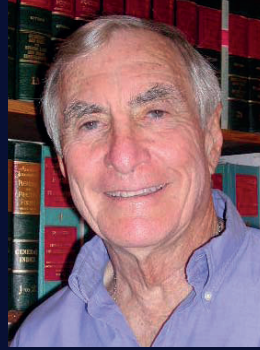


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Meet the SFVBA Board of Trustees Candidates



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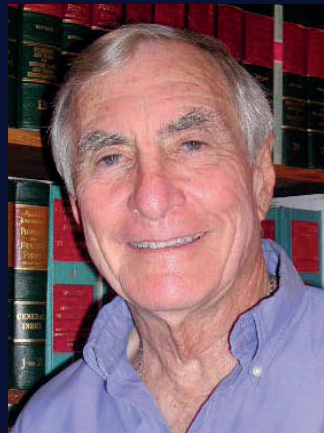
Trustees



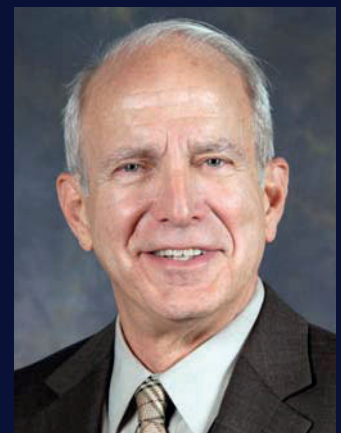
Phillip Feldman



Megan Ferkel Earhart



Robert L. Finkel



Gerald L. Fogelman



Randi R. Geffner



Sean E. Judge



Alan E. Kassin



Mark S. Shipow

Meet the SFVBA Board of Trustees Candidates

By Angela M. Hutchinson

The SFVBA's Nominating Committee recently announced its slate of candidates for the 2012-2013 Board of Trustees. Before casting a vote, get to know the candidates!



Michelle Short-Nagel



Charles A. Shultz

THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION is governed by a 20-member Board of Trustees who manages the affairs and decides policy for the Association. Nomination to the Board of Trustees is an honor for members—an opportunity to be recognized by their peers as leaders within the legal community.

According to the bylaws, the Nominating Committee can nominate one, but not more than two, active members of the Association for each of the offices of President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer and shall automatically nominate the current President Elect for President. The Committee can nominate between nine and twelve active members of the Association for the positions of Trustees.

The Nominating Committee met on May 31 to choose the slate of candidates for the 2012-2013 Board of Trustees. After thoroughly reviewing the participation and experiences of the applicants, the Committee selected the following candidates:

President

David Gurnick
(automatic)

President Elect

Adam D.H. Grant

Secretary

Caryn Brottman Sanders

Treasurer

Carol L. Newman

Trustees

Phillip Feldman (incumbent)
Megan Ferkel Earhart
Robert L. Finkel
Gerald L. Fogelman (incumbent)
Randi R. Geffner
Sean E. Judge (incumbent)
Alan E. Kassan
Mark S. Shipow (incumbent)
Michelle Short-Nagel
Charles A. Shultz (incumbent)

“This year is notable not only for the wide range of practical experience the candidate pool offers (from the relatively new lawyer to the veteran), but also the unique value each candidate expressly states he or she expects to bring to the Board,” says SFVBA President Alan J. Sedley. “Each nominated candidate assures to be involved and proactive, two highly desirable attributes for our Board going forward.”

Election Day is September 10; ballots and the election pamphlet are mailed to active attorney members in early August. Although the nomination process by the Committee has concluded, additional nominations for any office (except that of President or President Elect) or for the position of Trustee may be made by filing with the Secretary at any time on or before July 25 a written nomination signed by at least 20 active members of the Association in good standing.

While the candidates practice different areas of law and come from a variety of backgrounds, they share the vision of ensuring that the San Fernando Valley Bar Association continues to serve its members and the community with excellence. The new Board will be sworn in at the SFVBA Installation Gala on Saturday, September 22, 2012 at the Warner Center Marriott. *Valley Lawyer* encourages SFVBA members to get to know the 2012-2013 Board of Trustees candidates by reading the following profiles.

Officers Candidates

David Gurnick is President Elect of the SFVBA and will be sworn in as the Association's president on September 22. He is a franchise law, business and litigation attorney with Lewitt Hackman, a firm that is home to past presidents

Sue Bendavid and Steve Holzer. He also chaired the SFVBA Litigation Section and is currently active in the Association's Diversity and Mentoring Committees. Gurnick served as President of the SFVBA from 1993 to 1994.

Adam D.H. Grant is the current Secretary of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association and was nominated unopposed for President Elect. Grant is Chair of the SFVBA Litigation Section. He is an experienced trial lawyer with Alpert, Barr & Grant, the Encino law firm that has produced three past SFVBA presidents: Lee Alpert, Gary Barr and Mark Blackman. Grant has chaired the SFVBA Programs Committee and was a Director of the Valley Community Legal Foundation.

Caryn Brottman Sanders is the Association's Treasurer and was nominated unopposed for Secretary. She has served on the SFVBA Board of Trustees as an officer or trustee since 2006, initially as the representative of the Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association during her presidency with the SFVBA affiliate. Sanders practices business litigation and personal injury defense with Tharpe & Howell. She is Chair of the SFVBA Bench-Bar Committee and chaired the ARS and Programs Committees.

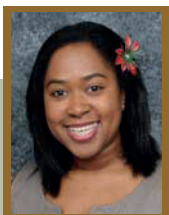
Carol L. Newman has been a member of the SFVBA Board of Trustees since 2009 and was nominated unopposed for Treasurer. Her Woodland Hills firm focuses on real estate and business litigation, civil appeals and palimony cases. She is Co-Chair of the SFVBA Business Law, Real Property & Bankruptcy Section and Membership & Marketing Committee. Newman is also an active member of the Association's Diversity Committee.

Trustees Candidates

Phillip Feldman was elected to a two-year term on the SFVBA Board of Trustees in 2010. A former State Bar prosecutor, today he defends lawyers before the State Bar. Feldman is Chair of the SFVBA Client Communications Committee and has chaired many Association committees during his 44 years of membership in the SFVBA.

Megan Ferkel Earhart is an Associate in the Trusts & Estates department of Goldfarb Sturman & Averbach in Encino and is currently pursuing a LL.M. in Taxation at Loyola Law School. Megan participates in the SFVBA's Probate & Estate Planning Section and networking mixers. Megan's community involvement includes the American Cancer Society Attorneys Committee and Bet Tzedek National Leadership Council.

Robert L. Finkel limits his practice to U.S and foreign intellectual property law as a sole practitioner in Lake Balboa. He is active in the Association's Attorney Referral Service and the Intellectual Property, Entertainment & Internet Law Section.



Angela M. Hutchinson serves as the Managing Editor of *Valley Lawyer* magazine, and she was recently accepted to law school. Hutchinson is also a published author and entrepreneur within the entertainment field. She and her husband of eight years have two young children. Hutchinson can be reached at editor@sfvba.org.

Gerald L. Fogelman was elected to a two-year term on the SFVBA Board of Trustees in 2010. He is a former deputy district attorney and has represented adult and juvenile criminal defendants in private practice since 1978. Fogelman is Chair of the SFVBA Programs Committee and the Criminal Law Section. He also sat on the Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2004.

Randi Geffner is a Senior Associate at Wasserman Comden Casselman & Esensten in Tarzana. Geffner's area of practice is employment law and litigation. She is active in the SFVBA's Horace Mann Project and she and her firm support the Law Post project at Northridge Academy High School. Geffner has developed the community service program at Wasserman Comden and fundraises for Aids Project LA.

Sean E. Judge was appointed to the SFVBA Board of Trustees in 2011. He is a mediator in Woodland Hills. Judge is Co-Chair of the SFVBA Mandatory Fee Arbitration Committee and is a frequent contributor to *Valley Lawyer*. He has also served as a VAST settlement officer and belongs to the SFVBA's online Mediator Directory.

Alan E. Kassin first joined the SFVBA in 1988. He is a partner in the Northridge firm of Kantor & Kantor and represents plaintiffs in recovery of health related insurance benefits. Over the last 20 years, he has been actively involved in his synagogue serving on several committees, such as Long Term Planning Committee, Technology Committee, Special Event Planning Committee and Nominating Committee.

Mark S. Shipow was elected to a two-year term on the SFVBA Board of Trustees in 2010. He has a solo business litigation practice in West Hills. Shipow has worked to expand member benefits and networking opportunities as Chair of the SFVBA Membership & Marketing Committee. He is active in Blanket the Homeless and the SFVBA Litigation Section.

Michelle Short-Nagel is Co-Chair of the SFVBA Family Law Section. She practices family law as a sole practitioner in Woodland Hills. Short-Nagel has been a member of the SFVBA since 1998 and interned for the Association's Attorney Referral Service as a law student. She volunteers as a family law mediator and participates in the Pro per Judgment Days and Settle-O-Rama for the court.

Charles A. Shultz was appointed to the SFVBA Board of Trustees in 2011. He practices trusts, estates and probate as a partner with the Tarzana law firm of Wasserman Comden Casselman & Esensten. Shultz is Co-Chair of the SFVBA Mentoring Program and chaired the Probate & Estate Planning Section. ✍