Did You Take a Summer Vacation?

By Cheryl L. Stengel, Esq.

For many lawyers, whether in large firms, small firms or solo practice, “vacation” has become a foreign concept. Job security concerns and business pressures are the major reasons for that. That sentiment is reflected in the broader population. According to a study conducted by the employment website “Glassdoor”, in 2013, American workers used only about 50% of their allotted vacation time, and 15% took no vacation days at all.

As attorneys, there never seems to be a “right time” to leave work unattended for even a week. We know that we’ll have to work twice as hard to catch up after we return. For those of us in solo practice, we may worry about leaving the office unattended and possible client emergencies arising while we’re away. Sadly, we are doing ourselves a disservice by not leaving our desks, computers and smart phones alone for a while.

We all know that the legal profession is highly stressful. Do an Internet search and you’ll find hundreds of articles about the legal professional and stress. Most of those articles recommend taking time off periodically—a week or two, or even just a long weekend, to relax. Time away from work is a critical part of the work/life cycle. Have you taken time to recharge this summer?

All lawyers, especially solo practitioners and those in small firms, are urged to have an emergency plan in place should there be an unexpected business interruption due to death, illness or injury. Preparing for a vacation requires similar planning. It’s better to spend some extra time and energy in advance of a vacation anticipating all of the contingencies than to worry about them while you’re away. If you are in a small firm, arrange for at least one other lawyer to agree to act as your back-up in the event any case emergencies arise and need immediate attention.

Upcoming Events Calendar

August 14
Estate Planning and Probate Section
12:15 - 1:15 p.m.
Law Offices of Nancy Kaupp Ewin, Esq.
8166 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa
Topic: TBA

Family Law Section
No Meeting

August 12
Civil Litigation Section
12:00- 1:15 p.m.
BJ's Restaurant, Grossmont Center, La Mesa
Topic: Social Media for Lawyers
Speaker: Viveca Hess, CEO at HessConnect

NOTE: Please take notice that the Civil Litigation Section MCLE program, “Social Media for Lawyers” previously scheduled for July 9, has been rescheduled for August 12, 2014.
Continued from Page 1:

If you are a solo practitioner, find a lawyer experienced in your practice area who will agree to be available should any real client emergencies arise. Notify your active clients of your intended absence and of your back-up plan. The client’s idea of emergency is usually very different from ours. Rather than calling in daily for voice mail messages, you may wish to arrange for someone to check your messages and return phone calls, for no other reason than to advise callers that you are away. The idea of “vacation” has changed in that it is much more difficult to fully disconnect from the office. But, if most of your time away is spent obsessively checking and responding to office e-mail and phone calls, you will reap little benefit from your “vacation”.

The importance of taking time away from work has even been recognized by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In Ahanchian v. Xenon Pictures, Inc., the Ninth Circuit reversed the district court’s grant of summary judgment against an attorney’s client, where the attorney was late filing a responsive pleading that was due the day after the Labor Day holiday weekend. The lawyer had a previously planned out-of-state family vacation and opposing counsel intentionally timed the filing of the motion to minimize the number of working days available to respond. The Ninth Circuit stated: “Attorneys, like everyone else, have critical personal and familial obligations that are particularly acute during holidays. It is important to the health of the legal profession that attorneys strike a balance between these competing demands on their time.” Ahanchian v. Xenon Pictures, Inc., 624 F.3d 1253 (9th Cir. 2010).

You are helping yourself and your family, your colleagues and your clients by taking occasional time away from your law practice for fun and relaxation. It’s well worth the effort.

The Foothills Bar Association seeks a chairperson for the criminal law section. Responsibilities will involve locating and scheduling speakers for lunch time MCLE programs on topics of interest and providing Section meeting status reports to the Foothills Board of Directors. Interested attorneys should contact Cheryl Stengel at clstengel@outlook.com.
CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION MCLE UPDATE

By Cheryl Stengel, Esq.

On August 12, 2014, the Civil Litigation Section will present the MCLE program, “Social Media for Lawyers” with speaker, Viveca Hess of HessConnect. The program will be from 12:00 to 1:15 p.m. at BJ's Restaurant in Grossmont Center in La Mesa.

Most law firms have now entered the social media arena, implementing, and sometimes struggling, to manage an online presence efficiently. As a result of the open and transparent nature of social media, there is also a significant need for maintaining these platforms in a way that both protects and promote a firm's reputation and visibility. Program topics will include:

- Social Media: Do you have a policy? How to both protect your firm and accelerate your social business.
- Promoting and accelerating quality leads through social media.
- How lawyers should Leverage LinkedIn and the new rules for connectivity.

Ms. Hess obtained her J.D. from California Western School of Law. After 8 years of lawyering with a large estate planning firm, she started her online marketing consulting business, HessConnect, a few years ago implementing and managing social media and online campaigns for public sector agencies and law firms. Since then, her company has evolved to add an increased focus on providing social media policy implementation, management and ongoing training for law firms.

The seminar is free to members of the FBA and $10.00 for nonmembers. The cost of your lunch will be whatever you choose from BJ’s menu, although you are not obligated to order lunch. Walk in registrants will be accommodated as space allows. Please RSVP. This program has been approved for 1.0 hour of MCLE general credit by the State Bar of California.

If you have any suggestions for speakers or upcoming programs or are interested in speaking on a relevant topic, please contact section co-chairs, Mark Raftery at mraftery@epsten.com or Cheryl Stengel at clstengel@outlook.com.

The Family Court needs settlement conference judges. Please volunteer and share your expertise.

Contact Kelly Fabros at 619-456-4065 or Kelly.Fabros@SDCourt.CA.Gov.

Foothills Bar Association Notice of Board Meeting:

The Foothills Bar Association Board of Directors meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on August 19, 2014 at the Kriger Law Firm, 8220 University Avenue, 2nd Floor conference room, La Mesa, CA 91942. The meeting will begin at 4:45 p.m. If you want your voice to be heard in policy discussion and upcoming events planning or would simply like to learn more about the organization, your attendance is welcome.
Warwick's, San Diego Law Library, and Qualcomm present

Scott Turow
in conversation with Don Rosenberg,
Qualcomm Executive Vice President and General Counsel

Tuesday
August 5th
6:30PM
at
Qualcomm
5775 Morehouse Drive
San Diego, CA 92121

Tickets are $17.28 and include
a copy of the book

Discussing and Signing
Identical

New York Times bestselling author of Presumed Innocent

Tuesday August 5th
6:30PM
at
Qualcomm
5775 Morehouse Drive
San Diego, CA 92121

Tickets are $17.28 and include
a copy of the book

Seating is first-come first-served

for more event info visit our website
www.warwicks.com
RESERVE NOW!!!
Get your tickets on-line at
www.stoneykids.org

It’s The Party You
Don’t Want to Miss!

Thursday, AUG. 21
5:30-8:30 p.m.
Sycuan Resort
3007 Dehesa Rd.
El Cajon, CA 92019

Stoney’s 89th Birthday
and
Stoney’s Kids 23rd Anniversary!

Cocktail Hour with Hor d’Oeuvres, Live and Silent
Auction, Raffles, Dinner and Birthday Cake
Minimum Donation: $25 per person

• Sponsorship Opportunities Available
  • Buy Tickets Online
  • Donate Online

Visit: www.stoneykids.org
Keep Out of Trouble and Run an Efficient Business: Don’t Let Your Business Get Madoffed

Sponsored by
THE HARTFORD GROUP OF MERRILL LYNCH

About the Program:

Bernie Madoff’s investment scandal broke when the former NASDAQ Chairman admitted that the wealth management arm of his business was an elaborate Ponzi scheme. Madoff pled guilty to 11 federal crimes and admitted to operating the largest Ponzi scheme in history. On June 29, 2009 he was sentenced to 150 years in prison with restitution of $17 billion. According to the federal charges, Madoff said that his firm had liabilities of approximately $50 billion. With numerous families, foundations and others damaged by this decades-long operation; one wonders how these events continue to occur. Where are the pitfalls? How can it be prevented?

Please join us at the San Diego Law Library for light refreshments and an evening of advice from some of our community’s most established leaders in the field on how to run your business without falling into any legal or tax issues.

Panelists:

- Charles Hartford, Financial Advisor at The Hartford Group - Moderator
- Jonathan Amitrano, Esq. - Senior Associate Attorney, RJS Law
- Tyson Abbo, CPA, Abbo Tax

MCLE: 1 hour General Participatory MCLE credit available

More Information and Registration:
https://business2014aug28.eventbrite.com or call 619-531-3900
THE CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION OF
THE FOOTHILLS BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

“Social Media for Lawyers”

Speaker:

Viveca Hess, C.E.O. at HessConnect

Tuesday, August 12, 2014 – Noon to 1:15 p.m.
BJ’s Restaurant, Grossmont Center, La Mesa

The seminar is free to members of the FBA and $10.00 for nonmembers. The cost of your lunch will be whatever you choose from BJ’s menu, although you are not obligated to order lunch. Walk in registrants will be accommodated as space allows. Please RSVP.

This activity has been approved for 1.0 hour of MCLE general credit by the State Bar of California. The FBA certifies this activity conforms to the standards for approved education activities prescribed by the rules and regulations of the State Bar of California governing mandatory minimum continuing legal education.

Mark Raftery and Cheryl Stengel, Civil Litigation Section Co-Chairs

___________________________________________________________

Registration for the Seminar on August 12, 2014

Name__________________________________ Persons Attending ___________

Telephone _________________________________

Please RSVP to Cheryl Stengel. E-mail clstengel@outlook.com or telephone: 619-269-2126.
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Send change of address or telephone number to Kathy Mills at kmills@krigerlawfirm.com.

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