

# Legal Professional Educational Workshop 2019

## MEET OUR PRESENTERS

**DAY 1**  
**Saturday, February 2, 2019**

Francie L. Skaggs  
Legal Secretary, Coblenz, Patch, Duffy & Bass



Francie Skaggs has served as the San Francisco Legal Professional Association Secretary, Treasurer, Historian and she is the current Education Chair. This is the second year that Francie has spearheaded this Legal Professional Education Seminar (thank you Francie!). Francie has worked in the legal field for 20 years and she is currently working at San Francisco based law firm, Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass.

Francie majored in English at Cal State East Bay, minored in Political Science and returned there years later to earn her paralegal certificate. She enjoys her chosen career as a legal assistant because it is always evolving, which is why she became interested in the San Francisco Legal Professional Association. The SFLPA provides a means to stay current in legal procedures and gives her the opportunity to network among other legal professionals.

Cyndee Saucedo CCLS  
Legal Assistant Coordinator, Meyers Nave



Cyndee Saucedo, CCLS is the Legal Assistant Coordinator for the Land Use & Appellate Departments for Meyers Nave and has been with the firm for fourteen years. She is responsible for all the litigation and project related related calendaring for both departments. She has over 20 years of experience in supporting attorneys and staff in all aspects of Civil Litigation. She currently the Governor of Alameda County Legal Secretaries Association and a member of Legal Secretaries, Incorporated.

Laura Ernde  
Self-Employed Content Consultant in the Legal Industry



Laura Ernde is a communications consultant in the legal industry and contributing editor of San Francisco Attorney Magazine. She writes and edits blogs, thought leadership pieces, content marketing articles and more. Laura was a journalist for most of her career and previously served as communications director at the State Bar of California. She would love to connect with you on LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/laura-ernde/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-ernde/)

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Cheryl Feiner, Esq.

Supervising Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General



Cheryl Feiner is a Supervising Deputy Attorney General for the Office of the Attorney General. She supervises attorneys and paralegals in the Health, Education, and Education section of the Civil Division. For over 17 years, Cheryl has represented over 30 state agencies that administer a multitude of state health, education and welfare programs in state and federal trial and appellate courts. Before joining the Attorney General's Office, she was in private practice. Cheryl is also an instructor at San Francisco State University's paralegal program teaching Family Law, Pleadings, and Discovery. She received her undergraduate degree from UCLA, and her law degree from U.C. Hastings College of the Law.

Diane Mecca

Certified Instructor, Abrams College



Diane Mecca, CP, CBA obtained her Certified Paralegal Certificate in 1996 at Stanislaus State and her Certified Bankruptcy Assistant Certificate in 2003. She is co-owner of First Class LeGals attorney support service in Modesto, CA. Diane is the Program Director and Instructor of the Certified Paralegal Program at Abrams College in Modesto since 2004. Her areas of practice are Bankruptcy, Family Law, and Civil. She enjoys presenting seminars on legal ethics to promote further education for the legal profession and working with local Associations throughout the State to fulfil their CLE/MCLE requirements. At Abrams college, she runs three classes a year, and provides students with education and internship to obtain their Certified Paralegal Certificate.

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**DAY 2**  
**Saturday, February 9, 2019**

Scott Herndon, Esq.

Associate Attorney, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP



Scott Herndon is an associate in the San Francisco office of Lewis Brisbois and a member of the Products Liability and Asbestos Litigation Practices where he joined in 2018. Prior to joining Lewis Brisbois where he focuses on toxic torts, business litigation, and employment law, Scott served as a faculty member at Stanford University, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and New York University, where he taught writing, philosophy, and cultural studies. Mr. Herndon holds a Ph.D. in English, with an emphasis in philosophy, from New York University, as well as a Master's degree in analytic philosophy from the University of Colorado. In addition to more than ten years of university teaching experience, he has published academic books on the art of teaching and writing, as well as short fiction. This skill set as a scholar, teacher, and writer makes him unique as a trial lawyer. It allows him to research efficiently and communicate effectively, no matter how complex the material.

Scott earned his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. He clerked twice at the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office, and then at the U.S. Attorney's Office. Scott retains a sharp interest in criminal law and other areas of litigation as they impact our personal lives, including the law of privacy and technology, catastrophic personal injury, and the protection of entrepreneurs in the early lifecycles of their businesses. Scott Herndon is a member of the State Bar of California.

Paul DeAngelis, Esq.

Principal Attorney, Law Offices of Paul DeAngelis



Paul DeAngelis, [ppdlaw.com](http://ppdlaw.com), runs his own firm in San Francisco and concentrates on real estate matters. Paul graduated with honors from Boston University School of Law. Since 1998, he has practiced law in San Francisco. Paul has successfully represented clients in jury and bench trials, and hearings in arbitration cases. He has worked closely with paralegals on trial teams. Paul regularly swims in the San Francisco Bay as a member of the South End Rowing Club.

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Larry Kirlin

Regional Manager at First Legal Support Services



Larry enlisted in the Navy's delayed entry program shortly after his 17th birthday and for boot camp after graduating from St. Pius X High School in Pottstown, PA. He trained as an aircraft electronics technician and traveled the world repairing the Navy's aircraft.

He received a degree in Electrical Engineering at California State University, Fresno and continued with the Navy as a reservist and began working in the legal support industry with Attorney's Diversified Services (ADS). Larry also helped establish Digidex, the digital division of ADS, where he eventually reached the rank of Master Chief in the Navy and Co-Owner of ADS.

He has been with First Legal since June 2012 and helped open offices in the Central Valley. Fresno, Bakersfield and Modesto. First Legal Support Services is the first total legal support service that integrates all of our services over an interactive, internet based, order / tracking system. Whether it is down the street or across the country, you can enter a service order request from anywhere in the U.S. to anywhere in the U.S. and have total access to status and completion of your assignment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At First Legal, we make it a priority to specialize in Nationwide Contracts.

James Wu, Esq.

Attorney, Quarles & Brady LLP



James Wu is the 2018 President of the Contra Costa County Bar Association (CCCBA). He is also a past President of the CCCBA's Employment Law Section. For two years, James also served as the President of the Northern California Employment Roundtable (sponsored by the CA Department of Fair Employment and Housing).

As an employment law/HR attorney, James protects California employers. He helps employers comply with the complex maze of federal, state and local employment laws regarding, among other things, wage and hour, wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, leaves of absence, and social media in the workplace. James also defends companies when they face claims from current or former employees, contractors, and government agencies.

Prior to joining Quarles & Brady, James ran his own firm from 2012 -2018 and before that he was a Partner at Lewis Brisbois, and he was an associate at other firms including Littler Mendelson and Reed Smith/Crosby Heafey. While at Littler, James also taught courses in the Paralegal Studies program at CSU-Eastbay. James earned his BA and MA from Stanford University and his JD from Boston College Law School.

To learn more about James, please visit <http://jameswulaw.com> and his Linked In profile at [www.linkedin.com/in/jamesywu](http://www.linkedin.com/in/jamesywu).

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**DAY 3**  
**Saturday, February 16, 2019**

Bethany Vasquez, Esq.  
Counsel at Lyft



Bethany A. Vasquez is counsel at San Francisco based company, Lyft. Ms. Vasquez has over 10 years practice experience representing employers in a broad range of employment law matters arising under state and federal laws.

Ms. Vasquez has been a partner with San Francisco law firms Miller Law Group, PC and Pacific Employment Law, LLP, as well as of counsel at Seyfarth Shaw, LLP, where she worked on the Employment Litigation Team. Her practice has always been primarily devoted to defending employers against claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation and other employment-related issues in state and federal courts and before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing. She also has experience defending against class and multi-plaintiff actions arising out of alleged violations of federal and state statutes prohibiting discrimination and harassment in employment, as well as the defense of class and collective actions arising out of alleged violations of federal and state wage and hour laws.

In her counseling practice she has advised clients on all aspects of employment law, including wage and hour laws, compliance with anti-discrimination and harassment laws, disciplining and terminating employees and administering leaves of absence under state and federal laws. She has also represented clients in a wide number of industries including transportation, hospitality, finance, health care, and manufacturing.

Lindsey S. Mignano, Esq.  
Founding Partner, Smith Shapourian Mignano PC



Lindsey S. Mignano represents emerging and small businesses in the Bay Area. She provides businesses with a wide range of counseling and transactional services, such as business formation, contract drafting and negotiation, and financing matters. Lindsey is intimately familiar with the grit and concerns of small business owners. In fact, for over 50 years, her family managed a small business (a poultry farm) in the State of Hawaii.

Prior to launching Smith Shapourian Mignano PC, Lindsey practiced law in the San Francisco office of an international law firm.

Lindsey has been recognized as a “Rising Star” by Super Lawyers, an honor awarded to only 2.5% of attorneys under the age of 40.

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Fred Crombie, Esq.  
Partner, Coblenz, Patch, Duffy & Bass LLP



Fred Crombie is a trial attorney who has litigated matters in both federal and state courts. Fred's practice focuses on complex civil litigation with an emphasis on financial and commercial disputes, tax controversy, corporate fiduciary matters, and trusts and estates. He has also successfully argued cases before the Fourth and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals.

Before he joined the firm, Fred was a Trial Attorney in the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he litigated a variety of tax controversies involving wealthy individuals, consolidated filing groups, insolvent financial institutions, telecommunications carriers and resellers, payroll processing companies, foreign service corporations, and nonresident aliens. The Department of Justice awarded Fred with three Outstanding Trial Attorney Awards and designated him as an E-Discovery Section Representative for the Court of Federal Claims Trial Section. Prior to the Department of Justice, Fred defended technology companies in securities class actions, shareholder derivative suits, commercial and financial litigation, and copyright and trademark disputes at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP.

Ana Fatima Costa, RPR, CSR  
Court Reporting Trainer, Coach & Speaker



Ana Fatima Costa, RPR, CSR (ret.) is a subject matter expert in the field of court reporting, as well as a published author, certified coach, and speaker. Her work experience includes a temp assignment as a litigation secretary and currently as the office administrator for a forensic psychiatrist. As the Marketing Coordinator of the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of San Francisco's Paralegal Section, Ana writes and/or edits a monthly column, *Paralegal Corner*, which is published in BASF's newsletter, *Bulletin*, and *Legal by the Bay* blog page on a variety of topics. She joined the Advisory Board of San Francisco State's Paralegal Studies Program in 2005 and since then has presented workshops for paralegal students, legal secretaries, paralegals and attorneys about court reporting services.

Since 2008, Ana has provided court reporters to capture the record at mock depositions and trials in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, in collaboration with litigators, law professors, attorney associations, law firm administrators and private organizations.

Hon. Charlotte Walter Woolard  
Ret. Judge for the Superior Court of San Francisco



Hon. Charlotte Walter Woolard (ret.) has 22 years of judicial experience in multiple civil and family law departments. She held several positions in court leadership as Supervising Judge of the Unified Family Court and Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division. Prior to her appointment on the bench, Judge Woolard was a civil litigator at a major national law firm.

The cumulative experience from her diverse judicial and civil litigation background made Judge Woolard one of the most successful judges in resolving disputes across many areas of law: Business & Commercial Contract, Employment, Family Law, Government Tort, Insurance, Personal Injury, Products Liability and Real Estate.

Judge Woolard is currently serving as a private judge associated with ADR Services, Inc.

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Yvonne K. Fenner

Executive Officer, Court Reporters Board of California



Yvonne K. Fenner has served as executive officer of the Court Reporters Board of California since January 2, 2009. She initially began working with the Court Reporters Board as a licensee member of the Board appointed in 2006 by the governor's office. She moved from a board member to a half-time staff analyst where she was liaison to the Board and various committees.

Yvonne holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration and Spanish. Her work experience has ranged from selling English as a Second Language textbooks for Oxford University Press in Mexico City to working as a field coordinator for a national seminar production company. She went on to spend almost ten years in association management before discovering the field of court reporting. She became licensed in California in 1996 and has spent her court reporting years in the freelance field.

Antonia Pulone, RPR, CSR

Founder / President, Pulone Reporting Services



Antonia Pulone, RPR, CSR founder and President of Pulone Reporting Services, worked as both a freelance reporter and a pro temp official reporter while managing her own firm. Ms. Pulone has served as an elected officer and board member of several court reporting professional associations throughout California, including California Deposition Reporters Association (CalDRA), where she was a founding member. Over the past three decades, Ms. Pulone has gained a reputation within the court reporting and legal community as an industry pioneer and expert in the procedure, ethics and laws which govern deposition procedure. As CalDRA's Legislative Chair and Depo Diplomat, she offers presentations before the California Assembly Judiciary Committee, Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Business & Professions Committee as a representative of state and local reporting associations regarding the rationale for support/opposition to various pieces of legislation impacting court reporting. Her unparalleled depth of knowledge about legislation and the California Code of Civil Procedure is legendary, and she is regularly invited to speak at myriad conventions and meetings on a variety of reporting-related issues. In 2008, Ms. Pulone received the highly prized Distinguished Service Award from CalDRA in recognition for her contributions to the court reporting and legal community.

Rachel N. Barkume, RPR, CSR

President, California Court Reporters Association



Rachel N. Barkume, RPR, CSR is the current President of the California Court Reporters Association (CCRA), began her court reporting career in 2011 upon receiving her California Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR) license. The following year, she earned her national certification as a Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) from the National Court Reporters Association. As a freelance reporter in Northern California, Rachel has worked as an official court reporter in Superior Court, a Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) captioner for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in an educational setting, and as a deposition reporter. She has been involved in advocacy, training, and education for the court reporting profession for five of her seven years as a professional. Rachel's passion about the future of court reporting and empowering young leaders to embrace their potential inspired her to co-present a workshop, *Business Owners of the New Generation*, at CCRA's 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in 2018.