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Beverly Hills Bar president keeps association's history alive

By Jean Yung

The steadily growing membership of the Beverly Hills Bar Association promises to transform the 80-year-old organization, but president-elect John K. Rubiner is determined to ensure the bar stays true to its roots.

Earlier this year, the headquarters of the 5,400-member group moved into the second floor of the Rolex building in Beverly Hills, its first change of address in 42 years.



Rubiner, 46, is thrilled about the move. He says the new office, which can now accommodate a membership that nearly tripled in the past eight years, will reshape the bar. The new digs are roomy enough to host continuing education events and cocktail parties, as well as to allow members to flow in and network beyond trading business cards, he says with great excitement.

Still, the grandson of the first Jewish president of the Detroit Bar Association turns solemn when he brings up his goal of not losing sight of the bar's true center of gravity - its history as a refuge for Jews and other minorities who were denied admission to popular bar associations.

"We don't try to be so sterile that we're everything to everybody. We take stands," he said. "Our history informs what we do and makes you proud to be part of it."

'Our history informs what we do and makes you proud to be part of it.' - John K. Rubiner

Rubiner, a litigator at Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooms & Lincenberg PC with a focus on complex civil cases, white-collar criminal defense and employment matters, will take over from Stephen Raucher as the association's 81st president today.

The installation ceremony and dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel will also feature the swearing in of other new officers and several awards presentations to members. PBS talk show host Tavis Smiley is the keynote speaker.

"We can perform a service for the community by being a resource, even in a Twitter world," said Rubiner, who's served on the bar's Board of Governors since 1994.

Rubiner said he will help direct the bar's focus to advocating for better access to justice as the state continues to cut courts' funding. The issue is one in which the Beverly Hills group has already left a legacy - it founded the public interest law firm Public Counsel in 1970.

He added that the bar association is also taking a position on campaign finance involving the 2010 *Citizens United* case, which struck down a federal ban on independent spending by corporations and unions in political campaigns.

Thursday, September 27, 2012

Large Firms

Ex-Luce Forward lawyers sacked as McKenna downsizes

Six months after merging with Luce Forward Hamilton & Scripps LLP, McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP has shed 15 lawyers nationwide - with four San Diego-based former Luce attorneys getting the axe, sources familiar with the firm said.

U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit

Immigrant children who get too old for visa get 9th Circuit relief

Children of lawful immigrants whose bids to accompany their parents to the United States were stalled by paperwork delays got relief Wednesday from a sharply divided 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals en banc panel.

California Supreme Court

Employment, business disputes highlight upcoming state Supreme Court session

Employment - and its parameters, limitations and conditions - is one dominant theme among the civil cases pending before the state Supreme Court this term. In the criminal arena, defendants' right to confront their accusers is a big issue.

Litigation

Sanctions sought against San Francisco attorneys in antitrust case

Three prominent defense attorneys based in San Francisco have been accused of making "demonstrably false" claims in an ongoing antitrust complaint alleging price fixing of liquid crystal display panels.

No proof Hurd's severance package excessive, judge rules

A federal judge said Hewlett-Packard Co.'s shareholders did not prove directors gave an excessive severance package to former CEO Mark V. Hurd, who was dismissed after sexual harassment allegations scandalized the Palo Alto-based technology company.

Judges and Judiciary

Race for Los Angeles County assistant presiding judge grows heated

The election of assistant presiding judge of Los Angeles County Superior Court has turned increasingly contentious as the county's judges begin casting their votes. Some judges have taken offense to supervisors' endorsements.

Labor/Employment

Class certified in Costco gender

"I want to analyze different proposals and any unintended consequences as we determine if we have an opinion on an issue," he said.

Born in Illinois, Rubiner followed his college girlfriend, now his wife, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to Los Angeles, where she began her master's degree studies in Jewish Communal Service and social work at USC.

He later enrolled in UCLA law school, though he says the cross-town rivalry between husband and wife isn't an issue.

"We're Illinois fans."

After his second year at UCLA, Rubiner interned at Bird Marella, eventually entering the firm as its youngest employee in 1991, shortly after graduation.

Around that time, he joined the Beverly Bar's Barristers division for young attorneys, rising to the division's president in 1997.

In 1995, Rubiner left Bird Marella to take an assistant U.S. attorney's position, prosecuting and defending civil cases in downtown Los Angeles.

"It never got old to say I represent the United States of America in court," he said. But he and his wife were welcoming a baby, and the frequent business trips meant less time at home. Their son was born on the last day of his Barristers presidency, and Rubiner returned to Bird Marella in 1999.

Colleagues describe him as a capable, likable man unafraid to tango with wild emotions in high-stakes cases. They say his affinity for community and sense of duty are qualities that will make a good president.

"In any situation where there's divergent opinions, he's good at bringing everybody together. For the role of president I think he's a perfect match," said Joshua Briones, a partner at DLP Piper LLP and Rubiner's co-counsel on a case for four years.

Rubiner also wants to recruit more in-house counsel to join the group and encourage mentoring among members.

"As more and more, each attorney is responsible for his or her own development, if you sit back and rely on a firm, it won't work for some," Rubiner said. "That's where the role of the bar association becomes more important."

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

discrimination case

A federal judge granted certification to two putative classes of female Costco Wholesale Corporation employees on Tuesday, reviving debate over the viability of class action employment discrimination lawsuits.

Corporate advertising technology company hires first chief legal officer

OpenX Technologies Inc., a Los Angeles-based provider of digital and mobile advertising technology, has appointed its first chief legal officer, the company announced Wednesday.

Real Estate Real Estate Deals

The Stonecrest office building, located at 9640 Granite Ridge Drive in San Diego, scored \$4.2 million in first mortgage refinancing. The 38,960-square-foot office is leased by two tenants.

International US manufacturers and sellers exiting China

Adidas is closing its factory in China, Starbucks will move manufacturing of its mugs back to the U.S., and Home Depot plans to close its seven remaining outlets in China. By **Allan Marson and Li Dai** of Ishimaru & Associates LLP

Healthcare/Hospital Law Health care safety and the culture of silence

From their earliest days in training, both doctors and nurses are taught to not discuss or even question medical mistakes that they know occur every day in hospitals. By **Bruce G. Fagel**

Tax Five simple tax rules for lawyers (and everyone else)

Follow these rules and you'll reduce your chances of coming to grief from the Internal Revenue Service - in your practice and in your personal life. By **Robert W. Wood** of Wood LLP

Law Practice Court closures warrant rethinking traditional trial practice

Counsel must inevitably acknowledge the reality of changing times and conditions and consider modification of typical litigation practice. By **Lawrence Waddington**

Letter to the Editor Playing down the plight of egg farm fowl

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Judicial Profile Arthur L. Alarcón

Senior Circuit Judge 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

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With pride, admiration, and affection,
We Congratulate Our Partner

JOHN RUBINER

On his Installation
as
President of the Beverly Hills Bar Association

Bar Associations

**Beverly Hills Bar president keeps
association's history alive**

John K. Rubiner, president of the Beverly Hills Bar Association, doesn't intend to lose sight of the bar's true center of gravity - its history as a refuge for Jews and other minorities who were denied admission to other bar associations.

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