MINUTES OF THE PROGRAM OF THE APPELLATE COURTS SECTION
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, October 15, 2019
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Ronald Reagan State Building
Second Floor Cafeteria
300 S. Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90013

“Meet (Some) of the New Justices”

Speakers: Associate Justice Gail Ruderman Feuer
Associate Justice Helen Bendix
Associate Justice Halim Dhanidina
Associate Justice Maria Stratton

Moderator: Jens B. Koepke

The Program

Section Chair Jens Koepke announced upcoming LACBA events, including the
November 19 program on appellate motions, the December 3 holiday party, and the
January 14, 2020, program on substance abuse and depression.

Jens then introduced the panelists: Justice Gail Ruderman Feuer, Justice Helen
Bendix, Justice Halim Dhanidina, and Justice Maria Stratton.

During the program, each of the Justices responded to questions Jens posed about
the biggest takeaways from their first year on the appellate bench, the areas of law
they feel they know the best, how they like to spend their free time, what career
they think they would have pursued if they had not gone into law, how they handle
writs, changes in their personal lives after being appointed to the bench, other
states’ practices they would like to see California adopt, their interaction with
families and friends, their views on the publication of appellate opinions, their
views on what makes an appellate brief really stand out (for better or for worse),
and how they respond (off the bench) to questions from family and friends about
legal issues.

The Justices also fielded questions from the audience on appellate alternate dispute
resolution and the use (or not) of tentative opinions in the appellate courts.
The written program materials consisted of the official biographies of each of the Justices as posted on the California courts website.

Approved on January 2, 2020

George W. Abele
Secretary, Appellate Courts Section