VOLUME 87 - ISSUE 01 APRIL/- JULY 2023

Hearday

With Perseverance In Our Sails, Through Any Storm, We Prevail

San Francisco Legal Professionals Association



PO Box 2582, San Francisco, CA 94126 www.SFLPA.org



In This Issue...

What Have We Been Up To? Recent Events

Feature: Becoming An American Citizen

Feature: The Laws Of Grammar

Happy Independence Day!

By Beth Sharpe, Hearsay Editor pro tem

We have a very important issue at hand ... and it's this one: the summer *Hearsay*! The whole team, including all the special guest writers, made sure this landed in readers' mailboxes in time for the July 4 weekend. Since tight deadlines are no match for the legal community, here is our proud, professional, supportive, and informative Independence Day *Hearsay* issue!

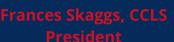
Odaya Buta-Scott shares with us her powerful journey to becoming an American Citizen. Francie Skaggs tells the terrible tale of AI running amok in the legal world. Danya Gonzales ensures we are fully briefed on the latest court updates in Court Chatter and, after a season of key local and national Association events, if you're seeking evidence of what SFLPA members get up to in the wild, keep reading!



San Francisco Legal Professionals Association 2023-2024 Elected Officers









Suddie Scott Vice President



Lorri Nicolini, CCLS
Secretary



Sally Mendez Treasurer



Christine Flores, CBA

Appointed Officers, Chairs & Committee Members

Executive Advisor: May Sene - executive advisor@sflpa.org
Parliamentarian: Christine Flores, CBA - cflores@orrick.com
Career Promotion and Scholarship: OPEN - careerscholarship@sflpa.org

CCLS Program: Lorri Nicolini, CCLS - ccls@sflpa.org

Chapter Achievement: Christine Flores, CBA - governor@sflpa.org

Education: Claudia Deza, Chair - education@sflpa.org

Hearsay Committee: Beth Sharpe, Chair; Danya Gonzales & Kate Cochran - editor@sflpa.org

Interclub: Lillian Wong, Chair - interclub@sflpa.org

Legal Procedure: Danya Gonzales, Chair - legalprocedure@sflpa.org

Membership: Suddie Scott, Chair - membership@sflpa.org

Professional Liaison/Day-in-Court: OPEN - dayincourt@sflpa.org

Programs: Lillian Wong, Interim Chair & Kristen Craig-Reed - program@sflpa.org

Ways & Means: OPEN - waysandmeans@sflpa.org

Website: Kristen Craig-Reed, Chair - website@sflpa.org

Employment: Kristen Craig-Reed, Chair - employment@sflpa.org

Social Media and DEI Chair: Odaya Buta-Scott

Open Positions: Scholarship, Ways & Means and Day in Court



Group Photo of SFLPA Members and Guests of our Officer Installation Event.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



FRANCIE SKAGGS, CCLS

Dear Valued Members:

Happy Pride Month San Francisco, Happy Juneteenth and Fourth of July America! It is so nice to be spending many of my work days back in San Francisco during Pride Month and enjoying the exuberance. San Francisco is always so beautifully decorated with all the vibrant colors of the pride flag during the month of June. I don't know what I would do without so many of my LGBTQ+ friends who have been supportive and I am happy we can all celebrate. I think 2023 is going to be a special summer because we are finally on the other side of the Pandemic, and people are feeling more comfortable about returning to much needed celebrations. I hope everyone was able to enjoy some kind of festivity around the holidays!

SFLPA will be having its July 18, 2023 Membership Meeting at Jones Day, San Francisco, with special guest speaker Michael Levine, Esq. who will speak about the Intersection of AI and IP. All are welcomed to arrive at 5:30 for a half hour social time. Please come, mingle, network, learn and enjoy the company and energy of being together, especially for those of you who have had a hard time getting out and are still in your pandemic bubble, this is your chance. Don't miss out on the energy that ignites inspiration that cannot be attained through Zoom. We miss you!

In case you haven't heard, there is a new educational structure for LPI. They have divided into three silos, (1) Continuing Legal Education, (2) LPI University and (3) Legal Technology Training. For our members, the Continuing Legal Education portion will be at no charge! Prior to this year, members received a discount of \$25 per webinar, but now, those benefits come with your membership! Go to the LPI website at https://www.legalprofessionalsinc.org/events/ to find out more.

I encourage all members to attend the Summer Court Series webinars. The Continuing Education Committee has worked to schedule court clerks from all over California to give presentations on the most recent updates with the courts and how to avoid getting your filings rejected! On July 13, the clerks from USDC, Central District will be presenting. On July 20, Placer County clerks are scheduled, and definitely mark August 24 on your calendars because that's when the San Francisco Superior Court clerks will present. This is an opportunity for questions to be answered in a congenial setting, rather than against a deadline and under the stress that comes along with last-minute filings.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CONT'D.

Right now, our Board is working on some future membership events, including a Membership Meeting on August 17, a Giants outing (it's been too long!) and a Day in Court Event with a Mock Trial we are planning for the fall.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to us. Get to know our Board, including some brand new superstars like Upcoming Hearsay Editor Beth Sharpe, Vice President Suddie Scott, Education Chair Claudia Deza, and Social Media Chair Odaya Buta-Scott. You can find out more about our Board by going to our website at www.sflpa.org.

I hope to see all of you at our Membership Meeting on July 18, and if not then, at one of our Brown Bags or at the Membership Kick-Off on August 17 at the Patriot House

France Skaggs, CCLS SFLPA President





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Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy
4th of July!



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SUDDIE SCOTT



Meet Your New Vice President!

Dear Friends, Members, and SFLPA:

My name is Suddie Scott, and I am the newly-elected Vice President and Membership Committee Chair for the year 2023-2024. I enjoy working with the Board and being supportive of the President of the Board. I oversee the Membership. I am happy to report that we have received 41 people that have renewed their membership for the year 2023-2024. We have scheduled a membership renewal kick-off in August.

As we move into our second month of the new fiscal year, many of you still have not renewed your membership. Remember, if you don't renew by June 30, 2023, you will be removed from our roster and our email distribution lists and will miss out on some upcoming events, including the Summer Court Series offered to members for free! So please get those renewals in very soon. On August 17, we will be having a renewal membership kickoff at Patriot House and would like members to bring a guest to introduce them to our association. We will share information about the association and have fun.







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VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



SUDDIE SCOTT

MEMBERSHIP

You do not have to be a member of the San Francisco Legal Professional Association ("SFLPA") to come to our Member Meetings on July 18, 2023, at Jones Day or enroll in any of our educational programs. As a member, you will receive a variety of benefits including:

- Discounted rates for all SFLPA educational programs and events in some cases, at no charge to our members only.
- Automatic membership to our parent-state organization, Legal Professional Incorporated ("LPI") which offers webinars and legal section classes at discounted rates to its members.
- Free subscriptions to "The Legal Secretary" magazine published by LPI and our very own bulletin "The Hearsay" both containing interesting articles and informative topics relevant to the ever-changing aspects of the legal profession.

I encourage you to attend one of our special events and our monthly Brown Bag Webinars. Dates for upcoming activities can be found under the "Events" tab on our website.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our SFLPA events.

Suddie Scott Vice President and Membership Committee Chair





Lessons in AI: Make Sure that You're the Boss Francie Skaggs, CCLS, President



One time a large amount of boxes and files were delivered to my desk. Overwhelmed with the large delivery, I remember looking at them in anticipation of the work ahead for me, and I expressed out loud the overwhelm I was feeling. Just then an attorney approached me and said, "You be the boss of those files!" We both giggled, but she was right. In order to tackle the problem, I had to be in charge. I still remember that little piece of advice whenever facing a large issue. After reading several articles about the dangers of not using AI properly, I have come to the conclusion that the same approach can be applied to artificial intelligence. Humans need to be in charge!

Artificial Intelligence ("AI") can be an appealing solution to imminent problems, but we, the professionals, must always be the boss. Many law firms are now creating "AI Departments" within their firms to avoid the potential risks. Even the American Bar Association recently assigned the Cybersecurity Legal Task Force to address the issue with Resolution 604.[1] Here are some cautionary tales that illustrate why caveats must be in place.

You may have recently read about Attorney Steven Schwartz, from Levidow, Levidow & Oberman, who used ChatGPT to conduct his research. Attorney Schwartz became the poster child for poor judgment when using AI after using this program to find case law to support his argument. Those cases turned out to be fake law.[2]

This New York attorney must have been uneasy when appearing before Hon. Kevin Castel for an Order to Show Cause hearing in the Southern District of New York on June 8, 2023. He needed to explain why he "ought not be sanctioned" for fraudulently citing six "bogus" cases to support his argument when representing his client, an airline company, for negligence.

Thankfully for him, Judge Castel found that he did not use "bad faith," which was a required element for being sanctioned, and did not sanction him. Attorney Schwartz may have been relieved but learned a valuable lesson.

[1] Amanda Roberts, "ABA House Adopts 3 Guidelines to Improve Use of Artificial Intelligence," ABA Journal (February 2023), https://www.abajournal.com/web/article/aba-house-adopts-3-guidelines-to-improve-use-of-artificial-intelligence.

[2] Ramishah Maruf, "Lawyer Apologizes for Fake Citations from ChatCPT." CNN Business, May 28, 2023, https://doi.org/https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/27/business/chat-gpt-avianca-mata-lawyers/index.html. DOI https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/27/business/chat-gpt-avianca-mata-lawyers.







Lessons in AI: Make Sure that You're the Boss Cont.



According to the ruling, his firm did not have an account with Westlaw or Lexis Nexis, and used ChatGPT to find case law that was on point. Upon this decision, I wanted to find an attorney's point of view on using ChatGPT as a research tool.

I asked Attorney Erin Doyle for her perspective. She stated that though she had never used this program, even when using Westlaw or Lexis Nexis, it's important to always confirm that cases are not only genuine, but also that they have not been appealed, or an attorney can be sanctioned. The attorney needs to be in charge.

Another area to be aware of is when scheduling a court reporter. During last minute requests for court reporters, a court reporting company may ask if it's ok to use a "digital recorder" instead of a licensed court reporter. Digital recorders are controversial in California, and there are current laws related to this method. It is good practice to always decline this option since a certified shorthand reporter is required in California. California is currently addressing the issues with Senate and Assembly Bills.[i]

In a recent SFLPA Brown Bag, NCRA past president Sue Terry, FAPR, RPR, CRR, CRC and CalPRO past president, Mary E. Pierce, CA CSR presented a webinar warning about the dangers of using AI in the court reporting industry and the importance of all transcripts having been prepared by a California licensed stenographer, or CSR.

When presented a transcript of her client's deposition, Attorney Melissa B. Buchman not only found an enormous amount of errors, but also that 55 pages of her client's testimony detrimental to her case was missing from that transcript.[3] The opposing counsel insisted the transcript was solid. After months of investigating, she finally discovered the person who appeared to be a court reporter was actually a "digital recorder" rather than a licensed stenographer. By the time Attorney Buchman discovered this information, it was too late for her case.

A digital recorder and a licensed stenographer are not the same. The latter undergoes special training, including medical, legal and English terminology, and has to uphold strict ethical codes. Artificial Intelligence does not recognize dialects, confidentiality, decipher back ground noise, nor can it ask someone to

[3] Mary Pierce and Melissa Buchman, "Make Sure Your Court Reporter is Really a Court Reporter," Daily Journal, April 13, 2022, https://www.dailyjournal.com/articles/366920-make-sure-your-court-reporter-is-really-a-court-reporter.







Lessons in AI: Make Sure that You're the Boss Cont.



clarify for the record. A digital recorder records everything and then outsources it to several different typists. Those typists are not California certified stenographers, and can even be located in other countries.

The take-away from these stories is to remember that the professional must always be the boss. In a world of demanding schedules, it is important to take the time to do your research. Human intelligence is much older and wiser, and will always be older than the artificial intelligence it created.

- AI may appear to be cheaper, but the cost of mistakes can be greater;
- When using AI in your searches, cross-check the information provided by using alternative references and resources;
- When scheduling a court reporter, always confirm that it will be a licensed stenographer transcribing and not a digital recorder;
- Check transcripts to confirm the name of a licensed court reporter and that a number is listed;
- AI does not hold accountability; the person using it does;
- Confirm that the developer of the program is available, transparent and subject to human authority.

We need to keep our own minds sharp and our critical thinking skills even sharper. AI must always answer to human authority. You be the boss of artificial intelligence!

[i] https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB156.









SFLPA Out and About Photos





Introducing the new LPI Board for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year - Stronger Together!



Representing SFLPA at the Annual Conference in Las Vegas! From left, Kate Cochran, Francie Skaggs, CCLS, Larry McGrew, Leanne Ruesink, Chris Flores, CBA and Kristen Craig-Reed.

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SFLPA Out and About Contd.





SFLPA Members Kristen Craig-Reed, Francie Skaggs, CCLS and Kate Cochran in Vegas!



What happens in Vegas ...



Prince and Britney are in the House!
Marci Frazier of Sacramento LSA and
Heather Nowak of Orange County LPA
represent!



stays in Vegas!

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SFLPA Out and About Cont'd.





President Francie Skaggs, CCLS, and Governor Christine J. Flores, CBA enjoying the Fremont Experience.



Christine J. Flores doing a little dance for San Francisco LPA!



Elvis is in the Building! Larry "Elvis" McGrew poses with all his wild fans at the LPI Conference in Las Vegas.

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GOVERNOR'S REPORT CHRIS FLORES, CBA



LPI 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2023 Annual Conference of Legal Professionals, Incorporated was held May 11-14, 2023 in Las Vegas, Nevada at the D Hotel. Kate Cochran, Francie Skaggs, CCLS and I attended the General Session on Saturday as Delegates representing San Francisco LPA. I also attended the Board of Governors Meetings as your Governor. Leanne Ruesink attended as Special Liaison to Law Firms for Northern California, as well as representing First Legal.

On Friday May 12, a Speed Mentoring workshop was held. This allowed everyone to learn about the responsibilities of the LPI officers and many of the chairs. The workshop was followed by a Roundtable Luncheon. There were continuing education opportunities available on Friday afternoon. On Friday night, a Welcome Reception/Campaign Party was held. Most of us attended the "Backstage Pass Party" to complete the festive evening.

We got down to business on Saturday morning with the Pre-Annual Conference Board of Governors Meeting which was called to order at 8:29 a.m. There were 20 Governors in attendance, constituting a quorum. The Minutes of the February 2023 Quarterly Conference Board of Governors meeting were approved as corrected. Executive Secretary Bettina Jacobson called for questions regarding the Executive Committee Resume, and there were none. It was also announced that Humboldt County and Rio Honda Associations were in the process of dissolving.

There being no further business to come before the corporation, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

The General Session of the Annual Conference of Delegates Meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by President Rod Cardinale, Jr. The Army ROTC Color Guard presented the Colors and Kristi Edwards, CCLS led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Code of Ethics was also read by Kristi. Lynne Prescott, CCLS gave the Memorial Address, "You Are The Best of Me." 2023 Annual Conference Chair Marci Frazier welcomed the attendees to the Annual Conference.



GOVERNOR'S REPORT



CONT'D.

Heather Edwards, CCLS introduced the members of the LPI Executive Committee. President Rod Cardinale, Jr. then introduced the LSI/LPI Past Presidents and special guests in attendance.

The Conference Registrar reported that there were 42 Delegates present.

The 2023 Annual Conference Standing Rules, the 2023 Annual Conference Election Rules and the 2023 Official Program were adopted on motions properly made.

The Conference Registrar reported that there were 42 Delegates present, constituting a quorum.

The Nominations and Elections Chair presented the following slate of officers:

• President: Rod Cardinale, Jr.

• Vice President: Donna Day

• Executive Secretary: Bettina Jacobson

• Treasurer: Rita Burnett, CCLS

Erika Garduno





There being no further nominees for the offices of President, Vice President or Executive Secretary, the Chair declared the nominees elected by acclamation. Ballots were distributed to the delegates, and votes were cast for the office of Treasurer. The votes were tallied, and President Rod announced that Erika Garduno has been elected Treasurer of LPI for the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year.

The General Session continued with reports from the elected officers and the appointed officers and chairs. It was announced that the 2024 Annual Conference will be held in Newark, and the theme will be Aloha! It was also announced that as no bids have been received for the 2024 Annual Conference, LPI will be the host.

One of the highlights of the Annual Conference is the presentation of awards for various Association activities. SFLPA received a Second Place Award for the Scrapbook created by May Sene, and the award-winning photos curated by Lillian Wong. There were several scholarship recipients whose applications were submitted by various local associations.



GOVERNOR'S REPORT



CONT'D.

There was no further business to come before the Corporation. The meeting was recessed to the Second Session on May 14, 2023.

Saturday evening was highlighted by the festive banquet. This is also the event where the results of the Chapter Achievement Contest were announced. San Francisco LPA did receive the Chapter Achievement Award for similarly sized Associations. A very proud moment, indeed!

The continuation of the General Session was called to order on May 14 at 9:00 a.m. by President Rod Cardinale, Jr. The meeting was highlighted by the Installation of the 2023-2024 LPI officers. President Rod was presented with the President's Gift from the members of LPI and the History Book. The Conference Committee also had a gift for Rod. Rod then presented the President's Awards. Leanne Ruesink was presented with the Rising Star Award for her service to LPI in reaching out to law firms throughout Northern California to introduce them to the benefits of membership in LPI.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Post-Annual Board of Governors Meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by President Rod Cardinale, Jr. The Executive Secretary took roll and a quorum was present. The Proposed Budget for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year was presented. A motion was made to adopt the budget, and following discussion, the budget was adopted.

President Rod announced that there have been no bids to host the upcoming conferences. Bids to host or co-host can still be considered.

President Rod then spun the digital wheel to see who would be awarded a Scrip Ticket to the August 2023 Quarterly Conference. Placer County LPA, Santa Clara County LPA, Marin County LPA and San Diego LSA were the lucky recipients.

The Post-Annual Board of Governors Meeting was thereafter adjourned. The First Quarterly Conference Board of Governors Meeting will be held August 11–13, 2023 at The Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa in Costa Mesa, California.





GOVERNOR'S REPORT



CONT'D.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to represent SFLPA as a Delegate and as your Governor. Keep in mind, I am your voice to LPI. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you would like clarification regarding SFLPA's relationship with LPI, and any of the matters that are being considered by LPI.

* * * * * * * * *

Thank you. Christine J. Flores, CBA, Governor

AND THE WINNERIS... San Francisco LPA

1st Place - Chapter Achievement Award 1st Place - Membership Gain Award 2nd Place - Scrapbook Award Leanne Ruesink - LPI Rising Star Award







CONGRATULATIONS TEAM SFLPA AND LEANNE!!



2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELGATE'S REPORT

KATE COCHRAN

I was honored to be elected as SFLPA's delegate to LPI's 89th Annual Conference, held May 11-14, 2023, in sunny Las Vegas, Nevada. This year was the first time LPI's annual conference was held outside of California. Our LPI President Rod Cardinale, Jr.'s goal was to make the conference a better experience for both LPI attendees and their guests and to spend less time in business meetings and more time networking and having good experiences in the host city. This conference was such a wonderful experience, and LPI certainly achieved that goal!

Kate Cochran SFLPA Delegate and Hearsay Committee Member





LPI Local Chapter Spotlight: San Francisco LPA



CHRIS FLORES, CBA

Established: 1936

This year the San Francisco Legal Professionals Association – originally known as the San Francisco Legal Secretaries Association – celebrates its 87th Anniversary. Since its formation in 1936, SFLPA has enjoyed a rich tradition of providing continuing educational opportunities, networking, and lifelong friendships to its members and to the community, along with service to LSI/LPI.

The association continued to grow over the years, offering timely programs of interest to legal secretaries in the community. Today, its continuing education programs are well-known throughout the legal community.

Over the years, SFLPA has supported three of its current members during their service to LSI on the Executive Committee. Betty Lou West, Joyce Seymour, PLS, CCLS and Yvonne Waldron-Robinson, CCLS have each served as LSI's President. We are also proud to count LSI Past President Christa Davis among our members. SFLPA was also proud of the accomplishments of former member Mary Beaudrow, CCLS during her terms as LSI President. Many of our members have served as appointed officers or chairmen of LSI/LPI.

In the early 1960s, the association decided to host an LSI Conference. As the planning for the conference was underway, it was brought to the Board's attention that the Association should incorporate as a nonprofit corporation in order to shield the elected officers from any possibility of personal liability for anything that might happen at that conference. In 1962, the San Francisco Legal Secretaries Association was incorporated. Over the years, SFLPA has hosted several quarterly conferences and annual conferences.

As the legal community has changed, so has SFLPA. In the early days, the Association's membership was most likely comprised primarily of legal secretaries. As time has passed, our members include court personnel, calendar and docket professionals, court reporters, and one attorney. We have also strengthened our relationship with those members of the legal community who provide services to attorneys and law firms, and have welcomed them as active members. It was the recognition of its diverse membership that prompted the San Francisco Legal Secretaries Association to change its name in 2003 to the San Francisco Legal Professionals Association.



LPI Local Chapter Spotlight: San Francisco LPA

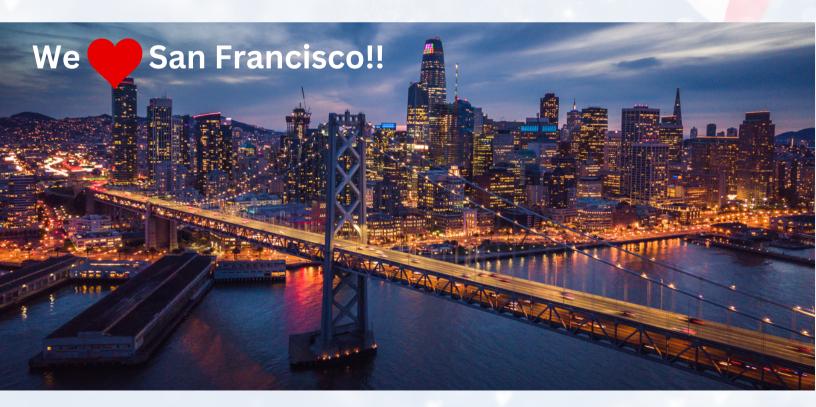


CONT.

Over the years, SFLPA has strived to be more visible in the community at large. We have made ourselves available to talk to students in the Paralegal Program at City College of San Francisco. We have made it a priority to seek out students who may be eligible for the Eula Mae Jett Scholarship and to create a scholarship program of our own. SFLPA has provided support to the San Francisco community through participation in San Francisco AIDS Walk, local clothing and coat drives, and the local toy drive to name a few.

A lot has happened over the years. Its contribution to the legal community and its dedication to the continuing education of its members has been steadfast. Our members have continually raised the bar of excellence through education. SFLPA has the distinction of knowing that two of its members, Catharine Ryan, PLS, CCLS and Virginia Haines, PLS, were the first of three members to pass the first Professional Legal Secretary exam. Several of its members hold the designation CCLS, and several more are studying to sit for the exam. Its strength is the camaraderie of its members. And its history is something that all members are very proud of.









Established in 1934, Legal Professionals Inc., also known as "LPI," is a nonprofit, mutual benefit corporation organized for the purposes of providing educational, professional, and personal development programs to its members.

Membership is open to anyone within the legal profession. In addition to legal support professionals, the membership includes court clerks, court reporters, paralegals, legal assistants, legal administrators, banking/trust department personnel, legal support vendors, and attorneys.

Local associations, located throughout the state, offer monthly educational and professional programs. Many sponsor lunchtime learning, evening, and weekend long-term educational workshops.

Advantages of LPI Membership:

- · Continuing education and professional development
- Local association educational meetings
- Networking with other legal professionals
- The Legal Secretary magazine (published quarterly)
- Benefits available to members on an individual basis:
 - Discounts on LPI's Rutter Group publications
 - Financial consulting
 - Disability income plan
 - Long-term care plan
 - Medical plan
 - Credit union memberships
 - Rental car discounts

LPI Conferences:

Conferences are held May, August, November, and February at various locations throughout California. Continuing educational seminars and workshops are offered at each conference, conducted by respected attorneys, judges, and educators. Updated materials are provided for each workshop.

Membership-At-Large:

There are over thirty associations within the State of California. Legal professionals may join LPI as a Member-at-Large if a local association is not within a reasonable distance. Members-at-Large are eligible for all of the benefits of membership, but joining LPI through a local association provides instant access to the benefits of the local association as well as LPI.

LPI Publications:

Legal Professional's Handbook – This best-selling, two-volume publication sets out procedures and forms in most areas of law in a clear, concise manner.

Law Office Procedures Manual – This publication, an excellent training tool, contains completed Judicial Council forms, procedural guidelines and a glossary formulated for legal procedure.

Legal Secretary's Reference Guide – The essential, handy desk reference guide for busy legal professionals.

The Legal Secretary – This quarterly magazine, published by LPI and distributed to all members, contains educational and professional development articles from LPI officers, chairmen, members, and guests.

LPI Programs:

<u>California Certified Legal Secretary</u> – Become more valuable in your office, maintain and increase your skills, gain more confidence, earn more respect, and achieve greater financial security by achieving certification through the CCLS program. Online study courses are offered.

Legal Specialization Sections – Further your legal education by joining one or all of the Legal Specialization Sections: Civil Litigation, Criminal/Family Law, Law Office Administration, Probate/Estate Planning, Federal Law, and Specialty Law. Classes are offered free to members at each LPI conference, as well as online. Members receive a statewide roster of counterparts and quarterly newsletters.

<u>Legal Secretary Training</u> – Online classes are offered, including Beginning Legal Secretary and Advanced Discovery. Classes are work-at-your-own-pace, and are designed for legal staff at all levels.

For more information about membership or an association near you, contact LPI's Corporate Office: Kim Oreno, kim@legalprofessionalsinc.org; www.legalprofessionalsinc.org. Find us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn & Twitter!

Take a step in the right direction. Advance your legal career, improve your professional and personal skills.

BECOME A MEMBER OF LPI TODAY.



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?



RECENT EVENTS

SFLPA held its Installation of Officers Gala at Hyatt Fisherman's Wharf on April 23, 2023!





Photos left to right: Rita Burnett & Francie Skaggs; Presentation of the SFLPA Officers.



Three courses (at least!) and friendly tables.



A raffle of donated items helped fill SFLPA's coffers.



Lilian Wong and May Sene presented the President with their handmade scrapbooks showcasing her tenure.



Installation Officer Lynne Prescott, CCLS, with new officers



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?



MORE INSTALLATION PICTURES.



Our new VP Suddie Scott.



All-round SFLPA hero Danya Gonzales receives the President's Award.



Lilian Wong (left) who headed up making the event happen and May Sene (right).



The important stuff: Made by Governor Chris's daughter, Elizabeth Flores









Our members look happy that dinner is served!!



Special guest speaker, Lucy Lee, Esq. gave an eye-opening talk about how our city of San Francisco came to be.



From left to right: Sally Mendez, Francie Skaggs, Lorri Nicolini, Chris Flores and Suddie Scott (and the cake!).







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SFLPA & LPI EVENT CALENDAR





Educational & Networking Opportunities July



7/2 - CCLS On-line Study Group

7/4 - SFLPA Board Meeting

7/9 - CCLS On-line Study Group

7/9 - Santa Clara LPA: SF Giants v. Co. Rockies

7/12 - Mt. Diablo LPA: Legal Writing, Part 2

7/12 - Webinar - e-DISCOVERY

7/13 - Summer Court Series: USDC, Central

7/16 - CCLS On-line Study Group

7/18 - SFLPA General Meeting - Speaker: AI & IP

7/18 - Legal Secretarial Training (8 weeks)

7/18 - California Discovery Course (6 weeks)

7/20 - Sacramento LSA: Court Update and

Dinner

7/20 - Summer Cour<mark>t Series:</mark> Placer S<mark>uperior</mark>

Court

7/22 - Marin County LPA: Baseball Fundraiser

7/23 - CCLS On-line Study Group

7/25 - Advanced Discovery Course (6 weeks)

7/25 - Trial Preparation Course (8 weeks)

7/27 - Summer Court Series: USDC, Southern

7/30 - CCLS On-line Study Group

August

8/1 - SFLPA Board Meeting 8/11 to 13 - LPI's First Quarterly Conference 8/17 SFLPA Membership Happy Hour 8/24 - Summer Court Series: SF Superior Court

September

9/5 - SFLPA Board Meeting

9/6 - Contra Costa County LPA: The iAttorney

All SFLPA events are posted on our website. You will also find some of the flyers published in this issue. Please visit us at www.sflpa.org and click on the Events tab.

We also encourage you to visit LPI's website at <u>www.legalprofessionalsinc.org</u> to keep up with all the educational webinars, other local association events, and information on upcoming LPI Conferences.

San Francisco Cuisine



Brenda's French Soul Food

652 Polk Street, San Francisco



June was Pride Month and June 24-25 was the weekend of celebration in San Francisco. SFLPA is committed to honoring the diversity of this city and all it has to offer. Nothing celebrates diversity like a good meal influenced by culture.

Below is a story about Chef Brenda Buenviajé, a New Orleans native who now calls San Francisco home. She brought her own style of Southern, Creole and French food to just *one* of her San Francisco Restaurants, Brenda's French Soul Food.

Brenda Buenviajé's Story



Chef Brenda Buenviajé grew up on the West bank of New Orleans, Louisiana in a little town called Harvey. As a girl she spent much of her time trapping crawfish in the canals behind her house, nearby Lafitte, picking in blackberries, gathering pecans, and fishing on the local bayous and along the Gulf Coast on her family's boat. Brenda was not only fortunate to have access to the rich abundance of local seafood and produce, but also the diverse styles of cuisine embodied by her Sicilian, French, and Filipino ascendants, often enjoying the pleasures of a backyard crawfish boil one day, a big pot of gumbo the next, then feasting on pancit, lumpia, and chicken adobo the next.



San Francisco Cuisine cont'd

Brenda's French Soul Food

Upon graduating from Louisiana State University with a BFA in Painting and Drawing, Brenda decided to pursue her real creative passion and began cooking in the kitchens of New Orleans. Within a few years, she found a natural fit at Mike's on the Avenue creating fusion cuisine and was quickly promoted to Chef de Cuisine.

In 1997, Brenda moved to San Francisco and at the age of 29 landed her first Executive Chef position at the notable fusion pioneer Oritalia. While there, she garnered much positive attention. Three stars in the SF Examiner, three stars in SF Magazine, and a listing among the Top Five Bold Newcomers in the New York Times are among her many accolades. She has twice been invited to cook at the James Beard House in New York City.

After leaving Oritalia, Brenda went on to work as Head Chef of Sumi in the Castro, Head Chef of Café Claude in downtown San Francisco, Consulting Chef of Snooze in Denver, Colorado and Executive Chef of DeLessio Market and Bakery.

In 2007, Brenda decided to open her own place serving her interpretation of "French Soul Food" in a casual atmosphere. From day one the response has been overwhelming!

In her spare time you can find Brenda with her lovely wife Libby and three children Max, Aurora and Leo, crabbing off of the Sausalito Pier, catching a Giants game, foraging for wild fruit to put into her next pancake special and dreaming up new ways to take over the world one beignet at a time...



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BRENDA'S FRENCH SOUL FOOD, GO TO HTTPS://FRENCHSOULFOOD.COM/



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

July 18, 2023 5:30 to 8:00 pm



Hybrid Meeting

- Jones Day
- Webex

Location

Jones Day 555 California Street, 26th Fl San Francisco, CA 94104



IN PERSON (DINNER INCLUDED) \$35 member \$40 non-member

VIRTUAL

• \$15 members and non-members

Questions: program@sflpa.org

WWW.SFLPA.ORG

RSVP BY JULY 14, 2023

To Register, go to https://www.sflpa.org/events-calendar/ or scan the OR Code

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Michael Lavine, Esq. of Jones Day

"The Intersection of AI & IP"



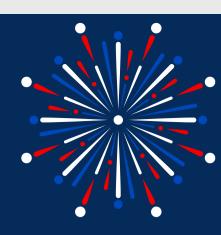
Mike Lavine has over a decade of complex IP litigation experience, including trials and hearings before District Courts, the International Trade Commission (ITC), and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB). Mike holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering and has led all aspects of IP litigation matters directed to various technologies including video streaming, virtual machines, wireless communications, and medical devices.

> .5 hours of MCLE and CCLS Continuous Education Certificates Available. This event is open to anyone in the legal industry. Feel free to share with your colleagues and friends.



Becoming An American Citizen Odaya Buta Social Media





My First 4th of July

In 2015, I moved to the U.S. and was fortunate enough to move to California, a state that was very welcoming to a Jewish-Israeli immigrant such as myself. I received my U.S. Citizenship on April 17 of this year, and while I felt happy and very excited to be formally part of this great country, I also felt a deep sadness because Israel observed the Holocaust Day on that same day (more precisely on the evening of April 17 until the sunset of the following day). I felt ambivalent about the proximity of those two events, but I also experienced it as a very meaningful and symbolic moment.

On my first week in San Francisco, in March 2015, while exploring my new home city and surrounding neighborhoods, I remember using public transportation and visiting the public library. Strangely enough, in both of those places, I experienced something that helped me tremendously later as a foreign resident and got me very excited about my new legal career—the discovery of the legal formalities of everyday life in the U.S.

On the Muni, the San Francisco local public transportation, I saw a sign that read: "Federal law 49 CFR 37.167 REQUIRES THESE SEATS MUST BE VACATED FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED PERSONS."



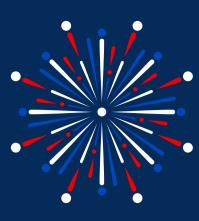








Becoming An American Citizen Cont.



I thought how strange it was to mention the obvious—why is there a need to list the specific code section in a matter that should engage our "common sense" or "common decency?"

I recalled that in Israel, a similar sign simply said: "Priory seating" without listing the specific law.

The second instance, at the library, was when I heard someone saying that she was illegal or acted illegally by not returning a book on time. I thought it was a bit extreme to see yourself as a criminal in a situation like this. Of course, we can all interpret this simple saying as an insignificant matter of speech, but as a foreigner, everything feels relevant and important, and I felt that it would be crucial for me to know the law in every aspect of life.

Those two instances were only a small anecdote to what later formed my social, local, and legal understanding. I am certainly not an expert on the American people or culture, but after many years of studying psychology and sociology in Israel, I felt more equipped to learn the American legal system (which has little in common with the Israeli legal system), and living as an outsider for almost a decade allowed me to see many things others don't notice or take for granted.

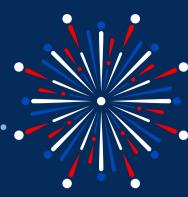
I started my paralegal studies at San Francisco State University in the summer of 2015. During those studies, I was exposed to one of the great ideological concepts known as "The Plain English" or "The Plain English Movement," which suggests that all governments and businesses should interact with their people (employees, clients, citizens, etc.) in plain language to make sure that everyone would understand and follow the necessary procedures. That Plain English concept includes the written (laws, policies, opinions) and unwritten/spoken language (jargon-free environments). For me, it all made tremendous sense because my vocabulary was limited, but I also knew that many organizations (public/private) wanted to achieve harmony and compliance, so why not communicate more straightforwardly?

Feature Hafrick





Becoming An American Citizen Cont.



Today, I work in a public office and review legal materials in our office's legislation department. When I think about my personal journey, how I took my first steps in the legal local community and encountered the LPI and the beautiful people at the SFLPA, my heart melts. My job, which I see as the culmination of all my studies, and the development of the person I always wanted to become, would not have happened without the help of others. One of those people was a dear friend from the SFLPA who referred me to the office manager of my current employer. Like many of you, I know that working in the legal field is more than just a job; it has meaning and a real purpose. And celebrating my citizenship with you and the SFLPA at our Installation Gala on April 23, 2023, was more than I could ask for.

So, how am I going to celebrate my first 4th of July? Probably by having a barbecue of Kosher-plant-based hot dogs with my American husband, my Israeli/American/international friends, and my two cats who like to be referred to as citizens of the world.

Thank you all for being part of SFLPA, and I hope to see you soon in person.

CONGRATULATIONS



Feature Haticle



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Northern California Saturday, September 18								
Southern California Saturday, September 18								
 <u>Deadline</u>: Applications must be received 60 days prior to the examination date. <u>Late Application</u>: Late Fees apply when Applications are received less than 60 days (but not less than 30 days) 								
prior to the examination date, and accepted only if space is available.								
Deferral: Requests to defer to the next exam must be received at least 3								
EXAMINATION FEES Check Select Payment Type)	PayPal Email exam application to							
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c	Payment link will be provided upon onfirmation of eligibility to sit for exam.							
	on-LPI Members							
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	Examination Fee* 100.00							
	ee (if applicable) 45.00							
TOTAL DUE w/o Late Fee: \$125.00 TOTAL DI Personal Information	UE w/o Late Fee: <u>\$175.00</u>							
Name:								
Mailing Address:								
Last 4 digits of SSN: Email:								
Phone (Day): Phone (Evening):								
LPI Member: Yes (enclose copy of LPI Members								
Name of Local LPI Association:								
Employment Information	on							
Provide your legal secretarial employment information beginning with you order to confirm that you have at least two years' experience. Attach a su your current position for two years.	r most recent (or current) employment in							
Position: Dates of Employment:								
Employer:								
(name and address)								
Supervisor: Supervisor's P	Phone:							
	Email:							
Summary of Duties:								
I certify that I have completed this application truthfully. I understand that a this application or revocation of my certification. I understand and agree that confidential and not to be discussed with anyone, and that my employment recalifornia Certified Legal Secretary Certifying Board.	t the contents of the examination are							

Applicant Signature



*Fees subject to change without notice.

Rev. April 2020





Legal Procedure



Danya Gonzales, Legal Procedure Chair

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA – PRELIMINARILY APPROVED AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN LOCAL RULES CONCERNING SUMMARY JUDGMENT MOTIONS (EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2023)

The Court has preliminarily approved amendments to the following Local Civil Rules:

- L.R. 56-1 A party filing a notice of motion for summary judgment ("MSJ") or partial summary judgment ("PSJ") must file a separate "Statement of Uncontroverted Facts" with material facts that the party contends have no genuine dispute. Each such fact must be numbered and supported by pinpoint citations (including page and line numbers, if available) to evidence in the record. See additional proposed changes to this rule regarding requirements for lodging proposed Judgment and proposed Order on the Court's website referenced below.
- L.R. 56-2 Any party who opposes a MSJ or PSJ *must* serve and file with the opposing papers a separate "Statement of Genuine Disputes" with material facts that the party contends there exists a genuine dispute necessary to be litigated. See additional rules regarding format of Statement, including *pinpoint citations* . . . to evidence in the record that supports the claim that the fact is disputed on the Court's website referenced below.
- L.R. 56-3 Any moving party replying to an opposition to a MSJ or PSJ must file a "Response to Statement of Genuine Disputes." See additional changes to this rule regarding format of Response on the Court's website referenced below.
- New L.R. 56-4 In determining any MSJ or PSJ, [t]he Court is not obligated to look any further in the record for supporting evidence other than what is actually and specifically referenced in the Statement of Uncontroverted Facts, the Statement of Genuine Disputes, and the Response to Statement of Genuine Disputes.

The proposed effective date of these amendments is June 1, 2023. For additional information about these amendments and a redline version of the proposed changes, visit the Court's website at https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/news/new-and-amended-local-rules-effective-june-1-2023.







UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA - ANNUAL BAR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FEE (DUE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023)

Pursuant to General Order No. 21-05, the annual renewal fee of \$25 is due on September 1, 2023, for all attorneys admitted to the Court's Bar before September 1, 2022. Attorneys who fail to pay the annual renewal fee by September 30 will be subject to removal from the rolls of the Court's Bar and must reapply for membership under Local Rule 83-2.1.2.2. The fee must be paid online through the Court's website at http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/attorneys/annual-bar-membership-renewal-fee.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIF<mark>ORNIA</mark> – AMENDMENT REGARDING PRETRIAL AND SETTING FOR TRIAL (EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2023)

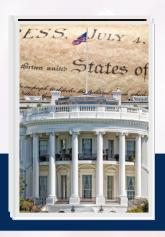
Following a public comment period, the Court amends Civil Local Rule 16.1(e) effective May 1, 2023, relative to cases in which Early Neutral Evaluations (ENE) and Case Management Conferences (CMC) are not required. At the discretion of a judge assigned to the case, ENE and CMC need not be set in the following categories of cases:

- 1. Habeaus corpus cases;
- 2. Cases reviewing administrative rulings;
- 3. Social Security cases;
- 4. Default proceedings;
- 5. Cases in which a substantial number of defendants have not answered;
- 6. Actions to enforce judgments;
- 7. Bankruptcy appeals.

To view the full notice, visit the Court's website at https://www.casd.uscourts.gov/ assets/pdf/rules/General%20Order%20748%20-%20Amendments%20to%20the%20Local%20Rules.pdf.

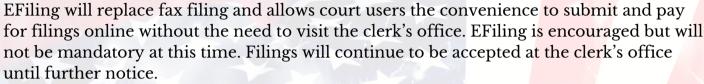
EL DORADO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT – LAUNCH OF EFILING FOR CIVIL CASES (EFFECTIVE JUNE 5, 2023)

El Dorado County Superior Court announced eFiling in the following case types effective Monday, June 5, 2023: Civil, Small Claims, Family Law, and Probate.





Court Chatter Cont'd.



An Administrative Order outlining the rules related to eFiling can be found at https://www.eldorado.courts.ca.gov/general-information/standing-orders.

Additional information about the eFiling process, available Electronic Filing Service Providers, and Frequently Asked Questions will be posted on the Court's website by June 5, 2023. For updates and information, visit the Court's website at https://eldorado.courts.ca.gov/.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT – NEW CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EFFECTIVE APRIL 24, 2023)

Sacramento Superior Court deployed a new case management system known as eCourt on April 24, 2023, for the following case types: Civil, Mental Health, Probate, and Civil Harassment Restraining Orders. Over the last year and a half, the Court has been working with Journal Technologies Inc. to develop eCourt, a paperless case management system that is currently in operation in many other California Superior Courts. The public can expect to view and download documents through the Court's website, and the Court will work towards implementing eFiling for eCourt case types.

Civil Self-Help Services will continue to offer assistance to self-represented litigants at the Hall of Justice located at 813 6th Street, Room 117, Sacramento, CA 95814.

For additional information on the new case management system, visit the Court's website at https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/civil/.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT – UPDATE TO ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT CARDS FOR CIVIL FEES (EFFECTIVE MAY 15, 2023)

Effective May 15, 2023, the Civil Division will discontinue using the Credit Card Authorization Form (CV/E-201) to pay civil filing fees and certified copies. Credit card transactions for payment of fees and certified copies will be limited to in-person front counter filings and transactions as identified on the <u>Gordon D. Schaber Civil Filing</u>





Court Chatter Cont'd.

<u>Guidelines</u> and <u>Hall of Justice Civil Law and Motion Filing Guidelines</u>. There will be no extra processing fee for using a credit card for payment.

Payments for the following fees will not be accepted via credit card: Reporter's Transcript deposit, jury fees, Court Reporter fees, and Undertaking deposit. These fees must be paid by check or cashier's check.

Payment for filings made via mail or the drop box must be made by check or cashier's check. Cash is not accepted via mail or the drop box.

To view the current notice, visit the Court's website at https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/civil/docs/pn-civil-update-to-acceptance-of-credit-cards-050223.pdf.

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT – FACE COVERING NOT REQUIRED (EFFECTIVE MARCH 20, 2023)

Effective March 20, 2023, and until further notice, wearing a face covering will not be required in San Francisco Superior Court facilities—with the exception of courtrooms where a judge, based on the circumstances for a proceeding, requires it or in the four other exceptions where an employee must wear a mask. See the Court's website for these four exceptions at https://sf.courts.ca.gov/news/public-notice-court-masking-update-effective-march-20-2023. If an employee is required to wear a mask under any of the exceptions, the employee must follow the policy or be subject to the disciplinary steps as outlined.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT - INTEGRATION OF NEWLY CLASSIFIED LICENSED VOICE CSR VOICE WRITER (EFFECTIVE MAY 15, 2023)

Effective May 15, 2023, the Santa Clara County Superior Court integrated the Licensed Voice Certified Shorthand Reporter ("CSR") Voice Writer into its court operations. A Licensed Voice CSR Writer has completed a specialized training and certification program that prepares them to create voice-based transcripts of court proceedings. The addition of this new classification makes the County of Santa Clara the first in the State to use this innovative approach in courtroom proceedings.

To view the full notice of this announcement, visit the Court's website at https://www.scscourt.org/.



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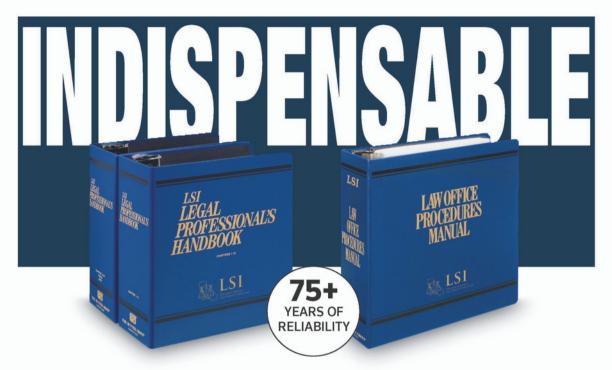
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- Timetables
 Basic Grammar Skills
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- Proofreading Techniques
 Court Structure
- Citations
- Service of Legal
- Documents Preparing a Proper
- Caption

- Preparation of Documents Filed with the Court
- Basics of Civil Litigation
- Interrogatories
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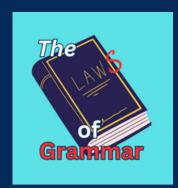
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HEARSAY | ISSUE 01



The Laws of Grammar Danya Gonzales Legal Procedure Chair



THE OXFORD, SERIAL OR HARVARD COMMA

I've had many a discussion with a dear friend of mine about this very subject! I will admit that I am not a frequent user of the Oxford comma, but my friend makes a valid point about the necessity for it in legal writing. It is one of those grammatical rules that elicits much debate. Some writers view this comma as optional or unnecessary, while others advise using it to avoid ambiguity or misreading.

This comma comes immediately before a coordinating conjunction (often *and* or *or*) in a series of three or more items—hence the term *serial comma*. Items in a series may be single words, phrases, or clauses; the comma can be used to separate a series of things or actions or a series of adjectives or adverbs.

Often a series of items is transparent without the comma, as in the title of this article! Following is another example using a series of phrases without ambiguity:

• The philanthropists agreed to focus on clean energy, enhanced transportation infrastructure, affordable housing initiatives and food insecurity.

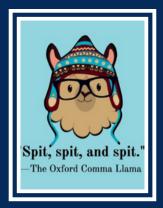
In contrast, the absence of the comma can alter the way a sentence is interpreted, as the following example illustrates:

• In her will, Ms. Gonzales named the following heirs: Beauty and Coconut Gonzales, Baloo Gonzales and Sapphire Puente, Nala and Lola Rodriguez, Moose and Mya Gonzales, Mammoth and Mercy Gonzales and their children.

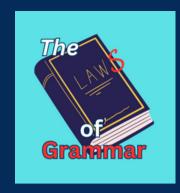
The absence of the comma after the last couple could be interpreted that only the children of Mammoth and Mercy Gonzales will inherit some of the assets. This is my friend's point. Many a legal court cases have hinged on the absence of the comma, particularly when assets are expected to be divvied up in equal parts!

Feature Haticle





The Laws of Grammar Cont'd.



However, do not use the Harvard comma in a series of items containing an appositive —a noun or noun phrase that renames a nearby noun—as illustrated below.

- For my dinner party, I served two kinds of cheese, Gouda and Havarti.
- This article is dedicated to my dear friend and her hubby, Juli and Shawn Jervis.

Not all series of items are equal nor is the use of the serial comma necessary, as in a list containing an appositive or when the division of items is unmistakable. However, the comma can sometimes be quite significant. The simple use of a comma can avoid potential confusion and misunderstandings, particularly in legal writing where the stakes are high and costly. As Team Oxford Comma would advocate, if you always use the serial comma, you don't have to wonder whether you really need it!

Sources:

- Woe Is I, The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English, 4th ed. Patricia T. O'Conner. New York: Riverhead Books, 2019.
- A Writer's Reference, 10th ed. Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers. Boston, MA: Beford/St. Martin's, 2021.
- https://ntuten.subkit.com/posts/the-oxford-or-serial-or-harvard-comma
- https://pediaa.com/what-is-the-difference-between-oxford-comma-and-comma/
- https://www.redbubble.com/i/poster/Oxford-Comma-Llama-black-text-spit-light-blue-by-GrammarDance/53679387.E40HW





Feature Haticle







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08/17/23

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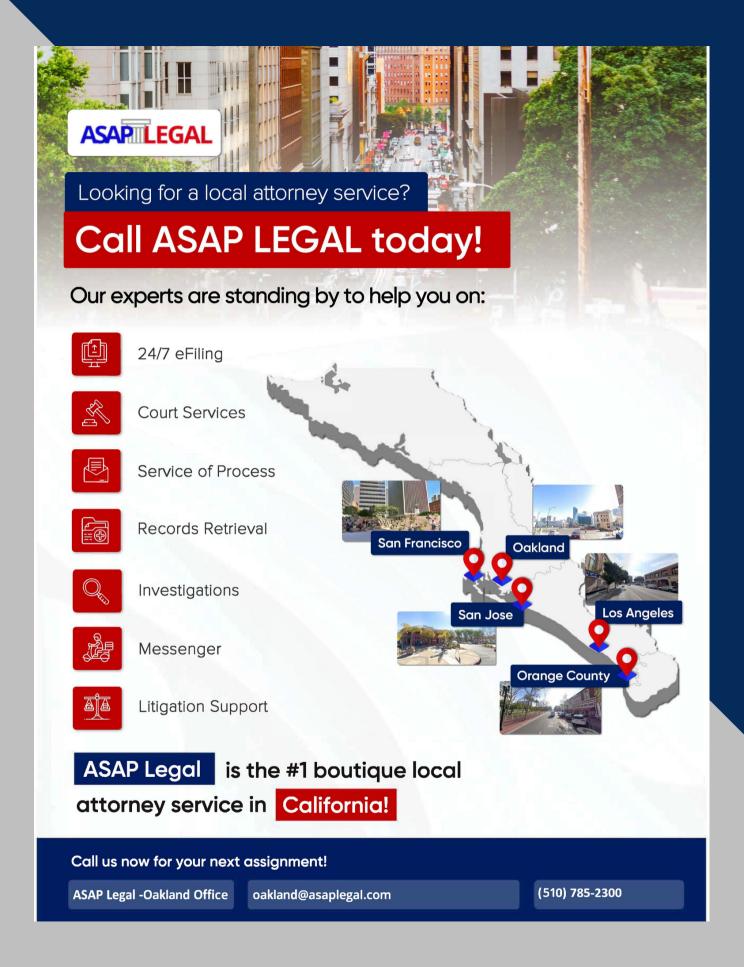
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[Deadline to register is 08/15/23]



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45 HEARSAY | ISSUE 01





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San Francisco Legal Professionals is a mutual benefit corporation formed for the primary purpose to provide its members with educational, networking, and personal development opportunities through a range of services. We have three different membership categories:

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- You are currently employed by or have at least one-year experience, including temporary or freelance work, with a law firm, the legal department of a private company or government entity, a courthouse or other company that is legally entitled to provide legal advice and counseling to the public; employed by any business which provides legal support services
- Have attended at least one SFLPA function.
- Submit with your application dues in the amount of \$65.00 for the first fiscal year of membership. \$55.00 for renewal.

Associate Membership

- You are a student enrolled in a legal trade school or currently attend college and are enrolled in legal classes; are temporarily unemployed in the legal profession, or are actively seeking employment in the legal field.
- Have attended at least one SFLPA function.
- Submit with your application dues in the amount of \$55.00 per fiscal year. \$45.00 for renewal.
- Student Membership

Membership Renewals

• If you are a current member and wish to renew your membership, you may renew online or download a form to mail your renewal.

If you are interested and would like to learn more about the services provided within the SFLPA, please visit our website at: www.sflpa.org. To apply for membership, click on the Membership Tab and fill out our online application form. Payments can be made via credit card online.

Our application forms are also available to download. Applications and payments can be received by mail. Address information as well as who to make checks payable to are also provided on the forms.

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone, please send an email to our Vice President/Membership Chair: Leanne Ruesink. Send your email to: membership@sflpa.org.

LPI BENEFITS



LEGAL PROFESSIONALS INCORPORATED (LPI) - BENEFITS

Note: This list is maintained for use by members of Legal Professionals, Inc. Agents for insurance and financial providers are available as resources when members inquire about benefits. Please use this as a starting point; ask for information, compare policy coverage and prices. For information, call these representatives directly. For questions and concerns regarding Member Benefits, please contact the LPI Vice President at vicepresident@legalprofessionalsinc.org.

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Contact: Courtney Coats, Independent Associate (925) 580-6446; coats8@legalshieldassociate.com LegalShield offers legal, identity theft protection, along with a massive Perks Program with significant savings to over 500 local and national companies.

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Please submit to:

SFLPA P.O. Box 2582 San Francisco, CA 94126-2582





A Message From the Editor pro tem



In this period, we celebrate two Independence Days. The first is of July 4, 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was adopted, famously espousing that "all Men are created equal." The second is Juneteenth National Independence Day, now a federal holiday, in commemoration of emancipation on June 19, 1865. Both serve to remind us of SFLPA's commitment to equality and inclusion.

The SFLPA is in service to legal professionals, and works to cater to the evolving needs of our members. As you probably spotted, we issued a member survey. One result of note was that members liked the idea of writing for the *Hearsay*. So, come on and don't be shy! We want your *Hearsay* ideas and your articles!

The next date for the CCLS examination is September 16 and applications must be in 60 days beforehand. Let's continue building our professionalism together and see you at an SFLPA event soon!





San Francisco Legal Professionals Association Diversity, Equity + Inclusion Statement

Members of the San Francisco Legal Professionals Association shall respect everyone, and shall not discriminate against anyone on the basis of that person's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, body size, educational background, nationality, immigration status, economic status and/or other diverse backgrounds.

Members shall contribute to a safe, professional, and collegial environment in SFLPA and LPI. This includes all SFLPA and LPI events, and all situations in which a member interacts or communicates with another member, regardless of whether the interaction occurs at or outside SFLPA or LPI events.

Members understand that people may belong to different communities and backgrounds of which the member is not aware. Members will be mindful of their potential biases, and respectful as they interact with others.

Members understand that disclosure of a person's diverse background can lead to unintended negative consequences. Therefore, members shall exercise utmost discretion in respecting others' privacy when diversity-related information is disclosed to or obtained by a member.

Members are encouraged to examine and take advantage of the privileges they have to support others within our association, their own communities, and beyond.



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Members of LPI adhere to the LPI Code of Ethics which is dedicated to an LPI Past President, Joan M. Moore, PLS, CCLS, and reads as follows:

It shall be the duty of each member of Legal Professionals, Incorporated, to observe all laws, rules, and regulations now or hereafter in effect relating to confidentiality and privileged communication, acting with loyalty, integrity, competence and diplomacy, in accordance with the highest standards of professional conduct.