



BAR BULLETIN

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January, 1992

Susan Brandt-Hawley elected president of Bar Association

by Beverly Riverwood

Susan Brandt-Hawley, the new president of the Sonoma County Bar Association, was profiled by the Press Democrat as the Environmentalists' Dragon Slayer.

A sole practitioner in Glen Ellen, Brandt-Hawley's general practice has increasingly focused on environmental law. She represents well-known groups like the Sierra Club and numerous associations whose names begin with "Friends of.." or "Citizens for" or with acronyms such as PuRePAC, S.M.I.R.F., and G.A.S.P.!

Brandt-Hawley graduated Phi Beta



New Bar president Susan Brandt-Hawley

Kappa in 1973 from San Diego State University where she majored in philosophy and minored in creative writing. An "Air Force brat," she has traveled widely throughout the United States and has lived in Sweden and Canada; she attended thirteen schools and colleges from grade school to graduation from UC Davis School of Law in 1977.

Her initial job as a law school graduate with Federal Defenders in San Diego led to a school in Cuernavaca, Mexico, to learn Spanish in preparation for a criminal defense attorney position. After passing the bar in November, 1977, she decided to return to Northern California and worked at the San Quentin Prison Law Office until the birth of her first son in July, 1978. She then opened her Glen Ellen office in March, 1979.

Susan is a well-known trial attorney well-known for her calm demeanor, thorough research, and vivid writing. She counsels other attorneys on the developing environmental law in California. Of the few local attorneys acting as private attorney-general in the public interest, she draws on her unusual "war stories" when teaching her environmental law class at Empire Law School in Santa Rosa. Her practice now extends through the Bay Area and beyond.

Aside from her Bar Association activities, Brandt-Hawley has donated time for many years as a pro tem small claims judge and as a Superior Court arbitrator and bench/bar settlement attorney. She also serves on the board of the California Preservation Foundation, a statewide organization devoted to preservation of historic buildings and places.

With her husband, Bill Hawley, a poet and winegrower, she settled in 1979 on "Random Ridge," 40 mountain acres located

1992 Superior Court Presiding Judge Luncheon

Thursday, January 23
Noon
Doubletree Hotel

The new presiding Judge
The Honorable
Lloyd von der Mehden

Chicken or vegetarian lasagne
\$16

RSVP by January 17, 1992
Sonoma County Bar Association
P.O. Box 1148, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

2300 feet above Glen Ellen where they built a home and reside with their two sons, Emile, and Zane.

Their vineyards are planted densely with "Bordeaux varieties" with permanent cover crop. Brandt-Hawley points out that sustainable agriculture at home is consistent with goals of her environmental legal work.

Family pastimes include surfing, vacations at the beach, taking the boys to soccer, or little league and gardening. Susan also loves to play basketball.

An avid reader and a member of a local womans' book group, she loves "poking around in bookstores."

As a leader of the Bar Association, with Sara Hews, her paralegal, Brandt-Hawley hopes to organize activities which will involve large numbers of bar members including education programs making the Bar "a prime mover as an MCLE provider of high quality and low cost."

Other programs will include community outreach seminars and continuing promotion of pro bono legal services.