San Mateo Superior Court

COURTNEWS - AN ONLINE NEWSLETTER FOR THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BAR

January 28, 2008

Hon. Robert D Foiles Presiding Judge

Hon Stephen M. Hall Assistant Presiding Judge

Hon. Mark R. Forcum Judge, Chair, Community Outreach Committee

John C. Fitton Court Executive Officer Jury Commissioner

Inside this issue:

Breakfast Meetings	1
with the Bar	

Expansion of Self- 1 Help Services

Criminal Justice 2 Partners Meetings

Updating the Court's 2 Website

Community Law 3
Conclusion 3



PRESIDING JUDGE'S BREAKFAST MEETINGS WITH BAR SECTIONS

Presiding Judge Robert D Foiles and Assistant Presiding Judge Stephen M. Hall have begun their annual breakfast meetings with the San Mateo County Bar Association. Starting on Friday, January 11th, Judge Foiles and Judge Hall are meeting with every Bar section to obtain their input and constructive suggestions.



The meetings take place Fridays at 7:30 am at Bob's Courthouse Coffee Shop through March 7th (see schedule below). For more information, contact your section chair or call the Court's outreach manager, Jill Selvaggio, at 599-1519.

Date	Section
January 11	Real Estate
January 18	ADR
January 25	Business Litigation
February 1	Family Law
February 8	Labor
February 15	Municipal Law
February 29	Estate Planning
March 7	Women's Section

EXPANSION OF SELF-HELP SERVICES

A major theme of the Court's Strategic Plan is expanding services for self-represented litigants. The Court will be conducting educational workshops each Monday afternoon at the San Mateo County law library where attendees can learn about the court process and procedures along with alternatives to litigation.

The Court is also implementing a settlement program for unlawful detainer cases. Facilitated by an attorney, this new service will allow the court to take more time to assist with settling cases as an alternative to time-consuming litigation. An informational breakfast meeting for the Bar will be held on February 26th at Bob's Courthouse Coffee Shop at 7:30 a.m. to formally describe how this new, innovative program will work. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Zorfas at 650-363-7843.

Email: Outreach@sanmateocourt.org

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERS MEETINGS

New Criminal Supervising Judge Mark R. Forcum plans on conducting a quarterly lunch meeting with Criminal Presiding Judge Clifford V. Cretan, District Attorney James Fox, Sheriff Greg Munks, Chief Defender John Digiacinto, Chief Criminal Deputy District Attorney Steven Wagstaffe, Assistant Chief Defender Myra Weiher and Chief Probation Officer Loren Buddress. The purpose of these lunch meetings is to continue the long tradition of positive collaboration pertaining to criminal justice issues that affect the court and our criminal justice partners.

The first of these lunch meetings will be conducted on Friday, February 29, 2008 at noon in Department 8. If you would like to submit comments or constructive suggestions for the group's consideration, please call Judge Forcum's voicemail at 650-363-7835 or email Judge Forcum via the court's webmaster (webmaster@sanmateocourt.org). We would appreciate your input.

YOUR IDEAS FOR THE COURT'S WEBSITE

As you know, our Court is always trying to provide you with an excellent level of service. San Mateo County Bar members have made many outstanding suggestions over the years, ranging from bringing CourtCall to the Court to creating online access to court records via Open Access.



We are in the process of modernizing and revamping our website. Please let us know what additional information or services that we can provide on our website that will facilitate your chility to practice affectively and afficiently in our

ability to practice effectively and efficiently in our Court. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please <u>click here</u> and select the "other" comment box. We appreciate your assistance as we strive to improve access to the Court.

Calling all Pro Tems Save the date!!

Pro Tem Appreciation Event
Thursday, April 10th - 3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

More details to follow

COMMUNITY LAW NIGHT

At the direction of Presiding Judge Robert D. Foiles and Community Outreach Chair Judge Mark R. Forcum, Community Outreach Manager Jill Selvaggio will be studying new ideas for Community Law Night. Community Law Night is a very positive collaboration between the Court, the Bar, and a number of Community-based agencies. We feel Community Law Night can benefit from some fresh ideas. The Bar and its membership who dedicate significant time to this



Community Law Night will be held on May 8, 2008 at the Hall of Justice—we appreciate your commitment to this program.

program are in a great position to offer any suggestions or new ideas. If you have some thoughts about Community Law Night please <u>click here</u> or email <u>outreach@sanmateocourt.org</u>. We will also meet with Bar leadership to further evaluate how we can update and improve this outstanding program.

CONCLUSION

Our court values the very positive relationship we have with all segments of the San Mateo County Bar Association. We continue to build on our recent strategic planning efforts and welcome your thoughts and constructive ideas. You can send your thoughts and ideas by clicking here, by clicking on the survey link at the bottom left of our web page, or by contacting any of us directly.

Happy New Year!

Robert D Foiles Presiding Judge Stephen M. Hall Assistant Presiding Judge Mark R. Forcum Judge, Chair, Community Outreach Committee John C. Fitton Court Executive Officer/Jury Commissioner



EMAIL: OUTREACH@SANMATEOCOURT.OR