



Honorable Gary E. Ransom – *The Nuts and Bolts of Criminal Court and the Role of the Paralegal in the Courtroom*

Judge Gary E. Ransom was born and raised in New Brunswick, New Jersey where he attended the local, public schools. He is a 1965 graduate of Rutgers University with a B.A. degree in Economics. He served as a Field Representative in the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights, an agency under the Department of Public Safety, for one year before entering the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant. He served in the Air Force for over five years, primarily as a crew member on the B-52 in the Strategic Air Command which included a tour of duty in Southeast Asia during the Viet Nam War.

He is a 1974 graduate of the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. He was an Assistant Public Defender in Sacramento County from 1974 until 1981, and was its first African-American attorney. In June, 1981 he was appointed to the Municipal Court bench by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. He was elected to the Superior Court Bench in 1988 for a term which began in January 1989. Governor George Deukmejian appointed him to the Superior Court in June 1988 so that he could begin serving shortly after the June election. He retired from the Bench on February 28, 2002 and has been sitting full time on assignment from the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court as a Superior Court Judge from then on. He spent 95% of this time on the bench handling criminal matters.


Honorable Shelleyanne W.L. Chang – *The Civil Courtroom and the Importance of the Paralegal Presence*


Shelleyanne W.L. Chang was appointed as Judge of the Sacramento Superior Court by Governor Gray Davis on December 19, 2002. Since her appointment she has presided over criminal jury trials, civil law and motion, and felony arraignments.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Studies from the University of Washington, and a Juris Doctorate Degree from McGeorge Law School.

Before being appointed, Judge Chang was the Chief Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary for Governor Davis. In that capacity, she reviewed the work product of other attorneys in the Governor's Office, advised the Governor and his staff on legal issues and pending litigation, provided direction to the Attorney General's Office on litigation involving the Governor, and reviewed and analyzed proposed legislation. She was one of the primary attorneys representing the State on Indian gaming issues and was one of four attorneys on the Governor's negotiating team that negotiated and drafted the Tribal-State Gaming Compacts with 61 Indian tribes in 1999.

Before joining the Governor's Office in March 1999, Judge Chang was a Deputy Attorney General from 1993 to 1999. In that capacity, she provided legal representation before state and federal courts on behalf of the State, all State constitutional officers, the Department of Finance, and public pension systems. She also served as bond counsel for the California Housing Finance Agency and was a member of the Attorney General's Tobacco Litigation Team. Between 1985 and 1993, Judge Chang worked in the Office of Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service, where she represented the Commissioner of Internal Revenue before the United States Tax Court and, as a Special Assistant United States Attorney, before the United States Bankruptcy Courts in all areas of federal tax law.





Judge Chang received the 2004 Trailblazer Award from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. In 1997, Judge Chang received the Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Client Representation and Litigation. She is also a two-time recipient of both the Office of Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service, Outstanding Achievement Award and Manager's Award. Judge Chang's other honors include the International Moot Court, McGeorge School of Law, Member, Honors Board, and Outstanding Brief Competition - Second Place.

Judge Chang has been a member of the Asian Bar Association of Sacramento, the Milton L. Schwartz Inns of Court, the City of Sacramento Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, and a board member of Legal Services of Northern California. She has served on the Sacramento County Law Library Board of Trustees since 2005.

James M. Wagstaffe, Esq. – *Federal Courtroom Practices and Procedures*

James (Jim) M. Wagstaffe, partner and co-founder of Kerr & Wagstaffe LLP, handles a diverse range of litigation matters. His practice focuses on complex litigation, professional and governmental representation, legal ethics and First Amendment matters. In addition, Jim is recognized as an authority and frequently is consulted by other law firms and clients alike on complicated civil procedure, legal ethics and trial practice issues.


Jim has authored and co-authored a number of publications, including the widely-used *Federal Civil Procedure Before Trial* (TRG 2011 - Three Volumes, 3,500 pages), the nation's leading practice guide on federal court practice. Jim's other publications include *Game Changers: New Federal Rule Amendments* (Thomson Reuters 2011); *California Legal Ethics* (TRG 1999); *Commencing and Removing Actions to Federal Court* (TRG 1986); "Much Ado About Doe Defendants," 5 Cal. Lawyer, No. 9; and "Life After Remand" Federal Litigation. In addition to his legal publications, Jim authored *Romancing the Room* (Random House), a spirited step-by-step guide to effective public speaking. He also was a contributing author along with Donald Trump, Larry King, and Ira Glass, among others, to *The Expert's Guide to 100 Things Everyone Should Know How to Do* (Clarkson Potter 2004).


Jim is committed to sharing his knowledge and experience with judges, lawyers and students alike. Jim has served as an instructor at the Federal Judicial Center's annual "New Judges Workshop" since 1990 educating newly-appointed federal judges on all aspects of federal procedure.

Throughout the year, Jim presents, moderates and participates in panel discussions and seminars throughout the country with other judges and lawyers on current topics of interest to the legal community. In addition, Jim is an adjunct professor in constitutional law and civil procedure at Hastings College of the Law and in Media Law at San Francisco State University. He has also taught the Practical Speech Communication course at Stanford University for over 30 years.

While Jim loves the classroom, his true passion is the courtroom. Jim's reputation as litigator is exemplified by his frequent retention in high stakes litigation, where his strategic and procedural expertise are particularly invaluable. His practice includes substantial work on virtual world issues, including electronic discovery, related legal ethics questions and Wi-Fi technology. Recently, he has represented the Australian government in high profile litigation involving the patent for indoor wireless technology. See *Microsoft Corp. v. Commonwealth Scientific and Indus. Research Organisation*, 2008 WL 4680559 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

The State Bar of California has looked to Jim for over 15 years to handle its most challenging cases, such as those raising serious constitutional issues. For example, in *Warden v. State Bar of California*, 21 Cal.4th 628 (1999), Jim represented the Bar in a lawsuit in which the plaintiffs





alleged the exemptions from the MCLE (continuing education) program were unconstitutional. The matter went up to the California Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the Bar.

Jim also is considered one of the most sought after First Amendment/defamation lawyers in the country. He has represented broadcasters, newspapers, magazines, celebrities and public officials, as well as a host of others – both as plaintiff and defendant. Jim’s First Amendment and media experience is exemplified by his successful defense of *The New Yorker Magazine* in the libel trial *Masson v. New Yorker*, 832 F. Supp. 1350 (N.D. Cal. 1993), aff’d 85 F.3d 1394 (9th Cir. 1996) held in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

Victoria M. Newman, RP – Do You Want to Get Paid? Recovery of Attorney/Paralegal Fees and the Ethics of Accurate Time and Billing Records

Victoria Newman, RP®, works in the areas of family law, probate, estate planning and trust administration in the San Francisco Bay Area as a contract paralegal. Prior to doing contract work, Vickie worked as a family law, probate, trust administration and estate planning paralegal for Livingston, Stone & McGowan, in San Francisco, until the senior partner retired in 2006. As an aside to her contract work, she assists in the closing down of law practices for attorneys who retire, become incapacitated or are deceased. Vickie also appears as an expert witness in family law matters related to attorney-client fees disputes specifically related to tasks that could and should be properly delegated to a paralegal.

Vickie earned her Associate of Arts degree in Legal Assisting from City College of San Francisco in 1982 and her PACE Registered Paralegal® designation from the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc, in 2002.

Vickie is a member of the Sacramento Valley Paralegal Association; San Francisco Paralegal Association (President, 2007, 2008); National Federation of Paralegal Associations [“NFPA”] (PACE Coordinator—Renewals and member of the Paralegal CORE Competency Exam); California Alliance of Paralegal Associations; Bar Association of San Francisco (Estate Planning/Probate, Barristers Club and Legal Assistant practice sections); and, State Bar of California’s Solo and Small Firm Practitioners and Law Practice and Management Technology sections.

Vickie is a frequent guest speaker at NFPA conferences regarding PACE and NFPA’s new exam, the Paralegal CORE Competency Exam and leadership as well as a guest speaker for local paralegal programs on the “Day in the Life of a Probate/Family Law Paralegal.” She is the only paralegal invited to present at the National College of Probate Judges. Vickie has articles published in *Legal Pro* and *National Paralegal Reporter* on leadership, PACE, and family law.

