

SLD Newsletter

May 2021

You will notice that we are still using the same boring name for this 3rd newsletter. Never fear. Later on, in the newsletter you'll see some really clever titles suggested by SLD members. You can then vote on them, and we should have a new name by the next issue.

The Executive Council of the SLD has been busy over the last couple of months. We pay attention to what you write either in emails to us or in the Senior Lawyers Division Digest. After reading your comments on dues for senior lawyers, Division President, Walter Nash, communicated with the State Bar president. As the result of that communication, you all received a letter on March 4 from Denis Fitzgibbons, the state bar president, promising to look into that issue. Denis and the Board of Governors are following up, and they have begun the process of analyzing the impact of any changes already. Bar staff members are collecting financial information for this process, and the analysis began at the May 7 meeting of the Executive Council of the Board of Governors. The Executive Council will determine whether to send it on to the full Board, to send the information to a committee or whether additional information is needed for a thoughtful consideration of the issue. While we don't have an exact timeline for any results at this time, the issue of a dues change for seniors is being studied.

Walter also sent all Division members a letter on March 25, giving you an update on what we're doing. That letter is updated in this newsletter. One of the items Walter discussed was the different classes of member (active, retired, inactive). He included a link to a chart that shows those classes, the cost for each, the limits of practice for each and how you change your status. In case you missed that chart, [here is the link](#) again.

Pro Bono: We will have a CLE for members of the division on the subject of pro bono representation by senior lawyers on May 27 from 12-1:15 p.m. This is being presented at a greatly reduced cost. This session is put on by the SLD Pro Bono working group and the Pro Bono Network and will address issues such as how to fill out the paperwork to get certification if you want to practice on a pro bono basis and are on inactive or retired status; how to get in touch with providers who can help match talent with need; how to get CLE credit (if you are still active); how to get training to update or acquire knowledge in the practice areas in which you'll be working, and how to get Bar dues waived by volunteering.

Dean Christoffel, chair of the Pro Bono work group, has already been gathering information on what topics legal service providers need help for their clients. You can find this information on the charts attached at the very bottom of this email.

Two of our council members, Carlene Lacy and Mary Helen Maynard, are from Mohave and Santa Cruz Counties, respectively. We want this Division to cover the whole state, not just Maricopa and Pima Counties. (Full disclosure: I grew up in Gila County so I'm a fan of smaller town living.) Both told us that they are looking for CLEs on family law and probate issues as well as on civil matters. Dean says the Pro Bono network is looking for substantive issues to cover for lawyers in rural communities. I think the first two topics match the needs of both practitioners and the Pro Bono Alliance, as both Family Law and Probate are issues for which legal service providers often need help. We'll also see what we can find to address those who want CLEs on other civil matters.

While we're on the subject of CLEs, we would love to have the wisdom and experience of senior lawyers included in all our programs. If any of you are willing to speak at or be a panelist for a CLE, please let Dean know. His email is dchristoffel@sc.pima.gov

One of the issues that prevents some inactive or retired lawyers from helping out with pro bono work is tail coverage. Many insurers won't continue tail coverage if you practice after retirement/inactive status even though all legal service providers provide separate malpractice insurance while you are working for their clients. This is something Dean and his group are working on.

Mentoring: This is another broad issue that we're attacking on several fronts. Don Powell is our representative to the State Bar's mentoring committee. We're hoping to use the talent of our senior lawyers in several ways. The State Bar programs use both long-term mentors who matched up with younger lawyers for the type of mentoring many of us received as a matter of course when we were first starting out. Another program is the Lawyer Down the Hall which is essentially issue mentoring. This is a program any lawyer in the state can use if they have a case in a new area for them and need help in resolving the issue. For those of you who are still practicing, this can be a real asset. It's also another way we can reach lawyers in counties other than Pima and Maricopa, so please use it. To find information on these programs go [here](#) or reach out to us directly.

In addition, we keep a separate list of those who want to be speakers or panelists for groups like the Young Lawyers Division or to non-lawyer groups who are looking for speakers on what it's like to practice law or how to be a lawyer. You can do a lot for young people, either lawyers or "may be a lawyer someday" youth by volunteering for this type of commitment. Just contact Stephanie Austin at stephanie.austin@staff.azbar.org.

Transition: This is another subject which we're tackling in several ways. I've written before on the need for you to volunteer to be transition support advisors for those who want help with questions such as "what do I do with my time after I retire?" "how did you go through this process: or "what about volunteering after I retire?". We only have 12 at this point, so more are welcome. Please let Stephanie (email:

stephanie.austing@staff.azbar.org) know if you're willing to serve in such capacity.

And, for the technical issues like closing down an office and malpractice insurance, as we've said before, we have Practice 2.0. The sooner you start planning, the more likely you'll have a smooth transition. The number to call is (602)-340-7332, where you'll find Roberta Tepper & Reid Potter.

Finally, we realize many of you still are practicing. One of the things we'd like to have is a CLE on how you manage the various pulls on your time. Senior lawyers are still the sandwich generation in many ways, with both aging parents and children or grandchildren in our care. If you're interested in this topic and would be willing to speak on it, let me know at sallybob75@comcast.net.

Bar Convention: Our virtual meeting for members will be on Friday morning, June 18 from 8 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. We're planning a panel discussion among members of the Executive Counsel who are in various stages of transition, from full retirement to new career. After that we'll have break out rooms for you to chat. Bring your coffee or tea and lots of questions and please join us. A link to register for this program is forthcoming so please be on the lookout.

Stories: This month's story was suggested by last month's author, Martin Gulbeth. He suggested I reach out to Paul Eckstein for a story of the trial of Evan Mechem. I did, and Paul was gracious enough to share this article ([attached at bottom of email](#)), originally published in the *Litigation Magazine* in 1990. I found it fascinating, and I hope you do as well.

Kudos: This issue we're celebrating Dee-Dee Samet who recently was selected to receive the Founders Award for Pima County by Greater Tucson Leadership. Dee-Dee, a past State Bar president, was given the honor for her lifetime of public service. She has been very active in civic activities such as Casa de los Niños and the Indivisible Theater and a long-time mainstay of many bar activities. If you ever need someone to head a

silent auction, get Dee-Dee to do it. I guarantee you'll have a successful event. If Dee-Dee calls you, just get out the check book or agree to serve on the committee. She's an absolute dynamo and was a perfect choice for the award.

If you know a senior lawyer who recently has been honored for his or her work, let me know at sallybob75@comcast.net.

Newsletter Name: You all showed your wit and wisdom in suggesting names for this newsletter. You can choose your favorite by voting [here](#). This was created by Stephanie Austin, the wonderful State Bar staff member who is assigned to help this division. We will announce the winner in the July newsletter.

As we have said, with our treasury balance at \$0, your only reward for submitting the winning name is pride of authorship.

Council changes: Because of the death of Mark Harrison, the Executive Council selected a replacement for him. By unanimous vote, we appointed Rich Goldsmith, a recently retired lawyer who worked at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie in Phoenix.

Our President-Elect, Helen Grimwood, has over committed herself and had to resign. Dean Christoffel, formerly our treasurer, will replace her.

Finally, it's time to vote for the Executive Council for 2021-2022. We're serving staggered terms, so not all of us are up for election this year. In addition, Walter Nash was elected by acclamation to serve a second term as president, and, as I said, Dean Christoffel is President-Elect for 2021-2022. However, there are several openings on the Executive Council as well as spots for Secretary and Treasurer. Ballots will go out soon, and votes can be sent in between May 10 and May 21. The results will be announced on May 26 at the next meeting of the council which also is the annual meeting.

That's the newsletter for May. Please keep emailing us or writing suggestions in the Senior Lawyers Digest which all of you should be

getting. It's great to connect with old friends and make new ones through this media, and we're always better off if we have your thoughts to spur us on. Thanks, all.

By Sally Simmons, and the Senior Lawyers Division Executive Council

