

# Equal Access

Volume 2, Issue 3, Summer 2008

## In This Issue:

- \* Public Library Staff Training
- \* Yolo County Foreclosure Workshop A Success
- \* Electronic Open House At Ventura County Law Library
- \* San Diego County Public Law Library Week Summary
- \* Riverside County Law Library: MCLE Provider
- \* Tenth Anniversary Bernard E. Witkin Memorial Symposium
- \* Upcoming Workshops

Newsletter of the  
Council of California  
County Law Librarians



## Public Library Staff Trained To Help Self-Represented Litigants

The San Diego County Public Law Library held two workshops to acquaint public library staff with the latest legal resources available for self represented litigants. On April 22nd, the Sierra Adult Services committee and the San Diego County Public Law Library co-sponsored a workshop for public library staff. Barbara Tarvin and Isabel Eustaquio, San Diego County Public Law Librarians, covered legal resources available, including how to use free websites, legal self-help books, free services available at the courts, and when to send patrons to the county law library. The presentations also included a basic overview of the legal system. Emphasis was given to the idea that public library staff should not feel like they need to give legal advice but rather should provide patrons with access to legal information. The response from the attendees was extremely positive. The attendees suggested that the class should be required for all public library staff.

## Yolo County Foreclosure Workshop A Success

The Yolo County Law Library and the Yolo County Housing Authority co-sponsored the county's first Foreclosure Workshop on Thursday, June 26, 2008. Local Assemblymember Lois Wolk (D-Davis) and Housing Commissioner/County Supervisor Mat Rexroad gave opening remarks before attendees discussed their loan documents with lending counselors or with an agent of the California Department of Real Estate. Translators were in attendance for those who needed assistance. Based on attendance and the positive feedback from attendees, Kathryn B. Turner, Law Library Director, and Housing Authority Executive Director, Lisa A. Baker will host another joint workshop in the fall. Yolo will also be having a Lemonade Stand/Legal Book Sale on Thursday, September 4th, the Thursday before Labor Day. The event, which will be held from noon until 2 p.m. on the lawn in front of the law library, will be both a fundraiser and a social event.

## Electronic Open House At Ventura County Law Library

On July 15, 2008 the Ventura County Law Library will be hosting an electronic open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the law library. Representatives will be on hand from CEB to demonstrate ONLAW. Library staff will be giving demonstrations on Westlaw and Shepard's Online. They are also celebrating the launch of the library's new online catalog and will be demonstrating the catalog and issuing library cards.

## San Diego County Public Law Library Law Week Summary

This year the San Diego County Public Law Library had more than 1100 attendees at Law Week events throughout the county! The East County, North County and South Bay Branches hosted free legal clinics, offering free legal advice to more than 110 people. Our Special Speaker events were also well attended with a combined participation of over 130 attendees at the Main and North County Branches. It is estimated that the Law Library reached more than 850 people through the Legal Resources Knowledge Fairs and Free Law @ Kobey's swap meet. They look forward to providing even more services and events in 2009!

## Riverside County Law Library: MCLE Provider

The Riverside Law Library became a State Bar certified MCLE provider and recently offered a one hour program on the *Ethics of Legislative Intent Research* for local attorneys. A public reception will be held in the Riverside County Law Library on Thursday, July 3 for a special photographic exhibition by Riverside Superior Court Family Law Facilitator Larry Maloney. The Law Library is part of the City's monthly downtown Art Walks featuring its own collection as well as special exhibitions by local artists.

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## Tenth Anniversary Bernard E. Witkin Memorial Symposium

In 1998, Tim Stanley, the originator of FindLaw, was one of the speakers at the inaugural program of what is now known as the Bernard E. Witkin Memorial Symposium. Since then, both Internet legal research and the Witkin Symposium have flourished.

On Tuesday, May 20, 2008, The Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library welcomed Robert D. Brownstone and Ed Poll as the speakers at the Tenth Anniversary Bernard E. Witkin Memorial Symposium. The overall topic was Client Relations in a Changing World. Ed Poll used his years of experience as a practicing attorney and law firm consultant to describe what clients expect from an attorney and how attorneys can foster (or sabotage) successful relationships with their clients.

Robert Brownstone, of Fenwick & West, updated everyone on using computers to stay in touch with clients as well as the critical need to maintain online client confidentiality and the security of the networks.



As a special additional commemoration, the Board of Trustees authorized a special award from the Library. Called the Decade Award, the award recognizes contributions by judges and other members of the legal community. It will be awarded decennially or at the discretion of the Director and the Board.

The Director and the Board were delighted to have this opportunity to express their gratitude to former trustee Judge Judith D. Ford (ret.) by awarding her the first Decade Award. She was recognized for her pioneering leadership in court automation, especially her contribution towards making court records publicly available online through the Alameda County Court's Domain system, as well as for her years of outstanding service and leadership to the law library.

A second 2008 Decade Award was presented to Kim Hunter. An Alameda County Deputy District Attorney, she has compiled a long record of professional achievement and community service. In particular, she has been the driving force behind the Alameda County Children's Holiday Toy Drive since 1995. In 2004 the Toy Drive filled requests from 21 shelters and other programs for children in need and provided approximately 4,100 toys and other gifts.

As the library looks back at the past ten years and the success of the Witkin Symposia, we look forward to carrying this tradition of excellence further into the 21st century and beyond. Technology may evolve in ways that none of us today can even envision, but the library's commitment to honoring Bernie Witkin's memory with an outstanding lecture series in his name remains.

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County Law  
Libraries

Open to the  
Public

Established in  
1891

Governed by a  
Board of  
Trustees

Funded by a  
Portion of Court  
Filing Fees

## Upcoming Workshops

**Fresno (in conjunction with Central California Legal Services)**  
Guardianship Workshops (Every 3rd Thursday of each month)

### **Kern**

Small Claims -Basic Procedure: *Mondays (10:30- 11:30 a.m.)*

Guardianship Of A Minor Person: *Mondays & Tuesdays (1:30 -3:30 p.m.)*

How To Prepare Your Answer to An Unlawful Detainer (Tenants): *Tuesdays & Thursdays (10 a.m. -11:30 a.m.)*

How To Begin The Eviction Process (Landlords): *Wednesdays & Fridays (10:30 -11:30 a.m.)*

Workers' Compensation Claims (Employees): *2nd Tuesday of each month (12:15 -1:15 p.m.)*

How To Probate A Small Estate: *3rd Tuesday of each month (12:15 -1:15 p.m.)*

### **Riverside**

The ABC's of Cleaning Up Your Criminal Record: *Tuesday, July 8, 2008 (7:00 - 8:00 p.n.)*

The ABC's of DUI's: *Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

**San Diego-** Workshops are free for SDCPLL Members, \$5.00 Non-Members  
(Call 619.531.3900 or sign up at the circulation desk)

Top 10 Myths About Social Security: *July 10, 2008 (12:00-1:00 p.m.)*

What Women Need To Know About Social Security: *August 6, 2008 (12:00-1:00 p.m.)*

Intellectual Property: An Overview For General Practitioners, In House Counsel And The  
Arts Community: *August 20, 2008 (12:00-1:00 p.m.)*

### **San Mateo - Brown Bag Lectures (12:00 Noon)**

Dealing with Contractors: *July 10, 2008*

Estate Planning 101-The Basics: *August 14, 2008*

Conservatorship: *September 11, 2008*

Continuing: "So, You're Thinking of Filing A Lawsuit?" and "I Have A Case In Court, Now  
What?": *Every Monday afternoon*

### **Yolo**

Foreclosure Prevention Workshop: *June 26, 2008 (5:30-8:30 p.m.)*-Yolo County Housing  
147 W. Main, Woodland

Lemonade Stand/Legal Book Sale: *September 4, 2008 (Noon - 2:00 p.m.)*- Law Library Lawn

*For more information on any event, visit the individual library website.*