

Candidate Statement of Pearl Gondrella Mann
for Vice President

Dear Fellow Trustees:

It has been an honor to serve on the State Bar Board of Trustees (BOT) since my election in 2011. Our Board has been amazingly productive, accomplishing much in a respectful and collegial manner, but we must remain vigilant and consistent in our oversight and action as we continue enhancing the State Bar's protection of the public. .

I seek your support of my candidacy for Vice President because I believe that I can make a significant contribution and help to improve the legal profession that has been so wonderful to me. I have the energy, passion and time to serve as Vice President if you entrust me with that position. My qualifications include extensive leadership experience, my dedication to public service, a collaborative leadership style, involvement in strategic planning for a wide variety of organizations and the ability to reduce my case load to contribute the necessary time to do the job well.

I have served as president and vice president of the statewide California Women Lawyers and of numerous legal and community association boards, such as the Orange County Barristers, Orange County Women Lawyers, Lex Romana - Italian American Lawyers, my law school alumni association, Fullerton Public Library Board of Trustees and League of Women Voters of North Orange County, as well as a vice president of the Council on Aging - Orange County. In the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA), I have been a member of the Board of Directors for ten years and chaired Bridging the Gap, the Pro Bono and Law Day Committees and the Appellate Law, Trusts and Estates and Elder Law Sections. Prior to my election to the BOT, I was a member of the State Bar's Administration of Justice Committee and the last Chair of the Committee on Women in the Law, one of the diversity "access committees". (A copy of my resume is attached.) All of these groups engaged in some level of strategic planning, sometimes led by expensive facilitators, but it was disappointing when the plan was not implemented beyond one year in most of those groups.

Last year, serving under the chairmanship of Luis Rodriguez on the Task Force on Discipline System Metrics and Monitoring was challenging but rewarding. The frequent reports with colorful charts and graphs illustrating the Bar's progress in managing complaints and reducing the discipline backlog which we currently receive are the result of the Task Force's work as implemented by our clever staff and are useful in our oversight of the discipline function. Serving this year as Chair of the RAD/MOC Working Group on Senior Lawyers and the Task Force on Sections and as Vice Chair of MOC, as well as my experience as a member of Regulation, Admissions and Discipline Oversight Committee (RAD) and Nominations and Appointments (NAC) has given me greater insights into the significant issues we must continue to address.

I have been a speaker about the State Bar at four swearing-in ceremonies, at a number of law school graduations and honors programs and to other groups to explain what the State Bar does and why it is not like other “bar associations”. I also participated in two Discipline Days and several public hearings and meetings which familiarized me with the State Bar’s procedures and the public’s perception of them.

If elected Vice President, I will enjoy working with staff to organize a productive, inspiring planning meeting to allow us to update and modify our Five-Year Strategic Plan and continue the momentum. I will enthusiastically support the new President’s priorities, cheerfully undertake any other tasks he assigns me and respectfully step in to help should he be unable to perform any of his duties.

I believe all of the Trustees agree that our top priorities will continue to be to improving and strengthening our licensing, regulatory and disciplinary functions in order to protect the public and supporting efforts to restore court funding to improve the public’s access to justice.

There are other issues which deserve our focus as well. Implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform and the Limited Licensing Working Group; increasing the delivery of legal services to the poor; inspiring California’s lawyers to improve professional competence, plan for the future and commit to public service; promoting diversity and gender equity in the profession; facilitating the processing of awards from the Client Security Fund; and assisting the many young and aging lawyers who open solo offices when they cannot find jobs should all be given priority. Whether or not I am elected, I look forward to working on these issues with the BOT.

After 27 years in practice, I still believe that law is a noble profession. For all those years, I have been committed to “making a difference_ by providing greater accessibility to justice for the public, especially the poor, the elderly and the disabled, and by advocating for diversity and gender equity in the legal profession. In my solo practice, located in Fullerton, I emphasize elder law, conservatorships and estate planning, and approximately 30% of my cases are *pro bono*. I also sit as a Superior Court settlement conference judge and volunteer at the Probate Court Conservatorship Clinic and the Public Law Center (PLC), assisting people who cannot afford a lawyer. In 2010, the PLC named me as its Attorney of the Year, and I received the State Bar Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Services to the Poor in 2011. I was deeply honored by the recognition, but the satisfaction of helping people who could not help themselves or afford to pay someone to help them was the greater reward.

Thank you for your consideration. If elected, I would be pleased and honored to serve as Vice President of the State Bar Board of Trustees.

RESUME OF PEARL GONDRELLA MANN

EDUCATION:

J.D. Western State University College of Law, Fullerton, CA (1985)
M.A. University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI (American Studies 1982)
M.L.S. University of Illinois, Urbana, ILL (Library Science, 1966)
B.S. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA (Education & Library Science)

BAR ADMISSIONS: United States Supreme Court (2000); United States Tax Court (1989);
United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (1986); United States Central
District of California (1986); California Supreme Court (1985)

RATING: Martindale Hubbell - AV (highest) rating (1997-)

HONORS: State Bar Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Svcs. to the Poor (2011, 1998)
Public Law Center, Attorney of the Year (2010)
Western State Univ. College of Law, Alumni Public Service Honoree (2010)
Spirit of Volunteerism Award, Volunteer Center of Orange County (2010)
Western State Univ. College of Law Alumni Assn., Attorney of the Year (2005)
Orange County Women Lawyers, Attorney of the Year (2004)
Southern California Super Lawyers (LA/OC, 2004)
Orange Co. Bar Assn. Elder Law Section, Hall of Fame Award (2003)
National Assn. of Women Business Owners, Remarkable Woman (2003)
Western State University College of Law, Hall of Fame (2000)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

1987- Sole Practitioner, Fullerton, CA
Elder law, conservatorships, estate planning.
Previous emphasis: civil litigation, appeals.

1988-1998 Panel Attorney, Appellate Defenders, Inc., San Diego, CA
(10% of practice) Court-appointed indigent criminal appeals

1988-1991 Lecturer, Western State University College of Law , Fullerton, CA
Legal writing and research (part-time)

1986-1987 Associate Attorney, Law Offices of Fred Anderson, Tustin, CA
Civil litigation and some criminal.

1985 (Aug-Dec) Judicial Extern, Judge Warren Ferguson, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals,
1983 (June-Aug) Judicial Intern, West Orange County Municipal Court, Law & Motion

1984-1987 Teaching Assistant and Exam Reader, Western State Univ. College of
Law, Fullerton, CA. Teaching assistant for legal writing and research;
grader for real property and tort exams

1985 (Aug-Dec) Judicial Extern, Judge Warren Ferguson, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals,
1983 (June-Aug) Judicial Intern, West Orange County Municipal Court, Law & Motion

Before 1982 Various librarian, media specialist and teaching positions.

VOLUNTEER WORK:

Public Law Center [formerly Amicus Publico, Poverty Law Ctr.] Volunteer (1990-)
Orange County Superior Court
 Family Law Guardian ad Litem for elder abuse TRO (2010-12)
 Probate Court Temporary Judge, Mandatory Settlement Conferences (2003-)
 Probate Court Conservatorship Clinic (2008-)
 Probate Court Guardianship Clinic (2008-09)
 Probate Court Guardian ad Litem appointee (2006-13)
 Probate Court Local Probate Rules Committee (2007-08)
Orange County Women Lawyers Association/Public Law Center
 Juvenile Drug Court Project (2003-05)
 Women's Jail Project (1999-00)
Orange County Bar Association
 Legal Survival Skills Task Force & Presenter (2007-10)
 Lawyers for Literacy (2003)
 ARC [Attorneys Representing Children] (1998)
 Mandatory Fee Arbitration, Arbitrator (1995-98)
 LEAP [Lawyers for Elder Abuse Prevention] (1998-2000)
 Law Day Speaker: schools (1987-2004, 2009-10) &
 senior facilities (2000-08, 2010-11)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

State Bar of California
 Board of Trustees (2011-
 RAD/MOC Working Group on Senior Lawyers, Chair (2012-13)
 Task Force on Sections, Chair (2012-13)
 Member Oversight Committee, Vice Chair (2012-13)
 Task Force on Discipline System Metrics and Monitoring (2011-12)
 Nominations and Appointments Committee (2011-13)
 Stakeholder Relations Committee (2011-12)
Administration of Justice Committee (2007-10)
Committee on Women in the Law (2001-06), Chair (05-06), Vice Chair (04-05)
Trusts and Estates Section (1998-99, 2007, 2012-13)
Solo & Small Firm Section (2006-07, 2012-13)
Family Law Section (2012-13)
Taxation Section (2011-12)
Diversity Coalition (2005-06)
Stakeholders Forum (2005-06)
California Women Lawyers (life member):
 Board of Directors (1999-07), President (2005-06); Past President (2006-07);
 President-Elect (2004-05); 1st Vice Pres. (2002-04)
 Attorney Mentor (2006-07)
 Conference of Delegates (2004)
 Membership Committee (2000-05), Chair (2002-04)
 Awards Committee (2000-07), Chair (2002-04)
 Judicial Evaluations Committee (1999-07; 2009)
Orange County Bar Association (1985-):

Board of Directors (1990-91, 2003, 2008-13)
 Board Liaison to Trusts and Estates Section (2009)
 Speaker's Bureau (2010-)
 Master's Division, Board (2011-13)
 Trusts & Estates Section (1998-), Chair (2012), Vice Chair (2011),
 Treasurer (2008); Program Co-Chair (2009-10)
 Elder Law Section (1998-), Chair (2000), Vice Chair (1999), Program Chair (1998)
 Law Day Committee (1986-2011), Chair (2008-11)
 Pro Bono Committee (2006-2011); Co-Chair (2007-08)
 Membership Committee (2011)
 Judiciary Committee (2009-2011)
 Nominating Committee (1991, 2003, 2007-09, 2011)
 Attorney Mentor (2006-09)
 Appointments Committee (2008)
 Appellate Law Section (1988-99), Chair (1997), Vice Chair (1996)
 Bridging the Gap, Co-Chair (1987-90)
 Charitable Fund Gala Committee (2008)
 Diversity and Equal Justice Committee (2007-08) and predecessors: Gender Bias
 Committee (1987-88); Minority Issues Com. (1991-95); Diversity Promotion
 Committee (1997); Bias Elimination Committee (2000-02, 2005-06)
 President's Task Force on Legal Survival Skills (2007)
 Lawyer Referral Service Committee (1987-90)
 Conference of Delegates/Resolutions Committee (1993-2003, 2005, 2007-11)
 Mandatory Fee Arbitration Committee (1995-98)
 Modest Means Committee (1997-98)
 Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee (1998)
 Orange County Women Lawyers (life member):
 Board of Directors (1998-2004); President (2003); Vice President (2002);
 Treasurer (2002); Bar Stipend Committee (1986 -89);
 Gender Bias Committee (1987-89)
 Hispanic Bar Association (2006-11)
 Western State Univ. College of Law Alumni Association: President (1994-95)
 Orange County Barristers (1985-93): President (1991); President-Elect (1990)
 Lex Romana; Italian-American Lawyers of Orange County: President (1992)
 Peter M. Elliott Inn of Court (1992-93)
 California Bench-Bar Coalition (2005-07, 2012-)
 California Association of Black Lawyers (2007)
 National Association of Women Lawyers (2006-07)

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS:

League of Women Voters NOC (2006-): Board of Directors (2008-); Co-President
 (2013); Vice President (2011-13); Publicity Director (2010-11);
 Government Director (2008-10); Judicial Independence Committee (2006-07)
 Chapman Univ. School of Law, Alona Cortese Elder Law Center Committee (2009-10)
 Council on Aging - Orange County: Board of Directors (2000-08); Second Vice
 President (2006-08), Secretary (2003-04)
 Fullerton Library Board of Trustees (2000-06), President (2004-05), Sec. (2003)

Fullerton Public Library Foundation Board (2002)
 Fullerton Chamber of Commerce (1999-03), Board of Directors (2002-03)
 O. C. Family Violence Council (1999-2002); Elder Abuse Committee (2000-02)
 City of Fullerton Mayor's Infrastructure Advisory Committee (2000-01)
 Stay in School Program (1997-99)
 Dare to Say No to Drugs Program (1999)
 North Court Meet Your Judges Night Committee (1990-92)
 Krewe of Iris, New Orleans (1995-96, 2009-11)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES:

“Relief Practitioner: Planning for the Ninth Inning of Your Career”, panel with Karen Goodman, Solo & Small Firm Summit, Long Beach (6/20/13)
 “The Making of an Effective President”, panel discussion, Bar Leadership Conference, CA State Bar Annual Meeting, Monterey (10/11/12)
 “Powers of Attorney and Conservatorships”, Whittier Intercommunity Hospital Caregivers Conference (7/28/12)
 “Identity Theft and Scams”, League of Women Voters NOC (3/22/12)
 “Powers of Attorney, Wills and Trusts”, Whittier Intercommunity Hospital (2/26/11)
 “Trusts and Wills”, NALS Association for Legal Professionals (6/14/11)
 “Powers of Attorney”, Brea Senior Center (6/14/11)
 “Heroes: Public Service Volunteers”, Western State Univ. College of Law Public Service Week Kick-Off (3/28/11)
 “The Unique Role of Public Service in the Legal Profession”, Western State Univ. College of Public Service Awards Program (5/3/10)
 “Mardi Gras Customs”, League of Women Voters NOC party (4/7/10)
 “Teenage Legal Survival Skills”, La Sierra High School, Fullerton (12/14/09)
 “Identity Theft and Managing Your Important Papers”, with Shirley Romsted, St. Paul Lutheran Church WELCA, Fullerton (10/14/09)
 “Mardi Gras in New Orleans”, St. Paul Lutheran Church WELCA, Fullerton (5/6/09)
 “Opening Your Own Firm: Starting and Maintaining a Law Office”, OCBA Solo & Small Firm Section, panel with Steven Mehta, Douglas Schroeder, and Denise Trevino; Neil Pedersen, Moderator, MCLE (9/17/09)
 “Overcoming Barriers in the Legal Profession”, with Demetria Jackson, Orange County Bar Association SpecialtyCredit Night, MCLE (12/4/07)
 “Basic Estate-Planning”, Panel with Donna Bashaw & Liz Pejeau, (5/15/07)
 “Eliminating Bias in the Legal Profession”, with Demetria Jackson, Orange County Bar Association, MCLE (12/5/06)
 “Obstacles to Advancement for Women Lawyers”, Women Lawyers of San Luis Obispo, MCLE (9/7/06)
 “Status of Women in the Law”, Women Lawyers of Long Beach, MCLE (8/8/06)
 “Making It Happen”, Panel, State Bar Spring Summit, San Jose (6/3/06)
 “Challenges to the Practice of Law - Perspectives of Attorneys from Diverse Backgrounds”, Panel, State Bar Spring Summit, San Jose, (6/3/06)
 “How to Do a Court Accounting”, Moderator, with Linda Martinez and Sandra Riley, Professional Fiduciary Assn. of California (5/12/06)
 “Status of California=s Women Lawyers”, Monterey County Women Lawyers and Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz, MCLE, Monterey (4/21/06)

“Overcoming Barriers to Gender Equity”, Orange County Women Lawyers Association, Orange, MCLE (4/4/06)
 “Social Justice Lawyering: Elder Issues and Gender Issues”, Social Justice Forum, Santa Clara Law School, Social Justice Forum, Santa Clara (11/7/05)
 “Breaking the Glass Ceiling”, panel co-sponsored by State Bar Committee on Women in the Law/ CWL/San Bernardino Co. Bar, Ontario, MCLE (9/29/05)
 “Legal Career Options: Glass Ceiling and More”, panel, co-sponsored by OCWLA & State Bar Com. on Women in the Law, Orange, MCLE (5/3/05)
 "Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession", panel co-sponsored by State Bar Committee on Women in the Law/OCWLA/CWL, Orange, MCLE (3/4/03)
 "Powers of Attorney Workshop", Placentia Sr. Ctr. (5/03); Brea Sr. Ctr. (5/02)
 "Scams Targeting Seniors", Garden Grove Senior Center (5/01)
 "Attorney's Fees in Probate Court", Panel with Judge James Gray, Michael Vollmer and Ernest Hayward, OCBA Elder Law Section Seminar, (5/99)
 "Scams Targeting Seniors", Westlake Retirement Residence, Irvine (5/00)
 "Living Trusts", Ruby Gerontology Center, Cal State Fullerton (2/99)
 "Unmasking the Specter of Elder Abuse", Symposium Moderator, Orange Co. Bar Assn. Elder Law Section, Costa Mesa (10/31/98)

SELECTED LEGAL PUBLICATIONS:

1. Note, "Handgun Prohibition: A Comparison of the San Francisco and Morton Grove Ordinances," 6 Criminal Justice J. 21 (1982)
2. Comment, "People v. Neer: Exclusion of Evidence Obtained in Violation of California's Knock-Notice Statute," 14 Western State Univ. Law Rev.325 (1986)
3. “Unfinished Business: Obstacles to Advancement for Women Lawyers”, 48 Orange County Lawyer (no. 8) 32 (August 2006)

FOREIGN RESIDENCE: Indonesia (1979) & Korea (1963-64)

INTERESTS: Mardi Gras lore and parades, roller coasters, Creole cuisine, jazz funerals, circuit training & “back door” travel (37 countries)