

DISTRICT ATTORNEY STEVE COOLEY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MARCH 26, 2008



Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley will be speaking at our general membership meeting on March 26, 2008. Mr. Cooley will address the accomplishments and the challenges facing the Los Angeles District Attorney Office. This is a good opportunity to get first hand information from LA's "Top Cop". If you plan on attending, please RSVP early so that we can assure appropriate accommodations for the meeting.

Date: **Wednesday, March 26, 2008**

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Place: Rio Hondo Country Club
10627 Old River School Road
Downey, CA 90241

Cost: Members with RSVP - \$35
Non Members - \$45



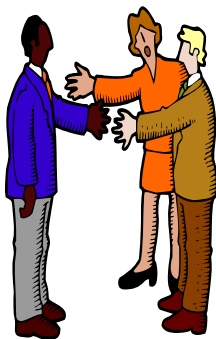
ATTENTION ALL JUDICIAL OFFICERS:

Please be advised that there are new liaisons assigned to your court. Feel free to make any comments or to voice any questions or concerns to them. They are here to assist you. Please contact the Southeast Bar office at (562) 868-0873 for your particular liaison.



REMINDER

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Rio Hondo Country Club, Downey, California

DISTRICT ATTORNEY STEVE COOLEY

March 26, 2008, Rio Hondo Country Club - 6:00 p.m.

Los Angeles District Attorney **Steve Cooley** will be speaking at our general membership meeting on March 26, 2008.



Cooley has reshaped and revitalized the District Attorney's Office with the most sweeping reorganization that has occurred in the last 40 years. Central to this reorganization was the creation of new units to prosecute crimes com-

mitted by members of the justice system and public corruption.

Cooley also changed the office's policy on California's three-strikes law to assure proportionality in sentencing and even-handed application countywide. Among the major criminal convictions during Cooley's term have been those of former Symbionese Liberation Army "soldier"; Kathleen Soliah (Sara Jane Olson) and the so-called "Angel of Death," Efrem Saldivar. The Soliah case led to the convictions of Soliah and other SLA members for a murder committed during a Sacramento bank robbery. Additionally, the case surrounding the death of Mickey Thompson and his wife Trudy when they were brutally gunned down on March 16, 1988 was put to rest when Michael Goodwin, Thompson's former business partner was tried and sentence to life without the possibility of parole in early 2007 through Steve Cooley's efforts.

President's Comments:



As I complete my second month as president of the Southeast District Bar Association, I want to express my gratitude for the overwhelming help and support which I have encountered in these first couple months. We had an excellent program last month featuring Commissioner Robert Axel, Judge Daniel Murphy, Judge Raul Sahagun and Judge Thomas McKnew. It was challenging to articulate a proper introduction for each of these outstanding members of the bench, and I want to reiterate that the Honorable Thomas I McKnew's proper designation is that of retired Air Force Colonel, not corporal. In spite of the mix up, Judge McKnew, undaunted, delivered a resounding address on settlement, captivating all in attendance. I want to thank Commissioner Axel, Judge Murphy, Judge Sahagun and Judge McKnew for coming forward as panelists and putting together an informative and entertaining program for our February meeting.

This month's meeting will feature Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley. The program is captioned "The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office - Accomplishments and Challenges." I am hoping for a good turnout for this meeting. Mr. Cooley is known to give an outstanding presentation. For those of you who have seen Steve Cooley speak before, you know what I mean. For those who haven't seen him, don't miss this one. You can RSVP by either calling the Southeast District Bar office at (562) 868-6787 or by replying to the email or sending an email to jackbunnett@sedba.org.

As a Board we are striving to deliver quality programs for our monthly meetings. In April we will feature Roger Rosen, attorney to Phil Spector. Mr. Rosen also represented two of the defendants in the famed Twilight Zone tragedy case involving John Landis. You can check on upcoming events on the events section of our web page at <http://sedba.org/events.htm>. If you access the web site you will notice that a good portion of it is presently under construction. Check back from time to time to see how it develops. If you have any ideas you would like to share with me to implement into the Southeast Bar Website, contact me at (562) 927-1400 or email me at jackbunnett@sedba.org.

Hope to see you all at this month's meeting, March 26, 2008 at the Rio Hondo Country Club.

Your President,

John A. Bunnett

February 27, 2008: Meeting on the State of the Court

At the February 27, 2008, meeting, the Southeast Bar Association was honored to have four members of the Norwalk Superior Court judiciary as speakers, the Honorable Robert Axel, the Honorable Thomas McKnew, the Honorable Daniel Murphy, and the Honorable Raul Sahagun.

First, Commissioner Axel and Judge Sahagun provided information as to the state of the Southeast District shared from Supervising Judge Brian Gasdia, who was unable to attend. The Southeast Bar members learned that the 2008 – 2009 budget reductions were going to have a significant impact on the Courts including possible court closures, increases in court fees, and non-funding of previously approved judgeships. Judge Sahagun noted that the problem was especially acute with regards to criminal cases as the decrease in funds has meant the loss of bailiffs in some courtrooms and the possible closure of lock-ups in Courts such as Whittier. Any such closures would mean more criminal cases in Norwalk and the loss of bailiffs would mean less courtrooms available to hear criminal cases. At this time, the loss of bailiffs has already led to certain departments as being designated solely for civil matters in Norwalk.

Commissioner Axel, Judge McKnew, Judge Murphy, and Judge Sahagun also provided helpful reminders and tips when litigating in their Courtrooms:

Commissioner Axel (Dept Z – Family Law):

- Civility between attorneys is required (noted: Southeast attorneys better than most!);
- Advise the Court or opposing counsel when late for hearings and be sure to organize your objectives before oral argument ;
- After hearings, file orders timely – usually should be done within 10 days.

Judge McKnew (Dept Y – Mandatory Settlement Conferences)

- Beware. Once you start settlement negotiations under CRC Rule 3.1380, you can be sanctioned under CRC 230 for failing to abide by the Rule of Court and negotiating in good faith;
- Focus settlement briefs on the facts – the already Judges know the basic law;
- Be sure those at the MSC have authority to act.

Judge Murphy (Dept Y – Family Law):

- Keep in mind the many pro pers in family law these days and consider referrals for these litigates to the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS);
- Judge Murphy reads everything that is filed but beware of filing late papers as he will likely have a tentative in mind already if papers submitted late;
- Judge Murphy strongly discourages ex parte applications however does encourage MSCs.

Judge Sahagun (Dept C – Law and Motion)

- Civility is required both in papers and in the Courtroom. Do not attack or ridicule opposing counsel or interrupt them during argument;
- Focus on written argument. Give brief standard of law then get to the point in your facts and argument. Do not exceed page limits!
- Do not file documents late – if you don't file an opposition, you may not be heard.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

OUR GOAL IN 2008 IS TO RECAPTURE THE MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION OF YESTERYEARS. HELP US IN ACHIEVING OUR GOAL. OUR EFFORTS FOR THE FUTURE INCLUDE THE MAILING OF THE SEBAM IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER, VIA UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AND BY SENDING THE SAME VIA E-MAIL. IF YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR ONE OR THE OTHER, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

IN ADDITION, WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO REMIND YOU OF THE MEETINGS. YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT LAST MONTH YOU MIGHT HAVE RECEIVED A REMINDER PHONE CALL. WHILE THAT MAY BE OUR GOAL EACH AND EVERY MONTH, PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE IS UNDERTAKING THAT EFFORT ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. IF YOU WISH TO BE REMINDED BY E-MAIL, PLEASE LET US KNOW AS THIS WILL AID IN THE EFFORT TO MAXIMIZING OUR RESOURCES.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS OR IF YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE YOUR CHOICE REGARDING RECEIPT OF THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUE SUPPORT AND WE HOPE TO COMBINE THE EFFORTS OF THE MANY TO BENEFIT THE WHOLE.

SEE YOU NEXT MEETING, MARCH 26, 2008 AT 6:00 P.M., OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS LOS ANGELES DISTRICT ATTORNEY, STEVE COOLEY.

Southeast District Bar Association and Lawyer Referral Service

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The SEBAMB welcomes and encourages articles and letters from readers. Please send them to 12749 Norwalk Blvd., Suite 107, Norwalk, CA 90650.

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