

• FCLPA's Valley Verdict •



Thoughts from our President

On behalf of the Fresno County Legal Professionals Association (FCLPA), I want to thank each of you our longtime members and those just joining us for being part of the legal community.

Our association exists for one simple but powerful reason: *connection*. In a profession that can often feel fast-paced and isolating, FCLPA is a place where legal professionals come together to support one another, share knowledge, and grow both professionally and personally.

To our current members: your continued involvement, dedication, and willingness to show up for one another is what keeps this organization strong. Your experience, mentorship, and collaboration make a real difference, not only within our association, but across the legal community we serve .

To our new and prospective members: Welcome. You belong here. Whether you are just beginning your legal career or are a seasoned professional, this association offers opportunities to learn, network, lead, and build lasting professional relationships. We encourage you to get involved, ask questions, and take full advantage of what this community has to offer.

As we move forward, our focus remains on education, professional development, and fostering a supportive environment where every member feels valued and empowered.

Together, we will continue to elevate the role of legal professionals and strengthen the impact we have in our workplaces and our community.

Thank you for being part of FCLPA. I look forward to an exciting and successful year ahead together.

Warm regards,
Nicole Pacheco
President/Governor, FCLPA

In this newsletter you can expect:

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President

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Community News

INNA SHANKAR, ESQ.
FOUNDING SHAREHOLDER



Inna Shankar is a founding Shareholder of Shankar Legal Inc., where she provides strategic advisory and transactional legal services to education sector, private business, and non-profit clients. She also advises on commercial and residential landlord-tenant matters, overseeing the firm's municipal agency work, including eviction defense services through local government contracts. Drawing on more than 13 years of experience in employment, business, and landlord-tenant law, Ms. Shankar works closely with clients to anticipate challenges, resolve conflicts efficiently, and build legal strategies that strengthen their organizations for the future.

For private business and non-profit clients, Ms. Shankar has extensive experience in contract review and drafting, business formation, governance and dissolution, and landlord-tenant law. She also advises on California and federal employment law compliance, including wage and hour matters, and conducts complex workplace investigations.

For education sector clients, Ms. Shankar provides guidance on business office operations, student matters, and Special Education Law compliance. She conducts investigations into Title IX complaints, harassment, discrimination, and bullying for K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities. She drafts school and university policies, procedures, and collective bargaining agreements, and has significant expertise in CalSTRS/CalPERS retirement law.

Trained in trauma-informed investigation techniques and California-specific legal compliance, Ms. Shankar takes a holistic approach to investigations, from initial communications and risk mitigation to final reports and advising on subsequent employment actions.



FCLPA MONTHLY MEETING - FEBUARY 17, 2026 LOCATION: TBD

- VOTING OPPORTUNITY - WE WILL BE VOTING ON THE COMMUNITY PROJECT

FUNDRAISER

FEBRUARY 21, 2026 - VALENTINE'S DAY SALSA FUNDRAISER

SAVE THE DATE

- OCTOBER 17, 2026 - FCLPA'S SILENT AUCTION!!

MEMBERSHIP

- RENEW NOW SO THAT YOU DO NOT MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN AT A DISCOUNTED RATE!!!

ON DEMAND WEBINARS

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FREE EDUCATION

CONTACT US:

PRIMARY CONTACT:

TRACEY PARRISH AT: (559) 549-7369; ILEGALDP@GMAIL.COM

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Paralegal Spotlight



Paralegals play a vital role in the success of the legal profession. Join us in recognizing their hard work, commitment, and impact by submitting a nomination.



Donations for Silent Auction

Your donation makes a difference. By contributing to our Silent Auction, you help strengthen our legal community and support meaningful programs that benefit our members and the community we serve.

Suggested Topics for upcoming Newsletters:

We welcome your ideas for future newsletter content. If there are topics you feel would benefit our members or highlight our legal community, we encourage you to submit your suggestions.

Community Projects & Recommendations:

Giving back and lifting others up is part of who we are. Help us spotlight community projects and recommendations that reflect compassion, leadership, and service within the legal community.



BECOME A SPONSOR OF FCLPA

- SUPPORT. VISIBILITY. COMMUNITY IMPACT. THE FRESNO COUNTY LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION (FCLPA) AND THE VALLEY VERDICT NEWSLETTER ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL GROWTH, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITHIN THE LEGAL PROFESSION.
- WE INVITE INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO BECOME SPONSORS AND PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN STRENGTHENING OUR LEGAL COMMUNITY.
- SPONSORSHIP PROVIDES VITAL SUPPORT FOR OUR PROGRAMS, EVENTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND OUTREACH INITIATIVES—WHILE OFFERING MEANINGFUL RECOGNITION FOR THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE. AS A SPONSOR, YOUR NAME OR BUSINESS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED AS A VALUED SUPPORTER OF FCLPA AND OUR MISSION.

SPONSOR RECOGNITION

- ALL SPONSORS WILL RECEIVE RECOGNITION, WHICH MAY INCLUDE: LISTING ON FCLPA MATERIALS AND PUBLICATIONS RECOGNITION ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS ACKNOWLEDGMENT AT MEETINGS AND EVENTS INCREASED VISIBILITY WITHIN THE LEGAL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY
- FLEXIBLE SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS TO MAKE PARTICIPATION ACCESSIBLE, WE OFFER BOTH MONTHLY AND YEARLY SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS. WHETHER YOU PREFER ONGOING MONTHLY SUPPORT OR A ONE-TIME ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION, YOUR SPONSORSHIP MAKES A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE.
- SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE OPEN TO: BUSINESSES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS, LAW FIRMS AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS, COMMUNITY PARTNERS, AND SUPPORTERS, INDIVIDUALS WHO BELIEVE IN OUR MISSION.

JOIN US AS A SPONSOR BY BECOMING A SPONSOR

- YOU ARE NOT ONLY GAINING VISIBILITY YOU ARE INVESTING IN EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE LEGAL COMMUNITY IN THE VALLEY.
- WE ARE PRESENTLY OFFERING ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT IN HELPING FCLPA CONTINUE ITS IMPORTANT WORK. WE ANTICIPATE INTRODUCING MONTHLY SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FUTURE.



Community News

STRENGTHENING OUR PROFESSION
THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, CONNECTION,
AND COMMUNITY

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE LATEST UPDATES, MILESTONES, AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR LEGAL COMMUNITY. FROM MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS TO UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES, THIS SECTION KEEPS YOU INFORMED AND ENGAGED WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS THE VALLEY. AT THE HEART OF OUR ASSOCIATION IS A COMMITMENT TO SERVICE. BY GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY, WE STRENGTHEN NOT ONLY THOSE WE SERVE, BUT THE PROFESSION WE REPRESENT. THROUGH OUTREACH, VOLUNTEERISM, AND SUPPORT INITIATIVES, OUR MEMBERS MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT BEYOND THE WORKPLACE.

Thank you for reading!

FCLPA welcomes all new members and recommendations.