

Exciting Times for the New Lawyers Section

THIS WILL BE AN EXCITING YEAR FOR NEW lawyers at the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. The Bar is focused on providing valuable resources, networking opportunities and continuing education just for you.

The New Lawyers Section concentrates on new attorneys with six or less years of experience. The Section has undergone a complete reboot and a dedicated group of members has organized a full lineup of special programming for the upcoming year.

The event series kicks off this month with an evening with Honorable James Steele. Judge Steele recently retired from the Los Angeles Superior Court, where he presided over unlimited civil matters, and then became one of the most experienced sitting trial judges in the Probate Division. Judge Steele will discuss stories from the Bench, offer tips on courtroom decorum for new attorneys, and participate in a Q&A session. This event will be held on Thursday, November 13 at the Bar office. The event will be free to current SFVBA members and dinner will be provided.

Starting in January, the New Lawyers Section meetings will generally be held on the third Thursday evening of each month. Future programs include workshops on strengthening essential skills; panels on starting your own firm or pro bono opportunities; and social events and happy hours. This Section will also participate in joint programs with other sections of the Bar pertaining to specialized areas of practice that new attorneys may be interested in pursuing.

The leaders of the Section want to serve as a resource to all new lawyers who may need help navigating the Bar, meeting other colleagues and finding their place as a Valley lawyer.

Meet the New Lawyers Section Executive Committee

YI SUN KIM

Greenberg & Bass

Yi Sun was admitted in 2007. After serving on the SFVBA's Board of Trustees last year, she was recently elected for an additional two-year term. During her service, she

YI SUN KIM

New Lawyers Section
Chair



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worked towards recruiting new attorneys to the Bar and fostering relationships to connect those fresh faces with seasoned attorneys. Yi Sun practices in areas of bankruptcy, business litigation and business transactions. She hopes this year is just the first stepping block in making this Section a valuable and formidable segment of the Bar.



CHRISTOPHER W. BLAYLOCK

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Chris was admitted in 2012 and opened his own firm while serving of-counsel to other firms. He practices in areas of criminal defense and appeals, and personal injury accident matters in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. He is a member of various bar organizations and serves as Vice-Chairperson of the ABA's Young Lawyers, Solo Firms Committee, which will assist him in chairing this Section. An active participant in his community, Chris was born and raised in Southern California and currently lives with his wife in Sherman Oaks.

Chris's goals for this section? "The law profession's best attribute is that like-minded attorneys can help one another strive forward in his or her careers," he says. "The Section should be a network where new attorneys can ask questions, get answers, and learn new skills. Further, as new attorneys we should make it a priority to change common opinions about lawyers. The Section should certainly play a role in shaping new attitudes."



JENNIFER NOHAVANDI

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Jennifer is also a Southern California native, who has been an attorney since 2011. For three years, she has been an associate with

Rosengarten & Associates, practicing civil litigation. In April of 2014, Jennifer recognized a need in her community and responded by opening her own unique practice. The Law Offices of Jennifer A. Nohavandi specializes in helping families of children with special needs advocate for their educational rights. Jennifer successfully balances both her current position at Rosengarten & Associates with her new endeavor at her own firm.

"As a new attorney myself, I know how difficult it can be to navigate the transition from law school into the world of legal practice," she says. "My hopes and goals for the New Lawyers Section is that we will begin to inspire other new attorneys to become more active in their community; that we will bridge the gap between the older (and wiser!) generation of attorneys and the young and eager new attorneys; and, finally, that we will be able to provide new attorneys with resources and creative ideas for how to build a solid foundation for their legal career."



HANNAH SWEISS

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Hannah is brand new, having just been admitted in 2013. She is an associate with the Employment and Business Litigation Practice Groups at Lewitt Hackman

Shapiro Marshall & Harlan. Her practice primarily includes providing counsel to employers to reduce risk of employee claims as well as defending employers against claims made by employees.

Within a short time, Hannah has already become very active in the Bar and other areas of the community. She was similarly engaged while attending law school, serving as a law clerk for the California Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Real Estate; as an intern at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office; and as President of her law school's Real Estate Association, Middle Eastern Law Student's Association, and the Graduate Class Gift Committee.

Her goals for this Section echo the desires of the other committee members. "I would like to put together programs and events that will facilitate new lawyers in the transition into the life of a full-time lawyer," she says. "Part of the transition is the immersion into the legal community and establishing a network with other local lawyers. The SFVBA New Lawyers Section is a place where new lawyers will have the opportunity to grow within their local legal community." 