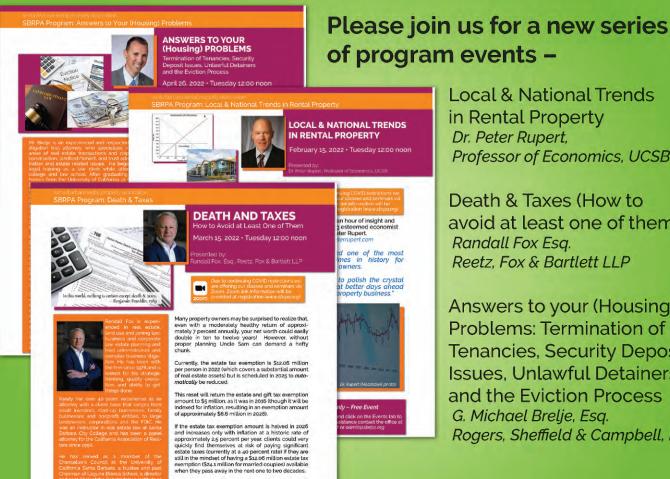


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of program events -

Local & National Trends in Rental Property Dr. Peter Rupert. Professor of Economics, UCSB

Death & Taxes (How to avoid at least one of them) Randall Fox Esq. Reetz. Fox & Bartlett LLP

Answers to your (Housing) Problems: Termination of Tenancies, Security Deposit Issues, Unlawful Detainers and the Eviction Process G. Michael Brelje, Esq. Rogers, Sheffield & Campbell, LLP

Register online at www.sbrpa.org

02-15-2022 SBRPA Program: Local and National Trends in Rental Property..... 03-15-2022 SBRPA Program: Death & Taxes – How to Avoid at Least One of Them









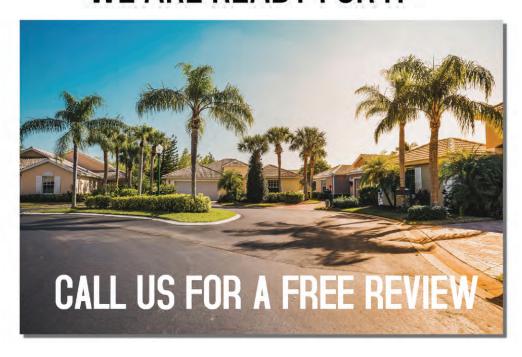


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February 2022

SBRPA President's Message
Calendar of Events 7 Upcoming Industry events – Virtual and Regular
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SBRPA Program: Local and National Trends In Rental Property
NAA (National Apartment Association)
SBRPA Program: Death & Taxes – How to Avoid at Least One of Them. 15 Randall Fox, Esq., Reetz, Fox & Bartlett LLP
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Directory of Products and Services

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President's Message

Betty L. Jeppesen Esq. • Attorney at Law and Real Estate Broker

February, 2022-What Will This Year Bring?

The Legislature was back in session beginning Monday, January 3, 2022 in its new office space in Sacramento with multiple, new committee members and Chairs. Buffy Wickes is the new Chair of the Housing Committee replacing David Chiu who left to become the City Attorney for San Francisco. Wickes is even more pro-tenant than Chiu.

Lorraine Gonzales left on Wednesday, January 5th and Nicola Parra left to pursue a Senate seat. The farewell gathering shut down the Legislature due to a positive COVID test by some attendees leaving only one staffer in the building as of Friday, January 7th.

There are several Assembly Bills to watch this term including AB916 by Salas which would increase the height of ADU's and JADU's from 16 feet to 18 feet and allow the addition of a bedroom without a public hearing. AB1862 would give density bonuses to developers. AB 1206 would allow welfare property tax exemptions for low income units. We will keep you informed of developments as they occur.

Locally, the question I have heard most frequently from my clients is whether the Declaration of COVID-19 Financial Distress still applies and can block Unlawful Detainer actions. The answer is it depends.

The COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act which is set forth in Code of Civil Procedure sections 1179.01-1179.07 for those of you who would like to look it up, was first enacted on August 31, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislative intent of the Act was to limit the authority of the courts to issue a Summons or enter a Default Judgment in an Unlawful Detainer action where the landlord is seeking possession of residential real property based on the non-payment of rent which means in common language that it effectively blocked an Unlawful Detainer action. BUT, it is only for non-payment of rent during certain time periods and does NOT apply to unpaid rent after October 1, 2021 at the expiration of the eviction moratorium.

The Act has twice been amended, first on January 29, 2021 and again on June 28, 2021. The "covered time period" means the time period from March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021. Initially, it applied to the "protected time period" which was from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020. Then, the "transition period" followed which was the time period from September 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021, just over one year.

If a landlord brings or brought an Unlawful Detainer action based on unpaid rent during the "protected time period" (3/1/20-8/31/20) and the tenant submitted or

submits a signed Declaration of COVID-19 Related Financial Distress to the landlord on or before the date the notice to quit expires, then the tenant cannot be evicted for non-payment of rent.

If the notice to quit is based on non-payment of rent during the "transition time period" (9/1/20-9/30/21) and the tenant delivers a signed Declaration of COVID-19 Related Financial Distress to the landlord on or before the date in the notice expires AND on or before September 30, 2021 the tenants tenders to the landlord payment of at least 25% of each rental payment that became due during that period, the tenant cannot be evicted FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RENT. This does not mean that the tenant cannot be evicted for other reasons.

The tenant gets one more chance to file the Declaration of COVID-19 Related Financial Distress. The tenant can file it with Court at the time that the tenant files his or her Answer to an Unlawful Detainer Complaint. The Court then sets a hearing to determine whether the Declaration applies.

So, Unlawful Detainer actions based on non-payment of rent due beginning October 1, 2021, are not precluded by the tenant providing a Declaration of COVID-19 Related Financial Distress either before the end of the time period in the Notice to Quit or with the tenant's Answer and our Court has been so ruling.

I hope this provides a little clarity to a very complex area of the law.

Let us hope that the Omicron variant has peaked and is on the wane; that the Legislature entertains more reasonable rules for landlords who have now been severely burdened for two years; and that we have a happy Spring.

Betty L. Jeppesen

President



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SBRPA Calendar

With new mask mandates and restrictions on in-person meetings and social interactions, our local events and seminars have been scheduled as Zoom meetings. Please contact us at 805-687-7007 or admin@sbrpa.org if you need assistance signing up for our class.

SBRPA Lunch Program: Local and National Trends In Rental Property 02-15-2022, Tue., 12:00 noon

Join SBRPA for an hour of insight and analysis featuring esteemed economist Dr. Peter Rupert, Professor, Department of Economics, at UCSB. Register online at www.sbrpa.org. See page 11 for more information.

SBRPA Lunch Program: DEATH AND TAXES - How to Avoid at Least One of Them 03-15-2022, Tue., 12:00 noon

In this world, nothing is certain except death & taxes. Benjamin Franklin, 1789.

Join us and learn about real estate taxes, presented by Randall Fox, Esq., Reetz, Fox & Bartlett LLP. Register online at www.sbrpa.org. See page 15 for more information.

SBRPA Lunch Program: Answers to Your (Housing) Problems

04-26-2022, Tue., 12:00 noon

Termination of Tenancies, Security Deposit Issues, Unlawful Detainers and the Eviction Process. G. Michael Brelje, Esq., Senior Attorney at Rogers, Sheffield & Campbell, LLP, will discuss these and other topics at this event. Register online at www.sbrpa.org. See page 19 for more information.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Year of the Tiger	2 22	1 Chinese New Year	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 SBRPA Lunch Program	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



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CalRHA Legislative Updates

Kate Bell, KateBellStrategies.com

January 2022

Budget Update

Governor Newsom unveiled his 2022-23 proposed state budget on January 10th. Shortly thereafter, the Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency conducted a stakeholder call where they highlighted aspects of the Governor's 2022-23 Proposed Budget specific to housing. Several of highlights are included below:



CA Governor Gavin Newsom

- Budget includes over \$1billion to accelerate housing - especially in downtown oriented places.
 Investments in the budget have twin goals of housing production and climate change.
- Budget will continue to help ADU production, as CalHFA is rolling out an ADU grant program this year
- \$500 million in Infill Infrastructure Grant Program
- \$100 million to convert commercial facilities into housing as well as state-owned housing
- \$200 million to preserve units in urban areas, including retrofits and electrification
- \$100 million for improvements to mobile homes
- \$200 million for Mixed Income Housing via loans to developers for mixed-income rental housing for households with incomes between 30-120% AMI
- \$500 million for the State Low Income Housing Tax Credit program
- \$1 billion for Mortgage Relief Reinstatement program that covers up to \$80,000 of past mortgage relief.

For additional proposed 2022-23 state housing budget details, please visit: https://www.ebudget.ca.gov/2022-23/pdf/BudgetSummary/HousingandHomelessness.pdf

Legislative Update

The Legislature reconvened on Monday, January 3rd. The Speaker announced several committee changes. In particular, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks was named Chair of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee.



CA Assemblyperson Buffy Wicks

Additionally, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
Maienschein was removed from the Housing Committee, while Assemblymembesr Chris Ward and Wendy Carillo (both Democrats) were added. Therefore, there is an additional Democrat and the makeup of the committee is now six Democrats and two Republicans.

On the first day back from session, the Assembly Appropriations Chair, Lorena Gonzalez, announced her resignation to join the Labor Federation. Assemblymember Chris Holden has been named the new Chair of the Appropriations Committee.



CA Assemblyperson Chris Holden

There are several two-year priority bills that have been set for com-

mittee hearings in January and which would need to pass by their house of origin by end of the month, including:

- AB 916 (Salas) The CalRHA sponsored bill, which would streamline bedroom construction by eliminating public hearings and increase ADU height limits from 16 feet to 18 feet on parcels that are multistory and multifamily. The bill is set in Assembly Housing and Local Government Committees on January 12th. YIMBY, SPUR, and the Housing Building Alliance all joined CalRHA in support of the bill.
- AB 834 (Lee) Withdrawal of Accommodations.
 AB 834 prohibits property owners who have owned rental accommodations for less than five

years from using or threatening to use the Ellis Act to withdraw rental accommodations and places other limits on the use of the Ellis Act. CalRHA is part of a larger coalition opposing the bill before its hearing in the Assembly Housing Committee on January 12th.

 AB 1241 (Jones-Sawyer) - Ban the Box for Rental Applications. Fortunately, we have heard that the author will be pulling this bill from the Housing committee hearing, which is the first CalRHA legislative victory of the year.

The deadline for new bills to be introduced is February 18, 2022, after which time we will have a better sense of most of the legislative fights we will be facing next year. In the meantime, Senator Glazer and forty other Legislators will be introducing a bill to increase the renters tax credit. Under the bill, more than 2 million renters



CA Senator Steve Glazer

would get much needed financial relief. The bill would increase the renter's credit for the first time since 1979 and reform the credit to give more help to single parents and the most vulnerable Californians.

Rent Assistance Update

Since the state applied to the U.S. Treasurer for \$1.9 billion in rent assistance money from the pot that is being reallocated from other states, the state has been awarded \$65



million for their first allocation and are in the process of submitting another request due at the end of the month.

As of January 11th, the state has given out over \$1.7 billion in rent relief, out of the nearly \$6.88 billion requested. CalRHA continues to work with HCD on the implementation and advocate for more funding to the program. For more information, please visit Housing is Key https://housing.ca.gov/.



ADDENDUM: Stakeholder phone call with the Business Consumer Services & Housing Agency highlighting aspects of Governor Newsom 2022-23 Proposed State Budget on housing.

Panelists on the call and their comments included:

Lourdes Castro Ramirez

Secretary, Business, Consumer Services & Housing Agency

The Blueprint builds on the Comeback Plan. More than half of CA renters are cost-burdened (spending more than 30% on rent and utilities). Therefore, the Governor's budget proposes funding to reduce homelessness and create more housing.

Sam Assefa

Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Budget includes over \$1 billion to accelerate housing - especially in downtown oriented places

Sasha Kergan

Deputy Secretary of Housing and Consumer Relations, Business, Consumer Services & Housing Agency

- Housing shortage impacts seniors, students, workers, and parents most.
- Investments in the Blueprint has twin goals of housing production and climate change.
- · Budget will transform existing buildings into housing.
- · The budget funds tax credits for housing.
- Will continue to help ADU production. CalHFA is rolling out an ADU grant program this year.

Gustavo Velasquez

Director, Dept. of Housing & Community Development (HCD)

- \$500 million in Inll Infrastructure Grant Program
- \$100 million to convert commercial facilities into housing as well as state-owned housing

Gustavo Velasquez (cont.)

- \$200 million to preserve units in urban areas, including retrofits and electrication
- \$100 million for improvements to mobile homes

Tiena Johnson Hall

Exec. Director, California's Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)

- ·\$200 million for Mixed Income Housing
- Loans to developers for mixed-income rental housing for households with incomes between 30-120% AMI
- \$500 million for the State Low Income Housing Tax Credit program
- \$1 billion for Mortgage Relief Reinstatement program that covers up to \$80,000 of past mortgage relief

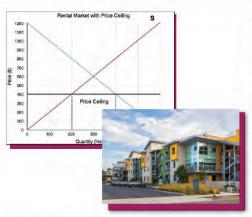
Sosan Modant with Lighthouse Public Affairs asked about aordable ownership production, which was requested in a joint letter by Habitat for Humanity, CBIA, and Realtors, but not included. Sasha pointed to the mixed use rental housing program, but said they could keep talking.

I asked about rental assistance and Amy Wilson said they were awarded \$65 million for their first allocation and are in the process of submitting another request due at the end of the month.

For additional budget details, please visit:

https://www.ebudget.ca.gov/2022-23/pdf/Budget Summary/HousingandHomelessness.pdf

SBRPA Program: Local & National Trends in Rental Property





LOCAL & NATIONAL TRENDS IN RENTAL PROPERTY

February 15, 2022 • Tuesday 12:00 noon

Presented by: Dr. Peter Rupert, Professor of Economics, UCSB

Current position:

ProfessorDepartment of Economics University of California, Santa Barbara

Executive Director, UCSB Economic Forecast Project

Associate Director, Laboratory for Aggregate Economics and Finance

Areas of specialization

Macroeconomics, labor economics, family economics.

Appointments

1986-1991	West Virginia University
1991-1993	State University of New York at Buffalo
1993-1994	Birkbeck College, University of London
1994-1995	University of Southern California
1995-2003	Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
2003-2004	University of Western Ontario
2004-2007	Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
2007-now	University of California, Santa Barbara
2012-2017	Chair, UCSB Department of Economics



Dr. Peter Rupert, speaks at a 2019 Economic Forecast Summit in Santa Barbara. (Noozhawk photo)



Due to continuing COVID restrictions we are offering our classes and seminars via Zoom. Zoom link information will be zoom provided at registration (www.sbrpa.org)

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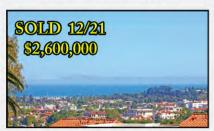
Historic Retreat Compound



Mixed-Use, Downtown Location



Hollister Ranch Development Parcel



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Independent Rental Owners (IROs)



National Apartment Association

What is an Independent Rental Owner (IRO)?

The National Apartment Association (NAA) defines an Independent Rental Owner (IRO) as an individual or individuals that are active in both the ownership and management of their properties.

Main Characteristics of IRO

- They have their own money invested in the property (with or without partners) and oversee Multifamily OR Single-Family housing.
- They are actively involved in the management of their properties.
- They self-identify based on the above criteria and not by portfolio unit count.

Considerations for IRO

- Membership is defined by experience and not by unit count. IROs may consist of less than 10 units and can exceed over 6,000 units given the size of the independent investor. Resources are provided based on all levels of experience specific for each member.
- Smaller sized properties and portfolios generally require a unique property management style, as opposed to the management style used for properties of larger unit count.
- IRO Education and Networking opportunities may also be beneficial for those that work for an IRO, such as property managers, managing directors and other employees or those that conduct business with IROs, such as supplier partners.
- Self-identification is an important part of being an IRO. The NAA IRO program is built around all facets of multifamily management and encourages learning and conversation with likeminded individuals.

Download the IRO Membership benefits brochure to learn more. https://www.naahq.org/sites/default/files/2021_iro_membershipflyer_rev.pdf

Emotional Support Animals – What IROs Need to Know. Reasonable accommodation requests for assistance animals—including emotional support animals—cause concern for apartment owners and operators. They affect an owner's ability to assess pet deposits and fees and to apply rules and policies to a resident's animal. Additionally, they expose owners to possible fair housing complaints. View the webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QktvHqGiDE8

Flexible and Vacation Rental Options for IROs.

Do you want to know the secret to successfully own, operate and market a vacation rental for maximum profit? In this webinar, learn how to properly select your market, how to advertise the property and how to keep it full booked and operational. Insights will be given into what works and what doesn't when you have your own vacation rental. Explore renovation costs, HOA fees and anything else that can impact your bottom line. View the webinar:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvMFlapMBTY

<u>Data Security for IROs.</u> For those who don't feel confident with the technologies and jargon involved, cybersecurity is a major headache. Learn simple steps you can take today to immediately improve your data security. Spot the ways you can be hacked, the types of data you need to protect and what you can do to prevent it from happening to you. View the webinar:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TZll584a0 M&feature=youtu.be

Fair Housing Concerns for IROs. View a webinar that provides a deep dive into trending fair housing issues affecting the industry, including reasonable accommodation requests for emotional support animals, occupancy standards and resident screening (including criminal and eviction history). Learn about the resources NAA has to offer to help face any challenge. View the webinar:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srCCjXD2h9E



JUST SOLD · 146 LOUREYRO RD · MONTECITO, CA 93108

The Steve Golis Team recently represented the buyer in the purchase of this five-home compound inspired by the vibrant architecture of Mexico's famed San Miguel de Allende. Located in Montecito's Coastal Zone, the property comprises a 5-bedroom main residence and four two-bedroom dwellings. The grounds feature walled courtyards, fountains, hand-carved woodwork, landscaping and three garages to accommodate more than six cars. The property, listed by Darcie McKnight & Thomas M. Dabney of Village Properties, received multiple offers yet the Golis Team successfully secured it for their client. This one-of-a-kind property ultimately sold for \$6,250,000 setting a record for the highest price per unit sale in the area.

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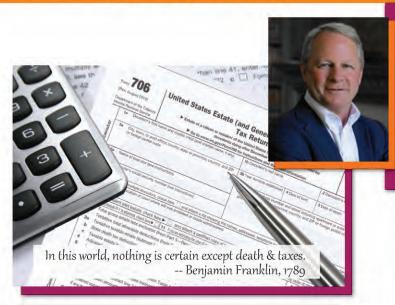
308 W. De la Guerra St. • 4 Units Downtown Offered at \$1,895,000

1317 Punta Gorda St. • Fully Entitled Development Offered at \$3,950,000

COMING SOON

Development Opportunity in Carpinteria Retail Space in Downtown Lompoc

SBRPA Program: Death & Taxes



DEATH AND TAXES

How to Avoid at Least One of Them March 15, 2022 • Tuesday 12:00 noon

Presented by: Randall Fox, Esq., Reetz, Fox & Bartlett LLP



Due to continuing COVID restrictions we are offering our classes and seminars via Zoom. Zoom link information will be provided at registration (www.sbrpa.org)



Randall Fox is experienced in real estate, land use and zoning law; business and corporate law; estate planning and trust administration; and complex business litigation. He has been with the firm since 1978 and is known for his strategic thinking, quality execution, and ability to get things done.

Randy has over 40 years' experience as an attorney with a client base that ranges from small investors, start-up businesses, family businesses and nonprofit entities, to large landowners, corporations and the FDIC. He was an instructor in real estate law at Santa Barbara City College and has been a panel attorney for the California Association of Realtors since 1990.

He has served as a member of the Chancellor's Council at the University of California Santa Barbara, a trustee and past Chairman of Laguna Blanca School, a director and past Chair of the Rehabilitation Institute at Santa Barbara, and a past director of the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, Zona Seca, and past trustee of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum. Fox currently serves as a trustee of the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum and of Exploring Solutions Past: The Maya Forest Alliance.

Many property owners may be surprised to realize that, even with a moderately healthy return of approximately 7 percent annually, your net worth could easily double in ten to twelve years! However, without proper planning Uncle Sam can demand a hefty chunk.

Currently, the estate tax exemption is \$12.06 million per person in 2022 (which covers a substantial amount of real estate assets) but is scheduled in 2025 to *automatically* be reduced.

This reset will return the estate and gift tax exemption amount to \$5 million, as it was in 2016 (though it will be indexed for inflation, resulting in an exemption amount of approximately \$6.6 million in 2026).

If the estate tax exemption amount is halved in 2026 and increases only with inflation at a historic rate of approximately 2.5 percent per year, clients could very quickly find themselves at risk of paying significant estate taxes (currently at a 40 percent rate) if they are still in the mindset of having a \$12.06 million estate tax exemption (\$24.1 million for married couples) available when they pass away in the next one to two decades.

Let's talk about techniques to reduce these potential taxes from become a reality for your estate.

Members Free, Non-members \$75

Go to www.sbrpa.org and click on the Events tab to register. If you need assistance contact the office at 805-687-7007 or admin@sbrpa.org

CELMAYSTER LISTINGS UPDATE

from Santa Barbara's native expert

JUST SOLD



6 E Valerio St, Santa Barbara

3BD/2BA Residence + 4 Short-Term Rental Units

Christos represented all parties in the sale of this substantially remodeled 5-unit rental property situated near the corner of State and Valerio. "Casa Valerio" consists of a second-floor, 1,363 square foot, 3BD/2BA residence with a two-car garage and two private decks, and four permitted short-term rental units on the ground floor.

Sold at asking price: \$3,300,000





Christos Celmayster

Partner

805.898.4388

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1815 San Andres St	3
536 W Pedregosa St	3
1369 Danielson Rd	2
802 N Voluntario St	2
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Mail Chimp Communications

To help keep everyone updated on the rapidly changing rental housing market, SBRPA is using MailChimp to send members emails. If you are NOT receiving emails: 1. check your spam folder, 2. if not in your spam folder, please notify us by emailing admin@sbrpa.org. Put your email address in the subject line.

Sat, Dec. 25, 2021 3:07 pm CalRHA Magazine

Mon, Jan. 10, 2022 11:30 7:49 PM CalRHA Call to Action





If you know of articles, events or programs that might be of interest to our members please let us know. You can call 805-687-7007 or email *admin@sbrpa.org*



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SBRPA Program: Answers to Your (Housing) Problems



Mr. Brelje is an experienced and respected civil litigation trial attorney, who specializes in the areas of real estate transactions and disputes, construction, landlord/tenant, and trust administration and estate related issues. He began his legal training as a law clerk while attending college and law school. After graduating with honors from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2003 with bachelor's degrees in Communication and Sport Management, Mr. Brelje obtained his Juris Doctor from the Santa Barbara College of Law in 2008. Mr. Brelje is admitted to practice before all Courts in the State of California and is a member of the State Bar of California, the U.S. District Courts for the Central and Eastern Districts of California, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. Brelje is also an active member of Santa Barbara legal community. He previously served County Bar Association for several years and is a current member, and was the former president of the Santa Barbara Barristers. As a contributor to the Santa Barbara Rental Property Association, he has lectured on, and authored numerous articles related to, Real Property law, Civil Litigation, and Landlord/Tenant relations and legal issues.

During his tenure, Mr. Brelje has worked on numerous complex civil and appellate cases in the areas of legal research, discovery, motions, trial and appellate preparation, and law and motion and trial appearances. He has also made oral arguments in the California Court of Appeal on behalf of his clients. Mr. Brelje focuses his practice in the areas of general and complex civil litigation, real estate law, landlord/tenant issues, construction law, trust administration and estate litigation, and condominium law.

ANSWERS TO YOUR (Housing) PROBLEMS

Termination of Tenancies, Security Deposit Issues, Unlawful Detainers and the Eviction Process

April 26, 2022 • Tuesday 12:00 noon

Presented by:

G. Michael Brelje, Esq., Rogers, Sheffield & Campbell, LLP



Due to continuing COVID restrictions we are offering our classes and seminars via Zoom. Zoom link information will be zoom provided at registration (www.sbrpa.org)

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What are a landlord's rights and responsibilities at this time? How do I legally terminate a tenancy? What is an Unlawful Detainer and the eviction process like these days?

What type of eviction cases are landlords finally able to bring forth against their tenants? What is the best course of action for collecting past due COVID-19 rental debt?

What security deposit implications and issues are there?

How to deal with difficult tenants that won't communicate and won't pay rent, or that are committing other "at fault" breaches of their lease.

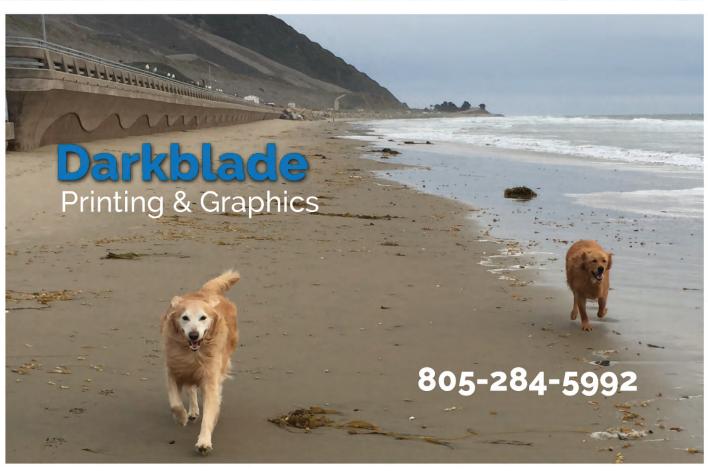
What if your tenant has been untruthful about COVID-19 impacts? What are YOUR options today? Should YOU proceed with an eviction at this time?

And, much, much more . . . including Q&A to follow the presentation.

Members Free, Non-members \$75

Go to www.sbrpa.org and click on the Events tab to register. If you need assistance contact the office at 805-687-7007 or admin@sbrpa.org





Santa Barbara Happenings



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City Welcomes Randy Rowse as Mayor

On January 11, Randy Rowse was sworn in as Santa Barbara's new Mayor, replacing Cathy Murillo. Rowse previously served on the City Council with Murillo for 7 years. Rowse is expected to bring a nonpartisan approach to the City and is focused on the revitalization of local businesses. He hopes to remove politics from City Hall.

Proposal to Reinstate Parent-Child Exclusion from Property Tax Increase on Transfers Moves Forward

Language in an initiative known as Repeal the Death Tax Act has recently been approved by the California Attorney General. It is now up to the public to generate enough signatures to get the initiative on the November 2022 ballot.

Proposition 58 allowed transfers of certain properties to be excluded from reassessment when that property is transferred between parents and children. After Proposition 19 became effective on February 16, 2021, California residents who receive real property from their parents are now taxed based on the full fair market value of the property, unless it is the primary residence of the parent and it is used by the child as their primary residence after transfer. If used as the child's primary residence, up to the first \$1 million is eligible for exclusion from reassessment. For uses other than a primary residence (e.g. rental housing, vacation home, or commercial property), there is no exclusion.

If passed, the proposed initiative will allow parent to child exclusions from reassessment (property tax increases) for owner and non-owner-occupied properties. It will also eliminate the \$1,000,000 limit that Proposition 19 imposed on primary residences and raise the limit from \$1,000,000 to \$2,400,000 of assessed value on properties other than the primary residence.

The proposed initiative requires approximately 1.3 million signatures by the end of April in order to appear on the November 2022 ballot.

California Assembly District 37 (Santa Barbara County) Seat Open

California is currently in the process of redistricting State Senate and Assembly Districts. The 37th District will no longer include western Ventura County. The newly formed district in Santa Barbara will be without an incumbent. At the time of this writing, there are three official candidates: Gabe Escobedo, Jonathan Abboud and past City Councilmember and current Santa Barbara County Supervisor Gregg Hart.

The primary election will be held on June 6, 2022 and the top two candidates will go against each other in the November 8, 2022 runoff election.

Mark Zuckerberg Joins the Exodus from California to Texas

Not long after Elon Musk moved Tesla to Texas, Mark Zuckerburg's company Meta (formerly Facebook) announced it will be leasing 33 floors of office space in Austin, Texas. Meta's new building will be part of Austin's largest building at 66-stories high. Meta has indicated that it will be looking to fill hundreds more jobs. California's high taxes, corporate regulations, and housing cost continue to push businesses out. According to Austin's Chamber of Commerce, 25 major companies have relocated to Texas as of November 2020, including Samsung Electronics and Oracle.

City of Santa Barbara Faces \$344.5 Million Unfunded Pension Liabilities and Santa Barbara County also in Red Ink to the Tune of \$1.1 Billion

In 1999, then-Governor Gray Davis signed Senate Bill 400 which gave public safety employees (including prison guards, park rangers, and highway patrol officers) substantial retirement benefits. Local governments then adopted the model, offering public safety employees the ability to retire at age 50 while still earning up to 90% of their highest salary in retirement. Pensions are paid out by government agencies and employees, and with returns on CalPERS (the State pension fund) investments. When the 2008 recession harmed investments, governments began to pile up pension liabilities. The City of Santa Barbara is now facing \$344.5 Million in unfunded pension liabilities.

Continued on page 23





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For 35 years, Coastal Housing Partnership has helped local employers attract, hire and retain valued employees by providing a suite of housing benefits. More than 60 local employers are members of Coastal Housing Partnership and employ over 45,000 local workers.

Santa Barbara Happenings from page 21

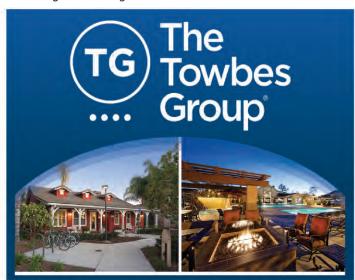
In 2022, the City of Santa Barbara will pay out \$32 million in pensions. With little control on how to make up the gap, the City is looking at different strategies to pay the liabilities.

The City's Finance Committee, and eventually the full City Council, will have to decide which route to take to stabilize the situation. The City of Santa Barbara Ordinance Committee is currently analyzing its pension plans. We are left to hope that our elected officials have the financial expertise to make the right decision, but the prospects for success are daunting.

According to the 2021 Grand Jury report, Santa Barbara County is also facing \$1.1 billion in unfunded pension liabilities. The Grand Jury has requested that the County and cities develop a plan by June of 2022 to address the solvency risks in these pension plans.

Santa Barbara Based Sonos Defeats Google in Patent Dispute

On July 6, 2022 the U.S International Trade Commission ruled that Google infringed upon local business Sonos' patents for synchronizing audio across multiple speakers. A cease-and-desist order was placed against Google in addition to a ban that would block any imports of products that infringe upon the patents. Sonos currently has two more patent-infringement cases against Google at the federal level. Go Sonos.



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Insider Trading by Government Officials: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi Makes Millions on Stock Trades of Companies She Regulates

Speaker Pelosi has personally gained up to \$30 million from stock trading on the big tech companies she oversees in Congress while blocking congressional efforts to rein in big tech. Questions surrounding insider trading have arisen.

An investigation by Insider found that 182 high ranking congressional staffers violated the law between January 2020 to September 2021. U.S Representatives have access to confidential, non-public information giving them an unfair advantage in trading. A bipartisan group of lawmakers are set to introduce the Ban Conflicted Trading Act which would prohibit buying or selling individual stocks and serving on corporate boards while in office. To no surprise, Pelosi opposes the ban on Congressional trading stating, "we are a free market economy."

While some members of Congress are torn on this issue, 76% of all U.S voters are in support of the ban.

UC Santa Barbara Student Develops Tool to Detect COVID-19 Variant – Is Omicron the End of COVID?

UC Santa Barbara doctoral student Zach Aralis has developed a test that can differentiate between the Omicron and Delta variants. The differences between these variants are responsible for Omicron's increased transmissibility, yet milder symptoms. Aralis has been able to collaborate with local healthcare providers as well as Santa Barbara County Public Health Department.

A study of patients infected with COVID in Pretoria, South Africa (the city where the first outbreak of Omicron occurred) revealed a short-lived wave with milder illness than earlier strains. If the pattern continues globally, researchers believe Omicron might mark the end of the COVID era.

Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties See Increase In Retail Crime

Data gathered by the Business Times from County Sheriff's departments indicates increases in commercial burglaries for the Tri-County Region. Complete crime statistics will be released from the federal government within the next few months. In Santa Barbara County alone, there were 138 commercial burglaries in the first 11 months of 2021. Any business can be affected by commercial burglary. The worsening and constant issue of retail crime is ultimately decreasing citizens' quality of life.



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PAINTING

Beau Brunner Painting

www.beaubrunnerpainting.com (805) 218-5251

Hermosa Painting

Bob.ulmer@verizon.net (805) 952-3418

PAVING

Central Coast Paving

justin@ccpave.com (805) 636-1200

PRINTING

Sundance Press

(520) 622-5233

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

DMH Properties

danielleholzer@dmhproperties.net (805) 962-3707

Bristol Property Management/ The Laurel Company

www.thelaurelco.com carolle@bristolsb.com (805) 963-5945

Meridian Group

www.meridiangrouprem.com (805) 692-2500

Sandpiper Property Management

www.sandpiperpropertymanagement.com

The Towbes Group

www.towbes.com (805) 962-2121

REAL ESTATE

Battaglia Commercial Real Estate

www.battagliare.com steve@battagliare.com (805) 688-5333

Beachside Partners

Lori Zahn lori@BeachsidePartners.com Beachsidepartners.com (805) 626-3150

Berkshire Hathaway Ken Switzer

www.realestatesb.com kswitzer@bhhscal.com (805) 680-4622

Coastal Housing Partnership

rentals.coastalhousing.org corby@coastalhousing.org

Hayes Commercial

www.hayescommercial.com christos@hayescommercial.com (805) 563-2111

Radius Group - The Golis Team

www.radiusgroup.com Steve Golis sgolis@radiusgroup.com (805) 879-9606

San Roque Realty

www.radiusgroup.com Ed@SanRoqueRealty.com (805) 687-1551

Spectrum Realty

www.spectrumrealty.com Ed@SanRoqueRealty.com (805) 681-6268

SOFTWARE

YARDI

www.yardi.com (805) 699-2040

WATER TECHNOLOGY

Sol Wave Water Steve Nipper

steve@SolWaveWater.com www.solwavewater.com (805) 845-5443



