Anita Starchman Bryant**  
Vice-President



**Ed Johnson**  
Secretary



**Skye Emery**  
Treasurer

## One Third of Remote Bar Exam Test-Takers Receive Violation Notices

The National Conference of Bar Examiners provided testing materials with remote proctoring for jurisdictions, including California, that offered the October 2020 online bar exam. The jurisdictions are responsible for reviewing potential administration issues.

During the December 4, 2020 meeting of the California Committee of Bar Examiners, it was reported that 8,920 applicants took the exam online. Of that group, 3,190 (nearly 36%) of the test-takers had their videos flagged for review.

“During the video review process, a Chapter 6 Notice is issued to any applicant who is believed to have violated examination rules and policies,” the Bar said. “A Chapter 6 Notice is not a finding of a violation or sanction. Rather, it provides an applicant with the opportunity to respond in writing before any finding is made.” The Chapter 6 Notices, some of which were reportedly unsigned and undated, give test-takers 10 days to provide a statement in response. Some of the notices pertained to whether examinees’ eyes were always visible throughout the two-day test.

The Bar’s office of admissions will consider information and evidence in applicants’ responses to violation notices, to decide whether to affirm the violation notice. If the violation is affirmed, the office determines whether a sanction should be imposed, which could include warnings, a score of zero for the flagged sessions or the entire exam, and negative marks on character and fitness evaluations.

If an applicant disagrees with the office’s determination, the applicant may request an administrative hearing. An unfavorable outcome can be appealed with the Committee of Bar Examiners and, ultimately, the California Supreme Court. The applicant’s October bar exam scores will be held in abeyance while hearings and appeals are resolved, and the applicant is not permitted to take the February 2021 exam when determinations of previous scores are pending. Several law school deans are urging the State Bar to allow applicants to sit for the February 2021 bar while they are challenging the Chapter 6 Notices.

## MCBA Membership List

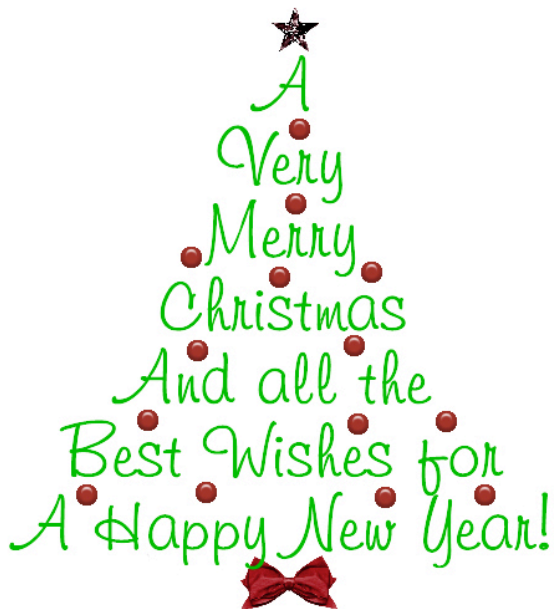
As the year draws to an end, we would like to thank our 2020 members for their involvement and support during these unprecedented times:

Casey Archer	Steven W. Dahlem
Nanette M. Beaumont	Skye Emery
Kevin Briggs	Kimberly G. Flores
Marvin Brown (retired)	Edward J. Johnson
Anita Starchman Bryant	Andrew Kucera
Aaron Castleton	Robert B. Lindley
Jeffrey Castleton	Brent Richardson
Russell D. Cook	Elizabeth E. Waldow
Thomas K. Cooke	Walter Wall

With 2021 approaching, the MCBA extends its thanks to the members who have paid their 2021 dues:

Casey Archer	Russell D. Cook
Marvin Brown (retired)	Skye Emery
Anita Starchman Bryant	Walter Wall

If your name is not included in the 2021 membership list and you would like to renew your membership and maintain your listing on the MCBA website, you may do so by sending your \$35.00 annual dues to our PO Box. For new members who wish to join and have their information listed on the MCBA website, a Membership Application is attached and may be mailed with your dues to MCBA, PO Box 628, Mariposa, CA 95338.



## Domestic Violence Support Services



Mountain Crisis of Mariposa provides hope, support and recovery for those who are or who have been victims of domestic violence. Their office is located at 5075 Hwy 140, Suite C, Mariposa, California. Their office number is (209) 742-5865, and their 24-Hour Hotline is 1-888-966-2350. For more information visit their site at the following link: <https://mountaincrisiservices.org>.

## Online Therapy Platforms

Online therapy platforms help individuals access professional care for mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs without having to travel to a specific physical location. This is of particular value in today's climate of social distancing due to COVID-19. With so many companies offering therapy services via video and phone calls, live chats, and email messaging, it can be difficult to know which one is right for you and your needs. To help users, OnlineTherapy has evaluated the most popular online therapy platforms based on 14 of the key features most important to those looking for an online therapist, forming the basis for their recommendations for the top 10 online therapy sessions. You can find the list at the following link: <https://www.onlinetherapy.com/online-therapy-services/>.



# MARIPOSA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## Membership Application – 2021

2021 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Mariposa County Bar Association • Membership Application • 2021  
PO Box 628 • Mariposa, CA • 95338