

• BULLETIN •

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*From the
President's Desk*

By
Jennifer M. Guenther

As we launch into spring and all of its accoutrements, it is becoming clear that shaking off the winter's serious nature is not so easy. Outside, the leaves are popping out on the trees like popcorn, flower buds are showing hints of their bright colors through pale green leaves, and the rabbits have come out in full force at night to nibble away the hints of each new baby plant sprouting from the ground in my garden. Inside, I sit in my chair, reading, typing, researching, taking phone calls, and writing documents, scarcely getting up to get a glass of water before running out the door to court or a late night meeting-straining to get things done in a timely manner and avoid any form of malpractice. When I get home, my children cling and whine, competing to get my attention as I try to spend a few minutes with my husband before the evening routine sets in.

In this time of renewal, I am finding a need to renew myself. And more importantly, in the month commemorating the prank, I am finding I have lost my laugh.

As is often the case when we get busy and the stress sets in, we forgot to stop and take note of those little items of joy. Instead, we focus on the tasks before us, the resources we need to address them, and the limited amount of time there is to get everything done. In short, we focus on what we don't have rather than what we do.

April Fools Day is believed to have started in 1582 in France, when the Gregorian calendar was introduced. New Years week was moved from March 25th through April 1st, to a single day on January 1st. Much like the changing date of daylight savings in present time, there were those people who did not get the word of the change and continued celebrating in the spring - I mean, who wouldn't want a week of New Years! As is human nature, those who knew of the change in dates ridiculed those who didn't, playing jokes in various forms.

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Tara Reilly Tapped for Kaufman Campbell Award

By J' Amy Pacheco

Described as "steadfast," "devoted" and "especially worthy," Judge Tara Reilly has been designated this year's recipient of the San Bernardino County Bar Association's Kaufman-Campbell Award for judicial excellence.

Named for former state Supreme Court Justice Marcus Kaufman and former Fourth District Court of Appeal Justice Joseph B. Campbell, both of whom served on the bench in San Bernardino, the periodic award honors jurists designated as having served on the bench with distinction and having made substantial contributions to the community as well as the practice of law.

Reilly said she was "stunned" to learn she would receive the award.

"I was really surprised," she said. "Very pleased, but very surprised. It's really a huge honor. It kind of makes you stop... I was very surprised."

San Bernardino Presiding Judge Ronald Christianson described Reilly as "a valued member of the San Bernardino County bench" for over 15 years.

"Her assignments have ranged from criminal, civil, juvenile dependency, and treatment courts to her current assignment in family law," he observed. "Judge Reilly has taken on each of these assignments with a passion, and in doing so exhibited the high standards of judicial excellence associated with this award." Christianson pointed out that Reilly has also served as a longtime volunteer for "New Judges Orientation" on a statewide level.

"Congratulations to Judge Reilly on her selection as this year's Kaufman-Campbell Award recipient," he said.

Judge Brian McCarville, a past recipient, said he was pleased to learn Reilly would receive the award. He recalled her being mentored by Judge Patrick Morris (Ret.) to develop the county's second Drug Court.

"It was not an easy thing to do," he pointed out. "It was a different kind of role, because treatment courts weren't the norm. She really put her heart and soul into it." Drug Court graduations, he added, were always in the evenings, and while Reilly was a single parent, she made time to attend.

"She was very devoted to that cause," he said.

Judge J. Michael Welch, a former presiding judge who received the award in 2010, pointed out that it is a "tremendous honor to be recognized by the county bar."

"It speaks very favorably for Tara to be recognized," he said. "...I'm very happy for Tara for being selected. It's a true testament to what people feel about her abilities."

Judge Wilfred Schneider described Reilly as "certainly well deserving of this honor."

"She is a dedicated and passionate judge who cares very much for the community and those who come to her courtroom," he said. "She is compassionate and caring but will always make those very difficult decisions that need to be made in the family law calendar she calls."

Judge Tom Garza said he has been friends with Reilly for more than 20 years.

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Tara Reilly...

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"I'm very proud; very pleased," he said of her recognition. "She is most deserving of the recognition, and this is great news."

Reilly was born in Germany to a military family, and moved frequently as a child. She finished high school in California, then earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a double major in sociology and psychology.

After working in the hotel business, Reilly decided to follow her brother into law school. She earned her law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law in 1989.

She spent seven years practicing law with the firm then known as Gresham, Varner, Savage, Nolan & Tilden, before she was appointed to the Municipal Court bench. She was elevated to the Superior Court by unification two years later.

Roberta Shouse, director of the Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino, recalled Reilly volunteering there as a new lawyer.

"The clients liked her very much," she said. "She was very polite, courteous, professional – a pleasure to have around."

Garza said Reilly is "a very good and kind-hearted person."

"She's extremely intelligent, and has a quick wit," he said. "She loves to talk." He added that the jurist is "extremely well-respected among her peers on bench."

Judge John Pacheco called Reilly "an extremely intelligent and dedicated jurist who possesses a special skill of making sure that all who appear before her have their day in court."

"The family law judges in our county are all so overwhelmed with huge caseloads, but Tara is, nonetheless, always prepared," he said. "She pays special attention to every detail and can quickly get to the heart of the issues. When you have Judge Reilly assigned as your bench officer, you can be assured that you will receive a decision that is fair, impartial and just. Additionally, Judge Reilly is a great colleague whom you can go to for advice as her door is always open. She is a great role model and we are all so fortunate to have her."

Judge Cynthia Ludvigsen said "it is wonderful they are recognizing a judge who cares so much about those who appear in front of her; about doing what the law requires, and about doing justice."

"Her dedication to her work – in Drug Court especially, but also in her other assignments – makes her a wonderful choice for the Kaufman-Campbell Award," she opined.

Judge Donna Garza described Reilly as "especially worthy."

"She does every assignment with gusto, and a desire to do the best job she possibly can," she said. "She never shied away, and has covered criminal, civil, dependency and family law. She's such a team player for the courts."

Garza, who has known Reilly for about 16 years, said she thinks very highly of Reilly and her abilities on the bench.

"I am very, very pleased she is receiving this award," she stated. "She is truly deserving of it."

Attorney Khymerli Apaloo described Reilly as having "a wonderful judicial temperament."

"She is interested, impartial, caring and concerned," she observed. Describing family law as being like "sausage-making" – an ugly process for which the general public does not have the stomach – Apaloo said Reilly does "an excellent

job" of putting things in a way that leaves litigants feeling "like they've been heard."

"They understand what she's talking about, and what they're expected to do," she explained. "She's very no-nonsense. Clients feel she is able to see beyond the facades they're trying to put up. It helps the process tremendously."

Reilly, she said, is "one of the people who truly exemplifies" the image of "a wonderful bench officer," and is "highly deserving of this award."

Attorney Janet Brandon said Reilly is "passionate about her work," and "compassionate to each litigant before her."

"She is prepared each and every day for what she is about to face knowing that she is dealing with some of the most emotional litigants in the system," she said. "She is fair handed and courteous to all."

Attorney Penny Alexander Kelley called the selection of Reilly, "marvelous."

"She's got a natural talent to lay out to people the course they need to follow," she said. "She's got a good compass. ... She is a really good choice. She's done just remarkable things. She is an absolutely wonderful pick."

Attorney Michael Scaffiddi called Reilly a "great choice."

"She has made a great impact on the citizens of our county in every assignment she held, whether civil or criminal," he said. "She treats everyone -- attorneys, defendants, witnesses and staff -- with respect and dignity. But for me, watching her handle drug court with such strength and compassion for everyone who appeared before her was amazing as she dealt with individuals in the abyss of their disease, whether due to substance abuse or mental health issues. She has helped hundreds of people through her outstanding work."

Former Assistant District Attorney Jim Hackleman said he found Reilly to be "one of the most personable judges on the bench."

"She is amongst those judicial officers who remain engaged with their community through family and civic events," he said. "I know she is greatly admired in her hometown of Redlands. I am sure that type of active contact helps a judge in making the difficult decisions they must face every day."

San Bernardino County Bar Association President Jennifer Guenther said Reilly "approaches her work with humor and compassion, and ensures that those who stand before her in the courtroom are treated fairly and with an even legal hand."

"We are so proud to honor her with the Kaufman Campbell Award and feel Judge Reilly truly does offer an example of judicial excellence."

The San Bernardino County Bar Association will host a dinner honoring Reilly May 17 at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel in San Bernardino.

Past recipients of the Kaufman-Campbell Award include Fourth District Court of Appeal Presiding Justice Manuel Ramirez in 2011; Judges James McGuire and J. Michael Welch in 2010; Margaret Powers in 2009; Michael Dest in 2008; Brian McCarville, 2007; A. Rex Victor, 2006; Christopher Warner, 2005; Bob Krug, 2004; Patrick Morris, 2003; Michael Smith, Jules Fleuret and Dennis Cole, 2002; LeRoy Simmons, Betty Richli and Joseph Johnston, 2001 and Rufus Yent, Frederick Mandabach and John Ingro in 2000.

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