



AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES  
ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

# 2025 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & AWARDS PROGRAM

SATURDAY  
JANUARY 11, 2025

LYON  
AIR MUSEUM





ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER  
AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES

# ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER GALA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025

LYON AIR MUSEUM

## PROGRAM

Welcome by outgoing President - Pamela S. Traut

Introduction of incoming President - Michael P. Maguire

Welcome by incoming President - Juan C. Delgado

Acknowledgment of sponsors - Juan C. Delgado

Acknowledgment of Judiciary in attendance - Juan C. Delgado

Acknowledgment of ABOTA National Leaders in Attendance - Juan C. Delgado

Installation of President and Executive Committee - Hon. Nancy E. Zeltzer, Ret.

Presentation of Volunteer of the Year Award to Keith P. More - Greg Bentley

Presentation of Joseph D. McNeil Civility Award to Sharon Hodges - James T. Shott

Presentation of Trial Lawyer of the Year Award to Jennifer Leeper - Jennifer L. Russell

Presentation of Mark P. Robinson, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award to Michael Maguire - Lewis R. Sifford

Acknowledgment of Past President - Juan C. Delgado

Closing Comments by Juan C. Delgado

## SALAD

Balsamic Baby Greens Salad - Organic baby greens tossed with goat cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, oven-roasted walnuts, and cherry oak balsamic vinaigrette, served with warm wild mushrooms.

## ENTREE' DUO

**Pink Peppercorn Crusted Filet Mignon** Sauce Bordelaise

**Fire Grilled Seabass** - White balsamic basted open flame, served atop smashed potatoes, match sticks vegetables crowned

**Vegetarian Option** - Balsamic basted vegetables, grilled and Brioche wrapped, Pomodoro

## DESSERT

Dessert station with a wonderful array of mini pastries

*Please Enjoy Dancing and Music By Party Jones*

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*The Incoming 2025 OC Chapter ABOTA Executive Committee*

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Jeffrey Roberts

Daniel Hodes

Jennifer Leeper

Greg Amundson



# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Juan C. Delgado, Esq.*

It is with humility and pride that I write this as your incoming OC ABOTA President for 2025. Every time we get together at a function I think of what one of our past presidents, Scott Smith, said at one of our functions, “Never am I so proud to be an attorney than when I am in a room with all the OC ABOTA attorneys.”

When you look at a list of past and present members, it is a who’s who of trial lawyers in Orange County. Some of the best past, present and future great trial attorneys are members of ABOTA, not only in Orange County, but across the country.

Our chapter is one of the most vibrant chapters across the country. We have three national past presidents, Mark Robinson, Michael P. Maguire and Lewis Sifford, and two of them, Mark and Mike, were also our chapters president. Over the years, we have had many great presidents who have served our membership not only in Orange County, but at national ABOTA and the ABOTA Foundation.

One thing I want to promote this year to include is more participation from all our members in the various activities OC ABOTA does. I plan to make sure we reach out to the membership whenever we do charitable activities, such as the Mendez Field Trips to the Mendez Tribute Monument Park, organized by Mike Maguire, our annual Teachers Law School organized by our past president Ret. Judge Linda Marks, OC ABOTA’s Jury Appreciation Lunch with the Orange County Superior Court, and when we help our incoming Membership



Chair Kimberly Valentine with all her charitable efforts, and when we raise money for good causes.

I would also like to encourage members to join and participate with committees I plan to create with the help of our Executive Committee to get more general membership involvement.

If you are involved in your community helping charities, schools or any other civic or education minded group, we would like to help

you with that. Whether that means members showing up to do things or requesting money to support your activities. As a chapter, we donate a lot of money to the ABOTA Foundation for its activities and I can say with confidence more than any other chapter in the country. I think Deborah Tropp, our incoming Vice President and the incoming 2025 National ABOTA Foundation President would agree with me.

I think once you get involved, you will see more of what our Chapter has to offer and does beyond our great dinners.

I look forward to working with our incoming Executive Committee, not only Deborah and Kim, but also our Treasurer Jennifer Russell, our Secretary Keith More, and our newest member, Member-At-Large Elizabeth Kolar, our past Presidents Pam S. Traut and Yoshi Kubota, and our ABOTA National Board Representatives Greg Amundson, Dan Hodes, Jeff Roberts and Jennifer Leeper. I also look forward to working with the membership and advancing our ABOTA mission in 2025.



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Orange County Chapter  
Annual Installation Gala



**A special congratulations to  
Michael P. Maguire of ADR Services, Inc. for  
receiving the Mark P. Robinson, Jr.  
Lifetime Achievement Award**

Congratulations to the other awardees:  
Jennifer Leeper - Trial Lawyer of the Year  
Sharon A. Hodges - Joseph D. McNeil Civility  
Keith P. More - Volunteer of the Year

# CODE OF PROFESSIONALISM

*As a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, I shall:*

Always remember that the practice of law is first and foremost a profession.



Encourage respect for the law, the courts, and the right to trial by jury.



Always remember that my word is my bond and honor my responsibilities to serve as an officer of the court and protector of individual rights.



Contribute time and resources to public service, public education, charitable and pro bono activities in my community.



Work with the other members of the bar, including judges, opposing counsel, and those whose practices are different from mine, to make our system of justice more accessible and responsive.



Resolve matters and disputes expeditiously, without unnecessary expense, and through negotiation whenever possible.



Keep my clients well-informed and involved in making decisions affecting them.



Achieve and maintain proficiency in my practice and continue to expand my knowledge of the law.



Be respectful in my conduct toward my adversaries.



Honor the spirit and intent, as well as the requirements of applicable rules or codes of professional conduct, and shall encourage others to do so.



American Board  
of Trial Advocates





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**Deborah Tropp-Thompson**

President-Elect

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**Kimberly Valentine-Gibson**

Member Chair

**Elizabeth L. Kolar**

Member-at-Large

---

Trial Lawyer of the Year Award

**Jennifer Leeper**

Joseph D. McNeil Civility Award

**Sharon A. Hodges**

Volunteer of the Year Award

**Keith P. More**

Mark P. Robinson, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award

**Michael P. Maguire**

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Gerald Sokoloff 1984	Michael P. Maguire 2003	William C. Haggerty 2022
Jay Cordell Horton 1985	Alton J. Smith 2004	Yoshiaki C. Kubota 2023
Joseph D. McNeil 1986	Gary L. Chambers 2005	Pamela S. Traut 2024

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**Jennifer Leeper**

TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Sharon A. Hodges**

JOSEPH D. McNEIL CIVILITY AWARD

**Keith P. More**

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Michael P. Maguire**

MARK P. ROBINSON, JR. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*and Celebrates the Installation of the 2025 Officers*

**Juan C. Delgado**

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**Keith P. More**

SECRETARY

**Deborah Tropp-Thompson**

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**Kimberly Valentine-Gibson**

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# PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Pamela S. Traut, Esq.*



When I took the oath of office last January, I had many goals, but one in particular: To increase diversity in our chapter. I am proud to report that in the course of one year, ABOTA-OC approved eleven new members. Of that eleven, six are women, two are Hispanic and their average age is 41. When you consider that the average age of National ABOTA member is 68, this is a major accomplishment and I am excited to have been a part of it.

We have accomplished so much more. During the 2023-2024 school year, 670 elementary and junior high school students traveled to the Mendez Tribute Park in Westminster, courtesy of OC ABOTA. Our chapter members not only traveled to the Mendez Tribute Park to personally speak to the students, our chapter financed the cost of bussing the children and their teachers to the Park. Thanks to our fundraising efforts, these children now know about the important case of Mendez v. City of Westminster, and the impact it had on ethnic equality in schools. Recently, Governor Newsom signed a law, making classroom instruction on the Mendez case a required part of California school curriculum. A special thank you to Mike Maguire for all of his hard work on this project.

In addition to educating our youth, we have been actively teaching civics, via our Civility Matters programs to lawyers. Traditionally, these seminars were given only to lawyer groups and law firms, but over the past two to three years, we have branched out to High School students and Law Schools. What better way to ingrain civility and professionalism in the minds of

our future lawyers and citizens than this? Thank you to all who assisted in this, particularly Deb Tropp and Jeff Roberts.

Through the course of my presidency in 2024 I traveled with ABOTA to Biloxi, Seattle, Greece, Sicily, Nashville, Hawaii and Dallas. I was at the National Board meeting in Nashville, when ABOTA approved a change to the membership bylaws, allowing applications with 7 jury

trials, and 100 points to apply for membership. This national board meeting was especially exciting. A rigorous and healthy discussion took place before the vote and concerns over relaxing the admission requirements were addressed. The amendment passed with only one dissent. We have already received several nominations for membership due to the new bylaws. I am confident this new change will revitalize our organization and keep its members young and our numbers growing.

My journey with ABOTA leadership does not end here. I will continue my work as a Trustee for the National Foundation, and will be sworn in as Treasurer of the Foundation in January at the National meeting in Cabo. The foundation is the educational arm of ABOTA, and I will work hard to raise funds for our many educational programs that occur throughout all of the chapters in the country. Civics education is the heart of our organization, and a great passion of mine and I am excited to get to work.

Finally, I want to congratulate Juan Delgado, our 2025 incoming President. I know he will work hard to continue to lead this great chapter of ours. Thank you to everyone, for letting me lead this group in 2024. It's been the honor of a lifetime for me.







FWHB is Proud to Support  
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Orange County Chapter



**Congratulations to our FWHB Partner**



**Juan C. Delgado**  
President

**Also, FWHB Congratulates the other OC ABOTA 2025 Officers**

**Deborah Tropp-Thompson**  
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**Kimberly Valentine-Gibson**  
Member Chair

**Elizabeth L. Kolar**  
Member-at-Large

**And Congratulates our Award Recipients**

**Jennifer Leeper** - Trial Lawyer of the Year Award

**Sharon A. Hodges** - Joseph D. McNeil Civility Award

**Keith P. More** - Volunteer of the Year Award

**Michael P. Maguire** - Mark P. Robinson, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award

# ABOTA FOUNDATION

*By Deborah Tropp, Esq.*  
*2025 President, ABOTA Foundation*

As the 2025 Foundation President AND an Orange County ABOTA Member, I know first-hand the incredible support Orange County has given to the Foundation year after year. This support is not only evident in the monetary support that our Chapter has given, and continues to give the Foundation, but also in Orange County's ongoing dedication to the Foundation programs which our Chapter engages in each year.

This Chapter's commitment to Civility in the legal profession, as well as its commitment to Civics Education is absolutely inspiring. Providing Civility Matters presentations to high school students, law school students and licensed attorneys, hosting an annual Teachers Law School and ensuring the ongoing success of the Mendez Park program are just a few examples of how this Chapter lives and breathes the very ideals and efforts the ABOTA Foundation stands for.

I am sure we can all agree that Civility and Civics Education is more important now than ever.

Under the strong leadership of 2024 Foundation President, Fred James, the 2024 Civics Summit in Washington D.C. was an overwhelming success. I attended the Summit and was stunned and inspired by the energy and commitment that these Teachers from across the Country brought with them. I believe that any and all Foundation Programs are worthwhile and meaningful, however, being able to reach large numbers of people with one program is ideal and as they say, "more bang for our buck". Consider the fact that 40 teachers, at no cost to them, attended the Summit last summer. Those teachers, with their current number of students, even if they teach for only another five years, will take what they learned at the Civics Summit and pass it on to tens of thousands of students. These tens of thousands of students are America's next generation of citizens, voters and jurors... and we were able to reach them.



I attended the Summit and knew before the Summit was over that I wanted my year as Foundation President to include a 2025 Civics Summit. I am thrilled to announce that in June 2025, the Foundation will host teachers from across the Country in Philadelphia for a Summit entitled, "Empowering Students through Civics Education: DEMOCRACY STARTS HERE". Our goal is to be able to raise enough funds to try and increase the number of teachers attending to 50!

In regards to Chapter involvement across the Country, as Foundation President, I have created a new committee entitled "No Chapter Left Behind". The goal of this committee is to reach out to Chapters that are not currently bringing Foundation Programs to their communities. This new committee will reach out to those Chapters and assist them in selecting a Foundation program that will work for their Chapter and is needed in their community. The Committee, as well as the Board of Trustees and Officers of the Foundation will assist them with the program, travel to their location and help in any way possible to ensure that the program is a success. Imagine a year where ALL Chapters are putting on Foundation Programs!

Last, but certainly not least, Orange County should be proud that in addition to my serving as Foundation President this year, two OC Chapter Members are also serving as Foundation Officers. Pam Liosi-Traut is the 2025 Foundation Treasurer and Yoshi Kubota is the 2025 Foundation Secretary. I am honored to be serving with Pam, Yoshi, and Lynn Leonard from Georgia, as the 2025 Foundation Officers.

In closing, thank you all so very much for your support of the ABOTA Foundation. The work we do is meaningful, and I believe makes a real difference. We could not be making that difference without all of you!

Congratulations to the 2025 Orange County  
 ABOTA Officers!



**Judicate West  
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American Board of Trial Advocates  
Orange County Chapter**

**Congratulations to the 2025 Honorees**

**Jennifer Leeper**

TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR

**Sharon A. Hodges**

JOSEPH D. MCNEIL CIVILITY AWARD

**Keith P. More**

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**Michael P. Maguire**

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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**and all the Incoming Officers**

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# ABOTA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

## New Technologies and Collaboration to Lead us into 2025

*By Jennifer H. Doan, Esq.  
2025 National President*

It is a tremendous honor to begin my presidential year in Orange County with each of you. The Orange County Chapter exemplifies the spirit of ABOTA, tirelessly fulfilling our mission to support jury trials, honoring and appreciating those who serve on juries, defending our judges, and supporting our National ABOTA initiatives and the local community.

ABOTA's commitment to trial excellence and professionalism, along with its balanced membership of both the defense and plaintiffs' bars, has earned us deep respect within the legal profession and the judiciary. Our unwavering dedication to the Seventh Amendment and the improvement of the civil justice system provides a foundation of credibility and purpose. We uphold and teach professionalism and civility, stand firmly against the politicization of the judiciary, and address misinformed and unfair attacks on its impartiality. Through civics education for the public, educators, and journalists, we remain steadfast in our role as advocates for democracy.

ABOTA has worked tirelessly to preserve the impartiality, integrity, and credibility of the judiciary. We recognize that confidence in the judiciary is fundamental to the health of our democracy and the stability of our Nation. ABOTA continues to advocate for judicial independence, free from improper influence by other branches of government, other countries, and private or partisan interests.



A key focus for 2025 is embracing new technologies, preparing the next generation of trial lawyers through our NextGen Jury Summit and our Advanced National Trial College, and strengthening collaboration with our local chapters. Our chapters – particularly our Orange County Chapter – are the lifeblood of ABOTA, driving meaningful initiatives at the community level and providing essential support for our National mission. By working closely together, we can amplify our collective impact, share resources, and ensure that ABOTA's values and programs reach every corner of the country.

ABOTA is embracing the future by engaging with new technologies and tools, including artificial intelligence, to enhance our membership, our practices, and the legal field. With the introduction of the new ABOTA app and our podcast series in 2025, our members will be more informed and united as we serve together. We aim to lead the legal profession in this new technological era, and to meet the needs of our trial lawyers as we move into the next generation.

As we look ahead to an inspiring 2025, we will host nationally recognized speakers at each of our National conferences on issues surrounding storytelling, the art of oral advocacy, our democracy, and other issues core to our mission. Come be a part!

Thank you for your amazing commitment to ABOTA and I look forward to serving with each of you in 2025!

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ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER**

**ANNUAL INSTALLATION**

**'25**

*Dinner  
Gala*

**We congratulate and honor all the award winners and the 2025 executive board, especially our newest attorney, JENNIFER RUSSELL.**



**JUAN C. DELGADO / PRESIDENT**

**DEBORAH TROPP-THOMPSON  
PRESIDENT ELECT**

**JENNIFER L. RUSSELL  
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**KEITH P. MORE  
SECRETARY**

**KIMBERLY VALENTINE-GIBSON  
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**ELIZABETH L. KOLAR  
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**Honoring Award Recipients**

**Jennifer Leeper -  
Trial Lawyer of the year award**

**Sharon A. Hodges -  
Joseph D. McNeil Civility Award**

**Keith P. More -  
Volunteer of the Year Award**

**Michael P. Maguire -  
Mark P. Robinson, Jr. Lifetime  
Achievement Award**



**\*We are pleased to announce the opening of our  
Orange County office and look forward to working with you.**

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# *Congratulations to tonight's honorees!*

**JENNIFER LEEPER**  
Trial Lawyer of the Year

**SHARON A. HODGES**  
Joseph D. McNeil Civility Award

**KEITH P. MORE**  
Volunteer of the Year

**MICHAEL P. MAGUIRE**  
Mark P. Robinson, Jr. Lifetime  
Achievement Award

## 2025 Incoming Officers:

**Juan C. Delgado**  
2024 President

**Deborah Tropp-Thompson**  
2024 President-Elect

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Treasurer

**Keith P. More**  
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**Kimberly Valentine-Gibson**  
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# TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR

## JENNIFER S. LEEPER



Jennifer S. Leeper was born in Louisiana but spent much of her life in California. After high school, she attended San Diego State University and then Whittier Law School. She was admitted to the bar in 2008.

After law school she started her career handling post conviction criminal defense matters. In 2014, She started her career as a trial attorney with Michael Maguire & Associates, now James T. Shott & Associates, which serves as State Farm’s Claim’s Litigation Counsel. Her trial practice has included defending individuals and businesses in personal injury matters regarding car accidents, premises liability, product liability, and more.

Jennifer became a member of the Orange County Chapter of ABOTA in 2022. She volunteered her time participating in the ABOTA Masters in Trial, program in 2021.

She was named the Michael Maguire & Associates Trial Attorney of the Year in 2020 and the James T. Shott & Associates Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2021.

Jennifer has attended and completed the Orange County

Bar Association College of Trial Advocacy and National Institute for Trial Advocacy. In 2023 she was named to the Board of Directors for the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel (“ASCDC”). In 2023 and 2024, Mrs. Leeper was a presenter on several ASCDC panels. One of the presentations was “Ask Us Anything: A Mentoring Panel for Women Attorneys” a mentoring panel for young lawyers discussing issues of ethics, civility and the practice of law.

In 2024 she was a presenter at the Orange County Bar Association College of Trial Advocacy and was named as Orange County ABOTA Trial Attorney of the Year.

Jennifer has established herself as a dedicated trial lawyer with ethics and civility. She has, over the years, become close friends with several of the plaintiff’s attorneys she has been in trial against. Much of her success she attributes to her mom Debbie Strange. She is also proud to be married to Skeeter Leeper and be a mom to a seven-year-old son named George and a five-year-old son named Duke.





American Board of Trial Advocates  
Orange County Chapter

# KEITH MORE

## ABOTA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



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# JOSEPH D. MCNEIL CIVILITY AWARD

## SHARON A. HODGES

Sharon A. Hodges grew up in Orange County and was first introduced to the legal profession in high school through the Constitutional Rights Foundation Mock Trial program.

She attended the University of California, San Diego and received degrees in History and Political Science. In college, she interned at the United States District Court for the District of Columbia through the UCDC program. She then attended the University of San Diego School of Law. She was admitted to practice in California in 2001.

Initially, Sharon practiced for a small construction defect firm called Gallo and Associates. After four years, she took advice from a colleague and moved in-house with State Farm Insurance. She began working for Bonnie Moss & Associates in Riverside, California in 2006 and primarily practiced in the Inland Empire. After twelve years in 2018, she was able to transfer closer to home to the Costa Mesa office, Michael Maguire & Associates. When Mr. Maguire retired in 2021, the firm became James T. Shott & Associates. Her practice has encompassed defending people and businesses in civil suits involving property damage and personal injuries resulting from auto accidents, premises liability, dog bites, and products liability. The most rewarding part of her job is reassuring and comforting clients who fear the litigation process.



She was named the Alternative Dispute Resolution Attorney of the Year at Bonnie Moss & Associates in 2007 and 2013.

Over the years, Sharon has strived to practice following the golden rule, “treat others how you would like to be treated.” An attorney can and should be a zealous advocate for her client and treat her opponents with civility, respect, and consideration.

Sharon is thankful for having worked with wonderful role models and mentors in the profession throughout

her career. These individuals guided her to become a successful trial lawyer who practices first with ethics and civility. She also has been blessed to have amazing staff over the years who are colleagues and friends.

The most important people in Sharon’s life are her husband, Mark Ricciardelli, and their three children, Teddy (19,) Gianna (15,) and Elise (12.) She dedicates herself to be someone of whom her family can be proud by behaving personally and professionally with integrity, kindness, and civility.

Sharon was invited to join the Orange County Chapter of ABOTA in 2019. She is honored to be the first female to receive the Joseph McNeil Civility Award for the Orange County Chapter of ABOTA in 2024.



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and to all the Honorees!*

**Jennifer Leeper**

Trial Lawyer of the Year

**Sharon Hodges**

Joseph D. McNeil Civility Award

**Keith Moore**

Volunteer of the Year

**Michael Maguire**

Mark P. Robinson, Jr. Lifetime Achievement

Everett Dorey LLP is a full-service civil litigation firm of trial attorneys. Everett Dorey prides itself on its legal acumen, trial record, experience and its ability to put clients in the best position to succeed. Client objectives are tailored to individual needs, ranging from early resolution based on experienced evaluations to favorable jury verdicts with awards of attorneys' fees and expert costs.



# VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

## KEITH MORE



Keith More has spent decades donating his time and talent to worthy causes across Southern California—serving on charitable foundations, fund-raising, serving others, and contributing to those in need.

Keith currently serves on The Lucky Duck Foundation in San Diego, combating homelessness and providing food, water, shelter, and job training for veterans and other homeless individuals. He also serves on board of The Harold and Carole Pump Foundation. During the 3 years he has been on the Board, it raised over 5 million dollars to provide cancer treatment to those in need and for fundamental cancer research.

Keith has also regularly used his talents to help other foundations raise money for charity. In 2023 he served as the MC/Auctioneer to help raise money for the ABOTA Foundation, raising a record \$205,000, including a personal donation made by Keith.

For the past 10 years, Keith has been the auctioneer for the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association (OCTLA) Top Gun Awards. Each year, OCTLA selects a charity and holds a silent and live auction and all proceeds are given to that charity. Because of his connections with the Pump Foundation, he was able to get Sugar Ray Leonard to attend the event in 2023 where OCTLA raised over \$200,000 for Court Appointed Special Advocates charity.

Keith also helped raise over \$300,000 for Operation Helping Hands, the charity run by 2021 Cal ABOTA Community Service Award winner, Kim Valentine. His law firm donated \$10,000 to Operation Helping Hands, while Keith again made a personal donation which generated \$18,000 for the charity at auction. He has also personally volunteered his time for that charity, making and delivering backpacks to the homeless living on Skid Row in Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Keith has also helped raised money for the Constitutional Rights Foundation, OC Women Lawyers Association, Veterans Legal Institution, and the Public Law Center. He is a founding board member of OCTLC Charities.

Several years ago, Keith established an endowment at DePaul Law School for young women affected by breast or ovarian cancer. To date, there have been several scholarship award winners who benefitted from his generosity. He was named Board Member of the year for OCTLA two times during his tenure on the Board and was the President of the organization in 2008. He is incoming secretary for 2025 for the Orange County Chapter of ABOTA.

Finally, over the past two years, he has supported Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation with \$15,000 in personal donations. Keith's firm, Bentley & More is a consistent sponsor of ABOTA and OCTLA golf tournaments and other events. Thank you for all you do, Keith!



JAMS is proud to support  
**ABOTA Orange County**  
and we congratulate the honorees  
and incoming board members:

**Jennifer Leeper** *Trial Lawyer of the Year Award*

**Sharon A. Hodges** *Joseph D. McNeil Civility Award*

**Keith P. More** *Volunteer of the Year Award*

**Michael P. Maguire**

*Mark P. Robinson, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award*

**Juan C. Delgado** *President*

**Deborah Tropp-Thompson** *President-Elect*

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# MARK P. ROBINSON, JR. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## MICHAEL MAGUIRE

### *Committed to ABOTA*

**M**ike has been a deeply committed leader and advocate of ABOTA's mission since his admission in 1994.

Beginning his career as a Deputy DA in the Orange County District Attorney's office, Mike tried major felonies and helped create the first Special Victims Unit. There, he worked with a team of full-time prosecutors exclusively on sexual assaults and child molestation crimes before moving on to the Homicide Panel where he prosecuted murder cases. Mike then carried his criminal law experience to civil litigation, special-

izing as Cumis counsel and defending against charges of sexual assaults, child molests, general assaults and wrongful deaths.

Once admitted into ABOTA, Mike became actively engaged. Initially he chaired a "Blue Ribbon Civility Committee" charged with creating criteria for the Chapter's soon-to-be judicial and attorney civility awards. Mike joined the OC Chapter's Executive Committee where he has served continuously since 1998. He was Chapter President in 2003 and served on the Cal-ABOTA board. Selected as an OC Chapter National Board representative, Mike became Chair of numerous national committees and task forces. His demonstrated leadership resulted in his elections to National Treasurer (two terms), a Foundation Trustee, and ABOTA Foundation President (2014). Ultimately the members of ABOTA elected him the 2019 ABOTA National President. In all, he served on 10 National Executive Committees.



Giving back to the profession and civics education has always been important to Mike. Using the *Mendez v. Westminster School District* case as a civics lesson, Mike has taught ABOTA civics education in Orange County schools and recently scores of classes at the Mendez v. Westminster Tribute Park in collaboration with the OC Department of Education. He presented numerous ABOTA "Masters In Trial" nationwide and has been a frequent speaker on Summary and Expedited Jury Trials, at Teachers Law Schools & Civility Matters presentations.

Devoted to helping youth and their families, as a young Deputy DA Mike taught Shortstop for the Project Youth - Orange County Bar Foundation's juvenile criminal diversion program. He served as its President in 2004 and continues today on its Board of Directors.

Michael Maguire & Associates was awarded the Orange County Public Law Center's Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year in 1999. He is actively involved in several other law-related community service, including the Board of Directors for National Center for State Courts in 2020-2023, and the Lawyers Committee in 2014-2024.

His many honors and awards include OC Public Law Center Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year- 1999, Project Youth Orange County Bar Foundation- Robert Samuel Barnes (SAMMY) Award- 2009, ABOTA Orange County Chapter Joseph D. McNeil Civility Award- 2015.





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# STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

## 2025 OC Chapter ABOTA Student Scholarship Recipient

### LAUREN LAPHEN



This year, OC ABOTA is proud to award its \$5,000.00 scholarship to Lauren Laphen. Lauren is a first-generation college student and law student born and raised in Orange County. She currently resides in Orange County while attending Loyola Law School. Her undergraduate studies were at Texas Christian University (TCU). There, as a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, she was elected to the Standards Board

of her sorority to help aid struggling members. During her term, she supported women who were struggling socially or academically and advocated for resources from TCU.

Lauren was President of the TCU women's club soccer team. Through non-profit Project Beloved she supported victims of sexual assault by creating care bags for rape victims, remodeling interview rooms at police stations to be more comfortable for survivor interviews, and advocated for the passing of Molly Jane's Law (also known as HB 3106) in Texas. She also advocated for change on campus through her work on the TCU Race and Reconciliation Initiative (RRI). She was personally involved in examining TCU's relationship with slavery, racism, and the confederacy. As a direct result of her work, the RRI committee advocated for

TCU to recognize former black students' experiences and struggles at TCU, honor the family members of slaves who were forced to work on the original campus, and enact recommendations to foster a more inclusive campus.

She is currently a 3L Law Student at Loyola Law School, where she is actively involved in the Juvenile Justice Clinic within the Center for Juvenile Law & Policy, representing juvenile delinquency clients in Los Angeles County.

Fall of 2024, she was an extern at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. The common thread throughout her academic and social experiences is her desire to advocate for others. Her long-term career goals include becoming a successful trial attorney in Orange County.

She recognizes the importance of civil jury trials, recently serving as a juror in Orange County. Although the three days of trial required her to miss class, she gained an incredible education and a new perspective on jury trials by participating as a juror. This experience as a juror strengthened her desire to be a trial lawyer in Orange County and rely on future juries to fairly decide the fate of her future clients.

#### PAST AWARD RECIPIENT OF THE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

2021 – Brianna M. Milligan    2022 – Sydney Leigh Martin    2023– Zack H. Amin    2024 Jeremy Basuga





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◆ *Congratulations* ◆

2025 OC-ABOTA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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<i>DEBORAH TROPP-THOMPSON</i>	PRESIDENT-ELECT
<i>JENNIFER L. RUSSELL</i>	TREASURER
<i>KEITH P. MORE</i>	SECRETARY
<i>KIMBERLY VALENTINE-GIBSON</i>	MEMBER CHAIR
<i>ELIZABETH K. KOLAR</i>	MEMBER-AT-LARGE

◆ HONORING AWARD RECIPIENTS ◆

*JENNIFER LEEPER*  
TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

*SHARON A. HODGES*  
JOSEPH D. MCNEIL CIVILITY AWARD

*KEITH P. MORE*  
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

*MICHAEL P. MAGUIRE*  
MARK P. ROBINSON, JR. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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# PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

## TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR

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2004 Dennis Ames  
2005 Andrew Hollins  
2007 Nancy Zeltzer  
2008 Margaret Holm  
2009 James Traut  
2010 Mark Poliquin  
2011 Doug DeGrave  
2012 Pete Gates  
2013 Rob Gibson  
2014 Juan C. Delgado  
2015 Chris Wesierski  
2017 Tom Wianecki  
2018 Terrance Schafer  
2019 Eric Traut  
2020 Not Awarded (COVID)  
2021 Jennifer Russell and Stephen A. Rosa  
2022 Gerald Klein  
2023 Douglas Guy

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

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2019 Kim Valentine  
2020 Pete Callahan  
2021 Not Awarded - (COVID)  
2022 Jeffrey Roberts  
2023 Seymour Everett III

## THE JOSEPH D. MCNEIL ATTORNEY CIVILITY AWARD

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1997 Joe McNeil  
1998 Byron Beam  
1999 Scott Smith  
2000 Dave Brobeck, Jr.  
2001 Ben Card  
2002 Ken W. Nielson  
2003 James Reed  
2004 Pete Callahan  
2007 Richard Madory  
2009 Thomas Cummings  
2010 Dan Sullivan  
2012 John DiCaro  
2013 John C. Adams  
2014 Ronald Schwartz  
2015 Michael Maguire  
2016 William Haggerty  
2017 Eric Traut  
2018 Robert Gibson  
2019 Sean Burke  
2020 Geoffrey Gray  
2021 No Recipient - (COVID)  
2022 Richard Morton  
2023 Brian Easton



In *Celebration* of  
the American Board of Trial Advocates, Orange County Chapter,  
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Congratulates the 2025 OC-ABOTA Award Recipients

- JENNIFER LEEPER, TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD
- SHARON A. HODGES, JOSEPH D. MCNEIL CIVILITY AWARD
- KEITH P. MORE, VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
- MICHAEL P. MAGUIRE – MARK P. ROBINSON, JR., LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



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## Special Congratulations to incoming ABOTA President, Juan Delgado

and Congratulations to my fellow board members!



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### WELCOME THE NEW LEADERSHIP OF ABOTA OC!

Trials & Tech extends a warm welcome to our incoming President **Juan C. Delgado**  
and to our new Board Members:

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(President Elect)

**Jennifer L. Russell**  
(Treasurer)

**Keith P. More**  
(Secretary)

**Kimberly Valentine Gibson**  
(Member Chair)

**Elizabeth L. Kolar**  
(Member-at-Large)

A big thank you to President **Pamela Traut** for her leadership this year!

Trials & Tech continues to be a proud supporter of ABOTA and the OC Chapter!

Contact Trials & Tech: ☎ 888.983.9097 [cwaters@trialsandtech.com](mailto:cwaters@trialsandtech.com)  
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Congratulations to **Juan C. Delgado**  
 and all the Board Members of  
 Orange County ABOTA 2025.  
 Looking forward to a wonderful 2025.



Alan C. Brown, Esq.  
 DAY DAY & BROWN


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# 2024 INSTALLATION GALA











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