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Steve Henderson, Executive Director

Bruce Johnston closed his doors for the final time August 13th. After 55 plus years in the biz, I asked him if there was any significance to closing on a Friday the 13th. His matter-of-fact reply was, "his secretary was turning 65 and retiring to Oregon on that very day and it made sense for him too." Bruce was the first recipient of the **Ben E. Nordman** Public Service Award in 1986 and all he ever wanted to do "was be a small country lawyer." Having the second lowest bar number (20542) among active attorneys in the county and preceded only by Blinn Maxwell at 19838, is an extreme source of pride. Bruce and Mary will do some automobile traveling but love Ventura and the home they have been in for 46 years. I could always count on Bruce being the first to arrive at bar functions including Estate Planning & Probate and the Annual Installation Dinner. He would not allow me to throw a luncheon in his honor either . . .

JoAnn Wedding hosted a retirement gig at her office July 29 where 75 lawyers and judges feasted on the spirits, grub and the swapping of vacation stories. I asked JoAnn if she would continue to participate in the bar's nomination of officers process as past presidents do and she said rather quickly, "If you can find me." **Susan Siple** will be managing her cases effective immediately . . . According to the Santa Barbara News Press, Santa Barbara attorney **Creig Dolge** allegedly hoodwinked a SB lady for 18 years---blaming the snail's pace of her case on a variety of reasons including the recall of Gov. Davis. Dolge also neglected to tell his client he resigned from the State Bar three years ago following four suspensions. Oh yeah, he worked for We The People as a supervising attorney since 1994. Incredibly enough, he remains on the payroll as a legal assistant. According to a highly placed official at WTP, they "have never questioned his integrity." . . .

Retirements Galore! Assistant Public Defender **Nick Falcone** had his retirement party at an investigator's office August 5th. He's been at it for 17 years . . . In addition, the PD's office is losing **Susan Olson** in January '05 and

Bruce Freed has already departed . . . Have no fear however, **Michael Rodriguez**, the executive director of CRLA for the past 1 1/2 years joined the office August 30. **Manuel Perez**, or **Tino**, as he likes to be called, started his efforts at the PD's office Aug 2 . . . After 27 years, **Robert Brantner** has left the practice of law and not exactly sure what he is going to be doing next . . . Just in case you missed it, **Deborah Sutherland** was a delegate at the DNC in Boston and wrote a daily column for the Ventura County Star . . . File this one under **Justice Usually Prevails**---The 4th District Court of Appeal located in Santa Ana overruled an Orange County Superior Court Judge and declared Rancho Santa Margarita attorney Robert Ragsdale should have been "treated with more sympathy in 2002 when the lawyer went into the hospital to have his cancerous bladder removed." The trial court judge had denied Ragsdale's request to have his case continued while he recovered, then dismissed the matter altogether . . .

STAND DOWN 2004---The weekend event which aids local homeless veterans has been going strong for 12 years now and Roger Myers has led the legal troops providing much needed legal help on behalf of the bar. His lieutenants assisting with counsel were **Bill Raymond**, **Glenn Campbell**, **Dan Palay**, and **Bob Galloway**. Stand Down was held at the California National Guard Armory July 30-August 1 where hundreds of service personnel were offered a variety of assistance. **Carol Sherwood** emailed to correct me that she has not been an executive secretary since 1969---but that she became a paralegal in 1984 and a certified legal assistant in 1985. She also became a certified advanced specialist in litigation in 2000. Her last day at Benton, Orr, is the end of the month. Way to go Carol! . . . **James Farley** enjoyed a 70th

birthday party Roast and Toast with friends and relatives on a Sunday afternoon July 25th . . . **Incoming ABA President Robert Grey** is beginning his tenure with a not-so-timid launching of a major revision of a jury standard that will transform jurors from passive observers during the trial process to active participants . . .

Websites of the Month: lawhumor.com. and underneaththeirobes.blogs.com . . . The **2004-2005 Legal Services Directories** are here. Large to mid-sized firms had issues hand delivered and the rest of the bar received them via mailed. If you have yet to receive one, or would like to order some additional copies for staff, please call Sandra at the bar . . . **A supervised release** condition requiring a mail thief to stand in front of a post office for one day wearing a signboard stating, "I stole mail. This is my punishment." was reasonably related to the defendant's rehabilitation, and to the courts' legitimate interest in deterring others from committing crimes and in protecting the public, and did not violate the defendant's rights under the First, Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments. United States v. Gementera-filed August 9, 2004 . . . **MCLE**---There are 12 continuing legal education opportunities this month. Check-out **Business Litigation Section, Real Property Section, Trial Lawyers and CPA-Law Society East**. . . **OTHER NOTES: Barristers' Pizza Night** is the 14th and the **Mexican American Bar Association's** annual dinner is the 17th . . . Take a look at your calendars! . . .

Steve Henderson has been the executive director of the bar association since November 1990 and will be celebrating his 30th birthday on the 15th. In lieu of cards, gifts, flowers and beer, donations to the VCBA/VLSP, Inc. are hugely appropriate and tax deductible. Additionally, if you'd like information about a Disney Cruise, he can be of some limited assistance.