

EDITOR'S FOREWORD

Bright Lights, Big Changes

By Benjamin G. Shatz

There seems to be a light at the end of our pandemic tunnel. Courts and law offices are reopening and mask mandates are dropping. We're emerging into a new normal, with big changes in the way courts operate, law firms function, and life in general. Like it or not, we're living in interesting times.

Along those lines, we got some new faces on our supreme courts, marking some historic firsts. Here in California we welcome Justice Patricia Guerrero, the Golden State's first Latina high court justice. And in D.C. we welcome Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, our first female African-American SCOTUS Justice.

This issue offers ten diverse articles, all worthy of your attention. We begin with a What I've Learned piece, sharing advice and wisdom from a collection of seasoned litigators and a judge. This segues nicely to a piece on civility in the profession. Next, Shelley Golden offers tips on how to optimize your video appearances. Yes, courts may be reopening, but the genie of remote hearings and meetings is out of the bottle, so this topic isn't going away.



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Moving to substantive law articles, we have two election law articles. The first explains California's rather special initiative and referendum procedures. Even if your practice never touches election law, this will interest in you in your capacity as a voter. A somewhat related piece discusses the evolution of voter access in California. Again, this is important to all Californians, not just lawyers.

In our book review department, Editorial Board member Stefan Love offers his views on John P. Blumberg's book titled Persuasion Science for Trial Lawyers. Our review nicely contrasts with other recent reviews of this book appearing in various legal publications. We're curious on your take: please submit a letter to the editor to share your views of this book.

On the practice side, we have a pair of articles on attorney fees. First, Tim Kowal discusses fee awards in the anti-SLAPP context. Next, fees guru Richard Pearl and retired Judge Feffer provide a comprehensive review of all the basics you need to know. Need to

know more? Consult Mr. Pearl's CEB treatise, California Attorney Fee Awards.

Our Litigation Section's Federal Courts Committee submits another useful judicial interview, this time of Southern District Magistrate Judge Allison Goddard. If you do federal court litigation, have you considered joining the Federal Courts Committee? Maybe the next interview to grace these pages will be your Q&A with a federal judge of your choice.

We conclude with something a bit different. Longtime Litigation Section ExCom member Norm Rodich had a personal experience that compelled him to draft a piece on speaking from the heart.

Have we not covered an important topic near and dear to your heart? Let us know and we will work on procuring an article. Or, better yet, submit your own.

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