



# GBA TODAY

Glendale Bar Association

3/28/2014

Volume 1, Issue 2

Glendale Bar Association, P.O. Box 968, Glendale, CA 91209

Web site address: [glendalebar.com](http://glendalebar.com) E-mail address: [info@glendalebar.com](mailto:info@glendalebar.com) Phone number 818-627-8477

## President's Message

Spring has sprung. The bluebonnets have bloomed. Spring Break is behind us and it wasn't quiet! The break was a busy time for many of our offices. The state of the bar is excellent. We have launched our newly updated website which introduces our members to the public with style and panache, while notifying every one of upcoming bar meetings and events.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

I particularly want to welcome all of our new members and encourage each of you to take an active role in the organization. Becoming actively involved right from the start is a wonderful way to meet colleagues, form new friendships and support our local legal community.

### WEBSITE UPDATES

We will continually update our website with new, relevant information. Please ensure that your personal information is updated and accurate. Please contact our administrator, Faye Golden, with any updates. Submit information and a photo of yourself (in JPEG format) to Faye Golden, at [info@glendalebar.com](mailto:info@glendalebar.com). We are currently working on a "members only" page. Also, please submit information you wish to share with colleagues and with the public—information such as members' individual charitable efforts, news about your own cases, and updates and/or viewpoints regarding significant current legal issues. The Board and I will consider all submissions for inclusion on the website.

### LUNCHEONS

Importantly, the Glendale Bar Association sponsors/hosts ten monthly luncheons each year. We invite interesting, knowledgeable speakers to present on various legal topics, enabling members to obtain MCLE credit to meet State Bar requirements. We have so far heard from prominent lawyers such as Mark Geragos and Gretchen Nelson. Topics discussed are timely, interesting and likely to prove valuable in your practice. Board members and I encourage each of you to provide your input and suggestions for topics and speakers for 2015. Our calendar of speakers for 2014 is amazing! We look forward to seeing you at our next dinner meeting on April 2, 2014, with Hon. S. James Otero. And please invite any prospective members to join us for lunch and/or dinner, as well.

## CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS-Save the Dates!

- Hon. James Otero, USDC, Central District, MCLE  
Wednesday, April 2, 2014
- April Mixer @ The Famous-"Trivia Night"-  
Thursday, April 10, 2014
- April Networking Lunch  
Wednesday, April 23,  
2014- Fortune Inn
- Sam Fernandez, In House Counsel for the Los Angeles Dodgers-  
MCLE @The Smokehouse-  
Wednesday, May 7, 2014
- May Mixer @ Wine Cave,  
Thursday May 15, 2014
- May Networking Lunch  
Wednesday, May 28,  
2014- Venue TBA
- Michael Garcia, City Attorney for the City of Glendale MCLE-  
Wednesday, June 4, 2014
- July 2, 2014, Annual GBA Summer Barbeque  
@ Casa Kimbell

**ANNUAL EVENTS**

For our new members, I want to highlight two special annual events that everyone in the Glendale Bar Association enjoys, and which I encourage each of you to attend in 2014:

- **Summer BBQ** is held on a late Thursday afternoon in July, at the beautiful Glendale estate. The Board hosts this wonderful social event for members and their families – a great opportunity to enjoy camaraderie, a delicious dinner and a beautiful La Glendale sunset through the Flintridge mountains. We ask only that you pay a small fee per adult.
- **The Holiday Party** is held on a Thursday evening in December when members and spouses (or not) come together to share the joy of the holiday season. At this event, we also elect officers and directors for the upcoming year.

**GOALS FOR 2014:**

As President, my chief goals for 2014 will be to carry on the traditions of our 30 year old organization, and to expand member participation in all of our activities.

Above all, ours is a group endeavor. I encourage each of you to become involved— participate in planning and/or organizing one or both of the important annual events; help us identify some exciting new speakers for our luncheons; reach out to friends and colleagues in order to help us continue growing our membership through social and networking events.

Your membership is greatly appreciated. Your active participation and involvement in 2014 will make our bar the very best it can be. I look forward to working with all of our members toward achieving these goals.

Best wishes,  
**Monica R. Molina**

## Glendale City Attorney Michael Garcia to Address the Glendale Bar Association About the Recent Comfort Women Lawsuit

### The Comfort Women Memorial Lawsuit

The large and respected law firm Mayer Brown has taken the case of some Japanese-American clients who want the city of Glendale, California to remove a memorial to World War II "comfort women" from a public park. In doing so, and in the way it is proceeding, the firm has inspired harsh condemnation from two estimable legal commentators, both First Amendment champions: Marc Randazza, and Ken White. Their objections, which caused

Randazza to call the firm "the least honorable law firm in the world," and White to conclude, "This lawsuit is thoroughly contemptible. It should fail, and everyone involved should face severe social consequences," are



heartfelt, but, I think, misguided. Their argument, beside arguing

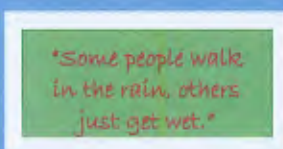
that the lawsuit is frivolous, is best articulated by Randazza:

"Every law firm gets confronted (on a pretty regular basis) with the question: 'should I put my name on this?' That soul-searching comes into play when you wonder, 'is this honorable?' You know when it is, and when it isn't. I'm not talking about representing a client that you know is guilty — they deserve a defense. I'm not talking about representing a really evil client — because there might be an important legal issue in play. I'm talking about when you do something truly disgusting. That bar is pretty low. There is almost

no cause that doesn't have some justification. But, sometimes you gotta say 'no.' Or, at least if you say 'yes,' you must do so with class and dignity."

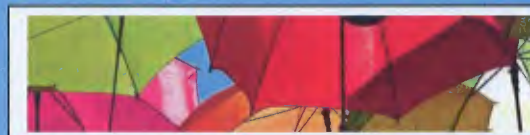
Mayer Brown has included among its arguments that there were "two sides" to the "comfort women" controversy, a wartime crime against humanity which some Japanese politicians have been reluctant to admit their nation's full culpability for despite officially apologizing in 1993. The plaintiffs argue that because "the historical and political debate surrounding comfort women" is so charged — implicating relations between Japan and its neighbors in Asia, and between Japan and the

United States — Glendale cannot put up this memorial without violating the federal government's "power to exclusively conduct the foreign affairs of the United States." There isn't any valid factual controversy: during World War II, Japan turned untold thousands of captured women, mostly from Korea, into sex slaves whose job it was to service Japanese troops for their "comfort." The complaint describes the women as "prostitutes," leaving out the crucial detail of compulsion, and also argues...



"Glendale's installation of the Public Monument has a direct impact on U.S. foreign policy that is neither incidental nor indirect. By installing the Public Monument, Glendale has taken a position in the contentious and politically sensitive international debate concerning the proper historical treatment of the former comfort women. More specifically, given the inflammatory language used in the plaque that is prominently featured alongside the statue, Glendale has taken a position at odds with the expressed position of the Japanese government."

Come join the City Attorney of the City of Glendale, Michael Garcia, on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, to learn more about the developments in this controversy.



## State Bar Updates

### Three Board of Trustees seats open

Attorneys interested in seeking an elected seat on the State Bar Board of Trustees have until **April 1** to submit nominating petitions.

Three seats will be up for election — one each in Districts 2 (Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura), 4 (Imperial, Inyo, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego) and 6 (Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz).

The winners of the District 2 and 6 elections will serve three-year terms beginning on Sept. 13. The election in District 4 is a special election being held

to fill the seat of Christopher Todd, who resigned from the board in January for personal reasons. The winner of that election will serve the final year of Todd's term, which expires in October 2015, and will be eligible to run for re-election to one additional term. Ballots will be mailed April 30 and voting will be completed by June 30. As it has been doing in recent years, the State Bar will conduct a hybrid election, offering voters the option of voting electronically or by mail. Any active member of the State Bar who maintains his or her principal office for the practice of law within the State Bar district in which there is a vacancy is eligible to run for a seat on the board. The newly elected trustees will be sworn

in at the conclusion of the 2014 Annual Meeting in September.

### Diversity and Education Pipeline Awards

Attorneys, law firms, bar associations and others who promote diversity and exemplary legal training can be nominated for the Diversity and Education Pipeline Awards. Nomination forms and information about past winners are available on the State Bar website. For more information, contact Patricia Lee at 415-538-2240 or [patricia.lee@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:patricia.lee@calbar.ca.gov). Email or send completed forms by the **March 31** deadline to Patricia Lee, State Bar of California, 180 Howard St., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105.

**Apply for a grant to provide civil legal services**

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) announces the availability of competitive grant funds to provide civil legal services to eligible clients during calendar year 2015. A Request for Proposals (RFP) and other information pertaining to the LSC grants competition will be available on the LSC Grants website during the week of April 7. In accordance with LSC's multiyear funding policy, grants are available for only specified service areas. To review the service areas for which competitive grants are available by state, go to [grants.lsc.gov/about-grants/where-we-fund](http://grants.lsc.gov/about-grants/where-we-fund) and click on the name of the state. A full list of all service areas in competition will also be posted on that page. Applicants must file a Notice of Intent to Compete (NIC) through the online application system in order to participate in the competitive grants process. Complete instructions will be available in the Request for Proposals Narrative Instruction. Please refer to [grants.lsc.gov](http://grants.lsc.gov) for filing dates and submission requirements. Questions about the grants process may be emailed to [Competition@lsc.gov](mailto:Competition@lsc.gov).

**Glendale Law Day**

Needed

For a Panel to Address  
Local High Schools

When: TBA

Time: TBA

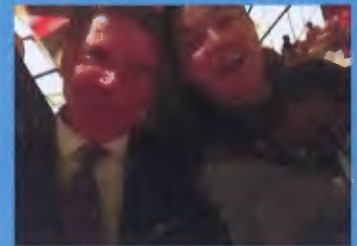
Location: Glendale High School; Hoover High School; Crescenta Valley High School

Why: Panelist to be paired up with civic teachers from the local high schools to discuss with the students the good, the bad, and the ugly about being a lawyer.

Interested in being a panelist?  
RSVP to [info@glendalebar.com](mailto:info@glendalebar.com)



**Who Needs Oscar Celebrity Selfies When You Have Glendale Bar Association Celebrity Selfies at the GBA Mixers???**



**Lawyer Referral Program**

The Glendale Bar Association (GBA) lawyer referral services is a lawyer nonprofit referral service certified by the State Bar of California serving Glendale, Burbank, Pasadena and neighboring communities in Los Angeles. To become a member of the GBA LRS, please contact any of the current board members.

Join Us on Facebook &



**Networking Lunches**

*Be ready to eat and network!*

*We look forward to seeing more of you!*

*The GBA had its second monthly networking lunch on May 26<sup>th</sup>, where members discussed the topic of referrals. After a lively discussion on referral fees and referral liability we came to one important conclusion: you should only refer clients to attorneys you trust! What's the best way to meet a group of attorneys to whom you can refer clients with confidence? Come to the monthly networking lunches! Meet your fellow GBA attorneys, learn about their practice areas, and get to know them. As an added bonus, if you want, the GBA will assign you to a small, 3-4 person group or "Troika," which will allow you to form an even better relationship with your fellow members. (Troikas change every month)*

*Join us for the third lunch of the year will occur on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Fortune Inn. Restaurant is located at 117 East Broadway Avenue, Glendale, CA 91205. Don't forget to bring your business cards!*