

**Bench-Bar Coalition**  
**Quarterly Membership Meeting**

Monday, January 27, 2025

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting Room

**Agenda**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 27**

4:00 – 4:05 p.m.

**Welcome**

*Hon. Audra Ibarra, cochair*

*Mr. Philip Nulud, cochair*

4:05 – 4:50 p.m.

**Presentation: Security Awareness in the Judicial System**

*Judge Andrew Cooper, Los Angeles Superior Court*

*Eddie Gonzales, Judicial Council of California*

*Judge Russ Roeca, BBC Executive Committee*

*Mr. Alexandar Rufus-Isaacs, BBC Executive Committee*

**For Legal Community Updates please see attached materials**

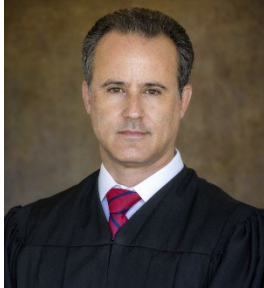
**Calendar Review**

- Monday, April 28, 2025: Quarterly Membership Meeting
- TBD Legislative Day in Sacramento
- Monday, July 28, 2025: Quarterly Membership Meeting

# B I O G R A P H I E S

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## JUDGE ANDREW E. COOPER



Judge Andrew Cooper has served as a judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court since 2015. Judge Cooper serves as Chair of the Los Angeles County Court Security Committee. He established the court's first Threat Intelligence Unit which operates as part of the Joint Regional Intelligence Center. Judge Cooper is a member of the California Judicial Council's Court Security Advisory Committee and The Association of Threat Assessment Professionals.

Recognized as an expert on judicial security, Judge Cooper routinely consults with court personnel and fellow judges regarding personal and court security matters, threat assessments, privacy protection, and emergency planning.

Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Cooper was a prosecutor with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office where he served in the Hardcore Gang Division. Judge Cooper is also a retired Deputy Sheriff reserve. During his 18-year tenure with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, amongst a multitude of assignments, he served as a team leader in the Dignitary Protection and Counter-Terrorism Units.

Judge Cooper teaches judicial security and privacy protection for Judicial Education Seminars (JES), the California Judges Association (CJA), and is on the faculty of the B.E Witkin Judicial College of California.

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## EDDIE GONZALES



Eddie Gonzales is a Security Coordinator with the California Judicial Council's Security Operations Unit. Eddie provides emergency and security support to the trial courts and Judicial Council, works with trial court administrators and sheriff's departments to improve security at existing courthouses, and acts as a security advisor to designers and architects to ensure new courthouse construction projects include the highest level of security. Eddie serves as a staff instructor, travelling throughout the state giving classes on security procedures and emergency preparedness to judicial officers, court staff, sheriff's personnel, and justice partners. Prior to working for the Judicial Council Eddie was the Security and Safety Coordinator for the San Joaquin Courts, a Police Officer, and served in the U.S. Army where he was a Military Police Officer with multiple specialties to include being a Terrorism Liaison Officer and Physical Security Specialist.

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## JUDGE RUSSELL S. ROECA



The Hon. Russell S. Roeca was appointed to the San Francisco Superior Court in 2020 by Governor Gavin Newsom. Since his appointment he has presided over civil jury trials and spent two years at the Hall of Justice handling the Mental Health and Parole Courts. Judge Russ Roeca is a member of the Executive Committee of the Statewide Judicial Mentorship Program and chairs the San Francisco Superior Judicial Mentorship Program. He also serves on the court's Settlement Conference Committee.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Roeca was the founding partner of boutique AV rated Roeca Haas Montes De Oca LLP, an active trial lawyer and certified mediator. He tried dozens of cases to jury verdict, court trials, and arbitrations, binding and non-binding. His professional liability practice included representing attorneys, in various capacities, including efforts to recover rightfully owed attorney fees or in defense of professional liability litigation and disciplinary investigations and trials before the State Bar of California. Judge Roeca also represented former clients of attorneys. He was certified by the State Bar of California as a specialist in Legal Malpractice Law. He was also a certified mediator and successfully mediated many matters to resolution. He served the Superior Court for many years as a Settlement Conference Officer. Judge Roeca was named a "Super Lawyer" by his colleagues in the profession since 2006 and was rated AV Preeminent by Martindale Hubbell.

Judge Roeca has always been active in the community. He served from 1996 through 2005 as a Commissioner on the San Francisco Fire Commission, appointed by Mayor Willie Brown. He served many years on multiple committees and on the Board of Directors and then as President of the Bar Association of San Francisco in 2009. He previously served as a member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California from 2001 to 2004. Judge Roeca was also a member of the State Bar Committee on Professional Liability Insurance and served as co-chair from 2010 through 2012. He served on the State Bar Insurance Disclosure Task Force and on the State Bar's Council on Access & Fairness as a founding member chairing its Judicial Committee. He served as BASF's liaison to the Bench Bar Coalition and in 2011 the Bench Bar Coalition named him Bar Leader of the Year. He also was honored to receive the 2010 Myer J. Sankary Lawyer of the Year, Small & Solo Firms, by the State Bar of California.

Judge Roeca received his B.A. degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1976 and his law degree from the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco in 1980. He was admitted to practice in California state and federal courts, and the United States Supreme Court.

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## ALEXANDER RUFUS-ISAACS



Alexander was born in England and went to school in London. He graduated from Oxford University with a degree in History and began his legal career as a barrister in London in 1982. He conducted around 100 trials, both civil and criminal, before he moved to Los Angeles in 1987. He was admitted to the California bar in 1988 and has been in private practice as a litigator ever since with Arter & Hadden, Rosenfeld Meyer & Susman, and Glassman Browning & Saltsman. In 2010, he co-founded Rufus-Isaacs Acland & Grantham and manages the firm which consists of 6 lawyers.

His first specialization was insurance law, primarily representing the London insurance market (aka Lloyd's). Currently, he specializes in entertainment and business disputes and handles many high profile plaintiff-side defamation suits. Many of his cases have international dimensions and he retains strong links with the UK.

He is President of the Beverly Hills Bar Association for 2023-2024, has been selected as a Super Lawyer for 2017-2024 by Southern California Super Lawyer Magazine, and as Lawyer of the Year for Copyright in 2023 in LA by Best Lawyers. As BHBA president, his focus has been on increasing mentoring, pro bono opportunities and participation in legislative affairs, as well as social activities ranging from surfing classes to theater outings.

Alexander has been active in many other bar and community associations. He was president of the British American Business Council, Los Angeles, and a long term director and officer of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, Los Angeles. He co-founded the British American Bar Association of Southern California, and is an honorary life member of the Lord Reading Law Society in Montreal. He also participates in mock trials for students organized by Teach Democracy, formerly known as the Constitutional Rights Foundation).

Alexander is married with 2 dogs and lives in Malibu. His favorite leisure activities are standing in a river waving a stick, i.e., fly fishing, and following Chelsea, the English soccer team.

## **Bench-Bar Coalition**

Legal Community Partners Updates

January 27, 2025 Quarterly Meeting

1. Organization Name

**CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA BAR ASSOCIATIONS**

2. What has your organization accomplished since the last BBC meeting?

Several CCBA sponsored bills have been enacted. We held our 90th Conference of Delegates meeting. We recognized Cory Jaspersen as our Friend of the Conference award recipient.

3. Is there something new you are working on that would be of interest to the BBC membership?

We will be selecting our 2025 legislative agenda

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Legal Community Partners Updates

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1. Organization Name

**CALIFORNIA JUDGES ASSOCIATION**

2. What has your organization accomplished since the last BBC meeting?

CJA had a tremendous legislative year as several long-standing legislative issues were successfully passed which helps improve judicial security and access to justice for many litigants. Briefly, these bills include the successful signing of four CJA Sponsored bills: AB 1785 (Pacheco) on judicial security, AB 2049 (Pacheco) on motions for summary judgment - which was co-sponsored with the Conference of CA Bar Associations and the California Defense Counsel, SB 1005 (Ashby) on youth, teen, and peer courts for juveniles, and SB 1025 (Eggman) on eligibility for military diversion. CJA also supported AB 1755 (Kalra and Umberg) which sought to reform the civil procedures of lemon law cases that over the past decade have swelled from 4,300 filings in 2015 to over 24,000 filings in 2023. CJA is proud of our legislative accomplishments and look forward to working with BBC members on legislation in the coming year.

3. Is there something new you are working on that would be of interest to the BBC membership?

CJA is beginning to develop our sponsored legislative package for 2025 and look forward to providing an update to the BBC membership at future meetings.

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Legal Community Partners Updates  
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1. Organization Name

**STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA**

2. What has your organization accomplished since the last BBC meeting?

Stabilization of State Bar's finances via an \$88 fee increase and a host of other legislative changes including mandatory bank reporting regarding both IOLTA and non-IOLTA trust accounts and related funding to expand client trust account auditing.

3. Is there something new you are working on that would be of interest to the BBC membership?

SB 940, directing the State Bar to establish a certification program for mediators and arbitrators, was signed by the Governor. The State Bar will begin implementation activity in the near term.