# BarNotes

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION**

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# President's Message

Stephen T. Holzer

## *SFVBA's Second Annual, Ecclectic All-Section Meeting- Your Reaction?*

On June 10, 2003, the SFVBA held its second annual All-Section Meeting, featuring Dr. Robert Shomer's MCLE-accredited presentation on eyewitness memory perception. The 140+ people in attendance seemed fascinated by this expert's presentation on the potential foibles of eyewitness testimony. Thanks are due (and hereby given) to SFVBA Trustee Gerry Fogelman for his second successful year in a row as the catalyst for bringing high-quality speakers to the meeting.

The All-Section Meeting also served as the venue for presentation of the annual Lintz Award (recognizing Sharley Allen for her service to the Bar, service to the legal profession and service to the community) and annual Volunteer of the Year award (recognizing Bill Kropach for his dedication to many volunteer causes, not the least of which has been his stewardship since 1987 as Chair of the Workers' Compensation Section). The people in attendance were understandably enthusiastic in congratulating these well-deserving recipients of both awards.

The structure of the June 10 meeting was a marked departure from our tradition of honoring the Lintz and Volunteer of the Year Award winners. Historically (ie, for some twenty years, since we began giving out the Lintz Award), our Bar has limited our June event to a presentation of awards only. We decided this year to test the thesis that combining the awards presentation with an MCLE-accredited (though topically unrelated) presentation would be a service to SFVBA Members by enabling them both to honor the awardees and obtain education credit in one event.

Certainly, the level of attendance at the June 10 event appears to have vindicated this year's departure from tradition. On the other hand, both Sharley and Bill are so well-regarded by their colleagues that perhaps the great attendance this year was due strictly to the chosen awardees and had nothing to do with the structure of the program. And, while I have received a number of favorable comments about the event, perhaps there are people who didn't comment to me but who did not like departing from tradition.

In any event, I'd like your feedback, whether favorable or unfavorable, about this year's novel arrangement for the event. Your feedback will enable the Programs Committee and Linda Temkin, our Events Coordinator, to gauge how to structure our events in the future to meet the expectations of the SFVBA Membership.

So, please contact me with your feedback at (213) 683-6671 or sholzer@pmcos.com.

Thanks!