

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River Sector State Parks

Volume XXXIV, Number 1, Spring 2017



Introducing: The Forest to the Sea Nature Store

Michele Luna, Executive Director

Stewards is excited to announce that we are opening a new Forest to the Sea Nature Store in downtown Guerneville in the next few months! The prior location of Larks Mercantile, on the corner of Armstrong Woods Road and Main Street, is currently being transformed into a four-unit retail space, and Stewards has just signed a lease to open our store in one of the units facing Main Street.

This decision is a result of careful planning with consultant assistance to identify key revenue generating ideas that will sustain Stewards' work in support of education and stewardship programs in our State Parks. We work hard every year to raise enough funds to serve more than 110,000 park visitors through docent and naturalist-led programs, including 5,000 K-12 youth who use their State Parks as an outdoor classroom.

With our experience successfully managing two other nature stores in State Park visitor centers, and the infrastructure we already have in place, we feel we have the ability to expand our retail operations. The exposure that downtown Guerneville offers will provide greater opportunities to garner support from our local community and from tourists visiting the Russian River area throughout the year. With our generous 20% discount for members, we expect an increase in memberships, as well as greater participation in the educational field seminars and EcoAdventures we offer the public.

We are recruiting volunteers with carpentry, retail and merchandising experience to help us launch this exciting new venture. If you are interested in helping Stewards, please contact me at michele@stewardscr.org.

As you know, Stewards' overall goal is to work in partnership with State Parks to promote, restore and protect your State Parks. With this long-term view, we are also exploring opportunities to help co-manage our parks and continue to provide free-to-low-cost educational opportunities for current and nontraditional users alike. I look forward to keeping you apprised of developments in this regard as well.



The old Mercantile building today.

Mission

Stewards Promotes, Restores, and Protects Your State Parks.

Vision

Stewards is the link between people and their parks.

State Parks

Armstrong Redwoods State Nat. Reserve
Austin Creek State Recreation Area
Sonoma Coast State Park

Contact

PO Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430
(707) 869-9177 | (707) 869-8252 Fax
stewards@stewardscr.org
www.stewardscr.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Save the Date ~ 2017 Annual Events

April	8 & 9	43rd Annual Fisherman's Festival
	22	Earth Day Clean-up & Restoration Day
	29	Day of the Child/Family Day in Your State Park
May	6	Armstrong Redwoods & Austin Creek Run
July	22	Artful Gourmet Walk in the Redwoods
Aug	12	Sunset Dinner
	26 & 27	Bodega Seafood Art & Wine Festival
Sept	16	Old Grove Festival

FOR UPCOMING SEMINARS & ORIENTATIONS
SEE PAGE 6!

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Hut Wade

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Trevor Moore
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Executive Director Report

Michele Luna, Executive Director

As I recover from my second knee replacement, the lovely spring weather has certainly lifted my spirits. Our parks are again teeming with eager park visitors who want to get out into nature to recreate with family and friends.

Stewards is on the threshold of showcasing some additional projects we have been working on with other partners over the past year. A new ParkRx program with other park partners and health care providers will be launched in April with a new website where health professionals can refer their patients to find opportunities to get out in nature for health-related exercise. Beginning on April 26th, Stewards will begin our weekly Wellness Walks at Armstrong Redwoods on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 am. Meet in front of the Welcome Center in the front parking lot for this easy walk for all abilities.

As part of the Sonoma Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative, we are launching three new videos about our local MPAs thanks to funding from the Resources Legacy Fund, the Campbell Foundation and the Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission. Special thanks to our production company, Full Frame Productions, for their inspiring work on this project.

Also, it is with great excitement that I announce that we'll have a new promotional video about Pond Farm Pottery within the next couple of months. Funding for this project came from the California State Parks Foundation and the late volunteer Russ Whitman. This amazing video is being produced by videographer David Washburn.

Meet Our New Bilingual Administrative Assistant

Originally from Washington, DC, **Yasmin (Mina) Sanabria** has been a California transplant since 2006. She lived and studied in Southern California at UC Santa Barbara until she graduated in 2015 with a BS in Mathematical Sciences. After graduation, she moved to Guerneville to be closer with family. Mina has 10 years of experience working in and volunteering with educational programs for youth. She is passionate about mathematics, and enjoys camping and hiking in our local parks during her free time. Come by the office to say hi!



Upcoming Events

44th Annual Bodega Bay
Fisherman's Festival
April 8 & 9, 2017 10AM - 5PM

A WISH FOR FISH

adults 12 - 64 +12
seniors 65+ +10
2-day pass +20
kids 11 & under free
advance tickets include
3 chances to win
Fish Fest merchandise!
purchase online
bbfishfest.org

live music
seafood & food trucks
wine & beer
craft booths
kids zone
pet parade
blessing of the fleet
wooden boat
building competition

Westside Park
Bodega Bay, CA www.bbfishfest.org

Westside Park is operated by Sonoma County Regional Parks. Sonoma County Board of Supervisors grant sponsor.
The Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival is a 501 (c)(3) California nonprofit charitable organization.
All proceeds from the Festival benefit Bodega Bay Area community services.
Artwork by Julianne Sockley © 2017 - julianewatercolor.com

19th Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup



Volunteer at Sonoma Coast State Park!

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Registration Required: calparks.org/earthday

**In Jenner on the Sonoma Coast
Beach and Estuary Cleanup &
Boatlaunch Beautification Project**

Volunteers Sign in @ 8:30 AM

Meet @ Jenner Visitor Center
10439 Hwy 1, Jenner, CA 95450

Dress for weather, wear sturdy shoes, bring gloves and a water bottle.
Water & Refreshments will be provided. Carpooling encouraged.



Groups: Contact Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods @
(707) 869-9177 • stewards@stewardscr.org • www.stewardscr.org

Cal Report

Greg Probst, Ranger & Cooperating Association Liaison

I am very excited to welcome spring after what felt like an extremely long and grey winter. This winter unleashed unprecedented winter storms here in Sonoma County and throughout all of California. These storms brought much needed relief to the recent drought here in California. However, these storms also caused massive damage to many of our California State Parks.

In January, a 1000 year old giant sequoia, popularly referred to as the Pioneer Cabin Tree, came toppling down during strong winds in Calaveras Big Trees State Park. On President's weekend, a major storm hit the central California coast forcing the closure of Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. This closure caused 4500 camping reservations to be cancelled on this popular holiday weekend. The closure of the campgrounds at Morro Bay State Park and at Pismo State Beach resulted in approximately \$40,000 in lost revenue to the district. In Santa Cruz, the S.S. Palo Alto, a historic concrete ship, located at the end of the pier at Seacliff State Beach was smashed in half by the winter swells. The damage to the spillways at the Oroville Dam and the evacuation of the town of Oroville made national headlines yet many people are still unaware that many areas of Oroville State Recreation Area remain closed due to the storm damage. And finally, in Big Sur both Andrew Molera State Park and Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park are still closed due to these winter storms and are not scheduled to reopen until the end of June.



Even though the state parks in the Russian River received storm damage in the form of downed trees, flooded campgrounds, eroded trails, and damaged roadways, we came out relatively unscathed compared to the rest of California. Another positive factor is that we have the benefit of a committed, hard-working and effective volunteer trail crew to assist state park staff with damage to trails at both the Sonoma Coast and Armstrong/Austin Creek.

Left to right: Bill Bambrick, Norman Hill, Tim Mayer, and Bob Ahders after restoring the bridge to the East Ridge Trail.

The recent winter storms have caused a greater backlog of work for our volunteer trail crew than in years past. If you or any interested friends or family members want to get outside and enjoy the warm, spring weather, then please think about becoming a member of the trail crew. A trail volunteer helps to make the park visitors' experience safer and therefore more enjoyable. New volunteers are required to attend one of the three general orientation sessions offered during the year. However, stewardship volunteers can sign-up for activities any time of the year and don't have to wait to attend an orientation before beginning to volunteer. The Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods website has more information on how to become a trail volunteer along with information on many other volunteer opportunities here in the parks.

This time of year is one of energy and excitement! The winter rains have given way to hills filled with an abundance of wildflowers and the fantastic sights of Pacific gray whales as they migrate northward. Thank you all for supporting California State Parks and for taking care our many visitors from all over the world as they get to discover this excitement for the first time.

New Volunteer Opportunities

Stewards is now recruiting volunteer docents to staff our new **Welcome Center** in the main parking lot at Armstrong Redwoods SNR. The Welcome Center be open on weekends to start and will be a place where visitors can quickly pick up a map, get directions and learn about the natural resources in the park. There will be a morning shift and an afternoon shift. Please contact Sarah Angulo at sarah@stewardscr.org if you are interested, and she will help you get started!

Stewards is also revitalizing our **Office Volunteer Program**. With so many ongoing programs, we need extra help with orientation and training prep, pricing merchandise for the visitor centers and other clerical duties that will relieve the busy workload of our staff. We would like to schedule volunteers to help during time blocks on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please contact Sarah Angulo at sarah@stewardscr.org for more info.



Celebrating Our Volunteers for National Volunteer Week

Sarah Angulo, Volunteer Coordinator



Harbor seals bask in the sun at the river mouth.

Clouds move across the sky and cast shadows on the mouth of the Russian River. It's a beautiful day to be standing at the Jenner overlook, watching the changes in lighting, waves crashing on the rocks, and osprey flying above. That's what most travelers are stopping to look at, anyway. But this group of new volunteers, armed with equipment to measure wind speed and temperature, binoculars, and spotting scopes, are enamored with the small blotches resembling a pile of logs lying on the north shore of Goat Rock beach. Upon closer inspection, these blotches are actually harbor seals, who have come to the rookery to eventually give birth, feed their young, and rest during the day. The new volunteers are here as part of Stewards' Pinniped Monitoring program, and are learning how to identify and count the seals in the day's volunteer training.

The excitement amongst the new volunteers is contagious, inspiring continuing volunteers and our partners at Sonoma County Water Agency with the joy of giving back to the community.

This Pinniped Monitoring volunteer training is just one of the 16 different volunteer trainings offered in 2017. By the end of March, we will have hosted 8 trainings – with great success! From these trainings alone, our programs have 48 new volunteers joining the 350 volunteers already involved. The excitement from new volunteers, like those who are now Pinniped Monitors, can be felt amongst longtime volunteers and the Stewards staff. With half of the trainings still planned for this year, we expect to see even more new faces out supporting your state parks!

Because of our volunteers, we are able to reach more park visitors, teach more students, and protect the incredible natural resources our community enjoys. We recognize the hard work that everyone puts into each program, and want to celebrate it during National Volunteer Week this April 23-29. Stewards will be featuring stories from our volunteers, whether it's your first day or you've been with us for 30 years.

Was there a moment that made you happy or proud to serve the public? An exciting moment in nature you observed while volunteering? A story with a school group? **Email us your stories** to sarah@stewardscr.org, and we'll share them on Facebook and in our E-Newsletter! Stewards is grateful for the amazing work that you do, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Looking Ahead Towards Y.E.A.S. 2017

Jazzy Dingler, Programs Manager

Stewards is extremely proud of last year's Youth Environmental Artist Summit (Y.E.A.S.). The outcome far exceeded our imagined results. The youth participating were eager to learn and open minded. They connected with local State Park land, made new friends, and built a community founded on mutual trust, equality, and compassion.

Preceding last year's Y.E.A.S., California experienced a severe drought -- possibly the worst drought in over 1,200 years.¹ This helped set the tone for the program, featuring curricula about water conservation.

The program also paid tribute to the rich histories of the land, people, and animals native to Willow Creek. Our young stewards learned to honor the past, respect the present, and plan for the future. Students



Student helps paint the life cycle of salmonids for Y.E.A.S. 2016 mural project.

learned how anadromous salmon have a multipart life cycle connecting the "Forest to the Sea," are revered animal spirits, integrated within the food web, an economically important fishery, and natural inspiration for the mural project.

This year, we will once again partner with **Raizes Collective** to host a 4 day/3 night camping summit (**July 13-16**) focused on promoting civic engagement, community building, environmental literacy, land stewardship, healthy lifestyles, outdoor recreation, cultural diversity, social justice, and the arts. Our goal: teens will walk away feeling empowered as young leaders, inspired to lobby for changes/policy they wish to see, and embrace powerful forms of communication (art, poetry, spoken word, etc.) as a means of self-expression.

Similar to last year's Y.E.A.S., we encourage first-time campers to apply, and welcome youth from all political, economic, and spiritual backgrounds. We also decided to take on two Youth Leaders from last year's graduates. Youth Leaders are students who felt Y.E.A.S. has had a meaningful impact in their life, and would like to take on a peer

mentorship role at this year's campout. We recently mailed the Youth Leader applications and look forward to sharing some responses with all of you.

This year's Y.E.A.S. will embody the same goals and structure, with an inspiring keynote address and array of action-oriented workshops. We will retain many of the same underlining topics (water, wilderness appreciation/ethics, natural resource management, climate change, sustainability, advocacy, resiliency, etc.), as well as focus on today's major contemporary political, social, and environmental issues.

The major art project will be a mandala sculpture -- a spiritual symbol that has healing powers and represents the universe, infinity, the past, and present -- built entirely out of recycled materials. Through this project, students will physically bring new light and life to plastic trash, while metaphorically renewing their collective hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

Y.E.A.S. was free for all participants last year, thanks to generous funding from grants. Due to changes in funding this year, we had to make the difficult decision to charge \$50 per student. We do plan to continue fundraising and will offer as many



Y.E.A.S. 2016 students enjoying the view of the Jenner Estuary.

scholarships as possible. Our hope is that our cherished readers and supporters will choose to contribute to this worthwhile opportunity, and champion the young leaders living within our community.

Stewards and Raizes would also like to extend an invitation to individuals and other organizations to help us model what active and engaged citizens look like for our teens. Adult chaperones and workshop leaders serve as links to future volunteer opportunities, help exposure youth to careers, and demonstrate shared environmental and social values.

Students can apply for Y.E.A.S. 2017 online at: www.stewardscr.org or www.raizescol-lective.org.

Deadline to apply is June 19, 2017 at 5:00 PM. Open to all high school freshman, sophomores, juniors, or seniors residing in Sonoma County, CA.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or donating to Y.E.A.S., please contact our bilingual Administrative Assistant, Mina Sanabria at yasmin@stewardscr.org or (707) 869-9177 x 3#.

If you are interested in partnering, hosting a workshop, or attending as a chaperone, please contact our Programs Manager, Jazzy Dingler at jazzy@stewardscr.org or (707) 869-9177 x 1#.

¹ Griffin, Daniel, and Kevin J. Anchukaitis. "How unusual is the 2012–2014 California drought?." *Geophysical Research Letters* 41.24 (2014): 9017-9023.

Whale Watch Early 2017 Season

Norma Jellison, Whale Watch Program Coordinator



Gray whale breaches the surface at Bodega Head.

Pacific Gray Whales live in a water world and swim by Bodega Head regardless of what is happening above the waves. Whale Watch volunteers, on the other hand, need dry conditions to stand at the Head and look for the whales and interpret their migration. So far this season, the weather has been mixed. A number of Whale Watches have been cancelled, due to rain and high winds or both. Pretty typical January and February, but we were spoiled by a number of dry seasons.

When WW has been on, volunteers have seen the Pacific Gray Whales headed south to the Baja mating and calving lagoons. While the southbound migration typically uses the California Current out closer to the horizon, we have been treated to sightings closer in

on several occasions. And, in mid February "right on schedule" based on many years of notes in our journals, we saw our first northbound whales. Those would be the newly pregnant females headed to the feeding grounds in the Arctic Oceans.

We are currently in the cross over period, when we are likely to see whales going in both directions. Mostly, its the newly pregnant females going north and the juveniles still going south -- until they turn around and join the major pulse going north. While the overall number of whales spotted from the LA American Cetacean Society long term census site are lower this year than last -- likely having to do with weather impacts on their volunteer time -- they too are reporting seeing most whales going north now.

We hope you will come out to Bodega Head and join us as we scan the ocean for whales, and come see our informative displays at the table. From time to time, the Steward Ship mobile van will also be at the Head with its naturalists and amazing interpretive displays about all things Sonoma Coast and Redwoods.

Hope to see you out there!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in a program?
Call Sarah Angulo at
(707) 869-9177 ext. 5# or
email sarah@stewardscr.org!

PROGRAMS

Armstrong Redwoods

Visitor Center Staffing
Friends of Armstrong
Redwoods (FAR)
Docent Tour Guides
Trail Crew/Maintenance
Habitat Restoration Project
Pond Farm Interest Group

Sonoma Coast State Park

Visitor Center Staffing
Seal Watch
Whale Watch
Tidepool Program
Watershed Program
Environmental Living
Program (ELP)
Sonoma Coast Stewardship
Pinniped Monitoring
Seabird Monitoring

Other Projects

Office Help & Special Events

VOL. PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Suzanne Abrams,
Watershed & ELP
Greg Armstrong, Seal Watch
Joyce Bacci, ARVC
Bill Bambrick, Trail Crew
Hollis Bewley, Seabird &
Tidepool Programs
Julie Cross, Seal Watch
Dru Devlin, SC Beach Watch
Linda Fisher, JVC
Mary Follis, Seal Watch
Norma Jellison, Whale Watch
Brittany Kelly, Seal Watch
Kirsten Lindquist, SC Beach
Watch
Michael Murphy, AC Mounted
Assistance Unit
Keary & Sally Sorenson,
Marine Debris

Upcoming Community Education Events

Registration is required! To register, go to www.stewardscr.org.

For more info, contact Jazzy at jazzy@stewardscr.org or (707) 869-9177 ext. 1#.

APRIL

- 1 **Learning Together, Teaching One Another (Teaching Resource Day)**
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office
- 2 **Exploring the Intertidal Zone Field Seminar**
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM, Shell Beach
- 15 **Tracking: Seeing Patterns on a Landscape**
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Bodega Dunes Campground
- 16 **Easter Sunday Kids Low Tide Colorful "Critter" Hunt**
8:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Campbell Cove
- 23 **The Wonders of East Austin Creek for Intrepid Hikers**
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, carpool from Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office

MAY

- 6 **Tread Lightly Trainer Course (Land Based Recreation Certification)**
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office
- 13 **Introduction to the Coastal Prairie**
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM, Shell Beach
- 20 **Birding on the Sonoma Coast**
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Jenner Visitor Center
- 20 **Wildlife Viewing by Kayak**
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Jenner Visitor Center
- 20 **Seal Watch Volunteer Training**
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Jenner Visitor Center to Goat Rock State Beach
- 21 **Cultural History of the Lower Russian River**
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office

JUNE

- 3 **Wildflowers of the Sonoma Coast**
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Shell Beach
- 4 **The Legacy of Pond Farm**
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM, carpool from Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office
- 24 **General Volunteers in Parks Program (VIPP) Orientation #2**
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office
- 24 **Mobile Marine Van / Steward Ship Volunteer Training #2**
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM, Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office
- 25 **Tri Yoga Under the Redwoods**
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM, Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve

JULY

- 1-2 **NOLS/WMI Wilderness First Aid**
7:45 AM - 5:00 PM, Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office

Whale Watch runs from January thru June! Join our volunteers every Saturday from 12-5 PM at Bodega Head. Observe these beautiful creatures as they migrate from Baja California to Alaska.





Save these Dates
TICKETS ON SALE MAY 1ST

Gourmet Walk in the Woods

July 22, 2017

Guided walk through Armstrong Redwoods with food & wine, music, art & silent auction

Old Grove Festival

September 16, 2017

Headliner: Dead Winter Carpenters
Opener: One Grass Two Grass



In Appreciation of Our Donors, Sponsors & Funders

Over \$40,000

The San Francisco Foundation
The Coastal Conservancy - Explore the Coast

\$20,000 to \$25,000

The Dean Witter Foundation
The Campbell Foundation
Sonoma Wine Country Weekend

\$10,000 to \$15,000

Community Foundation Sonoma County
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
California State Parks Foundation
County of Sonoma
Marcy & Jim Beck
Russ Whitman

\$5,000 to \$9,999

California Coastal Commission
Bodega Seafood Art & Wine Festival
Russian River Recreation & Park District
Gregory Fearon & Pat Kuta
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Redwood Credit Union
Save the Redwoods League
Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission

\$2,000 to \$4,999

Leslie Risbrough
Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival
Kristin Hite
Clif Bar

\$1,000 to \$1,999

Randy Arnold
Euphrat Family Fund
Neil & Amelia McDaniel Charitable Trust
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Russian River Community Trust Fund
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Zitrin Foundation
Harold C. Appleton
David Balinsky
Dwight Cary
Oniqueh Giles
Rick Thng

\$500 to \$999

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Michael Knappman
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Tishia Macaluso
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Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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Your Stewards Membership
includes a copy of this quarterly newsletter by email or mail, a 20% discount on retail items, special events & community education seminars.

TO MAKE A VEHICLE DONATION CALL: (800) 320-0476

For more info on how you can contribute to Stewards' Endowments, please contact:

Michele Luna
(707) 869-9177 ext. 4#
michele@stewardscr.org

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods Membership Form

YES, I'd like to become a member!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- RENEWAL
- \$25 Owl Senior/Student
- \$35 Individual Trillium
- \$45 Otter Family
- \$100 Contributing Harbor Seal
- \$150 Bobcat Business
- \$250 Gray Whale Patron
- \$500+ Osprey Circle

Payment Type: Check (made payable to Stewards)

Credit Card (VISA, MC, Discover acceptable)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV #: _____

Signature: _____

Bequests

Your Gift to the Future of State Park Preservation

With your gift of a bequest, future generations will enjoy the State Parks in the Russian River District, including education and stewardship programs supported by Stewards. A gift to Stewards is a rewarding form of giving from your estate. There are several types of charitable bequests by will (or beneficiary designation).

Example: I hereby give and bequeath to Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California, with a principal address at P.O. Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430, (____) percent of my estate, (or) the sum of (____) dollars, (or) the following assets (____). Tax ID # provided upon request.

For more information and other planned giving options, please contact your legal advisor.