

## **COMMITTEE ON SENIOR LAWYERS**

### **2002-2003 ANNUAL REPORT**

#### **I. Committee Overview:**

The 2002-2003 committee year marked the third year of the Committee on Senior Lawyers (CSL). This committee is a reconfiguration of what was previously the Senior Lawyers Section and has been added to the Access & Fairness Committees of the State Bar.

The charge of this committee is:

- a. Advise the Board of Governors regarding bias against senior citizens in the legal system, delivery of legal services, profession and administration of justice.
- b. Serve as a liaison between the State Bar and senior attorneys.
- c. Encourage the entry and advancement of seniors in the legal profession.
- d. Encourage full and equal opportunity for seniors in the legal profession.
- e. Encourage senior attorneys to become active participants in the administration and governance of the State Bar and make specific recommendations to the Board of Governors for increasing that participation.
- f. Study and report on the status of seniors in the legal profession and in State Bar activities.
- g. Produce on an ongoing basis programs and materials designed to maximize opportunities for seniors in the legal profession and in the administration and governance of the State Bar's programs and activities.
- h. Analyze, report to the Board of Governors, and comment where requested by the Board of Governors or the Executive Director, on proposed court rules or legislation directly relating to access opportunities for or discrimination against senior attorneys in the legal profession.
- i. Study, report, advise and make recommendations to the Board of Governors as requested within the authority of this charge.
- j. Educate all attorneys of State Bar policy within the authority of this charge.

*Source: Board of Governors Resolution 54-132, 1/26/02)*

## II. Committee Members:

There are 15 members of the Standing Committee on Senior Lawyers.

Jay G. Foonberg, Chair	Santa Monica
Virginia S. Mueller, Chair-elect	Sacramento
Sol Peter Ajalat	Burbank
Susannah J. Convery	Alamo
Jerry Genard	Danville
Erica L. Hedlund	Palm Springs
Kathleen Robertson	Fullerton
Joyce Pierson	San Francisco
J.P. Rems	Laguna Woods
Gerry T. Richards	Antioch
David K. Robinson	Pasadena,
Benjamin B. Salvaty	Los Angeles
Mary Pat Toups	Laguna Woods
Matthew B. Weinberg	San Francisco

The following in person meetings and conference call meetings were held during the 2002-2003 Committee Year:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
October 12, 2002	Monterey
November 16, 2002	Los Angeles
February 13, 2003	Conference Call
March 15, 2003	Long Beach
May 23, 2003	Conference Call
September 6, 2003	Anaheim

## III. Key Accomplishments:

**Appointments:** The committee is on a staggered rotation of 3-year terms with five anticipated vacancies for 2004. The committee has been advised to begin its recruitment, with a focus on diversity of membership.

**Awards:** The committee contributed to the selection of the Diversity Awards winner for an individual attorney, Angela Bradstreet, and Bar Association, the Bay Area Minority Summer Clerkship Program, co-sponsored by the Alameda County Bar Association, the Bar Association of San Francisco, Contra Costa County Bar Association, and the Santa Clara County Bar Association.

### **Communications:**

With the assistance of the University of West Los Angeles Law School, Chair Jay Foonberg began the visionary task of creating a teaching lesson and connecting law students knowledgeable in the use of the internet and email with senior attorneys interested in become technologically current. This project is called Reverse Mentoring and a full lesson plan has been

developed and is available to any interested law school or organization. In exchange for a methodical and comprehensive tutorial on using email to communicate and exchange documents, as well as using the internet for legal research, the senior attorney passes on practical knowledge and experience in the business of the legal profession. To date, over 24 volunteers at the University of West Los Angeles have been identified.

Also, this committee expressed a desire the Board of Governors to obtain email addresses of all senior attorneys (50 years or older) to inquire if they were interested in being a part of a listserv, the purpose of which would be to discuss law practice issues, particularly those affecting senior lawyers.

**MCLE programs:** The committee organized and sponsored or co-sponsored four educational programs at the State Bar's Annual Meeting in Anaheim:

Tactics for Experience Attorneys Seeking Employment  
Recent Developments in Elder Law  
Strategies on Closing/Selling Your Law Practice: Begin Now, the Rest is Easy  
Home Sweet Home: Fighting Predatory Lending

The committee intends to continue its legal education efforts, at the State Bar's Annual Meeting and at other venues when possible. A very impressive roster of speakers has been compiled due to the consistent emphasis on legal education, particularly on issues impacting the elder attorneys or attorneys devoted to elder law. Continuing to develop programming about predatory lending and elder abuse will be a priority because the attorney membership is very interested in these topics and it is a subject matter that is affecting those in need of legal services.

**Pro Bono Projects:**

This committee has supported the State Bar's Emeritus Attorneys program which encourages retired attorneys to provide pro bono legal services. In 2003, there were 78 Emeritus Attorneys in California.

The President's Pro Bono Service Award for Emeritus Attorneys was rewritten to include attorneys with limited active practices and a focus on pro bono work.

**Publications:**

The insert to the California Bar Journal, "Seniors and the Law", produced by the State Bar's Office of Communications, was partially edited by former member Walt Phillips. Also, several members of this committee assisted in community outreach and education during the initial presentations of this publication.

**IV. Elections**

In March, the committee approved the elections procedure of their chair and chair-elect. The Chair for the 2003-2004 year is Virginia Mueller, the chair-elect is Susannah Convery.

## **V. Future Goals**

- Produce the Consumer Education brochure, “What Can I Do About Financial Elder Abuse?”
- Recruit attorneys for this committee which represent diversity in all its phases, including geography, practice settings, ethnicity, and gender
- Continue to produce significant educational programs at the Annual Meeting with the focus on elder law and issues facing senior lawyers.
- Collaborate with the Access and Fairness Committees and Center for Access & Fairness on diversity projects
- Continue to develop Reverse Mentoring program statewide
- Create a financial structure to support holistic remedies for victims of Predatory Lending

Submitted,

Jay Foonberg  
Chair  
Committee on Senior Lawyers