

PROPOSAL FROM REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE RETURN FROM PUBLIC  
COMMENT -- MAY 11  
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following public comments were received regarding the Redistricting Proposal. Complete copies of the comments follow at the end of this summary.

1. Public comment from Thomas Pokladowski dated April 1, 2010: Mr. Pokladowski's office is in Fountain Valley in District 8. Mr. Pokladowski notes that the redistricting proposal keeps District 5 contiguous and comments that if this district is kept contiguous, then it does not make sense to add Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to District 8 thus creating a noncontiguous district.
2. Public comment from Gary Wenkle Smith dated May 7, 2010: Mr. Smith's office is in San Bernardino in District 6. Citing the relative populations of the counties, Mr. Smith commented that if this change is allowed, Riverside and San Bernardino will probably never be able to elect a member to the Board of Governors because Orange County has so many more voters.
3. Public comment from Ventura County Bar Association dated May 6, 2010: The Board of Directors of the Ventura County Bar Association ("VCBA") voted unanimously to oppose the redistricting proposal. Kendall A. VanConas, the President of the VCBA, wrote on behalf of the Association to express their concerns. Ms. VanConas notes that the Ventura County legal community differs distinctly from Orange County in that the lawyers in Ventura County practice mostly in small or sole practice firms; the comment notes that these smaller firms deserve particular representation. Ms. Van Conas also notes that since the Orange County bar association has 10 times the membership of Ventura County, it would be difficult if not impossible for a Ventura or Santa Barbara county attorney to become a member of the Board of Governors. Ms. VanConas also notes that the lack of geographic proximity will make representation of the entire district difficult. She notes that while the current district is also not contiguous, there are more commonalities in types of practice and there is a "gentleman's agreement" in place which has allowed fair representation for all counties in District 6.
4. Public comment from Nancy Goldstein dated May 10, 2010: Ms. Goldstein's office is in Westlake Village in District 6. Ms. Goldstein notes that she is active in local bar and State Bar activities. She comments that the redistricting proposal will not address the needs of Ventura County. She notes that Orange County has a very strong presence at the State Bar and has different needs than smaller counties such as Ventura and Santa Barbara. She expresses concern that smaller counties have less administrative and program support and will lose their voice on the Board.
5. Public comment from Santa Clara County Bar Association dated May 11, 2010: The Board of Trustees of the Santa Clara County Bar Association ("SCCBA") voted unanimously to oppose the proposed redistricting plan, which would place Santa Clara County in its own district, removing Contra Costa and Alameda to a separate district and moving San Mateo into District 4

with San Francisco and Marin. Christine Burdick, the Executive Director and General Counsel of the SCCBA, wrote on behalf of the Association to express their concerns. She notes that the Board of Trustees strongly supports maintaining the status quo by making no changes to State Bar districts. She states that the Board believes there is no rational reason to put attorneys into districts that are comparable by attorney population. The Board of Trustees feels that the current composition of State Bar districts has been and will continue to be adequate, especially in light of the fact that California attorneys are not requesting the districts to be adjusted.

6. Public comment from Ventura County Bar Association's Barristers Section dated May 11, 2010: The governing board of the Ventura County Bar Association's Barristers voted unanimously to oppose the proposed redistricting plan. Christina S. Stokholm, the Vice President of the Barristers, wrote on behalf of the Barristers to express their concerns. The Barristers are an organization of young attorneys, either 36 years of age or in practice for 7 years or less. Ms. Stokholm notes that the Barristers join the opposition of the Ventura County Bar Association and agree with all of the reasons cited in that bar association's public comment. In addition, Ms. Stokholm stresses that the Barristers feel that the proposed redistricting plan would harm their group in particular. The Barristers have a close relationship with the Ventura County Bar Association and feel that, with the current configuration of District 6, they therefore have a voice at the State Bar level. The Barristers feel that they will lose that voice because the size of Orange County will prevent them from electing an attorney from Ventura County to the Board of Governors.

7. Public comment from Michael W. Case dated May 12, 2010: Mr. Case is a former Board of Governors member who represented District 6 from 1993 to 1996. His office is in Ventura. Mr. Case writes to express his opposition to the plan to move Ventura and Santa Barbara into District 8. He explains the history behind the "Gentlemen's Agreement" that was made among the five counties of District 6. He explains that under the Agreement, the counties agreed to rotate membership on the Board, and that the composition of the district was negotiated and approved based on that Agreement. He notes that the Agreement has worked smoothly for the most part and produced State Bar Presidents in recent years from District 6: Jim Herman from Santa Barbara; and Jim Heiting from Riverside. He explains that during his service on the Board, he traveled to all five counties in District 6 and was struck by the similarity between the law firms, lawyers and courts in all five counties. He learned that San Bernardino and Riverside counties had pursued the Gentlemen's Agreement because they had been combined with Orange County in the past and were not happy with that alternative because of the difference in style of practices, lack of cultural connections, and the fact that Orange County's size dwarfs the size of the counties in District 6. He also states that he believes that it is not likely that an agreement similar to the "Gentlemen's Agreement" could be reached between Ventura, Santa Barbara and Orange counties. He thinks the imbalance in the populations between the counties would make an agreement hard to reach and reiterates that the District 6 Agreement was negotiated as part of the formation of the district. He concludes by stating that while the redistricting proposal may be expedient based on numbers, and may be attractive to Orange County, it offers nothing to Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

8. Public comment from Ventura County Asian American Bar Association dated May 13, 2010: The Ventura County Asian American Bar Association (“VCAABA”) voted to join the Ventura County Bar Association’s objection to the proposed redistricting plan. John P. Fukasawa, Vice President of the VCAABA, wrote on behalf of the Association to express their concerns. He notes that Ventura County’s legal community differs distinctly from that of Orange County because Ventura County has a majority of small or solo practice firms. He states that the special interests of smaller practitioners deserve particular representation at the State Bar. He states that the counties in the existing District 6 work well together and their Association feels there is no need for change. He also notes that Ventura’s much smaller relative population as compared to Orange County causes concerns regarding equal and proportionate representation.

9. Public comment from James Prosser dated May 13, 2010: Mr. Prosser is the President of the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association (VCTLA”) and writes both in his individual capacity and on behalf of the Association to oppose the redistricting plan. Mr. Prosser’s office is in Ventura in District 6. The VCTLA is an organization of over 100 plaintiff and defense attorneys in Ventura County. Mr. Prosser states that the proposal to move Ventura and Santa Barbara counties into District 8 is ridiculous. He notes that based on his experience the rural counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara have little in common with urbanized Orange County. He also notes that given the disparity in numbers of lawyers practicing in the respective counties, Ventura and Santa Barbara attorneys will no longer have a meaningful voice in choosing their representative on the Board of Governors. He states that the perceived problem with the organization of districts is a function of the decision to define these districts by counties versus districts defined by nearly equal populations of attorneys. He urges the Board to vote against the redistricting proposal because it will effectively disenfranchise the attorneys in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

10. Public comment from Orange County Bar Association dated May 14, 2010: Lei Lei Wang Ekvall, the President of the Orange County Bar Association (“OCBA”) wrote to offer the comments of the Association. The OCBA offers comments specifically relating to the proposal to include Ventura and Santa Barbara counties in District 8. The OCBA states that they appreciate the time and effort expended by the Redistricting Subcommittee and the Board. They note that they reviewed the alternative options and agree that the Subcommittee’s proposal is the most viable option currently available. However they urge the Board of Governors at its earliest opportunity to consider additional options which would result in a more natural plan such as one that would provide for an increase in the number of Governors for certain districts, including the current District 8.

**Bermudez, Pat**

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**From:** Thomas Pokladowski [tdpokladowski@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 01, 2010 6:37 PM  
**To:** Bermudez, Pat  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Redistricting and Reapportionment of State Bar Districts

If there is value in keeping District 5 contiguous, which is an argument made in support of the proposal, then it hardly makes much sense to add Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to District 8 (Orange County).

**Bermudez, Pat**

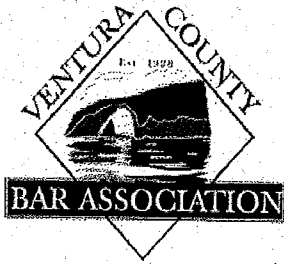
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**From:** Gary Wenkle Smith [garywenklesmith@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2010 5:33 AM  
**To:** Bermudez, Pat  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to Districts 6 and 9

If this change is allowed, it seems that Riverside and San Bernardino will probably never had a member on the Board of Governors from these counties. There are approximately 14,000 lawyer's in San Diego County, and a total of perhaps 3,000 (my figures may be off slightly) in Riverside and San Bernardino combined.

This is clearly unfair. What has prompted such a proposed change?

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May 6, 2010

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Jodi L. Prior  
Robert F. Sandbach  
Douglas K. Goldwater,  
**Barristers**

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Howard B. Miller, President  
State Bar of California  
Girardi & Keese  
1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

Re: *Redistricting and Reapportionment of State Bar Districts*

Dear President Miller,

On behalf of the Ventura County Bar Association (VCBA), I am writing to express VCBA's objection to the proposal to adjust the districts and seats of the State Bar Districts.

Specifically, we are concerned about the proposal to remove Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties from District 6, and add them to District 8. District 8 currently consists solely of Orange County; under the proposed plan, District 8 would be expanded to include Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, and would add one additional governor.

The Ventura County legal community differs distinctly from that of Orange County. Of VCBA's approximately 1,280 members, the majority are small or sole practice firms; indeed, only a handful of Ventura County law firms have more than 10 attorneys. The issues that concern a small or solo practice law firm differ greatly from those that concern large firms. We believe those issues deserve particular representation at the State Bar that cannot come from a large county representative.

Moreover, the disparate size of our associations necessarily leads us to be concerned about our representation at the State Bar. Even with an additional governor added to the proposed district, the Orange County Bar Association boasts membership that is a full ten times larger than that of VCBA. We believe that this massive disparity in size will make it extremely difficult – if not impossible – for a Ventura or Santa Barbara County attorney to become a member of the Board of Governors. A candidate from Orange County will simply have the advantage, given the voting power of this large member association.

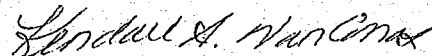
Finally, the lack of geographic proximity within the proposed district also concerns our association. Despite the published comments of our current district governor, we believe that a district that contains counties with contiguous borders lends itself to better representation. The governor (or governors) can easily travel within the district, attend events and visit with his or her constituents. We believe this will foster collegiality between the district and its governor(s) and allows the governor(s) to be more educated about the district, and the needs of its members.

It is true that we currently share a district with two Inland Empire Counties -- Riverside and San Bernadino -- neither of which is contiguous with our county's borders. However, there are commonalities of law firms, lawyers and courts between Ventura County and the Inland Counties that made the district work well for all 5 counties that currently make up District 6. In addition, our "gentlemen's agreement" with the inland counties has historically worked successfully, and the coastal counties have been fairly represented at the State Bar. I understand there to be little confidence that such an agreement could be reached with Orange County.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors of the Ventura County Bar Association voted **unanimously** to take a position against the proposed changes to the State Bar districts at our April meeting, and resolved that we take suitable action to attempt to defeat the proposal. A number of specialty bar associations, and our own bar's sections, committees and affiliates support the Board in its unanimous opposition.

We urge you to consider the opposition of the Ventura County Bar Association, and to vote against the proposal as it is presently constituted. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,



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Kendall A. VanConas, President  
Ventura County Bar Association

/kvc

cc: William N. Hebert  
Rex Heinke  
Paul A. Kramer, Jr.  
Michael D. Marcus  
Richard A. Rubin  
Patricia P. White  
James H. Aguirre

Lowell T. Carruth  
Joseph L. Chairez  
Laura N. Chick  
Angela Joy Davis  
George Davis  
Jeannine English  
William Gailey

Clarke E. Gehlbach  
Cheryl L. Hicks  
Patrick M. Kelly  
Micha Star Liberty  
Wells B. Lyman  
Gwen Moore  
Jon Streeter  
Michael Tenenbaum

## **Bermudez, Pat**

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**From:** Nancy Goldstein [gr8calilawyer@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2010 1:56 PM  
**To:** Bermudez, Pat  
**Subject:** District Realignment

Pat:

I am on the Boards of the Women Lawyers of Ventura County and the East County Bar Association. I am also on the Executive Committee of the Solo and Small Firm Section of the State Bar of California. The views in this letter are my own. I only mention some of my affiliations so that you would understand that I am familiar with many of the issues involved.

The proposal: District 8 (Orange County) adds Santa Barbara, Ventura and one governor, is a clear indicator that the needs of my county are not, and will not, be considered. Orange County has a very strong presence at the State Bar and has different needs than the smaller counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara. The suggested realignment addresses numbers - but not needs. The smaller counties do not have the administrative and program support of counties such as Orange County. Increasing representation for Orange County may give them a larger vote, but is not guaranteed to provide any voice for the concerns of the practitioners in Ventura or Santa Barbara.

I oppose the proposed realignment.

Nancy B Goldstein  
LAW OFFICE OF NANCY B GOLDSTEIN  
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Westlake Village CA 91362  
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fax: (805) 435-3711  
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## Bermudez, Pat

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**From:** Chris Burdick [chrisb@sccba.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2010 2:01 PM  
**To:** Bermudez, Pat  
**Cc:** Madeja, Carol; White, Patti  
**Subject:** State Bar Redistricting Proposal

**Importance:** High

Dear Ms. Bermudez,  
Carol Madeja provided me your name as the person to whom comments should be submitted regarding the State Bar Board of Governor's redistricting proposal.

This is to advised that the Santa Clara County Bar Association (SCCBA) Board of Trustees at their regular meeting on April 29, 2010, unanimously voted to opposed the current redistricting plan that would put Santa Clara County in its own district and place Contra Costa County and Alameda County in their own district and place San Mateo in the district with San Francisco County.

The SCCBA Board strongly supports maintaining the status quo with the district divisions; that is to say that the SCCBA supports no changes to the Board of Governor's districts. We believe that there is no rationale reason to attempt to put the attorneys in the State into districts that are comparable by attorney population. The current districting has been and seems adequate for purposes of maintaining oversight of the State Bar especially in light of the fact that there is no significant, if any, call among California attorneys to make the proposed change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Regards,

Christine Burdick  
Executive Director & General Counsel  
Santa Clara County Bar Association  
[chrisb@sccba.com](mailto:chrisb@sccba.com)  
Voice: 408.975.2121  
Fax: 408.850.1506  
[www.sccba.com](http://www.sccba.com)  
[www.probonomatch.org](http://www.probonomatch.org)



**Bermudez, Pat**

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**From:** Christina S. Stokholm [christina@pachowicz.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2010 9:30 PM  
**To:** hmiller@girardikeese.com  
**Cc:** whebert@calvoclarck.com; rheinke@akingump.com; pkramer@energy.state.ca.us; ethicsinlaw@earthlink.net; tiburonme@aol.com; pwhite@littler.com; jamesaguirre@sbcglobal.net; lowell.carruth@mccormickbarstow.com; jchairez@bakerlaw.com; IG@Inspectorgeneral.ca.gov; Angela.davis.ca@gmail.com; george@davisbroadband.com; English@jeannineenglish.com; wgailey@gaileyassociates.com; CGehlbac@placer.ca.gov; bjusticeh@aol.com; patrick.kelly@wilsonelser.com; micha@libertylaw.com; wbl@cox.net; Jstreeter@KVN.com; mt@post.harvard.edu; 'Doug Goldwater'; 'Al Vargas'; 'Aris Karakalos'; 'Eric Reed'; 'Jenna Strauss'; 'Jesse Cahill'; 'John Negley'; 'Katie Pietrolungo'; 'Matt LaVere'; 'Matt Purcell'; 'Melissa Waters'; 'Mike Strauss'; 'Rennee Dehesa'; 'Robert Krimmer'; 'Taylor Waters'; 'Thomas Adams'; 'Steve Henderson'; Bermudez, Pat; 'Dien Le'  
**Subject:** Ventura County Barristers Comments re: Redistricting  
**Attachments:** Ltr to State Bar President Miller 10 05 11 re Redistricting.pdf

Dear Mr. Miller,

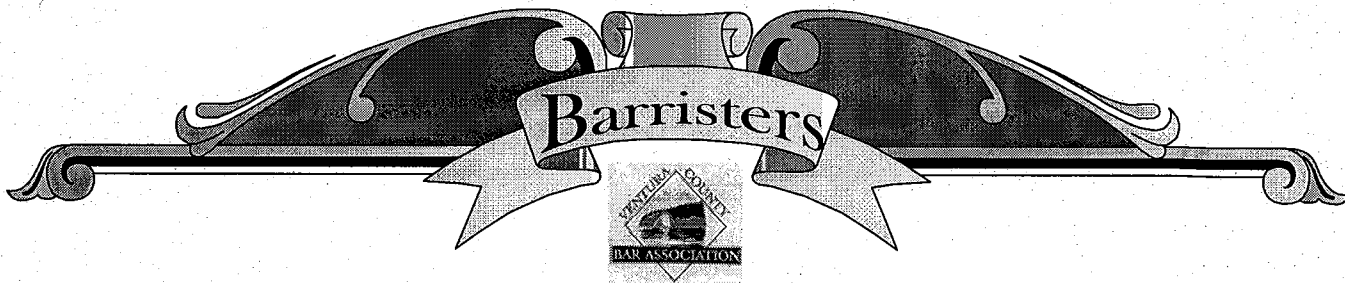
Attached is a letter to you on behalf of the Ventura County Bar Association's Barristers section, concerning the redistricting proposal currently under consideration. We ask that you, and the entire Board of Governors, please consider our comments as you decide how you will vote on this very important issue.

Thank you.

Christina S. Stokholm  
Vice President  
Ventura County Barristers

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Fax (Direct): 805-456-0885



**VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL**

May 11, 2010

Howard B. Miller, President  
State Bar of California  
Girardi & Keese  
1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Re: Redistricting and Reapportionment of State Bar Districts

Dear Mr. Miller,

I am writing on behalf of the Ventura County Bar Association's Barristers section. We are an organization of young attorneys, either under 36 years of age, or in practice for seven years or less. We meet regularly with local judges and justices, and hold regular events to further the educational, professional, and community service goals of our membership.

On or about May 6, 2010, our parent organization, the Ventura County Bar Association ("VCBA") sent you a letter concerning the proposal to redistrict and reapportion the State Bar Districts. Specifically, VCBA, by unanimous vote of its Board of Directors, opposes the proposal to remove Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties from District 6 and add them to District 8.

Today, the governing board of the Barristers unanimously voted to join VCBA in opposition to the proposal to modify Districts 6 and 8. In addition to all of the reasons outlined in the May 6, 2010 letter from VCBA, we feel that the proposed modifications would have an adverse effect on our group in particular. We have a wonderful parent organization, VCBA, which frequently solicits our input, supports our activities, and encourages us professionally. VCBA sees us as the future leaders of our legal community, and we take that obligation seriously. Because of the relationship we have with our parent organization, we have a voice that is carried up through VCBA, which, as District 6 is currently configured, is fairly represented at the State Bar.

Barristers and VCBA do not always agree on everything, and from that often



Howard B. Miller  
May 11, 2010  
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comes lively, interesting discussion, a free exchange of ideas, and progress. But, on this particular subject of redistricting, we do, wholeheartedly, agree with our parent organization that to move us to District 8 would, in all probability, effectively take away our representation at the state level, because Orange County's massive size would eliminate our ability to elect a local attorney to the Board of Governors.

Based on the foregoing, as well as the reasons delineated in VCBA's May 6, 2010 letter to you, we respectfully request your vote against the redistricting proposal as it currently stands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Christina S. Stokholm*

Christina S. Stokholm  
Vice President  
Ventura County Barristers

cc, via Email:

William N. Hebert  
Rex Heinke  
Paul A. Kramer, Jr.  
Michael D. Marcus  
Richard A. Rubin  
Patricia P. White  
James H. Aguirre  
Pat Bermudez

Lowell T. Carruth  
Joseph L. Chairez  
Laura N. Chick  
Angela Joy Davis  
George Davis  
Jeannine English  
William Gailey

Clarke E. Gehlbach  
Cheryl L. Hicks  
Patrick M. Kelly  
Micha Star Liberty  
Wells B. Lyman  
Jon Streeter  
Michael Tenenbaum

cc, via U.S. Mail:

Gwen Moore

**Bermudez, Pat**

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**From:** Carol Sautter [csautter@fcoplaw.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 3:36 PM  
**To:** Bermudez, Pat  
**Cc:** Michael Case  
**Subject:** FW: Redistricting and Reapportionment of State Bar Districts  
**Attachments:** Ltr to P Bermudez 051210.pdf

Resending with corrected email address.

*Carol*

Carol Sautter, Legal Assistant to  
Michael Case & Leslie McAdam  
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**From:** Carol Sautter  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 3:33 PM  
**To:** Pat Bermudez (patbermudez@calbar.ca-gov)  
**Cc:** Michael Case  
**Subject:** Redistricting and Reapportionment of State Bar Districts

Good afternoon,

The attached correspondence is being sent to you today via email and U.S. Mail. Thank you.

*Carol*

Carol Sautter, Legal Assistant to  
Michael Case & Leslie McAdam  
FERGUSON CASE ORR PATERSON LLP  
1050 South Kimball Road  
Ventura, California 93004  
(805) 659-6800, Ext. 211  
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ROBERT L. GALLAWAY  
DAVID W. TREDWAY  
SANDRA M. ROBERTSON  
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MICHAEL A. VELTHOEN  
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May 12, 2010

Pat Bermudez  
State Bar of California  
Office of the General Counsel  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

Re: Redistricting and Reapportionment of State Bar Districts – 45 Day Public Comment

Dear Board Committee on Operations:

I served as a member of the Board of Governors from 1993 to 1996 representing District Six (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties).<sup>1</sup> Although I was not an active negotiator of the original Gentlemen's Agreement (the "Accord") made among the five counties of District Six, I had been aware of it and discussed it with various persons who were involved in its making at a time it was still fresh. Under the Accord we agreed to rotate membership on the Board. Our district was actually negotiated and approved based on that understanding.

Because my office was in Ventura County, I was already very familiar with Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, a tri-county area in which we practice. I had less familiarity with San Bernardino and Riverside counties, although I had, on an infrequent basis, appeared in their courts. I was confronted in my election with two other active candidates; one was a recent county bar president from the San Bernardino and Riverside counties' portion of the district. Under our Accord it was the tri-county's turn for representation. I have to say that I was pleased that the other two counties, through their bars' *active* leadership, supported the Accord and I was handily elected.

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<sup>1</sup> I am also a former president of the Ventura County Bar Association and served on the Judicial Council of California.

May 12, 2010

Page 2

Since then the Accord has produced two admired state bar presidents, Jim Herman from Santa Barbara and Jim Heiting from Riverside.

Following my own election, I was very active in all five counties and made many trips to both San Bernardino and Riverside counties. I so regularly attended their annual meetings and other important events that I was made a lifetime member of the San Bernardino County Bar Association in appreciation.

I met a lot of people and learned many things in that process. Among them was the remarkable similarity between the law firms, lawyers and courts in all five counties. Our practices are reasonably the same, the law firms have similar dynamics, and we border Los Angeles County. Despite the distance, it was very easy to identify with and represent all five counties.

I learned in that process that San Bernardino and Riverside counties had pursued the new combination and Accord because they had been combined with Orange County in the past. They were not interested in that alternative for understandable reasons. First, the style of practices is very different. Second, there were few cultural connections. Third, Orange County's size dwarfed both of those county bars. The populations in our current district were far more balanced.

These same issues exist now, especially with Ventura and Santa Barbara. In fact, it is far worse. There is little reason for Orange County lawyers to know any lawyers in Ventura or Santa Barbara. We are even more distant. When that is combined with Orange County's size, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties will be mere unrepresented satellites.

Although it is argued another Accord might protect the smaller counties' interests, I have very little faith in that proposition. Our Accord was negotiated as part of our then new arrangement. The five counties made the Accord in support of their arguments that they ought to be combined. I have seen no outpouring of support for that concept behind this proposal. If it occurs, it will have to be made as a voluntary election by the larger bar after the fact.

Accords are not easy in the best of circumstances. District Six's current governor, for example, ignored our Accord and was able to parlay it into election. (The first time the Accord has been successfully breached). I see the breach, however, as an aberration. Our historical balance favors its vitality. But the imbalance in the populations in the new proposed district would make an Accord much more difficult, if even possible, to "enforce".

May 12, 2010

Page 3

While the proposal might be expedient based on numbers, and appealing to Orange County who will, in effect, pick up an additional governor which it will control, it offers nothing to Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Accordingly, I do not personally support this position and ask that you consider a different alternative.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Case". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael W. Case

MWC:cs

c: Howard B. Miller, State Bar President  
Kendall VanConas, VCBA President  
Michael Tenenbaum, Dist. 6 Governor

# VENTURA COUNTY ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

*An Affiliate of the*  
Ventura County Bar Association  
4475 Market Street, Suite B  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Tel (805) 650-7599  
Fax (805) 650-8059  
www.vcba.org

*An Affiliate of the*  
National Asian Pacific  
American Bar Association  
www.napaba.org

*An Affiliate of the*  
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May 13, 2010

Howard B. Miller, President  
State Bar of California  
Girardi & Keese  
1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Re: *Redistricting and Reapportionment of State Bar Districts*

Dear President Miller,

On behalf of the Ventura County Asian American Bar Association (VCAABA), we join the Ventura County Bar Association (VCBA) and our fellow affiliate organizations in objecting to the proposed redistricting of District 6.

The Ventura County legal community differs distinctly from that of Orange County. Of VCBA's approximately 1,280 members, the majority are small or sole practice firms; indeed, only a handful of Ventura County law firms have more than 10 attorneys. The issues that concern a small or solo practice law firm differ greatly from those that concern large firms. We believe those issues deserve particular representation at the State Bar that cannot come from a large county representative.

The disparate size difference between Ventura and Orange Counties causes concern regarding equal and proportionate representation. The counties in our existing district work well together and we feel that there is no need for change.

Sincerely,

/John P. Fukasawa/

John P. Fukasawa, Vice President  
Ventura County Asian American Bar Association

THE LAW OFFICES OF

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May 13, 2010

**VIA EMAIL – ONLY**

Howard B. Miller, President  
State Bar of California  
Girardi & Keese  
1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Re: Redistricting and Reapportionment of State Bar Districts

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am writing in my position as an attorney in Ventura County and as President of the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association (VCTLA). VCTLA is an organization of over 100 plaintiff and defense attorneys in Ventura County. We meet regularly with local judges and justices, and hold regular events to further the educational, professional, and community service goals of our membership.

In my professional experience, I have worked as the Minority Counsel to the Assembly Judiciary Committee back in the early 80's; and, in that capacity, had regular involvement with State Bar officials. I worked with Larry Doyle in the Assembly Republican Caucus. Mr. Doyle, as you may know, subsequently became the Lobbyist for the State Bar. While I have not actively involved myself in State Bar functions, I have always exercised my right to vote for a representative from our respective district.

The proposal before the State Bar to remove Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties from District 6 and add them to District 8 is, in a word, ridiculous. First, having tried cases in Orange County, Santa Barbara County and Ventura County as well as Los Angeles and other counties throughout California, there is very little in common that the rural counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara have with the urbanized Orange County. Second, given the disparity in the number of lawyers practicing in the respective counties, Ventura and Santa Barbara County Attorneys will no longer have a meaningful voice in choosing their representative to the California State Bar.

While members of the State Bar may perceive a problem with the organization of the various districts from which attorney representatives are selected, this is as much a function of the decision to define these districts by "counties" (much like the California Senate in the early 60's), versus districts defined by nearly equal populations of attorneys.

Name: Howard B. Miller, President  
State Bar of California

Re: Redistricting and Reapportionment of State Bar Districts

Date: May 13, 2010

Page: 2

It appears that the impetus for this proposed change in district alignment was the outcome of the most recent election in District 6. That, I submit, is no reason to change the composition of districts – particularly since it will effectively disenfranchise the attorneys in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

Accordingly, on behalf of VCTLA and myself, I strongly urge that you vote against the redistricting proposal.

Very truly yours,

GOLDENRING & PROSSER  
A Professional Law Corporation

  
By: JAMES E. PROSSER

JEP/lsm

cc: Via Email:

William N. Hebert  
Rex Heinke  
Paul A. Kramer, Jr.  
Michael D. Marcus  
Richard A. Rubin  
Patricia P. White  
James H. Aguirre  
Pat Bermudez  
VCTLA

Lowell T. Carruth  
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Angela Joy Davis  
George Davis  
Jeannine English  
William Gailey  
Dien Le

Clarke E. Gehlbach  
Cheryl L. Hicks  
Patrick M. Kelly  
Micha Star Liberty  
Wells B. Lyman  
Jon Streeter  
Michael Tenenbaum  
Steve Henderson

77Miller05-13-10

**From:** [Trudy Levindofske](#)  
**To:** [Bermudez, Pat](#)  
**Cc:** [Madeja, Carol](#)  
**Subject:** Orange County Bar Comments on Redistricting  
**Date:** Friday, May 14, 2010 10:59:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter Re State Bar Redistricting May 2010.pdf](#)

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Dear Ms. Bermudez:

Please see the attached letter regarding the Redistricting and Reapportionment of State Bar Districts.

*Trudy C. Levindofske, CAE  
Executive Director  
Orange County Bar Association  
Orange County Bar Association Charitable Fund  
(949)440-6700, ext. 161*



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OC WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOC.

May 14, 2010

Pat Bermudez  
The State Bar of California  
Office of General Counsel  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Redistricting and Reapportionment of State Bar Districts

Dear Ms. Bermudez:

The Orange County Bar Association has reviewed the State Bar Redistricting Subcommittee's recommendation regarding amendments to State Bar Rule 6.30. We are offering comments specifically relating to the parts of the proposal which would change the composition of District 8 by including the counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara with Orange County and which would change the elected seats in District 8 from one to two.

The OCBA appreciates the time and effort put into studying this issue by the members of the Redistricting Subcommittee and the Board of Governors. After reviewing the alternate options considered and posted on the State Bar website, the OCBA agrees that the Subcommittee's recommendation is the most viable option currently available for amending State Bar Rule 6.30. However, we would urge the Board of Governors at its earliest opportunity to consider additional options which could result in a more natural redistricting plan such as one that would provide for an increase in the number of Governors for certain districts, including the current District 8.

Sincerely,

ORANGE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Lei Lei Wang Ekvall  
2010 OCBA President

c: J. Chairez, Board of Governors  
W. Gailey, Board of Governors