



MABANEWS

President's Message ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Erick Solares
2014 MABA President

Hello fellow

Mabistas: I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits. As the hot summer months come to a close, I can't help but wonder where this year has gone.

It seems that it was just yesterday that we were celebrating a new year for MABA at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel and here we are near the end of the year.

MABA has been very busy since our last newsletter. On April 26th, we hosted the 6th Annual MABA Softball Tournament at Whittier Narrows. We had the participation of 14 teams and the Alternate Public Defenders beat Latino Comp. in the championship game to earn bragging rights for this year. On May 21st, we held our annual Spring Mixer at YXTA Restaurant in Los Angeles. The event was very well attended and everyone had a fantastic time. On June 8th, MABA held its annual Legal Fair at Bell Gardens High School. Thank you to the over 60 attorneys who donated their time to provide free consultations to

over 500 attendees. Thank you also to the staff at Bell Gardens High School for welcoming MABA for the second straight year. This is one of MABA's most important events, as it allows us to come in direct contact with individuals in our community who desperately need our assistance. I had the opportunity to serve as translator during a few of the free consultations and was able to observe the gestures of gratitude expressed by the attendees. It was a truly satisfying experience to be able to spend a little time with these individuals and to answer some of their questions.

On July 25th, the annual MABA Golf Tournament found a new home at the Rio Hondo Golf Club in the City of Downey. Many thanks to Fernando Vazquez, Mayor of Downey, for formally welcoming MABA to his city and for making himself available to play some



See President, page 2

Feature Article

The Humanitarian Crisis in Central America, the Moral Crisis in the United States

By Alan R. Diamante

The distressing images and stories confront us nearly every time we check the news. Thousands of children, young adults, and women flee pervasive violence in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala to seek refuge in the United States. School children are beaten and killed for refusing to join gangs. Women and young girls are raped, kidnapped, and tortured. Small business owners and everyday people are extorted with the threat of death by gangs. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime found that Honduras had the highest homicide rate in the world, far surpassing the rate in the United States or even that of Iraq. The New York Times reported that in 2013, 1,013 people under the age of 23 were murdered in Honduras. El Salvador's homicide rate is not too far behind Honduras. In the face of such horrific violence, Central America's inept law enforcement agencies have proven unwilling and unable to protect the community at large. To add insult to

See Feature Article, page 5



2014 Volume 10
Issue 2
www.mabaattorneys.com

MABA is committed to the advancement of Latinos in the legal profession and the empowerment of the Latino community through service and advocacy.



President

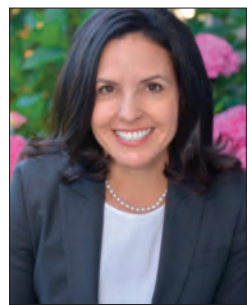
Continued from page 1

golf and share a few words with us during the post tournament banquet. On August 16th, Gustavo and Norma Barcena welcomed MABA to their beautiful home for the celebration of Past Presidents' Night. It was a truly magical night as we honored MABA royalty for their outstanding service to our organization. MABA past presidents comprise a very exclusive group of men and women who have excelled as lawyers, judges, policy makers, politicians, activists and community leaders – they are the very best that MABA has to offer and it was an honor to be in their presence. Thank you to Gustavo and Norma for their hospitality and generosity.

The annual Fall Mixer was held on October 2nd at the Bonaventure Brewing Company. The highlight of this event was the presentation of the MABA/Camino Real Chevrolet Scholarship to Nancy Perez, an outstanding law student at UCLA. I wish to acknowledge and thank Camino Real Chevrolet for its willingness to partner with MABA to make this scholarship a reality. A special thank you to Marty Castillo for his vision and his commitment to the presentation of this scholarship. In keeping with MABA's mission to empower the Latino community, I am pleased to announce that next year MABA will present the first annual MABA scholarship to a deserving

See President, page 3

Editors Note...



Pamela Villanueva
Newsletter Editor

This issue's feature article highlights the impasse facing the federal government on immigration reform and illustrates how government

shouldn't work. Thankfully, while their federal counterpart has stalled, California lawmakers have taken a leadership role by enacting a host of legislation recognizing the workplace, education, and due process rights of immigrants, including AB 60 (drivers licenses), Dream, and Trust Act. New legislation, recently signed into law, now will fund legal services for unaccompanied minors in deportation

proceedings arriving in California from Central America.

As MABA members, we can deliver the message about the importance of our electorate when we reach out at schools, public events, and the workplace. In California, thoughtful and compassionate lawmakers are making a difference to immigrants and their families, providing an example that those we vote for do make a difference, as evidenced by the passage of the unaccompanied minor legislation whose promise, once fulfilled, could mean the difference between life and death for a child.

Pamela Villanueva

Pamela Villanueva
Newsletter Editor

2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & TRUSTEES

...

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Erick Solares, President
California Department of Transportation

Cindy Pánuco, President-Elect
Hadsell Stormer & Renick LLP

Alejandro Becerra, Vice-President
Law Office Of Alejandro G. Becerra

Felipe de la Torre, Secretary
Office of the Alternate Public Defender

Noreen Barcena, Treasurer
Law Office of Noreen Barcena

Pamela Villanueva, Newsletter Editor
Office of the Public Defender

Michael Felix, Membership Director
Law Offices of Michael Felix

...

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Maria Ramirez
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Humberto Guizar
Law Office of Humberto Guizar

Shelley Dominguez
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Erika Anzoategui
Law Offices of the Alternate Public Defender

Juan Ramos
Law Office of Juan Ramos

Araceli Campos
Miguel Contreras Foundation

Oscar Gutierrez
Law Office of Oscar H. Gutierrez

Maria Olaguez
Law Office of Maria D. Olaguez

Leslie Reyes
Law Office of Leslie Reyes

Denisse Gastélum
Collins, Collins, Muir and Stewart, LLP

Esmeralda Monarrez
Student Trustee

...

Maria Torres
Executive Administrator

MAIN OFFICE

**Mexican American Bar Association
of Los Angeles County**

714 West Olympic Boulevard, Suite 450
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Tel: 213-749-2889 • Fax: 213-749-1740

mabalaco@sbcglobal.net
www.mabaattorneys.com

President

Continued from page 2

high school student. This will be accomplished as part of MABA's High School Visitation Program.

MABA has also been very busy with its political and judicial endorsements, participating with LACBA and members of the judiciary in the effort to restore funding to the courts, and collaborating with its sister organizations in many events throughout the year. As our calendar of events indicates, MABA will continue to be busy during the last 3 months of the year.

With the year coming to an end, MABA elections are right around the corner and dedicated MABA members have stepped up to run for the various MABA Board positions. One thing is certain, the Board will be led by a very capable President next year. Cindy Pánuco possesses all the necessary qualities to be an effective leader and there is no doubt that she and her Board will take MABA to new heights.

My President's message would not be complete if I did not urge all of you to seriously consider joining MABA's Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS). Countless hours have been devoted to building the MABA LRIS into a powerful source of referrals for its members and a source of reliable, ethical and honest legal services for the Latino community. We need your help to get this show on the road. Please sign up now.

Lastly, I want to touch on a situation that has been in the news for several months. As a native of Guatemala, I am saddened by the mass exodus of children from Central America and I am very familiar with the circumstances that have forced thousands of these unaccompanied minors to travel to the United States in search of refuge. Many MABA immigration attorneys have volunteered their time and have provided pro bono legal representation to these minors, only to be discouraged by a series of obstacles and roadblocks. Alan Diamante's feature article, The Humanitarian Crisis in Central America, the Moral Crisis in the United States, provides an excellent analysis of this situation - thank you very much Alan!

Thank you so much for your support of MABA this year. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as President and to be a small part of MABA's history. I wish all of you much joy and prosperity.

Erick Solares

Erick Solares
President

Calendar of Events

October 2014

High School Visitation Program

Call the MABA office for details.

October 18, 2014

Legal Clinic & Cesar Chavez Film Screening, Miguel Contreras Learning Center

Call the MABA office for details.

October 25, 2014

Career Expo-MABA, Langston, LLBA, APABA & LGLA

Call the MABA office for details.

October 30, 2014

Annual Judges' Night @ LA Hotel Downtown

Los Angeles Hotel Downtown (Hyatt Regency)

October 30, 2014

Deadline for 2015 Board Candidacy Intent & Statements

Call the MABA office for details.

November 8-13, 2014

MABA Goes to Belize-SOLD OUT!

November 2014

MABA Elections for 2015 Board

Call the MABA office for details.

February 7, 2015

55th Annual Installation of Officers & Awards Gala

Call the MABA office for details.



If you are not already a MABA member,
please take five minutes
to join this dynamic organization.

Joining is simple and can be accomplished by calling
the MABA office at 213-749-2889 or by going online
at www.mabaattorneys.com.

***Thank you in advance
for your generous support
and
we hope to see you
at our upcoming events.***

Book Review

Look To Latina/o Literature For Answers to the Challenges of Today

By Pamela Villanueva, Newsletter Editor

Things We Do Not Talk About, Exploring Latinola Literature Through Essays and Interviews, written by attorney and MABA member Daniel Olivas, tracks his personal journey and evolution as a writer by republishing his essays and author interviews from various publications, including the Los Angeles Review of Books, The New York Times, and posts from the Latina/o blog and literature website, La Bloga (labloga.blogspot.com).

I thought it fitting to review Daniel's book as it fits in MABA's mission statement to empower the Latina/o community by drawing attention to immigrant and cultural stories too often unheard. Not surprisingly to this reader, but maybe to others, Latinas/os are as underrepresented in our mass media of television, journalism, and literature as they are in the law.

Soon after I started reading the interviews of these fantastic Latina/o authors, some familiar and some unknown, I sought to borrow my teenage neighbor's summer reading copy of Sandra Cisneros' classic, *The House on Mango Street* and order Hector Tobar's novel, *The Barbarian Nurseries: A Novel*, a narrative about cultural division, inequality, and the crime that wasn't, that warmed this defense lawyer's heart. Daniel's book also brings to us less familiar authors like Gustavo Arellano's, *Ask a*



Cover artwork: *THINGS WE DO NOT TALK ABOUT*

Mexican, or Helena Maria Viramontes', *Their Dogs came With Them*, who respectively make light of and emphasize bigotry and class consciousness in Latina/o life.

In this time of divisive politics about immigration, Daniel's book introduces a rich trove of immigrant writers whose stories can educate and entertain. There is the powerful narrative of Reyna Grande, *The Distance between Us*, which is a must read for anyone seeking to understand the desire and difficulties of an immigrant's journey to the U.S. Likewise, other author interviews offer insight into the immigrant experience, which can be a reference to better understand the plight of the Central American refugee children seeking shelter here in the U.S. Maybe if more

MABA PAST PRESIDENTS

2013 Elizabeth P. Uribe
 2012 Rigoberto J. Arrechiga
 2011 Victor Acevedo
 2010 Judy Perez
 2009 Mario Trujillo
 2008 Pete Navarro
 2007 Efrain Aceves
 2006 Claire Cifuentes
 2005 Alan R. Diamante
 2004 Edward Ortega
 2003 Maribel Medina
 2002 Cristina Perez-Gonzalez
 2001 Luis Rodriguez
 2000 James E. Blancarte
 1999 Arnoldo Casillas
 1998 M. Leslie Stearns
 1997 Maria Villa
 1996 Yvonne Flores
 1995 Enrique Arevalo
 1994 Martha Melendez
 1993 Martha Romero
 1992 Raul Granados
 1991 Raul Ayala
 1990 Marcia Gonzales-Kimbrough
 1989 Debra Gonzales
 1988 Monica Jimenez
 1987 Gustavo Barcena
 1986 Armando Duron
 1985 Carlos Zaragoza
 1984 Jaime Cervantes
 1983 James E. Blancarte
 1982 Honorable Carlos Moreno
 1981 Esther Valadez
 1980 Oscar Parra
 1979 Daniel Garcia
 1978 Honorable John Martinez
 1977 Honorable Ben Aranda*
 1976 Lawrence De Fuentes*
 1975 Frank Munoz*
 1974 Stanley Delnick
 1973 Honorable Joseph Armijo*
 1972 Ernest Gallego
 1971 Honorable Victor Chavez
 1970 Oscar Munguia*
 1969 Lorenzo Pereyda*
 1968 Manuel Aranda (resigned)
 1967 Manuel Valenzuela*
 1966 Martin Castillo
 1965 Honorable Ray Cardenas
 1964 Herman Sillas
 1963 Manuel S. Martinez*

* Deceased

Book

Continued from page 4

prominence and popularity is given to immigrant tales of perseverance and accomplishment, even fictionalized, compassion and humanity will triumph over the fear and outrage common in the current political debate.

Like many of you, I dream of writing my own story – a story that tells a rich and vibrant narrative of the drama I

minority status we enjoy. To represent the life unrepresented... Well, I diverge. Please feel free to add

“ author interviews offer insight into the immigrant experience, which can be a reference to better understand the plight of the Central American refugee children ”

see performed daily in my job as a public defender, mom, and MABA member in a city whose majority,

Daniel's book to your reading list and the authors he interviews. My list is growing, how about yours?

Feature Article

Continued from page 1

injury, corruption within the police is so widespread that many forego filing complaints. Corrupt officers are suspected of working with criminal organizations to such an extent that distrust of law enforcement in Central America is rampant.

Since October 2013, 63,000 unaccompanied children (under the age of 18 and without an adult) have been apprehended at the U.S. southern border in what can only be called a humanitarian crisis. The glimmer of hope for these children, their families, and other young adults escaping violence is ever fainting; they are trapped in a whirlpool of our nation's political whims and subjected to an array of roadblocks that violate existing statutes and even the U.S. Constitution.

The U.S. government has responded to the "surge" of Central American migrants in a contradictory way. In

June, 2014, Attorney General Eric Holder, stated, "How we treat those in need, particularly young people ... goes to the core of who we are as a nation." The House Judiciary Committee chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) urged the President to work with Congress on new legislation to help "discourage" the influx of minors and families. He criticized the humanitarian law that allows minors to be released to relatives or foster-care during the asylum or deportation process.

The House soon passed two emergency measures to address the so-called surge. The bills allowed funding to speed the deportations of most border-crossers and sought to rescind President Obama's authority to decide whether to deport certain undocumented immigrants. Although the bills are not expected to be taken seriously beyond the House chambers, the Department of Justice issued a

directive to immigration courts across the country to "fast track" the deportation cases of unaccompanied minors and most families. Under the directive, these migrants who made the treacherous journey to escape violence are to receive their initial hearing within 21 days. This change in court policy has been described by immigration attorneys as the "rocket-docket," and prevents many individuals from timely hiring legal counsel. In contrast, it normally takes months before the initial hearing is scheduled.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has also opened a new, temporary, shelter for families in Artesia, New Mexico. It is located hours away from the nearest law office. This is not unusual. DHS contracts a host of detention facilities in the desert, hours away from urban centers. Naturally, this makes it particularly difficult for attorneys to

See Feature Article, page 7

Federal Judicial Externship Program

By Jeanette M. Acosta

Los Angeles – Below please find one recipient's note of gratitude about the impact she felt as the beneficiary of one of MABA's coveted Federal Externships. Please read and share in the impact this scholarship has as it is members like you who enable our organization to provide such scholarships. Thank you MABA members!

My summer externship in the chambers of U.S. District Court Judge Fernando M. Olguin through MABA's Federal Externship Program was extraordinary. The program not only opened the door to externing with a federal judge and former civil rights attorney who I admire greatly, but also provided the opportunity to meet and learn from inspiring Latina/o attorneys clerking in his chambers and those practicing on the federal level through the MABA Brown Bag Lunch with Judge Gutiérrez and other Federal Court Practitioners.

Prior to my externship, I knew that I wanted to build on my immigration and education policy and advocacy background and pursue a career in civil rights litigation, but I had yet to gain direct work exposure to the litigation process. Over the course of the ten-week program, I learned more about the litigation process than I could have imagined and concepts that I had studied in a classroom setting were brought to life. I gained a deeper understanding of civil and criminal proceedings and truly had an unparalleled view of the judicial process. I was able to research issues on a variety of matters ranging from civil rights to bankruptcy, analyze case law, write legal memoranda, draft orders, and discuss legal issues and court proceedings with Judge Olguin and his law clerks after hearings.

MABA's externship program gave me an invaluable summer opportunity to meet motivated clerks and my fellow MABA externs, learn, and explore, and because of that, I am a more confident and determined law student and aspiring civil rights litigator and policymaker. I cannot thank MABA enough for the opportunity and look forward to supporting the program and encouraging others to apply. Thank you again!

Jeanette M. Acosta

JD Candidate, 2016 | UC Hastings

MPP, 2012 | Harvard Kennedy School

MABA Participates in 2014 APABA Softball Tournament

Whittier – APABA Softball Tournament @ Whittier Narrows on August 23, 2014. A big thank you to all who played on the MABA team. *Let's do it again next year!*



CAMINO REAL
CHEVROLET

**WE PROUDLY SUPPORT MABA
WITH THE CREATION OF THE
MABA/CAMINO REAL SCHOLARSHIP
AND A DONATION OF \$5000.**

CONGRATULATIONS MABA/CAMINO REAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
NANCY PEREZ, JD CANDIDATE 2015 – UCLA

Feature Article

Continued from page 7

communicate with their clients. Attorneys get discouraged from investing their time pro bono in these cases given that representation efforts are often thwarted by the remoteness of these facilities. Simply trying to leave messages for detainees or DHS officers is an ongoing struggle at these detention facilities. Lines go unanswered and voicemail boxes are habitually full. Attorneys must get creative and rely on any individual they can reach at these detention facilities to pass messages to the appropriate DHS officer. If the message is relayed, it can take days or weeks for the officer to respond.

The clear message to these refugees, in word and deed, is that you are most definitely not welcome in the U.S. with open arms. In fact, DHS Chief, Jeh Johnson, summed up the administration's message to Central Americans trying to enter without permission when he stated at the same New Mexico detention center, "we will send you back." This response seems to be based on the misconception that the Central Americans come to the U.S. because it is easy and not because they have legitimate claims of persecution.

The U.S. Government's response to Central American refugees can be best described by its actions. Data released by Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) show that where an unaccompanied

minor is represented by an attorney, the child was allowed to remain in the United States in almost half of the cases. However, where the child was not represented by an attorney, the child was ordered deported over 75% of the time. Given the "rocket docket," and the pattern of practice at

"The clear message to these refugees, in word and deed, is that you are most definitely not welcome in the U.S."

centers like Artesia, it is more difficult for these refugees to assert the due process claims available to them. After someone is detained at the border, if the intending immigrant claims to fear returning to her country of origin, a credible fear interview is conducted by a trained, asylum officer who examines whether there is a "significant possibility" that the detainee would be able to prove an asylum case before the immigration judge. Recent arrivals that are not deemed to have credible-fear can be deported without a hearing. If the person is found to have credible fear, she is normally released on bond while she awaits her hearing. Yet, this longstanding policy has recently changed for the surge of immigrants escaping persecution in Central America. Immigrant advocates have reported that credible fear interviews are now being conducted so quickly upon entry that it is practically

impossible for detainees to retain counsel. If the officer finds that there is credible fear, the applicant is usually given time to prepare her case. If a detainee is not interviewed within the presence of an attorney, there have been complaints that officers ask ambiguous questions and use legal

terms without adequate explanation.

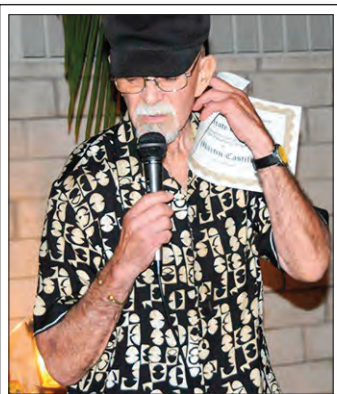
For the cases that make it past the newly constructed roadblocks and into immigration court, DHS attorneys are now regularly opposing bond requests.

When bond is not offered, the mothers and their children remain in the detention facility. The experience in these detention facilities can be extremely traumatic to those already suffering post-traumatic stress as a result of the past persecution. In addition, court-watchers have reported that some immigration judges are not providing attorneys an opportunity to speak with clients before the hearings. Attorneys have also been forbidden from bringing computers into the detention facility. These obstructions are likely a contributing factor as to why only 37.8 percent of Artesia detainees pass the credible fear determination, as opposed to 77 percent nationally.

Legal observers have lodged complaints directly with the DHS regarding many aspects of the entire immigration process for the newly arrived asylum seekers. For example,

Past Presidents' Night ...a night to remember.

On August 16, 2014, Past Presidents' Night was hosted by Gustavo Barcena, MABA Past President, Norma Barcena, and Noreen Barcena, MABA Treasurer, at Gustavo and Norma Barcena's home. It was a fun-filled, relaxing evening honoring MABA's past and legacy.



Legal Fair

By Oscar Rene Gutierrez, Esq.

Bell Gardens – On June 7, 2014, MABA hosted its annual Legal Fair at Bell Gardens High School in Bell Gardens. In the days leading up to the Legal Fair, Univision promoted the Legal Fair on their early morning programming. Print media promotion prior to the Legal Fair was provided by Hoy, La Opinion and The Downey Patriot and the publicity created a buzz throughout the County of Los Angeles. Attendees began to arrive as early as 8:00 A.M. – standing anxiously in an orderly line, waiting with envelopes, folders, and documents clutched in their hands.

Attorney volunteers arriving in the early morning were treated to delicious coffee compliments of Pasquini OC.



At 9:00 A.M., in the Bell Gardens High School Auditorium, MABA President-Elect Cindy Panuco and Legal Fair Vice-Chair Ricardo Perez led an informational panel discussing various “hot” topics affecting the Latino community in both immigration and criminal law. Former MABA President, Mario Trujillo of the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, former MABA President and immigration practitioner Enrique Arevalo, Judge Gregorio Roman, and Antonio Villegas of the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office educated those in attendance on Miranda rights, affirmative forms of immigration relief, removal proceedings, the role of the criminal courts, and services available to victims of crimes.

As 10:00 A.M. rolled around, the legal consultations promptly began. Over sixty attorneys practicing in the areas of immigration, criminal defense, bankruptcy, family,



personal injury, worker’s compensation, employment, and civil law were present to provide legal advice, free of charge. Additionally, six members from our MABA Mexico chapter in Guadalajara, Jalisco, traveled from Mexico to be at the Legal Fair. MABA Mexico President, Carlos Gustavo Gutierrez Rodriguez, and former MABA Mexico President, Miguel Heded Maldonado, were among the Mexican attorneys present to answer questions from the attendees with questions involving Mexican law.

Around the noontime hour, hungry attorneys were treated to delicious empanadas and finger foods provided by Chef Tunes and Joseph’s Bar & Grill in Downey.



An addition to this year’s Legal Fair was the inclusion of several community and non-profit organizations. MABA was happy to host The Loyola Law School Center for Conflict Resolution, Inner City Law Center, Dream Team Los Angeles, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), Advancing Justice Los Angeles, LIFT Los Angeles, and The Central American Resource Center (CARECEN). These organizations not only answered questions, but distributed information regarding their respective services.

By the end of the day, MABA and MABA Mexico attorneys consulted with over 500 attendees!

MABA Spring Mixer

By Erika Anzoategui, Trustee



Los Angeles – MABA's Spring Mixer was held on May 21, 2014 at Yxta Cocina Mexicana. It was a great event that was well attended by MABA members, MABA ex-presidents, new members, judges, and law students. The mixer was a huge success and all the attendees got a chance to mingle and exchange

ideas. The Esquire Network (TEN) joined forces with MABA to host the event. Other generous sponsors donated funds in order to keep the cost low, so that at the end of the day MABA could raise money for the Federal Judicial Externship Scholarship fund! Our sponsors were Northwestern Mutual, Initiative Legal Group, Capstone Law and the Law Office of Alejandro Becerra. The raffle attracted many who opened their wallets in support of MABA's scholarship fund and the chance to win a prize. In the end the big winner was Enrique Arrevalo, who won two of the night's most coveted prizes: Dodger Tickets and an Apple iPad. The 2014 MABA board thanks all of you who participated. See you next year!



Fair

Continued from page 9

The Mexican Consulate was also present to distribute informational brochures discussing their services and to inform the community of their rights.

MABA would like to extend our gratitude to this year's Legal Fair sponsors. Romano Stancroff, PC served as the "Platino" sponsor and hosted a booth providing information regarding lemon law. The sponsors at the "Plata" level included the Law Office of Enrique Arevalo, the Law Offices of Ricardo Perez, and the Law Offices of Oscar H. Gutierrez. The Law Office of Karla Navarrete and the Law Office of Maria Olaguez sponsored the event at the "Bronze" level.

Last, as Chair of the 2014 Legal Fair, I personally want to thank all those who donated their time to give back to the community. The selfless actions of the volunteers and attorneys ensure that MABA will continue to "empower the Latino community."

JUAN J. DOMINGUEZ
A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
2013 LATINO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR.

LOS ANGELES MAGAZINE
SUPER LAWYER 2006 -2010

PASADENA MAGAZINE
TOP ATTORNEY 2010-2013

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE
RECIPIENT, CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ADVOCATES FORUM
ELITE LAWYER OF AMERICA

WWW.JUANJDOMINGUEZ.COM
800-818-1818

FACEBOOK.COM/JUANDOMINGUEZ
TWITTER.COM/DOMINGUEZLEGAL

MABA-Lawyer Referral & Information Service (MABA-LRIS) **Join Us! We Are Relaunching!** By Judy Perez, MABA Past President 2010

Hola Mabistas! So have you heard the news? MABA's LRIS has been re-vamped! As we announced at our 54th Installation Gala earlier this year, a new and improved MABA-LRIS is re-launching. For those of you who are not familiar with a Lawyer Referral and Information Service ("LRIS"), an LRIS refers potential clients to attorneys who are members of their "Service." In California, lawyer referral services must be certified by the California Bar and must conform to certain standards adopted by the California Supreme Court. MABA has operated its certified LRIS since the 1980s. Though the LRIS has referred many community members to MABA-LRIS attorney members, the LRIS Committee realizes that more can and should be done to expand the LRIS's beneficial effects to both potential members and potential clients.

To this end, for the past two years, the MABA-LRIS Committee has been undergoing a revamp of sorts. We have been meeting with the California State Bar and revising our Standards and Rules in order to make MABA's LRIS a more effective tool for our community and our members. We are happy to report, that the Committee's efforts are paying off. The MABA-LRIS has leased new office space in the beautiful MALDEF building on Spring Street; we have hired a Coordinator (Ms. Jazmin Vazquez) who is working exclusively for the LRIS; we have invested in new office equipment; and the Committee has been meeting weekly to ensure that our panel applications and our Standards and Rules confirm to the Bar's New 2014 Regulations. To ensure maximum membership levels in our panels, MABA-LRIS is

currently offering just seven (7) panels. These are: Immigration Law, Criminal Law, Bankruptcy Law, Tort Law, Family Law, Labor & Employment and Business Law. Referrals will be made as required by the California Bar, using a rotating system. The LRIS Committee regards integrity, trust and precluding any conflicts of interest as one of its number one priorities for the LRIS. Accordingly, the Standards and Rules have been revised to not allow membership to any attorney with familial, romantic or any other seemingly inappropriate tie to the LRIS Coordinator or any LRIS staff. The Committee is eager to promote membership in the LRIS among MABA members* and has taken every possible step to inspire trust in the System and prove its effectiveness and reliability.

We urge you to consider joining the LRIS. Applications and membership information are already being mailed and should arrive to you shortly. Your membership will not only ensure that our community has access to trusted attorneys who speak their language, but we trust it will also be an excellent resource to grow your business. If you have any questions please contact our Coordinator, Jazmin Vazquez at (213) 327-0620 or visit our website at www.mabalris.org.

Muchas Gracias!

* Applicants need not be MABA Members in order to join MABA-LRIS



Perez & Caballero

*...working
together
with MABA.*

Proudly Housing MABA's Main Office.

Perez & Caballero Law Firm
714 West Olympic Boulevard, Suite #450
Los Angeles, California 90015

Phone: 213-745-6300
Fax: 213-745-6060

Summer Golf Tournament

By Ricardo Perez



Downey – For the first time in MABA's history, the 2014 Annual MABA Golf Tournament was held on July 25, 2014, at Downey's beautiful Rio Hondo Country Club, with golfers teeing off at noon, also different from past years.

Golfers were treated to Rio Hondo's pristine conditions and picturesque views, while enjoying a challenging narrow tree lined layout with strategic mounding and excellent greens.

Golfers concluded the evening with an awards banquet at the Rio Hondo Event Center, a stylish room featuring beautiful golf course views.

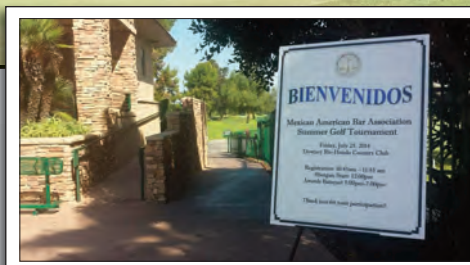
At 9 a.m., the Golf Committee, MABA Board Members and volunteers arrived and setup the registration tables under the beautiful Southern California sun. Registration lists, goodie-bags, and sponsor boards were arranged to ensure a smooth and orderly registration process.

10 a.m. saw even more movement, as sponsors slowly trickled in and quickly setup their stations. Golf carts carried sponsors and supplies to their locations; tables were draped with

sponsor banners; chairs went unoccupied as people moved from one place to another; and hydration stations were setup with Gatorade, coconut juice, and water filled buckets with ice, which were unrelated to the ALS Challenge that has taken America by storm – pardon the pun.

At 10:45 a.m., golfers began to register. They were welcomed with MABA Bags, graciously donated by The Law Office of Ricardo Perez. In the bags, golfers enjoyed snacks (including chips, raisins, and Rice Krispie Treats), golf balls, tees, and golf shirts sponsored by American Central Auto Sales. BMW, our hole-in-one sponsor, surprised dozens of guests by rewarding them for their early arrival time, handing out beautiful coffee mugs and key chains.

Once registered, golfers reconnected with old friends and made new ones.



Golfers were also treated to traditional Mexican food by our Brunch Sponsor, El Mexicano Foods. The

smell of chorizo sizzling on an open fire quickly filled the air, as the brunch station cooks began serving chorizo burritos, quesadillas, cheese samplings, yogurt, and coconut juice (with real coconut pieces!). The aroma of gourmet coffee also filled the air, as

our Coffee Sponsor, Pasquinis, began brewing gourmet coffee and preparing iced coffee for our guests. Chorizo and gourmet coffee: who would've thought how good they paired! Why MABA, of course!

Following the shotgun start at noon, judges,

prosecutors, public defenders, private attorneys, law students, volunteers and supporters simultaneously hit the greens. Whether they golfed to compete or simply to enjoy a sunny day with their friends, one thing was certain: the experience of engaging 18 holes of golf was unequivocally enhanced with our golfing perks.



Feature Article

Continued from page 7

many detainees are subject to the negative comments by personnel working for or contracted by DHS at the detention facilities. A common grievance by detainees is psychological abuse. For example, DHS officers often tell detainees that they should not bother fighting to stay in the U.S. since "everyone will be deported."

A 2011 report from an advocacy group found that more than half of the nearly 13,000 immigrants interviewed reported inhumane conditions in

Border Patrol cells. "Las Hieleras," or "The Freezers," describes the chilly holding-cells along the U.S. southern border. Many detainees and attorneys have complained that detainees are put in these cold rooms for punitive reasons. In early 2013, plaintiffs sued DHS alleging inhumane conditions including actions by agents refusing to provide basic toiletries and beatings. These punitive practices are reported to continue today.

After observing the detention process in Artesia, in August, 2014, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), along with other immigrant-rights groups, filed a lawsuit against the DHS alleging violations of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and the Due Process Clause. The recent complaint alleges that federal authorities have sped up the deportation process and drastically reduced defendants' rights to information, assistance of pro bono attorneys and contact with the outside world. Among many allegations, the

complaint describes that little or no notice is provided to detainees about their rights and that there are affirmative efforts by federal officers to keep pro bono attorneys from helping. In addition, credible fear interviews are conducted using confusing legalese. The U.S. government wants speedy

"We face a self-inflicted political crisis for not failing to reform our nation's immigration laws."

removals but the government's main impediment appears to be its due process obligations. For those that oppose providing humanitarian protection to these refugees, the major question is, why? Is it fear of disease? The Chinese, Irish, Italians, and Jewish immigrants were all once suspected to be a threat to the welfare of American citizens as carriers of the bubonic plague, cholera, polio and tuberculosis. Our nation survived these baseless threats and actually flourished by the hard work and ingenuity of immigrants. As stated in the White House Blog, "Our American journey and our success would simply not be possible without the generations of immigrants who have come to our shores."

Mexico and Central America are our neighbors. The United States has economically benefitted from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Do we not have an interest in providing aid and

protection to our neighbors? We face a self-inflicted political crisis for failing to reform our nation's immigration laws. Many of our congressional representatives who argue that border security should be a precondition to immigration reform refuse to see the facts. Securing the border against those who seek to enter the United States by evading authorities would have little effect on the presence of Central American refugees, who actively seek to turn themselves over to U.S. border patrol officers.

If a hundred thousand refugees come to the United States from Central America this year, we can deal with it in a humane, organized manner. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), about 2.5 million Syrian refugees have fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. If they can deal with it, the U.S. can take measures to help its Central American neighbors and not hastily send children back to violence or death. The United States is a nation of not only great achievement but one that has always strived to do good for those in need, a tenant at the heart of our great faith traditions. Yet many of our political leaders seemed to have forgotten about the golden rule captured in Mark's Gospel, "Love your neighbor as yourself ... There is no commandment greater than this." Perhaps, we should also describe our nation's shameful handling of the present humanitarian crisis as a moral crisis as well.

Golf

Continued from page 14

Golfers' treats included: (1) various ice-cold beverages at our numerous MABA hydration stations; (2) sponsor provided alcoholic drink stations, including tequila shots, strawberry/lemonade margaritas, beer kegs, and spiked lemonade; and (3) sponsor provided food stations that included: tacos de asada, pollo, pastor, and chicharron; tostadas de tinga; barbecue pork sliders; bacon-wrapped hotdogs; and snacks in case golfers grew hungry between sponsor food stations.

This year, to treat golfers to something different than years past, we moved to new greens. Our move to Downey's beautiful Rio Hondo Country Club proved to be a success! Aside from selling out on the registered golfers, we enjoyed a Silver Sponsor, various Bronze Sponsors, Tee Table Sponsors, a MABA Bag Sponsor, T-Shirt Sponsor, and numerous raffle contributors. Once the final golf ball was hit, our

golfers strolled over to the banquet room to celebrate the conclusion of a successful event. Golfers mingled, networked, and enjoyed a great view of the majestic course. The cash bar and barbecue buffet provided the perfect opportunity for the Awards Ceremony to begin. MABA President and Golf Tournament Chair, Erick Solares, graciously welcomed guests and introduced the Mayor of Downey, the Honorable Fernando Vasquez, who presented sponsors and MABA Golf Committee members with City Certificates, officially recognizing their support. The program continued with the announcement of the Tournament Winners. However, the crowd seemed even more interested with the announcement of the Raffle Prize winners, as the "boos" and the "yays" inevitably accompanied ticket

number announcement; raffle tickets were scrutinized and prizes were handed out, amid the occasional allegation of raffle-drawing corruption (interestingly, the people making those allegations immediately ceased once their ticket numbers were called, which only fueled the allegations!).

As the program concluded, friends exchanged goodbyes, and the room was bestowed with a growing silence. However, the common theme throughout the day was one of success. It was rewarding to witness friendships



strengthened, business relationships created, and stomachs filled. It quickly became apparent that golfers already eagerly await golfing in next year's tournament.

It should be noted that the tournament would not have been possible without



the Golf Committee, MABA President Erick Solares, and MABA Administrator Maria Torres, whose countless hours ensured that this year's Tournament was a successful one.

Obviously, special thanks goes to all of the sponsors, contributors, golfers, and volunteers for also making sure this day was possible.



MABA Student Corner

By Cindy Pánuco, President-Elect

MABA has had an exciting year for its student members!

- On March 13, MABA hosted its annual Attorney, Judge and Student mixer at Loyola Law School. The event was extremely well attended by students, MABA attorneys, and MABA's bench officers.
- In May 2014, MABA's Federal Judicial Externship Program placed three law students in the chambers of Judge Otero, Judge Olguin, and Judge Gutierrez for the summer. The students who were selected to serve as externs in the chambers of these distinguished MABA judges, are all natives of the Los Angeles area who intend to practice in Los Angeles and will certainly go on to be leaders in our community. Amelia Alvarez, a law student UC Irvine, externed in the chambers of Judge Otero. Julio Mojica, a law student at Stanford, was placed in the chambers of Judge Gutierrez. Jeanette Acosta, a student at UC Hastings, was selected for

placement in the chambers of Judge Olguin. During the summer, these students also participated in a brown bag lunch on careers in the federal courts. The brown bag was hosted by Judge Gutierrez, MABA Past-President Raul Ayala, and MABA Member Elisa Fernandez.

Additionally, thanks to the generosity of MABA members, Michael Felix and James Blancarte Jr., as well as Past-President James Blancarte, MABA was able to provide each student with a \$1,000 stipend for the summer.

- In June 2013, MABA announced a \$5,000 scholarship opportunity for rising third year law students. The scholarship was made possible by a first-ever partnership with Camino Real Chevrolet, and the efforts of MABA Past-President Marty Castillo. Nancy Perez, a third year law student at UCLA was presented with the MABA/Camino Real Scholarship at MABA's Fall Mixer on October 2nd.

In addition, for the last five years, MABA has been pairing law students with attorney and judge mentors. This summer, through MABA's Attorney and Judicial Mentoring Programs, MABA student members will again be paired with a mentor.

These MABA programs for our students are made possible because of MABA's attorneys, judges, and sponsors who give so generously of their time and resources to pay it forward to the next generation of Latina/o students! With the continued support of MABA's members, we look forward to building on the opportunities and assistance we give to those on the path to a career in the law.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, or sponsoring any of MABA's student programs at any level, please contact MABA.



PROGRESSIVE LABEL INC.
Labels & Digital Printing

Brochures
Catalogs
Marketing Material
Apparel Labels & Tags

ProgressiveLabel.com | 323.415.9770 | 2545 Yates Ave., Commerce, CA 90040



With Priority Banking, you'll enjoy the rewards of your achievements.

You deserve to be rewarded for your success, which is why we created Priority Banking^{®1}. With Priority Banking you'll experience the one-to-one attention of your own personal banker. A dedicated professional who will work with you to understand your personal and business goals. You'll also enjoy a wide range of exclusive benefits and complimentary banking services.

Call today to set up an appointment with your personal banker.

Manhattan Village Banking Office – 2910 North Sepulveda Boulevard, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Charles Claver, Vice President & Priority Relationship Advisor, 310-545-8847

unionbank.com/priority



(1) Priority Banking is available to individuals and small businesses with combined deposits at Union Bank or assets invested with its subsidiaries and/or affiliates totaling \$100,000 or more. Terms and conditions subject to change. See our *All About Personal*, or *All About Business, Accounts & Services Disclosure and Agreement* and appropriate *Fee Schedule* for details.

©2013 Union Bank, N.A. All rights reserved.

Member
FDIC