

The Order Changeth

By the time you read this, you'll be aware that the State Bar, in one of its infrequent bursts of wisdom, has selected Gar Shallenberger as its next-year's peerless leader. It's an event of more than a little significance. The arrival of every new prexy is a matter of moment, but this moment may be more momentous than most.

As the first person so honored by a Board comprised of a mixture of lawyer and nonlawyer governors, he has surfaced after a year of adjustment and travail and can look forward to a year of unique challenges – and concomitantly unique opportunities. Fortunately, he's also a unique human being, but despite that, he's going to need that extra bit of support and effort from each of us so that we may all capitalize on his presidency. Whatever your think may be – candlelighting, voodoo or what – I urge your good offices in support of his demanding office.

So Long, For a While

By the time you read this, you'll be aware that the State Bar, in its sometimes infinite unwisdom, has called on me to do a slightly different number. If you think a recount is in order, you may have a point. In any event, the forthcoming year is going to be one of those in which, if the California legal profession shall last for a thousand years, lawyers will still say: "Never in the history of lawyerkind have so many done so much to prop up so little."

Be that as it may, I am deeply honored – not to mention abjectly terrified. In a perhaps uncharacteristic outburst of taste, I deem it inappropriate for someone honored with your presidency thus to run off at the pen, so this column goes into mothballs for the duration. If the then-editor is soft-headed enough, I'll be back in late 1978. Meanwhile, my heartfelt thanks to every person Jack/Jill among you for the love affair that's existed between these words and those who read them – and that definitely includes the offended and the critical.