

Motions

Attorney **John W. Ambrecht**, an expert in estate planning and estate tax law, recently attended the annual meeting of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel ("ACTEC"), an exclusive non-profit organization for the world's top probate and estate planning attorneys, in San Antonio, Texas.



ACTEC is a nonprofit association of 2,600-plus lawyers and law professors skilled and experienced in the preparation of wills and trusts; estate planning; and probate procedure and administration of trusts and estates of decedents, minors, and incompetents.

To qualify for membership, according to ACTEC, a lawyer must have at least 10 years of experience in the active practice of probate and trust law or estate planning. Lawyers and law professors are elected to be fellows based on their reputation, skill, and contributions to the field.

Ambrecht is one of the only attorneys between Los Angeles and San Francisco who has been accepted to this highly respected organization. He is the founder of **Ambrecht & McDermott**, a boutique law firm in Montecito, focusing his practice on integrating estate and tax planning with family business succession planning, and multi-state domestic trusts and estate planning, national and international asset protection, and tax controversies.

Catherine Swysen is the newest member of The **Santa Barbara & Ventura Colleges of Law** ("COL") Board of Trustees. A 1994 graduate of the school's Santa Barbara campus, Swysen joins the 13-member governance body that

oversees the region's oldest and largest independent law school.

Swysen comes to COL with nearly 25 years of experience as a practicing attorney—her areas of practice spanning criminal, death penalty, appellate, civil, and administrative law. She is a partner with Sanger Swysen & Dunkle, a distinguished local firm—with offices in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria—that specializes in criminal defense and civil litigation in State and Federal courts.

Swysen's experience in governance includes board and leadership positions with the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee, the Santa Barbara County Bar Association, Santa Barbara Criminal Defense Lawyers Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association.

Prior to COL, Swysen earned a degree in history from the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium before immigrating to the United States in the 1980s. She has lived and worked in the Santa Barbara area for over 30 years.

Guneet Kaur is pleased to announce the opening of her solo practice, specializing in Family Law (QDROs, Divorce, Child Custody, Support, Parentage, and Adoptions, etc.), and Estate Planning. Born in India, Ms. Kaur immigrated with her family to the greater San Francisco Bay Area at the age of 10. She attended the University of California at Santa Barbara where she earned her B.A. in Sociology and Religious Studies. She attended the Santa Barbara College of Law and received her J.D. in 2015. While in law school, Ms. Kaur worked full time at Consolidated Overhead Doors & Gates and volunteered at California Rural Legal Assistance, served on the Student Body Association at SBCOL, and was a pupil in William Gordon's Inns of Court.

Ms. Kaur currently serves as Vice President for the Santa Barbara County Bar Foundation and is on the board of Alumni Council for the Santa Barbara College of Law. She



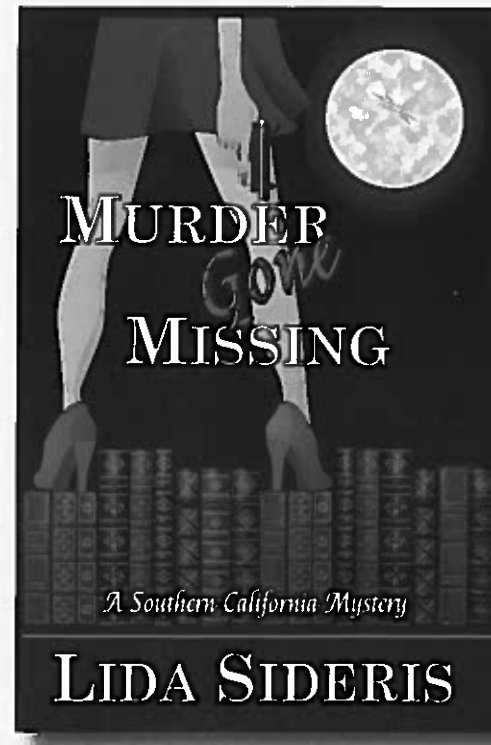
also recently volunteered with Your Children's Trees, a project she hopes to continue assisting. Ms. Kaur looks forward to bringing her passion for assisting people in difficult times through advocacy to Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

After four years in the Bakersfield business district, law firm **Ghitterman, Ghitterman & Feld** is moving its Kern County office, beginning April 1, 2018, to an easy-to-find corner lot in the Riviera-Westchester neighborhood in downtown Bakersfield at 2003 20th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301. The phone number will remain the same: (661) 846-2270.

Current and future clients are welcome to stop in to see the progress as the quaint stand-alone home is freshened up to maintain its historical charm on the outside while being brightened and updated on the inside.

Founded in 1956, Ghitterman, Ghitterman & Feld helps employees in the areas of workers' compensation, social security disability, disability retirement, personal injury, labor and employment issues, criminal defense, and bankruptcy.

The Santa Barbara County Bar Association's Executive Director, **Lida Sideris**, will appear at Chaucer's Bookstore on Tuesday, May 8th at 6 pm for the signing of her latest



novel, *Murder Gone Missing*, the second in the Corrie Locke series, published by Level Best Books. This soft-boiled mystery continues the misadventures of a newly minted lawyer whose gene for caution is a recessive one. In this installment, Corrie has to clear her best friend's name before he's arrested for murder.

If you have news to report - e.g. a new practice, a new hire or promotion, an appointment, upcoming projects/initiatives by local associations, an upcoming event, engagement, marriage, a birth in the family, etc... - The Santa Barbara Lawyer editorial board invites you to "Make a Motion!". Send one to two paragraphs for consideration by the editorial deadline to our Motions editor, Mike Pasternak at pasterna@gmail.com. If you submit an accompanying photograph, please ensure that the JPEG or TIFF file has a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. Please note that the Santa Barbara Lawyer editorial board retains discretion to publish or not publish any submission as well as to edit submissions for content, length, and/or clarity.

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A Public Service of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association

THE OTHER BAR NOTICE

Meets at noon on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 330 E. Carrillo St. We are a state-wide network of recovering lawyers and judges dedicated to assisting others within the profession who have problems with alcohol or substance abuse. We protect anonymity. To contact a local member go to <http://www.otherbar.org> and choose Santa Barbara in "Meetings" menu.