

State Bar of California, Office of Governmental Affairs

The Sacramento Scene

Vol. 5, No. 7

November 8, 2006

LAWYER-LEGISLATORS: NEW ONES ADDED, BUT NUMBERS DOWN

As expected, the 2007-08 California Legislature will include several fewer lawyer-lawmakers than its predecessor – and perhaps the fewest in modern history, less than 20%.

Also for the first time perhaps in history, all the new lawyer-lawmakers are from the same political party: Democrats.

The change is most pronounced in the state Senate, where seven lawyer-lawmakers departed due to term limits, with only two taking their place (and possibly a third, depending upon the final outcome in the 34th Senate District, where lawyer Lou Correa was trailing Republican Lynn Daucher by a razor-thin 13 votes with an unknown number of absentee ballots left to be counted). If Correa loses, the number of attorneys holding Senate seats will fall from 12 (30%) to seven (17.5%), with the Democrat/Republican ratio increasing from 8-4 (67%) to 5-2 (71%).

In the Assembly, on the other hand, the number of lawyer-lawmakers remains constant at 16 (20%), with six new electees replacing a like number who were termed out. In fact, the number of legally educated Assembly Members (and potential lawyers) actually will increase, since one of the new members, Anthony Adams (a Republican), is close to graduation from law school, and another, Curren Price, is a law school graduate.

Nor will the partisan mix of Assembly lawyer-lawmakers change substantially, since only one of the departees – former Senator and 14-year legislative veteran Ray Haynes – was a Republican. The Democrat/Republican ratio of attorneys in the lower house is now 12-4 (75%).

SENATE

6th SD – Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), 45, is a former Assembly Member (1998-2004) and former chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. While waiting for the 6th Senate District seat to open up, Steinberg joined the firm of Hanson, Bridgett, Marcus, Vlahos & Rudy in their Government Ethics and Government Relations practice groups. Prior to his term in the Assembly, Steinberg was an employee rights attorney for the



Steinberg

California State Employees Association for 10 years before going into private practice as an arbitrator and mediator. He is a graduate of UCLA (Economics), and received his law degree from UC Davis. Replaces Senator Deborah Ortiz.

10th SD – Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro), 51, also is a former Assembly Member (1998-2004) and former chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee who spent two years in private practice, as Of Counsel to the Sturdevant Law Firm, while waiting for the 10th Senate District seat to open up. A graduate of UC Davis (Political Science) and McGeorge School of Law, Corbett was a small-firm attorney, community college teacher, and Mayor of San Leandro prior to her Assembly term. Replaces Senator Liz Figueroa.



Corbett

ASSEMBLY



Huffman

6th AD (D-Marin County) – Jared Huffman, 41, is Senior Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, specializing in western water policy and a member of the Marin Municipal Water Board. Prior to joining NRDC,

Huffman was a plaintiffs' attorney specializing in public interest cases, including a victory in the Title IX case mandating equal athletic activities for female athletes. He earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from UC Santa Barbara and his law degree from Boston College. Huffman was a three-time NCAA All-American in volleyball. He replaces Assembly Member Joe Nation.

28th AD – Anna Caballero (D-Salinas), 51, the mayor of Salinas, began her legal career as an attorney for California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) representing striking farm workers, and in 1982 became a founding partner of the firm of Caballero, Matcham and McCarthy. Prior to her election she served as Executive Director of Partners for Peace, a non-profit organization developing effective violence prevention programs. She graduated from UC San Diego and UCLA School of Law. Husband, Juan Uranga, is Director for the Center for Community Advocacy in Salinas. She replaces Assembly Member Simon Salinas.

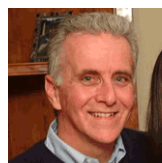


Caballero

42nd AD – Michael N. Feuer (D-Los Angeles), 51, is a former Los Angeles City Councilmember and was a 2001 candidate for LA City Attorney. A graduate of Harvard and Harvard Law School who served as clerk to California Supreme Court justice Joseph Grodin, Feuer began his legal career with Hufstedler Miller Carlson & Beardsley, then served for eight years as Executive Director of Bet Tzedek Legal Services. Most recently he was Of Counsel to Morrison & Foerster. Feuer teaches at the UCLA School of Public Affairs, and has taught at UCLA Law School. He replaces Assembly Member Paul Koretz.



Feuer



Krekorian

43rd AD – Paul Krekorian (D-Burbank), 45, is a founding partner of the law firm Fisher & Krekorian in Los Angeles, specializing in representation of business, charitable organizations and individuals in matters involving trademark, copyright and commercial disputes. He has also served as a volunteer attorney for Public Counsel and the Domestic Violence Project. A former President of the Burbank Board of Education and of the Five Star Education Coalition, Krekorian graduated from USC and Boalt Hall at UC Berkeley. He replaces Assembly Member Dario Frommer.



Eng

49th AD – Mike Eng (D-Monterey Park), 58, founded the immigration law firm of Eng & Nishimura 18 years ago. He is licensed to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and the state Courts of Hawaii. He is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and a former member of the Monterey Park City Council and the Board of Directors of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. Eng received his bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Hawaii and his JD from the UCLA School of Law, where he has taught courses in immigration law. He replaces his wife, Assembly Member Judy Chu, who was termed out.

58th AD – Charles “Chuck” Calderon (D-Montebello), 55, is a former Assembly Member (1982-90), Senator (1990-98, including a term as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Majority Leader), and candidate for Attorney



Calderon

General (1998). Since leaving the Senate, he has been a partner in the firm of Nossaman Guthner Knox & Elliott, where he concentrates on governmental, administrative and legislative law and processes. A graduate of CSU Los Angeles and King Hall at UC Davis, Calderon’s legal resume also includes terms as Assistant General Counsel to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D.C., Deputy City Attorney of Los Angeles, General Counsel to Los Angeles Board of Public Works, General Counsel to Los Angeles City Council. He replaces his brother, Ron Calderon, who is moving to the Senate.

59th AD – Anthony Adams (R-Hesperia), 34, currently is a 3rd year law student at Western State University College of Law. He most recently was Director of Legislative Affairs for the County of San Bernardino. He replaces Assembly Member Dennis Mountjoy.



Adams



Price

51st AD – Curren Price (D-Inglewood), received his JD from the University of Santa Clara School of Law and his BA from Stanford University. He has served as Inglewood City Council Member and Commissioner on the Los Angeles County Insurance Commission. He replaces Assembly Member Jerome Horton.

“J.A.I.L.4JUDGES” FAILS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Constitutional Amendment E, the “J.A.I.L. ([Judicial Accountability Initiative Law](#)) for Judges” initiative on the South Dakota ballot, was overwhelmingly defeated in Tuesday’s election, with 89% of the electorate voting ‘No.’

The measure, the brainchild of San Fernando Valley minister Ron Branson, proposed to give special grand juries the power to strip “wayward” judges of judicial immunity, investigate them, and even indict them for their actions on the bench. Branson earlier had tried and failed to qualify a similar initiative for the California ballot, before turning to South Dakota with its easier initiative qualification process.