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SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

1.) SHANTI RECOVERY & WELLNESS: NEW BRONZE SPONSOR!



Shanti Recovery & Wellness is a 100% online intensive outpatient program (IOP) specializing in alcohol treatment. We help your clients:

- Improve legal outcomes by showing active participation in recovery
- Quickly access court-compliant treatment
- Receive proof of enrollment, progress, and completion reports

Our evening program is covered by most insurance and Medi-Cal with little to no out-of-pocket expense, and easy for attorneys to recommend.

We also offer DUI-specific assessments, and we're experienced in working with both courts and probation departments.

We work with DUI attorneys across California to support clients with:

- Immediate access to a court-compliant treatment program
- Online Evening sessions – ideal for working and student clients
- Progress reports, proof of enrollment, and completion letters
- Support for DUI-related legal mitigation
- Covered by most insurance plans and Medi-Cal

Shanti Recovery & Wellness

☎ (424) 410-3603

✉ alpa@shanti-recovery.com

🌐 www.shanti-recovery.com

2.) MURPHY JONES APC: NEW BRONZE SPONSOR



California & Nevada Legal Services

Murphy Jones APC attorneys are advocates for individuals with professional licenses. We protect professionals and defend their licenses in legal administrative proceedings. We understand how valuable our clients' careers are to them and we fight to save their licenses, reputations and ability to earn-a-living after your criminal case concludes.

Oftentimes, criminal matters need to be disclosed timely to the state licensing agencies, and your clients will benefit from enlisting competent license defense counsel to assist you in their defense before criminal case resolution.

While we serve all licensed professionals, we maintain a focus on healthcare practitioners. With substantial experience in both law and medicine, our healthcare attorneys focus on representing professionals in administrative hearings, State Board disciplinary actions and other licensing issues, civil litigation, hospital peer review committee investigations, and other regulatory matters.

We protect a wide variety of medical practitioners and other professionals and defend their livelihoods from detrimental impacts of criminal convictions.

Our attorneys are licensed to practice in state and federal courts of both California and Nevada. With offices in Las Vegas and San Diego, Murphy Jones APC is ideally situated to represent clients throughout California and Nevada.

Kevin C. Murphy, Esq.

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3.) LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: AB366

AB366 seeks to make permanent and expand ignition interlock device (IID) requirements across all DUI offenders in California. Key elements include requiring IID installation for all first-time and repeat DUI offenders and extending current provisions indefinitely (they currently expire January 1, 2026).

On August 18, 2025, this bill was placed on the Suspense File in the Senate Appropriations Committee (7 Yes, 0 No)—a typical step for bills with fiscal implications, pending final decisions.

The Suspense File is where bills with potential budget impact are held temporarily in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill must clear this hurdle by being taken off the Suspense File—with either a recommendation to advance or to hold—before moving toward a full Senate floor vote.

Its fate now rests with the Senate Appropriations Committee, who must decide whether to move it forward for a full Senate vote.

4.) AWARDS PRESENTED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

At the Awards Luncheon at the 2025 Annual Kuwatch Conference, **President Richard Middlebrook** presented awards to two of our most distinguished and accomplished members.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's Award is given to a CDLA member in recognition of steadfast commitment to CDLA and to freedom, and for outstanding efforts in defending the accused that zealously guard our Constitutional rights. The recipient of this award has devoted countless hours this year providing financial reports at all Board meetings, monitoring our checking account, and dealing with various financial changes during the past 12 months.

The 2025 President's Award was awarded to CDLA Treasurer **Philip Gagnon**.

EDWARD KUWATCH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This prestigious award is given annually to a CDLA member who, over an extended period of time, has made significant contributions to the mission, goals, and growth of CDLA and who has had a substantial positive impact in the lives of hundreds of clients accused of driving under the influence and related offenses in his or her legal career.

- The CDLA member selected for this award has represented more than 7,000 individuals charged with DUI since 1985.
- He has been the lead counsel in more than 130 DUI jury trials in his 40-year career, and he is widely known and respected by prosecutors and judges as a tenacious advocate for his clients.
- He regularly attends the annual National College of DUI Defense (NCDD) seminar presented at Harvard Law School on DUI defense, and he is Dean Emeritus of the NCDD after having served for 12 years on its Board of Regents.
- He has co-authored the two-volume treatise California Drunk Driving Law since 2004 and is a graduate of the University of Indiana's comprehensive course on chemical testing and scientific protocols in DUI cases.

The 2025 Edward Kuwatch Lifetime Achievement Award recipient was presented to **Paul Burglin**.

Please extend your [congratulations](#) to Philip and Paul for receiving these major CDLA awards.

5.) 2025 ANNUAL KUWATCH CONFERENCE EVALUATION

A very impressive 37% (39/105) of attendees took the time to respond to a brief evaluation of the 2025 Annual Kuwatch Conference. Overall, the results for all questions were outstanding with several attendees indicating it was the best conference CDLA has ever offered.

- 98% stated the conference met their educational objectives
- 98% indicated the conference kept them informed and updated of their legal responsibilities.
- 100% said the conference contained significant professional content
- 100% were greatly satisfied (95%) or satisfied (5%) with the quality of customer service provided by Dr. Andersen and his wife before and during the conference
- 98% were greatly satisfied (85%) or satisfied (13%) with their overall conference experience
- All speakers received ratings very close to 5 (Excellent)

The Board of Directors will be reviewing all the feedback – including the many open-ended comments – to identify ways we may improve this conference in 2026 and future years.

6.) NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS IN AUGUST

MEMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	COUNTY
Jason Nielsen	jasen.nielsen@gmail.com	808-378-9158	Santa Barbara
Roberto Serrato	Roberto.serratolaw.com	209-658-0402	Merced
Nicole Tiger	NTiger@flawllp.com	415-453-9433 ext. 148	Marin
Alejandro Barraza	alex@thesblawoffice.com	714-351-1102	Riverside
Lynn Freeman	lynn@scafidlaw.com	775-544-9075	San Bernadino
Jose Gallegos	josegallegos@outlook.com	323-992-5902	Los Angeles
Trevor Donovan	trevor.c.donovan@gmail.com	760-945-4025	San Diego
Joel Brand	Joel@Joel.Law	510-343-5635	Alameda
Gabrielle Burnett	gabrielle@kerncountydui.com	949-292-9703	Kern
Neil Panchal	neilpanchallaw@gmail.com	909-244- 8668	San Bernadino

7.) THE LAST WORD: AI-GENERATED ATTORNEYS?!

FROM CHATGPT:

In late March 2025, a man named Jerome Dewald appeared pro se (representing himself) before the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division's First Judicial Department in an employment dispute.

- Dewald submitted a pre-recorded video for his oral argument. Instead of appearing himself, the video showed an AI-generated avatar—a digitally created well-dressed young man—speaking to the judges.
 - Nobody in the courtroom had been informed that the "lawyer" in the video was not a real person. As soon as the avatar began speaking, Justice Sallie Manzanet-Daniels paused and asked: *"Is that counsel for the case?"*
 - Dewald replied, *"I generated that. That's not a real person."* The judge was clearly displeased, stating, *"It would have been nice to know that when you made your application. You did not tell me that, sir. I don't appreciate being misled."* The court promptly terminated the video.
 - Dewald later issued an apology, explaining that his intention was to use the AI avatar because he struggles with public speaking, not to deceive the court. As of the latest reports, his appeal remains pending.
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Broader Implications

This incident marks a significant milestone in the clash between emerging AI tools and traditional court protocols. While AI-generated avatars might offer assistance, especially for those with disabilities or public-speaking challenges, courts are unlikely to accept them without clear disclosure and guidelines.

Legal experts warn that as such technology becomes more accessible, self-represented litigants might increasingly experiment with it—raising critical concerns around transparency, authenticity, and ethical use in judicial settings.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any CDLA membership issue.

Thanks.

Roger

Dr. Roger C. Andersen

Executive Director

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