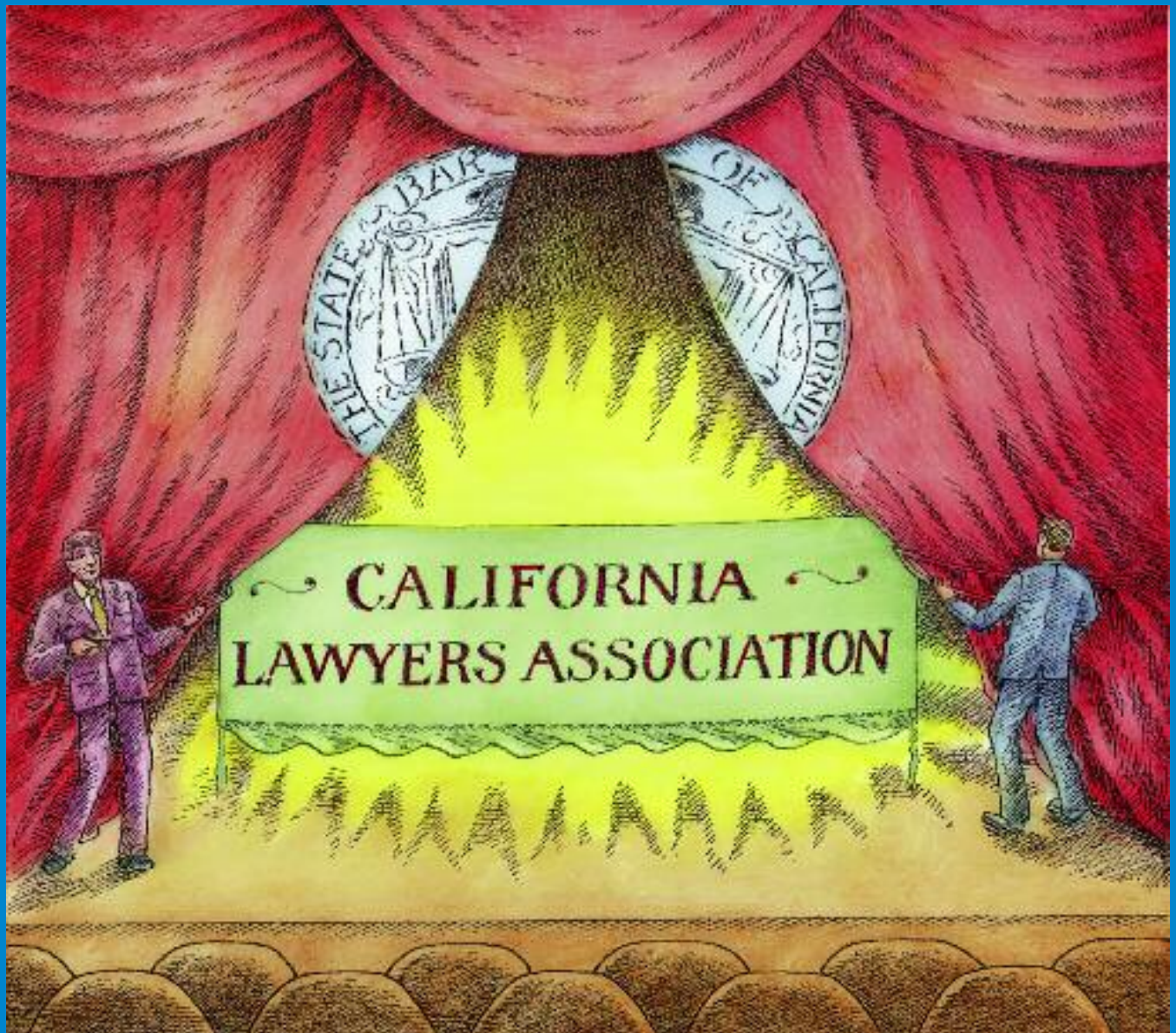


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THE JOURNAL OF THE LITIGATION SECTION, STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA



Editor's Foreword:

The Curtain Rises for the CLA

By Benjamin G. Shatz



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Welcome to the final issue of California Litigation—as you’ve known it for the past 30 years—as “the journal of the Litigation Section of the State Bar of California.” You’ve probably heard that the State Bar is de-unifying, effective January 2018, and the Sections, including your Litigation Section, are thus no longer part the State Bar of California. Instead, the Litigation Section is now part of the brand new California Lawyers Association.

This journal has been publishing under the auspices of the State Bar since 1987, so this transition is, in some ways, a big change. But in other ways, the key components will not change: Devoted volunteers of your peers remain dedicated to publishing

timely, innovative, useful, and entertaining articles for the world of litigators in California. The creation of the California Lawyers Association is the start of something new, exciting, and better.

Think of the Bar’s split this way: You go to the Department of Motor Vehicles to renew your driver license and auto registration, because you have to; it is the governing regulatory agency. But when you want information, benefits, and help on the road, you turn to the American Automobile Association, a member-supported organization. Well, the State Bar has reorganized itself to become a regulatory agency (handling bar admission, attorney licensing, and discipline), akin to the DMV. The new California Lawyers Association is more like the AAA—a voluntary organization that comes with tremendously popular benefits, including fantastic publications! Want proof? Keep reading.

This issue begins with Professor Jerry Uelmen’s highly anticipated annual review of the California Supreme Court, *A Transitional Center*. This alone is worth the price of admission. Next we present Professor Justin Levitt on the red-hot issue of gerrymandering in *The Party Line: Gerrymandering at the Supreme Court*. Following that theme, Marc Alexander reviews *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*, by Ari Berman.

Turning from a couple of the big issues facing our state and nation, we present some detailed practice-related

content. Christine Reilly and Diana Eisner provide a primer of a burgeoning area in *The ABC’s of the TCPA*. This article comes with an MCLE self-study test, a benefit we started in our last issue and hope to continue. Next, John Conti offers his wisdom on *The Closing Statement for the Defense*. Valuable advocacy advice continues in Ben Feuer’s clever and edifying *Give Your Persuasive Writing a Diamond’s Sparkle*. The teaching segment of this issue concludes with a little powerful negative reinforcement in *How to Lose Your Appeal During Trial*, by Jeremy Rosen and Ryan Chapman.

We conclude by returning to another big-picture topic of national import, told via personal narrative, in *San Francisco v. Trump: Defending our Sanctuary City*, in which Mollie Lee, Sara Eisenberg and Molly Alarcon of the San Francisco City Attorneys’ Office relate that City’s litigation against a presidential executive order.

California Litigation will continue into 2018, and we’ll continue to improve what we offer and how we offer it. To keep the good times rolling, be sure to enroll: Maintain your Litigation Section membership—in the new California Lawyers Association.

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