

Bar Talk

PEOPLE AND PRACTICES

THE RECORDER

MONDAY, MAY 5, 2003

These lawyers find themselves over a barrel

When a client's winery was sold, Mario Rosati got some of the transplanted vines nestled into his 1,200-acre farm in Cloverdale.

Thus, in the late 1980s, the Wilson Soncini Goodrich & Rosati name partner became a grape grower, and those transplants have since bloomed into grape vines that produce anywhere from 50 to 100 cases of cabernet sauvignon he now makes each year.

In fact, in 2001, his Rosati Family Winery produced enough excess fruit that he started selling the produce to other vineyards. "Over the years, production has increased," he said, "and it's difficult to drink more than 100 cases. It's been a fun project."

Rosati is one of a handful of practicing attorneys in the Bay Area who dabble in the wine trade.

Dabbling on a very big scale is Frederick Furth, a San Francisco antitrust lawyer whose Chalk Hill Vineyard produces 60,000 cases of wine annually.

Furth bought 240 acres in 1972 as a change from his work, but it turned into a second full-time job. Besides his work at The Furth Firm, he is chairman and chief executive of Chalk Hill Estate Vineyards and Winery.

Frank Farella, a partner of Farella Braun & Martel in San Francisco, owns an outfit that started small but just kept growing.

"You've got too much in assets involved to treat it other than as a business," Farella said.

His Farella-Park Vineyards in the Napa Valley region produces about 1,000 cases of wine each year, and then sells enough grapes to other winemakers to make many times that.

cellist turned strawberry farmer and winemaker.

"Wine is the Italian heritage," he said. "I drank diluted wine at the table with the adults and wine has always been a part of my family."

In the late 1970s, Farella bought some land in the Napa Valley region, where he grows about 25 acres of merlot, cabernet sauvignon and some sauvignon blanc grapes.

He keeps about 15 percent of the grapes for his own wine, which he sells through a distributor and by mail. His son, who studied to become a professional winemaker, mostly runs the operation, but dad helps out at harvest time.

"It's hard work but it's fulfilling," Farella said. "It's better than sitting in the office."

— Renee Deger

Solidarity

An Orrick counsel and San Francisco's public defender were among the lawyers who spoke out recently against the U.S. government's special immigrant registration policy.

On April 25 — the final deadline for males of certain countries to register with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services — the two joined colleagues from the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Lawyers Guild at a press conference.

Across the street from them, a line of people snaked outside San Francisco's Immigration and Naturalization Service building to comply with the INS registration system, which requires males 16 and older from 25 countries — mainly Arab and Muslim — to register with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Harmeet Dhillon, an ACLU board member and of counsel at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, called the government's National Security Entry-Exit Registration System a form of racial, religious and ethnic profiling.

"We believe that the DOJ [Department of Justice] and the INS never provided ap-

actually to register people," Dhillon said. "Instead, we believe the government's goal is to take people who are in good status and, through no fault of their own, make them deportable, all because these people were born into certain religious and ethnic backgrounds."

Dhillon said about 100,000 men and boys have been required to register and some have had harrowing experiences. In December, hundreds of men and boys who voluntarily came to INS facilities in Southern California to register "were arrested, handcuffed or shackled, detained and mistreated," Dhillon said.

"The mistreatment included herding over 100 detainees into cells designed for 20 individuals, refusing to provide adequate food, water, bedding, clothing or access to attorneys to the detainees, and in many cases performing humiliating strip searches of the detainees several days into their incarceration," she said.

Public Defender Jeff Adachi likened the registration policy to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. "As I was walking to the rally, I saw the fear and anxiety on the faces of people waiting in line to register," Adachi said. "It reminded me of my parents and grandparents on their way to internment camps."



DHILLON

"Internment is already occurring," he added. "The new laws are permitting the [John] Ashcrofts, the [Tom] Ridges, the president to bulldoze over every single right this country stands for. They are dismantling the Bill of Rights point by point."

— Brenda Sandburg

Going the distance

Attorney John Edgecomb runs from Sausalito to his downtown San Francisco office and back every day when he's training for a marathon.

And the San Francisco solo says the physical and mental skills he's learned in



Side Bar