

Statement of Ronald P. Goldman for Board of Governors Position District Four

My name is Ronald P. Goldman and I respectfully request your vote for the District Four Board of Governors position. I am running on a platform to “**raise the bar**” to achieve a Bar that is “friendlier” to its members, more relevant to what we all want from our Bar and financially prudent and responsible.

Like most Bar members, I am very concerned about the way the Bar spends my dues. I would approach the Bar budget with the desire to find ways to cut costs, lower the budget and yet ensure a high level of service to its membership and to consumers. I believe the outside consulting firm hired by the Bar as a result of the Pearl embezzlement to conduct third party audit review is a great first step. I would like the third party audit to be transparent in its findings and mandated to audit every Bar division to ensure fiscal integrity. I would approach the management and budget of the State Bar no different than I do with the Goldman Law Firm; frugality and a sense that money is a dwindling, not expanding resource.

The disciplinary arm of the Bar consumes close to 80% of the Bar’s general fund. I have personal experience with the discipline process and recognize the significant consumption of Bar and member time and money as a contested case progresses through the system. I would focus on significantly improving the current ADR process for contested cases. With an increase in fair and timely settlements (thus avoiding hearings and appeals) and by addressing other inefficiencies in the current discipline system, substantial cost savings should be achievable.

I believe the CalBar Connect discounts are a great start in allowing Bar members to realize discounts and benefits for products and services while at the same time generating sponsorship funds for the Bar (hence less dependence of Bar dues). I would strive to expand the program so that every Bar member would be able to match or exceed their bar dues with the savings from this new program. I suggest you visit CalBarConnect.com to check it out for yourself.

As for my bio: I am in my 29th year of practice, having practiced 4 years in San Diego, 16 years in San Francisco and 9 years in Marin. My practice consists of civil trial work throughout Northern California, primarily representing health care practitioners. I am a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, San Francisco and Marin County Bar Associations; County Service Area #16 (Greenbrae) and am on the Council of Visitors for California Western School of Law. I am also an assistant adjunct professor at UCSF School of Dentistry and UOP School of Dentistry.

Lastly, I wish to thank outgoing Board Member William N. Hebert, Esq. for his fine service to the State Bar.