

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION

But You Owe Me!

IT SEEMS THAT THESE DAYS WE live in a time of entitlement. Every few days it seems that I encounter people who believe that they are entitled to something—a job, a particular style or standard of living, a way of life. As someone who was raised with little and taught to appreciate all that I did have and understand that nothing comes for free, I have to stop and wonder how those people came to believe that they were owed anything.

Perhaps it started when they were children with parents who catered to their every whim. Or perhaps it was the opposite, they did not have anything as a child and believe that because of their humble origins, the world at large owes them more now. I sometimes see it even on Facebook, where friends (or friends of friends) post pictures and comments relating to politics, posing questions as to why things have happened to them or why their lives are in such a state and blaming it on the current administration or lawmakers.

Last week, I experienced this community sense of entitlement firsthand while registering for a marathon. A well-known company, let's call it Walt's World, puts on an event at its Anaheim location each year. The larger event itself (including multiple activities which take place over a 3-day period) is organized and run by a separate entity which has a name similar to Walt's World. The event is planned in advance (of course) and registration opens seven months before the big weekend. As a benefit, members of a select group

AMY M. COHEN
SCVBA President



amy@cohenlawplc.com

of Walt's World customers have the opportunity to register one week early for the individual activities within the main event. Last year, I took advantage of that early registration and did not have to worry about getting shut out.

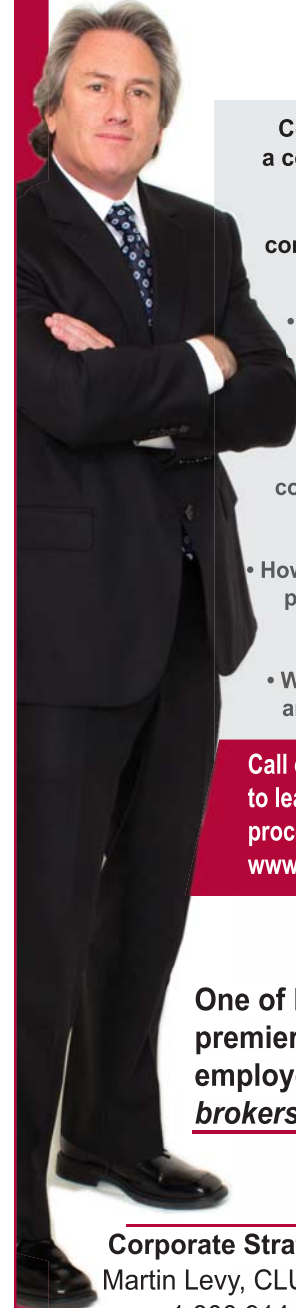
This year, I kept my eye on the event company's Facebook page, knowing that the dates were coming up. I was planning to participate in a particular activity during the event weekend and wanted to make sure I did not get shut out. I realized several days late that I had missed out on the early registration for one of the weekend's activities because it sold out very quickly.

I was surprised when reading the comments on both the event company's page and Walt World's select group page by how many people thought they were entitled to that early registration and missed out because it sold out so quickly. There were also complaints that people who were not members of that select group were able to register early because links were put out to the general public via social media and there were no requirements that individuals prove membership in that select group.

The event company set aside a small number of early registration spots for each activity. When those early spots were filled, the early registration closed and everyone then had to wait for regular registration to open. Although I was frustrated that I did not have the opportunity to register early for that particular activity in the weekend's festivities, I did not believe that I was entitled to that early

HEALTH CARE REFORM HAS CHANGED THE WAY YOU BUY AND DELIVER BENEFITS

IS YOUR PRESENT BROKER BRINGING YOU THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION?



Contact us for
a comprehensive
analysis of
NEW ACA
compliant plans:

- How to exploit the ACA for your benefit
- Why plan design and communication are vital
- How the exchanges play into your programs
- Wrapping plans around Kaiser

Call or Email us
to learn about our
process, or visit
www.CorpStrat.com

One of Los Angeles
premier and *largest*
employee *benefit*
brokers

Corporate Strategies Inc
Martin Levy, CLU, Principal
1 800 914 3564
www.Corpstrat.com
Ca. Lic 0C24367



SFVBA MCLE

2013
Seminars
on
Audio

COULDN'T ATTEND AN IMPORTANT SFVBA SEMINAR?

Most SFVBA seminars
available on
audio CD or MP3.

Stay current
and earn MCLE
self-study credit.*

**Also available are all the mandatory
subfields: legal ethics, elimination
of bias, and the prevention of
substance abuse.*

Who is Versa-Tape?
Versa-Tape has been
recording and marketing
audio copies of bar
association educational
seminars to California
attorneys since 1983.

www.versatape.com
(800) 468-2737



registration. Many did not agree with me and took to social media to decry the event company and Walt's World and to publicize their outrage.

Some even posted that they only joined Walt World's select group for this particular benefit (a claim I find hard to believe, given the yearly price of membership to Walt's select group and the fact that there is not a monetary discount for any of the event's festivities, just early registration). Others claimed that they were going to cancel their membership in this select group because they did not get early registration and believed others who did not deserve it did get it.


Really, has the world come to this? People are given the opportunity to register early for an activity and just because they miss out on that opportunity, they want to take their ball and go home? It is at this point that I have to tamp down my desire to tell these people to "grow up!" They are spending time and energy complaining about something that they were not promised (or entitled to) in the first place. (Yet, here I am a week later, still discussing it.)

Is this a situation where the event company could have handled things differently? Possibly. Could Walt's World have provided more information or handled things for their select group differently? Probably. Were people who did not belong to Walt's select group able to work the system and register

early? In all likelihood, yes. But does that mean that a random individual can now stomp and scream and jump up and down because they were wronged? I do not believe so.

I choose to believe that it is an imperfect system and that Walt's World and the event company did (and do) the best that they can given the circumstances (tens of thousands of people clamoring to register for the same event, all at once.) Of course, I say that from the position of someone who was able to take advantage of the early registration for the remaining activities and was able to register for that last event just as regular registration opened. I know others were not as lucky.

In the grand scheme of things, we are paying to participate in this event. The company or companies who are putting it on do not owe us anything and if we do not like the way the event is run (or the way registration is handled), we are free to opt out, not participate and spend our money elsewhere—I'm pretty sure Walt will not miss it that much.

With so much else going on in the world on which to focus our energy, I feel that this is one thing people should relax about and let go. And if I am one of those who gets shut out of registration the next time around, I give readers permission to find this column and remind me of it when I want to stomp up and down and complain. 

DARRYL H. GRAVER, ESQ.

EXPERIENCED
ARBITRATOR/MEDIATOR

"Have Gavel Will Travel"™

OVER 3,000 SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSIONS

TO SCHEDULE, CALL JUDICATE WEST 800.488.8805

818.884.8474

fax 818.884.8388