

Circuit Breakers

Breaking the mold can be a good thing.

Many great inventions have come from creating anew what has long been accepted as a good idea. But is the same true of **cracking apart and re-assembling the Ninth Circuit**?

Beginning on page 34, **Judge John Roll** and **Roxie Bacon** square off on that issue. But its difficulty is evident as the two authors set out their premises. Judge Roll says this is about facts—the size of the circuit, the number of judges, the speed with which cases are disposed of. Roxie argues it is about much more than that and dissects a little of the politics at play in tampering with the circuit board.

Recent congressional events have made some kind of change more likely. Where do you stand? Write to me at Tim.Eigo@staff.azbar.org.

John Flynn also broke a few molds in his time, lawyer and author **Tom Galbraith** would agree. Flynn was the consummate trial lawyer, and 2005 marks 25 years since he died at the ripe young age of 55.

To mark the occasion, Tom has penned a remarkable article, part panegyric, part a window into a past world of law practice. Like many lawyers who will read it, I found myself wishing I had tried a case alongside John Flynn. We are pleased Tom asked us to publish this straightforward and eloquent tale of a well-lived life.

The **State Bar Convention** provided the usual opportunities: ample CLE, interesting seminars, catching up with friends and authors. This year, it also gave us the chance to hear **Morris Dees** speak. Dees is the co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, one of the great civil rights champions in the nation.

The Convention slogan was “The Power To Do Good.” And as Dees so well put it, “To leave a legacy, you have to make a legacy.”


After he gave his prepared remarks, we made him sit down and talk some more. Our Q&A with him is on page 56.

In this issue (beginning on page 52) are our annual Convention highlights. But I thought you might appreciate more select highlights of the event.

- At the Bar awards luncheon, **Justice Andy Hurwitz** described the job of the newest justice, **Scott Bales**: “Scott is the one now who has the responsibility of starting Justice McGregor’s car.”



Tim Eigo

- What looked at first like a poor banquet vantage point—the back of the room—turned out to be the best table in the house when I was seated with **Chief Justice Charles Jones**’ young granddaughters. In a room filled with hundreds of suits and almost as many speeches, the girls created their own sign language, made a xylophone out of water glasses and negotiated detailed rules on their eat-your-brownie-in-the-fewest-bites challenge (an experience to rival any CLE seminar).
- Serious and reserved, former Chief Justices Stanley Feldman, Tom Zlaket and Bud Jones broke into smiles when Feldman pointed to the girls and asked Jones, “Are they yours?” Each one a **Mr. Chief Justice Grandfather**.
- **Roxie Bacon** was one of the judges in the moot court competition titled “Sex & the Constitution.” And she gave her gentle analysis of the student performances in memorandum decision form: “No one fainted. No one threw up. It’s a winner.” Would that all our endeavors ended that well. 

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