
YUBA SUTTER BAR ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

www.yubasutterbar.org

Courtney E. Gengler, President

New Superior Court Judges in Colusa and Sutter Counties

Thursday, May 22, 2025, noon – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Carlito's Mexican Restaurant, 885 Richland Road, Yuba City

This month we will be hearing from the newly sworn in Superior Court Judges in Colusa and Sutter Counties: Brendan M. Farrell in Colusa County, Luke Steidlmayer in Colusa County, and Fitzgerald Javellana in Sutter County.

Brendan M. Farrell was appointed by the Governor in October 2024. Prior to his appointment, he served in the Colusa County District Attorney's Office from 2010, most recently serving as the Colusa County District Attorney. Before coming to Colusa County, Farrell worked for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

Luke Steidlmayer attended UC Davis as an undergrad and Santa Clara University for law school. He began his legal career at Downey Brand in Sacramento and then returned to his hometown of Colusa to work in private practice. He handled a wide variety of matters in his first few years in Colusa before focusing on agriculture, small business, and real property issues in the area. Judge Steidlmayer spent the past ten years in practice working with his wife, Erin, who is an attorney that specializes in Estate Planning and Administration. They have three children and remain very active in their small community.

Fitzgerald Javellana was appointed by the Governor in October 2024. Prior to his appointment, he served as a Deputy County Counsel in Sutter from 2022. He was a contract juvenile dependency attorney for Butte County Counsel from 2016 to 2022. He was a partner at Williams & Javellana LLP from 2014 to 2022, and an associate at Rooney Law Firm from 2010 to 2014. Javellana earned his Juris Doctor from Southwestern Law School.

MCLE: This meeting qualifies for 0.5 hours of MCLE

Lunch is \$20.

Please RSVP to mpoulos@suttercourts.com, by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 16, 2025.

REMINDER NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Celebration of Life for Chester Morris, past president of YSBA and attorney at Rich, Fuidge from 1961 until his retirement in 2015, will be on Friday, June 6, 2025, from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. at Peach Tree County Club.
- There will be no meetings scheduled in June or July. We will return from the summer break with a legislative update from Assemblymember James Gallagher on Tuesday, August 12, 2025.
- YSBA scholarship recipients have been selected. Certificates will be presented at the local high school awards ceremonies over the next two weeks. This year, \$31,000 in scholarships will be awarded to 12 students: 11 students will receive \$2,500 and 1 student will receive the “All-School Award” in the amount of \$3,500.
- Sutter Superior Court is accepting applications for 2025/2026 Grand Jury members. Interested parties may submit an application, which is located on the Sutter Superior Court website at <https://www.sutter.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury>.
- If anybody has any ideas for meeting topics and speakers, please let us know!
- All of our newsletters and events are posted on our website: www.yubasutterbar.org, as well as our Fee Arbitration program information.

2025 YUBA SUTTER BAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Janet Bender	Omar Figueroa	David Lane	Mindi Reid
Brant Bordsen	Anthony Galyean	Landon Little	Nicole Rosser
Eleanor Bordsen	Courtney Gengler	Monica O’Neil	Ami Scarfe
Ryan Burreesch	Robert Gengler	Sukhraj Pamma	Kelly Smith
Amy Byrne	John Guth	Amanda Pedrett	Kim Steffenson
Joe Carrico	Stephanie Hansel	Donna Peter	Tamara Squires
Judge Chandler	Jared Hastey	Melissa Poulos	James Vasquez
Penelope Changaris	Tom Hill	Andrew Ramos	Corina Yetter

Membership dues for 2025 are \$100. Mail a check payable to YSBA to P.O. Box 204, Marysville, CA 95901, or bring cash or check with you to the next meeting.

Yuba Sutter Bar Association
Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2025
Sutter County Superior Court, Jury Assembly Room

1. Courtney Gengler called the meeting to order.
2. Courtney Gengler made announcements:
 - We are now accepting annual dues for 2025. \$100 per member.
 - Our meeting in May is on Thursday, May 22. We will be meeting the two new Colusa County Judges and Sutter County's newest Judge, Fritz Javellana.
 - We will take our regular summer break in June and July, and come back in August with Assemblymember James Gallagher providing a legislative update.
 - Scholarship applications were due on April 11, 2025. The Board will be selecting scholarship recipients from each school and will be asking for volunteers to present at the school award ceremonies in May and June. We try to find YSBA members that have connections to the local high schools.

3. Sutter County's Ban on Industrial Hemp

Judge Javellana introduced the speaker, Former Assistant County Counsel, Taylor Kayatta. Taylor is currently Deputy General Counsel at the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), an advocate and service provider for rural county needs which is made up of 40 rural counties including Yuba and Sutter.

Taylor provided an introduction regarding hemp and the differences between hemp and medical marijuana. Then he gave a history of the hemp production ordinance and discussed the challenges with the licensing program. He explained the moratorium and the next steps, including that the Board of Supervisors must decide over the next year whether to extend the moratorium, adopt a new hemp ordinance, or revert to the previously effective ordinance.

Questions were asked and answered.
The PowerPoint slides are available upon request.

4. Katy Carpenter, Registered Legal Aid Attorney, and Amanda Lagunas, Administrative Legal Secretary, from California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) introduced themselves.
5. Courtney Gengler thanked the speaker and adjourned the meeting.