2014 the year in review
Dear Supporters:

This is my last announcement as the President of the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers’ Charities. As I sit down to write this announcement, I am struck by a profound sense of sadness that my term has come to an end. Yet, at the same time I am grateful for the respite that I will get to spend more time with my family and to focus on my law practice. I never imagined that serving as President of LATLC would be so rewarding in terms of personal and professional satisfaction. I have met so many new friends, reconnected with old ones, and developed deeper relationships with those I have known. When I first assumed the position, I asked myself why would I knowingly sacrifice what precious little time I had to be away from my family and my law practice to help complete strangers and lose a significant portion of my income? But then I recall what Christine Spagnoli and Christopher Dolan have said, you serve because those before you have served. This is what Trial Lawyers do; we give unconditionally. When it’s your time, you make the personal sacrifices to help the group. Having completed my term, I can unequivocally say that besides marrying my high school sweetheart and having two beautiful children, this ranks at the top of what I have done to date. I am grateful, honored, and humbled for the opportunity to serve you all this past year.

Unquestionably, 2014 was a banner year for LATLC. We raised our profile; we helped those in need; we held great events; and we grew as an organization. Please bear with me as I recap the year as we were busy.

But first, let me thank all the directors, officers, Honorary Board of Governors, corporate sponsors, volunteers, family, friends, and guests who made 2014 possible. Without your support, 2014 would not have been what it was.

In 2014, we remained steadfast in our mission to help and support education, children, battered women, and people who are homeless in Los Angeles County. We also renewed our commitment to you that we would be responsible, transparent, and honor the confidence that you have entrusted in us to act as your ambassadors. Each of us vowed to never take a salary or even seek personal reimbursements for miscellaneous items such as parking and meals. We opened our books to all directors and officers to review. We knew that when you entrusted us with your money that you wanted it spent wisely and on those who need it. Therefore, one of the first items of business was our pledge that we would announce annually the income and expenses to everyone and provide a recap of events.
REVENUE:

Honorary Board of Governors $234,519.00
Casino Night $115,014.00
Golf Tournament $49,576.00
Cy Pres Awards $2,381.00
Juris Production Poker Tournament $5,600.00

TOTAL NET REVENUE $407,090.00

Our administrative expenses were 5.1%, an increase of 3%. But given the increased size of the board (discussed below), the costs to provide insurance to protect those volunteers who freely gave their time, and to provide them with the necessary tools to be good ambassadors, the increase in expenses was justified.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:

Advertising/Promotion $2,653.00
Bank Service Charge/Credit Cards Processing Fees $2,072.00
Insurance* $4,375.00
IT Support $324.00
Website** $5,998.00
Corporate Filing/Accounting $1,255.00
Office Expenses $1,441.00
Office Supplies/Stationary $2,611.00

TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES $20,729.00

*LATLC carried $5M in general commercial and non-owned auto insurance. Additionally, we purchased special riders for Casino Night and the Golf Tournament for the protection of our guests.

**This payment purchased three (3) years of website hosting and maintenance.

All the officers and directors were volunteers. No one was paid and no personal expenses were reimbursed. We donated our time, energy, and money.
Total Charitable Giving

In total, we granted $281,899 to our partner charities and the community, in fiscal year 2014:

$10,000 to Clare Foundation, Inc., http://www.clarefoundation.org/,
$10,000 to Downtown Women's Center, http://www.dwcweb.org/,
$10,000 to Ocean Pacific Community Center, https://www.opcc.net/,
$10,000 to Los Angeles Mission, https://losangelesmission.org/,
$10,000 to St. Anne's, http://www.stannes.org/,
$10,000 to Vista Del Mar Family and Children Services, http://www.vistadelmar.org/,
$10,000 to Youth Mentoring Connection, http://youthmentoring.org/,
$5,000 to Clothes the Deal, http://www.clothesthedeal.org/,
$5,000 to Kiwanis Club of Warner Center Foundation, http://kiwaniswarnercenter.org/,
$5,000 to M.U.S.I.C., http://www.the-music-foundation.org/,
$5,000 to The Rape Foundation, http://therapefoundation.org/,
$5,000 to Toberman Neighborhood Center, http://www.toberman.org/,
$5,000 to Venice Community Housing Corp., http://www.vchcorp.org/,
$5,000 to Westchester Family YMCA, http://www.ymcala.org/westchester,
$2,500 to Advance Project, http://www.advancementproject.org/,
$2,500 to Alliance College Ready Public Schools, http://www.laalliance.org/,
$2,500 to Blind Children's Center, http://www.blindchildrenscenter.org/index.php,
$2,500 to CASA Los Angeles, http://www.casala.org/,
$2,500 to Imagine LA, http://www.imaginela.org/main/index.html,
$2,500 to Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation, http://www.pcrf-kids.org,
$2,500 to Reseda High School, http://www.resedahs.net/,
$2,500 to St. Baldrick's Foundation, http://www.stbaldricks.org/,
$2,500 to Team Prime Time, https://teamprimetime.org/,
$2,500 to Westside Center for Independent Living, http://www.wcil.org/
$2,500 to US Vets, Inc., http://www.usvetsinc.org/, and
$1,000 to AVIVA Family and Children Services, http://www.avivacenter.org/,

In addition, we donated $10,000 to Venice Family Clinic, http://www.venicefamilyclinic.org/ on December 31, 2013 which was delivered in January 2014.

The Board also authorized the following amounts for the below partnered charities at its November 2014 board meeting for delivery in January 2015:

$20,000 to Vista Del Mar Family and Children Services, http://www.vistadelmar.org/,
$10,000 to Venice Family Clinic, http://www.venicefamilyclinic.org/,
$10,000 to Inner City Law Center, http://www.innercitylaw.org/,
$10,000 to March of Dimes, http://www.marchofdimes.org/,

Food Donation

With P.J. Javaheri's assistance, we gave away 4,745 pounds of meat to the LA Mission which had a wholesale value of $48,000. With this donation, we fed over 10,000 people.
In our effort to broaden our reach and maintain a continuing presence in the community, we launched the Youth Sports Sponsorship Program wherein we made financial donations to organized youth sports and high schools in LA County in exchange for hanging our banners at the park or at the school. This program was in its first year and was a tremendous success. We had our banners at the following locations which had high visibility:

- Cal Ripken Babe Ruth Baseball at Heartwell Park in Long Beach (one of the largest parks in Long Beach where residents walk, run, and ride bikes);
- Cleveland High School in Reseda;
- West Long Beach Little League at Hudson Park and Silverado Park in Long Beach;
- Cabrillo High School in Long Beach (our banner faced the front of the school off the main street and entrance);
- Jordan High School in Long Beach (our banner faced the front of the school off the main street and entrance);
- Polytechnic High School in Long Beach (our banner was placed on the Tony Gwynn Baseball Field next to a Chase Utley (MLB Philly baseball player) banner);
- Millikan High School in Long Beach;
- Lakewood High School in Lakewood;
- Redondo Beach Little League in Redondo Beach;
- Arcadia American Little League in Arcadia;
- East Long Beach Pony at Heartwell Park;
- Venice High School;
- Notre Dame High School;
- Chaminade High School;
- Granada Hills High School; and
- Santa Monica Girls Fastpitch.

BUDDY LEAGUE HELMETS & BATS PURCHASED

Additionally, we bought 72 batting helmets and a dozen bats and donated them to Buddy Ball. Buddy Ball is a league designed for children with special needs, [http://www.baberuthleague.org/bambino-buddy-ball.aspx](http://www.baberuthleague.org/bambino-buddy-ball.aspx). The kids were extremely grateful to receive the equipment.

In total, we gave $20,229 to support youth sports programs and high schools.

In 2015, we hope to continue to grow this campaign to more high schools and parks to be more visible.
AAJ TRIAL ADVOCACY GRANT

We granted $1,000 to the American Association for Justice Trial Advocacy.

PARTNER CHARITIES PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

We gave $19,170 worth of LATLC promotional materials to our partner charities and the clientele such as t-shirts and water bottles to let the public know that Trial Lawyers Care.

In total, we granted $281,899 to our partner charities and the community.

WHY GIVE TO PARTNER CHARITIES?

Giving to partner charities is important because it allows us all to support a number of charities with one donation. Each of these partner charities was vetted by the board to ensure that they meet our mission of supporting education, children, battered women, and/or people who are homeless. Further, it recognizes the fact that we do not have the support staff or expertise to provide critical direct services to those who need them. This is something we are working to change in the future.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

We implemented the LATLC College Scholarship. We will be awarding ten (10) $1,000.00 scholarships to 10 deserving high school students in the Los Angeles area. The scholarship criteria are need based and merit based. We will recognize and honor the young scholars at our 2015 Casino Night with a presentation of the $1,000.00 check to each of them and their parents.

KABC TALK RADIO 790

In February, we were on the radio on KABC Talk Radio 790 Alan Gurvey’s Law. LATLC Founding President Bruce Traney discussed the mission of the charity and the good work that we do. The audio is now on our website, www.latlc.org on the home page. Alan Gurvey was so impressed with our organization that he joined the Honorary Board of Governors on the air.

In December, we returned to KABC Talk Radio 790 Alan Gruvery’s Law to recap some of the good work that did this past year. Past President Joseph Barrett and Vice President Scott Corwin represented us well on the radio, discussing how Trial Lawyers give back and how Trial Lawyers Care.

CAOC FORUM MAGAZINE

We were featured in the Consumer Attorneys of California March/April 2014 Forum Magazine.
WEBPAGE UPDATE

We modernized our website to provide useful information to all our supporters and the public. The website has a clean and fresh look. It contains information to answer who we are, what we do, and who we help. It has a calendar of events. It allows supporters to make donations online. It sets forth all the committees and the chairs and co-chairs. It has a special page dedicated to honoring our Honorary Board of Governors and highlighting the various levels of giving. It has a Sponsorship page to acknowledge our corporate sponsors. It has a Casino Page, Golf Page, and a Donation Page where tickets and donations can be purchased or made online. Check it out if you have not visited it in awhile, www.latlc.org.

FACEBOOK “LIKES”

Our Facebook “likes” went from a couple of hundred at the beginning of the year to now over 5,300 likes, www.facebook.com/LATLC. We posted information and photos on our Facebook page. If you have not liked our page, please go to our page, like it, and invite your friends to like it too! Let’s get to 10,000 likes in 2015.

DEVELOPMENT

As we continue to raise our profile and do good, we are bringing in more supporters who want to participate. And why not? What’s not to like about helping others? Under the watchful eye of Scott Corwin, we quintupled our donations in 2014 to $407,090 from $76,000 in 2013. We will continue to grow our organization so that we can broaden our presence in our community. It is foreseeable that we will eclipse the one million dollar mark annually and make our presence known all over Los Angeles.
CASINO NIGHT

On 6/1/14, we hosted a Casino, Poker Tournament, and Spa Night at Casa Del Mar Hotel. It was a classy and fun night of dancing, eating, gambling, and getting manicures for charity. The event sold out weeks in advance. The entire event was funded by our corporate sponsors and not a single penny from individual donors was used. We raised $115,014. Thank you for all those who attended and the fabulous sponsors who made this possible. Mark your calendar for the 2015 Casino Night, May 2, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows in Santa Monica.


GOLF TOURNAMENT

On 10/7/14, we hosted the Golf Tournament at Trump National. Robert Simon and Philip Layfield headed this effort and the tournament was a smashing success. The event was sold out. All those who attended talked about how fun and wonderful this event was with beautiful views of the Pacific Ocean, first rate golfing, friendly competitions, great holes sponsors with top shelf libation, and gorgeous people having fun while doing good. We raised nearly $50,000.
ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

WE IMPLEMENTED THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

1. New Bylaws, we drafted, debated, and passed new bylaws;

2. Executive Committee, we increased the number of EC members to eight (8) and gave them voting rights;

3. Board of Directors, we increased the number of BOD’s which added a wealth of new leaders and energy in the organization;

4. We created an Emeritus status to allow us to grow and add new blood and energy;

5. Financial, bank records are now reconciled going back to 2006 to the present. They are entered in electronic format and are available to any officer or director who wants access to the information. Given the amount of money that we are raising and maintaining good practice, it is critical that financial information is current and available to all directors; (Thank you Scott Corwin for undertaking this Herculean task.)

6. Budget Committee, we created the Budget Committee to help with long term planning and giving so that we are accountable and responsible for our supporters;

7. Award, we created the Bruce E. Traney Lifetime Service Award to acknowledge and recognize one individual per year for his/her life-time contribution to this organization. This award was long overdue and the naming honor was a no-brainer. Bruce was the founding president of LATLC. He carried the mantel for all those years since 2006 with Pejman Ben-Cohen and Joseph Barrett to give back to the community on behalf of all of us. Even now he remains an active board member. Obviously, there are many others who deserve recognition for their contribution and they will be honored in due time.

CREATION OF PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

One thing that I’ve learned this year was that I did not know everything I needed to know about LATLC to lead it. There was too much institutional knowledge that I was lacking to make informed decisions about the direction of the organization. Accordingly, we created the “Past Presidents Council” to meet and advise the sitting president as to things that he/she may want to consider and/or improve. This is an Advisory Only Committee. All past presidents are members and are tasked to meet at least quarterly to discuss the direction and progress of the organization and to make recommendations to the sitting President. The council looks forward to assisting Aimee Kirby during her presidency this year, Philip Layfield (2016), Scott Corwin (2017), Michael Alder (2018) and Geraldine Weiss (2019).

NEW VIDEO

With the help of Verdict Videos, we created another video about the good that we do, similar to original LA Mission Video, but included more partnered charities and our direct giving efforts. The video can be viewed on our website, www.latlc.org.
When the holiday season approached, we got out of the office, rolled up our sleeves, and performed community service projects. In total approximately 600 hours were donated by LATLC attorneys and volunteers at the following service projects:

**OPCC**

On 10/15/14, a group of volunteers was at Ocean Pacific Community Center Day Break Women’s Shelter. We prepared, bar-be-cued, and served lunch to the residents.

**LA MISSION**

On 10/15/14, a group of volunteers was at the Los Angeles Mission. This group prepared, cooked, and served over 400 hot lunches in a two hour window for all those in need.

**ST. ANNE’S**

On 11/18/14, we were at St. Anne’s, reading to the children of the residents (battered and abused women) at the facility’s learning center. We also bought 100 books to give to each child as a present.

**DOWNTOWN WOMEN’S CENTER**

On 12/16/14, a group of volunteers was at the Downtown Women’s Center, wrapping gifts for residents of the facility and for 40 female US Veterans and their children.

**ST. ANNE’S**

On 12/20/14, a group of volunteers was back at St. Anne’s. LATLC sponsored a breakfast for the families and children of St. Anne’s and selected families by the Catholic Church. After brunch, the volunteers loaded presents for the guests and wished them a Merry Christmas. All the guests also walked away with LATLC swags.
2015 LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

President, Aimee Kirby
President Elect, Philip Layfield
Vice President, Scott Corwin
Treasurer, Michael Alder
Secretary, Geraldine “Dena” Weiss

PAST PRESIDENTS

Bruce Traney
Pejman Ben-Cohen
Joseph M. Barrett
Robert T. Simon
Minh T. Nguyen

2015 DIRECTORS

Ryan Clarkson
David deRubertis, Director Emeritus
Conal Doyle
Tom Feher
Mauro Fiore
Jeffrey Greenman
Arash Homampour, Director Emeritus
Candice Klein
Spencer Lucas
Lisa Maki
Gerald Marcus
Robert Ounjian
Alyssa Schabloski
Ibiere Seck
Steven Vartazarian

Finally, I have one more exciting announcement to make. In 2015 and hopefully for the foreseeable future, CAALA will endorse LATLC as its only officially sponsored charitable organization and will work closely with LATLC to further our mission with its members and leaders to help support education, children, battered women, and people who are homeless and let the community know that Trial Lawyers Care!

I look forward to the great things that this organization will do this year under Aimee’s leadership. Thank you again for the honor, privilege, and opportunity to serve as your President this past year.

Minh T. Nguyen