

**JULY 164**

**BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Return from Public Comment - Amendment to Rules and Regulations of the State Bar of California, Article V. Meetings of the State Bar, Section 1. Annual Meeting**

**BACKGROUND:** The location for a meeting the size of the State Bar Annual Meeting should be determined at least five years in advance. The Annual Meeting is currently booked through 2011.

Only four California cities can logistically accommodate the Annual Meeting given the ratio of meeting rooms required to sleeping rooms utilized. Those cities are Monterey, Long Beach, Anaheim and San Diego. Los Angeles and San Francisco pose certain logistical obstacles that make them unworkable as an Annual Meeting destination.

In May the Stakeholder Relations Committee approved the Annual Meeting Task Force recommendation to send out for public comment a rule change permitting the Board to consider the option of adding an out of state destination into the rotation for the Annual Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** During the public comment period from May 26 through July 9, 2008, there were a total of 37 comments submitted (including 7 from local bar associations; one from California Women Lawyers(CWL); 1 from the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations (CDCBA); 1 from the Solo and Small Firm Section; 1 from the Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services and 26 from individuals). 35 of the comments received oppose the proposed rule revision to allow for an out of state option. 2 of the 37 comments were in favor of the rule change.

The main reasons for opposition were:

1. The Annual Meeting should not be held out of State due to the current budget deficits and economic problems here in California. Host cities benefit from the convention and therefore we should support our local economy.
2. An out of state meeting would mean added time and expense for attendees preventing participation of many potential attendees such as Solo and Small Firm practitioners; and thus leading to a much less diverse group of attendees.
3. In addition to the reasons stated above, the local bar associations also stated that an out of state Annual Meeting would negatively impact their effectiveness with their constituencies.

Comments sent via email appear below. Letters sent via U.S. mail are attached.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

Public Comments received during public comment period pertaining to the Proposed Revisions of State Bar Rules and Regulations, Article V, Meetings of the State Bar, Section 1. Annual Meeting – July 164

1. In response to the request for comment on out of state bar meetings:

First, I do not accept the notion that meetings can not be held in San Francisco for logistical reasons. There is more than ample lodging and exhibition space and conventions of all types come to the city both larger and smaller than the State bar, even if the meetings are spread between several nearby hotels. Same thing with LA.

Second, with the state having budget deficits and economic problems, it sends the wrong signal for California lawyers to go to Vegas, Seattle, New Orleans or wherever else might be on the list.

bad idea.

Julius Young

2. I would not support a state bar convention site outside California unless, at a minimum, there were some reciprocal arrangement with the other site. I see no reason California lawyers should take their business outside California when the host cities obviously benefit from our convention.

Other convention locations (Las Vegas, Hawaii, etc.) might entice some to participate, but I suspect that would be largely offset by those who would decline to attend an out-of-state convention.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

- John D. Hodson, CFLS  
SBN 153764  
Davis  
Incoming Vice Chair  
Family Law Section

3. Please don't have an Annual Meeting rotation site in Phoenix, Las Vegas or Reno. Other places like Portland & Tucson would be OK. Have you investigated Oakland as a potential site? It would be good to know if there are

any places easily accessible by reasonable airfare that could accommodate the need for meeting rooms.

Bonnie Maly SBN 083696 510-302-0713

4. Tricia: I love the idea of being able to go out of state for the annual meeting. I would strongly encourage such an amendment. With air fare so high now, and with the ready availability of such places as Reno and Las Vegas, Seattle, or maybe even some resort sites on the Mexican coast, this is something we should consider. A few years ago, CAAA had the same problem and as a last resort, we wound up going to Las Vegas and it was great. Both Las Vegas and Reno cater greatly to large crowds and have an abundance of availability. There is also availability at such huge resorts such as Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan, and Cancun. Reuben Lucero

5. Because of increasing fuel and costs, holding the State Bar meeting out of state is a bad idea.

**Neil F. Horton**

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6. Dear Tricia,

I think this is a great idea for a variety of reasons with one of the biggest being saving money and possibly even seeing some new venues!!

Need anything else from any of us just let us know.

Sherry Peterson

7. Dear Ms. Horan,

As a longtime member of the State Bar and a frequent delegate to the CDCBA, I am strongly opposed to holding annual meetings out of state. I join with Edward Schlatter, 2008 Board Chair for CDCBA in this opposition and fully agree with his comments and the reasons stated. I find it costly enough to attend the annual meetings as it is. Moving it out of state (likely to exotic places far away) would put the meetings beyond my meager budget. I must pay the cost of attendance from my retirement income and that only goes so far.

GERALD T. RICHARDS  
EMERITUS ATTORNEY  
HERCULES, CA

8. Ms. Horan:

I do not believe that it is appropriate for an integrated bar to hold its annual meeting, paid for with our mandatory dues, at locations outside the state of California. I also question the wisdom of creating a rule which would allow the Board of Governors to decide that a conference would be held out of state five or more years later when no member of that Board would still be in office.

I've been attending the annual meeting and the Conference of Delegates for about 30 years. I think I might have missed one or two. I have been active in the San Francisco delegation the whole time. An out of state location would make it much harder for us to obtain the diverse participation that we all work for. It also seems to me that an out of state location would probably add two travel days to the time required to attend the meeting. This added time and expense would make it much more difficult for some of our members to attend.

If the Board wants the State Bar to sponsor a deductible trip to Hawaii, I'm sure there are plenty of opportunities out there within the rubric of MCLE. Out of state meetings pose unique problems of their own. For example, the confidentiality promised by Las Vegas' promotional materials, would probably not be available for an official annual meeting held in that schizophrenic desert fun house. I'm sure that the Los Angeles and San Francisco convention and visitors bureaus would be glad to help resolve the "logistical" problems. (My recollection is that there were member complaints about the expense of staying in San Francisco or Los Angeles. San Diego ain't exactly cheap. Anaheim is a depressing hell-hole and a rip-off at half the price.) Maybe the events staff could look at a few other cities. San Jose, Sacramento and Oakland come to mind. They have all upgraded their convention facilities in the past 8 years or so. There are probably others as well.

Keep the meeting in California.

Patrick H. Fabian [056968]

9. Ms. Horan:

California lawyers would be ridiculed, and rightly so, if they take their business out of the state when California is suffering from economic hardship and budget deficits that threaten to literally tear apart the very infrastructure of our State. Exactly why does the State Bar Board of Governors want to invite such ridicule?

California lawyers deserve better from their State Bar Board of Governors.  
Period.

**I am opposed to holding the State Bar annual meeting at any location outside California.** The Events Staff should immediately fulfill its responsibility for selecting a 2010 location. Further, it is time for the Board of Governors to direct the Events Staff to look at a few other California cities which have not yet hosted (at least in my memory) the annual meeting. Oakland, Sacramento and San Jose come to mind. All three California cities have upgraded their convention facilities, have diverse offerings in hotels and restaurants, and are accessible and well serviced by air and other transportation modes. Any one of these California cities would be an appropriate location for the 2010 State Bar annual meeting.

For the last 25 or 26 years, I have been a delegate to the Conference of Delegates (now the CDCBA). I have been active not only in the Bar Association of San Francisco delegation, but also in the Conference of Delegates itself, having served on its Resolutions Committee, Calendar Coordinating Committee, and more recently Operations Committee. At State Bar annual meetings, I attend not only the Conference of Delegates but other programs and meetings of major statewide organizations. As a criminal defense practitioner, I enjoy meeting defense colleagues from north and south, and east and west.

The State Bar annual meeting must attract young and old, rich and poor, male and female, minority and majority. The Board of Governors should be focused on achieving these great goals, which I fear they impermissibly neglect when they spend time instead on plans to move the meeting out of state.

Focus.

Frank Z. Leidman

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**LEIDMANLAW**

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10. Dear Ms. Horan,

I write in opposition to the proposed Amendment to Title 6, Annual Meetings.

I strongly believe that the Annual Meeting should be held *only* in the State of California. In this time of budgetary crisis the State Bar should support the state of California, by keeping the revenues from the Annual meeting here. Every contribution to local merchants and the tax base is important.

Further, for those individual attendees, such as myself, who pay our own registration and travel expenses, it is desirable minimize our costs of travel, by staying within the State of California.

As an additional matter, the media will enjoy itself at the expense of the Bar, should we abandon our own state to discuss California law elsewhere. There are enough bad lawyer jokes in circulation right now, without giving the public justifiable grounds to mock us.

Very truly yours,

Joan A. Jernegan  
California State Bar 105789  
(916) 874-5619  
[jernegj@saccourt.com](mailto:jernegj@saccourt.com)

11. Ms. Horan:

As the General Counsel of an organization that holds an annual educational meeting for over 30,000 attendees, I am aware of the challenges of finding appropriate venues and programming to keep a yearly meeting attractive, affordable and beneficial to both the members and the organization. We tract our meetings closely, survey attendees routinely, and listen to the feedback from our members and exhibitors.

The State Bar Annual Meeting, which has as its very essence the practice of law in California, cannot "fix" meeting problems by moving the meeting out of state. That the Board of Governors is looking for this kind of quick fix is disheartening. We need to support our California economy, of course, but beyond this threshold issue, the State Bar needs to address ways to make the Annual Meeting more important, relevant, and cost and time efficient. The State Bar should explore other venues within our state, but it also needs to take a serious look at how the meeting can better serve the members. Perhaps the meeting should be shorter, have more regional and specialty bar programming and dialogue, offer services such as retirement planning or marketing, have a special program track and subsidized rate for new lawyers, or offer more high powered speakers. I cannot tell you what the answer is, because the State Bar Members hold that information. What I do know is that is nonsensical to hold the meeting outside of California.

Very truly yours,  
Katherine Salazar-Poss

Katherine Salazar-Poss  
General Counsel  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
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12. Dear Ms. Horan,

I oppose moving the annual meeting outside the State of California for several reasons: 1) Many persons attending the annual meeting are also attending the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations which meets concurrently with annual meeting. Separating these two will likely result in a significant reduction in the numbers of people attending annual meeting, and will make it more difficult for people to participate in both programs. 2) Legal services and public sector attorneys will have difficulty getting their employers to pay for attending meetings out of state, especially when there are significant budget cuts. 3) Our legal profession should support businesses in California. We are losing so many jobs and film production, etc. to other states and to Canada, I think it would be poor P.R. for us to take our annual meeting elsewhere. 4) Some folks may have both moral and sensory objection to meeting in locales like Las Vegas (one of the sites being considered) because there are no protections for the public from second hand smoke, and the atmosphere created by gambling casinos may be objectionable to some.

Thank you for considering my objections.

Sincerely,

Tina Rasnow

13. Thank you for asking for comments about the proposal to move the Annual Meeting outside of the State of California.

I am opposed to this proposal, because it is already expensive enough for someone to attend the Annual Meeting if that person is in Southern California and the Annual Meeting is in Northern California and vice versa. Requiring

people to go even farther to attend the meeting would likely discourage attendance.

The proposal might have attempted to deal with this problem by limiting out-of-State meetings to a venue such as Las Vegas; but the proposal contains no such limitation. Therefore, I do not support the proposal, at least in its present form.

I appreciate consideration of this viewpoint.

Stephen T. Holzer

14. The proposal to allow the Annual Meeting to be out of state is quite improper. This is the State Bar of California and as such, the meetings should be in California. As lawyers in California, we should hold our meetings in this state. The cities in this state that host the meetings receive great economic benefits from the meetings and placing these meetings out of state provide benefit to those cities that our profession does not serve. In addition, many of our lawyers would have economic hardships attending a meeting out of state. Finally, since the meeting is only four days, so more time would be required getting to an out of state city.

Richard D. Jallins  
Member, The State Bar Of California  
Yorba Linda, California

15. The California Bar should support the local businesses and economy that employs most of us California lawyers. As such, our dollars for an annual meeting should be spent in California, not in other states. I think it is absolutely embarrassing when the American Bar Association leaves the country to discuss the legal topics and concerns facing American lawyers. While I appreciate that people may wish to visit states other than California, the California Bar has some of the greatest cities in the country to chose from in this state, and we, as California lawyers, should be supporting our state's economy.

Thomas D. Pokladowski

16. I do not believe this change to the rules is in the best interests of our State or the lawyers of our State. It will likely result in the diversion of substantial revenues from California to another state. It will also make it more difficult for lawyers to attend the meeting. Presently, lawyers who live or work near the location of the convention can attend sessions at a very small cost. Rotation of the location provides this opportunity to lawyers in various areas. An out-of-state location, unless immediately across the border of an adjoining state, will deprive all in-state California lawyers of this opportunity and convenience.

Thomas Johnson  
207258

17. What is wrong with the choices we have now? Logistically, I just don't see how moving the Annual Meeting outside the state will make sense to attorneys who are active and barely squeezing in time to attend within the state. Moreover, the State Bar meeting is a revenue producing event and California should reap the proceeds of a California event.

B. B. Hampton  
Judicial Staff Counsel

18. I am opposed to moving the Bar meeting out-of-state. What's wrong with the choices we have now? I attend the Bar meeting every time it is in San Diego and Monterey (and years past San Francisco) The accommodations are always lovely, and the cost satisfactory.

The following comment is too vague to convey any real meaning: "Los Angeles and San Francisco pose **certain logistical obstacles** that make them unworkable as an Annual Meeting destination." What are the "logistical obstacles"--traffic, room costs, ? What about the *logistical obstacles for the attendees* in traveling to another state? Airport congestion and hassles, fuel costs, etc.

It seems to me that the State Bar meeting is a revenue-producing event, and our STATE should reap the proceeds therefrom. I have to believe that California's head cheerleader, the governor would not support this proposal.

Diana Sanford  
San Bernardino County Bar Association

19. I agree with Ms. Sanford on each point.

Claire Furness  
Executive Director  
San Bernardino County Bar Association  
555 North Arrowhead Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92401  
(909)885-1986

20. I have just become aware of the proposal to hold the State Bar Annual Meeting Out-of-State. I cannot understand why would such an idea would even be a consideration. There are many, many wonderful places throughout California to hold such functions and for many of us, the opportunity to see another part of this wonderful, diverse State is welcome. People live and practice in California because they take pride in California. To hold any State

Bar Function, let alone the annual meeting, in another State says loud and clear that we do not take pride in, or have respect for, our home. I sincerely hope that is not the case with the State Bar Representatives.

Jennifer M. Guenther  
Director-at-Large, San Bernardino County Bar Association

21. I concur wholeheartedly (referring to Jennifer Guenther's email)

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Dominick  
Fullerton, Lemann, Schaefer & Dominick LLP  
215 North "D" Street, 1st Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92401  
909-889-3691 (Phone)  
909-888-5119 (Fax)  
[tdominick@inlandbusinesslaw.com](mailto:tdominick@inlandbusinesslaw.com)

22. I agree, too. What a shock to get news like this! (referring to Jennifer Guenther's email)

Khymberli S. Apaloo  
Partner  
Haslam & Perri, LLP  
3491 E. Concours, Suite 200  
Ontario, CA 91764  
Tel: (909) 983-4777  
Fax: (909) 581-6761

23. As a practicing attorney and member of the San Bernardino County Bar Ass. , I am totally against the concept of moving any of our State Bar meetings out of state. If you can't find a suitable in state venue, then you're just not looking. Please call if you have any questions.

Bradley R. White  
sbn : 91450  
(909)-889-0366

24. From: Dan4mjg  
To: ramirezmcarr@gmail.com  
Sent: 7/9/2008 6:05:35 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time  
Subj: Re: SCDLS Comments re Annual Meetings

Comments:

I oppose the proposition that State Bar meetings be held outside of California for the following reasons.

1. For a single practitioner or small firm it would be a financial hardship for them to attend meetings outside of California.
2. Much of the public's perception of attorneys is that they are rich and this would only support that perception.
3. Especially in a difficult economic time, California attorneys should support California businesses.

# Beverly Hills Bar Association

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\*Deceased

June 18, 2008

msallus@ocslaw.com

Ms. Tricia Horan  
State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

Re: *Annual Meetings - Proposed amendment to Title 6*

Dear Ms. Horan:

I am President of the Beverly Hills Bar Association. Our membership, is approximately 4,000 attorneys, has been active with the State Bar of California and attended the numerous activities held at the Annual Meeting.

Our Board of Governors has considered the State Bar proposal of amending Title 6, regarding holding the Annual Meeting outside of California and has instructed me to submit this letter in opposition.

Some of the reasons for the opposition are as follows:

1. Holding the annual meeting outside California would significantly raise the cost for our members to attend. This would result in a reduction of the number of our members to participate either in MCLE, the Conference of Delegates of the California Bar Associations, or the Sections of the State Bar.
2. At a time of severe economic crisis for California and our members, holding the meeting out of state would reduce revenue to California businesses and giving it to out of state businesses. This will have a negative impression to the public. It will also engender a strong and unwelcome reaction from the legislators and the Governor.

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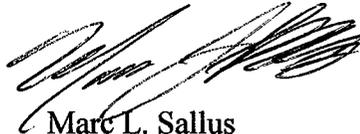
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3. The premise stated in the proposal that the only available California sites are Monterey, Anaheim, Long Beach, and San Diego is unsubstantiated and appears to be incorrect. It was pointed out that the American Bar Association has held its annual meetings in San Francisco and mid year meetings in Los Angeles numerous times, including this year. There are also many other sites that can be considered for the Annual Meeting, including San Jose, Sacramento, Century City (Los Angeles), Santa Monica, Santa Barbara, and Palm Springs.
4. There is no showing that holding a meeting outside California would create any significant savings that would benefit our members.

I would appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Board of Governors of the State Bar or the appropriate committee if or when this subject comes up.

Very truly yours,



Marc L. Sallus  
President of the Beverly Hills Bar Association

MLS/mls  
cc: Marc R. Staenberg, Esq.  
Nancy Knupfer, Esq.  
Jeffrey L. Bleich, Esq.  
Holly J. Fujie, Esq.  
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Patricia P. White, Esq.

**ATTORNEY**

**DAVID MICHAEL BIGELEISEN**

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June 19, 2008

The State Bar of California  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**RE: Holding the State Bar Annual Meeting outside of California**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have read of the proposal to hold the State Bar Annual Meeting outside of California. I do not see this as a good idea at all.

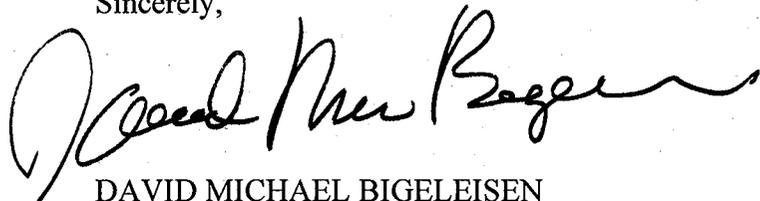
We should support our local economy.

I have attended the Annual Meeting every year for at least ten years. The meetings have been in Monterrey, San Diego, Long Beach and Anaheim. They have always been very good.

I believe that careful investigation will show that the meeting could be held quite nicely in San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose or Sacramento as well.

If you are considering holding the annual meeting in Las Vegas or Aruba, then you project a diminishing impression of our profession.

Sincerely,



DAVID MICHAEL BIGELEISEN

DMB/rb



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EDWARD SCHLATTER, 2008 BOARD CHAIR

June 20, 2008

Tricia Horan  
The State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Proposed Amendment to Rules of the State Bar of California, Title 6, Annual Meetings

Dear Ms. Horan:

The Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations ("CDCBA") submits this comment letter in opposition to the proposed Amendment to Rules of the State Bar of California, Title 6, Annual Meetings.

The CDCBA is an independent, non-partisan California mutual benefit and 501(c)(6) non-profit corporation and the successor to the State Bar Conference of Delegates. The CDCBA brings together attorneys from local bar associations throughout the State of California to debate and promote creative, non-partisan solutions to law-related issues, and the CDCBA works closely with legislators in Sacramento to enact resolutions that have passed the Conference.

Although the CDCBA has been an independent organization since 2002, it has continued to hold the Conference of Delegates concurrently with the State Bar Annual Meeting under a memorandum of understanding with the State Bar of California. Each year, several hundred California lawyers register for the State Bar Annual Meeting to attend the Conference of Delegates. The Conference of Delegates is the largest single event held at the annual meeting.

The CDCBA is opposed to the proposed rule change that would permit the annual meeting to be held out of state. A meeting held out of state would not promote the mission of the Conference to serve justice in California. We believe it would be impolitic to be seen debating issues affecting California jurisprudence outside the state. We also believe the possibility of holding the Conference of Delegates at an annual meeting outside the state would negatively impact our effectiveness with our constituencies, including our delegates and local bar associations, and also with California legislators.

We are also opposed to the general concept of the rule change. The State Bar is a mandatory organization and the annual meeting is a mandatory function. Matters concerning California lawyers are discussed at the annual meeting, and monies paid by California lawyers support its activities. We believe that this move could result in negativity toward the State Bar. An annual meeting out-of-state denies revenues to California cities and counties. A meeting at most out of state locations would, also, most likely have an adverse fiscal effect on solo and small firm practitioners and young and elderly lawyers.

Many of our constituent groups (local bar associations) and delegates have already expressed their concerns about this proposal to us. We have advised them of our comments and asked them to join with us to oppose this rule change.

Sincerely,

EDWARD SCHLATTER  
2008 Board Chair

**CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES OF CALIFORNIA BAR ASSOCIATIONS**  
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June 23, 2008

Tricia Horan  
The State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Proposed Amendment to Annual Meeting Rule

Dear Ms. Horan

As a member of the Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services, I share the committee's opinion that meeting out of state are inconsistent with the mission of the committee. I also question the increased cost to the State Bar of travel that such a move would entail in these difficult budget times.

As an individual who has taught at Annual Meeting for eight years, I have a broader perspective as well.

The people who attend my programs are solo and small firm practitioners. They work in the trenches day after day serving the needs of average Californians. Annual Meeting is an inexpensive way for them to obtain their MCLE and make contact with other attorneys who share their concerns and experiences, while broadening their own knowledge and improving their skills. An out of state venue may well put it beyond their reach to attend. Even if the out of state venue were Tahoe or Vegas (if they could meet the meeting room/sleeping room ratios)<sup>1</sup> may well be out of financial reach for those in the opposite end of the state. With the rising cost of air travel, it may be out of the question for some of our members.

We must remember that Annual Meeting is not just about coming together to do the Business of the State Bar. It is about providing an opportunity for those members who aren't involved on a day to day basis to come together, meet colleagues, share challenges and solutions, reinforce each other and renew their commit to being the best lawyers they can be.

I, too, teaching year after year, have complained about the boredom of going to the same old venues in rotation. It took this proposal change to make me step back and look at the bigger picture. The State Bar isn't just about the business of the Bar. It is about recognizing and serving the needs of our members and drawing them into the California legal community. I strongly oppose the proposed change.

Very truly yours,



M. Sue Talia

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<sup>1</sup>The fact that these ratios are a problem indicates how successful Annual Meeting is in meeting the needs of regularly members - if it weren't, we wouldn't need so many sleeping rooms for each meeting room.



# Sacramento County Bar Association

101 Court Plaza Building • 901 H Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • Phone (916) 448-1087

- Fax (916) 448-6930
- E-mail [scba@sacbar.org](mailto:scba@sacbar.org)
- [www.sacbar.org](http://www.sacbar.org)

June 26, 2008

Tricia Horan  
The State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
415-538-2368 Fax

Re: Proposed Amendment to Title 6, Annual Meetings

Dear Ms. Horan:

I write to express the Sacramento County Bar Association's strong disapproval of the Annual Meeting Task Force's proposed amendment to the Rules of the State Bar of California, Title 6, which would allow the Annual Meeting to be held outside of the State of California. We believe the political, economic, and participatory costs far outweigh any benefits of holding the Meeting in another state. Our opposition is for essentially three reasons:

First, we believe an out-of-state venue would limit participation by the broadest possible spectrum of California lawyers. The cost of the Annual Meeting to small firms, solo practitioners, pro bono attorneys, nonprofit association legal staff and government employees is already a significant impediment to participation. With respect to attorneys in public practice, often agencies lack the budget to finance the cost of tuition, lodging, and travel, and as a result, many lawyers who might otherwise participate do not. Typically, we would presume that the cost to travel out of state would generally be higher due to increased cost of transportation. Moreover, state governmental employees do not have carte blanche authority to travel out of state. Even if the costs are nominal or non-existent, state employees must generally receive a separate "out of state travel authorization" as well as budget authority before traveling out of California. Such authorizations are difficult to obtain, and often require special approval by the department or agency head. By holding the meeting out of state, the State Bar would be sending the message that only the wealthiest of the State's attorneys are entitled to participate in the business of the Bar because only the State's wealthiest attorneys will be able to participate. The State Bar should do everything possible to ensure the Annual Meeting is accessible to as many members as possible. We do not believe that an out-of-state venue would do so.

Second, while the Task Force asserts that only four California cities can logistically accommodate the Annual Meeting, we are not convinced that all options have been adequately explored. No explanation was presented for that conclusion. While the "background" portion of

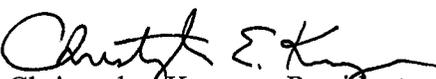
the notice asserts that Los Angeles and San Francisco pose “logistical obstacles,” the obstacles have not been disclosed on the website, and we therefore cannot comment upon them. We find it difficult to imagine, however, upon what this conclusion was based. We also note that no mention was made of the city of Sacramento. In recent years there has been a significant increase in hotel rooms within easy walking distance of the very user-friendly Convention Center, and we encourage the State Bar to meet with the convention bureau staff to look into just how exceptional Sacramento has become. We certainly believe that the Capitol of the State of California is quite well-equipped to host the Annual Meeting.

Finally, even if the current format of the Annual Meeting would restrict the event to four venues, we believe remaining at those venues (or restructuring the event if necessary) would be preferable to convening the Meeting out of state.

California is home to some of the greatest legal minds in the United States. We represent some of the most innovative businesses, some of the most exceptional human and civil rights issues, some of the most fascinating trials and some of the highest profile attorneys. It would be inappropriate to turn our backs on the State that makes our profession great. We urge you to reconsider the efforts to take the Annual Meeting out of state.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher Krueger, President



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

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June 26, 2008

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Tricia Horan  
The State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Proposed Amendment to Rules of the State Bar of California  
Title 6 – Annual Meetings

Dear Ms. Horan:

The Bar Association of San Francisco (“BASF”) submits this letter in response to the State Bar of California’s proposed amendment to Title 6 of the Rules of the State Bar, which amendment would permit the Annual Meeting of the State Bar to be held outside of California. BASF opposes this measure for several reasons.

First, holding the Annual Meeting out of state would diminish attendance. The costs of attending the Annual Meeting are already substantial, even for those attendees who live close to the site of the event. Holding the Annual Meeting out of state would increase those burdens substantially, and many members – especially younger attorneys, solo and small-firm practitioners, and public service attorneys – would likely decline to attend. Judges, legislators, and other dignitaries will be reluctant to attend a meeting held so far outside of their constituencies, which in turn would detract from the prestige of the event. Moreover, some employers might refuse to reimburse attorneys for attendance at an out-of-state Annual Meeting, especially if it were held in a location that was seen more as an entertainment destination than a bona fide site for a professional convention. These factors alone would diminish attendance greatly at the Annual Meeting if it were held outside of California.

BASF is also concerned that holding the Annual Meeting outside of the state would engender a negative public perception of California’s legal profession. Most Californians would be disturbed to see their attorneys taking their convention business out of state, especially in the midst of an economic downturn. BASF believes that the State Bar should support – and should be seen to support – our state’s economy, rather than taking our business outside of California.



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

Finally, the stature of the Annual Meeting and the State Bar in general would be diminished substantially if the meeting were held outside of California. The Annual Meeting is the preeminent event for California's legal profession, providing a forum for the professional community and a public stage for the State Bar. The Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations meets every year in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, and representatives from bar associations across the state come to engage in highly public debates on a number of publically and socially important resolutions. The California Judges Association also holds its biennial meeting along with the Annual Meeting. Every year, these functions provide the bar with an important forum in which to educate the public about the law and the legal profession.

Holding the Annual Meeting outside of California would be deleterious to our profession and to the bench, and would distance us from the public. In a climate where uninformed commentators attack the legal profession and the courts on a constant basis, we believe that any proposal that would put more distance between the bar and the California public is unsupportable.

BASF and its members have been strong supporters of the State Bar's Annual Meeting for decades, and we consider ourselves stakeholders in the event and the many functions that take place there every year. We urge the State Bar to keep the Annual Meeting within California, and urge the Board of Governors to reject the proposed amendment to Title 6.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Donato', with a stylized, cursive script.

James J. Donato  
President

Board of Governors

From the office of:



Executive Office  
650 Howe Ave., Suite 555  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
Phone: (916) 646-3114  
Fax: (916) 646-6469  
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June 27, 2008

**Tricia Horan**  
The State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**RE: Proposed Amendment to Rules of the State Bar of California, Title 6, Annual Meetings**

Dear Ms. Horan:

California Women Lawyers (CWL) submits this letter in opposition to the proposed Amendment to Rules of the State Bar of California which would permit the Annual Meeting to be held outside California. CWL opposes the Amendment since it will impose additional and unnecessary barriers for bar members to participate in the Annual Meeting.

Since its creation in 1974, CWL has served the California legal community in advancing the interest of women in the legal profession and society. CWL and its members have put on educational programs at the Annual Meeting and many of its members routinely attend. CWL has traditionally conducted its Annual Dinner on the Thursday night of the State Bar Annual Conference. Since CWL's Annual Dinner draws lawyers, judges and members of the public from throughout California, it is an event that brings additional individuals to the State Bar Annual Meeting. CWL's participation at the Annual Meeting will be dramatically limited if the Meeting is moved out of state, and, it is our view that diminishing CWL's role in the Annual Meeting will result in a diminution of attendance at the Annual Meeting overall.

Many of CWL's constituents are in the public sector or are small firm or solo practitioners. The additional expense of out-of-state travel will limit participation to those who have greater financial resources. The net result will be a decrease in the diversity of members who attend the Annual Meeting. Certainly, limiting attendance to members of large law firms is contrary to the intended purpose of the Annual Meeting. Moreover, CWL is committed to supporting California's economy. The support services, including the vendors, hotels and restaurants benefit from attendance by members and their families attending the Annual Meeting.

**Governors**

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Elizabeth C. Saviano  
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Patricia T. Sturdevant  
*District 2-Sacramento*

Jodi Swick  
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Jennifer L. Webber  
*District 7-Los Angeles*

Lisa Widdecke  
*District 9-San Diego*

In CWL's opinion, "venue fatigue" is not the problem. The State Bar has apparently abandoned Los Angeles and San Francisco even though annual conferences (including the ABA and DRI) are held in both venues frequently. Sacramento, Palm Springs and the Lake Tahoe area apparently have been ignored by the State Bar even though many large conferences are held in those venues routinely. The attendance problem may very well lie with a disconnect between the State Bar and Bar members since the Meeting's format has not changed with the evolving times.

On a related note, CWL is very concerned and disappointed with the State Bar's apparent decision to schedule a joint "Bench-Bar reception" on the aircraft carrier "Midway" on the opening night of the 2009 State Bar Annual Meeting. CWL's Annual Dinner has always been held on the opening night of the Annual Meeting and has traditionally been attended by most of the California Supreme Court Justices as well as many of the State's Bar Leaders. Indeed, Chief Justice George has stated publicly, on more than one occasion, that he views the California Women Lawyers dinner as the "highlight" of the State Bar Annual Meeting, and we know that many of our members hold the same view. The State Bar's unilateral decision will most likely have a negative impact on attendance at this significant event. It is also our view that having the CWL dinner on the opening night benefits *both* the Annual Meeting and the State Bar because it draws individuals to the State Bar Annual Meeting who—we know — otherwise might not attend. . CWL would request that the State Bar reconsider its decision to compete for attendance with CWL on the opening night or alternatively, rearrange the Friday evening schedule so that CWL's Annual Dinner remains a "featured" evening event.

If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Karen M. Goodman

President , California Women  
Lawyers



## SOLO AND SMALL FIRM PRACTICE SECTION

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

June 30, 2008

Ms. Tricia Horan  
The State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

Re: *Proposed Amendment to the Rules of the State Bar of California, Title 6, Annual Meetings*

Dear Ms. Horan:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Solo and Small Firm Section of the State Bar of California. At a meeting on June 28, 2008, the Executive Committee of the Section voted to oppose the proposed amendment to Title 6 of the Rules of the State Bar of California, which would permit the State Bar to hold its Annual Meetings at out-of-state destinations.

The majority of lawyers in the State of California practice as solo practitioners or in small firms. The Section believes that the proposed amendment would have an adverse impact on those lawyers. The Section believes that the State Bar should encourage solo and small firm practitioners to participate in bar activities and attend Annual Meetings. In fact, through the development of the Solo Summit and the solo track of programming, the State Bar is furthering that goal as well. However, the proposed amendment will have the opposite effect.

Solo and small firm practitioners seek cost effective continuing legal education programs and conferences held in an attractive and convenient venue. A recent Professional Development Survey conducted by the State Bar found that 58 percent of respondents said that cost was a factor in choosing MCLE courses, and 57 percent said a convenient location was a factor.

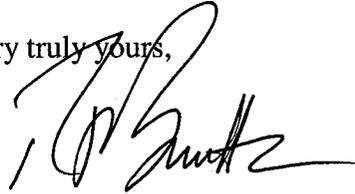
An out-of-state location will inevitably increase travel, lodging, and food costs, and this will prohibit attendance by many solo and small firm practitioners, whose tuition and costs are generally not reimbursed by employers. In addition, you would lose the opportunity for the attendance of numerous local attorneys who only attend Annual Meetings when they are in close proximity to the practitioners' offices.

Finally, we believe it is important that the State Bar of California support California businesses. By holding out-of-state meetings, you would lose the opportunity to patronize California hotels, caterers, transportation providers, and other businesses.

Ms. Tricia Horan  
June 30, 2008  
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this statement of opposition to the proposed amendment. If you have any questions about this letter and the position of the Section's Executive Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roberta J. Burnette', written in a cursive style.

**Roberta J. Burnette**  
Chair, Solo and Small Firm Section



SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

July 1, 2008

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Tricia Horan  
The State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Proposed Amendment to Rules of the State Bar of California, Title 6, Annual Meetings

Dear Ms. Horan:

The San Diego County Bar Association ("SDCBA") submits this comment letter in opposition to the proposed Amendment to Rules of the State Bar of California, Title 6, Annual Meetings.

Founded in 1899, and over 10,000 members strong, the SDCBA is the region's oldest and largest law-related organization. The voice for San Diego's diverse legal community, the SDCBA takes seriously its mission to support and inform not only the county's lawyers, but also the public. Programs help clients find qualified lawyers, resolve disputes and educate San Diegans on their legal rights and responsibilities. The SDCBA, which encompasses 25 substantive law sections and 49 standing committees, strives to provide members with knowledge and tools to expand and enrich their practices. Included within the SDCBA's committees is the Conference of Delegates, a local delegation to the statewide Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations (CDCBA). Members of our local CDCBA delegation come together with delegates from across the state to debate and promote creative, non-partisan solutions to law related issues. Each year, the CDCBA is held concurrently with the State Bar's annual meeting. Approximately sixty members of the SDCBA are delegates to the CDCBA this year and those delegates plan to register for the State Bar's annual meeting to attend the CDCBA.

As a result, the SDCBA is opposed to the proposed rule change that would permit the annual meeting to be held out of state. A meeting held out of state would not promote the mission of the SDCBA to support its members or the mission of the CDCBA to serve justice in California. The SDCBA believes it would be impolitic to be seen debating issues affecting California jurisprudence outside the state. We also believe the possibility of holding the CDCBA at an annual meeting outside the state would negatively impact the ability of our local delegation to recruit new delegates and retain current members. Moreover, convening the CDCBA at an out of state location would limit the CDCBA's effectiveness with its constituencies and with California legislators.

The SDCBA is also opposed to the general concept of the rule change. The State Bar is a mandatory organization and the annual meeting is a mandatory function. Matters concerning California lawyers are discussed at the annual meeting, and monies paid by California lawyers support its activities. We believe that this move could result in negativity toward the State Bar. An annual meeting out of state denies revenues to California cities and counties. A meeting at most out of state locations likely would have an adverse fiscal effect on solo and small firm practitioners and young and elderly lawyers, which would prevent many of them from joining SDCBA's local delegation to the CDCBA, thereby limiting their voices from being heard on important legal issues in California.

Many of our members, and in particular, our local delegates have already expressed their concerns about this proposal to us. We have advised them of our comments and asked them to join with us to oppose this rule change.

Very truly yours,

Heather L. Rosing, President  
San Diego County Bar Association



WRITER'S DIRECT LINE

(626) 308-5434  
(626) 281-4724 fax  
astropaddy@msn.com

**LACBA**

**Los Angeles County  
Bar Association**

July 1, 2008

Via US Mail and Email to [tricia.horan@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:tricia.horan@calbar.ca.gov)

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P O Box 55020  
Los Angeles CA 90055-2020

TELEPHONE: 213.896.6407  
FACSIMILE: 213.613.1315  
[www.lacba.org/delegation](http://www.lacba.org/delegation)

Tricia Horan  
The State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Proposed Amendment to Rules of the State Bar of California, Title 6, Annual Meetings

**DELEGATION TO THE  
2008 CONFERENCE  
OF DELEGATES**

Dear Ms. Horan:

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JENNIFER K. KIM

PHYLLIS KUPFERSTEIN

VALERIE J. MERRITT

DENNIS D. RESH

The Los Angeles County Bar Association Delegation to the 2008 Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations, speaking in its own name and not on behalf of the entire Association, is strongly opposed to the proposed amendment to Title 6 of the California State Bar Rules that would permit the Board of Governors to authorize out-of-state locations for the Annual Meeting.

Members of the LACBA Delegation recommend that the State Bar consider venues other than the four listed in the Public Comment background text. We suggest the consideration of Los Angeles (downtown), Santa Monica, Lake Tahoe, Fresno, San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento and Santa Barbara. California cities are constantly changing and a city which was once considered inadequate may be adequate later. Also, it is our opinion that Annual Meeting attendees, particularly delegates, do not come to the Annual Meeting to play tennis or golf and we do not believe that the availability of those amenities should be a major factor in selecting a venue.

As to all other objections, the LACBA Delegation incorporates by reference the June 20, 2008 letter from the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations.

Sincerely yours,

Donna L. Hollingsworth  
Chair, LACBA Delegation to the  
2008 Conference of Delegates of  
California Bar Associations

cc: Members of the 2008 LACBA Delegation  
Edward Schlatter, Chair, CDCBA  
Laura Goldin, CDCBA Executive Director  
Stuart A. Forsyth, LACBA Executive Director



**THE STATE BAR  
OF CALIFORNIA**

OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES, ACCESS & FAIRNESS PROGRAMS

Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services

Chair, Jodie Berger, Vallejo

180 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94105

Telephone (415) 538-2267 Fax (415) 538-2552

July 3, 2008

Tricia Horan  
The State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Horan:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services (SCDLS), we write to express our concern regarding the Proposed Amendment to Title 6 of the Rules of the State Bar of California, regarding Annual Meetings.

Within the charge of the committee, SCDLS vets and recommends awardees for the President's Pro Bono Service Awards and the Loren Miller Legal Services Award, which are cornerstones of the Awards Reception held on Friday evening at the Annual Meeting. These awards are an important part of the State Bar's ongoing efforts to promote involvement in the delivery of legal services to the poor and to encourage attorneys to engage in pro bono work. Each year, the awardees are publicly recognized at the Awards Reception by the Chief Justice and receive their award before an audience of State Bar members, including many legal services attorneys.

SCDLS is concerned that if the State Bar Board of Governors chooses to move the Annual Meeting out-of-state, the location of the Annual Meeting may pose financial and other difficulties for awardees and the larger legal services community. This is particularly true as the cost of gas and airfare skyrocket to new highs. We strongly urge the Board of Governors to weigh this consideration as it decides whether to allow the Annual Meeting to move out of state, and to ensure that any such move does not pose a burden (e.g., with respect to cost or time) beyond what the current locations pose.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Yours very truly,

*Jodie Berger*

Jodie Berger, Chair

*Karin Wang*

Karin Wang, Vice Chair

Cc: Carmen Ramirez, Robert Hawley, Patricia Lee, Sharon Ngim, Rodney Low, Kate O'Connor

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## WOMEN LAWYERS OF SACRAMENTO

P.O. Box 936 • Sacramento, California 95812  
[www.womenlawyers-sacramento.org](http://www.womenlawyers-sacramento.org)

July 9, 2008

Tricia Horan  
The State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Proposed Amendment to Rules of the State Bar of California, Title 6, Annual Meetings  
Location of Annual Meetings

Dear Ms. Horan:

Women Lawyers of Sacramento is responding to a request for comments on the proposed change to the Rules for the State Bar of California regarding the location of the Annual State Bar Conference and Meeting. Women Lawyers of Sacramento is a non-profit organization that serves women attorneys in the Sacramento region. Our constituency is made up of attorneys practicing in government, including research attorneys for various local, appellate, and federal benches; and private practice attorneys from small, medium, and large law firms, as well as solo practitioners. Our members regularly attend the State Bar Conference and Meeting, despite the fact that they must travel great distances to attend. Women Lawyers of Sacramento also regularly attends and participates in the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations.

Women Lawyers of Sacramento is strongly opposed to the proposed rule change that would permit the annual meeting to be held out of state. Women Lawyers of Sacramento ("WLS") believe the political, economic, and participatory detriments to holding the Annual Meeting outside of California are far greater than any benefits of holding the Annual Meeting in another state.

First, WLS believes an out-of-state venue would discourage participation at the Annual Meeting, inhibiting the participating of a broad and diverse participation of California lawyers. The cost of attending the Annual Meeting to solo practitioners, small and medium firms, pro bono attorneys, nonprofit association legal staff and government employees is already a significant impediment to attending. Indeed, given the

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Ms. Tricia Horan

Page 2

economy, I would guess that even large law firms are finding it difficult to send many attorneys to the Annual Meeting. Governmental attorneys probably have a harder time financing the cost of attendance currently, whether through financially strapped governmental bodies, or out of their own pockets. Simply put, the cost of attending the Annual Meeting in California is already cost prohibitive for many attorneys.

I think it is fair to assume that the cost of attendance to an out-of-state venue would be even greater than the current costs. Thus, an out-of-state venue for the Annual Meeting would create larger financial hurdles – hurdles that would impede some attorneys from attending. Moreover, many if not all governmental attorneys must have special authorization and budget authority to attend an event such as the Annual Meeting if it is located out of state. Such authorizations are difficult to obtain, and often require special approval by the department or agency head.

Rather than sending a message of inclusiveness, an out-of-state venue says that the State Bar wants only the wealthiest of the State's attorneys to participate in the business of the Bar because only the State's wealthiest attorneys will be able to participate. The State Bar should do everything possible to ensure the Annual Meeting is accessible to as many members as possible. WLS believes that an out-of-state venue is counter productive to this goal of inclusiveness.

Second, WLS finds it hard to fathom that there are only four California cities that can logistically accommodate the Annual Meeting. For instance, the American Bar Association held its annual conference in San Francisco last year. Sacramento, as the state capitol, should certainly be able to accommodate the California State Bar's Annual Meeting venue requirements. WLS encourages the State Bar to take a closer look at Sacramento as a possible site. WLS would be happy to facilitate communication with Sacramento's Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Finally, WLS is concerned about the concept of taking the funds that the State Bar normally spends in California for its Annual Meeting and spending it in another state. Given these difficult financial times, it would appear to be a public relations nightmare to move the venue at this time. If for no other reason than public relations, it appears to be in the State Bar's interests to support California's economy and hold the Annual Meeting in California.

California's bounty has provided its lawyers with the opportunities to be some of the best and brightest in the land. WLS hopes that the State Bar will recognize the importance of maintaining the Annual Meeting in California and reject the proposed amendment that would allow the State Bar to hold its Annual Meeting outside of California. WLS urges you to reconsider the effects of the proposed amendment and reject the proposed amendment.

Very Truly Yours,



June D. Coleman

President, Women Lawyers of Sacramento

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July 9, 2008

Tricia Horan  
The State Bar of California  
Section Education and Meeting Services  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Proposed Amendment to the Rules of the State Bar of  
California, Title 6, Annual Meetings

Dear Ms. Horan:

The Orange County Bar Association ("OCBA") submits this comment letter in opposition to the proposed Amendment to Rules of the State Bar of California, Title 6, Annual Meetings (the "Proposed Amendment"). The Proposed Amendment authorizes the State Bar to conduct its annual meeting outside the State of California.

The Orange County Bar Association is one of the largest voluntary bar associations in the State of California. Our members practice in small and large firms, and in the public and private sectors.

The OCBA believes that the Proposed Amendment is detrimental to the State Bar of California and the community that it serves. The State Bar's annual meeting provides an opportunity for our membership to gather and discuss important legislation and case law with other lawyers throughout the State of California. Some of our members have expressed that the Proposed Amendment would cause them to be unable to attend the Annual Meeting due to the expense and time considerations involved in out-of-state travel.

In addition, an out-of-state Annual Meeting denies critical revenues to the State of California's ailing economy, as well as those of its cities and counties. We are concerned that the Proposed Amendment may lead to a backlash against the State Bar by the public, the legislature and the Governor, who have substantial control over the State Bar dues bill.

For the foregoing reasons, the OCBA urges rejection of the Amendment. We thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this important matter.

Sincerely,

ORANGE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Cathrine Castaldi  
2008 President