

## Up To Speed

By Lisa Kestenbaum  
Daily Journal Staff Writer

When San Francisco attorney Edward Hugo received a gift certificate from his wife, fellow partner at Brydon Hugo & Parker, Heidi Hugo, for a half-day lesson at Infineon Raceway in Sonoma, he could already feel the need for speed; before he even stepped foot on the track he upgraded the gift certificate to a three-day 'Introduction to Racing' course. Ten years, two vintage cars and countless speedways later, Hugo is constantly looking for new races, both in the U.S. and abroad. "The question for me, since I'm a lawyer and do trials, is how do I get more track time?" he said.

In the beginning, Hugo had the drive but lacked something to actually drive in. "I had a little experience and no racecar so I bought an old Porsche and started doing some Club events," he explained. The two clubs that Hugo is a member of, Classic Sports Racing Group (CSGR) and TrackMasters Racing,

both host annual charity events at Infineon, benefitting Speedway Children's Charities. The organization has branches in various U.S. cities, including Sonoma, and helps care for children educationally, socially, medically and financially. In September, Hugo participated in CSGR's Annual Charity Challenge. The event has raised more than \$600,000 for the organization since its inception six years ago.

This past October Hugo travelled to Mexico to for La Carrera Panamericana. Launched in 1950, the race was designed to promote the Pan-American Highway, which stretches from Mexico to Canada. During the seven-day event, drivers cover about 2000 miles through rural towns, mountain passes, and huge cliffs, encountering like loose gravel, donkeys, and other surprises, explained Hugo. "It's almost a surreal experience ... [you're] out in the middle of nowhere, passing through these little towns and the world just stops." Each night the drivers reach a different city where the locals host a fiesta to welcome

them. "Everyone goes crazy," Hugo said. "The race brings a lot to the people ... all the entertainment and education around an international event ... it's about keeping people off the streets. You can give back and do something," he said.

More than 100 drivers come to participate in La Carrera and through personal contributions help benefit Friends of Guadalupe Hernandez Ramirez. The charity was established in honor of Lupita Ramirez, a Mexican Red Cross nurse who lost both legs when a Carrera car slid off the road in 2003. The contributions have helped pay for Lupita's physical therapy, rehabilitation, education and home.

Hugo won his class and finished 6th overall out of more than 100 competitors at La Carrera. "It's a lot like doing a trial," Hugo said of the race process. "You get together a whole team then you've got to get the car, get it to Mexico, pass the tech requirements. Everyday you start out and midday there may be a mechanical issue. Then at the end of the day you start all over again."



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Pictured above and below, left, is Edward Hugo of Brydon Hugo & Parker with his 2004 Porsche GT3 race car at the Infineon Raceway in Sonoma.

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### PLAYER HIGHLIGHT

**Name:** James Chapman Taylor IV  
**Firm/Company:** 21st Century Insurance  
**Location:** Los Angeles  
**Practice Area:** Corporate Litigation  
**Law School:** Southwestern University  
**Age:** 44

**Bio:** As a Southern California native, Jim Taylor grew up playing volleyball. These days, the senior corporate counsel for 21st Century Insurance blocks and digs as a free agent with the Landau Lawyers League winter volleyball tournament. "Playing on the Free Agent team gives me a chance to meet and play with attorneys from various firms and disciplines ... it's a great experience," he said.

League official Aldo Perez commented that Taylor is a very good defensive player who consistently excels in blocking opponent's spikes.

Whether as a teenager or senior corporate counsel for 21st Century Insurance, the thrill of winning never grows old. Taylor recalls a particular victory when, "Our short-handed Free Agent team won a match against the most dominant team in the tournament. We won the first game, then lost the second one, which made the tie-breaker a real nail biter!"



Courtesy of Landau Lawyers League

Jim Taylor of 21st Century Insurance.



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