



*70th Annual Awards
&
Installation Dinner*



OMNI LOS ANGELES HOTEL

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

Gala Agenda

Registration & Cocktails6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Dinner & Awards7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Remarks from the CCBA President John D. Rogers

Past President Recognition: Arash Hashemi

Law Student Scholarship Award

Installation of the 2025 Board of Directors

Guest Speaker: The Honorable Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero

Honorees

President's Award **Hon. Alan B. Honeycutt**
Exceptional Contribution to the Criminal Justice System

Richard Hutton Memorial Award **Emmanuel Garcia**
Rising Star Trial Attorney

Johnnie Cochran Jr. Memorial Award **Meghan Blanco**
Relentless Pursuit of Justice

Hon. Robert Takasugi Excellence Award **Hon. Lucy Armendariz**
Judicial Excellence

15 Minute Intermission

Joseph Rosen Memorial Award **Bruce Cormicle**
Lifetime Achievement

Mort Herbert Service Award **Hon. Ronald Owen Kaye**
Outstanding Community Service

Journalism Excellence Award **Scott Budnick**
Outstanding Reporting of the Criminal Justice System

Jerry Giesler Memorial Award **Anthony Arzili**
Trial Attorney of the Year



OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Arash Hashemi



Serving as the President of the Criminal Courts Bar Association has been one of the greatest honors of my professional career. When I was a young lawyer, I never imagined that I would one day have the privilege of leading such a distinguished and historic organization. It was a dream come true, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Over the past year, I have done my best to build on the strong foundation laid by those who came before me. My goal was to take the CCBA to new heights, expand its reach, and introduce it to younger lawyers and those outside the field of criminal law. I have always believed—and still firmly believe—that the CCBA is not just the finest criminal bar association in Los Angeles County, but the best in the state of California, if not the entire country.

As my term came to an end, I felt a mix of emotions. It was bittersweet to step aside, but I did so with confidence, knowing that the organization is in excellent hands. I have no doubt that our 2025 president, John D. Rogers, will continue to elevate the CCBA and lead it to even greater success. Under his leadership, I am certain the CCBA will soar to new heights.

To my fellow board members, colleagues, family and friends—thank you for your support, your dedication, and your shared commitment to this incredible organization. It has been an absolute privilege to serve as your president, and I look forward to seeing the CCBA continue to grow and thrive in the years to come.

With gratitude,

Arash Hashemi

Past President, Criminal Courts Bar Association (2024)



70th Criminal Courts Bar Association Annual Awards Dinner 2025

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John D. Rogers

Stepping into the role of President of the Criminal Courts Bar Association is an incredible honor. I never imagined that I would one day have the privilege of leading such a premier organization. Following in the footsteps of past presidents, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and contribute to the legacy of this esteemed association.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Arash Hashemi for his outstanding leadership last year, which helped pave the way for my tenure. I am also thankful for my colleagues on the Board of Directors and our esteemed Past Presidents, whose guidance and dedication have been invaluable. A special thank you to my fellow executive board members—Nina Hodjat, Juanita Kay, Vanessa Rodriguez, Danielle Hall, and Matthew Vodnoy—as well as our dedicated Executive Director, Christopher Chaney, for their unwavering commitment in planning tonight's event. Their hard work has been instrumental in making this evening possible.

This year, my focus is working alongside our justice partners, sister bar associations, and the court to uphold the integrity of the criminal justice system, expand access to justice, and recognize those whose dedication strengthens our profession.

Tonight, we come together to celebrate excellence, honor outstanding achievements, and draw inspiration from those who have made a lasting impact. Your presence makes this evening truly special, and I am grateful to share it with each of you.

Let's make tonight a memorable celebration of our work, our dedication, and the relationships that strengthen our profession.

Sincerely,

John D. Rogers



Criminal Courts Bar Association

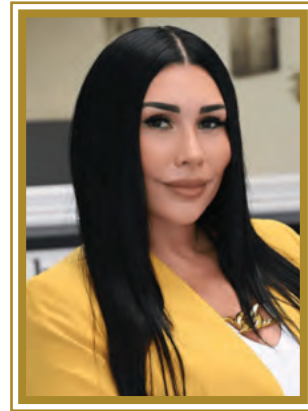
2025 OFFICERS



John D. Rogers
President



Nafise Nina Hodjat
President-Elect



Juanita Kay
1st Vice President



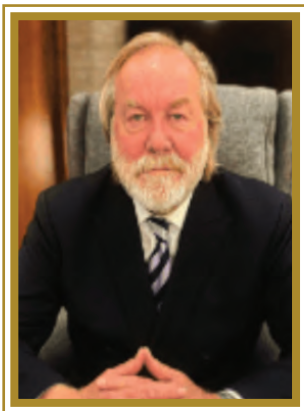
Vanessa Rodriguez
2nd Vice President



Danielle Hall
Secretary



Matthew Vodnoy
Treasurer



Christopher Chaney
Executive Director



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Criminal Courts Bar Association
2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Austin Dove



David Russomanno



Angela Berry



Michael Suzuki



Winston McKesson



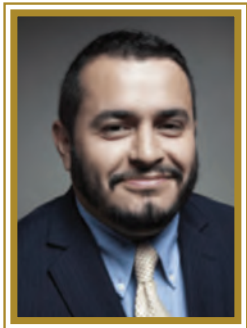
Daniel Nardoni



Michael Goldstein



Dillon Malar



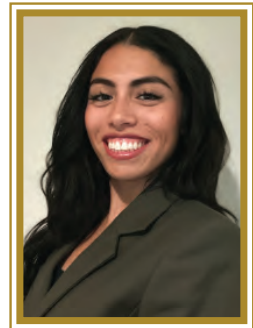
Mauro Quintero



Asya Ovsepyan



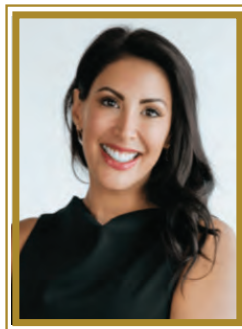
Ryan Kerns



Samantha Escobar



Britton All



Elisa Guadan

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Past Presidents

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|------|
| Jerry Giesler | 1954 & 1955 | David A. Elden | 1989 |
| Morris Lavine | 1956 | Madelynn Kopple | 1990 |
| Philip Erbsen..... | 1957 | John Yzurdiaga..... | 1991 |
| Richard E. Erwin | 1958 | Donald M. Ré..... | 1992 |
| Albert C. Garber | 1959 | Robert Schwartz | 1993 |
| Al Matthews..... | 1960 | Carol Clem | 1994 |
| Harold J. Ackerman | 1961 | Rickard Santwier | 1995 |
| Earl C. Broady..... | 1962 | Mona C. Soo Hoo | 1996 |
| Joseph M. Rosen..... | 1963 | Joel S. Peck..... | 1997 |
| Dan O'Neill | 1964 | Michael Shannon..... | 1998 |
| Charles Hollopeter..... | 1965 | Donald R. Wager | 1999 |
| Warren L. Ettinger..... | 1966 | Barry Levin..... | 2000 |
| Paul Caruso..... | 1967 | David R. Evans | 2001 |
| William Drake..... | 1968 | Christopher C. Chaney..... | 2002 |
| Burton Marks | 1969 | Robert J. Wilson..... | 2003 |
| David Cunningham | 1970 | Patrick W. Lake..... | 2004 |
| Richard Caballero..... | 1971 | Stephen B. Sadowsky..... | 2005 |
| Maurice Harwick | 1972 | Steven Escovar..... | 2006 |
| James E. Patterson..... | 1973 | Michael Artan | 2007 |
| James G. Cooney | 1974 | Andrew Stein | 2008 |
| Richard Walton..... | 1975 | Alison Triessl..... | 2009 |
| Howard L. Weitzman | 1976 | Mark Rafferty..... | 2010 |
| Herbert G. Blitz..... | 1977 | Sharon Beth Marshall | 2011 |
| Morton Herbert | 1978 | John Tyre..... | 2012 |
| Robert K. Robertson, Jr. | 1979 | Bruce Richland..... | 2013 |
| Nancy Cunningham | 1979 | Michael A. Goldstein | 2014 |
| Richard G. Hirsch..... | 1980 | Christa M. Hohmann..... | 2015 |
| Robert C. Clark..... | 1981 | Louis Sepe | 2016 |
| H. Ronald Hauptman | 1982 | Evan P. Freed..... | 2017 |
| Larry Fidler | 1983 | Richard M. Chacon | 2018 |
| Richard A. Hutton..... | 1983 | Victor M. Salerno..... | 2019 |
| Steve H. Hough | 1984 | Mark K. Khalaf | 2020 |
| George V. Denny, III..... | 1985 | Carey Caruso | 2021 |
| Ed Tolmas | 1986 | Jesse A. Arana | 2022 |
| Edward J. Horowitz | 1987 | Lisa Z. Liu..... | 2023 |
| Charles L. Lindner | 1988 | Arash Hashemi..... | 2024 |



In Memoriam

ROGER DIAMOND
Criminal Defense Attorney



HON. STEVEN D. BROMBERG
Orange County Superior Court



COMM. PATRICK FLANNERY
Orange County Superior Court



ROBERT MCBIRNEY
Deputy Public Defender



RICHARD QUINONES
Deputy District Attorney



JOHN PASSANANTE
Criminal Defense Attorney



HON. NORMAN SHAPIRO
Los Angeles Superior Court Judge



BRYAN SCHROEDER
Criminal Defense Attorney



GUEST SPEAKER
CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE

Patricia Guerrero



Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero was sworn into office on January 2, 2023, making history as the first Latina to serve as California's Chief Justice. She was nominated by Governor Gavin Newsom, unanimously confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments, and overwhelmingly approved by voters in the November 2022 election.

As Chief Justice, she chairs both the Commission on Judicial Appointments and the Judicial Council of California, overseeing administrative policy for the state courts. In her 2024 State of the Judiciary Address, she emphasized the importance of judicial independence, three-branch collaboration on pressing issues, and the role of remote technology and artificial intelligence in the courts. She remains committed to civic learning, appointing new leadership to the Power of Democracy Civic Learning Initiative to enhance civic education for California's students.

Chief Justice Guerrero previously served as an associate justice of the California Supreme Court (2022), an associate justice on the Fourth District Court of Appeal (2017-2022), and a Superior Court judge in San Diego County (2013-2017), where she was the supervising judge of the Family Law Division. Before joining the bench, she practiced law at Latham & Watkins LLP, where she became an equity partner, and served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of California.

Born and raised in California's Imperial Valley, she is the daughter of Mexican immigrants. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and her J.D. from Stanford Law School. A dedicated advocate for access to justice, she has volunteered extensively, including serving on the Advisory Board of the Immigration Justice Project and working pro bono on asylum and fair housing cases.

Chief Justice Guerrero has received numerous awards recognizing her contributions to the judiciary and legal profession, including the California Woman of the Year (2023), Judge of the Year honors from multiple bar associations, and lifetime achievement awards for her service to the legal community. In 2022, she was elected to the American Law Institute, further cementing her role as a leader in shaping the future of the law.



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PRESIDENT'S AWARD
EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
Hon. Alan B. Honeycutt

Judge Alan Honeycutt was appointed in 2007 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. He is the longest serving supervising Judge of the Southwest District, having served as the Assistant and Supervising Judge for nearly 14 years. He has served on the Court's Executive, Personnel & Budget, Facilities, Diversity, and Education committees. He is a respected jurist throughout California having recently concluded a three-year term on the Executive Board of the California Judges Association.



Judge Honeycutt presides over a civil independent calendar at the Torrance Courthouse but has spent most of his judicial career in the Criminal Division. Prior to joining the Court, he was an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Redondo Beach, Associate Attorney for the firm of Burke Williams & Sorenson, and Reserve Police Officer for the City of Hermosa Beach.

Judge Honeycutt is a creative problem solver and a leader who quietly and humbly goes about his work. A perfect example of Judge Honeycutt's leadership is the highly successful and award winning outdoor homeless Court he created to serve the South Bay's vulnerable unhoused population. Judge Honeycutt's unprecedented and "out of the box" solution was to bring an outdoor court to the unhoused. Judge Honeycutt worked with our community partners to open a court in a parking lot centrally located to the unhoused population. Judge Honeycutt's outdoor neighborhood court model has recently expanded to Hermosa Beach and Long Beach. This homeless court has been incredibly successful and has been featured in the media and serves as a model for proposed legislation establishing outdoor homeless courts across the State of California.

Judge Honeycutt has served the public his entire career as a government attorney, reserve police officer, judge, and now Major in the US Army Reserve. In 2024, he was sworn in by retired US Air Force Colonel and current US Congressman Ted W. Lieu. Appointed as one of the youngest Judges at 36; at 54, Judge Honeycutt may be the oldest and certainly only Judge at this age to go through the rigorous selection process with the U.S. Army JFK Special Warfare Center and School which manages Army Special Operations. He is assigned to the Civil Affairs Airborne Command for the Indo-Pacific region. Judge Honeycutt's multicultural background as a Korean American with a Mexican family made the Indo-Pacific region a natural placement for his talents and background.

Judge Honeycutt has also served as a mentor to dozens of high school and college students. In 2021, he was instrumental in the partnering of the Los Angeles Superior Court with Good City Mentors a mentoring program for Los Angeles high school students. Judicial Officers join with business leaders from companies such as Nike, Netflix and Google to serve as mentors to students in small groups.



RICHARD HUTTON MEMORIAL AWARD RISING STAR TRIAL ATTORNEY

Emmanuel Garcia



Emmanuel Garcia was born in East Los Angeles, California. He is a first-generation Attorney and the first member of his family to graduate college. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he double majored in American History, and Chicano Studies with an emphasis in Public Law. While at UCLA he volunteered with Inquilinos Unidos (United Tenants), where he assisted low-income families combat displacement, wrongful evictions and unlawful landlords.

After going through the Dependency Court system as an adolescent, dropping out of high school and falling victim to the school to prison pipeline, Emmanuel recognized that his community was being disproportionately affected by the justice system. He decided then that he wanted to become a Public Defender and fight back against systemic injustice. After receiving his GED, and graduating Citrus Community College with Honors, Emmanuel received a full scholarship to UCLA, where he graduated with honors. Emmanuel was then awarded a scholarship to attend the University of California, College of the Law, San Francisco (Formerly UC Hastings). During law school Emmanuel was awarded Best Oral Argument in his Moot Court class, was a member of La Raza Student Association and served as the Articles Editor for his law journal. During his first year of law school, he interned for the Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers (LADL), in the same courthouse where he fought to stay with his parents 15 years prior. Although he enjoyed his internship with LADL, Emmanuel knew that his dream was to become a Public Defender and dedicated the next three years to interning with the Los Angeles Public Defender's Office and becoming familiar with criminal defense.

In 2022, Attorney Emmanuel Garcia began his journey as a Los Angeles Deputy Public Defender. In 2024 he received the Gideon Award for Los Angeles County, Public Defender, Misdemeanor Attorney of the year after getting over 60 cases dismissed, winning six trials in a row and not losing a trial the entire year. Emmanuel Garcia is a Public Defender aiming to disrupt systemic injustice, provide zealous advocacy to the indigent community, and ensure that the quality of representation is not contingent on wealth.

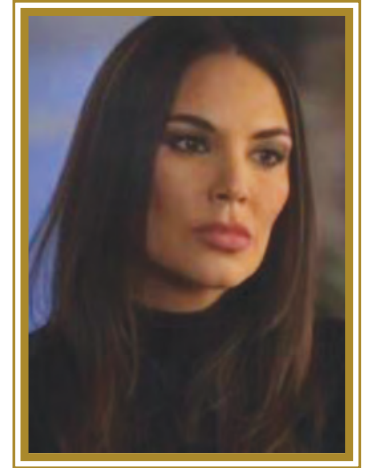


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JOHNNIE COCHRAN JR. MEMORIAL AWARD
RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Meghan Blanco

Meghan Blanco began her legal career representing Fortune 500 companies, in complex civil litigation, as an associate at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. In 2009, she was appointed Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California. During her tenure as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section, Meghan served as lead prosecutor on close to 100 criminal matters. In that role, she investigated and prosecuted cases charging bribery, extortion, obstruction of justice, and murder under color of law. After leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2015, Meghan has taken many of the justice system's most complex criminal cases to trial. She has tried cases charging terrorism, VICAR RICO, and international hostage taking resulting in death, and has beaten the United States in more than half of the cases that she has tried.



Meghan is proud to be joined at tonight's dinner by her former client, Gabriel Chavez. Chavez, a lawyer, who represented members of the Mexican Mafia, was indicted by the United States in 2018 for allegedly facilitating the Mexican Mafia's criminal enterprise. Meghan hung the trial in 2022, with the jury voting 9-3 in favor of acquittal on RICO charges. On the verge of retrial in 2024, after synthesizing hundreds of thousands of pages of confidential CDCR records, Meghan established that the United States violated Brady by withholding exculpatory evidence before Chavez's first trial. As a result, the United States was forced to drop the RICO charges, and Chavez, who was facing life in prison, is here tonight.

HON. ROBERT TAKASUGI AWARD

JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE

Hon. Lucy Armendariz



Judge Lucy Armendariz serves in the Criminal Division at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Courthouse. She previously served as the Assistant Supervising Judge of Limited Criminal Traffic and as Site Judge at the East Los Angeles Courthouse. She was elected and appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2018. She was first appointed to the bench in 2007 at the State Bar Court in 2007 where she served as Supervising Judge.

Judge Armendariz also has extensive experience in the other two branches of government. She served as Chief of Staff to the Senate Majority Leader and gained extensive experience at the Capitol in Sacramento through her service as Counsel to both the Senate and Assembly Committees on Public Safety. Governor Gray Davis appointed Judge Armendariz as the first Ombudsman for women's prisons in California.

Judge Armendariz currently serves as a voting member at the Judicial Council of California where she serves as Vice-Chair of the Legislation Committee and also serves on the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and Real Estate Policies subcommittee. She is a Commissioner on the California Commission on Access to Justice and on the Committee to Review the Operations and Structure of the Commission on Judicial Performance. Judge Armendariz is Chair of the Judicial Council Traffic Advisory Committee. Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Judge Armendariz as the Chair of the California Judicial Mentorship Program and Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero appointed her as Chair of the Applicant Evaluation and Nominations Committee. She also serves as a Commissioner on the American Bar Association Commission on Youth at Risk and is a board member on the California Judges Foundation. She is also the Chair of the California Latino Judges Judicial Appointments and Endorsements committee. She is involved in many mentoring organizations and serves as an Advisory Board Member to Latina Lawyers Bar Association, CSU Dreamers Task Force, East Los Angeles Community College Pathway to Law, and Roosevelt High School Law and Public Service Magnet. Judge Armendariz also volunteers her time as a Teen Court Judge at Roosevelt High School (her alma mater), and as a judge for the Constitutional Rights Foundation. In addition, she serves on the Boards of the Legal Education Access Pipeline and the Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA.

Some of her recent awards include Judge of the Year from the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA), Outstanding Jurist Award from the LAPD Latino Law Enforcement (LA LEY), Outstanding Community Service from Legacy LA, Social Justice Leadership Award from the USC Multicultural Women Executive Leadership Program, Aguila Outstanding Community Service Award from Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA), Outstanding Public Servant from the Latina Public Service Academy, and Outstanding Jurist Award from the Los Angeles Women Police Officers and Associates (LAWPOA).

Judge Armendariz is a frequent keynote speaker or commencement speaker including but not limited to Occidental College Obama Scholars Program, Dolores Mission School, Proyecto Pastoral, CSUN Graduate School of Social Work, Bresee Youth Center and Foundation, Hollenbeck Middle School and the American Bar Association Renewal and Revolution Conference.

She was born and raised in Boyle Heights, California and graduated from Roosevelt High School. She is the first person in her family to graduate from high school. Judge Armendariz attended University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) earning a Bachelor of Arts degree and earned her law degree from UC Law San Francisco (formerly Hastings Law School).



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JOSEPH ROSEN AWARD LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Bruce Cormicle

Bruce was raised in Newton, Iowa and went to the University of Iowa. After graduating, he set his sights on his next goal: moving to California and hanging out at Malibu beach. After two years, he finally concluded that he needed a career and went to Whittier College Law School.

Bruce became a Los Angeles Public Defender in 1985 and took to criminal defense with unmatched fervor. After two years, his supervisor asked if he would agree to work at the Los Angeles Superior Court's experimental night court. If he did, then he could jumpstart trying felony cases. Uh, yes! After a year there, winning ten felony cases and losing one, he started a private practice where he has remained ever since.



Bruce has worked for forty years as a criminal defense attorney. He has tried over two hundred jury trials, twenty of which were murders and seven of those were death penalty cases. One of his most challenging capital cases involved the murder of two Riverside County Sheriff Deputies in which the jury hung in the penalty phase 8 - 4. In another, the defendant made a brazen escape from the courtroom during the penalty phase - a story for another time.

Bruce is also a creative legal consultant on television shows. Ostensibly, Bruce provides the writers, actors, and directors with insight on authentic plot and dialogue. On a larger scale, his role as a consultant has raised the profile of criminal defense attorneys and the legal profession in the public eye. His credits over the past twenty years include shows such as Private Practice, Scandal, How to Get Away with Murder, American Crime Story, Monsters – The Lyle and Erick Menendez Story, Inventing Anna, and Season 3 of Ginny and Georgia premiering on Netflix June 5th - note the plug.

Bruce is on the Board of Directors for Public Counsel, the nation's largest pro bono law firm. He is closely involved with strategy, fundraising, and everything in between. Public Counsel achieves groundbreaking results for the under-privileged in gender justice, veteran homelessness, consumer fraud, immigration, and education to name a few. As Chair for the annual William O. Douglas Dinner fundraiser for the past five years, Bruce was instrumental in the raising of over \$10 million in donations while honoring: Jane Fonda, Viola Davis, Nancy Pelosi, Gavin Newsom, and John Legend.

Bruce lives in Bel-Air with his wife Betsy, a TV Producer, and their dog Hank. He is an avid book and wine collector. He enjoys playing golf at his clubs: Hillcrest in Los Angeles, St Andrews in Scotland. He also plays cello and studies languages including Dutch, Catalan, and Mandarin - languages that he has no real use for in his daily life. Bruce stays involved in his hometown; raising money for their County Courthouse holiday lighting display and donating to renovate the local golf course clubhouse.

Bruce is a Life Member of NACDL and CACJ and a longtime member of CPDA and CCBA. He is on a mission to expand the reach of the criminal defense bar, specifically the Criminal Court Bar Association. In the past few years, he has donated one hundred and seventy-five Criminal Court Bar Association memberships to the PD and APD.

Bruce is very, very honored to accept this most prestigious award.



MORT HERBERT SERVICE AWARD OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Hon. Ronald Owen Kaye



After 25 years challenging abuses of authority both as a plaintiff's civil rights attorney and a criminal defense attorney, Judge Ronald Owen Kaye was appointed to the bench by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2020. As destiny would have it, he was assigned to the Mental Health Court in Hollywood, and presides over cases where defendants are deemed incompetent to stand trial, as well as civil commitments for individuals no longer in the criminal justice system, but who are subject to petitions to have them placed in a locked State Hospital for being a danger to society. He has been there ever since his appointment to the bench and oversees mental health diversion placements, as well as presiding over jury and bench trials. The cases which are brought before his court stem from misdemeanor vagrancy to capital murder, but in every case, he balances treatment, the individual's liberty interest, and the need to protect the community. His assignment coincides with his civil rights practice, where he filed multiple lawsuits against municipalities for failing to provide mental health care for people in custody. As Judge Kaye states repeatedly to criminal defendants, civil respondents, and especially

to their families, his court is one of treatment, not punishment.

A few months after being appointed to the bench, Judge Kaye and his son attended a camping retreat in the local mountains for individuals who recently were released from custody, hosted by his former client, Frankly Carrillo, who was wrongfully imprisoned for 20 years. The average amount of time in custody served by the men attending the retreat was over 25 years. Unexpectedly, he was asked to say something as a "sitting judge" to the group. After struggling to find the right words, he attempted to make the men reentering society feel hopeful and respected. In response, one of the men, who served 30 years in Pelican Bay State Prison, much of it in solitary confinement, started tearing up. When asked why, the man responded that he never imagined being treated with such respect by a Superior Court Judge. From there, Judge Kaye's program of inviting people recently released from prison into his courtroom was born.

Every month or so, five to eight recently released individuals come to his court through the front door of the courthouse, through the metal detectors and past sheriff's deputies – not in shackles, not through tunnels, and not in a jumpsuit. Overwhelmingly, it is the first time each person has been in a courtroom for decades. They share stories about the anxiety they felt coming into the courthouse, the trauma they suffered in the courtroom, what their hopes and dreams are, and the liberating experience of sharing with and being welcomed by a sitting judge in a courtroom setting. That program then evolved into Judge Kaye attending graduations inside Lancaster State Prison for men who have successfully completed classes for emotional intelligence, gang members anonymous, and preparation for the Parole Board.... Universally, this was the first time any of these graduates ever engaged with a sitting judge outside the courtroom. Although people routinely call him "your Honor," when addressing him in those settings, he routinely responds "The honor is mine!" to those who have persevered and have embraced their own personal growth and rehabilitation.

Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Kaye was a recipient of the Johnnie Cochran Memorial Award from the Criminal Courts Bar Association of Los Angeles (2016), the Prisoner's Rights Award from the ACLU of Southern California (2015), and an Attorney of the Year Award from the California Lawyer Magazine (2010). He was also named among the Top 100 Lawyers in California by the Daily Journal in 2010, 2014 and 2019.

He presently teaches a criminal law seminar to forensic psychiatry fellows from both UCLA (his alma mater) and USC, and has led a seminar on the United States Criminal Justice system to members of the judiciary of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Presently, he and his wife of 27 years are "empty nesters," with his daughter having graduated college last year and his son about to do so in May, and they are infatuated with their Staffordshire Bull Terrier named Lola (often mistakenly called a pit bull), who was adopted from the Paws for Life program out of Vacaville State Prison.



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JOURNALISM EXCELLENCE AWARD
EXCEPTIONAL REPORTING OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

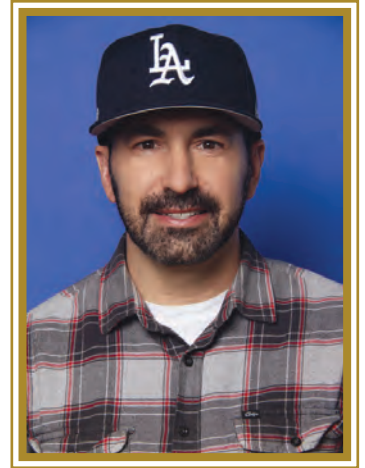
Scott Budnick

Scott Budnick is a film producer, Founder of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) and CEO of 1Community, an entertainment production and co-finance company using the power of storytelling to drive real-world impact.

As the Executive Vice President of Todd Phillips' Green Hat Films, Budnick produced *Old School*, *Due Date*, and the highest-grossing R-rated comedy trilogy in film history, *The Hangover*, which grossed over \$1.4 billion.

Since 2004, Scott has been a fierce advocate for social justice and a fairer judicial system. In 2003, he began volunteering with InsideOUT Writers (IOW), which brings creative writing into juvenile halls. In 2014, he founded ARC, whose mission is to reduce incarceration, improve the outcomes of formerly incarcerated individuals, and build healthier communities. ARC provides formerly incarcerated men and women with direct services such as housing, counseling, job training and opportunities, mentoring, and education. The organization also empowers and mobilizes its members to play a role in justice reform efforts through policy advocacy.

For his work with youth in the criminal justice system, Gov. Jerry Brown named Scott the 2012 California Governor's Volunteer of the Year. He sits on the Board of State and Community Corrections, serves as a Board Member for President Barack Obama's My Brother's Keeper Alliance and recently joined the Board of Directors for CARE (Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere).



JERRY GIESLER MEMORIAL AWARD

TRIAL ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

Anthony Arzili



Anthony A. Arzili is the recipient of the Jerry Giesler Memorial Award, given to the Trial Attorney of the Year. Mr. Arzili, a State Bar Certified Criminal Law Specialist, was selected for his passionate advocacy and remarkable results on several complex cases.

His work resulted in 3 separate cases who were facing life in prison being sent home. In 2003, Michael Anderson was convicted of Murder and sentenced to life. His attorney, an alcoholic, failed to adequately represent Mr. Anderson and was later disbarred.

Years later, a man told his priest that he had been a witness to a murder and the wrong man had been convicted. Appellate attorney Ian Graham was able to get Mr. Anderson a new trial and Mr. Arzili was assigned to handle the retrial. He presented the prosecution with an expert witness' report which proved that witnesses were not trustworthy. Mr. Arzili presented discovery of devastating information against the two investigating officers on the case. The prosecution was unmoved. After a year of litigation, a Judge granted Mr. Arzili's motion to dismiss and sent Mr. Anderson home.

Hector Deleon was charged with first degree murder in a stabbing at a busy park. Mr. Deleon had attempted to represent himself but on the eve of jury selection, he turned the case over to Mr. Arzili. At trial, Mr. Arzili presented a case that showed that Mr. Deleon was one of the people running away from the scene of the stabbing and was wrongfully arrested for the crime. The Jury found him not guilty of the charges.

Jose Luna was convicted in 2003 of murder and attempted murder and sentenced to 62 years to life. In 2019, Mr. Luna petitioned under penal code 1172.6 to set aside his conviction because he was not the killer nor did he have the intent to kill. After 5 years of litigation, he was found not guilty and was released from prison after 21 years.

Mr. Arzili was born in Tabriz, Iran. He lives in Pasadena with his wife, Angie and his children, Lily, Lorenzo, Emilio, and their beloved Corgi, Olive Chunkleton.



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KAY & QUINTERO LAW

CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS

Congratulations to this year's
CCBA outstanding award recipients.



Thank you for your hard work, integrity, and dedication.
Here's to more success ahead!

****Kay & Quintero Law – Where Justice Meets Excellence!****

www.KayQuinteroLaw.com





Law Offices of Sarah V. Perez

Sarah Vanessa Perez, Esq. is an experienced immigration and criminal defense practitioner. Her practice areas include removal defense for detained and non-detained respondents alike, bond hearings, representation for Respondents under Orders of Supervision, representation before U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services for family petitions, adjustment of status, petitions to remove conditions of permanent residency, residency renewals, U-Visas, VAWA, SIJS petitions, and citizenship. Her criminal practice focuses primarily on undocumented and lawful permanent resident defendants in active proceedings and those pursuing post-conviction relief.



Proud Member of the
American Immigration
Lawyers Association

Sarah V. Perez

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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