

WORK HARD, PLAY OFTEN

SWAMP

February/March

2ND

ANNIVERSARY
EDITION

PEARL JAM
RE-ISSUES
TEN

SWOOP GIRL
BETTINA BELL
SHOWS US HER
BETTINIS

JULIAN
MARLEY
ROCKS
ST. ROCKE

SWOOP
GOES TO
COSTA RICA

BETTINA BELL
MANHATTAN BEACH CA



OKABE & HAUSHALTER, THE SOUTH BAY'S LEGAL DREAM TEAM

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photographed by Dr. John Choy

The law firm of Okabe & Haushalter has handled a lot of high-profile criminal defense cases that you've probably seen on the news. They were on the O.J. Simpson case. They've worked on organized crime and other federal cases. But these Redondo-based defense attorneys aren't in it for the glory.



“We are the 911 of people’s problems,” says Mark Haushalter. “We can make a difference in people’s lives. We see people who are being pushed around or bullied and we get to fight the good fight. It’s been a long road...”

“...but we always return to our roots,” Ryan Okabe interjects. “We like to focus on our clients from the South Bay.”

Haushalter and Okabe have been best friends since the first grade, have known each other all their lives and frequently finish each other’s sentences. They grew up in the South Bay and, after stints as prosecutors, decided to devote their firm exclusively to criminal defense – and fight the good fight on a daily basis.

“The way our system works,” says Ryan Okabe. “You have a breakdown of the entire justice system if one person doesn’t get proper representation. It’s unfair. When that doesn’t happen, the system isn’t working correctly.”

Okabe explains that the partners’ long

relationship, along with the firm’s family atmosphere, combine to benefit their clients. “The clients get a team approach in the way that will best suit them and get them the best possible results. We handle a really broad spectrum in terms of criminal defense and handling the needs of people in the South Bay. It’s really all about a total dedication to our clients.”

That atmosphere permeates the firm, including office manager Chuck Duncan. Ryan says, “Chuck keeps the ship afloat and keeps our operation running smoothly. Not only is he a fantastic office manager, he is also a fantastic person.”

While they may be partners in an incredibly successful firm and killers in the court room, Ryan and Mark are really relatable guys in person. “We love hanging out at the beach and we love to ski,” admits Ryan. “In the winter time we’re up in the mountains, but in the summer we’re here, probably hanging out in Hermosa.”

“We’re lucky to be based in the South Bay,” interjects Mark. “I mean, our backyard is the ocean. And we’ve had some entertaining cases that you’d only see

in the South Bay, things like fist-fights over a wave because one guy cut the other off.”

“When you represent local businesses, especially on the pier, you really get to see the interplay between the different segments of the South Bay society,” explains Ryan. “In each case, we have to find ways to make all the parties happy.”

Okabe and Haushalter say that many South Bay businesses retain their services, and they love representing the community – and being active in it as well. They say that they are involved in local politics and do extensive work with various local charities and church groups.

But as the conversation comes back around to the work they do for their clients, Ryan and Mark start looking fierce again.

“We have a very much win-win mentality, we’re paid to win and that’s what we do,” says Mark. “Like the saying goes, there are both sides of the story and then there is the truth. My free advice is this: you have the right to remain silent and I suggest that you use it.”

Ryan agrees. “You are not going to talk your way out of a problem. That’s why you hire us.”

For further information about the law firm of Okabe & Haushalter, go to www.southbaylawyer.com.