

2008-09



David O'Keefe

Letter from the President

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Without question, 2008 will be a year to remember. For the first time in many years, law firms throughout the country found it necessary to lay off staff, some even closed their doors, financial institutions failed, and as of this writing, California appears to be on the cusp of insolvency. Not a scenario any of us could have predicted, even six months ago.

Despite these dramatic events, Bonne, Bridges, Mueller, O'Keefe & Nichols has much to be thankful for. We just completed our 47th year of practice as one of Southern California's preeminent medical malpractice and personal injury defense firms. Five of our young law clerks recently studied for and successfully passed their California and/or Nevada State Bar examinations. Our own Margaret Holm, trial lawyer par excellence, was recognized as Orange County's Trial Lawyer of the Year, and once again, this year the firm enjoyed over 80 percent defense verdicts in cases that were tried or arbitrated to a conclusion. Most importantly, our trusted clients have continued to express their confidence and appreciation for the cost effective and highly personalized representation they have come to expect from Bonne, Bridges.

Each of the firm's offices: Los Angeles, Orange County, and Nevada, have continued to experience an expanded client list and increasing case volume. The firm's trial accomplishments included a number of exceptional verdicts in complex and difficult-to-win cases, not the least of which was a case tried in Orange County that resulted in a unanimous defense verdict following a \$1 million policy limits offer. That offer was summarily rejected by plaintiff's counsel without so much as a counter demand. A very sweet win for Peggy Holm.

The firm has recruited a number of academically accomplished young lawyers whom we intend to groom to become excellent trial advocates. Our in-house educational programs offer these young lawyers a foundation in law, medicine, and advocacy skills which will serve them well throughout their careers. Although many challenges confront law firms in these difficult economic times, Bonne, Bridges has been quite fortunate to have retained an experienced and dedicated support staff, a collegial group of highly skilled trial attorneys and the resources and dedication necessary to achieve successful outcomes for clients in their vigorously contested litigation and administrative matters.

We look forward to 2009, and remain optimistic that the firm will not only continue to expand its expertise but also achieve for our clients the exceptional results which have been a cornerstone of the firm's foundation.

We wish to thank our attorneys and support staff for their hard work throughout the past year and we wish all of our clients a prosperous healthy and happy 2009.

David J. O'Keefe
President and Managing Shareholder

Cross Exam:

Up Close and Personal with Bonne Bridges Shareholders

In the courtroom, during depositions and throughout the work day, Bonne Bridges Shareholders are usually the ones asking the questions. Now, it's their turn to provide some answers and participate in discovery.

We asked some of our Shareholders each the same five questions. On the following pages, you can see what they had to say.

1. What do you enjoy most about your practice?
2. If you were not a lawyer, what other career would you have chosen?
3. What is the best advice you ever got? The worst?
4. What was the last book you read or movie that you saw?
5. If you were stranded on a remote island, what is the one thing you couldn't live without?

Patricia Daehnke



1. I like the people I work with and enjoy the constant challenges each day brings.
2. I would have become a writer or a lifeguard.
3. The best advice: Always tell the

truth. That way, you don't have to remember what you said. The worst: Keep your friends close and your enemies closer—who wants to be surrounded by the enemy? I think the better advice is to make friends of your enemies.

4. The last movie I saw was Madagascar II - Return to Africa.
5. My family.

Mitzie Dobson



1. I love that I learn something about both medicine and law every day. The work is always interesting and different.
2. I was in magazine publishing before I became a lawyer

so, if I had not chosen law as a second career, I would most likely still be in publishing.

3. The best advice I ever got was to stop anticipating every bad thing that could happen before it did. I have probably chosen to forget the worst advice I ever got.
4. The Secret Lives of Bees was the last movie.
5. Definitely my iPod (my books on tape tend to keep me sane).

Joel Douglas



1. Making "indefensible" cases defensible.
2. Used car salesman!
3. Best advice: Have kids. Worse advice: Have kids.
4. The last movie

I saw was Revolutionary Road.

5. My blue blanke.

Brian Hoffman



1. I really enjoy the intellectual challenge, the strategy and the maneuvering.
2. If I wasn't an attorney I would be a writer and photojournalist for National

Geographic. I would travel (my first love) take pictures and write about the adventures. The only problem is that I am an attorney.

3. Best: "If it can be put off til Monday, do it, weekends are sacrosanct." Worst: "Don't buy that Google stock...what do they do?"
4. Last book: A Long Way Down. It is about four people who meet on New Years Eve on a roof-top in London as they all contemplate suicide. It is a story of hope and redemption. Last movie: Quantum of Solace.
5. My flip flops...I figure I'd be walking around and around.

Peggy Holm



1. I enjoy the challenge and creative energy necessary to distill at times very complex and convoluted factual and legal issues underlying my clients' cases

into clear, reasonable and understandable presentations so a group of twelve strangers will "get it." It's fun!

2. A pediatrician or maybe a tap dancer.
3. Best advice: Dad - Let a person into your lane at least once a day. Mom - Don't forget your lipstick.
4. Last book: Simple Genius. Last movie: Slumdog Millionaire. And, of course, *People* and *US Weekly* magazines every week (just keeping up with my jury pool!).
5. My lipstick - you never know when help will arrive.

Vangi Johnson



1. I am always up for new challenges.
2. A chef.
3. Never begin a sentence "With all due respect Your Honor..."
4. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.
5. Vitamin Water

William Johnson



1. The ongoing learning process.
2. A veterinarian.
3. "Don't be a lawyer" (kidding!).
4. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button and Seven Pounds.
5. Books.

Ray McMahon

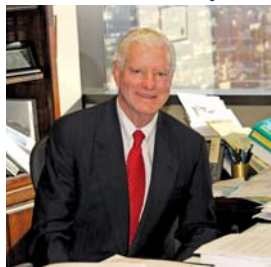


1. I enjoy winning. As a child I was super competitive (and a poor sport), to the point that my mother had to kick me out of my 7th birthday party because I was so upset that I did

not win the pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey contest. While I no longer have that level of zeal, I still revel in the competition and love to win.

2. On a very basic level I would like to have been a rock singer. The only problem with that dream was (1) I have a terrible voice; (2) my ability to maintain rhythm is suspect; and (3) I'm too conservative for that lifestyle.
3. The worst advice, which I gave to my brother, was to drop out of the rock band he helped form, No Doubt, and go to law school.
4. I recently finished "Life of Pi," by Yann Martel. His story of survival is compelling. I recommend it to everyone.
5. Fishing equipment – I love to fish and I love to eat.

David O'Keefe



1. I enjoy all of the interesting people you meet along the way, even the contentious adversaries.
2. I have no idea, I would need some other talent.
3. The best advice: Don't take yourself or anyone else too seriously.
4. I saw Gran Torino recently—it was terrific.
5. A surf board! Or maybe two surf boards.

Peter Osinoff



1. I most enjoy being called upon to solve problems. And it's great that each client and case is different, presenting new challenges.
2. Probably a college professor,

although I really had no idea what I would do when I went to law school.

3. Best: Don't try to imitate even the best lawyer's style; develop your own strengths. Worst: All advice regarding instant success and quick financial gains.
4. Six Degrees, a book about the future effects of global warming, after which I'm afraid to turn on the lights..
5. An endless supply of Trader Joe's dark chocolate covered raisins.

Greg Werre



1. I really enjoy the moment when a physician client learns that his/her case has been resolved by way of a favorable outcome.
2. A fastpitch softball coach.

3. Worst advice: Don't go to law school.
4. "The Smart Money" details a group who developed a system to consistently win against the Las Vegas sports books.
5. News about my alma mater's football and basketball teams – Go Huskies!

g i v i n g b a c k

At Bonne Bridges, we recognize that our obligations extend not only to our clients but to our communities as well. The firm and its lawyers and staff give generously of their time, financial support, expertise and leadership skills in order to give back to the communities in which we live and work. Areas of Bonne Bridges' commitment to the community include, but are not limited to:

- Anti-Defamation League - Orange County & Long Beach**
- California Bar Foundation**
- Cedars Sinai Medical Center - Women's Cancer Research Institute**
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**
- Discovery Eye Foundation**
- Good Samaritan Hospital**
- Healthy Smiles for Kids Orange County**
- Los Angeles County Bar Foundation**
- Los Angeles Police Foundation**
- Loyola Law School**
- Marymount High School**
- UCLA School of Law - Public Interest Law Fund**
- Venice Family Clinic**

w e ' r e l i v e o n l i n e

Bonne Bridges would like your opinion. Our easy-to-use online "end-of-matter" survey will be sent to you at the conclusion of your case. The information we gather through these surveys will help us in improving our case management and our overall client service to better address your future needs. We value your insight and appreciate your feedback.

2008 Recognition for Bonne Bridges

Winning cases for our clients is always our proudest achievement. We're also pleased to receive the ongoing respect of our colleagues in a variety of legal awards, rankings and acknowledgements. In 2008, Bonne Bridges Shareholders earned the following distinctions:

2009 Southern California SUPER LAWYERS

Super Lawyers is a listing of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

- ★ Patricia Daehnke
- ★ Joel Douglas
- ★ Brian Hoffman
- ★ Margaret Holm
- ★ David O'Keefe
- ★ Peter Osinoff

SUPER LAWYERS Special Recognition:

Top 50 Women Lawyers in Southern California & Top 50 in Orange County

- ★ Margaret Holm

Top 100 Lawyers in Southern California

- ★ David O'Keefe

Best Lawyers

Inclusion in Best Lawyers is based entirely on peer review. For 25 years, The Best Lawyers In America is the leading legal referral guide.

- ★ Margaret Holm
- ★ David O'Keefe

LawDragon 500 – Leading Lawyers in America

The Lawdragon 500 sets the standard for the best of the legal profession. The guide is selected through a combination of submissions from firms, online and research by Lawdragon's editorial staff.

- ★ David O'Keefe

ABOTA (American Board of Trial Advocates) Orange County Chapter

- ★ Margaret Holm, Trial Attorney of the Year

h o n o r i n g

All of the hard work and dedication from the employees at Bonne Bridges is very much appreciated. A special "Thank you" goes to the following outstanding employees celebrating anniversaries with Bonne Bridges.

25 years

Peter Osinoff Shareholder, LA

20 years

Kris Marse Secretary, LA

Constance Alfaro Receptionist, LA

15 years

Raymond McMahon Shareholder, OC

Carmen Vigil Shareholder, LA

Ana Garibay Mailroom, LA

10 years

Martha Hernandez Secretary, LA

William Johnson Shareholder, LA

Marisela Rosales Secretary, LA

5 years

Richard Helgemo Attorney, OC

www.bonnebridges.com

2008-09 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

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