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Lawyers in Love

by Lesley Ann Ash

Well, based on my informal grapevine, it seems 1994 wasn't a very romantic year for local lawyers, with some notable judicial exceptions. Reporting in from late 1993, family law practitioner Rebecca Prater wed senior U.S. District Court Senior Judge Earl Gilliam on December 1, 1993, in a ceremony performed by Chief U.S. District Court Judge Judith Keep in her chambers. The couple deferred plans for a honeymoon in Provence until after Earl had recovered from 'routine' heart surgery planned for later that month. In June of 1994, Earl was released from the hospital after six months of hospitalization resulting from unex-

pected and severe complications during the repair of his aorta, which left him wheelchair-bound, but as feisty and congenial as ever. Now, says Rebecca, they are starting to take short trips in their new van, and will attend the 1995 9th Circuit Judicial Conference in Hawaii. Those of us who know and love the couple are aware of the fortitude each has demonstrated during this unexpected disruption to their lives, and are thrilled to see them out and about in great style.

North County Municipal Court Judge Etta Gillivan, a former family law practitioner, met the Honorable Joe Hadden, Superior Court, Ventura County, at a judge's family law program, and after six years they decided to get together and contribute to the statistics. The couple is getting married April 15, 1995, at a small ceremony at Ojai Valley Inn. They, too, are deferring their honeymoon until September, when they will take a barge trip in France. The couple enjoys skiing, bicycling and traveling together. Until Joe retires in a few years, the couple will enjoy a commuter marriage, which will also allow Joe time to continue with his efforts on behalf of Casa Pacifica, a self-contained community for neglected and abused children, which Etta explained proudly to me took ten years to create from the ground up. (Wait until Newt hears about this!) In addition to being superlawyers, both have a second-generation lawyer in the family: one of Etta's daughters will graduate from law school this spring; Joe's son passed the bar last November. ❖

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