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- ANNUAL SEMINAR IN RESORT LOCATIONS
- QUARTERLY ABTL REPORT NEWSLETTER
- JUDICIAL MIXER
- MOCK TRIAL

...AND MORE!

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MEMBERSHIP TIME!!!

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By Jenny Dixon

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

ABTL San Diego, 2025

By Jenny L. Dixon

2025 has been a productive year for our Chapter. Our programming was varied and resonated with our membership, and our Annual Charity event in November successfully raised \$2800 for the ABTL San Diego Mock Trial Program. We hosted the Joint Board Retreat in Coronado in May and are well into planning for the 52nd Annual Seminar, which we will host at the Park Hyatt Aviara in Carlsbad from October 7-11, 2026.

Our devoted members and supporting sponsors are what have made this year a success! Many thanks to:

- PLATINUM - JAMS, Judicate West, and Signature Resolution
- GOLD - ADR Services, Inc., Esquire Deposition Solutions, and Steno
- SILVER - Ankura, Bill VanDeWeghe, and Consilio
- DRINKS - Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP (Q1 & Q2); Aptus (Q3); and Shustak Reynolds & Partners (Q4)
- JUDICIAL MIXER TACO CART - ADR Services, Inc.
- PRESIDENT'S RAFFLE DONORS

As my presidency comes to a close, my overwhelming emotion is gratitude for being part of this wonderful organization. What started as a way to feel connected to my local legal community after my return to San Diego became so much more over the years. Yes, I found professional growth through business networking and referrals, but I also found friends, mentors, courage to tackle new challenges, and a way to give back to the community. What made this possible? **Our incredible members!**

For 2026, I am confident that ABTL San Diego will continue to grow and have exciting programming. Your ideas and connections are the foundation for our dinners, brown bags, and specialty MCLE lunches!



Here are some ideas on how to give back to ABTL San Diego in 2026:

- Commit to bringing a nonmember to our events to spread the word about ABTL
- Level up and become a Board of Governors firm.
- Offer to assist at an event or committee
- Encourage a younger attorney to join the Lawyers Development Committee (LDC)
- Lori's favorite, write articles for our Quarterly Report

And speaking of Lori McElroy, our chapter is indebted to you for your hard work, crisis management, and ebullient personality. We would not run as smoothly without you and your wonderful outlook.

Gratefully,

Jenny L. Dixon

Jenny L. Dixon is a partner at Hahn Loeser & Parks.

51st Annual Seminar Wailea Resort in Maui, Hawaii

By Anne Wilson

This year our 51st Annual Seminar was held at the beautiful Wailea Resort in Maui, Hawaii. After a welcome to the conference with leis and mai tais, the attendees enjoyed a sunset dinner on the water's edge.

The theme of the seminar was Strategic Litigation: Protecting Clients in a High-Stakes, High-Profile Disputes. The program worked through the life of a trade secret misappropriation and breach of contract dispute between an Orange County audiology and speech therapy group and its former employee and her new employer.

Our San Diego Chapter was well represented in a range of panels. I had the pleasure of participating the first panel titled "Elementary, My Dear Watson: Pre-Filing Detective Work and Case Preparation," where we discussed key considerations for framing your case, collecting documents, conducting early witness interviews, and working with forensics experts to investigate and preserve electronic evidence. One of the highlights for me in participating in this panel was getting to collaborate with and know members from the Orange County and Los Angeles Chapters.

On day two, **Rachael K. Kelley** of Burton Kelley moderated a panel titled "Discovery in the Fast Lane: Strategy, Speed, and Substance." The Honorable Erick L. Larsh of the Orange County Superior Court provided an overview of the Informal Discovery Conference ("IDC") process. He discussed how the increasing caseloads in unlimited civil cases has impacted the wait times for law and motion hearings—he himself hears approximately 2.21 motions per day. Thus, the Orange County Superior Court has a designated IDC Court, which holds 15 IDCs per day and hears any subsequent discovery motion that is not resolved following the IDC. San Diego Judicial Board Member, the **Honorable Allison H. Goddard** of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California then explained the process in the Southern District and the benefit of faster track for resolution of informal discovery dispute.

San Diego Board of Governors Members **Eric J. Beste** of Barnes & Thornburg LLP and **Christian G. Andreau-von Euw** of the Business Litigation Group PC advocated for their respective clients in a mock IDC on an ex parte for expedited discovery seeking (1) a protective order, (2) evidence preservation, (3) appointment of a special master, (4) forensic discovery, and (5)

deposition of the former employee. Our members displayed the professionalism and excellence in their presentation.

On the final day, the **Honorable Linda Lopez** of the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of California acted as both presiding judge and a witness in a mock hearing for preliminary injunction in the trade secret dispute. Judge Lopez brought professionalism and wit to the presentation, which included testimony from the parties and excellent oral advocacy from the panelists.

The keynote address from **Heidi Ho**, the Executive Director of Pono Legal, and Keanu Lau Hee, the Senior Director of the Hawaii Community Foundation, provided compelling insight into the unique challenges faced by locals following devastating wildfires on Maui in August 2023. Heartbroken by the losses to their community -- lives, homes, businesses, and historic landmarks-- Heidi Ho founded a non-profit organization Pono Legal. (PONO stands for Pro bono Organization for Native 'Ohana.) Pono Legal actively works with the community to assist with disaster-related legal issues including housing, employment, estate planning, insurance, and navigating claims processes for public benefits. Our members in attendance were moved by their speech and several have looked for ways to support their efforts. For more information on Pono Legal or to donate, visit <https://www.ponolegal.org/>.

As usual, the Annual Seminar provided us with a chance to learn, relax, and spend time getting to know members of this great organization (and some of their families). Looking forward to next year's Annual Seminar where San Diego is the host Chapter! Mark your calendars for October 8th to 11th, 2026 at the Park Hyatt Aviara in Carlsbad, California.



Anne Wilson is a shareholder at Duckor Metzger & Wynne, APLC Shareholder. Anne is an ABTL Board of Governor's member and ABTL'S newest officer voted in as 2026 Secretary.

Continued on page 5

Annual Seminar | Continued from page 4



**SAN DIEGO
WAS WELL REPRESENTED!**

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Anne Wilson



Christian
Andreu-von Euw

Eric Beste



Hon. Allison Goddard

Rachael Kelley



Hon. Linda Lopez

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We congratulate Judge Taylor on his retirement from the San Diego County Superior Court. Combining 21 years in Big Law with 20 years on the bench, Judge Taylor is known as a candid communicator with a sharp eye for detail and keen ability to analyze case merits.

- Presided over hundreds of trials with a stellar affirmance rate by reviewing courts
- Served as Civil Supervising Judge from 2013-2017
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Judge Taylor**

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2025 | ABTL Year in Review

Q1 FEB 4 BILL OXLEY & MEHAN KELLY



Q2 APR 8 MCDONALD'S, BAE SYSTEMS, GE VERNOVA, AMGEN



Q3 AUG 20 CYNTHIA TOBISMAN

NOV 12



ABTL's Annual Mock Trial Q4 Charity Event



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PRESIDENT'S BOTTLE RAFFLE



L to R: Ryan Simone, Dzvinika McKie, & Jared Paulson - **THANK YOU** for your assistance!



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- Appointed judge pro tem for the San Diego Superior Court
- Two-term past president of The Association of Business Trial Lawyers San Diego Chapter
- Past chair of the State Bar of California Litigation Section
- Best-selling co-author of "Reading People" and "Put Your Best Foot Forward"

With a balanced perspective from representing both plaintiffs and defendants, Mark excels at simplifying complex issues and resolving disputes creatively. His keen communication skills and innovative conflict resolution techniques make him highly effective in helping parties reach mutually acceptable settlements.



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