



Individual Highlights

President's Message 1

Judicial Council Approves...2

News from the State Bar.....2

Members Ads.....3

Restaurant Review 4



Article Submission

We are looking for articles for our Oct. 2009 Issue (and every other issue for that matter) of Flim Flam. We welcome any member to submit an article, story, ad, or any other kind of column idea. If interested, please email your submission to our Editor, Cynthia Brown. cynthia@brownlawcpa.com

Eastern Alameda County Bar Association

for Membership Information contact Tom Borst at tgb@weilerlaw.com

President's Message

By Katharine Hooker, EACBA President



A Brief History of the Flim Flam... as I understand it.

The Flim Flam was created by the founding members of EACBA, including Bill Struthers, Mike Brown, Judge Eaton, and others, as means of getting members involved in the organization and keeping everyone up to date on all the gossip among the original 25 attorneys. The dictionary definition of "Flim Flam" is 1. Nonsense, humbug, 2. A swindle. It was originally casual, chatty newsletter that circulated with anticipation of receipt in its first days.

Overtime the Flim Flam production slowed down and eventually it stopped circulating entirely. At about the same time, in the late 1980's, EACBA membership dropped to an all time low and there was talk of disbanding EACBA all together. Then in approximately 1990, the President, Jim Phillips asked Mike Kyle out to lunch to discuss revitalizing the organization. To that end, one of his main goals was to re-launch the Flim Flam.

Mike Kyle took that torch and purchased a program called PageMaker for a large sum of money (\$395 in those days) and began his labor of love. This was the first program of its kind that put type and photographs together to create a news publication. And so began what was later coined as the "New Era" of the Flim Flam. Jim Phillips had his assistant compile a list of all the attorneys in the Tri-Valley area and began sending out free is-

ssues of the newsletter with membership applications. Within little time the membership once again soared to over 100 members. Everyone, once again, looked forward to receiving the publication and submitting articles for their colleagues to read.

What lesson was learned form the New Era of the Flim Flam? ... That the publication was, and is, vital to the life of our organization.

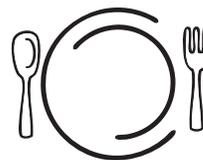
At first, the Flim Flam was a chatty newsletter intended to keep the tight knit group of attorneys up to speed on one another. Now, in the New Era, the Flim Flam is a way to bring together the large amount of attorneys who often have little contact with one another. It is a way for us to all get to know one another and familiarize our self with other members by reading each others articles every month. All of us value our local home town Bar

Association, that is understood, but I believe we must resist the temptation to be a member in this organization of many without actively participating in this essential publication or....as history has shown EACBA cannot thrive.

I will begin with myself. I have set a personal goal of submitting one article before the end of my term so that you, the members, will know a bit more about my expertise and practice. I strongly encourage us all to consider contributing to the Flim Flam in some way so that we may all grow closer and stronger as a result.

If you are interested in submitting an article please email our Flim Flam editor, Cynthia Brown, at Cynthia@BrownLawCPA.com.

Until next time...enjoy the practice of law!



UPCOMING EACBA LUNCHEON

October 16, 2009

MCLE Luncheon 12:00 Noon to 1:30
Pleasanton Hilton

Speaker: Honorable Steven Pulido,
Alameda County Superior Court

Cost: \$25 members; \$30 nonmembers; \$20 staff



Judicial Council Approves Reallocation of \$159 Million to Support Trial Courts; Council Also Approves Court Closures of One Day a Month from September 2009 to June 2010

by *Judicial Council of California*

In response to the unprecedented statewide fiscal crisis and judicial branch budget reductions, the Judicial Council of California approved the reallocation of \$159 million in special funds to offset cuts to the trial court operations budget. The special funds address on a one-time basis a portion of the court funding cuts and unfunded growth costs for court security, employee retirement, dependency counsel, and the court interpreter program. In addition, the council approved the closure of all state courts on the third Wednesday of each month, from September 2009 through June 2010. The actions were taken at a public meeting here yesterday.

The court closures are authorized by Government Code section 68106, recently approved by the Governor and Legislature as part of budget trailer bill (Senate Bill X4 13) to the 2009–2010 Budget Act.

“The mission of the Judicial Council is to improve access to justice, so it is extremely difficult for us to make any decision that results in closing our courts,” stated Chief Justice Ronald M. George, chair of the Judicial Council. “However, it is important that we have a broad perspective during these times and not take any action that in the long term may be even more devastating than the proposals we are now considering.”

The state’s top jurist also encouraged judges to take part in voluntary pay reductions, since court employees who are furloughed also will be subject to pay cuts. The Chief Justice indicated that he will take a voluntary pay cut starting at the first available opportunity.

All California courts are subject to closure: the superior courts, the Courts of Appeal, and the California Supreme Court. The Administrative Office of the Courts will be closed on the same day as the courts.

The closures of all courts one day a month, starting in September, will result in savings of about \$94.3 million on a statewide basis. The court closures are part of several Judicial Council actions to mitigate an unprecedented \$414 million in budget reductions for the entire judicial branch.

Under the court closure plan approved yesterday, trial courts must confer with their employee organizations about the impact of the court closures, which may include furloughing employees on the day courts are closed. In addition, court closure days will not be counted for purposes of computing time for statutory deadlines.

The council also directed that information about monetary savings resulting from the closures and the impact of the closures on court users, county justice partners, and court operations, be reported to the council in January 2010, along with then-available fiscal in-

formation, so the council may reconsider whether to continue or reduce the number of monthly closures for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The reports on court closures and trial court budget allocations are available at this link on the California Courts Web site: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age072909.pdf>.

The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and ensures leadership and excellence in court administration.

News from the State Bar: E-mail Addresses will be Required Starting February 1, 2010

By *The State Bar of California*

All California attorneys must provide an e-mail address to the State Bar beginning February 1, 2010, under a new rule of court approved by the Supreme Court. Inactive lawyers over 70 are exempt from the new requirement.

Under Rule 9.7, all members of the State Bar must create an online profile through the bar’s secure membership system. Currently, 150,000 lawyers already have done so and they need do nothing further.

But on February 1, attorneys who move will be able to change their address and phone number only by changing their individual record by logging on to My State Bar Profile at calbar.ca.gov. Online address change capability has been available for several years and is widely used. In 2008, 58,000 address changes were processed, 40,000 online. The remainder were processed manually.

Lawyers are statutorily required to keep their addresses updated within 30 days of a move.

The private e-mails will be recorded in the bar’s database and will be used only for official communications, such as courtesy reminders related to deadlines and updates of new regulations that affect members. Attorneys also will have the option to provide a public e-mail address, which will be available to the public on the bar’s Web site.

Notification of disciplinary or regulatory proceedings that may lead to a loss of license will continue to be sent through regular mail.

In addition to the 150,000 private e-mails the bar now has, another 30,000 lawyers have provided a public address. About 40,000 lawyers have not provided an e-mail address.

Although not required by the rule, the bar’s administrative policy will provide an exemption to inactive lawyers over 70. In addition, lawyers who do not have an e-mail address may apply for an exemption by completing a form provided by the bar.

The member services center (1-888-800-3400) will conduct an outreach campaign in the coming months in order to fully apprise the membership of the new requirement.



MEMBERS ADVERTISING

FOR RENT

Pleasanton office for rent at Signature Center.

Share space with estate attorney James J. Phillips.

Call or email him at mail@jamesjphillips.com 463-1980.

ATTORNEY SERVICES

DIGITAL TRANSCRIPTION AVAILABLE

Need a pleading typed up quickly? Need an Attachment to Judgment typed up right away? Have correspondence that just can't wait? Dictate from the comfort of your office or home -- download it from your computer to mine! Over 27 Years Experience | Quick Turn-Around Time | References Available Member of LAVLPA | CONTACT: LIZ PRISTIA at (925) 980-0950 or EMAIL: lpriestia@comcast.net

THE OTHER BAR

Free confidential assistance to lawyers, judges, paralegals and law students with substance abuse problems. Weekly Other Bar 12-Step Meetings are held in many areas, and others are being established. For times and locations, or to start a meeting in your area, contact the number or website below.

Provider of Certified MCLE Instructors

Confidential Hotline: (800) 222-0767 • www.otherbar.org

REFERRALS

PERSONAL INJURY REFERRALS REQUESTED

Over 25 years experience representing injury victims. Practice dedicated solely to Personal Injury. Each client given prompt, courteous attention. Please call Mark V. Murphy, Attorney, we have both Antioch and San Ramon Offices Call 925-552-9900.

REFERRALS SOUGHT FOR: DEBT COLLECTION, JUDGMENT ENFORCEMENT, CREDITORS' RIGHTS CASES

Pleasanton attorney. Fully experienced in all aspects of debt collection cases, creditors' rights cases, judgment enforcement, and related matters. We succeed in enforcing judgments and debts where others fail. Designated a Certified Specialist in Creditors' Rights (American Board of Certification). Designated a Super Lawyer of Northern California (Law & Politics Magazine). Also experienced in complex business litigation and complex commercial litigation. More than 27 years of civil litigation experience. Free initial telephone consultation. Call Stephen G. Opperwall at (925) 417-0300, or e-mail to steve.opperwall@comcast.net

ANNOUNCEMENT

Any EACBA member wishing to place a classified ad in the Flim Flam may do so for no charge by emailing cynthia@brownlawcpa.com. Ads will be published on a space available basis and a publication date cannot be guaranteed. Ads for law office related materials will have publication priority.



EASTERN ALAMEDA
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Eastern Alameda County Bar Association was established to advance the legal profession through education, philanthropy, public service programs and promotion of a spirit of friendship and common interest among its members.

- Home
- Members
- About Us
- Services
- Contact Us
- Events
- Links

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ALL EACBA MEMBERS TO USE OUR WEBSITE

It is user-friendly, informative and visually enticing. Make it your first network bookmark for easy access.

Visit us at <http://www.eacba.org>!

Autumn Movement

by Carl Sandburg

I CRIED over beautiful things knowing
no beautiful thing lasts.

The field of cornflower yellow is a scarf at
the neck of the copper sunburned woman,
the mother of the year, the taker of seeds.

The northwest wind comes and the yellow
is torn full of holes, new beautiful things
come in the first spit of snow on the north-
west wind, and the old things go, not one lasts.



The Flim Flam is produced by:

Law Offices of
Cynthia L. M. Brown



6200 Stoneridge Mall Rd, #300
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Phone: (925) 461-1944
cynthia@brownlawcpa.com

Executive Director

Pat Parson

Board of Directors

Katharine F. Hooker
President

Patricia Turnage
Vice President/Program Chair

Doris Hale Slater
Treasurer

Josh Reed
Secretary

Steven R. Sherman
Past President

Thomas G. Borst
Membership

Cynthia L. M. Brown
Flim Flam Editor

Karen Heller Berdy

Patrick A. Gunn

Tod Gurney

Richard Korb

Michael E. Kyle
Bench/Bar Liaison

Leslie Regina

RESTAURANT REVIEW

BY J. HENRY

AMAKARA

7222 Regional Street, Dublin • (925) 803-8485

www.amakaraco.com

Executive Summary:



Upscale Sushi Restaurant in Historic Dublin

Located where Pasta Primavera used to be in the historic Almond Center, Amakara is a new restaurant that brings upscale Japanese cuisine to the Tri-Valley. Amakara opened last year and has already received rave reviews for the sushi mastercraft of its Chef Hideki (Eddie) Imano. It is conveniently located near the intersection of 580 and 680, off Dublin Boulevard.

Amakara is sleek, modern and large inside, with a polished stone floor and big leather dining chairs. The sushi bar is located in the middle of the dining room from which you can watch your food being prepared. Amakara is selective in its ingredients, picking only the freshest fish and high-quality rice and ginger. Brown rice is available upon request.

We tried the waiter-recommended grilled edamame, which differs from the usual steamed edamame with a wonderful rich, olive oil, garlic salt and grill flavor. In addition to the usual rolls like California and Spicy Tuna, Amakara has a wide variety of specialty fusion rolls. We tried the Korean-fusion Albacore Kochujang, a spicy roll flavored with a tasty fermented Korean condiment. We also tried the Cold Soba Noodles with Tempura, which was seasoned with green onion, wasabi, tempura bits, and sesame seeds in a dashi broth. The tempura was light but a little greasy.

Next we tried the Chili Spider Salmon roll, with fresh salmon, red onion, cilantro, tomato, chili oil, ponzu and tempura bits on a soft-shell crab roll. We also tried the buttery Albacore Escolar Medley: seared albacore & escolar, avocado, cucumber, chili aioli, arugula, tempura bits, tobiko, red onion and tomato.

For dessert we tried the Tempura Apple Ice Cream, a delicious and rich concoction of flash-fried ice cream and apple. Amakara has a wide selection of sake, beer and cocktails, including its signature Amakara Cocktail: Absolut Peach, Peach Schnapps, Lychee Sake and fresh lemon juice shaken and served up.

Amakara also offers a chef selection called "omikasa," where the chef chooses an original and innovative selection of items based upon his own preference and what is fresh. We found the staff to be friendly and helpful with recommendations but online reviews are mixed of the staff's speed in service.

Amakara serves lunch Monday through Friday and dinner every night of the week. Happy Hour is also available Wednesday through Friday. Amakara is a good place for a business lunch or a family or special occasion dinner.

- Jennifer E. Henry, Esquire

Lozano Smith • 2000 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 200 • San Ramon, CA 94583 • (925) 302-2010

Eastern Alameda County Bar Association

c/o – Law Offices of Cynthia L. M. Brown

6200 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 300

Pleasanton, California 94588