

... the President's Desk (from page i)

our courts are a model for the entire world.

Then, in early June, our Inland Empire community welcomed a new federal judge to the Federal District Court in Riverside. Judge Stephen G. Larson was inducted as the newest judge in the Central District of California. In his remarks, Judge Larson noted that in his travels around the world, he has grown to truly appreciate the judicial model in this Country and how the rule of law has served to make our system of self-governance strong. And, he also showed why he will continue to be a good judge for the people- he recalled the words of Inland activist Bob Holstein, that judgeships are not given as something earned or deserved. Rather, citing Bob Holstein, Judge Larson noted that a judgeship is "a gift from the people - a charge, a responsibility ... a sworn obligation to protect and defend our Constitution." Also, in June, the SBCBA had the great pleasure of recognizing one of the fine jurists of our County when Judge A. Rex Victor was awarded the Kaufman-Campbell Award. This award is: "Presented to the Judges who have Demonstrated the Highest Standards of Judicial Excellence in the Pursuit of Justice While Exemplifying Courtesy, Integrity, Wisdom and Impartiality." In his remarks, Judge Victor stressed the importance of an independent judiciary as an equal branch of our government.

Finally, in mid-June, we received news about the status of new judgeships. On June 14, 2006, the Bench-Bar Coalition, the group working with State Legislators to pass legislation for new judgeships and new court facilities announced that the Legislature's Budget Conference Committee issued its report for the State FY 2006-2007 budget, including the judicial branch budget. This report calls for 25 new judgeships, among other things. While this falls well short of the needs of the State, it provides some good news. The Bench-Bar Coalition remains resolved to continue to work for the approval of the final budget and to advocate for the 150 new judicial positions. The budget must still pass the full Legislature by a 2/3 vote and be signed by the Governor. Clearly, the Bench-Bar Coalition efforts have played a significant role in providing the essential legislative and public education necessary to elevate these issues. In their announcement the Bench-Bar Coalition expressed thanks for the many letters, phone calls, visits, and conversations with legislators and staff. So, if you have written to your State representatives about this issue, please keep writing (or start writing) to ensure that this item is approved in the budget and that the State's and our Inland Counties' needs for more judges is not forgotten.



Judicial Vignettes: San Bernardino County's Newest Superior Court Judges

by Ed Butler

When new judges are appointed, our field reporter, Ed Butler, Esq. interviews them and submits for your information, a "Judicial Vignette." These vignettes are added to our online collection of BenchMarks, a monthly feature in the Bar Bulletin.

Judge William Jefferson Powell IV envisioned a film career as a communications major at California State University, Northridge. Captivation with criminal law, the stories of people's lives, changed all that. He earned his law degree at Western State University College of Law, and spent the past 10 ½ years prosecuting a wide variety of crimes as a deputy district attorney of San Bernardino County.

A product of San Bernardino, Judge Powell was sworn in May 25 as one of the county Superior Court's newest judges. Gov. Schwarzenegger appointed him April 20 to fill the office vacated by the retirement of longtime county Judge Frederick Mandabach.

Judge Powell got his feet wet as judge on criminal pre-preliminary calendar at San Bernardino District. A resident

of Yucaipa, he was scheduled to take up duties June 26 as civil and criminal trial judge at Barstow. Judge James Dorr would be transferring from there to San Bernardino.

Judge Powell says a number of friends and colleagues, attorneys and judges, had suggested for several years that he consider the role of judge. "It seemed to be a good fit," he reports, a good way to continue serving the community.

Growing up in San Bernardino, the young judge was always fond of sports. He competed on his high school football and basketball teams and also enjoyed volleyball, hunting and fishing.

His father, formerly a new technology employee of Southern California Edison, now works as a minister in Fontana. His mother is business administrator at Cheeley Chiropractic in San Bernardino.

The new judge spent his entire advocate career in the district attorney's office, including the past seven years in general trials. The felonies that he prosecuted included homicides including capital murder, domestic violence, gang crimes, and financial crimes.

The judge also has taught constitutional law at California Baptist University.

He and wife Heather, administrator at Redlands Chiropractic, have three children: Grace, 4; Will, 3; and Faith, 1.

Judge Powell says his favorite hobby is lake and stream fishing and second favorite, woodworking and construction projects.

Ed Butler is Rancho Cucamonga branch manager of the Law Library for San Bernardino County.

Forensic Accounting - Expert Testimony

FRIEDMAN & BROUNSTEIN, LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Business Valuation – Income Analysis
Family and Business Litigation Support

Located Across from the San Bernardino Courthouse
AT THE LITIGATION SUPPORT CENTER

444 North Arrowhead Ave – Suite 105, San Bernardino, CA 92401

Conference Room, Email, and Fax Facilities Available
Tel: (909) 889-8819 Fax: (909) 889-8788