
YUBA SUTTER BAR ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

September 2025

www.yubasutterbar.org

Courtney E. Gengler, President

Free Legal Services in Yuba and Sutter Counties

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at noon

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

This month, we have a panel of speakers to talk about free legal services in Yuba and Sutter Counties. Our panelists are:

Alex Barbera, Yuba County Superior Court Family Law Facilitator and Self-Help Attorney

Alex Barbera was admitted to the Bar in 1976. He was the editor of the California Family Law Report and the California Family Law Practice guide from 1978 to 1981. After that, he practiced family law, mostly as a sole practitioner, in Sacramento and Placer Counties until 2022, when he was invited to be the Family Law Facilitator/Self-Help Attorney for Yuba County.

Joe Carrico, Attorney for Yuba Sutter Legal Center for Seniors

Mr. Carrico serves as the directing attorney for the Yuba Sutter Legal Center for Seniors, which has provided free legal services and community education to senior residents of Yuba and Sutter Counties since 1977. Mr. Carrico grew up locally, attended McGeorge School of Law and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1988. He previously spent 33 years living in Northern Europe and working on sophisticated contracts for large investment banks and global banks, before deciding to move back to the area to accept his current position where he could give back to the community.

Joanna Navarro, staff attorney for California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.

Joanna Navarro (she/her) graduated from McGeorge School of Law where she developed a strong commitment to public interest law and advancing equity for underserved communities. During law school, Joanna interned at McGeorge's Homeless Advocacy Clinic, where she provided direct legal services to unhoused clients. This experience deepened her passion for client-centered advocacy and reinforced her dedication to equal access to justice. She also interned with the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), where she pioneered an extensive literature review on equitable access to psychedelic-assisted therapies and the legal avenues for the decriminalization of psychedelic substances for medicinal and therapeutic use. Joanna is now a staff attorney at CRLA, where she provides legal services to low income clients, often with issues in housing, employment, and public benefits. Joanna brings a deep sense of purpose and strong drive to serve low-income communities and create meaningful change. In her free time, Joanna loves to try new cuisines, watch movies, and spend time with her Chihuahua, Chicki.

Melissa Poulos, Sutter County Superior Court Family Law Facilitator and Self-Help Attorney

Melissa Poulos has been the Family Law Facilitator, Self-Help Program Manager, and Family Court Services Director for Sutter County Superior Court since August 2015. Prior to working in the court

setting, she spent eight years working as a family law attorney in private practice. Melissa earned her law degree from the University of California, Davis, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from California State University, Northridge. While in law school, she spent a year in the UC Davis Family Protection and Legal Assistance Clinic, working as a certified law student representing low-income victims of domestic violence in their family law and domestic violence matters.

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 **Thursday, September 4, 2025.**

REMINDER NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Stay tuned for information about our October meeting.
- The County of Yuba is currently recruiting for the position of Deputy County Counsel I/II/III. For complete job details, the application instructions, and/or to apply online, please visit: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/yubacounty/jobs/5043157/deputy-county-counsel-i-ii-iii>
- 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

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|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Janet Bender | Courtney Gengler | Deborah Micheli | Ami Scarfe |
| Brant Bordsen | Robert Gengler | Tahmina Morrow | Kelly Smith |
| Eleanor Bordsen | John Guth | Monica O'Neil | Tamara Sowles |
| Ryan Burreesch | Stephanie Hansel | Sukhraj Pamma | Kim Steffenson |
| Amy Byrne | Jared Hastey | Amanda Pedrett | Michael Trezza |
| Joe Carrico | Tom Hill | Donna Peter | Bill Vanasek |
| Judge Chandler | Sydney Johnson | Melissa Poulos | James Vasquez |
| Penelope Changaris | Cameron King | Andrew Ramos | Geoffrey Wander |
| Omar Figueroa | David Lane | Mindi Reid | Corina Yetter |
| Anthony Galyean | Landon Little | Nicole Rosser | |

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
August 12, 2025
Carlito's Mexican Restaurant, 885 Richland Road, Yuba City, CA 95991

1. Courtney Gengler called the meeting to order.

2. Courtney Gengler made the following announcements:
 - We are now accepting annual dues for 2025. \$100 per member.
 - Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 9, 2025. We will have CRLA, Legal Center for Seniors, Yuba County Family Law Facilitator and Sutter County Family Law Facilitator speak about free legal services in Yuba and Sutter Counties.
3. Nicole Rubio, the Volunteer Recruitment and Engagement Coordinator for Child Advocates of Placer and Yuba Counties provided information about CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children).
4. Legislative Update with Assembly Member James Gallagher

Assembly Member James Gallagher gave a brief overview of some legislative activity that affects our local community, including:

- Yuba College building improvements
- Affordable Housing
- CEQA reform
- Funding for Habitat for Humanity
- Prop 36
- Redistricting Issues

Questions were asked and answered.