

# atz Case

said MGA knew Bryant was a employee when the company l to use his doll designs in and that he was breaching an ive noncompete agreement lattel.

in also said jurors would, other things, hear evidence MGA encouraged other Mattel rees to jump ship and take s trade secrets, including ential brand development s, to MGA.

er told the jury that Bryant ed out his initial Bratz draw- t while at Mattel, but during ral-month hiatus from the ny in 1998 while living with ents in Missouri.

ic Larian asked Carter Bryant d done [the drawings] at Mat- eller said. "He said, 'No, they one in 1998 in Missouri.'"

r said MGA diligently tried te sure Bryant created the t on his own time, including Bryant's and MGA's lawyers gate his claims before agree- work with him.

said the noncompete "inven- agreement" Bryant signed attel didn't preclude him from his ideas with MGA.

word 'ideas' is not in the ent," Keller said. "Based on eement, Mattel wants to take rofit, every penny we made." nt, who is expected to testify, party to the case. He settled attel for \$2 million in 2008. trial is expected to last four

case is *Mattel Inc. v. MGA inment Inc.*, 04-9049 (C.D. ed 2004).

rmstrong@dailyjournal.com

## Committed

h evaluator to change course prosecutors file.

n has not yet been assigned ney and could not be imme- reached in prison.

uesday, prosecutors released a d message to the media from brown's victims, now an adult, id she hopes he won't hurt else. Nimol San said Brown ter and threw her into his red n she was walking to school

## James R. Robie 1949-2011

# Litigator Was Champion Of His Clients and His Friends

By Susan McRae  
Daily Journal Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — Well-known litigator James R. Robie died Sunday while scuba diving off the coast of Santa Catalina. He was 61.

Robie and his son, Raymond, 19, were in the process of getting their diving certifications in the late afternoon, when either during or after their ascent, the instructor noticed Robie had gone limp, said Robie's law partner Kyle Kveton.

Kveton said Robie was immediately brought to the surface and pronounced dead. Because of the circumstances, Kveton said, an exact cause of death will have to be determined by the coroner, which could take several weeks.

Kveton, who began practicing 30 years ago with Robie and Edith Matthai, Robie's wife and law partner at the defense litigation boutique Robie & Matthai, said the office is in shock.

"The one thing I can say about Jim is the fact that he just treasured and adored his wife and kids," Kveton said. "He was a ridiculously gifted trial lawyer, but no matter what was going on in his life, the core of his family and how much he loved them was always the center of what he did."

In addition to their son, Raymond, the Matthais also have a daughter, Leigh Matthai, a Loyola Law School student.

"On a professional level, his clients loved him," Kveton said. "He treated them not only as people who were writing a check, but as people he cared about. They lost a member of their family, too, when Jim passed. He never viewed his clients as someone he can bill, and his clients knew that."

Robie mainly practiced insurance defense. One of his major clients was State Farm Insurance. He litigated on its behalf for claims stemming from the Northridge earthquake, and recently was scheduled to represent State Farm in a whistleblower case in Mississippi. He argued several cases before the state Supreme Court and



appeals. He also recently concluded a 13-week trial in Modesto.

"Some lawyers get defined by one case, but Robie was known by many," Kveton said.

A Los Angeles native, Robie earned an undergraduate degree from Claremont Men's College in 1972 and his law degree in 1975 from Loyola Law School, where he was a member of its board of directors.

Robie was immediate past president of the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel.

Carolyn Webb, who just retired as the association's executive director after 34 years, considered Robie one of her closest friends. "You could never meet a nicer person," she said.

Webb said Robie was working on her retirement party, and she and Edith Matthai had decided it would go forth as planned.

"He would be just devastated if we moved it," Webb said. "He was that kind of friend. He goes the extra mile for anything, and if you were his friend, boy, you were lucky."

Plans for services and a memorial are pending.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Public Council Law Center, Bet Tzedek Legal Services or Heart of Los Angeles.