

This is a newsletter prepared by lawyers to apprise folks about the law, cases, safety, and significant events. Coopers LLP has lawyers licensed in California, Oregon, and Washington State, and accepts referrals and co-counsel opportunities to better serve the plaintiff community.



COOPERS LLP
TRIAL LAWYERS

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Stories, case studies, and practice pointers
from consumer law experts

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COOPERS LLP
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Coopers LLP helps seriously injured people and accepts referrals and co-counsel opportunities from lawyers. We excel in strategizing. Have a matter you'd like to brainstorm? **Call us at 866-912-2789.**

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Visit us at coopers.law.

A LETTER FROM THE COOPERS



As Coopers, we're privileged to have had tremendous mentoring

from the trial greats who came before us. In this edition we dig into the Bay Area's trial lawyer legacy, how it has translated into successful modern era lawyering, and why we are duty-bound to carry on that legacy by doing great things. That means anything we do is worth doing well, from case work to mentoring to firm operations to giving back to the community. In case work, we look at the challenges presented when underinsured defendants claim their assets are beyond the law after killing a husband and father, and how holding them accountable through litigation's crucible led to a \$3.5 million resolution. We're also highlighting a recent podcast with Hon. Jeffrey Brand (Ret.), former University of San Francisco Law School dean, recently retired Alameda County Superior Court judge, and newly minted JAMS mediator. We spotlight a newer team member, Preeti Zalavadia, and the tools she brings to bear on the Finance Team. We feature the San Francisco chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates' volunteer efforts with the SF-Marin Food Bank. That provides a nice segue into a save the date for the upcoming Supermarket Street Sweep effort, a Coopers and Bicycle Law supported food and fundraiser later this year for that very same food bank.

We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we did putting in the work behind these stories. We put our all into everything we do. We'd love to put that kind of effort into something for you. If you have a case, an issue, or a question, please reach out so that we can help.

*Happy hunting,
M&M*

Miles B. Cooper, Maryanne B. Cooper, and everyone at Coopers LLP

CASE SPOTLIGHT

\$3.5M+ SCOOTER CRASH AND WRONGFUL DEATH RESOLUTION

Tenacity pays off

Imagine a perfect Southern California day. John Doe, a loving husband and father, cruises down a sunny Santa Barbara street on his Vespa. Suddenly, an inattentive driver turns left directly into him, shattering his life in an instant.

This is the heartbreaking story of a case where Coopers LLP secured a hard-fought victory for a grieving family.

A preventable crash, a life lost

John Doe was following all the rules of the road when Defendant Driver, distracted at the wheel, made a dangerous left turn. The impact threw John from his scooter, leaving him with horrific injuries. Despite wearing a helmet, his wounds proved fatal.

Fighting for the future Jane deserved

John's wife, Jane, was left not only heartbroken but facing an uncertain future. The Doe family relied on John's income, and his absence left a gaping hole in their financial security. Coopers LLP stepped in to fight for the compensation Jane needed to care for herself as she aged.



Prosecuting attorney Andrea Posey

Challenges and a steadfast resolve

The defense argued that Jane would have needed care anyway, regardless of the accident. They also downplayed the emotional toll on the family, believing a Santa Barbara jury wouldn't understand their pain. Additionally, the defendant's insurance limits were insufficient, and the defendants claimed their assets were protected, making a full recovery difficult.

Standing up for what's right

The Coopers team wouldn't be deterred. They presented a compelling case highlighting the preventable nature of the crash and the profound impact on

the Doe family. Tenacity paid off. The case settled early for the full policy limits, plus a significant personal contribution from Defendant Driver, totaling \$3.58 million.

A measure of justice

While no amount of money can bring John back, this settlement ensures Jane has the resources she needs. This case is a testament to the importance of fighting for what's right, even when the odds seem insurmountable. Coopers stands by those who have suffered due to another's negligence, and this victory serves as a beacon of hope for those facing similar challenges.

Prosecuting attorneys: Andrea Posey, Coopers LLP, with mediation assists from Maryanne and Miles Cooper.

Have you been injured due to someone else's negligence? If you or a loved one has been involved in an accident resulting in serious injury or wrongful death, Coopers LLP is here to help. Contact our experienced personal injury attorneys today for a free consultation.

coopers.law | 866-912-2789 | hello@coopers.law



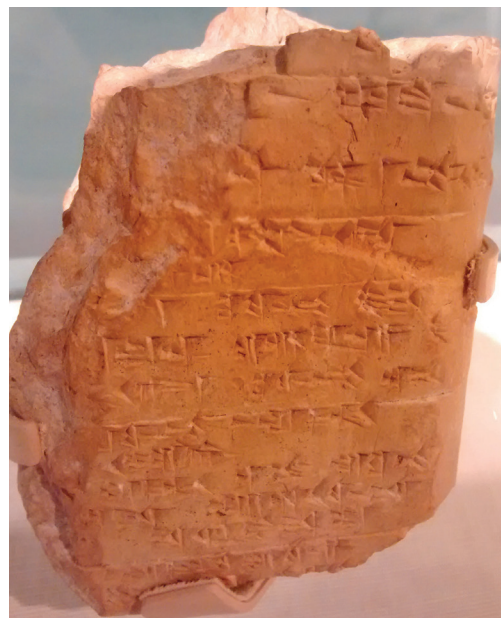
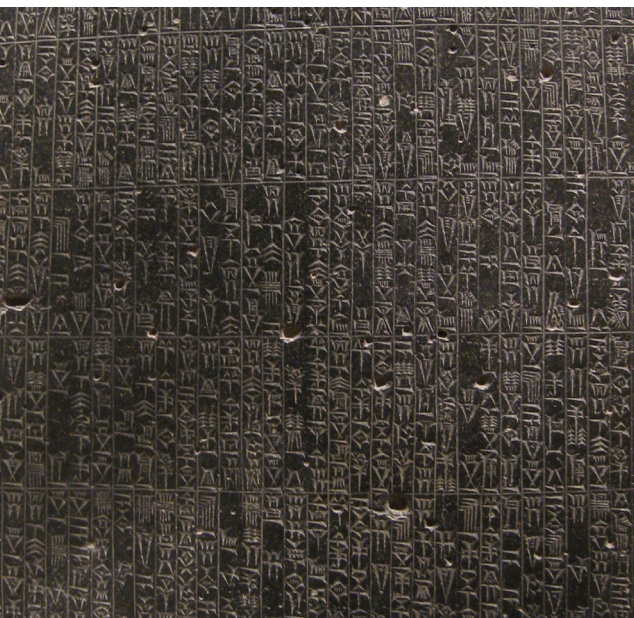
PRACTICE POINTER

DO GREAT THINGS

We contribute to our historic legal fabric by doing our best in all things

By Miles Cooper

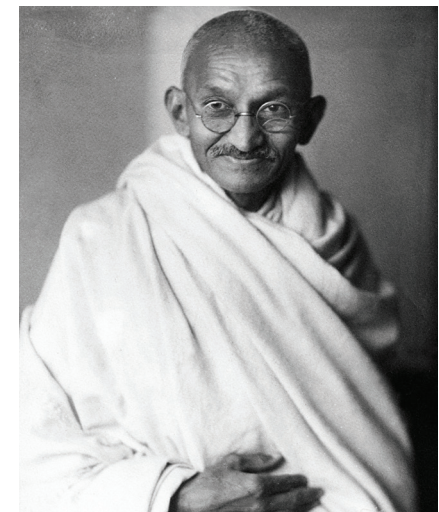
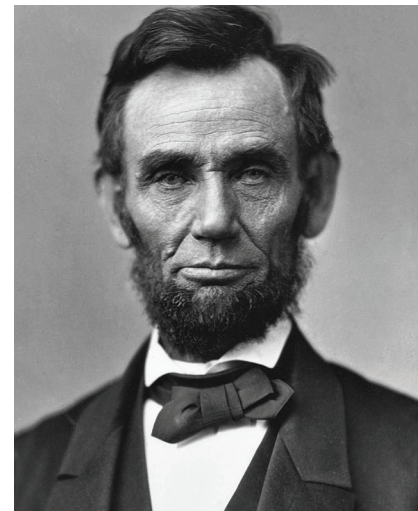
The lawyer thought about the place an individual plays, one small mote in this great timeless universe. Document review can do this to a person. How can one's actions, seemingly small and potentially meaningless in the vastness, have any effect? Whether document review, a privilege log, or form interrogatory responses, the small acts can feel meaningless, like emptying the ocean bucket by bucket. Every legal professional can have moments like these. One way to confront such a crisis of faith, to blow oneself out of the bunker? Consider the great legal tapestry, stretching back eons, and how the threads get woven together. Great people did great things. Most great things did not appear great in the moment. Many were small. So how did that fabric form, what part does each of us play in its continuity, and how do we make those small acts matter?



The law stretches back millennia. Code of Hammurabi (left) and a Hittite cuneiform tablet believed to be a legal deposition. Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

I contain multitudes

The law stretches back millennia. It continues into the now. Its shapes and shapers contain multitudes beyond naming. Yet some names help frame our conversation. Lawyers have tremendous impact, shaping our world. We are Cicero's heirs. Abraham Lincoln did a thing or two. So did Mahatma Gandhi – the sun now sets on the British Empire. Trial lawyers like Clarence Darrow demonstrated the power of persuasion. These people are but a few of the thicker threads, accent points in our legal fabric. They did great things.



World-changers and groundbreakers are all woven into the great legal tapestry. From top left: Abraham Lincoln, Constance Baker Motley, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Mahatma Gandhi. Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In our niche, our ultimate weapon remains trial. The Bay Area gave rise to trial greats like Melvin Belli, Jim Boccardo, and Bruce Walkup, among others. They pioneered deploying demonstrative evidence to strengthen powerful courtroom storytelling, which others throughout the region, then the state, then the country, adopted. Silicon Valley is ground zero for global technological innovation. The Bay Area, probably not coincidentally, is also ground zero for twentieth century trial practice. It's partly why the lawyers here are so damned good. San Francisco's Jackson Square housed Belli and his cannon — shot off after a trial victory — and within its blast radius were and still are so many greats. Legends. Legendary. They did great things. And while lionized, imperfect in their own ways as all humans are.

“

Woven too, are all of us. Every day we bring the fight, the fire, we overcome the odds, we help each other and those in need, and we never, ever, ever give up. We are the adventurers, the seekers, the changers.

”

History is now

Many of us learn from the students and heirs of Belli, Boccardo, and Walkup, and their contemporaries. We learned by watching, working for, and listening to the likes of McGuinn, Veen, Rouda, Kelly, Alexander, Gwilliam, Lawless, Brandi, Arns, Dolan, and so many others, all having done great things. They absorbed and expanded the advocacy arts, each generation weaving in their own skills and knowledge. The same is true with the defense brethren, as the quickest learning path is to go toe to toe against worthy opponents. Nor can we forget those who sit in judgment, those whose orders and opinions ripple through history.

Woven too, are all of us. Every day we bring the fight, the fire, we overcome the odds, we help each other and those in need, and we never, ever, ever give up. We are the adventurers, the seekers, the changers. We weave ourselves into the great legal tapestry with abundant joy in all we undertake. We weave into that tapestry our absolute best. We add our own creativity and passion, drawing on modern tools, embracing technology while remembering the old tools like compelling storytelling and butcher block still have a place in the courtroom. And we do great things.

Do small things

So, what are great things? Everything we touch, touched with intentionality. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.” Answering discovery responses. Refilling the copier. Listening to the potential client, who definitely does not have a case but needs an ear. Anything worth doing is worth doing well. And in that way, small things become great things. But how do small things become great things? By distilling what one does, and doing what is essential. Today's attention economy, if one allows oneself to get sucked into it, has us distractedly attempting many things simultaneously, much of it done less well than it could be. Francis of Assisi tells us, “Do few things but do them well, simple joys are holy.”

This can be challenging advice for the practitioner, and yet attainable. Small things start with knowing what's important now, doing that thing and only that thing, and moving on to the next important thing. That small thing is a tiny fiber, those small things together become threads, and woven together the threads become great things. They define us and become our contribution to the greater legal fabric. Because history is now, we are blind to how our acts are tomorrow's history. Our creativity and passion becomes legend for our next generation.

Outro

Back to our lawyer, struggling with small things. With the reflection upon how small acts done well become the foundation for great things, the lawyer re-engaged. There are no ordinary moments, no meaningless acts, only action.

A version of this article originally appeared in the June 2024 issue of Plaintiff Magazine.

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COOPERS' CODE

IN CONVERSATION WITH HON. JEFFREY BRAND (RET.)

A recent favorite from our podcast

We were fortunate to interview the Honorable Jeffrey Brand, freshly retired from the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, and formerly Dean of University of San Francisco's Law School from 1999 to 2013. During this time, Dean Brand oversaw the transformation of the law school's facilities, including faculty expansion, a new library, and complete reconstruction of the main hall. Simultaneous to this he expanded clinical offerings, international courses, internships, and global justice programs including efforts in Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, China, and East Timor.

He's twice been a judge, his prior stint being as an Administrative Law Judge for the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board. He's been a Title VII civil rights litigator, a criminal defense lawyer, public defender, and let's not forget managing partner of – wait for it because it's not a law firm – the Reno Silver Sox, a Class A minor league ball team in the California League.

During our 3-part discussion (all of which are available on your favorite podcast platforms, and in full video on YouTube), we covered a wide range of topics including:

- Brand's early career and various legal roles
- Adapting courtroom procedures for the digital age
- The evolution of legal education
- Hybrid trials (combining in-person and Zoom elements)
- The impact of class action cases on industries and society
- Brand's upcoming book on legal work in Cambodia and its impact

... and a wealth of other topics we won't list here. We'd also be remiss if we failed to mention the next phase in his career, as a mediator at JAMS. With the depth and breadth of his experience, we recommend booking him soon before it becomes impossible to get on his calendar!

Use the QR code to go
directly to Brand Episode 1
on YouTube!



*This studio will come to order! Judge Brand and Miles recording.
Photo: Zachary Morvant.*

STAFF STORY

Meet Preeti Zalavadia

Born in New York and raised in Gujarat, India, Preeti appreciates the blend of the two cultures she grew up with. She earned her B.S. in Civil Engineering and M.S. in Transportation Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. She worked in Geographic Information Sciences, creating navigational maps, before transitioning to a career in accounting.

With over ten years of experience in full-cycle accounting for production, manufacturing, and business-to-customer companies and a passion for data, numbers, and accuracy, Preeti is thrilled to be a key member of the Finance team at Coopers LLP.



Did you know: Preeti can divide a beat with her feet! Dance has brought her joy throughout her life. While she enjoyed folk dancing during her earlier years, she considers herself fortunate to learn traditional Kathak (one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance) from Kathak Guru, the late Pandit Chitresh Das.

Preeti is one of the co-founders of the Chitresh Das Institute, which currently boasts 200 students. She thoroughly enjoys the physical and mental challenges that this beautiful

art form presents. Engaging with families in the Bay Area and building a community where Kathak students of all ages can connect and thrive inspires her to teach, which she has been doing for over 17 years.

Preeti also enjoys traveling with her family and friends. A plant lover, she also loves spending time outdoors with her husband and two kids who recently graduated from college.

Welcome to the team, Preeti!

COMMUNITY

GIVING BACK WITH ABOTA-SF

Pro bono pop-up pantry

On April 26, 2024, a group of lawyers in San Francisco traded their suits and briefcases for hoodies and helping hands. Miles Cooper, along with his colleagues from the American Board of Trial Advocates, San Francisco chapter, volunteered at a Pop-Up Pantry organized by the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank.

This isn't your typical soup kitchen line. Established during the pandemic, the program brings fresh produce and a variety of healthy foods directly to neighborhoods. Imagine a farmers market on wheels where everyone gets to choose what goes in their bag.

The need is real. The San Francisco-Marin Food Bank tackles the critical issue of food insecurity, supporting over 53,000 households across the city and Marin County. These pop-up pantries are a lifeline, ensuring families have access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and other essential groceries.

For Miles and his fellow volunteers, this wasn't just about distributing food. It was about connecting with the community, sharing smiles, and offering a helping hand to those in need. This initiative, spearheaded by ABOTA-SF, is a powerful example of how the legal community can give back and make a real difference.



SAVE THE DATE

SMSW 2024 IS COMING NOVEMBER 9!

Join us for the Supermarket Street Sweep

Coopers LLP has an organizational commitment to helping solve the problem of hunger in our backyard. We do this through the Supermarket Street Sweep.

Presented by our Bicycle Law brand, the Supermarket Street Sweep (aka "SMSW" or "The Sweep") is an annual bike race that benefits the SF-Marin Food Bank (SFMFB). Since 2005, hundreds of participants have zipped around the city to local supermarkets and brought back thousands of pounds of food to donate to this wonderful charity. To date, Sweepers have helped provide over 400,000 meals to neighbors in need.

The 2023 edition of the Supermarket Street Sweep brought in the equivalent of 15,100 meals through donations of food and cash. Help us make an even bigger impact by participating, volunteering, or donating. Join our mailing list (if you haven't already!) by scrolling to the bottom of bicyclelaw.com or follow [@bicycle.law](https://www.instagram.com/bicycle.law) on Instagram for updates.



SMSW racers and volunteers making a difference for the SF-Marin Food Bank.
Photos: Spencer Siegrist / @side_sipper.

2023 SMSW STATS

7,297 lbs of food collected

\$4,510 fundraised

15,100 total meals provided

90+ participants (including racers and volunteers)

300+ post-race tacos eaten (approximately)



Special thanks to this issue's contributors:
Miles Cooper, Zachary Morvant, Andrea Posey, and Preeti Zalavadia