

CRIMINAL COURTS BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE CRIMINAL COURTS BAR ASSOCIATION

APRIL, 2014

Bringing glamour back to the Boulevard...

*You are cordially invited to the
Criminal Courts Bar Association*

61st Annual Awards Dinner



SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2014

Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel
7000 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, CA 90028

**Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. at "Historic Lobby"
Dinner at 7:30 p.m. at "Blossom Ballroom"**

Master of Ceremonies

Kyle Secor

Installation of Incoming President Michael A. Goldstein
As we install our 61st President we pay tribute to the 60 Past Presidents

\$170 per person - Black tie optional

After Party at The Spare Room

Join us for music, cocktails, good company, special guests and some bowling...
A suggested \$20 per person donation benefits Delancey Street Foundation

For more information contact Michael Goldstein or Irma Vazquez at

Email: mg@goldsteinlawgroup.com

Phone: 818-905-7272

**2014 CRIMINAL COURTS
BAR ASSOCIATION
AWARD WINNERS**

The Criminal Courts Bar Association is pleased to announce that the 61st Annual Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at the prestigious Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

JERRY GIESLER MEMORIAL AWARD

CHRISTOPHER CHANEY

JOSEPH M. ROSEN JUSTICE AWARD

JAY JAFFE

JOURNALISM EXCELLENCE AWARD

CHARLOTTE STREET FILMS

"THE HOUSE I LIVE IN"

By Director Eugene Jarecki

ROBERT M. TAKASUGI

JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

HONORABLE LANCE ITO

MORT HERBERT SERVICE AWARD

JOHN YZURDIAGA

& PAUL HORGAN

JOHNNIE COCHRAN AWARD

VERNA WEFALD

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

DR. MIMI SILBERT

Founder, CEO & President

DELANCEY STREET FOUNDATION

**DONALD WAGER 1938 - 2014
IVAN KLEIN 1938 - 2014**

By Robert Schwartz

March was not a very good month for the criminal defense bar and the legal community in general, as two of our distinguished colleagues, **Don Wager** and **Ivan Klein**, succumbed to cancer within two weeks of each other.

Don Wager was one of the great Criminal Defense lawyers and personalities of our time. A past president of the Criminal Courts Bar Association, he was a recipient of this organization's Jerry Giesler Award for trial excellence and in 2013 was presented with the CCBA's Joseph Rosen Award for career achievement marked by a video clip from former colleague, longtime friend, and federal appellate judge Stephen Trott, who saluted Wager in a touching and at time hilarious tribute. Wager possessed the whole package: he was a particularly effective plea negotiator who could shmooze with the best but when negotiations failed he was a brilliant tactician in trial -- a tenacious cross-examiner, a creative strategist, with a genuine and endearing oratorical style. Wager displayed a sharp wit and was a consummate story teller, and his infectious charm enlivened any room he walked into.

At Wager's core was an incorruptible moral compass; he was a righteous person but not self-righteous. Wager was a man of unassailable integrity, and would fight for his principles: he was an enemy of prejudice and injustice, mindless rules and policies, and bullies, and he would ferociously stand up to prosecutors and judges who abused their power.

Wager's unmatched professional ethics were shaped by his proud eight year tenure as a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney, including the time he spent in the Santa Monica Courthouse with future judges Trott, Robert Altman, David Fitts, Richard Neidorf, and Larry Mira, and future stalwart defense attorneys Harland Braun and Richard Hirsch. Trott and Fitts in particular were strong influences, the prevailing message being that the principal role of prosecutors is to do justice and not just secure convictions. Accordingly, Wager set a high bar for himself and other prosecutors once he entered private practice and often expressed great disenchantment in recent years with prosecutors who adopted a whatever it takes to win philosophy.

One of Wager's gifts was the ability to relate to clients from all backgrounds and social strata. He battled his own personal demons, and was candid about his own struggles overcoming alcohol and drug addiction. His self-reflections help him understand his clients, all of whom were blessed to have ended up in Wager's office. Over the years Wager's list of clients was lengthy and illustrious, including many high profile defendants, celebrities, and the son of a U.S. President. He was a mentor to many young attorneys and was generous with his time, knowledge and insights. In fact once he got started sharing his knowledge on a particular topic it was hard to get him to stop.

After Wager left the District Attorney's Office he racked up a remarkable string of acquittals in jury trials, including several murder cases. In one notable case Wager represented a mother, along with her son and daughter, who drove from Oregon to attempt to rescue her adult daughter from a Hare Krishna compound in Culver City so she could be de-programmed, believing



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CRIMINAL COURTS BAR ASSOCIATION

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QUOTATIONS ABOUT JUSTICE

“Truth never damages a cause that is just.” *Mahatma Gandhi*

“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.”
Benjamin Franklin

“Criminals do not die by the hands of the law. They die by the hands of other men.”
George Bernard Shaw, Man and Superman

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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SAVE THE DATE

- **NO DINNER MEETING IN APRIL.**
- **CCBA Annual Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.**
- **CCBA Dinner Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2014. Award winning documentary will be presented. Location to be announced.**