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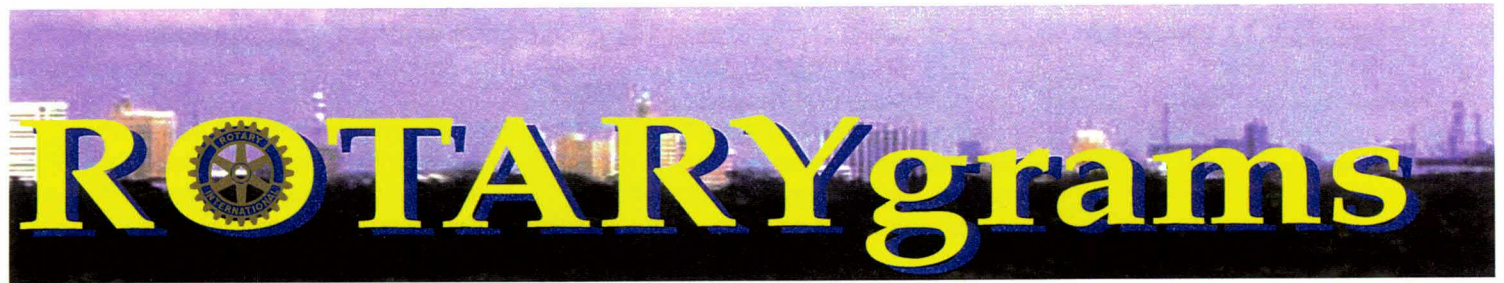


Photo by Steve Buser

A Publication of the Rotary Club of Beaumont, Texas - Club 72

Vol. 95 No. 44, June 21, 2006

## THE VANISHING JURY SYSTEM



**Jay Old** is a partner with the firm of Germer Gertz, L.L.P. He is a native of Beaumont who began his legal career at Andrews & Kurth, L.L.P.

in Houston in 1988 and joined Germer Gertz, L.L.P. in 1996.

Jay has been a first-chair trial lawyer in a variety of litigation matters, including medical malpractice, products liability and premises liability cases. He has extensive experience in toxic tort litigation, professional liability (medical and legal malpractice), com-

mercial litigation, construction litigation, insurance coverage and alleged "bad faith" cases. He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Supreme Court of Texas, all Texas courts, the United States Districts Court for the Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of Texas, as well as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

His activities within the legal community include the preparation and creation of several peer reviewed legal articles and service as a

*(Continued on page 2)*

## HEADTABLE



INVOCATION  
**PHIL DUNLAP**



PLEDGE  
**S. L. GREENBERG**



4-WAY TEST  
**DAVID LOCKE**



GUEST INTRODUCTION  
**LAURIE RITCHEL**

*Chicken Primavera & London Broil*

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**Future Programs**

June  
28<sup>th</sup> President Terry's Swan Song  
July  
5<sup>th</sup> No meeting

**Make-ups**

**Monday:**

No. Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69  
Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank

**Tuesday:**

Spindletop.....Holiday Inn 11th St.  
Orange.....Sunset Grove  
Port Neches.....Pompano Club

**Wednesday:**

Groves.....Pompano Club

**Thursday:**

Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

**Friday:**

Nederland.....Sanderson's

**On-line:** [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org)  
(limit 3 times in each quarter)

**REVIEW**

Alberto Bilton, a Vice President with JPMorgan Chase Bank who specializes in foreign currency transactions, addressed our club regarding a wide array of economic issues affecting our economy. Forecasted economic growth in China and India is having a profound effect on much of the world's economy, with such effects felt in the energy market in particular. Bilton projects that interest rates will move slightly higher in the United States this year, then stabilize for a period of time, but in Europe he projects interest rates to rise quite dramatically this year. The Euro and the New Zealand dollar are currencies that can be attractive investments for educated investors.

He attributes the rise in interest rates in the United States during the past year to excess liquidity in the market, which in many parts of the country could be seen in speculative real estate transactions. For example, he cited a condominium project where one condominium was bought and sold three times before ground

was ever broken for the project.

Our central bank, the Federal Reserve, has been increasing short-term interest rates in an attempt to lower the economy's excessive liquidity and thus stave off inflation. While the Fed uses a variety of quantitative and statistical data to make such decisions, Bilton also explained that some of their decision making is certainly based on subjective data, including sentiment. Most central banks desire economic growth of between 3 and 5 percent per annum. China and India each expect growth closer to 10 percent, illustrating the effect that each of these countries is having on our world economy, especially when one considers the large populations of these countries.

After the meeting, Bilton commented to several Rotarians how friendly everyone in Beaumont seems to be, and how much he enjoyed his visit here. We thank **Doug Chase** for arranging this interesting and timely program for us.

*(Continued from page 1)*  
speaker at numerous Continuing Legal Education seminars. A member of the College of the State Bar of Texas, Jay will be President of the Texas Association of Defense Counsel in 2006-2007. He currently is its President-Elect. He is serving a three-year term on the State Bar's Court Rules Committee and is a member of the Supreme Court Task Force to Expand Legal Services Delivery.

He is also active in the Defense Research Institute and serves as a member of the Jefferson County Bar Association Board of Directors. He is a previous member of the Con-

struction Law Section Council for the State Bar of Texas (currently its Legislative Affairs representative) and remains active in several State Bar sections.

Jay enjoys his work on the board of the Symphony of Southeast Texas and is Chair of the Trustees at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Jay's primary emphasis is in personal injury, products liability, toxic tort, construction litigation, and insurance litigation. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University (B.S., cum laude, Political Science, 1985) and Texas Tech University School of Law (J.D., magna cum laude, 1988, Order of the Coif).

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# BIRTHDAYS

For the first time in our experience, there are no birthdays to report for the upcoming week.

Since the first regularly scheduled meeting of the new Rotary year falls the day after July 4<sup>th</sup>, President-Elect **Gerald** has decided to postpone his installation until July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and give the club a "walk" on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Because we will not publish a *Rotary-Gram* for July 5<sup>th</sup>, we will list the birthdays for June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup> in this issue and the birthdays for the July 5<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup> in the June 28<sup>th</sup> issue.

## 28<sup>th</sup> Joe Broussard IV (98)

Shareholder,  
Mehaffy & Weber



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Notre Dame University and Baylor University School of Law. He and his wife Johnnie are the parents of Kate, Beth

and Joe, and are members of St. Anne Catholic Church. He enjoys hunting, fishing and investments.

## 28<sup>th</sup> Andy Burns (94)

Vice President,  
Burns Properties

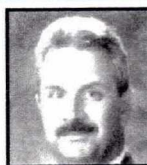


Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Mitzi are the parents of Drew and Ellie, and are members of St. Anne Catholic

Church. He enjoys playing golf, hunting and fishing.

## 28<sup>th</sup> Ken Dollinger (97)

Justice of the Peace,  
Justice Court Precinct 1, Place 1  
Born in Austin, he is a graduate of Lamar University and South Texas College of Law. He is the father of



Jaclyn, and is a member of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. He enjoys competitive shooting.

## 28<sup>th</sup> Marvin Dunnam (97)



Born in Angleton, he and his wife Connie are the parents of Kelvin and Lori, and are raising their two wonderful grandchildren Priscilla and Andrew. He enjoys hunting, fishing and cooking.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Frisbie (04)

Director of Criminal Justice Program,  
Lamar University



Born in Fort Worth, she is a graduate of Austin College, the University of Texas at Arlington and Sam Houston State University. She is a member of New Light Christian Center Church.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Steve Lucas (01)

Vice President - Business Relationship Manager, Wells Fargo Bank



Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Robin are the parents of William and Andrew, and are members of Wesley United Methodist Church. He enjoys fishing.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Charlie Gibbs (98)

Owner/President,  
Cameo/Sabine Neches Travel



Born in Houston, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Cindy are the parents of Andrea and Morgan, and

are members of Calvary Baptist Church. He enjoys playing golf.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Jane O'Hanlon (06)

SETX Regional Coordinator,  
Bridges to Life



Born in Lindsberg, Kansas, she is a graduate of Brown Mackie Business College. She and her husband Keith are the parents of Heidi Ann and Wil-

liam Wesley, and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. She enjoys dog shows and agility and obedience trials with her Pomeranian dog Sparkie.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Pat Anderson (02)

Sales,  
Becker Printing



Born in Beaumont, he attended Lamar University and Sam Houston State University. He and his wife Amy are the parents of Jenna, Jesseca, Jody,

Pat Jr. and Jennifer, and are members of Northend Baptist Church. He enjoys playing golf, flying, and boating.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Frank Maida (87)

Senior Attorney,  
Maida Law Firm



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Texas Christian University. He and his wife Laure are the parents of Mary Frances, Jonathan and Caroline, and are

members of St. Anthony Cathedral. He enjoys playing cards. Frank is a Paul Harris Fellow.

*I am deeply grateful to all of my Rotarians for their prayers and concern since the loss of my Mother.*  
Alexine

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