

Another Successful Class Action Seminar

By Ingrid M. Evans, Seminar Co-Chair

On February 26, the 7th Annual Class Action Seminar was held at the Parc 55 Hotel in San Francisco. The speakers consisted of some of the preeminent class action attorneys in California and the event was co-moderated by Carolyn Cottrell and me. Our first speaker was Brian Kabateck, President of CAOC and Founding Partner of Kabateck, Brown & Kellner in Los Angeles, who talked about ethics in marketing and gave an interesting update on legislative issues. Our sponsor and General Counsel for Gilardi & Co, LLC, Dan Burke, San Rafael (www.gilardi.com) spoke about “Ethics in Claims Administration: The Importance of Neutrality and Transparency.” David Arbogast of Arbogast Bowen LLP in Los Angeles gave a passionate talk about representing victims of mortgage fraud and our responsibility to protect

“the American dream” when representing clients. Jon Gertler of Chavez & Gertler, Mill Valley, talked about “Strategies in Forum Selection in Wage and Hour Class Actions (in the era of CAFA, *Dukes* and *Conception*).” Eric Gibbs of Girard Gibbs LLP, San Francisco, talked about recovery and attorneys’ fees and the laws that apply. Michael Sobol, of Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP in San Francisco, gave an update about consumer finance class action and *cy pres* awards. Steven L. Williams of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP, Burlingame, gave a riveting presentation about the future of class actions. And Leslie Bailey, Public Justice, PC, Oakland, spoke about cutting edge issues and new decisions in the area of arbitrations, class actions and the Supreme Court. Public Justice has argued and briefed many state and federal court decisions on how to

oppose motions compelling arbitration and banning class actions. See their website for more information (www.publicjustice.net).

Our fantastic speakers were followed up with a judicial panel consisting of: Hon. Wynne Carville, Alameda County Superior Court Complex Judge; Hon. James Kleinberg, Santa Clara Superior Court Complex Judge; and Hon. Richard A. Kramer, San Francisco Superior Court (former) Complex Judge. The judges led a panel discussion and answered questions from the audience including questions about discovery, class action settlements, the impact of *Wal-Mart v. Dukes* and *Concepcion*. We thank them for the time they spent educating us on the issues and hearing perspectives from the bench, especially on what they like and don’t like to see in their courtrooms.

The class action seminar and reception following the seminar were made possible through the generous support of our sponsors: class action administrators, Gilardi & Co., LLC. (www.gilardi.com) and class action funding through Bank of the West (www.bankofthewest.com), also through the collaborative efforts of Consumer Attorneys of California College of Trial Arts, San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association and the San Francisco Bar Association. Thank you to each of them.

As usual, special thanks are due to SFTLA’s Executive Director, Juliette Bleecker, and CAOC’s Education Director, Lori Sarracino, for making this annual seminar a continuing success and for their tireless and dedicated efforts. ■



Ingrid Evans, Hon. Richard Kramer, Hon. James Kleinberg



Carolyn Cotrell, Juliette Bleecker and Kathryn Stebner



Brian Kabateck, Hon. Wynne Carville, Steven Williams, Ingrid Evans, Jenny Trang, Anthony Bourg



Amy Bach and Michael Cohen

Ingrid M. Evans of the Evans Law Firm in San Francisco (www.evanslaw.com) focuses on elder financial and physical abuse, consumer fraud class actions, *qui tam* and personal injury cases. Ms. Evans is on the Board of Governors for CAOC, AAJ and Public Justice.