



Immediate past-president of Barristers, **Katie Pietrolungo**, reminds me that April 14 was *National Be Kind to Lawyers Day*. The day is the brainchild of non-lawyer Steve Hughes and a very clever website is all yours for the taking – www.bekindtolawyers.com. ...U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., called Justice Antonin Scalia a “homophobe” when commenting on the possibility of a case involving gay marriages reaching the U.S. Supreme Court. In an interview with the gay website 365gay.com, Frank was questioned about legal challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act. “At some point, [the Defense of Marriage Act] is going to have to go to the U.S. Supreme Court,” said Frank, who is gay. “I wouldn’t want it to go to the United States Supreme Court now because that homophobe Antonin Scalia has got too many votes on this current court.” ... **Ryan Thelan** is a proud first-time pop. Reese Jane Thelan was born March 12 weighing in at 8 lbs., 8 oz. Mother Brandy is doing well...

Less Hess is a member of the VCBA/VLSP, Inc. advisory board and the J.H.B. Inn of Court. What you did not know was that Lee is an avid Monopoly player. How avid? Lee participated in the 2009 U.S. National Monopoly Finals Competition in Washington, D.C. It was his first National Competition after winning local championships over the years, and he placed 19th. He also runs a local Monopoly tournament to benefit the Ventura County Boy Scouts. Sponsors and players always welcome. westlakelee@yahoo.com... Speaking of the competitive nature of lawyers, **Bart Bleuel** is going to swim in a National Masters Short Course Swim Meet on May 7 through the 10th in Clovis (Clovis?). He qualified for the 1650 free, 200 free, 100 breast, and 200 breast...

Exec’s Dot...Dot...Dot...

By *Steve Henderson, Executive Director, M.A., CAE*

Those crazy Barrister types, 20 strong, have committed a day to Habitat for Humanity May 2 in Oxnard. Barristers’ leadership has also established what I believe to be the second Facebook page for a bar association in the country. Click Barristers of Ventura County... **Carmen Ramirez** has been selected by State Senator Fran Pavley as the 2009 23rd Senate District Woman of the Year. Carmen was honored March 27 at a luncheon in Malibu. Pavley characterized Carmen as “a tireless voice”...New Zealand? **Fred Tschopp** at bigbear6@aol.com...Is Eliot Spitzer making a comeback? He appeared on the Today Show and wrote a column for Slate in April regarding financial reform...An informal poll on www.bitterlawyer.com about lawyers who get breast implants has prompted a comment about ugly feminists by Rush Limbaugh (go figure). The poll asked blog readers whether breast implants can help a lawyer’s career. 58% said implants can help, 23% said implants were “irrelevant” and 20% thought they were career suicide. www.legalblogwatch.com notes Limbaugh’s reaction: “Can I redirect you to feminist truth number 24, Undeniable Truth of Life Number 24, written by me in the 1980s: Feminism was established so as to allow unattractive women easier access to the mainstream of society.”...**Mike Velthoen** took over the reigns as managing partner at FCOP April 1...

The Notre Dame Club of Ventura donated a signed Joe Montana jersey for the bar’s annual dinner and silent auction scheduled for 11.21. The bar’s secretary-treasurer, **Joe Strohmman**, is responsible for all the leg work. Wish to make a donation? don.hurley@ventura.org... **Sylvia Gonzales** will be participating in the LA Marathon May 25. She has worked for the County of Ventura for 25 years and is currently employed by the County Counsel’s Office. She has never before run a marathon, but decided to run this year in honor of Roman Vega, who is afflicted with cerebral palsy. She’s trying to raise \$5K – sylvia.gonzales2@gmail.com... Three lawyers testifying in the North Dakota trial of a non-lawyer accused of practicing law said they were duped into believing he had a law license because of his apparent expertise. Prosecutors claim nonlawyer Howard Kieffer worked on federal cases in at least 10 states and appeared at seminars throughout the country to speak on sentencing...**Judge**

Manuel Covarrubias was honored March 21 by El Concilio del Condado de Ventura. Those being honored are looked upon as role models and because of their leadership and involvement with the county’s Latino community...

Very kool profile in The Daily Journal March 13 about **Judge Fred Bysse**. www.thedailyjournal.com...**Jeff Johnson** started March 1 at Goldenring and Prosser after seven years as a solo. Jeff also toured with Ellison, Hinkle & Bayer and Wood and Associates...I left off another name selected to Southern California *Super Lawyers for 2009* – **Michael Wolfram** has been mentioned the last few years...Serving as the only woman on the U.S. Supreme Court is an isolating job, says Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. “It’s lonely for me,” she said at an Ohio State University symposium. “Not that I don’t love all my colleagues. I do.” Ginsburg says she misses her former female colleague, Sandra Day O’Connor...17-year employee of Nordman Cormany Hair & Compton, **CEO Tami Cook**, was recognized by the Pacific Coast Business Times as one of the Top 50 Women in Business. Tami is responsible for daily management and long-term strategic planning at the firm...

All Hail **Ken Yaeger!** The Lawyer Referral and Information Service panelist forwarded to the bar \$10,000 from a PI case. Ken has been an LRIS panelist for many years. More info about our LRIS? alex@vcba.org...**Ellen Hirvela** was married on March 7 and you may add Russell to her name...**Gary Norris** will no longer be practicing under the name of Edsall and Norris. As of May 1, he’s the Law Offices of Gary Norris in Camarillo – gary@garynorrislaw.com...Law Day 5K! Law Day 5K!! Bigger, faster, prizes, more \$\$\$ than ever before awarded: \$2,000 – www.lawday5k.com...

Steve Henderson has been the executive director and chief executive officer of the bar association and its affiliated organizations since November 1990. Defending his 1st Place Open Trophy, he’ll race the Law Day 5K in under 15 minutes. Lastly, he has a couple Dodger tickets for May 10 (Sec. 4FD, Row P, Seats 7-8) to the first email at steve@vcba.org 24/7. Good luck and the tickets include admission into the Stadium Club.