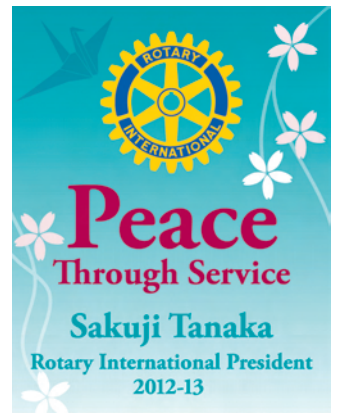


# ROTARY SPOKES

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## Access to Justice: What a Half Billion Dollar Reduction to the Judicial Branch Means

The full title of today's presentation is "Access to Justice: What a Half Billion Dollar Reduction to the Judicial Branch means for Court Users State-wide and in Ventura County in Particular." The tandem of speakers are from the Ventura County Superior Court.



Judge Brian Back has been a Judge of the Ventura County Superior Court since 1998 serving as Assistant Presiding Judge (2011-2012) and Presiding Judge (2013-2014). His current assignment is Criminal Law, and his past assignments have included Juvenile Delinquency, Family Law, Guardianship, Domestic Violence & Adult Mental Health Courts.

He was recently appointed to the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

He has served as Presiding Judicial Officer (1999- 2006) for Ventura County Juvenile Court (including Drug Court and Mental Health Court) and Ventura County Juvenile Justice/ Delinquency Prevention Commission.

Judge Back holds a J.D. degree from University of Santa Clara Law School, 1977; an M.A. (Government) from Claremont Graduate School, 1974 and a B.A. (Political Science) from Claremont Men's College, 1972.

His private practice has included Arnold, Back, Mathews, Wojkowski & Zirbel in Westlake Village and Oxnard; Arnold & Back in Westlake Village and Nordman, Cormany, Hair & Compton in Oxnard and Thousand Oaks.



Michael Planet currently serves as the Executive Officer and Clerk of the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura. He was appointed to this position in May, 2001. Prior to Ventura County, he served for 10 years as the Court Administrator of the King County (Seattle, WA) Superior Court,

and as Deputy Court Administrator for the Maricopa County (Phoenix, AZ) Superior Court. Mr. Planet was also Assistant Staff Director for the American Bar Association Action Commission to Reduce Court Costs and Delay, and began his career in court management as an Administrative Assistant for the District Court of Maryland for Prince Georges County.

Mr. Planet received a M.S. in the Administration of Justice from the American University, and a B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland.

He has been involved in a variety of professional activities both at the state and national levels. He is a member of the Judicial Council Court Executives Advisory Committee, and formerly served as its Chair. He is also a member of the Advisory Committee on Accountability and Efficiency for the Judicial Branch, and the Mental Health Issues Implementation Task Force, and has served on several other Judicial Council task forces and work groups. He served as a member of the California Judicial Council from 2007-2010. Mr. Planet is also a former volunteer mediator.

## Recap of April 24, 2013 meeting

President Indy handed over the reins of today's meeting to President-elect Irene Henry. Lucas Johnston led off with some words about the Boston bombings and a Dickens poem. Sonny Shah joined songleader Clyde Reynolds to deliver "God Bless America," chosen by Sonny as that's the only tune he knows all the words to. Lynda Girtsman asked club members to make sure their member information is updated including a photo. Please go to the club website to correct your info.

Jeannette Williams thanked Irene Henry for bringing her into the club to start her Rotary Moment. She then spoke of the people she has met outside of the club who know fellow Rotarians.

There was a brief presentation by the Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation president Larry Emrich for \$2,500.00 to the Harmony Project sponsored by the New West Symphony. The Harmony Project brings orchestral music into local grade schools.

President Indy acknowledged longtime member Jorge Arman's long association with our club, as well as his involvement in Rotary Clubs throughout the Americas.

### Program

Trent Gordon presented his organization Project WOO which seeks to provide coastal communities in Latin America with economic growth, wealth creation, employment opportunities and sustainable development.

As the organization's director, Trent's cofounding of the group arose from his love of travel and surfing. He developed a sense of travel with a purpose and saw places where tourism had a positive effect on a community. He saw that surfers, in search of the mythical 'perfect wave,' were often pioneers in great tourist resort destinations, such as Kuta Beach in Bali, or Mexico's Cabo San Lucas. While tourist development can improve the life of locals, threats to them can include soaring land prices, out-of-town competition, loss of local identity and a culture of dependency.

Trent showed images of their work in the small fishing village in Playa Gigante, Nicaragua, where Ventura Rotary has done some International Service work and is now collaborating with Project WOO. The group has a person

## Today's Agenda

*Judge Brian J. Back  
& Michael D. Planet*

### "Access to justice"

Introductions

*Betsy Chess*

Rotary Moment

*Michael Scar*

Fining

*Mystery*

living in Gigante to help coordinate on the ground there. They have organized a self-sustaining transit system to link this town of 500 to the nearest sizeable town of Tola, some 20 miles away. Now they are building a health clinic for which Ventura Rotary Club is assisting in the digging and installation of a well.



*Ventura Rotaractor Jen Livia invites members to attend the Paint Ventura event in Downtown Ventura.*



*Trent Gordon speaks to the club of the unique perspective of Project WOO on third world development..*





*JGMF Prez Larry Emrich and PE Irene Henry present the New West Symphony with funds.*



*Jeannette Williams uses her Rotary Moment to thank Irene Henry for sponsoring her membership.*



*Mark Kirwin introduces today's speaker with whom our club is collaborating on a Nicaragua project.*

## Upcoming Events

### Rotary Pancake Breakfast- ***VOLUNTEER!***

Avenue Senior Center

May 18, 2013 08:00 - 11:30 AM

### President Indy's Demo- tion

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Jun 18, 2013 05:00 PM



*Lucas Johnston leads off with an invocation and introductions.*



*Dan Holmes directs Kathy Wertheim in her headshots. Dan is providing this service to the club.*





*This image from November 2011 shows Curtis Cormane sitting on the beach at Playa Gigante, Nicaragua.*



*President Indy wpeaks with former Club President Jorge Arman, who has been a member since 1964.*



*Sally Crain, along with Poinsettia Pavilion Executive Director Carol Shiells, auctions off tickets to the upcoming facility fundraiser.*

### Rotary Club of Ventura 2012-2013

#### Officers

President	Indy Batra
President Elect	Irene Henry
Secretary	Jim Deardorff
Recording Secretary *	Larry Emrich
Treasurer	Connie Young
Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
Immediate Past President	Lynda Girtsman
	*Non-Voting Position

#### Rotary Spokes

Editor	Curtis Cormane (curtisvta@gmail.com)
Assitant Editor	
Photographers	Jim Deardorff, Dan Holmes, John McConica II

#### Avenues of Service

##### Club Service

Director	Dan Holmes
Assistant Director	Mario de la Piedra

##### Community Service

Director	Ellyn Dembowski
Assistant Director	Ron Calkins

##### International Service

Director	Ed McCombs
Assistant Director	Christina Rust

##### New Generations

Director	Gary Young
Assistant Director	Courtney Lindberg

##### Vocational Service

Director	Doug Halter
Assistant Director	Lynda Girtsman