

Volunteer Spotlight – David L. Winnett

By Jennifer L. Fiore



David L. Winnett, a trial attorney with The Veen Firm in San Francisco, gives back throughout his home county of Marin. From volunteering on the Boards of Directors of Legal Aid of Marin and the Marin School of the Arts Foundation, to leading and coaching in Novato Girls Softball, David strives to enrich the lives of children and underserved residents.

Since 2013, David and his wife, Laura, have served on the Board of Novato Girls Softball, and David has served as president the last two years. Due to a coaching shortage this past spring, he even stepped up to be the head coach of his daughter Gabrielle's team, the Blasters, and brought home the county championship!

In January 2016, David joined fellow CAOC member Jon Gertler on the Board of Legal Aid of Marin ("LAM"), which is currently celebrating 60 years of legal service. In serving on the search committee, David was instrumental in selecting the new executive director, Stephanie Haffner, to carry on LAM's mission of providing vulnerable and low-income residents access to the civil justice system. David also recently served on the planning committee of the 5th Annual Jam for Justice, LAM's primary annual fundraiser.

LAM focuses on empowering elders, helping debtors, getting workers their due, keeping Marin citizens in their homes and resolving cases in Marin Community Court. LAM's staff attorneys and volunteers provide elders with education and advice on trust and estate issues, advanced health care directives and prevention of financial abuse; debtors with unfair debt collections and business practices, consumer fraud and insurance claims; workers on wage and hour issues, employment discrimination and wrongful termination;

and residents with eviction defense, foreclosure counseling, habitability issues and homelessness prevention.

In 2017, David also joined the Board of Directors of the Marin School of the Arts ("MSA") Foundation, the fundraising vehicle for the high school from which his two oldest daughters – Megan, age 21, and Chloe, age 18 – graduated. David also agreed to remain on the Board during what he calls his "gap year," as Gabrielle is one year away from following her sisters into the program.

As a specialized program within Novato High School, MSA offers students who are passionate about the arts the benefits of a traditional high school with strong academics combined with college-level arts training. The MSA Foundation furnishes funding to support, enhance and sustain the quality of education by filling the gap between resources from

the Novato Unified School District and program needs such as professional guest-teaching artists, computers, software, musical equipment and instruments, costumes, props and more.

David is committed to fundraising for the Foundation and has helped procure business partners that commit to levels of monetary donations – as the Foundation says, where "business partners keep arts alive, students thrive."

David's notable leadership skills run in the family. In May 2018, his daughter Chloe received MSA's Sparky Award for her leadership and positive spirit in and out of the classroom.

If you would like to see someone featured in the Volunteer Spotlight column, please share information about his or her community service with Jennifer at Jfiore@maryalexanderlaw.com. ■



Chloe Winnett