

"INTERACTIONS"

The E-Mail Newsletter of the California Association of Superior Court Investigators (CASCI)

Spring 2010



CASCI Board

Jo Ann Morris
President
(559) 263-8764

Shauna Gillespie-Ford
Vice President
(415) 551-3653

Amy Smith
Treasurer
(805) 662-6595

Kathy Tappero
Secretary
(831) 420-2455

Members at Large:
Larry Grant
(707) 207-7485

Evelyn Murphy
(530) 749-7616

Rick Wishnak
(707) 521-6842

33rd Annual CASCI Conference!!! May 3 – 5 Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf San Francisco, California

The CASCI Board is pleased to invite all of you to the annual Court Investigator's Conference, which will be held this year in the beautiful city of San Francisco!! Please be sure and check the CASCI website for all updated conference information and registration forms. If you cannot access the website, don't worry, a registration packet is being mailed to every CI office, so be on the look-out. This year, the conference registration fee will be \$200.00 for current CASCI members and \$300.00 for non-members. For those not able to attend the full conference, we will also offer an 8 hour pass for the Tuesday program and 4 hour passes, for either the Monday or Wednesday programs. Details will be included in the registration packet. Any meals included with the full conference registration fee will be included with a day pass.

In order to register for the conference, be sure to complete and return your registration form by April 10, 2010. A late registration fee of \$50.00 will apply to any and all registrations received after the April 10th deadline.

The CASCI Board is also very happy to announce the winners of four conference scholarships. The scholarships cover the cost of the conference registration fee only. A winner was selected from each of the four regions. Congratulations to:

Region I- Virginia Rea, Siskiyou County

Region II- Anne Heitbrink, Monterey County

Region III- Oneatha Herne, Sacramento County

Region IV- Theresia McKelvey, Santa Barbara County

The Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf will provide conference participants with a special room rate of \$129.00/night. The room registration deadline is April 7, 2010.

Please make your reservations directly with the hotel by phone at 1(800) 942-7348, or online at www.hifishermanswharf.com.

IMPORTANT: When calling in your reservation, specifically mention "CASCI" to receive the special conference room rate of \$129.00 per night. This room rate will only be available until April 7th, or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first. **Space is limited, so make your reservation as soon as possible!!!**

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the conference!

Sincerely,

CASCI Board



Conference Schedule



Monday, May 3rd

- Noon to 1:00pm Traditional Conference Registration
(lunch not provided)
- 1:00pm to 1:15pm Welcome / Announcements –
Jo Ann Morris, CASCI President
- 1:15pm to 1:30pm Opening Address - Judge Mary Wiss;
Commissioner Sue Kaplan; Mary Quinn, SF Director of Probate
- 1:30pm to 2:30pm Business Meeting (all members)
- 2:30pm to 2:45pm Break
- 2:45pm to 5:00pm Workshops
1. Undue Influence-- Vivian Clayton
 2. Differences in Juvenile Court--
Attorneys Vicky Trapalis and Kathy Richards
 3. Guardianship Screening Process --Heather Tackitt
- 5:30pm to 6:30pm Hospitality Suite (light snacks and appetizers)

Tuesday May 4th

- 7:30am to 8:30am Breakfast
- 8:30-8:45 Board nominations
- 8:45am to 11:30pm Workshops
1. Juvenile Immigration Status--Abigail Trellin, Attorney
 2. Senior Predators: Reverse Mortgages/Annuities--
Prescott Cole, Neil Granger
 3. Accounting Workshop-- Helen Yune-Trowbridge, Probate
Examiner, San Francisco; Timothy Kneis
- 10:15am to 10:30am Break
- 11:30pm to 12:30pm Lunch
- 12:30pm to 2:30pm Plenary Session, "Cultural Diversity",
Kimberly Papillon
- 2:30pm-2:45pm Break
- 2:45pm to 5:00pm
Workshops / Round Table Discussions
1. Prader-Wille Syndrome-- Lisa Graziano
 2. "He said, she said" A framework for
Interviewing Families in Conflict--Jackie Ryle Ph.D.
 3. Undue influence—"Undoing undue influence" Mary
Quinn, Lisa Nirenberg, Eileen Goldman, Deena Piazza
- 5:30pm to 9:00 p.m Hospitality Suite (substantial snacks,
Dinner on your own)

Wednesday May 5th

- 8:00am to 9:00am Breakfast / Short Membership Meeting
Board Member Elections
- 9:00am to 10:30am Plenary Session:
Panel on Ex-Parte Communication Issues--
Pam Williams, Trudy Verzosa, Rick Wishnak
- 10:30am to 10:45am Break
- 10:45am to 12:15pm Plenary Session-- "Whose life is it anyway?"
Mediation in Conservatorships and
Guardianships-- Attorneys G. Franchesca
Callejo and Lawrence S. Siracusa;
Facilitator Mary Quinn
- 12:15pm to 12:30pm Adjournment
(Board Member Election Results, Certificates of Completion)

The newly elected Board of Directors will meet for a few minutes after the conference to elect officers and set a date for the next Board meeting.





Visiting San Francisco

The CASCI Conference is being held this year at the Holiday Inn, located in the heart of San Francisco, at Fisherman's Wharf. The Fisherman's Wharf area is filled with shops, restaurants and a diverse array of attractions. You'll find a little bit of everything as you wander past the city's docks. Ferries to Alcatraz and across the bay are easily accessible from the hotel. Places to visit near the hotel include:

Ghirardelli Square: a must for chocolate-lovers of all ages, Ghirardelli Square is the headquarters of the famed chocolate company. The square also contains a variety of unique shops and restaurants (2 blocks).

Pier 39: A famous portion of Fisherman's Wharf bustling with energy. See the sea lions, a view of Alcatraz, Aquarium of the Bay, San Francisco carousel and much more (5 blocks).

Cable Cars Take an unforgettable ride on one of the world-famous San Francisco cable cars (3 blocks).

Wax Museum: Remarkably lifelike wax statues populate this always surprising museum (3 blocks).

North Beach: Known as the Little Italy of San Francisco, this neighborhood was once home to the Beat Generation. Sip cappuccino at a sidewalk café or enjoy Italian delicacies at one of the many restaurants (0.5 mile).

China Town: The largest Chinatown outside of Asia as well as the oldest Chinatown in North America. Visitors can buy herbal remedies, enjoy samples at a tea bar or order a "dim sum" lunch.

San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park: Learn about the city's vibrant maritime history.

USS Pampanito Submarine and Museum: Tour one of the world's best preserved WWII submarines

For comprehensive information about San Francisco restaurants and attractions, visit the San Francisco Convention and Visitor's Bureau at:

<http://www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com/>



REMEMBER.....

According to California Rules of Court 10.481, new Court Investigators must complete 18 hours of education within one year of his/her start date. Established Court Investigators must complete 12 hours of education.

CASCI is an AOC-approved provider of these mandatory education requirements.

Also, CIs must keep accurate records for two full years of his/her participation in every program and/or training fulfilling the educational requirements.





A Fond Farewell to Retiring Court Investigator Richard Carlson!

Rick Carlson, Chief Court Investigator for San Mateo County, will be retiring on March 31, 2010. He has been a CASCI member since 1991. His ex-colleage, Mary Fraser, provided the following information:

Rick graduated from San Luis Rey College, a seminarian college, with a B.A. in philosophy and a minor in social science. He then worked for the UC Santa Barbara library before going into the Peace Corps from 1968 to 1970. He was stationed in the Dominican Republic. Afterwards, a fellow whom he knew from college recommended Rick for a Spanish-speaking social worker position in San Mateo County. He started with Social Services in 1972 and in 1976 went to Child Protective Services until December 1990, when he became a Court Investigator. One attribute everyone could agree on with Rick is that he cares deeply for the elderly, disabled, and disenfranchised.

David Cherniss, an attorney/mediator from Juvenile Court ADR Program, will take over management of the Court Investigator's unit in San Mateo County.

CASCI MEMBERSHIP!!!

Being a CASCI member will save you \$\$\$ on the cost of the annual statewide CASCI Conference, plus give you members-only benefits like exclusive access to the CASCI Listserv, a great resource for Court Investigators throughout the state of California. In addition, you are helping to support a group dedicated to providing training, an updated directory of court investigators, and legislation updates for all California Court Investigators.

If you have not paid your **\$35.00** yearly dues, please send your check, along with your name, title, county, work address/telephone, as well as your email address to:

Amy Smith, CASCI Treasurer
Ventura County Superior Court
800 S. Victoria Avenue,
Ventura, CA 93009

****Please make your Check/Money Order out to "CASCI"****

You may contact Amy with any questions at (805) 662-6595 or email Amy.Smith@ventura.courts.ca.gov.



GOLDEN QUILL AWARD

The Golden Quill Award is a long-standing CASCI tradition, meant to recognize outstanding individuals for their service to CASCI and their fellow Court Investigators. Please consider nominating one of your colleagues for this honor. The CASCI Board will review all nominations and a recipient will be selected. The award winner will be announced at this year's conference. Each nominee must be a member of CASCI in good standing. Please don't delay, the deadline is **April 10, 2010!!**



GOLDEN QUILL AWARD

Nomination Form

Due: April 10, 2010



Nominee's Name: _____

_____ (must be a current CASCI member, in good standing)

County: _____

REASONS FOR NOMINATION:

Nominated by: _____

County: _____

Criteria

- **Nominee must be a current CASCI member, in good standing.**
- **Nominee should have done something to further the goals of CASCI. It could be in the last year, or over a period of time.**
- **One nomination per CASCI member.**
- **The CASCI Board of Directors will review the nominations, and select a winner.**
- **The Golden Quill Award Winner will be excluded from nominations for the next 3 selection periods.**
- **Nominations for current Board members will be held over until the nominee is no longer serving on the Board of Directors.**

PLEASE MAIL YOUR COMPLETED NOMINATION FORM TO:

**CAROL LOMBARD
19043 OVERO WAY, COTTONWOOD, CA 96022**

or

Email: clombard@tehamacourt.ca.gov

BY April 10, 2010 FOR CONSIDERATION.

THANK YOU!

Board Member Resignations

Tamara Mickels has resigned as CASCI member at large due to workload demands. Rick Wishnak of Sonoma County is now filling that position.

We welcome Rick and send our best wishes to Tamara!

REGIONAL TRAININGS - REPORTS / UPDATES

Region I – Tim Van Schooten (Shasta County) (530) 225-5707

Counties: Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity and Yuba.

Region II Representative – Cynthia Webb-Beckford

(San Francisco County) (415) 551-5933

Counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma.

Cynthia reports she is in the process of planning a Region II conference for October 8, 2010. It will be held at Lake Temescal in Oakland.

Region III – Diane Goodman (Amador/Calaveras Counties) (209) 223-6600 or (209) 754-6832

Counties: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Inyo, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne and Yolo.

Region III had their last training on August 21, 2009 in Sacramento. The topics included: Child Protective Services, Prader-Willi Syndrome and Testifying in Court. **If anyone is interested in serving as the Region III Representative please contact Diane.** Currently she is a retired annuitant and helping out when needed but, with budget cuts this year, she is not sure how long she will still be on the payroll. Being a Regional Rep has been a fun job that she has enjoyed for the last 4 years. She is more than willing to provide guidance to anyone willing to take over the job.

Region IV – Christel May (San Diego County) (619) 450-7534

Counties: Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

The last Region IV training was in San Diego on February 1, 2010. Topics included Testifying in Court, Interviewing Clients with Aphasia, New Guidelines in Accountings, CPS Guardianship Investigations, Certification and Riese Hearings under LPS, and Medi-Cal Fraud.



TASK FORCE COMMITTEES

Legislative Task Force

Chairperson - Lynn Bundy (Madera County)

lynn.bundy@Madera.courts.ca.gov

The Legislative Task Force Committee is exploring the introduction of legislation to amend Penal Code §11165.7(a) to include Court Investigators as mandated reporters of suspected child abuse.

Guardianship Task Force

Chairperson – J. Manuel Valenzuela (San Francisco County)

mvalenzuela@sftc.org

Aphasia Task Force

Chairperson – John Johnson (Madera County)

john.johnson@Madera.courts.ca.gov

P.I.R.T. Task Force

Chairperson – Heather Tackitt (Madera County)

heather.tackitt@Madera.courts.ca.gov

On March 25, 2010, the Public Information Response Team (PIRT) will host a workshop to discuss the new Pr.C. 1513 (c) model being used in Madera County Superior Court. The Chair, Heather C. Tackitt, will discuss the new Madera Pr.C. 1513 (c) model, which includes an immediate screening by the Mediator/Court Investigator staff of all Guardianship petitions for Parental Unfitness. The workshop will discuss all of the pros/cons of the process to date and will seek suggestions from all attendees. The workshop will also address the issue of codifying the process and the inclusion of Court Investigators as Mandated Reporters. PIRT hopes to see many CASCI members, as well as Bench Officers, at this workshop. Check the CASCI website for details or contact Heather Tackitt at the email address above.

NEWSLETTER

The CASCI *INTERACTIONS* email newsletter is published biannually. Current and past issues are available on the CASCI website at www.CASCI-court.com. If you have an item you want to submit to the newsletter, please contact Kathy Tappero at kathy.tappero@santacruzcourt.org

CASCI LISTSERV

Our CASCI Yahoo Group is going strong, but not all CASCI members have joined this important, and informative, group resource.

*In order to join, send an email to
List Serve Manager, **Lori Coopwood, at ElDoradoCI@aol.com***

TO JOIN THE CASCI LISTSERV, YOU MUST BE A PAID CASCI MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING

CASCI WEBSITE

The CASCI website at www.casci-court.com contains valuable information for all Court Investigators. We do our best to keep it up to date.

For questions about the website, please contact Jo Ann Morris at (559) 263-8764 or email jmorris@fresno.courts.ca.gov
