Join Us at Hooley’s for the FBA Membership Drive

By Bradley Schuber, Esq.

The Foothills Bar Association will once again be hosting its Annual Membership Drive at Hooley’s Irish Pub & Grill in the Grossmont Shopping Center on June 18, 2015 starting at 5:00 p.m. This is the perfect occasion to renew your membership for 2015-16 and to catch up with friends while enjoying the hosted appetizers and a beverage. For over 50 years, the Foothills Bar Association has strived to foster a close working relationship between the bench and bar in East County. Our organization is generally composed of Judges, Attorneys, and others who live or work in East County. However, we also have many members outside of East County who take advantage of our membership benefits.

Some of the many reasons to join or renew your membership in the Foothills Bar Association include:

- Excellent monthly MCLE programs presented through the various sections, which are free to members.

- “Hard to Get” Seminar usually presented in January that provides members with three 1-hour credits in Legal Ethics, Recognition and Elimination of Bias, and Competence Issues for a reasonable fee.

- Monthly subscription to the Foothills Bar Association Newsletter, which provides relevant articles of interest to members, Court news and updates on section MCLE programs and events.

- Networking opportunities and mixers.

- Membership directory (on-line and printed versions).

- Invitation to the Annual Awards Dinner.
Participation in the Annual Toy Drive to support local families.

It costs only $65 per year.

If you are not currently a member, I encourage you to join for a year to take advantage of these benefits. You do not have to live or work in East County to be a member. If you have any questions regarding membership or about the Foothills Bar Association in general, please feel free to contact me directly at (619) 589-8800, and/or visit our website at www.foothillsbar.org. See you at Hooley’s on June 18 for the Annual Membership Drive and bring a friend!

Special Events – Possible Padres and Spectacular Sky Show

By Garrison “Bud” Klueck, Esq.

Do you want to see a ball game? Do you want to be blown away by explosions?

The Special Events Committee of your Foothills Bar Association is prepared to organize an outing to a couple of major fun events late this summer.

The first possible event is a Padre game. The Foothills Bar have attended, as a group, many past Padres games but we have not done so in recent years. This is partially because the Padres have generally been bad in recent years. There is a growing consensus that the Padres this year do not suck as bad as they have recently. Therefore, it is time to revive the tradition of the Foothills Bar going to see the local baseball team.

The game selected is against the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday, August 11. Whereas the Padres appear to be doing better this year, the Reds appear to be one of the weaker teams in the National League—so the Padres may have a good chance of winning. Padre night games like this usually start at 7:05 PM—so there is time to complete a late afternoon calendar and still make it to the ball game on time. You can buy yourself some “peanuts and Cracker Jack” and have a great dinner!

To get a group rate break on the tickets we need to have 20 people committing to going to the game. These are terrific tickets with a good discount. The tickets are in sections 111-119 on the Field level. The tickets normally sell for $54.50 and the discounted group rate is just $42 a ticket—a 23 % discount! Such a deal! Besides, what could be better than hanging out with the lawyers and judges associated with the Foothills Bar at a ball game. (And we will totally get our name on the scoreboard at Petco Park!)

The other late summer event is the always amazing KGB Sky Show. It is always associated with a non-conference Aztec football game. The two possibilities this year are Saturday, September 5 and Saturday, September 19. We will share further details in next month’s Foothills Bar Newsletter.

If you want to take yourself and a significant other out to the “ol’ ball game,” please contact the Foothills Bar Special Events Chairperson, Bud Klueck. Bud’s email address is Garrison@FamilyLawSanDiego.com and the law firm’s telephone number is 619-448-6500.
Local East County Attorneys Giving Back to the Community
Law Day 2015

By Carolyn Brock, Esq.

May 1, 2015 the Foothills Bar Association again partnered with the San Diego County Law Library East County Branch to hold the Foothills Bar Association annual Law Day event. Several attorneys volunteered a portion of their Friday afternoon to come out to the law library at the East County Courthouse and speak to the public about topics of interest to the public in their respective areas of law.

On May 1 the United States officially recognizes Law Day. It is meant to reflect on the role of law in the foundation of the country and to recognize its importance for society. President Dwight D. Eisenhower Proclaimed May 1 to be Law Day in 1958, although it was not codified until April 7, 1961. For the Foothills Bar Association, Law Day has become a tradition of community service and providing the community with access to an attorney without cost. It is important for us to remember that some individuals in our community cannot easily afford an attorney’s hourly rate. The annual Law Day event has been our way for at least an hour or so to donate that attorney hour to someone who might be in need of counsel.

Historically, this has taken a number of different forms. Years ago, the Foothills Bar Association set up tables outside at the Grossmont Center Mall where the public could come by and speak to an attorney about their legal questions. For a number of years the Foothills Bar has partnered with the San Diego County Law Library holding a free legal clinic where attorneys met one-on-one with individual members of the public.

For the last two years we have tried a slightly different format and have had one or two panel group discussions on various legal topics. This year Traci Hoppes and Katie Hanes of the Law & Mediation Offices of Garrison Klueck, conducted a panel discussion on family law dissolution matters and fielded many questions on their area of the law. Dan Bacal discussed DUI matters with both the court and the DMV. We were also fortunate to have Joseph Fox, Esq. of Murchison & Cumming, LLP donate an hour of his time to discuss Landlord Tenant issues.

The Foothills Bar Association Board of Directors thanks these attorneys and the San Diego County Law Library for ongoing participation in this annual event.

Traci Hoppes and Katie Hanes of the Law & Mediation Offices of Garrison Klueck, APC, discuss Family Law Matters and field questions.

Dan Bacal, Law Offices of Dan Bacal
At the Beginning – Recommend Collaborative!

By Win Heiskala, CFLS

How many times have you heard from a prospective client at an initial consultation “We just want to settle – we don’t want to go to Court”? In reality, the same case ends up in protracted litigation with high emotional and financial cost, and ultimately ending in a settlement. Why not start with settlement as the goal?

Parties engaged in the Collaborative Divorce® process from the outset can and must make all decisions for themselves, their finances, and most important, decisions for their children, without any court action at all. See Family Code §2013; FRC 5.2.3.(B). The Collaborative team will support the spouses in their decision-making process, but the process is theirs. The timetable is theirs.

The first main hallmark of the Collaborative process is that the parties and all professionals agree in writing that all decisions will be made without resorting to adversary judicial intervention – no one is “going to court”. This separates Collaborative even more as a method of ADR because no one needs to be watching the litigation track and negotiation track at the same time as may be necessary with mediation.

The second main distinction of the Collaborative process is the engagement of a team at the beginning. What is the team? Each party has an attorney and a personal coach (a mental health professional, but not for therapy). The parties retain a neutral financial expert for the disclosure and analysis of their financial information. If additional experts are necessary in this area, such as appraisers, that expert would also be retained as a neutral. If the parties have minor children, then the children would have a child advocate as well as their own therapist. All team professionals are trained in the Collaborative Divorce process. How often have you seen just as many professional experts involved in a divorce in an adversarial or even mediation setting? The advantage of the Collaborative process is that they are all on board from the outset, specifically chosen by the parties. All professionals and the parties must agree in writing that no court process will be used for decision-making purposes. In the event the process breaks down, then none of the professionals can represent or be a witness of any kind for the parties in court.

The Collaborative Divorce process is totally transparent. All team members work together with the parties to resolve issues and any conflict. The parties meet with all team members as well as their own, but they make the ultimate decisions that will affect their finances and family for years to come. The advantages to children, be they minor children or adults, are significant and long-lasting. We all have been told by the experts about the irreparable harm to children of divorces of unresolved conflict. This can and should be avoided. Particular attention was highlighted recently in the State Bar of California Family Law News, Issue 1, 2015, We Can Make a Difference by The Honorable Judge Jaime R. Román. And even in the cases that are not seen as high conflict, improvements can be made in decisions regarding how the needs of the children are met now and into the future. The parents are in a better place to make decisions about their children than a judge.

This is truly a “paradigm shift” for attorneys who primarily know the family law practice as one of litigation, or even mediation. The level of transparency is unique to the Collaborative process notwithstanding the requirements of disclosure in all cases. All information is shared. All decisions come from the parties, with the assistance of the professionals, but not through the professionals.

The Collaborative Family Law Group of San Diego is a fast growing association of lawyers, mental health professionals and financial experts working together for the benefit of family law clients. I urge you to check out the website at CFLGSD.com for more information, upcoming training and membership.

1 Additional professionals such as appraisers will not be trained in the Collaborative process, but must agree to be neutral.
Foothills Bar Association Notice of Board Meeting:

The Foothills Bar Association Board of Directors generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month. This month’s meeting will be held prior to the Membership Drive & Mixer on June 18, 2015 at Hooley’s Irish Pub in Grossmont Center, La Mesa. The meeting will begin at 4:00 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.

Looking for Speakers for Future FBA Civil Litigation Section Meetings:

If you have a litigation topic you would like to present at an upcoming Civil Litigation Section MCLE meeting, please contact Section Co-Chairs Mark Raftery at mraftery@epsten.com or Elizabeth Smith-Chavez at liz@smithchavezlaw.com.

The Foothills Bar Association seeks a chairperson for the criminal law section. Responsibilities will involve 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 Glen Honig at honigesq@gmail.com or (619) 315-9962.

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.

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FOOTHILLS BAR ASSOCIATION
EAST COUNTY ATTORNEY MIXER
2015 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
AT HOOLEYS

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015, 5 pm to 7 pm

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill
5500 Grossmont Center Drive
La Mesa Ca. 91942
Phone: 619-713-6900

PLEASE JOIN THE FOOTHILLS BAR ASSOCIATION
AT HOOLEYS IRISH PUB & GRILL AT GROSSMONT CENTER
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015 - FROM 5 PM TO 7 PM

ENJOY A COMPLIMENTARY BEVERAGE AND HORS D’OEUVRES
SHARE A GOOD TIME WITH YOUR FELLOW BAR MEMBERS
& JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE FBA
THE CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION OF THE FOOTHILLS BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

“THINK YOU DON’T NEED TO KNOW SLAPP?
THINK AGAIN!”

Speaker
James Moneer, Esq.

Thursday, June 25, 2015 – Noon to 1:15 p.m.
BJ’s Restaurant, Grossmont Center, La Mesa

The seminar is free for members of FBA and only $10.00 for non-members. Walk in registrants will be accommodated as space allows.

Mark Raftery, Cheryl Stengel, and Elizabeth Smith-Chavez, Co-Chairs

The Foothills Bar Association certifies that this activity has been approved by the State Bar of California for 1.0 hour General MCLE credit

Registration for the Program on June 25, 2015

Name___________________________________ Number Attending ____________

Telephone ________________________________

Fax registration to Mark Raftery at (858) 527-1531 or email to mraftery@epsten.com by June 19, 2015
2015 FBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, SECTION CHAIRS & COMMITTEES

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SUBMISSIONS
Your submissions are welcome! Send articles, letters, flyers, and other non-advertising submissions to Cheryl Stengel at clstengel@outlook.com.

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