

Sacramento LAWYER

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COUNTY BAR
ASSOCIATION
MAGAZINE

A man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and a patterned tie, is smiling and standing in a library. He is surrounded by wooden bookshelves filled with books. The background shows rows of books with numbers on the spines, such as 32, 33, 48, 49, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, and 10.

**2013 SCBA
President
Bruce M. Timm**

**Founders Honored at
Unity Bar Association's
25th Anniversary Gala**

**Sacramento Lawyer Lore:
The Ever Moving
Bunmi Awoniyi**



By Bruce M. Timm

A Year of Challenge, Change, and Opportunity

It is with tremendous enthusiasm and optimism that I begin my term as the 82nd president of the Sacramento County Bar Association (SCBA). Over the next year, we will confront and address historic challenges to the justice system, the attorneys who serve it, and the community served by it. We will also seize opportunities to dramatically increase services and benefits to our members in ways never previously considered by our association.

The challenges we face are significant. First, our courts are under siege. Debilitating budget cuts to the judicial branch have brought our courts to the point where they cannot function efficiently. Until adequate funding is restored, access to justice, the rule of law, and our democratic system of government remain in jeopardy. If members of the legal profession do not stand up for adequate court funding, who will? The SCBA will be the leading California bar association in the struggle to restore adequate funding to our courts. As attorneys located in our state's

capitol, nothing less will suffice. To meet this challenge, we will be urging our board of directors in January to form the SCBA Court Funding Task Force to mobilize our members, coordinate with the judiciary, and work closely with other local bar associations to educate the public and engage the Legislature. Our association will not remain silent in the face of this challenge.

Second, significant numbers of our new lawyers are being squeezed out of the profession due to a shortage of available law-related jobs. Recent studies reveal that law schools are graduating lawyers in numbers that greatly exceed available jobs in the legal profession. Many new lawyers --addled with enormous debt -- are being deprived of benefits most of us enjoyed: a mentor; a good job; and a network of professionals in the legal community. In January, the SCBA board of directors will be encouraged to establish the SCBA Bar Mentorship Program. Working closely with our local law schools, the SCBA will assist new lawyers who are struggling to become part of our legal community.

In addition to meeting these challenges, the SCBA will improve member benefits in ways that have not previously been explored. Following a national search, the SCBA hired a new executive director -- **Larkin Chenault** -- who joins us with over 25-years of experience as an executive director in other state-wide and local bar associations. With new and fresh ideas, our current members should expect more and better opportunities to stay current in their practice areas and to meet and network with colleagues, members of the judiciary, and members of the business community. We will provide better marketing and public relations in order to trumpet the accomplishments and good works of our members. Building on that momentum, we will target those attorneys who are not current members of the SCBA and clearly and persuasively communicate the benefits of membership. We will also engage the Sacramento business community -- a key ally in the court funding battle and part of the community served by our justice system -- in ways that that will be mutually beneficial.

To meet these challenges and to take advantage of unique opportunities, there will inevitably be operational changes in the way we run our association. Our executive team—comprised of **Stacy Moak**, **BJ Susich**, **Angela Lai**, and executive director Larkin Chenault—will empower our board of directors to ensure that the ultimate authority to run our association resides not with any one person or committee, but with the board. We will be more business-minded, with a laser focus on providing exceptional

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benefits and services to our members. When the association commits its time and limited resources in ways that no longer make sense for our members, changes should be considered, even if those changes are difficult, controversial, or inconsistent with long-standing practices.

Finally, as the current spokesperson for our board of directors, I cannot close this first president's message without recognizing the tireless efforts of **June Coleman**. June poured her heart and soul into the SCBA, and the Sacramento legal community is better because of her service.

I am blessed to be offered the opportunity to serve as your president. Let us start our journey together in what will be a year to remember! ✍

Bruce Timm

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2013 SCBA President Bruce M. Timm



By Francis J. Mootz III, Dean of Pacific McGeorge School of Law

The Sacramento County Bar Association welcomes its new President, **Bruce M. Timm**. His enthusiasm, professionalism and legal skills will serve him well as the leader of the state capital's local bar association.



Sacramento County Bar Association President Bruce M. Timm

Bruce was named shareholder at Boutin Jones Inc. in November of last year, after two years serving as Of Counsel at the firm. Bruce's practice is focused on employment law, where he is recognized as a skilled litigator and strong advocate for his employer clients.

Bruce had an early interest in the law. As an undergraduate, he took a number of business law classes. He quickly found he enjoyed reading the cases and then trying to see the disputes from both sides. Bruce was motivated to join a profession that helped people and made a difference in society, but when he entered law school he had only a general idea of how he would use his law degree to effect positive change. After representing employers in several cases he soon found his niche in employment law.

Originally from New Jersey, Bruce attended high school in San Diego before moving to Northern California and receiving his Bachelor's degree in Management from Sonoma State University. Bruce enrolled at University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and took advantage of the many experiential learning options. During law school, Bruce completed two internships — one at the Legal Center for the Elderly and Disabled, another at a civil litigation firm — and immersed himself in Pacific McGeorge's extensive advocacy program.

Bruce received numerous law school honors and a scholarship in recognition of his strong advocacy skills. He won the Final Four Top Oral Advocate Award, was elected to membership in the Roger J. Traynor Honor Society, was a member of the National Moot Court Competition Team, was on the Dean's Honor Roll, and served as a teaching assistant in the Appellate Advocacy program.

Bruce has maintained close ties to Pacific

Photography by Mary Burroughs



SCBA Executive Committee from left: President Bruce M. Timm, 1st Vice President Stacy Moak, 2nd Vice President B.J. Susich, Secretary Treasurer Angela Lai and Executive Director D. Larkin Chenault.

McGeorge since graduating in 1998. He is serving his second term as a member of the Pacific McGeorge Alumni Association board. He has served on the board's executive committee as Vice President of Alumni Programs and has been particularly active in bringing Pacific McGeorge students together with alumni mentors. Bruce also donates a significant amount of his time to Pacific McGeorge through Career Development Office panel discussions, judging oral arguments for moot court teams, giving guest lectures in classes, and mentoring students. This dedication and willingness to give back will certainly be evident in Bruce's stewardship of the SCBA.

Bruce was appointed as adjunct professor in what is now referred to as Pacific McGeorge's Global Lawyering Skills program. GLS is a required sequence of courses that instruct students in legal research, reasoning and writing. He joined the faculty in this capacity because he recognized how much he gained from this class during law school, which enabled him to perform at a higher level during his first years as an attorney in arguing motions, taking depositions and writing briefs. Bruce describes himself as a "big believer" in the GLS courses after watching students tremendously improve their writing and oral argument skills, and grow from not being able to stand up and make an argument to being able to assert arguments skillfully before a multi-judge panel.

After graduating from McGeorge, Bruce started working

with a small law firm in Sacramento doing general civil litigation. After two and a half years, he accepted a position with Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard, where he got his first taste of employment litigation. He knew in law school that he wanted to be a civil litigator, and his early experience exposed him to a variety of cases. He began to concentrate on the employment cases, finding that the factual complexity of most cases posed a challenge. Bruce learned that he "loved practicing employment law," and he knows that he has found his professional calling.

Bruce followed his interest in employment law to Littler Mendelson, a firm specializing in employment matters. He then co-founded Barth Tozer & Timm LLP, a civil litigation firm, with two former partners from the Kronick firm. After two and a half entrepreneurial years he decided to return to a large firm practice, and so he joined McDonough Holland & Allen. When the firm ultimately dissolved, Bruce and 18 other lawyers from the McDonough firm joined Boutin Jones Inc., which Bruce believes is one of the top business and litigation firms in the region.


At Boutin Jones, Bruce is a member of the Employment Law and Litigation Practice Groups. The majority of Bruce's practice is representing employers in litigation, but he also handles business and commercial cases. He defends clients in state and federal courts in a variety of employment litigation, including sexual harassment, discrimination and wrongful termination. He also handles administrative claims

filed with state agencies. Additionally, he serves as a valued counselor to clients seeking to avoid employment-related liabilities, offering advice about employee policies. Bruce values strong relationships with his clients and his attorney colleagues. When mentoring students, he emphasizes the importance of fostering and maintaining these relationships.

Outside of work, Bruce is a member of numerous organizations, including the McGeorge Alumni Association, St. Thomas More Society, the Sacramento Downtown Rotary Club, and Operation Protect and Defend. He and his wife, Michelle, are raising two active daughters, Sarah, age 9, and Ashley, age 7. Bruce enjoys coaching Sarah's soccer team, the Land Park Cheetahs. He enjoys getting away from the law courts and spending time on the tennis courts, where he is a skilled competitor.

The SCBA will address critical challenges under Bruce's leadership. The SCBA plans to be a leading voice among California bar associations in the struggle to restore adequate funding to the court system. The SCBA will also be working to assist new lawyers who have been squeezed out of the profession due to a shortage of law-related jobs. He also intends to capitalize on opportunities open to the

SCBA. After conducting a national search, the SCBA hired Larkin Chenault as its executive director. Larkin has more than 25 years of experience leading local and state-wide bar associations, and is excited to bring his experience to the SCBA. Working with fresh ideas, and an energized board of directors, Bruce anticipates increasing services and benefits for members in new ways.

With Bruce as the leader of the SCBA, the organization will be in the hands of an excellent counselor and advocate. He looks forward to serving as the 2013 SCBA President and ensuring that it continues to be an important resource for lawyers in the Sacramento region. Bruce's passion for building relationships and his skills will provide excellent guidance to the SCBA during this time of structural changes in legal education and the practice of law. 

Francis J Mootz III is dean and professor of law at University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. After practicing law in Connecticut, he taught law for 22 years. He previously was associate dean for academic affairs and faculty development at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Las Vegas. He joined Pacific McGeorge as dean in June 2012.

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