



OCBA ELECTION 2025 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Shirin Forootan



Shirin Forootan is the founding and managing attorney at Forootan Law Corp., where she represents clients in employment litigation on both sides (employer and employee), provides advice and counsel, conducts workplace investigations, and provides HR expert testimony. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors as Treasurer for the OCBA. She also serves on the Board for the Orange County Women Lawyers Association.

Shirin has a rich history of volunteering for our legal community, including serving as Chair of the OCBA Community Outreach Committee, Chair of the Mommy Esquire Committee, Chair of the Lawyer Well Being Committee, Chair of the Labor & Employment Section, and Chair of the Judiciary Committee. She has also served as an active member of the Administration of Justice Committee, Nominating Committee, Appointments Committee, and Legislative Resolutions Committee. Shirin is also a long-standing and active member of Orange County United Way, currently serving on the United for Financial Security Leadership Council.

In addition to her volunteer experience, Shirin has significant leadership and business experience such that she will dutifully serve OCBA well as President-Elect.

Shirin is native to Orange County—she grew up in Irvine and practiced at small, medium, and large firms in Orange County. She lives in Newport Beach with her husband and sixth-grade son.

Please vote for Shirin for 2024 OCBA President-Elect so that she can continue her long-standing commitment to carrying out the mission of our bar.

TREASURER

Eric V. Traut



Our Bar Association remains among the strongest and largest in the nation. I believe that together we must continue to take the lead at meeting the changing needs of our profession.

I am a partner at Traut Firm – where I work alongside my wife, brother, and son – handling personal injury and wrongful death litigation. Born and raised in Fullerton, a graduate of both Cal State Fullerton and Western State University College of Law, I have devoted over three decades of demonstrated leadership to our Orange County legal community, prioritizing service to others.

I am humbled by the confidence placed in my ability to lead last year when I was elected by the membership to serve as Secretary. Having served as President of the OC Trial Lawyers Association, our local chapter of ABOTA, OC Italian American Lawyers Association (twice), Banyard Inn of Court, and the OC Bar Foundation's Project Youth, I will employ my knowledge and experience in my roles with the OCBA.

Through Project Youth, I continue to donate time and money to educate and mentor at-risk teens. Further, I am a proud founding member of the OC Trial Lawyer Charities, even offering myself up in 2023 as a roastee at one of its major fundraisers.

My lengthy track record implementing the OCBA's mission includes service on its Board of Directors, Judiciary Committee, Co-Chair for the College of Trial Advocacy for nearly 25 years, and Board Member of both the Masters Division and Charitable Fund.

I remain committed to the OCBA membership. As its Treasurer, I will focus on keeping the budget balanced, and making sure we distribute our charitable funds fairly to the deserving organizations who serve our community in various ways.

My vision for the OCBA is to promote public confidence in our legal system. We must prioritize the depth of diverse representation, maintain civility, and provide engaging educational programming. Together, our work will ensure the lasting success of our legal community, local judiciary, and the public we serve.

SECRETARY (Elect 1)

Michael S. LeBoff

Growing up in Huntington Beach, I am a lifelong Orange County resident. I have been practicing law in this county for over 25 years in various capacities, providing a unique perspective on the challenges facing Orange County attorneys.



After graduating from Loyola Law School, I spent a year at a federal clerkship in the Central District of California. I then joined the litigation department of Paul Hastings, experiencing many of the same struggles that young lawyers continue to face today. I left Big Law and joined a small litigation firm in Irvine before working as in-house counsel managing litigation nationwide. I returned to private practice, working at Hodel Briggs Winter and then Callahan & Blaine, learning from some of the best trial lawyers in Orange County. During that time, I had a case against Gerald Klein and Mark Wilson, where we developed a mutual respect for the others' ability to litigate aggressively without sacrificing ethics and civility. After that case resolved, I joined Klein & Wilson and became the first new partner in the firm's 25-year history. A few years later, I became the firm's managing partner.

I have enjoyed several leadership positions in the OCBA, particularly enjoying working with diverse personalities, prioritizing members' interests first, and most importantly, getting things done. I was twice elected to the OCBA Board of Directors and am completing my fifth year on the Board. I served as chair of both the Banking & Lending and Business Litigation Sections. I also serve on the Future of the Legal Profession Task Force, the Professionalism and Ethics Committee, and the Audit Committee.

I live in Mission Viejo with my wife of more than 25 years, where we raised two daughters.

I would be honored to serve OCBA's members as Secretary and eventually President, where I will continue the OCBA's efforts of advocating for its members against the State Bar, providing OCBA members with first-class education and networking opportunities, and promoting mental health.

You can learn more about me at www.kleinandwilson.com, connect with me on LinkedIn or email me at leboff@kleinandwilson.com

Sharon Oh-Kubisch



I am deeply honored to be nominated for the 2025 OCBA Secretary position. Serving on the OCBA Board of Directors has been a privilege, and I am eager to find more ways to serve you. The OCBA stands out as one of the strongest bar associations in the nation, and my goal is to ensure we continue to meet the evolving needs of our profession.

A Little About Me:

I was born and raised here in Orange County, California. I am a partner at Kahana Feld, LLP and have been practicing law for over 25 years, primarily focusing on business and real estate law.

My journey with the OCBA spans over two decades, reflecting my commitment to our community. Currently, I serve as Co-Chair of Raise Your Glass for the OCBA Charitable Fund, serve as a board member of the same fund, and hold the position of Secretary with OCAABA while also participating in the Bench and Bar Committee with OCKABA. I am actively involved in several OCBA committees, including Membership, Finance, Practice Pointers Portal, and Mommy Esq. Previously, I have chaired both the OCBA Business Litigation Section and the Real Estate Section—two of our largest and most influential sections. Through these roles, I have experienced firsthand the significant benefits the OCBA offers in terms of community, professional growth, and opportunities.

There is still much to do, and that is why I want to be the OCBA's next Secretary.

Why Am I Running?

I am running for Secretary because I have the experience, vision, and dedication needed to make a meaningful impact. My specific goals include:

- Providing engaging and relevant educational programs
- Expanding our Bar's membership and enhancing its benefits
- Establishing a mental health and wellness hotline
- Organizing judicial panels that promote civility and collaboration
- Facilitating cross-generational networking events
- Promoting CLE travel abroad seminars

I look forward to hearing your ideas for improving the OCBA and which programs and services you value most.

For more information and to see my endorsements, please visit my website: <https://sharon4ocba.com>. I hope to earn your support and vote.

DIRECTORS – AT – LARGE (Elect 3)

Ryan S. Dean



I am honored to be selected to run for OCBA's Board of Directors.

I am an Intellectual Property Partner at Umberg Zipser LLP. I was born and raised in the Central Valley and studied aerospace engineering at UCLA. I later decided to pursue a career in law and earned my degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, becoming the first in my family to practice law. I was drawn to law because I have a strong interest in the legal system and how it shapes society. As an IP attorney, I can use my scientific-analytical skills and problem-solving abilities in a new context.

After graduation, I made my way to Orange County, which has since become my home. While I didn't know many people here, I found a welcoming community as I attended various OCBA section meetings and events. OCBA has been instrumental in my journey, and I have truly enjoyed my work in the many different roles within the organization and the relationships I have made along the way. I hope that I can help OCBA continue to help others like it did for me.

I have a long history of service to OCBA and would like to continue that as a member of the board. I have chaired both the IP & Technology Section and the Legislative Resolutions Committee and currently serve on the Finance Committee and represent OCBA in the American Bar Association's policy making body. In addition, I am a board member of the Conference of California Bar Associations (CCBA) and am in line to become its CFO. In this capacity, I travel to Sacramento to lobby for our proposed legislation as well as the priorities of the Bench Bar Coalition.

I also serve as co-chair of the American Intellectual Property Law Association's economic survey subcommittee and am actively engaged with the International Trademark Association (INTA), serving as a committee member who reviews and submits comments to Congress on pending legislation that impacts the IP community.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my wife and two sons, and love building Legos, playing video games, camping, and traveling with them.

Having been involved with OCBA my entire professional life, I hope to continue that involvement through service on OCBA's Board of Directors. If elected to the Board, I would work to expand the geographic reach of our organization. Orange County is vibrant and diverse, stretching from Seal Beach to San Clemente and east to Brea and Yorba Linda. Although OCBA proudly has over 6,000 members, there is still plenty of room for growth. I aim to further expand our membership and boost member engagement by hosting additional events across Orange County. I would be grateful to have your support and vote.

Daniel M. Glassman



Having lived and worked in Orange County for my entire legal career, I am truly honored to be nominated to run for the OCBA Board of Directors.

I am a litigation partner with K&L Gates specializing in complex commercial litigation and healthcare litigation. For the past nearly 30 years, I have practiced at small and large firms in Orange County. I also spent seven years as an in-house counsel, serving as the Vice President/Associate General Counsel of the St. Joseph Health System.

As a young lawyer, I was taught the importance of service to both the legal community and the larger local community. For almost ten years, I have served on the board of the Orange County Bar Association Charitable Fund, including several years on the golf committee planning the annual Judge Kenneth Lae Charity Golf Scramble and multiple years as that committee co-chair. I also currently (and for the past five years) serve as the co-chair of the Mandatory Fee Arbitration Committee and as an arbitrator hearing attorney/client fee disputes. Outside of my extensive service to the OCBA I am currently a Board Member of the Orange County Constitutional Rights Foundation. I have previously served as a Board Member with United Cerebral Palsy of Orange County and the Friends of the Santa Ana Zoo.

On a personal note, I live in San Clemente with my wife and am the proud dad to three great kids (plus a German Shepperd, a Dachshund, the world's best mutt, and 2 (recently inherited) cats). My oldest son is a senior at UC Santa Barbara, my daughter is a junior at the University of Utah (and a future nurse), and our "baby" is a freshman at Santa Margarita Catholic HS (and the starting center on the freshman football team).

After nearly a decade of service on the board of the OCBA Charitable Fund and as co-chair of the Mandatory Fee Arbitration Committee, joining the OCBA Board would be the next step to expand my service to this fantastic bar association and the dynamic Orange County legal community. If elected, I promise to work tirelessly to maintain and grow the OCBA's mission to further the civility and professionalism in our legal community while continuing to provide top notch CLE programs, mentoring opportunities for our younger colleagues, and continuing the fantastic work of all the OCBA section and committees to benefit all of our members throughout the county.

I would be extremely grateful and humbled to have your vote, and I thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

Christy G. Lea



I am honored to be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Bar Association. As a first-generation lawyer, a proud OCBA member since my first year of practice, and someone deeply committed to advancing the cause of justice, this opportunity holds special significance for me.

Giving back to the Orange County legal community and beyond has always been a priority. Currently, I serve as Co-Chair of the OCBA Pro Bono Committee, where I help facilitate volunteer opportunities for our members and promote access to justice for those in need. I also served as President of the Public Law Center in 2022 and continue to be a dedicated member of its Board of Directors. Additionally, I co-chaired the PLC's Volunteers for Justice Dinner for two years, raising over \$1 Million to support the PLC's legal aid initiatives. I was honored to be named "Attorney of the Year" in 2021 by the Orange County Women Lawyers Association (OCWLA) for my contributions to the Orange County legal community.

Beyond Orange County, I have served on the Advisory Board for the School of Engineering at my undergraduate alma mater. Recently, I have participated in service trips to El Salvador, where we organized quinceañeras for teen orphans, bringing joy and hope to young lives.

For my entire 24-year legal career, I have practiced intellectual property law at Knobbe Martens, where I proudly Co-Chair the Medical Device Litigation Group and serve on the firm's Pro Bono and Diversity committees. I am especially grateful to my colleagues at Knobbe Martens for their support and encouragement in my commitment to serving the Orange County legal community.

Thank you for your support and consideration. Please connect with me on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/christylea/> to learn more about my law practice, past service, and candidacy. I would be honored to serve you as a member of the OCBA Board of Directors.

Please vote for Christy Lea for OCBA Board of Directors.

Eric Sather



Why am I running?

As the only Director at Large candidate that is a current Director at Large on the OCBA Board of Directors, I am keenly aware of the tasks, policies, and responsibilities facing an OCBA Board Member. OCBA is among the strongest bar associations in the nation, and I am running to ensure we continue to lead the country by preserving and protecting what is important and fixing what needs to be changed. For example, if called for a vote, I would vote against the State Bar raising annual dues and I would vote against legal paraprofessionals having the ability to provide legal advice and representation to clients.

One of the missions of OCBA is to support the lawyers who serve to enhance the system of justice. I will support YOU and hope you will support me by voting for me on September 3, 2024.

A little bit about me:

I am in my 5th year in practice as a family law attorney at Stegmeier, Gelbart, Schwartz & Benavente. I am the Chair of OCBA's Young Lawyers Division and have been on the YLD Board for 4 years. Since I was licensed in 2019, I have been an active member of the OCBA Family Law Section; the OCBA Young Lawyers Division since 2019; affiliate bar, Lex Romana (Italian American Lawyers) in 2022; on the OCBA Legislative Resolution Committee from 2023 to present; and on the OCBA Pro Bono Committee 2024 to present.

In my free time I enjoy spending time with my wife and 3 daughters, woodworking, and attending live sporting events.

If you would like to contact me before casting your ballot, please do not hesitate to email me at esather@sgsblaw.com or call/text my personal cellular telephone number: (206) 979-4064.

Arjun Sivakumar



Arjun is a first-chair business litigator and partner at Brown Rudnick, Secretary/Treasurer of OCBA's Business Litigation Section, Chair of OCBA's Artificial Intelligence Symposium, and long-serving member of OCBA's Education Committee and its Leadership Development Committee. Arjun has been heavily involved in OCBA from the beginning of his career, even meeting his wife at the OCBA's Holiday Party when they were first-year associates; they are now proud parents of a delightfully talkative one-and-a-half year old (perhaps, a future member of our bar!).

Arjun believes that recent rapid advances in artificial intelligence (AI) is the number one issue impacting the bar today. It is important that our members have the opportunity to understand AI and its components, applications available for legal practice, and associated benefits and risks. Arjun has worked to create awareness and content for OCBA as well as statewide on this issue, and if elected will further encourage and plan such programming. Arjun is also passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the bar, and developed the OCBA DEI Committee's "Paths to Partnership" program which spawned a related series of panels. If elected, Arjun will work to bolster inclusion of underrepresented groups in our bar through mentorship and sponsorship. Finally, as a husband and father who loves travel, trivia (as a former Jeopardy! contestant), and other fun activities to unplug, Arjun will work toward facilitating critical health and wellness opportunities and work/life balance for OCBA members.

Arjun is honored to be endorsed by former OCBA President and Franklin G. West Award winner Joel Miliband, Franklin G. West Award winner Wylie Aitken, former OCBA President Cathrine Castaldi, former OCBA President and Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken, former OCBA President Larisa Dinsmoor, Managing Partners Michael Adams of Rutan and Tucker and Samuel Yu of Kahana Feld OC, OCBA Business Litigation Chair Lee Fink and Chair-Elect Jeremy Stamelman, OCBA Education Committee Chairs Teresa McQueen and Abe Chuang, OC Celtic Bar Association Past Presidents Andrew Wood and Michael Penn, Johnny Depp trial counsel Samuel Moniz, and many others.

Arjun humbly seeks your vote to put his ideas, expertise, and passion into action for our bar!

Rebekah F. Thomas



Rebekah Thomas is litigation partner and shareholder at SNR Law Group, PC, a boutique full service firm specializing in real estate, business and family law.

Rebekah is truly honored to be nominated to be a Director for the OCBA and is looking forward to continuing her commitment to service and leadership to her legal community through the bar.

Rebekah has been a prominent leader within her local legal community as Past President of Thurgood Marshall Bar Association (2021) as well as in service to the OCBA community as a member of the Racial Justice Task Force and as the Co-Chair of the DEI community (2023-present).

With a heart for service, Rebekah also serves on the board of directors for the Elder Law and Disability Rights Center, one of four legal non-profits in Orange County.

Rebekah was born and raised in Atlanta, Ga but has spent her entire legal career in Orange County. As such, Rebekah quickly sought to engulf herself in her community and has worked tirelessly with the NAACP, PLC, as well as faith-based organizations (to name a few) seeking to make a difference in what an advocate for justice looks like.

As a first-generation college graduate and attorney from the inner city of Atlanta, Rebekah has been no stranger to hard work and commitment to change. To that end, Rebekah has been dubbed as the "mayor of Orange County" by local judicial officers because of her "get it done" attitude.

In her short time within the Orange County legal community, Rebekah has been at the forefront of change and seeks to bring her ideas and work ethic to the bar's leadership.

Rebekah thanks you for your support and wants to hear from you how the OCBA can better serve you.