

Save time by renewing your CCCBA Membership On-Line!

To save yourself valuable time, help us promote the efficient use of technology, reduce the use of office paper, and keep your dues low, we would like as many members as possible to renew on-line. This will help cut down on the number of printed statements that will be mailed out the first week of December. However, the ability to renew on-line will be in effect until January 31, 2005.

To renew, go to www.cccba.org and following these simple instructions:

- Click the "Member Log-in" link on the menu at the top of the page.
- If you have previously saved your login information, click the "Submit" button. (If you have not yet done so, enter your last name and CCCBA ID number on your 2004 CCCBA Membership Card. Click the "Remember Me" box and then click "Submit".)
- Click "The 2005 membership drive is in progress! To renew click here" link on the right.
- As an extra security step, you will be asked to re-enter your Member log-in information. Please do so and click "Continue."
- The application form will appear with your current membership information already filled-in. Double-check the information; make any changes or additions, fill-in the secure payment section and "Submit Form."
- A "Thanks for updating your information" confirmation screen should appear.

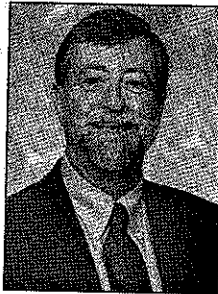
Each evening all application information is downloaded to our database where our Membership Coordinator can process your dues payment and then update your file. Please note if you choose to mail a check rather than pay by credit card on-line, your membership will not be effective until your payment has been received.

As always, your continued membership is appreciated. (Lost your ID number? Need help? Call the main office 925-686-6900 x2.)

Renewing my Contra Costa Bar Association membership on line was simple and fast. I recommend it.

~ Jim Schwartz

President's message



by Richard C. Raines

Dx-bar presidents don't die, they just fade away. With apologies to General Douglas MacArthur, I am fading as this is written.

The Contra Costa County Bar Association is a truly remarkable organization, for which I take absolutely no credit. It has extremely cordial relations with the Bench, with the local law school, John F. Kennedy University School of Law, and with countless other organizations. It has a nationwide reputation for excellence, and it continuously strives to improve. It provides excellent value and opportunities for its members, and serves the greater legal community (including non-members) through its numerous programs and services.

This year, we continued our Educational Outreach Program, which puts volunteer lawyers in contact with each local high school to promote understanding of and respect for our legal system. We completely revamped our internal governance rules to permit a greater turnover on the Board of Directors and concomitant greater participation by our members. We drafted, revised and circulated our first Diversity Initiative to attempt to raise the consciousness and commitment of local attorneys and law firms to this important issue. We continued the "Get to Know Your Local Judges" nights, to allow social interaction between our members and the bench

officers in a relaxed, non-formal milieu. The Bar Fund is doing great work, and put on a spectacular Trivia Bowl event. Speaking of spectacular, the annual MCLE Spectacular was on November 19 and, as always, was a highly worthwhile learning experience at an extremely attractive price.

I urge those of you whose contact with the Bar Association is limited to reading its magazine (and a wonderful magazine it is, too) to get involved in the many sections and other activities of interest. We are truly blessed to have a remarkable executive director and an outstanding staff, and any of them can help you find an activity which you will find worthwhile, even stimulating.

Before I fade completely away, I want to thank Lisa and her incredible staff, and Tammy-lyn Gallerani (the immediate past-president) for leaving things so well tended to, and all the members of the board of directors who have served with me and before me.

It has truly been my pleasure. ♦

— Rich Raines is a trial lawyer focusing on business/commercial cases. He is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara and Hastings College of The Law. He served on the Executive Committee of the State Bar Litigation Section, serves as judge pro tem and discovery referee and is a frequent author and lecturer for CEB.