

## COMMENTARY

# Put that patriotism to work by volunteering

Throughout my life, the Fourth of July has always been a time to wear patriotic colors, hang the flag and spend time at barbecues or pool parties with friends. For so many of us, it was an excuse to take the day off and celebrate our country's freedom. This year, after witnessing the worst disaster that many of us have ever seen, the Fourth of July means something different.

This year, I will take time from the usual Fourth of July celebrations to remember all of those innocent people who died on Sept. 11 and our troops who lost their lives in the ensuing months fighting for our country. I also will take time to appreciate what our founding fathers did for us so many years ago and be thankful for all the freedoms that I have taken for granted. And I will take time throughout the coming year to help those in our community who may have the same freedoms as me, but don't have the same privileges.

There are so many ways you can parlay your patriotic feelings this year in addition to hanging a flag and wearing red, white and blue. Most of us cannot fight the enemy abroad, but we can help fight racial prejudices here at home and help those who cannot afford legal services find justice.

One opportunity is the Tolerance Through Education Project of the Maricopa County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. We will be visiting third-grade classrooms in the fall to teach kids about the importance of accepting other kids' differences. Now, more than ever, our children need to learn that other kids may look different or practice a different religion, but that does not give them an excuse to ridicule or ostracize those children. We will visit with the third-graders, show them a



video about accepting others' differences, and then have a brief question and answer period. If you are interested in volunteering to work with kids, please call Shane Clays, 602-257-4200, ext. 111. Heading the Tolerance Through Education Project are James Shinn of Fennemore Craig and Mayan Tahan of the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

Another opportunity for you to take your patriotic feelings "inland" is to volunteer to take on a case for the Volunteer Lawyers Program. VLP is always looking for lawyers to represent its clients, in areas ranging from bankruptcy and debt collection to tenants' and other home-ownership rights. Each month, the VLP publicly thanks its volunteers who recently accepted cases in *Maricopa Lawyer*. I hope we'll see even more of your names in the upcoming months. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 602-258-3434.

The YLD recognizes its volunteer of the month for July, Phoebe Moffatt of Snell & Wilmer, for chairing the Gift of Life Project. Thanks, Phoebe, for all your hard work! ■

## No lazy hot summer at the MCBA

By Brenda Thomson  
MCBA Executive Director

What's EDC? Look on page 8 for an article about it.

During the 110-degree days of summer, we will be very busy at the Maricopa County Bar Association planning exciting events and programs for the rest of the year. If you haven't been involved before, now is a wonderful time to dive in.

We are working on the website, new publications, CLE programs and new member benefits as well as other programs, such as the Paralegal Conference, set for Sept. 27 at the Pointe Hilton at Squaw Peak. The event will feature local and national speakers on cutting-edge issues facing paralegal professionals. The early registration deadline is Sept. 10. The cost is \$135 for members, \$195 for non-members and \$50 for students. Call Sharon Frye at 257-4200, ext. 136, to register.

In addition, our Lawyer Referral Service is recruiting criminal lawyers to work with LRS and the Maricopa County Superior Court on a pilot project to provide representation for defendants being processed through the Early Disposition Court. Most defendants are charged with misdemeanors and are notified to appear within 30 days by summons. Many of these defendants need legal representation because they face possible jail time. LRS is seeking criminal attorneys who are interested in receiving these referrals of paying clients. The court will conduct several training sessions to familiarize attorneys with the process. Call Margarita Flores at 602-257-4200, ext. 121, if you would like to receive referrals.

Welcome aboard to our new State Bar of Arizona president, Ernest Calderon. The MCBA and State Bar always work closely together, and we will continue to offer our assistance to Ernie during his term in office. We face similar challenges to the profession, political, professional and technological. Ernie is more than up to the challenge.

Kudos to:

► The Public Lawyers Division for their hard work on June 1 at the St. Mary's Food Bank. Good job! For more details, see the article on page 3.

► John Everroad and Fennemore Craig for taking on the huge project of updating the ever-popular *Litigation Guide*. This is a must-have publication that lists leading case law in all different areas of practice. We hope to have the latest edition available for purchase in August.

► Margaret La Bianca and all the volunteers who helped update "The Most Commonly Asked Questions in Environmental Law" guide. This comprehensive guide is now available for purchase. Please call the CLE department at 257-4200, ext. 112, to order.

And, finally, the new pictorial directory is in.

During the summer heat, stop by and cool your heels at the MCBA. Have a soda on me! ■

## An introduction to the Paralegal Division

As of Jan. 1, the Maricopa County Bar Association's Paralegal Committee became a division. We are currently the only paralegal division of a county bar association in the country. The Paralegal Division is committed to working with the MCBA on issues related to the promotion of the paralegal profession.

Along with traditional paralegals, we are comprised of educators, computer specialists, managers and supervisors, court personnel, compliance officers, engineers, artists, entertainers and students. Some of us have advanced degrees. Many of our members are quite experienced and write articles for publications, teach in paralegal programs, serve on advisory boards, edit paralegal textbooks, speak throughout the country on paralegal

Sybil Taylor  
**AYTCH**  
Paralegal Division  
PRESIDENT



issues, participate in American Bar Association-site visits for the approval (and re-approval) of paralegal programs, and hold offices in national organizations.

Last year was a big year for paralegals in Arizona. In addition to the MCBA granting division status to paralegals, three of the presidents of national paralegal organizations were from Arizona. These events were pro-

vided nationally and, for the first time in paralegal history, Arizona was recognized as a source of paralegal professionalism. The Paralegal Division is dedicated to continuing this tradition.

Since the inception of the Paralegal Committee nearly five years ago, paralegals have been active in many MCBA activities. Our members serve on the *Maricopa Lawyer* editorial board, the Website Committee and, as a division, we have a voting seat on the MCBA's board of directors. In addition, we have worked with the Young Lawyers Division on various projects and will continue to do so. For the past few years, we have provided the largest number of volunteers for the YLD Domestic Violence Committee's Needsities

— See *Paralegal* on page 9

### Write a letter!

We welcome letters to the editor. Letters generally should be no more than 300 words long. *Maricopa Lawyer* reserves the right to edit all letters for length. Letters to the editor must be typed on your letterhead, signed and submitted to Editor, *Maricopa Lawyer*, Maricopa County Bar Association, 303 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, 85004.



303 E. Palm Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
602-257-4200 • 602 257-0522 (fax)  
www.maricopabar.org

Subscriptions: \$36 yearly

© 2002 Maricopa County Bar Association

*Maricopa Lawyer* is published monthly by the Maricopa County Bar Association (Michael D. Jones, president; Brenda Thomson, executive director).

Contributions of articles and letters to the editor are encouraged. All materials must be submitted by the 10th of the month to be considered for the next issue. All submissions may be edited for content, length and style.

Errors will be corrected in a subsequent issue.

The MCBA does not necessarily endorse the views expressed by contributors and advertisers. The editorial policy is available upon request.

#### Editorial board

Chair: David A. Thomson

Members: J. W. Brown, Brian Cieniawski, Carl Gerchick, Jack Levine, Gerald F. Moore, Tom Murphy, Theresa A. Prater, Ken Reeves, Daniel P. Schaack and Terri Zimmerman.

#### Editorial content

Managing editor: Patricia A. Sallen

602-956-4546  
602-956-4419 (fax)  
maricopalawyer@mcbar.org

#### Advertising

Display advertising: Kirra Philpott

480-515-5719  
480-515-5446 (fax)  
maricopalawyerdisplayadvertising@msn.com  
Classified advertisements: MCBA  
602-257-4200  
602-257-0522 (fax)

#### Makeup/Production

Marty Marsh, Marlan Publishing Group  
1125 W. Baseline Rd., #2-153, Mesa, AZ 85210  
480-777-8552 • 480-820-1496 (fax)  
marty@marlanpub.com