

BarNotes

A Publication of the
San Fernando Valley Bar Association



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The San Fernando Valley Bar Association's 2007 Installation Gala offers each attendee a personalized experience within the context of a ballroom-sized event.

Special features of the evening, scheduled for Saturday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Woodland Hills Hilton Hotel, include a wine tasting event during cocktails, award-winning wine selections during dinner, installation of the new bar and foundation presidents, and the President's Award ceremony.

"It's been a great year," outgoing bar president Patricia McCabe, principal of Van Nuys' Law Office of Patricia McCabe, says.

McCabe will be turning the reigns of leadership over to **incoming president Sue M. Bendavid-Arbiv** at the party. Bendavid-Arbiv is an employer-side employment litigation partner with San Fernando Valley law firm Lewitt, Hackman, Shapiro, Marshall & Harlan.

"I'm excited to begin implementing programs to further develop the bar and its offerings for both lawyers and the larger community," Ms. Bendavid-Arbiv says. "At the same time, I'm sad to see Patty go – I've learned so much from her, working with her this past year."

Bendavid-Arbiv has set out an ambitious '07-'08 agenda of bar expansion programming, including extensive focus on both member service and community outreach. She is expected to outline the particulars of her initiatives at the Gala.

The Valley Community Legal Foundation of the SFVBA will install Marcia L. Kraft as its president. She is reprising her role in this regard, as she served in the position for the past year. During Kraft's tenure as president, fund-raising was extremely successful, and the foundation was able to add a number of worthy causes to its recipient list.

Kraft, principal of Woodland Hills' Law Offices of Marcia L. Kraft, focuses her practice on trust and estate matters. She was active with the bar association for many years before assuming the lead role with the foundation.

"I plan to sharply increase fundraising efforts this coming year," Kraft says. "There are so many important charitable causes in the Valley that desperately need our help – and with the help of the bar's members, we'll be able to assist more and more of them."

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DUAL FOCUS

New Bar President Sue M. Bendavid-Arbiv Planning Extensive Community Outreach and Expanded Member Benefits Programs

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association has been flexing its muscles in recent years, growing its membership and adding benefits and services. And it's proud that it rivals other, significant local bar associations in size and scope.

But whether observers are on the inside or the outside, they know it's the bar's

leadership that makes the difference. Volunteer leaders bring fresh ideas and implement them through hard work each year. And in the lead is new bar President Sue M. Bendavid-Arbiv.

"I've enjoyed serving the bar in a number of capacities throughout the years,"

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Calendar of Events Page 27

San Fernando Valley
Bar Association
Installation Gala
and Wine Tasting



Saturday, September 15, 2007

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Dual Focus, continued from cover

Bendavid-Arbiv, a trustee for multiple terms, says. "It's enabled us to develop a detailed grasp of both the big picture and the tiny details of the organization, so we can see avenues to serve members and the larger Valley community."

Bendavid-Arbiv is a long-time partner with Encino's Lewitt, Hackman, Shapiro, Marshall & Harlan, which offers business, real estate and civil litigation services. The firm services individual entrepreneurs, start-ups, highly compensated executives, family businesses, and multi-national companies. Lewitt Hackman has long been a leader in supporting the needs of the bar and the San Fernando Valley.

"One of our targeted projects this year is working with the local courts to initiate some coordinated outreach programs," Bendavid-Arbiv, who specializes in employer-side employment litigation and counseling, says. "We've developed some broadly-defined outreach programs to the community to encourage a better understanding of and respect for the judicial system, bench officers, and lawyers."



Bendavid-Arbiv recognized by Presiding Judge J. Stephen Czuleger

Bendavid-Arbiv is no stranger to the courthouse experience. She has represented employers before the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the California Employment Development Department, the California Labor Commissioner (Division of Labor Standards Enforcement) and the U.S. Department of Labor. She is admitted before the U.S. District Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She has substantial experience pursuing writs, appeals and motions of all kinds, as well as trial work.

"The goal of our outreach program is to educate the public in a non-threatening way about the importance of jury service," she says.

"We're trying to guide the public's perspective so that prospective jurors develop respect for this civic duty, rather than dreading it."

Bendavid-Arbiv's professional work has exposed her to a variety of workplace situations involving myriad factors. She regularly assists employers with hiring and firing, wage and hour, leave, wrongful termination, harassment, discrimination and retaliation issues. And she brings a preventive law approach to her clients at every opportunity, preparing employee handbooks, policies and employment agreements. And all of this has brought her into contact with numerous impressive and diverse opposing counsel.

"We're committed to developing and supporting programs that encourage diversity," she says. "We'll be working with local bars to increase diversity, both on the bench and among lawyers, to best serve the public's interests."

In addition to her client obligations, Bendavid-Arbiv is a busy public speaker, and she often meets Valley lawyers in the context of programming through other bars. While she sees value in networking in a larger arena, she believes that the most effective networking begins at home, right in the San Fernando Valley.

"A large part of our agenda for '07-'08 is expanding the bar's networking and marketing support activities," Bendavid-Arbiv, who recently lectured to the Volunteer Center of Los Angeles on Unlawful Harassment in Employment, Sterling Education Services on Managing the Modern Workforce, and contributed to the yearly Employment Law Update, says. "There is tremendous value in getting to know fellow members at the San Fernando Valley Bar, so lawyers can get the professional guidance they might need and at the same time cross-refer business to well-qualified counsel."

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Dual Focus, continued from page 14

According to Bendavid-Arbiv, activities that build camaraderie benefit lawyers in a number of important ways, so she is supporting programs that increase the social aspects of the bar. She hopes to continue the concerts in the park program, and she supports the newer social offerings of the bar, including a billiards mixer that will be occurring October 11. But she sees lawyers in a larger context as well.

"While networking is an important aspect of every attorney's professional life, continuing education is even more significant," she says. "We'll be working closely with the bar to ensure that we continue to offer high-quality section meetings and seminars to our members and guests."

She added that a primary focus on member benefits includes providing library access, noting that last year bar members lost their law library privileges at the University of West Los Angeles. A study by the bar revealed that this is a highly valued member benefit, one that is sorely missed.

"The bar already has several plans in the works to provide meaningful library access to members," she says. "I am aware that a lot of attorneys used this service in the past and I understand how important it is to our members."

Bendavid-Arbiv is thankful to outgoing president Patricia McCabe for developing momentum to support expansion of the bar and its programs.

"Patty worked hard this past year and accomplished so much," Bendavid-Arbiv says. "I'm grateful that she is going to stay involved and offer her continued leadership."

Bendavid-Arbiv, named one of the Top 25 Lawyers of the Valley (*San Fernando Valley Business Journal*) and a Super Lawyer (*L.A. Magazine*), won the Women Who Mean Business award from the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*. She is a judge in the National Moot Court Competition and a volunteer mediator for the Valley Associated Settlement Team.

"Sue cares deeply about the legal profession in general and the Valley legal community in particular," Lewitt, Hackman managing partner Keith T. Zimmitt says.

According to Zimmitt, Sue is a dedicated professional with vast knowledge of employment law. And her calm personality and friendly disposition provides comfort to management when dealing with difficult and stressful employment law matters.

"I'm confident that Sue will bring that same dedication, friendliness, and expertise to her new position as president of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association," he says.

In addition to her client matters and volunteer work, Bendavid-Arbiv is a prolific writer, authoring numerous scholarly pieces for the legal print media. Her published works include "Got Lunch? California Supreme Court Expands Employer Liability for Missed Meal and Rest Periods," "How to Handle When the Labor Commissioner Visits," "Minimum Wage Hike Guidelines," "Decision Puts Strict Rule on Pay of Temp Workers," and "From the Mouths of Babes: Deposing Children in Civil Suits."

"I'm especially looking forward to working with Liz Post and the entire bar staff," Bendavid-Arbiv says. "They are invaluable!" 🐘