

# LAW DAY



**41st Annual**

## **Law Day Conference**

Saturday, March 4, 2023

## **Chapman University**

Dale E. Fowler School of Law  
Orange, California

*Notice to All Law Day Conference Participants: CRF-OC is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing civics and law-related education programs to teens. CRF-OC does not take positions on political issues and does not endorse any of the views presented by the speakers of the Law Day Conference. The aim of this conference is to explore current legal issues as part of a civil, reasoned-based discussion from which students can draw their own conclusions. Students are encouraged to actively participate in the discussion and activities led by the moderators and presenters. Through the course of the discussion, students may have their own conclusions tested and challenged by the presenters and/or views of their peers. To create a positive and constructive learning environment, students should treat everyone with respect, while directing their critiques to the arguments people are making, not to the people who are making the argument. Any student that is disrespectful to others may be asked to leave the conference.*

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INSPIRING ORANGE COUNTY STUDENTS  
THROUGH CIVICS AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

## Conference Schedule

<b>Check-In/Workshop Registration</b>	<b>9:00-9:45 am</b>
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 <b>Session 1</b>	<b>9:50-10:50 am</b>
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 <b>Session 2</b>	<b>11:00-12:00 pm</b>
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<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:00-12:30 pm</b>
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## Workshop Registration

The workshops listed in the following pages are identified by a number. Each session is represented by a different color (**red** for session 1, **blue** for session 2). Students must attend the workshop they registered for during the appropriate session. Students may not attend the same workshop twice.

**Students must complete and return the survey sheet distributed at check-in in order to collect their lunch.**

# WORKSHOP 1

## Social Media and Background Checks: What are Employers and Colleges Allowed to Find Out About Me?

**ROOM 142**

Employers and colleges regularly run background checks on job applicants and students. Those checks may include your employment history, your social media history (including your friends' posts that include you), your school disciplinary history, your criminal history and so much more.

This can potentially impact your ability to gain acceptance to colleges and obtain employment. Attend this workshop to hear how in-depth employers and colleges can go, what your rights are, and how to protect yourself and your friends.

**Moderator:**

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**Brent North, Esq.**

*North & Nash, LLP*

Brent North is a founding partner of North & Nash, APLC. He has been practicing law and serving CRF-OC for 26 years, representing public and private entities involving education law and employment law. He regularly handles issues involving investigations and litigation of employee and student misconduct. He is an avid father, grandfather, marathoner, hiker, mountain biker and outdoorsman.

## Panelists:

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**Sherri Fanger McInnes, Esq.**

*Scott & Whitehead*

Sherri is a partner at the law firm of Scott & Whitehead and represents employers in all aspects of employment law, including discrimination, wrongful termination, and compliance issues. She regularly defends and responds to state and federal agency charges of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wage and hour violations.

She also advises management on employment law and a variety of human resource issues such as discipline and terminations, drafting employment agreements and handbooks, leaves of absence, and wage and hour issues. Sherri received her B.A. degree in Government from the University of Redlands and her J.D. degree from Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark School of Law.



**Dominic Quiller, Esq.**

*McCune & Harber LLP*

Dominic Quiller is a partner at McCune & Harber, a law firm specializing in defending public entity and private employers in all aspects of employment litigation, trial, and appeals, including claims of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. He is a graduate of UCLA School of Law.

Over the course of his law school career, he gained invaluable real work experience, including an externship for the Hon. Judge Dean Pregerson in the Central District of California. Dominic also took advantage of the opportunities available to him at UCLA, such as winning multiple mock trial competitions, serving on student government, and writing award winning moot court briefs.

## Will I Ever Be Able to Move Out of My Parents' Home? Legal Issues in the Housing Crisis

**ROOM 147**

Learn about the current housing crisis and the role the law can play in creating, exacerbating, and solving it. Hear from experts about the different federal, state, and local laws that affect housing development and get all of your questions answered, including:

Why is rent so high?

How can we protect families from eviction?

Is it illegal to sleep on the streets?

Why is it so hard to build new housing?

**Moderator:**

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**Sarah Reisman, Esq.**

*Community Legal Aid SoCal*

Sarah is the Directing Attorney of Advocacy & Litigation at Community Legal Aid SoCal, where she uses the law to find creative solutions to pervasive and systemic issues facing low-income individuals and vulnerable communities. Sarah has broad litigation experience at the trial and appellate levels and has extensive experience representing clients who experienced trauma, with an emphasis on survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. She thinks the law can and should be a force for good and seeks to level the playing field for historically marginalized populations.

## Panelists:

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### **Cesar Covarrubias**

*The Kennedy Commission*

As the Executive Director for The Kennedy Commission, Cesar Covarrubias manages and provides strategic leadership in leading the Commission's advocacy and programs to increase affordable housing opportunities and improve the stability of lower income families in Orange County, CA. Mr. Covarrubias' expertise combines over a decade of experience in nonprofit management, affordable housing policy, advocacy, and community-building. Prior to his position as ED, Mr. Covarrubias coordinated the Commission's efforts to develop and implement affordable housing public policies and strategies in local governments and at the state level.

Mr. Covarrubias has also worked at the Fair Housing Council of Orange County as a case manager for housing discrimination cases and assisted clients with landlord-tenant issues. He has been recognized for his expertise and commitment to creating equitable communities and his advocacy for serving the needs of lower-income families. He also serves on numerous nonprofit boards. He received a law degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law and bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Spanish Literature from California State University, Fullerton.



### **Allison Levy, Esq.**

*Meta Housing*

Allison is a Senior Project Manager at Meta Housing where she is responsible for the full life cycle of a project, managing details of financing, construction, and partner relationships to ensure a successful development. Allison brings a diverse background to her role, including experience in government relations, advocacy, and outreach for nonprofits and professional associations as well as over seven years in affordable housing development. Her development work includes both preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing across eight different states and the new construction of affordable senior, family, and permanent supportive housing in California. Allison earned a bachelor's degree in American Studies & History from Washington University in St. Louis and a law degree at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is a licensed attorney in the State of New York.

## Panelists:

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### **Jessie Lopez**

*Mayor Pro Tem, City of Santa Ana*

Jessie Lopez is an advocate and organizer at heart. Born and raised in Santa Ana, Jessie was brought up in a working-class household. Jessie attended Hoover Elementary, Willard Intermediate and Santa Ana High School before pursuing an A.A. at Santa Ana College and a B.A. in Sociology at California State University, Long Beach. Throughout her time in college, Jessie worked two jobs to put herself through school. As an undergraduate student, she helped organize students and led campaigns to address sexual assault on campus and making higher education more accessible. She continued her advocacy alongside community groups in her hometown to fight for equity, accountability and transparency.

In March 2020, Jessie was elected by the working families of the 69th Assembly District to help represent their concerns as a central committee member within the Democratic Party of Orange County. Jessie is honored to represent Ward 3 and to serve the community that raised her. She is a firm believer in civic engagement, the right to equal treatment and opportunity, and is passionate about empowering community participation. Jessie is an advocate for all Santa Ana families, and with a demonstrated record of community leadership, provides effective representation for Santa Ana.



### **Richard Walker, Esq.**

*Public Law Center*

Richard supervises the work in the Public Law Center's Housing and Homelessness Prevention Unit. Richard oversees the Unit's work representing low-income tenants in eviction defense cases, providing legal assistance to mobile home owners, advocating on behalf of homeless and low-income individuals for improved housing policies and assistance in local municipalities, and providing legal assistance and education in a variety of other housing issues. Richard also works with local pro bono attorneys on impact cases addressing a wide range of issues including land use, affordable housing, habitability, discrimination, and other housing-related matters. Before law school, Richard was a junior high math teacher. Richard graduated from Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark School of Law and has a B.A. from Utah State University.



# WORKSHOP 3

## Does the Victim Want to Press Charges? The Role and Rights of Crime Victims Under California Criminal Law

**ROOM 152**

The California Victims' Bill of Rights Act of 2008, known as “Marsy’s Law,” was enacted by voters as Proposition 9 through the initiative process in the November 2008 general election and codified into the California Constitution as article I, § 28, section (b). Named for Marsalee “Marsy” Nicholas, who was tragically murdered while a student at UCSB, Marsy’s Law expanded the rights provided to crime victims and their families throughout the criminal justice process in California, and similar laws have been adopted in numerous other states.

Critics of the law take issue with vagueness in the way “victims” are defined, and argue that the law elevates the rights of victims above the rights of criminal defendants. But even given those criticisms, you may be surprised to learn the role “pressing charges” plays in whether or not someone is charged with a crime.

### **Moderator:**

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**Kate Wagner, Esq.**

*Orange County District Attorney’s Office*

Kate Wagner is a deputy district attorney currently assigned to prosecute white collar crime. Kate has been a prosecutor since early 2015, and in that time has tried approximately 40 felony and misdemeanor jury trials and conducted numerous contested hearings as well as office-wide and inter-agency trainings. Prior to becoming a prosecutor, Kate spent several years as a litigator at a large corporate law firm.

## Panelists:



### **Michael Fell, Esq.**

*Law Office of Micheal L. Fell, Esq.*

Michael L. Fell is a dedicated and passionate defense attorney with a strong background in criminal law forged during his tenure as an Orange County Senior Deputy District Attorney. While an Orange County prosecutor for over 18 years, Mr. Fell handled many high-profile cases and prosecuted various criminal offenses including, but not limited to: murder, arson, gang cases, sexual offenses, and organized crime. He also served as a Supervising Prosecutor with the Orange County Juvenile Court. During his time with the OCDA's Office, Mr. Fell was recognized for his efforts with the prestigious Ambassador of Peace Award from the Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County in 2003. Mr. Fell has also received accolades and awards from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Community Services Program (CSP)/Victim Witness of Orange County and the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County.

After leaving the DA's Office, Mr. Fell spent two years as the California Senior Trial Counsel for a civil law firm where he negotiated and litigated multi-million dollar civil cases. He left the civil firm in 2009 to open his own practice where he concentrates on representing individuals accused of various criminal offenses. He is now a California Board Certified Criminal Law Specialist.



### **Lydia Kim, Esq.**

*Orange County District Attorney's Office*

Lydia Kim is a Deputy District Attorney with the Orange County District Attorney's Office with twenty-one years of experience working in branch court operations. She is currently the Victims' Rights Liaison and serves as a contact point between victims and the Orange County District Attorney's Office to address victims' questions and concerns, attempt to resolve victim-related issues, assist prosecutors in fulfilling their responsibilities under Marsy's Law, and participate in outreach involving victims' issues. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of California, San Diego and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her career goal was inspired by being involved in the Constitutional Rights Foundation's Mock Trial program and is still very proud to say her team was the Orange County High School Mock Trial Champion in both 1989 and 1990 and was the 1991 California Mock Trial State Champion.

# WORKSHOP 4

## Pathways into the Legal Field

**ROOM 237(B)**

Are you interested in becoming a lawyer? Attend this workshop to hear from professionals in various stages of their legal career. If you have burning questions about what it is like to attend law school, advise corporate clients, or work in litigation, this is the workshop for you.

### Moderator:

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**Lysa Saltzman, Esq.**

*Orange County Department of Education*

Lysa M. Saltzman has dedicated her legal career to representing public school districts and county offices of education throughout California. Prior to joining the Orange County Department of Education in 2003 as a staff attorney in the General Counsel's Office, Ms. Saltzman was an associate attorney with Best Best & Krieger, LLP. She currently provides legal advice to Orange County school districts, Orange County special education local plan areas, the Orange County Superintendent of Schools and the Orange County Board of Education in matters pertaining to education law. She has particular expertise in special education and student issues.

Ms. Saltzman received her Juris Doctor from California Western School of Law in 1996, and her undergraduate degree from the University of California, San Diego. Ms. Saltzman is a member of the Orange County Bar Association, California Council of School Attorneys and National School Boards Association. She is also an active member of the Orange County Constitutional Rights Foundation where she serves as co-chair of the Law Day Committee.

## Panelists:



**Jessica Arbgast**

*Student - Chapman University, Fowler School of Law*

Jessica graduated summa cum laude from UCLA in 2018 with B.A. in Gender Studies. Jessica is currently a 2L at Chapman Law School and hopes to eventually practice civil litigation.



**Lauren Assaf-Holmes, Esq.**

*Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP*

Lauren is an associate at Gibson Dunn. Public companies like Apple, Microsoft, and Alphabet are required to share information about their business with the public and the U.S. Government. Lauren gives advice to these companies on how to meet those requirements, and how to address some of the newer expectations about their responsibilities toward the environment, their workforce, and their communities. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law in 2016 where she served as the Supervising Editor (Internal) for the Berkeley Journal of International Law and as a Research Assistant to Professor Steven Davidoff Solomon.

Ms. Assaf-Holmes also served as a judicial extern to the Honorable Jacqueline Scott Corley of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California and the Honorable William W. Bedsworth of the California Court of Appeals. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in English Literature from Knox College in 2010 where she graduated with honors.



**Sara Witty**

*Knobbe Martens*

Sara works at Knobbe's Orange County office, where she focuses on trademark litigation and prosecution. Sara graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2022 after obtaining undergraduate degrees in both English Language & Literature and Spanish Language & Literature from Mississippi State University. Before law school Sara worked as a barista, performed as an improv comedian, and spent four years as a Head Shop Carpenter for a live theatre.

## Panelists:

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**Mark Bresee, Esq.**

*Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo*

Mark Bresee represents California public school and community college districts and county offices of education. His areas of practice include all aspects of labor and employment law, student issues including attendance and discipline, constitutional issues related to staff and students, the Brown Act, charter schools, statutory writ proceedings, and Public Records Act compliance. He has broad litigation experience in state and federal courts and with the Office of Administrative Hearings and the Public Employment Relations Board. Mr. Bresee is also skilled in arbitrating collective bargaining agreement disputes, and has served as the chief labor negotiator for numerous districts in collective bargaining with certificated and classified employee organizations.

Prior to joining AALRR, Mr. Bresee served as General Counsel for the San Diego Unified School District, where he provided day-to-day advice to the Board of Education and administrative staff in all areas of school and public agency law. Prior to his position with SDUSD, he was counsel at the Orange County Department of Education, where he provided legal services to the county office, school and community college districts, regional occupational programs, and Special Education Local Plan Areas. Before working at the OCDE, Mr. Bresee spent 12 years in private practice representing school districts and county offices of education throughout California. Mr. Bresee began his post-college career as a high school U.S. History and Government teacher and Student Activities Director in the Los Angeles Unified School District.



**Kevin Williams**

*Student - Chapman University, Fowler School of Law*

Kevin graduated in 2018 from California State Polytechnic University – Pomona, with a B.A. in Philosophy. Kevin currently attends Chapman Law School.

## My Love Don't Cost a Thing? What Happens When Relationships Dissolve?

**ROOM 237(A)**

What are your rights and responsibilities as adults? What happens to property, children, and pets when relationships dissolve? What are the implications if you are married? Unmarried? Attend this workshop to explore some of these family law issues.

### Panelists:

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**Matthew Buttacavoli, Esq.**

*Minyard Morris*

Matthew is a partner at Minyard | Morris and currently limits his practice to family law. He was born in Jersey City, New Jersey. Matthew graduated magna cum laude from the University of California, Irvine and cum laude from the University of San Diego School of Law. His previous legal experience includes general civil litigation, business and contract disputes, complex products liability and construction defects, real estate, title and escrow, mortgage and finance, wrongful death, torts, and appeals. Matthew is an active member of the legal community, and currently serves as co-chair of the Law Day Committee and Vice President of CRF-OC's Board of Directors.



**Scott Savage, Esq.**

*Minyard Morris*

Scott is an associate at Minyard | Morris where he limits his practice to Orange County family law matters. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Arizona State University and his Juris Doctor from Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. While at Southwestern Law School, Scott was a Dean's Fellow, he received the Witkin Award in Business Planning, and was a finalist in the Negotiations Honor's Program Competition. Prior to beginning his career in family law, Scott worked as a teacher and has owned his own business.





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