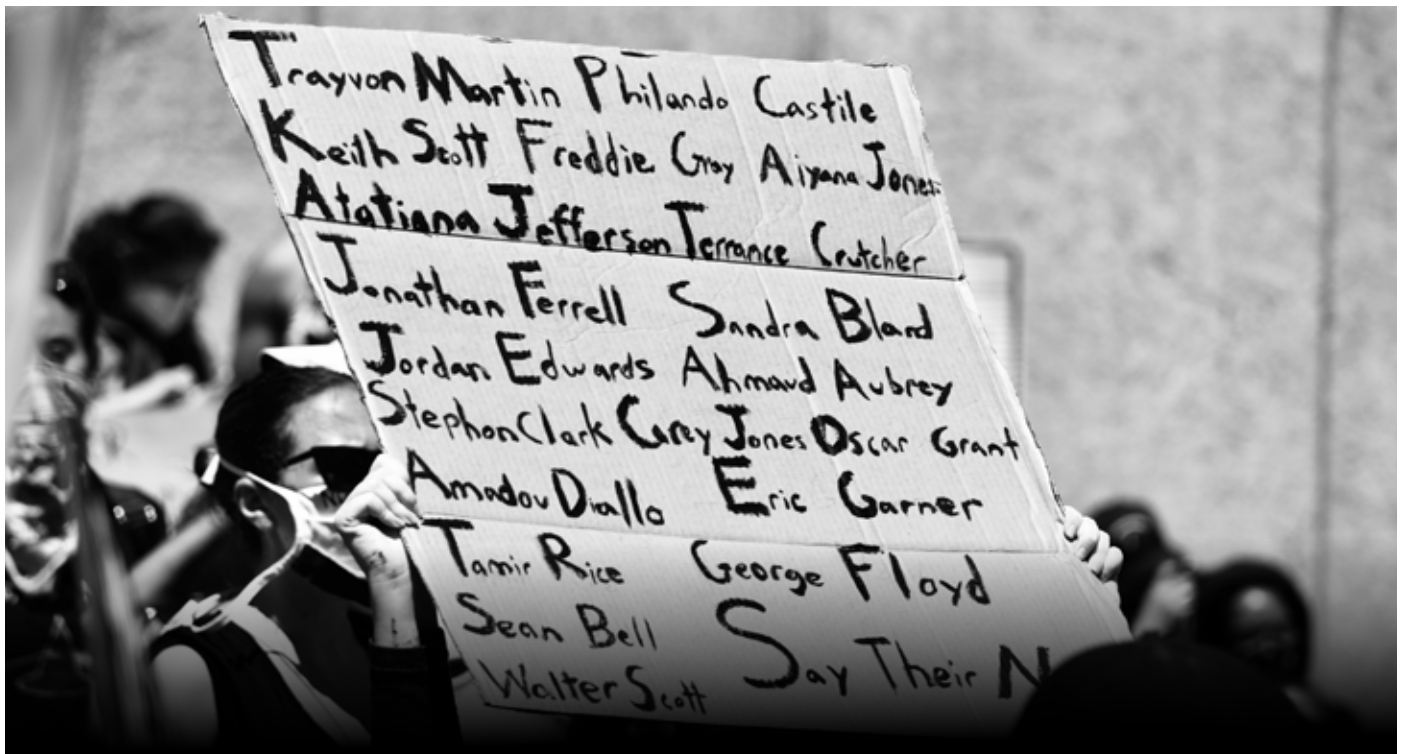


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We advance professional growth and education, and elevate the standards of integrity, honor, and respect in the practice of law. We cultivate diversity and equality in the legal profession, provide a collective voice for public advocacy, and pioneer constructive change in society.



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Workers at an information desk wearing masks in San Francisco in 1918. Credit: Hamilton Henry Dobbin, California State Library.

SAN FRANCISCO

TWO PANDEMICS, ONE HUNDRED YEARS APART

Stuart Plunkett



Digital signage in San Francisco in May 2020 with a reminder to wear face coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For my last column for *San Francisco Attorney*, I wanted to explore how the 1918 flu pandemic—the last global respiratory pandemic to reach San Francisco—affected our bar association and compare that to COVID-19, more than a hundred years later. Established in 1872, BASF was already almost fifty years old when the 1918 flu season hit San Francisco. In addition to historical accounts of the pandemic, I reviewed the

handwritten minutes of monthly BASF meetings in 1918 and 1919—all but one month, that is.

The 1918 flu pandemic was among the deadliest in history, killing as many as a hundred million people in four waves from 1918-1920. The accounts of San Francisco during the 1918 flu are striking in their parallels to what we have experienced this year, but also striking in how much more deadly yet short-lived the 1918 flu was in San Francisco. The city was one of the hardest hit in the U.S., with 45,000 total cases and 3,000 deaths, representing a staggering death rate of 673 per 100,000 residents—nearly all during a five-month period from October 1918 to February 1919.

“

Plagues reshape our familiar social order, require us to disperse and live apart, wreck economies, replace trust with fear and suspicion, invite some to blame others for their predicament, embolden liars, and cause grief.[...] But plagues also elicit kindness, cooperation, sacrifice, and ingenuity.”

—Nicholas A. Christakis
Apollo's Arrow: the Profound and Enduring Impact of Coronavirus on the Way We Live

By comparison, from March to October 2020, San Francisco recorded 12,402 cases of COVID-19, 148 deaths, and a death rate of 17 per 100,000.

It is believed that a man returning from Chicago on September 23, 1918, brought the flu to San Francisco. Even though he was quarantined, there were 169 cases in the city within two weeks and then 2,000 a week later. By October 18, Mayor James “Sunny Jim” Rolph issued a partial closure order that applied primarily to movie theaters, dance halls, and lodge and union meetings, which were common places for large gatherings in the early 1900s. His order left open churches, offices, and

other businesses. The order also recommended masks, but then after a week of little voluntary compliance, masks became mandatory when “in public or when in a group of two or more, except at mealtime.”

Unlike today with COVID-19, the controversy in San Francisco in Fall 1918 centered on the mask mandate rather than the scope of the closures—indeed, law enforcement and San Francisco courts were heavily involved in enforcement efforts. The city was determined to enforce the mandate. Acting pursuant to the mayor's strict orders, police arrested 110 people on October 27 for failure to wear a mask. They were charged with

“disturbing the peace” and fined \$5 (fines were donated to the Red Cross). Nine people were sentenced to jail terms. The next day, another fifty residents were arrested and five went to jail. With arrests continuing thereafter, the chief of police warned he expected to run out of jail space. Arrested individuals were held in pens that became overcrowded, and reports indicate that San Francisco judges began working nights and Sundays to clear cases. A newspaper reported that on October 27 three people were shot in a scuffle involving an officer and a man refusing to wear a mask.

By the end of October, there were 20,000 cases and more than 1,000 deaths. San Francisco judges posed for pictures donning masks to show their support for the mandate, and judges began holding court sessions outdoors to prevent crowding indoors. November 11 was San Francisco's Armistice Parade, celebrating the

end of World War I, and pictures of the event show most people wearing masks. But just over a week later, on November 21, with flu cases down, the city reopened and announced the end of mandatory masks. Known as the “Great Unmasking,” thousands took to the streets and removed their masks in unison to the sound of a whistle. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported: “After four weeks of muzzled misery, San Francisco unmasked at noon yesterday and ventured to draw its breath,” and “the sidewalks and runnels were strewn with the relics of a tortuous month.”

Tortuous? The mask mandate and closures had been in place for just over a month. Today, of course, we are going on ten months—with no end in sight. But by 1918, San Franciscans had endured years of wartime restrictions and they were not anxious for more. When cases began to spike with colder weather, the city was slow in reacting due to strong opposition. It was not until the first week of 1919 when 600 new cases were reported in a single day that the city again mandated masks. This time the opposition was even more vocal. The Anti-Mask League was formed and held large rallies protesting masks on the ground that the 1918 pandemic was no worse than a typical flu season. San Francisco's health director was sent an explosive, which fortunately failed to detonate. The *San Francisco Chronicle* then came out against the mask ordinance and it was rescinded for good on February 1. After four months, San Francisco had already experienced the worst of the flu and cases would not resurge.

With San Francisco so hard-hit by the flu and the reports of judges working overtime and supporting the mask mandate, I expected to find evidence in the BASF

THE ACCOUNTS OF SAN FRANCISCO DURING THE 1918 FLU ARE STRIKING IN THEIR PARALLELS TO WHAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THIS YEAR, BUT ALSO STRIKING IN HOW MUCH MORE DEADLY YET SHORT-LIVED THE 1918 FLU WAS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



A San Francisco police officer wearing a mask talking to a couple, one masked, one not. Credit: Hamilton Henry Dobbin, California State Library.

minutes from the time period that the bar association had been involved in some way. But I saw no mention of what was called the Spanish Flu anywhere in the minutes from 1918 and 1919. There was, however, evidence that BASF had been impacted: there was no monthly meeting between October 4 and December 6, 2018, when cases were spiking. The minutes were intriguing nonetheless, painting a picture of our bar association at work a hundred years ago. At the December 6, 1918, meeting, the treasurer reported that BASF had \$231.23 in its account. The board passed a resolution that “*The Recorder* be constituted the official organ of the Bar Association of San Francisco for the publication

of its reports and proceedings.” The Committee on Discipline and Grievances was directed to investigate charges of bribery to secure a decision of the California Supreme Court, and, finally, the board voted to thank a judge “who had presented to the Bar Association Library a set of 150 volumes of Reports of Various Bar Associations with card index thereto.” On January 3, 1919, as cases were spiking again, BASF President Jeremiah Sullivan announced that the Annual Meeting of the association would be held at the Hotel St. Francis on January 10, the very day San Francisco would once again mandate masks.



Protest against California's COVID-19 stay-at-home orders in May.

One of our mundane tasks at each BASF monthly board meeting is to approve the minutes from our last meeting. This will no longer seem mundane to me. I now appreciate that we are creating a historical record that one day, maybe a hundred years from now, might be reviewed to assess BASF's involvement in the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. I am confident that the reaction from the distant future will mirror those I have as I end my year as BASF President—deep pride in how the incredible folks at BASF and JDC have survived and thrived this year and gone above and beyond to continue our mission of providing legal help to those in need and valuable services to our members. Your bar

association's substantial role in addressing this pandemic will be written all over the 2020 board minutes.

Stuart Plunkett is a partner at Alston & Bird and the 2020 President of the Bar Association of San Francisco and the Justice & Diversity Center.



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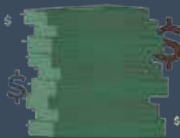


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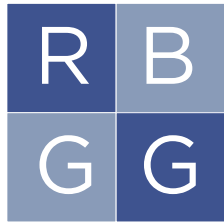
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BARRISTERS 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

A large, white, serif capital letter 'A' is positioned on the left side of a teal-colored rectangular block. The letter is centered vertically and horizontally within the block.

s I look back on 2020, it makes me think of how bar associations have always held a very special space in my heart. When I was growing up in Hawaii, my mom spent thirteen years as executive director of the Hawaii State Bar Association. She would often take me and my siblings with her to the tenth floor of the office building on Alakea Street. We called the staff “aunties,” and they would let us take over the conference room, where we would shoot rubber bands as we weaved under tables and between chairs, and make balls of rubber cement. In many ways, bar associations have always felt like a second home.

Kelly Matayoshi

For this reason, joining the Barristers Club and the Bar Association of San Francisco has felt like coming home. I did not know anyone when I moved to San Francisco for law school, and so had to find my community here. I am so grateful I found one in the Barristers Club, and serving as Barristers President this year has felt like a homecoming of sorts.

As 2020 draws to a close, it is an understatement to say it feels very different from the waning months of 2019. While it is easy to focus on and list this year’s struggles, injustice, and adversity, it is important to reflect also on our triumphs, joys, and transformation. Here is what I am most proud of Barristers for accomplishing in a very difficult year.

BARRISTERS REPORT

RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

When the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery shook this nation into action, the Barristers stepped up to create the Racial Justice Initiative (RJI). Over the span of five months, the RJI put on ten programs aimed at educating not only the legal community, but also the public on issues ranging from Know Your Rights training to qualified immunity to the racial justice impact of California ballot propositions.

Our largest event brought together leaders in the San Francisco police and criminal justice community in a Town Hall on Police Accountability, Oversight, and Discipline. We focused on intersectionality and elevating voices of minority women, who are often overlooked, with a panel on the ABA report “Left Out and Left Behind.” We even weaved these issues into our annual Judges Reception through our keynote speaker, Equal Justice Society founder Eva Paterson, and our honoree, Judge Lawrence E. Kahn, speaking out for racial justice. We had over 600 people register for these programs, telling us that there is an interest and need to address the racial justice issues we face.

DIVERSITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

At the start of the year, we called upon fellow Minority Bar Coalition members to form the Barristers Diversity Task Force. Through countless meetings and the leadership of Barristers Club Diversity Directors Ernest Hammond III and Sydney Allen, the task force created the Barristers Club’s first-ever Diversity Conference. Barristers recognized at the start of this year that we were heading towards an economic recession, and facing the danger of law firms and organizations cutting

WE EXPLORED NEW TECHNOLOGY THAT PERMITTED US TO DELIVER FUN AND NOVEL WAYS TO NETWORK THROUGH THE PANDEMIC. THIS ALLOWED BARRISTERS TO CONTINUE PROVIDING OUR BIGGEST AND BEST SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS—COMMUNITY-BUILDING.

diversity programming and initiatives in these times. This conference is aimed at providing the countervailing point—that this is precisely when companies must follow through with their commitment to diversity, while dismantling toxic cultures and building inclusive environments.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND PRACTICAL SKILLS

The Barristers Club knows that junior attorneys are often asked to manage people, lead teams, build their brand, and write strategies. However, they are rarely given any formal training in how to do so. The Barristers Leadership Development Series put on programming on leadership fundamentals, managing teams, and advocating for yourself to do just that. We examined surveys showing that Barristers were interested in learning about how to become a judge, and pulled together a panel of judges



At the virtual Town Hall on Police Accountability, Oversight, and Discipline with, from top left, Chief William Scott, Chief of the San Francisco Police Department; Paul Henderson, Director of the Department of Police Accountability; Damali Taylor, Vice President, San Francisco Police Commission; Chesa Boudin, San Francisco District Attorney; and moderator Yolanda Jackson, Executive Director and General Counsel, Bar Association of San Francisco.

that included then Judicial Appointments Secretary and now California Supreme Court Justice Martin Jenkins.

SUPPORTING LAW STUDENTS

Law students have been especially hard hit by the pandemic. We focused on providing students with programming on finding a job, advancing your legal career during a recession, and exploring different career paths. When the February 2020 bar exam passers could not be sworn in in person, Barristers partnered with other bar associations to hold a virtual swearing-in ceremony featuring three presiding judges and Senator Elizabeth Warren.

RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC

Finally, when coronavirus struck, our section and committee leaders quickly pivoted and organized over a dozen COVID-19 programs. This included substantive MCLEs on novel legal issues, from construction to real estate to criminal law. We focused not only on how to continue practicing law at the highest level, but also how to cope with the new shelter-in-place restrictions. We provided support groups through Barristers #TeaTimes, and our Wellness Committee hosted courses on everything from fitness and nutrition to how to cook creatively.

Beyond new programming, we succeeded in maintaining our signature programs such as the Barristers Open House, Judges Reception, Annual Meeting, and Holiday Party. The logistical challenges of converting these to online, virtual events was tough. However, we explored new technology that permitted us to deliver fun and novel ways to network through the pandemic. This allowed Barristers to continue providing our biggest and best service to our members—community-building.

In total, Barristers provided a record-breaking ninety-plus programs with 2,500 registrants for our events. That the Barristers Club was able to exceed the number

of programs that we have ever accomplished during a pandemic speaks volumes to the leadership of the Barristers Board and co-chairs. I am so thankful to our leaders, as well as Barristers Club Director Angie Coleman-Levy and BASF for their support. The year 2020 was a great one for Barristers, and I am sure 2021 will be even better.

Kelly Matayoshi is a senior associate at Farella Braun + Martel and the current Barristers Club President. Her practice focuses on business litigation and employment, with a focus on the consumer products industry.

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PANDEMIC FORCES COURTS AND LAWYERS TO REIMAGINE PROCEEDINGS

Laura Ernde

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Anne-Christine Massullo had pre-qualified over two hundred prospective jurors in anticipation of the court's first in-person civil jury trial since the coronavirus pandemic.



She used a tape measure to make sure all twelve jurors and everyone else who had to be in the courtroom would be spaced at least six feet apart. To maintain social distancing, the ten alternate jurors and others who could not fit in the courtroom would watch the proceedings on video from a nearby courtroom. Everyone would wear masks of their choosing and receive individual alcohol wipes to use.

She had to think through nearly every step of how the three-month class action trial would play out. Jurors would receive bagged lunches. Members of the public would be able to dial in and listen remotely. Schedules

were changed to ensure that the clerks would get required breaks.

When the case settled in October, shortly before the trial was to begin, Massullo was still mulling over how she would handle the many questions that might arise as the trial unfolded. What if some got sick, either with COVID-19 or the flu? How would she conduct socially distanced sidebars?

“In walking through this there were all these little things I took for granted,” she said.



“

THERE'S SO MUCH
COMMUNICATION THAT
WE RELY ON WHEN
WE'RE FACE TO FACE
THAT CANNOT HAPPEN
WHEN YOU'RE SOCIALLY
DISTANCED THROUGH
ZOOM.[...] YOU WANT
TO HAVE A LOT OF
CONTINGENCY AND
BACKUP PLANS.”

—Sharon O. Rossi
Rogers Joseph O'Donnell

In light of the complexities, some litigants are opting for a virtual bench trial rather than a jury trial. Massullo wonders if more litigants would be more willing to exercise that option if their case could be decided by a panel of three judges instead of one.

“I’m hoping out of this cloud of COVID we get some bright ideas and make sure our system works efficiently and effectively for everyone,” she said.

Virtual proceedings have become routine since San Francisco’s March 16 shelter-in-place orders went into effect. Even as businesses have slowly reopened, many lawyers have continued to work remotely, handling client meetings, hearings, and depositions via Zoom and various video/teleconference platforms.

But the transition has presented its own set of challenges.

Frank Busch, a partner at Wagstaffe, von Loewenfeldt, Busch & Radwick, was recently preparing for his first virtual bench trial in a dispute between family members involved in a closely held corporation. The oldest family member and some of the lawyers involved are in groups that are high-risk for COVID-19 complications, so everyone agreed to stick with virtual proceedings.

“Ordinarily, the gold standard for credibility is to have the judge looking over the bench at the witness, watching them tell their story,” he said.

But the question remains whether Zoom is better than in-person testimony with safety precautions such as masks and plexiglass in place. Not to mention the technical issues that might interfere with someone’s ability to give clear testimony. Lawyers have to now assess how well their witnesses will come across in a digital format.

“It’s just a whole new ballgame when you’re thinking about giving binding trial testimony from a place you cannot see,” he said. “When it comes to a trial the stakes rapidly multiply.”

On the plus side, virtual proceedings offer more scheduling flexibility since witnesses don't have to travel and spend hours in court waiting.

Sharon O. Rossi, a shareholder at Rogers Joseph O'Donnell, described her recent evidentiary hearing in a federal wage and hour class action lawsuit.

The plaintiff was in the plaintiff's lawyer's office. She and her co-counsel for the defense were in different rooms in the same office. They were joined on Zoom by three witnesses, a court reporter, the judge, the judge's law clerk, and the court clerk.

Rossi recommends that, to the extent possible, assemble everyone on your side at the same location but in different rooms for easier communication in the event of technical problems.

While it would be ideal for co-counsel to be in the same room—to easily communicate with one another—that creates a risk of feedback noise. Because Rossi had to share her screen with the court to publish exhibits, she and her co-counsel were relegated to communicating with one another by text message. (During witness testimony, her colleague tried to text her to make an objection, but she didn't see the text until after the witness had answered the objectionable question).

Another challenge was handling exhibits over Zoom. When sharing an exhibit, the entire document did not fit on the screen and the attorney presenting the exhibit was the only one who could control the scrolling. Rossi recommends having a paralegal or another attorney handling exhibits so the examining attorney can focus on questioning the witness.

The day before the hearing, she had to show her witness how to find the camera and turn it on. In hindsight, she should have instructed the witness to look directly at the camera when speaking rather than looking around the room.

One of the biggest adjustments is the lack of ability to discern visual cues.

"There's so much communication that we rely on when we're face to face that cannot happen when you're socially distanced through Zoom," she said. "It just makes everything more one dimensional and stunted."

But that also takes some of the emotional charge out of the proceedings, and the technology gets easier to use the more often you do it, she said. The key, as with many things in life, is preparation.

"You want to have a lot of contingency and backup plans," Rossi said.

David A. Lowe of Rudy, Exelrod, Zieff & Lowe experienced his first test-run with a virtual trial in June. Judge Edward Chen of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District scheduled a practice run so everyone could get familiar with the court's videoconferencing platform before the bench trial would begin.

Lowe's trial team had to make sure that electronic trial exhibits could be viewed clearly and were successfully uploaded to the court's document-sharing platform.

The team held Zoom practice sessions to make sure that they could smoothly move from live witness testimony to document exhibits to demonstrative exhibits to video



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“OUR ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT OUR CLIENTS DEPENDS LIKE NEVER BEFORE ON OUR ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND OUR SKILL IN USING IT, IF WE CANNOT USE TECHNOLOGY TO LITIGATE REMOTELY, WE SIMPLY CANNOT MOVE OUR CASES FORWARD.”

—David A. Lowe
Rudy, Exelrod, Zieff & Lowe

clips. They discovered that the iPad version of Zoom lacks the screen-sharing functionality of the desktop version.

Lowe invested in a standing desk, external camera, and microphone and adjusted the lighting and background to make sure he looked as professional as if he were standing in the courtroom.

Although the case didn't move forward as scheduled, the experience was valuable. Since then, he has conducted client meetings, witness preparations, depositions, mediations, and a lengthy arbitration hearing entirely using videoconference technology and without ever meeting the client, witness, or opposing attorneys in person. He has also received, reviewed, managed, and produced tens of thousands of pages of discovery and client documents without ever physically touching a piece of paper.

“Our ability to effectively represent our clients depends like never before on our access to technology and our skill in using it,” he said. “If we cannot use technology to litigate remotely, we simply cannot move our cases forward.”

With no quick end in sight to the pandemic, it's clear that lawyers will continue to adjust to the new virtual reality. Much of this education will likely come through trial and error.

“When we're at this early stage, no one person will be able to identify all the potential issues and address them in advance,” Busch said.

Laura Ernde is a San Francisco-based writer and communications consultant. She has covered legal affairs for more than a decade, as a journalist and former editor of the California Bar Journal.

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JUSTICE & DIVERSITY CENTER GALA RAISES CLOSE TO \$300,000 FOR LEGAL AND DIVERSITY PROGRAMS



The 16th annual and first virtual Gala of the Bar Association of San Francisco's Justice & Diversity Center (JDC) on September 16 was a night to remember. This year's Gala continued the tradition of celebrating JDC's impact and sharing inspiration through client and student stories.

A feast for the senses, featuring art, music, and culinary delights, the event raised close to \$300,000 to support JDC's Legal Services Program, Homeless Advocacy Project, and Diversity Pipeline Programs, including the Bay Area Minority Law Student Scholarship program.

As President Stuart Plunkett highlighted in his remarks, JDC has "continued to prove its value to the San Francisco community" during this year of unprecedented challenges and uncertainties. Over the past year, JDC—with the help of more than 1,200 volunteers—provided over 44,000 hours of legal services to the community. Executive Director Yolanda Jackson acknowledged the increased demand for services, adding that "the concepts of justice and diversity have taken on a new significance in 2020 and are more critical now than ever."

This year's program spotlight speakers, Wendy Hernandez and Timothy James, highlighted two of JDC's programs, the Bay Area Minority Law Student Scholarship program and the Federal Pro Bono Project, bringing to life the importance of JDC's work and services at this moment. Their gala speeches are featured on the following pages.

Following the main program, gala guests were able to choose among a variety of virtual experiences. Featured guests included Chef Mitchell Rosenthal, Mixologist Rebecca Pinnell, art legend Crayone, and local legal leaders led roundtable discussions. DJ D Sharp, the official DJ of the Golden State Warriors, closed out the evening. You can access recordings of the program, including the inspiring program spotlight speakers, virtual experiences, and roundtable discussions at www.sfbar.org/gala.



Timothy James is a former teacher who sought justice and a safe learning environment at his school. With persistence and help from JDC's Federal Pro Bono Project, his case brought about significant changes in the special education department to support students and teachers. The following are excerpts from Timothy's speech at the 2020 JDC Gala in September.

Timothy James:

PRO BONO PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

Good evening, my name is Timothy James and I used to be a teacher in San Francisco. JDC helped me when I reported a very violent student against my supervisor's wishes and then lost my job. I filed a lawsuit on my own to get changes for students with special needs. JDC helped me get my complaint off the ground and then found a law firm to represent me for the rest of the case.

I taught students with special needs and loved it. But there was one student in my class who was violent to other students and to me. My supervisor told me not to report it. But the violence escalated. The student broke two people's fingers and assaulted a blind woman in a wheelchair. He brought a gun to class and threatened to kill me and his classmates. He hit and stole from other students. I knew some students were too scared to come to school for weeks at a time. I also learned that the school deprioritized education for special needs students and re-assigned substitute teachers to other classrooms and gave the special needs students a free day.

I saw the issue as bigger than myself. It was hurting students' ability to learn, and so I filed formal reports to try to get changes. Then the principal of the school wrote me up several times under false pretenses. I met with lawyers who said this was a good case but too much work to take on pro bono. I wanted justice for students so I decided to file a lawsuit on my own. When I gave the school notice of pursuing legal action, it told me I wouldn't be teaching the following year. It was months past the deadline when the school must give notice of non-re-election so teachers can find a job at another school.

Without my job, I couldn't pay for housing, transportation, and daily necessities. I couch-surfed with friends and family while working on my lawsuit. I expected it to be hard but thought if I presented the facts honestly, things would work out fairly. The hardest part was researching laws on my own and I spent many late nights putting my complaint together. When I filed it in federal court, the school district filed a motion to dismiss my case. This is when I found out about the Legal Self-Help Center, run by JDC for people representing themselves in federal court. A wonderful attorney named Kelly had a number of appointments with me and guided me to the right documents to file, due dates, and laws that applied. I ultimately filed three complaints, with the school district moving to dismiss each one. At every hearing, I went by myself and the school district had three attorneys there—two partners and an associate of a law firm. After each hearing, Kelly met with me and equipped me to amend my complaint even more. She also guided me through answering a lot of discovery requests. I remember running through the rain to get my responses to the law firm on time!

**I SAW THE ISSUE AS BIGGER
THAN MYSELF. IT WAS HURTING
STUDENTS' ABILITY TO LEARN,
AND SO I FILED FORMAL REPORTS
TO TRY TO GET CHANGES.**

Finally, the court said my case could proceed. At that point, JDC got a law firm to represent me pro bono for the rest of the case. My lawyers took over the heavy lifting that I had been doing myself, which was a huge relief to me. I had been so immersed in the daily work of researching, drafting, and appearing, and it was nice to be able to take a step back. My lawyers took depositions and worked on my case, and they were able to get the outcomes I had wanted. The school made specific changes in the special education department to support students and teachers, and teachers are now able to report safety incidents. My former supervisor who made false claims against me is no longer there. And there are more para-professionals to support teachers in special education classes.

I had no idea this process would be so hard and take so long. I'm proud of myself for being persistent and going to court to keep the case going by myself. I can't say that would have been the case without JDC's guiding me and then getting lawyers to handle the rest of my case.



Wendy Hernandez, a 2018 recipient of JDC's Bay Area Minority Law Student Scholarship, earned her law degree from UC Hastings mid-pandemic in May 2020. In October 2020, Wendy joined Farella Braun + Martel as an associate. The following are excerpts from Wendy's speech at the 2020 JDC Gala in September.

Wendy Hernandez:

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT GREATER THAN NUMBERS ON A CHECK

Good evening my name is Wendy Hernandez and I want to thank you for joining us to celebrate such a powerful organization. JDC has made an incomparable difference in my life and with your support will continue to make a difference in the lives of other diverse attorneys.

Two years ago, I was fortunate to be selected for the Bay Area Minority Law Student Scholarship. The scholarship I received went beyond a check for my law school tuition. I was welcomed into a strong network, a solid support system, and a community full of role models that share similar values to mine and that a dollar sign could never replace.

This community kept me grounded during law school. Though I was often busy, I welcomed as many opportunities as I could to volunteer or network and met many attorneys who were much busier but who always made themselves available. I remember leaving every one of those events feeling empowered and I pledged to myself to continue showing up—no matter how busy I become.

I am especially grateful to have gained the mentorship of Richard Zitrin. Richard has mentored me in informal

but very impactful ways: from lunch check-ins, to random phone calls and life update text messages—he is a constant in my life.

As we look at our current world, I cannot think of a better time than now to invest in the future of diverse attorneys. As a system-impacted law student, I helped challenge the constitutionality of juvenile death sentences, or JLWOP cases, during my 2L year. As a 3L, I was elected the first Latina editor in chief of the oldest constitutional law journal in the country—the *Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly*—where I published four issues of innovative scholarship to provide the court with resources to adequately address some of today's most pressing legal issues, like children representing themselves in immigration court, voter suppression laws for past convictions, and free speech in a digital era. And I have no doubt that I will continue to embody the change that our communities need right now.

**RIISING LAWYERS LIKE ME,
WHO INTIMATELY UNDERSTAND
ADVERSITY, BUT FEARLESSLY
CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO
AND ACTIVELY WORK TO DISMANTLE
SYSTEMIC INJUSTICES,
NEED A VILLAGE LIKE JDC.**

Being supported by JDC has introduced me to genuine people who understand that any change we seek to have in the world, in the country or in this state, must first be created in the legal profession. Rising lawyers like me, who intimately understand adversity, but fearlessly challenge the status quo and actively work to dismantle systemic injustices, need a village like JDC.



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FEDERAL PRO BONO PROJECT TEAM MEASURES SUCCESS ONE CLIENT AT A TIME

Laura Ernde

Lawyers often measure success by whether their client was made whole or how much money was at stake. But that kind of assessment oversimplifies the legal work being done by the Federal Pro Bono Project, a project of the Bar Association of San Francisco's Justice and Diversity Center.

Sometimes, a favorable outcome means that an unrepresented litigant walks away from the courthouse understanding why they don't have a case and where to find help for their problem instead.

"A huge part of our job is meeting clients where they are and giving them an honest opinion," said staff attorney Abby Herzberg. "That doesn't mean an injustice didn't occur. It's just that our legal system doesn't have a remedy."

For those unrepresented litigants who do have valid civil cases, Herzberg in Oakland and supervising attorney RoseMarie Maliekel in San Francisco assist them in developing a narrative that allows them to represent themselves in court. In some cases, the project is able to find pro bono counsel for them to appear at a settlement conference or take a case to trial. To be referred for placement with a pro bono attorney, the court must issue an order asking the project to identify counsel. A litigant must be unable to afford private counsel and have a case that warrants pro bono legal representation.

The civil cases the project assists with often involve federal civil rights violations, such as police misconduct under Section 1983 and employment discrimination claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Herzberg, with a background in legal aid, and Maliekel, a former federal public defender, both joined the project within the last two years. Since then, they have



RoseMarie Maliekel

"We try to keep cultural humility on the agenda and be aware of what we're bringing into the client meetings."



Abby Herzberg

"A huge part of our job is meeting clients where they are and giving them an honest opinion."



Deborah Leon

"We really feel strongly about our mission and that we are doing a service for the courts as well as for our clients."

developed written protocols to make sure every person gets access to the kind of help they need. They have also created templates for completing common court filings and make sure the longstanding pro se handbook for navigating the court system remains up-to-date.

Deborah Leon, a lawyer who joined the program as a legal project coordinator in February, handles the preliminary screening of emails and phone calls and accesses online court information for litigants.

"We really feel strongly about our mission and that we are doing a service for the courts as well as for our clients," Leon said.

The pandemic has brought additional challenges to self-represented litigants, many of whom don't have easy access to technology for remote proceedings. In addition, the project can't accommodate walk-in or in-person appointments right now. Appointments are by phone.

“It’s bringing to the forefront a lot of access to justice issues the judges and maybe pro bono counsel were not aware of before,” Herzberg said.

Maliekel described one client who is pursuing a case alleging he was unlawfully stripped of his Section 8 housing assistance voucher. The project obtained pro bono counsel for the client and helped him get a phone, install Zoom and find a quiet place for him to appear at a remote court proceeding.

The project saw a drop-off in cases during shelter-in-place but the number of litigants seeking help is now back to pre-pandemic levels and Maliekel expects to see an uptick in filings to meet pent-up demand.

Maliekel said one positive note for 2020 is that more lawyers have stepped forward to take on pro bono cases as a result of the racial justice movement.

The project has also established relationships with a number of top law firms in the San Francisco Bay Area that are ready to receive referrals. Participating law firms often assemble pro bono teams that provide opportunities for young and diverse attorneys to appear in court, furthering another goal of the JDC to promote diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, Maliekel said.

Although it can be difficult to see so many clients struggling with mental health or other challenges that make it difficult for them to pursue their cases, the work is ultimately rewarding, the team said.

That’s especially true when a client achieves success in court. One of their clients, Timothy James, recently

shared his journey at the 16th Annual JDC Gala in September. His speech is printed on page 32.

James first sought the project’s assistance in 2017, after he lost his job as a special education teacher and lost his apartment. Despite couch surfing with family and friends, he persisted in pursuing claims to ensure that the public school he worked for ensured the safety of students and teachers in the special education department.

His complaint was dismissed three times before a judge ruled that his lawsuit could move forward. At that point, Herzberg knew James was a perfect candidate for pro bono counsel, having shown that he had a case and the ability to see it through. She arranged for pro bono counsel from Winston & Strawn who helped him take it from there and receive a favorable outcome.

Of course, most of the clients are not as victorious. But that doesn’t sway the team. When things seem grim, Maliekel, Herzberg and Leon said they created a safe space within the team that allows them to show vulnerability and express their individual challenges.

“We try to keep cultural humility on the agenda and be aware of what we’re bringing into the client meetings,” Maliekel said.

Laura Ernste is a San Francisco-based writer and communications consultant. She has covered legal affairs for more than a decade, as a journalist and former editor of the California Bar Journal.

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Nemo in 2020. Photo by Shelley Gottlieb..

Checking in with Nemo

Kerstin Firmin

This year, with all its challenges, has also given us an opportunity to pause and look back on the many people and stories from *San Francisco Attorney* magazine that have inspired and engaged.

In 2017, Kathleen Guthrie Woods introduced us to Nemo, San Francisco Unified Family Court's facility dog. At the time, Nemo, having been professionally trained by Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) in Santa Rosa, was starting his new job as a courthouse dog, available to bring comfort and support to foster children and their families in court. This year's public health crisis, with its shelter-in-place orders, court closures, and social distancing guidelines, made Nemo's work temporarily impossible. We checked in with Court Appointed Special Advocate and Nemo's lead handler Shelley Gottlieb to find out how they are doing.

How has Nemo been doing this year?

Shelley Gottlieb: Nemo continues to live with me. He is five years old now. This year, he's sleeping a lot. He's had much more downtime since COVID-19 began and the courts shut down—and he is bored. We are part of a facility dog discussion group on Facebook and know boredom is a common issue for these dogs right now, while they're unable to work.

How has this year changed your and Nemo's work?

Shelley Gottlieb: With Nemo unable to work, it's important to keep up his training and exercise. Prior to COVID-19, Nemo's regular exercise included walking home from court. Now, Nemo goes running with my partner, so we can make sure to keep Nemo at his optimal weight of sixty-four pounds. Along with staying on top of his grooming, that's very important for his health and longevity.



Nemo in 2017. Photo by Mark Rogers.



Nemo in 2017 with his cohandlers, from left, Shelley Gottlieb and Cynthia Dragon, and Judge Nancy Davis (ret.), at Nemo's graduation in Santa Rosa.

Being out of work also means that Nemo requires more training because he is not getting his regular practice of opening doors, entering and exiting buildings, riding public transportation, and so forth. Nemo was originally trained with forty commands and, as a facility dog, Nemo is regularly tested and recertified by CCI.

This year, I've been doing a lot of in-home training to reinforce commands. For instance, we practice opening and closing drawers at home. I also walk him with his official CCI vest on. The vest tells Nemo he's working, and it helps to reinforce his on-vest behaviors.

Tell me about the work you were doing prior to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Shelley Gottlieb: Prior to COVID-19, the program was doing great! Nemo was in court two to three times a week, sometimes more. Until February, Cynthia Dragon, Nemo's co-handler, would take Nemo to court once every other week, and, as his primary handler, I would take him to court on other days.

Nemo is popular at the San Francisco Unified Family Court. People recognize him in the hallways, he makes people smile, and his presence at hearings instantly lowers the temperature in what is frequently an emotionally charged environment. Nemo's calming influence helps kids in court share their difficult stories. One child

answered the judge's questions while sitting under the table with Nemo, while at a different hearing, Nemo sat in the witness box with another child. Sometimes parents request his presence at their hearings.

Sometimes, we received special requests, for instance, to take Nemo to visit children at the Edgewood Center for Children and Families in Redwood City, which provides services to youth and families in need of mental and behavioral health support.

Once, we received a special request from a judge to visit a child at an out-of-county special care facility. It was an end-of-life visit request. The child, who was on life support and has since passed away, loved animals. After Nemo and I visited, I was able to arrange continued visits with the help of another handler and dog.

All that has changed since March. At this point, we don't know when Nemo and I can safely return to court and work.

Since its founding, CCI has graduated more than 5,000 teams, and more than 2,000 teams are active today. To learn more about CCI's life-changing work, visit cci.org.

Read the original profile of Nemo in the Winter 2017 issue of *San Francisco Attorney*, available online at <https://www.sfbar.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/meet-nemo.pdf>

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LEAVING SAN FRANCISCO: LIVING ON THE EDGE OF THE MYSTERY

Drew Amoroso

After ten years in San Francisco,
I gave up my apartment to go
on the road, indefinitely.



One morning a few months back, I was sitting on my rooftop writing about the importance of paying attention to what sits beneath our fears and limiting beliefs.

I was explaining how each of us intrinsically knows what we need to grow, but how our limiting beliefs can mute and mask opportunities for growth that are right in front of us, in an effort to keep us safe.

As I reviewed what I wrote, I realized that I wasn't following my own advice.

For months I had been getting signals that it was time to leave San Francisco and set a new experience in motion:

I hadn't been functioning at the high level of energy I'm used to. Working in a five-by-five-foot workspace was leading to lethargy. It was harder for me to access the level of enthusiasm and creativity I feel through my work.

Something about my current experience just wasn't suiting me. And I realized that instead of paying attention to these signals, I'd been clinging tightly to a safer set of circumstances. I sat with this new information and tried to see it for what it was.

Even though I could envision my future self exploring new places, there was a part of me that still wanted to hold on tightly to my present reality—my routines, the

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ON THE OTHER END.**

familiar patterns, the habits I'd established over a decade of being stationary.

I realized I'd been dismissing signals and made up some very convincing stories about why it was irresponsible to be mobile right now: You own your own business, you should have a stable home base. People will question your judgment. That's something someone in their twenties would do.

It became clear that the stories and beliefs I was clinging to were a version of me that wanted to hold onto the mindset, lifestyle, and routines that had gotten me this far. It was a version of me that wanted to remain in a well-defined band of growth where I could anticipate everything. It was a version of me that wanted to stay mediocre—because mediocre is safe.

By staying mediocre, that meant I didn't have to engage with the part of me that desired expansiveness, explosive growth, and new opportunities—because that meant confronting the unknown that comes with pursuing a different reality.

I realized that in order to transcend the current version of me, I had to start by letting go. There's only so much space we can hold at once—and the space I was holding wasn't allowing me room for anything new.

I went back to some journaling I had done a few years before, right around the time I decided to leave my corporate job and start my first business.

Remembering back, I started that business to experience freedom, mobility, adventure, creativity, opportunity, and the excitement that comes along with blazing a new and unique path. I had forgotten some of those core beliefs. It was time to get them back.

So I made the decision to give up my apartment, put my things in storage, and go on the road, for as long as I want. I wondered how I'd feel the day I moved, whether I'd have any regret about giving it all up. But as I drove away from my apartment, heading down Franklin Street for the last time, a sense of relief, excitement, and freedom raced through me. It's a feeling I think we all should have the chance to experience.

I also was overwhelmed with gratitude—for the incredible people I met, the beautiful neighborhood I lived in, and the opportunities the city offered me.

Now, I'm traveling with what I can fit in my trunk and towing my motorcycle along for the ride. I put no boundaries on how long I'll be on this path or where I'll go. I want to see how it feels to let go of what I think I should do and focus on following my intuition instead. I want to be quiet, listen, and be spontaneously pulled in a direction. I want to show myself that not everything has to be planned.

As I sit here now, I can only call to mind five things that are in my storage unit. The rest I can't even remember.

That reaffirms for me something that I've always known to be true: the things I own mean very little to me. And they immediately become insignificant the moment I take them out of my line of sight.

**NOW, I'M TRAVELING WITH WHAT
I CAN FIT IN MY TRUNK
AND TOWING MY MOTORCYCLE
ALONG FOR THE RIDE. I PUT NO
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I'LL BE ON THIS PATH OR
WHERE I'LL GO.**

I'm sure when I go back for them almost everything will be obsolete to me. I know I'll be a different person then.

I'm using this time to both dive deep into growing my business and remember what it means to play and have fun—they both bring me joy and amplify one another. I'm living something that I want to reinforce for myself and share with others: my belief that there's an incredible amount of opportunity on the other side of being uncomfortable.

If we can be courageous enough to willingly sit inside of our uncomfortableness, there's wisdom and growth and expansiveness waiting for us on the other end. I want to continue to learn how to run towards the uncomfortable, not hide from it.

There's a spiritual teacher named Ram Dass who says that we each can learn how to experience life as adventurers living on the edge of "The Mystery." For me, this means living each day straddling the line between being an active participant in the things we can influence while having the wisdom to listen for and move toward things that we can't understand but believe are calling us—and treating it all like one big adventure.

I'm living mine. And I hope through my work I can help you live yours.

Drew Amoroso is an attorney, public speaker and founder of DueCourse, a mobile application that helps professionals strengthen their workday mindset and show up at their best at work. He's the host of the Workday Mindset Podcast and "11 at 11," a live webinar series at 11 am every Monday where you can learn one thing each week to improve your workday.

AIRSTREAMING LIVE IN 2020

This year, with all its challenges, has also given us an opportunity to pause and look back on the many people and stories from *San Francisco Attorney* magazine that have inspired and engaged.

Jennifer Smythe and Gary Dubrovsky, a married couple who are also partners in Dubrovsky Law, gave us a glimpse into their Airstream home office on wheels in 2016. Parked on the side of their house, the Airstream offered a fully equipped workspace complete with Wi-Fi, electricity, water, heat, air conditioning, and even its own bathroom. When the family needed a place for quiet and solitude, the Airstream saved the day. In times of COVID-19, their setup may look like a dream to those who have been sheltering in place for many months. We checked in with the couple to see how they are “Airstreaming Live” in 2020.



How has the pandemic changed your practice and how you work?

Jennifer Smythe: As two attorneys who routinely work from home, we were already set up to do so when the pandemic hit, thankfully. The Airstream was already a fully-functioning home office for Gary, so he spent the initial months of the pandemic there from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a break for lunch and an episode of *Ozark* with me (i.e. a “partners meeting”).

As the courts scrambled to figure out how to function, Gary was able to continue working on his cases behind the scenes, speaking with clients by phone, Zoom, or Skype. Eventually, he started ‘appearing’ in court in the Airstream via Zoom or BlueJeans, wearing a suit on top and loungewear on the bottom. The photo you see here was his first Zoom court appearance. He opted for a full suit and flip-flops just to be safe. He is now back to visiting our San Francisco main office at least a few times a week, although he is still meeting with clients by phone or video mostly.

As you can imagine, family law—Gary’s field of practice—has seen a surge of activity amidst the pandemic as couples and families try to weather the 2020 storms that don’t let up. Gary has been busy helping his clients navigate new divorce decisions and complex custody issues in which parents are at extreme odds over returning to school in-person and general quarantine and exposure issues.

Gary Dubrovsky outside the Airstream mobile office.



Jennifer Smythe and Gary Dubrovsky's Airstream home office. Photo from the original 2016 article.

I worked exclusively from home pre-pandemic (inside our actual home and not the RV), so I just continued to do so during the pandemic. Although my daily office functioning wasn't greatly affected, my practice area—immigration law—was turned upside down.

Between presidential proclamations on travel and global visa bans, I had clients stuck all over the world trying to get home to the U.S. I also had employers with employees stuck abroad or working from home, which posed new challenges under existing work visa laws. The USCIS offices that do green card and citizenship interviews and embassies and consulates worldwide were also closed for five months, so those cases froze while client anxiety levels persisted. Many embassies

and consulates still remain closed, with exceptions for emergency appointments only.

Above all, 2020 has inspired me to accept far more pro bono and low bono humanitarian cases for those in need. I now represent military service members through the AILA Military Assistance Program and have taken international adoption cases, as well as special immigrant juvenile cases for unaccompanied minors.

Gary Dubrovsky: From my perspective, the Great Unknown is whether a physical office is even necessary at this point. Is anyone actually meeting with clients in-person these days? If the 1918 pandemic is any

indication, life will return to normal once again eventually. So, based on that (coupled with inertia), we continue to maintain our physical office in San Francisco as we look forward to re-negotiating our lease to terms that will more closely reflect current market conditions.

One other reflection on what I've seen "in the trenches" of family law during this pandemic: Certainly and to no particular surprise, the pandemic has resulted in a dramatic uptick of domestic violence disputes. Not only that, but the severity of domestic violence is also much worse than before. There's much more vindictiveness, physicality, and unrest in general.

But I've noticed something on the direct opposite end of the spectrum. People are actually capable of setting

aside their differences and coming together to figure out a workable game-plan to accommodate what's currently happening in the world. I have one case, a child custody/visitation matter. Since I was brought in to represent one of the parents several years ago, we were in court about once every couple months on average, wrangling over one thing or another. The parties could not agree on the time of day.

Mid-March of this year, the world stopped turning on its axis. All hearings were either taken off-calendar or rescheduled. I didn't hear from this client for several months. Then, mid-summer, I learned that my client and the other parent actually sat down to discuss what was happening to their child and worked out their own plan to handle it. All my client wanted from me was to document their agreement to keep the court up-to-date. That's currently my favorite story and keeps me optimistic.

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FOR THOSE IN NEED.**

—Jennifer Smythe

Do you still maintain a home office in the Airstream trailer? Did it help make remote work easier in 2020?

Jennifer Smythe: Yes! The Airstream is a fully-functioning home office when it is not in the shop, which it is currently after we blew two tires and tore off the undercarriage on a COVID-19 RV trip to Humboldt County.

But yes, it makes everything easier when it is here. I learned during COVID-19 that Gary spends all day

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—Gary Dubrovsky

talking on the phone to staff, clients, opposing counsel, opposing parties, and specialists. I, on the other hand, work in silence and do most things by email. This “great maddening divide” is cured nicely by having a separate workspace on the property for Gary.

What advice can you share with working parents or people in shared living situations who need private space to effectively work from home?

Jennifer Smythe: First of all, working parents, I celebrate you! We have two small children who were fortunate enough to remain in school through this experience, minus two-and-a-half months of homeschooling our six-year-old, which was nightmarish in all ways (he

did great—we were a wreck). My advice is to have, if possible, separate areas and workspaces that the children cannot touch. Mine is inside our master bedroom and the kids know to keep their paws off my desk and work station next to it (no exceptions). Similarly, the kids know to stay out of the trailer without an adult. For our son, we set up his homeschooling station in his room, which helped a lot because the door closes.

Whether you have kids, roommates, spouses, or other family living with you, any chance you have to work behind a closed door would be my advice. If everyone is home and you cannot think straight, I highly recommend work calls in your car, which I did many times during the homeschooling period. Flexibility and adaptability are key, with a big dose of silence (and evening cocktails) from time to time.

Many professionals have taken the opportunity of remote work this year to relocate or work while traveling. Have you taken the Airstream on the road recently, or are you planning to?

Jennifer Smythe: Yes! Early on in the pandemic, we took it to Humboldt for seven days to visit the Avenue of the Giants and unplug from social media and the news. The journey to get there was brutal with the blown tires

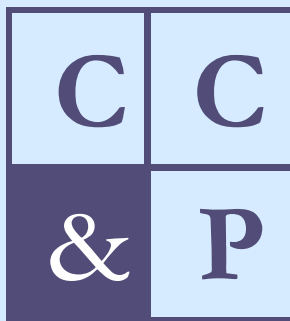


Gary Dubrovsky (left) and Jennifer Smythe (right) working inside the Airstream home office. Photos from the original 2016 article.

referenced above, but the week was spectacular. We have fantasized about leaving with the kids on the road many times, but since they can attend school safely, we stay put for now.

Jennifer Smythe and Gary Dubrovsky are partners in Dubrovsky Law. Smythe specializes in immigration law focusing on U.S. employment and family-based immigration, including temporary nonimmigrant visas, permanent residents, and U.S. citizenship/naturalization. Dubrovsky is a family law attorney who focuses on complex property and child custody litigation.

To read Smythe and Dubrovsky's account of their Airstream adventures, see the article from the Fall 2016 issue of *San Francisco Attorney*, available online at www.sfbbar.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/airstreaming-live.pdf



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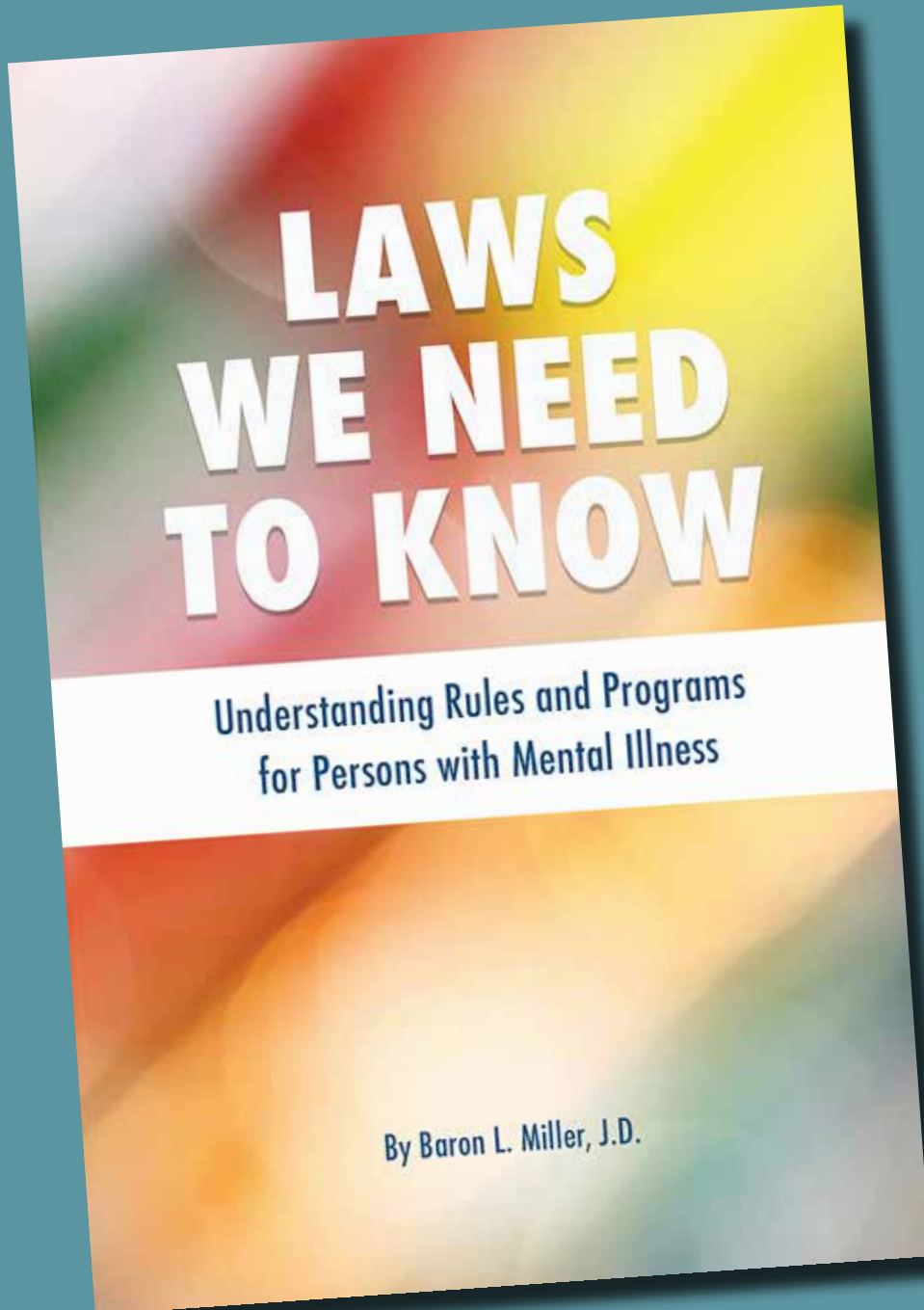
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BOOK REVIEW



Book by Baron Miller
Reviewed by Katie Danielson

MENTAL ILLNESS

Laws We Need to Know

According to the National Alliance of Mental Illness, in 2018 47.6 million U.S. adults experienced mental illness, 9.2 million U.S. adults experiencing mental illness had co-occurring substance abuse issues. As many as 8.4 million U.S. adults provided care for people experiencing mental illness at an average rate of thirty-two unpaid hours per week. Thirty-seven percent of incarcerated adults in the U.S. have a mental health diagnosis, 70.4 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system are experiencing mental illness. And 20.1 percent of Americans experiencing homelessness are experiencing mental illness.

The need for relevant resources is great, and specifically a resource geared toward legal professionals addressing the interrelated legal issues that arise is essential.

BOOK REVIEW

Laws We Need to Know. Understanding Rules and Programs for Persons with Mental Illness by Baron Miller, J.D. is a comprehensive guide to the various laws and legal issues affecting persons suffering from severe mental illness (consumers). It is written for an expansive audience ranging from individuals caring and assisting consumers (supporters), social workers, nurses, doctors, as well as lawyers. It also seeks to empower consumers able enough to advocate for themselves. Miller brings decades of experience as an attorney as well as his personal experience as the parent of an adult experiencing schizophrenia to the subject in a comprehensive as well as compassionate and realistic manner.

Consisting of thirteen chapters, the book covers such topics as hospitalization, interaction with the criminal justice system, interactions with authorities and courts, government programs and benefits, estate planning and other money matters, power of attorney, and conservatorship. Many of the topics in the book are interrelated in ways that may not be initially apparent as a supporter or legal professional tries to assist a consumer contending legal problems arising from mental illness.

For example, as many consumers are dependent on government assistance in some form, the book addresses such issues as: what if the consumer receives a windfall in the form of an inheritance or legal settlement? Are public benefits affected by incarceration or hospitalization? Is there a way to structure estate planning while protecting the long-term financial stability and care of a consumer once a supporter is no longer able to care for her? The book considers the many possibilities and offers practical strategies to address a whole host of scenarios.

The author approaches this material as an expert and a shareholder and it shows in the compassion and realistic tone of the book. Miller uses language that is accessible to laypeople, while maintaining the legal rigor needed to make it a useful reference book for the legal professional. All references to the law are footnoted with citation and provided in a legal context.

An essential volume in the library of a law firm, social services organization, or really anyone in the position to provide information or support to a consumer, the book is a comprehensive guide accessible to a wide audience. Miller quotes his father, "Lawyers don't necessarily know more law than anyone else, but we do know where to look it up." With this book, he has provided us with a tool to do just that.

Katie Danielson is the Senior Supervising Attorney at the Justice & Diversity Center's Homeless Advocacy Project.

The book, *Laws We Need to Know. Understanding Rules and Programs for Persons with Mental Illness* by Baron Miller, can be purchased in print or digital form from online booksellers like Amazon and Barnes and Noble, or local stores, or it can be purchased in print from Baron Miller's website at www.baronmillerlaw.com, where special pricing is available as needed.

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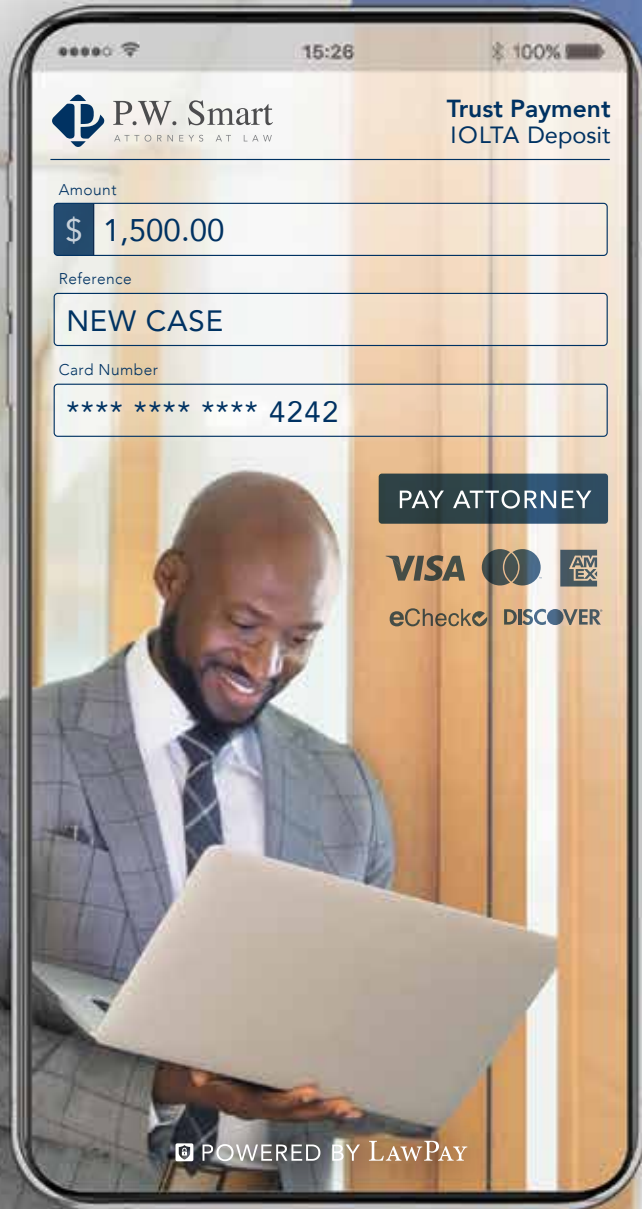


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