

CALIFORNIA LAWYER



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**Heart and Soul
Practitioners**

**Justice Kline
defends his dissent**

**Erwin Chemerinsky
on the next U.S.
Supreme Court term**

**Edward Lazarus justifies
*Closed Chambers***

Lawyers Behind Bars

What's it like to be an attorney in prison?

Heart

and SOUL practitioners

Ten sole practitioners bring a refreshing commitment to the community

Almost everyone who goes to law school has a fantasy, at least for a time, of becoming a champion for justice, of making a difference and changing society for the better. For many, the fantasy quickly fades. For a few, the fantasy takes on shades of reality. The ten sole practitioners profiled here do not litigate the big cases or make the national headlines. Their sense of success is not measured in dollars or publicity. It's in doing the right thing and offering not only their assistance to those who have less, but also their generosity and their seemingly limitless energy.

These ten lawyers were repeatedly named by their peers and the presidents of the state's local bar associations as having high-quality legal practices and an unparalleled commitment to their communities.

Geraldine Lewis is a Southern California-based writer.

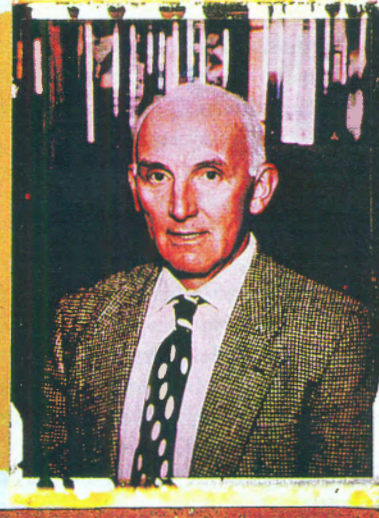
By Geraldine Lewis

Assemblage by Casey Alicino



clockwise from top left:

JAMES GREINER
 LILIA VELASQUEZ
 RALPH FRANCIS
 JUDITH EDSON
 JOE GAZZIGLI
 SARAH DAVIS
 ROBERT TAFOYA
 BERYL CRUMPTON



Heart & Soul Practitioners

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is also vice chair and commissioner with the State Bar's Immigration and Naturalization Advisory Committee.

JUDITH EDSON

Eureka
Family law

When Judith Edson moved to Humboldt County in 1974 she became the county's first woman sole practitioner and also began teaching a course on gender-based discrimination part time at Humboldt State.

In addition to her law practice—15 to 20 percent of which involves juvenile dependency cases sent to her by Humboldt County Superior Court, she volunteers as a mediator for family law cases and as a judge pro tem and arbitrator in the local court arbitration program.

"SERVICE IS THE RENT
WE PAY FOR THE
SPACE WE OCCUPY
ON EARTH."

—RALPH FRANCIS

Edson is also a founding member and director of Adoption Horizons, Inc., a private adoption agency that provides adoption opportunities for children with special needs. When she agreed to take the post as director, she did not plan to become the foster mother to two siblings, one and two years old, in 1987. The children were put up for adoption in 1993, at which time Edson legally became their mom.

JAMES GREINER

Sacramento
Criminal defense law

As president of the Sacramento County Bar Association, Jay Greiner is putting in overtime developing new programs for local lawyers. One of his

first projects is to set up television coverage of important state trials with the California Channel, a cable station. He's also in charge of a magazine for the association and is setting up a program for the local bar association to provide voluntary resolution of citizen complaints filed against Sacramento attorneys.

"He is one of the most energetic, creative, and selfless bar leaders I have ever met," says Justice George Nicholson of the Third Appellate District, California Court of Appeal.

Greiner also makes time for community volunteer work. Last fall he taught a constitutional law class at his alma mater, Rio Americano High School. He also works year-round with the school's mock trial team, something he's done since 1993, and he coaches soccer and Little League teams for his three nephews.

RALPH FRANCIS

Oakland
Intellectual property law

When he's not practicing law, Ralph Francis volunteers in the community. "My grandmother always said, 'Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on earth,'" he says.

Francis is a member of the board of directors of Volunteers in Parole, Inc., an organization that helps parolees reenter society. He's also a mentor for this organization, helping parolees find jobs and apply to school. He serves as a judge pro tem one day a month in Alameda County Juvenile Court and consistently encourages youth offenders to join the Volunteers in Parole program. At present he is financially helping three previous youth offenders complete their education.

Francis is also codirector and coach of the San Francisco Special Olympics, an involvement he has had since 1986. He is completing his certification requirements as a secondary school teacher and plans to teach part time in a local high school. His dream is to establish a program that allows community members (judges, attorneys, and others) to teach in high schools as volunteers, which would help reduce class size and bring additional expertise into the schools. □