

## A Leg Up

Athletes like marathoner Liza Hunter-Galvan are turning to lawyers for help getting into the Olympics.

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## Dim Decision

The Supreme Court's recent "Dark Poetry" opinion wasn't very bright — or reassuring. See Ad Hominem.

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## GRIFFITHS, CASTLE & SCHWARTZMAN

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

## Paralyzed teen falls short in bid to buy gun manufacturer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A California teenager left paralyzed in a gun accident a decade ago failed Thursday in his bid to buy the company that produced the Saturday night special that changed his life.

lion judgment against the company, its distribution arm and its owner. A jury in Oakland concluded that Bryco knew the pistol had a safety flaw.

Included in Thursday's sale were about 75,600 unassembled guns. Maxfield hoped to buy the inventory, melt it down and cre-

# Today's C.D.O.S.

## Business Law

■ **KRAMER v. INTUIT INC.:** Software rebate program did not violate statutory proscription against offering a rebate contingent on subsequent event. C.A. 2nd

## Civil Litigation and Procedure

■ **CRUZ v. SUPERIOR COURT (ADVANCED OBGYN MEDICAL GROUP):** Nonparty parent could be compelled to undergo blood test in child's action for medical malpractice. C.A. 4th

## Constitutional Rights

■ **HENDERSON v. TERHUNE:** California prison  
See page 2



# SUMMARY JUDGMENT

**T**he dog days of summer. While the East Bay, Sacramento and San Jose suffer from the heat, San Francisco looks on from 61°.

Whether you're stuck in the office, waiting for the train or basking at the beach, *The Recorder's* book review section (page 12), has plenty of material to keep you busy.

Our sisterly theme starts off with "Sisters-in-Law," co-written by Lisa Sherman, at left with her daughters. Reporter Jahna Berry happily dived into this how-to guide for making it in a law firm — high heels and all.

She says it's "full of snappy, practical advice."

And Manatt, Phelps & Phillips associate JoAnne Sweeny picked up the latest offering from two long-distance sisters (California and Hawaii) who write crime novels under the pen name Perri O'Shaughnessy.

Other books reviewed — exit the sibling theme — include language expert Bryan A. Garner's tome on writing briefs and David McKean's biography of Tommy "The Cork" Corcoran.





VIRGINIA LEE HUNTER

**WORK SHOES:** Lisa Sherman — who co-wrote “Sisters-in-Law,” covering the ins and outs of making it at a law firm — relaxes with her daughters at their Los Angeles home.

# Sisterly Advice

Working at a firm takes smarts,  
finesse and a good pair of shoes

BY JAHNA BERRY

**S** tilettoes ooze power and glamour, but are they worth the pain? The same could be asked of working at a high-powered law firm. At least that's the observation of the three lawyers who wrote “Sisters-in-Law: An Uncensored Guide for Women Practicing Law in the Real World.”

The prestige, pay and platinum perks make big-firm lawyers seem like superstars, write Lisa Sherman, Deborah Turchiano and Jill Schecter. “Don’t be fooled, though — behind the illusion you’ll find big-firm tortured souls whimpering and whining after prolonged wear,” they write.

The authors know what they’re talking about. The book sprang from their combined experiences at large and small firms, as well as interviews with attorneys across the country.

“We wanted to portray what really goes on,” said Sherman in an interview. The employment lawyer recently started working at a Los Angeles civil defense firm.

Borrowing a page from pastel-colored girl guides such as “The Bad Girl’s Guide to Get-

## SISTERS-IN-LAW

*By Lisa G. Sherman, Deborah L. Turchiano  
and Jill R. Schecter*

Sourcebooks/\$16.95

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## Sisters-in-Law

Continued from page 12

ting What You Want" and "Three Black Skirts: All You Need to Survive," "Sisters-in-Law" gives the hilarious lowdown on how to survive the first few years of the legal business. Like the girl guides, "Sisters" is full of snappy, practical advice. Each chapter has helpful "sidebars," bubbles with legal definitions and funny, real-life scenarios culled from lawyers the authors interviewed. The cover is even illustrated like the guides — the chicly dressed women on the front could easily grace the packaging of Stila cosmetics.

Sherman says it's not a mistake that the book resembles the humorous women's guides. She and her friends all read "The Girlfriends' Guide to Pregnancy" and other tomes in the series penned by Vicki Iovine.

"We were all addicted to the 'Girlfriends' Guide,'" Sherman says. "We all connected on that level."

"Sisters" is also sprinkled with footnotes and Latin. "This book is written in lawyerese," the authors write. "For those of you who are practitioners, you won't even notice it because you are brainwashed to write this way." The chapters include pointers on picking firms, interviewing, navigating office

politics and balancing a legal practice with raising a family.

The book is funniest when it dishes on the subculture at large law firms. While "Sisters" is geared toward newbie attorneys, veteran lawyers will likely laugh with recognition at some of the authors' insights.

At the top of the "Sisters" firm food chain are the rainmaking Top Brass ("If any member of the Top Brass doesn't take a liking to you, you are as good as done"), the coifed Closers (the "attorney who is called in to close the deal or charm the pants off the jury, judges or clients"), the Saintly Mentors, the celebrity partner, the Ball Busting Ice Queen (BBQ) and the Billing Machine.

There is a cast of characters among the associates, too, "Sisters" observes. The authors advise newbies to get some bingeing

The chapters include pointers on picking firms, interviewing, navigating office politics and balancing a legal practice with raising a family.

and bitching buddies, steer clear of backstabbing Affable Alligators and ally themselves with blueblood Teflon Pretty Faces. ("Work just bounces off their Teflon pretty faces. Buddying up with a Teflon Pretty Face can't hurt you and marrying one can only help you.")

"Sisters" focuses on big-firm life, but some parts of the book are universal. The authors caution new lawyers about the tragic consequences of LASS — Lawyer Ass Spread Syndrome. "Remember the freshman 15? LASS is like the first-year 50," the authors write. The affliction strikes both men and women alike, "leaving many of the men in your office with a freakishly weird pear-shaped physique."

The book also gives an overview of other options in the legal profession, using the hierarchy of the shoe department. Powerhouse stiletto law firms are at the top. Farther down are boutique ski boots, comfy Mary Jane government gigs, and Rollerblade-wearing solos. Clerking for judges, however, is like "playing God," the book says.

While "Sisters" tries to stay light, it gets bogged down in the end with excruciatingly detailed overviews of litigation and transactional law. But even then the overkill seems part of the authors' earnest desire to help law school grads make informed choices.

While the "Sisters-in-Law" authors do their best to cover all the bases, they would probably agree that no guide is better than a Saintly Mentor who's tried on a few pairs of shoes during her career.

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