



# BAR COMMUNITY

## NEWS FOR MEMBERS

## PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The State Bar Appointments Committee is currently accepting applications from active members in good standing to fill the following upcoming vacancies. Application forms are due at the State Bar office by **Friday, November 15, 2013**, and may be obtained by calling Nina Benham in the State Bar's Phoenix office at 602.340.7329. An application form also may be downloaded from the Bar's website [www.azbar.org](http://www.azbar.org) (click on: For Lawyers/Sections and Committees/Committees/Appointments).

The Standing Appointments Committee and the Board of Governors consider all aspects of diversity in their recommendations and appointments.

### Arizona Commission on Appellate Court Appointments

**Application Deadline: Friday, November 15, 2013**

**Purpose:** This nonpartisan commission is chaired by the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court (or her designee). Primary responsibility is to screen, interview and recommend judicial candidates to the Governor of Arizona for her final selection to fill judicial vacancies.

**Openings:** Two. Commissioner William J. Ekstrom, Jr. (Mohave County Attorney's Office, Kingman) and Commissioner Ted A. Schmidt (Kinerk Schmidt & Sethi PLLC, Tucson) are completing their first four-year terms and are eligible for, and are seeking, reappointment. The Board of Governors submits several nominations per opening to the Governor of Arizona for her appointment, which is subject to the advice and consent of the Arizona State Senate.

The other attorney-commissioners are:

- Jill Harrison, WL Gore & Associates, Inc., Flagstaff
- Michael "Mick" J.S. Rusing, Rusing, Lopez & Lizardi PLLC, Tucson
- Vacant; appointment pending

**Candidate Criteria/Qualifications:** Applicants must be active members of, and in good standing with, the State Bar of Arizona. Applicants shall have resided in the state, and shall have been admitted to practice before the Arizona Supreme Court, for not less than five years.

There are no applicant restrictions with regard to one's political party affiliation or county of residence in relation to these openings. None of the attorney or non-attorney members of the commission shall hold any governmental office, elective or appointive, for profit and no attorney member is eligible for appointment to any judicial office of this state until one year after membership in the commission terminates. The commission meets as necessary when judicial openings occur.

Arizona's Constitution (Art. 6, § 36.C.) provides for ethnic and gender diversity on the commission. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply for these positions.

**Term:** Four years.

### Maricopa County Commission on Trial Court Appointments

**Application Deadline: Friday, November 15, 2013**

**Purpose:** This nonpartisan commission is chaired by the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court (or her designee). Primary responsibility is to screen, interview and select judicial candidates for submission to the Governor of Arizona for her final selection to fill judicial vacancies.

**Openings:** One. Commissioner James E. Blair, Jr. (Maricopa County Attorney's Office) representing Supervisorial District 1 is completing his

second term and, pursuant to a Board of Governors policy, is ineligible for reappointment. Commissioner Robert D. Dalager (Gallagher & Kennedy) representing Supervisorial District 5 is completing his first four-year term and is eligible for, and is seeking, reappointment to a second four-year term. The Board of Governors submits several nominations per opening to the Governor of Arizona for her appointment, which is subject to the advice and consent of the Arizona State Senate.

The other attorney-commissioners are:

- Ronald S. Reinstein, Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts, representing Supervisorial District 2
- Thomas M. Richardson, Friedl Richardson, representing Supervisorial District 3
- Manuel A. Bustamante, Bustamante & Kuffner PC, representing Supervisorial District 4

**Candidate Criteria/Qualifications:** Applicants must be active members of, and in good standing with, the State Bar of Arizona. Applicants shall have resided in the state, and shall have been admitted to practice before the Arizona Supreme Court, for not less than five years.

There are no applicant restrictions with regard to one's political party affiliation in relation to these openings. Applicants must have resided in **Supervisorial District 1** or **Supervisorial District 5** in Maricopa County for at least one year. To learn what supervisorial district you reside in within Maricopa County, go to <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/pollingplace/getdistrict.aspx> or call the Maricopa County Recorder's Office at 602.506.1511.

None of the attorney or non-attorney members of the commission shall hold any governmental office, elective or appointive, for profit and no attorney member is eligible for appointment to any judicial office of this state until one year after membership in the commission terminates. The commission meets as necessary when judicial openings occur.

Arizona's Constitution (Art. 6, § 36.C.) provides for ethnic and gender diversity on the commission. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply for these positions.

**Terms:** Four years.

### Pima County Commission on Trial Court Appointments

**Application Deadline: Friday, November 15, 2013**

**Purpose:** This nonpartisan commission is chaired by the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court (or her designee). Primary responsibility is to screen, interview and select judicial candidates for submission to the Governor of Arizona for her final selection to fill judicial vacancies.

**Openings:** One. Commissioner Gioia Sanderson (Tucson City Attorney's Office) representing Supervisorial District 4 is completing her first four-year term and may seek reappointment. The State Bar's Board of Governors submits several nominations per opening to the Governor

of Arizona for her appointment, which is subject to the advice and consent of the Arizona State Senate.

The other lawyer-commissioners are:

- Cynthia T. Kuhn, Kuhn Young Law Firm PLLC, representing Supervisorial District 1
- John C. Hinderaker, Lewis and Roca LLP, representing Supervisorial District 2
- Stephen J. Gonzalez, Stephen J. Gonzalez PC, representing Supervisorial District 3
- John R. Evans, United States Attorney’s Office, representing Supervisorial District 5

**Candidate Criteria/Qualifications:** Applicants must be active members of, and in good standing with, the State Bar of Arizona. Applicants shall have resided in the state, and shall have been admitted to practice before the Arizona Supreme Court, for not less than five years. There are no applicant restrictions with regard to one’s political party affiliation in relation to this opening. Applicants must have resided in Supervisorial District 4 in Pima County for at least one year. To learn what district you reside in within Pima County, go to [www.recorder.pima.gov/public/voter\\_info.aspx](http://www.recorder.pima.gov/public/voter_info.aspx) or call the Pima County Recorder’s Office at 520.724.4350.

None of the attorney or non-attorney members of the commission shall hold any governmental office, elective or appointive, for profit and no attorney member is eligible for appointment to any judicial office of this state until one year after membership in the commission terminates. The commission meets as necessary when judicial openings occur.

Arizona’s Constitution (Art. 6, § 36.C.) provides for ethnic and gender diversity on the commission. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply for these positions.

**Term:** Four years.

**Community Legal Services Board of Directors**

**Application Deadline: Friday, November 15, 2013**

**Purpose:** The Community Legal Services (CLS) Board consists of 27 members, four of whom are State Bar representatives. The vision of CLS is “equal justice for all.” The CLS mission statement is that it “is committed to eliminating poverty-based inequities in the civil justice system by providing high-quality legal advice, advocacy and assistance to low-income Arizonans.” Board members work collectively to ensure the fiscal integrity of the program, set policies and procedures directing CLS activities and goals, establish substantive law “priorities” and enhance CLS’s standing within the community.

**Openings:** One appointment will be made by the Board of Governors. James J. Haas (Maricopa County Public Defender, Phoenix) is completing his term of service and, pursuant to a Board of Governors policy, is ineligible for reappointment. The State Bar’s other representatives on the

CLS Board are Clarence E. Matherson, Jr. (Tempe City Attorney’s Office, Tempe); Robert E. Pastor (Montoya Jimenez PA, Phoenix); and Susan Trujillo (Quarles & Brady LLP, Phoenix).

**Criteria/Qualifications:** Applicants must be active members of, and in good standing with, the State Bar of Arizona. CLS board members are expected to attend and contribute to board meetings, which are held each September, November, January, March and May on the first Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m., as well as a two-day working retreat typically held on a Friday afternoon and Saturday morning in Phoenix in June. In addition, board members are encouraged to participate on at least one committee during the year. CLS is particularly interested in having board members who will contribute their time and energy to board activities during their appointed term on the board.

**Term:** Six years commencing January 2014.

**Southern Arizona Legal Aid (SALA)  
Board of Directors**

**Application Deadline: Friday, November 15, 2013**

**Purpose:** SALA’s mission is to provide quality legal services to people who would not otherwise have equal access to justice, in ways which affirm their individual and collective dignity, integrity and power. SALA uses staff and volunteer attorneys to provide legal advice, brief services, referrals, pro se workshops and representation. SALA decides the type of service to be provided to each client based on case priorities and available resources.

SALA is one of three federally funded legal services providers in Arizona. SALA serves nine Arizona counties—Gila, Pima, Pinal, Navajo, Apache, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz—and 11 of Arizona’s Native American reservations. SALA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation organized pursuant to the laws of the State of Arizona. SALA has a 27-member Board of Directors, of which 18 are attorneys, whose composition, although appointed locally, is regulated by the (federal) Legal Services Corporation. The board provides direction with regard to the agency’s programs and services.

**Openings:** Two appointments will be made by the State Bar Board of Governors.

**Criteria/Qualifications:** Applicants must be active members of, and in good standing with, the State Bar of Arizona whose principal place of business is in Apache County or Navajo County. SALA’s board meets five times per year in Tucson. Teleconferencing is available for all meetings, which are held from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., usually the third Thursday of the month. The directors also serve on board committees. Expenses are paid (by SALA) for all meetings, but there is no other compensation for service as a board member.

**Terms:** Four years.

# PEOPLE, PLACES, HONORS & AWARDS



**Ballard Spahr LLP** announced the addition of two new lawyers in Phoenix.

**Elizabeth J. Lee** joined the firm as an associate in the Litigation Department. Before entering private practice, she served for four years as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in Houston and in Tucson.

**Adam N. Lerner** joined as an associate in the Business and

Finance Department. He is an experienced transactional attorney who advises clients on their mergers, acquisitions and securities matters.



**Gallagher & Kennedy PA** announced that **Brooke K.A. Watton** rejoined the firm as an associate, practicing in the areas of commercial litigation, personal injury and general business law.

**Farhang & Medcoff** announced that **Laura Schiesl** joined its Phoenix office. She will continue to practice in the areas of corporate litigation and counseling, as well as labor and employment matters.

Also joining the office is **Daniel Zebelman**, who will continue to practice in the areas of commercial, construction and real estate litiga-

tion, corporate law, real estate transactions, and bankruptcy law representing both creditors and debtors.



**Jones, Skelton & Hochuli PLC** announced that **Andrew Clark** and **Kimberly Suciu** joined the firm as associates.

Clark will focus his practice on general civil litigation and insurance defense, bad faith, personal injury and construction defect.

Suciu focuses her practice on medical malpractice defense and general civil litigation and insurance defense.



**Jason B. Castle** joined **Jaburg & Wilk PC** as a Partner to expand the Family Law group.



**Marcel Valenta** joined the Phoenix office of **Bryan Cave LLP** as Of Counsel. He will practice within the firm's Transactions and Corporate Finance and Securities practice groups.

**Bart J. Page** joined the Real Estate & Land Use Practice of **Perkins Coie** as a senior counsel in the Phoenix office. He was most recently Of Counsel at Squire Sanders.



Commercial litigation attorney **André H. Merrett** joined **Sacks Tierney PA**. He focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation, including director and officer liability, shareholder disputes, trade secrets and unfair competition. He earned his law degree at the University of Iowa.



**Kevin D. Neal** joined **Gallagher & Kennedy PA** as a shareholder, practicing in the areas of personal injury & wrongful death, general commercial litigation and product liability.

Joining the firm as associates in the Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Practice Group are **Liana J. Garcia** and **Kimberly G. Allen**.



**Lisa Wahlin** joined the Litigation Practice Group at **Ryley Carlock & Applegate**.



**Karen Dickinson** joined the law firm **Polsinelli**. She has extensive experience negotiating and advising on complex international and e-commerce legal issues involving international contracting, joint ventures and alliances, software and intellectual property licensing, joint developments, trademark prosecution and licensing, and web development.



**Holly Liebengood** joined **Renaud Cook Drury Mesaros PA** as an associate.



**Robert "R.J." Lamb** joined **Jennings, Haug & Cunningham LLP**. His litigation practice is focused in the areas of general business and commercial litigation, construction and surety litigation, and insurance liability and estate planning.

**Jennings, Strauss & Salmon PLC** announced that two attorneys had joined its Phoenix office.



**John C. Norling** joined as a member in the Corporate, Securities and Finance Department. **Ryan Womack** joined as an associate in the Litigation Department.



**Tiffany & Bosco PA** announced that **J. James Christian** was named a shareholder. His practice is focused in complex business matters for public and private companies, with special interests in corporate formation, structuring, governance and insurance, outside corporate counsel services, corporate liability standards, UCC issues and transactions, and federal and state securities law.



**Jeffrey M. Manley** joined **May, Potenza, Baran & Gillespie PC**, Phoenix, as a shareholder following years of practice with a large international law firm. He practices in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust administration, and corporate law focusing on counseling high-net-worth individuals, families and closely held business organizations on business, tax, succession and asset protection planning.

**Mendelsohn & Oseran PLC** is now **Mendelsohn Oseran & Spencer PLC**. The firm welcomes new partner **GinaMarie K. Spencer**. AV-rated by Martindale Hubbell, she continues her 13-year practice with the firm concentrating on commercial real estate transactions. The law firm celebrates its 45th anniversary this year.

## PEOPLE



**Russell Yurk** joined **Jennings, Haug & Cunningham LLP**. His practice is focused in professional liability, lawyer discipline and complex civil litigation. For more than 15 years, he has represented lawyers and other professionals in professional liability and discipline matters.



**Matthew D. Dayton** joined the Las Vegas office of **Tiffany & Bosco PA** as an associate in the national financial services practice. His practice focuses primarily on real estate, foreclosure mediation/arbitration, unlawful detainer, and bankruptcy and creditors' rights.

**Arizona Mediation Institute** announced that attorneys **Andi J. Paus** and **Aris J. Gallios** joined **Judith M. Wolf** as mediators.

**Kris Carlson** joined **Polsinelli**, where he will practice in the area of cybersecurity matters for corporate clients and law firms. Formerly with Special Forces, he has extensive operational knowledge of cybersecurity. Carlson counsels corporate clients on compliance matters arising from the duty to protect electronic data and assists companies in establishing proper security protocols, including effective data breach responses at both the federal and state levels.

Real estate and transactional attorney **Cameron Carter** joined **Rose Law Group pc** as a partner. He focuses his practice in real estate transactions, acquisition, due diligence, real estate finance, development/redevelopment, land use/entitlements and development agreements.

Also joining the firm is family law attorney **Jana Weltzin**. She graduated from Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and primarily handles high-asset and complex divorce law cases.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

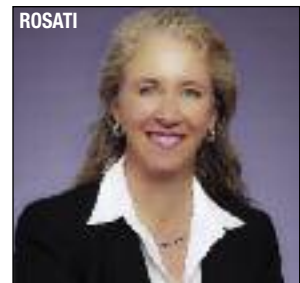


**Roxanne K. Song Ong**, Chief Presiding Judge of the Phoenix Municipal Court, was honored as the **2013 Judge of the Year** by the Arizona Supreme Court for her outstanding contributions by improving public trust and confidence in the Arizona court system during the Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony at the Annual Judicial Conference in June. Judge Song Ong was also the recipient of the **2013 Asian Pacific Community in Action Award** for the outstanding work she has accomplished in the field of law, diversity, and particularly for her contributions to the Arizona Asian Pacific American community. **Channel 8 PBS** profiled Judge Song Ong online ([www.asset.asu.edu/new/makers/](http://www.asset.asu.edu/new/makers/)) as part of the local series *Makers: Arizona* in conjunction with a national PBS documentary called *Makers: Women Who Make America*.

**Kendis Key Muscheid**, a director at **Fennemore Craig**, Phoenix, was elected to the Board of Directors for **UMOM New Day Centers**.



Commercial litigation attorney **Paul G. Johnson**, of **Jennings, Strouss & Salmon**, was elected President of the **Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations**.



**Polsinelli** shareholder **Kristen Rosati** assumed the office of **President of the American Health Lawyers Association**. The AHLA has

more than 12,000 members and is the nation's largest educational organization devoted to legal issues in the health care field.

Rosati leads the "Big Data" initiative at Polsinelli, and counsels clients on HIPAA compliance, electronic health records implementation, health information exchange, data sharing for research and clinical integration initiatives, and clinical research compliance and clinical trials contracting.



Quarles & Brady LLP announced that **C. Bradley Vynalek**, a partner in the firm's Phoenix office, was named chairman of the **Make-A-Wish Arizona** board of directors.



Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney, announced the election of **Kellie Johnson**, Chief Criminal Deputy of the Pima County Attorney's Office, to the Board of Directors of the **Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation**.



**Teresa M. Pilatowicz** of Gordon Silver Ltd. was selected to participate in the **National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Next Generation Program**. She was one of 40 young bankruptcy attorneys nationwide selected to participate in the program.

**Luke Narducci**, a shareholder at Polsinelli, was named **Advocate of the Year** by the Arizona Manufacturers Council at the 2013 Manufacturer of the Year Summit and Awards

Luncheon. He chairs Polsinelli's Environmental and Natural Resources practice group.



**Tamalyn E. Lewis**, a member of Ridenour, Henton & Lewis PLLC, was appointed to the board of the **Arizona Commission on the Arts**, an agency of the State that promotes statewide public access to the arts and cultural activities.

Snell & Wilmer announced that **Don Bivens**, a partner in the Phoenix office who focuses his practice on complex litigation and corporate investigations, was elected Chair of the **American Bar Association Section of Litigation**. His one-year term began August 9.

**Lori A. Higuera**, a partner at Fennemore Craig and co-chair of the firm's Employment and Labor Relations practice, was appointed to the Steering Committee of the Women's Leadership Council for the **Valley of the Sun United Way**.

**James Polese** of Gammage & Burnham recently celebrated **40 years** of practicing law in the state of Arizona. He joined Gammage & Burnham in February 2008 and was previously a founding member of Polese Hiner & Nolan PA and Polese Pietzsch Williams & Nolan PA. He has extensive experience in tax and business planning for small and medium-size businesses as well as in commercial litigation.



**Rita Meiser** was appointed to the Board of Directors of **Treatment Assessment Screening Centers**. TASC is recognized nationally as an innovator in working collaboratively with the criminal justice system in the development and implementation of drug testing and behavioral health programs.

Meiser practices employment defense law, with a special emphasis on independent investigations. She is also a nationally recognized adoption attorney.



**Frank Placenti**, a partner with Squire Sanders, was appointed Lead Director on the Board of **Steritech, Inc.**, a company based in Charlotte, N.C., with significant business operations in Phoenix. Steritech provides brand protection services to the restaurant and hospitality industry.

**Gary J. Cohen**, a partner at Mesch, Clark & Rothschild PC, was voted into the **Pima County Sports Hall of Fame**. He was one of 14 individuals to be honored as this year's inductees.



**Andrew Turk**, a shareholder with Polsinelli, was appointed to the Maricopa County Bar Association **Litigation Section Board**. He represents clients in commercial, tort and insurance litigation, as well as construction defect, toxic tort, elder abuse and contract dispute litigation. He also serves as a mediator and arbitrator.

The following attorneys were honored as "Attorney of the Month" for their outstanding pro bono work through the **Volunteer Lawyers Program** of Maricopa County: **Christina S. Hamilton**, Cavanagh Law Firm, and **Melanie V. Pate**, Lewis Roca Rothgerber (June); **Sarah J. Michael**, Law Office of Sarah J. Michael (July); and **Cody James Jess**, Schian Walker (August).

**Alexander Arpad**, a shareholder at Fennemore Craig in Phoenix, was appointed Editor of the **Real Property Trust and Estate Journal** for the **American Bar Association Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law**.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, announced the retirement of the **Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA)** Chief Administrative Judge **H. Barry Holt**, effective July 31, 2013. After almost 10 years with the IBLA, Chief Judge Holt, a State

Bar of Arizona member, retired as the longest-serving Chief Administrative Judge in the IBLA's 43-year history.



**Melissa Ho**, a shareholder at Polsinelli, was among the recipients of this year's **40 under 40** awards. She practices in the areas

of government investigations and white-collar criminal defense.

**Laura Carpenter** was elected as president-elect of the **American Society of Pharmacy Law**. She is both a lawyer and a pharmacist. As founder of Carpenter Law Firm, she advises local and national pharmacies, drug distributors and other health care providers in the areas of pharmacy law, regulatory law, corporate compliance and general health care law.

**Shanna Bowman Orlich**, a lawyer with Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, was appointed to the State Bar of Arizona's **Task Force on**

**Sustainability**. She focuses her practice in business and finance, with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, securities, business planning and formation, real estate, trusts and estates, and other corporate and financial transactions.

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

**William P. French**, Phoenix  
**Elaine C. Hardin**, Tucson  
**John C. Kubasch**, Scottsdale  
**George H. Lyons**, Phoenix

**PEOPLE ITEM SUBMISSIONS**

Send items for the People column to [arizona.attorney@azbar.org](mailto:arizona.attorney@azbar.org).  
 Items run free of charge, but because we receive many submissions, we cannot guarantee when an item will run. If you also send a photo with the item, we try to use it, depending on that month's space and the photo quality (high-resolution required).