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OPPOSING COUNSEL: DAVID PORRAS

by Michelle Wolfe

Riverside Litigator is Not Afraid to Get His Hands Dirty

We have a talented artist in our legal community! You may have had civil cases with David Porras, a 30-year civil trial attorney, skillful litigator, and a partner with Varner & Brandt LLP in Riverside. However, you may not know that he is also a recognized master at the potter's wheel.

David finds similarities between preparing a case for trial and creating ceramic pieces. Like preparing a case for trial, creating a one of a kind ceramic form entails a lot of planning, patience, attention to detail, follow through, and a goal. However, with pottery he is rewarded with a tangible object of art and is an antidote to the sometime chaos of our modern society.

David's love for pottery began 46 years ago while he was a student at Loyola University pursuing a degree in economics. He required an elective course and found himself in a pottery class getting his hands dirty - he was hooked. David continued to study under the excellent craftsmanship of Robert Karlinsky and later under Neil Moss at El Camino College. Thereafter, he became a production potter in a factory making piecework pottery. He continued to pursue hand thrown pottery and opened a successful retail pottery studio in Playa Del Rey, making and selling functional stoneware.

The completion of law school did not diminish David's passion for clay as he continued to maintain a pottery home studio while practicing law. There, David creates beautiful hand thrown, one of a kind pottery which he sells in juried art shows, and he creates commissioned pieces. His glaze work is unique, strikingly colorful, and brilliant. He has developed special glazing and surface techniques over the last 46 years that enhance his porcelain pottery. David mostly creates functional items for the kitchen and decorative pieces.

David resides in Yucaipa with his wife, Nanette, who is also enjoying getting her hands dirty. David works at his home studio



David Porras



that has developed into a destination for other potters. The studio has eight potter's wheels in the throwing area where 12 other potters join him for a pottery workshop multiple times weekly. There is a separate glaze studio and an exterior kiln area with three gas kilns. The development of the studio has resulted in an invigoration of creative energy and everyone's "happy place." He is currently exploring the world of wood firing. He recently attended an intense three-week wood kiln workshop in North Carolina.

I was fortunate to be invited to visit the home studio for a wine and cheese kiln opening party where the magic happens. Two to three times every month, artists gather for the opening of the kiln. The excitement mounts as the door of the kiln is opened. Everyone holds their breath and line up close to one another, shoulder to shoulder. David then gently hands out each piece of pottery. The pieces are passed to each other with excited exclamations, as the artists do not know until that moment how the pieces will turn out and what colors the glazes will shine. Admiration for each other's efforts are then toasted with wine, cheese, and laughter. It was a delightful gathering.

David's work can be enjoyed on his website at: www.davidporraspottery.com/

I also encourage you to visit David at the art festival, **Art For Heaven's Sake**, in Redlands where he is a featured artist. He brings his works and potter's wheel, so that you can watch him create. You are invited to meet, see, and purchase David's work. This fun event is being held from October 12 - 14, 2018. Visit <http://artforheavenssake.org/event-schedule/> for more information.

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