



# CALDA *update*

SETTING THE STANDARD...EDUCATION, ETHICS, EXCELLENCE

## Message from the President

Dear CALDA Members:

2015 is here and I'm excited to say that CALDA is moving forward with new projects and endeavors. We are strengthening and expanding CALDA's Curriculum, which was very popular and well-regarded at the October Conference. We will begin improving several of our Brochures and Questionnaires and translating several of them into Spanish. Furthermore, and most importantly, 2015 will be a year of leaving our comfort zone. CALDA will be reaching out to and making relationships with various groups whose members and constituencies need to know who we are and how our members can help them. These groups have clout and members, and they need to see on a statewide level how invaluable Legal Document Assistants are to their various constituencies. We need to make relationships with these other providers of legal access, such as providers of services to seniors, disability rights groups, domestic violence prevention and support organizations, and others. By forging these relationships, we will be joining the greater community of legal access providers in our state, which will provide opportunities for our members and legislative support to our profession when the need arises.



I hope to see you at our various events this year. The Bay Area Seminar will be in Foster City on April 18, and the Los Angeles Seminar will be July 18. And we are returning to Los Angeles this year for our Annual Conference on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Kind regards,

Ian Duncan

CALDA President

## Catherine Elias-Jermany

### In Our Hearts Forever

Catherine Elias-Jermany was a wonderfully dynamic lady with a passion for making sure the public had a chance to be heard.

Influenced by her grandmother, Callie Jackson, who started her own legal-help service in 1929, Catherine had been involved with the legal process since the age of 14, when she succeeded in advocating for better nursing home conditions in Los Angeles County. Catherine championed for the deliverance of quality legal document preparation services, providing the less fortunate with equal access to justice.

Her many contributions included organization of the Welfare Rights Movement and Dependence Prevention Center in the 1960s, involvement in the National Paralegal Institute, the Children's Defense Fund, and ultimately becoming one of the advocates of the movement for

independent paralegals – now defined in California as Legal Document Assistants.

In 1986 Catherine was one of the original founders of California Association of Independent Paralegals, CAIP, which in 1999, following changing legislation, became our own California Association of Legal Document Assistant.

She had resided in Lake County 1995 with her husband, attorney Steven Elias (deceased 12/29/2011), where she served as vice-president of Lake County Dispute Resolution Services, which provided mediation services for individuals and organizations in her community as well as presiding over area tribal elections.

She especially loved her involvement as director of the non-profit community radio station KPFB 88.1 FM., co-directing public affairs and providing musical support on the station. She was a member of the Rainbow Sisters, a multi-cultural musical group, singing and playing 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s music. One show in particular featured Smokey Robinson.

At our conferences, Catherine managed to turn the dry topic of UPL into entertainment with her portrayal of a wife wishing to hire a Legal Document Assistant to help her rid her life of a husband, so she could take up with her new boyfriend, portrayed by Richard Lubetzky. Although, Steve, played the boring husband, it was the strong love that they shared that made their laughter and joy infectious.

Catherine, we thank you for all you gave to us and for the privilege of being a part of your life. You will be in all of our hearts forever.

## Accessing the Forums

### Getting There

Log into the Members Only section of the CALDA website and choose **CALDA Community Forums**.

You will need to agree with the **Terms of Use** the first time you enter.

In the left hand column choose **Groups**.

Click on the group **All Active Members**. There are additional 'specialty' groups but All Active Members is the group that most announcements and discussions occur on.

To the right, underlined in green, choose **Join Group** – Once you have joined **All Active Members**, you may **Start a New Discussion**

### To Post a Question

Now that you are in All Active Members (or any other group you've joined) you may read through prior posts or post your own question.

Click **Add Discussion** to start a new topic. This is a blue box, on the right side of your screen, midway down. Type in your question, it looks like email, and hit **Submit**.

### Join Groups & Edit Your Settings

**My Dashboard**, on the left of the screen, will allow you to sign up for various content alerts, groups, etc.

**Edit My Setting** – Top left, under your name, you will find **Edit My Settings** – There is the subset **Notifications**, this is where you will set what you will types of notices you receive and how often you want to be notified. You should be preset to **Daily**. Everything else should be set to **On**.

### Setting Your Alerts

**My Content Alerts** – We've created several categories of content (i.e. Estate Planning, Family Law, Legislation, etc.). You should sign up for an "alert" for every field you want to hear about. If you would like to receive notices as soon as they are posted to a discussion or group, you may go to that **Group** (i.e. All Active Members), to the right **Group Notifications**, and update to **Instantly**.

The best way to learn about the Community Forums is to jump on and start poking around. There is a wealth of information that your fellow members are ready to share with you.



*Be sure to log in to the CALDA Community Forums for Member to Member contact.*

## The CALDA Community Forums: The Best Mentor You'll Ever Have

By Tyler Gross  
My CALDA Experience – The Forums

I joined CALDA in 2014 to be associated with a professional association, network, and have access to the professional brochures. To my surprise, I received much, much more.

The Community Forums are priceless to me. When I have a question, there is always someone to answer and provide me with the assistance I need. I post on the forum if I need a form or questionnaire and someone is always kind enough to send me what I need. I also love the fact that I am able to assist others by answering their questions when possible. I am able to pay it forward and provide the assistance that I have received countless times in the past. Also, the forums keep me up-to-date with all things CALDA has to offer. From events and conferences to monthly meetings, I always know what's happening as they are always posted on the forums to keep the members informed.

I feel many members underutilize the forums. If you need help, just post your questions and you will be surprised by all the help and feedback you'll receive.

Working together to help and inform members contributes to making our profession more creditable as a whole. It is hard enough to defend our profession, and unfortunately, some attorneys, and even the Juris Doctorate professors who taught me the LDA courses, belittle LDAs so they can try to convince prospective clients to hire them at exorbitant rates.

Helping each other keep up with laws, forms, procedures and personal learning experiences can only improve our profession and credibility as a whole.

As a new member, I am very happy with my experience with CALDA. And as a member, if we all work together, we can make CALDA even better than it already is.



**MEMBERS ONLY**

### One on One or Group Mentoring

Have a question? You can call CALDA's telephone number, (916) 791-9100, to be connected with an experienced member who will be able to help you. And don't forget that you can post your questions to the **Forums**.

CHAPTER NEWS



**Bay Area Chapter**

The next Bay Area Chapter meeting will be February 19, 2015 at noon. We will meet in the conference room at the Southland Square Building at 24301 Southland Drive in Hayward. The date is always the 3rd Thursday of each month, except at the December meeting.



**Central Valley Chapter**

The Central Valley Chapter will have their next meeting on February 19, 2015. We will be meeting at the Yosemite Falls Café, 5123 N. Blackstone Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710.



**Los Angeles/Orange Chapter**

The next meeting of the Los Angeles/Orange Chapter is February 20, 2015. This is a "bring your own lunch" monthly meeting with Judge Juhas. 111 North Hill Street, **9th Floor Cafeteria**, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Please email Lois Isenberg at [lois@divorcesos.com](mailto:lois@divorcesos.com) with your RSVPs (registration is a must - 25 attendee limit). Meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

**Family Law Forms**

There are changes afoot in Family Law. If you are not subscriber to Martin Dean Essential Forms or Formbuilder, be sure to check with your county court website for the new Family Law forms.

**And Speaking of Forms**

Martin Dean Essential Forms has been bought by Continuing Education of the Bar of California. CALDA member enjoyed a discount with Martin Dean, however, it is unlikely that that will continue under the CEB. We will keep you informed.

**Notary Law Changes**

**As of January 1, 2015, a pre-printed consumer notification must be included on all CA Acknowledgment, Jurat, and Proof of Execution by Subscribing Witness certificates.**

Senate Bill No. 1050 states, in part, "Any certificate of acknowledgment taken within this state shall include a notice at the top of the certificate of acknowledgment in an enclosed box stating: "A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document." This notice shall be legible.

Here is what the box would look like:

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document, to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

Click to read the entire [Senate Bill 1050](#).

MEMBERSHIP

**Welcome New Members**

- Kim Baldrige
- Lisa Baumgardner
- Vickie Damian
- Smile Dhir
- Doreen Domer
- Diane Ebbitt
- Josie Garcia
- Lynda Garman
- Michael Glatfelter, Sr.
- Sondra Golla
- Nya Green
- Wade Gribaldo
- Donald McGee
- Laura McGee
- Sue Ann Meyers
- Aubrey Miller
- Robert Alfred Revel
- Latonia Robinson
- Stacy Saldutti
- Cynthia Salone
- Jennifer Smith
- Carla Sprugasci
- Brook Thurston
- Andrew Voller
- W. Henry Younger, Jr.



SAVE THE DATES

- 4/18/15 **Bay Area Seminar** – Foster City
- 7/18/15 **LA Seminar** – Courtyard by Marriott Culver City
- 10/16-10/17 **Fall Conference** - Double Tree El Segundo/LAX-

CONNECT WITH CALDA

**CALDA is on Facebook**



Just click on the link above to join us on Facebook.