



Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library e-Newsletter
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LAW LIBRARY TO PARTICIPATE IN LAW DAY 2004
By Law Library Director, Cossette T. Sun

This year the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library will participate in a month-long series of events this May commemorating the themes of Law Day. The main theme of Law Day this year is to honor the 50th anniversary of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954. Participants will celebrate equality before the law and will honor the long road that led to the *Brown v. Board* decision. Law Day will be celebrated in various places throughout the month of May, including courthouses, the law library, the Rotary Clubs of Alameda County, the County Board of Supervisors, local bar associations and public schools.

The law library will be closely involved in the Liberty Bell Award ceremonies, scheduled to take place Tuesday May 11, 2004 at the Alameda County Board of Supervisors meeting in Oakland. I have solicited many sources to submit nominees for this prestigious award. Nominators represent a broad spectrum of local nonprofit organizations, public interest and volunteer organizations in Alameda County. Judges and attorneys are not eligible for nomination. The Liberty Bell Award was developed by the American Bar Association to recognize community service, which strengthens the effectiveness of our democratic system of freedom under law. The Award recognizes outstanding services and activities that:

- Promote better understanding of our form of government;
- Encourage greater respect for the law and the courts;
- Stimulate a deeper sense of individual responsibility to the end that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights;
- Contribute to the effective functioning of our institutions of government; and/or
- Convey a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law.

The Law Day Committee has also arranged with the local Rotary Club to have Senior Judge **Thelton E. Henderson** of the U.S District Court for the Northern District in San Francisco, be the keynote speaker at the Rotary Club's Rotary Law Day event Thursday

May 6, 2004. Presiding Judge Barbara Miller and Judge Leo Dorado will be involved alongside myself in organizing this exciting all day event. Stay posted for more news about the Law Day celebrations.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL BERNARD E. WITKIN MEMORIAL
SYMPOSIUM, MAY 12, 2004
Susanne Pierce Dyer, Reference Librarian**

E-This! E-That! Life, not to mention the practice of law, is changing so fast, what is a conscientious practitioner to do? Circle **Wednesday, May 12th** on your calendar and come to the **Seventh Annual Bernard E. Witkin Symposium on Legal Research**, that's what. You'll listen to a great program, enjoy a great lunch, which is included in the registration fee, and earn one MCLE hour in legal ethics.

This year's topic, "**New Challenges – Ethics & Discovery on the E-Frontier**" is designed to acquaint attorneys with some fascinating recent developments in the practice of law. Local attorney and former U.S. Supreme Court Fellow Michael Tonsing will discuss the interface of legal ethics and technology. He writes the "Federal Lawyer in Cyberia" column, which reviews technology for "The Federal Lawyer." The title of his presentation is "**Technology – Tool for Ethical compliance or Trap for the Ethically Challenged?**"

Albert Barsocchini who is a Special Master & Discovery Referee in Electronic Discovery Matters will discuss "**Electronic Discovery.**" He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for "Law Technology News" and chaired the California State Bar Law Practice & Technology Section in 2000.

The Seventh Annual Bernard E. Witkin Memorial Symposium is con-sponsored by the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library and the Witkin Legal Institute. It will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2004. Registration and the buffet luncheon begin at 11:30, and the program will begin at noon. The program will be held at the County of Alameda Conference Center, on the fourth floor of the Law Library Building at 125 Twelfth Street, Oakland. This is the site of the previous the library's previous successful Witkin Memorial programs.

Registration is \$25.00 for advance registration and \$35.00 at the door. This includes a bountiful informal luncheon buffet. Please contact the library at **(510) 272-6483** to register. For additional information, please call **Susanne Pierce Dyer at (510) 272-6486. SEE FLYER SEPARATELY ON WEB PAGE.**

- **Catalog Search Tip #1: To find all sources of Internal Revenue Service Revenue Rulings, Revenue Procedures, and Treasury Decisions, just type the individual phrases as seen above in the All Titles field (top line of the search box).**

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY-BASED ACCESS TO JUSTICE: VOLUNTEERS, PARTNERSHIPS AND TECHNOLOGY,
Held in San Francisco February 19-20, 2004
By Bob Podlech, Public Services Librarian**

I was very excited to be able to attend the National Conference on Community-Based Access to Justice: Volunteers, Partnerships and Technology programs held February 18 – 20 at the offices of the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco. Designed to assist in the establishment of more community self-help centers and related programs and partnerships, the conference brought together a diverse group of more than 150 judges and court staff, legal services employees, self-help center staffs, law librarians and other community agency representatives from across the nation.

California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald M. George opened the conference. Justice George spoke of the work that he has inspired in California to make the justice system more available to every citizen of the state. He asked the conference to consider the prime subjects of building partnerships with new self-help centers through the effective use of the latest technologies and the continuing use of community volunteers. More than 30 additional speakers and group leaders challenged the conference attendees to find new ways to work within our individual communities to provide the maximum amount of meaningful access to our justice system. A number of smaller breakout groups explored specialized areas of interest to the broad range of conference participants. Of particular interest to county law librarians like myself were model programs like “The People’s Law Library,” a part of the Maryland Legal Aid Network, workshops on reaching out to the community, discussions related to legal advice vs. legal information, teaching public librarians and community groups about legal resources and most importantly, how to build effective partnerships with existing groups and the new community self-help centers. Other topics included pro-bono projects, funding, evaluation and hotlines. Technology was also on display, including a mobile self-help center from Santa Clara County and several of the latest automated systems to assist the public in the selection, filling out and filing of legal forms. The effective use of volunteers was also explored and discussed as one way to increase the level of access to the justice system.

I attended the conference with our Law Library Director, Cossette Sun. She and I feel strongly that many valuable ideas from the conference can be used by our library and others to reach out to our respective communities to build new and lasting partnerships. For instance, Mrs. Sun is already actively working with a local committee to implement the Alameda County Superior Court’s “Self-Represented Litigants Action Plan.” Under development are outreach programs that will explain the services of the law library and related access to justice programs to local public libraries as well as civic and community groups. In the future, the library would like to offer basic workshops and clinics in legal research and the fundamentals of civil procedure, family law and probate.

The conference was sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts along with the American Judicature Society, Legal Services Corporation, California Commission on Access to Justice, State Bar of California – Standing Committee on Delivery of Legal Services and Pro Bono Net. Further information about the conference and its participants as well as materials presented can be found at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/prgrams/cfcc>. (Look for materials related to the National Conference on Community Based Access to Justice).

This conference is an excellent example of the legal community coming together to educate and promote a very valuable program for us all. I look forward to working with the many ideas and technologies presented at the conference in the near future.

How to Contact Us

To email us, send to: lawlib@acgov.org. Our website contains all kinds of useful information and resources. Please see us on the web at: <http://alcowebd/law/index.htm>.

SPRING 2004 HOLIDAYS

The Law Library will be closed Wednesday, March 31st, 2004 for Cesar Chavez Day and Monday, May 31st, 2004 for Memorial Day. Enjoy the holidays!

Traffic School Final Exam Available at the Alameda County Law Library

The Alameda County Law Library is offering access to the online final exam of the ABTS (A Better Traffic School). This offer applies only to the final exam and not to the course work. The exam can be taken at either the Main Library in Oakland or the Branch Library in Hayward. Those taking the exam must present the library staff with a valid driver's license. The license number is required to access the exam on the Internet. Thirty minutes is the maximum time allowed to complete the exam. Reservations are not available. The public Internet computer is available only on a first come, first served basis. The cost of the exam is \$5.00.

The exam will be offered during the following hours:

Main Library

Monday through Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Branch Library

Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For additional information on taking this exam call the Main Library at (510) 208 4832 or the Branch at (510) 670 5229.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LAW LIBRARY? WESTLAWPRO PUBLIC ACCESS TO PRIMARY LAW AND SHEPARD'S ON THE WEB COME TO THE BRANCH IN HAYWARD

The Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library in Oakland and Hayward has enhanced its online services significantly during 2003 and continues to add resources in 2004. Here is a summary of our current services offered at both locations: Continuing in-house access to our online catalog through **SydneyPlus** – watch for developments in making our catalog available over the Internet; **Shepard's Citations** *free* online access – all Shepard's titles as well as specialized support services are now available online at the Hayward Branch as well as at the Main in Oakland; **WestlawPro** – *free* online access to all federal and state primary law materials is now available in Hayward as well as in Oakland; **LegalTrac** – online access to indexing for legal periodicals (both Hayward and Oakland); **Public Internet Access** – this continuing service is available to support legal research – ½ hour per day per person ; **Domain Web**, an online access point to Alameda County Court records and proceedings, is available at Hayward via a dedicated terminal and at the Main library via our public Internet connection; you can access this service at <http://www.co.alameda.ca.us/courts/> **Information Screen** – one terminal near the entrance at the Main Library gives the latest news about the library and its services.

CONFERENCE ROOMS AND DOCUMENT DELIVERY

Remember that the law library has **Conference Rooms** for rent at Oakland and at Hayward! Rates are from \$15 to \$30 per hour. The law library also provides a **Document Delivery** service. This service costs \$10 plus a per page charge for mailing or faxing specified pages from cases, articles or treatises. Unfortunately, this service cannot be used as a research service. For details about Conference Room Rentals or Document Delivery services visit our Web Page at <http://alcowebd/law/index.htm>

- **Catalog Search Tip #2: To find materials that the library has for MCLE credit, select Series from the search pull-down menu and type in the letters 'mcle.' Select the link to Minimum Continuing Legal Education, and all library MCLE materials will display. The library had 144 titles in January.**

You may further sort the list alphabetically by title; sort by call number, or by year.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACQUISITIONS FALL 2003

Here are a few of the more important titles we added to the collection last fall. Unless otherwise noted, the items are at the main law library in Oakland:

California criminal discovery 3d ed. / L. Douglas Pipes, William E. Gagen, Jr.
KFC/1160.5/P57/2003 -- Stack 117B [1st floor]

California drunk driving law 2d / Joshua M. Dale and Ed Kuwatch.
KFC/477/A75/K88/2003 -- Reference desk (Main and Branch) (Newest edition, new publisher for this very popular work)

CJER mandatory criminal jury instructions handbook 12th ed. California Center for Judicial Education and Research. 2003. KFC/1171/C4/2003 -- Reference desk

Conducting business internationally : ethics [sound recording]. 2002.
TAPES/INT/BUS/2002 -- Circulation desk (MCLE credit available)

Construction litigation handbook 2d / James Acet. KF/902/A48/2003 -- Stack 204B [2nd floor] James Acet is California's leading authority on construction law and litigation.

Criminal trial notebook - California 2d / Doreen Boxer and Al Menaster. 2003.
KFC/1155/B6/2003 -- Reference desk This is a very useful procedural guide for the defense team.

Do your own California adoption. 5th ed.: Nolo's guide for stepparents and domestic partners / by Frank Zagone and Emily Doskow. 2003. KFC/132/Z3/2003 -- Reference desk (Main and Branch) Nolo has updated this popular adoption guide and broadened its scope to include adoption by domestic partners. Has full-sized blank forms to copy.

Domke on commercial arbitration 3d : (The law and practice of commercial arbitration) / by Martin Domke ; revised edition by Gabriel M. Wilner ; by Larry E. Edmondson. 2003-
KF/9085/D66/2003 -- Stack 219A [2nd floor] A popular treatise updated.

Everybody's guide to small claims court in California [15th ed] / by Ralph Warner ; illustrated by Linda Allison. 2003. KFC/976/Z9/W37/2003 -- Reference desk (Main and Branch) This latest edition of Nolo's popular guide keeps abreast of current developments.

Examining witnesses 2d / Michael E. Tigar. 2003. KF/8920/T5/2003 -- Stack 218B [2nd floor] This is one of the library's important guides to the art of witness examination.

Fight your ticket in California 10th / by David W. Brown. 2003. KFC/477/Z9/B7/2003 -- Reference desk (Main and Branch) Update of a popular title.

Getting in and out, and getting paid [sound recording]. State Bar of California. 2002. TAPES/GET/IN/OUT/2002 -- Circulation desk (MCLE credit is available.)

Getting paid : how to collect from bankrupt debtors / by Stephen R. Elias. 2003. KF/9025/Z9/E4/2003 -- Reference desk

How to avoid and survive attorneys' fee disputes. [sound recording] Continuing Education of the Bar--California. 2003. TAPES/AFD/2003 -- Circulation desk (MCLE credit is available.)

How to avoid and survive attorneys' fee disputes : program handbook, January 2003. Continuing Education of the Bar--California. 2003. KFC/77.5/F43/H6/2003 -- Stack 109A [1st floor]

Manage stress before it manages you [sound recording]. State Bar of California. 2002. TAPES/STRESS/2002 -- Circulation desk (MCLE credit is available.)

Manual of model criminal jury instructions for the District Courts of the Ninth Circuit 2003 / prepared by Committee on Model Criminal Jury Instructions within the Ninth Circuit. 2003. KF/9682/A65/M36/2003--9th -- Reference desk (Main and Branch) This edition contains the latest updates in this rapidly evolving area of federal practice.

Model witness examinations 2d / Paul M. Sandler, James K. Archibald. 2003. KF/8900/S26/2003 -- Reference desk New edition of a popular guide to witness examination.

Moy's Walker on patents 4th ed. / by R. Carl Moy. 2003- KF/3114/W45/2003 -- Stack 209A [2nd floor] The 4th edition of this popular work, now authored by Carl Moy.

Obstacles to legal pros with disabilities [sound recording]. State Bar of California. 2002. TAPES/OBST/2002 -- Circulation desk (MCLE credit is available.)

Overly on electronic evidence in California [2003-2004] ed. / Michael R. Overly. 2003. KFC/1038/O94/2003 -- Stack 116B [1st floor] This is the latest edition of this practice guide, covering a rapidly developing area of the law.

Police misconduct : law and litigation 3d, 2003 revised ed. / by Michael Avery, David Rudovsky and Karen M. Blum. 2003. KF/1307/A98/2003 -- Reference desk The publisher, Thomson/West, most likely will issue a new soft-cover edition of this classic annually. Many consider this text essential for practice in this area of law.

Strategies for creditors in bankruptcy proceedings 4th / Lynn M. LoPucki, Christopher R. Mirick. 2003- KF/1524/L57/2003 -- Stack 207A [2nd floor] If you or your client is a creditor held hostage by the bankruptcy of a debtor, this title is for you.

Toxic mold litigation / Raymund C. King, editor and co-author. 2003. KF/3964/M64/K5/2003 -- Stack 212B [2nd floor] This is a rapidly emerging area of real property liability law. The library staff will be happy to help you locate this title and others on the same subject.

- **Catalog Search Tip #3: To find CCH Standard Federal Tax Reports and related titles, type 'STFR' in the title field and the primary set, plus all the related items will display. Look for more Catalog Search Tips in coming issues.**

MCLE REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTORNEYS

Below you will find the reporting deadlines for each compliance group and the breakdown of the 25-hour education requirement. (State Bar of Cal. MCLE Rules and Regulations §1.0 et seq.)

Group 1 (A-G)
Deadline: Feb. 1, 2004

Group 2 (H-M)
Deadline: Feb. 1, 2003

Group 3 (N-Z)
Deadline Feb. 1, 2005

Period: 2/1/01 - 1/31/04
Total Hours Required - 25 hours required
(maximum of 12.5 hours self-study)

Special Requirements within the total hours required
(may be taken as participatory or self-study)

Legal Ethics - 4 hours required

Detection/Prevention of Substance Abuse - 1 hour required

Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession - 1 hour required

LAW LIBRARY SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

The Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library is located at 125 Twelfth Street in Oakland, California and can be reached at (510) 208-4800. The hours of operation at the Main Law Library are 8:30 AM to 9:00 PM Monday thru Thursday, Friday, 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM and Noon to 5:00 PM Saturday and Sunday. The South County Branch is located at 224 West Winton Ave, Room 162, Hayward, California. The Branch's phone number is (510) 670-5230. The Branch hours are 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday thru Friday. The Branch is closed on Saturday and Sunday.

