



**Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library e-Newsletter  
Inaugural Issue  
Fall 2003  
Volume 1, no.1**

**WELCOME TO OUR LIBRARY USERS AND EVERYONE OUT  
THERE IN CYBERSPACE!**

Welcome to the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library near beautiful Lake Merritt in Oakland, California. We are pleased to present this inaugural issue of our law library's e-Newsletter. We hope to keep all of our library users informed about coming and recent events in the law library and legal community, inform library users of new and special resources and publications, and keep our readers up to date on events in Oakland, San Francisco, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C. affecting the courts and law libraries. We will also post new and revised library rules when they change, and talk about selected new laws, library resources, and legal issues of interest to you. We are starting with a simple format, but we invite you, our readers, to write and email us your comments and suggestions for improving this newsletter. We plan to publish the newsletter four times a year for your reading enjoyment. To email us, send to: [lawlib@co.alameda.ca.us](mailto:lawlib@co.alameda.ca.us). Our website contains all kinds of useful information and resources. Please see us on the web at our new site: <http://alcowebd/law/index.htm>.

**UPCOMING LIBRARY HOLIDAYS**

**November 2003 Holidays:**

**The Law Library will be closed Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003 for Veterans' Day and Thursday & Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003 for Thanksgiving. The law library will have normal weekend hours November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003.**

## **December and January Holiday Schedule 2003-2004:**

**We will be closed Christmas Day, Thursday December 25th, 2003 and New Year's Day, Thursday Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004.**

**The Main Law Library will be open 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and on New Year's Eve, Wednesday December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003.**

**The Branch in Hayward will be closed from Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003 through Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 and will re-open Monday January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004.**

**The Main Law Library will be open normal weekend hours through the holidays.**

**The library will be closed Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004 to honor the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.**

## **Enjoy the Holidays!**

### **SIXTH ANNUAL BERNARD E. WITKIN MEMORIAL LECTURE, FRIDAY OCTOBER 3, 2003: NEW PLAIN ENGLISH JURY INSTRUCTIONS WITH JUSTICE WARD**

The Sixth Annual Bernard E. Witkin Memorial Lecture, jointly sponsored by the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library, the Witkin Institute and the Alameda County Bar Association, was held in October this year instead of May but judging by the comments received, it was worth the wait! This year's program featured Justice James T. Ward of the Circuit Court of Appeals, Fourth Appellate District. Justice Ward, Co-chair of the State's Task Force on Jury Instructions, spoke about his role and the role of the Task Force in creating California's new "Plain English" Civil Jury Instructions. With the same wit and charm of personality that surely helped him coordinate this mammoth project over a 9-year time span, Justice Ward began by briefly reviewing the history of juries and jury instructions up to the creation of the now familiar BAJI collection of instructions from the Committee on Standard Jury Instructions, Civil, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, California. He then related how the newer movement for more informed citizen involvement in the jury process led to the creation of the Task Force and eventually the new "Plain English" civil instructions now referred to as "CACI" (pronounced 'khaki'). Through examples, Justice Ward showed how the new

plain English version was developed through committees with considerable input from both the plaintiff and defendant bars. Just how this monumental task came to fruition really gave the listeners an appreciation of the new instructions beyond their mere words.

Questions from many interested members of the bar followed the talk. It was noted that the ongoing review process continues to edit and expand the Civil Instructions. [Editor's note: Work on the new plain-English version of the Criminal Instructions (CALJIC) has begun under the direction of Justice Carol Corrigan, formerly of the Alameda County bench. We hope she will be speaking at a future Witkin Memorial lecture.] Of particular note was the status of the new civil jury instructions vs. BAJI. Justice Ward reiterated the words of the Judicial Counsel that "it is highly recommended" that the new instructions be used from this point forward. [CACI is in the Highlights of Recent Library Acquisitions section, below.]

Once again, the Bernard E. Witkin Memorial Lecture was able to present a timely and informative program for the legal community of Alameda County and the Bay Area. Watch for information in the coming months regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bernard E. Witkin Memorial Lecture, tentatively planned for May 2004.

## **WHAT'S NEW IN THE LAW LIBRARY? *WESTLAWPRO* PUBLIC ACCESS TO PRIMARY LAW, *DOMAIN WEB*, AND *LEGALTRAC*.**

In addition to our traditional reference services, the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library in Oakland and Hayward has enhanced its online services significantly during 2003. Here is a summary of our current services: Continuing in-house access to our online catalog through **SydneyPlus** – watch for developments in making our catalog available over the internet (SydneyPlus is also available in Hayward); **Shepard's on the Web** citations online – all Shepard's titles as well as specialized support services are now available online via a special LexisNexis connection; **WestlawPro** – free online access to all federal and state primary law materials; **LegalTrac** – online access to indexing for legal periodicals (this service is also available in Hayward); **Public Internet Access** – this continuing service is available to support legal research – ½ hour per day per person (also available in Hayward); **Domain Web** – one terminal is now dedicated to accessing Alameda County Court records via Domain Web (also available in Hayward); **Information Screen** – one terminal near the entrance to the Main Law Library now displays a PowerPoint slide show with the latest news about the library and its services.

## **CONFERENCE ROOM INFORMATION AND MORE**

The Law Library also has comfortable **Conference Rooms** for rent. Rates are \$15 or \$30 per hour, depending upon the size of the room. The law library also provides a **Document Delivery** service. This service costs \$10 per order, plus a per page charge for mailing or faxing specified pages from cases, articles or treatises. Unfortunately, this

service cannot be used to conduct research. For details about Conference Room Rentals and Document Delivery services, visit our Web Page at <http://alcowebd/law/index.htm>.

- **Catalog Search Tip #1: Any time you want to search a state code in the SydneyPlus catalog, type in the state's name followed by the word "code" and the print version as well as WestlawPRO Internet edition will show up.**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACQUISITIONS SUMMER 2003

The law library would like to highlight the following publications we recently acquired (in alphabetical order by title). We invite you to look at these items next time you come to the library.

ABA Compendium of professional responsibility : rules and standards 2003 ed. / American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility.  
Chicago, IL : Center for Professional Responsibility, American Bar Association.  
KF/306/A77/2002 -- Stack 202B [2nd floor]

Activism in pursuit of the public interest : the jurisprudence of Chief Justice Roger G. Traynor / Ben Field.  
Berkeley, CA : Berkeley Public Policy Press, for the California Supreme Court Historical Society, c. 2003.  
KF/373/F51/2003 -- Stack 202B [2nd floor]

California administrative mandamus 3d / Mitchell E. Abbott ... [et al.]  
Oakland, CA : Continuing Education of the Bar--California, 2003-  
KFC/782/D4/2003

California class actions 2003 ed. / by Timothy D. Cohelan.  
St. Paul, Minn. : West Group, 2003-  
KFC/1017/C64/2003 -- Reference desk

California elder law resources, benefits, and planning : an advocate's guide.  
Oakland, Calif. : Continuing Education of the Bar--California, 2003-  
KFC/604/C34/2003

California elder litigation : an advocate's guide / Russell S. Balisok ... [et al.]  
Oakland, Calif. : Continuing Education of the Bar--California, 2003-  
KFC/604/C35/2003

The copyright handbook 7th : how to protect and use written works / by Stephen Fishman. Berkeley, Calif. : Nolo, 2003.  
KF/2995/F5/2003 -- Stack 108B [1st floor]

The criminal lawyer's guide to immigration law : questions and answers / Robert James McWhirter.

Chicago, IL : American Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section, 2001.

KF/4819/M39/2001 -- Stack 213A [2nd floor]

Discovery in construction litigation 4th / Michael T. Callahan, Barry B. Bramble.

Newark, NJ : Lexis Publishing (Matthew Bender), 2003-

KF/8900/C34/2003 -- Stack 218A [2nd floor]

The Fourth Amendment handbook : a chronological survey of Supreme Court decisions 2d / by William W. Greenhalgh ; with an introduction by Charles E.

Moylan, Jr.

Chicago IL : Criminal Justice Section, American Bar Association, 2003.

KF/9630/Z9/G68/2003 -- Stack 219B [2nd floor]

Judicial Council of California civil jury instructions 2003-2004. (CACI)

Newark, NJ : Matthew Bender, 2003-

KFC/1047/A65/J8/2003 -- Reference desk ; Branch Stack 7A

Judicial Council of California civil jury instructions. (CACI)

[St. Paul, Minn.] : West Group, 2003-

KFC/1047/A65/J85/2003 -- Stack 117A [1st floor] ; Branch Stack 7A

The law of suretyship and guaranty [rev. ed.] / Peter A. Alces.

[St. Paul, Minn.] : West Group, 2003-

KF/1045/A4/2003 -- Stack 205A [2nd floor]

Legal research : how to find and understand the law 11th / by Stephen Elias and

Susan Levinkind ; edited by Richard Stim.

Berkeley, Calif. : Nolo, 2003.

KF/240/E4/2003 -- Reference desk

Mediation practice guide 2d : a handbook for resolving business disputes / Bennett J.

Picker.

Washington, DC : American Bar Association, 2003.

KF/9084/P5/2003 -- Stack 219A [2nd floor]

Model rules for client protection 2002 ed.

[Chicago, IL] : American Bar Association, Center for Professional Responsibility, 2002.

KF/314/C45/A85/2002 -- Stack 202B [2nd floor]

National survey of state laws 4th / Richard A. Leiter, editor.

Detroit, MI : Gale Group, 2003.

KF/386/N38/2003 -- Stack 108B [1st floor]

Official guide to ABA-approved law schools / produced by the Law School Admission Council and the American Bar Association.

[Newtown, PA] : Law School Admission Council; [Chicago] ABA, 2003.

KF/292/O34/2004 -- Stack 108B [1st floor]

Patton and Palomar on land titles 3d / by Joyce Palomar.

St. Paul, Minn. : West Group, 2002-

KF/678/P38/2002 -- Stack 203B [2nd floor]

Probate procedures manual 1st ed. / The California Court Association.

[San Leandro, Calif.] : The Association, 2002-

KFC/205/C5/2002 -- Reference desk

Small claims procedures manual 13th ed. / researched, updated and published by members of the Publications Committee, Adrienne M. McMillan, Chair. ... [et al.].

[San Leandro, Calif.] : The California Court Association Inc., 2003-

KFC/976/A97/1999 -- Reference desk

Social security disability claims handbook 2003 ed. : / by Richard C. Ruskell.

[St. Paul, Minn.] : West Group, 2003.

KF/3649/R87/2003 -- Stack 211B [2nd floor]

Social security disability practice 2003 ed. / by Charles T. Hall.

St. Paul, Minn. : West Group, 2003.

KF/3649/H36/2003 -- Stack 211B [2nd floor]

Substantive criminal law 2d / by Wayne R. LaFave.

Eagan, Minn. : Thomson/West, 2003-

KF/9219/L38/2003 -- Stack 219B [2nd floor]

Three (3) strikes manual 3d / Al Menaster and Alex Ricciardulli.

Woodland Hills, CA : Courtroom Compendiums, 2003-

KFC/1172/M36/2003 -- Reference desk

Veterans benefits manual / Barton F. Stichman, Ronald B. Abrams, David F. Addlestone, eds.

Charlottesville, VA: LexisNexis; Matthew Bender, 1999-

KF/7709/V47/2003 -- Stack 108B [1st floor]

Wage and hour manual for California employers 9th / Richard J. Simmons.

Van Nuys, Calif. : Castle Publications, 2003.

KFC/575/S55/2003 -- Stack 112B [1st floor]

- **Catalog Search Tip #2: To find the civil jury instructions, simply type “CACI” in the title field and all the titles will appear, including the latest BAJI. Look for more Catalog Search Tips in coming issues.**

## **MCLE TAPES AND PROGRAM MATERIALS NEEDED: BROTHER OR SISTER, CAN YOU SPARE A TAPE?**

### **Don't Throw Away Those MCLE Tapes and CDs!**

If you have purchased MCLE tapes or CDs in recent years and no longer need them, please consider donating them to the Alameda County Law Library. The library will add your donation to its circulating collection of tapes and CDs.

The Library is a tax-exempt organization under § 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and donors may deduct contributions as provided in § 170 of the Code. Federal law prohibits the Law Library from ascribing a fair market value to your donation, but we will send a letter acknowledging your gift.

Giving feels good; especially when you know that thing you no longer need can help someone else. Please phone or email Greg Fite with your prospective donation information. Phone: (510) 272-6494 or Email: [gfite@co.alameda.ca.us](mailto:gfite@co.alameda.ca.us).

## **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.

